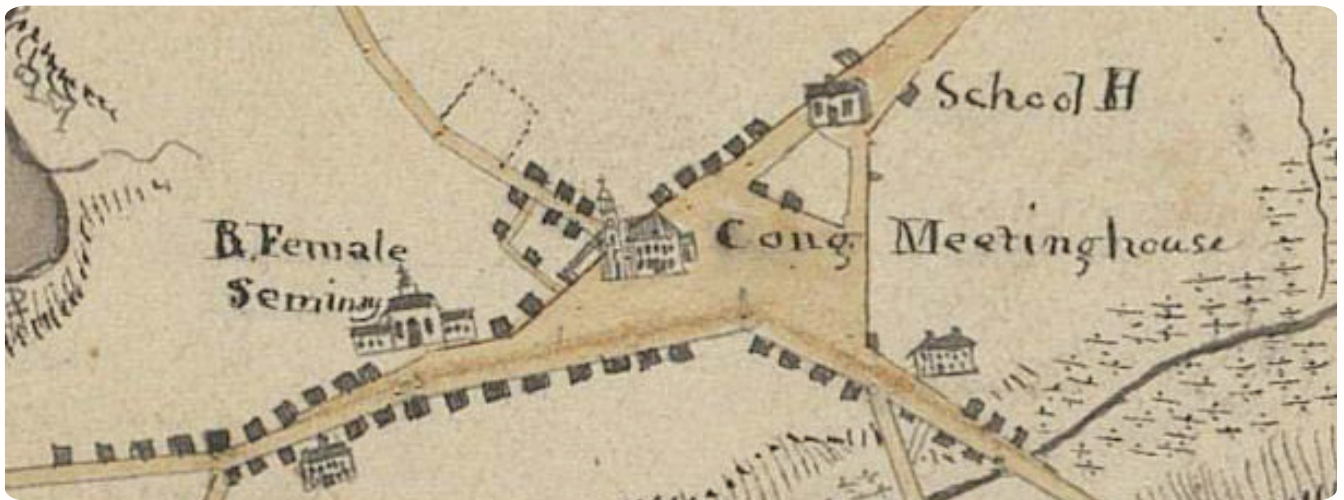


Brookfield, Massachusetts



Around January 15th-16th, Knox's convoy passed through Brookfield. Multiple sources note that sleds broke on steep, icy ground here. Locals pitched in with carpentry, fresh sleds, and helped clear roads. Brookfield was a small farming town with about 1,200 people. Mills lined the brooks and taverns stood along the Boston Post Road.



Local Contributions

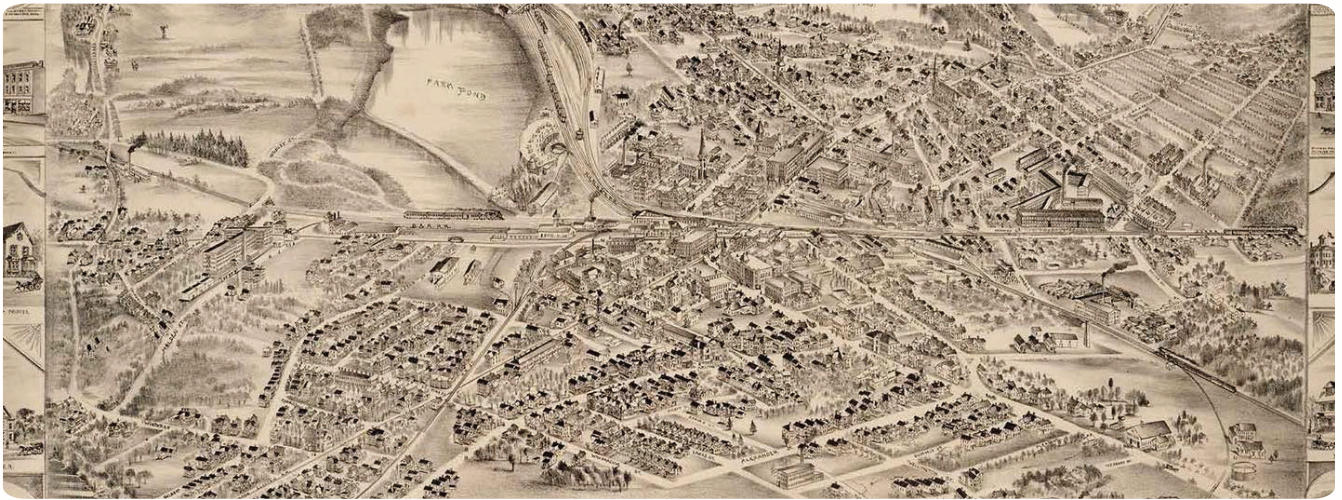
- Farmers and carpenters repaired or replaced sleds.
- Teamsters and townsfolk cleared snow, widened roads, and fed the oxen.
- Taverns gave Knox's exhausted men shelter and food.

Community Strain

- Every oxen team given up was one less to plow fields come spring.
- Families feared losing winter food stores if they gave up too much.



Framingham, Massachusetts



The train halted in Framingham around January 25th, where John Adams and Elbridge Gerry came to inspect the cannon. Adams later recorded being impressed. Cannon were parked on the common before the last push into Cambridge.



Local Contributions

- Provided a safe staging area just 20 miles from Boston.
- Selectmen likely ordered hay, grain, and shelter for oxen and men.
- Town militia may have guarded the artillery overnight.

Community Strain

- Framingham's closeness to Boston meant real fear of British raids.
- Supplying Knox's convoy risked angering Loyalist neighbors or exposing the town to greater danger.



Leicester, Massachusetts



The convoy reached Leicester soon after Brookfield. The town's location at a major crossroads meant it saw steady movement of people and supplies. A blacksmith shop and taverns are mentioned in local tradition as sites where repairs and lodging for Knox's men occurred.

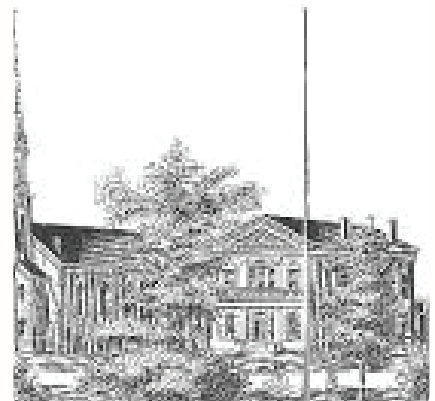


Local Contributions

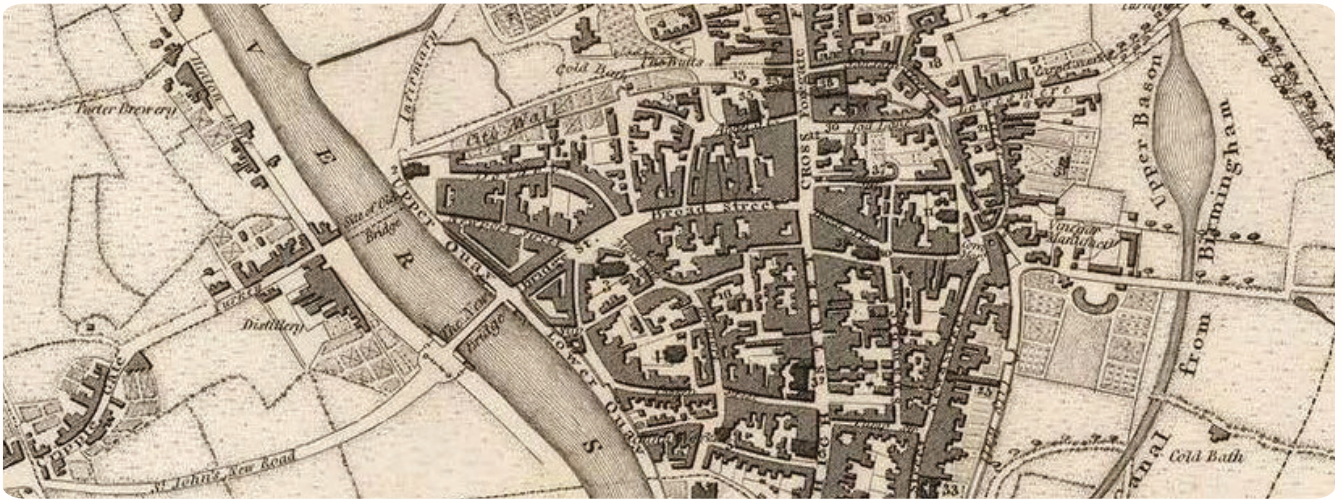
- Blacksmiths shod oxen and repaired iron fittings on sleds.
- Teamsters may have swapped out with fresh teams for the hard road toward Worcester.
- Inns and taverns opened to house weary men.

Community Strain

- Leicester's food stocks were thin by mid-winter.
- Some feared the burden of hosting soldiers or Loyalist retaliation if they were too openly supportive.



Worcester, Massachusetts



The Noble Train came through Worcester on its way east. Local tradition says the cannon rumbled along Main Street. Worcester was one of the largest inland towns (about 2,500 people), with meetinghouses, taverns, and several smiths.



Local Contributions

- Blacksmiths and wheelwrights repaired sleds and wagons.
- Taverns offered food, warmth, and rum for soldiers.
- Town officials may have coordinated lodging and forage.

Community Strain

- Fear that visible support could make Worcester a British target.
- Burden of feeding so many extra mouths in mid-winter.



Marlborough, Massachusetts



The Noble Train rolled through Marlborough on the road toward Framingham. This town was larger than its neighbors, with shops, taverns, and farmland.



Local Contributions

- Farmers provided hay and grain for the oxen, as well as meals for Knox's men.
- Marlborough had smiths and carpenters who could shoe oxen and repair sleds.
- The town already had organized militia companies, and some men may have helped guard the convoy as it rested overnight.

Community Strain

- Marlborough had both Patriots and Loyalists. Supporting Knox risked deepening town tensions.
- January was a lean month. Supplying oxen and men meant families giving up hay, oats, and salted food that they were counting on for survival until spring.

