



“By His Excellency’s Command :” General Gage and the British Army in Salem

In June 1774, General Thomas Gage arrived in Boston with orders to move the capitol of Massachusetts to Salem, where hopefully cooler heads would prevail over the increasing troubles in Boston. By the end of the summer, there were two regiments of regulars encamped around Salem, and the legislature had defied Gage’s authority, and set about creating the Provincial Legislature, independent of Royal government.

To commemorate this important event in Revolutionary history, Salem Maritime and the Center for 18th Century Life at Minute Man NHP have teamed up to invite some of the best reenactors in Massachusetts to give a taste of what Salem was like in the summer of 1774. We hope you enjoy your day with us.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, June 18:

On the drill field:

10:00 Gage’s arrival and parade

12:00, 2:00, 4:00 Drill & musket firing demonstration

5:00 review of troops & retreat

In the camp:

All Day: Surgeon’s tent, camp life, meet the troops, Junior Ranger programs

11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30: “Awkward Squad:” learn how to drill like a Regular, using wooden muskets

11:00-12:30: Cooking for the troops. See how an 18th century chef prepared a meal!



A drummer of the 59th regiment.
Courtesy of Don Troiani

Derby House Lawn:

Meet the colonial legislators, and hear their discussions about the politics of the day.

2:00: the legislators prepare for session. Will they send delegates to the 1st Continental Congress in Philadelphia?

Milliner’s shop:

All day: learn about colonial clothing and accessories.

Gage’s Headquarters:

All day: Meet the General and his staff, and watch as they attempt to deal with the recalcitrant colonists!

Colonial games & dress-up

Sunday, June 19:

On the drill field:

11:00 Morning parade and Service for the troops

1:00, 2:00, Drill and musket firing demonstration

3:00 Salute to the ship and end of event

In the camp:

All Day: Surgeon’s tent, camp life, meet the troops, Junior Ranger programs

11:30, 1:30, 2:30: “Awkward Squad:” learn how to drill like a Regular, using wooden muskets

Milliner’s shop:

All day: Meet an 18th century milliner and learn about what people wore.

Gage’s Headquarters:

All day: Meet the General and his staff, and watch as they attempt to deal with the recalcitrant colonists!

Colonial games



Salem Maritime National Historic Site

Historic Buildings

- A** Narbonne House
*Open by tour only:
fee for entry*
- B** Scale House
Free: open 9-5
- C** Custom House
*Open by tour only:
fee for entry*
- D** Hawkes House
Not open to the public
- E** Derby House
*Open by tour only:
fee for entry*
- F** West India Goods Store
Milliner's shop
- G** St. Joseph Hall
Exhibit in front windows
- H** Orientation Center
Open 9-5
- J** Pedrick Store House
Not open to the public
- K** Replica tall ship *Friendship*
Open 10-4; Fee to go on board.

