

A Patriot's Story and A Brighton Connection

Born in Litchfield, Connecticut in 1744, by 1771 Enos Stone was a pioneer settler in Lenox, Massachusetts on a 4,000 acre tract acquired by treaty with the native people. Patriot activity was rife in the western Massachusetts town and Enos Stone joined the cause. In 1774 he was elected to the Lenox committee to enforce the resolutions of the Continental Congress including the sweeping economic boycott of British-made goods called the Non-Consumption Agreement. This was in response to the Coercive or Intolerable Acts imposed by the parent government.

When the Revolutionary War broke out in 1775 the Second Continental Congress became, in effect, the national government that raised funds to finance the war, to appoint George Washington commander in chief, and to draft the Declaration of Independence.

A captain in the Massachusetts militia, Enos Stone became a captain in the Continental Army when the Continental Congress unified all the New England militias in 1775. His military service was halted in 1777 by the Battle of Hubbardton (VT). Serving with the Northern Army of Ticonderoga, his regiment was overcome near Hubbardton by a force of British regulars and German mercenaries. Stone kept a diary of the events, recording his troops' movement from Fort Ticonderoga to Hubbardton on 6 July. The battle began on the next day. During the course of the conflict, 219 men including Captain Stone were captured and marched back to Fort Ticonderoga, then in the hands of British General Burgoyne. Stone and his men remained at the fort until 27 July when they were put on a boat heading to Quebec. Although a 1778 attempt to exchange Captain Stone for prisoners taken by Major General Gates was offered, an agreement Stone signed on 1 October 1777 was honored, allowing him to be "enlarged on parole," in other words, he promised to return to his home and not participate in military service during the war. Had he been part of a prisoner exchange which he preferred, he would have been able to continue his war service. Lenox Massachusetts records indicate that he did not return to his home until August 1779.

Enos Stone learned of the desirable land in western New York State from veterans of General John Sullivan's 1779 punitive March against the Senecas and joined with four other Massachusetts men to acquire the 18,090 acres of township 13, Range 7 of the Phelps & Gorham Purchase in 1789. With fellow Revolutionary War soldiers, Caleb Hyde, Prosper Polly, Elijah Northrup, and Joseph Chaplin, he invested in this land that would be the town of Brighton in 1814. The five men then divvied up the land amongst themselves. In the case of Enos Stone, his sons Enos Jr., Alvah, and Orringh took up residence on their father's holdings.

Enos Stone remained a resident of Lenox, Massachusetts, until 1815 but he did visit the Genesee frontier in 1803 with son, James, and in 1810 when he is said to have helped his son, Enos, build a mill on the Genesee River. In 1815, Enos Stone and his wife, Sarah, came to Brighton to live with their son, Orringh, in the house that still stands on East Avenue in Brighton. Enos Stone is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Mary Jo Lanphear
Town of Brighton Historian
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