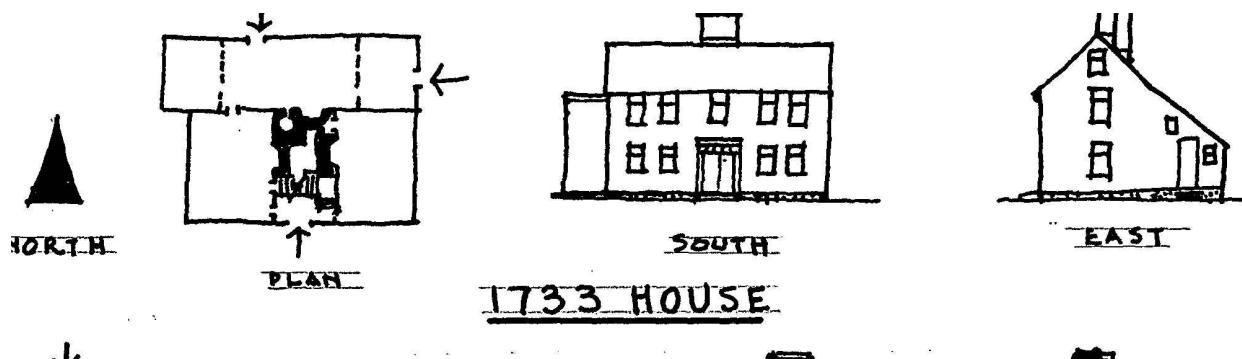


The Hartwell Tavern and the Harwell Family in Closer Detail

Introduction

In 2009 it was suggested that additional research be undertaken to understand more fully the Hartwell Family and the family's operation of a tavern in their home. This report will attempt to answer a few of the questions developed then as a way to guide the research. The report is a compilation of existing research rather than a discussion of new research. Information included here is based on reports and books readily available in the park library. No attempt was made to consult primary sources or other sources. The sources consulted, including specific pages, are listed after each answer. Although quotation marks are not used, many of the answers are taken verbatim from the cited reports. Some material has been moved from one section in an original report and consolidated with information from another section of an original report to create a more complete answer. Some sentences from the original reports have been modified in order to provide a clearer and more concise answer. Some information has been paraphrased. Information in brackets has been added to clarify an answer and is not from an original report.

What did the Hartwell Tavern look like in 1775?



[The following description of what the tavern looked like in 1775 is based on information about the house's appearance in 1733 from the Hartwell Tavern Historic Structure Report. The sketch above is reproduced from the report. Although 1733 is forty-two years before 1775, the report does not specifically say how the tavern looked in 1775. It discusses the 1733 house in detail, notes modifications made to the house in 1756, when the tavern operation began, and then includes other changes, beginning in 1783 and continuing to 1967. The depiction of the 1733 house with its 1756 modifications is the best available information about how the tavern looked in 1775. Although the description below focuses on the main portion of the house, the sketch incorporates the 1733 lean-to. The existing lean-to dates from 1830.]

The building was rectangular in shape with two rooms of equal size on each of its two floors. A large chimney separated the two rooms on each floor, although the rooms were joined at the front, the south side, by an entryway and stair hall. The upper hall, three feet six inches in width, open to the stairway, and over the front entry, connected the east and west chambers. The house had a half cellar and chimney base. The structural frame measured thirty-six feet in length from east to west, eighteen feet deep from north to south, and twenty-four feet three inches from sill to

gable peak. The house had its main entrance in the center of the south wall with a double door, rather than the usual single door. A door in the north wall of the west parlor led to the well behind the house.

At the beginning of the tavern period in 1756, a vertical board partition, south of the east west center line of the second floor west chamber, divided the room into two sections. The partition may have had a door near the east wall of the chamber. The door connected the northern two-thirds of the chamber with the southern one-third of the chamber and with the stair hall.

Unlike the west rooms, the east rooms were more formal and had walls and ceilings finished with plaster applied over hand wrought lath nailed to the ceiling joists. A chair railing was present in the east parlor but not in the east chamber on the second floor.

Each of the four rooms had a fireplace. The lean-to had a fireplace and an oven.

The central stairway was U-shaped with two intermediate landings. The stairs started on the first floor, north of the west parlor door, and ended near the doorway to the west chamber. Three steps led to the first landing, five to the second landing and three to the second floor. The stairs had square newel posts.

An L-shaped stairs with one landing ran from the east end of the stair hall on the second floor to the attic. The stairs had three steps to the landing and eight steps to the attic. The attic was closed off from the second floor by a door located above the second step of the attic stairway.

The stairs to the cellar were located under the main stairway. Access to the cellar stairs was through a doorway cut through the wainscoting of the east wall of the west parlor.

The cellar ran from the west chimney girt to the east wall of the house with approximately one - fifth of the space occupied by the chimney base in the north-west corner. The foundation walls were made of rubble field stones measuring twelve to fifteen inches thick at grade level. A window in the south wall provided light and ventilation. The floor was earth.

The windows in the south wall had double hung sashes with six panes over nine panes. The glass dimensions were seven by nine inches. Similar windows were used in the first and second floors of the east and west gable ends, except for the attic which had four panes over four panes. The north wall had no windows.

To serve as insulation from the cold from the ground and the cellar, the floor on the first level was probably composed of two layers of pine boards nailed to the floor joists. The floor on the second level was composed of wide, square edged pine boards double grooved and splined. The floor boards ranged in width from fifteen and three quarters inches to eighteen and three quarters inches.

Lean-To

A lean-to probably existed as early as 1733. The lean-to ran the length of the north wall and extended beyond the west gable end by four or more feet. In 1756, when the house also became a tavern, a narrow doorway may have been cut in the north wall on the second floor between the lean-to's garret and the west chamber's east closet.

Interior Finishes:

- West Parlor:
Blue-gray paint on wainscoting and trim; unfinished exposed ceiling joist, boards and floor boards
- East Parlor:
Red baseboards; gray trim; unpainted plaster on walls and ceiling
- Central Hall:
Unpainted ceiling; gray trim, walls and stairs
- Second Floor Hall:
Unpainted walls and ceiling; north and east walls plastered; west wall vertical boarding
- West Chamber:
Unpainted until 1756 partition installed
1756 Northern Room: Red tinted lime wash on walls and whitewash on ceiling joist boards
1756 Southern Room: Unfinished
- East Chamber:
Plaster that was neither painted nor whitewashed
- Attic:
Unfinished
- Cellar:
Whitewash on foundation walls, chimney base, and perhaps ceiling joists

Exterior Finishes: Unpainted

Outbuildings

Provincial laws required a tavern keeper to have adequate stable facilities for his customers' horses. The Hartwell stables may have stood northwest of the house because archeological remains of a rectangular structure have been discovered there.

Ephraim and his son, John, were primarily farmers. In 1774 they owned three horses, six oxen, ten cows, five sheep, four swine, chickens and perhaps other fowl. A barn was necessary to shelter the animals and store the winter feed. One building may have served for both the customers' horses and for the farm animals. A shed for the pigs, a chicken coop, a wood shed, sheds for a wagon and farm tools, and a privy may have been other buildings associated with the house and tavern.

Hartwell Tavern Historic Structure Report, Architectural Data Section, Orville Carroll & Christopher Mulhern, 1975, pages ix, 8 - 13, 17- 20, 23, 24, 28. Historic Structure Report, A Comparative Study, Ephraim Hartwell Tavern, Anna Coxe Toogood, 1974, page 19. Hartwell Tavern Historic Grounds Report, John Luzader, pages 4, 5, 6.

How did the Hartwells use the rooms in 1775?

Exactly which rooms in the Hartwell Tavern were used as part of the tavern operation is not certain. Judging from the room relationships and the finishes of the walls and ceiling, it is probable that the west parlor served as the public tavern room while the partitioned chamber above was used for overnight guests. The lean-to rooms were also probably used by the Hartwells as part of the tavern operation. According to Toogood, the barrooms of colonial taverns were often connected directly to the kitchen. Since the only door into the lean-to at this time was through the West Parlor, the choice of this room seems likely as the tavern room. The stair way to the cellar storage area was also located off this room.

We have no knowledge of how the original lean-to was arranged. The kitchen was undoubtedly centered in front of the fireplace and oven. There may have been a “taproom” or storage room for keeping liquors and food in the lean-to. A likely place for this would be at the west end of the lean-to in a room much smaller than the existing one of today. A third room commonly found in the lean-to was a small bedroom which could have been located at the east end of the addition.

We are not sure that the Hartwells kept overnight guests but the likely place would have been the West Chamber. When in 1756 the chamber was partitioned into two rooms, the larger room to the north contained the fireplace. The door through the north wall of the closet into the garret of the lean-to may have led to additional rooms for guests. The attic may also have been used as sleeping quarters either for guests or family, although it was unheated.

In 1756 when the operation of the tavern began, the Hartwell Family would have included Ephraim; his wife, Elizabeth; and their eight children ages four to fifteenth. The house would have been full with just the family and crowded, when there were tavern patrons. By 1775 the occupants of the tavern were reduced to Ephraim, Elizabeth, their son, John, and their slave, Violet.

Hartwell Tavern Historic Structure Report, Architectural Data Section, Orville Carroll & Christopher Mulhern, 1975, pages 31 and 32. Historic Structure Report, A Comparative Study, Ephraim Hartwell Tavern, Anna Coxe Toogood, 1974, page 17.

What was the Hartwells' income level?

In 1733 Ephraim had received forty acres of his father, Samuel’s farm. Eighteen acres of woodland and upland were to the west of Samuel’s homelot and had a new house on it, the future Hartwell Tavern. Three of the acres were in an area known as the Rocky Meadow. Nine acres were upland and meadow in an area known then as the Suburbs. Six acres were plowland in a field on the Lexington town line, and four acres were in the Elm Brook Meadow in Bedford.

When Samuel died in 1745, Ephraim inherited the rest of the farm. By 1749 the farm was one of the most productive in Concord and consisted of 141 acres. The Hartwell property was a part of Concord until 1754, when the town of Lincoln was incorporated.

[On page 3 of Samuel Hartwell House and Ephraim Hartwell Tavern, Luzader states that in 1733 Ephraim received 18 acres from his father. On page 2 and 3 he asserts that Samuel died in 1744. The number of acres and date of death quoted in this report are from Donahue's dissertation which is an exhaustive study of land patterns and therefore the more reliable source.]

By 1770 Ephraim Hartwell was one of the most prosperous men in Lincoln, according to the tax assessment records. He also owned a slave which was unusual for a New England community, except in wealthy families. Another indication of Ephraim's prosperity is that he loaned money to the town for its expenses.

By 1774 the average size of a Lincoln farm was between seventy and eighty acres which included unimproved land, woodlands, tillage, pasture, meadow, mowing land, an orchard and a garden. A typical farm was composed of small parcels of land scattered throughout the community. Tillage was land that was cultivated and used to raise grain crops, such as corn. By 1774 the average farm in Lincoln cultivated about six acres which was the amount of land that a pair of oxen could efficiently work.

Ephraim had twenty acres of tillage. Twenty acres of tillage was the most any farm had in Lincoln. In a list of Lincoln's twenty largest estates, based on real estate assessments in 1774, Ephraim was number sixteen on the list. Besides twenty acres in tillage, he had 37 acres of mowing land and 25 acres of pasture for a total of 82 acres of cleared land. His property would also have included woodland, orchard, meadow and unimproved land.

In 1774 Ephraim's tax assessment was £37 for his personal property, which included, among other items, six oxen, a bull, ten cows, five sheep, four hogs and three horses. His assessment was one of the highest in north Lincoln but not as high as some of his neighbors in Concord. His son, John, was taxed £2 for a horse and an ox. Ephraim's 1774 tax assessment for real estate was £71, a high amount for his location but one that implies that he had an active farm, a well-maintained house and several outbuildings. When Ephraim wrote his will in 1786, he owned 186 acres of land in Lincoln, Concord, Bedford and Princeton.

Another source of income was boarding Lincoln school teachers in the 1760s and 1770s. In the winter of 1775 – 1776, Ephraim received just under £2 a month from the town for boarding the school teacher, Fisher Ames.

[It is not clear from the sources whether the payment was for board alone or also included lodging. Room and board would seem the most logical option, which would also support the idea that the tavern provided overnight accommodations.]

In 1775 although Ephraim was an innkeeper, he and his son, John, who lived with him, were primarily farmers.

Samuel made clocks, locks and guns in his shop. He may have served an apprenticeship to learn these skills. When he died in 1829, he one was of Lincoln's last colonial artisans.

[MacLean on page 189 asserts that Samuel made clocks, locks and guns. Luzader on page 25 of Samuel Hartwell House and Ephraim Hartwell Tavern calls him a locksmith who may have repaired muskets.]

Historic Structure Report, A Comparative Study, Ephraim Hartwell Tavern, Anna Coxe, Toogood, 1974, pages 3, 4. Hartwell Tavern Historic Grounds Report, John Luzader, pages 4, 5. Samuel Hartwell House and Ephraim Hartwell Tavern Historic Structure Report, Historical Data Section, John Luzader, 1968, page 25. Plowland, Pastureland, Woodland and Meadow: Husbandry in Concord, Massachusetts, 1635 – 1771, A Dissertation at Brandeis University, Brian Donahue, 1994, pages 272, 273. A Rich Harvest: The History, Buildings, and People of Lincoln, Massachusetts, John MacLean, 198, pages 154, 155, 189, 308. The Scene of the Battle, 1775 Historic Grounds Report, Joyce Malcolm, 1985, page 58.

What was the Hartwells' status in the community?

The town of Lincoln was incorporated and held its first town meeting in 1754. Ephraim Hartwell was chosen as one of the first five selectmen. Selectmen were the most important town officials at the time. They oversaw the administration of schools, the treatment of the poor, the development of roads, the assessment of property and the approval of requests to run inns and shops. Ephraim served as a selectman on alternate years until 1774.

In 1754 Ephraim changed his title on a land deed from cordwainer (shoemaker) to gentleman.

The 1757 Lincoln Alarm List Company included Ephraim as a coronet along with Joseph Adams.

From 1757 to 1783 he was the Sealer of Leather, who inspected leather sold in the community to ensure its quality. As a cordwainer, Ephraim had experience working with leather.

He served on town committees concerned with the following issues:

- 1755, build a steeple for the town meetinghouse
- 1756, examine the town treasurer's accounts
- 1766, study the boundary between Lincoln and Lexington
- 1770, appear before the County Court of General Sessions to argue a road dispute

Ephraim was a town tax collector and assessor in 1759, a surveyor of highways in 1759 and 1763 and a grand juror of the Middlesex County Court of General Sessions in 1763. A surveyor of highways coordinated the construction of new roads, the repair of existing roads and the packing down or removal of snow on the roads. Lincoln chose between four to eight surveyors of highways. Each was responsible for a section of road.

On January 25, 1773 a town meeting was held in Lincoln to discuss a circular letter from Boston's Committee of Correspondence concerning a proposal passed by Parliament to pay the

salaries of the Massachusetts Governor and Superior Court Judges from the Royal Exchequer, instead of from the province's General Court. The action would allow the governor and judges to enforce more vigorously the acts of Parliament because they would not be dependent for their wages on the General Court. It threatened the colony's independence from Parliament. The Lincoln town meeting decided to reply to the circular letter and appointed a committee of nine to consider the matter and report on the issue in a fortnight. Ephraim Hartwell was one of the nine selected for the work. Two weeks later the town meeting approved the report.

Beginning in 1763 an Elisabeth Hartwell taught for three summers at a dame school and a Mary Hartwell taught for five summers beginning in 1768. Elisabeth and Mary were probably the daughters of Ephraim and Elisabeth. Women taught reading, writing and ciphering or arithmetic to younger children at dame schools which ran from five to thirteen weeks in the summer.

[The information about the Hartwell daughters is taken from *A Rich Harvest: The History, Buildings, and People of Lincoln, Massachusetts* by John MacLean, footnote 14 on page 603, which includes an Elisabeth and Mary Hartwell in a list of women who taught in Lincoln before 1774, when they began teaching, and the number of summers they taught. On page 4 of the report, Historic Structure Report, A Comparative Study, Ephraim Hartwell Tavern, by Anna Coxe Toogood, it mentions that Ephraim may have furnished a schoolroom for his daughter Mary, who taught in North Lincoln in 1768, 1771, 1773 and 1775. Despite the discrepancy between the two sources concerning dates, it seems clear that the Hartwell daughters were teachers.]

Samuel, Ephraim's oldest son, was town constable in 1770, surveyor of highways in 1775 and 1784, inspector of the market in 1779, and a warden in 1785. As constable, Samuel was responsible for maintaining order in the community and enforcing laws. A constable collected taxes, other than those for highways, and served warrants and writs. Lincoln had two constables.

John, another son, was a field driver for the town. A field driver impounded unfettered horses and sheep without a shepherd and herded them to the town pen on the common so the animals were not destructive to the countryside. He also became a constable, selectman, assessor, tither, and surveyor of highways from 1778 – 1785.

[On page 4 of Toogood's report, she lists one of John's town responsibilities as tither. MacLean notes on page 130 of his book that Lincoln had two tythingmen. It is unclear from Toogood's report if she means John was a tythingman or is referring to a different job. A tythingman inspected inns for improper conduct. Activities in inns on Sundays were very restricted: travel was not permitted, business could not be undertaken, idleness was not allowed, and strong liquor could not be consumed. It seems questionable, considering the Hartwell Family's operation of a tavern, that a member of the family would be an inspector of inns.]

Historic Structure Report, A Comparative Study, Ephraim Hartwell Tavern, Anna Coxe Toogood, 1974, pages 1, 2, 4. A Rich Harvest: The History, Buildings, and People of Lincoln, Massachusetts, John MacLean, 1987, pages 129,130,131,132,209,230, 237, 603 footnote 14.

What were the roles of the various members of the family in 1775 in the community and the battle?

Ephraim was sixty-eight in 1775 and too old for military service.

Samuel, John, and Isaac, the youngest son, were members of the Lincoln Minutemen in Captain William Smith's Company and Colonel Abijah Pierce's Regiment. Samuel was a sergeant and served for one month and four days as a result of the action on April 19, 1775. John was also a sergeant and served for five days as part of the military action following April 19. Isaac was a private and served four days.

John later became an ensign in Captain Smith's Company and then a lieutenant. He was a captain of the Lincoln Company of the Third Regiment of Middlesex County, and Isaac was a sergeant in his company. They both served at Dorchester Heights in March 1776. Isaac later became a lieutenant. John served until 1777.

[The various versions of the role of Mary Hartwell on April 19, 1775 are analyzed in detail on pages 15 – 27 of John Luzader's report, *Samuel Hartwell House and Ephraim Hartwell Tavern*, 1968 and will not be discussed here.]

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, A Compilation from the Archives, 1900, pages 393, 394, 395. A Rich Harvest: The History, Buildings, and People of Lincoln, Massachusetts, John MacLean, 1987, pages 283, 290, 293. Samuel Hartwell House and Ephraim Hartwell Tavern Historic Structure Report, Historical Data Section, John Luzader, 1968, pages 15-27.

What other taverns were in the area/along the Battle Road?

Samuel Dakin opened a tavern in the vicinity of the Lincoln town center and operated it from 1754 – 1758 and again from 1761 – 1763. His house, however, was inconveniently located for a tavern, although town committees, selectmen meetings and town meetings were at times held in the tavern.

David Mead and his son Abijah, ran an inn on the “Weston Road” from 1764 – 1782.

The first tavern in South Lincoln was opened by Stephen Park in 1757 and was in operation until 1768. The tavern served those going to Boston from towns beyond Stow, and residents of South Lincoln.

From 1765 until 1773 John Whitehead ran a tavern from his home along the road that ran from Concord to old Sudbury (now Wayland).

The Hartwell Tavern was the only tavern in North Lincoln. It was on the Bay Road (Battle Road) which served those going to Boston from Concord, Groton, Shirley, Winchendon and much of southern New Hampshire. Also on the Bay Road in the eighteenth century, were the Bull Tavern in Lexington; a tavern operated by the Fiskes in Lexington; and a tavern presumably

built by Thomas Nelson in Lincoln for one of his sons. Buchman and Munroe taverns in Lexington may have been competitors with the Hartwell Tavern for travelers along the Bay Road.

The Hartwell Tavern may also have served those using the road from Lincoln to Bedford which passed very close to the tavern at a point about midway between the two towns. Another road led from the tavern towards the Lincoln meetinghouse

A Rich Harvest: The History, Buildings, and People of Lincoln, Massachusetts, John MacLean, 1987, pages 192, 193, 195, 197. *Battle Road Unit Cultural Landscape Report*, Deborah Dietrich-Smith, 2005, pages 30, 35. *The Scene of the Battle, 1775 Historic Grounds Report*, Joyce Malcolm, 1985, page 13. *Historic Structure Report, A Comparative Study*, Ephraim Hartwell Tavern, Anna Coxe Toogood, 1974 page 2.

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Further Research

Some of the reports consulted for this study cite Lincoln Town Records and other primary sources that are available on microfilm. The park library has the microfilm and a microfilm reader, if further research on the topic of the Hartwells and the Hartwell Tavern is undertaken.

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