

Hackett Shipyard

William Hackett built the frigate "Alliance," owned by the Federal government. The "Alliance" was in the memorable battle of Paul Jones, but rendered no service, on account of the jealousy between the commanders.



Alliance, first continental Frigate built in Amesbury



Commodore John Barry 1745-1803 Father of the American Navy Alliance, took on two British ships, the sloop Atlanta, and the sloop, Trespasy.

"She carried thirty-two guns and was the favorite of the whole navy on account of her great beauty and speed. This ship had a history. She was not only named for the alliance between this country and France, but was placed in command of a Frenchman, Capt. Landois, and her first service was to convey Lafayette to his home."

Hackett afterwards drafted and superintended the building of the frigate "Essex," at Salem, Mass. He was the master-builder and superintendent of the twenty-gun ship "Merrimac," of 355 tons, which was completed in seventy-five days. The "Merrimac" was the first and best vessel of her size furnished on loan to the government. Hackett built other vessels here for many years, and afterwards bought a place below, and built a dwelling on the site of Mr. Folsom's new residence, and established a yard in front, and continued his business, contracting for many ships. He was also the founder of a family that has produced many eminent men. The late Prof. Horatio Hackett, known as the best Greek scholar in America, was a descendant, and native of the town.



Alliance Park, at the confluence of the Powwow and Merrimack Rivers

Amesbury Dedicates Park To Hackett Shipyard July 22 1930



Memorial Marker at Alliance Park Named after the first Frigate Ship authorized by the Continental Congress in 1777. Built by William and John Hackett

The Josiah Bartlett Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution organization represented the home (1896-1980) when Moses Colby donated the house and property to the Bartlett Cemetery Association as a memorial to the Colby and Macy families, and to the people of Amesbury, Massachusetts. The DOR ladies compiled scrap books and from one of the treasures is this article from July 1930.

Amesbury's dedication on July 22 1930 to the legendary frigate "The Alliance" forged on the banks of the Merrimac River by the Hackett family. A large scale celebration took place that included the DOR ladies hosting a reception representing another part of Amesbury's history-Quakers which inspired John Greenleaf Whittier.

DEDICATES PARK TO HACKETT SHIPYARD

Amesbury Marks Site Where Frigate Alliance Was Built

[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

AMESBURY, July 22—Alliance park the site of the Hackett shipyard, where the first constitutional frigate the Alliance was built, was dedicated with appropriate exercises today. The address was given by Senator Bradford Davis of Haverhill. A large boulder with a bronze plate was unveiled by Sidney Baxter of Stoneham, a descendant of William Hackett and Boyd Jones, Jr., a descendant of Daniel Webster who

once owned the land where the park is located.

A cavalcade of colonial soldiers met "Gen. Washington" in the person of Senator Davis and his staff at Washington park after he was rowed across the Merrimac river from Newburyport.

Samuel Porter impersonated the first town clerk of Amesbury and Representative James Clark represented the Masons. The cavalcade escorted Washington to Alliance park and here the unveiling exercises were held. Frank M. Hoyt, president of the Amesbury Improvement Society, introduced the general and four descendants of the Hacketts. An old fashioned chorus led by Mrs. George Collins rendered several songs.

Senator Davis paid a high tribute to the Hacketts and told the history of the Alliance. This ship conveyed Lafayette to France. The frigate which was built in 1777-78 took an active part in the revolutionary war and captured many prizes.

A reception at the ancient Macy Colby house built prior to 1654 followed the unveiling and a scene concerning the harboring of a Quaker at the house was enacted. Thomas Macy was portrayed by Thomas Swallow and his wife by Mrs. S. E. Combes. The Quaker who was given shelter was portrayed by Everett Keene. Thomas Macy and his family was forced to flee from Amesbury for sheltering the Quaker.

Tea was served at the Macy Colby house, the hostesses being: Mrs. Walter Sargent, Miss Caroline Keniston, Mrs. Ralph R. Barr, Mrs. Alice Merrill and Mrs. Stephen Combes.

In the evening the Amesbury his-

References:

AnceStory Archives

Genealogy Research, Family Stories and Photographs, Archival Resources, historical articles, antique origin

<http://www.ancestoryarchives.com/2014/08/amesbury-dedicates-park-to-hackett.html>

Standard History Of Essex County Massachusetts By Cyrus Mason Tracy