

a desperate situation—the neck of Charlestown reached out to the north for food and help, and the neck of Boston pleaded with the south for assistance, and by the twenty-fourth day of June the cry had reached Windham, Connecticut. On that day nine gentlemen of that town met at their meeting-house door to go forth and gather food in answer to that cry. In three days they collected 257 sheep which were driven to Roxbury, there to await an opportunity to get them into Boston. A letter accompanied the gift, in which letter the givers begged the men of Boston to suffer and be strong *remembering what had been done for the country by its founders*, and closing with the words: “We know you suffer, and feel for you. As a testimony of our commiseration for your misfortunes, we have procured a small flock of sheep, which at this season are not so good as we could wish, but are the best we had. This small present, gentlemen, we beg you would accept and apply to the relief of those honest, industrious poor, who are most oppressed by the late oppressive acts.”

It was November 22, 1774, that in Waterbury a committee of thirteen men was appointed to receive donations contributed towards the relief of the poor in Boston. Col. Jonathan Baldwin (this was a few days after he received his commission as lieutenant-colonel of the 10th regiment of militia) and Joseph Hopkins of the meeting house, Captain John Welton, Esq^r., and Stephen Welton of the Church of England received for the centre—James Porter for the Hop Swamp region—Captain Samuel Hikcox and Timothy Judd, Esq., for Westbury—Stephen Seymour, Randal Evans and David Smith for Northbury—Josiah Rogers for Farmingbury—Samuel Lewis, Esq., and John Hopkins for Salem. We are denied the pleasure of knowing what was sent to Boston from Waterbury as the result of the ingathering of the above gentlemen.

In order to obtain a glimpse of Waterbury's position in the militia of the colony at the beginning of the war we must review her military record for a few years.

In 1770 Waterbury's military officers and companies were: In the First society, three companies—in Westbury, two (called the East and the West company)—in Northbury, two—in Farmingbury one—making eight military companies in the township. The officers of the first of the three companies in the First society were Capt. Ezra Bronson, Lieut. Ashbel Porter, Ens. Stephen Miles—of the second, Capt. Abraham Hikcox, Lieut. Hezekiah Brown, Ens. Joseph Warner—of the third, Capt. John Lewis, Lieut. Samuel Porter, Ens. Amos Osborn. Of the West company in Westbury the officers were Capt. Abel Woodward, Lieut. Peter Welton, Ens.