

## Ebenezer Locke: A Legacy Woven Into the Fabric of Community Life

Every community has their own historical local heroes who serve as enduring symbols of independence, resilience, civic duty, and an unwavering belief in liberty. In Deering, we have Ebenezer Locke, remembered for firing the first shot at the Battle of Lexington in 1775, starting the American Revolution. He stands as a prime example of these values. His actions highlight individualism and patriotism, demonstrating that one person's self-reliance and active participation can have a lasting impact on the direction of the community.

Our community's identity is deeply rooted in a tradition of rugged self-reliance and a strong sense of historical continuity. There is collective pride in being among the first to stand up for freedom, as well as in upholding traditions of bravery and civic duty that have been passed down through generations. These enduring values serve as the foundation for our shared sense of belonging and responsibility.

It is therefore fitting for Ebenezer Locke to be chosen as the central figure on the Deering Historical Community Quilt, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Likewise, Ebenezer's prominent placement on the cover of our Town Annual report, presented at the Annual Town meeting held in our country's 250<sup>th</sup> year, serves as a reminder of all we hold dear. His legacy unites us in honoring the principles and traditions that continue to define our community.

Though discussions about what defines a hero may vary, at its core, heroism is about those who take meaningful actions to improve life for others and to strengthen their communities. Heroes can emerge from diverse backgrounds and interests, but they are unified by a common drive to uplift others. This perspective reveals that everyone possesses the potential to make a difference.

