

63. **Col. Thomas Crafts**⁵ (son of Thomas⁴) (31) (Ancestry Ephraim³, John², Lieut. Griffin¹). Born in Boston, Mass., 13 July, 1740. Married in Boston 30 June, 1763, Frances Pinkney Gore, daughter of John and Frances (Pinkney) Gore of Boston, and sister of Governor Christopher Gore. She was born in Boston 3 Feb. 1744, and died there in 1788, *Æ.* 44. Col. Thomas Crafts died in Boston 14 Jan., 1799, *Æ.* 59.

In January 1741, his father, Thomas Crafts, purchased the house and estate on Back St. (now Salem St.), Boston, and it was in this house that the boy Thomas passed all the earlier years of his life. Following the custom of the period he learned a trade, choosing that of a painter and japanner. When a young man he became greatly interested in the militia, and soon became a prominent actor in the exciting events of the early days of the Revolution. **Brought up in the midst of the stirring scenes of that period, the companion of Paul Revere, Thomas Melville, and other patriots,** the story of his life presents one of the most brilliant records of this history.

Mention is made of him in "Baneroff's History of the U. S." (Vol. III. p. 492, Centenary edition). He was one of the famous "Sons of Liberty," and referring to the leaders of the party who hung Oliver in effigy to the Liberty Tree, Aug. 14, 1765, we read "The pageant had been secretly prepared by Boston mechanics, true-born Sons of Liberty, Benj. Edes the printer, Thomas Crafts the painter, John Smith and Stephen Cleverly the braziers, and the younger Avery, Thomas Chase, a hater of Kings, Henry Bass, and Henry Welles." In a work called "Tea Leaves of 1773," by Francis S. Drake, reference is made to them in an extract from the "**Diary of President John Adams.**" He says, under date of June 15, 1766, "**I spent the evening with the Sons of Liberty at their own appointment, in Hanover Square, near the 'Tree of Liberty.' It is a counting-room in Chase & Speakman's distillery. A very small room it is. There were present John Avery a distiller, of liberal education, John Smith the brazier, Thomas Crafts the painter, Benj. Edes the printer, Stephen Cleverly brazier, Thomas Chase distiller, Joseph Field master of a vessel, Henry Bass, Geo. Trott jeweler, and Henry Wells. I was very cordially and respectfully treated by all present. We had punch, wine, pipes and tobacco, biscuit and cheese, etc. They chose a committee to make preparation for a grand rejoicing upon the arrival of the news of the repeal of the stamp act.**" A foot note reads "Thomas Crafts was a painter and japanner, opposite the site of the great tree." (Now the corner of Boylston and Washington Sts.)

At this time he was twenty-six years of age, and his life from that period was one of untiring activity. He was then a member of "Paddock's Artillery Co." of which he was a lieutenant, and in which his brother Edward was a private. Paddock's Artillery Co. was organized in 1763, and two of the guns which belonged to the company are now to be seen at the base of Bunker Hill Monument. They bear the names "Hancock" and "Adams."

"The Sons of Liberty" was an organization which pervaded nearly all of the colonies. It was first known in Boston as the "Union Club," which was formed in Boston in 1765, and had among its members most of the leading patriots of the day. Their organization was secret, with private passwords to protect them from Tory spies. Their public meetings in Boston were held under the "Liberty Tree," in the open space, known as "Liberty Hall," at the junction of Newbury, Orange and Essex Sts. (now Washington and Essex Sts.). The Sons of Liberty issued warrants for the arrest of suspected persons; arranged in secret caucus the preliminaries of elections, and the programmes for public celebrations; and in fact were the main spring, under the guidance of the popular leaders, of every public demonstration against the government. In Boston they numbered about three hundred. Local organizations included in this larger and more important one were "The North End Caucus," and the "Long-room club." It was probably to the former one that Thomas Crafts belonged, being a member of one of the most prominent families of that section of the town. He was one of the famous "Boston Tea Party," and took part in the destruction of the tea in Boston harbor Dec. 16, 1773. To Frederic W. Lincoln, Mayor of Boston for seven years, we are indebted for the statement that his grandfather, Capt. Amos Lincoln, who also took part in the "Tea Party," obtained his disguise as a Mohawk Indian from Thomas Crafts, father of the subject of this sketch. Amos Lincoln, when a young man, was apprenticed to him to learn the carpenter's trade, and stated that on the night in question he obtained his dress from his master, Thomas Crafts, who at family devotions that night, prayed, as did doubtless many others, for "the young men out on their perilous errand." The account of the destruction of the tea is too familiar a matter of history to call for extended notice here, but to show the temper of the men who planned it, and of the peril in which the ring-leaders stood, we will state that at the meeting of the "North End Caucus" of Oct. 23

preceding, it was voted that they would oppose with their lives and fortunes the vending of any tea that might be sent to the town for sale by the East India Company. "We were so careful," says Paul Revere, "that our meetings should be kept secret, that every time we met, every person swore upon the Bible not to discover any of our transactions but to Hancock, Warren, or Church, or one or two more leaders." New York was the centre of the organization of the "Sons of Liberty," to which all communications from the other colonies were sent. A correspondent in London kept them informed of the proceedings and designs of the British Ministry.

From the town records of Boston we find that Thomas Crafts was chosen on many committees and to various positions of trust and responsibility.

On the 19th of July, 1774, he was chosen on the "Committee of ways and means for the employment of the Poor, and distributions of all donations for the relief of such Inhabitants of the Town as may be sufferers for want of employment by means of the Act of the British Parliament, for shutting up the Harbour of Boston."

On the 7th of Dec., 1774, he was chosen one of a committee of seven for carrying the resolution of the late Continental Congress into execution.

On the 1st of May, 1776, he was chosen on a "Committee of Correspondence of Safety and Inspection," and on the 11th of Nov. of the same year he was chosen on a "Committee to prepare a list for collecting an account of the damages sustained since the Boston Port Bill."

On the 3d of May, 1777, Col. Thomas Crafts was chosen on a committee "to take the mind of the Town with respect to the best method of preparation and defence at this important crisis."

On the 28th of May, 1777, he was one of a committee of five "appointed to prepare a draft of Instructions for our Representatives in General Assembly with regard to forming a plan for a new Government."

On the 23d of July, 1777, he was chosen on a committee to procure subscriptions from such persons as were willing to lend the Town money, without interest, for the purchase of articles for the alleviation of the distress caused by the siege.

After the close of the Revolutionary war he was a selectman for many years, and in 1793 and 1798, and was elected to the office of County Treasurer annually, from 1788 to 1795 inclusive.

But it is as Colonel of Regiment of Artillery that he

achieved most distinction. This regiment was raised for the defence of the State, and took an active part in the earlier history of the Revolution, and during the latter part of the war was stationed in Boston harbor for the defence of the town. At the State House in Boston is a large collection of his military orders and papers relating to his regiment, which was called the "Massachusetts State Train."

From the pay-rolls at the State House we give the following pay-roll of one month's wages of the Field and Staff Officers of his regiment in 1777 :

	£	s.
COL. THOMAS CRAFTS,	20	10
LIEUT.-COL. PAUL REVERE.	18	0
MAJOR THOMAS MELVILLE.	15	0
JOHN PULLING, Conductor of Ordnance.	10	0
INCREASE NEWHALL, Adjutant.	8	5
JOSEPH GARDNER, Surgeon,	10	0
JOSEPH WHIPPLE, Surgeon's Mate.	5	8
JOHN CHALONE, Quartermaster.	8	5
SAMUEL EDDES, Conductor.	4	10
WILLIAM RUSSELL, Sergeant Major.	3	16
JAMES ROSS, Drum Major.	3	9
HENRY SIBLEY, Quartermaster Sergeant.	3	16

The following is a list of the officers in Col. Crafts' regiment from 1777 to 1780 :

CAPTAINS.

DAVID BRADLEY.	WINTHROP GRAY,	PHILLIP TURNER.
JOHN BUSSEY.	JOHN INGERSOLL.	BENJ. SCOLLAY.
JONATHAN W. EDES.	PHILLIP MERRITT.	WILLIAM TODD.
JOHN GILL,	JOHN PULLING,	PHILLIP TURNER.

LIEUTENANTS.

DANIEL BELL.	JOSHUA CHASE.	WILLIAM MENZIES.
ELLIS BAKER.	BENJ. EDES.	JOHN MENZIES.
JOSIAH AUBBERT.	JOHN GRANT,	THOMAS PRINCE,
JOHN ARMSTRONG.	DANIEL INGERSOLL,	SAMUEL WALES.

In "Sumner's History of East Boston," p. 396, mention is made of Col. Crafts' regiment, as follows :—"On the 13th of June, 1776, in accordance with a plan proposed by Gen. Benj. Lincoln for freeing the harbor of the British vessels, detachments from the regiments of Cols. Marshall and Whitney, and a battalion of train under Col. Crafts, provided with cannon, ammunition and stores, were mustered on Long Wharf, at the beating of drums. Embarking in boats, they went down the harbor to Pettick's Island and Hull, where they were joined by

more troops and sea-coast companies, so as to make nearly 600 men at each place. Militia from the towns, with a detachment from the train, and some field-pieces, took stations on Moon Island, Hoffs Neck, and Point Alderton, while a detachment commanded by Col. Whitcomb from the regular troops under Gen. Ward, took post at Long Island. The morning of the 14th nearly dawned before the troops were all stationed. In a few hours defences were thrown up on Long Island and at Nantasket, cannon mounted, and they began to play upon the ships. Commodore Banks was soon compelled to leave, and the last vessel left the harbor. Soon after several English store-ships came in, being ignorant of the leaving of the fleet, and thus several ships were captured, (including Lieut. Col. Campbell's), and 700 men were made prisoners."

On the 13th of Aug., 1778, he was encamped at, or near, Howland's Ferry, R. I., and a letter written from there to his wife, is preserved in the family. During the closing years of the war his regiment was stationed at Fort Independence in Boston Harbor.

In the "Memorial History of Boston" (Vol. III. p. 183) is a very interesting account of the announcement of the Declaration of Independence, after the receipt of the news from Philadelphia, on the 18th of July, 1776, in which Col. Thomas Crafts was the most prominent figure. The account was written by a British officer who had been captured on board a transport in the Bay, and was then held as a prisoner in the town. He was invited, with other officers then on parole, to the Town House, and was an eye witness of the affair. He wrote :

"As we passed through the town we found it thronged ; all were in their holiday suits ; every eye beamed with delight, and every tongue was in rapid motion. The streets adjoining the Council Chamber were lined with detachments of infantry tolerably equipped, while in front of the jail artillery was drawn up, the gunners with lighted matches. The crowd opened a lane for us, and the troops gave us, as we mounted the steps, the salute due to officers of our rank. * * * Exactly as the clock struck one, Colonel Crafts, who occupied the chair, rose, and read aloud the Declaration. This being finished, the gentlemen stood up, and each, repeating the words as they were spoken by an officer, swore to uphold the rights of his country. Meanwhile, the town clerk read from a balcony, the Declaration to the crowd ; at the close of which a shout, begun in the hall, passed to the streets, which rang with loud huzzas, the slow and measured boom of cannon, and the rattle of musketry."

Another account is taken from the N. E. Chronicle of July 25, 1776. It reads as follows :

“Thursday last, pursuant to the order of the honorable council, was proclaimed from the balcony of the State House in this town, the Declaration of the American Congress, absolving the United Colonies from their allegiance to the British crown, and declaring them free and independent states.

There were present on the occasion in the council chamber, a committee of council, a number of the honorable house of representatives, the magistrates, selectmen and other gentlemen of Boston and the neighboring towns, also the commission officers of the Continental regiments stationed here, and other officers. Two of these regiments were under arms in King street, formed into three lines on the north side of the street and in thirteen divisions, and a detachment from the Massachusetts regiment of artillery, with two pieces of cannon, was on their right wing. At one o'clock, the Declaration was proclaimed by Col. Thomas Crafts, which was received with great joy expressed by three huzzas from a great concourse of people, assembled on the occasion. After which, on a signal given, thirteen pieces of cannon were fired from the fort on Fort-hill ; the forts at Dorchester Neck, the Castle, Nantasket, and Point Alderton likewise discharged their cannon. Then the detachment of artillery fired their cannon thirteen times, which was followed by the two regiments giving their fire from the thirteen divisions in succession. These firings corresponded to the number of the American states united. The ceremony was closed with a proper collation to the gentlemen in the Council Chamber ; during which the following toasts were given by the president of the council and heartily pledged by the company, viz. :

‘Prosperity and perpetuity to the United States of America.’

‘The American Congress.’

‘General Washington, and success to the arms of the United States.’

‘The downfall of tyrants and tyranny.’

‘The universal prevalence of civil and religious liberty.’

‘The friends of the United States in all quarters of the globe.’

The bells in town were rung on the occasion, and undissembled festivity cheered and brightened every face.

On the same evening, the King's Arms and every sign with any resemblance of it, whether Lion and Crown, Pestle and Mortar, and Crown, Heart and Crown, etc., together with every sign that belonged to a tory, were taken down, and the latter made a general conflagration of in King street.”

Col. Thomas Crafts also took an active interest in Masonic matters. He became a member of St. Andrew's Lodge F. and A. M. in 1762, and afterwards became a member of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. His name appears also, as S. G. D., on the charter of Essex Lodge, Mch. 10, 1779.

He is supposed to have lived for some years on Orange St., above Frog Lane, (now that section of Washington St. above Boylston St.). On the 6th of July, 1773, he bought of William Fallass of Boston, for £323 6s. 8d., a piece of land "at the southerly part of Boston, bounded west on Orange St., with the dwelling-house and other buildings thereon." This was formerly the property of John Eliot, having been deeded to Fallass five days before by Thomas Crafts Jr., and Joseph Elliot, admrs. on the estate of John Eliot. He sold this property for £6000 to Benj. Greene of Boston, merchant, Nov. 5, 1779, his wife Fanny joining in the deed.

At a later date he was a resident of Church Square, Cornhill, as in the Boston Directory for 1789, is found. "Thomas Crafts, Justice and County Treasurer, Cornhill." This was the first Boston Directory published. The second one, issued in 1796, has the entry "Thomas Crafts, Esq., No. 5, Church Square Cornhill." Church Square was the name given to the passageway or court-yard surrounding the "Old Brick Meeting-house," which fronted on Cornhill, the name then applied to that section of Washington St. between Dock Square and School St.

The church was located on the present site of the Rogers Building, opposite the head of State St., and the house of Col. Thomas Crafts stood on the site of the present "Sears Building." From the assessors' returns made in accordance with the U. S. tax levy of 1798, we take the following description of his estate:

"Thomas Dawes, owner; Joseph Peirce, Thomas Crafts, occupiers; brick dwelling; East on Cornhill; North on Benja. Waldo; South on Old Brick Church. Barn, 192 square feet; wood."

"Land, 2,460 square feet; house, 960 square feet; 3 stories, 49 windows; Value, \$6000."

From the census of the town made in 1790, we learn that his household consisted at that time of five persons, one male and four females.

He was for many years a Justice of the Peace, and during the latter part of his life served as Acting Justice.

In this connection he was the subject of the following pithy sarcasm :

Dear Justice Crafts, fair, factions partisan !
 I like thee much, thou fiery-visaged man.
 I love to hear thee charm the listening throng
 Thy head and wig still moving with thy tongue !
 Thus Jove of old, the heathen's highest God,
 Their minor Godships governed with his nod.
 In this you differ from that great divine,—
 Once from his head came wisdom, ne'er from thine.
 The mind of Justice Crafts no subject balks,
 Of King-craft, Priest-craft, craftily he talks.
 Oft have we heard his crafty tales and laughed,
 But never knew him mention Justice Craft.

The author of the foregoing is not known, but it has been ascribed to his nephew, Thomas Crafts, U. S. Consul to France. The Colonel is described by his contemporaries as a man of immense stature : very powerful, and it is said that he lived entirely on vegetable products and milk. His miniature on ivory, and that of his wife, are in possession of the Misses Robins of Boston, lineal descendants, to whom we are indebted for the privilege of their reproduction in this work.

His miniature represents him as of a florid complexion, and both miniatures are finely executed. Her portrait gives evidence of her having been a very beautiful woman.

Col. Crafts was a generous, hospitable man and was accustomed to entertain liberally at his house, which gathered under its roof many of the most noted men of the time. His granddaughters, the Misses Frances Crafts Robins and Mary A. Robins, living in Milwaukee, at an advanced age, wrote the compilers of this work a few years since, that they remembered to have seen the Crafts and Gore coats of arms hanging in their grandfather's house. Until a recent period they were in possession of Col. Crafts' commission, now unfortunately lost, together with the coats of arms.

In conclusion, we give the following extract from "The Dawes Family" in reference to the Crafts Family in Boston.

"President John Adams paid no idle compliment when he said to Samuel Adams, 'we have seen four noble families rise up in Boston, the Crafts'es, Gore's, Dawes'es and Austins, yet they did not pretend to be fine gentlemen. They were honest, industrious, God-fearing men, from the first to the last ; men who owned land, and went to the polls as they went to church, and they never hesitated to draw their swords in the cause of right.'"

From the "Columbian Centinel" of Jan. 16, 1799, we copy the following notice of the death of Col. Thomas Crafts: "Died in this town, Thomas Crafts, Esq., æ. 59. His funeral will be from his dwelling-house, north side of the Old Brick Meeting-house, this afternoon, at four o'clock, which the friends and relatives are requested to attend."

Administration on his estate was granted Sept. 12, 1803, to William Crafts of Boston, merchant, Robert Homes, merchant, and Joseph Hall, Esq., both of Boston. The Probate records, however, give no further information as to his estate.

Col. Thomas and Frances Pinkney (Gore) Crafts had four children, as follows:

JOHN CRAFTS,	b. in Boston	14 Aug., 1767,	bapt. at the New South Church, Boston	4 Oct., 1767.	He died at the West Indies, when on a journey for his health, at about the age of nineteen years.
FRANCES CRAFTS,	b. in Boston	2 Sept., 1769,	bapt. at the New South Church	3 Sept., 1769.	[127]
NANCY	" "	8 Oct., 1772,	bapt. at the New South Church	11 Oct., 1772.	[128]
CATHERINE	" "	21 Feb., 1775,	bapt. at the New South Church	26 Feb., 1775.	[129]

64. **Edward Crafts** (son of Thomas⁴) (31) (Ancestry Ephraim³, John², Lieut. Griffin¹). Born in Boston, Mass., 12 Oct., 1746, at his father's mansion-house on Back St., now Salem St., still standing. He married in Lexington, Mass., 16 June, 1768, Eliot Winship, daughter of John and Bethia Winship of Lexington, granddaughter of Edward and Rebecca (Barshaw) Winship, and great-granddaughter of Lieut. Edward Winship of Cambridge, Mass., who was made Freeman in 1635. She was born 28 Jan., 1745, and is said to have been a woman with an exceptionally fine education for that period. An anecdote of her bravery and fortitude during the war, is preserved in the family annals. She had been busily engaged for three days and nights running bullets for the army. A British officer came in while she was at work, and asked "what are you doing?" She replied, "I am running bullets to shoot your soldiers with, and were I a man, I would use them, too." He replied, "you are a brave woman," and went out, but her prompt avowal of the purpose of her work, accompanied with a dignity of manner, so impressed the officer in command, that he allowed the women their freedom, and spared the premises from destruction.

When a young man, Edward Crafts, imbued with the spirit of the times, entered as private, Paddock's Artillery Co. of Bos-