

REVOLUTIONARY WAR (1763-1783)

Joseph Hiram Pierce's Drum

This drum belonged to Joseph Hiram Pierce, who served as a drummer during the Revolutionary War that began when Pierce was 14 years old. Pierce later enlisted as a soldier, as did over 1,400 men from Rehoboth, and 68,720 men across Massachusetts.

1776-136-003



1764

Beginning with the Sugar Act, which regulated molasses sales, Britain imposes taxes on colonial trade to raise revenue for the Crown. These acts are met with hostility in the colonies.

1774

The town of Rehoboth votes to boycott goods from Great Britain until a blockade of Boston Harbor is ended.

1776

The Declaration of Independence is signed, and the Revolutionary War begins.

Phillis Wheatley, a slave born in Africa and the first published African-American poet, writes a poem comparing the relationship between colonists and the British Crown to that of a slave and slave master.

1772

Many Rehoboth residents show their fervor for an independent nation by participating in the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19.

1775

The first cannon made in America is created at the Jenks Iron Works factory in Saugus, which eventually expands into Rehoboth (present-day Pawtucket).