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Innkeeper, Watertown, Massachusetts, 1709-1713

Abraham Brown was born 26 August 1671 at Watertown, Massachusetts, the son of Jonathan and Mary (Shattuck) Brown; married Mary Hyde about 1691, daughter of Job and Elizabeth (Fuller) Hyde, born 21 June 1673 at Watertown. Mary died 29 November 1723 and Capt. Brown died 27 November 1729, both at Watertown.¹

Abraham Brown was admitted to full communion in the church at Watertown on 4 March 1687/8 and held various offices in church and town. In 1724 he was a committeeman for the East Precinct of the Watertown Church.² He was the town treasurer from 1695 through 1700, assessor in 1705, 1706 and 1708, a selectman in 1712 and 1726 and town clerk in 1712. He was referred to as Ensign in April 1703 and as Captain beginning 24 September 1711.³

In 1709 Brown was licensed as an innkeeper and continued for four years. His son, Capt. John Brown, was licensed as an innkeeper at Waltham in 1738.

The house which Capt. Abraham Brown used as a residence and inn is located at 562 Main Street, adjacent to the Abraham Brown School. Known as the Abraham Brown Jr. House to distinguish the owner from his immigrant grandfather Abraham Brown, the house was built by 1690, possibly as early as 1663, and an addition made to it in 1729. It remained in the Brown family until 1897. It is currently on the register of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Gothic in construction, the restored house has a pilastered chimney believed to be similar to the original. The original house, the current North Hall, features a very large fireplace and a massive oak lintel, floors and walls of white pine and ceiling beams of hewn oak. The Hall, used as residence and inn, contains 17th century furniture and utensils. A unique feature of the house is the use of three part casement window frames duplicated from a frame found during restoration, the earliest example of such a window found in New England.⁵⁻⁷

-Stephen M. Lawson
#87-22

REFERENCES

- 1 ...Early Settlers of Watertown, Mass..., by Henry Bond, rep. 1978:120
- 2 Watertown Records, 1894-1906, Vol. 4:36, 102
- 3 Ibid., Vo. 2:151, 203
- 4 Bond, op.cit., p. 1076
- 5 Album of American History, J.T. Adams, ed., 1944, pp. 78, 82, 89
- 6 America's Historic Houses and Restoration, Irvin Haas, 1966 pp. 14-15
- 7 Open House in New England, Samuel Chamberlain, 1948, pp. 32, 39, 52, 111, 112