



*Copyright © 2025 Flagon & Trencher.*

*Provided for research purposes.*

*All rights reserved.*

*Proper citation for this document  
is as follows:*

*Flagon & Trencher: Taverner and Innkeeper  
Biographies (2025), at  
[www.FlagonAndTrencher.org](http://www.FlagonAndTrencher.org), all rights reserved.*

# JONATHAN CLAPP

## Tavernkeeper, Easthampton, Massachusetts

Jonathan Clapp was born at Northampton, Massachusetts 2 September 1713 and died there 10 May 1782, age sixty-nine, son of Roger and Elizabeth (Bartlett) Clapp. He married there 23 January 1735 Submit Strong, born there 23 December 1712 and died at Northampton 24 April 1788 in her seventieth year, daughter of Waitstill and Mindwell (Bartlett) Strong.

Jonathan moved to Easthampton where he was one of the first settlers. He and Submit had eleven children. A man of great energy and character, he was prominent in all matters in the early settlement of the town. He was a major in the militia.

The Jonathan Clap Tavern was located on Northampton State Road, just south of the Courtney home at 95 Northampton Street. It was a Revolutionary Tavern, and much travel between Boston and the northern settlements passed this way. The soldiers from Northampton met here as they left for Bunker Hill in 1775. Soldiers, continually going back and forth from the front were patrons of this tavern; they told the latest news and received refreshment as required. Tradition states that during the war, night and day, a big iron kettle hung on the crane in the kitchen fireplace with beef and vegetables boiling to feed the many guests. A well was by the roadside, with a trough for horses and cattle outside the fence, the well inside.

The house faced west, with two-story front and lean-to roof that ran off toward the back, nearly to the ground. The roof projected two feet, was sealed up and had a cornice. The upper story projected over the first story, after the fashion in Indian times. Under the long back roof was the kitchen with wide, high fireplace, a bedroom on the northeast end, and sink room on the other, with woodhouse, hatchway, work bench and big chopping block. This shed projected southerly beyond the main house, with an exit to the garden. A big flat stone was by the front door which opened into a square hall in which a crooked stairway with two broad landings led clockwise to the upper floor. Behind the hall stood the immense chimney with its three fireplaces, while on either side of the hall were the large front rooms, each about sixteen by eighteen feet. To the west was the bar room with cupboard in its northwest corner, where were kept the decanters and flip tumblers, specimens of which may be seen at the Museum of

Easthampton Public Library. This room and parlor opposite had fireplaces; behind the parlor was an entry way and loom.

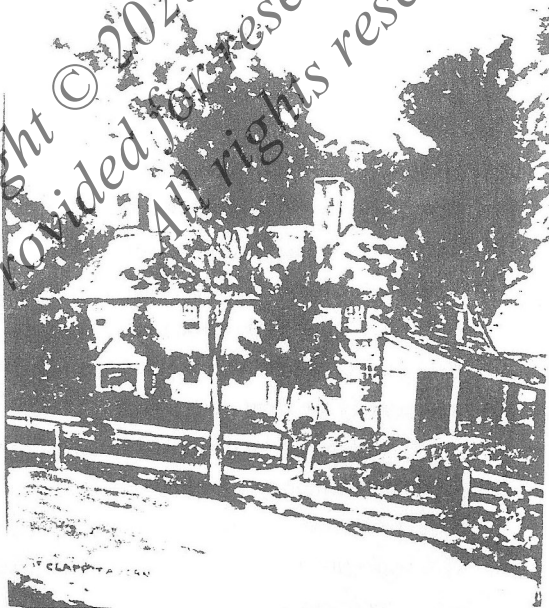
The ancient wooden swinging sign has been preserved, now at the SUBMIT CLAP CLARK D.A.R. House, Easthampton which also has an oil painting of the tavern. The weatherbeaten sign displays lettering *Entertainment by Jonathan Clap* and picture of a wonderfully spotted leopard and ornamentation.

Following Jonathan Clapp's death, his sons Jonathan and Joseph carried on the family tradition as tavern keepers.

Elizabeth Clapp Williams  
90-03

## REFERENCES

1. Ebenezer Clapp, *Clapp Memorial*, (Record of Clapp Family in America) (1876).
2. James Russell Trumbull, *History of Northampton, Genealogies*, Vol 3, Part 1.
3. Payson W. Lyman, *History of Easthampton* (1886).
4. Charles H. Johnson, "*The Fathers Dugged a Well*" (Excerpt from speech to D.A.R., 14 October 1905).
5. Benjamin W. Dwight, *History of the Descendants of Elder John Strong of Northampton, Massachusetts*, 1874.



JONATHAN CLAPP TAVERN, from oil painting

submitted by E.C. Williams



JONATHAN CLAPP TAVERN SIGN, EASTHAMPTON, MA



Entertainment  
By Jon<sup>d</sup> Clap.