



INNKEEPER'S LOG

Longfellow's Wayside Inn, Colonial Fayre Edition 2017



Town and Village Fayres existed in England long before colonization of America. The right to hold fairs was given by Royal Grant for specified dates and number of days. The purpose was mainly for a market, but the opportunity was also taken for what was considered to be a "pleasure fayre".

In the colonies, the Royal Governors had power to appoint fairs; although not much happened until the 18th Century. Many towns were given permission for a market once a week and a fair once or twice a year – usually in the Spring or Fall – to correspond with Mayday or the Autumnal Equinox respectively.

The colonial fair was first and foremost a market "for the sale and vending of all manner of cattle, victuals, provisions, goods, wares and merchandise".

Prizes and bounties were sometimes offered for the best stock and produce. Occasionally, a lottery was drawn at the fair.

For amusement, there were contests for prizes for skill in cudgelling, wrestling, manual exercises, foot racing, dancing, singing, violin playing, greased-pig chasing as well as a prize for the most beautiful maid. Sometimes companies of actors would arrange to put on plays during the fairs – although they would usually perform in a theater away from the fairground.

On September 30th the large field opposite the Wayside Inn will be transformed to recreate an experience of a town fair occurring in a time shortly before the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The innkeeper at that time was Ezekiel How, who was also a leading citizen of the Town of Sudbury as well as the leading officer of the Sudbury Companies of Minute & Militia. The fair will take place

There will be some representatives of His Majesties Regular Forces infiltrating the field, to make sure that all is done in a legal and loyal manner. It is possible that things may get out of hand and trouble break out. We shall see.

TO THE PUBLIC

THE ANNUAL COLONIAL FAYRE

& MUSTER OF FYFES & DRUMS

TO BE HELD ON SEPT 30TH

from 10am thru 4pm; rain or shine. Throughout the day there will be a market with many vendors selling all sorts of wares including period clothing and accessories, musical instruments, books and artistic materials, pottery, glassware and other artifacts. There will be plenty of hot and cold food to eat and drink to nourish a starving visitor. There will be demonstrations of colonial crafts including black and tin smithing, pottery, carpentry, soap and candle making.

In the morning, there will be a demonstration of children's games, as well as contra dancing, musket drill and firing followed by the election of the officers of the local militia companies.

At noon, there will be a Grand Parade of all the fife and drum bands that have been invited by the Sudbury Ancients. The Parade will leave from the Grist Mill and march along Wayside Inn Road led by the Sudbury Fife and Drum and Militia Companies.

The remainder of the afternoon will include a performance of music from all the assembled companies in turn to demonstrate their unique repertoire and skills.

The entrance fee is \$2 for adults only – children under 12 and parking are free.

All are invited to share a unique and enjoyable experience that only the Wayside Inn can provide.

