

Gen. Cobb's lifetime encompasses much

By KAREN CUBIE
Gazette Staff Writer

General David Cobb did so much in his lifetime, it's impossible to include it all in one newspaper article.

I know because I tried.

Cobb led a long and eventful life. He had 11 children, and became a doctor, a soldier, a Revolutionary War general, an aide to General Washington, a judge, the President of the Massachusetts Senate, the Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and a United States Congressman.

You wouldn't think a man with those credentials could be easily forgotten.

Being new to Taunton, I first learned about General Cobb when my editor handed me a letter from Florida resident Gertrude Boyden, formerly of Taunton. Enclosed was the Palm Beach obituary of Capt. Mortimer Howell Cobb, a life-long Floridian who shared a common ancestor with General David Cobb — the 1660 Tauntonian Augustine Cobb.

"This article came to my attention while reading this morning's Palm Beach paper," Mrs. Boyden wrote. "Having resided on Gen. Cobb Street, it was a reminder of our Taunton ties.

"I thought you might be interested in this report as I find your article relating to Taunton's past helpful, for as you know we did not arrive on the Taunton scene until 1952. There were no residents who could tell us why our street was called 'Gen. Cobb.'

"I only wish I had known that Mr. Cobb was one of our neighbors. I would have called on him."

"Karen, find out who Gen. Cobb was, and do a feature on him," my editor ordered.

It sounded easy enough.

I walked over to the Old Colony Historical Society, a place I've been frequenting lately, and asked Lisa Compton, the Old Colony Historical Society director, what she could do for me.

"We have plenty about him," she said, and proceeded to have her librarian pull some books off the shelf.

By mid-afternoon I was only a quarter of a way through the information and I was swamped.

I felt as if I had chosen a term-paper topic that was too broad, and it bothered me that Taunton could forget such a noteworthy citizen.

There's plenty of information on General Cobb for anyone who cares to look, however.

Mention of him is scattered throughout several historical society books, a few personal artifacts are on display, and he's mentioned on the boulder on the Green marking the spot where he stared down rebels from before the courthouse during Shay's Rebellion.

You can even see what he looks like in a portrait, overlooking the military room at Historical Hall, which may have been painted by early American portrait artist Gilbert Stuart.

You can read as many brief newspaper articles about General Cobb as you like, but none of them can tell the whole story.

I guess it's something you have to look up for yourself.

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District court

The following cases were heard in Taunton District Court yesterday by Judge Andrew J. Dooley:

Timothy Souza, 23, of 1290 Middleboro Ave., breaking and entering in the nighttime, armed assault, malicious destruction over \$100, continued to May 8.

Michael Smith, 22, of 1095 Burt St., found guilty of disorderly conduct, possession of class D substance, nine days at Bristol County House of Correction, \$31.25 costs and fines.

Roger Barros, 27, of unknown address, possession of instrument to administer controlled substance, disorderly conduct, continued to June 6.

marked lanes violation, \$35. Driving while intoxicated, dismissed. Driving to endanger, continued without finding, driver's education, \$100 costs.

Domingos P. Lopes, 43, of 44 Union St., driving to endanger, driving while intoxicated, leaving the scene of an accident, continued to May 27.

Wednesday in front of Judge Dooley:

Joseph M. Coble, 27, of 91 Cedar St., disorderly conduct, assault and battery on a police officer, continued to June 10.

James W. Smith, 19, of 176 Tremont St., Rehoboth, possession