



Fairfield Museum
AND HISTORY CENTER
A M E R I C A 2 5 0

March 21, 1776

“...I tell you with a heart most tenderly affected that this morning an express comes in with orders from the Governor for my dearest Beloved to march forthwith to New York with a part of his regiment [sic], there to wait the arrival of General Washington. What I have long feared [sic] is now come upon me; I endeavor to commit him to the care of a kind providence, hoping [sic] he may be returnd [sic] in safety...”



-Mary Fish Silliman

March 21 – Mary Fish Silliman Writes about Her Husband Leaving for New York as the Siege of Boston Ends

(Originally posted on social media on March 21, 2026)

As we commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence throughout 2026, the Fairfield Museum will periodically share Fairfield’s fascinating connections to significant moments during the American Revolution.

On March 21, 1776, Mary Fish Silliman of Fairfield wrote to her father: “I tell you with a heart most tenderly affected that this morning an express comes in with orders from the Governor for my dearest Beloved to march forthwith to New York with a part of his regiment [sic], there to wait the arrival of General Washington. What I have long feared [sic] is now come upon me; I endeavor to commit him to the care of a kind providence, hoping [sic] he may be returnd [sic] in safety.”

The summons for Gold Selleck Silliman (Mary’s husband) to make his way to New York came in response to the British fleet’s departure from Boston Harbor with the end of the Siege of Boston. General George Washington was unclear where the British fleet would head next, but suspected that New York would be a strategic target. Knowing that ships would reach New York faster than the Continental Army traveling by foot, Washington requested Connecticut forces make their way to New York to fortify the city. Gold and his son Billy left Fairfield on March 27, 1776 and arrived in New York at 5 o’clock in the morning on March 29.

Mary worried for her husband and stepson throughout the Revolutionary War. Upon their departure to New York, she wrote that she hoped “the great happiness we have enjoyed may not end here—may they be returned in safety to the rejoicing of us all—how happy have we been—such a husband, a father few can lose!”

Stay tuned to learn more from Mary’s experience of the American Revolution.