



## 1631 — Massachusetts — Militia Arms Requirement

*2 Arthur Vollmer, Military Obligation: The American Tradition: A Compilation of the Enactments of Compulsion from the Earliest Settlements of the Original Thirteen Colonies in 1607 Through the Articles of Confederation 1789, Part 6 2 (1947)*

Source Document Information

# Article Details

**Summary:** Law outlined what arms militiamen were expected to furnish themselves with and also limited the discharge of weapons.

**Title:** 1631 — Massachusetts — Militia Arms Requirement

**Conduct:** [Private Possession](#), [Public Possession & Carry](#), [Use](#)

**Instrument:** [Firearms](#)

**Jurisdiction:** [MA](#)

**Date:** [1631](#)

**Tags:** [Gunpowder & Ammunition](#), [Long Guns](#), [Militia](#)

# Statutory Text

Further, it is ordered, that if any person shall shoot off any piece after the watch is set, he shall forfeit 40s, or if the Court shall judge him unable, then to be whipped; the second fault to be punished by the Court as an offence of a higher nature.

It is likewise ordered, that every man that finds a musket shall, before the 18th day of this month, (& so always after,) have ready 1lbs of powder, 20 bullets, & 2 fathome of match, under penalty of Xs for every fault.

WILS  
GOVU  
Y 3.SE 4:17/1/V.2/PT.6



# Backgrounds of Selective Service

VOLUME II • PART 6



BACKGROUNDS OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

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Military Obligation:  
THE AMERICAN TRADITION

*A Compilation of the Enactments of Compulsion  
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of the Original Thirteen Colonies in 1607  
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SPECIAL MONOGRAPH NO. 1

VOLUME II

PART 6. MASSACHUSETTS ENACTMENTS

THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

1947

accompts cleared) the some of 13<sup>l</sup>, w<sup>ch</sup> hee promiseth to pay after 2<sup>a</sup> p weeke ; 1630-1. therefore it is ordered, that those that setts Johnson on worke shall pay vnto S<sup>r</sup> Richard out of his wages the s<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>a</sup> p week/

22 March.  
Johnson ac-  
knowledg<sup>t</sup> of  
13<sup>l</sup> debt to  
S<sup>r</sup>: Rich.

It is ordered, that Beniamyn Cribb, John Cable, & Morris Trowent shalbe whipped for stealeing 3 piggs of M<sup>r</sup> Ralfe Glouers./

Crib, Cable, &  
Trowent sent  
to be whipt.

Rich: Louge confesseth to owe vnto M<sup>r</sup> Ludlowe the some of 3<sup>l</sup>, 18<sup>s</sup>, 4<sup>d</sup>, which hee pmisseth to pay him after 2<sup>a</sup> p weeke till it be all satisfied./

It appeares by S<sup>r</sup> Rich: Saltonstalls note of disbursm<sup>ts</sup> that Withm Knopp owes him the some of 19<sup>l</sup> v<sup>s</sup>, as was evidenced to the Court by Richard Browne & Ephraim Childe, being men indifferently chosen betwixte them to iudge thereof./

*\*A Court of Assistants, holden att Boston, Aprill 12<sup>th</sup>, 1631. 1631.*

P<sup>SENT</sup>, The Gofin<sup>r</sup>, M<sup>r</sup> Nowell,  
Deputie Gofin<sup>r</sup>, M<sup>r</sup> Pinchon,  
M<sup>r</sup> Ludlowe, M<sup>r</sup> Bradstreete./

12 April.  
[\*70.]

**I**T is ordered, that there shalbe a watch of 4 kept efly night att Dorches- ter, & another of 4 att Waterton, the watches to begin att sunsett./

Watches, when  
to begin.

Further, it is ordered, that if any pson shall shoote of any peece after the watch is sett, hee shall forfeit 40<sup>s</sup>, or if the Court shall iudge him vnable, then to be whipped ; the second fault to be punished by the Court as an offence of an higher nature./

Disturbance  
of y<sup>m</sup>  
(6) 12-

It is likewise ordered, that efly man that findes a muskett shall, before the 18th day of this moneth, (& soe alwaies after,) haue ready 1<sup>l</sup> of powder, 20 bullets, & 2 fathome of match, vnder penaltie of x<sup>s</sup> for efly fault. — Moderated 470./

13-  
Ammunition,  
euy man to  
provide.

It is ordered, that efly captaine shall traine his companie on Saturday in euerie weeke./

Traininge  
once a week.

Further, it is ordered, that noe pson shall travell single betwixte theis plantacons & Plymouthe, nor without some armes, though 2 or 3 togeath<sup>r</sup>.

Travellers not  
to go vnarmed.

*A Court of Assistants, holden att Boston, May 3, 1631. 3 May.*

P<sup>RESENT</sup>, The Gofin<sup>r</sup>, M<sup>r</sup> Nowell,  
Deputie Gofin<sup>r</sup>, M<sup>r</sup> Pinchon,  
M<sup>r</sup> Ludlowe, M<sup>r</sup> Bradstreete./  
Capt Endicott,

542. Mass.—Court of Assistants, Boston; Bay Recs. Vol. 1, Shurtleff, 1853; Act, Apr. 12, 1631, p. 85.