

Enoch Little, born in Newbury in 1685 and called Ensign Enoch Little for reasons not readily found except to distinguish him from other Enoch Littles, is credited as one of the first settlers on Crane Neck Hill. One could argue that the same credit should be granted to his bride, Elizabeth Worth, born (1688) and raised in Newbury's West Parish. The two married in Newbury in 1707.

In [*Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian*](#), Sarah Anna Emery, a relative, described a sort of frontier honeymoon: "Ensign Little took his bride to a farm recently granted on Crane-neck hill. . . . The bridegroom mounted his horse, with his young wife [sitting behind him] on the pillion, and with their effects packed in saddle-bags, they rode over the bridle-path through the woods to their new home. No shelter had been provided. It was pleasant summer weather, and the young couple on the first day dined upon a large, flat rock, which is still preserved as a memorial; at night they sought the protection of the garrison house."

[Garrison houses](#) were heavily fortified homes intended to provide the settlers shelter during the Indian wars, the one at the time of the Little's settlement being called [Queen Anne's War](#). Initially, in 1676 during [King Philip's War](#), orders came from the government in Boston [to build a wall](#). The directive to far-flung settlers was: "for the security of the whole county of Essex and part of Middlesex from inroads of the common enemy, that a line or fence of stockades or stones (as

the matter best suiteth) be made about eight feet high extending from Charles river where it is navigable unto Concord river from George Farley's house, in Billerica, which fence the council is informed is not in length above twelve miles, . . . and so forth, and so forth, by which means the whole tract will be environed for the security and safety (under God) of the people, their houses, goods and cattel from the rage and fury of the enemy."

Our selectmen at the time wrote right back to say no: "[A]s to the fortifying from Merrimack river and so to Charles-town river, we conceive it not feasible nor answering the end propounded. . . ." Instead they deployed militia and "ordered several houses to be [garrisoned and fortified](#)." And so the Little newlyweds stayed at the local garrison house.

[Sarah Anna Emery sketched a picture](#) of a successful Little homestead not untouched by sorrow: "A small house and suitable out-buildings were built, trees were felled, and fruitful fields soon replaced the ancient forest. This pair had seven children: Joseph, Elizabeth, John, Edmund, Enoch, Daniel, and Benjamin. Five of these—Joseph, John, Enoch, Daniel and Benjamin, died of the throat distemper, which at one time committed such fearful ravages throughout the colony."

Elizabeth and Enoch Little lived long lives on Crane Neck Hill and remain there to this day. They died within months of each other in 1766 and are [buried side by side at Crane Neck Hill Cemetery](#).

Enoch & Elizabeth Little, Crane Neck Hill Settlers



Marker Location: 127-57 Crane Neck St., West Newbury, MA Latitude: 42.775100
Longitude: - 70.981211