



## April 18-19 The Most Famous Night In American History

*This night is celebrated in Massachusetts as Patriot's day with bells ringing, guns saluting, parades, flag raising, reenactments of Paul Revere's ride and the battles of Lexington, Concord, and the march back to Boston. The flame is kept alive in Texas by the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Children of the American Revolution.*

### The Story in Brief

**10:30 p.m.** Robert Newman, Sexton of the Old North Church, climbs into the church steeple and briefly hangs two lanterns signaling that the British Regulars are on the move by sea. The Regular's first objective is to extinguish the simmering rebellion by arresting its leaders, Samuel Adams and John Hancock, and trying them for treason. Their secondary objective is to capture the military stores at Concord. Paul Revere is to spread the alarm to Adams, Hancock, Lexington, and Concord using the northern route and William Dawes is to spread the alarm using the southern route. As the lanterns hang briefly in the steeple, Paul Revere is silently rowed under the 64 guns of the British Man of War Somerset across the Charles River, and William Dawes pretending to be a drunken farmer, slips past the guards on the Boston neck and begins his ride spreading the alarm.

**11:00 p.m.** Revere arrives in Charleston and begins his famous ride. Dawes and Revere meet near Menotomy and ride on to Lexington.

**12:00 p.m.** Revere and Dawes reach Lexington. Revere warns Adams and Hancock that "the Regulars are out after them"; they both escape.

**12:30 a.m.** Revere and Dawes, now joined by Dr. Prescott, ride off to Concord. Revere is arrested and held for an hour and a half, Dawes escapes back to Lexington, and only Dr. Prescott makes it to Concord. Dr. Prescott passes the word to Able Prescott, and others and a great chain of alarm riders spreads the alarm to Natick, Framingham, Dover, Deham, Roxbury, and other towns. The Belfry Bell is rung on Lexington Green.

**4:30 a.m.** Captain John Parker has sent out 10 scouts and one returns with news that the Regulars are near. The drum is beat and 77 Minutemen turnout out on Lexington Green.

**5:00 a.m.** 300 hundred Regulars approach. Captain John Parker tells his men: *"Let them pass by. But if they want a war, let it begin here."*

The Regulars march to the Green, guns cocked. A shot is fired, but no one knows which side fired it. Later, the Minutemen would say that the Regulars fired without cause. The Regulars claim someone fired at them first. The Minutemen are badly outnumbered and suffer eight killed and nine wounded.

**5:30 a.m.** The British march off to Concord.

**7:00 a.m.** The Regulars arrive at Concord. Four companies of Regulars are sent on a search and destroy mission and a good many begin to loot the town; three companies guard the North Bridge and one the South Bridge. The Minutemen retreat above the North Bridge to Punkatasset Hill. The roads are now filled with Minutemen from Acton, Snow, Roxbury, and surrounding communities heading toward Concord.

**9:00 a.m.** The Regulars are on the town side of Concord Bridge and the Minutemen are on the far side, their number now greatly increased. The British burn Concord's Liberty Pole and the Town House; the Minutemen see the smoke and believe their town and homes are being put to the torch. Joseph Hosmer of Concord asks: "Will you let them burn the town down?" Major John Buttrick of Concord shouts: "Fire fellows, for God's sake, fire! A Minuteman fires a shot - a general exchange of fire follows. The fight lasts about two minutes. Two Minutemen and two Redcoats are killed, several Redcoats are wounded, and the Redcoats flee to Concord Center. Ralph Waldo Emerson, whose grandfather was there, describes the scene: *"By the rude bridge that arched the flood*

*Their flag to April's breeze unfurled*

*Here once the embattled farmer stood*

*and fired the shot heard around the world."* - "Concord Bridge", by Ralph Waldo Emerson

**10:00 a.m.** The Regulars regroup in Concord and two hours later begin their march back to Boston. Not far away, at Meriman's Corner 1000 Minutemen await them. The Regulars come under heavy fire. Longfellow tells the rest of the story:

*"You know the rest, in books you have read*

*How the British Regulars fired and fled.*

*How the farmers gave them ball for ball*

*From behind each fence and farm yard wall*

*Chasing the Red Coat down the lane."* - "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere", by William Wadsworth Longfellow

**7:00 p.m.** An exhausted British rear guard crosses the Charleston neck. Some have not slept for two days. Some have marched for 40 miles in 21 hours. Most have been under fire for 8 hours. They are badly shaken and gratefully rest on the heights above Charleston at a place called Bunker Hill. They have lost 1/3 of their troops killed or wounded. A terrible loss to the Minutemen who were thought to be a "rude mob, without a plan, without concert". Concord sustained light losses. The damage to property was light. There is some satisfaction in the fact that eight Redcoats stay behind and refuse to go back to Boston.

Samuel Adams remarks to Hancock: "What a glorious day." Hancock, deep in thought, thinks Adams is talking about the weather. What Adams meant: "Finally, the fuse had been lit, the War for Independence was on."

**April 20:** the British in Boston awake to find themselves surrounded by a militia which has marched from all over New England. A British soldier writes in his diary on April 23d: *"The country is up in arms...we are absolutely infested with many thousand men, some so daring they came very near our outposts on the only entrance to town. They have cut off supplies and provisions from the country."* The Battle of Bunker Hill follows on June 17, 1775. The Declaration of Independence fourteen months later.

Eight years after the war, as men are wont to do, Paul Revere polishes his story of that night. He tells his children that as he started to get into the boat he noticed his spurs were missing. So he wrote a note to his wife Rachel, attached it to his little dog's collar, and sent the dog scurrying home. Ten minutes later the dog returned with the spurs tied to his collar. Now Revere can safely make his ride.

**Why the night of April 18-19 is so famous:** Robert Newman becomes the most famous Sexton in American history, Paul Revere becomes an American legend, and Longfellow writes an immortal poem about his ride. The Old North Church, Lexington Green, and Concord Bridge become national landmarks. Captain John Parker's famous words to his men on Lexington Green go down in history. The Minutemen become a national symbol and a monument is erected to them near Concord Bridge. Emerson writes an immortal poem about the Battle at Concord Bridge. The War for Independence has begun. The "shot heard around the world" is the death knell of the Old Order, it ushers in Novus Ordo Seclourm, a new order of the ages, when the common man, now limited only by his abilities, crosses the worlds oceans for the opportunities beckoning in America's wilderness and her towns.

Nov. 16 Minutes, Cont.

Medals & Awards - Progress has been made to make contact with Chariton Heston so that the Gold Good Citizenship Medal can be presented. PASSAR has made contact with the California Chapter. Robert Coleman had Mr. Grover Gourley of Hummelstown present and he informed the Board that all information has been forwarded to the NRA. They in turn will attempt to establish a meeting with Mr. Heston.

Memorial & Revolutionary Graves - The committee will continue to research the cemetery at the historical Derry Presbyterian Church so that all Revolutionary Soldiers buried there might be honored.

JROTC - John Pringle has accepted the chairmanship of the committee.

Color Guard - A letter was read with the most recent recommendations of the committee. A lengthy discussion followed. A motion was pass for Robert Coleman to make contact with the Hummelstown VFW concerning the possibility of forming a joint color guard with their youth Marine group.

OLD BUSINESS: The revised copy of the Harris Ferry Constitution, confirmed August 17,2002, was provided to all the Board Members. The corrected Calendar of Events 2003 was issued to all present and will be mailed to all current chapter members.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00A.M. .

### HARRIS FERRY-HARRISBURG -Author unknown

John Harris who in 1705 received a license to "seat himself on the Susquehanna" established Harrisburg, originally known as Harris Ferry. John Harris was born in 1673 in Yorkshire, England and Came as a young man to the Port of Philadelphia. He pushed westward where he built himself on the banks of the broad Susquehanna a log dwelling and store house to carry on trade with the English and French and the several tribes of Indians, the Onondaga, Seneca, Mohawk, Oneida, and Tuscarora. Travelers; found it safe to leave their boats and canoes with him before proceeding overland to the west, and his place soon became an accepted river crossing. John Harris was buried in 1748 in Harris Park on the lower East Bank of the river one hundred yards north of his original log home.

John Harris, Jr. carried on the work of his father and in 1753 was granted the right to operate a ferry across the Susquehanna. By that time the settlement included some one hundred dwellings and was known as Harris Ferry. It was laid out as a town in 1785, incorporated as a borough in 1791 and became a city in 1860, the name being changed from Harris Ferry to Harrisburg.

John Harris, Jr. served as an officer in the Provincial Service and his sons enlisted in one of the first companies raised in the Colonies formed ten days after the news of the Battle of Lexington.

From the original log home on the riverbank have come generations who forged American Independence. Memories of the past mingle with the accomplishments of today that transpire at the State Capitol of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MINUTES

February 8,2003

President Miller called the Board of Management Meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Highspire, PA. Those in attendance were: Eric Bugaile, Robert Coleman, William Lunsford, William Marshall, Edwin Miller, John Pringle, John Peifer, Richard Rice.

Chaplain Coleman gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge to the Flag. President Miller presented his report concerning his activities since the last meeting.

Information was provided on the February PASSAR Quarter Session in York, PA. Also presented was Harris Ferry Chapter's upcoming participation in the State's Heritage Day. Future sessions of NSSAR and PASSAR were noted.

The Secretary's minutes were accepted as mailed. A new member, William Paul Dailey, recent transfers, and other roster changes were noted. Work has started on a new roster to be presented to all HFC members. Treasurer William Marshall provided the Board with a comprehensive report of expenditures and transactions of the Chapter for the year 2002. The balance as of 31 December 2002 was \$4,180.72. Report approved as presented.

John Peifer was introduced as the new Registrar. He is anxious to provide help wherever necessary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Nominating - There were no recommendations.

Membership - It was reported that 76 out of 80 members paid their dues. Follow up calls were made to encourage those that had not paid. Chairman Marshall was encouraged by the response.

Program - Chairman William Lunsford reported that we would recognize Christopher King with the Eagle Scout Essay Award at our Third Annual Awards Luncheon in May. After some discussion it was moved and seconded to present him with a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. We will also recognize a law enforcement officer from Lower Allen Township on the West Shore. A \$50 gift certificate for Harding's will be presented to the officer from Harris Ferry Chapter. The program speaker will be Captain James Neighbor, SC, USN, on the topic Patriotism, Loyalty, and the American Way.

JROTC - John Pringle informed the Board that the JROTC review needed to be rescheduled due to weather. Information will be provided when available.

Color Guard - There was no response from the Marine Youth Group. No further action was taken.

DAR Liaison - President Miller reminded the Board of the upcoming trip to the Lebanon VA Hospital on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Knight Essay - Chairman Miller reported that while we had received three names from State Chairman, Dr. David Schrader, none had followed through. All names were obtained from requests on the internet for information and we did not have the necessary information to respond appropriately.

Medal & Awards - The Board was provided with the current status of the Charlton Heston medal. We are waiting for a response from those concerned.

OLD BUSINESS: None at the present time.

NEW BUSINESS: We have received correspondence from Lowell Clark of Pueblo West, CO about an ancestor of his buried in a small cemetery off Fulling Mill Road. He wants to return in May for a clean up and the placement of an SAR marker on the Patriot's grave and is asking for our participation.

It was agreed that the Chapter should participate as best it can and Mr. Clark is to be notified to that affect.

President Miller proposed a third section to the Constitution following the By-Laws. The concept is entitled CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS. It would establish, in writing, the policies of Harris Ferry Chapter so that immediate action may be taken on a number of issues and not have the need to delay until a Board meeting. It would also establish the protocol for future Presidents to follow and not require Board action. After some discussion it was moved and second for approval and the first resolution established to memorialize Harris Ferry Chapter members upon their death.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:50  
THE NEXT BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING WILL BE  
MAY 10, 2003 AT 0900 IN HIGHSPIRE.





**Harris Ferry Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution**  
c/o William S. Marshall  
1866 Market St. Ext.  
Middletown, PA 17057-3417

### HARRIS FERRY CHAPTER COMMITTEES 2003

- EXECUTIVE:** Herbert Braden, Robert Coleman, John Pringle, William Lunsford, Robert Maley, William Marshall, Edwin Miller, John Peifer, Charles Stone  
**NOMINATING:** George Beck, Robert Coleman, William Marshall, John Pringle  
**MEMBERSHIP:** Robert Maley, William Marshall, Eric Milliron, John Peifer  
**EAGLE SCOUT:** Robert Coleman, William Lunsford  
**AUDIT & BUDGET:** Edwin Miller, Whitley Simmons, Richard Rice  
**KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST:** Edwin Miller, Richard Rice  
**DAR LIAISON:** Edwin Miller  
**PROGRAM:** Herbert Braden, William Lunsford, Robert Maley, ALL  
**PUBLICITY:** Eric Bugaile, ALL  
**MEDALS & AWARDS & COLOR GUARD:** George Beck, Herbert Braden, Robert Coleman, Willis Friese, William Marshall, John Pringle, Whitley Simmons  
**MEMORIAL & REVOLUTIONARY GRAVES:** Richard Rice, Whitley Simmons, Herbert Braden, Robert Coleman  
**AMERICANISM:** George Beck, William Lunsford, Richard Rice  
**JROTC:** Robert Coleman, Edwin Miller, John Pringle

### HFC Board Openings

The Harris Ferry Chapter has openings for Secretary and Board of Management. If you can serve the chapter in either of these important positions, contact President Edwin R. Miller at 717-944-7364.



Harris Ferry members and wives attend the Feb. 2003 PASSAR Quarter Session at the Hotel Yorktown in York, Pa. Pictured, (l to r) Nancy Marshall, John Pringle, William Marshall III, Robert Coleman, Bessie Coleman, and Mary Lou Miller. Not pictured, William Lunsford and president Edwin Miller.

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MINUTES November 16, 2002

President Miller called the Board of Management Meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Highspire, PA. Those in attendance were: George Beck, Herbert Braden, Eric Bugaile, Robert Coleman, William Marshall, Edwin Miller, Eric Milliron, John Pringle, Richard Rice, Whitley Simmons. Chaplain Coleman gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge to the Flag. President Miller presented his report concerning his activities since the last meeting. He addressed his attendance at the DAR State Conference and the meeting of the State

DAR Regent, Eloise Clark, as well as the President General DAR Linda Tinker Watkins.

The Secretary's minutes were accepted as mailed. President Miller has temporarily filled that position. President Miller informed the Board that he would accept the position of PASSAR District Deputy #3, when offered, and therefore finding a new secretary is imperative.

Treasurer William Marshall reported a balance of \$5030.19 in the checking account. He reminded the Board of the change of when dues need to be sent to the State Society and the possible effects on membership. He also reminded the Board of the upcoming Annual Meeting December 1st.

Due to the absence of the Registrar President Miller informed the Board that a new application for William Paul Dailey, Jr. has been forwarded to PASSAR for consideration.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Nominating - There were no recommendations for secretary. All other positions remain the same for 2003.

Membership - Current membership is 93.

Knight Essay - Chairman Miller indicated that he had received the 2002 information but it was too late to provide to the schools for appropriate action. He will continue to respond to requests obtained from the Internet.

Publicity - Eric Bugaile will publish a newsletter before the end of the year as a recap for the year. The roster has been updated and can now be us for mailing. For the first time the chapter has chosen to have the Almanac completed out of house. A+Mailing Solutions of Middletown will provide the service.



At the head table - PASSAR president J. Thomas Showler, (right) is pictured with SAR President General B. Rice Aston at the PASSAR Quarter Session in York in February.

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