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The Waltham Historical Society
Presents

An Appeal to Heaven

Jane Woolsey Gropp

Descendant of General John Glover



Come join us on January 14th at the former J.B. Bright Elementary School, 260 Grove Street in Waltham in anticipation of Black History Month to honor the service of the Black Patriots of the Revolutionary War.

Our speaker, Jane Woolsey Gropp has commissioned a painting called "An Appeal to Heaven" from the artist Alfredo Rodriguez, which seeks to honor the Black Patriots and the ideas they fought for including those stated in the Declaration of Independence that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Come and hear about all the history this beautiful painting contains.

Light refreshments will be available.

TUESDAY
JANUARY 14, 2020
7:00 pm

260 GROVE STREET
IN WALTHAM

Jane is a descendant of Gen. John Glover and a student of history. She is married with three children, seven grandchildren, and a retired Physical Therapist. She moved from California to Lexington, MA this year to help her daughter who is married with four children and a new Professor of ChemE at MIT.

*We would like
to wish you a
happy holiday
season and a
bright, cheerful,
and healthy
New Year!*

Revolutionary Waltham

The Waltham Historical Society has been in contact with Mr. Richard Sanderson, descendant of the famous Sandersons of Waltham. Mr. Sanderson is in the process of writing a book documenting the actions of Waltham's soldiers who fought during our country's struggle for Independence.

We are working to help Mr. Sanderson tell the story of the role played by Waltham's Minute Men and Militia, with an eye towards the days and months leading up to the midnight ride of Paul Revere.

Through the efforts of Mr. Sanderson we have learned that the Waltham militia turned out that day and saw action sufficient to draw pay for 4 days service and 28 miles travelled.



Books have been written claiming that the Waltham militia were never alarmed or “slept through it.”

Close examination reveals that 156 Waltham Men turned out and were made it to Lexington in the afternoon, arriving in time to dodge canon fire.

In Provincial Congress,

Cambridge, October 26, 1774.

Whereas in Consequence of the

present unhappy Disputes between Great-Britain and the Colonies, a formidable Body of Troops with warlike Preparations of every Sort are already arrived at, and others destined for the Metropolis of this Province, and the expressed Design of their being sent to execute Acts of the British Parliament, utterly subversive of the Constitution of the Province: And whereas his Excellency General Gage has attempted by his Troops to disperse the Inhabitants of Salem, whilst assembled to consult Measures for preserving their Freedom; and to subjugate the Province to arbitrary Government;—And proceeding to still more unjustifiable and alarming Lengths has Fortified against the Country the Capital of the Province, and thus greatly endangered the Lives, Liberties and Properties of its oppressed Citizens;—invaded private Property by unlawfully seizing and retaining large Quantities of Ammunition in the Arsenal at Boston and sundry Pieces of Ordnance in the same Town—committed to the Custody of his Troops: the Arms, Ammunition, Ordnance and Warlike Stores of all Sorts, provided at the Public Expence for the Use of the Province, and by all possible Means endeavoured to place the Province entirely in a defenceless State—at the same Time having neglected and altogether disregarded Assurances from this Congress, of the pacific Dispositions of the Inhabitants of the Province, and Intreaties that he would cease from Measures which tended to prevent a Restoration of Harmony between Great-Britain and the Colonies:

Wherefore it is the Opinion of this Congress—that notwithstanding nothing but Slavery ought more to be deprecated than Hostilities with Great-Britain—notwithstanding the Province has not the most distant Design of attacking, annoying or molesting his Majesty's Troops aforesaid, but on the other Hand will consider and treat every Attempt of the Kind as well as all Measures tending to prevent a Reconciliation between Britain and the Colonies as the highest Degree of Enmity to the Province—Nevertheless there is great Reason from the Considerations aforesaid, to be apprehensive of the most fatal Consequences; and that the Province may be in some Degree provided against the same, and under full Permission that the Measures expressed in the following Resolves are perfectly consistent with such Resolves of the Continental Congress as have been communicated to us,

It is Resolved, and hereby Recommended to the several Companies of Militia in this Province, who have not already chosen and appointed Officers, that they meet forthwith, and elect Officers to Command their respective Companies; and that the Officers so chosen assemble as soon as may be; and where the said Officers shall judge the Limits of the present Regiments too extensive, that they divide them, and settle and determine their Limits, and proceed to elect Field Officers to Command the respective Regiments so formed; and that the Field Officers so elected, forthwith endeavour to enlist one Quarter at the least of the Number of the respective Companies, and form them into Companies of fifty Privates at the least, who shall equip and hold themselves in Readiness to march at the shortest Notice; and that each and every Company so formed, choose a Captain and two Lieutenants to command them on any necessary and emergent Service: And that the said Captain and Subalterns so elected, form the said Companies into Battalions, to consist of nine Companies each; and that the Captains and Subalterns of each Battalion so formed proceed to elect Field Officers to command the same. And this Congress doth most earnestly recommend that all the aforesaid Elections be proceeded in and made with due Deliberation and generous Regard to the public Service.

Also Resolved, That as the Security of the Lives, Liberties and Properties of the Inhabitants of this Province depends under Providence on their Knowledge and Skill in the Art Military, and in their being properly and effectually armed and equip'd, if any of said Inhabitants are not provided with Arms and Ammunition according to Law, they immediately provide themselves therewith; and that they use their utmost Diligence to perfect themselves in Military Skill; and that if any Town or District within the Province is not provided with the full Town Stock of Arms and Ammunition according to Law, the Selectmen of such Town or District take effectual Care without Delay to provide the same.

A true Extract from the Minutes.

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, Sec'y

Some of the evidence turned up by Mr. Sanderson and the Society show that 12 officers and 144 men marched from the corner of Lincoln and Lexington Streets on that morning.

After examination of materials thus far uncovered, we know the “who, what, when, and where,” but not the details of “why.” Through research into official recorded histories much has been uncovered. But, recent reviews of newspaper articles from the Centennial celebrations of 1875-76, and the personal journals and diaries of women and young people we have become aware of the reason for Waltham's perceived absence.

On these pages are images that have contributed to the uncovering of evidence that Waltham participated on April 19, 1775.

In Provincial Congress,

Cambridge, February 14, 1775.

WHEREAS it appears necessary for the Defence of the Liberties, and Property of the Inhabitants of this Province, that this Congress on the first Day of their next Session, should be made fully acquainted with the Number and Military Equipments of the Militia, and Minute Men in this Province; and also the Town Stock of Ammunition in each Town and District:

It is therefore **RESOLVED**, That it be and it is hereby recommended, to the commanding Officers of each Regiment of Minute Men, that now is or shall be formed in this Province, that they review the several Companies in their respective Regiments, or cause them to be reviewed, and take an exact State of their Numbers, and Equipment, —and where there is any Company that is not incorporated into a Regiment, the commanding Officer thereof shall review the several Companies, or cause them to be reviewed, and take a like State of their Numbers and Equipment. —And it is also recommended to the Colonels or commanding Officers of each Regiment of Militia in this Province, that they review the several Companies in their respective Regiments, or cause them to be reviewed, and take a State of their Numbers and Equipments; which said State of the Minute Men and Militia, shall be by said Officers returned in Writing to this Congress, on the first Day of their Session after the Adjournment.

And it is further **RESOLVED**, That it be recommended to the Select-Men of each Town and District in the Province, that on the same Day they make return in Writing of the State of the Town and District Stock of Ammunition, and War-like Stores to this Congress.

Signed by Order of the Provincial Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

A true Extract from the Minutes,

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, Secretary.

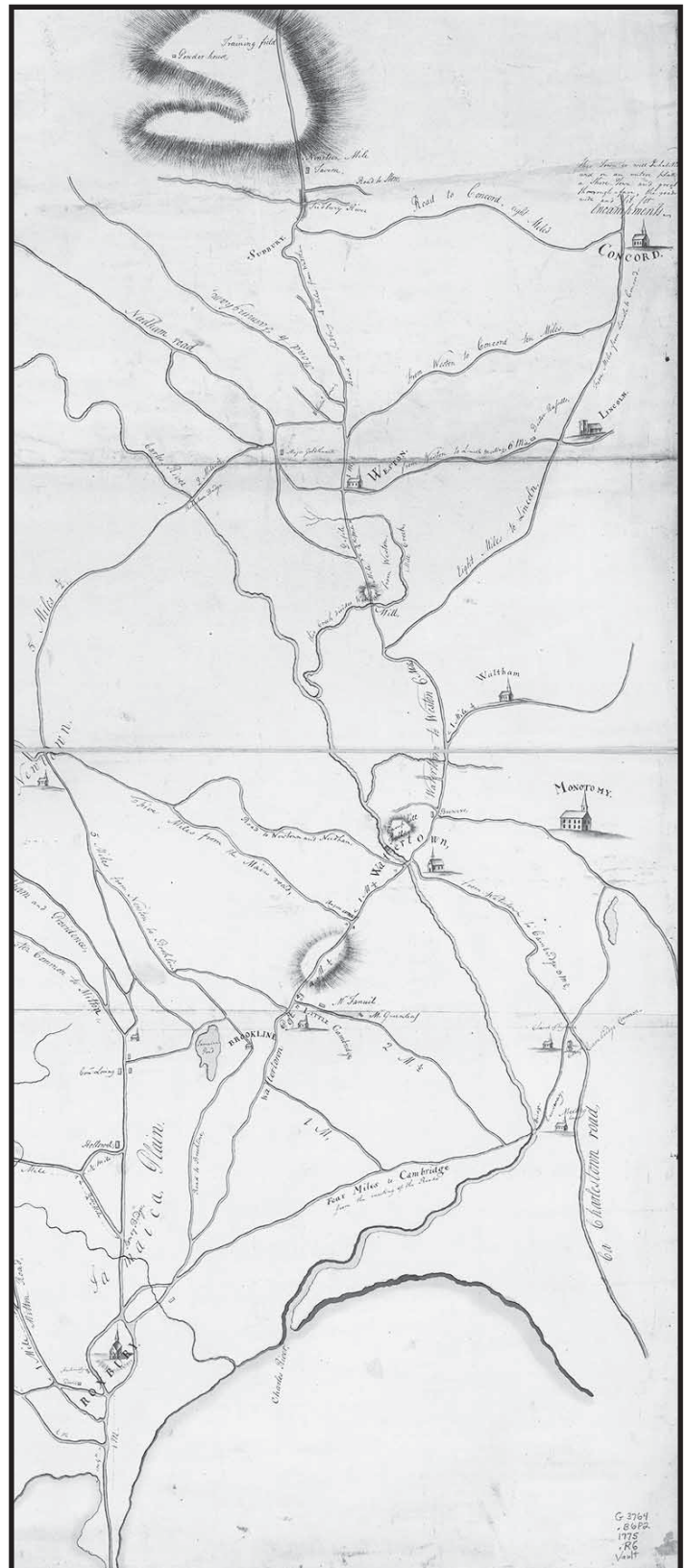
We encourage you to join us in our search for more information. If you know of any family journals or stories surrounding the time period please contact us and we will follow up to more fully complete the story of the Waltham Minute Men of 1775.

*The Waltham Historical Society
is open by appointment only.*

Please call or email to arrange for a visit:

781-891-5815

Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com



Above is a copy of the map made in February of 1775 by Ensign Henry DeBerniere and Captain John Brown showing the known and most direct roads between Boston and Concord. At the bottom is Roxbury Neck, the only land-based means of egress from the Town of Boston. One important take-away from this map is the absence of the Cambridge Reservoir.



Revolutionary Waltham (continued)

The following was submitted as proof of service by the Waltham Company upon the Alarm of April 19, 1775. It lists the men, their rank, the miles travelled, and the number of days served.

"Company in Waltham Called out by Colonel Thomas Gardner on Alarm in defense of the Liberties of America under the Command of Abraham Peirce, Capt., to Concord and Lexington fights and the number of miles traveled and boor our Expenses and these Lins may sartifle that my Company was Kept upon guard till Saturday the 4th day after the fight at Concord.

"Abraham Peirce, Capt., 28 mile, 3 days, 15s. ; Samuel Steams, Lieut., 28 mile, 3 days, 10d.; John Clark, 2 Lieut., 28 mile, 3 days, 10s. 10d.; Isaac hagar, Ens., 28 mile, 3 days, 9s. 10d. ; Jadidiah thair, Serg., 28 mile, 3 days, 7s. 04d. ; Elisha Cox, Serg., 7s., 04d. ; Jusiah mixer, Serg., 7s. 4d. ; Samuel harrington, Serg., 7s. 4d. ; Joshua Swan, Corp., 7s ; John Gleson, Corp., 7s. ; William Cooledg, Corp., 7s. ; Josiah Barnard, Corp. ; Joeph hager, guns, Jonas Starns, Samuel Bigelow, Beselsh flagg, William Stager, Abijah Biglow, Benjamin harrington, Joshua Garfield, Elijah Livermore, Josiah Hastings, 1 day ; Josiah Brown. 1 day ; Ephrim hammond, timmothy flagg. Narthael Bridg, William Brig, Benjamin Stratton, Stephen Welman, Samuel Lovet, Wil- liam Brown, Josiah Brown, Eleser Bradshaw, Jonas Smith, Nathan vils, Jonas vils, Lenard Williams, Elishua Starns, Jonathan Starns, Jonathan warren, Edward Garfield, Elisha harrington, Benjamin White, Samuel Gall, guns (Gale), Asra Dench. Andrew Benjamin, Samuel Gall (Gale), Abijah Fisk. Zack Weson, Amos fisk, Jose harrington, William hager, guns, Jonathan hager, Matthias Collins, Benjamin bager, Jonathan dix, John Sims, Cuttin Clark, Ephriam Peirce, Jech Ball, Josiah Connors, micah Bumpo, Isaac Gleeson, amos harrington, Oliver haget, Seth Pond, daniel Cutting, Isaac Parkhurst, Joseph Corey, Jonathan Cox, Phinehas Warren, Eliphit Hastings, Peetr Warren, william warren, John Coledg, Eliphit warren, Samuel Guddin, Samuel fuller, Jordg Larrance, Jonas Larrance, Elijah Cutting, Benja Gallop. Elijah tolman, Isaac Child, Ab- ijah Child, Jonas Child, Abrani Beeamis, Abrm Bemis, guner, Jonas Smith, guner, Josiah Bemis, Ruben Bemis, Isaac Bemis, Abram Child, Elisha Child. Elisha Cutler, Phinehas warren, Job Priest, James Priest, John vils, 2 days; Isaac Peirce, 2 days; Samuel Roberts, Phinehas Larrance, Jonas Dix, Esquire, Jonas Dix, Juner, Josiah Whitney, Wil- liam willington, Jordg willington, thaddeus willington, 1 day ; Joseph willington, 1 day ; Elijah Larrance, Daniel Starns, Josiah Sanderson, Abnar Sanderson, John Sanderson, Josiah Smith, Abijah Livermore, Joddiah white, Elisha Livermore, Ely Jones, Amos Brown, Joseph Brown, 1 day ; John Larrance, 1 day ; William Cooledg."

Nothing appears in the town records to indicate the struggles at Lexington and Concord, and it is difficult to determine how many of Waltham's sons took part in those conflicts, but some were there. David Smith, an apprentice to Phineas Stearns, was wounded by the bursting of his gun at Lexington.

OPENING SOON!

School Matters: Life and Learning in Waltham



A view of Education from the Collection of the Waltham Historical Society

Watch for the opening of our new exhibit on education in Waltham. Drawing from the 106+ year-old collection of the Waltham Historical Society you can explore industry's impact on education beginning at what many consider the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution. Consider the impact of immigration, culture, and the need for skilled workers as the country transitioned from Agricultural to Industrial needs.

*If you are a teacher, parent, or student, or have an interest in the shaping of education you should make every effort to experience the history of Education in Waltham, and why **School Matters!***



*The Exhibit is at the former Bright School location
260 Grove Street, Waltham, MA*

*Hours for viewing will be announced based upon
the schedule of our volunteer staff.*

*For more information or to arrange a visit
Contact us at*

Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com