

This is NewsLetter Issue No. Two ~ For the year 2018

The Ratification of the Treaty of Paris

I have, in a previous newsletter, stated my belief that the 4th of July is not the date on which we should celebrate the *Independence* of the United States of America. As I then noted, we celebrate the birth of a child on the day that it comes out of the womb ~ not on the day on which it was conceived. The United States of America was conceived on 04 July 1776 and was not truly independent until a war was fought. In fact, if we were independent on 04 July 1776, why was a war fought at all? That war consisted of six years of active fighting and two years of working on an equitable treaty of peace. The treaty conducted in Paris, France, and known thereafter as the Treaty of Paris, was concluded and signed on 03 September 1783.

The surrender of the British army under General Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown on 19 October 1781 was a demoralizing blow to the British. It signaled the beginning of the end.

Yorktown was followed by a year's worth of peace negotiations between British and American delegates.

The men commissioned by the delegates



assembled in Congress to entreat and negotiate with the British included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay and Henry Laurens. Thomas Jefferson was named as a fifth commissioner, but

1784

By the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS Affembled,
A P R O C L A M A T I O N .

WH E R E A S definitive articles of peace and friendship, between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty, were concluded and signed at Paris, on the 3d day of September, 1783, by the plenipotentiaries of the said United States, and of his said Britannic Majesty, duly and respectively authorized for that purpose; which definitive articles are in the words following.

In the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided
T R I N I T Y .

IT having pleased the Divine Providence to dispose the hearts of the most serene and most potent Prince George the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, Arch-Treasurer and Prince Elector of the Holy Roman Empire, &c. and of the United States of America, to forget all past misundersittings and differences, that have unhappily interrupted the good correspondence and friendship which they mutually wish to restore; and to establish such a beneficial and satisfactory intercourse between the two countries, upon the ground of reciprocal advantages and mutual convenience, as may promote and secure to both perpetual peace and harmony: And having for this desirable end, already laid the foundation of peace and reconciliation, by the provisional articles, signed at Paris, on the 30th of November, 1782, by the commissioners empowered on each part, which articles were agreed to be inserted in, and to constitute the treaty of peace proposed to be concluded between the crown of Great-Britain and the said United States, but which treaty was not to be concluded until terms of peace should be agreed upon between Great-Britain and France, and his Britannic Majesty should be ready to conclude such treaty accordingly; and the treaty between Great-Britain and France, having since been concluded, his Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, in order to carry into full effect the provisional articles above-mentioned, according to the tenor thereof, have constituted and appointed, that is to say, His Britannic Majesty on his part, David Hartley, Esquire, member of the parliament of Great-Britain, and the said United States on their part, John Adams, Esquire, late a common lawyer of the United States of America at the court of Versailles, late delegate in congress from the state of Massachusetts, and chief justice of the said state, and minister plenipotentiary of the said United States, to their high mightiness the States General of the United Netherlands; Benjamin Franklin, Esquire, late delegate in congress from the state of Pennsylvania, president of the convention of the said state, and minister plenipotentiary from the United States of America at the court of Versailles; John Jay, Esquire, late president of congress, and chief justice of the state of New-York, and minister plenipotentiary from the said United States at the court of Madrid, to be the plenipotentiaries for the concluding and signing the present definitive treaty, who after having reciprocally communicated their respective full powers, have agreed upon and confirmed the following articles.

ARTICLE 1st. His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz. New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia, to be free, sovereign and independent states: that he treats with them as such, and for himself, his heirs and successors, renounces all claims to the government, propriety and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof.

ARTICLE 2d. And that all disputes which might arise in future on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are and shall be their boundaries, viz.

From the north west angle of Nova-Scotia, viz. that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of Saint-Croix river to the Highlands; along the said Highlands which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river Saint Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the north-westernmost head of Connecticut river, thence down along the middle of that river to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; from thence by a line due west on said latitude, until it strikes the river Iroquois or Cataraqui; thence along the middle of said river into lake Ontario, through the middle of said lake until it strikes the communication by water between that lake and lake Erie; thence along the middle of said communication into lake Erie, through the middle of said lake until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and lake Huron; thence along the middle of said water communication into the lake Huron; thence through the middle of said lake to the water communication between that lake and lake Superior; thence through lake Superior northward of the files, Royal and Philippeaux to the long lake; thence through the middle of said

long lake and the water communication between it and the lake of the Woods, to the said lake of the Woods; thence through the said lake to the most north-western point thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the river Mississippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi, until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the thirty-first degree of north latitude. South by a line to be drawn due east from the determination of the line last mentioned, in the latitude of thirty-one degrees north of the equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola or Catahouche; thence along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint river; thence straight to the head of Saint Mary's river; and thence down along the middle of Saint Mary's river to the Atlantic Ocean. East by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river Saint-Croix, from its mouth in the bay of Fundy to its source, and from its source directly north to the aforesaid Highlands which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean from those which fall into the river Saint Lawrence comprehending all islands within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the aforesaid boundaries between Nova-Scotia on the one part, and East Florida on the other, shall respectively touch the bay of Fundy, and the Atlantic Ocean; excepting such islands as now are or heretofore have been within the limits of the said province of Nova Scotia.

ARTICLE 3d. It is agreed that the people of the United States shall continue to enjoy unimpaired the right to take fish of every kind on the Grand Banks, and on all the other banks of Newfoundland; also in the gulph of Saint Lawrence, and at all other places in the sea, where the inhabitants of both countries used at any time heretofore to fish; and also that the inhabitants of the United States shall have liberty to take fish of every kind on such part of the coast of Newfoundland as British fishermen shall use, (but not to dry or cure the same on that island) and also on the coasts, bays and creeks of all other of his Britannic Majesty's dominions in America; and that the American fishermen shall have liberty to take fish of every kind on such part of the coast of Nova-Scotia, Magdalen Islands, and Labrador, so long as the same shall remain unfished, but so soon as the same or either of them shall be fished, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such settlement, without a previous agreement for that purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors or possessors of the ground.

ARTICLE 4th. It is agreed that creditors on either side, shall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value in sterling money, of all bona fide debts heretofore contracted.

ARTICLE 5th. It is agreed that the Congress shall earnestly recommend it to the legislatures of the respective states, to provide for the restitution of all estates, rights and properties, which have been confiscated, belonging to real British subjects, and also of the estates, rights and properties of persons resident in districts in the possession of his Majesty's arms, and who have not borne arms against the said United States. And that persons on any other description shall have free liberty to go to any part or parts of any of the Thirteen United States, and therein to remain twelve months unmolested in their endeavours to obtain the restitution of such of their estates, rights and properties, as may have been confiscated; and that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states, a reconsideration and revision of all acts or laws regarding the premises, so as to render the said laws or acts perfectly consistent, not only with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation, which on the return of the blessings of peace should universally prevail. And that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states, that the estates, rights and properties of such last mentioned persons shall be restored to them; their refunding to any persons who may be now in possession the bona fide price (where any has been given) which such persons may have paid on purchasing any of the said lands, rights or properties since the confiscation. And it is agreed that all persons who have any interest in confiscated lands, either by debts, marriage settlements, or otherwise, shall meet with no lawful impediment in the prosecution of their just rights.

ARTICLE 6th. That there shall be no future confiscations made, nor any prosecutions commenced against any person or persons for or by reason of the part which he or they may have taken in the present war; and that no person shall on that account, suffer any future loss or damage, either in his person liberty or property, and that those who may be in confinement on such charges, at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America, shall be immediately set at liberty, and the prosecutions so commenced be discontinued.

ARTICLE 7th. There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic Majesty and the said States,

and between the subjects of the one, and the citizens of the other, wherefore all hostilities both by sea and land shall from henceforth cease: all prisoners on both sides shall be set at liberty, and his Britannic Majesty shall with all convenient speed, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any negroes or other property of the American inhabitants, withdraw all his armies, garrisons and fleets from the said United States and from every port place and harbour within the same; leaving in all fortifications the American artillery that may be therein, and shall also order and cause all archives, records deeds and papers, belonging to any of the said states, or their citizens, which in the course of the war may have fallen into the hands of his officers, to be forthwith restored and delivered to the proper states and persons to whom they belong.

ARTICLE 8th. The navigation of the river Mississippi, from its source to the Ocean, shall forever remain free and open to the subjects of Great-Britain and the citizens of the United States.

ARTICLE 9th. In case it should so happen that any place or territory belonging to Great-Britain or to the United States, should have been conquered by the arms of either from the other, before the arrival of the said provisional articles in America, it is agreed, that the same shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring any compensation.

ARTICLE 10th. The solemn ratifications of the present treaty, expedited in good and due form, shall be exchanged between the contracting parties, in the space of six months, or sooner if possible, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present treaty. In witness whereof, we the undersigned, their ministers plenipotentiary, have in their name and in virtue of our full powers, signed with our hands the present definitive treaty, and caused the seals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

D O N E at Paris, this third day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

(L. S.) D. HARTLEY, (L. S.) JOHN ADAMS,
(L. S.) B. FRANKLIN, (L. S.) JOHN JAY.

A N D we the United States in Congress assembled, having seen and duly considered the definitive articles aforesaid, did by a certain act under the seal of the United States, bearing date this 14th day of January 1784, approve, ratify and confirm the same and every part and clause thereof, engaging and promising that we would sincerely and faithfully perform and observe the same, and never suffer them to be violated by any one, or transgressed in any manner as far as should be in our power: and being sincerely disposed to carry the said articles into execution truly, honestly and with good faith, according to the intent and meaning thereof, we have thought proper by these presents, to notify the premises to all the good citizens of these United States, hereby requiring and enjoining all bodies of magistracy, legislative, executive and judiciary, all persons bearing office, civil or military, of whatever rank, degree or powers, and all others the good citizens of these States of every vocation and condition, that reverencing those stipulations entered into on their behalf, under the authority of that federal bond by which their existence as an independent people is bound up together, and is known and acknowledged by the nations of the world, and with that good faith which is every man's sure guide within their several offices jurisdictions and vocations, they carry into effect the said definitive articles, and every clause and sentence thereof, sincerely, strictly and completely.

G I V E N under the Seal of the United States, Witness his Excellency THOMAS MIFFLIN, our President, at Annapolis, this fourteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, and of the sovereignty and independence of the United States of America the eighth.

Chas. Thomson

he declined to serve on the commission. Adams, Franklin and Jay completed the negotiations and the writing of preliminary articles by the time

that Laurens arrived in France. The British negotiators were Richard Oswald and Henry Strachey.

The negotiations led to the signing of Preliminary Articles of Peace on 30 November 1782. One result of the Preliminary Articles was King George III finally recognizing, one month later, in December, the right of the Colonies to be free and independent states. The Articles were named 'Preliminary' because, as with any law, they needed to be ratified by the delegates assembled in Congress. On 15 April 1783, the Preliminary Articles of Peace were ratified by the American Congress.

The negotiators then got to work refining and clarifying certain points that were questioned about the Preliminary Articles. By the end of the summer, a definitive Treaty was ready to be signed. That definitive Treaty of Paris was signed on 03 September 1783 and on that date the independence of the colonies was effected. One of the terms to which the negotiators agreed was that signed copies of the treaty, after being ratified, were to be exchanged within six months after the signing. That meant that the copy transported to Philadelphia (for the signatures of delegates of each colony verifying their ratification of the treaty) had to be returned to Paris by the deadline date of 03 March 1784.

The copy for the American signatures arrived at Philadelphia and was delivered to Thomas Mifflin, President of the Continental Congress, on 22 November 1783. Mifflin sent a missive to the governors of the thirteen states requesting that they send representatives to sign the document as soon as possible. A meeting of the Congress was scheduled for 26 November, but it did not meet until 13 December. Fearing that the clock would run out on them, a faction of the Congress suggested that the treaty be ratified without all of the required signatories present. Thomas Jefferson led the opposing faction insisting that the rules laid down by the delegates to the Second Continental Congress themselves be followed.

Meeting in Congress on 03 January 1784, a motion was made by Elbridge Gerry and William Ellery stating: *"That the President be requested to inform the Plenipotentiaries of the United States in Europe that the definitive treaty was received in the interval of the adjournment of Congress, from Princeton to Annapolis, that in consequence of the severity of the season and*

other circumstances seven States only have as yet assembled. That they are unanimously desirous of ratifying the treaty. That the measure will be considered as soon as nine States shall be represented in Congress, and there is every reason to expect the ratification will be immediately adopted not the least doubt but that the definitive treaty will be immediately ratified, but as the ratification may not arrive in time to our Ministers Congress are apprehensive of injurious consequences unless the term for exchanging the Treaty should be enlarged." In other words, that the Treaty's deadline date should be extended. A letter was composed and sent to the American Commissioners in Paris suggesting that the deadline be extended at least two months due to the weather and travel conditions preventing the minimum quorum of nine states being represented for the ratification of the Treaty.

On Wednesday morning, 14 January 1784, with nine states represented finally, the first item of business was the ratification of the Treaty. In the writing of Thomas Jefferson it was *"Resolved, unanimously, nine states being present, that the said definitive treaty be, and the same is hereby ratified by the United States in Congress assembled, in the form following...."* The final form of the Treaty was transcribed and published in the form of the attached illustration. A final comment was recorded in the papers of the Continental Congress. Jacob Read made a motion: *"That Congress do on Wednesday next celebrate the final ratification of the Definitive Treaty of peace. And that a public entertainment be given on that day to the Executive and other respectable Citizens."*

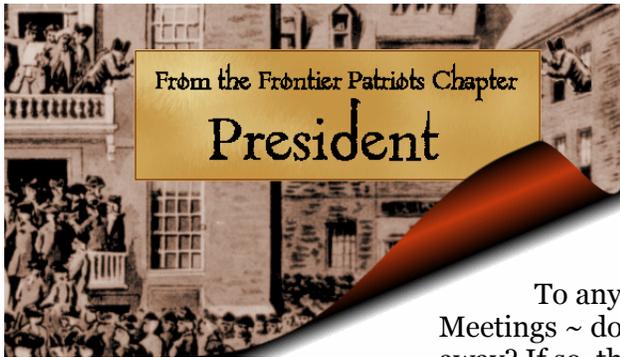
Three copies of the ratified document were sent by different messengers to make sure that at least one would get through. None arrived within the deadline (the earliest arrived on 12 May 1784), but none of the parties were inclined to continue the hostilities based on such a technicality and the American Revolutionary War was finally at an end.

I suggested previously (Newsletter #3, 2016) that our 'Independence Day' should be celebrated on 03 September (when the Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolutionary War) rather than on 04 July (when we simply declared

that we wanted to be independent). It might actually be more appropriate to celebrate our

independence on 14 January ~ when the Treaty of Paris was ratified by a majority of the states.

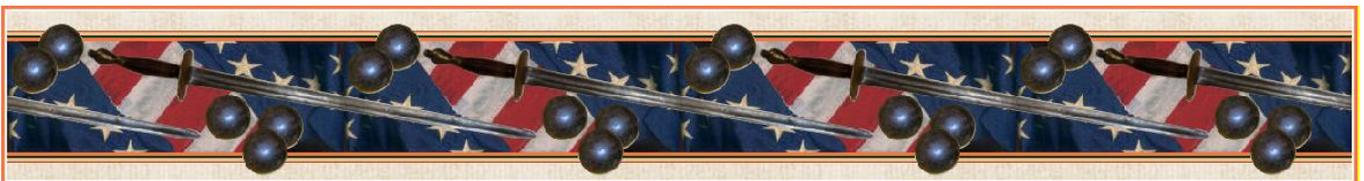
Note: The painting on the first page by Benjamin West was never finished as he intended. The British commissioners refused to pose for it.



The next meeting of the
Frontier Patriots Chapter
of the Sons of the American Revolution
will be held on 09 June 2018 starting at 12 Noon,
~ at Ed's Steak House restaurant, 4476 Business
220, Bedford, PA
(Opposite to the I99 access road)

To any of you who do not normally attend any of the Quarterly Meetings ~ do you avoid attending them because you live too far away? If so, that's perfectly understandable. But to any of you who are local and actually able to attend a meeting, why don't you? Perhaps

You fear that the meeting will be terribly stuffy and formal. Well, we do have to discuss business from time to time, but we try not to be too stuffy about it. And we try to be comfortable. In fact, we don't require the wearing of suits or formal wear anymore. (I remember when we did that in the 90s.) In the summer we don't forbid our members from wearing shorts. Sometimes we discuss stories about our Revolutionary War ancestors and sometimes we discuss current affairs that involve our country (without getting into politics). The point I am trying to make is that we wish that you would at least come to one meeting. That way you could see if it fits your preconceived idea of how stuffy and formal they are, or if they are something that you wouldn't mind attending more often. ~ Larry



The British Are Coming! The British Are Coming!

Most of us first learned about Paul Revere's ride from Boston to Lexington and Concord on the night of 18 April 1775 from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, *Paul Revere's Ride*. The poem was written in 1860, but first published in the January 1861 issue of *The Atlantic Monthly* magazine. When, in 1863, the poem was included in the book *Tales of a Wayside Inn*, it was renamed *The Landlord's Tale*. Longfellow's contribution to the literature of the United States of America was as follows:

Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five:
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend, "If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry-arch
Of the North-Church-tower, as a signal-light,--
One if by land, and two if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,

Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country-folk to be up and to arm."

Then he said "Good night!" and with muffled
oar

Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,
Just as the moon rose over the bay,
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay
The Somerset, British man-of-war:
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar
Across the moon, like a prison-bar,
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile, his friend, through alley and street
Wanders and watches with eager ears,
Till in the silence around him he hears
The muster of men at the barrack door,
The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet,
And the measured tread of the grenadiers
Marching down to their boats on the shore.

Then he climbed to the tower of the church,
Up the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,
To the belfry-chamber overhead,
And startled the pigeons from their perch
On the sombre rafters, that round him made
Masses and moving shapes of shade,--
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,
To the highest window in the wall,
Where he paused to listen and look down
A moment on the roofs of the town,
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,
In their night-encampment on the hill,
Wrapped in silence so deep and still
That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,
The watchful night-wind, as it went
Creeping along from tent to tent,
And seeming to whisper, "All is well!"
A moment only he feels the spell
Of the place and the hour, and the secret dread
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent
On a shadowy something far away,
Where the river widens to meet the bay, --
A line of black, that bends and floats

On the rising tide, like a bridge of boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride,
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.

Now he patted his horse's side,
Now gazed on the landscape far and near,
Then impetuous stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth;
But mostly he watched with eager search
The belfry-tower of the old North Church,
As it rose above the graves on the hill,
Lonely and spectral and sombre and still.
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height,
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight
A second lamp in the belfry burns!

A hurry of hoofs in a village-street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath from the pebbles, in passing, a
spark

Struck out by a steed that flies fearless and
fleet:
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and
the light,

The fate of a nation was riding that night;
And the spark struck out by that steed, in his
flight,
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.

He has left the village and mounted the steep,
And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;
And under the alders, that skirt its edge,
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.

It was twelve by the village clock
When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.
He heard the crowing of the cock,
And the barking of the farmer's dog,
And felt the damp of the river-fog,
That rises when the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,
When he galloped into Lexington.
He saw the gilded weathercock

Swim in the moonlight as he passed,
And the meeting-house windows, blank and
bare,
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,
As if they already stood aghast
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.
He heard the bleating of the flock,
And the twitter of birds among the trees,
And felt the breath of the morning breeze
Blowing over the meadows brown.
And one was safe and asleep in his bed
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,
Who that day would be lying dead,
Pierced by a British musket-ball.

You know the rest. In the books you have read,
How the British Regulars fired and fled,--
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farmyard-wall,
Chasing the red-coats down the lane,
Then crossing the fields to emerge again
Under the trees at the turn of the road,
And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm,--
A cry of defiance, and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo forevermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

At the very beginning of this article I noted that most of us first learned of Revere and his 'midnight ride' from Longfellow's poem.

As you read through the poem, did you notice that the phrase "*The British are coming!*" does not appear anywhere in it? Despite the fact that the alarm does not actually exist in Longfellow's poem, it is often believed to.

On 15 March 1795, sixty-six years before Longfellow, the poet Eb. Stiles (*i.e.* Ebenezer Stiles), published a poem titled: *Story of the Battle of Concord and Lexington and Revears ride Twenty years ago*. The first two stanzas of Stiles' poem are as follows:

He spared neither Horse nor whip nor spur,
As he galloped through mud and mire
He thought of nought but 'Liberty'
And the lanterns that hung from the Spire.
He raced his Steed through field and wood
Nor turned to ford the river
But faced his horse to the foaming flood,
They swam across together.

He madly dashed o'er mountains and moor
Never slackened spur nor rein
Until with a shout he stood by the door,
Of the Church by Concord green
'They come They come,' he loudly cried,
'They are marching their Legions this way
Prepar to meet them ye true and tried,
They'l be hear by Break of day.

As can be seen in Stiles' poem, Revere supposedly cried "*They come They come.*" The implication, of course, was that Paul Revere was referring to the British army troops, who were known more aptly as 'Regulars.'

Many of the accepted 'facts' pertaining to the American Revolutionary War have been questioned by scholars in recent years. And many of those accepted facts have been found to be mere myths. One of the myths that have been the subject of many arguments is whether Paul Revere shouted the alarm "*The British are coming!*" or if he would more correctly have shouted "*The Regulars are coming!*" Proponents of the former theory would point out that the majority of the colonists considered themselves to be 'Americans' and no longer 'British'. Proponents of the latter theory would claim that the colonists actually wanted to be considered as British ~ that the refusal of the British Parliament to allow colonists to send representatives to serve in Parliament which was one of the primary causes for the Declaration of Independence ~ would prove that

they definitely considered themselves to be truly 'British' in heart and mind.

British Army did not have orders to arrest anyone, the three soon-to-be riders accepted the request and were ready on the night of 18 April 1775.



William Munroe, the orderly sergeant in Captain John Parker's Company, with eight other militiamen, served as a guard on the house of the Reverend Clark, where Adams and Hancock were staying on the night of 18 April 1775. On 07 March 1825, at Middlesex before Amos Muzzy, a Justice of the Peace, William Munroe gave a deposition in which he narrated his memory of the night of April 18th and the events at Lexington Green on the 19th. The portion of his deposition

The fact of the matter is that the foregoing discussion of whether he shouted "British" or "Regulars" is in reality a moot point. Unless you have the inquisitive mind of a researcher, and want to know what Revere, himself, said about the event, you probably didn't search out the deposition that Revere submitted to the Massachusetts Provincial Congress in 1775. In that deposition, and then later in the narrative that he wrote, circa 1798, at the request of Jeremy Belknap, secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Paul Revere made no mention of shouting anything. In fact, he probably kept as quiet as he could so as not to tip off any Regulars who might be out in the countryside on patrol to his mission.

Dr. Joseph Warren had approached Paul Revere, William Dawes and Dr. Samuel Prescott with the request for them to undertake a mission. That mission was to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were staying at a house in the small village of Lexington, that the British Army was on the march to arrest them. The three riders were then to ride farther to the town of Concord in order to warn the residents there that the British troops intended to capture or destroy the military stores that had been stockpiled there. Although Dr. Warren's information was defective, because the

which related to Paul Revere follows:

I, William Munroe, of Lexington, on oath do testify, that I acted as orderly sergeant in the company commanded by Capt. John Parker, on the 19th of April, 1775; that, early in the evening of the 18th of the same April, I was informed by Solomon Brown, who had just returned from Boston, that he had seen nine British officers on the road, traveling leisurely, sometimes before and sometimes behind him; that he had discovered, by the occasional blowing aside of their top coats, that they were armed. On learning this, I supposed they had some design upon Hancock and Adams, who were then at the house of the Rev. Mr. Clark, and immediately assembled a guard of eight men, with their arms, to guard the house. About midnight, Col. Paul Revere rode up and requested admittance. I told him the family had just retired, and had requested, that they might not be disturbed by any noise about the house. "Noise!" said he, "you'll have noise enough before long. The regulars are coming out." We then permitted him to pass. . .

If, according to his own writings, Paul Revere never shouted "*The British are coming! The British are coming!*" the whole time that he was riding furiously through the Massachusetts countryside ~ and if the primary information source for most American school children was Longfellow's poem, in which the quote did not appear, ~ why have generations of Americans grown up repeating the non-existent quote?

It is possible that the idea for the often repeated quote began with Ebenezer Stiles' 1795 poem in which he stated that Revere 'loudly cried' "*They come They come.*" It then might have gained a certain amount of corroboration with Sergeant William Munroe's 1825 deposition, in which he stated that Revere declared that "*The regulars are coming out.*" By 1860 when Henry Longfellow wrote his poem, the quote might have been popular.

A quandary still exists, though ~ If, as we have seen, the Longfellow poem does not mention a shout at all; the Stiles poem stated simply "*They come*" and Munroe's deposition noted that "*The regulars are coming out*" ~ how does any of that translate into a phrase of four particular words arranged in a specific sequence: "*The British are coming!*"? Someone, at some time, had to have dreamed up the phrase and used it in a way that it became popular. Four word phrases that reach mythical status do not just materialize out of thin air.

Discovering where the "*The British are coming!*" phrase came from was no easy matter. I searched through my collection of over 350 books on the American Revolutionary War, but came up empty. I searched more websites on the internet than I really had time to, and still came up empty ~ until I found the website: *Paul Revere's House*. Something about the site induced me to telephone the Museum. The call was very fruitful. I was directed by the museum staff to a blog by J. L. Bell, titled *Boston 1775*. The information that follows is derived from Mr. Bell's research.

William H. Sumner submitted an article to the *New England Historical and Genealogical*

Record, which was published in 1854. Sumner's article titled *Reminiscences by Gen. W.H. Sumner* recalled a dinner he attended on 21 November 1822. One of the guests at that dinner was Dorothy Quincy/Scott, the remarried widow of John Hancock. She was an eyewitness to Revere's alarm, at the time living with John Hancock as his fiancé, and therefore being at the Reverend Clark's house on the night of 18 April 1775.

According to the narrative, as told by Mrs. Scott to Mr. Sumner, it was not actually Paul Revere who uttered the now-famous phrase. Mrs. Scott noted that Revere had arrived and simply "*brought the message.*" It was a local homeowner who later rushed in and exclaimed "*The British are coming! The British are coming! . . .*" To that, the unnamed Lexington resident added "*my wife's in etarnity now.*", implying that the British troops had already murdered her.

In 1856, a small book, *Extracts from the Diary and Correspondence of the Late Amos Lawrence* was published. In one of the letters, written to a friend in 1849, Amos told of how his father, Samuel Lawrence, had belonged to a company of minute-men in the village of Groton. Early on the morning of 19 April, General Oliver Prescott, a neighbor, rode up to the Lawrence house, calling out "*Samuel, notify your men: the British are coming.*"

Mr. Bell cited a few other examples of the "*The British are coming!*" phrase being used by writers during the 1850s and beyond. My interest was primarily in where the phrase originated, and that was undoubtedly answered by the 1854 Sumner article. The Victorian Period (1850s to 1920s) in the United States of America was a time of 'historical nostalgia.' It especially was a time of patriotism, when there was no longer a question of whether any man or woman thought of themselves as still British. Emphasis on the British being identified as the 'They' in the phrase "*They are coming.*" was an indication of American patriotism.

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