

Samuel Prescott (1751- c.1777) Memorial Plaque
Home of Samuel Prescott, Lexington Rd.
N 42. 27.503'
W -71. 20.205'
Concord, Middlesex Co.,
Massachusetts
Patriot Index / Revolutionary War Graves Register
Nat'l. Society SAR (NSSAR)
Louisville, KY, Headquarters
January 12, 2015

Submitted by James Edward Mitchell, Chairman
Texas Society SAR RevWar Graves Committee

Let me submit to you, as reader and an observer of American history that more often than we may recognize, our factual colonial history might become lost beyond the margins of fact found printed upon a book page or a printed score in the *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War Vol. 12, pg. 749*. Here was found, "**Prescott, Benjamin. Groton**. Private, Capt. Asa Lawrence's co., of Minutemen, which marched on the alarm of Apr 19, 1775, to headquarters at Cambridge; service 21 days; also, *Sergeant*, Capt. Joseph Moor(e)'s co., Col. William Prescott's (MA) regt.; company return dated Oct 6, 1775; 'reported' killed at Bunker Hill Jun 17, 1775; also, receipt for bounty coat, given by James Prescott father of said Benjamin...." Separately, listed upon the same page is, "**Prescott, Benjamin**. Lists of men appearing under the heading "Hartwell Brook the first Everidge;" said Prescott appears among men (associated) with **Col. Buttrick at Rhode Island** in 1778; name preceded by "Dr."

Such facts written within Vol. 1 of *A Counterintelligence Reader: American Revolution...*, by Editor Frank J. Rafalko, National Counterintelligence Center must be weighted with evidence that identified **Dr. Samuel Prescott, William Dawes and (Paul) Revere** as riders and couriers designated to deliver news of an alarm projected at Concord, MA, and set into motion by the march of a British expedition from Boston on the night of Apr 18th 1775. The National Counterintelligence Center at Langley, VA was created in 1994 in response to the arrest of CIA mole Aldrich Ames.¹

Rafalko's counterintelligence reader states upon pg. 3 that Paul Revere had served as a courier before his famous "midnight ride," and continued to do so during the early years of the revolutionary war. One of his earlier rides was perhaps as important as the Lexington ride. In Dec. of 1774, **Revere** rode to Oyster River with the intelligence report that the British, under Gen. Gage, intended to seize Fort William and Mary. Utilizing this report Maj. John Sullivan of the colonial (New England) militia led a force of 400 men – all in civilian clothing rather than a militia coat – in an attack of the fort seizing 100 hundred barrels of black powder ultimately used by the (MA) militia & patriot minute men to cover their retreat from the battle of Bunker Hill.

In reflection, this story is essentially about **Dr. Samuel Prescott**, who is a much less documented member of Massachusetts' surveillance committee that thrived obtaining information about British army movement around the Boston area in 1775-6.

The Minute Man National Historical Park, North Bridge, 174 Liberty Street, Concord, MA 01742-1705, tel. 1-978/369-6993 serves distinctively as a reliable source of identifying the Patriot Messengers including **Samuel Prescott, MD**, whose warning reached elements of the (MA) militia that cautioned **Col. James Barrett**. His farm located across the North Bridge over the Concord River now, stored hidden arms supplies. Prescott's route is nicely mapped within a National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, pamphlet, entitled: Minute Man.

Particularly, interesting to the success of Prescott's ride alone to Concord, he was visiting Lexington and his fiancée the evening of Apr 18th. After his departure from Lexington, he had determined that (MA) militia men were successful in removing cannon to Groton that same day. With Revere and Wm. Dawes reaching Lexington before the British expedition passed Lechmore Point situated on the West bank of the Charles River opposite Boston, Prescott joined the Patriot couriers. (The two, riders had already warned - **Samuel Adams** and **John Hancock** to look-out, the British were on the road!) In the exchange Revere and Dawes informed their associate and friend, **Dr. Prescott** that with his help they might easily ride in the dark to reach Concord and warn townsmen of the approaching *British force* led by **Lt Col Francis Smith of the 10th regt. & Maj John Pitcairn, commander of the marines that landed at Lechmere Point**. En route together after 1:00 A.M. four (4) British horsemen belonging to a scouting party appear from the wood, 3 miles west of Lexington upon that road, and stop Revere's horse. **Dr. Prescott**, a familiar horseman both day and night with the area that included a stable of relatives and kinsmen residing at Acton and Groton, MA, turned and quickly evaded the British with **William Dawes** close behind and dodging trees on horseback.

Finally, **Dr. Prescott** on horseback with the reins of his bridle cut, skillfully jumped a stone fence riding trustfully in the dark woods, circled the British check point (Lincoln) before riding alone, to reach Concord, carrying Revere's warning to his townsmen; sources:

<files.usgarchives.net/ma/middlesex/towns/concord/histch07.txt> and
<<http://www.hartwell.org/brl.html>>

In the confusion and darkness, Dawes apparently had cut-out.

Evidence exists that during dawn hours on Apr 19th, **Prescott** had the presence of mind to return to Lexington and Lydia Mulliken's father's home, where wounded militia men were welcomed, seeking first aid from **Dr. Prescott** as a volunteer surgeon.

Concord, Acton and Groton were flush with Prescott kin. His older brother, **Benjamin Prescott** is identical with the individuals by the same name, recorded within the *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors, above*. I logically conclude also, that **(MA) Col. Buttrick** mentioned, above, within the *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors, Vol. 12, pg. 749*, is identical to **Maj. (John) Buttrick of Concord**, whose name is in print in the 'Minute Man' pamphlet published by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Minute Man National Historical Park at Concord, MA.

In closing, colonial American history was much less kind in recording irrefutably the *final resting place* and *unfinished life* of **Dr. Samuel Prescott**! Speculation and even some evidence point to Samuel Prescott as a volunteer of his surgical experience aboard a New England privateer, and he is suggested also identical with an individual by the same name that was imprisoned at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he later died and was believed buried in an unmarked grave. Yet, the reader can take solace and even lay a remembrance wreath to honor his Revolutionary War military service at the curtilage (stone fence)

site of a large bronze marker inscribed, "Beyond the stone wall is the site of the house of DOCTOR SAMUEL PRESCOTT a citizen of Concord," found upon [Lexington Road (Lat., N 42. 27.503'; Long., W -71. 20.205)].

¹ Singh, Samir (January 19, 2001). "Clinton Establishes New Federal Counterintelligence Organizations" American Association of the Advancement of Science. Retrieved 2007-09-08.