



Nottingham Square is where the militia trained and left from for the march

The Nottingham Alarm and March: A Pictorial Chronicle of the Day

Steve Soreff, MD

On a glorious almost warm, sunny and brilliantly bright Saturday morning April 23, 2022, Nottingham Square was ready to host the 300th Anniversary Committee's reenactment of the famous march to Medford beginning on April 20, 1775.

To appreciate the alarm and march, let us first look at the actual historical event itself and then see how it was observed on Saturday, April 23, 2022. On April 19, 1775, there were the Battles of Lexington and Concord. The word of the British moving troops out of Boston quickly spread throughout the region. Nottingham's response to the alarm was depending on the source, between about 60 and 100 men marched to initially Medford. Later that night they moved their quarters in Cambridge. The leadership included both Joseph Cilley and Dr, Henry Dearborn, With the Battles of Lexington and Concord over, some of the men returned home and others stayed and participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill June 17, 1775.

Here is what happened on April 23, 2022 on Nottingham Square. At 8 AM, Steve Welch brought in the 300th merchandise and pounded in the No Parking signs on Ledge Farm Road. Steve White and Steve Soreff set the Dunkin Donuts donated refreshment table. Joe and Wanda Welch prepared the 300th table of tee shirts, plaques, hats and cook books. A little before 9 AM, the reenactors began to arrive. They came from many towns in New Hampshire and several communities from Massachusetts. A number were accompanied by their partners. All were in Revolutionary War era costumes. Bob Davidson of 1st New Hampshire Regiment <https://firstnhregiment.org/> organized the reenactor assembly. Regardless of where they came from, all for that moment they were members of the Nottingham militia. And they had been training and drilling for the coming revolution.



The reenactors gathering

At 9 AM Nottingham residents began to arrive on Nottingham Square. They mingled with and learned from the reenactors. Well over a hundred Nottingham residents were present. And this number included many families with children. At about 9:30 AM, the militia conducted a drill.



The militia during a drill

After that the two Nottingham members of its Board of Select John Morin and Ben Bartlett and Steve Welch, chair of the 300th Committee, placed a wreath at the Four Generals Statue to honor and remember General Doctor Henry Dearborn, He and Joseph Cilley lead the march April 20, 1775.



Left to right Steve Welch, Ben Bartlett and John Morin at the wreath

This ceremony was followed by the militia firing a three salute volley to Dr. Henry Dearborn.



The militia's musket salute to Dr. Henry Dearborn

At about 10 AM, a horseback rider rode up Ledge Farm Road. It was Kendall Couture. She announced that there had been battles at Lexington and Concord. It was call to arms.



Kendall Couture sounding the alarm

In response to the news, the militia decided to support the rebellion. They began to march to Bostn area.



The march began.

And those gathered at the Square followed the militia marchers.



Those gathered marched, too.

The small citizen army marched down Ledge Farm Road all the way to the Epping town line. From there Nottingham school bus returned the troops to Nottingham Square. There they reassembled and marched to the Joseph Cilley burial ground.



The militia reassembled at Nottingham Square ready to march to grave of General Joseph Cilley.

At General Joseph Cilley grave another wreath was laid. The militia fired a three volleys to salute General Cilley. The group then marched back to Nottingham Square.

Upon returning to the Square, the militia gathered for the final time. Before disbanding, Bob Davidson thanked the troops. Later, many of the militia went to a well-deserved lunch at the Holy Grail in Epping.



Bob Davidson thanks the reenactors, their companions and all those attending Nottingham residents who participated the Nottingham alarm and march.

It was great day for Nottingham and the 300th celebration. The next event will Charter Day, Sunday, May 15, 2022. It will include the burying of the Time Capsule, the reading of 1722 Town Charter and a concert by the Nevers' Second Regiment Band.