

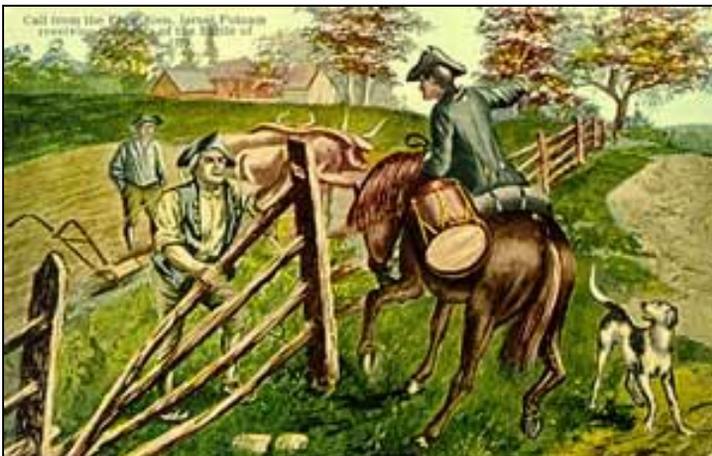
April 2005 NewsLetter

On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five.....

“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...” goes the famous tale by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.



On the 19th of April, events turned bloody and deadly at Lexington and Concord. Americans went to war against the British Regulars. Thus began the American Revolution.



On morning of the 20th of April, in Brooklyn CT, Israel Putnam was plowing his fields. A messenger who had ridden all night from Massachusetts delivered the news that war had started. Old Put left his team in the field, mounted his horse, and headed for Cambridge.



One of Putnam's plows from his farm in Brooklyn can be see in the park museum.



Colonial Museum at Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding CT

Minutemen and militias poured into Cambridge during and after the British retreat back into Boston. They came from towns all over Massachusetts as well as New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Within a few days, there were more than twenty thousand Americans bottling up the Redcoats in Boston. Israel Putnam was one of the senior Connecticut militia officers at this time.



Watch monthly News Letters for progress updates.

April FAN's Meeting

The April meeting of the Friends group was held on Monday, April 11th at the Redding Town Hall.



Discussions held included:

1. President Herman was away for this month's meeting.
2. 2005 Living History School Days report. The dates for the school groups have been revised and will now be will be May 16th through May 20th with Friday being an optional day. Nancy Cowles will review the final agenda and timeframe at the May 9th FANs meeting.

Need volunteers for Living History Week . Please call Nancy Cowles at 203-797-8604.

3. Update of the 1893 Pavilion.
4. Nathan Hale reported the park crew's progress on repairing and painting the cannon which will be on display in the new visitor center. He also read the cannon's statistics regarding manufacturer, model, dates etc.
5. Nathan Hale said his crew could make signs and stakes for the craftsmen who will be participating in the Living History Days event.



They're Back!!!!



After a winter's rest, the *stone wall builders* are back constructing the beautiful walls in front of the park's new entrance.



The Stone Wall Builders have returned to Putnam Park

The outdoor landscape contractor was forced to take the winter off as paper work was held-up in getting the permits from Wetlands authorities. But now the landscape crews are back in action at the park entrance and pavilion.

Pavilion Construction Going Well

The roofs and upper light monitor are now sheathed in cedar shingles. Topside is finished. Most of this month's progress has been happening **inside** the new visitor center. Heating and A/C ducts are being installed. The metal stairways are going in. All of the custom-made window frames have been installed, and await the delivery of the windows themselves.

The rear basement doors leading to the rest rooms have been installed. Masons are laying a stone veneer over the concrete foundation. Side steps are being poured leading up to the main floor level.



The entire topside is now shingled and finished. The crew is waiting for the installation of the big half-moon windows before shingling the sides of the pavilion.



The heat and A/C ducts will be items that the old 1893 Pavilion never had..



Metal stairways will connect all three floors



Rear lower level has new glass doors. Masons are adding stone veneer.



Project Supervisor, Pete Hansen, uses the BobCat to clear the way for the cement truck.



One of the huge cement trucks unloads into the forms for the outside stairway.

Next Meeting

The next FAN's Meeting will be on **Monday Evening May 9th** at the Redding Town Hall. The meeting will start at **7:00pm**. Please come and join with us in the planning of events and projects at Putnam Park.



