



# THE QUARTERLY COURIER

Official newsletter of  
**THE MINUTE MAN NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION**

**SUMMER  
2007**

## HARVARD CAP TEAM ASSISTS MMNPA

The Harvard Business School Community Action Partners (CAP) was founded in Boston in 1993 to bring together Harvard Business School alumni and local nonprofit organizations in volunteer consulting projects. A group of nine Harvard business school alumni worked with the Association over several months to help identify potential partnerships and opportunities for the Association. This is the second time MMNPA has participated with CAP.

One outcome of this collaboration is a revised mission statement for the Association, which was approved by the Board of Directors. It now reads “the mission of the Minute Man National Park Association is to preserve the birthplace of the American Revolution and inspire visitors to learn the causes, events and continuing impact of the War and its principles of Liberty and Democracy.”

The team further assisted the Association in outlining its goals and priorities

in to the following categories: restoration, preservation, access, education, visitors, and resources to support the mission. Ultimately, the goals are intended to maximize visitor experience.

These goals gave the Harvard CAP team direction in how to determine which partnerships and opportunities would be most closely aligned with the interests and mission of the park and the Association.

The group researched the efforts of similar institutions and presented their findings to the Board at a special meeting in April. The major focus of the report outlined where other groups had found success in broadening and strengthening their retail and educational offerings to enhance visitors’ experiences—both in person and online. Another component of the report focused on fundraising opportunities, including grant-writing.

The team’s work and dedication to the project was outstanding. A hearty thank you to all involved.

## SHEEP NOW LIVING AT MINUTE MAN!

Farmer Peter Merrill from the Farm School in Athol has been very busy at MMNHP. The Farm School utilizes 30 acres of diversified farmland at Minute Man National Historical Park. Twenty-seven acres are devoted to a small herd of Scotch Highlanders, Irish Dexters, and Big Jim, the Gloucester Big Ox, along with Matilda and Sadie the Tamworth sows, with their piglets.

This group has recently been joined by a small flock of Dorset Ewes from The Farm School. Additional sheep from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst are on their way and will be part of a study on controlling invasive plant species. The sheep will live on Fiske Hill in Lexington, at the MMNHP. Mr. Merrill is also growing a three acre market garden featuring salad greens, garlic, haricot verts, beets, carrots, potatoes and flowers.



Sheep relaxing in the shade

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## THANKS TO SPONSORS OF OUR



**LOOK FOR IT AGAIN  
EARLY JUNE 2008  
AT MINUTE MAN NHP**



**CONCORD BIKE TOURS,  
CONCORD GUIDES, CONCORD  
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Minute Man National Park Association  
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**Historic Structure Report**  
***Captain William Smith House***

In order to provide visitors with a more accurate physical representation of the battle arena, the Park continues to rehabilitate selected areas within the Battle Road Unit. This work is based upon extensive historical research and planning. Each MMNPA newsletter will contain a “historic structure report” to help members become better acquainted with the Park’s architectural resources.

The Captain William Smith House was the home of William Smith, the Captain of the Lincoln Minute Men on April 19, 1775, and the brother of Abigail Adams, wife of the future President John Adams. The house is located along the Battle Road Trail, east of the Hartwell Tavern.

A portion of the grounds is undisturbed. The 18th-century character of the building with its rare plaster curved cornice has changed little. It was built in 1693 and is a 2-story early Georgian house with a triangular pediment door, which is surrounded with a 6-light transom. There is a pilaster chimney and a lean-to addition in the rear that was built in 1800. The house has stained clapboard siding and a stone foundation.

A living history event, Abigail Adams meets Captain William Smith, will take place here on July 29th. See back page of newsletter for details.

*No bit of ground in all the world, save only the field at Runnymede, where King John signed the Magna Carta in 1215, holds equal place in the mind and imagination of free peoples.*

*remarks on the Battle Road from Thomas Boylston Adams,  
Former President of the Massachusetts Historical Society and  
Boston Globe Columnist*

**STRANGERS IN ARMS: THE CONTINENTAL ARMY AND THE BIRTH OF AMERICAN IDENTITY**

On Saturday, June 30th and Sunday, July 1st, Minute Man National Historical Park, in partnership with the 10th Massachusetts Regiment and Virginia’s Augusta County Militia offered a unique historical experience at the Hartwell Tavern. The event, ***Strangers in Arms ~ The Continental Army and the Birth of American Identity***, focused on events that took place in 1775 following the battles of Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill, which transformed a provincial struggle for control of a single colony into the battle for the life of a new nation, and the army that would make it possible.

The event featured 100+ troops from some of the Nation’s premier living history groups including the event’s co-sponsors, the 10th Massachusetts Regiment, and Virginia’s Augusta County Militia. Throughout the weekend there were activities that highlighted the clash of cultures at Cambridge Camp early in the Siege of Boston, as New Englanders and Virginians learned to work together for the common cause. Activities included military drill and firings, cooking, laundry, competitions between the soldiers, courts martial, a Sunday church service, all culminating in General Washington’s review of the troops and the formal change of command ceremony on Sunday. This insider’s view of the American Revolution offered participants the chance to discover part of what makes us Americans.

## Volunteers Needed for Visitor Study

Who are our park visitors? Where are they from? What do they do? What are their opinions about the facilities they use and the programs they attend? What park features and qualities are most important to them?

We want to learn about the expectations, opinions, and interests of visitors to Minute Man National Historical Park. As noted in the last newsletter, the park is currently embarking on a new General Management Plan amendment for the Battle Road Unit. We need a visitor survey to have a more accurate understanding of visitor hopes, interests, and concerns while developing the management plan.

The survey will be conducted in the park from August 1 - 7. Volunteers are asked to attend an hour and a half long training session. They will then help distribute stamped, addressed questionnaires to our visitors. The survey methodology was carefully designed, tested, and revised by the University of Idaho in partnership with the National Park Service. Its rate of response using this approach is so successful (75-85%) that it has been published in the social science literature and widely used, even in other countries.

We will not be able to complete the survey without your help. It should be a positive experience - visitors like knowing that their opinions are being considered in the plans for the future of the park. For further information please call Lou Sideris at 978-318-7833. Thank you for your consideration in helping us with this important study.

## Centennial Challenge



On May 31st, Mary Bomar, the Director of the National Park Service, and Department of the Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne delivered *The Future of America's National Parks* report to the President, following a 2006 presidential request calling for the "Centennial Initiative"—celebrating NPS's 100th anniversary in 2016.

In preparation of the report, more than 40 listening sessions around the nation were conducted. Five overarching goals emerged: Stewardship, Environmental Leadership, Recreational Experience, Education, and Professional Excellence.

The report lists some specific actions and examples under those categories that illustrate the types of projects that the NPS will undertake. It is now available for the public to view at the website [www.nps.gov/2016](http://www.nps.gov/2016).

## MINUTE MAN NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OUR GOAL: 1000 MEMBERS BY THE 50TH!!!

The Minute Man National Park Association is gearing up for the Park's 50th anniversary of September 21, 2009 by announcing a goal of recruiting 1000 current members in the Association by 2009. To achieve this ambitious goal, **we need your help!** Show your support for Minute Man National Park and fill this form out to start **or renew** your membership and/or pass it to someone interested in supporting this national treasure and being a part of history!

**Benefits include:** quarterly newsletter, decal and card, invitations to "members only" special events.

Yes! Sign me up for the Minute Man National Park Association as a(n):

\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_ Family (\$40) \_\_\_\_ Patriot (\$100+)

Please mail form to:

MMNPA

174 Liberty Street

Concord, MA 01742

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**MINUTE MAN NATIONAL PARK  
ASSOCIATION**  
174 Liberty Street  
Concord, MA 01742  
978-318-7822



Minute Man National Historical Park is the Nation's memorial to the events which occurred here on April 19, 1775 and a global symbol of humanity's universal struggle for liberty and dignity. The Park preserves memorials and other commemorative elements as well as actual sites, structures, and landscapes along the route of the opening battle of the American Revolution...The Battle Road...A battle which forever changed the course of world history.

The Minute Man National Park Association is dedicated to protecting the cultural and natural resources of Minute Man National Historical Park by building partnership, championing the interests of the park and neighboring towns and ensuring an increasing legacy of education and enjoyment for all.

## Summer Events at Minute Man National Historical Park

**June 30-July 1 *Strangers in Arms* (see page 2 for more info)**

**July 7th *Battle Road Trail Walk* @ Minute Man Visitor Center: 12:30 p.m.** Join Park Ranger Hollister for a 3.5 hour guided walk along the historic Battle Road Trail. Learn about the events of April 19th 1775, landscape changes, and the Concord Authors. Bring plenty of water!

**July 14th and 15th *His Majesty's 1st Regiment, Foot Guards* @ Hartwell Tavern: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Sent to America in July of 1776, the 1st Reg't Foot Guards served faithfully through many bloody campaigns from New York to Virginia. Come and visit with the reenactors

**July 15th *Town Meeting North Bridge benches*: 1:30 & 3:00 p.m.** (Repeat of June 17th program)

**July 17th *The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps* @ North Bridge: 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.** Come and enjoy the music that made a nation with a special group of young musicians, age 12 – 18 years.

**July 21st *The Long Arm of the Law* @ Hartwell Tavern: 11:00 - 4:00** What kind of crimes came before the local Magistrate in the early 1770's? Come meet the Magistrate and Constable, as well as a motley group offenders, for a lively and entertaining living history event.

**July 29th *Colonial Tunes with the Hartwell Players* @ Hartwell Tavern: 1:00 -2:00 p.m**

**July 29th *Abigail Adams Meets Captain William Smith* @ Capt. William Smith House: 2:30 p.m.** Join Volunteer Michael Ryan as he portrays the controversial character of William Smith, the only brother of Abigail Smith Adams & Captain of the Lincoln Minute Men on April 19, 1775.

**August 4th *Battle Road Trail Walk* @ Minute Man Visitor Center: 12:30 p.m.** (Repeat of July 7th program)

**August 11th *The Long Arm of the Law* @ Hartwell Tavern: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** (Repeat of July 21st program)