



# *The* DESCENDANTS *of* WILLIAM DAWES WHO RODE *Association*

*May 2007 -- 232 Years After the Ride*

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Dear Cousins,

Patriots' Day is a festive holiday in Massachusetts. On the Monday nearest April 19, they commemorate the events of 1775 with award ceremonies, reenactments such as the Minuteman-Redcoat battle on Lexington Common, re-creation on horseback of the famous rides of Billy Dawes & Paul Revere . . . and the Boston Marathon. This year, thanks to wintry blasts of a late Nor'easter, the Marathon was all that survived. With temperatures not much above freezing, high winds & horizontal rain, standing outdoors for ceremonies was out of the question. Wet pavement would have made dangerous footing for horses, and muskets would not have fired. Even the Marathon was in doubt, but in the end the tough New England spirit (and major business interests) prevailed.

Boston may not be everyone's cup of tea, but the downtown area and Cambridge resonate with American colonial and revolutionary history, and I recommend a visit. I visited Boston this April, and was of course disappointed when the ride reenactment was cancelled. Fortunately, there were many other Dawes connections to explore, not all of which can be covered in this issue, but

here are some highlights:

= Evidence is pretty convincing, as foreshadowed in the last newsletter, that William Dawes Jr.'s final resting place is not the King's Chapel Burying Ground, but rather Forest Hills Cemetery.

= I learned (and saw) that artifacts from the Dawes family are displayed at Munroe Tavern in Lexington.

= "Dawes Island" in Cambridge, the memorial to our famous ancestor, has a large tree that may require replacement.

= The May-Goddard papers held at Radcliffe College contain fascinating correspondence involving Billy Dawes' youngest daughter, but unfortunately no leads to living members of that branch of descendants.

Now, a brief note on a practical issue. We're all busy, and perhaps you've overlooked paying your dues. Costs are up and we will be able in the future to send newsletters only to current members. We hope that you feel the cause worthy of your support, so please check your mailing label for the expiration date of your dues. Many thanks.

I look forward to seeing many of you in August at the Seattle reunion.

*Howard*