



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

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Dear Cousins,

Spring is not moving beyond the cold and wet here in the mid-Atlantic region, but soon we'll be sweltering and more than ready for relief in the Far North. In less than three months, we will gather for our Alaska reunion, and our host Kathryn has some great plans. We're looking forward to August!

Many of you know of the widely-praised book, *John Adams*, by David McCullough. It provides the basis for an HBO series of the same name, and we recently rented it from our local video store. I highly recommend it. Those of you who have seen the series might agree that it wonderfully evokes the period of Adams, which was of course also the period of our William Dawes. The film deepens our understanding of just how difficult and uncertain was the birth of an independent and viable United States.

Our Web site continues to pay dividends. We recently heard from Len Kondratiuk, the deputy commander of the National Lancers, a cavalry unit in the Massachusetts Militia that has since 1904 been reenacting the rides of William Dawes and Paul Revere every year on Patriot's Day ([www.nationallancers.org](http://www.nationallancers.org)). He found us on the Web and we exchanged e-mails. The Lancers try hard for authenticity in their dress and gear, and Len was quite excited to learn of our recent discovery that items belonging to our Billy are still extant, including his spurs! The Lancers are also trying to locate a 1930s poem about William and his ride – not the 1896 poem by Moore. Does someone out there know this poem and where to find it?

Finally, score one more for [www.wmdawes.org](http://www.wmdawes.org). The daughter of a first cousin of mine, a family with which we had lost touch, recently found us on the Web. We are now back in contact, and she plans to join the DWDWRA.

Happy springtime to all, and we will be reporting after the reunion.

*Howard Lange*