



COAST DISPATCH



March 2012

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President: Jim Ives
Vice President: Les Freeman
Secretary: Francis Coggsell
Treasurer: Jim Ives
Registrar: Jim Ives
Trustee: Open

March Meeting
Scheduled for Saturday
17 Mar. 2012
Starting 10:30 a.m.

Lunch to follow at the Ocean Garden Chinese Restaurant in Reedsport at noon.

From the President Desk.

We welcome Doc Goldberg back. He paid his dues so he will be reinstated as soon as national approves the paper work. His presence will help our attendance not only because he will be present, but he has offered to pick up Mark Pinkston who has a hard time getting around. Our March meeting falls on St. Patrick's Day, so we will be celebrating wearing of the green. See you at our next meeting.

Jim Ives, President Central Coast SAR.

Lt. Lazarus Ives. Patriot

1. The story of the Connecticut Militia and Lieutenant Lazarus Ives (RN=1027) as found in the official records Washington DC .

SERVICE OF THE MILITIA

RECORD FOR 1776

The first call upon the State militia for active service in the Revolutionary War was made in the summer of 1776, when Washington was in need of a large force to meet the enemy's threatened attack upon New York . Connecticut already had eight Continental and nine State regiments in

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the field, but she responded at once to an urgent request from the Commander-in Chief to send down a portion of her militia. Two requisitions were issued. The first called out fourteen of the regiments lying east of the Connecticut River to serve from August until "the exigency should be over." Brig. Gen. Oliver Wolcott was specially appointed to their command.

The second was a call for nine of the regiments lying east of the River to serve from September with Brig. Gen. Gurdon Saltonstall in command. As these troops were hastily summoned, poorly armed and provided for, and generally undisciplined, effective service could not be expected of them. A few of the regiments were exposed to the first attack of the enemy on New York, Sept. 15, '76, and contributed to what is sometimes described as the "panic" at Rips' Bay. Better troops would have found it difficult to withstand the shock. The experience proved a valuable one to the militiamen who were to be called out again more than once during the war.

Later in the season, when the enemy sent their ships up the Hudson to interrupt the American communications, Washington again requested Gov. Trumbull to send troops to

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the North River . *"I know your exertions already are great," he wrote, 15 Oct '76: I know you have a large number of men engaged in the service in this, and the Northern army; and nothing could have induced me to mention this matter to you were it not for the alarming and melancholy consequences which will result from the enemy's possessing themselves of these communications.* The Governor thereupon issued a proclamation calling upon the militia and all able bodied within the State to equip themselves without loss of time and be ready to march upon the shortest notice as exigency might require. At the same time , 21 Oct, he wrote to Washington: *Considering the services and suffering of our militia the past summer, the present sickness that prevails among them since their return from the army, and the necessity of their attention to Country business, to secure a sufficient supply of provisions for the ensuing year, it is judged that this is all that we can do, consistent with prudence, at present.*

The rolls of the militia regiments are incomplete, those given in the following pages being copies of the originals in the Pension Bureau and Trumbull Papers.

The number of militia regiments at the opening of the war was twenty-two. This number was presently increased to twenty-eight regiments of Infantry and five of Light Horse, the former being divided into six brigades. All able bodied persons between the ages of sixteen and fifty (less certain exempts) were subject to enrollment and duty. What the exact number was at different periods of the war does not appear on official returns, but the average was about twenty-three thousand. In 1782 the Adjutant General reported the number at something less than twenty-one thousand. How they were organized and to what extent they rendered service is indicated in the following rolls.

BRIG.-GEN. OLIVER ERASTUS WOLCOTT'S BRIGADE.

At Peekskill , March-June, '77.

(As recruiting for the Continental "line" progressed slowly in the spring of '77, and the regiments from Connecticut were not ready to take to the field in March, Washington urged the Governor to send a body of Militia to serve for six weeks at Peekskill where Gen. McDougall was then posted with a few troops. Three regiments were accordingly ordered. They were composed of detachments from the militia regiments and placed under command of Brig. Gen. Oliver Erastus Wolcott Vice Gen. Wadsworth first appointed. The companies were placed on duty at various points White Plains , Crompond , Fishkill , Ft. Montgomery , & etc. The rolls in part are as follows:)

Brigadier- General: OLIVER ERASUTS WOLCOTT

Brigade-Major: ROGER HOOKER

Captain: JESSE CURTIS

Lieutenant: LAZARUS IVES (RN=1027)

Ensign: ISAAC MERIAMS

From the Editor:

In most cases, there is room for more information in the Coast Dispatch, if anyone wishes to publish something about their Patriot or some other Revolutionary subject, it would be appreciated. Items submitted by email would receive first priority. Typed double spaced documents would receive second priority. Looking forward to hearing from you.

My thanks to Compatriot Johnny Alexander and Barb Coggsell for their help in getting this issue of the Coast Dispatch to you.

F. P. Coggsell