

THAT'S NOT WHAT WE LEARNED IN SCHOOL:

***Misstatements and misunderstandings about the
American Revolution"***

Good teachers teach what they believe to be true. However, sometimes they (we) are wrong. Here are some "facts" about the American Revolution period which are sometimes taught "differently."

Are These Errors?

- the Boston Massacre,
- the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
- the Baylor Dragoons "Massacre"
- Major John Andre
- the death of Continental officer Enoch Poor,
- Betsy Ross,
- Molly Pitcher and
- the personalities of some of period individuals.

The Boston Massacre



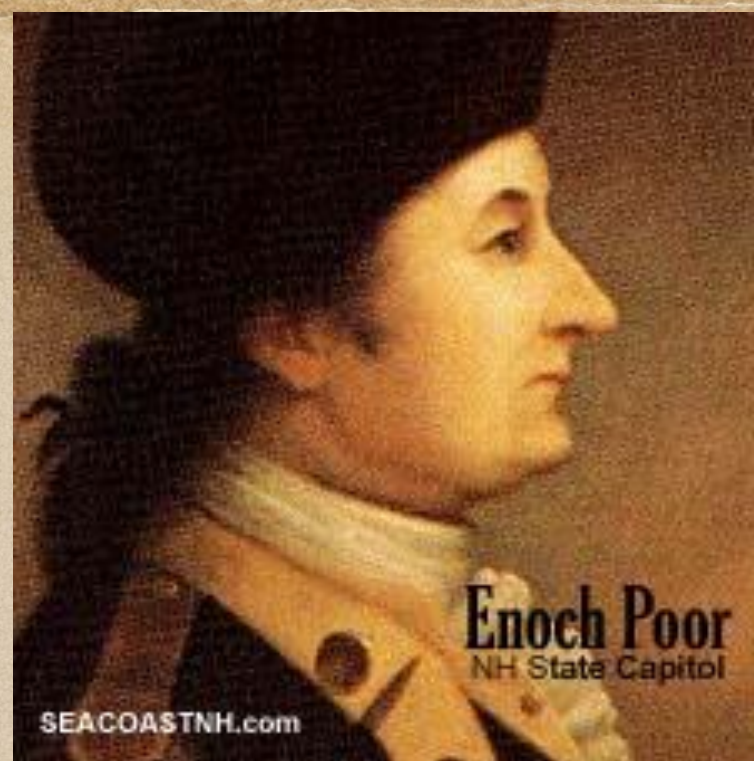
EN BY W. CHAMPEL

J. H. BUTTS

BOSTON MASSACRE, MARCH 5TH 1770.

Published by HENRY O. SMITH, 55 Washington St. Boston.
Entered as second-class matter, July 18, 1878, at St. Louis, Mo., under Post Office No. 100,000, by the Boston Herald-Examiner.

Brig-General Enoch Poor



General Enoch Poor

He fought in every major engagement of the Revolution from the time he joined the army in New Hampshire in 1776 until his death in 1780.

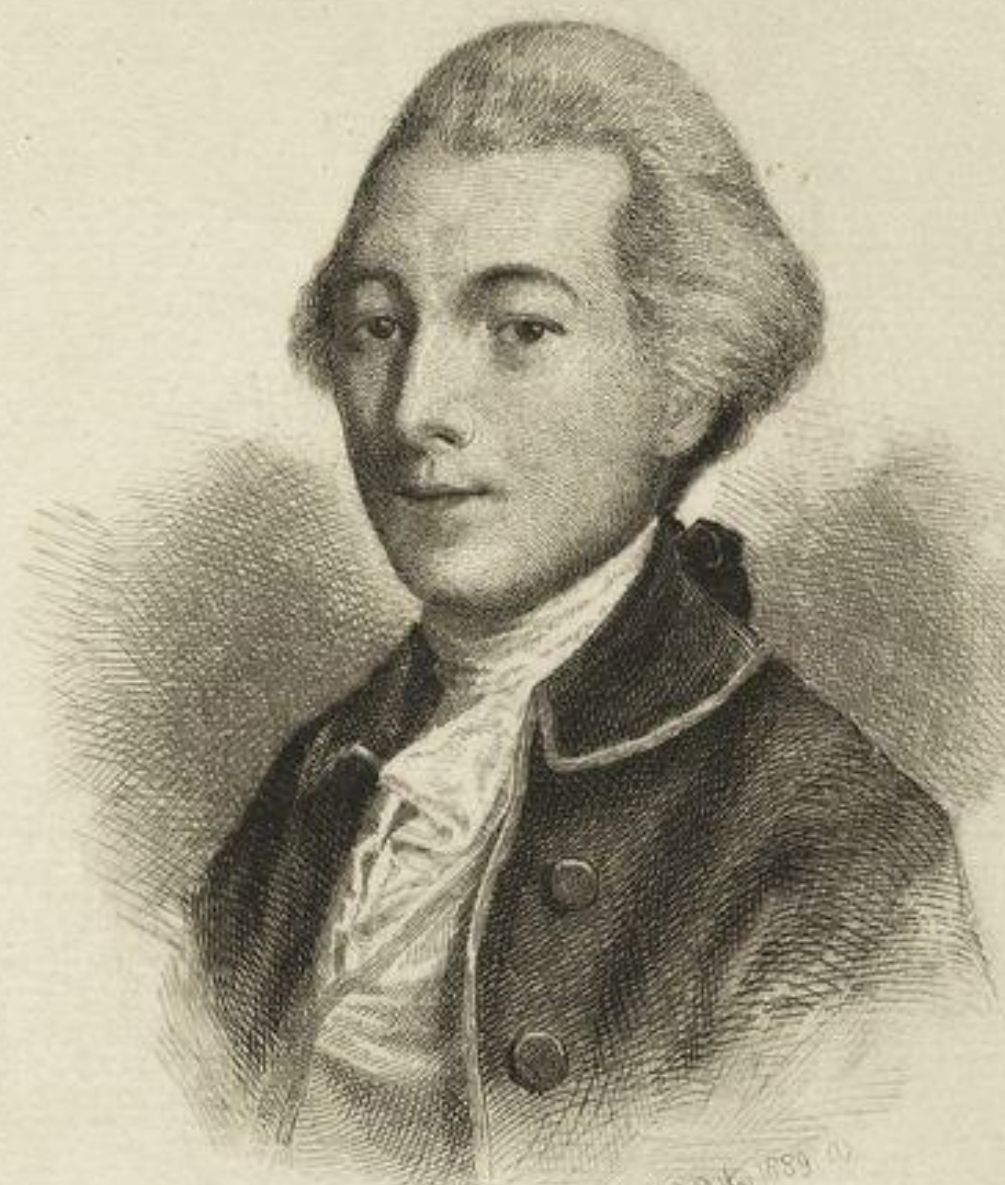
His death (still a matter of controversy) was near Kinderkamack Road in Oradell.

His funeral procession (from the Stone Church in Paramus to his burial in Hackensack) gives detailed accounts of the uniforms all of the units that participated.

The Baylor Dragoon "incident"

The "massacre" was a surprise attack by British forces on September 27, 1778, against the 3rd Regiment Light Dragoons commanded by Colonel George Baylor. The Dragoons were camped in what is now in River Vale.

The Americans lost 15 dead and 54 captured. The charge of a massacre led to personal correspondence between Generals Washington and Howe.

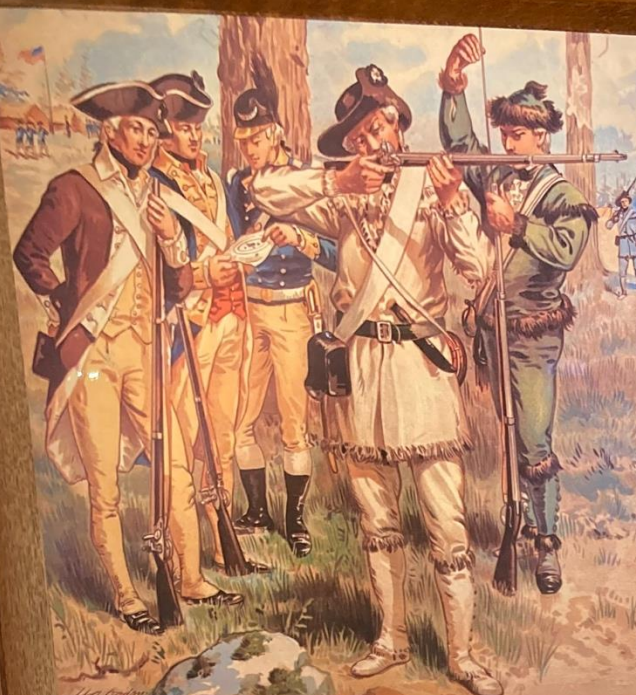


COL. GEORGE BAYLOR,
Aide-de-Camp to Gen. Washington.
Nat. 1752 — Ob. 1784.

From the miniature in the possession of the Family.



BAYLOR'S 1st CONTINENTAL DRAGOONS
TROOPERS SERVING AS CAVALRY OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARD / 1780



THE HUNTING FROCK: A SYMBOL OF AMERICA

The garment displayed at right, and depicted in the artwork above, is called a **hunting frock**. Made of linen or homespun, these fringed overshirts were commonly worn by both infantry and cavalry during the American Revolution. They gave good protection in inclement weather; in rain or snow, the shoulder flaps could be drawn over the head. They were also less visible to the enemy, compared to the soldier's dress coat.

The hunting frock was cheap, durable, and suited to life in the field. A uniquely American garment adapted from frontier hunting attire, it was a symbol of liberty and rebellion, setting patriot troops apart from the bright uniforms of British soldiers. The garment on display was hand sewn by Kathy Barr of the Brigade of the American Revolution and Fort Lee Museum. Items included alongside the hunting frock include a **cavalry sabre** carried in a leather scabbard (a reproduction of a late 18th century design) and a **cartridge box** that would have carried 13 pre-assembled cartridges.



The **Camp Desk** (or field desk) was used for writing in the field. It was easily portable using the type of carrying case described below.

The desk contained ink, pen and paper, as well as a writing surface for important letters and provided a good writing surface. Each unit had one of these desks, typically owned by a non-commissioned officer—usually the sergeant.



Major John Andre



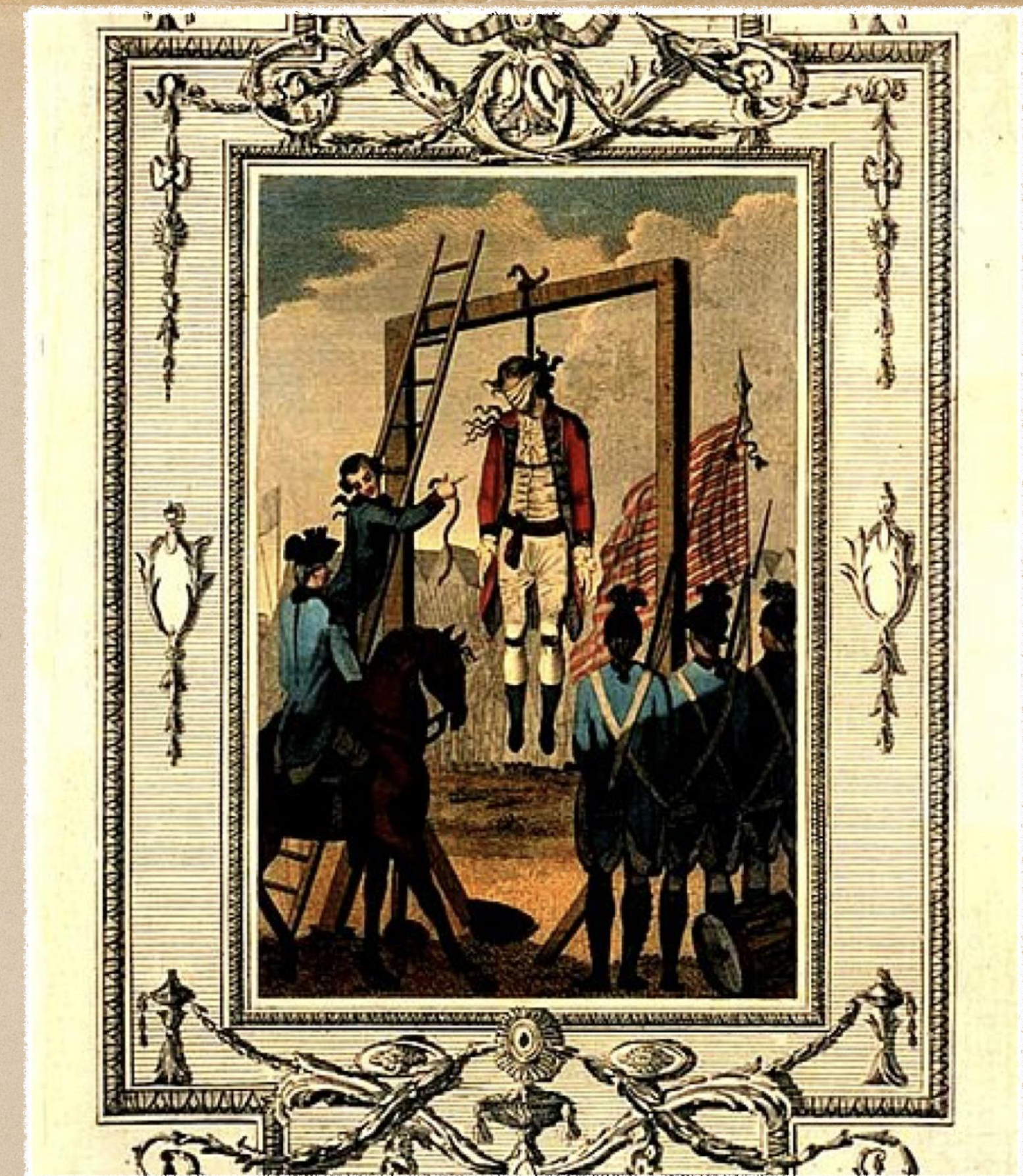
Major John Andre

Andre was a talented officer who commanded respect and admiration not only from his men but from his American enemies as well.

He was Adjutant-General of the British Army in North America in charge of their secret service (spies).

He had arranged with General Benedict Arnold to accept the surrender of West Point - a key strongpoint on the Hudson river.

He was held for a time in the 1776 House (then a jail) until his execution.



Major Andre was well liked and Washington sought to spare him. However, the execution of Nathan Hale (an American school teacher and spy) made that impossible. When no one would act as hangman, a Tory prisoner performed the task in return for his freedom and some money.

Betsy Ross and the American Flag



Molly Pitcher(s)

