



# Let The Sun Shine In

By: HARRY G. ORCUTT  
CAPTAIN

THE morning was gloomy, overcast, and showery. It very much appeared that the 2008 Bedford Pole Capping, held on Saturday, April 12th, was going to be both cold and wet, but the Aleppo Minutemen saved the day. At the very moment that our Executive Officer, Lt. Dave Sisler, was rounding up the others in the Unit for a group photo to be taken by his Lady Leesa, in our resplendent brand new uniforms, BAMMMM! the Sun popped out, the rain ended, and the scent of Spring joy filled the air.

The Aleppo Shrine Minutemen "Blue and Grays" had taken the field.

Just as in 1974 when the Unit appeared at the same Bedford event to publicly inaugurate the forming of the Aleppo Minutemen, so too in 2008, the Unit chose the Pole Capping to appear in their newly approved (by the Potentate and Divan) uniform change. The new uniform truly reflects the American Revolution, but also, through the choice of colors, also presages America's other great conflict in which "Freedom for All" was the promise kept in the business unfinished from our dissolution from Great Britain and its monarchy.

In fact, if anyone has viewed the very authentic movie of the Civil War, *Gods and Generals*, they will note that **Thomas Jonathon (Stonewall) Jackson** was forming the renowned 1st Virginia Brigade. At the beginning of the conflict, some militia units reported for duty wearing Revolutionary War apparel, and carrying flint-lock muskets, both of which they used in the Battle of Bull Run (First

Manassas). The Union at the time had similar militia recruits, but solved the problem of attiring them uniformly in blue before the advent of actual hostilities.

The new uniforms are totally authentic Revolutionary War style apparel, with navy blue cotton canvas breeches, wedgewood blue-gray linen vests, white cotton 18th Century workshirts, and black felt with white-trim military style militia hats, all produced and purchased from Jas. Townsend & Son, Inc., of Pierceton, Indiana. With the white canvas rifle frocks worn for inclement weather, (which we brought to Bedford but did not need). As reported in our latest communication to the Nobility, the cost of all is only \$247.50 per uniform. It takes about 4 ½ weeks to outfit an enlistee. What a deal!

Following up on information provided by Aleppo Recorder Peter Stone indicating that the Aleppo Minutemen Ladies had not purchased their annual stickers for their Hospital Transportation Plaque for the years 2006 through 2008. At a very well-attended Unit Muster held on Thursday, April 3rd, the Minutemen Unit voted to support their Ladies by allocating three hundred dollars from the Warren Irwin Can Fund. That sum was given to Recorder Peter K. Stone very soon thereafter. The Minutemen Ladies also sent a \$25 donation for the Transportation Fund, in memory of Lady Beverly Pace (wife of Noble Charles Pace), who had chaired the group until her recent demise. This latter check was presented to Potentate **Stephen G. Eriksen**,



at the April 2nd Heads of Unit Meeting.

The Minutemen are scheduled to present the National Colors at the 2:00 p.m. performance of the Shrine Circus, on Thursday, April 24th. However, the majority of the Nobility will see the new uniforms at the June 7th Ceremonial, when the Unit will present "Flags of the American Revolution," ably assisted by the Arab Patrol, the Aleppo Band, the Chanters, and the Legion of Honor. This is going to be a performance with a capital "P."

The recruiting station is open to enlistees of the only Minutemen Unit in Shrinedom, at Musters held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (except July and August, and the third week of December), in our 2nd floor barracks room, at Aleppo Temple.



THE ALEPPO MINUTEMEN show off their new "period" uniforms at the Bedford Pole Capping, in Bedford, MA. From left to right are: Lt. William Sylvester; Mark Robinson; Bob Vere, Past Captain; Lt. Paul Winam, Past Captain; Lt. Dave Sisler; Captain Harry G. Orcutt; William Wayne; Lt. John Girdvainis; Richard Perry; Sgt. Dan Corshia; Lt. John Ralston, Past Captain.



A MEMBER of the Bedford Minutemen caps the pole during the Bedford Pole Capping, in Bedford, MA, on April 12, 2008.

## Shriners Hospital Helps Sisters Recover After Explosion and Fire

HANNA exhibits the same pride most 3-year-olds do when finishing a coloring masterpiece.

But for little Hanna, the feat is even more impressive. Hanna lost her fingers in an August 2007 explosion and fire at her grandmother's home in Garrett, Ind. Her grandmother, mother and baby sister, Rylea, 8 months old at the time, were also seriously injured.

Hanna and Rylea suffered third-degree burns over most of their bodies. The sisters were rushed to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Cincinnati.

There, doctors began aggressive treatment, which included skin grafts, plastic surgery and physical therapy.

Hanna was fitted with a special cuff that she uses to hold crayons, pencils and markers. Plastic pinchers help her grasp smaller objects. It's something that didn't look possible just a few months ago, but the sisters have continually surpassed even their doctor's highest hopes.

Rylea was released from the hospital in early 2008. Hanna — who had more extensive injuries — was expected to stay at the Cincinnati Shriners Hospital for up to a year. Amazingly, she went home in February, six months earlier than expected. Hospital staff held a going-away party to celebrate the astonishing milestone.

The two girls continue to undergo daily physical therapy at a hospital near their home and are on a special diet to promote healing. They will return to the Cincinnati Shriners Hospital for check ups over

the course of the year.

Today, however, Hanna and Rylea are happy to be home enjoying their favorite activities: coloring, painting and watching Dora the Explorer and Cinderella.



RYLEA, pictured here with her father, Jordan, was burned in a house fire last August. She and her sister, Hanna, who was also seriously burned, returned home earlier this year and will continue to receive care at the Cincinnati Shriners Hospital.

Don't Forget  
June 7, 2008  
Ceremonial

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