# Three "Midnight Riders" in April, '75

Dawes, Jr.





FROM EARLE'S DRAWING MADE A FEW DAYS LATER



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

STEN, my children, and you shall hear

Of the midnight ride of . . . No. not of Paul Revere-at least, not of him as the only rider on that historic April night 160 years ago. For there were two others who also sped through the darkness as mesengers of alarm and who also deerve to be remembered by their fel-

But they are not thus remembered. Why? How does it happen that Paul Revere is so famous while William Dawes, Jr., and Dr. Samuel Prescott are virtually "forgotten men"? There are several plausible reasons.

w-Americans.

One of them is the lucky chance of his having a name which fitted well into the swinging cadence of a poem by one of America's bestloved poets. "William Dawes" and "Samuel Prescott" are good, substantial American names. But somehow they lack the musical quality of "Paul

Another is the lucky chance (or perhaps it was shrewd foresight) of his having written out generally became aware of the name and fame an account of his exploit and of this manuscript of William Dawes, Jr. That came about through being preserved for posterity. Still another is a rather curious development during a political the fact that this midnight ride was only one campaign. incident in the career of a man of extraordinary versatility. For Paul Revere was a silversmith, Charles Gates Dawes of Illinois as the running an engraver, a cartoonist, a publisher, a poet, a mate for Calvin Coolidge who had succeeded to dentist, a merchant, an inventor and a soldier the presidency after the death of President and his accomplishments in any one of these Harding. A few weeks later Senator Pat Haroccupations might easily have guaranteed more rison, "keynoter" at the Democratic convention. than transient fame for him. Recognition of called upon his party to give to the nation a these accomplishments did come to him in his "new Paul Revere" who should act as a meslifetime but for the immortality that is his, he senger of warning to the country of the dangers can thank Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and of continued Republican rule. That led a reader the poem "The Ride of Paul Revere," first pub- of the New York Herald-Tribune to recall that lished some 65 years ago and since then recited the great-grandfather of the Republican nominee countless times by countless American school for vice president had ridden with Paul Revere

Dawes, Jr., even in his native New England. | verse, which had appeared in the Youth's Com-For many years April 19, the anniversary of the panion: battles of Lexington and Concord, has been observed as Patriots' day and celebrated as a holiday. In 1915 began the annual re-enactment of Paul Revere's ride as a part of the celebration. but it was not until five years later that William Nobody crowned my brow with bays; Dawes was similarly honored. On April 17, 1920, the Boston Evening Transcript carried an article which said in part:

"Both William Dawes and Paul Revere will ride from Boston town to Lexington on Monday. In these Twentieth century years, while Paul Revere has repeated his famous ride on each succeeding Patriots' day, William Dawes has not, heretofore, ventured forth over the route which he followed on the nineteenth of April, century before last. But this year he will make the trip and will receive his share of the honors of the day."

The story of the ride of William Dawes is a generally forgotten incident of the dawn of the Revolutionary struggle, yet he seems to have been entitled to an equal share with Paul Revere in the credit of a daring and dangerous enterprise. He left Boston at the same time and carried the same message of warning and alarm to the inhabitants of each outlying village and hamlet. Dawes went under orders of the Committee of Safety as did Revere, but Dawes was sent by the way of Roxbury, Brookline, Cambridge and Arlington to Lexington, instead of the route followed by Revere through Charlestown, Somerville, Medford and Arlington. The idea was that the British were not likely to capture both riders and one of them was almost certain to get past the enemy. As a matter of fact, both overcame the difficulties and dangers and reached their common destination in safety.

While the ride of William Dawes has been unknown to a majority of the general public, it has been by no means overlooked by the historians. In connection with the present observance a brief account of the exploit and something about Dawes himself has been prepared by W. K. Watkins, historian general of the Sons of the American Revolution, Mr. Watkins

"William Dawes, Jr., a young tanner, was born in the North End in 1745. He was an active patriot with Revere, Doctor Warren and others, a small group in watchful waiting, for a move of the British against the Americans. Warning of such a movement was given by William Jasper, an Englishman, who had married Ann, sister of Robert Newman, the sexton of Christ church. Jasper was a cutler and did work for the soldiers and so heard of the intended expedition.

"During the war Dawes removed with his family to Worcester, where he was assistant commissary of issues at the magazine. After the war from 1782 to 1795 he kept a general store at 13 Dock square now numbered 21 to 30. He lived on Ann, now North street, where stood the 'Franklin House' half a century ago. In 1795 he went to live on his farm in Marlboro where he died February 25, 1799. His body is buried in the King's Chapel Burial

But although Massachusetts thus in 1920 began to pay belated tribute to one of her heroes, it was not until four years later that Americans



Retreat of the British From Concord

In 1924 the Republican party nominated Gen. Recognition was longer in coming to William by Helen F. More, a New England writer of cerned, but he is still pretty much of a shadowy

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

I am a wandering, bitter shade; Never of me was a hero made; Poets have never sung my praise; And if you ask me the fatal cause I answer only, "My name was Dawes."

Tis all very well for the children to hear Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere; But why should my name be quite forgot Who rode as boldly and well, God wot? Why should I ask? The reason is clear-My name was Dawes and his Revere.

When the lights from old North church flashed

Paul Revere was waiting about, But I was already on my way. The shadows of night fell cold and gray As I rode with never a break or pause, But what was the use when my name was Dawes!

History rings with his silvery name; Closed to me are the portals of fame. Had he been Dawes and I Revere No one had heard of him, I fear. No one has heard of me because His name was Revere and mine was Dawes.

This poem was widely reprinted both during the campaign and after General Dawes had become vice president, and it did much to establish in the minds of Americans that William E. Dawes as well as Paul Revere was a heroic figure in the events of April 18-19, 1775. His name became even better known during the Lexington and Concord Sesquicentennial celebration in 1925 in which his descendant, Vice President Dawes, had a prominent part. During this celebration two bronze tablets honoring Dawes were unveiled-one marking the site of his home at 16 North street in Boston and one on the Brighton end of the Larz Anderson bridge, marking the spot where he crossed the Charles river "on his way to alarm the country of the march of the British to Concord."

As for the third of the "midnight riders," Dr. Samuel Prescott, he is still pretty much a "forgotten man," so far as Americans generally are concerned. Even in New England his recognition has been even more belated than was Dawes'. On April 19, 1930, the Boston Globe carried a special dispatch from Concord which said

"Dr. Samuel Prescott" (impersonated by Sergt. Andrew G. McKnight of Troop A. One Hundred Tenth cavalry) galloped into town at two this afternoon, reined in his horse in front of Wright's tavern to notify the natives that "the British are on the march."

"Dr. Prescott" presented the reproduction of his historic ride for the first time today and it added much interest to Concord's observance of Patriots' day.

"Dr. Prescott" has waited some time for his place in the limelight, but he found solace in the fact that he was generally accredited with being quite the handsomest and best-dressed "rider" of the three.

When the original Revere and Dawes left Lexington on that famous night in April, 1775,

to come to Concord, they met Doctor Prescott on the way. Doctor Prescott lived in Concord and had been courting in Lexington that night. Thus, Charles L. Burrill of the Boston committee, explained to Concordians near Wright's tavern, this afternoon, the reason for the bro-

caded costume, the white lace and other pretties worn by "Dr. Prescott." Wright's tavern is the building at which the men of Concord and surrounding towns gath-Major Pitcairn of the British detachment which

ered at the call to arms on April 19, 1775. reached Concord made the tavern his headquarters, and it was here he made his famous boast that he would "stir the Yankee blood this day." Not only is Dr. Samuel Prescott a "forgotten

in 1775 and to bring to light the following poem man" so far as the average American is configure in American history. You will look for his turned to the United States he was name in vain in any of the school book histories not too well pleased with the way or even in the cyclopedias of biography. But that he had an important part in the history-making events of those two April days 160 years ago is attested to by a contemporary account of no less importance than Paul Revere's own narrative which says: "I set off upon a very good horse; it was

then about 11 o'clock, and very pleasant. In Medford I waked the captain of the Minute Men; and after that, I alarmed almost every house, till I got to Lexington.

"After I had been there about half an hour, Mr. Dawes arrived, who came from Boston, over the neck; we set off for Concord, and were overtaken by a young gentleman named Prescott, who belonged to Concord, and was going home; when we had got about half way from Lexington to Concord the other two stopped at a House to awake the man. I kept along, when I got about 200 yards ahead of them; I saw two officers as before, I called to my company to come up, saying here was two of them. In an instant I saw four of them, who rode up to me, with their pistols in their hands, said, 'You stop, if you go an inch further, you are a dead Man.' Immediately, Mr. Prescott came up. We attempt to git thro' them, but they kept before us, and swore if we did not turn into that pasture, they would blow our brains out (they had placed themselves opposite to a pair of Barrs and had taken the Barrs down). They forced us in, when we got in, Mr. Prescott said, put on. He took to the left, I to the right, towards a wood at the bottom of the Pasture intending, when I gained that, to jump my Horse, and run afoot; just as I reached it, out started six officers, seized my bridal, put their pistols to my breast ordered me to dismount, which I did. One of them examined me and asked me what my name was. I told him. He asked me if I was an express. I answered in the affirmative.

"He demanded what time I left Boston. I told him, and added that their troops had catched aground in passing the river, and that there would be 500 Americans there in a short time, for I had alarmed the country all the way up. He immediately rode towards those who stopped us, when all five of them came down upon a full gallop. One of them clapped a pistol to my head and told me he was going to ask me some questions, and if I did not give him true answers he would blow my brains out. He then asked the questions and ordered me to mount my horse.

"When we got to the road they turned down toward Lexington. When we had got about one mile the major rode up to the officer that was leading me and told him to give me to the sergeant. The major enquired how far it was to Cambridge. Then he asked the sergeant if his horse was tired and said "take that man's horse." I dismounted, and the sergeant mounted my horse, and they all rode towards Lexington meeting house."

The British then released Revere, who went on to Reverend Clark's house where he warned Hancock and Adams in time for them to flee. In the meantime Doctor Prescott had safely made his escape and soon reached Concord. As for what followed-"You know the rest. In books you have read . . ."

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## SEEN and HEARD around the

National Capital

By CARTER FIELD Washington.-It was just a coincidence that Senator Couzens introduced his excess profits tax amendment on the heels of another blast from Father Coughlin, who happens to be one of Couzens' most prominent constituents. Couzens has always believed in high taxes on the rich. He has been attacked many times by those who said that he had his own fortune in tax exempt government bonds, and was therefore not as unselfish as it might appear in wanting the taxes on big incomes and corporation

earnings. Curiously enough, Bernard M. Baruch, so bitterly assailed by Father Coughlin, and apparently with so little information-about the only thing he had right was as to the closeness between Gen. Hugh S. Johnson and Baruch-is also an advocate of high taxes on the rich, and on corporations.

Baruch's motive is slightly different from that of Couzens. The financier is a fanatic on the subject of balancing the budget. He agrees more nearly with the economic and fiscal ideas of Lewis W. Douglas, former director of the budget, than with anyone else in the New Deal. Incidentally, his advice on fiscal affairs has never been taken, though several times asked, by the Roosevelt administration.

Just before inauguration, Baruch, consulted as were many others about the inaugural address, pleaded with the President to stress two points and only two-stand by the gold standard and balance the budget. The President gave a little lip service, for a few months, to the idea of balancing the budget, but he gave the hint that he would not worry about the gold standard in the words "an adequate but sound currency."

### Then Went to Europe

Baruch believed in cutting governmental expenses, imposing high enough taxes so that receipts would equal total expenditures, and no "emergency budget." He was pleased when his old friend and lieutenant, Johnson, was appointed at the head of NRA, but had nothing to do with that appointment. As a matter of fact he immediately departed for Europe, so that it could not be said truthfully that Johnson was just a mouthpiece for Baruch, or just acting as his crea-

This is not just supposition. Bahe was getting out of the country for a while was to head off just such talk. And as a matter of fact it is no secret that when he rethings had gone.

Washington correspondents who have been observing the movements of Baruch for these many years are rather intrigued at the amount of misinformation Father Coughlin had acquired about the financier. The two men differ violently on one tremendously important issue-inflation.

Baruch is desperately against it. Coughlin is enthusiastically for it. Roosevelt stands somewhere between the two. Roosevelt is against printing press money. He is for devaluation of the gold content of the dollar. He would like to see some international system for currency worked out-not now, but after commodity prices have reached the level he thinks proper.

# Cotton Situation

Concern about the cotton situation continues to mount in administration and New Deal circles. Of all those speaking about it publicly, however, the only high official who really gives anything like the real picture is Daniel C. Roper, secre-

tary of commerce. He is one of the few who openly concede that the government has tried to maintain the price of cotton at too high a level-that if held there it is only a question of time until the rest of the world either finds an acceptable substitute, or a new cotton growing area. He is one of the few who has had the temerity to talk openly about the menace of the new development in Brazil, one known result of which already is that certain important English cotton mills have altered their looms-a most expensive operation, hence indicating permanence-so as to handle Brazilian instead of Amer-

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, while denying vigorously that any change in the cotton program is anticipated, did not attempt to predict that the amount of money the government would loan on a bale of cotton in 1935 would be as great as

The amount the government will loan will be cut. In other words, the government has slowly but surely been driven to what it now knows is the necessity of pegging the price of cotton lower than it has been.

One of the most convincing points in driving the administration to this position - not yet officially announced-is not the fear of a substitute, or of the future development of a new area, though both of these are recognized as being real enough. It is the fact that the rest of the world is not now buying anything like the normal amount of

cotton from the United States.

### More Trade Treaties

Coming right on the heels of the collapse of the effort to barter half a million bales of cotton in a deal with Germany-mostly for blocked marks which would have had to be expended inside Germany for exports-the falling off in American cotton exports has given a decided boost to the pressure for more reciprocal trade treaties.

Manufacturers of this country have been warned by Secretary Roper that-in this drive to provide exchange in this country for foreign countries which might buy our cotton, and other products-they must stand ready to submit to foreign competition. It is not enough, he warned, to reduce duties on foreign goods, which do not compete with American factories.. It is necessary to admit a very large volume. of goods, which do compete with ours-or else give up all hope of selling our own goods abroad.

Underneath all this pressure is one particular necessity-to provide a foreign market for American cot-

This does not mean that the government hopes to continue the present price of cotton by obtaining additional foreign buying. It now accepts as a fact that it must reduce the price as part of what is necessary to induce foreign buying; that -and provide in some way for foreign purchasing power. The last, of course, is why the government is now pressing for reciprocal trade agreements looking to American purchases of more foreign goods.

The situation has not been much discussed because it is so unpleasant. Nobody is expected to be happy about it. Not the southern cotton growers, for they must look forward to lower prices for their sta-Not the manufacturers, for they must look forward to keener competition, and to sacrificing part of the American market to their

foreign competitors. Return of prosperity, with greater purchasing power in America, will help the manufacturers. For the cotton planters, however, it would probably spell higher prices for everything they buy.

### **Business Salvage**

Right under the smoke screen provided by Senator Huey Long and Father Coughlin, business has eased into Washington and run off with more salvage than it had thought possible two months agoor even two weeks ago.

For instance-due to an amazing flood of propaganda-repeal of the pink slip publicity for income taxes provision seems assured.

Also-the death sentence of utility holding companies has been reprieved to life imprisonment-or at least discretion to do so will be reposed in government agencies.

Also-contractors, scheduled to be left high and dry whenever possible in the four-billion-dollar work relief expenditures, now find themselves in such satisfactory shape that the construction industry, and Michael McDonough, of the building trades unions, join in a statement singing the praises of the Presidential program. While another big group of contractors, the road builders, are giving a good imitation of a cat with cream on its whiskers.

And that would not be all, if a few more industries wake up to the situation and realize what they have to do to be saved. Though so far not many have shown indication of so doing.

For example, the railroads, with an army of security holders almost as large as the utilities, have not thought of making a mass attack on individual senators and representatives for what they really want-regulation of trucks and busses, but especially trucks.

They have been very discreet, stating their case in pompous arguments, and leaning over backward lest they be suspected of speaking in self-interest. If they would get their stockholders writing in to the senators and representatives in whose states and districts the security holders vote, there might be action very quickly.

# How to Get Results

What the railroads should learn, and what a good many other lines of business should learn, is a very simple fact about how to get results in Washington. It is a fact that was appreciated to the utmost by the Anti-Saloon league. It is a fact which has been appreciated for the first time this session by the utilities. And a fact spectacularly demonstrated by the forces. fighting now for repeal of income tax publicity.

The fact is that the average senator and representative can be affected only by backfires from his own state or district. The average senator, for example, is no more interested in a referendum by the National Chamber of Commerce on some piece of legislation than he is in a treatise on why the ancient Assyrians did not drink whisky instead of wine. Probably not so

But he does care, and tremendously, if half a dozen of the very manufacturers who voted in that referendum send him strong personal letters and wires-if the manufacturers in question live in that senator's state. And if they induce a lot of their friends to join the clamor, the senator seeks light,

as a result, very quickly. Copyright.-WNU Service.

# BRISBANE THIS WEEK

Suddenly Polite Why? He Is Prepared Thought for Atheists

Strange Hangings How politely Germany is treated, suddenly, by the "victorious allies"! Recently Germany



expense, the Versailles treaty sternly enforced. What a change now! England sends a clever statesman to talk it over with

was kicked around,

all her money taken

by the allies, French

and English sol-

diers camping on

her territory at her

Hitler the moment

more "Do as we say!"

he throws the Versailles treaty on to the rubbish heap. France is almost polite in messages to Germany. No more threats; no

You know what causes this. Hitler lets it be known that he has been preparing for a war in case anybody wants one; that Germany has a well drilled army of half a million men and an enormous fleet of commercial airplanes that could drop explosive bombs and poison gas most conveniently.

In other words, Germany is prepared, willing, ready and able to fight if anybody insists on it.

So nobody insists.

There may be a lesson there for this country, that, if attacked, could only throw a few lumps of gold at the enemy and plead: "Please be nice."

Flying is like human life in this, you do not see what it is that pulls you along through the upper air.

You look at the three engines, sticking out into space ahead of you, and see no sign of power, nothing to explain the speed and climbing power or what it is that keeps you aloft.

The propellers move at a speed that makes them invisible. You know that you move, but do not see what moves

A clergyman might find a text for atheists in that. Your atheist, or gentleman from Senegambia, would say: "Do not talk to me of a trinity of propellers that haul me to my destination and my destiny. If there were any such propellers I should see them."

In Austria, Nazis are supposed to have murdered the Austrian chancellor, Dollfuss. Now the government

that succeeds Dollfuss will hang 17 Nazis as a start. There is nothing novel in that. Where you have dictatorship you have wholesale killings. They go together.

The interesting thing is the method of hanging in Austria. . They have no "drop" which causes the criminal to break his neck by the jerk of his own weight. A noose is put around the criminal's neck, and as he hangs "assistant executioners" pull at his feet until he chokes to death. It must be a disagreeable spectacle, even for the "assistant executioners."

Learned professors tell you the saying "beautiful but dumb" is silly, untrue. On the contrary, beauty and intelligence go together. Also, there is no intelligence that is not beautiful in itself.

Follow intelligence up through the animal kingdom. Your female gorilla is a horribly ugly creature. The chimpanzee, more intelligent, is less ugly-The lowest female savage, horrible to look at, is less atrociously ugly than the female chimpanzee, and so on all the way up.

Convicts at work in a California county road camp, in Elizabeth canyon, rebelled "because they had no hashed-brown petatoes" for breakfast\_ It was a substantial breakfast-prunes, cereal, griddle cakes, but no hashedbrown potatoes.

Men change. When Parmentier, for whom the excellent potato soup, potage Parmentier, is named, brought the first potatoes to France nobody would eat them.

An intelligent king ordered the nobles at court to wear potato blossoms in their buttonholes in the spring. Immediately the common people said, "Potatoes must be good" and ate them.

The name suggested for a new state, that would be number forty-nine, is "Absaroka," a name and state to be created by putting together western North Dakota, the northern third of Wyoming and one row of counties along the southern border of Montana, That dreadful name chosen for this

forty-ninth state, "Absaroka," is the name of the Crow Indian nation. As long as it is to be one of the

United States, why not select a United States name, Lincoln, Edison, or some other with a meaning?

Two Americans, Mr. and Mrs. Switz from East Orange, N. J., with twenty alleged accomplices, accused of spying for Russia, will be tried in Paris within a few days. The Switzes and others are accused of informing "a foreign power" of French secrets concerning high explosives, planes built to fly through the stratosphere and across the Atlantic in six hours, and "chemical warfare secrets," which means rec-

ipes for more deadly gases. e, King Features Syndicate, Inc. WNU Service,