



"Historians have crossed swords for two centuries over the events occurring on the 27th day of May in the year 1775 in the territory now comprising East Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop.

1975 Commemorative Program

Military Exercises - Monday, May 26th
 Mass, Sacred Heart Church 10:00 A.M.
 Exercises, Lance Corporal Leon Bertulli Park
 Central Square 12:00 P.M.

hosted by East Boston Veterans' Council

Luncheon - Tuesday, May 27th
 Lombardo's East Room, Central Square
 12:00 P.M.

hosted by The Kiwanis Club of East Boston
 and The East Boston Chamber of Commerce

The 1975 Committee includes...

Honorable Joseph V. Ferrino, Chairman

- Michael A. Lavarano, Esq
- Alice Christopher
- Angelo R. Musto
- Caesar Donnaruma
- Dr. Leo Taritz
- Eileen Helakopolis
- John Vitagliano
- Jack Daley
- Josephine Gioia
- Ronald Gtri, Esq.
- Sarge Giannetti
- Anthony Famiglietti
- Edward Sanchez
- Thomas Terranova
- E.B. Lions Club
- E.B. Rotary Club
- E.B. Social Centers
- Dr. Samuel Ussia
- Victor J. Casaburi
- Edith DeAngelis
- Fran Rowan
- E.B. High School
- North End Choral Soc.
- Ginny St. Cyr
- Eleanor Welch
- Josephine Reed
- Joseph Francis
- Thomas J. Malone, Jr.
- E.B. Elementary Schools
- ...and many who will go unnamed but who none the less share our pride that East Boston's love of country is as strong today as in the past...

On that day, upwards of a thousand ardent, liberty loving Americans, led by Israel Putnam, successfully engaged a like number of British Regulars in a contest that began in the morning on Noddle's Island (today's East Boston) and only ended after heavy firing that evening on the shores of the nearby Chelsea mainland (today's Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop comprise the Chelsea of 1775). The number of combatants at least twice exceeded the numbers at Concord and Lexington and fell short by only a few hundred of the numbers at Bunker Hill. The Americans were clearly victorious and their losses limited to 3 wounded; the burning of Noddle's Island; and some damage to property at Chelsea. British losses ran to as high as two or three hundred men fatally injured and wounded; the loss of the livestock and supplies on Noddle's Island which they sorely needed; four cannon which the Americans would use against them three weeks later at Bunker Hill; the capture by the Americans of a British schooner; an invaluable boost to American morale and self-confidence which would ultimately cause the English to lose the thirteen Colonies.

Some early writers placed this action second in importance only to Bunker Hill. Some have termed it "The Second Battle of the Revolutionary War". Other writers, among them Richard Frothingham of Charlestown who is much followed as an authority on the Siege of Boston, attached the word "skirmish" to it. From that time on, the event began to disappear from the pages of history.

Jealousy between officers of the field was not unknown. Their admirers, including historians, were not immune from it and sometimes adopted the views, prejudices and points of view of their heroes as their own. Frothingham, particularly, has been suspected of being a partisan of Prescott, the Commander at Bunker Hill. Is this not a plausible explanation of how a successful battle led by Prescott's rival, Putnam, three weeks before the former's day of glory at Bunker Hill has been all but forgotten? Has an inaccuracy, initially conceived or otherwise, been simply and innocently blithely repeated by later writers?

Another fascinating aspect of the affair is the feud which historians have kept rolling along since virtually the day after The Battle of Noddle's Island and Chelsea Creek.

East Boston's partisans have made reference to "The Battle of Noddle's Island". Chelsea loyalists have proclaimed "The Battle of Chelsea (or Chelsea Creek)". In terms of topography and chronology would not the most correct title be "The Battle of Noddle's Island, Hog Island, Chelsea Creek and Chelsea". In the interest of fairness and brevity that could be shortened to "The Battle of Noddle's Island and Chelsea Creek".

Whatever and however called though, it is certain that the cause of human liberty was advanced that day in this place where we now live. Centuries after we and our vanities have perished from this earth we hope that free men will continue to dispute about the affair. That is really what May 27th, 1775 was all about.

The East Boston Historical Society
 Michael A. Lavarano, Esq. President
 Victor J. Casaburi Vice-President