



South Georgia
History Project

The Wiregrass Telegraph

Promoting Educational Excellence in U. S. History!

**Treeless
Edition
April 15, 2004**

Boston is history!!

But it was lots of fun - the original Coastal Plains cohort endured New England weather and managed to decipher terms like scrod, quahog and the Green Monster. It was one heck of a learning experience and everyone came away better teachers and citizens for the experience. What you see in the rest of the newsletter is a pictorial glimpse of the trip with a few comments about each.

Boston Isn't Just another big city -



*Sam
Adams
grave*



It's really where our nation began - the Freedom Trail leads one past all the places we've all read about.

It's a place of real, hands-on history-



And it's a city of students and education.

Boston Commons

So let's take a look!

USS Constitution

The US Navy's oldest warship - 206 years old! She still sails every year and has an active duty crew. We arranged a special tour to study her construction (Georgia timber!) and read about her before going on board.



But no matter how much you read, the real thing looks totally different - **this** is hands-on history!

Constitution's historian took us to the lower decks of the ship and we became experts on wooden warship construction. Then, we studied the upper decks.



Berthing Deck - note the original solid knee timbers, each hewed from one piece of Georgia live oak.

Gun Deck -

Constitution's teeth and her edge over all other frigates of the time.



And the **Spar Deck** - where sails were manned and the ship was fought.

A bonus was the tour of her maintenance shops, to include the **Sail Loft**.





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The British are Coming!!

Remember those stories of Paul Revere, the Redcoats and the Minutemen? Lexington Green and Concord Bridge? The story of how the British marched from Boston to Concord, where they met some very angry farmers who started a revolution? The **Battle Road** has been restored to its original look - here we go with that hands-on history thing again!



Battle Road is now a National Battlepark, complete with mile markers showing how far the Redcoats marched that day - it was almost 40 miles with Minutemen shooting at them on the return. A very long day indeed!

The **Redcoats** are now played by re-enactors, who do a great job of presenting living history.



The march ended in **Concord**, where a reproduction of the famous bridge still stands at the place that the Revolution started.

Of course, some of the most famous markers in the country are here - the Minuteman statue by Daniel Chester French (later did the Lincoln Memorial). The inscription on the front reads:



By the rude bridge that arched the flood
Their flags to April's breeze unfurled
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shots heard round the world.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
July 4, 1837

All good things must come to an end and by Sunday, we had a group of happy but tired teachers.



But the good news is that this is just the first of many of our "hands-on history" workshops and trips. Next up is a proposed bus tour of Sherman's Civil War battlefields in North Georgia while we attend the OAH conference in Atlanta July 7-11, 2004. Write and tell me what you think of the idea.

