

Isaac Davis Monthly

Troop 1 Acton Newsletter

In the Steps of Isaac Davis . . . since 1916

October 2024, Volume 28, Issue 2

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Scoutmaster Minute

A Scout Is . . . Obedient

Every community needs to have rules so that it functions smoothly and effectively—our families, our schools, our state and country. The rules that we have in our state and country are called laws and there are usually penalties for breaking them. Being obedient means that we follow the rules of our community as part of our duty to others and our country.



Most laws and rules have an obvious purpose—imagine the chaos if everybody ignored the road signs and traffic lights or drove on the wrong side of the road! However, sometimes a rule may not make sense to us—the best advice in this situation is to still follow the rule, but to ask why the

rule is necessary. Sometimes the rule can be changed through discussion with those who made it or the person in authority.

Right now, we are going through an election – a process to select people at all levels (local, state, country) whose job it is to examine the current laws, and to revise and create new laws as needed. As scouts, you are too young to cast a vote this time, but in a few years you will be old enough. Part of our responsibility as citizens is to stay informed and be active participants in the government of our communities, whilst respecting the current laws.

Yours in scouting,
Mr. Brunker

Scout Day at West Point

By Thomas Knight

This year's October trip was an exciting trip for everyone. The October trip was a two-night trip to West Point, October 18-20. We started from St. Matthew's Church on Friday night and arrived at Lake Frederick campsite. We arrived late so everyone had to quickly set up their tents and go to sleep. The next morning we had to get up early to make it in time for the start of Scout Day at West Point.

At Scout Day we got a mini tour of the area before watching the Cadet Review on The Plain. This consisted of cadets marching in a



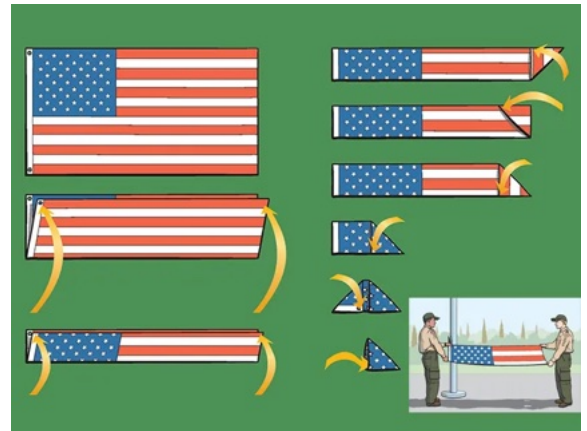
field and parachuting onto the field. Afterward, we played around on a field. Later we took a shuttle to watch the West Point vs. East Carolina Pirates football game. This game was a blast but ended in a blowout with Army winning 45-28.

After the game, we had a relaxing rest of the day where we just hung around camp and we played games like football or manhunt. The next morning we woke up early to pack our bags and go on a scenic hike around the lake. Overall this was an exciting trip that everyone enjoyed. Check out more [pictures from the West Point trip!](#)



Flag Folding Meeting

October 2 the troop learned about flag folding and flag ceremony etiquette, led by Ben Girguis. Learn more about how to display and fold the flag in [Scout Life Magazine](#).



Debate Meeting

By Hyunho Shin

Once again, Troop 1 met in St. Matthew's church on October 9 to debate yet another heated topic: should single-use plastics be banned? Scouts debated both sides as they practiced argumentation and impromptu speaking. Debates were so heated that even the judges felt the need to step in. Have any topics you need to have debated? Join us at our next Troop 1 annual debate.

Model United Nations Meeting

By Geoffrey Brunker

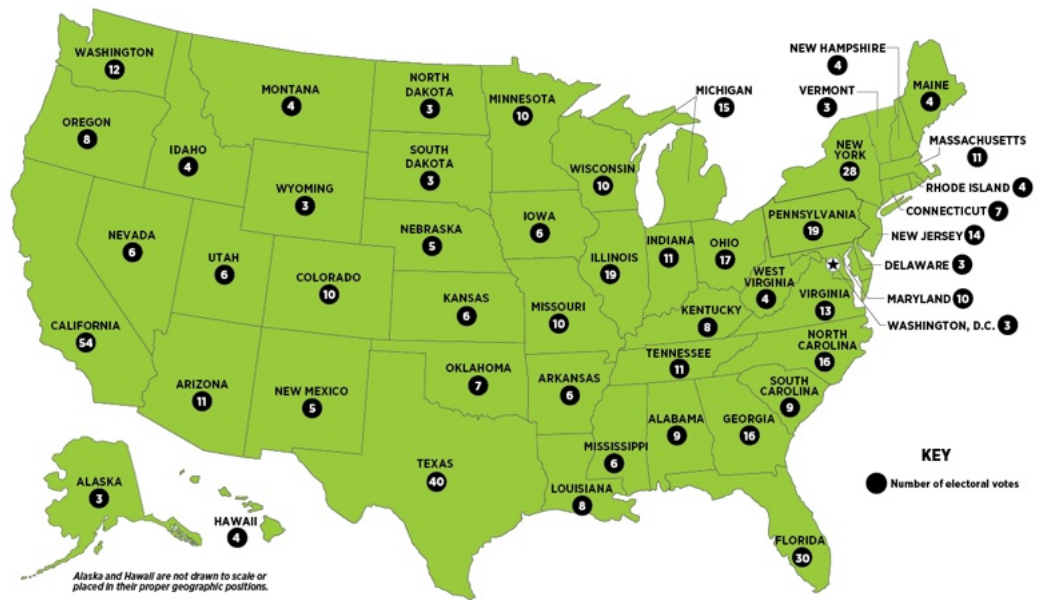
Hello, Troop 1! On October 16, I hosted the Model United Nations meeting, aka "Model UN". During the meeting, scouts got together in groups of three and sat at tables around the room. I handed out different country cards with basic information about the name, economic state, political leadership, etc, of each country. The goal of the "United Nations Council" was to prepare the best plan of action to limit the damages from a record-breaking hurricane, unexpectedly coming from the Mediterranean Sea. The scouts participated in both unmoderated and moderated caucuses. Unmoderated caucuses are when the scouts can get up, make deals, write resolutions, and freely talk with each other, acting as their country. A moderated caucus is when scouts/countries take their seats and raise their hands to get onto a speaking order list. Here, they would share their ideas with the whole group, call votes, and practice their public speaking skills. In all, this meeting was a success, and scouts were able to work on making decisions that help everyone, as well as teaching vital speaking and listening skills. Seeing as it was a fun and engaging meeting, I hope we do something similar next year. Thanks for this great month of scouting!



Electoral College Meeting

By Minh Shin

On November 5, 2024, many citizens from around the country gathered at polls to vote for the 2024 Presidential Election. The election is a very big deal in America, so Greenbar (the meeting of older scouts that plans the meetings) decided to hold a meeting on October 23 to help the scouts understand what was being said on the news. After a little explanation about the electoral college and political concepts, scouts modeled an election between two historical presidential candidates: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson (who were represented by Geoffrey and Ryan—thank you for helping out!). The election demonstration interestingly ended in a similar fashion to the monumental election of 1800, which ended up the subject of a trivia question on the resulting Kahoot! we played. Overall, I hope the scouts had some fun and maybe learned a thing or two about our country! Learn more about how the Electoral College works in [Scholastic Magazine](#).



Pumpkin Carving Meeting

By Aidan Murphy

On October 30, I hosted the annual Troop 1 pumpkin carving meeting! In this meeting, Patrols carved their pumpkins and had to elect one member of their Patrol to present them to the troop. Then they were judged on the ASPLs and the winning patrol won a candy prize. The scouts had a lot of fun as usual.



Eagle Scout Project: Cable Cases for ABRHS

By Owen Wang

Hi all! I'm Owen Wang, a current Life Scout in Troop 1. I recently finished making cable cases for the auditorium at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. These cases will be used to transport and store lighting and power equipment. With these cable cases, the auditorium will be more organized and safe.



Here's how it came together: On May 19, 2024, I hosted my first bake sale in front of Donelan's to raise money for the plywood and other materials! A whole variety of scouts rose to the challenge to help bake and sell: Will Stanley, Andrew Liu, Anish Mahajan, Kevin Yu, Quentin Song, Stanley Yu, Owen Pierce, and Ian Wang.

After the bake sale, on May 25, Hyunho Shin, Nicholas Crowley, Owen Pierce, Will Atherton, and Ian Wang helped me paint the plywood panels of the cases black to help them hide backstage where they will be stored.



And on June 1, Thomas Crowley, Nicholas Crowley, Ben Girguis, and Will Atherton helped assemble the plywood panels into cases.

On August 11, Thomas Leonard, Connor Murphy, Owen Pierce, Ian Wang, and Will Atherton sanded, and spray painted the iron frames. We also put the iron frames on the cases.

After hard work and participation from everyone, we managed to complete the project! Thank you to everyone who helped!





Conservation Collaboration with Acton Conservation Trust

By Apurv Salunkhe

On Friday, October 20, I was curious to see what my first conservation project would be like? Once I got out of the car it was very hot and we were going to go into the woods! Before we went in, we learned which plants were invasive and how they were bad for the environment. After that we got to the fun part, we took some pruners and hedge shears to go cut some plants.

When we were in the woods at first we did not see much but as we went deeper we saw so many invasive plants. The most common one was the glossy buckthorn which we had to cut a lot of. But when it came to the Japanese barberry it was a little harder, especially for the people with the pruners. It was hard because the bush is very long and has thorns that pierce through gardener gloves.

Half way through we took a break and ate some food. We went back in and we found a plant that was very similar to the glossy buckthorn but has a pleasant spearmint smell to it. We confused the two a few times. But at the end everyone had so much fun and so did I! It was a new experience for me and I learned a few things!

[More pictures of the conservation project may be found here.](#)

Reporting School Community Service Hours

By Ms. Yoo and Mr. Bruner

We are proud that our Troop 1 scouts do many service projects throughout the year. Scouts are strongly encouraged to report these service hours to their schools to be included in any recognition or award programs that their schools offer. Troop 1 tracks scout participation in service through Troopmaster, and scouts can download a report of their service hours. Before submitting your hours to your school, we ask that you download this report and show it to either Assistant Scoutmaster Yoo (also our Advancement Chair) or Scoutmaster Bruner for approval. Please list either of us as contacts on the school's reporting form, and the organization as Scouts, Troop 1 Acton. We look forward to another strong showing from our scouts in these events!



Holiday Tree Pick Up Fundraiser

By Mrs. Bourdon

The Troop 1 and Troop 284's Holiday Tree Collection taking place on January 4 and January 11, 2025. This is Troop 1's **only** fundraising event and we need participation from every scout family (both scouts and parents) to make this a great success. Here are the ways you can help in November, December, and January—scouts and parents are encouraged to help in more than one way! . . . Thank you all in advance!!

- ✓ **Printing out flyers** to go with Troop 32/Troop 12 Wreaths—This needs to be completed in early November. Please contact us if you can help!
- ✓ **Cutting the wreath flyers into thirds**—adult help needed during a November, Wednesday night scout meeting.
- ✓ **Distribute flyers and postcards**—Scouts distribute flyers and postcards to local Acton and Boxborough businesses and public places in November and December. Scouts earn service hours!
- ✓ **Distribute postcards at West Acton Stroll**—Scouts help distribute postcards on December 7, 2024, from 11:00am to 4:30pm. New scouts, Colin will be happy to have you join him!
- ✓ **Place lawn sign in your yard**—Thank you to families who are willing to have a sign in their yard and leave up until January 11, 2024! Please contact Mrs. Bourdon with your address in early November, we have limited signs and must be strategic about placement.
- ✓ **Help us place signs** at various approved intersections and public places around Acton and Boxborough.
- ✓ **Host a 4 by 4 banner**—We are looking for families who live on busy streets in Acton to host this banner in their yard for a period of time.
- ✓ **Help move 4 by 4 banner**—We are looking for help moving the 4 by 4 banner from house to house starting in November through January 11.
- ✓ **Fix our signs**—If you see any of our lawn signs down please fix them if you are able!
- ✓ **Sign up for your own tree to get picked-up!**
- ✓ **Volunteer to help pick up trees**—Fill out the survey for vehicles and drivers when it comes out. We need adults to drive U-Haul trucks, serve as follow vehicles, and use their own personal trucks/vehicles, and trailers to help us save on rental costs and mileage.
- ✓ **All Scouts are needed to help** for the pick-up dates January 4 and January 11!

Let's beat 2024!

2024 Trees by the Numbers

- Flyers and postcards to more than 90 individual locations.
- Total trees: 507 - Highest number of trees ever!
- Total Responses: 477 (Yes, many people have more than one tree)
- Customers paying via Venmo: 46.06%
- Paypal: 25.69%
- Customers paying with Cash/Check: 28.25%
- Total repeat customers from last three years: 41.98%
- Repeat customers from 2023: 53.76%
- Repeat customers from 2022: 48.22%
- New customers: 120



Summit Bechtel Reserve High Adventure Trip

By Ryan Philpott

Over the summer, a group of seven scouts participated in the Summit Bechtel Reserve high adventure, an ATV riding trip in West Virginia over a five-day span, plus two additional night stays in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for a total of six days and seven nights, July 4-11, 2024.

Led by Andrew Knight and the crew leader, Connor Murphy, the scouts left St. Matthew's church on July 4, Independence Day. We arrived in Gettysburg just in time for a wonderful fireworks show, which the scouts all enjoyed before going back to Dr. Bruncker's parents house just outside the city, where Scoutmaster Bruncker grilled burgers and hotdogs for the crew.

After a good night's rest, the crew drove the rest of the way down to Summit Reserve in West Virginia. The site is a 70,000 acre property purely for riding and exploration, originally used for national scouting jamborees. There are many different campsites scattered around the area, and for the first day our crew was given an orientation and issued gear at Polaris Base Camp, the main ATV center.

After sleeping the night, the scouts had a hearty breakfast and were ready to begin their ATV riding lessons. We also met our two guides, Sam and Ethan, who would lead around the trails for the rest of the trip. The lessons went well, especially since the scouts had already gotten some experience with the machines from a prior trip. After a long day of learning, the scouts were officially given their ATV certificates and were ready to hit the road.





On the first day, the scouts had their breakfast at the dining hall, packed all of their stuff into heavy drybags, and hit the road. The group drove around a large group of coke ovens, as well as a small graveyard of miners that used to work there. These roads were fairly easy, and this was the only day that didn't have any technical issues.



On the second day, the scouts were brought through some more hills and bumps to challenge them, alongside a couple of ATVs breaking down and having to be replaced. The scouts were brought on a scenic hike over one of the highest hills in the reservation, getting some great views after all of the challenging hills.

The third day had a similar story, cooking breakfast in the morning and getting their stuff into the bear bags. Some of the scouts even spotted a bear and her cubs along the trail, but the real attraction of the day was the "Appalach'n Celebrach'n", a jamboree with all sorts of fun stations and attractions, like manual ice-cream churning and stew making.

There was something for everybody, and it was great fun!



The fourth day out was one of the most eventful, as the scouts went on the "Big Zip" zipline, a 1/2 mile long zipline that went over 50 mph! Before that, though, they needed to get in a little nap. It was great fun, and even the adults joined in!

On the last day out, the scouts had their most treacherous ride, getting all muddy along steep and moist trails. The scouts were all brought around the reserve to base camp, where they power washed their machines to clean off the weeks worth of mud and dirt. After the machines were cleaned and returned, Connor and Owen cooked a steak dinner on a charcoal grill as one last celebration.



When our time at the reserve was over, we stayed over one more night in Gettysburg, stopping at a beautiful set of natural cave systems along the way. Once we arrived at the house, the scouts camped outside and cooked themselves breakfast on a camp stove.

On our last day before returning home, we went on a long walk exploring Gettysburg and its many historic sites and battlefields. Before leaving for home on the last day, there was also a late-night game of monopoly played just for memories of the trip.

After waking up in the morning, the scouts groggily got into the cars and drove all the way back to St. Matthew's. It was a great trip for all involved, both for fun and for experience. Check out the [Bechtel photo album](#) for more great pictures!

From Scouts to Startups: How My Scout Journey Led to Joombi

By Srikanth Akkineni

Hi! My name is Srikanth Akkineni, and I'm 12 years old. Ever since I was a Cub Scout in Pack 1, I've loved being part of the scouting community. Later, I joined Troop 1, and it's safe to say that scouting has played a big role in shaping who I am today.

One thing I learned from both Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA is the importance of living with integrity, being helpful, and always taking care of the environment. Scouting teaches us to leave things better than we found them, to never waste anything, and to live ethically. These values stayed with me and inspired me to create something special—a lifestyle brand called *Joombi*.

Why Joombi? Joombi is all about "eco-fun living"—which means making sustainable choices that are playful, expressive, and 100% joyful. At Joombi, we focus on creating products that are not only fun to use but also good for our planet. Whether it's a cool t-shirt or a water bottle, every product is made with the environment in mind. For example, we think about water use in everything we make. Did you know that it takes a lot of water to make some products? That's why Joombi uses materials that require less water and ensures no harmful chemicals are used in the process. We also work with recycled threads and partner with local manufacturers to reduce the time it takes to produce our items—saving both energy and resources. But we don't stop there. We repurpose plastic bottles, scraps, and even print samples to reduce waste. Joombi's transportation methods are eco-friendly too, so from start to finish, we're making sure every step is as kind to the planet as possible.

The Meaning Behind Joombi I came up with the name Joombi because it reminded me of two important words. First, "Boomi"—the Hindu goddess who represents Mother Earth. And second, "Jumbish," of Arabic origin which means movement or action, which reminded of 'jumping into action'. For me, Joombi represents the love I have for our planet and its people and the responsibility to act helpful and to protect them. That's what Joombi, the brand, stands for—taking action for the Earth, while celebrating its people with expression and joy.



How Scouting Shaped Joombi The values I've learned through scouting—like always being prepared, living with integrity, and being mindful of how our actions affect the world—are at the heart of Joombi. When I think back to all those campouts, hikes, and service projects, I realize how much scouting has taught me to appreciate nature and take responsibility for keeping it safe. Now, with Joombi, I get to take those lessons and create products that help others do the same. It's my way of giving back, and I hope Joombi inspires people to live more consciously, make better choices, and spread joy—just like scouting has done for me.

Giving Back Through Joombi One of the best parts about Joombi is that 100% of our proceeds (after operational costs) are donated to charity. We want to support people and communities around the world. Some of the organizations Joombi supports are *charity: water*, which helps provide clean drinking water to people in developing countries, and the *Child Aid Foundation*. Through these partnerships, we aim to make an even bigger impact. If you'd like to learn more or support the cause, visit Joombi's Instagram page at [@joombiofficial](https://www.instagram.com/joombiofficial).

Thank you, Scouts, for teaching me that small actions can make a big difference. And thank you for helping me become the person who created Joombi. Stay eco-fun and always do your best!

Weir Hill Day Hike

By Colin Bourdon

The October 12 day hike was a five-mile hike to Weir Hill in North Andover MA. It was about a 45-minute drive from Saint Matthew's. The hike consisted of a scenic vista, A burn forest, and a few other special features that you might not see anywhere else. Each scout had to pack a lunch to eat on the trail. Weir Hill was very crowded on the Saturday that the day hike took place. All the scouts that went had a lot of fun and got requirements signed off for the hike. It was a great hike overall and a positive and informative experience for all scouts that went.



Flag Retirement Ceremony

Excerpted from *The Acton Exchange*

By Alissa Nicol is Community Events Reporter for the Acton Exchange, and a member of the Acton Select Board

On Sunday, September 22, a Flag Retirement Ceremony was held at Woodlawn Cemetery on Concord Road in Acton. The [United States Flag Code](#) stipulates the proper method of disposal for a flag that is “in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display.” Traditionally, U.S. flags are incinerated, and the retirement of dozens of flags took place at a permanent fire pit constructed on site for Paul Nelson’s 2014 Eagle Scout project. According to a 2015 [Beacon article](#), Nelson received a National Award for Distinguished High School Service Project from the National Garden Club Federation in addition to his Eagle Scout award for this project.



Two scouts from Troop 1 place the pieces of what is no longer a flag into a barrel with a wood fire burning inside the pit Photo: Alissa Nicol

The inaugural ceremony using the fire pit was conducted by the American Legion, but Sunday’s ceremony was organized by Acton Boxborough Veteran Services Officer James MacRae with Acton’s Scouts BSA Troops 1 and 32 and members of Acton’s Fire Department in attendance.

MacRae collects flags throughout the year at his office in the Human Services and Senior Center located at 30 Sudbury Road in Acton. Every three to four years, a sufficient number of flags are amassed to hold the retirement ceremony. MacRae explained to the crowd gathered that flags are retired when they are “worn, torn, faded or badly soiled.” A recording of “Taps” was played to signify that the flags were about to be retired with respect and dignity.



Scouts from Troop 1 cut a single ceremonial flag with shears before burning as their scout leader and AB Veteran Services Officer James MacRae look on. Photo: Alissa Nicol

Traditionally, the flag is cut with shears so that it “ceases to be a flag” before burning. Scouts from Troop 1 cut one flag in half vertically and then again horizontally, taking care not to cut through the blue field of stars. MacRae elaborated that “the reason we don’t cut the blue field is because it represents the 50 states, and one should never let the Union be broken.” After this flag was placed into the pit, other scouts lined up with the remaining flags and placed them in the fire one by one.

Troop 1 and the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution



DID YOU KNOW... Each April since 1957, Troop 1 scouts, leaders and well wishers march, along with the Acton Minutemen reenactors, in the exact same steps taken by the brave Acton Minutemen on their journey to confrontation on April 19, 1775. We walk from Captain Isaac Davis's House on Hayward Road—along the seven miles of the Isaac Davis Trail—to the actual site of that fateful encounter with the British Regulars in Concord at the Old North Bridge, now part of the Minute Man National Historical Park.

As the 250th anniversary of the Battle of the Old North Bridge approaches on April 19, 2025—and indeed the 250th anniversary of the entire American Revolutionary War, we wonder: what does this mean to each new cohort of Troop 1 scouts? How can we help them discover the connection to their own lives?

Troop 1 Acton has long been known as the “Isaac Davis Troop.” We see the words “in the footsteps of Isaac Davis” emblazoned on our Troop's deep-red colored neckerchiefs and the (earned by hiking) patches proudly worn on our uniforms. We offer medals to scouts who can learn the history about the events of that day, the history of Acton, and the life of Isaac Davis and his company. Our young students study Acton town history and colonial period history in elementary school, and American History in depth by the time they graduate. They walk, study, play, and live in places where these historic events took place so long ago, but are we as Troop helping them understand them as an integral part of their identity as American citizens, AND as citizens of the broader world? Do we connect our scouts enough to local people who have history to share?

If you (as a scout or adult) would like to advise and/or help plan Troop 1 activities for the upcoming 250th anniversary, please share your interest by contacting Troop 1 Event Organizer, Andy Heiniluoma (andy@andy.fi) and Troop 1 Charter Organization Representative, Mr. Steve Hoff (shoff.eng@verizon.net). Both Mr Heiniluoma and Mr Hoff are actively involved in Acton 250 planning. We'd love to have your input!

Acton 250th Events:
Check out the events (past and upcoming!)
<https://www.actonma.gov/250>

Minute Man National Historic Park: (Yes, it is virtually 'in your own backyard!')
<http://www.nps.gov/mima>

Isaac Davis History:
<https://isaacdavis.org/history-links/>

Below, read about the REDISCOVERY of the Isaac Davis Trail in 1957 and the birth of the Troop 1 “Modern March” by our own Troop 1 Acton Member, and long-time Acton Historian, Mr. William (Bill) Klauer (do you understand the important role of the Troop Scribe and accurate note-taking now? ;)

Recollections by William A. Klauer Troop 1 Scribe, 1957

“The leadership of the Troop met at the home of Ivan Wold, the Scoutmaster, on the last Sunday of each month to plan the coming month and schedule the next months' Troop meeting and other events such as hikes and camping trips.

At the February meeting, we were looking for something to do during the school vacation which would occur in April. "I made a suggestion that we hike down to Concord and watch the Patriots Day Parade that was an annual event." Mr. Wold was skeptical of this because the routes to Concord were well-traveled roads and were too dangerous. His wife, Dorothy, overheard our conversation and told us that she had walked to Concord in 1925 when the Town of Acton celebrated the 150th and the route that the walkers used did not involve any highways. If we were interested, she would research and see if it was feasible. Everyone present agreed that the idea sounded like a good thing to try out.

During the next few weeks, Mrs. Wold went to talk to various old acquaintances to determine the exact route that was taken in 1925. As her neighbor, she asked me if I wanted to go along with her and Mr. Oliver D. Wood and note the trail as they remembered it. Mr. Wood was a carpenter, well into his 80's but in excellent physical and mental condition. He was born in Acton and knew all the parts of the old trail that had been largely abandoned for close to a century and a half.

Once the trail had been rediscovered, the next effort was to receive permission from the present owners of the property. Since the original road was essentially that of a way to the meeting house and does not include the Main Street portion between 1 Hayward Road and Nagog Hill Road, but passes behind the present Main Street.

Permission was received to use the Conant property as well since Brook Street was built later and the old road that aligns with Strawberry Hill Road. One portion of the trail was not used, that between Estabrook Road and Pope Road. The hikers would utilize Strawberry Hill Road between Great Road and Barretts Mill Road.

In Concord, we were also able to get permission to cross through several yards that placed us in position with the North Bridge at the Buttrick Property and the owners of the Butterick Estate also gave us permission to cross to the bridge.

With the owner's permission behind us, a trial run was made on Sunday, April 14th, 1957 beginning at 1 p.m. We arrived in Concord about 2 hours later and figured that we would probably have to leave the Isaac Davis house at 6:45 to be at the bridge by 9 a.m. to see the beginnings of the parade.

The following Friday, we managed to leave the Davis house a little late. It was closer to 7 a.m. but we made the first hike to Concord in pretty good time. The weather was overcast, typical of a damp Spring day. We were lucky that the typical high water of spring had not arrived and we were able to make it to the bridge. One of the barriers that existed was an iron fence that surrounded the Minuteman Statue and we had to scale that.

When we did get onto the bridge, we were met by Dr. Francis MacDonald, a local pediatrician. He informed us that because it was Good Friday, the Parade was canceled and that the only thing that occurred that morning was the presentation of Captain Isaac Davis's sword by the Concord Selectmen to the Acton Selectmen."