

**"LADY HANCOCK": A
STORY OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

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"Lady Hancock": A Story of the American Revolution by Mary Elizabeth Springer

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MARY ELIZABETH SPRINGER

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STORY OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

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A STORY OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BY

MARY ELIZABETH SPRINGER



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AS

TO
JOSEPH ALDEN SPRINGER,
THIS VOLUME
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
BY
SISTER, THE AUTHOR.

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“LADY HANCOCK”

CHAPTER I.

THE MIDNIGHT WARNING.

FOR ten years previous to the Battle of Lexington, the mutterings of discontent had been swelling louder and louder throughout the colonies, and especially in Massachusetts—the hotbed of the American Revolution. Excessive taxation, the deprivation of their rights—of which the sturdy descendants of Puritans and Pilgrims were so jealous; the quartering of British troops on the town of Boston, and the numerous indignities heaped upon them by Great Britain, had brought about a climax.

These people, descendants of men who had left England to enjoy freedom of worship in a new world, on a virgin soil, free from the restraints and irksome bondage of monarchical institutions, had had their temper sorely tried by the mother country, which could not realize that her children were as high-spirited as herself, and that descendants of Anglo-Saxons, who had fought for their Magna Charta, and many of whom had shed their blood on the great battlefields of England, remained faithful to their principles and demanded to be gov-

erned with a gentle hand, for at the first touch of the whip, like a spirited horse, they would kick over the traces.

Historians in the following summary have recapitulated the principal events in Massachusetts which led to the outbreak of the Revolution:

The Stamp Act, in 1765; the Boston Massacre, in 1770; and the Boston Port Bill, in 1774.

The patriots in Massachusetts were convinced that their only remedy was to resort to arms, and they had been quietly arming themselves for the struggle; but with their usual farsighted wisdom and regard for the law, they desired that the British should strike the first blow and be the aggressors. The Provincial Assembly in Massachusetts held its regular meetings, and in 1774 the first Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia. Samuel Adams and Joseph Warren, members of the Committee of Correspondence, sent a secret agent to Canada in 1774 to sound the people, but its legislative assembly made no response.

Meanwhile Congress was engaged in military preparations, and immediately after the first shot was fired at Lexington the patriots rallied to join the Continental Army, hastening from all parts of the country; the farmer leaving his plow, the husbandman his fields, the merchant his counting house, professional men their clients; the parson his flock—all ready to sacrifice life itself, as well as all their possessions, in the sacred cause of liberty.