



**DEDICATION**  
of the  
**NH State Historical Marker**  
honoring  
**Major Andrew McClary**



Welcome & Acknowledgements.....Harvey Harkness  
*Epsom Historical Association*

Remarks..... Carleton Rand  
*Epsom Historical Association*

DEDICATION .....Stark Company of NH Rangers  
*New Hampshire Society Sons of the American Revolution*

Entrance of Color Guard & Colors

Biography of Maj. Andrew McClary  
*Hans Jackson*



Unveiling of the Historical Marker  
*Richard Fifield, Dick Todd - American Legion*

Placing of wreath  
*Edward Nutter*

Reading of the Historical Marker  
*Carleton T. Rand*



Salute

*Stark Company of NH Rangers*

Color Guard and Colors retire

Closing Remarks .....Harvey Harkness  
*Epsom Historical Association*

Members of the Stark Company of Rangers, NHSSAR: *Hans Jackson, James Witham,  
Glen Randall, Alex Preece, Ben Hampton, Roger Floyd, Don Hayes*



## DEDICATION REMARKS

There is certainly no Epsom citizen deserving of an historical marker more than Major Andrew McClary. The son of an Irish immigrant of the same name, the family came from Ulster, and through Londonderry and Nottingham, finally settled about 1738 in Epsom. The entire family was distinguished in its role in settling the town with their garrison, mill and tavern. Their influence in battle balanced by their presence in politics.

Andrew McClary was born about 1729, and the time in which he grew to manhood most certainly was necessitated by the circumstances of starting a community from the wild. The skills and strength required to construct buildings, clear land, and build stone walls saw him develop into a mindset and physical stature befitting of his military role in the forming of the young country. Described as “nearly six and one-half feet in height, with a Herculean form in perfect proportions, never equaled in athletic exercises and unsubdued in single combat” seems to have been true. He was active in the French and Indian Wars, having at least on one occasion having to ride from Stevenstown to Portsmouth with a dispatch for the Governor’s Council relating to an incident in that town. His views on independence were strong and often voiced, as told by Warren Tripp – “visiting Portsmouth, and while in an argumentative state of mind entering into discussion with six British officers, who, not being pleased with his sentiments, undertook to eject him from the room, with the result of themselves being thrown through the window by this doughty patriot.”

In 1774, then Captain Andrew McClary, was a participant in the December 15<sup>th</sup> raid on Fort William and Mary.

It is no surprise that when the horn blew through Epsom on April 20, 1775, alerting residents of the hostilities at Concord and Lexington, that he left his plough for Nottingham and began to help organize the march to Boston. He was promoted to Major there by General Stark, and was fully engaged in the Battle for Bunker Hill. General Dearborn and Cogswell’s history give more insight into the activities of Major McClary that day.

‘At Charlestown Neck they found two regiments had halted in consequence of heavy enfilading fire thrown across it by the frigates and floating batteries anchored in Charles and Mystic rivers. Major McClary then went forward and observed to the commanders “if they did not intend to move on he wished them to open and let the New Hampshire regiment pass through,” which they *immediately did.*’

‘He soon observed that the British troops on Bunker Hill were in motion, and said he would go and reconnoiter them to see whether they were coming out over the Neck; at the same time he directed me to march my company down the road towards Charlestown. After having satisfied himself that the enemy did not intend to leave the strong position on the heights, he was returning towards me, and when within twelve of fifteen rods of where I stood with my company, a random shot from one of the frigates lying near where the center of Cragie’s Bridge now is, passed through his body. And thus the quote, His sun went down at noon on the day that ushered in our Nation’s birth.’

He was buried at Medford, Massachusetts with reverence by his fellow officers, in an unmarked grave. We cannot honor the exact spot where he fell, nor can we offer tributes at his gravesite, but we can commemorate his valor, heroism and patriotism on behalf of his family, town and country. In no small measure, we do that today.



### MAJOR ANDREW MCCLARY

*Andrew McClary served in the famed Rogers Rangers. He participated in the December 1774 raids on the British Fort William & Mary in New Castle, at which time powder and munitions were seized. Learning of the pending conflict at Bunker Hill while tilling his land just south of here, he left his plow in the furrow in his haste to meet the challenge. McClary was named 2nd in command to Col. John Stark of the 1st N.H. Regiment. A British cannonball felled him as the battle ended, prompting the eulogy: “His sun went down at noon on the day that ushered in our nation’s birth.”*

Acknowledgments: The project to make this sign maker (text above) a reality, are due to the efforts of Fred Noyes, Carleton Rand, Edward Nutter, Jack Barnes and Harriet Cady