

Samuel Whittemore – A Minuteman of Saint Germain Sunday Service Children’s Story

Materials: Pictures

Time: Approximately 10 minutes, depending on delivery and response of children.

Good morning and welcome. Today our story is about being prepared. Do you know what the Boys Scout’s motto is? (***Allow children to answer.***) Yes, “Be Prepared.” In scouts this means you are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your DUTY. Our beloved Saint Germain sponsored the Boy and Girl Scouts. What are some ways you prepare yourself each day? (***Allow children to answer.***)

Over 200 years ago the colonists in Boston had to prepare themselves against any military attacks by Great Britain. They formed a group of soldiers known as Minutemen. These minutemen were made up of farmers, shop owners and regular people like you and me. These individuals could be called upon to respond with just a minute's notice.

Our beloved Saint Germain described it this way, “Minutemen and those who are alert to the signs of the times will take note, even without having it called to their attention, of the continuing struggle for Freedom.” (Vol. 7 No. 27 - Beloved Saint Germain - July 3, 1964)

Our story today is about one man, a Minuteman named Samuel Whittemore, who was always prepared to defend freedom. He may not be as famous as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson or Benjamin Franklin, but he played an important role in gaining America’s freedom. Let’s listen to his story.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL WHITTEMORE

Samuel Whittemore was born in England on July 27th, 1695, and came to North America in 1754 as a Captain in His Majesty's Dragoons. He was involved in

the capture of the French stronghold, Fort Louisburg, and there obtained a decorative French officer's sword, which he cherished for the rest of his life.

After the war he stayed in the colonies, purchased a farm in Menotomy, Massachusetts, married and over time had three sons and five daughters. His house on Massachusetts Avenue still exists today.

Even as Samuel got older, he never hesitated to be ready to defend freedom. At the age of 64, he again volunteered to fight in 1758, when war broke out between England and France.

Five years later, at the age of 69, he was prepared to leave home. He would have said to his wife and children, "You will have to attend the farm now. I feel it's important that I join the colonial force to defend freedom." Some months later he returned home with a set of dueling pistols.

Sam believed in American independence. So, it is not surprising when again he was prepared to take up arms on April 19th, 1775.

That night he watched as British officer Colonel Smith led his column of 700 soldiers through the town of Menotomy. He had seen the British come out of Boston before and nothing had happened. But this time, something felt different.

Later that morning he heard rumors from others in town, "Did you hear that there had been fighting at Lexington and Concord?" And when Samuel watched as General Percy marched through the town with an additional 1,400 soldiers, his military experience told him there was serious trouble. He probably wondered to himself, "Why would the British be sending reinforcements?" Again, he was preparing himself to be ready in case his services were needed.

That's when the town received word, "Combined forces of British Officers Smith and Percy are retreating toward the town. They are burning homes along the way." Now, this dedicated aged warrior, Samuel Whittemore, decided to take action in spite of his being eighty years old! He strapped on his captured French sword, stuck his brace of dueling pistols in his belt, put on his powder horn and shot bag, took his musket from its place on his fireplace mantle and went to war!

Sam and the other minutemen prepared themselves for the British soldiers heading their way from Lexington. Sam selected a position that gave him an

excellent view of the road and sat down to wait. His fellow minuteman pleaded with him, "Sam, you must find a safer position," but he chose to ignore them.

When the British Grenadiers appeared, Sam's fellow minuteman started firing at them, falling back to reload, then firing again. But, Sam waited. Finally, when the column was directly in front of him, he stood and fired his musket. He drew his two pistols, firing both at the same time. As the British soldiers came upon him, he drew his sword. Sam valiantly tried to fend off the attack against him and when he went down for the thirteenth time, the British left him for dead.

After the British ended their fight through the streets of Menotomy, the townspeople began to search for any wounded soldiers.

Several had seen Sam Whittimore's "*last stand*" and approached to remove his body. To everyone's astonishment Sam was not only still alive, but conscious and still full of fight. Lying there, he was trying to load his musket!

When the doctor saw Sam, he felt sure that Sam would not recover from his injuries. However, Sam's family and friends insisted that Dr. Tufts care for him the best he could. The doctor tried to make the old man as comfortable as possible. After his wounds were attended to, Sam was carried to his home, to die peacefully surrounded by his family. To everyone's utter amazement Captain Samuel Whittimore lived! He recovered and remained active for the cause of freedom for eighteen more years. He was proud of what he had done for his adopted country. He is quoted as having said, "I would take the same chances again!"

You might question the old soldier's judgment on his manner of attack, but you can never question his bravery nor his preparedness to defend the cause of freedom. He also proved you are never too old! Sam died on February 3rd, 1793, at the age of 98!

Conclusion:

We too can be minutemen for freedom. Our beloved Saint Germain said, "Once again I call minutemen and women of the hour who will recognize that it is not enough to know the law of the I AM Presence or to have an acquaintance with the ascended masters and their teachings. Indeed I call to you who count your life's

devotion to me and the sacred cause to be engaged in the implementation of the Word, hour by hour." (Vol. 23 No. 7 - Beloved Saint Germain - February 17, 1980)

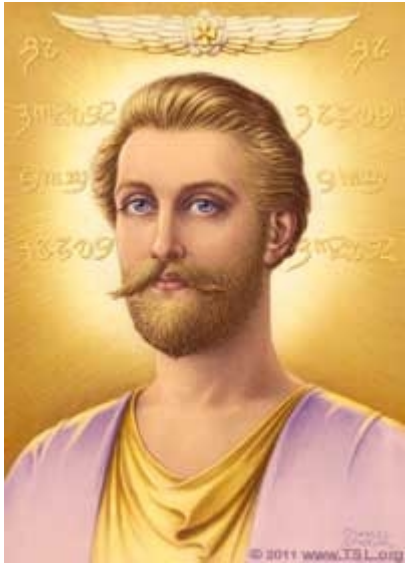
What are some ways we could help expand Saint Germain's freedom flame?

(Allow children to answer.)

Saint Germain also told us, "Blessed hearts, the world is waiting for you! My beloved freedom fighters, my beloved Keepers of the Flame, minutemen of Saint Germain and Portia, I say to you: *The whole world is waiting for you!* Do you hear me, beloved? It is so. They are waiting for you to come and tell them the truth and liberate their souls so that they might also set the captives free." (Vol. 37 No. 43 - Beloved Saint Germain - October 23, 1994)

Let's stand and show Saint Germain that we too would like to be his minutemen and women for freedom. Let's say, "Hail Germain!" (3x)

Thank you for sharing in our story. Have a wonderful day.





YOU — PREPARED FOR SERVICE

Scouting is far more than hiking and camping fun. Scouting is learning to grow into responsible manhood, learning to be of service to others.

The Scout Oath and the Scout Law are your guides to citizenship. They tell you what is expected of a Scout and point out your duties. The Scout motto is *Be Prepared*—prepared to take care of yourself and to help people in need. The Scout slogan is *Do a Good Turn Daily*. Together, the motto and slogan spell out your ability and your willingness to be of service.

The records of the Scout movement are full of reports of Scouts who have done outstanding service, of Scouts who have saved the lives of others at the risk of their own. Some day you may join the roster of Scout heroes—if you are prepared.









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