

For release, January 2013

The Portsmouth Alarm

December 1774

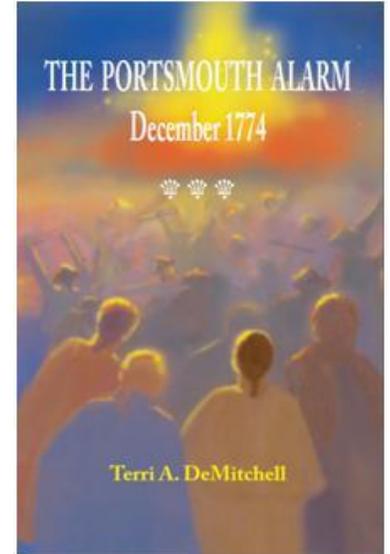
By Terri A. DeMitchell, M.Ed., M.A., J.D.

Mayhaven Publishing
Publication date – January 2013
\$16.95, 162 pgs, Paperback, 6" x 8.5"

ISBN 13# 978-1-932278-92-7
Visit www.TerriDeMitchell.com

In this fictional telling of the true events surrounding the first armed attack by American colonists upon the King's soldiers in New Hampshire, young adult (YA) readers follow the fates of three boyhood friends caught on different sides as the simmering rebellion suddenly boils over.

- Balanced, accurate portrayals of the political divisions among colonists—loyalists, rebels, and undecideds—at the outbreak of the American Revolution
- Real historical figures are presented with complexity and in the context of their times, sworn duties, and conflicting motivations
- Challenges readers to extend their reasoning and draw their own conclusions from complex events
- An exciting, thought-provoking look at historical conflict, it provides for ready comparisons to sectarian strife in all times and places



“Which side are you on?” becomes the dangerous question of the day for three teenage boys whose friendships, futures, and very lives depend upon their answers. Time for talk abruptly ends when Paul Revere rides into Portsmouth, New Hampshire, warning that British troops are advancing to seize the colony's stores of gun powder—critical for their defense against both the King and other threats. Is Revere lying? Or is the Royal Governor who denies the report only playing for time?

Praise for *The Portsmouth Alarm: December 1774*

“DeMitchell has a talent for the small details that result in a vivid story...[Her] aim is to provoke thought about the incidents that led to war. Beckett and Cochran feel like real people with real needs...A worthwhile read that personifies the conflicts that led to the American Revolution.” - Kirkus Reviews

“The nonjudgmental approach to the presentation of historical facts allows readers to arrive at independent conclusions and reactions. Chronicling a very tumultuous and confusing time in the history of the North America...[It] will challenge and engage readers in a re-evaluation of historical foundations, actions, and events.” - Midwest Book Reviews

“DeMitchell's riveting account of the Portsmouth rebellion invites readers to wrestle with the full spectrum of views on the appropriateness of this act of civil disobedience...[teachers] will appreciate the author's detailed, eminently fair, and complex treatment of a most controversial event.”

- Joseph J. Onosko, Associate Professor, Social Studies Theory & Methods, Univ. of NH

“Enjoyed it immensely.” - Barbara Coles, New Hampshire Magazine

About the Author

Terri A. DeMitchell is the author of the award-winning Olde Locke Beach mystery series for middle grade readers. She has taught elementary and university age students, holds an M.Ed. in reading and language, an M.A. in curriculum & instruction, and is an attorney. *The Portsmouth Alarm: December 1774* is her historical fiction debut. She lives in New Hampshire, close to where the events told in the book unfolded.

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