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# Lexington



The Birthplace of  
American Liberty







DRUM BEATEN AT THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON  
BY WM. DIAMOND, NOW IN THE POSSESSION  
OF THE LEXINGTON HISTORICAL SOCI-  
ETY. THE LONG ROLL ON THIS  
DRUM WAS THE FIRST OVERT  
ACT OF THE REVOLUTION.



HAYES MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN AND STATUE OF CAPTAIN JOHN PARKER,  
LEXINGTON COMMON, DEDICATED 1900,  
HENRY H. KITSON, SCULPTOR.

The foundation and drinking basin are of field stones. At the ground level are small basins (one on either side) for animals unable to drink from the principal or horse basin.

# LEXINGTON

THE  
BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

## A HANDBOOK

CONTAINING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON — PAUL REVERE'S  
NARRATIVE OF HIS FAMOUS RIDE — A SKETCH OF THE TOWN  
AND THE PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST — INSCRIPTIONS  
ON ALL HISTORIC TABLETS — DIRECTORY  
— MAP AND NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

By FRED S. PIPER

PAST PRESIDENT AND PAST HISTORIAN OF THE  
LEXINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SIXTH EDITION

LEXINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
LEXINGTON

1920

F74  
. L67P74

THE OLD MONUMENT ON THE COMMON.

SACRED TO LIBERTY & THE RIGHTS OF MANKIND!!!  
THE FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE OF AMERICA  
SEALED & DEFENDED WITH THE BLOOD OF HER SONS.

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED

BY THE INHABITANTS OF LEXINGTON,

UNDER THE PATRONAGE & AT THE EXPENCE, OF

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

TO THE MEMORY OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS,

ENSIGN *Robert Munroe*, MESS<sup>RS</sup>. *Jonas Parker*,  
*Samuel Hadley*, *Jonathan Harrington, Jun<sup>r</sup>*,  
*Isaac Muzzy*, *Caleb Harrington* AND *John Brown*

OF LEXINGTON, & *Asahel Porter* OF WOBURN,

WHO FELL ON THIS FIELD, THE FIRST VICTIMS TO THE

SWORD OF BRITISH TYRANNY & OPPRESSION,

ON THE MORNING OF THE EVER MEMORABLE

NINETEENTH OF APRIL, AN. DOM. 1775.

THE DIE WAS CAST!!!

THE BLOOD OF THESE MARTYRS,

IN THE CAUSE OF GOD & THEIR COUNTRY,

WAS THE CEMENT OF THE UNION OF THESE STATES, THEN

COLONIES; & GAVE THE SPRING TO THE SPIRIT, FIRMNESS

AND RESOLUTION OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.

THEY ROSE AS ONE MAN, TO REVENGE THEIR BRETHEREN'S

BLOOD, AND AT THE POINT OF THE SWORD, TO ASSERT &

DEFEND THEIR NATIVE RIGHTS.

THEY NOBLY DAR'D TO BE FREE!!

THE CONTEST WAS LONG, BLOODY & AFFECTING.

RIGHTEOUS HEAVEN APPROVED THE SOLEMN APPEAL;

VICTORY CROWNED THEIR ARMS; AND

THE PEACE, LIBERTY, & INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED

STATES OF AMERICA, WAS THEIR GLORIOUS REWARD.

*Built in the year 1799.*

INSCRIPTION BY REV. JONAS CLARKE.

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DEC 22 1920



MUNROE TAVERN



I was in the gray dawn of that April morning 1775—“A glorious morning for America” — when the Royal troops reached Lexington Common.

They had heard the drum beat of the minute-men and advanced on “double quick” with loaded muskets.

About seventy minute-men, brave defenders of their rights, had assembled to meet six hundred trained

soldiers. “Too few to resist, too brave to fly,” they did the best they could, and after years of conflict here begun, American Liberty was born. The colonists had long contended against British oppression. James Otis resigned his office as the King’s advocate and defended the rights of Bostonians, — the first step in the revolution. The stamp act had been passed and repealed. Patrick Henry had spoken out boldly in Virginia.

The first Continental Congress met September 5, 1774.



SILHOUETTE OF  
REV. JONAS CLARKE

The Provincial Congress assembled one month later, assumed the government of the colony, except in Boston where the British troops were stationed, took measures to organize militia companies and to prepare for resistance by force if necessary. Executive power was placed in the hands of the Committee of Safety, prominent members of which were Dr. Joseph Warren and John Hancock.

A close watch was kept over the movements of the British soldiers. The King had entrusted the government of Massachusetts to Gen. Gage, the commander of the British army in America. He was a man of weak character, and his petty and injudicious acts aggravated the inhabitants.

Large quantities of military supplies had been collected at Salem and Concord. Gage's attempt to take the stores at Salem, February 26, 1775, resulted in a ridiculous failure. In March it was reported that he intended to capture or destroy the stores at Concord, which, from this time on, were carefully guarded.

The Provincial Congress, which had been in session in Concord, adjourned April 15.

The Committee of Safety adjourned at Concord, April 17, and Samuel Adams and John Hancock, arch traitors in the estimation of the Royal government, then became the guests of Rev. Jonas Clarke, pastor at Lexington. Gen. Gage kept his plans secret, and it is interesting to conjecture the part played by his wife who was the daughter of a New Jersey patriot.

Gordon, who was chaplain of the Provincial Congress, says in his "History of the Independence of the United States:" "A daughter of liberty sent word by a trusty hand to Mr. Samuel Adams, residing in company with Mr. Hancock about thirteen miles from Charlestown, that the troops were coming out in a few days —." Several historical writers seem to confirm the belief that this "Daughter of Liberty" was the wife

of Gen. Gage, and that she gave Dr. Warren valuable information, which was sent by the "trusty hand" of Paul Revere, and by William Dawes as well, to Adams and Hancock at Lexington.

(General Thomas Gage, born 1721, died 1787; married, December 8, 1758, Margaret Kembal, daughter of Peter Kembal, President of the Council of New Jersey.)

Relative to what followed, what can be more interesting or authentic than Paul Revere's own written narrative?

The Saturday night preceding the 19th of April, about twelve o'clock at night, the boats belonging to the transports were all launched, and carried under the sterns of the men-of-war. (They had been previously hauled up and repaired.) We likewise found that the grenadiers and light infantry were all taken off duty.

From these movements we expected something serious was to be transacted. On Tuesday evening, the 18th, it was observed that a number of soldiers were marching towards the bottom of the Common. About ten o'clock, Dr. Warren sent in great haste for me, and begged that I would immediately set off for Lexington, where Messrs. Hancock and Adams were, and acquaint them of the movement, and that it was thought they were the objects. When I got to Dr. Warren's house, I found he had sent an express by land to Lexington, — a Mr. William Dawes. The Sunday before, by desire of Dr. Warren, I had been to Lexington, to Messrs. Hancock and Adams, who were at the Rev. Mr. Clark's. I returned at night through Charlestown; there I agreed with a Colonel Conant and some other gentlemen, that if the British went out by water we would show two lanthorns in the North Church steeple; and if by land, one as a signal; for we were apprehensive it would be difficult to cross the Charles River, or get over Boston Neck. I left Dr. Warren, called upon a friend, and desired him to make the signals. I then went home, took my boots and surtout,



EARL PERCY

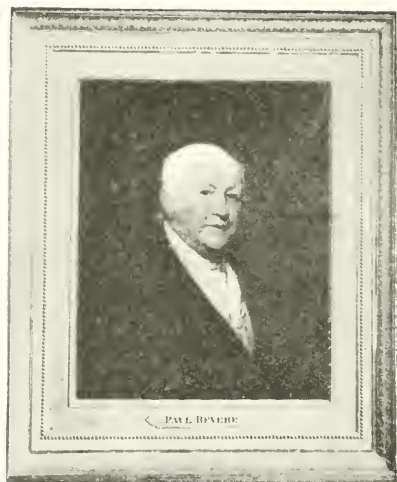
went to the north part of the town, where I kept a boat ; two friends rowed me across Charles River a little to the eastward where the Somerset man-of-war lay. It was then young flood, the ship was winding, and the moon was rising.

They landed me on the Charlestown side. When I got into town, I met Colonel Conant and several others ; they said they had seen our signals. I told them what was acting, and went to get me a horse ; I got a horse of Deacon Larkin. While the horse was preparing, Richard Devens, Esq., who was

one of the Committee of Safety, came to me, and told me that he came down the road from Lexington after sundown that evening ; that he met ten British officers, well mounted and armed, going up the road.

I set off upon a very good horse ; it was then about eleven o'clock, and very pleasant. After I had passed Charlestown Neck, and got nearly opposite where Mark was hung in chains, I saw two men on horseback under a tree. When I got near them I discovered they were British officers. One tried to get ahead of me, and the other to take me. I turned my horse very quick and galloped towards Charlestown Neck, and then pushed for the Medford road. The one who chased me, endeavoring to cut me off, got into a clay pond, near where the new tavern is now built. I got clear of him, and went through Medford, over the bridge, and up to Menotomy. In Medford, I awakened the Captain of the Minutemen ; and after that, I alarmed almost every house till I got to Lexington.

I found Messrs. Hancock and Adams at the Rev. Mr. Clark's ; I told them my errand, and enquired for Mr. Dawes ; they said he had not been there ; I related the story of the two officers, and supposed that he must have been stopped, as he ought to have been there before me. After I had been there about half an hour, Mr. Dawes came ; we refreshed ourselves, and set off for Concord to secure the stores, etc. there. We were overtaken by a young Dr. Prescott, whom we found to be a high Son of Liberty. I told them of the ten officers that Mr.



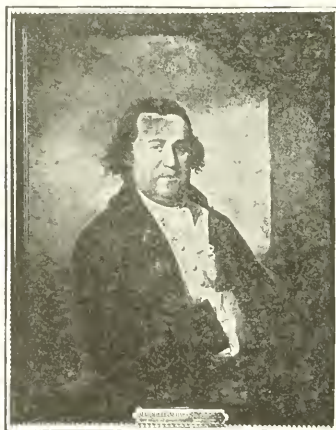
PORTRAIT BY STUART





HANCOCK-CLAIRE HOUSE

Devens met, and that it was probable we might be stopped before we got to Concord; for I supposed that after night they divided themselves; and that two of them had fixed themselves in such passages as were most likely to stop any intelligence going to Concord. I likewise mentioned that we had better alarm all the inhabitants till we got to Concord: the young Doctor much approved of it, and said he would stop with either of us, for the people between that and Concord knew him and would give the more credit to what we said. We had got nearly half way; Mr. Dawes and the Doctor stopped to alarm the people of a house; I was about one hundred rods ahead, when I saw two men, in nearly the same situations as those officers were, near Charlestown. I called for the Doctor and Mr. Dawes to come up; in an instant I was surrounded by four;—they had placed themselves in a straight road, that inclined each way; they had taken down a pair of bars on the north side of the road, and two of them were under a tree in the pasture. The Doctor being foremost, he came up, and we tried to get past them; but they being armed with pistols and swords, they forced us into the pasture; the Doctor jumped his horse over a low stone wall, and got to Concord. I observed a wood at a small distance, and made for that. When I got there, out started six officers on horseback, and ordered me to dismount;—one of them, who appeared to have the command, examined me, where I came from, and what my name was? I told him. He asked me if I was an express? I answered in the affirmative. He demanded what time I left Boston? I told him; and added that their troops had caught aground in passing the river, and that there would be five hundred Americans there in a short time for I had alarmed the country all the way up. He immediately rode towards those who stopped us, when all five of them came down upon a full gallop; one of them, who I afterwards found to be a Major Mitchell of the 5th Regiment, clapped his pistol to my head, called me by name, and said he was going to ask me some questions, and if I did not give him true answers he would blow my brains out. He then asked me similar questions to



PORTRAIT OF  
MAJOR WILLIAM DAWES

those above. He then ordered me to mount my horse after searching me for arms. He then ordered them to advance and to lead me in front. When we got to the road, they turned down toward Lexington, and when we had got about one mile, the Major rode up to the officer that was leading me and told him to give me to the Sergeant. As soon as he told me, the Major ordered him, if I attempted to run, or anybody insulted them, to blow my brains out. We rode till we got near Lexington meeting-house, when the militia fired a volley of guns, which appeared to alarm them very much.



MAJOR PITCAIRN

The major inquired of me how far it was to Cambridge, and if there were any other road. After some consultation, the Major rode up to the Sergeant, and asked if his horse was tired. He answered him he was — he was a Sergeant of Grenadiers, and had a small horse — then take that man's horse. I dismounted and the Sergeant mounted my horse, when they all rode toward Lexington meeting house. I went across the burying-ground and some pastures, and came to the Rev. Mr. Clark's house, where I found Messrs. Hancock and Adams. I told them of my treatment, and they concluded to go from that house towards Woburn. I went with them, and a Mr. Lowell, who was a clerk to Mr. Hancock. When we got to the house where they intended to stop, Mr. Lowell and myself returned to Mr. Clark's to find what was going on. When we got there an elderly man came in; he said he had just come from the tavern, that a man had come from Boston, who said there were no British troops coming. Mr. Lowell and myself went towards the tavern, when we met a man on a full gallop, who told us the troops were coming up the rocks. We afterwards met another, who said they were close by, Mr. Lowell asked me to go to the tavern with him, to get a trunk of papers belonging to Mr. Hancock. We went up chamber, and while we were getting the trunk, we saw the British very near, upon a full march. We hurried towards Mr. Clark's house. In our way, we passed through the militia. There were about fifty. When we had got about one hundred yards from the meeting-house, the British troops appeared on both sides of the meeting-house. In their front was an officer on horseback. They made a halt; when I saw and heard a gun fired, which appeared to be a pistol. Then I could distinguish two guns, and then a continual roar of musketry: when we made off with the trunk.

Captain Parker commanded his company not to fire unless fired upon. The British approached on both sides of the meeting-house following the lead of Maj. Piteairn, who ordered the minute-men to disperse. As they did not disperse he repeated the order with added emphasis, and fired his pistol at them. Each side claimed that the other fired first; but it seems conclusive that the first shot came from the British, who fired two volleys, the second with fatal effect.\* The minute-men returned a few shots from the position they had taken, and dispersed, continuing the fire as best they could from their places of retreat. Relative to one of the minute-men, Edward Everett wrote in 1835 :

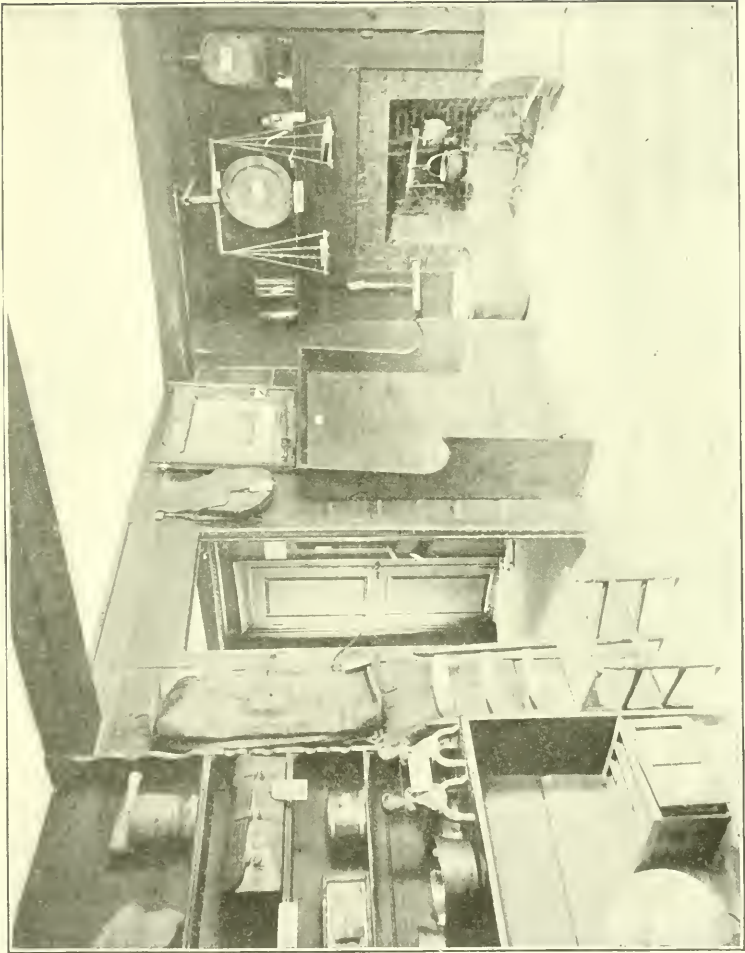
Roman history does not furnish an example of bravery that outshines that of Jonas Parker. A truer heart did not bleed at Thermopylæ. Parker was often heard to say, that be the consequences what they might, and let others do what they pleased, he would never run from the enemy. He was as good as his word — better. Having loaded his musket, he placed his hat, containing the ammunition, on the ground between his feet in readiness for a second charge. At the second fire he was wounded and sank upon his knees; and in this condition, discharged his gun. While loading it again, upon his knees, and striving in the agonies of death to redeem his pledge, he was transfixed by a bayonet : — and thus died on the spot where he first stood and fell.

After about half an hour's delay the British proceeded to Concord, where they were so warmly received that they soon began their retreat over the same route. They were attacked by the

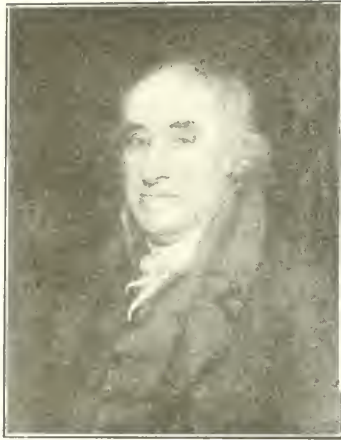
\* See letter from Lt. Col. Smith to Gen. Gage written April 22, 1775. Proceedings of Mass. Hist. Soc., May, 1876. Also, see DeBerniere's Narrative.



TOMBSTONE OF CAPT. PARKER



KITCHEN—HANSOCK-CLARKE HOUSE



COL. WILLIAM MUNROE,  
ORDERLY SERGT. OF  
CAPT. PARKER'S COMPANY

gathering army of patriots from all sides. The British officers tried to restore order among their soldiers and check the retreat but in vain, till they met Earl Percy with reinforcements half a mile beyond Lexington Common toward Boston. Here, under the protection of two field pieces and the reinforcements, the British had their first rest after sixteen hours steady marching. They remained in this vicinity about two hours, pillaging and burning several buildings, killing cattle, etc. After caring for their wounded at Munroe Tavern, eating and drinking all that they could get, they killed the servingman, set fire to the house and resumed their retreat. Fortunately the fire was discovered and extinguished before much damage had been done.

Seven Lexington men (and one Woburn man) were killed, and nine wounded on or near the Common in the morning, and 3 were killed and 1 wounded in the afternoon. Thus Lexington lost more men during the day than any other town, Danvers being second with a loss of 7 killed, 3 wounded, and 1 missing. The total losses for the day were, Provincials, 49 killed, 36 wounded and 5 missing; British, 73 killed, 174 wounded and 26 missing. Such, in brief, were the events which in Lexington ushered in the Dawn of Liberty.

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Dr. Samuel Prescott mentioned in Revere's narrative was a son of Abel and Abigail (Brigham) Prescott and was born in Concord, August 19, 1751. He had been calling on a Miss Mulliken of Lexington before he joined Revere and Dawes. He was later taken prisoner and carried to Halifax, N. S., where he died in prison.

**I**T was twenty years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth and five years after Peter Bulkley settled at Concord when Roger Herlarkenden built the first house in Cambridge Farms, (1640). Cambridge, about this time, comprised a large tract of land extending from the Charles River on the South, along the Shawshine to the Merrimac River on the North.

The first settlement was near Vine Brook. Most of the meadows and some of the uplands were found free from wood and brush, probably having been burned by the Indians. Before these lands were permanently settled, Cambridge people used them as an additional source of hay. Prominent among the early inhabitants who settled here are the names Munroe, Tidd, Bowman, Bridge, Reid, Wellington and Merriam. Cambridge Farms remained the north precinct of Cambridge till 1691 when it was incorporated as a separate parish.

Benjamin Estabrook was the first minister of the town at a salary of £40 a year, with quarterly contributions. After three years the contributions were to cease and the salary be then fixed at £56. A meeting house was built on the south-east corner of the Common where the granite pulpit now stands.

Mr. Estabrook son of Rev. Benjamin Estabrook was born at Concord, February 24, 1671—graduated from Harvard 1690—called to the church in Lexington 1692 and died at Lexington, July 22, 1697. On the 7th of November, 1697, John Hancock of Cambridge was chosen to preach till the following May. He was publicly ordained November 2, 1698, and continued his ministry here for fifty-five years. He was settled on the same terms as had been agreed upon with Mr. Estabrook, with £80 for settle-



REV. JOHN HANCOCK  
(Painted by Smibert)



ELIZABETH CLARK HANCOCK  
WIFE OF REV. JOHN HANCOCK  
(Painted by Smibert)

ment. One hundred and forty-eight acres of "ministerial land" was purchased of Cambridge for eighteen shillings.

The town was incorporated as Lexington, March 31, 1713, taking its name probably from Lord Lexington, a British statesman of prominence at that time. Town officers were immediately chosen and the following month the selectmen voted "to erect a payer of stocks" as required by law. Just where the stocks were built is uncertain, but probably,

according to common custom, near the meeting house.

This same year a new meeting house was built near the site of the old one. It was 50 ft. by 40 ft. and 28 ft. high. The first school house was erected in 1715 on the Common where the granite monument now stands.

The town early became noted for its military spirit and took an active part in the French and Indian wars. The staunch character and determination of the men composing the militia were finally displayed in the battle on the Common, April 19, 1775, when Capt. John Parker and 76 men faced 600 trained soldiers of Britain. Lexington men participated in 17 different campaigns during the revolution.

The population of the town in 1775 was not more than 800. In the Civil war the town furnished more than her full quota.

In 1875 the town celebrated the centennial anniversary of the battle in an elaborate way. Business in Boston and throughout this part of the State was generally suspended, and from an early hour people poured into Lexington by every possible conveyance. The streets were soon so crowded that carriages could





APPROACH TO COMMON



STATUE OF  
SAMUEL ADAMS  
IN TOWN HALL

not approach within a mile of the center. Careful estimates placed the number of visitors at 100,000. The day was ushered in by a salute of 100 guns at sunrise. The weather was fair but very cold for the season, and the experiences at dinner in the big tent on the Common and at the ball in the evening have been an unending source of anecdote.



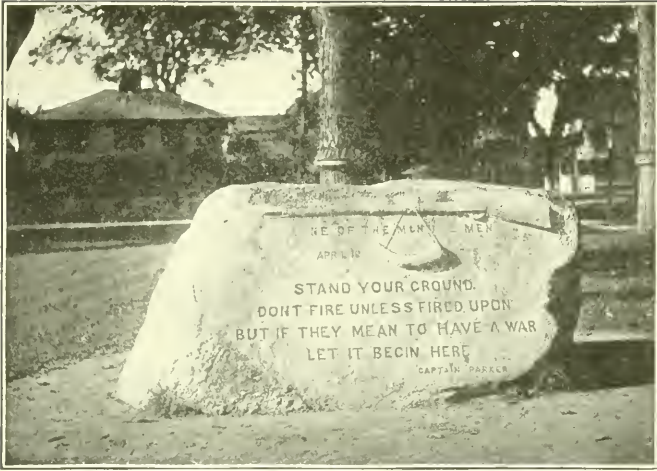
STATUE OF  
JOHN HANCOCK  
IN TOWN HALL

Among the guests

of honor were President U. S. Grant and his cabinet. One of the most interesting ceremonies of the day was the unveiling of the statues of Adams and Hancock, in Carrara marble. That of Adams was made in Rome by Martin Milmore, of Boston, of Hancock in Florence by Thomas R. Gould, also of Boston. The contracts stipulated that the statues should be delivered in Lexington on or before January 1, 1875, but it was not until Saturday, April 17, that their arrival was witnessed, with intense relief, by the light of a bright moon.

Another important presentation to the town at this time was Piteairn's pistols, by Mrs. John P. Putnam of Cambridge, N. Y. On the retreat of the British on the afternoon of April 19, 1775, a skirmish took place near Fiske's Hill in which Maj. Piteairn was wounded and fell from his horse. These pistols with the horse and accoutrements were captured by the Provincials, and later sold at auction in Concord. The holsters and pistols were purchased by Nathan Barrett, who presented them to General Putnam from whom they descended to his grandson, the husband (deceased) of the donor.

At one time considerable manufacturing was done in Lex-



BOULDER MARKING LINE OF BATTLE

ington, particularly in the East village, but to-day the town is chiefly a residential suburb. There are many good farms devoted to gardening and the production of milk. In 1875 Worcester was the only place in the State that produced more milk than Lexington. The land is rugged and much diversified. For the most part it is productive and contains several rich peat meadows. The town is noted for its healthfulness and high elevation, being about 10 miles from the coast and 230 feet above sea level.

A steam railroad was built from Lexington to Boston in 1846, and in 1900-1901 electric street railroads were built to Arlington, Bedford, Waverly, Concord, Waltham and Woburn. The population of the town and valuation by 50 year periods has been as follows: — 1650, population 30, valuation unknown; 1700, population 350, valuation unknown; 1750, population 761, valuation unknown; 1800, population 1006, valuation \$251,052.00; 1850, population 1888, valuation \$1,869,453.00; 1900, population 3831, valuation \$5,182,060.00; 1920, population 7776, valuation about \$9,945,296.00.

In 1913 the town commemorated the two hundredth anni-

versary of its incorporation, proceedings and addresses of which were published.

### **BOULDER.**

The words of Capt. Parker are found in a letter by his grandson, Theodore Parker, to George Bancroft as a tradition in the Parker family. It was confirmed by Col. Wm. Munroe, orderly sergeant of Capt. Parker's company.

The estimated weight of this boulder is fifteen tons.

### **LEXINGTON COMMON.**

A committee was chosen at a public meeting in 1707 to treat with "Nibour Muzzy" about the purchase of a piece of land lying north of the meeting house. Four years later negotiations were completed and in consideration of £16 "Nibour Muzzy" deeded to the inhabitants of Cambridge Farms a certain parcel of land, estimated to contain one and one-half acres. In 1722 the town enlarged the Common by the purchase of an additional acre at a cost of £25. This was the origin of Lexington Common, the birthplace of American liberty.

### **BUCKMAN TAVERN.**

There are at least ten houses standing in Lexington to-day that antedate the Revolution



BUCKMAN TAVERN



LEXINGTON COMMON, LOOKING NORTH  
FIRST CHURCH IN THE DISTANCE AT THE LEFT      MINUTE MAN IN FOREGROUND AT THE RIGHT

“To the end of time, the soil whereon ye fell is holy; and shall be trod with reverence while America has a name among the nations.” — Edward Everett.

Of the twelve taverns once doing active business in Lexington, the oldest was built in 1690 by Benjamin Muzzey, and is now known as Buckman Tavern. It stands on Bedford Street beside the old battle ground and is now in the charge of Lexington Historical Society. It has been carefully restored to its original character and will be preserved to posterity as a witness of the opening scenes of the American Revolution.

It contained the first store in town and in it the first post-office was opened in 1812. The business of this house was said to be more with "carriage folks" than with teamsters. It contained nine fireplaces and is architecturally the finest of the old houses in town.

John Buckman, a member of Capt. Parker's Company, was the landlord in 1775, and here the minute-men assembled on the morning of the battle.

Two wounded British soldiers were brought here on the afternoon of the conflict, one of whom died and was buried in the old cemetery. The building proudly retains the scars made by British bullets during the only official visit ever paid to Lexington by His Majesty's soldiers. The grounds surrounding the tavern were purchased by the town in 1913 and made a part of the town park-system.

## MONUMENT.

On the west side of the old Common, on the site of Lexington's first school-house, stands the granite monument, erected in 1799, in memory of the men killed in the



REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

Battle of Lexington and the cause for which they fought and died. It is probably the first monument of the Revolution.

The bodies of the slain were originally buried in a common grave in the old cemetery, but in 1835 the remains were taken up, placed in a lead covered casket, this encased in a mahogany sarcophagus and deposited in a tomb that had been constructed in front of the foundation of this monument. Edward Everett was the orator of the occasion. The inscription on this monument was written by Rev. Jonas Clarke, the minister of the town from 1755 to 1805. (See page 6.)



THE OLD BELFRY

Here, beside this old monument, Lafayette was welcomed to Lexington, September 2, 1824, and here Kossuth was received by the town, May 11, 1852.

In recent years it has become a custom on Memorial Day to decorate this monument with wreaths and flowers.

## BELFRY.

At a Town Meeting held June 15, 1761, " Mr. Isaac Stone of Said Town Came into Said Meeting & Gave y<sup>e</sup> town a Bell to be for the Towns Use forever, which Bell was there & weighted four hundred and Sixty three pounds, for which y<sup>e</sup> Moderator in y<sup>e</sup> name of y<sup>e</sup> Town Returned him thanks :

"Then voted to hang y<sup>e</sup> Bell on y<sup>e</sup> top of y<sup>e</sup> Hill upon y<sup>e</sup> North side of Lie<sup>t</sup> Jonas Munroes house."

The committee for building this " Bell free " rendered



HOME OF MARRETT AND NATHAN MUNROE.

their account the following year, which shows the cost to have been £21-12<sup>s</sup>-10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub><sup>d</sup>.

In 1768, it was removed to the south side of the Common, the site now marked by boulder and tablet. "Here it remained for thirty years summoning the people to worship, warning them at nine at night to rake up the fires and go to bed and tolling for them when, one after another, they passed away." From this belfry the alarm was rung on the morning of April 19, 1775, calling the minute-men to the Common. It was purchased by a son of Capt. Parker in 1797, and removed to the Parker place in the South part of the town where it was used for a wheelwright's shop. There it remained till 1891, when it was presented to the Lexington Historical Society by Mr. James S. Munroe, and removed to Belfry Hill near the spot where it was built. Much weakened by decay, it was destroyed by a gale on June 20, 1909. The Belfry, now on the first site of the original, is an exact reproduction, erected by the Lexington Historical Society, 1910. The bell long ago disappeared, but the tongue



Levington April 17<sup>th</sup> 1776 Three Troopers of  
 the 68<sup>th</sup> Regt. sent to fetch Sect to going to  
 Hoburn to Drap and the Kings troops travel three  
 miles and Driftings: 0 3 6-0  
 April 18<sup>th</sup> to Driftings one of Kings troops  
 at Mr Buckmans in Levington  
 travel half a mile 0 2 0-0  
 April 19<sup>th</sup> to Driftings seven of the Kings  
 troops at Mr Buckmans in  
 Levington ~~in~~ <sup>three</sup> days at and  
 Driftings per day Drap 5 3 0-0  
 April 20<sup>th</sup> to going to Lincoln to Driftings  
 of Kings troops travel three miles 0 3 6-0  
 April 21<sup>st</sup> to going to Eborac Driftings to Drap  
 three of the Kings <sup>troops</sup> travel two miles 0 3 6-0  
 April 22<sup>nd</sup> to going to Cambridge to Drap  
 one of the Kings troops travel  
 five miles 11 0 0  
 April 23<sup>rd</sup> to Driftings and of Kings troops  
 at Mr Buckmans in <sup>three</sup> days  
 travel half a mile 0 4 0-0  
 Levington June 6<sup>th</sup> 1776 Eborac Driftings  
 Levington

BILL OF DR. FISKE FOR CARE OF WOUNDED BRITISH SOLDIERS

is treasured by the town as a valuable relic of the past and may be seen in the safe at the Hancock-Clarke House.

### MARRETT MUNROE HOUSE.

On the opposite side of the avenue from the Soldier's Monument, stands the house of Marrett and Nathan Munroe, built 1729, thoroughly repaired and restored to its original character in 1915.

### HANCOCK-CLARKE HOUSE.

Next after the battleground, this old parsonage is the most interesting and important place, historically, in Lexington.

It stands on Hancock street, about five minutes walk from the Common. The one-story gambrel roofed ell was the original house built by Rev. John Hancock, in 1698. It contained a good sized living room and the parson's study down stairs, and two small, low chambers. Rev. John Hancock, son of Nathaniel was born at Cambridge, 1671, graduated from Harvard, 1689, and settled in Lexington, 1697. He married Elizabeth Clark of Chelmsford, and to them three sons and two daughters were born and reared to maturity in this small dwelling. The frame is oak, hewed by hand, and shows little sign of decay.

In 1734 Thomas Hancock, the second son of Rev. John Hancock, at this time a prosperous Boston merchant, built the main portion of the house for his parents. The wainscoting, in this part of the house is particularly hand-



MEETING-HOUSE TABLET, LEXINGTON COMMON

some. In all, there are eight rooms with a fireplace in each, except one chamber. The outer walls of both portions of the house contain a layer of bricks extending from the sills to the eaves. Here Rev. John Hancock lived from 1698 till his death in 1725, and because of his wide acquaintance and great influence he was often called Bishop Hancock.

In 1755 Rev. Jonas Clarke, who married a granddaughter of Mr. Hancock, became the third pastor of Lexington and occupied this house. He was born at Newton, 1730, was graduated from Harvard, 1752, and died in Lexington, 1805. As a man of sterling character, preacher and patriot, he exerted a powerful influence on both private and public affairs.

John Hancock, the governor and signer of the Declaration, spent much time in his boyhood at this old home of his grandparents, and here he was visiting in company with Samuel Adams when Paul Revere made his famous ride.

Here, also, at this time was the beautiful Dorothy Quincy, John Hancock's fiancée, to whom he was married the following August.

Solomon Brown of Lexington had been to market at Boston, April 18, and on his return late in the afternoon informed Sergt. Munroe that he had seen nine British officers passing up the road. Munroe, suspecting that their intention was to capture Hancock and Adams, placed a guard of well-armed men about this old house. Some time after Paul Revere delivered his message of warning, Hancock and Adams, for their greater



ENTRY — MUNROE TAVERN

Showing Chair used by GEORGE WASHINGTON at the dinner in Munroe Tavern, Nov. 5, 1789



HOUSE OF JONATHAN HARRINGTON

safety, were conducted to the old parsonage in Burlington and later to Mr. Amos Wyman's house in Billerica. Hancock sent a letter back to Dorothy Quincy, requesting her to follow him and bring the *fine salmon* that had been sent to them for their dinner, which she accordingly did. At the time of the battle it was all open country between Mr. Clarke's house and the battle ground, and the firing was plainly seen from the chambers.

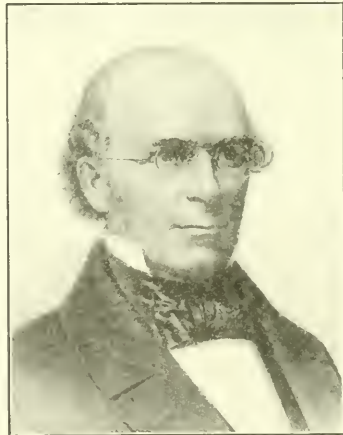
The house originally stood on the opposite side of the street from its present location. With the aid of patriotic men and women in various parts of the country, Lexington Historical Society purchased the house, removed it to its present position in 1896, and restored it as far as possible to its original condition. It contains the valuable and interesting collection of the Historical Society. It is kept open to the public from March 1 to December 31, and is visited annually by over twenty thousand people, representing every state in the Union, as well as many foreign countries. Admission is free. On Sundays it is open only in the afternoon.

## MUNROE TAVERN.

About a mile east of the Common, on Massachusetts Avenue, stands Munroe Tavern, built in 1695 by William Munroe and occupied in 1775 by his grandson Sergeant William Munroe. When Earl Percy reached Lexington with reinforcements on the afternoon of April 19, 1775, he made this old hostelry his headquarters, here his wounded soldiers were cared for and others refreshed at the tavern's expense. Mrs. Munroe and her children hid in the woods behind the house. John Raymond, an inmate, was wantonly shot.\* Washington was entertained at this tavern in 1789, and the chair, table, dishes and hat-rack used by him are shown. Some time after 1770 an ell, now removed, was built on the north-west side of the house. It contained a hall about 60 x 20 feet, in which balls and parties were held, and here Hiram Lodge of Free Masons was instituted December 12, 1797. By the bequest of the late James S. Munroe, Munroe Tavern is now the property of the Lexington Historical Society and is open to visitors. It contains many valuable relics.

## THE HARRINGTON HOUSE.

On one corner of Elm Avenue and Bedford Street, about ten rods back of the line of the minute-men in the battle, is to be seen the home of Jonathan Harrington, who, wounded by a British bullet, dragged himself to the door and there died at his wife's feet. The house originally was one of the most elegant of that period in town and was renovated in the most perfect manner in 1910.



THEODORE PARKER

\* See Hudson's History of Lexington — Bi-Centenary Edition, 1913—Vol I, p. 174.



OLD BURYING GROUND, HANCOCK-CLARKE TOMB IN CENTRE

### **MASONIC TEMPLE, formerly the first Normal School.**

On the opposite corner from the Harrington house stands the Masonic Temple, occupied by Simon W. Robinson Lodge, A. F. and A. M. The main part of this building was erected in 1822 for the Lexington Academy, which was discontinued about ten years later. On July 3, 1839, the first Normal School in America was opened here under the direction of the Rev. Cyrus Pierce with three pupils enrolled.

### **THEODORE PARKER.**

Theodore Parker was born on the old homestead in the south part of Lexington, then known as "Kite End."

Here his grandfather, Capt. John Parker, had lived, and from this place he was summoned by the alarm bell to command his company, April 19, 1775.

Theodore Parker was the most notable man Lexington has ever produced. He was born August 24, 1810, in the old house

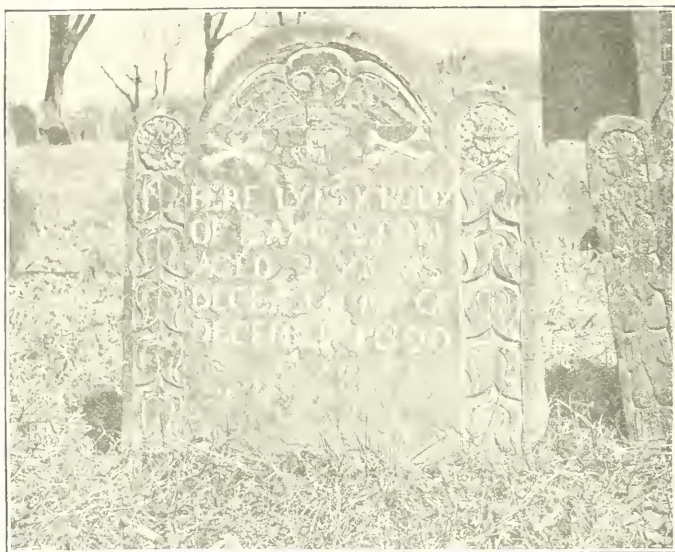
whose former location is now marked by the granite monument placed there by his devoted parishioners. The house in which he was born was destroyed some time previous to 1850. He was a rare scholar, a liberal thinker, a remarkable preacher, prolific writer, a great lover of nature and his fellow creatures. He died in Florence, May 10, 1860, and was buried in the Protestant cemetery there.

## THE OLD BURYING GROUND.

A short distance from Massachusetts Avenue near the junction of Elm Avenue and in the rear of the Unitarian Church is the old burying ground. It is a pleasant plot with outlook across broad meadows to rising hills in the distance.

So far as known, it contains the oldest graves in town; there are two or three stones bearing the date of 1690, and probably older unmarked graves. Here the bodies of the Lexington men, killed in the battle, were originally buried in one grave. Here a British soldier who was wounded on April 19 and died in Buckman Tavern April 21, 1775, was buried. It contains the graves of the first three ministers of the town — Estabrook, Hancock and Clarke. In 1884 the town erected a substantial granite monument over the grave of Capt. John Parker. A marble obelisk marks the grave of Gov. Wm. Eustice, a surgeon in the Revolution and governor of Massachusetts 1823-1825. John Augustus was buried in tomb No. 4, near the entrance. He was born in Burlington, Mass., 1784, moved to Lexington 1805 or 1806 and bought the Dr. Fiske property at the corner of Bedford Street and Elm Avenue, where he manufactured shoes. He left Lexington about 1827 and became famous in Boston as a reformer of criminals, in connection with the courts of justice, where he personally cared for over seven hundred persons.

The Hancock tomb contains the remains of Rev. and Mrs. John Hancock, Rev. Ebenezer Hancock, Rev. and Mrs. Jonas Clarke, Mrs. Mary Clarke Ware,— wife of Rev. Henry Ware, D.D.,— and three other children of Mr. Clarke. The tomb



THE OLDEST GRAVESTONE IN THE OLD GRAVELYARD

was sealed in 1844, when the last daughter of Mr. Clarke was buried there.

John Greenleaf Whittier wrote the following poem to accompany the bust of Hon. Samuel E. Sewall in Cary Memorial Library :—

Like that ancestral judge who bore his name,  
Faithful to Freedom and to Truth, he gave,  
When all the air was hot with wrath and blame,  
His youth and manhood to the fettered slave,  
And never Woman in her suffering saw  
A helper tender, wise and brave as he,  
Lifting her burden of unrighteous law,  
He shamed the boast of ancient chivalry,  
Noiseless as light that melts the darkness is,  
He wrought as duty led and honor bid,  
No trumpet heralds victories like his,  
The unselfish worker in his work is hid.





CARY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## RELICS.

LEXINGTON POSSESSES MANY INTERESTING AND VALUABLE RELICS  
OF PAST CENTURIES, MANY OF WHICH ARE REFERRED  
TO ELSEWHERE IN THIS BOOK

In the Town Hall is a fine oil painting 8 x 12 feet of the Battle of Lexington by Henry Sandham, owned by the Lexington Historical Society. On the frame are these inscriptions —

“TOO FEW TO RESIST, TOO BRAVE TO FLY.”

“THE DAWN OF LIBERTY.”

APRIL 19 — LEXINGTON — 1775.

(This picture is reproduced on the cover of this book.)

Statue of John Hancock by Thomas R. Gould.

Statue of Samuel Adams by Martin Milmore.

In Hancock Church, stained glass window in memory of Rev. Edward Griffin Porter.

Copy of Murillo's "The Immaculate Conception."

In parlor of First Parish Church, Portraits of the Pastors of this Church.

In the Hancock School, a painting by James M. Hart.

## CARY MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

was established in 1868, by a gift from Mrs. William H. Cary, and the present memorial building, a gift to the town from Miss Alice B. Cary, was dedicated in 1906. Willard D. Brown of Lexington, architect. It is open every week day from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. It contains about 29,000 volumes with a capacity for 55,000 volumes; reading, study and art rooms; a marble bust of Theodore Parker, made by Sidney H. Morse, 1876; a bust of Samuel E. Sewall, by Miss Anne Whitney of Boston (see page 34); a bust of Brig. Gen'l William Francis Bartlett; a fine large oil painting of "Columbus at the court of Ferdinand and Isabella of Castille," by V. Brozik, of Paris; a portrait of Earl Percy, a copy by Pope, 1879, from the original, by Pompeo Bartoni; portrait of Paul Revere, by Jane E. Bartlett, 1883, after Gilbert Stuart, 1813; a portrait of William Dawes (copy), painter of the original unknown; portrait of Col. William Munroe, Orderly Sergeant of Capt. Parker's company, by Greenwood (painted on wood); portrait of Samuel Bowman; portrait of William H. Cary, by Edgar Parker (from photograph); portrait of Mrs. William H. Cary, by Edgar Parker, 1874; oil painting, The Axenstrasse, by Jos. Jansen; oil painting, Swiss Scene, by L. Schiell; oil painting, The Old Mill at Hiram, Maine, by F. H. Shapleigh; etc.

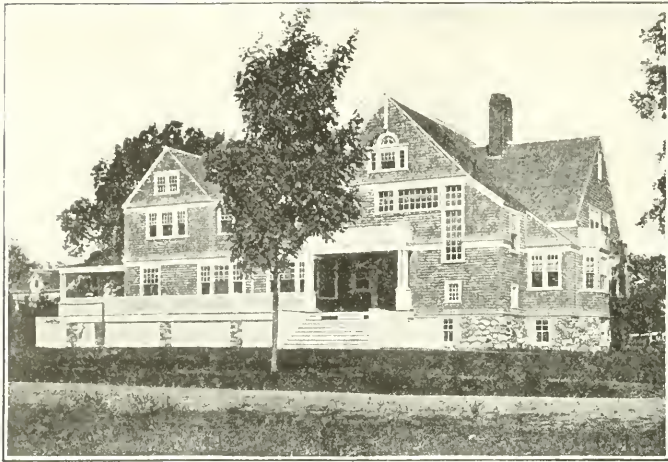
## HANCOCK-CLARKE HOUSE

is the chief repository of the town and contains the larger part of the collection of the Historical Society, numbering over 2,200 articles. Connected with this house is a commodious fireproof safe for the preservation of the more valuable property. Prominent in this collection are portraits of Rev. and Mrs. John Hancock, painted by Smibert, silhouette — life size — of Rev. Jonas Clarke, set of Doolittle's engravings of the battle of Lexington and Concord, sword of Robert Newman who hung the lanterns in the North Church steeple for Paul Revere, pocket-book of Joshua Bentley who rowed Revere across the Charles River on the night of April 18, 1775, cannon balls fired by Earl Percy's troops April 19, 1775, muskets and swords, used

by minute-men, silk vest and gold ring once worn by Gov. John Hancock, ink well and sermon case and letter seal of Theodore Parker, lantern formerly used by Paul Revere, the drum that beat the alarm for the minute-men to assemble, Maj. Pitcairn's pistols, miniature on ivory of Maj. Pitcairn, copied from original, stamp issued under the British Stamp Act of 1765, tongue of the bell which alarmed the town on April 19, 1775, bill of Dr. Joseph Fiske of Lexington for caring for the wounded British Soldiers, banner which welcomed Lafayette 1824, furniture and implements of colonial days, valuable manuscripts and publications.

### **MUNROE TAVERN.**

Portraits of the Munroe family of the Revolutionary period and of those of the great-great-grandchildren of Col. Munroe who served in the Great War; the bread-trough in which Mrs. Munroe mixed bread the night before the battle of Lexington; a cabinet containing many articles belonging to various members of the Munroe family such as the wedding ring, bonnet, and slippers of Mrs. Col. Munroe; the Masonic Punch bowl, apron, and seal which belonged to Col. Munroe, first Master of Hiram Lodge, instituted in the tavern in 1797; the muster-role of Earl Percy's regiment, an autograph letter and two portraits of the same; a desk and other articles of furniture in the tavern at the time of Col. Munroe; a collection of articles connected with William Dawes; old flip tables and tavern chairs; the table, chair, hat-rack, and dishes used by Washington when he was entertained at the tavern in 1789; and an autograph survey and map made by Washington (loaned by Mr. Harry F. Fay).




MODERN LEXINGTON, THE OLD BELFRY CLUB

## GUIDE TO PLACES OF INTEREST.

Visitors will find it to their advantage to see the various places in the following order, starting at the "Minute-man" and going north on the west side of the Common.

1. FOUNTAIN AND MINUTE-MAN.
2. LEXINGTON COMMON.
3. MEETING HOUSE TABLET ON THE COMMON.
4. HOUSE OF MARRETT AND NATHAN MUNROE.  
Massachusetts Ave., beside the Common. See page 26.
5. MONUMENT ON THE COMMON.
6. "YE OLD BURVING GROUND."  
Massachusetts Ave., entrance marked by Boulder near junction of Elm Ave. See p. 33.
7. FIRST PARISH CHURCH, ERECTED 1847, ISAAC MELVIN, ARCHITECT.  
Elm Ave.
8. HARRINGTON HOUSE.  
Corner of Elm Ave. and Bedford St. See p. 30.
9. MASONIC HALL.  
Dedicated, 1918. Elm Ave., between Bedford and Hancock Sts. The main part of this building was erected 1822 for the Lexington Academy and in this building the first Normal School in America was opened July 3, 1839.

10. HANCOCK-CLARKE HOUSE.  
Hancock Street. In this old house Hancock and Adams were sleeping when aroused by Paul Revere. It contains the valuable collection belonging to Lexington Historical Society. Open to the public.
11. FISKE HOUSE.  
The home of Surgeon Fiske who cared for the provincial and British soldiers who were wounded, April 19, 1775.  
 *Returning along East Side of Common.*
12. BOULDER MARKING THE POSITION OF THE MINUTE-MEN ON THE COMMON. See p. 21.
13. BUCKMAN TAVERN, CONTAINING BRITISH BULLET HOLES.  
Bedford St., beside the Common. See p. 22.
14. OLD BELFRY.  
Belfry Hill off Clarke St., to the right. See p. 25.
15. CARY MEMORIAL LIBRARY.  
Massachusetts Ave., open from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M.
16. TOWN HALL.  
Containing the Sandham painting of the Battle.
17. STONE CANNON.  
Massachusetts Ave., on High School Grounds.
18. STONE TABLET.  
Massachusetts Ave., near Bloomfield Street.
19. MUNROE TAVERN. See pp. 7, 29 and 37.  
Massachusetts Ave., about three quarters of a mile from the Common.
20. SANDERSON HOUSE.  
Near Munroe Tavern. A wounded British soldier was left here.
21. HOUSE OF JONATHAN HARRINGTON, THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON.  
Massachusetts Ave., East Lexington.
22. TABLETS.  
Corner of Pleasant Street and Follen Road, East Lexington.
23. BIRTHPLACE OF THEODORE PARKER.  
About two miles south of the Common.
24. TABLETS ON CONCORD ROAD.

# INSCRIPTIONS ON ALL THE HISTORIC TABLETS IN THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON.

## ON THE STONE PULPIT ON THE COMMON.

### SITE OF THE FIRST THREE MEETING HOUSES IN LEXINGTON

- I. BUILT 1692 WHEN THE TOWN WAS A PARISH OF CAMBRIDGE.
- II. BUILT 1713 ON THE INCORPORATION OF LEXINGTON.
- III. BUILT 1794. BURNED 1846. THIS SPOT IS THUS IDENTIFIED WITH THE TOWN'S HISTORY FOR 150 YEARS.

### PASTORATES

BENJAMIN ESTABROOK - - - -	1692-1697
JOHN HANCOCK - - - - -	1698-1752
JONAS CLARKE - - - - -	1755-1805
AVERY WILLIAMS - - - - -	1807-1815
CHARLES BRIGGS - - - - -	1819-1835
WILLIAM C. SWETT - - - - -	1836-1839
JASON WHITMAN - - - - -	1845-1846

## TABLETS ABOUT THE COMMON.

HOUSE BUILT 1690  
KNOWN AS THE

### BUCKMAN TAVERN

A RENDEZVOUS OF THE  
MINUTE MEN  
A MARK FOR BRITISH BULLETS  
APRIL 19, 1775

HOUSE OF

JONATHAN HARRINGTON  
WHO WOUNDED ON THE COMMON  
APRIL 19, 1775  
DRAGGED HIMSELF TO THE  
DOOR AND DIED AT HIS  
WIFE'S FEET

HOUSE OF

MARRETT AND NATHAN  
MUNROE

BUILT 1729

A WITNESS OF THE BATTLE

### LINE OF THE MINUTE MEN

APRIL 19, 1775

STAND YOUR GROUND DON'T FIRE UNLESS FIRED  
UPON BUT IF THEY MEAN TO HAVE A WAR LET  
IT BEGIN HERE.

—*Captain Parker.*

### STONE TABLET, COR. PLEASANT ST,

NEAR THIS SPOT AT EARLY DAWN ON THE 19TH  
OF APRIL, 1775. BENJAMIN WELLINGTON,  
A MINUTE MAN WAS SURPRISED BY BRITISH  
SCOUTS AND DISARMED. WITH UNDAUNTED  
COURAGE HE BORROWED ANOTHER GUN AND  
HASTENED TO JOIN HIS COMRADES ON LEX-  
INGTON GREEN HE ALSO SERVED HIS COUNTRY  
AT WHITE PLAINS AND SARATOGA. THE FIRST  
ARMED MAN TAKEN IN THE REVOLUTION

BIRTHPLACE OF

DELIVERENCE MUNROE

DAUGHTER OF

MARRETT AND DELIVERENCE MUNROE  
AND WIFE OF

ENSIGN JOHN WINSHIP

THIS TABLET PLACED BY DELIVERENCE MUNROE  
CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF REVOLUTION  
MARCH 1900

### TABLET ON THE OLD BELFRY.

THIS BELFRY WAS ERECTED ON THIS HILL IN 1761  
AND REMOVED TO THE COMMON IN 1768. IN  
IT WAS HUNG THE BELL WHICH RUNG OUT  
THE ALARM ON THE 19TH OF APRIL 1775  
IN 1797 IT WAS REMOVED TO THE PARKER HOME-  
STEAD IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE TOWN  
IN 1891 IT WAS BROUGHT BACK TO THIS SPOT BY  
THE LEXINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
REBUILT 1910

TABLETS ON HANCOCK STREET.

BUILT 1698

ENLARGED 1734

RESIDENCE OF

REV. JOHN HANCOCK 55 YEARS  
AND OF HIS SUCCESSOR

REV. JONAS CLARKE 50 YEARS  
HERE SAMUEL ADAMS AND JOHN HANCOCK  
WERE SLEEPING WHEN AROUSED BY  
PAUL REVERE APRIL 19, 1775

BUILT 1732

HOUSE OF

DR. JOSEPH FISKE

WHO ATTENDED THE WOUNDED APRIL 19 1775  
AND SERVED IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY  
AS SURGEON THROUGHOUT THE WAR

STONE TABLETS ON THE CONCORD ROAD.

AT THIS WELL APRIL 19, 1775

JAMES HAYWARD OF ACTON

MET A BRITISH SOLDIER WHO RAISING HIS GUN  
SAID YOU ARE A DEAD MAN  
AND SO ARE YOU REPLIED HAYWARD  
BOTH FIRED THE SOLDIER WAS INSTANTLY  
KILLED AND HAYWARD MORTALLY  
WOUNDED

THIS BLUFF WAS USED AS A RALLYING  
POINT BY THE BRITISH  
APRIL 19 1775

AFTER A SHARP FIGHT THEY RETREATED TO  
FISKE HILL FROM WHICH THEY WERE  
DRIVEN IN GREAT CONFUSION

THE SITE OF THE OLD BELFRY.

THE SITE OF THE OLD BELFRY  
FROM WHICH THE ALARM WAS RUNG  
APRIL 19 1775

THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY THE LEXINGTON  
CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION 1910

STONE CANNON, HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS.

NEAR THIS SPOT

EARL PERCY

WITH REINFORCEMENTS PLANTED A  
FIELDPIECE TO COVER THE RETREAT OF THE  
BRITISH TROOPS  
APRIL 19 1775

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE.

EARL PERCY'S  
HEADQUARTERS AND HOSPITAL  
APRIL 19, 1775  
THE MUNROE TAVERN  
BUILT 1695

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE.

ON THE HILL TO THE SOUTH WAS PLANTED  
ONE OF THE BRITISH FIELDPIECES  
APRIL 19 1775  
TO COMMAND THE VILLAGE  
AND ITS APPROACHES AND NEAR THIS PLACE  
SEVERAL BUILDINGS WERE BURNED

EAST LEXINGTON.

HOME OF

JONATHAN HARRINGTON

THE LAST

SURVIVOR OF THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON

BORN JULY 8 1758

DIED MARCH 27 1854

## BRONZE TABLET—EAST LEXINGTON.

CHARLES FOLLEN

BORN IN HESSE-DARMSTADT

SEPTEMBER 4, 1796

A FEARLESS ADVOCATE OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE EXILED FOR CONSCIENCE SAKE HE SOUGHT IN AMERICA THE FREEDOM DENIED HIM IN THE OLD WORLD DISTINGUISHED FOR RICH AND VARIED LEARNING FOR UNCOMPROMISING DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF THE OPPRESSED AND ENSLAVED AND FOR THE SIMPLICITY AND INTEGRITY OF HIS CHARACTER HE ORGANIZED IN THIS TOWN THE FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND BECAME ITS FIRST PASTOR DESIGNED THE OCTAGON MEETING HOUSE HERE ERECTED AND ON HIS WAY TO ITS DEDICATION WAS LOST IN THE BURNING OF THE STEAMBOAT "LEXINGTON" ON LONG ISLAND SOUND JANUARY 13 1840  
THIS TABLET ERECTED 1915

## TABLET ON THE ROAD TO CONCORD.

(IN THE TOWN OF LINCOLN.)

AT THIS POINT,  
ON THE OLD CONCORD ROAD AS IT THEN WAS,  
ENDED THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF  
PAUL REVERE.

HE HAD, AT ABOUT TWO O'CLOCK OF THE MORNING OF APRIL 19 1775, THE NIGHT BEING CLEAR AND THE MOON IN ITS THIRD QUARTER, GOT THUS FAR ON HIS WAY FROM LEXINGTON TO CONCORD, ALARMING THE INHABITANTS AS HE WENT, WHEN HE AND HIS COMPANIONS, WILLIAM DAWES, OF BOSTON, AND DR. SAMUEL PRESCOTT, OF CONCORD, WERE SUDDENLY HALTED BY A BRITISH PATROL, WHO HAD STATIONED THEMSELVES AT THIS BEND OF THE ROAD. DAWES TURNING BACK, MADE HIS ESCAPE. PRESCOTT, CLEARING THE STONE WALL, AND FOLLOWING A PATH KNOWN TO HIM THROUGH THE LOW GROUND, REGAINED THE HIGHWAY AT A POINT FURTHER ON, AND GAVE THE ALARM AT CONCORD. REVERE TRIED TO REACH THE NEIGHBORING WOOD, BUT WAS INTERCEPTED BY A PARTY OF OFFICERS ACCOMPANYING THE PATROL, DETAINED AND KEPT IN ARREST. PRESENTLY HE WAS CARRIED BY THE PATROL BACK TO LEXINGTON, THERE RELEASED, AND THAT MORNING JOINED HANCOCK AND ADAMS. THREE MEN OF LEXINGTON, SANDERSON, BROWN AND LORING, STOPPED AT AN EARLIER HOUR OF THE NIGHT BY THE SAME PATROL, WERE ALSO TAKEN BACK WITH REVERE.



## MEMORANDA.

Cambridge Farms, a part of Cambridge, now Lexington, was settled about 1640. The First Parish was organized in 1691. Benjamin Estabrook, born in Concord, 1671, was called to be first pastor, ordained 1696, died 1697. John Hancock, born in Cambridge, 1671, became second pastor in 1697 and remained till his death, 1752. He married Elizabeth Clark of Chelmsford and to them five children were born and reared to manhood and womanhood in four small original rooms. Of these children, John, the oldest, became the minister in Braintree, where his son John, the Governor and signer of the Declaration, was born January 23, 1737. Thomas, the second child, became the wealthy Boston merchant of his day and built the famous Hancock Mansion on Beacon Street, Boston. In 1734 he built the main part of the Hancock-Clarke house. Thomas had no children and left nearly all his wealth, about 70,000 pounds, to his nephew John, the Governor. The third child, Elizabeth, and the fifth child, Lucy, both married well-known clergymen. The fourth child, Ebenezer, graduated from Harvard and was settled as his father's colleague in 1734; he died in 1740. Jonas Clarke, born in 1730, was third pastor, from 1755 to 1805. He married Lucy Bowes, daughter of Rev. Nicholas Bowes of Bedford, and granddaughter of Rev. John Hancock of Lexington, and cousin to Mrs. Clarke, wife of Rev. Jonas Clarke, who lived in this house from 1755 to 1805.

## LEXINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Was organized in 1886 and now has about three hundred members.

### PUBLICATIONS.

Four volumes of Proceedings. Volumes I, III, and IV, 8 vo., about 250 pages each, are for sale at \$1.00 per volume.

EPITAPHS IN THE OLD BURYING-GROUNDS, LEXINGTON. By Francis H. Brown, M. D. 8 vo., about 200 pages. Price, \$1.00.

Revised edition of HUDSON'S HISTORY OF LEXINGTON, in two volumes. 1913. Volume I, History, 583 pages; Volume II, Genealogies, 897 pages. Price, \$10.00 per set.

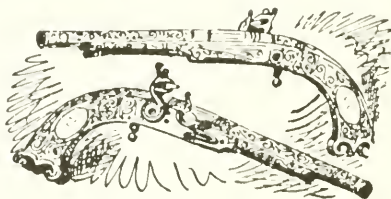
LEXINGTON, THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY. A HANDBOOK. By Fred S. Piper. First edition, 1902; revised several times. The present, sixth edition, 1920. Price, 25 cents.

Guide-Book to the Hancock-Clarke House. Fifth edition, 1918. Price, 15 cents, \_\_\_\_\_

The Society has a complete card catalogue of all of its possessions, which can be consulted on application to the Curator of the Society.

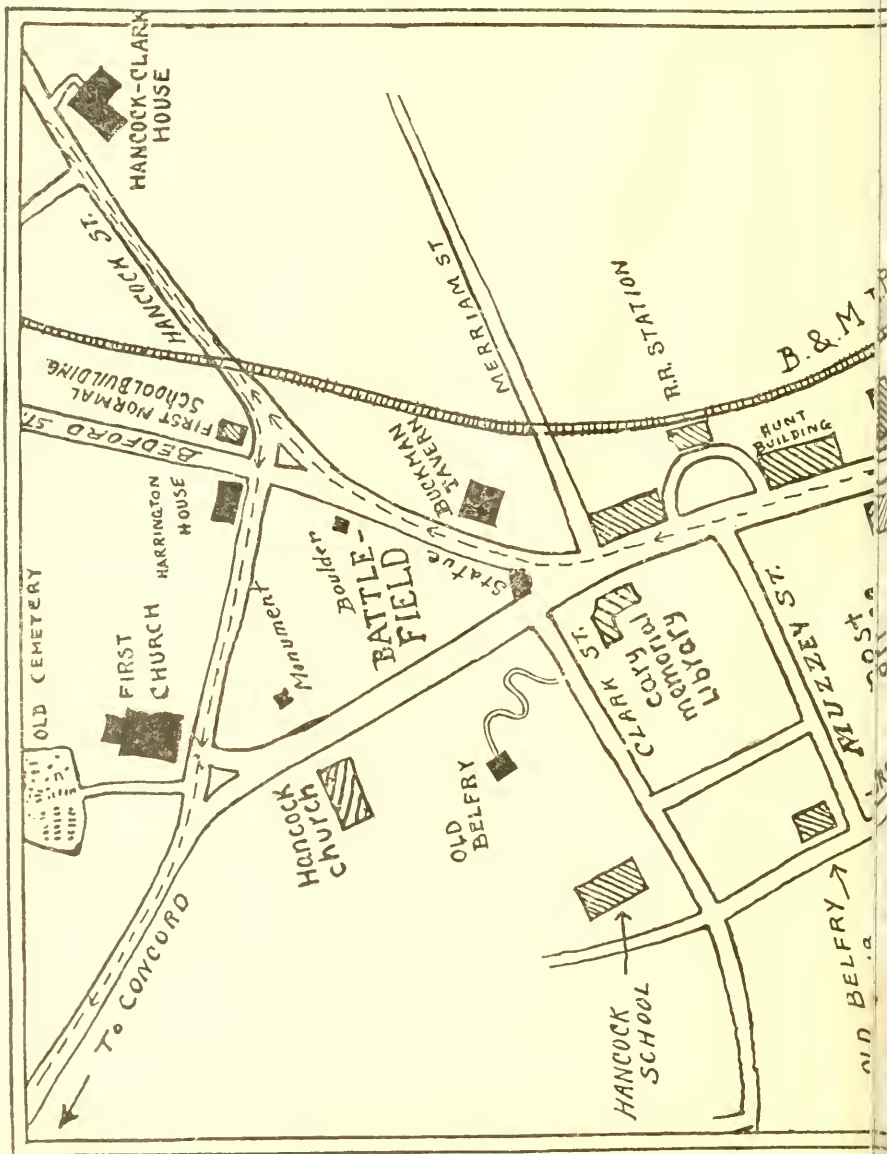
Hancock-Clarke House open: April 1 to November 1, 9.30-5.00; Sundays, 2.00-5.00. November, December and March, 11.00-4.00; Sundays, 2.00-4.00. Not open in January and February.

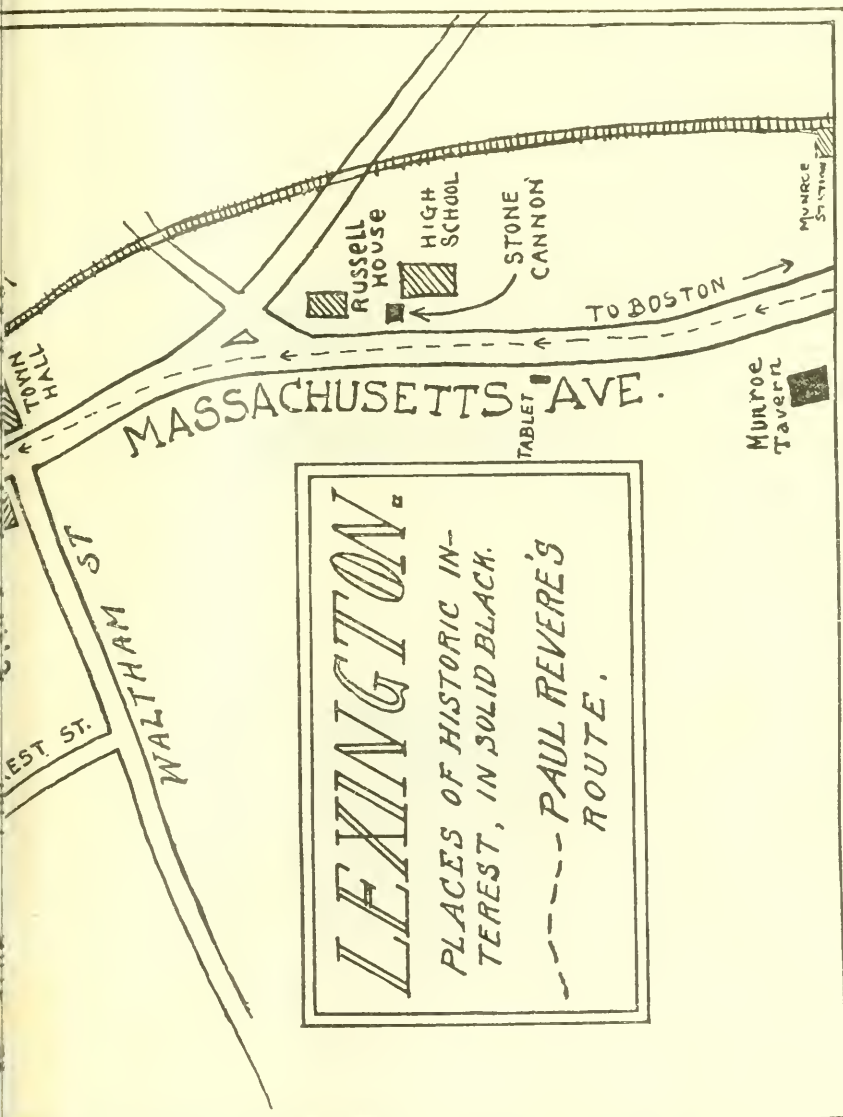
Munroe Tavern open: April 15 to November 15, 9.30-5.00. Sundays, 2.00-5.00.



PITCAITHEN'S PISTOLS,  
IN HANCOCK-CLARKE HOUSE







**LEXINGTON.**  
 PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST, IN SOLID BLACK.  
 --- PAUL REVERE'S ROUTE.













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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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