



The Lexington Minute Men, Inc.

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Media Release

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WHAT: The Lexington Minute Men and local British Revolutionary War re-enactors commemorate the 249th Anniversary of the first day of the American Revolutionary War by re-enacting the skirmish that took place on Lexington Common, early on the morning of April 19, 1775. The reenactment of the “Battle of Lexington” is on Patriots’ Day – April 15, 2024 and starts at 5:30 am on the Lexington Common.

New this year, starting at 5:15 am, the Lexington Minute Men have partnered with the Ladies Association of Revolutionary America (LARA) to bring to light the impact of April 19th on the whole community with a dramatic reenactment of the Civilian Evacuation. On hearing that a patrol of the British Regular Army was approaching the town, the women and children as well as some men of Lexington left their homes seeking safer places to wait when the British column marched through town.

WHERE: The re-enactment of the ‘Battle of Lexington’ takes place at Lexington Common on Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington, MA.

WHEN: Patriots’ Day, Monday, April 15, 2024, at 5:30 am. Spectators begin to arrive at Lexington Common at 3:30 am. in the morning in order to get a prime spot for the event. The rain date is Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 5:30 am.

ADMISSION: FREE

HOW BIG: Dozens of Lexington Minute Men and their families portray the colonists, and more than 100 British living historians recreate the “red coats” of 1775. There are usually 8–10,000 spectators lining the Common at 5:30 am.

FOR WHOM: Everyone! This is a great opportunity to witness our common heritage as Americans. The program attracts many families and school children. There are four different schools from New Hampshire and Maine that annually charter school buses to bring students to the event.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE: A recreation of Captain John Parker and 77 other Lexington militia men who stood on the Lexington Common waiting for the arrival of the British troops. The Minute Men did not block the road, but merely stood at attention off to the side as the King's troops arrived. Eyewitnesses reported that Captain Parker said, "Stand your ground! Don't fire unless fired upon! But if they mean to have a war, let it begin here!" British Major Pitcairn, at the front of his column, shouted to the Colonists: "Lay down your arms, you damned rebels and disperse!" The Colonists were clearly outnumbered. Parker ordered his men to back away. A shot rang out. Men on both sides fired their weapons. Eight Colonists fell dead.

Historians recognize Lexington Common as the location where the smoldering discontent in the colonies under Parliament's rule, flared into open hostilities. The historic day began with a quick skirmish at Lexington Common and expanded into a day-long series of fights along a stretch of country road, involving over 3,500 provincial militia men, and over 2,100 of His Majesty's Regulars (the "Redcoats"). This was the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. On April 15, 2024, the skirmish on Lexington Common will again be recreated.

THERE IS MORE: The reenactment of the "Battle of Lexington" is just one event in which the Lexington Minute Men will participate on Patriots' Day – April 15, 2024. The Battle at Lexington starts at 5:30 am. The Minute Men also participate in the Lexington Sunrise Youth Parade at 7:30 am, other ceremonies near the common at 8:15 am and 10:15 am and the Lexington Patriots' Day Parade at 2:00 pm. The Battle of Lexington reenactment is organized by the Lexington Minute Men. The Lexington Minute Men is a civic reenactment organization dedicated to honoring the brave Patriots who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation's freedom. The Lexington Minute Men have a long proud history, from the militia that fought on the Common in 1775, to providing men to fight throughout the American Revolutionary War. The Lexington Minute Men gained attention again during the Centennial Celebration of 1875, when President Ulysses S. Grant saluted the 77 men who fought that day on the Common. During the Bicentennial, the Lexington Minute Men served as honor guards for President Gerald Ford and Queen Elizabeth. The Lexington Minute Men are under the command of Captain Jamie Lee, who will portray Captain Parker in this year's reenactment. For more information on the Lexington Minute Men visit <https://www.lexingtonminutemen.com/>.

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