

## TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

### *Lesson Title - 19 April 1775*

*from Bill Powers*

Grade – 11

Length of class period – 60 min

Inquiry – (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)

Who actually were the villains at Lexington and Concord?

Objectives (What content and skills do you expect students to learn from this lesson?)

Given the information contained in two biased broadsides from the period, the student will be able to evaluate the interpretations of both loyalist and patriot versions of the battles of Lexington and Concord.

Materials (What primary sources or local resources are the basis for this lesson?) –  
(please attach)

A Circumstantial Account of an Attack that Happened on the 19th of April 1775, on his Majesty's Troops. <http://www.teachushistory.org/node/249>

Bloody Butchery, by the British Troops: or, The Runaway Fight of the Regulars.  
<http://www.teachushistory.org/node/248>

Activities (What will you and your students do during the lesson to promote learning?)

1. Review the concept of the use of "broadsides".
2. Students pre-read broadsides prior to class activities.
3. In small groups students make and record their comparisons of the two documents.
4. Discuss as a class the results of the small groups and record comments for the entire class.
5. Individual students write an evaluation of the of the loyalist and patriot accounts.

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

Students for homework will write a persuasive essay which takes either the loyalist or patriot perspective.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –  
Evaluate primary and secondary interpretations of a historical event.

## **Bloody Butchery, by the British Troops: or, The Runaway Fight of the Regulars**

Broadside

### **Background Notes**

Broadsides are single-sheet printed documents. They were frequently displayed or posted in public areas such as in taverns, outside meeting houses, or around municipal buildings. A variety of materials were printed on broadsides including poems, government proclamations, songs, and advertisements. Frequently they contained graphic images and a variety of typefaces and symbols. Although often printed on large pieces of paper, they could be of any size. A broadside may be compared to a poster or a handbill advertisement of today.

The American account of the events at Lexington and Concord is recounted in this dramatic broadside. Note the heavy black borders and the coffins that adorn the top of the broadside. Both the graphics and the inflammatory prose are designed to instill sorrow and outrage in the reader and to inspire sympathy with the American cause of the rebellion.

This broadside depicts the British troops as attacking the Americans or "provincials" with a "savage barbarity" that included "shooting down the unarmed, aged, and infirm, they disregarded the cries of the wounded, killing them without mercy, and mangling their bodies." This broadside also exonerates the Americans, claiming that "not one instance of cruelty that we have heard of was committed by our victorious militia." Rather the Americans, "listening to the merciful dictates of the Christian religion. They breathed a higher sentiment of humanity."

This broadside was printed in Salem, Massachusetts by E. Russell. Russell was a Boston printer who moved to Salem in 1774 and published the *Salem Gazette*. However this paper was not successful. He moved to Danvers and then eventually returned to Boston. Isaiah Thomas, in his book *The History of Printing in America* (1970, Weathervane Books, New York), said, "The wife of her husband in the printing house. A young woman who lived in Russell's family sometimes invoked the muse, and wrote ballads on recent tragical events, which being immediately printed, and set off with wooden cuts of coffins, etc., had frequently 'a considerable run.'" It is unknown if this woman authored the elegy that appears at the bottom of this broadside.

## Transcription of Primary Source

BLOODY BUTCHERY,  
BY THE  
BRITISH TROOPS:  
OR, THE  
RUNAWAY FIGHT OF THE REGULARS.

Being the PARTICULARS of the VICTORIOUS BATTLE fought at and near CONCORD, situated twenty miles from Boston, in the province of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New England, between two thousand regular troops, belonging to his Britannic Majesty, and a few hundred Provincial Troops ... which lasted from sun-rise to sun-set on the nineteenth of April, One Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five, when it was decided greatly in favor of the latter. Part of which has never before been printed. These particulars are now published in this form, at the request of the friends to the deceased WORTHIES, who died gloriously fighting in the CAUSE OF LIBERTY and their COUNTRY; and it is their desire that every householder in America, who are sincere well-wishers to the American Colonies, may be possessed of the same, either to frame and glass, or otherwise to preserve in their houses, not only as a token of gratitude to the memory of the deceased forty persons, but as a perpetual memorial of that important event, on which perhaps, may depend the future FREEDOM AND GREATNESS of the COMMONWEALTH of AMERICA. To which is annexed, A FUNERAL ELEGY on those who were slain in the battle. (The second edition corrected, with some editions.)

From E. Russell's *Salem Gazette*, or *Newbury and Marblehead Advertiser*, published on Friday, April 21, 1775.

On Tuesday evening the eighteenth instant, a body of soldiers under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel *Smith*, to the amount of about eight hundred men, embarked from Barton's-Point in *Boston* about eleven o'clock, crossed Charles river, landed at Phip's farm in Cambridge and marched immediately to Lexington, near twelve miles from Boston. At sunrise, they observing between thirty and forty inhabitants exercising near the meeting house, the commanding officer ordered them to lay down their arms and disperse, which not being directly complied with, he "*damned them for a pack of rebels,*" ordered his men to fire upon them and killed eight men on the spot, besides wounding several more. The army then proceeded to Concord, drew up on the parade near the meeting house, during which time the inhabitants from the neighboring towns collected and took possession of the adjacent hills, about eleven o'clock firing began on both sides which lasted nearly an hour, when the regular troops began to retreat, the provincials closely pursuing them to a bridge at a small distance which the rebels took up as they passed; they then renewed the fire and some were slain on both sides. But the regulars still retreated and the provincials pursued them down to Lexington where the regulars,

about three o'clock in the afternoon, met with a reinforcement of about twelve hundred men under the command of Earl Percy, with two brass field pieces, they then renewed the attack upon the provincials, but soon thought proper to retreat towards [missing] provincials pursued them into Charlestown, where they arrived about [missing] immediately an advantageous [missing] Bunker's-Hill, about a mile [missing] the provincials now discontinued the pursuit. The loss on either side [missing] not been able to ascertain, but it is about one hundred regulars killed and fifty wounded, among which were [missing] officers. Two officers and a number of soldiers were taken prisoner. On the side of the province, we hear that thirty-five were slain and several wounded. The above is as particular an account of the engagement as can at this time be [missing] in the present confused state of the province.

We hear an officer and his servant, with two pairs of pistols, were yesterday taken and secured by our people at Roxbury, on their way to Castle William.

SALEM, April 25

Last Wednesday, the nineteenth of April, the troops of his Britannic Majesty commenced hostilities upon the people of this province, attended with circumstances of cruelty not less brutal than what our venerable ancestors received from the vilest savages of the wilderness. The particulars relative to this interesting, by which we are involved in all the horrors of a civil war, we have endeavored to collect as well as the present confused state of affairs will admit.

On Tuesday evening a detachment from the army, consisting, it is said, of eight or nine hundred men, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, embarked at the bottom of the common at Boston, on board a number of boats and landed at Phips Farm a little way up the Charles River, from whence they proceeded with silence and expedition on their way to Concord about eighteen miles from Boston. The people were soon alarmed and began to assemble in several towns before daylight in order to watch the motion of the troops. At Lexington, six miles below Concord, a company of militia, of about one hundred men, mustered near the meeting house. The troops came within sight of them just before the sunrise and running within a few rods of them, the commanding officer accosted the militia in words to this effect "Disperse you rebels - Damn you, throw down your arms and disperse." Upon which the troops huzz'd and immediately one or two officers discharged their pistols, which were instantaneously followed by the firing of four or five of the soldiers and then there seemed to be a general discharge from the whole body. Eight of our men were killed and nine wounded. In a few minutes after this action, the enemy renewed the march for Concord, at which place they destroyed several carriages, carriage wheels, and about twenty barrels of flour, all belonging to the province. Here about one hundred men going toward a bridge of which the enemy were in possession, the latter fired and killed two of our men, who then returned the fire and obliged the enemy to retreat back to Lexington, where they met Lord Percy with a large reinforcement, with two pieces of cannon. The enemy now having a body of about eighteen hundred men made a halt, picked up many of their dead, and took care of their

wounded. At Menotomy, a few of our men, belonging to the detachment from Lynn-End attacked a party of about twelve of the enemy, (carrying stores and provisions to the troops) killed two of them, wounded several, took six prisoners, shot five horses and took possession of their arms, stores, provisions &c and without any loss on our side. Among those who were killed was a lieutenant who went with the provisions for his recreation and to view the country, the officer of the guard who generally attends on such occasions being only a sergeant. The enemy having halted one or two hours at Lexington, found it necessary to make a second retreat, carrying with them many of their dead and wounded, who they put in chassis and on horses they found standing in the road. They continued their retreat from Lexington to Charlestown with great precipitation and notwithstanding their field pieces, our people continued the pursuit, firing at them until they got to Charlestown Neck (which they reached a little after sunset) over which the enemy passed, proceeded up Bunker's Hill, and soon afterwards went into town under the protection of the Somerset man of war of seventy four guns.

In Lexington, the enemy set fire to Deacon Joseph Loring's house and barn Mrs. Mulliken's house and shop, and Mr. Joseph Bond's house and shop, all of which were consumed. They also set fire to several other houses, but our people extinguished the flames. They pillaged almost every house they passed by, breaking and destroying doors, windows, glasses &c and carrying off clothing and other valuable effects. It appeared to be their design to burn and destroy all before them, and nothing but our vigorous pursuit prevented their infernal purposes from being put into execution. But the savage barbarity exercised upon the bodies of our unfortunate brethren who fell is almost incredible. Not content with shooting down the unarmed, aged, and infirm, they disregarded the cries of the wounded, killing them without mercy, and mangling their bodies in the most *[missing]* manner.

We have the pleasure to say that notwithstanding the highest provocations by the enemy, not one instance of cruelty that we have heard of was committed by our victorious militia, but listening to the merciful dictates of the Christian religion, they breathed higher sentiment of humanity.

By an account of the loss of the enemy, said to have come from an officer of one of the men of war, it appears that sixty-three of the regulars and forty-nine marines were killed and one hundred and *[missing]* were wounded. In all, two hundred and fifteen. Lieutenant Guild of the *[missing]* regiment, who is wounded, and Lieutenant Potter of the marines, and about *[missing]* soldiers are prisoners.

Mr. James Howard and one of the *[missing]* discharged their pieces at the same instant and each killed the other.

The public most sincerely sympathizes *[missing]* friends and relations of our deceased brethren, who generously sacrificed *[missing]* fighting for the liberties of their country. By the *[missing]* ungrateful tyrant *[missing]* present generation who will *[missing]*. The above account *[missing]*. We can only add that the town of *[missing]* brave countrymen who have flown to our *[missing]* them assistance in the extirpation of our

[*missing*].

On the nineteenth of [*missing*] the British troops at Menotomy, as [*missing*] his country's rights the good, the pious, and friendly Mr. Daniel Townsend of Lynn-End. He was a constant and ready friend to the poor and afflicted, a good advisor in case of difficulty and an able mind and fierce reprover of those who were out of the way. In short he was a friend to his country, a blessing to society, and ornament to the church of which he was a member. He has left an amiable consort and five young children to bewail the loss.

Lie, valiant Townsend in the peaceful shaded-We trust

Immortal honors mingle with thy dust

What! Tho' thy body struggled in the gore

So did thy Saviour's body long before!

And as he raised his own, by power divine

So the same power shall also quicken thine

And in eternal glory mayst thou shine.

On Thursday the twentieth past, the bodies of eleven of the unfortunate persons who fell in the battle were collected and buried at Medford. And on Friday, the bodies of Messrs. Henry Jacobs, Samuel Cook, Ebenezer Goldthwait, George Southwick, Benjamin Deland, jun., Jonathan Webb and Perley Putnam of Danvers, who were likewise slain fighting in the Glorious Cause of Liberty and Their Country on the nineteenth of April, were respectfully interred among their friends in the different parishes belonging to that town, their corpses being attended to the place of internment by two companies of minute-men from that place and a large concourse of people from this and the neighboring towns; previous to their internment an excellent and well-adapted prayer was delivered by the reverent Mr. Holt of that place.

Same day the remains of Messrs. Azabel Porter and Daniel Thompson of Woburn, who also fell victim to tyranny, were decently interred at that place, attended by a multitude of persons who assembled on the occasion from that and the neighboring [*missing*]. Before they were interred, a very suitable sermon and prayer was delivered by the Reverend Mr. Sherman. Lieutenant Joseph Knight of the fifth regiment died in Boston the next day after the engagement of his wounds he received [*missing*] same. He was greatly regretted, being esteemed one of the best officers [*missing*] King's troops.

Lieutenant Hull, of the regulars, died of his wounds Wednesday last at the provincial hospital. His remains were next day conveyed to Charlestown, attended by a company of provincials, and several officers of distinction and there delivered to the order of General Gage. Twenty-three wounded soldiers lately died at the Castle.

Lieutenant Hawkshaw was wounded in the cheek and it is tho't he will not recover.

Lieutenant Gore was wounded in the arm. About 12 other officers are wounded.

We can assure the public, from the best authority, that our brethren, of all the colonies which we can yet have heard from are firm and unshaken in their attachment to the common cause of America, and that they are now ready with their lives and fortunes, to

assist us in defeating the cruel designs of our implacable enemies.

We have received no particulars between General Gage and the inhabitants of Boston. It is certain that the people have given up their arms. Very few of them have, however, been permitted to leave the town, notwithstanding the promise of the General.

[*Column end*]

The following is a list of the Provincials who were killed and wounded  
Belonging to Lexington

Killed

- 1\*Mr. Robert Munroe
- 2\*Mr. Jonas Parker
- 3\*Mr. Samuel Hadley
- 4\* Mr. Jonathan Harrington
- 5\*Mr. Caleb Harrington
- 6\*Mr. Isaac Muzzy
- 7\*Mr. John Brown
8. Mr. John Raymond
9. Mr. Nathaniel Wyman
10. Jedidiah Munroe

Wounded

1. Mr. John Robbins
2. Mr. John Todd
3. Mr. Solomon Pierce
4. Mr. Thomas Winship
5. Mr. Nathan Farmer
6. Mr. Joseph Comer
7. Mr. Ebenezer Munroe
8. Mr. Francis Brown
9. Prince Easterbrooks  
(a Negro man)

Menotomy

Killed

11. Mr. Jason Russell
12. Mr. Jabez Wyman
13. Jacob [*missing*]

Missing (supposed to be on board one of the men of war)

Mr. Samuel Frost

Mr. Seth Russell

Sudbury

Killed

14. Deacon Haynes

15 Mr. [*missing*]

Concord

Killed

16. Captain James Miles

Bedford

Killed

17. [*missing*] Jonathan Villson

[*Town name missing*]

Killed

18. Captain Davis

19. Mr. [*missing*] Horsmer

20. Mr. James [*missing*]

Woburn

Killed

21\*Mr. Azael Porter

22. Mr. Daniel Thompson

Wounded

10. Mr. George Reed

11. Mr. Jacob Bacon

12. Mr. [*missing*] Johnson

Charlestown

Killed

23. Mr. James Miller

24. Captain William Barber's son, aged 14

Brookline

Killed

25. Isaac Gardiner, esquire

Cambridge

Killed

26. Mr. John Hicks

- 27. Mr. Moses Richardson
- 28. Mr. William Massey

Medford

Killed

- 29. Mr. Henry Putnam

Wounded

- 13. Mr. William Polly

Lynn

Killed

- 30. Mr. Abednego Ramsdell

- 31. Daniel Townsend

- 32. William Flint

- 33. Thomas Hadley

Wounded

- 14. Mr. Joshua Felt

- 15. Mr. Timothy Munroe

Missing (on board the Admiral's ship)

- Mr. Joshua Breed

Danvers

Killed

- 34. Mr. Henry Jacobs

- 35. Mr. Samuel Cook

- 36. Mr. Ebenezer Goldthwait

- 37. Mr. George Southwick

- 38. Mr. Benjamin Daland, jun.

- 39. Mr. Jotham Webb

- 40. Mr. Perley Putnam

Wounded

- 16. Mr. Nathan Putnam

- 17. Mr. Dennis Wallis

Salem

Killed

- 41. Mr. Benjamin Pierce

Beverly

Killed

- 42. Reuben Kennison

Wounded

18. Mr. Samuel Woodbury

19. Mr. Nath. Cleves

20. Mr. Wm. Dodge

Framingham

Wounded

21. Mr. [*missing*] Hemmenway

Bedford

Wounded

22. Mr. John Lane

(Those distinguished with this mark \* were killed by the first fire of the enemy)

SALEM, N.E., Printed and sold by E. Russell at his printing office, removed next to John Turner, Esq., in the Main Street - At the same place may also be had, poetical remarks on the Bloody Tragedy of the Nineteenth of April 1775. Likewise, several small pieces on the times, among which is the most remarkable dream that ever was dreamed in New England.

A Funeral Elegy to the Immortal Memory of those Worthies who were slain in the battle of Concord, April 19, 1775

Aid me ye nine! My muse assist,  
A sad tale to relate  
When such a number of brave men  
Met their unhappy fate  
At Lexington they met their foe  
Completely all equipped  
Their guns and swords made glittering show  
But their base scheme was nipped  
Americans, go drop a tear  
Where your slain bretheran lay  
O! Mourn and sympathize for them  
O! Weep this very day  
What shall we say to this loud call  
From the Almighty sent  
It surely bids both great and small  
Seek God's face and repent  
Words Can't express the ghastly scene

That here pretends to view  
When forty-two countrymen

Sure bid their friends adieu  
To think how awful it must seem  
To hear the widows relent  
Their husbands and their children  
Who to the grave was sent  
The tender babes, nay those unborn  
O! Dismal cruel death  
To snatch their fondest parents dear  
And leave them thus bereft  
O! Lexington, your loss is great  
Alas! Too great to tell  
But justice bids me to relate  
What to you has befall  
Ten of your hardy, bravest sons  
Some in their prime did fall  
May we no more hear noise of guns  
To terrify us all  
Let's not forget the Danvers race  
So late in battle slain  
Their courage and their valor shown  
Upon the crimson plain  
Seven of your youthful sprightly sons  
In the fierce fight were slain  
O! May your loss be all made up  
And prove a lasting gain  
Cambridge and Medford's loss is great  
Tho' not like Acton's town  
Where three fierce military sons  
Met their untimely doom  
Menotomy and Charlestown met  
A sore and heavy stroke  
In losing five your brave townsmen  
Who fell by tyrant's yoke  
Unhappy Lynn and Beverly  
Your loss I do bemoan  
Five your brave sons in dust doth lye  
Who late were in their bloom  
Bedford, Woburn, Sudbury all

Have suffered most severe  
You miss five of your choicest chore  
On them let's drop a tear  
Concord, your captain's fate rehearse  
His loss is most severe  
Come brethren, join with me in verse  
His memory hence revere

O Squire Gardiner's death we feel  
And sympathizing mourn  
Let's drop a tear when it we tell  
and view his hapless urn  
We sore regret poor Pierce's death  
A stroke to Salem's town  
Where tears did flow from ev'ry brow  
When the sad tidings come  
The groans of wounded dying men  
Wound melt the foulest foul  
O! How it strikes thro' ev'ry vein  
My flesh and blood run cold  
May all prepare to meet their fate  
At God's tribunal bar  
And may war's terrible alarm  
For death us now prepare  
Your country calls you far and wide  
America's sons awake  
Your helmet, buckler, and spear  
The Lord's own arm now take  
His shield will keep us from all harm  
Tho thousands 'gainst us rise  
His buckler we must sure put on  
If we would win the prize

### **Curator Notes**

Type: Broadside

Exact Title:

Periodical:

Volume:

Page(s):

Year: 1775

Probable Date:

Description:

Author/Creator:

Publisher: Ezekiel Russell (1743-1796)

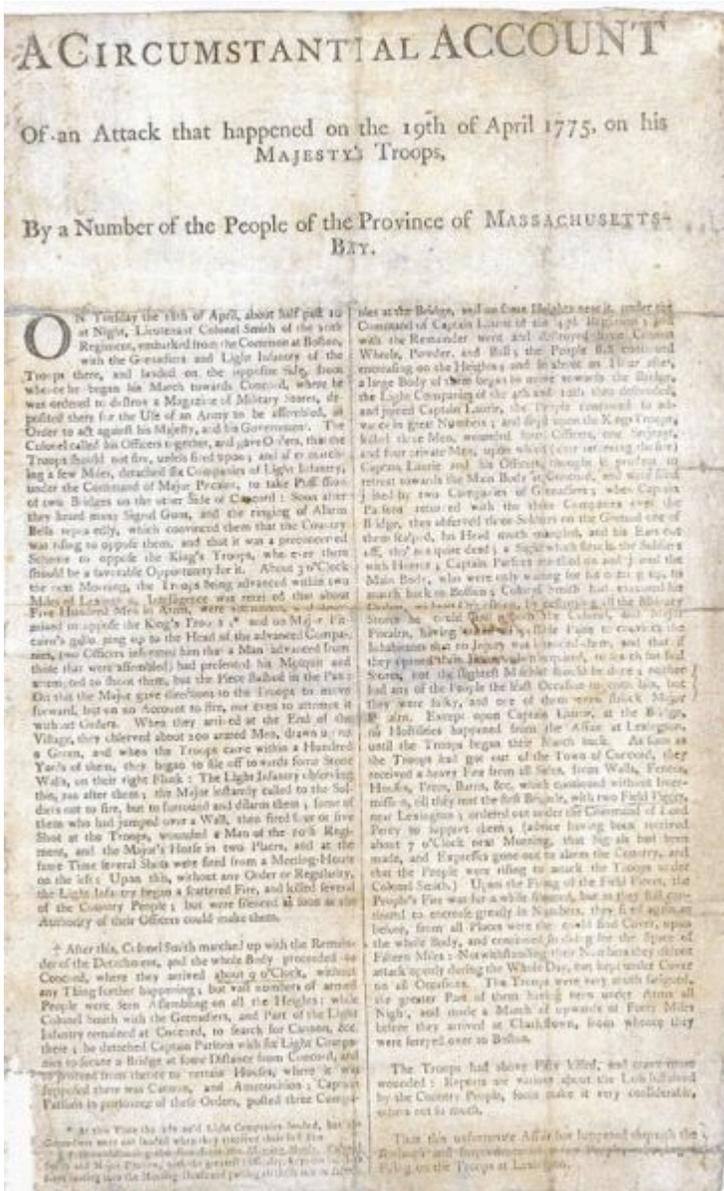
Place of Publication: Salem, Massachusetts

Dimensions: 51 x 39 cm.

Materials:

Condition:

Catalog Number: American Antiquarian Society



## A Circumstantial Account of an Attack that Happened on the 19th of April 1775, on his Majesty's Troops

Broadside

### Background Notes

Broadsides are single-sheet printed documents. They were frequently displayed or posted in public areas such as in taverns, outside meeting houses, or around municipal buildings. A variety of materials were printed on broadsides including poems, government proclamations, songs, and advertisement. Frequently they contained graphic images and a

variety of typefaces and symbols. Although often printed on large pieces of paper, they could be of any size. A broadside may be compared to a poster or a handbill advertisement of today.

The British version of the events leading to and including the battles of Lexington and Concord is presented in this broadside, *A Circumstantial Account of an Attack that Happened on the 19th of April 1775, on his Majesty's Troops*. Note the calm tone of the language and the lack of any graphic images. This broadside attempts to down play the significance of the "unfortunate affair" while clearly blaming "a few people" for instigating the violence. This broadside also accuses the Americans of scalping and mangling one British soldier while he was still alive. This broadside was printed in Boston in 1775. This work is number 13869 in Charles Evans' monumental 14 volume *American Bibliography* published in Chicago and Worcester from 1903 to 1959.

### Transcription of Primary Source

A Circumstantial Account  
Of an Attack that happened on the 19th of April 1775, on his  
Majesty's Troops

By a Number of the People of the Province of MASSACHUSETTS-  
BAY.

On Tuesday the 18th of April, about half past 10 at Night, Lieutenant Colonel Smith of the 10th Regiment, embarked from the Common at Boston, with the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the Troops there, and landed on the opposite side, from whence he began his march towards Concord, where he was ordered to destroy a Magazine of Military Stores, deposited there for the Use of an Army to be assembled, in Order to act against his Majesty, and his Government. The Colonel called his Officers together, and gave Orders, that the troops should not fire, unless fired upon; and after marching a few Miles, detached six Companies of Light Infantry, under the Command of Major Pitcarin, to take possession of two bridges on the other side of Concord: Soon after they heard many Signal Guns, and the ringing of Alarm Bells repeatedly, which convinced them that the Country was rising to oppose them, and that it was a preconceived scheme to oppose the King's Troops, wherever there should be a favorable Opportunity for it. About 3 o'clock the next morning, the Troops being advanced within two Miles of Lexington, Intelligence was received that about Five Hundred Men in Arms, were [*missing*], and determined to oppose the King's Troops;\* and on Major Pitcarin's galloping up to the Head of the advanced Companies, two officers informed him that a Man advanced from those that were assembled had presented his Musquet [*sic*] and attempted to shoot them, but the Piece flashed in the Pan: On this the Major gave directions to the troops to move forward, but on no Account to fire, not even to attempt it without orders. When they

arrived at the End of the Village, they observed about 200 armed Men, drawn up on a Green, and when the Troops came within a Hundred Yards of them, they began to file off toward some Stone Walls, on their right flank: The Light Infantry observing this, ran after them; the Major instantly called to the Soldiers not to fire, but to surround and disarm them; some of them who had jumped over a Wall, then fired four or five Shot[s] at the Troops, wounded a Man of the 10th Regiment, and the Major's Horse in two Places, and at the same Time several Shots were fired from a Meeting-House on the left: Upon this, without any Order or Regularity, the Light Infantry began a scattered Fire, and killed several of the Country People; but were silenced as soon as the Authority of their Officers could make them.

After this, Colonel Smith marched up with the Remainder of the Detachment, and the whole Body proceeded to Concord, where they arrived about 9 o'clock, without any Thing further happening; but vast numbers of armed People were seen assembling on all the Heights: while Colonel Smith with the Grenadiers, and Part of the Light Infantry remained at Concord, to search for Cannon, &c. there: he detached Captain Parsons with six Light Companies to secure a Bridge at some Distance from Concord, and to proceed thence to certain Houses, where it was supposed there was Cannon, and Ammunition; Captain Parsons in pursuance of these Orders, posted three companies at the Bridge, and on some Heights near it, under the command of Captain Laurie of the 43d Regiment and with the remainder went and destroyed some cannon wheels, powder and ball; the people still continued increasing on the heights, and in about an hour after, a large body of them began to move toward the bridge, the light companies of the 4th and 10th then descended, and joined Captain Laurie, the people continued to advance in great numbers and fired upon the King's troops, killed three men, wounded four officers, one Sergeant, and four private men, upon which (after returning the fire) Captain Laurie and his officers thought it prudent to retreat toward the main body at Concord and were soon joined by two companies of grenadiers. When Captain Parsons returned with the three companies over the bridge, they observed three soldiers on the ground, one of them scalped, his head much mangled and his ears cut off, though not quite dead, a sight which struck the soldiers with horror. Captain Parsons marched on and joined the main body, who were only waiting for his coming up, to march back to Boston. Colonel Smith had executed his orders without opposition, by destroying all the military stores he could find. Both the Colonel and Major Pitcarin having taken all possible pains to convince the inhabitants that no injury was intended them and that if they opened their doors when required to search for the said stores, not the slightest mischief should be done, neither had any of the people the least occasion to complain, but they were sulky and one of them even struck Major Pitcarin. Except upon Captain Laurie at the bridge, no hostilities happened from the affair at Lexington until the troops began their march back. As soon as the troops had got out of the town of Concord, they received a heavy fire on all sides, from walls, fences, houses, trees, barns, &c, which continued without intermission till they met the

first brigade with two field pieces near Lexington ordered out under the command of Lord Percy to support them (advice having been received about 7 o'clock next morning that signals had been made and expresses gone out to alarm the country and that the people were rising to attack the troops under Colonel Smith). Upon the firing of the field pieces, the people's fire was for a while silenced, but as they still continued to increase greatly in numbers, they fired again as before from all places where they could find cover upon the whole body and continued doing so for the space of fifteen miles. Notwithstanding their numbers, they did not attack openly during the whole day, but kept under cover on all occasions. The troops were very much fatigued, the greater part of them having been kept under arms all night and made a march of upwards of forty miles before they arrived at Charlestown, from whence they were ferried over to Boston.

The troops had above Fifty killed, and many more wounded: Reports are various about the Loss sustained by the Country People, some make it very considerable, others not so much.

Thus this unfortunate Affair has happened through the Ruthless and Imprudence of a few people who began Firing on the Troops at Lexington.

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\*At this time the advanced light companies loaded, but the grenadiers were not loaded when they received their first fire. Notwithstanding the fire from the meeting house. Colonel Smith and Major Pitcarin, with the greatest difficulty, kept the soldiers from forcing into the meeting house and putting all those there in it to flight

### **Curator Notes**

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