

Documentation Regarding Arms and Equipment of Massachusetts
Minute and Militia Companies
With an Emphasis on John Parker's Lexington Company

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Massachusetts Bay Colony Laws and Regulations

1. "Every listed souldier ... shall be alwayes provided with a well fixt firelock musket, of musket or bastard musket bore, the barrel not less then three foot and a half long, or other good firearms to the satisfaction of the commission officers of the company, a snapsack, a collar with twelve bandealers or cartouch-box, one pound of good powder, twenty bullets fit for his gun, and twelve flints, a good sword or cutlace, a worm and priming wire fit for his gun."¹
2. "Every listed Soldier, and other Householder shall be always provided with a well fixt Firelock Musket, of Musket or Bastard-Musket bore, the Barrel not less than three Foot and an half long, or other good Fire Arms to the satisfaction of the Commission Officers of the Company; a Cartouch Box: one Pound of good Powder: Twenty Bullets fit for his Gun, and twelve Flynts; a good Sword or Cutlass; a Worm, & priming Wire, fit for his Gun, on Penalty of six Shillings..."²

Pre-Revolutionary War Commercial Advertisements

1. "Newly imported, and sold by Samuel Miller, Gunsmith, at the Sign of the Cross Guns near the Draw-Bridge, Boston: Neat Fire Arms of all sorts, Pistols, Swords, Hangars, Cutlasses, Flasks for Horsemen, Firelocks, &c."³
2. "To be sold by John Pim of Boston, Gunsmith, at the Sign of the Cross Guns, in Anne-Street near the Draw Bridge, at very Reasonable rates, sundry choice of Arms lately arrived from London, viz. Handy Muskets, Buccaneer-Guns, Fowling Pieces, Hunting Guns, Carbines, several sorts of Pistols, Brass and Iron, fashionable swords, &c."⁴

French And Indian War

¹ Massachusetts Militia Laws, Nov. 22, 1693. Likewise, in New Hampshire, the colony declared "Every soldyer Shall be well provided w'th a well fixed gun or fuse, Sword or hatchet, Snapsack, Catouch box, horne Charger & flints." New Hampshire Militia Laws, Oct. 7, 1692.

² *Boston Newsletter*, February 7, 1733.

³ *Boston Gazette* May 11, 1742.

⁴ *Boston Newsletter* July 11, 1720.

1. "A proportion of Ordnance and stores for the intended expedition to North America. . . By order of the Board dated the 12th of October 1754 . . . For Service of the two American Regiments . . . Musquets with Bayonets with Nosebands & woodrammers: 1000 . . . Dutch with nosebands & wood R.: 1000 . . . Cartouch Boxes with Straps [and] 12 Holes: 2000 . . . Swords with Scabbards with Brass Hilts: 320 . . . with Iron Hilts: 1800 . . . Halberts: 80."⁵
2. On September 28, 1755, Governor Shirley and Major General Pepperrell both received correspondence highlighting the inadequacies of weapons and equipment sent to Massachusetts provincials. "The locks being wore out and the hammers so soft, that notwithstanding repeated repairs they are most unfit for service, particularly Sir William Pepperrell's Regiment being old Dutch arms. The holes of the pouches and boxes are so small that they cannot receive the Cartridge, nor is there substance of the wood, to widen them sufficiently. The leather scanty and bad likewise."⁶
3. In the eyes of the British government, the stands of arms provided to Massachusetts soldiers were property of His Majesty and were expected to be returned to officials at the end of each campaign. Yet despite the existing deficiencies, Massachusetts soldiers often refused to return these stands of arms. In 1757, the British Comptroller Furnis complained "out of the 2,000 [stands of arms] issued to the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, he has just yet received 300 only."⁷
4. Two years later, in 1759, Massachusetts Governor Pownall complained "I had caused about three thousand stand of arms to be delivered to the [Massachusetts] men, raised the last year for His Majesty's service, under General Abercromby; I have an account of one hundred and fifteen only, as yet returned."⁸
5. In the fall of 1755, Massachusetts Governor Shirley described the 2000 stands of arms he received to include "Land muskets of the King's pattern with double bridle locks, old pattern nosebands and wood rammers."⁹ In the spring of 1756, 10,000 stands of arms were shipped to the colonies, including Massachusetts. The shipment consisted entirely of "Land service muskets of the King's pattern with brass furniture, double bridle locks, wood rammers with bayonets & scabbards and tann'd leather slings."¹⁰
6. An inventory of equipment provided by the government to Massachusetts troops participating in the 1755 Crown Point expedition suggests the following equipment was distributed "1200 cartouch boxes . . . 1500 powder flasks . . . 1300 powder horns . . . 1500 worms & 1500 wires . . . 1500 knapsacks and bullet pouches."¹¹

⁵ *Braddock's Orderly Books*, May 12th, 1755.

⁶ Public Records Office (PRO) CO, 5/46.

⁷ *Furnis Letterbook*, March 7, 1757.

⁸ Address of Governor Pownall to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, January 6, 1759.

⁹ Shirley to Robinson, September 28, 1755; October 13, 1755.

¹⁰ Shirley to Sharpe, April 24, 1756.

¹¹ *List of articles provided and providing by the Committee of War in Massachusetts for the Crown Point Expedition*. June 7, 1755.

7. "As most people in North America have arms of their own, which from their being accustomed to and being so much lighter than the Tower Arms, must be more agreeable and proper for them, General Amherst, as an encouragement for their coming provided with good muskets, engages to pay every one they shall so bring that may be spoiled or lost in actual service at the rate of twenty-five shillings sterling."¹²
8. "We killed and took about the same number of the enemy. The lieutenant of the British company and myself, were foremost, and we advanced on and found their sleeping-place, and while running it up, the Lieutenant was shot through the vitals and he died soon thereafter. Thus I was all alone, the remainder of our party not having gained the summit; the enemy retreated, and i followed them to the other end of the hill. In my route on the hill, I picked up a good French gun and brought it home with me."¹³

Massachusetts Provincial Congress

1. "The improvement of the militia in general in the art military has been therefore thought necessary, and strongly recommended by this Congress. We now think that particular care should be taken by the towns and districts in this colony, that each of the minute men, not already provided therewith, should be immediately equipped with an effective firearm, bayonet, pouch, knapsack, thirty rounds of cartridges and balls."¹⁴
2. "That, as the security of the lives, liberties and properties of the inhabitants of this province, depends under Providence, on their knowledge and skill in the art of military, and in their being properly and effectually armed and equipped, it is therefore recommended, that they immediately provide themselves therewith; that they use their utmost diligence to perfect themselves in military skill; and that, if any of the inhabitants are not provided with arms and ammunition according to law, and that if any town or district within the province is not provided with the full town stock of arms and ammunition . . . that the selectmen of such town or district take effectual care, without delay, to provide the same."¹⁵
3. "Whereas, it appears necessary for the defence of the lives, liberties, and properties of the inhabitants of this province, that this Congress, on the first day of their next session, should be made fully acquainted with the number and military equipments of the militia and minute men in this province, as also the town stock of ammunition in each town and district : It is therefore, Resolved, That it be and hereby is recommended to the commanding officers of each regiment of minute men that now is or shall be formed in this province, that they review the several companies in their respective regiments, or cause them to be reviewed, and take an exact state of their numbers and equipments : and where there is any company that is not incorporated into a regiment, the commanding

¹² *Boston Gazette*, March 26, 1759.

¹³ *The Life of Captain David Perry, A Soldier of the French and Revolutionary Wars*.

¹⁴ Massachusetts Provincial Congress, "To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Towns and Districts of Massachusetts-Bay," (Cambridge: December 10, 1774).

¹⁵ *Ibid*

officer thereof shall review the several companies, or cause them to be reviewed, and take a like state of their numbers and equipment and it is also recommended to the colonels or commanding officers of each regiment of militia in this province, that they review the several companies in their respective regiments, or cause them to be reviewed, and take a state of their numbers and accoutrements, which said state of the minutemen and militia, shall be, by said officers, returned, in writing, to this Congress on the first day of their next session after the adjournment. And it is further Resolved, That it be recommended to the selectmen of each town and district in the province, that on the same day they make return in writing, of the state of the town and district stock of ammunition and warlike stores to this Congress.”¹⁶

Documentation from Lexington or Participants of the Battle of Lexington

1. “The preservation of the rights and liberties of the people [was in fact] the cause of GOD... Militiamen who engage in the cause of [God’s] people, and set themselves for their defense, are therefore to consider themselves as guardians and trustees for GOD, having the rights, property, liberties, and lives of their fellow-men (a sacred trust!), committed to their charge.”¹⁷
2. “To Corporal John Parker. You are hereby required to warn all the training soldiers of your squadron belonging to the Military foot company under my command to appear at the house of Mr. John Raymond in this town on Saturday the [illegible] day of November by nine of the clock in the morning, precisely with arms complete hereof fail not, slr [?] return of this warrant with your doing therein [sic] on or before the day perfected [sic]. Signed Thaddeus Bowman, Captain, Lexington, October 29, 1764.”¹⁸
3. “The following names are a full and Just account of those to whom I the Subscriber delivered Bayonets in the company under my command in Lexington, Benjamin Reed, Captain, June 5, 1759... [49 militia men listed]”¹⁹
4. “Granted an ordere to pay Ensign Harrington £2.12.10 in full . . . for 104 lbs. of bullets & . . . for going to Walthame for powdere & to Bostone for leads.”²⁰
5. “Grantede an ordere to pay Mr. Joshua Reed . . . in full for his bringing up leade from Boston and running the bullets.”²¹

¹⁶ Massachusetts Provincial Congress, (Cambridge: February 14, 1775)

¹⁷ Jonas Clarke, *The Importance of Military Skill, Measures for Defense and a Martial Spirit, in a Time of Peace: A Sermon Preached to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in Boston, New-England, June 6, 1768 Being the Anniversary of their Election of Officers* (Boston: Kneeland and Adams, 1768), pp. 15–16.

¹⁸ Manuscript in the collection of the Lexington Historical Society: A 1561 in Ledgers: Book A, p. 117.

¹⁹ Massachusetts Muster Rolls, Volume 97, Page 216.

²⁰ Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, August 29, 1774.

²¹ Meeting of the Town of Lexington Selectmen, February 29, 1776.

6. On September 26, 1774, Lexington voted to form committees whose responsibilities were “to bring two pieces of cannon from Watertown and mount them.”²²
7. On November 3, 1774, the town assembled to plan “military discipline and to put themselves in a position of defense against their Enemies.”²³
8. “Voted. That two half barrells of powdere be addede to the Town stocke. Also Voted that a sufficiency of ball for sd powdere be provided. Votede. That there be a suitable quantity of Flints provided for the Towne if there be found a deficency. . . That the Towne provide a pair of Drums for the use of the Military Company in Towne.”²⁴
9. “Upon request of a number of the Inhabitants to see if the Town will call for those bayonets that were providede for part of the training soldiers at the Province cost, and that the remaindere of the soldiers may be providede with bayonets at the expense of the Towne, to be returnable when called for. And that those persons that have purchased bayonets at their own cost may be paid for them, by the Towne, at the price the others cost the Towne.”²⁵
10. The residents also resolved “that bayonets be provided at the Towns cost for one thirde part of the training soldiers in this Town, including those soldiers that have already had bayonets provided for them at the Province charge.”²⁶
11. “Grantede an order to pay Mr. Phillip Russell . . . in full for . . . a bayonet and two cartridge boxes delivered to the selectmen for Josiah Blodgett and John Bowmane . . . also granted an order to pay Robert Reed 7 dollars for a gun delivered to the selectmen for Josiah Blodgett.”²⁷
12. “Grantede an ordere to pay Mr. Nathan Simonds . . . for a blanket for Josiah Blodgett.”²⁸

²² Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, September 26, 1774.

²³ Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, November 3, 1774.

²⁴ Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, November 10, 1774.

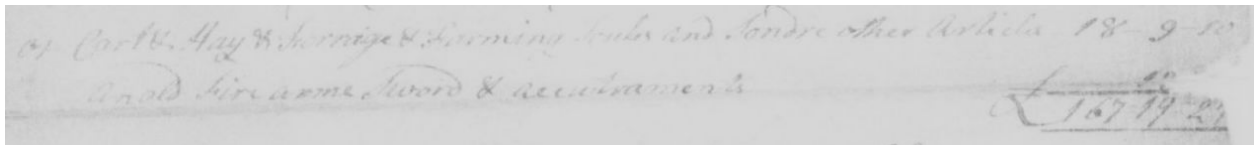
²⁵ Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, December 12, 1774.

²⁶ Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, December 28, 1774.

²⁷ Meeting of the Town of Lexington Selectmen, July 3, 1776. A review of Blodgett and Bowman’s military records for the American Revolution show neither were affiliated with any Continental or State organization recruited from or originated at Lexington after March, 1776. Recent research does indicate that after Lexington and Concord Blodgett served with a company of short term State troops raised to support the Siege of Boston in March of 1776. Given that many towns, including Lexington, were slow to repay expenses incurred by its residents it would be unlikely that Russell would have been compensated so quickly for supplies supplied in March of 1776. Thus, it is reasonable to conclude the bayonet, cartridge boxes and gun were issued to the two men prior to April 19, 1775. Unfortunately, compensation to Mr. Russell and Mr. Reed was not approved until July of 1776.

²⁸ Meeting of the Town of Lexington Selectmen, November 9, 1776. See footnote 27 for an explanation of Blodgett’s military service and why equipment was likely issued to him before April 19, 1775.

13. "Granted an order to pay Mr. William Reed Junr. . . for work over his rate, tools, powder, &c. . . . Granted an order to pay Ensign Harrington . . . four half barrels of powder for the Town."²⁹
14. "Account of things I lost on the nineteenth of April, 1775, by the British troops...Two large moose skins...Three cartridge boxes ; three bridles and straps, all new...The above is a true copy from the original that was taken in and sworn to by Major Fuller and others, with some additional things. JONATHAN HARRINGTON."³⁰
15. "An Inventory of the Real and Personal Estate of Capt. John Parker Late of Lexington taken June 1776, Middlesex County Probate Court . . . One gun ...powder ball & flints...three Powder horns...A knapsack"³¹
16. An inventory of the estate of Lexington militiaman Jacob Bacon included "An old firearme, sword & accouterments." (image below)³²



17. "Inventory of the whole estate of Ebenezer White . . . his armoioir sword, cartridge box and belt."³³
18. "Pursuant to your Honor's warrant to us . . . we have apprized all of Estate both real and personal of Mr. Nathaniel Mulliken, late of Lexington . . . and is as followelth . . . a gun lock."³⁴
19. As the British column crossed into Lexington, Lieutenant Sutherland physically collided with Benjamin Wellington, a thirty-one-year-old Lexington resident who had his musket and bayonet in hand. "I . . . mett one of them in the teeth whom I obliged to give up his firelock and bayonet, which I believe he would not have done so easily but for Mr. Adair's coming up."³⁵
20. "On the evening of the 18th April, 1775, we saw a party of officers pass up from Boston, all dressed in blue wrappers. The unusually late hour of their passing excited the attention of the citizens. I took my gun and cartridge-box, and, thinking something must be going

²⁹ Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, January 30, 1775.

³⁰ Massachusetts Provincial Congress, "Accounts of Damages", April 25, 1775.

³¹ Inventory of Captain John Parker's Estate, June, 1776.

³² Inventory of Jacob Bacon, December 17, 1776. Bacon was wounded at the Battle of Lexington and died the following year while in jail for spousal abuse.

³³ Inventory of Sergeant Ebenezer White, April, 1784 (Death 1777).

³⁴ Inventory of Nathaniel Mulliken, May 15, 1776

³⁵ Lieutenant William Sutherland to General Thomas Gage, April 27, 1775.

on more than common, walked up to John Buckman's tavern, near the meeting-house. After some conversation among the citizens assembled there, an old gentleman advised, that someone should follow those officers, and endeavour to ascertain their object. I then observed, that, if anyone would let me have a horse, I would go in pursuit. Thaddeus Harrington told me, I might take his, which was there. I took his, and Solomon Brown proposed to accompany me on his own horse. Jonathan Loring also went with us. We started, probably, about nine o'clock; and we agreed, if we could find the officers, we would return and give information. . . We set out in pursuit. Just before we got to Brooks's in Lincoln, while riding along, we were stopped by nine British officers, who were paraded across the road. They were all mounted. One rode up and seized my bridle, and another my arm, and one put his pistol to my breast, and told me, if I resisted, I was a dead man."³⁶

21. On April 11, 1788, a petition was made to the Middlesex Court to appoint John Bridge as executor of Jonas Parker's estate. His son Jonas Jr. was made executor but had died prior to settling the estate. A partial list of items on the inventory of the estate are as follows "Wooden bottle . . . a beaver hat . . . a wig . . . blue/grey stockings."³⁷
22. "After our company had all dispersed, and the British had done firing, they gave three cheers. After they had marched off for Concord we took two prisoners, who were considerably in the rear of the main body. I carried their arms into Buckman's tavern, and they were taken by some of our men, who had none of their own."³⁸
23. ". . . before I arrived at Concord I see one of the grenadiers standing sentinel. I cocked my piece and run up to him, seized his gun with my left hand. He surrender his armor, one gun and bayonet, a large cutlash [cutlass] and brass fender, one box over the shoulder with twenty-two rounds, one box round the waist with eighteen rounds."³⁹

Evidence Lexington was in Compliance with Orders from the Massachusetts Provincial Congress

1. "Ordered...the Clerke to . . . warn a Town Meeting to be on Tuesday 27 Decembr. . . at twelve o'clock to act on the following articles . . . To see if the Town will comply with the resolves of the Provincial Congress."⁴⁰

³⁶ Deposition of Elijah Sanderson, December, 1824.

³⁷ Inventory of Jonas Parker's Estate, June 1777. Due to various problems, including the death of his son, the execution of Jonas Parker's estate was not finalized until 1801.

³⁸ Deposition of Ebenezer Munroe, April 2, 1825.

³⁹ Pension application of Sylvanus Wood, a Lexington militiaman who captured a British grenadier on April 19, 1775. Published in 1858.

⁴⁰ Meeting of the Town of Lexington Selectmen, December 12, 1774.

2. "Votede . . . That seven persons be appointed as a committee of inspections to see that the plans of the Continental and Provincial Congresses are faithfully carried into executione. . . . [seven people listed, including John Parker]"⁴¹
3. "In the obedience to your Excellency's commands, I marched on the evening of the 18th inst. with the corps of grenadiers and light infantry for Concord, to execute your Excellency's orders with respect to destroying all ammunition, artillery, tents, &c, collected there. I think it proper to observe, that when I had got some miles on the march from Boston, I detached six light infantry companies to march with all expedition to seize the two bridges on different roads beyond Concord. On these companies' arrival at Lexington, I understand, from the report of Major Pitcairn, who was with them, and from many officers, that they found on a green close to the road a body of the country people drawn up in military order, with arms and accoutrement, and, as appeared after, loaded."⁴²
4. Ensign Jeremy Lister recalled "It was at Lexington when we saw one of their Comps drawn up in regular order Major Pitcairn of the Marines second in Command called to then, to disperse, but their not seeming willing he desired us to mind our space which we did when they gave us a fire then run of[f] to get behind a wall."⁴³
5. Ensign Henry De Berniere of the 10th Foot, described the Lexington men drawn up in two "divisions", with a company-wide space between the two.⁴⁴
6. "Petition of John Tidd of Lexington setting forth that on the 19th of April he received a wound in the head (by a Cutlass) from the enemy, which brought him (senceless) to the ground at wch time they took from him his gun, cartridge box, powder horn &c."⁴⁵
7. "Petition of Benja Wellington, & others of Lexington, setting forth that they sustained the aforementioned losses by the Kings troops on the 19th of April 1775 viz: Benja Wellington, a gun, bayonet, &c. . . . Jno Muzzy, a gun, powder horn, &c. Taken from his son . . . Lucy Parker, a musquet, &c. Taken from her husband . . . Marrit Munro, a gun & hat taken from him."⁴⁶

Presence of Artillery in Lexington Prior to April 19, 1775

⁴¹ Declaration and Resolves, Town of Lexington, December 27, 1774.

⁴² Lieutenant Colonel Smith's to General Gage, April 22, 1775. The 18th Century military term "accouterments" included, but was not limited to, items such as cartridge boxes, edged weapons, musket tools, belting, knapsacks, canteens, blankets and ammunition. See R.R. Gale's "[A Soldier Like Way: The Material Culture of the British Infantry 1751 - 1768](#), (2007).

⁴³ Ensign Jeremy Lister, *Concord fight: Being so much of the narrative of Ensign Jeremy Lister of the 10th Regiment of Foot as pertains to his services on 19 April 1775*, (England, 1832).

⁴⁴ Henry De Berniere, *Narrative of Occurrences*, 1775, (Boston, 1779).

⁴⁵ Petition of John Tidd to the Massachusetts Legislature, January 13, 1776; *Acts and Resolves, Public and Private, of the Massachusetts Bay*, Volume 19, p. 207 (Boston, 1908).

⁴⁶ Resolve Granting £9 to Benja Wellington & Others, October 23, 1776; *Acts and Resolves, Public and Private, of the Massachusetts Bay*, Volume 19, p. 611 (Boston, 1908).

1. "Upon a request of a nambre of Inhabitants to see if the Town will fetch two small pieces of cannon from Watertown, offered by said Town for the use of the Company in this Towne."⁴⁷
2. "Voted. . . to bring the two pieces of Cannon (mentioned in the warrant) from Watertown & mount them, at the at the Town charge."⁴⁸
3. "Voted . . . That a Comtee of three persons go to Watertown & see what the cost of mounting sd pieces will be & whether the carriages cannot be made by work men in this town . . . Captain Bowmane, Mr. Jonas Parkere & Ensign Harrington . . . Be a Comtee for the sd. Purpose."⁴⁹

Other Town Resolutions, Journals and Accounts

1. On December 26, 1774, Roxbury ordered "Militia minutemen [to] hold themselves in readiness at a minutes warning, compleat in arms and ammunition; that is to say a good and sufficient firelock, bayonet, thirty rounds of powder and ball, pouch and knapsack."⁵⁰

⁴⁷ Text of warrant question drafted on November 3, 1774 and to be presented to the Town of Lexington on November 10, 1774.

⁴⁸ Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, November 10, 1774.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ Resolution of the Town of Roxbury, December 26, 1774.

We hear from Roxbury, that on Monday last there was a Muster of the first Company of Militia in that Town, under the Command of Capt. Heath, when the Company muster'd upwards of thirty Files, beautifully ornamented with a number of Files of Grenadiers in full Uniforms, who voluntarily dressed and accoutred themselves at their own Expence, from a noble spirit to promote and encourage Discipline in the Company.—Their Caps were embroidered by several of the fair Sex belonging to that Town, and made up by a young Man who was born there, and are suppos'd to be the first ever made by any Person belonging to this Province, and are judg'd to be equal in Appearance to those made in Europe; the Motto on the Caps is *LOYALTY*.—And on Tuesday the Company mustered again and went through their Exercise, &c. to the great Pleasure and Satisfaction of the numerous Spectators who assembled on the Occasion; and it is thought by good Judges that this Company in a few Months may vie with the regular Troops. It is much wish'd that the noble military Spirit which so much prevails amongst the Officers and Soldiers of that Company might diffuse itself through the Province.—How much better had a late *Captain-General* been employed in forming a well disciplined Militia, for the security and defence of his Majesty's Dominions in America, than in disseminating alienation and distrust between the mother Country and her Colonies, when almost all the Powers of Europe are known to envy the rising Power of Great-Britain in America, and will probably lay hold on the first Opportunity to invade and dismember the Colonies from Great-Britain. [EVENING POST.

The Massachusetts Gazette
September 14, 1769
(Massachusetts Historical Society)

2. "On the second article which was not finished voted and accepted some proposals made by the minit company then the meeting was adjourned to Monday the 20th day of March con't at three o'clock in the afternoon. And having met according to the adjournment the town proceeded and on the above said second article Voted as followes that the sum of fifty two pounds four shillings be and is hereby granted to provide for those person who have inlisted as minute men each on a bayonet belt catrige box steal ramer, gun stock and knap sack: they to attend military exercise four hours in a day twice in a weak till the first day of May next, the Officers to keep an exact account of their attendance and in case any person shall neglect to give his attendance at the times appointed the sum of two shillings for each four hours and in proportion for any other time shall be reducted from the sum such person should otherwise receive for providing the articles above mentioned in case they shall provide said articles themselves; but in case the town shall provide them such part thereof shall be returned to the town when their inlistment is out as shall amount to the sum forfeited for non attendance unless they shall pay the said forfeiture -- Then voted to choose a Committee to provide the aforesaid accoutrements for such persons as was not able to provide for themselves on the town's cost. Said Committee to consist of Deacon Joshua Brooks, Deacon Samuel Farrar and Maj^r Eleazer Brooks."⁵¹
3. "Voted, that the present exigency of the times are such that we think it expedient forth with to adhear to the Resolve of Provincial Congress held at Cambridge Oct. 26, 1774,

⁵¹ Resolution of the Town of Lincoln, March 20, 1775.

(viz.) that \ Part of the militia be Inlisted and held att the shortest notice to march in Defence of the Province. We think that one shilling and sixpence is sufficient Reward per day or ninepence per half day for the months of March, April, and May, they not exceeding three half days' Duty in a week, — the time when and how they shall be Intitled to their Pay as follows; (viz.) that they Enter the service the first of March (if the Inclemency of the weather doth not prevent) and continue therein until the Last of May, when if necessary further Incouragement shall be granted to them adequate to their service, Provided (and not otherwise) that the men be Incorporated into a Company (or half Company) and equipt agreeable to the Resolve and Recommendation of Provincial Congress at Cambridge. And that every man so Inlisted directly pass a review before a Committee chosen by the town for that purpose, in whose power it shall be to say whether the men be able and Equipt agreeable to the above Congress, and that the Committee aforesaid together with the Commanding officer of the Company shall make out and Transmitt a true list of each man's Name so Inlisted and Excepted to the selectmen of the Town.”⁵²

4. Braintree required each soldier furnish himself with “a good fire lock, bayonett, cartouch box, one pound of powder, twenty-four balls to fitt their guns, twelve flints and a knapsack.”⁵³
5. In 1774, Newburyport’s Marine Society formed an independent military company known as the “Independent Marines”. On September 21, 1774, the unit assembled for a drill. “Wednesday last the independent military society in this town met at the town-house compleat in arms and ammunition : After having been reviewed by their officers chosen by the society, they performed the manual exercise and filings, after which they marched to the Mason's arms tavern, and there performed the evolutions; and from thence marched to Mr. William *Tell's* (a gentleman that has always not only talked, but acted upon the genuine principles of patriotism), who had prepared an elegant entertainment for the society; after spending a few very agreeable hours with a number of gentlemen (whom Mr. 'Feel had invited) in conversation, repast, and drinking a number of loyal and patriotic toasts, the society again *rally, march* to the town-house, and after firing three vollies lodged their arms. All was conducted with the greatest order and good humour.”⁵⁴

⁵² Resolution of the Town of Medfield, December 26, 1774.

⁵³ Resolution of the Town of Braintree, January 23, 1775.

⁵⁴ *Essex Journal and Merrimack Packet*, September 21, 1774.

Laft Thursday, in the afternoon, the Independent Military Society of this town met again at the Town-House, and performed the Manual Exercise, and the different modes of Firing ——— In the evening they with some other gentlemen partook of an handsome cold collation, (generously given by the officers of the company) after which they drank the following toasts :

Reference to Newburyport's Independent Marines, Essex Gazette, October 26, 1774

6. "The same day the four Training Bands in the town (Newburyport) met, compleat in arms, and performed the manual exercise."⁵⁵

The same day the four Training Bands in the town met, compleat in arms, and performed the manual exercise.

Reference to Newburyport's Training Bands, Essex Gazette, October 26, 1774

7. Almost a month later, the Newburyport Company of Artillery assembled to drill. "Newburyport, October 19. Monday last the company of Artillery met at the Town-house, at two o'clock in the afternoon. Equip in arms and a uniformity of dress, after performing the Manual Exercise they marched into the common training field , and after the Manual Exercise with the Evolutions were performed, they marched near the Mason's - arms tavern, where to the general acceptance and admiration, they were congratulated by gentlemen of all ranks - they then marched to General Wolf's tavern where an elegant supper was provided at the expense of the company, and a few agreeable hours were spent with drinking forty-five loyal and patriotic toasts."⁵⁶

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ *Essex Journal And Merrimack Packet*, October 19th, 1774.

NEWBURY-PORT, October 19.
Monday last the company of Artillery met at
the Town-house, at two o'clock in the afternoon,
equipt in arms, and a uniformity of dress, after
performing the Manual Exercise they marched
into the Common Training-field, and after the Ma-
nual Exercise with the Evolutions were perform-
ed, they marched near the Mason's-arms tavern,
where to general acceptance, and admiration, they
were congratulated by gentlemen of all ranks—
they then marched to General Wolf's tavern,
where an elegant supper was provided at the ex-
pence of the company, and a few agreeable hours
were spent with drinking forty-five loyal and pa-
triotic toasts.

*Reference to Newburyport's Artillery Company,
 Essex Journal And Merrimack Packet, October 19th, 1774.*

8. "To the inhabitants of the Town of Brimfield in the County of Hampshire . . . the petition of Timothy Danielson humbly shows that the Provisional in their last session at Cambridge recommended that the minute men be provided with Cartridge Boxes, Knapsacks, Thirty Rounds of Cartridges and Ball and Bayonets . . . therefore your petitioner prays that the said articles may be furnished to fifty privates in the Town of Brimfield as a minute company out of the Treasury of the Town . . . Voted, that the prayer of the petition be so far granted that the Town of Brimfield provide for 50 minute men a Cartridge Box, Knapsack, and thirty rounds of cartridge and ball a sett for each private in said Company to be provided immediately."⁵⁷
9. On October 24, 1774, the Town of Newburyport resolved "to protect and preserve the rights and privileges granted and guaranteed by the charter of the Province . . . Voted that all the Inhabitants of this Town be desired to furnish themselves with arms and

⁵⁷ Resolution of the Town of Brimfield, January 18, 1775.

ammunition according to Law, and that they have, also, Bayonets fixed to their Guns as soon as may be.”⁵⁸

10. “We the subscribers, soldiers inlisted from the several Militia companies within this town, and organized into a company called the Minute Company, do solemnly covenant that we will as soon as possible be provided and equipt with an effective firearm, cartouch box (or bullet pouch), 30 rounds of powder and bullets, and knapsack. That we will exert our best abilities to acquire the art military. That we will yield a ready obedience to the commands of our officers, and hold ourselves in readiness to march upon the earliest notice from our Commanding officers, and hazard our lives in resisting any armed force that shall attempt by force to put in execution the late revenue Acts — should any attempt be made between this time and the first of July next.”⁵⁹
11. In Bridgewater, it was expected "each soldier to provide himself with a good firearm, a steel or iron ramrod and a spring for same, a worm, a priming wire and brush, a bayonet fitted to his gun, a scabbard and belt thereof, a cutting sword fifteen rounds . . . at least, a hundred buckshot, six flints, one pound of powder, forty leaden balls fitted to the gun, a knapsack and blanket, [and] a canteen or wooden bottle to hold one quart [of water]." ⁶⁰
12. “Voted to give encouragement to such minuteman as shall enlist themselves agreeable to ye recommendation of Provincial Congress, that encouragement shall be the same as was reported to be by a former Town meeting which is as follows: That when so many able bodied men have enlisted themselves as amounts to the number of one quarter part of the Training Band, to do Duty agreeable to said recommendation; and every man that enlists himself shall be enjoined to equip himself with arms and all other things agreeable to said recommendation and shall be enjoined to attend military duty two half days per week, every week. During the Town's pleasure and shall be paid one shilling for each half-day the Town continues them in said service-the pay not to exceed two half-days in each week; and the Captain who shall have command of these men as enlist themselves in said service, shall at the end of every month, give certificate to the Selectmen of how many half-days each soldier has attended duty aforesaid, and the Selectmen shall give orders for the Town Treasurer to pay each of them one shilling.”⁶¹
13. In March, 1775, the Town of Ashburnham voted that Captain Jonathan Gates be instructed to procure thirty-six cartridge boxes for the use of the minute-men at the expense of the town.⁶²
14. “Voted, That the Selectmen provide bayonets and cartouch boxes for the Minute-Men on the town cost, to be returned to the town after they are dismissed from the service.”⁶³

⁵⁸ Newburyport Town Records, Volume I, page 211.

⁵⁹ Covenant of the West Brookfield Minute Company, January 8, 1775.

⁶⁰ Journal of Arthur Harris of the Bridgewater Coy of Militia.

⁶¹ Resolution of the Town of Topsfield, March 7, 1775.

⁶² Resolution of the Town of Ashburnham, March __, 1775.

⁶³ Resolution of the Town of Bradford, January 20, 1775.

15. "We whose names are hereunto subscribed, do voluntarily Inlist ourselves, as minute men, to be ready for military operation, upon the shortest notice. And we hereby Promise & engage, that we will immediately, each of us, provide for & equip himself, with an effective arm, Bayonet, Pouch, Knapsack, & Thirty rounds of Cartridges ready made. And that we may obtain the skill of compleat Soldiers, We promise to Convene for exercise in the Art of Military, at least twice every week."⁶⁴
16. "Voted, To Phineas Carlton, for 22 Bayonets fitted with Scabbards and Belts, 8l. 5s. 0d. Voted, To Phineas Carlton, for Scowering the old Bayonets, and fitting with Belts, 4l. 4s. 0d. For 2 Scabbards and Belts, 0l. 3s. 0d. Wm. Greenough, for fitting one Bayonet and one belt, 0l. 2s. 8d."⁶⁵
17. "Voted, that the enlisted soldiers be furnished with bayonets at the expense of the town. Voted, that a committee be chosen to collect the bayonets now in the hands of individuals in this Town and provide such a number of new ones as will be sufficient to supply the minute men. Voted, that the Committee chosen at the last meeting to procure bayonets collect as many as they can of those belonging to the Province by next Wednesday, two o'clock, P. M., that they procure one hundred more to be made as soon as possible and supply those firelocks that are effective which belong to the minute men with good bayonets as soon as may be."⁶⁶
18. Amesbury voted that its minute men would be responsible for their own arms and equipment. "Voted that said Minnit men shall upon their own cost be well equipped with arms and aminition according to law fit for a march."⁶⁷
19. In March, 1775, the Town of Bedford voted "to pay twenty-five 'minute-men' one shilling per week until the first of May next, — they to exercise four hours in a week, and two shillings to be allowed two officers, they to equip themselves according to the advice of the Congress."⁶⁸
20. Methuen resolved to provide bayonets "which should be brought to Capt. John Davis and after the service was over said Davis is to return said bayonets unto the Selectmen of said town."⁶⁹
21. On the British retreat to Boston from Concord, 19 April 1775, one of the bloodiest actions occurred late in the day at the Jason Russell house in Menotomy, when eleven Massachusetts militia were caught and killed inside the building. One of the men who

⁶⁴ Minuteman Covenant for the Town of Ipswich, January 14, 1775.

⁶⁵ Resolution of the Town of Bradford, September 21, 1775.

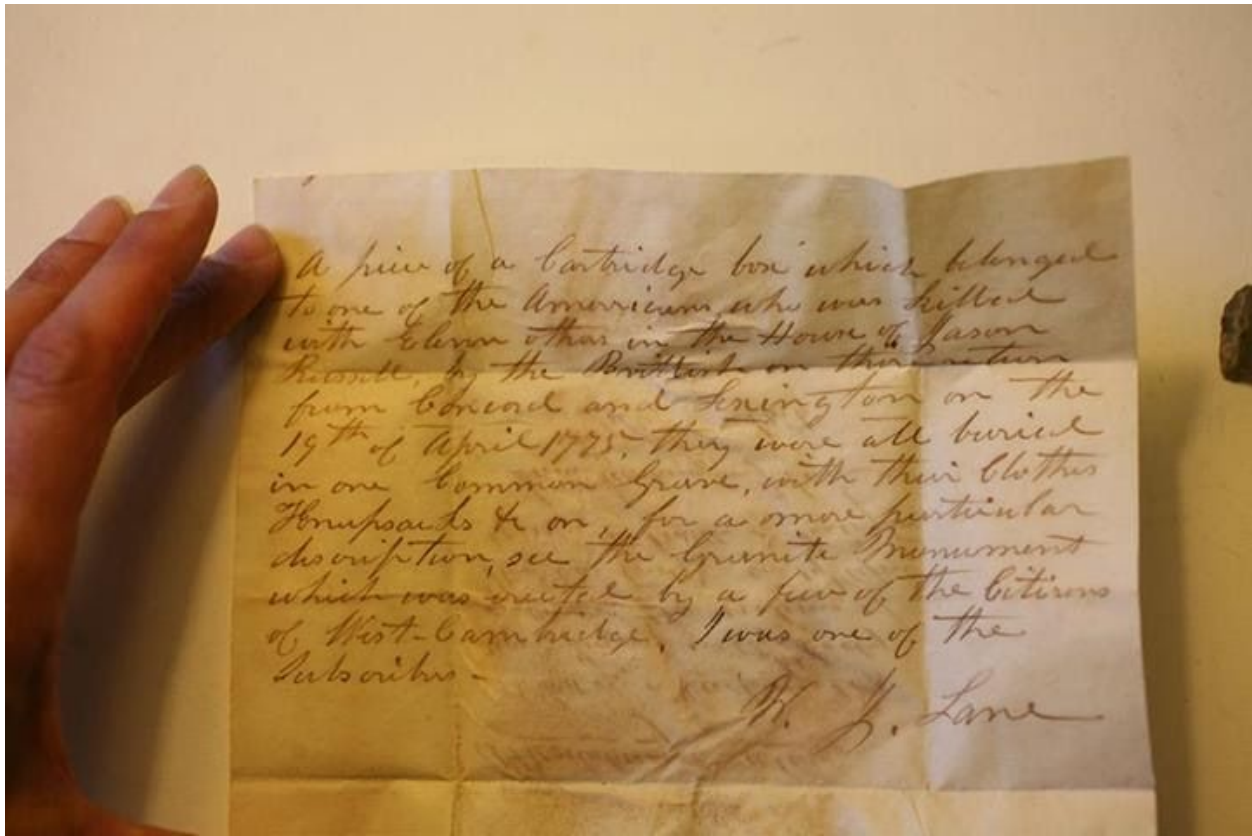
⁶⁶ Resolution of the Town of Andover, February, 1775.

⁶⁷ Resolution of the Town of Amesbury, March 20, 1775.

⁶⁸ Resolution of the Town of Bedford, March __, 1775.

⁶⁹ Resolution of the Town of Methuen, January 1775.

opened the mass grave containing their bodies in 1847 noted, “they were all buried ... with their Clothes, Knapsacks, &c. on ...” (image below)⁷⁰



22. “[January] 14 [1775] I made me a Cartridge-box, I Covered it with a Coltskin it will Carry 19 Rounds.”⁷¹
23. “The freeholders and other inhabitants of the town [Lunenburg] assembled in a legal Town Meeting and voted 100l. L.M. for the purpose of purchasing firearms with bayonets and other implements of war, agreeable to the advice of the late Provincial Congress.”⁷²

⁷⁰ (Courtesy of Joel Bohy) Note by one of the men who helped exhume the bodies from the mass grave in what is now Arlington, Massachusetts (West Cambridge/Menotomy at the time). “A piece of a Cartridge box which belonged to one of the Americans who was killed with Eleven others in the House of Jason Russell, by the British on their return from Concord and Lexington on the 19th of April 1775, they were all buried in one Common Grave, with their Clothes, Knapsacks, &c. on ... W.L. Lane”. *The Lexington-Concord Battle Road: Hour by Hour Account of Events Preceding and on the History-Making Day of April 19, 1775* (Eastern National, 2010), 29. See image on next page.

⁷¹ Israel Litchfield Journal, January 14, 1775.

⁷² *Essex Journal And Merrimack Packet*, January 25th, 1775. See image.

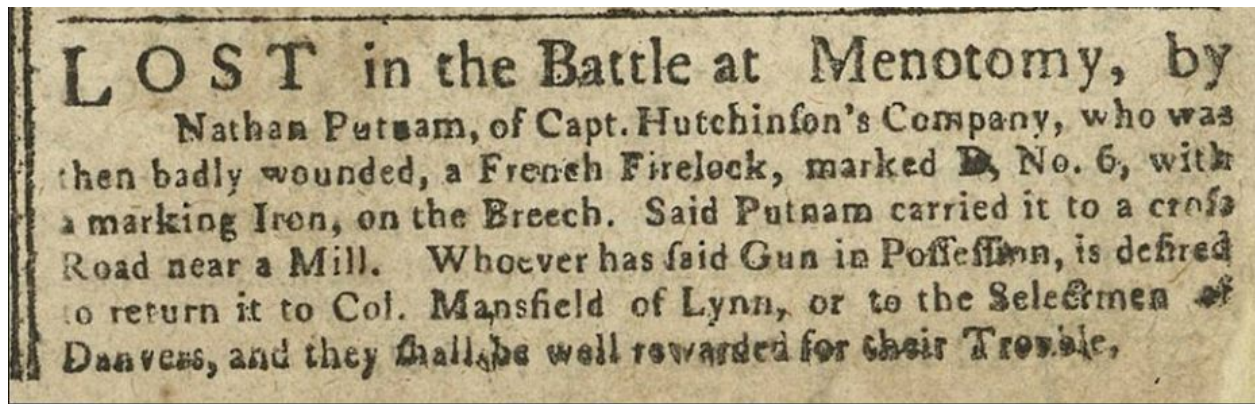
On the 2d of this instant, the minute company of the town of Lunenburg, consisting of fifty-seven able-bodied men, appeared in arms on the parade, at 10 o'Clock, A. M. and after going through the several military manoeuvres, they marched to a public house, where the officers had prepared an elegant dinner for the company, a number of the respectable inhabitants of the town and patriotic ministers of the towns adjacent. At 2 o'Clock, P. M. they marched in military procession to the Meeting House, where the Rev. Mr Adams delivered an excellent sermon suitable to the occasion, from Psalm xxvii. 3. The whole business of the day was performed with decency, order, and to the satisfaction of a very large number of spectators. On the day following the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town assembled in a legal Town Meeting, and voted 100l. L. M. for the purpose of purchasing fire arms with bayonets and other implements of war, agreeable to the advice of the late provincial Congress.

Essex Journal And Merrimack Packet, January 25th, 1775

24. "I bought me a Back Sword or Cutlefs [cutlass] it Cost me ten Shillings Lawfull money Cap' Stockbridge bought a hide and an half of Moose skin for Catoos box Straps it Cost him 16.10.0 old tenor."⁷³
25. "In the forenoon I made my Sword Belt and Bayonet belt. In the afternoon We went to training We met at Lieutenant Cushings."⁷⁴

⁷³ Israel Litchfield Journal, February 27, 1775.

⁷⁴ Israel Litchfield Journal, March 13, 1775.



26. "Voted, That ... each soldier in the town, belonging to the train bands, the sum of six pence per week, for five weeks, on condition that they would voluntarily turn out for drill, under their respective officers, half a day in each week... further voted, That if one fourth part of the soldiers in the several train bands in the town will enlist as minute men, the town will pay to every such enlisted man one shilling per week, for his training half a day in each week, until the first day of April next, and after that one shilling and four pence per week, until they shall be called for by the Province, or dismissed by the town or Provincial Congress . . . Colonel Daniel Spofford, Thomas Mighill, and Captain Timothy Jackman [are] authorized to receive the bayonets belonging to the Province, (designed for distribution to the towns,) and they are to provide a bayonet and cartridge-box for each soldier who shall enlist as a minute man, and sign the covenant this day read before the town. It was also voted, That Deacon Stephen Mighill be instructed to pay the above mentioned grants to the soldiers, at the end of each month."⁷⁵
27. "Voted that the Alarm list should be equipt with fire arms and ammunition, and to raise fifty minute- men, including officers: that they be disciplined one half day in a week for eight weeks ensuing, and that they be paid eight pence per each half day they are disciplined over and more than the militia are disciplined."⁷⁶
28. "The whole number of Equipments in the Training Band and Alarm List Present... 83 Good Fire Arms...31 Steel Ram-rods...58 worms...74 Priming — wire and Brushes...74 Belt and Scabboard Bayonets...3043 Bullets...63 Cartridge-Boxes of 15 Rounds...83 Blanket...5339 Buck-Shott...72 Canteen."⁷⁷
29. "Voted 16 shillings to Jonas Varnum for 3 bayonetts for his family as Minute-men."⁷⁸
30. "Lost out of a Waggon in Westborough, two Packs and a great Coat, also a Cartridge-Box, and powder Horn. The Packs contained two white Shirts, a check Shirt, 2 Pair of Stockings, some Provision, &c. &c. Whoever shall take up the above, and send

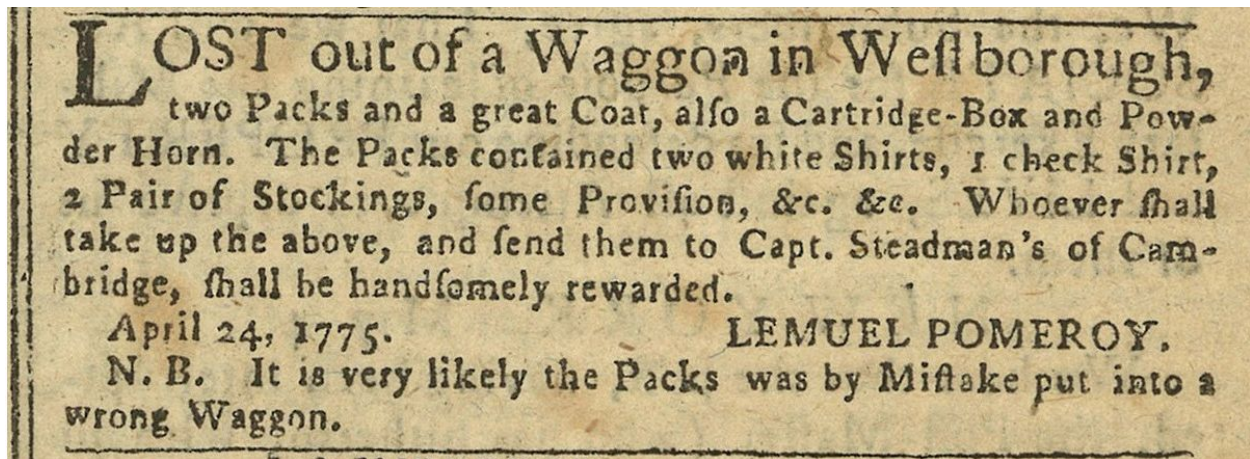
⁷⁵ Resolution of the Town of Rowley, January 11, 1775.

⁷⁶ Resolution of the Town of Chelmsford, March 6, 1775.

⁷⁷ *A Return of the [Chelmsford] Company of the 7th Regiment of Militia in the County of Middlesex*, June 15, 1775. Massachusetts Archives, volume 55, page 48.

⁷⁸ Resolution of the Town of Dracut, April 2, 1777.

them to Capt. Steadman's of Cambridge, shall be handsomely rewarded. April 24, 1775. Lemuel Pomeroy. N.B. It is very likely the Packs was by Mistake put into a wrong Waggon⁷⁹



31. "A knapsack may be contrived that a man may load and fire, in case of necessity, without throwing down his pack. Let the knapsack lay lengthways upon the back: from each side at the top let a strap come over the shoulders, go under the arms, and be fastened about half way down the knapsack. Secure these shoulder straps in their places by two other straps which are to go across and buckle before the middle of the breast. The mouth of the knapsack is at the top, and is covered by a flap made like the flap of saddlebags.- The outside of the knapsack should be fuller than the other which lies next to your back; and of course must be sewed in gathers at the bottom. Many of the knapsacks used in the army are, I believe, in this fashion, though made of some kind of skins."⁸⁰
32. On November 21, 1774, the Town of Danvers resolved its minute companies would be equipped with "an effective fire-arm, bayonet, pouch, knapsack, thirty rounds of cartridges and balls."⁸¹
33. "An account of some things I Carry'd into the Army in my Pack: A Woolen Shirt with a snuff bottle full of ground Coffee in it, and one Pound and a half of chocolate in it too, wrapt up in a Piece of Brown Paper and a New Cotton and Linnen Shirt and a New milk cheese wrapt up in it which weighed 5 Pounds, a pair of White Stockings, and pair of blue stockings, a Bag of Plumbs, a Bag with 3 Pounds and a half sugar in it, a Pair of Boots, a Cap, a powder horn, 4 sheets of Paper Roll'd up in a Piece of Brown Paper and four Quills in it, a brown paper with 2 pieces of Soap in it, 1 great pin, 4 small ones, 1 Brown thread needle and 1 worsted darning needle, 1 ball of white yarn, 1 ball of Blue

⁷⁹ *New-England Chronicle* (Cambridge, Massachusetts), 12 May 1775.

⁸⁰ Timothy Pickering, Jr., *An Easy Plan of Discipline for a Militia* (Salem, Massachusetts: Printed by Samuel and Ebenezer Hall, 1775), 3-4. Massachusetts authorized use of Pickering's Easy Plan for its militia in May 1776, though whether that extended to Continental regiments is unknown.

⁸¹ Resolution of the Town of Danvers, November 21, 1774.

yarn, Some Strings, Some Thread, some Sealing Wax, a Snuff box full of snuff, a Pewter Basin, a Wooden Plates, a Spoon, a fork a jack knife, a pen knife a pair of knee buckles, a Pocket-Book and case to it, a Small tooth comb, an ink-horn with four pens in it, a Pocket looking glass, an under-jacket, a pair of Grey Stockings, two pair of Shoes, a Striped Shirt, a pair of Long Trowsers, a hat, two handkerchiefs, a pair of Shoe Buckles, a pair of garters, a pack to Carry my things in, Some Bread, a pair of arm-strings, a pair of Leather Breeches, a pair of Cloth Breeches, a Leather Strap, a Cod Line, a frock, some tow. I have here set Down, not Only my Pack & things in it, but even my Cloaths and things that I wear, Besides the things in my Pockets that I Carry & other things.”⁸²

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay } 980¹⁶³
 To the Honorable Council and House of Representatives
 in General Court Assembled at Waterhouse
 The Petition of Nathan Newell Humbly Sheweth
 That on the 19th of April Last at Menotomy in the
 Engagement with the ministerial Troops I Lost a good
 Bayonet which Cost me Eight Shillings Your Petitioner
 Prays this Honorable Court to make ^{me} such allowance for
 Said Bayonet as you in your Wisdom shall think fit
 As in Duty bound your Petitioner shall ever Pray
 Needham March 25: 1776 Nathan Newell
 Attest Rob^t Smith Cap^t
 In the House of Representatives June 24
 Resolved that there be paid out of the Publick
 Treasury of this Colony to Nathan Newell the sum
 of Six Shillings for the Loss of the Bayonet
 within mentioned In full for the same
 Sent up for Concurrence
 Jm^t Danforth Sec^y Tinn

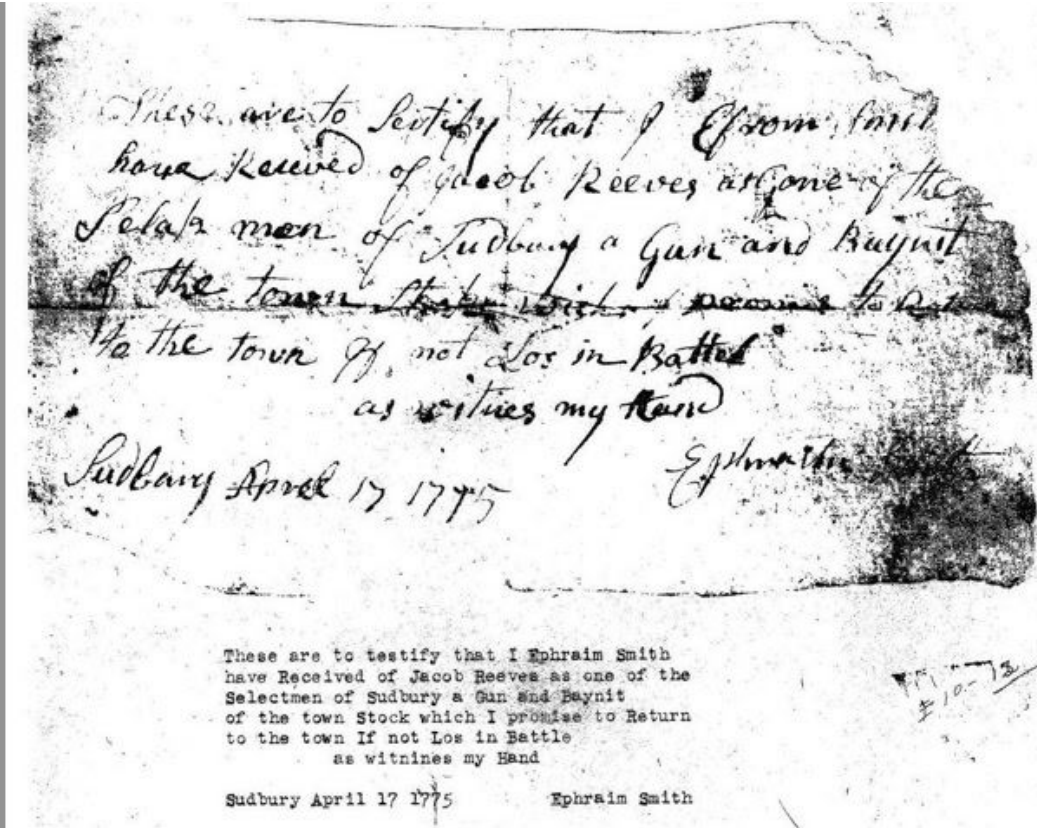
Petition by Militiaman Nathan Newell for bayonet lost at the skirmish at Menotomy

⁸² The Revolutionary War Diary of Ezra Tilden, Stoughton Historical Society.

34. "Voted, that the present exigency of the times are such that we think it expedient forthwith to adhear to the Resolve of Provincial Congress held at Cambridge Oct. 26, 1774, (viz.) that Part of the militia be Inlisted and held at the shortest notice to march in Defence of the Province. We think that one shilling and sixpence is sufficient Reward per day or ninepence per half day for the months of March, April, and May, they not exceeding three half days' Duty in a week, — the time when and how they shall be Intitled to their Pay as follows; (viz.) that they Enter the service the first of March (if the Inclemency of the weather doth not prevent) and continue therein until the Last of May, when if necessary further Incouragement shall be granted to them adequate to their service, Provided (and not otherwise) that the men be Incorporated into a Company (or half Company) and equipt agreeable to the Resolve and Recommendation of Provincial Congress at Cambridge. And that every man so Inlisted directly pass a review before a Committee chosen by the town for that purpose, in whose power it shall be to say whether the men be able and Equipt agreeable to the above Congress, and that the Committee aforesaid together with the Commanding officer of the Company shall make out and Transmitt a true list of each man's Name so Inlisted and Excepted to the selectmen of the Town, and that the first Officer of the Company shall by giving from under his hand, or on oath to the selectmen, a particular account of each man's service (Obtain from them an order on this town to Draw each man's wages once every three months after the Date of the Company's Incorporation, so long as they continue to do Duty within the Town upon proper Encouragement as above (Except they be Recompenced from the Province))."⁸³
35. "To Ariel Collins, for 43 cartouch-boxes, £1. 1s. 6d.; to Thomas Bates, for a gun and bayonet, £2. 10s.; to Luke Bliss, for a gun and bayonet, £2. 8s.; to Capt. Thomas Stebbins, for the use of a gun, 6s.; to Timothy Bliss, for a large homespun blanket, 15s.; to John Burt, for a blanket, 9s.; to Oliver Burt, for a gun delivered Sylvanus Hale, £2; to John Warner, for exercising as a minuteman, 9s.; to Seth Storer Cobourn, for a horse to assist the minute men when they marched from this town to Headquarters near Boston, in April, 1775; 13s. . . . to George Cotton, Jr., for a blanket and knapsack delivered Benoni Barrister, 13s. 6d."⁸⁴

⁸³ Resolution of the Town of Medfield, December 26, 1774.

⁸⁴ Resolution of the Town of Springfield, November 14, 1775.



Wayside Inn Collection [I-4] - Courtesy Toni Fredericks, Wayside Inn

36. On the eve of the American Revolution, Captain James Brickett's Company from Haverhill voted "that we Dress in a Uniform consisting of a Blue Coat, turned up with Buff, and yellow plain Buttons, the Coat cut half way the thigh; and the Pockets a Slope. Voted, Also, that we have Buff, or Nankeen Waistcoat & Breeches, and White Stockings with half Boots or Gaiters. Also that the Hats be cocked alike. And that each one have a bright gun, Bayonet, & Steel Ramrod. Voted that the Company be equipd in this Uniform by the first Monday in May."⁸⁵ The unit also agreed that "each member shall be supply'd with one Pound of Powder and Twenty Balls; to be reviewed twice a year; upon the Days of a chusing."⁸⁶
37. "These fellows were generally good marksmen, and many of them used long guns made for Duck-Shooting."⁸⁷
38. On January 9, 1775, a minute man company from Brookfield declared "We the subscribers, soldiers inlisted from the several Militia companies within this town, and

⁸⁵ Minutes of Captain James Brickett's Company, March 21, 1775.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ *Diary of Lt. Frederick Mackenzie, Adj. of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, Jan 5 - April 30, 1775*, Harvard University Press, p. 67.

organized into a company called the Minute Company, do solemnly covenant that we will as soon as possible be provided and equipt with and effective fire-arm, cartouch box (or bullet pouch), 30 rounds of powder and bullets, and knapsack: That we will exert our best abilities to acquire the art military: That we will yield a ready obedience to the commands of our officers, and hold ourselves in readiness to march upon the earliest notice from our Commanding officers, and harzard our lives in resisting any armed force that shall attempt by force to put in execution the late revenue Acts -- should any attempt be made between this time and the first of July next.”⁸⁸

Post Battles of Lexington and Concord

1. On August 3, 1775, Dr. Stephen Cross travelled to Newburyport and purchased on behalf of Massachusetts Bay Colony forty French made muskets from William Coombs. The receipt reads: “Colony of the Massachusetts Bay To Stephen Cross, Dr. 1775- August 3. 40 French arms purchased of Capt. Wm Coombs per order of the Hon'e House of Representatives at 42/. 84.0.0 Errors Excepted. Stephen Cross.”⁸⁹
2. The Third Bristol County Militia Regiment wanted their men to have the following at muster: "a good firearm with steel or iron ramrod, and spring to retain the same, a worm, priming wire and brush, and a bayonet fitted to his gun, a tomahawk or hatchet, a pouch containing a cartridge box that will hold fifteen rounds of cartridges at least, a hundred of buckshot, a jack knife, and tow for wadding, six flints, one pound of powder, forty leaden balls fitted to his gun, a knapsack and blanket, a canteen or wooden bottle sufficient to hold one quart.”⁹⁰
3. “Selectmen, May 30, 1775, acknowledge that they have received guns, etc., valued as follows:

Of John Caldwell, gun, . 1. 0.
Of Ebenezer Bradish, gun and bayonet, 1. 10.
Of Capt. Thatcher, gun, 1. 4.
Of Capt. Edward Marrett, gun, 1. 4.
Of Capt. Stedman, gun, 1. 7.0
Of Capt. Stedman, gun, 0. 19. 6
Of Capt. Stedman, gun, 1. 0.

and on the 11th of June,

Of Wyman, gun and bayonet, 2. 8.

⁸⁸ Minute Man Covenant for the Town of Brookfield, January 9, 1775.

⁸⁹ Massachusetts Archives, vol. CCVL, p. 300. William Coombs was a Newburyport merchant and head of Newburyport's Committee of Safety. He was also an early advocate of establishing a privateer fleet in Newburyport. In 1775 he apparently traveled to French Guadalupe and purchased military provisions for his own privateer vessels that he was arming for war.. He also sold off surplus goods to other Newburyport merchants for their own privateer vessels and purchasing agents acting on behalf of Massachusetts Bay Colony.

⁹⁰ Continental Journal and Weekly Adviser, January 22, 1778.

Of Mr. Sparhawk, gun and bayonet, 1. 10.
 Of Mr. Sparhawk, gun and bayonet, 1. 10.
 Of Mr. Sparhawk, his own gun, 2. 8.”⁹¹

4. “Cambridge, December ye 22, 1775. This may certify that we the Subscribers in Capt Reuben Dow's Company in Col. Wm. Prescott's Regt in the Continental Army, that we lost the fol lowing Articles in the late engagement on Bunker's Hill at Charlestown on ye 17th of June last.
 - a. James McConnor, 1 gun, 1 knapsack, 1 hat, 1 Jaccat, 1 tumpline.
 - b. Wm. Nevins, 1 knapsack, 1 jacket, 1 tumpline.
 - c. Minott Farmer, 1 knapsack, 1 sword, 1 tumpline.
 - d. Saml Hill, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - e. Ephraim Blood, 1 gun, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - f. James Macintosh, 1 knapsack, 1 jacket, 1 tumpline.
 - g. Libbeus Wheeler, 1 knapsack, 1 hat, 1 tumpline.
 - h. David Farnsworth, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - i. Noah Worcester, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - j. Elias Boynton, 1 gun. Francis Blood, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - k. Abel Brown, 1 gun, 1 cartridge box, 1 tumpline.
 - l. Nahum Powers, 1 knapsack, 1 hat, 1 jacket, 1 bayonet, 1 tumpline.
 - m. Isaac Stearns, 1 gun, 1 knapsack.
 - n. Israel Kenney, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - o. Thos Pratt, 1 guu, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - p. Nathl Patten, 1 knapsack, 1 jacket, 1 tumpline.
 - q. David Ames, 1 knapsack, 1 cartridge box, 1 tumpline.
 - r. Saml Jewett, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - s. Wm. Wood, 1 gun, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - t. Benj Cumings, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - u. Francis Powers, 1 gun, 1 bayonet.
 - v. Wm. Adams, 1 knapsack.
 - w. Josiah Fisk, 1 knapsack, 1 cartridge box, 1 tumpline.
 - x. Wilder Chamberlin, 1 knapsack.
 - y. Nehemiah Pierce, 1 knapsack, 1 hat, 1 tumpline.
 - z. Abel Conant, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.
 - aa. Uriah Wright, 1 knapsack, 1 tumpline.”⁹²

5. “A True account of what was lost in the Battle on Bunkers hill in Capt. BENJAMIN MANN'S Company in June ye 17th 1775 . . . BENAJMIN MANN, Capt.”⁹³
 - a. Samuel Campbell, a coat, a pare of Trousers, shirt, Snapsac, Tumpline, Blanket, a pr. of Breeches, a pare Stockens;

⁹¹ Minutes of the Town of Cambridge Selectmen, May 30, 1775 and June 11, 1775.

⁹² Provincial Papers. Documents and Records Relating to the Province of New-Hampshire, From 1764 to 1776; Vol. VII, compiled for the State of New Hampshire by Nathaniel Bouton, D.D.; 1873.

⁹³ Provincial Papers. Documents and Records Relating to the Province of New-Hampshire, From 1764 to 1776; Vol. VII, compiled for the State of New Hampshire by Nathaniel Bouton, D.D.; 1873.

- b. John Adams, a pare of shoes; John Buxton, a gun;
 - c. John Thomas, a coat, a pr. of shoes, a Snapsack, a Tumpline;
 - d. Robert Wolsey, a pare of Stockens;
 - e. John Slone, a coat, shirt, a Snapsack & Blankett;
 - f. Zacheus Hodgman, a Blankett;
 - g. William Parker, a shirt, a pare of Trousers, snapsack, a pr. of stockens, hat;
 - h. Amos Coburn a coat, a pr. of trousers, a snapsack, a Blankett, pr Stockens;
 - i. Joseph Hodgeman, a Blankett;
 - j. Thomas Tarbell, a coat;
 - k. Isaac Barrett, a Blankett; Samuel Scripture, 2 shirs a gun, a snapsack;
 - l. Elijah Avery, a pair of Stockens, a gun;
 - m. Benjamin Mann, a gun;
 - n. James Brewer, a pare of shoes;
 - o. Jeremiah Holt, Snapsack; Samuel Right, a coat, 2 shirts, 1 gun, a snapsack, a Tumpline, a Blankett, a pr. of breeches, a pr. of Stockens;
 - p. Isaac Flagg, 2 coats, a shirt, a pr of shoes, a Snapsack & tumpline, a Blankett, a pare of Breeches a pr. of stockens;
 - q. Samuel Abbott, a gun & Bayonet;
 - r. John Fish, a jacot, a pare of trousers, 2 shurts, a pr. of shoes, a Snapsack & Tumpline, a pair of breeches;
 - s. Daniel Collins, a pr. of Breeches;
 - t. Simeon Hildreth, a coat, a shurt, a snapsack, a Blankett;
 - u. Ebenzer Carlton, a silk handkerchief;
 - v. Geo. Willson, a coat and handkerchief.
5. Breakdown of arms and equipment of Colonel Scamman's Regiment, August 1, 1775:
- a. Captain Samuel Darby's Company (York, ME): All men supplied themselves with firearms and equipment.⁹⁴
 - b. Captain Tobias Fernald's Company (Kittery, ME): All men equipped with guns and cartridge boxes. Only six had bayonets, which were supplied by the soldiers themselves.⁹⁵
 - c. Captain Ebenezer Sullivan's Company (Berwick, ME): The muster roll has a return of 64 men. Of the 64, 36 had cartridge boxes.⁹⁶
 - d. Captain Samuel Leighton's Company (Kittery, York and Berwick, ME): nearly all cartridge boxes. Only eight men had bayonets.⁹⁷
 - e. Captain Sameul Sawyer's Company (Wells, ME): All 66 men had cartridge boxes.⁹⁸
 - f. Captain Jeremiah Hill's Company (Biddeford, ME): Total of 60 men, 44 had cartridges.⁹⁹

⁹⁴ Massachusetts Archives, Volume XIV., page 74.

⁹⁵ Massachusetts Archives, Volume XIV, page 90.

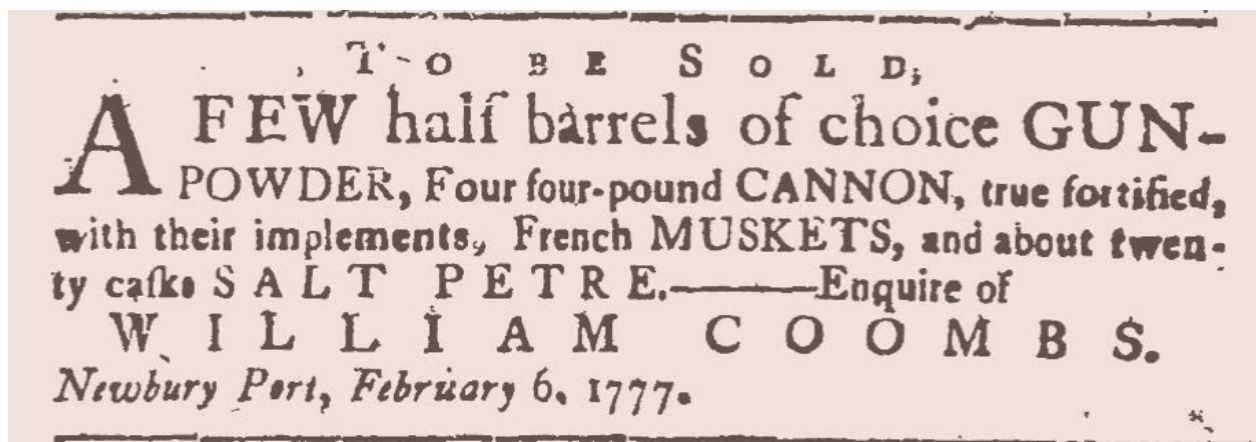
⁹⁶ Massachusetts Archives, Volume XVI, page 44.

⁹⁷ Massachusetts Archives, Volume XV, page 54.

⁹⁸ Massachusetts Archives, Volume XVI, page 2.

⁹⁹ Massachusetts Archives, Volume XV, page 28.

- g. Captain Joshua Bragdon's Company (Wells, ME): 57 men, all but two provided their own firelocks. 39 had bayonets.¹⁰⁰
 - h. Captain Phillip Hubbard's Company (South Berwick, ME): Only 24 men had cartridge boxes and no bayonets in the ranks.¹⁰¹
 - i. Captain Jonathan Nowell's Company (York, ME): Total, 50 men. All had guns, but 34 furnished their own, and 19 had cartridge boxes. Shirts were charged the men 8s. 3d. each.¹⁰²
 - j. Captain Jesse Dorman's Company (Arundel, ME): Total, 60 men. 55 had guns, 7 owned bayonets which they furnished themselves, and 49 had cartridge boxes. Shoes were charged to the men at 6sh. 8d.¹⁰³
6. After voting to raise troops in support of the Rhode Island Campaign, the Town of Lexington "Voted . . . that a carriage be provided to carry the men's' packs, and if the Court does not allow pay for the same, then the Town will pay for the same."¹⁰⁴



Essex Journal, Newburyport, Massachusetts, Thursday, February 6th, 1777

7. "We the Subscribers severally Inlist ourselves into the Service of Massachusetts Bay to serve in a Company Whereof Nathan Sargeant is Captain For the term of three months from our Arrival in Camp unless sooner Discharged and each of us do engage to Furnish and Carry with us into the Service a good and Effective Fire Arm and Bayonet Cartridge Box Knapsack Blankit and Canteen or wooden Bottle and when Formed we engage to march to Boston and hereby oblidge ourselves Faithfully to observe and obey all such orders as we shall from time to time receive from the officers that are or shall be appointed over us and to be subject to such Regulations as are provided for the Continental Army Dated this first Day of Febuary 1779."¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁰ Massachusetts Archives, Volume XIV, page 9.

¹⁰¹ Massachusetts Archives, Volume XV, page 33.

¹⁰² Massachusetts Archives, Volume XV, page 83.

¹⁰³ Massachusetts Archives, Volume XIV, page 75.

¹⁰⁴ Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, July 31, 1778.

¹⁰⁵ Original in possession of Ariemas Jarret (1867), Malden, MA