



“To Be Ready for Military Operation, Upon the Shortest Notice”: Massachusetts Militia and Minute Men on the Eve of the Battles of Lexington and Concord



# Introduction



# What We'll Cover Today

- ❖ What is a militia?
- ❖ What are militia laws?
- ❖ What did Pre-Lexington and Concord militia laws require regarding equipment?
- ❖ Massachusetts Provincial Congress' Regulations
- ❖ Community Wartime Buildup
- ❖ Military Drill
- ❖ Raid on Freetown
- ❖ Lexington and Concord



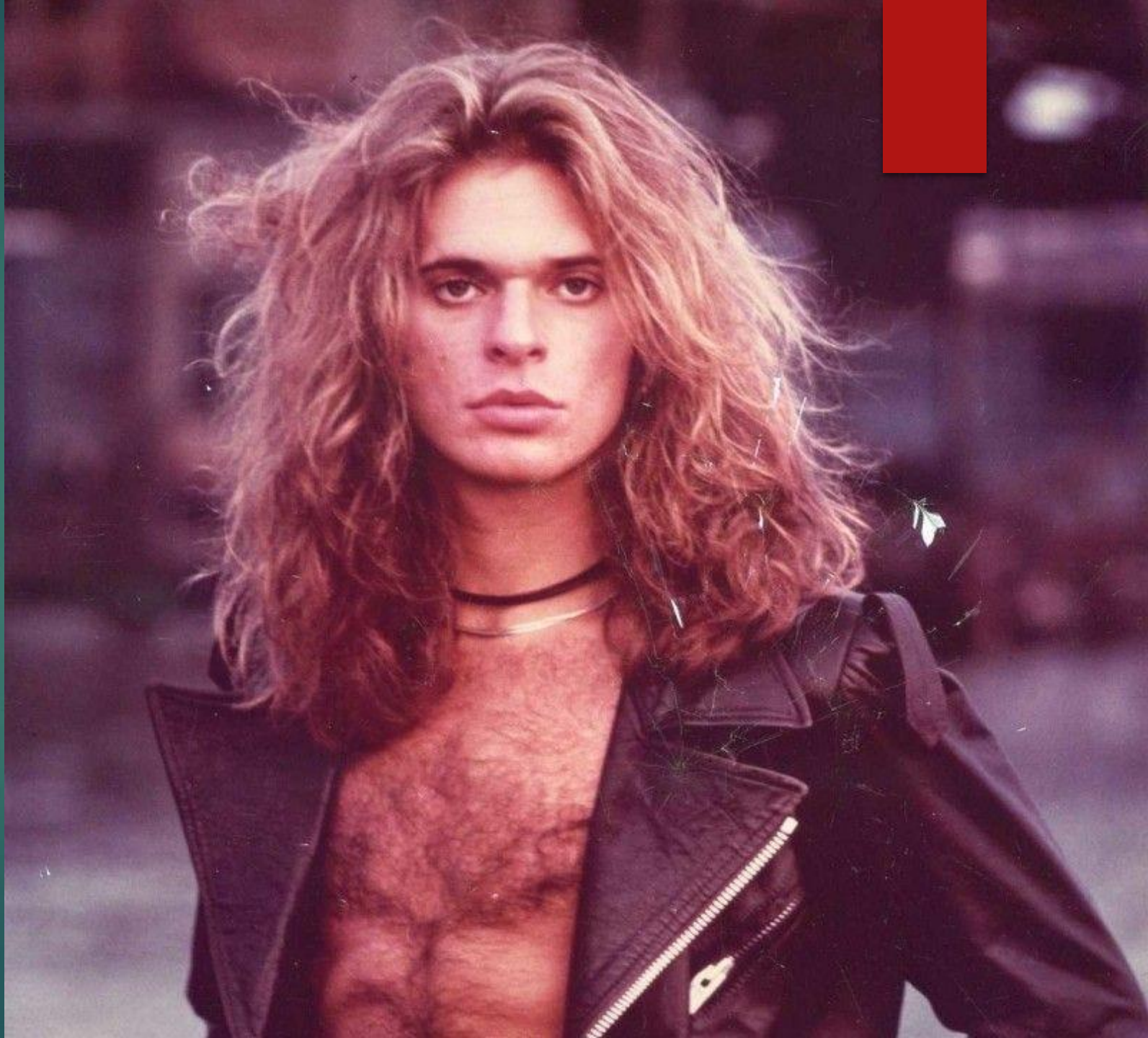
# Inspirational Quote





“When I die,  
sprinkle my  
ashes over the  
80’s.”

- *David Lee  
Roth*







# What is a Militia?

- ❖ The origins of the Massachusetts militia can be traced back to the reign of Edward I, when Parliament enacted legislation decreeing that every freeman between the age of fifteen and sixty was to be available to preserve the peace within his own county or shire.
- ❖ In the towns where the freemen were located, they were organized into military units known, by the virtue of their periodic training, as “trained bands”.





# What is a Militia?

- ❖ By the 17th century, militias had become one of the cornerstones of English society.
- ❖ Thus, when Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies were founded, the establishment of the militia naturally followed.
- ❖ In both colonies, every man over sixteen automatically became a member. The governor maintained the sole authority to activate the militia in times of crisis.





# What is a Militia?

- ❖ Each time a new town sprung up, a militia company was formed.
- ❖ As the town expanded, additional companies often were created.
- ❖ When counties were formed, the various town militias within the borders of each county were organized into regiments.
- ❖ In addition to serving as a defensive military body, militias also served as a recruiting pool for long term military campaigns.



# Massachusetts Militias in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

- ❖ In the decades following the establishment of the initial English settlements in Massachusetts, the number of hostile encounters with French and Native Americans increased.
- ❖ To counter the ever-present threat of enemy attacks, Massachusetts created rapid response militia units that evolved over time into “minutemen”.
- ❖ During King Phillips’s War (1675-1676), Massachusetts ordered one hundred men from each county regiment “to be ready at an hour’s warning and . . . not fail to be at the [appointed] rendezvous.”
- ❖ In 1755, militia companies were required to single out particular men “to hold themselves in readiness to march at a minute’s warning to such part of the [frontier] or elsewhere as service required.”





- ❖ However, with the elimination of the French threat at the end of the French and Indian War, the need for a militia decreased significantly.
- ❖ After 1763, companies and regiments of Massachusetts militia rarely assembled to drill and as a result, were of little military value.
- ❖ By the eve of the Boston Tea Party, a militia muster was not viewed as a military gathering, but rather as a sort of town holiday offering an opportunity for families and friends to get together.



# What Are Militia Laws?



- ❖ Massachusetts Militia Laws were 17th and 18th century legal statutes that were drafted and passed by the legislature of Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- ❖ The laws included a description of:
  - ❖ Who was expected to serve in the militia.
  - ❖ When a militia should mobilize.
  - ❖ How they should be equipped for a military campaign.
  - ❖ How militiamen were compensated



# What Are Militia Laws?

GEORGI II Secundi Regis. 171

*An ACT for establishing a  
Militia within this Govern-  
ment.*

**W**HEREAS His Majesty, for vindicating the Preamble.  
Honour of His Crown and maintaining the  
Rights of His Subjects, is at this Time engaged  
in a War with *Spain*; and there is just Reason to  
apprehend that a Rupture with *France* is unavoidable.  
AND WHEREAS, from the Defenceless State of  
this Government, it is exposed not only to the Invasions  
of a foreign Enemy, but to the Insults also or Insurrections  
of our own Slaves.

- ❖ Failure to follow the law would result in *criminal penalties!!*
- ❖ If a militiaman was found to have violated a provision of a militia law, he would have been required to pay a hefty fine OR possibly subject to physical punishment.



# Example of Criminal Punishment (c. 1710)

Commission  
Officers  
Power.

IX. THAT the Commission Officers of any Company or Troop, or the major Part of them, may order the Correcting and Punishing Disorders and Contempt on a Training Day, or on a Watch, the Punishment not being greater than laying Neck and Heels, Riding the **Wood**en Horse, or Ten Shillings Fine.



# Legally Required Equipment

- ❖ Massachusetts militia laws went into detail describing what arms and equipment a militia man was required to carry during an alarm.
  - ❖ A firelock
  - ❖ Edged weapon
  - ❖ Ammunition and pouch
  - ❖ Pack
  - ❖ Blanket





# Example of Militia Law

“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, blanket and pack.”

*Boston Newsletter, February 7, 1733*



# Massachusetts Prepares for War

*In Provincial Congress,*

*Cambridge, October 26, 1774.*

*Whereas in Consequence of the present unhappy Disputes between Great-Britain and the Colonies, a formidable Body of Troops with warlike Preparations of every Sort are already arrived at, and others destined for the Metropolis of this Province, and the expressed Design of their being sent is to execute Acts of the British Parliament, utterly subversive of the Constitution of the Province. And whereas his Excellency General Gage has attempted by his Troops to disperse the Inhabitants of Salem, whist assembled to consult Measures for preserving their Freedom; and to subjugate the Province to arbitrary Government;—And proceeding to fill more unjustifiable and alarming Lengths has Fortified against the Country the Capital of the Province, and thus greatly endangered the Lives, Liberties and Properties of its oppressed Citizens;—invaded private Property by unlawfully seizing and retaining large Quantities of Ammunition in the Arsenal at Boston and sundry Pieces of Ordnance and Warlike Stores of all Sort, provided at the Public Expense for the Use of the Province, and by all possible Means endeavoured to place the Province entirely in a defenceless State—at the same Time having neglected and altogether disregarded Assurances from this Congress, of the pacific Dispositions of the Inhabitants of the Province, and Intreaties that he would cease from Measures which tended to prevent a Restoration of Harmony between Great-Britain and the Colonies:*



# Massachusetts Prepares for War

- ❖ When war with England appeared inevitable, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress looked to the colony's militia to serve as its military arm.
- ❖ Quickly, it resolved to remove the loyalist officers who commanded it.
- ❖ As a result, militias were ordered to “meet forthwith and elect officers to command their respective companies; and that the officers so chosen assemble as soon as may be . . . and proceed to elect field officers.”
- ❖ Congress also recognized the need to revitalize and further strengthen the colony's militia system as quickly as possible. On October 26, 1774, the delegates set into motion the formation of minute companies within Massachusetts.

# Massachusetts Minute Man Resolution

“[The] field officers, so elected, forthwith [shall] endeavor to enlist one quarter, at the least, of the number of the respective companies, and form them into companies of fifty privates . . . who shall equip and hold themselves in readiness, on the shortest notice from the said Committee of Safety, to march to the place of rendezvous . . . said companies into battalions, to consist of nine companies each.”

*Massachusetts Provincial Congress, October 26, 1774*



# Massachusetts Prepares for War

- ❖ Emphasis on proper military skill and logistical supply was strongly emphasized by the delegates. On the same day as the creation of minute companies, the Provincial Congress resolved "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."
- ❖ The Congress also voted to create a Committee of Safety, charged with the responsibility "to alarm, muster, and cause to be assembled with the utmost expedition, and completely armed, accoutered . . . so many of the militia of this Province, as they shall judge necessary for the ends aforesaid."
- ❖ To support the logistical needs of the Committee of Safety, a sister committee was created to gather "such provisions as shall be necessary for [the militia's] reception and support."

# Continued Preparations

- ❖ As tensions continued to mount during the fall of 1774, the Provincial Congress began to pass Resolutions that, if followed, would better prepare the militia for a potential conflict with England.
- ❖ These resolves were not laws and did not alter the old militia act. Rather, they were recommendations that worked within the existing militia framework.





# The Massachusetts Provincial Congress

“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.**”

*Massachusetts Provincial Congress, “To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Towns and Districts of Massachusetts-Bay,” Cambridge, December 10, 1774*

# The 1774-1775 Militia and Minute Company Resolutions of Massachusetts Towns





# 3 Types of Town Militia and Minute Company Resolutions

- ❖ Vague, often last minute, resolutions passed by towns after January 1775 that likely relied upon existing militia laws.
- ❖ Highly detailed resolutions that often expanded upon or added to the recommendations of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress as to what a militiaman or minuteman should carry.
- ❖ Resolutions and contractual clauses drafted and issued by “independent” minute companies or exclusive societies from several Massachusetts towns.

# Vaguely Worded Resolutions

- ❖ The Town of Amesbury voted that its minutemen would be responsible for their own arms and equipment. “Voted that said Minnit men shall upon their own cost be well equiped with arms and aminition according to law fit for a march.” *Resolution of the Town of Amesbury, March 20, 1775.*
- ❖ Boxford merely issued a resolution that its minutemen “arm, equip, and hold themselves in readiness to march in any emergency in defence of the Province.” *Resolution of the Town of Boxford, January 5, 1775.*



# Detailed Resolutions that Followed the Provincial Congress Orders

"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]."

*Journal of Arthur Harris of the Bridgewater Coy of Militia, c. 1775*

# Detailed Resolutions that Followed the Provincial Congress Orders

- ❖ “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.” *Resolution of the Town of Roxbury, December 26, 1774*
- ❖ 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.” *Resolution of the Town of Braintree, January 23, 1775.*



# Independent Company Resolutions

“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.”

*Minuteman Covenant for the Town of Ipswich, January 14, 1775*



Where Did the Arms and Equipment Come From?



# Uniformity

- ❖ Many towns passed resolutions agreeing to provide some or all of the accouterments of its minute and militia companies.
- ❖ Local men were hired by their respective towns to make certain pieces of equipment for the militia and minute companies. For example, a saddler may have made cartridge boxes for his town's minute company while a blacksmith scoured old bayonets.
- ❖ As a result, there was some semblance of uniformity amongst American minute companies on the eve of Lexington and Concord.

# Examples of Town Resolutions

- ❖ 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.” *Resolution of the Town of Methuen, January 1775.*
- ❖ “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.” *Resolution of the Town of Bradford, January 20, 1775.*



# Examples of Town Resolutions

- ❖ “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.” *Resolution of the Town of Lincoln, March 20, 1775.*
- ❖ “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 imemdiately.” *Resolution of the Town of Brimfield, January 18, 1775.*

# Examples of Town Resolutions

“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.”

*Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, December 12, 1774*



# Examples of Town Resolutions

“Voted that 40 guns, 250 lbs. powder, 750 lbs. lead, and 600 flints be provided. The [town] shall provide provisions and all other necessaries for the poor upon any special emergency. That 50 men be enlisted to be ready at a minute's warning, and pd 3 s. A week for exercising two half days a week, and 6 dolls. bounty if called out of town. The officers to have the same as Rehoboth pays their officers.”

*Declarations and Resolves of the Town of Swansea, April 23, 1775*



The Men Who  
Made the  
Equipment



# Cartridge Boxes and Belting

- ❖ In October 1775, several Dighton men submitted claims for compensation for making equipment for the town's militia and minute men. Jotham Briggs and Abial Whitmarsh, submitted claims for making cartridge boxes and wooden blocks. Jabez Pierce also made cartridge boxes but submitted additional claims for compensation for making “cartouch boxes”, “belts for bayonets” and “a sheath for a bayonet.” *Resolution of the Town of Dighton, October 1775.*
- ❖ “[January] 14 [1775] I made me a Cartridge-box, I Covered it with a Coltskin it will Carry 19 Rounds.” *Israel Litchfield Journal, January 14, 1775.*

# Belting and Bayonet Scabbards

“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.”

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



# Cartridge Boxes, Bayonets, Guns, Blankets and Knapsacks

“To Ariel Collins, for 43 cartouch-boxes, £1. Is. 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 George Cotton, Jr., for a blanket and knapsack delivered Benoni Barrister, 13s. 6d.”

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

The Muskets  
of the  
Massachusetts  
Militia







# British Muskets

# British Muskets Issued to Provincials During the French Wars

- ❖ Historically, during the French wars Massachusetts Bay Colony encouraged its provincial soldiers to provide their own arms, rather than rely upon the government. This effort was met with moderate success and as a result, a wartime shortage often existed. As a result, Massachusetts was forced to petition Britain for military supplies.
- ❖ Unfortunately for Massachusetts Bay Colony, the muskets and related equipment supplied by the British government was not the top of the line. Colonial governments traditionally received in times of crisis obsolete and older arms from Britain. By comparison, military regiments stationed at home or in Europe generally received newer, high-quality arms.



# British Muskets Issued to Provincials During the French Wars

- ❖ Naturally, one must ask what type of musket was issued by the British government?
- ❖ In the fall of 1755, then 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.”
- ❖ 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.”
- ❖ The descriptions of these muskets, particularly with the emphasis on “double bridle locks”, suggest the muskets issued to Massachusetts provincial troops was the 1730 King’s Pattern (often and erroneously referred to as the 1<sup>st</sup> Model Brown Bess).



# The 1738/1740 King's Pattern

# The 1738/1740 King's Pattern

- ❖ The 1738/1740 King's Pattern represented most muskets shipped from England to Massachusetts during the French and Indian War.
- ❖ The musket's overall length was  $61 \frac{11}{16}$  inches, its barrel length was  $45 \frac{1}{2}$  inches and its caliber was .77
- ❖ This firelock featured a double bridled lock, a wood ramrod, a brass nose band to slow wear on the fore end of the stock and a redesigned oval trigger lock.
- ❖ All furniture was brass.





SKINNE

# Dutch Muskets

# Dutch Muskets

- ❖ While the British "Brown Bess" and French "Charleville" pattern muskets are probably the best known of the long arms used during the American Revolution, muskets of Dutch origin saw use during the American Revolution.
- ❖ Dutch gun makers centered in Amsterdam (as well as Rotterdam and Maastricht) and easily established themselves among the premier arms makers in Europe by the mid-1600's.
- ❖ The British purchased muskets from the Dutch prior to the establishment of the 1730 King's Pattern muskets, and while some authors refer to Dutch muskets as resembling the early "Brown Bess" muskets, the reality is that the 1738/1740 King's Pattern muskets copied the Dutch pattern.

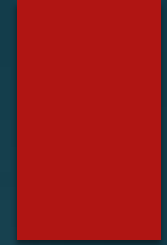
# Dutch Muskets

- ❖ Because the British government could not always keep up with demand and wartime shortages during the French and Indian War, Massachusetts Bay Colony also received Dutch muskets produced between 1706 and 1730.
- ❖ Dutch muskets were generally 61 3/8 inches in length; its barrel was 45 7/8 inches and had a caliber of .78.
- ❖ Its furniture was composed of iron or brass, the ramrods were made of wood and the lock plate was rounded (as opposed to flat). The accompanying bayonets were short-shanked rectangular blades.





# Dutch Muskets





# French Muskets

# French Muskets

- ❖ Most firearms for the French infantry prior to the American Revolution were made in St. Etienne and Tulle. A third major area of weapons manufacturing was in Charleville.
- ❖ There were a variety of French weapons that were exported from France to Canada to support the military effort against the English.
- ❖ While the early 18th century brought a flurry of developments in French musketry, it appears that the two more common French guns that ended up in Massachusetts hands were the 1728 Infantry musket and the 1716/1734 Contract Fusil de Chasse.





1728 French Infantry Musket

# 1728 French Infantry Musket

- ❖ This famous weapon was contemporary with the Brown Bess used by the British. Until the end of the French and Indian Wars, it was manufactured in large numbers by the French arsenals at St. Etienne, Maubeuge and Charleville.
- ❖ The 1728 model introduced the concept of a gun with three-barrel bands. The lock also had a pan to frizzen bridle instead of the earlier vertical frizzen bridle. Ramrods varied – some were wooden while others were metal.
- ❖ The French 1728 infantry musket were all iron mounted, however, there are a few surviving brass mounted examples of 1728 that were made for the French Navy.

1716 /1734  
Contract Fusil de  
Chasse





# 1716 /1734 Contract Fusil de Chasse

- ❖ Hunting guns were made at St. Etienne and Tulle.
- ❖ Fusil de Chasse guns were slightly slenderer than the military muskets and officer fusils and varied between .60 and .62 in caliber.
- ❖ In both the 1716 and 1734 contracts, the guns were described as having 43" to 46" length barrels and except for a limited number, most were steel mounted. The locks on these weapons did not have either internal or external bridles.
- ❖ It is believed that approximately 6,000 Fusil de Chasse guns were sent to Canada between 1716 and 1763 to arm Canadian Milice. Many of those also ended up in the hands of Massachusetts men.

**LOST** in the Battle at Menotomy, by

Nathan Putnam, of Capt. Hutchinson's Company, who was then badly wounded, a French Firelock, marked **D**, No. 6, with a marking Iron, on the Breech. Said Putnam carried it to a cross Road near a Mill. Whoever has said Gun in Possession, is desired to return it to Col. Mansfield of Lynn, or to the Selectmen of Danvers, and they shall be well rewarded for their Trouble.

French Guns Used on April 19, 1775



## American Fowling Guns



“There were several centers of colonial gunsmithing in New England. The largest by far was in Boston and the suburban Boston area ranging roughly to the semicircle of today’s Route 128. Going west there were many gun-making shops and even small factories in the Worcester-Sutton area. Still farther west there is the complex of gun-making communities running up the Connecticut Valley”.

Merrill Lindsay *The New England Gun*

**DISTRIBUTION OF GUNSMITHS  
AND ARMS MANUFACTURERS IN NEW ENGLAND.**



- ❖ American made fowling pieces did double-duty as hunting guns and firearms for defense.
- ❖ Fowlers carried on April 19, 1775, fell into one of three categories: New England fowlers, Club Butt fowlers or English Style Fowlers.
- ❖ New England fowlers made up the largest group of guns and exhibited considerable French influence in their stock design and their hardware. The stocks have a rounded drop to the stock that was copied from French fowlers and is often referred to as a “Roman Nose” profile
- ❖ Club Butt fowlers were manufactured in Massachusetts and possibly Rhode Island. They have a decidedly convex curve to the underside of the buttstock.
- ❖ Another group of long guns exhibits characteristics of both British fowlers and muskets. These guns had a stock profile like British sporting guns of the eighteenth century.



# New England Fowlers





Club Butt Fowlers



English Fowlers





# The Catch All: Composite Fowlers





## Drilling and Exercise

# Did Minute and Militia Companies Drill?

- ❖ Yes! Andover ordered “[Soldiers] on the said first said day of December meet together and chuse such person only for leading or instructing as shall appear to them to be most skillful in Military Discipline and that they be well equipped with good guns, and other necessary warlike armour in order for their performing of all military maneuvers.”
- ❖ Amesbury resolved that its minute men would engage in “exercising four hours in an fortnight.” Two weeks later, the town modified its order and instructed its minute men to “[exercise] four hours in a week.”
- ❖ Methuen simply ordered its minute company be “drawn out or exposed to train.”

# Did Minute and Militia Companies Drill?

- ❖ Haverhill initially voted that its minute men “be duly disciplined in Squads three half days in a Week, three hours in each half day.”
- ❖ On March 14, 1775, the town also voted to raise thirty dollars “to procure a military instructor to instruct the Militia in the Art Military.” One week later, it was voted that the minute-men should train one whole day per week, instead of three half days as previously voted. Furthermore, the minutemen were to be trained by a “Mr George Marsden, whom we have hired.”



# Drilling in the Maine Province

- ❖ Pepperellborough (Saco, Maine) voted in March, 1775 “to divide the Militia Company of the District into four separate squadrons, to exercise half a day and once in every week for three months to come, and to begin their exercises at two o'clock in the afternoon, and to have a teacher to learn them the military art, and said teacher to be paid out of the District Treasury; one part to be paid at the Old Orchard, so called; another, to be from Rumery's to the lower ferry; another, from said Rumery's up to the head of said District (or town); and the other part at Dunstown, so called.”

# Financial Compensation

- ❖ Most minute and militia companies were PAID to drill in preparation for war.
- ❖ 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.” *Resolution of the Town of Bedford, March \_\_, 1775.*
- ❖ That 50 men be enlisted to be ready at a minute's warning, and pd 3 s. A week for exercising two half days a week, and 6 dolls. bounty if called out of town. The officers to have the same as Rehoboth pays their officers.” *Declarations and Resolves of the Town of Swansea, April 23, 1775.*





## Joint Company and Battalion Level Drills



# Joint Drills

- ❖ Evidence suggests that minute and militia companies across the colony were holding joint company and regimental level drills.
- ❖ On April 13, 1775, minute companies from Haverhill, Bradford and Andover met in Andover to drill.
- ❖ According to documentation, Captain Sawyer and forty six of his Haverhill minute men travelled west to Andover to hold a joint drill with Captain Thomas Poor and his men. Sawyer's subsequent report states the purpose of the event "[was to meet] at Andover for Exsise."
- ❖ Joint company and regimental drills were also being held across Middlesex, Norfolk and Plymouth Counties.

# Joint Drills – Bristol County

“On Monday ye 21st day of November 1774, the East Division of ye 3d Regiment in ye County of Bristol met at Tauuton and Drawed up in a Battalion in Captain Toms. Cobbs Shed Lot, so called by ye Adjutant Major Abijah Hodges in manner hereafter described viz. Ye Field officers came in on ye right wing, viz., G. G. (The Colonel) next to ye Battalion and G. W. (the Lieut. Col.) on the right, N. Leond (the first Major) on the Left and Z. Keith (the second Major) on ye Right aud so marched round said Battalion until we come to ye center. Three of ad Field officers with their Hats under ye arms and G. G. (the colonel) his hat on and paid his Compliments to each Captain.”

*Brigadier General George Godfrey Papers and Memorandum Book*

From a "return of the several Militia Company's in the Fourth Regiment in the County of Bristol," it appears that John Daggett was Colonel; Ephraim Lane, Lieut. Colonel; Isaac Dean, First Major; and Elkanah Clapp, Second Major. There were in Captain Ide's company, "fifty-three, including officers; forty-seven equipped according to law." In Captain Richardson's minute-company, "sixty-one including officers; fifty-eight of which are equipped according to law; twenty with bayonets" (of the fifty-eight). In Captain Stanley's company, "fifty-five including officers; whereof forty-seven are equipped according to law." In Captain Wilmarth's minute-company, "fifty-six, whereof forty-eight are equipped according to law," making a total of two hundred and twenty-five men from this town, besides the commander. The other captains in the regiment were Benjamin Mory, Abial Clapp, Job Hodges, Jabez Ellis,<sup>1</sup> and William Stone. These captains and their companies were from Mansfield, Norton, and Easton. There were also "four companies of minute-men, including officers; two hundred and twelve: but not yet incorporated into a regiment." The names of the captains of these companies are not given, but they seem to have been for a time in Colonel Daggett's regiment, or under his command.

The "return" closes as follows: —

The number of training soldiers in the said regiment is six hundred and twenty-four; two companies of which I have not as yet been able to obtain the returns of their reviewing, but may soon be returned.

To the Honorable Provincial Congress at Concord assembled.

from your  
humble servant,

John Daggett, Col. of  
said regiment.

# February 1775 Inspection of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bristol Regiment





# The Raid on Freetown

# The Raid on Freetown: April 10, 1775

“That on Monday before, parties of Minutemen, etc from every town in that Country, with arms and ammunition, met at Freetown early that morning, in order to take Col. Gilbert, but he had fled on board the Rose, man of war at Newport; they then divided into parties, and took, 29 Tories who had signed inlistments, and received arms in the Colonel's Company, to join the Kings Troops; they also took 35 musquets, 2 case bottles of powder, and a basket of bullets. All which they brought to Taunton the same afternoon, where the prisoners were separately examined. 18 of whom made such humble acknowledgements of their past bad conduct, and solemn promises to behave better for the future, they were dismissed; but the other 11 being obstinate and insulting, a party was ordered to carry them to Simsbury mines; but they were sufficiently humbled before they had got 14 miles on their way thither; upon which they were brought back the next day, and after signing proper articles to behave better for the future, were escorted to Freetown, - there was upward to 2000 men embodied there last Monday.”

*Providence Gazette, April 22, 1775*



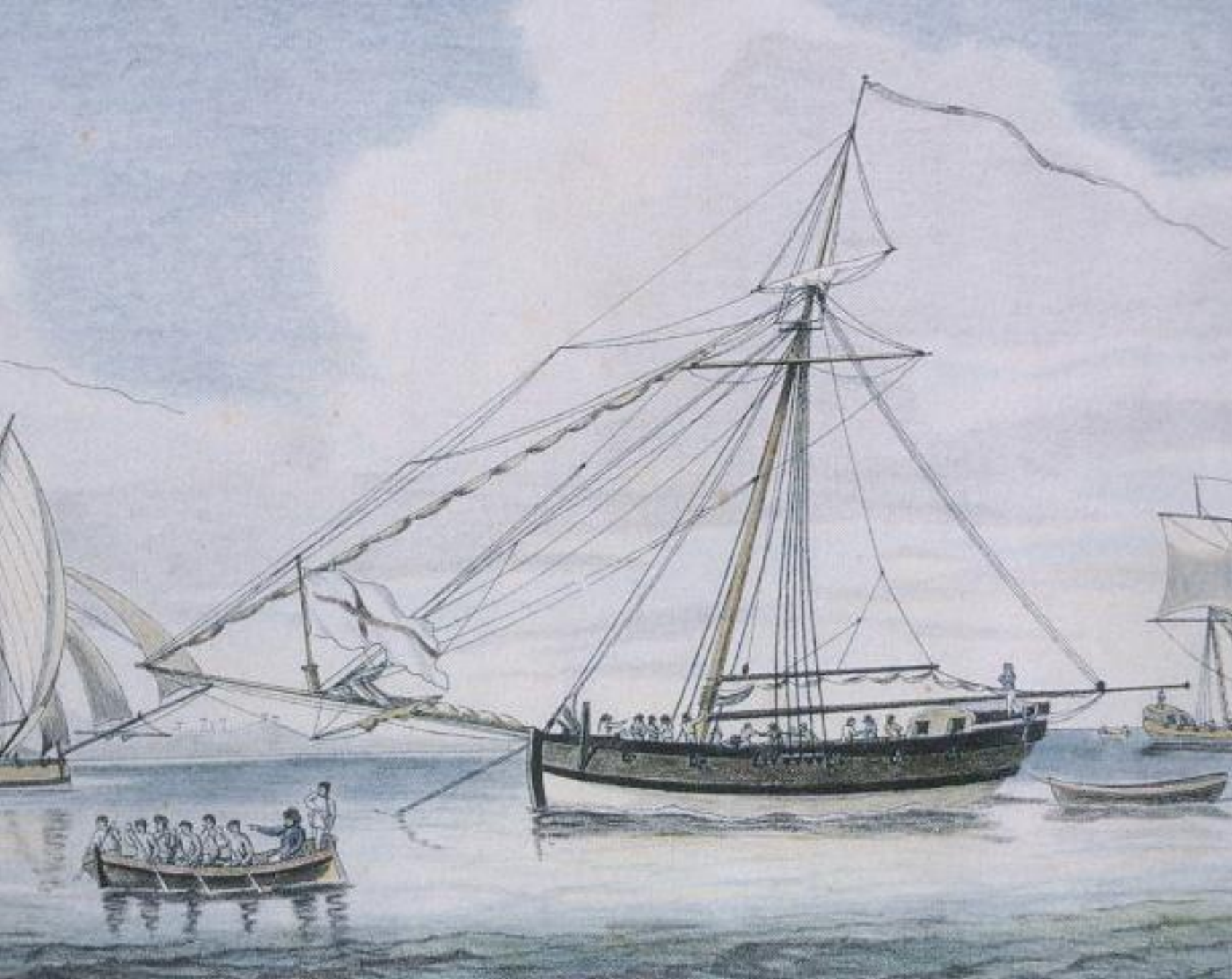
A historical illustration of a battle scene, likely the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The scene is viewed from an elevated perspective. In the foreground, there are several rows of soldiers in formation, some appearing to be in the process of marching or taking position. The middle ground shows a line of soldiers extending across the frame, with some buildings or structures visible in the background. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds of smoke, suggesting a recent battle or the use of artillery. The overall color palette is muted, with earthy tones and a blue sky. The text "The Battles of Lexington and Concord" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, serif font.

# The Battles of Lexington and Concord





Questions?



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