

Francis Brown

GENEALOGY: From Hudson "History of Lexington" 1913 edition

Francis Brown

Born to James Brown and Jane Bowman on 22 Jan. 1738

Age on April 19, 1775 was 37(*coincidentally the same age I was my first reenactment with the Company*)

Grandson of Joseph Brown, born 1677 at Marlboro Ma. Died in Lexington 11 Jan 1764.

Joseph was the youngest of 11 children of John (*born in England 1631*) and Ester Makepiece of Boston.

On mother's side grandparents were Nathaniel and Anna Barnard

He settled in Weston, called Watertown Farms and moved to Lexington in 1709

Chosen Deacon in 1727, and held that position until he died.

Town Selectman in 1722, 24, 25-27 and town assessor, 1714, 15, 21, 22, 26

Married Ruhamah Wellington in Watertown

His son James was baptized in Lexington 26 July 1713 and died 11 June 1768

James Brown (father), Served as Selectman in 1756, Deacon 1756 until his death in 1768.

Married Jane Bowman who died at age 48, 1 May 1761

2nd marriage May 18th 1762 to Mrs. Elizabeth Billings Smith widow of Hezekiah Smith

Francis Born 22 Jan 1738

Benjamin Brown (Francis' uncle-his father's brother)

Delegate to State convention ratifying the Constitution of the United States

Father to James Brown Francis's cousin who was also on the Green on 19 April 1775

Francis Brown

Born 22 Jan 1738, Died 21 April 1800

Gravestone location 'Ye Olde' burial ground Lexington

Married Mary Buckman (born in 1740) 16 Feb 1764(daughter of John owner of the Buckman tavern, and Mary Fiske)

Had 6 children Mary, Elizabeth, James, Sarah, Rebecca, and John

Admitted to church 24 Nov. 1765

Served as Selectman from 1781-1784 and town treasurer 1791&92.

Served on the Committee of Correspondence in 1776, as Lt. Francis Brown which drafted this statement:

"If the said Congress for the Safety of these Colonies declare them independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain we stand ready with our lives and fortunes to support them in the measure"

Joined on the Committee by Deacon Jonas Stone, Capt. John Bridge, Lt. Edmond Munroe, and Lt. Joseph Simonds, all signed it.

He was reelected to the committee, now as Capt. Francis Brown in 1777 along with Deacon Benjamin Brown, John Parkhurst, Daniel Harrington, and Amos Muzzey

Among the items voted on was funds set aside for a monument "*A suitable and decent monument to set over the grave of our brothers in this town who fell the first victims to British Tyranny on the morning of the 19th day of April 1775.*"

Original signer of Lexington's version of the Declaration of Independence (*see photo*)

Brief history of some of Francis's children:

James married Pamela Munroe the daughter of Edmond who was also on the Green 19 April 1775

She was the mother of Rebecca Harrington

Had 7 children, two named Charles (one died 6 months after birth)

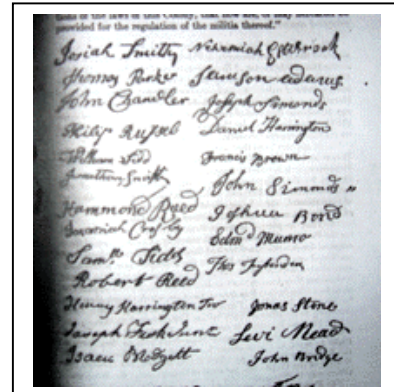
He lived to the age of 81

2nd son John Brown had 9 children

Born 15 April 1776 Died 31 Dec. 1846

Grandson Edmond Munroe Brown born 13 Feb 1809 died 28 April 1879

He had 3 children



Daughter Mary married Charles Harrington

Daughter Elizabeth married Capt. Samuel Stearns

2nd grandson Charles born 2 May 1876 was a member of the Lexington Savings Bank

Francis's descendants can be traced to still living in Lexington until 1912

Francis as landowner: from "Album of Historical Documents to supplement the walking tour of East Lexington" in the Cary Library's East Room from an article in 1948 from Edwin Worthen

Francis' farm was located in what is now Wilson's farm 618-620 Mass. Ave is the only original part of Francis Brown's original property (*see photo*)

He also built a tavern at this site in East Lexington moving from what was called Pierces Bridge area Browns brook in Great Meadows ran through Francis Brown's farm

Francis Brown's house was on the National Register of Historic Places nomination form kept as a tavern at the time of the revolution

Tax info. 1 poll rateable: 1 house: Annual worth of real estate 13 pounds 15 shillings



Military Service:

Appears on the rolls of Capt. Benjamin Reed as having delivered a bayonet to Sgt. Francis Brown during his period of service in the French Indian Wars 1755-1763 (*ref. Lex Historical Society at Hancock Clarke House*) Sgt. Under Capt. Parker on the morning of 19 April 1775

After 19 April the company was renamed Capt. John Parker's Company, Col. Thomas Gardener's Battalion of the Mass. Grand Army

Served at siege of Boston for 6 days starting 16 May 1775

(*reference Alex Cain "an overview of the Lexington Minutemen and their world"*)

He returned to Boston on 13 June 1775 and fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill the next day

After the battle they remained for 6 more days to help maintain the siege

17-18 June appears on the rolls of Capt. Parker as Sgt. Brown

(*ref. Mass soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War Vol II pp.622*)

17 Sept 1775 Capt Parker died of Consumption and Francis Brown became commander of the Lexington Minute Men

31 Dec. 1775 enlistments expired and he became part of the Continental Army

Appears as Lt. Francis Brown 4-8 March muster 1776 Capt. John Bridge's Company, Col. Eliezer Brooks regiment at Roxbury

Commissioned Capt. 8th Co. 3rd Middlesex Company Regiment 27 March 1776

Shown as having received 1 pound 10 shillings in Feb. 1775 as Capt. Francis Brown. This does not jive with his promotion to Lt. at a later date, unless it differentiates between a Capt. In the Militia and later a Lt. and then Capt. in the regular army or Continental Line

Shown as having received 9 pounds 0 shillings July 1775 at Ticonderoga

Shown at Providence having been called out as an emergency situation for 6 weeks in Aug. 1778

History before, during, and after the battle of 19 April 1775:

On the eve of 18 April 1775 along with William Munroe, Sgt. Munroe, and Edmund Munroe having heard that the British were on the road conducted Sam Adams and John Hancock to Mr. Reed's house (*ref. Canavan papers Vol. 1 M.J. Canavan Lex. Room Cary Library pp. 104 footnote 3*)

Next proceeded to wake John Munroe. This taken from a deposition of John Munroe on 28 Dec 1824 as attested to by Nathan Changler, Justice of the Peace:

"I John Munroe of Lexington, a collector of tolls for the Middlesex Turnpike being in the 77th year of my age; on oath do depose and say that I was a corporal in the Lexington Company of Militia, which was commanded by Capt. John Parker, in the year 1775; that, for some weeks previous to the 19th of April of that year, the company was frequently called out for exercise, and desired to furnish ourselves with arms and ammunition, and to be in constant readiness for action.

On the morning of the 19th, at or about two o'clock, as near as I can recollect, Francis Brown who was sergeant in the same company, called me out of my bed and said the British troops had left Boston and were on their march to Lexington.

They then assembled at the common where approximately 60-70 had assembled already. A roll was called by Capt. Parker and each man was ordered to load his piece with powder and ball. After remaining on parade for some time we were dismissed but told to remain within call of the drum. At day break drums were sounded as reports of the British were seen" Interesting deposition taken from Francis Brown's widow states that on the day of the "fight" his house was full of women and children weeping and that they hid their silver and mirrors and many other things in Russel's swamp beyond the brook"
(Ref. Lexington Historical Society History of Lexington Mass. Vol I)

On April 19th 10 Minute Men died and nine were wounded. He was the only member of the Lexington Minute Men Company to be wounded in the afternoon. After the battle on the Green he assembled with Capt. Parker's company at Meriam's corner. The British were in full retreat from Concord and every Patriot was free to fire at will. The British flank was on high ground and the main body in the road. British and Colonial troops were equidistant from Meriam's corner. Parker's company took up a position in the fields.

The British marched down Meriam's Hill somberly with no music or words uttered. After passing a small bridge, they did an about face and fired a volley at the Patriots. No one was injured and the Patriots returned fire. Two British died at the road near the brook. At this time all hell broke loose and discipline on the Colonials' side disappeared there and for the rest of the day. The colonials took positions behind trees, rocks, fences, and buildings and fired at will. The Sudbury Company led by Capt. Coulworth attacked the British with vigor near Hardy's Hill. At the same time a severe skirmish took place below Brook's tavern on the old North road of the schoolhouse in Lincoln. The British were now between Sudbury and Lexington. At this point the fiercest battle of the day took place in what was a sharp but short contact the British received more deadly injury than at any other place from Concord to Charlestown. The British were devastated, their flanks obstructed by the woods and their main body was exposed to the direct fire of the Patriots lining the woody borders. At this time men from Woburn and Lincoln joined Lexington.

Under Capt. Parker's command the company took up a position in the field and poured a destructive volley into the retreating British column. At what is called Parkers Revenge Jedidiah Munroe who had been wounded in the morning battle was killed. In the same exchange Francis Brown was wounded. A ball entered his neck, passed under his ear, nearly all the way through and lodged in the back of his neck. It would remain there for a year when it was finally removed. The exact location has been described in separate readings as "being not far from the Hastings House, or near Meriams corner in Lincoln at Brooks tavern, near Hardy Hill, near the Lexington, Lincoln line."

He later was shown to receive 122 pounds for his service from the legislature.

All of the above was from 'The History of the town of Lexington' 1913 edition