

## American Revolution Biography about Caleb Harrington

Caleb Harrington was a member of Captain Parker's Company. Born October 27<sup>th</sup> 1751, 23 years of age when on Lexington green, the first time Caleb shows up under military affairs was the roll of Officers and Soldiers of Captain Parker's Company in 1775. I have not found any listings for military prior to this date, most likely his age of 23 was a factor, but it was not unheard of younger men served as needed.

He paraded on the green with the rest of the company for the last year, and probably since his 16<sup>th</sup> year he has been training with the minutemen. On April 19<sup>th</sup> Capt. Parker had some seventy men on or near the common, this number constituted one tenth of Lexington's entire population and half the adult male population.

Father Moses Harrington Jr. first m. Martha (un-known) was added to the church June 2, 1734. She died 1737, then m. Sarah Frost in 1738, she was born Jan 2, 1718/19 in Cambridge, Ma., and died May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1759 in Lexington, Ma. *We learn by tradition that he had several children, though the records are silent upon the subject (she may have died during childbirth) It is said that he had Moses, Betsey, and Caleb, the latte of whom was the Caleb Harrington who was killed on the common on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, 1775. He is said to have been about twenty-five years of age at the time of his death.* Other siblings Sarah, d. as infant,

Moses, 2nd d. young in 1749 age 8, Sarah also died in 1749 age 4. (Not uncommon to have named more than one child same name after death of first.)

Betsey, b.1746, married first, Ebenezer White, and, second Thomas Cutler. Betsey,(Elizabeth) d. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1834 at age of 36. Moses then married Deborah Winship Jun 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1760, daughter of William & Thankful Wyeth. She was born Dec. 27, 1719 and d. Oct. 21, 1790. Moses, 3<sup>rd</sup> b.1749 and died 1821 and had several children; it looks like this siblings family of Caleb were mostly very poor and some ended up in poor houses! Father, Moses Harrington Jr. never served as one of Lexington's selectmen or any other town office Moses Jr. died Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1787.

*Grandparents; John & Elizabeth Cutter*

*Great-grandparents; John & Hannah Winter*

They were the descendants of Robert Harrington org. born in Somerset, England and died in Watertown in 1707

Caleb Harrington acquired a way to rent a sizable piece of land in Waltham on the Lexington line in 1771 at the age of 19 years old. Most likely he may have worked for Uriah Cutting as a teenager, which may have not been to far from his family's home or farm.

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## Found at the Registry of Deeds Cambridge Ma:

This indenture made the twenty second day of August in the tenth year of his Majesty King George the Third reign Anno Domini 1770 Between Uriah Cutting of Waltham in the county of Middlesex and province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. Black Smith on the one part and Caleb Harrington of Waltham aforesaid Chair Maker on the other part (Witney N) that the said Uriah Cutting in consideration of the rents and covenants hereafter named both demised lot and to farm lot to the said Caleb Harrington and by their presents both demise lot and to farm lot a certain tract of land in Waltham aforesaid containing about seven rods bounded westerly three rods on land of doc. To both and northerly two rods and an half on the country road easterly. Three rods and southerly two rods and a half on the other land of the said Uriah Cutting with liberty of erecting any building thereon which he the said Caleb Harrington shall see fit and carrying the same from off the premises at any time not exceeding three months after the expiration of this lease. To have and to hold the same unto the said Caleb Harrington his executor administrator and asigns for and during the term of ten years from the day of the date hereof to be compleat and ended and the said Caleb Harrington for himself his executor and administrator both covenant and agree to and with the said Uriah Cutting his executor and administrator that he will pay him a yearly sum or rent therefor of thirteen shillings and four pence lawful money per year each and every year during the term aforesaid and at the expiration thereof peaceably and quietly deliver up

the premises to the said Uriah Cutting his executor administrator and aligns(or assigns) in as good tenant able repair as it is now in and the said Uriah Cutting for himself his their executor administrator and asigns both covenant and agree to and with the said Caleb Harrington his executor administrator that he and they performing the covenants on his and their parts to be observed and kept shall and may lawfully use occupy and enjoy the said demised premises during the said term without molestation or hindrance from him the said Uriah Cutting his heir executor administrator or aligns or any other person or persons from by or under him or them in witness whereof the parties to the presents have interchangeably set their hands and feet the day and year first above written Uriah Cutting and feet Caleb Harrington and feet signed sealed and delivered in presence of Mr Isaac Gleason Oliver Hagget August 22; 1771: rec of Caleb Harrington thirteen shillings and four pence in full for one year rent Uriah Cutting middle sex December the 20th 1771 Uriah Cutting appeared and acknowledged this instrument to be his free act and deed before me Samuel Livermore justice of peace: aside of Cambridge Augt. 22 1772 rec. and entered as written. John Fousoth



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The oldest of all whom were on the green on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775 was Moses Harrington Jr, sixty-five, whose youngest son Caleb was with him. His nephew Jonathan, who owned the house facing the common, was also with him, and so were a dozen other nephews and remote cousins.

There were some minutemen from other towns who just happen to be there, some had old hunting muskets, some had to go to the meetinghouse to get one belonging to the town of Lexington. Joseph Comee was in the meetinghouse, Ensign de Berniere in the first company of light infantry alleged, "He ordered our light infantry to advance and disarm them", as they moved between Buckman's Tavern and the meetinghouse toward the line of militia. Major Pitcairn and a group of mounted officers rode around to the left of the meetinghouse lined up on the west side of both British and Militia. Caleb, had gone into the meetinghouse for more powder with Joshua Simonds and Joseph Comee. All three found themselves in danger of being cut off from their company by the British. Caleb Harrington and Joseph Comee decided to make a run for it. Joseph Comee during the middle of battle ran westward across the common towards Marrett Monroe's house. He got hit in the arm with a musket

ball but kept running through the Monroe house!



Caleb Harrington headed in the same direction but did not make it and was killed by British fire. After Caleb fell, Joshua Simonds ducked back into the meetinghouse, he lay down on the floor with his loaded musket jammed into a barrel of powder! He was ready to blow the place up if the British entered.

David Hacker Fisher writes: Four Lexington Minutemen were in the meeting house, also known as the town's powder magazine. They emerged just as the shooting started. Caleb was killed as he tried to flee. Joseph Comee was wounded in the arm as he ran for cover. Joshua Simonds ducked back inside and ran to the upper loft where munitions were kept. He thrust his loaded musket into a powder barrel to blow it up if regulars entered, Stopped when Col. Smith arrive and began to stop and control the Regulars.

Hudson wrote: Joshua Simonds and three others, had, on the approach of the British, gone into the church to

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obtain a supply of powder. They had succeeded in getting two quarter casks from the upper loft into the gallery, when the British reached the meeting house. Two of them Caleb Harrington and Joseph Comee, resolved at every hazard to escape from the house and join the company. Harrington was killed in the attempt at the west end of the meeting-house. Comee, finding himself cut off from the company, ran under a shower of balls, one of which struck him in the arm, running to the Monroe house, and passing through house made his escape at the back door. The third (who???) secreted himself in the opposite gallery, while Simonds loaded and cocked his gun, and laying down, placed the muzzle upon the open cask of powder, determined to blow up the British, if they should enter the gallery, choosing to destroy his own life rather than fall into their hands.

***Although all three interpretations are similar one question arises who was the fourth person in the meetinghouse?***

Caleb was not married as of 1775; he died that windy and chilly morning leaving no known wife or children.

No one day in the annals of Lexington, save the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, 1775, stands out so prominent as April 20, 1835. On that day, the

remains of the heroes who fell on Lexington Green, in 1775, which had been interred in the graveyard, were removed and deposited in a vault, prepared for the purpose, near the base of the Monument, with appropriate ceremonies, which will be long remembered.



On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, 1834 at a legal town meeting, it was “*Voted unanimously, to have the remains of those who were killed by the British, on the morning of April, 1775, removed and re-entombed near the Monument, (with the consent of their surviving relations.)*” The committee selected that was approved to carry out this vote, did so with the solemnity and importance of the subject, they wisely selected the anniversary of their fall, as the day to remove their remains and be reburied in the rear of the Monument. Included was, *Jonas Parker, Robert Monroe, Samuel Hadley, Jonathan Harrington Jr., Isaac Muzzy, Caleb Harrington, and John Brown.*

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The Marrett and Nathan Monroe  
House faces the green and was built  
in 1729



Sources; His. of Lex, Hudson, The Minute Men/Galvin, Lex  
& Concord/Tourtellot, Hudsons his of Lex, Reg of  
Deeds/Cambridge Data collected & drafted  
by Larry Conley, LMM  
Based on the above was Caleb a Blacksmith? Also at age 20  
is it possible to purchase land rights in Waltham?  
A visit to Waltham archives may help!