

## American Revolution Biography about Thaddeus Harrington

Thaddeus Harrington was a member of Captain Parker's Company who was stationed in Buckman Tavern April 18<sup>th</sup> and appeared in arms on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, 1775. Thaddeus Harrington born September 9<sup>th</sup> 1736, and 39 years of age when on Lexington green.

Thaddeus lived in Lexington at the time of the revolution. His parents Ensign Robert Harrington and mother Abigail Mason of Newton. Ensign Harrington served as a selectman and chairman, he was a magistrate in 1775, and represented the town four years in the General Court. Thaddeus had seven siblings. His grand-parents Robert (was a blacksmith)& Anna Harrington of Watertown.

Thaddeus was an honorable man, he married Lydia Porter of Woburn on September 20, 1764. She was six months pregnant! The first of nine children was born January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1765. First two born died young, Thaddeus, & then Fanny born 20 Jun, 1769, 7 more children came. Arathusa born at Lincoln 3 Feb, 1768, Fanny Bapt. April 23, 1772, Robert b. 22 May 1775, Asa b. 24 Apr. 1777, Lewis b. 24 May, 1779, Lydia Bap. 1781, Andrew b?

Based on Elijah Sanderson's deposition;

**“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 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 endeavor to ascertain their object. I then observed that, if any one 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. . . . Source: Elias Phinney**



Buckman Tavern

During the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> Thaddeus' mother Abigail, and I believe Lydia too, after sending her husband and son off to battle, they took the younger children “down a lane back of the house across a meadow to the old place on Smock Farm” The 'Smock Farm' is the east side of the Great Meadow near Lowell St. Nearly 60yrs after the battle was remembered that the women *'fled on the 19<sup>th</sup>'* Canavan, p126, 138

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Leads me to believe that Thaddeus & Lydia lived with his parents based on the deposition of taking the children away to Smock Farm, Thaddeus' younger brother was 14 yrs old at the time of the revolution!

In 1775 research shows that Robert & Abigail's 'house suffered damage' from the British returning to Boston! There is some evidence that Robert had a slave or two in the early 50's and may or may not had a slave in 1775? Which leads me to believe that Thaddeus stayed at the homestead to help. His next youngest brother Daniel was quite successful and lived in the back of the green. I never found any taxes paid by Thaddeus throughout his lifetime in Lexington, he was admitted to church April 22, 1771.

In April of 1775, the New England weather was typically. The 18th of April was wet through the day, followed by rapid clearing at night. The Reverend Jonas Clarke noted the day's weather consisted of "a fine rain am, fair towards night. In the evening and night of April 18, Paul Revere recalled, in a letter, that the night was very pleasant. There appeared to be a drop in temperature as dawn approached on April 19th. Although Clark recalls the day as clear, Lexington's Ebenezer Munroe recalled "the weather being rather chilly. "temperature was about 46 degrees, the sky was fair and winds from the west".

From Revere's account, it was about 11 o'clock, the moon shone bright. When entering Cambridge, he saw two officers on horse-back, standing under the shade of a tree. They pursued Revere at a full gallop up Mistick Rd., he outran them towards Lexington.



When Revere was being escorted back to Lexington and within a half mile of the Meeting House heard a gun fire. (sometime after 2:00am) as soon as they got within sight of the Meeting House, they heard a volley of guns' fire! Sylvanus Wood heard the Lexington bell ring about an hour before the break of day (4:30-5:00) What a glorious morning for America!" exclaimed Adams, Yes, doubly glorious!

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On the morning of April 19<sup>th</sup> as Captain Parker ordered William Diman to beat to arms! The militia gathered on the green, Captain Parker said "Every man of you who is equipped, follow me; and those of you who are not equipped, go into the meeting-house and furnish yourselves from the magazine, and immediately join the company."

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Parker led those of us who were equipped to the north end of Lexington Common, and formed in a single file. Sylvanus Wood who was in the center of the company stepped out to count every man who was paraded, and the whole number was thirty-eight, and no more. (Based on the deposition of Sylvanus Wood)

As Revere passed through our militia with Hancock's trunk he noted that about 50 or 60 men were on the green, and many spectators near by.

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.

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.



Sources; Canavan, Elias Phinney, James Parker Diary, Lex. Deposition of Thad Harrington, Elijah Sanderson deposition, His. of Lex, Hudson, Battle of April 19, 1775, Coburn, Lex & Concord, Tourtellot, by Larry Conley, LMM



*Military Service; Lex. Green, private in a detachment from Lex. Alarm Co. commanded by Capt. Monro, 5 days; detachment reported on command at Cambridge from May 16 to May 20, 1775, by order of Committee of Safety; Also, Capt. John Bridge's Co., Col. Eleazer Brook's Regt.; service from March 4 to March 8, 1776, 5 days; company stationed in Roxbury.*