

No. 4

Lexington April 25th, 1775

I, John Parker, of lawful age, and Commander of the Militia in Lexington, do testify and declare That on the 19th Instant, in the Morning, about one of the Clock, being informed that there were a Number of Regular Officers riding up and down the Road, stopping and insulting People as they passed the Road, and also was informed that a Number of Regular troops were on their March from Boston, in order to take the Province Stores at Concord, ordered our Militia to meet on the Common in said Lexington, to consult what to do, and concluded not to be discovered, nor meddle or make with said Regular Troops (if they should approach) unless they should insult or molest us and upon their sudden Approach I immediately ordered our Militia to disperse and not to fire. Immediately said Troops made their appearance and rushed furiously, fired upon and killed eight of our party, without receiving any Provocation therefor from us.

John Parker

Deposition of Captain John Parker Concerning the Battle at Lexington, 04/25/1775; Massachusetts State Papers, 1775 - 1787; Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774 - 1789; Record Group 360: Records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, 1765 - 1821; National Archives. National Archives Identifier: 595246