

A. Evidence of Lydia Loring's Family and Household

Clue 1. Vital Records: Family Genealogy compiled by 19th c. Lexington historian C. Hudson.

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF LEXINGTON,

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS,

FROM 1791

FIRST SETTLEMENT TO 1868,

VOLUME A

GENEALOGICAL REGISTER

OF LEXINGTON FAMILIES.

BY CHARLES HUDSON,

AUTHOR OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORY, THE NEW ENGLAND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER, AND THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

BOSTON:

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1869.

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1778

Senior Generation

3. JOSEPH¹ LORING (Joseph,² Joseph,³ John,⁴ Thomas⁵), born 21 Aug. 1719, died 19 Sept. 1787, *g. s.*
He was chosen deacon 30 May 1756 and held that office thirty-one years; he was often employed on important committees, and was on that of correspondence in 1773.
He married 1 Jan. 1735-36 KEZIAN GOVE of Weston, born at Cambridge 17 Apr. 1715, died 16 Sept. 1789, *g. s.*, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia (Cooper).
Children, all baptized at Lexington:
 - i. Child, d. 14 Apr. 1737.
 - ii. Child, d. 24 May 1739.
 - iii. Sonnet, bapt. 4 Jan. 1740-41; d. 6 Jan. 1740. Mr. Fincock in his church record, under date of 4 Jan. 1740-41, makes this entry: "Sabbat Loring. I baptized after meeting at Mr. Loring's house, & this was y^e first I ever baptized in Private. She was very sick."
 - iv. JOHN, b. 28 Jan. 1742-43; m. 8 Jan. 1764 BARRAZETH HOWE of Concord, and settled at Lancaster, in the part now Sterling.
LYDIA, b. 27 Aug. 1743; m. (1) 26 Sept. 1776 CAPT. WILLIAM GRAMMERS of Mason, N. H., who d. 4 Sept. 1791; m. (2) 8 Sept. 1799 JACOB HENNING of Mason, N. H., who d. 20 Sept. 1824, aged 83; d. sept. about 1800.
 - v. JOSEPH, b. 27 Dec. 1747. -
 - vi. JONATHAN, b. 7 Feb. 1740-50.
 - vii. SARAH, b. 27 Feb. 1755; m. 21 Oct. 1776 OSMAN¹ JOHNSON of Roxbury.
 - viii. KEZIAN, bapt. 27 Apr. 1760; m. WITCOMB POWERS.
4. JOSEPH¹ LORING (Joseph,² Joseph,³ John,⁴ Thomas⁵), born 27 Dec. 1747, died at Rindge, N. H., 11 Oct. 1830.
He was one of Capt. Parker's company 10 April 1775, marched to Cambridge 17 June 1775, and was also in the three months' campaign of 1778.
He married 26 Nov. 1772 BETTY POWLAND of Bedford, born 12 Nov. 1750, died at Rindge, N. H., 23 Mar. 1836, daughter of Walter and Dorothy (Dantforth). They were admitted to the church 27 Feb. 1774, and moved to Rindge, N. H., about 1810.
Children, all born at Lexington:
 1. BETTY, b. 16 Apr. 1774; m. 8 Nov. 1790 ANNA SWAIN, who d. at Rindge, N. H., 13 Jan. 1859; d. at Rindge, N. H., 20 Mar. 1867.
 2. JONATHAN¹ LORING (Joseph,² Joseph,³ John,⁴ Thomas⁵), born 7 Feb. 1748-50, died at Mason, N. H., aged 100. He was a member of Capt. Parker's company, and was with it upon the Common on the morning of 19 April 1776.

* This family acted a conspicuous part on that memorable occasion. The church plate was kept at the house of Deacon Loring, and fearing that the British soldiers in their vandalism might destroy it, Lydia Loring, a sister of Jonathan, took the precaution to secrete it under some brush not far from the house, and so prevented it from being destroyed, or carried off with the rest of the property of the family.

A. Evidence of Lydia Loring's Family and Household

Clue 2. Information on family occupations:

- Probate Records, Will of Deacon Joseph Loring, Feb. 10, 1783:
“I, Joseph Loring, of Lexington in the County of Middlesex in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Yeoman, . . . do make and ordain this my last will and testament.”
- 19th century Lexington historian Charles Hudson, writing on the Loring family (Vol. 1, Chapter 7, p. 126):
“[Deacon Loring] was a tailor and his daughters followed that trade.”
- Town Clerk's Record Book, Feb. 8, 1773:
“Pay Miss Lydia Loring 2 [pounds] 13 [shillings] and 4 [pence] in full for her keeping school.”

B. Evidence of Lydia Loring's Home and Standard of Living

Clue 1 Claims for Damages, Submitted to the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, 1783

Joseph Loring

“An account of the real and personal estate belonging to Joseph Loring, of Lexington . . . on the nineteenth of April, 1775, viz.”

- A large mansion-house, and a barn seventy feet long, and a corn-house . . . 350L
- Household goods and furniture, viz.: eight good feather beds and bedding; a large quantity of pewter and brass ware; three cases of drawers; two mahogany tables; with the furniture of eight rooms 230L
- All the wearing apparel of my family, consisting of nine persons 60L
- All my husbandry tools and utensils, with a cider mill and press, with about five tons of hay, and two calves 72L
- About two hundred rods of stone wall . . . 5L
- Three pounds in specie (coin) 3L
- Total 720L

Clue 2 Lexington Tax Assessment 1774

Explanation: In the tax rates, those who own property of any sort (real or personal) are assessed and taxed based the value of their property. We can compare the relative economic status of the taxpaying people of Lexington by listing all taxpayers accorded to their assessed tax, and then dividing the ranked list into ten sections. Each section is a decile. The first decile represents the wealthiest 10% of taxpayers; the 10th decile represents the poorest 10% of tax payers.

1774 Tax decile for Deacon Loring was 2 (1=high, 10 =low)

Look at the transcription of the first page of the 1774 Lexington Tax Assessment attached. The actual tax assessment includes only the residents' names and the tax assessed in shillings and pence. As the historian, I have ranked taxpayers and assigned their deciles for comparative purposes. Also, because wealth customarily varied over life cycle, peaking at mid-life after one's father had died and before one's sons needed their inheritances, I have included information on the taxpayer's age and the birth/death dates of his father, where known.

B. Evidence of Lydia Loring's Home and Standard of Living

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Name	Shillings	Pence	Decile	Age	Father
2	Bowman, Capt. Thad.	8	7	1	62	Joseph-1674-1762
3	Bowman, Isaac	14	4	1	81	Francis- 1662-1744
4	Bridge, Samuel	9	7	1	69	Matthew-1650-1738
5	Bridges, John, Jr.	9	9	1	37	John-1700-1776
6	Brown, Benjamin	11	4	1	54	Joseph-1677-1764
7	Brown, Francis	8	9	1	36	James-1713-1768
8	Cutler, Thom	9	9	1	32	David-1705-1760
9	Estabrook, Benj.	12	7	1	45	Dea. Jos.-1690-1740
10	Fessenden, Thom	10	1	1	33	Thomas-1709-1768
11	Harrington, Ens. Rob.	9	3	1	55	Robert-1685-1774
12	Marrett, Amos	9	10	1	36	Amos-1703-1747
13	Reed, Hammond	11	4	1	40	Wm-1693-1778
14	Reed, Joshua	9	6	1	44	Joshua 1702-1755
15	Reed, Nathan	11	3	1	31	Wm-1693-1778
16	Reed, Reuben	8	8	1	27	Jacob -left town
17	Reed, Will'm Esq.	16	1	1	81	Wm-1662-1718
18	Reed, Will'm Jr.	13	5	1	55	Wm-1693-1778
19	Simonds, Joseph	15	7	1	35	Joshua-1686-1768
20	Simonds, Joshua	11	2	1	38	Joshua-1686-1768
21	Buckman, John	7	5	2	29	John-1717-1768
22	Chandler, John	6	11	2	43	
23	Fisk, Lt. Ebenezer	7	4	2	82	David-1650-1729
24	Harrington, Jonathan	7	11	2	52	Robert-1685-1774
25	Hastings, Sam'l	6	9	2	53	Samuel-1698-1758
26	Hone, Jonas	8	0	2		
27	Lawrence, Bezaleel	6	11	2	38	Jonathan-1706-1773
28	Loring, Dea. Joseph	6	9	2	61	Joseph-1684-1746
29	Muzzey, Amos	7	3	2	33	Amos-1699-1752
30	Muzzy, John	6	8	2	58	Benj.-1680-1764
31	Parker, John	6	7	2	45	Josiah-1694-1756
32	Parkhurst, John	6	10	2	33	
33	Robbinson, James, Jr.	8	5	2	59	Jonath-1682-1754
34	Smith, Joseph	6	2	2	31	Hezek [?]-1706-1760
35	Smith, Lt. Jonath	6	8	2	61	Daniel-1681-1757
36	Stearns, Phin?	7	5	2	36	Dea. Isaac-1710-?
37	Tidd, Will'm Lt	8	0	2	38	Daniel-1695-1776
38	Wellington, Benja.	6	5	2	31	Timothy-1719-1751
39	Winship, Samuel	7	9	2	87	Samuel-1658-1696
40	Bridge, John	5	2	3	74	Matthew-1650-1738
41	Bridges, Mary	6	2	3		
42	Meriam, Will.	5	11	3	42	Jonas-1702-1776
43	Merriam, Benja	5	8	3	37	Benj.-1700-1773
44	Moor, Rob	5	9	3	39	Moore, Thomas
45	Munro, Lt. Wm	4	4	3	32	Wm-1703-1747
46	Muzzy, Isaac	4	10	3	30	John-1716-1784
47	Parker, Thad.	6	0	3	43	Josiah-1694-1756

C. Evidence For Joseph Loring's Farm

Clue 1: Massachusetts Tax Valuation List, 1771

Explanation: Approximately every seven years, the provincial government of Massachusetts required towns to gather data on the quantity and type of land, buildings, livestock, and farm products owned by each farmer. This allows us to reconstruct their farm holdings and assess their general ability to provide for their family. The general categories tracked were tillage, pasture, meadow, and sometimes woodlot; horses, oxen, cattle, sheep, and swine. The holdings of Lydia Loring's father, Joseph, are show in the transcription below.

Loring Excerpt from Transcription of 1771 Tax Valuation

Loring Excerpt from Transcription of 1771 Tax Valuation

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(0321) LEXINGTON *The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771*

TOWN ID	INDIVIDUAL ID	NAME	TITLE	STATUS	POLLS RATEABLE	POLLS NOT RATEABLE	HOUSES AND SHOPS ADJOINING	VALUE OF MONEY LINT AT INTEREST	HORSES	OXEN	CATTLE	GOATS AND SHEEP	SWINE	ACRES OF PASTURE	NUMBER OF COWS PASTURE WILL KEEP	ACRES OF TILLAGE	BUSHEL OF GRAIN PRODUCED PER YEAR	BUCKS OF WOOD PRODUCED PER YEAR	ACRES OF SALT MARSH	TONS OF SALT MARSH HAY PRODUCED PER YR	ACRES OF ENGLISH AND UPLAND MOWING LAND	TONS OF ENGLISH AND UPLAND HAY PER YEAR	ACRES OF FRESH MEADOW	TONS OF FRESH MEADOW HAY PER YEAR		
0321	0531	BROWN, FRANCIS			2		1.00		1	2	8.0	6.0	2	35.0	7.0	7.00	100	25								
0321	0532	HUSSEY, DANIEL			2		1.00		1	2	8.0	6.0	2	35.0	7.0	7.00	100	25								
0321	0533	DRING, JOSEPH			2		1.00		1	2	8.0	6.0	2	35.0	7.0	7.00	100	25								
0321	0534	HOBART, WILLIAM			2		1.00		1	2	8.0	6.0	2	35.0	7.0	7.00	100	25								
0321	0535	WELCH, JOSHUA			2		1.00		2	2	8.0	6.0	2	35.0	7.0	7.00	100	25								
0321	0536	WELCH, EBENEZER			2		1.00		2	2	8.0	6.0	2	35.0	7.0	7.00	100	25								
0321	0537	HEAD, MATHEW			2		1.00		1	2	8.0	6.0	2	35.0	7.0	7.00	100	25								
0321	0538	WHITMORE, JACOB			2		1.00		1	2	8.0	6.0	2	35.0	7.0	7.00	100	25								

Sample Excerpt of Original 1735 Tax Valuation (This is just to show you what an original valuation looked like; you do not need to use it to reconstruct the Loring farm in 1774.)

Note categories:

- Polls (rateable and not rateable) This is the number of men eligible to vote in household.
- Real Estate: housing, mills orchard, mowing, pasture, tillage, Total of Real Estate
- Personal Estate: slaves, oxen, cows, sheep, horses, swine, Total of Personal Estate.

Names. 1735	pol rate	pol not rate	hou	mills	ore	mow	past	tilla	Real Estate	slaves	oxen	cows	horses	sheep	swine	Personal Estate
Dea: Jos Brown	4	0	2	0	1	07	10	04	31..10	0	2	06	2	00	1	17..08
Dea: Jos. Cattabrod	2	0	2	1	1	12	12	06	33..00	0	2	10	2	16	0	25..08
Amos Murry	2	0	2	0	2	25	15	05	30..00	0	4	04	1	04	1	17..00
Thomas Cutler	1	0	2	0	1	10	10	10	30..00	1	2	03	2	10	0	29..00
Thom: Ferington:se	1	0	2	0	1	10	10	04	27..00	0	2	05	1	00	0	13..10
Sage: Winship:se	1	0	2	0	0	12	20	06	33..00	0	2	04	2	00	0	14..00
Fran: Whitmore	1	0											1			02..00
Edward Winship:se	1	0	2	0	1	06	05	04	15..00	1	2	02	1	00	0	24..00
James Russel	1	0	2	0	0	04	00	04	12..00	0	2	04	1	03	0	12..09
Phillip Russel	1	0	2	0	1	06	03	08	16..40	0	2	03	1	06	0	11..08

C. Evidence For Joseph Loring's Farm

Clue 2 – Widow's Portion listed in the Will of Deacon Loring, 1783

Some husbands specified the annual living allowances that their heir must provide for the widow. These "widow's portions" can help us establish the dietary standard of living of a family.

Lydia's father, Joseph, died in 1783, and his will specified the following allowances be provided to his widow annually by his heir.

Loring Allowance - 1783

6 bu. Indian meal

3 bu rye

80 lbs pork, well fattened and salted down

60 lbs good beef salted down

20 lbs butter

40 lbs cheese

14 lbs sugar

2 lb tea

2 barrels cider

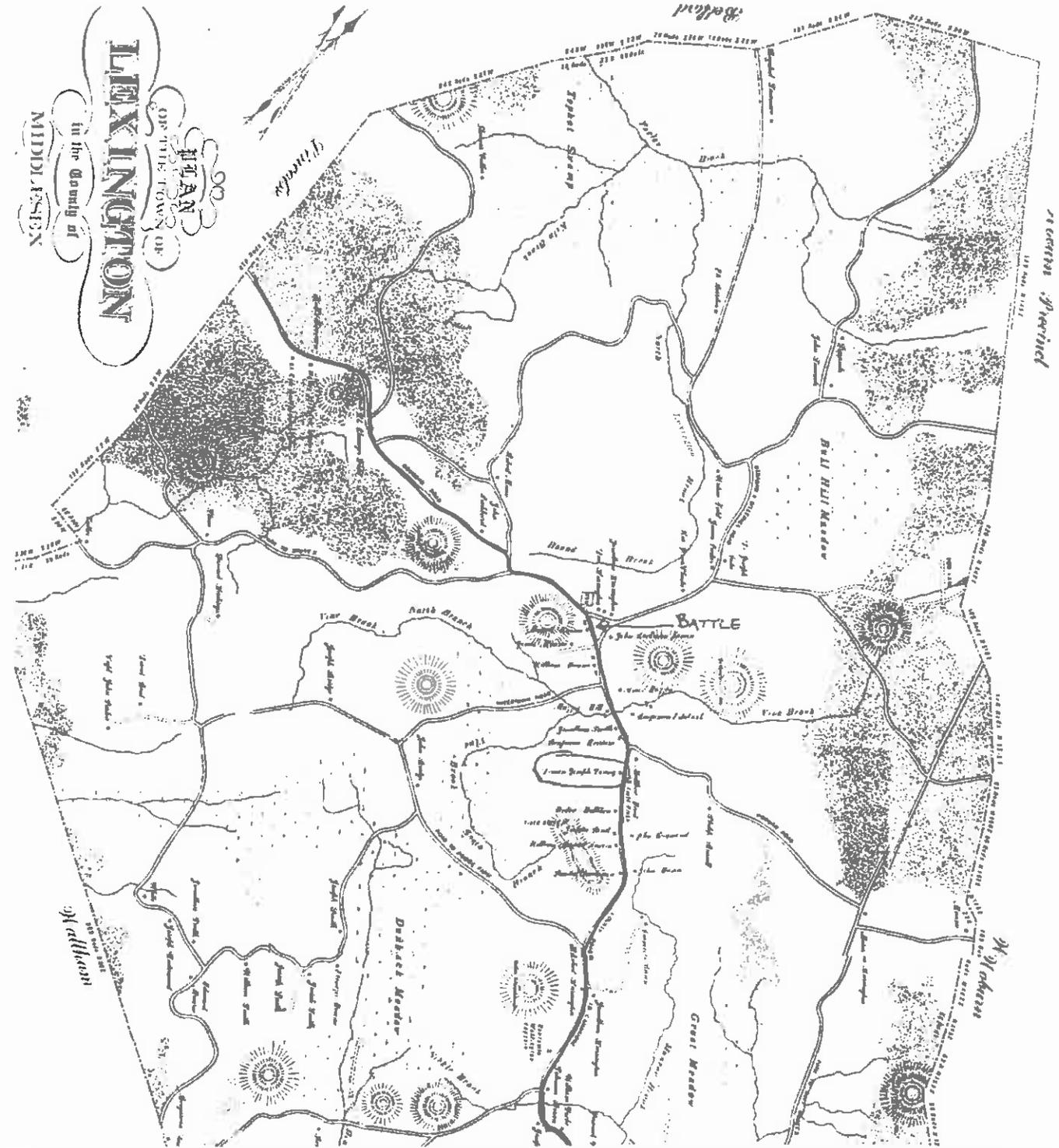
sauce & apples sufficient for her comfort

firewood carried into her room

Not specified here are products that the widow would be expected to produce herself: vegetables from the garden, dung hill poultry with their meat, eggs, and feathers, herbs for medicines and dyes, etc.

D. Evidence for Loring Family Activity on April 19th

Clue 1: Line of March of British Regulars to and from Concord on April 19th, 1775.



D. Evidence for Loring Family Activity on April 19th

Clue 2: Deposition of Solomon Brown, Jonathan Loring, and Elijah Sanderson, in the Journals of Each Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, May, 1774.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

We, Solomon Brown, Jonathan Loring, and Elijah Sanderson, all of lawful age, and of Lexington, in the County of Middlesex, and Colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, do testify and declare, that on the evening of the eighteenth of April instant, being on the road between Concord and Lexington, all of us mounted on horses, we were, about ten of the clock, suddenly surprised by nine persons, whom we took to be regular officers, who rode up to us mounted and armed, each having a pistol in his hand; and after putting pistols to our breasts, and seizing the bridles of our horses, they swore that if we stirred another step we should be all dead men; upon which we surrendered ourselves. They detained us until two o'clock the next morning, in which time they searched and greatly abused us; having first inquired about the magazine at Concord, whether any guards were posted there, and whether the bridges were up; and said four or five regiments of Regulars would be in possession of the stores soon. They then brought us back to Lexington, cut the horses' bridles and girths, turned them loose, and then left us.

SOLOMON BROWN,
JONATHAN LORING,
ELIJAH SANDERSON.

MIDDLESEX, April 25, 1775:

Jonathan Loring, Solomon Brown, and Elijah Sanderson, being duly cautioned to testify the whole truth, made solemn oath to the truth of the above deposition, by them subscribed. Before us,

WM. REED,
JOSIAH JOHNSON,
WM. STICKNEY,
Justices of the Peace.

Clue 3: Loring Family Historical Notes Compiled by 19th c Lexington Historian Charles Hudson in *History of Lexington*, Vol. 2, p. 384.

“This family [the Lorings] acted a conspicuous part on that memorable occasion [of April 19th]. The church plate [silver communion service] was kept at the house of Deacon Loring, and fearing that the British soldiers in their vandalism might destroy it, Lydia Loring, a sister of Jonathan, took the precaution to secrete it under some brush not far from the house, and so prevented it from being destroyed or carried off with the rest of the property of the family.”

Clue 4: Deposition of Elijah Sanderson, 1825

In 1825, marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle, a historian Elias Phinney took depositions (testimonies) from surviving participants in the battle. This is an excerpt of from Elijah Sanderson:

“During the day, the women and children had been so scattered and dispersed that most of them were out of the way when the reinforcements arrived.”

D. Evidence for Loring Family Activity on April 19th

Clue 5: Accounts of Damages filed with the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, from Journals of Each Provincial Congress of Mass in 1775, p. 686.

Accounts of Damages.

The original accounts of the injuries done to individuals, not having been preserved on the files, the following returns were made, by order of the Legislature, in 1783.

Joseph Loring.

An account of the real and personal estate belonging to Joseph Loring, of Lexington, destroyed and carried off by the British troops in their ravages in said town, on the nineteenth of April, 1775, viz.:

A large mansion-house, and a barn seventy feet long, and a corn-house, all burnt, £350 0 0

Household goods and furniture, viz: eight good feather beds and bedding; a large quantity of pewter and brass ware; three cases of drawers; two mahogany tables; with the furniture of eight rooms, 230 0 0

All the wearing apparel of my family, consisting of nine persons, 60 0 0

All my husbandry tools and utensils, with a cider mill and press, with about five tons of hay, and two calves, . 72 0 0

About two hundred rods of stone wall thrown down, . 5 0 0

£3 in specie, 3 0 0

—————
£720 0 0

N. B. The above mentioned buildings were the first that were destroyed in the town, and near the ground where the brigade commanded by Lord Percy met the detachment retreating under Lt. Col. Smith. It does not appear that any of the militia were in or near these buildings, neither could they, in any way, either expose or retard the British troops in their operations: therefore, the destruction must be considered as brutal, barbarous, and wanton.

Joseph Loring.