A. Worksheet For Lydia Loring's Household

Clue 1: Family Genealogy/Vital Records

Head of Household

Father's Name _____ Born _____ Died _____

Mother's Name _____ Born _____ Died _____

Date of their Marriage _____ [until the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1752, the new year began on March 1st. Thus, dates in Jan. & Feb. note both years.]

Were both Lydia Loring's parents alive in 1775? How old was the couple and how long had they been married in the spring of 1775? _____ Consider their place in their life-cycle. What were likely their concerns? _____

Children in 1775

1. _____ Born _____ Died _____ Year of Marriage _____ At home in 1775? _____
2. _____ Born _____ Died _____ Year of Marriage _____ At home in 1775? _____
3. _____ Born _____ Died _____ Year of Marriage _____ At home in 1775? _____
4. _____ Born _____ Died _____ Year of Marriage _____ At home in 1775? _____
5. _____ Born _____ Died _____ Year of Marriage _____ At home in 1775? _____
6. _____ Born _____ Died _____ Year of Marriage _____ At home in 1775? _____
7. _____ Born _____ Died _____ Year of Marriage _____ At home in 1775? _____
8. _____ Born _____ Died _____ Year of Marriage _____ At home in 1775? _____
9. _____ Born _____ Died _____ Year of Marriage [unknown] home in 1775? _____

For how many sons did this family need to provide farm inheritances? _____ How many daughters needed marriage portions? _____ Given their ages in 1775, was this likely a family concern? Consider how they might have been pooling labor to accumulate cash for farms and household goods for dowries. Where did they eventually purchase new farms? _____

In-Laws and Grandchildren

When son Joseph Jr. married Betty Pollard in 1772, he brought her to live with his family. By 1775, who was a part of Joseph Jr.'s family: _____

Now, put it all together. Who were likely members of Lydia Loring's household in the spring of 1775?

1. _____ Age _____ Position _____
2. _____ Age _____ Position _____
3. _____ Age _____ Position _____
4. _____ Age _____ Position _____
5. _____ Age _____ Position _____
6. _____ Age _____ Position _____
7. _____ Age _____ Position _____
8. _____ Age _____ Position _____
9. _____ Age _____ Position _____

A. Worksheet For Lydia Loring's Household

Clue 2: Information on Family Occupations:

What occupations did the family follow:

Father, Joseph Sr. _____ and _____.

How could the father have been able to carry on two occupations? _____

Daughters:

Lydia: _____ and _____

Sarah: _____

Keziah _____

To what purpose(s) did the daughters likely put their earnings?

Finally,

Imagine this group of people sharing their lives, work, and physical space in the spring of 1775.

B. Worksheet for Lydia Loring's Home and Standard of Living

Clue 1: Claims for Damages

Joseph Loring's house was completely destroyed – burned to the ground -- by rampaging Regulars on their retreat through Lexington back to Boston. Loring appealed to the Provincial Congress for reparations. His claim provides information about the family home and farm.

1. How did Loring describe his house? _____

2. How many rooms did his house have? _____

3. A *"bed"* was considered the mattress (sometimes, but not always, placed on a *bedstead,* supported by a rope *cord*, and dressed with *bedding* of linens, blankets, coverlets, and curtains). Beds and their furnishings were usually the most expensive item of household furniture; most middling homes had one bed for each two to three people. The simplest bed mattresses were stuffed with fleck or straw; the most expensive with feathers. How many beds did the Lorings have, and for how many people? _____
How does Loring describe the family's bedding and what does this tell you?
_____

4. Loring specifically mentions several items of household furnishing that were considered luxury items. What were they? _____

5. Consider the details Loring includes about his farm:

a. what buildings are mentioned? _____ _____ _____

b. what produce is mentioned? _____ _____

c. what livestock is mentioned? _____

Given these details, what sort of farm do you think Loring owned? _____

Clue 2. Tax Assessment (remember: 1=high, 10=low)

1. Lydia's father is listed as "Dea. Joseph" which is short for "Deacon." What do you think this honorific reveals about his and the family's status? _____

2. In what wealth decile is Lydia's father, Joseph Loring? How then, does he compare to his townsmen?
_____

3. Joseph Loring has given an inheritance to one of his seven surviving children; six boys and girls await their own farms or marriage portions. How does this affect your estimation of his wealth?
_____

4.. At this point in his life, Loring has the labor of six grown children to supplement the earnings of his farm. What do you think are his concerns, and the concerns of his children in the spring of 1775? What effect would the potential (and eventually, *actual*) destruction of their property have on the family at this point in their lives?_____

5.. Finally, what did Joseph Loring and his children have to lose by putting themselves in the path of revolution? _____

C. Worksheet for the Loring Farm

Joseph Loring Sr. 1771 Valuation
Land Holdings

Joseph Loring, Sr.		Average Lexington Farmer	
Tillage	_____	Tillage	5.1
Pasture	_____	Pasture	12.5
Meadow	_____	Meadow	14.7
Upland	_____	Upland	5.2
Fresh	_____	Fresh	9.5
Total Acres "Improved"*	_____	Total Acres "Improved"	32.3
Total Acres Woodlot**	_____	Woodlot	32.3
TOTAL FARM ACREAGE	_____	TOTAL FARM ACREAGE	**64.6**

*Improved acres are those that have been cleared of trees and turned to productive farm use.
** Woodlot was not considered "improved" land and so was not taxed. However, as a general rule of thumb, we can assume that Lexington's colonial farmers held about as much "unimproved" woodlot as the total of their other acres. (Thus, the average farmer had 32 improved acres, and likely 32 unimproved or woodlot acres).

Livestock Holdings

Joseph Loring, Sr.		Average Lexington Farmer
Horses	_____	1.1
Oxen	_____	1.4
Cows	_____	5.1
Goats/Sheep	_____	3
Swine	_____	2.2
Cider (barrels)	_____	2 barrels/person/yr.

How did Joseph Loring's farm compare with the average farm in Lexington in 1771?

Note that there are *three* "Polls" (men eligible to vote) in the family. These are Lydia's father and two of her grown brothers. How does the need to eventually provide farms for these grown sons reshape your understanding of the family's wealth?

Now, using the info above and the items specified in the Widow's Portion, *imagine* this farm, the work required to make it productive, and the way it shaped Loring family life.

D. Worksheet for Loring Family Activity on April 19, 1775

Clue 1: Map of Lexington with Line of March

Find the Loring Family home (circled on map). Find the Lexington Common (triangle on map where battle occurred). This is a distance of about one quarter mile. The route of the march of the Regulars from Cambridge (to the right, or east) to Concord (to the left, or west) is highlighted in bold.

1. Consider the experience of the occupants of the Loring house, including Lydia, on the night of April 18th as rumors of approaching soldiers flew up and down that road. Knowing that they were in the path of battle, should it come, what do you think were their likely actions and emotions?

2. The occupants were close enough to the common to see, hear, and smell the events of early morning, April 19th. The women knew that their brother/son Jonathan (a member of the militia) was possibly involved in that confrontation. How do you think they have experienced the battle?

3. After the morning battle, the Lorings knew that the Redcoats would likely return from Concord along the same route in the afternoon. What do you think were their actions and emotions?

Clue 2: Depositon of Jonathan Loring

On the night of April 18th, as rumors spread of a coming assault, Jonathan Loring left his family to patrol the main road between Lexington and Concord. This deposition describes his experience. If he related this experience to his family, how do you think it shaped/reshaped their opinion of their king and his soldiers?

Clue 3: Hudson's Notes

1. What action did Lydia Loring take on the morning of April 19th, after the battle and before the return of the Regulars from Concord, and why?

2. This action reveals a great deal about Lydia's *expectation* of what the Regulars might do. In what light did she view her king's soldiers by this time? What threats did she imagine they posed? What might Lydia's fears reveal about Capt. Parker's decision to beat the call to arms upon the approach of the Regulars in the early hours of April 19th?

Clue 4: Deposition of Elijah Sanderson

This clue suggests what the women did after the Regulars exited the common for Concord. How do you imagine their hurried departure? What do you think they did, and how did they feel, as they prepared to flee? Imagine their thoughts and emotions as they awaited the return of the Regulars through Lexington.

Clue 5: Accounts of Damages

1. Read Joseph Loring's N.B. at the end of his account. The British halted their retreat just at the Loring House as they finally received reinforcements from Boston. For a brief while they held this ground, and during that time, they looted the Loring's household valuables. Upon retreat they burned the house & barn to the ground, killed livestock, and even tore down stone walls. Describe Joseph Loring's reacton.

2. Imagine the thoughts and emotions of Lydia and her sisters as they returned to their destroyed home. What might they have done in the late afternoon and evening of April 19th?

3. The destruction of civilian property and the killing of colonial subjects was a turning point in the road to revolution. How do Joseph and Lydia Loring's actions and words express the colonists' views of British authority?