

# HISTORY

OF THE

## TOWN OF LEXINGTON,

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS,

FROM 1728

FIRST SETTLEMENT TO 1868,

WITH A

### GENEALOGICAL REGISTER

OF LEXINGTON FAMILIES.

Genealogy

BY CHARLES HUDSON,

FRANK OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL, THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL, AND THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETIES.

974.4

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BOSTON:

WIGGIN & LUNT, PUBLISHERS,

221 VAUGHAN STREET,  
1869.

7. BENJAMIN<sup>4</sup> ESTABROOK (Joseph,<sup>3</sup> Joseph,<sup>2</sup> Joseph<sup>1</sup>), born 20 Dec. 1729, died 8 Mar. 1808, *g. s.*  
He was a coroner, justice of the peace, and in the campaign of 1776.  
He married 9 May 1757 HANNAH HUBBARD, born at Concord 18 Jan. 1735-36, died 12 Jan. 1808, *g. s.*, daughter of Lieut. Joseph and Rebecca (Bulkley).

(Children, all born at Lexington:

- i. JOSEPH, <sup>5</sup> b. 4 Mar. 1758; was ordained pastor at Athol 21 Nov. 1787; d. 30 Apr. 1830.
- ii. HARRIET, b. 30 Jan. 1760; m. 18 Apr. 1785 Dea. EBERHART LAWRENCE of Woburn; d. 24 Nov. 1835.
- iii. BENJAMIN, b. 23 May 1762; d. 1814.
- iv. SARAH, b. 15 Nov. 1764; m. (1) POLAR CROSBY; m. (2) NATHAN WARREN; moved to Brookline; died at Lexington 30 July 1814.
- v. MARIAN, or PATTY, b. 22 June, bapt. 14 June 1767; m. at Cambridge, 29 Sept. 1794, EDWARD WALDRON, Jr.; died at Sterling, Mar. 1823.
- vi. ANNA, b. 2 Nov. 1769; d. 1815.
- vii. NATHAN, bapt. 10 May 1772; m. SARAH SWINN, and moved to Athol.
- viii. SOLOMON, bapt. 18 Dec. 1774; m. LUCY DAVIS of New Ipswich, N. H., where he lived for a time; d. 11 Aug. 1825.
- ix. MILDRED, bapt. 8 June 1777; m. (intention dated 27 Dec. 1801) THOMAS STRANGE of Walham; d. 1844.

**BENJAMIN ESTABROOK**, a negro, living in the family of Benjamin Estabrook, was among those who stood the fire of British troops, on Lexington Common, on 19 April 1775, at which time he was wounded. He served afterwards in almost every campaign of the

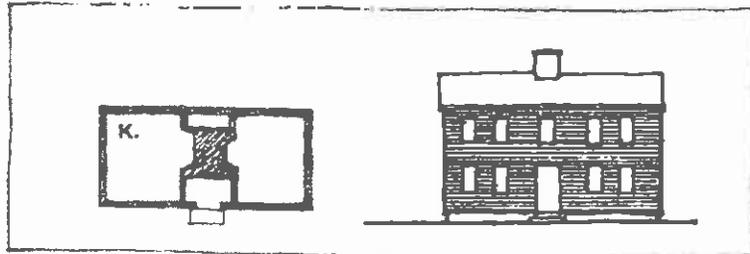
## A. Evidence of Household of Prince Estabrook

### Clue 2: Account of M.J. Canavan, 19<sup>th</sup> c. Lexington Historian:

“In 1693, the [inhabitants of Lexington] built a home for their pastor [Benjamin Estabrook’s grandfather] . . . 42 feet long and 18 feet wide. . . Mr. Benjamin Estabrook occupied it at the time of the battle.”

Explanation: with these dimensions, the house was likely a “hall and parlor” lay out, with two rooms on the first floor and two chambers above.

HALL-AND-PARLOR HOUSE  
( ONE - ROOM - DEEP )



### Clue 3: Excerpt from Probate Inventory of Benj. Estabrook, 1803.

#### Luxury Goods:

tall case clock  
another clock  
silver tankard  
1 silver tablespoon and 6 teaspoons  
Looking glass (mirror)  
Glass of waxwork (waxwork sconce, decorative)  
6 miniature portraits  
sampler  
7 delft plates  
glassware  
pewter plates and dishes  
brass kettles  
satin cloak  
silk gown  
silk gloves  
books

#### Furniture

11 chairs  
additional “old chairs”  
4 round tables  
chamber table (likely a lamp stand)  
3 chests  
2 chests of drawers  
desk  
3 bedsteads, cords, bed linens and mattresses

The rest of the items are kitchen and farm tools, farm produce and livestock

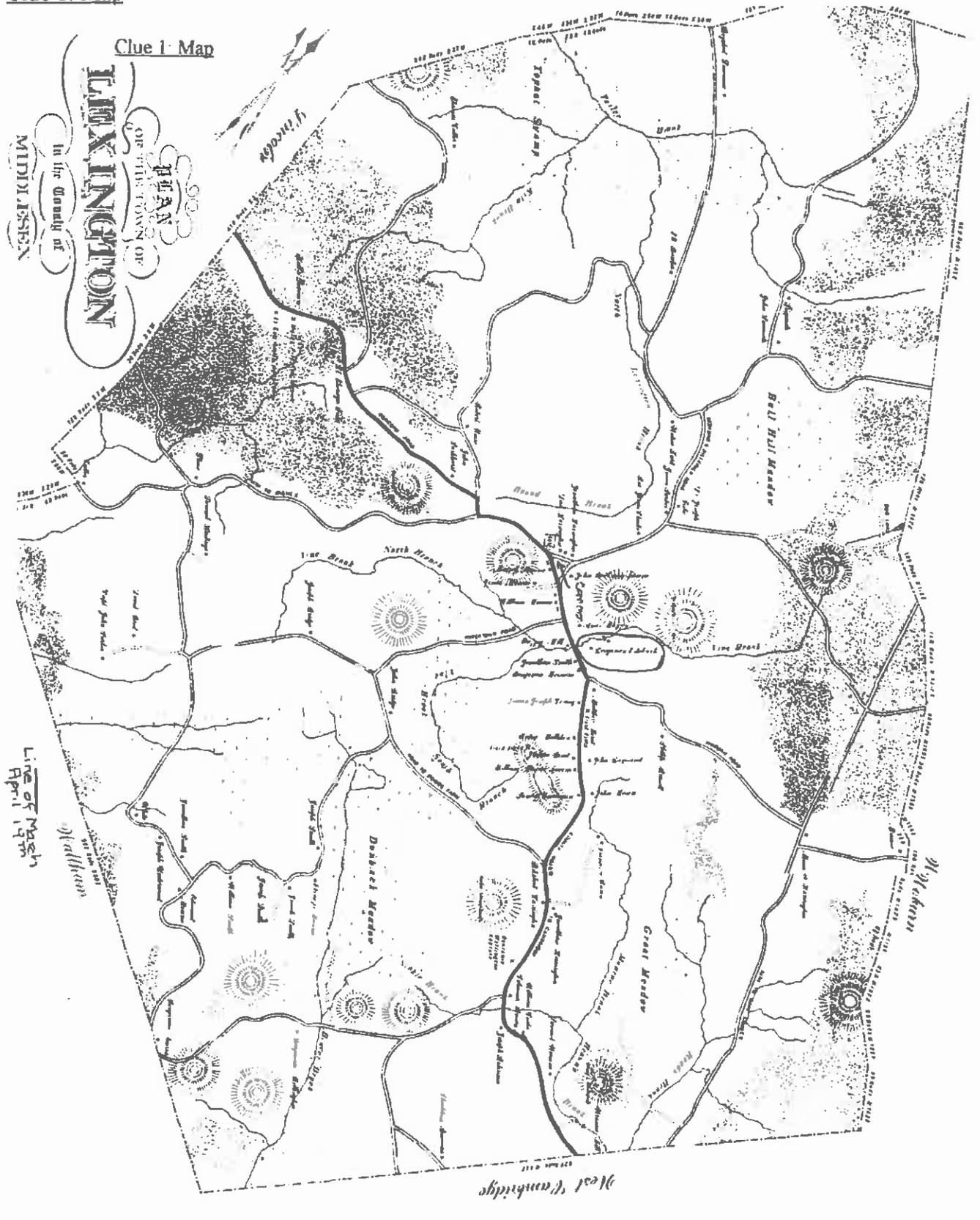
### Clue 4. Lexington Tax Assessment 1774

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 10<sup>th</sup> decile represents the poorest 10% of tax payers.

Benjamin Estabrook ranked in the first decile (highest). He was the fifth wealthiest man in all of Lexington in 1774.

B. Evidence for the Estabrook Farm and Prince's Work

Clue 1: Map



B. Evidence for the Estabrook Farm and Prince's Work

Clue 2: Lexington Tax Valuation of 1771

The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771

TOWN ID	INDIVIDUAL ID	NAME	TITLE	STATUS	POLLS RATEABLE	POLLS NOT RATEABLE	HOUSES AND SHOPS ADJOINING	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	BARRELS OF CIDER 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		LEXINGTON																						
0321	0101	BOWMAN, ISAAC					2.00	2	6	1.0														
0321	0102	MIRIAM, SAM'L					1.00	1	2	3.0														
0321	0103	MERIAM, JONAS + WILL'M					1.00	1	2	7.0														
0321	0104	HARRETT, ANOS					1.00	2	2	9.0														
0321	0105	FISK, EBEN'R + BENJ'A					1.00	2	4	9.0														
0321	0106	REED, MOSES					1.00	2	2	1.0														
0321	0107	WELSON, TABITHA					1.00	1	2	9.0														
0321	0108	SIMONDS, JOSHUA					1.00	1	2	9.0														
0321	0109	TRASK, ANNA					1.00	1	2	9.0														
0321	0110	GLEASON, JONAS					1.00	1	2	9.0														
0321	0111	TRASK, MARY					1.00	2	2	7.0														
0321	0112	LAWRENCE-JONATHAN-BENZ'L					1.00	2	2	7.0														
0321	0113	WIMAN, JAMES					1.00	1	2	3.0														
0321	0114	BURDOO, PHILIP					1.00	2	2	2.0														
0321	0115	MUZZY, JOHN + ISAAC					1.00	2	2	10.0														
0321	0116	REED, WILL'M III					1.00	2	2	2.0														
0321	0117	CUTLER, THOMAS					1.00	1	4	5.0														
0321	0118	STONE, WIDOW					1.00	1	4	5.0														
0321	0119	MUNROE, EBEN'R					1.00	2	2	5.0														
0321	0120	WINSHIP, ISAAC					1.00	1	1	2.0														
0321	0121	MUNROE, MARY					1.00	1	1	2.0														
0321	0122	REED, ROBERT					1.00	1	2	1.0														
0321	0123	FOX, THOMAS					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0124	REED, HAMMOND					1.00	1	4	10.0														
0321	0125	FISK, JOSEPH					1.00	2	2	5.0														
0321	0126	LOCK, JOSEPH + STEPHEN					1.00	2	2	4.0														
0321	0127	MUNROE, WILL'M					1.00	2	2	2.0														
0321	0128	MENJAM, BENJ'A-BENJ'A JR					1.00	1	2	5.0														
0321	0129	RAYMOND, JOHN					1.00	1	1	5.0														
0321	0130	MASON, JOHN					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0131	ESTABROOK, BENJ'A					1.00	1	4	8.0														
0321	0132	BRIDGE, DAVID					1.00	1	2	3.0														
0321	0133	EATON, JOSEPH					1.00	1	2	3.0														
0321	0201	PARKER, THAUDEUS					1.00	1	4	4.0														
0321	0202	LOCK, JOSEPH JR					1.00	1	4	1.0														
0321	0203	MOOR, ROBERT					1.00	1	2	5.0														
0321	0204	HERRINGTON, DANIEL					1.00	1	2	1.0														
0321	0205	HARRINGTON, WID					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0206	VILES, JOEL					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0207	MUNROE, MARRITT + NATHAN					1.00	1	1	5.0														
0321	0208	MUNROE, REBEKAH					1.00	1	1	2.0														
0321	0209	BRIDGE, MARY					1.00	1	1	2.0														
0321	0210	CUTLER, SOLOMON					1.00	1	1	4.0														
0321	0211	MULLIKEN, WID					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0212	BRIDGE, JOHN + JOHN JR					1.00	2	2	1.0														
0321	0213	BRIDGE, JOSEPH-JOSEPH JR					1.00	1	4	7.0														
0321	0214	SMITH, JONATHAN JR					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0215	WHITE, JOSEPH + EBENEZR					1.00	2	2	8.0														
0321	0216	PIEPCE, JONAS + SOLOMON					1.00	2	2	5.0														
0321	0217	SMITH, JONATHAN					1.00	1	1	5.0														
0321	0218	ADAMS, JOHN + GORGE					1.00	1	1	5.0														
0321	0219	STEARNS, BENJ'A					1.00	1	1	5.0														
0321	0220	SMITH, WILL'M					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0221	UNGERMUND, JOSEPH					1.00	1	4	7.0														
0321	0222	SMITH, EBENEZR-EBENEZR JR					1.00	1	2	7.0														
0321	0223	SMITH, JOSEPH					1.00	1	1	5.0														
0321	0224	MELLINGTON, BENJ'A					1.00	1	4	7.0														
0321	0225	MELLINGTON, TIMOTHY					1.00	1	4	7.0														
0321	0226	HASTINGS, SAM'L + WID					1.00	1	2	5.0														
0321	0227	PARKER, THOMAS					1.00	1	2	7.0														
0321	0228	BOWMAN, THAD'E					1.00	2	5	7.0														
0321	0229	DUCKMAN, JOHN					1.00	1	2	5.0														
0321	0230	STOVELL, DAVID					1.00	1	2	5.0														
0321	0231	SMITH, JOSIAH					1.00	1	1	3.0														
0321	0232	GIX, ISAAC					1.00	1	1	3.0														
0321	0233	BLUGGET, JOSIAH					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0234	FISK, DAVID					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0235	PIEHCL, BENJ					1.00	1	1	1.0														
0321	0302	MUNROE, JEDEDIAH					1.00	2	2	4.0														
0321	0303	SMITH, MENJ + BENJ JR					1.00	2	2	7.0														
0321	0304	SMITH, ALJON					1.00	1	1	7.0														
0321	0305	ESTABROOK, MENEH'M					1.00	1	1	7.0														
0321	0306	HOLLINGS, J																						

## B. Evidence for the Estabrook Farm and Prince's Work

### Clue 3: United States Revolutionary War Rolls and Compiled Indices, National Archives

Entry for payment of enlistment bounty by the town of Lexington to Prince Estabrook for a 3-year term. Described as:

Prince Estabrook, negro

Age: 40

Stature: 5ft, 6in

Complexion: black

Hair: black

Eyes: black

**Occupation: Farmer**

Engaged for: Lexington

### Clue 4: Excerpt from Probate Inventory for Benjamin Estabrook, 1803

Description of farm tools:

Plow

Plowshare (the metal blade of a plow that slices the earth

Cart (for carrying manure, crops, etc)

Timber chain (for dragging timber after logging)

Grindstone (for sharpening blades)

3 Forks

Shovel

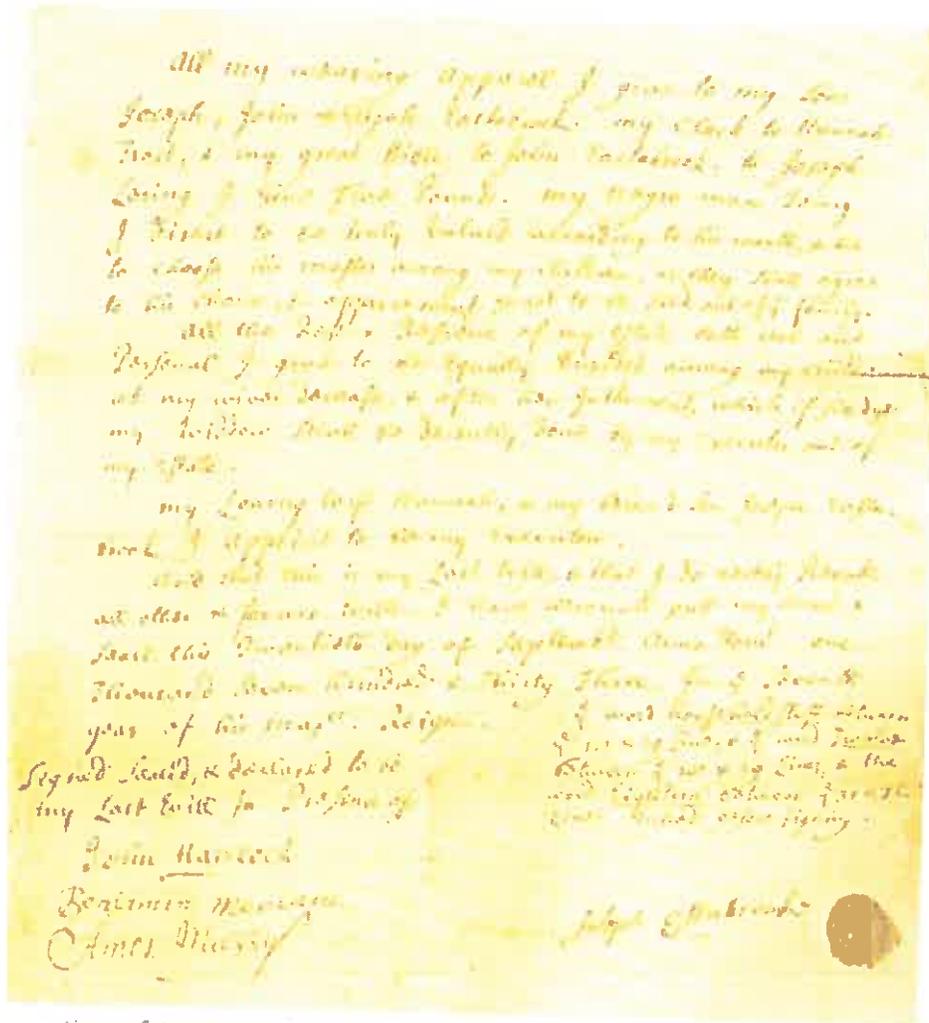
Traces and Hames (tackle for hitching draft animals)

Ox yoke

Scythe and Snath (for haying)

C. Evidence on Prince Estabrook, Slave

Clue 1: Excerpt from the Will of Joseph Estabrook, grandfather of Benjamin Estabrook, 1733



section of Joseph Estabrook II's will

Joseph Estabrook, d. 1733, was the grandfather of Benjamin Estabrook, owner of Prince. This is an excerpt from his will regarding the disposition of his slave, "Tony."

"My negro slave Tony, I direct to be duly valued according to his worth, and he to choose his master among my children, as they shall agree to his choice and apprizement, and not to be sold out of the family."

If Tony chose Joseph III as his master, then he would have been a member of Benjamin's family as a child. If, as historians suspect, Tony was the father of Prince, then Prince and Benjamin likely grew up together in the same household.

### C. Evidence on Prince Estabrook, Slave

Clue 2: *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* [This is a 17 vol. compilation of those from Massachusetts who served in the Revolutionary War, published between 1896 and 1908, by the Secretary of the Commonwealth]

On July 28, 1780, Prince Estabrook entered six months service in the regiment of Col. John Greaton. His listing includes the following:

Age: 39  
Stature 5'11"  
Complexion negro  
Engaged for: Lexington

Clue 3: Account of 19<sup>th</sup> c. Boylston historian M.J. Canavan based on 19<sup>th</sup> c oral tradition:  
[M.J. Canavan, Vol. 1, p. 124, 125 and Vol. 3, p. 432. ]

“Benjamin Estabrook was a shrewd trader and he had a negro, Prince, who was a good second. Tales have come down of how they played into each other’s hand in making a deal. . . One day Ben was trying to sell a rather poor horse to a back country man and Prince was seen walking around with tears in his eyes, calling out, ‘Oh, don’t sell that horse, Massa. That’s just the best horse we ever had.’”

Clue 4: *Lexington Valuation of 1775* (Cary Memorial Library, Reel 2, Vol. II)

“Invoice and valuation of both real and personal estate of the town of Lexington as taken in the year 1775 “: Benjamin Estabrook assessed for one slave.

Clue 5: U.S. Population Census of 1790:

The household of Benjamin Estabrook is listed as including one nonwhite freeman.

Clue 6: *Lexington Tax Records – 1790s*

Prince Estabrook’s name appears on several Lexington tax rolls in the 1790s, usually next to that of another form slave, Job Lock. The names of both black freemen are separated and placed at the end of the tax list.

Clue 7. Gravestone of Prince Estabrook, dated 1830, in the Pauper’s Section of the Unitarian Universalist Church Cemetery.[Prince had followed Benjamin Estabrook’s son Nathan to Ashby after Benjamin died in 1803].

Clue 1: Roster of Men in Capt. John Parker's Militia Who Mustered April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775

Names of the Seventy-Seven Men of Captain John Parker's Company  
who were in the early morning engagement on Lexington Common, April 19, 1775

OFFICERS

CAPTAIN JOHN PARKER  
LIEUTENANT WILLIAM TIDD  
ENSIGN ROBERT MUNROE, *killed*  
ENSIGN JOSEPH SIMONDS  
CLERK DANIEL HARRINGTON  
ORDERLY SERGT. WILLIAM MUNROE

CORPORAL JOEL VILES  
CORPORAL SAMUEL SANDERSON  
CORPORAL JOHN MUNROE  
CORPORAL EBENEZER PARKER  
DRUMMER WILLIAM DIAMOND  
FIFER JONATHAN HARRINGTON

PRIVATES

EBENEZER BOWMAN  
JOHN BRIDGE, JR.  
JAMES BROWN  
JOHN BROWN, *killed*  
SOLOMON BROWN  
JOHN CHANDLER  
JOHN CHANDLER, JR.  
JOSEPH COMEE, *wounded*  
ROBERT DOUGLASS, of Captain Belknap's  
Woburn Company, enlisted in Captain  
Parker's company, April 19  
ISAAC DURANT  
PRINCE ESTABROOK, colored, *wounded*  
NATHANIEL FARMER, *wounded*  
ISAAC GREEN  
WILLIAM GRIMES  
CALER HARRINGTON, *killed*  
JOHN HARRINGTON  
JONATHAN HARRINGTON, "Jr." *killed* (son  
of Henry, but known as a "junior" at  
that time)  
MOSES HARRINGTON, 3RD  
MOSES HARRINGTON, JR.  
THADDEUS HARRINGTON  
THOMAS HARRINGTON  
ISAAC HASTINGS  
SAMUEL HASTINGS  
SAMUEL HADLEY, *killed*  
THOMAS HADLEY, JR.  
JOHN HOSMER  
MICAH HAGAR  
AMOS LOCK  
BENJAMIN LOCK  
EBENEZER LOCK  
REUBEN LOCK  
ABNER MEAD  
EBENEZER MUNROE, JR. (son of Jonas,  
but known as a "junior" at that time),  
*wounded*

JEDEDIAH MUNROE, *wounded*  
JOHN MUNROE, JR.  
NATHAN MUNROE  
WILLIAM MUNROE, 3RD  
NATHANIEL MULLIKEN  
ISAAC MUZZY, *killed*  
JOHN MUZZY  
JONAS PARKER, *killed*  
JONAS PARKER, JR.  
Nathaniel Parkhurst  
SOLOMON PIERCE, *wounded*  
ASAHEL PORTER, *killed*. Unarmed (had  
been taken prisoner, released but shot  
as he was running away)  
JOSHUA REED  
JOSHUA REED, JR.  
NATHAN REED  
JOHN ROBBINS, *wounded*  
PHILLIP RUSSELL  
BENJAMIN SAMPSON  
JOSHUA SIMONDS  
JOHN SMITH  
PHINEAS SMITH  
SIMEON SNOW  
PHINEAS STEARNS  
JONAS STONE, JR.  
JOHN TIDD, *wounded*  
SAMUEL TIDD  
-JOSEPH UNDERWOOD  
BENJAMIN WELLINGTON  
ENOCH WELLINGTON  
JOHN WINSHIP  
THOMAS WINSHIP, *wounded*  
SYLVANUS WOOD, of Captain Walker's  
Woburn Company, enlisted in Captain  
Parker's company, April 19  
JAMES WYMAN  
77 in all not counting Porter, who was  
not in line.

The foregoing list was compiled by Mr. Frank Warren Coburn of Lexington, Mass., as given in his book, "The Battle of April 19, 1775," published in 1922 by the LEXINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

## D. Prince Estabrook – Evidence for April 19th

### Clue 2: Deposition of 14 Members of the Lexington Militia, Given April 25, 1775

*In May of 1775, the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts took depositions (testimony) from participants in the events of April 19<sup>th</sup>, to determine what happened and who was at fault. This is an edited excerpt of Deposition No. 8:*

We, [lists 14 members of the militia from Lexington], all of lawful age, do testify and say that on the morning of the nineteenth of April instant, about one or two o'clock in the morning, being informed that a number of the Regular Officers had been riding up and down the road the evening and night preceding, and that some of the inhabitants as they were passing had been insulted by the officers and stopped by them; and being also informed that the Regular Troops were on their march from Boston . . . to take the [military] stores at Concord, we met on the Company parade [common, also used as the training ground]; and after the Company had collected we were ordered by Capt John Parker . . . to disperse for the present, and to be ready to attend the beat of the drum [call to arms]; and accordingly the Company went into houses near the place of parade. We further testify and say, that about five o'clock in the morning, we attended the beat of our drum, and were formed on the parade. We were faced towards the Regulars, then marching up to us, and some of our Company were coming to the parade with their backs towards the [British] Troops and others on the parade began to disperse, when the Regulars fired on the company before a gun was fired by any of our Company on them. They killed eight of our Company, and wounded several, and continued their fire until we had all made our escape.

### Clue 3: *The Fate of the Blood-Thirsty Oppressors*, a sermon delivered by Rev. Jonas Clark at Lexington on the first anniversary of the battle, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1776.

“The persons killed, in the morning, when hostilities were first commenced, were, Messieurs Robert Munro, Jonas Parker, Samuel Hadley, Jonathan Harrington, jun., Isaac Muzzy, Caleb Harrington and John Brown, of Lexington . . . Wounded, Jedediah Munro, Thomas Winship, Nathaniel Farmer, John Robbins, Solomon Peirce, John Tidd, Joseph Comee, Ebenezer Munro, jun., and Prince, a Negro, of Lexington . . .”

### Clue 4: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Lexington Historian M.J. Canavan [Vol. 3, p. 471]

Canavan cites Estabrook family lore that Benjamin's son Joseph, then 17, witnessed the battle and then helped some of the wounded, including Prince, to the Estabrook home, where they were treated by Lexington Dr. Fiske.

### Clue 5: *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (Vol. V., pp. 155, 157,

389, and 392 [This is a 17 vol. compilation of those who served in the war, published between 1896 and 1908.] Prince's master, Benjamin Estbrook was paid nine pounds for five months' service in a unit that formed in the summer of 1775. [It is unlikely that the 46-year-old head of a family of eight young children performed this service, especially during the peak summer farming months.]

### Clue 6: U.S. Revolutionary War Rolls and Compiled Indices, National Archives

On June 11, 1781 the town of Lexington paid a bounty *directly to Prince* for agreeing to serve in the Continental Army for a 3-year term. He was listed as black farmer from Lexington. [Slavery was officially abolished in Massachusetts in 1783].