

A. Evidence for Sanderson Household

Using the clues based on the following primary sources, use the worksheet to reconstruct the Mary Sanderson's household in 1775.

Clue 1:

Lexington Town Clerk's Record Book, Warning Out of Non-Resident Poor, 1768:

"Samuel Sanderson came from Waltham to reside in Lexington, Feb. 1768. Entered by order of the Selectmen." [Note that Waltham is adjacent to Lexington.]

Explanation: In colonial Massachusetts, each town had to pay for the support of its own poor, but only of *its own poor*, that is, people who had been born or had established tax-paying residence in a town. Thus, if a person came to live in the town who was dependent upon someone else (i.e., an apprentice, a servant, or anyone who did not have a means of livelihood), the head of the household where the immigrant lived was required to report his/her presence to the selectmen. The selectmen then recorded the arrival of the poor person and the town from which he came. The person was "warned out" – that is, notified that should he become poor, he would be sent back to the town from which he came for their support.

Clue 2:

"Genealogy," in Charles Hudson, *History of Lexington*, Vol. II, p. 605. (Hudson's genealogy is based on **vital records** and other evidence culled from town church, and other primary sources.)

SANDERSON

Samuel Sanderson was born at Waltham (Mass.) 8 Sept. 1748, died at Lancaster (Mass.) 24 July 1803. . .

He married 27 Oct. 1772 MARY MUNROE, born 10 Oct. 1748 in Lexington, died 15 Oct. 1852, daughter of William and Rebecca.

Children, first three baptized at Lexington, iv. at Lancaster.

- i. Amos, bapt. 17 July 1774, date of death unknown, sometime after 1776
- ii. Samuel, bapt. 2 Feb. 1777, died at Waltham 18 July 1829
- iii. Mary, bapt. 26 Dec. 1779, died at Salem 18 August 1821
- iv. Isaac, bapt. 4 Aug. 1782, resided at East Cambridge, date of death unknown
- v. Nancy, born 1784, date of death unknown
- vi. Lydia, born 1778, died 17 Oct. 1831

Clue 3:

Deposition of Elijah Sanderson, given in 1825 [brother of Samuel, who lived with him in 1775], regarding the Battle of Lexington.

"I, Elijah Sanderson, of Salem, in the county of Essex, cabinetmaker, aged 73, on oath depose as follows: In the spring of 1775, I resided at Lexington and had resided there then more than a year. . . . I lived then on the main road, about three quarters of a mile east of the meeting house [this is the home of Samuel, his older brother]."

[Continued]

A. Evidence for Sanderson Household

Clue 4:

Records of Military Services

Reports that Samuel Sanderson of Lexington was paid for the military service of Isaac Durrant, first campaign of 8 months, 1775. [Durrant was born in Littleton in 1757].

Explanation: Heads of households were usually paid for the work or service that their dependents provided to others.

Clue 5:

Reminiscence of Mary Munroe Sanderson, as related by George O. Smith, April 12, 1887.

Lexington Historical Society Proceedings, Vol. 1, p. 61:

“On that morning, on the alarm being sounded and assurance given that the British were *really coming*, Mr. Sanderson gathered his little family consisting of his wife Mary, their infant child and a little girl who lived with them; and taking such articles as they could hurriedly collect and carry in their arms, by the light of lantern he piloted their way to a refuge, the home of her father in the new Scotland [the name for a remote section of Lexington settled by the Munroe clan in the 17th century and maintaining Scottish dialect.]

B. Evidence for Sanderson House and Livelihood

Clue 1: 1771 Lexington Tax Valuation

Samuel Sanderson, though a resident of Lexington in 1771, was not included on the tax valuation because he owned no real estate (land or buildings) or taxable personal estate (goods, livestock, etc.)

Clue 2: Reminiscence of Mary Sanderson, as told by George O. Smith, Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, 1887 (Vol. 1, p. 60) [In his boyhood, Smith knew Mary Sanderson well, and questioned her frequently about the events of April 19th.]

“On the 22nd of October, 1772, when 24 years of age, she married Samuel Sanderson, of Waltham, a carpenter, or as the old lady in her later years terms it, ‘a jiner’; and they went to live in the house now standing . . . next southeast of the old ‘Munroe Tavern,’ her husband using the basement for a workshop. . . In those days, the carpenter or joiner was the coffin-maker; and Mrs. Sanderson related that many a night she had held the candle while her husband stained the ‘narrow house’ of some departed neighbor or townsman.”

Clue 3: House Description

Reminiscence of M.J. Canavan, a respected nineteenth-century Lexington historian, who lived when the Sanderson house was still standing.

“To the east of the Munroe Tavern is the Sanderson place. In 1775, this long, low house was occupied by Samuel Sanderson and his wife, Mary Munroe Sanderson, to whom he was married in 1772.” [Explanation: a “long low house” was likely a one-story house, possibly with an ell added to the side.] Canavan notes elsewhere that his deed research indicates a house first recorded on this site in a 1765 deed.

Clue 4: Land Deed

Deed for the sale of Samuel Sanderson’s property in 1783

Edited: In 1783, Samuel Sanderson in the town of Lexington, County of Middlesex, joiner, sold to Samuel Downing, wheelwright, once piece of property with a dwelling house, shop, and barn and one and one half acres. (A previous deed for conveyance of this same property mentioned “an orchard in the west part of the piece of land and a wall beyond it which was a boundary line and in the north east part was a garden.”)

Clue 5: 1774 Lexington Tax Rate

Samuel Sanderson – 7th decile (1=high)

Elijah Sanderson – 9th decile (1=high)

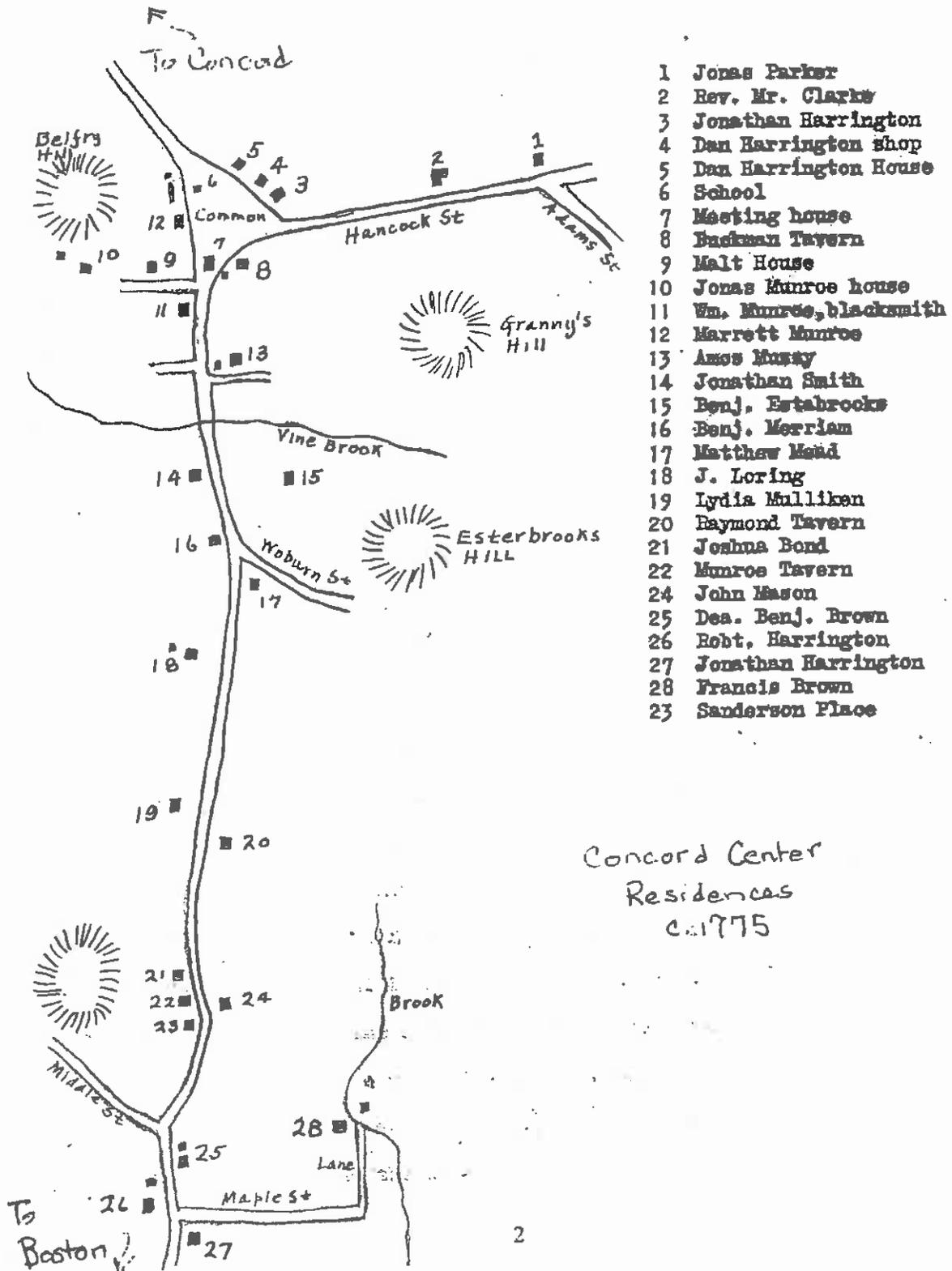
Explanation: In the tax rates, those who own property of any sort (real or personal) are assessed and taxed based the value of their property. We can compare the relative economic status of the taxpaying people of Lexington by listing all taxpayers accorded to their assessed tax, and then dividing the 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.

[Continued]

B. Evidence for Sanderson House and Livelihood

Clue 6: Map of Residences in Lexington Center, c. 1775

[Distance from Lexington Common to Sanderson Place was 1.0 miles]



Clue 1: Capt. Parker's Company Roster, 1774-5

ONLY 77 OF THESE WERE IN THE MORNING ENGAGEMENT.¹

<i>Officers.</i>			
<i>Captain</i> , John Parker	<i>Corporal</i> , Joel Viles	Isaac Hastings	Isaac Muzzy
<i>Lieutenant</i> , William Tidd	<i>Corporal</i> , Samuel Sanderson	Samuel Hastings	John Muzzy
<i>Ensign</i> , Robert Munroe	<i>Corporal</i> , John Munroe	Samuel Hastings, Jr.	Thaddeus Muzzy
<i>Ensign</i> , Joseph Simonds	<i>Corporal</i> , Ebenezer Parker	Benjamin Hadley	Jonas Parker
<i>Clerk</i> , Daniel Harrington	<i>Drummer</i> , William Diamond	Ebenezer Hadley	Jonas Parker, Jr.
<i>Orderly Sgt.</i> , William Munroe	<i>Fifer</i> , Jonathan Harrington	Samuel Hadley	Thaddeus Parker
<i>Sergeant</i> , Francis Brown	(son of Jonathan)	Thomas Hadley, Jr.	John Parkhurst
<i>Sergeant</i> , Ebenezer White		John Hosmer	Nathaniel Parkhurst
		Micah Hagar	Solomon Pierce
		Amos Lock	Asahel Porter
		Benjamin Lock	Israel Porter
		Ebenezer Lock	John Raymond
		Reuben Lock	Hammond Reed
		Joseph Loring	Joshua Reed
		Jonathan Loring	Joshua Reed, Jr.
		Amos Marrett	Joshiah Reed
		Daniel Mason	Nathan Reed
		Joseph Mason	Robert Reed
		Abner Mead	Thaddeus Reed
		Benjamin Merriam	William Reed
		William Merriam	John Robbins
		Asa Munroe	Thomas Robbins
		Ebenezer Munroe, son of	Joseph Robinson
		Robert,	Phillip Russell
		Ebenezer Munroe, then called	Benjamin Sampson
		"Jr.," but son of Joos.	Elijah Sanderson
		Edmund Munroe	Ebenezer Simonds
		George Munroe	Joshua Simonds
		Jedediah Munroe	Abraham Smith
		John Munroe, Jr.	David Smith
		John Munroe, 2d	Ebenezer Smith
		Nathan Munroe	Jesse Smith
		Phileas Munroe	John Smith
		Stephea Munroe	Jonathan Smith
		William Munroe, Jr.	Josiah Smith
		William Munroe, 3d	Joseph Smith
		Nathaniel Mulliken	Phineas Smith
		Amos Muzzy	Samuel Smith

<i>Privates.</i>	
Isaac Blodgett	Prince Estabrook
Ebenezer Bowman	Nathaniel Farmer
Francis Bowman	Nathan Fessenden
John Bridge, Jr.	Thomas Fessenden
Joseph Bridge	Dr. Joseph Fisk
Jamea Brown	Isaac Green
John Brown	William Grimes
Solomon Brown	Caleb Harrington
John Buckman	Jeremiah Harrington
Eli Burdoo	John Harrington
John Chandler	Jonathan Harrington, then
John Chandler, Jr.	called "Jr.," but son of
Abijah Child	Henry.
Joseph Comee	Jonathan Harrington, 3d
Thomas Cutler	Moses Harrington
Robert Douglass of Captain	Moses Harrington, 3d
Belknap's Woburn company.	Moses Harrington, Jr.
(In Captain Parker's com-	Thaddeus Harrington
pany, April 19.)	Thomas Harrington
Isaac Durant	William Harrington

In the Massachusetts Bay Colony, all men between 16 and 30 were required to serve in their town's militia to provide for local defense. A subset of those men, who were expected to be ready at a minute's notice to respond to emergencies, participated in regular drills and training. In the Autumn of 1774, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress (NOT authorized by the King or Parliament) recommended the formation of Minutemen Companies to defend against aggression by the King's soldiers

In Lexington, this company, under the leadership of Capt. John Parker, trained throughout the autumn and the warm winter of 1774-5, drilling on the common. Estimates of between 120 and 140 men participated in this regular military preparedness. Capt. Parker also oversaw the purchase of a drum and supplies.

Attached is a list of the men who trained that autumn.

- Thaddeus Smith
- William Smith
- Simeon Snow
- Asahel Stearns
- Phineas Stearns
- Jonas Stone
- Jonas Stone, Jr.
- Benjamin Tidd
- John Tidd
- Samuel Tidd
- Joseph Underwood
- Benjamin Wellington
- Enoch Wellington
- Timothy Wellington
- John Williams
- John Winship
- Samuel Winship
- Thomas Winship
- Sylvanus Wood of Captain
- Walker's Woburn company.
- (In Captain Parker's com-
- pany, April 19.)
- James Wyman
- Nathan Wyman

C. Evidence for Sanderson Men's Experience, April 19th, 1775.

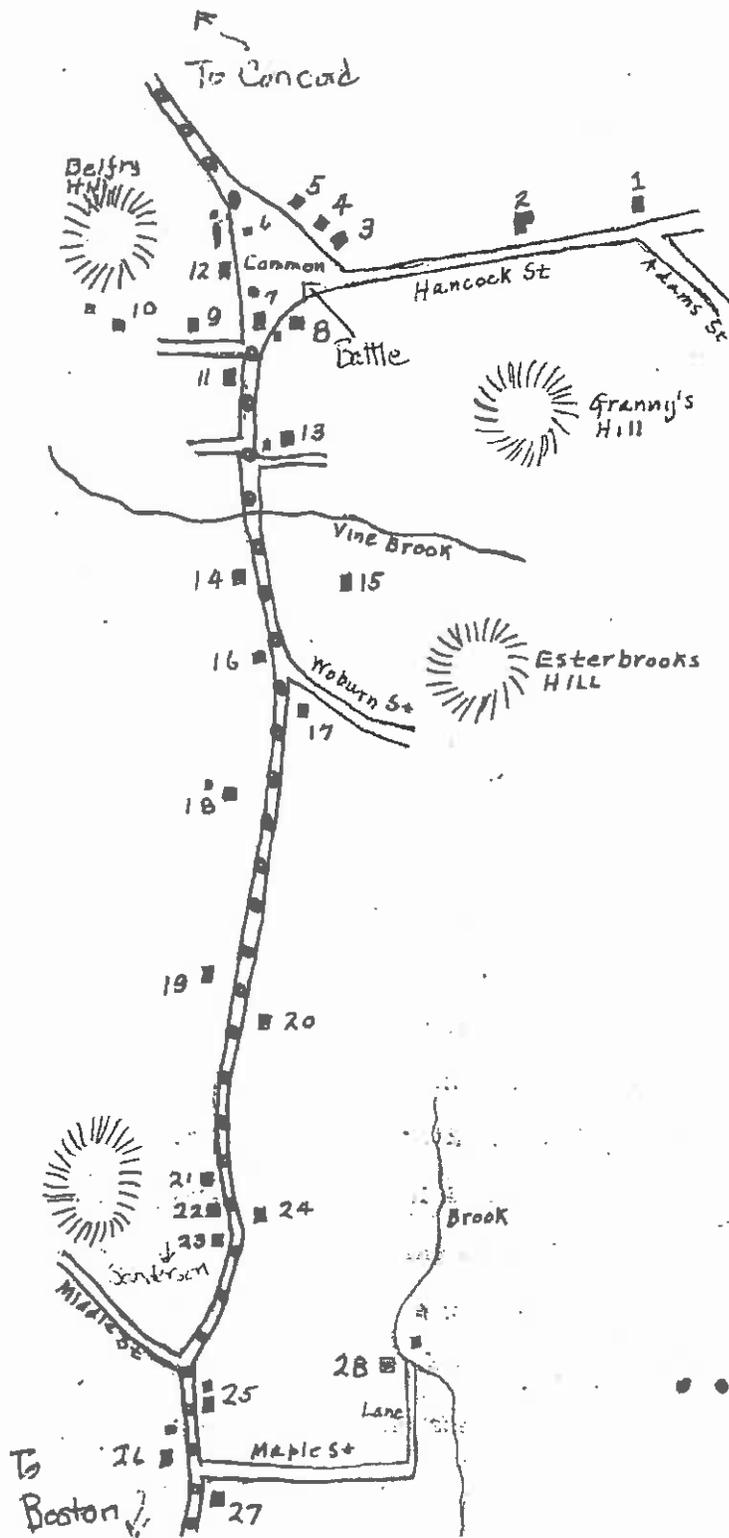
Clue 2: Deposition of Elijah Sanderson, 1825

In 1825, marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle, a historian Elias Phinney took depositions (testimonies) from surviving participants in the battle:

I, Elijah Sanderson . . . on oath depose as follows: In the spring of 1775, I resided at Lexington . . . In the spring of that year, the officers of the British regular troops in Boston were frequently making excursions, in small parties, into the country, and often in the early part of the day, in pleasant weather, passed through Lexington, and usually were seen returning before evening. I lived then on the main road . . .

On the evening of the 18th of 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 . . .

Clue 3: Line of March of British Regulars, to and from Concord, April 19, 1775



- 1 Jonas Parker
- 2 Rev. Mr. Clarke
- 3 Jonathan Harrington
- 4 Dan Harrington shop
- 5 Dan Harrington House
- 6 School
- 7 Meeting house
- 8 Buckman Tavern
- 9 Malt House
- 10 Jonas Munroe house
- 11 Wm. Munroe, blacksmith
- 12 Marrett Munroe
- 13 Amos Musay
- 14 Jonathan Smith
- 15 Benj. Estabrooks
- 16 Benj. Merriam
- 17 Matthew Mead
- 18 J. Loring
- 19 Lydia Mulliken
- 20 Raymond Tavern
- 21 Joshua Bond
- 22 Munroe Tavern
- 24 John Mason
- 25 Dea. Benj. Brown
- 26 Robt. Harrington
- 27 Jonathan Harrington
- 28 Francis Brown
- 23 Sanderson Place

MAP OF
LEXINGTON CENTER,
1775

• • • Line of March, British Regulars
To and From Concord

C. Evidence for Sanderson Men's Experience, April 19th, 1775.

Clue 4: Deposition of Samuel Sanderson, 1775

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

We, [lists 14 men from Lexington, including Samuel Sanderson], 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.

D. Evidence of Mary Munroe Sanderson's Experience

Clue 1: 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 (brother of Samuel & resident in Mary's household):

"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."

Clue 2: Reminiscence of George O. Smith to the Lexington Historical Society, 1887. Smith knew and conversed regularly with Mary Sanderson about the events of April 19th when he was a youth and she an old woman.

"On the alarm being sounded [about 1am April 19th], Mr. Sanderson gathered his little family . . . and taking such articles as they could hurriedly collect and carry in their arms, by the light of a lantern he piloted their way to a refuge, the home of her father in New Scotland [an area of Lexington settled by the Scottish Munroe clan]. Coming within sight of lights of her father's home, he left his treasure in safety, hurriedly returning to his home, made all as safe as possible against the depredations of the enemy, and repaired to the rendezvous of Capt. Parker's Company.

After the British had retreated to Boston, on returning to his home, Mr. Sanderson found his house sacked, many articles destroyed, and their cow, a part of Mrs. Sanderson's marriage portion or dower, killed, and a wounded British soldier [left for them to care for].

Toward evening, Mr. Sanderson went for his wife; and on learning of the depredations of the British soldiers, she was greatly exasperated, declaring she would not return to harbor and take care of the British soldier. She asked her husband why he did not 'knock him in the head,' saying she 'would not have him in the house' and that she 'would do nothing for him - he might starve.' But the town authorities said he must be taken care of and he remained. The soldier begged for tea; but she insisted he should have none, saying, 'What should I give him tea for? He shall have none.' [The Munroes kept their Scottish accent.] And she gave him none till her father told her, if she had any, to give it to him, and he would make it up to her from his own stock.'

So plainly was Mrs. Sanderson's dislike of the wounded man shown that he refused food or drink till first tasted by some of the family, evidently fearing that he might be poisoned.

Clue 3: Reminiscence of George O. Smith regarding Mary Munroe

"Her earlier feelings of hatred for her country's enemies continued in her old age, and I remember well her excited manner and indignant tones whenever she spoke of them or of their doings. 'The *Satanish* critters,' she said, 'stole and destroyed everything in the house, and didn't leave rags enough to dress the wounds of their own man. When over one hundred years of age, Mrs. Sanderson described with minuteness many articles of her wardrobe and household goods which were destroyed or missing, rarely failing to mention the cow, and that she was part of her marriage portion.

Many incidents were related by Mrs. Sanderson connected with the early history and struggle of the colonies for freedom, which had they been recorded, would be of priceless value now."

[Continued]

D. Evidence of Mary Munroe Sanderson's Experience

Clue 4: Gravestone Epitaph of Mary Munroe Sanderson

Mary Munroe
Relict [widow] of
Samuel Sanderson
Born in Lexington
Oct. 10, 1748
Died in East Lexington
Oct. 15, 1852
Aged 104 ^{yrs}
A witness of the first revolutionary
conflict, she recounted its trying
scenes to the last.