

— Williamsburg, Virginia, Committee of Correspondence —
Announcement of the Battle of Lexington & Concord (19 April 1775), 29 April 1775

W I L L I A M S B U R G, S A T U R D A Y, *April 29, 1775.*

LA T E last night an express arrived from Philadelphia, with the following melancholy advices from the province of Connecticut, forwarded to the committee of correspondence in this city.

The blow (so much dreaded by our noble friend LORD CHATHAM) is now struck, a great deal of blood spilt, and much more, it is likely, than the present advices communicate. That great man, in his speech upon the necessity of withdrawing the troops from Boston (delivered in the House of Lords the 20th of January last) says: "Perhaps, even whilst I am now speaking, the decisive blow is struck, which may involve millions in the consequences; and, believe me, the very first drop of blood that is spilled will not be a wound easily skinned over; it will be irritable vulnus, a wound of that rancorous and festering kind, that, in all probability, will mortify the whole body."

P H I L A D E L P H I A, *April 24, 1775.*

An express arrived at five o'clock this evening, by which we have the following advices, viz.

W A T E R T O W N, Wednesday morning, near 10 o'clock.

To all F R I E N D S of A M E R I C A N L I B E R T Y.

BE it known, that this morning, before break of day, a brigade, consisting of about 1000 or 1200 men, landed at Phipps farm, at Cambridge, and marched to Lexington, where they found a company of our colony militia in arms, upon whom they fired, without any provocation, and killed six men, and wounded four others. By an express from Boston, we find another brigade is now on its march from Boston, supposed to consist of 1000 men. The bearer, Trial Briffet, is charged to alarm the country, quite to Connecticut; and all persons are desired to furnish him with fresh horses, as they may be needed. I have spoken with several, who have seen the dead and wounded. Pray let the Delegates from this colony to Connecticut see this; they know Col. Foster, one of the Delegates.

J. PALMER, one of the committee.

A true copy from the original, by order of the committee of correspondent of Worcester, April 1775.

Attested and forwarded by the committees of Brookline, Norwich, New London, Lyme, Saybrook, Killingworth, E. Guilford, Guilford, Brandford, Newhaven.

F A I R F I E L D, S A T U R D A Y, April 22, 8 o'clock.

Since the above written, we have received the following, by a second express.

T H U R S D A Y, 3 o'clock after noon.

S I R.

IAM this moment informed, by an express from Woodstock, taken from the mouth of the express at two of the clock after noon, that the contest between the first brigade that marched to Concord was still continuing this morning at the town of Lexington, to which said brigade had retreated; that another brigade, said to be the second mentioned in the letter of this morning, had landed with a quantity of artillery at the place where the first did. The Provincials were determined to prevent the two brigades from joining their strength, if possible, and remain in great need of succour.

N. B. The Regulars, when in Concord, burnt the courthouse, took two pieces of cannon, which they rendered useless, and began to take up Concord bridge; on which Capt. ----- (who, with many on both sides, were soon killed) made an attack upon the King's troops, on which they retreated to Lexington.

I am, &c.

E. B. WILLIAMS.

To Col. O. B. JOHNSON, CANTERBURY.

P. S. Mr. M'Farlane of Plainfield, merchant, has just returned from Boston, by way of Providence, who conversed with an express from Lexington, who farther informs, that 4000 of our troops had surrounded the first brigade above mentioned, who were on a hill in Lexington; that the action continued, and there were about 50 of our men killed, and 150 of the Regulars, as near as they could determine, when the express came away. It will be expedient for every man to go, who is fit and willing.

The above is a true copy, as received by express from Newhaven, and attested by the committee of correspondence from town to town.

Attest,

	JONATHAN STURGIS,	} Committee.
	ANDREW ROWLAND,	
	THADDIUS BURR,	
	JOB BARTRAM,	

The above was received yesterday at 4 o'clock by the committee of New York, and forwarded to Philadelphia by ISAAC LOW, chairman of the committee at New York.

THIS morning the committee of correspondence met, and have determined to send expresses to the southward.----It is now full time for us all to be on our guard, and to prepare ourselves against every contingency. The sword is now drawn, and God knows when it will be sheathed.

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