

**PROCEEDINGS OF LEXINGTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITH  
SOME OF THE PAPERS READ  
AT ITS MEETINGS, VOL. IV**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649213443

Proceedings of Lexington Historical Society with some of the papers read at its meetings, Vol. IV  
by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VARIOUS**

**PROCEEDINGS OF LEXINGTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITH  
SOME OF THE PAPERS READ  
AT ITS MEETINGS, VOL. IV**





FIRST PARK CHURCH

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
LEXINGTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WITH SOME OF THE PAPERS  
READ AT ITS MEETINGS

VOL. IV

[1905-1910]

LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY  
1912

21

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
THE EARLY SCHOOLS OF LEXINGTON. <i>Alonzo E. Locke</i> . . .	5
THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON IN ENGLAND. <i>Rev. Carlton A. Staples</i> . . . . .	14
THE ANTI-MASONIC MOVEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN LEXINGTON. <i>Albert W. Bryant</i> . . . . .	24
THE EXISTENCE AND THE EXTINCTION OF SLAVERY IN MASSACHUSETTS. <i>Rev. Carlton A. Staples</i> . . . . .	48
DIARY AND LETTERS OF CAIRA ROBBINS, 1794-1884. <i>Miss Ellen A. Stone</i> . . . . .	61
THE REV. JONAS CLARKE, MINISTER AND PATRIOT. <i>Rev. Charles F. Carter</i> . . . . .	82
EXTRACTS FROM LETTER OF MISS BETTY CLARKE, WRITTEN IN 1841 . . . . .	91
SAMUEL ADAMS. <i>James P. Munroe</i> . . . . .	94
ARCHITECTURAL YESTERDAYS IN LEXINGTON. <i>Dr. Fred S. Piper</i> . . . . .	114
HISTORICAL EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD. <i>Alexander Starbuck</i> . . . . .	127
SOME MEMORIES OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN LEXINGTON. <i>Mrs. Alice D. Goodwin</i> . . . . .	158
GROWTH OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH. <i>Mrs. Esther T. Barrett</i> . . . . .	164
OBITUARIES:	
HANNAH McLEAN GREELEY . . . . .	166
ELIZABETH W. HARRINGTON . . . . .	169
CORNELIUS WELLINGTON . . . . .	171
JAMES SMITH MUNROE . . . . .	174
PROCEEDINGS . . . . .	176
GIFTS . . . . .	185
MEMBERS . . . . .	186
NECROLOGY . . . . .	192





## THE EARLY SCHOOLS OF LEXINGTON.

BY ALONZO E. LOCKE. READ DECEMBER 10, 1889.

As the old town records have been about the only source from which I could draw in making up this paper, it necessarily becomes, to a great extent, simply a collection of dates and names; but, as I cannot find that the numerous entries appearing on the records concerning the early schools have ever been brought together in a concise manner, I have considered it well to put them in the form of this paper for future reference.

Starting with the building of the first school-house in 1714, I have come down to 1804, at which time the school-houses were located in and served much the same territory as the schools of to-day. It is exceedingly interesting to note the changes in the character and number of the schools, and it is certainly creditable to the town that it was ever ready to sustain as good schools as the times demanded and it could consistently afford.

The first record we find concerning a school or school-house for our town was made November 2, 1714, when the town "Voted to *Erect* a schoolhouse 28 ft. long, 20 ft. wide, and 8 or 9 foot stud and that it be placed on land purchased of Muzzey,"—referring to the Common. In this connection I would state that the land for the Common was purchased at two different times. In 1711 one and one-half acres were bought, and in 1721 another acre was secured, giving the present area of our Common.

The timber for this first school-house was taken from the town's lands,—the ministerial lands, probably. The building was placed near the site of the monument, evidently; for later on, in the town reports, this part of the

Common is spoken of as School-house Hill. Nothing is said in the records as to the completion of the school-house, but it was voted on August 29, 1715, "That the Town will have a school and to chose a committee to secure a teacher that will meet the law."

But not till the next year did the town vote to provide money for the school. May 19, 1716, the following comprehensive vote was passed: "Voted £15 for school. Also that all scholars that come to school paie 2 pence per week for reading, 3 pence for writing and siphering and what that amounts to at the end of the year so much of the £15 to be deducted and stopped in the Town Treasury whilst the next year and that a committee provide a school master as the law directs."

With such spelling and such manner of expression, surely the town clerk himself should have contributed his pence and attempted the mastery of spelling.

It does not appear that the school was opened until about November 1, 1716; for the selectmen on March 18, 1717, resolved to pay Captain Joseph Estabrook £15 for five months, ending the last of March, 1717.

Joseph Estabrook, Lexington's first schoolmaster, was a brother of Rev. Benjamin Estabrook, Lexington's first minister. They were sons of Rev. Joseph Estabrook of Concord.

In May, 1717, the selectmen voted to establish female schools,—that is, for girls and young children,—one in the north and one in the south part of the town. At this time, it must be remembered, there were few houses in the village.

May, 1718, the town voted that five female schools be set up, one at the centre, the others as convenient.

There was but one school building,—that in the village,—and in the town records this is spoken of as "the school-house." The district schools were held at different houses,

the people of the district furnishing the room. A Mrs. Clapp taught in the school-house in the summer of 1718, but Captain Estabrook had taught during the previous winter.

May 17, 1719, the town "voted to have a school kept in town the full year, a moving school, to be kept a quarter of a year in a place"; but the next town meeting rescinded the vote, and school was kept the whole year in the school-house.

The selectmen at this time agreed with Sir John Hancock to keep the school for £40.

On September 12, 1720, it was voted to have a grammar school five months in the year. Captain Estabrook again keeps the school, as he did also the next year, 1721. Nothing is said of the schools in the outskirts of the town.

On May 17, 1722, £25 was voted for schools, and female schools were kept in two places, but none in the village.

August 17, 1723, £25 for grammar school in school-house.

May 14, 1724, £25 was voted for a grammar school at the school-house, each scholar to pay four pence per week. Captain Estabrook was still teaching, but in last quarter of 1724 John Sparhawk's name appears.

Although the town voted in 1724 to have a grammar school, it is evident that the selectmen did not carry out the vote, for the town is complained of to the Court for not having a grammar school.

About this time John Bowman kept the school. He lived on the old road leading from Arlington Heights to Watertown Street, the road from East Lexington to Waverley (the old house is now standing).<sup>\*</sup> Later he married a daughter of Parson Hancock, and became a minister and a very prominent man of Dorchester.

<sup>\*</sup> It was destroyed by fire April 1, 1825.