Transcription of A Bloody Butchery

This is a transcription of the 1775 broadside A Bloody Butchery by the British Troops: or, the Runaway Fight of the Regulars. Editorial additions and explanations are given in brackets. This transcription can also be downloaded as a PDF.

[At the very top of the broadside are two rows of coffins, each one with a name over it. The names on the top row, from left to right, are: Rob. Munroe, Jonas Parker, Samuel Hadley, J. Harrington, C. Harrington, Isaac Muzzy, John Brown, John Raymond, Nat. Wyman, Jed Munroe, Jason Russell, Jabez Wyman, Jas. Winship, Deacon Haynes, — Reed, Capt. Miles, Capt. Wilson, Capt. Davis, —Horsmer, J. Howard, Azael Porter. The names on the bottom row, left to right, are: Dan. Thompson, Jam Miller, W. Barber’s son, Isaac Gardner, John Hicks, M Richardson, W. Massey, Hen. Putnam, Ab Ramsdell, D. Townsend, Will Flint, Thomas Hadley, Henry Jacobs, Sam Cook, Ebe. Goldthwait, Geo Southwick, Ben. Daland, Jot. Webb, Per Putnam, Benj. Pierce, Ru. Kennison.]

A BLOODY BUTCHERY,
BY THE
BRITISH TROOPS:
OR, THE
RUNAWAY FIGHT OF THE REGULARS.

Being the PARTICULARS of the VICTORIOUS BATTLE fought at and near CONCORD, situated Twenty Miles from BOSTON, in the Province of the MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, in NEW ENGLAND, between Two Thousand REGULAR TROOPS, belonging to his BRITANNIC MAJESTY, and a few Hundred PROVINCIAL TROOPS, belonging to the Province of MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, which lasted from Sun-rise to Sun-set on the Nineteenth of APRIL, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-five, when it was decided greatly in favor of the latter. Part of which has never before been printed. These Particulars are now published in this Form, at the Request of the Friends to the Deceased WORTHIES, who died gloriously fighting in the CAUSE OF LIBERTY and their COUNTRY; and it is their Desire that every Housholder in AMERICA, who are sincere Well-wishers to the AMERICAN COLONIES, may be possessed of the same, either to frame and glass, or otherwise to preserve in their Houses, not only as a Token of Gratitude to the memory of the DECEASED FORTY PERSONS, but as perpetual Memorial of that important Event, on which perhaps, may depend the future FREEDOM and GREATNESS of the COMMON-WEALTH of AMERICA. To which is annexed, A FUNERAL ELEGY on those who were slain in the Battle. (The Second Edition corrected, with some Additions.)

From E. Russell’s Salem Gazette, or Newbury and Marblehead Advertiser, published on Friday, April 21, 1775.
ON Tuesday evening the eighteenth instant, a body of soldiers under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, to the amount of about eight hundred men, embarked from Barton’s-Point, in Boston, about eleven o’clock, crossed Charles River, landed at Phip’s-Farm, in Cambridge, and marched immediately up to Lexington, near twelve miles from Boston; at sunrise they observing between thirty and forty inhabitants exercising near the meeting-house, the Commanding-Officer ordered them to lay down their arms and disperse, which not being directly complied with, he “damned them for a pack of rebels,” ordered his men to fire upon them, and killed eight men on the spot, besides wounding several more. The army then proceeded to Concord, drew up on the parade, near the meeting-house, during which time the inhabitants from the neighboring towns collected and took possession of the adjacent hills; about eleven o’clock firing began on both sides, which lasted near an hour, when the regular troops began to retreat, the provincials closely pursuing them to a bridge at a small distance, which the regulars took up as they passed; they then renewed the fire, and some were slain on both sides; but the regulars still retreated, and the provincials pursued them down to Lexington, where the regulars, about three o’clock in the afternoon, met with a reinforcement of about twelve hundred men commanded by Earl Percy, with two brass field pieces; they again renewed the attack upon the provincials, but soon thought proper [missing] to retreat towards their [missing] provincials pursued them into Charlestown, where they arrived about [missing] immediately an advantageous [missing] Bunker’s-Hill, about a mile [missing] the provincials now discontinued the pursuit. The loss on either [missing] not been able to ascertain, but it is [missing] about one hundred regulars [killed and?] fifty wounded, among which were [missing] officers: Two officers and a number of soldiers were taken prisoners. On the [side?] of the province, we hear that thirty-five were slain and several wounded. The above is as particular an account of the engagement, as can at this time be [collected?] in the present confused state of the province.

We hear an officer and his servant, with two pair of pistols, were yesterday taken and secured by our people, at Roxbury, on their way to Castle-William.

SALEM, April 25

LAST Wednesday, the nineteenth of April, the troops of his Britannic Majesty commenced hostilities upon the people of this province, attended with circumstances of cruelty not less brutal than what our venerable Ancestors received from the vilest savages of the wilderness. The particulars relative to this interesting event, by which we are involved in all the horrors of a civil war, we have endeavored to collect as well as the present confused state of affairs will admit.

On Tuesday evening a detachment from the army, consisting, it is said, of eight or nine hundred men, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, embarked at the bottom of the common at Boston, on board a number of boats, and landed at Phips’s-Farm, a little way up Charles-River, from whence they proceeded with silence and expedition, on their way to Concord, about eighteen miles from Boston. The people were soon alarmed, and began to assemble, in several towns, before day-light, in order to watch the motion of the troops. At Lexington, six miles below Concord, a company of militia, of about one hundred men, mustered near the meeting-house; the troops came in sight of them just before sun-rise; and running within a few rods of them, the Commanding-Officer accosted the militia in words to this effect: —“Disperse you rebels—Damn
you, throw down your arms and disperse.” Upon which the troops huzz.’d, and immediately one or two officers discharged their pistols, which were instantaneously followed by the firing of four or five of the soldiers, and then there seemed to be a general discharge from the whole body: Eight of our men were killed, and nine wounded. In a few minutes after this action the enemy renewed their march for Concord; at which place they destroyed several carriages, carriage-wheels, and about twenty barrels of flour, all belonging to the province. Here about one hundred men going toward a bridge, of which the enemy were in possession, the latter fired, and killed two of our men, who then returned the fire, and obliged the enemy to retreat back to Lexington, where they met Lord Percy, with a large reinforcement, with two pieces of cannon. The enemy now having a body of about eighteen hundred men made a halt, picked up many of their dead, and took care of their wounded. At Menotomy, a few of our men, belonging to the detachment from Lynn-End, attacked a party of about twelve of the enemy, (carrying stores and provisions to the troops) killed two of them, wounded several, took six prisoners, shot five horses, and took possession of their arms, stores, provisions, &c. without any loss on our side; among those who were killed was a Lieutenant, who went with the provisions for his recreation, and to view the country, the officer of the guard who generally attends on such occasions being only a sergeant.

The enemy having halted one or two hours at Lexington, found it necessary to make a second retreat, carrying with them many of their dead and wounded, who they put in chaises and on horses that they found standing in the road. They continued their retreat from Lexington to Charlestown with great precipitation; and notwithstanding their field pieces, our people continued the pursuit, firing at them until they got to Charlestown-Neck, (which they reached a little after sunset) over which the enemy passed, proceeded up Bunker’s-Hill, and soon afterwards went into the town, under the protection of the Somerset man of war of seventy-four guns.

In Lexington, the enemy set fire to Deacon Joseph Loring’s house and barn, Mrs. Mulliken’s house and shop, and Mr. Joshua Bond’s house and shop, which were all consumed. They also set fire to several other houses, but our people extinguished the flames. They pillaged almost every house they passed by, breaking and destroying doors, windows, glasses, &c. and carrying off cloathing and other valuable effects. It appeared to be their design to burn and destroy all before them; and nothing but our vigorous pursuit prevented their infernal purposes from being put into execution. But the savage barbarity exercised upon the bodies of our unfortunate brethren who fell, is almost incredible: Not content with shooting down the unarmed, aged, and infirm, they disregarded the cries of the wounded, killing them without mercy, and mangling their bodies in the most shocking manner.

We have the pleasure to say, that not withstanding the highest provocations given by the enemy, not one instance of cruelty, that we have heard of, was committed by our victorious militia; but, listening to the merciful dictates of the christian religion, they “breathed higher sentiment of humanity.”

By an account of the loss of the enemy, said to have come from an officer of one of the men of war, it appears that sixty-three of the regulars, and forty-nine marines were killed, and one hundred and [missing] were wounded: In all two hundred and fifteen. Lieut. Gould of the [missing] regiment who is wounded, and Lieut. Potter, of the marines, and about [missing] soldiers are prisoners.
Mr. James Howard and one of the [missing] discharged their pieces at the same instant, and each killed the other.

The public most sincerely sympathizes [missing] friends and relations of our deceased brethren, who gloriously sacrificed [missing] in fighting for the liberties of their country. By the [missing] the forces of an ungrateful tyrant [missing] present generation who will [missing].

The above account [missing]. We can only add, that the town of [missing] brave Countrymen, who have flown to our [missing] them assistance in the extirpation of our [missing].

On the nineteenth of [missing] the British troops, at Menotomy, as [missing] his country’s rights, the good, the pious, and friendly Mr. Daniel Townsend, of Lynn-End. He was a constant and ready friend to the poor and afflicted, a good adviser in case of difficulty, and an able, mild, and sincere reprover of those who were out of the way. In short, he was a friend to his country, a blessing to society, and an ornament to the church, of which he was a member. He has left an amiable consort, and five young children, to bewail the loss.

Lie, valiant Townsend, in the peaceful shades.—We trust
Immortal honors mingle with thy dust.
What! tho’ thy body struggled in the gore;
So did thy Savior’s body long before!
And as he rais’d his own, by power divine;
So the same power shall also quicken thine,
And in eternal glory, mayst thou shine.

On Thursday the twentieth past, the bodies of eleven of the unfortunate persons who fell in the battle, were collected together and buried at Medford.

And on Friday the bodies of Messieurs Henry Jacobs, Samuel Cook, Ebenezer Goldthwait, George Southwick, Benjamin Daland, jun. Jonathan Webb, and Perley Putnam, of Danvers, who were likewise slain fighting in the GLORIOUS CAUSE OF LIBERTY AND THEIR COUNTRY, on the nineteenth of April, were respectfully interred among their friends in the different parishes belonging to that town, their corpses being attended to the place of internment by two companies of minute-men from this place, and a large concourse of people from this and the neighboring towns; previous to their internment, an excellent and well-adapted prayer was delivered by the Reverend Mr. Holt, of that place.

Same day the remains of Messieurs Azael Porter and Daniel Thompson, of Woburn, who also fell victims to tyranny, were decently interred at that place, attended to the grave by a multitude of persons who assembled on the occasion from that and the neighboring towns. Before they were interred, a very suitable sermon and prayer was delivered by the Reverend Mr. Sherman.

Lieutenant Joseph Knight, of the fifth regiment died at Boston next day after the engagement, of his wounds he received [missing] same. He was greatly regretted, being esteemed one of the best officers [missing] the King’s troops.

Lieut. Hull, of the regulars, died of his wounds on Wednesday last at the provincial hospital; His remains were next day conveyed to Charlestown, attended by a company of provincials, and several officers of distinction, and there delivered to the order of General Gage. Twenty-three wounded soldiers lately died at the Castle.
Lieutenant Hawkshaw was wounded in the cheek, and it is tho’t will not recover. Lieutenant Gore, was wounded in the arm: About 12 other officers are wounded.

We can assure the public, from the best authority, that our brethren, of all the colonies which we can yet have heard from, are firm and unshaken in their attachment to the common cause of America; and that they are now ready, with their lives and fortunes, to assist us in defeating the cruel designs of our implacable enemies.

We have received no particulars of the transactions between General Gage and the inhabitants of Boston. It is certain that the people have delivered up their arms; very few of them have, however, been permitted to leave the town, notwithstanding the promise of the General.

The following is a List of the Provincials who were KILLED and WOUNDED.

**BELONGING TO LEXINGTON.**

**KILLED.**

1 * Mr. ROBERT MUNROE, 
2 * Mr. JONAS PARKER, 
3 * Mr. SAMUEL HADLEY, 
4 * Mr. JONATHAN HARRINGTON, 
5 * Mr. CALEB HARRINGTON, 
6 * Mr. ISAAC MUZZY, 
7 * Mr. JOHN BROWN, 
8 Mr. JOHN RAYMOND, 
9 Mr. NATHANIEL WYMAN, 
10 JEDIDIAH MUNROE.

**WOUNDED.**

1 Mr. JOHN ROBBINS, 
2 Mr. JOHN TIDD, 
3 Mr. SOLOMON PIERCE, 
4 Mr. THOMAS WINSHIP, 
5 Mr. NATHAN FARMER, 
6 Mr. JOSEPH COMEE, 
7 Mr. EBENEZER MONROE, 
8 Mr. FRANCIS BROWN, 
9 PRINCE EASTERBROOKS 
(a Negro Man.)

**MENOTOMY.**

**KILLED.**

1 Mr. JASON RUSSELL, 
11 Mr. JASON RUSSELL, 
12 Mr. JABEZ WYMAN, 
13 JASON [missing]

MISSING, (supposed to be on board one of the men of war)

Mr. SAMUEL FROST, Mr. SETH RUSSELL,

**SUDBURY.**

KILLED.—— 14 DEACON HAYNES, 15 Mr. — [missing] 

**CONCORD.**

KILLED.

16 Captain JAMES MILES. 

**BEDFORD.**

KILLED.

17 [Captain?] JONATHAN VILLSON. 

**ACTON.**

KILLED.

18 Captain DAVIS, 19 Mr. [missing] HORSMER, 20 Mr. JAMES [missing] 

**WOBURN.**

KILLED.
21 Mr. Azael Porter, 22 Mr. Daniel Thompson
WOUNDED.
10 Mr. George Reed, 11 Mr. Jacob Bacon, 12 Mr. — Johnson.
CHARLESTOWN. — KILLED.
23 Mr. James Miller, 24 Captain William Barber’s Son, aged 14.
BROOKLINE.
KILLED.
25 Isaac Gardiner, Esquire.
CAMBRIDGE.
KILLED.
26 Mr. John Hicks, 27 Mr. Moses Richardson, 28 Mr. William Massey.
MEDFORD.
KILLED. ——— 29 Mr. Henry Putnam.
WOUNDED.
13 Mr. William Polly.
LYNN.
KILLED.
30 Mr. Abednego Ramsdell, 32 William Flint,
31 Daniel Townsend, 33 Thomas Hadley.
WOUNDED.
14 Mr. Joshua Felt, 15 Mr. Timothy Munroe.
MISSING, (on board the Admiral’s ship.) Mr. Joshua Breed.
DANVERS.
KILLED.
34 Mr. Henry Jacobs, 38 Mr. Benjamin Daland, jun.
35 Mr. Samuel Cook, 39 Mr. Jotham Webb,
36 Mr. Ebenezer Goldthwait, 40 Mr. Perley Putnam.
37. Mr. George Southwick,
WOUNDED.
16 Mr. Nathan Putnam, 17 Mr. Dennis Wallis.
SALEM.
KILLED.
41 Mr. Benjamin Pierce.
BEVERLY.
KILLED.
42 Reuben Kennison.
WOUNDED.
18 Mr. Samuel Woodbury, 19 Mr. Nath Cleaves, 20 Mr. Wm. Dodge, 3d
FRAMINGHAM.
WOUNDED. ——— 21 Mr. — Hemmenway.
BEDFORD.
WOUNDED. ——— 22 Mr. John Lane.
Those distinguished with this mark [*] were killed by the first fire of the enemy.

SALEM, N. E. Printed and Sold by E. RUSSELL, at his Printing Office, removed next TO JOHN TURNER, Esq.; in the Main-street.— At the same Place may also be had, Poetical Remarks on the BLOODY TRAGEDY of the Nineteenth of April, 1775.— Likewise, several small Pieces on the Times, among which is the most remarkable Dream that ever was dreamed in New-England. By, S. Clarke.

A FUNERAL ELEGY, TO THE IMMORTAL MEMORY Of those WORTHIES, who were slain in the Battle of CONCORD, April 19, 1775.

AID me ye nine! my muse assist,
A sad tale to relate,
When such a number of brave men
Met their unhappy fate.
At Lexington they met their foe
Completely all equip’d,
Their guns and swords made glit’ring show,
But their base scheme was nipp’d.

Americans, go drop a tear
Where your slain brethren lay!
O! mourn and sympathize for them!
O! weep this very day!
What shall we say to this loud call
From the Almighty sent;
It surely bids both great and small
Seek God’s face and repent.
Words can’t express the ghastly scene
That here presents to view,
When forty-two countrymen
Sure bid their friends adieu.
To think how awful it must seem,
To hear widows relent
Their husbands and their children
Who to the grave was sent.
The tender babes, nay those unborn,
O! dismal cruel death!
To snatch their fondest parents dear,
And leave them thus bereft.
O! *Lexington*, your loss is great!
Alas! too great to tell,
But justice bids me to relate
What to you has befell.
Ten of your hardy, bravest sons,
Some in their prime did fall;
May we no more hear noise of guns
To terrify us all.
Let’s not forget the *Danvers* race
So late in battle slain,
Their courage and their valor shown
Upon the crimson’d plain.
Sev’n of your youthful sprightly sons
In the fierce fight were slain,
O! may your loss be all made up,
And prove a lasting gain.
*Cambridge* and *Medford*’s loss is great,
Though not like *Acton*’s town,
Where three fierce military sons
Met their untimely doom.
*Menotomy* and *Charlestown* met
A sore and heavy stroke,
In losing five your brave townsmen
Who fell by tyrant’s yoke.
Unhappy *Lynn* and *Beverly*,
Your loss I do bemoan,
Five your brave sons in dust doth lye,
Who late were in their bloom.
*Bedford*, *Woburn*, *Sudbury*, all,
Have suffer’d most severe,
You miss five of your choicest chore,
On them let’s drop a tear.
*Concord* your Captain’s fate rehearse,
His loss is felt severe,
Come, brethren, join with me in verse,
His mem’ry hence revere.
O ’Squire *Gardiner*’s death we feel,
And sympathizing mourn,
Let’s drop a tear when it we tell,
And view his hapless urn.
We sore regret poor *Pierce*’s death,
A stroke to *Salem*’s town,
Where tears did flow from ev’ry brow,
When the sad tidings come.
The groans of wounded, dying men,
Would melt the stoutest soul,
O! how it strikes thro’ ev’ry vein,
My flesh and blood runs cold.
May all prepare to meet their fate
At God’s tribunal bar,
And may war’s terrible alarm
For death us now prepare.
Your country calls you far and wide,
America’s sons ’wake,
Your helmet, buckler, and [your?] spear,
The Lord’s own arm now take.
His shield will keep us from all harm,
Tho’ thousands gainst us rise,
His buckler we must sure put on,
If we would win the prize.