

The Battle after the Battle A Special Exhibit at Buckman Tavern

Where did America's War for Independence really begin? For two centuries, two towns have battled over bragging rights. A controversy was ignited during Lafayette's farewell tour of America when he visited Lexington and then Concord on September 2nd, 1824. The spark that ignited the controversy was Samuel Hoar's speech in Concord in which he said, "*You now behold the spot on which the first forcible resistance was made*". This controversy escalated to open warfare between the towns involving accusations, depositions, and even a sitting president of the United States.

"The Battle after the Battle" takes a light-hearted look at two centuries of "local bickerings and petty jealousies" between the two towns, complete with bold graphics, historic artifacts, audio content and hands-on displays. Visitors are invited to vote for themselves whether Lexington or Concord has the better claim as the place the American Revolution really began.

Rarely seen artifacts on display include:

- The 1799 slate tablet commemorating the fight on Lexington Common
- The forty-foot long banner that greeted Marquis de Lafayette in 1824
- Stereoscope cards visitors can use to get a 3-D view of the 1875 Centennial
- The original Patriot's Day proclamation issued by Governor Frederic Greenhalge in 1894, along with the quill pen he used to sign it

"This brings up the great civil war now raging between the two towns... When Concord announced an oration, Lexington met it with another, and so both went on with processions, balls, unveiling of statutes."

-New York Times, April 17, 1875

As proof that the dispute between the two towns is largely a thing of the past, The Lexington Historical Society is delighted to be mounting the exhibit in partnership with the Concord Museum, which is putting on a simultaneous exhibit entitled "The Shot Heard Round the World: April 19, 1775."

WELCOME FRIEND OF AMERICA TO THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY