

*A Field Guide to*

*The* LEXINGTON  
  
*Training Band*



The Lexington Minute Men  
P.O. Box 1775  
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## Mission Statement

The Lexington Training Band's mission is to educate the public and its membership by recreating, in as historically accurate a manner as possible, the uniform and history of this militia company, and to portray the life and times of its soldiers and civilians.

The members of the Lexington Training Band are dedicated to continued research, preserving the heritage, disseminating information, and educating its membership and the public about this company.

### **This is accomplished by:**

- Recreating the clothing and kit to a historically accurate standard.
- Recreating the historical structure of the company.
- Conducting training programs.
- Holding educational reenactments.
- Conducting educational programs in museums, historic sites, and schools.
- Effective management on the Company level.
- Conducting continuous research on the Lexington Training Band, Gerrish's Regiment and Lt. Colonel Loammi Baldwin's Regiment.

### **The Company will do everything in its power to aid and assist its members. Some of its specific duties include:**

- Sharing information and continuing research.
- Sharing material resources.
- Coordinating mutually supporting activities.
- Coordinating consistent rank and organization.
- Improving authenticity, historical accuracy, and uniformity.
- Improving safety standards.
- Facilitating the adoption of standard patterns and materials.
- Advising the companies on business matters of mutual interest.
- Resolving conflicts.
- Publishing the Unit Directory and documents of mutual interest and support.
- Recruiting new members and promoting the Lexington Minute Men
- Proper management and care of its personnel.
- Conforming to and upholding the adopted unit regulations, guidelines, and standards of authenticity, uniformity and historical accuracy.
- Coordinating local events and activities.
- Maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment.
- Coordinating company level logistics and stores.

### **The individual member is the foundation of the Lexington Training Band, without whom we could not exist.**

#### **The individual's duties and responsibilities include:**

- Maintaining and fulfilling the traditions of the Lexington Minute Men and the Lexington Training Band
- Obtaining and maintaining to standard, the uniform and kit authorized by his company.
- Conforming to and upholding all of the Company's regulations, guidelines, and standards.
- Maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment.
- Representing the Company by being proficient in drill and deportment.
- Participating in scheduled activities.
- Participating in the management of the Company.
- Interacting with the public and relating the history and traditions of the Regiment, and recruiting new members for the Regiment and/or for the hobby in general.
- Attending the required number of drills to maintain proficiency
- Remaining a member in good standing of the Lexington Minute Men

# The Lexington Training Band

## Our History

When war seemed inevitable with England, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress turned to the colony's militia companies to serve as its military arm. The origins of the Massachusetts militia can be traced back to the reign of Edward I, when Parliament enacted legislation decreeing that every freeman between the age of fifteen and sixty was to be available to preserve the peace within his own county or shire.

In the towns where the freemen lived, they were organized into military units known, by the virtue of their periodic training, as "trained bands" However, when Parliament, under the rule of Charles II, revised membership requirements, established payment protocols and appointed officers, trained bands became known as militias. By the 17th century, militias had become the cornerstone of English society. Thus, when Plimouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies were founded, the establishment of the militia naturally followed.

In both colonies, every man over sixteen automatically became a member. Musters were frequent and mandatory and punishments were doled out for absence or for not being properly equipped. The governor maintained the sole authority to activate the militia in the time of crisis. Each time a new town sprung up, a militia company was formed. As the town expanded, additional companies often were created.

When counties were formed, the various town militias within the borders of each county were organized into regiments. However, with the elimination of the Papist French threat in 1763, the need for a militia decreased significantly. Companies and regiments of Massachusetts militia rarely assembled to drill and in turn, were of little military value. By the eve of the Boston tea Party, a militia muster was not seen as a gathering of a military organization, but a family reunion or town holiday.

Included within this military world of Massachusetts militia on the eve of revolution was Lexington. Despite popular belief, Lexington's militia was not known in 1775 as the "Lexington Minute Men." Instead, the militia company retained its Puritan title and was known as the "Lexington Training Band."

The organization consisted of one hundred and thirty men, four officers, seven non-commissioned officers, one clerk, one fifer and one drummer. The oldest militiaman was sixty-three, while the youngest was a mere fourteen. Fifty-five were over the age of thirty, six families furnished twenty-nine men and only twenty-eight had seen combat during the two previous French wars.

Currently, our unit can point to three documents from 1774 which support the name "Lexington Training Band". In November of 1774, the selectmen of the town voted to tax itself "forty pounds for the purpose of mounting cannon, ammunition, for a pair of drums for the use of the *Training Band* in the town and for carriage and harness for burying the dead." (Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, November 28, 1774). In December of 1774, the town ordered to "have the *training band* and alarm list meet for view of their arms." (Lexington Town Records, Nov. 10 - Dec.27, 1774, Lexington Town Hall).

Finally, our organization can point to an indirect reference for the name "Training Band". On December 28, 1774 the town voted "to provide bayonets at the town's cost for one third of the *training soldiers*." (Declarations and Resolves, Town of Lexington, December 28, 1774.) Interestingly, this last document is the only known reference to steps taken by Lexington to establish a minute man company.

# The Lexington Training Band

## Our History

It was the Lexington Training Band that encountered the British expedition bound for Concord on the Lexington Green on April 19, 1775. When the encounter was over, eight men were killed and ten more were wounded. Sadly, town records from January 1, 1775 to April 20, 1775 were stolen from the town hall or destroyed decades ago. As a result, the military contribution of the Lexington Training Band after April 19, 1775 had to be reconstructed from other sources.

According to Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution, which contains individual documentation of service records, muster rolls and salary compensation, the Lexington Training Band contributed militia men to the Siege of Boston in May and June of 1775. In early May, the American forces began to build fortifications in Cambridge (Richard Frothingham, History of the Siege of Boston and of the Battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, Boston, 1849).

To support this endeavor, the Committee of Safety called upon neighboring towns, including Lexington, to provide militia men to assist in the erection of defensive works. Between May 6th and May 20th, Lexington sent three detachments to Cambridge.

The first, commanded by Captain John Parker, arrived on May 6, 1775 and remained until May 10th. The second detachment, under the command of John Bridge Jr., left Lexington on May 11, 1775. While in Cambridge, the detachment also participated in a show of force designed to deceive the British army.

In the afternoon of May 13, 1775, General Israel Putnam assembled “all the troops at Cambridge, except those on guard . . . [they] marched into Charlestown. They were 2200 in number, and their line of march was made to extend a mile and a half. They went over Bunker Hill and also over Breed's Hill . . . they then returned to Cambridge.” (Frothingham at 107-108) Two days later, on May 15th, the detachment returned home. The last detachment arrived at the siege on May 16th under the command of Edmund Munroe and remained to assist the siege until May 20, 1775.

On June 17, 1775, in the midst of the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Committee of Safety dispatched alarm riders to the countryside (interview with Vince Cordack, Bunker Hill National Park). The riders quickly spread instructions from the committee that the Battle of Breed's Hill had commenced and that militia companies were needed in to prevent a British counter-offensive should they break through the American positions on the hill.

The “Bunker Hill Alarm”, as it became known, reached Lexington at some point in the afternoon. Captain Parker ordered the Lexington Training Band to assemble and personally led sixty-four men to Cambridge to assist with the cause. On June 18, 1775, as the American lines attempted to recoup from the loss of the strategic Bunker Hill, the Lexington Training Band departed from Cambridge and returned to Lexington.



## Field Guide to the Lexington Training Band and Continental Line Activities

### ***Chain of Command & Responsibilities***

- LMM Captain
- LMM Lieut. of Muskets
- LMM Armorer Sergeant
- LMM Armorer Corporal
- LTB First Sergeant (Appointed)

### ***Safety***

- Personal / Cleanliness /  
Musket / Powder / Ramrod  
Handling
- Rank Responsibilities
- File Responsibilities
- Platoon Responsibilities
- Event

### ***Chain of Custody***

- Powder Storage and Distribution
- Arms: Determining Need /  
Responsibility
- Color Guard: Determining Need /  
Responsibility
- Food / Fly: Needs / Responsibility

### ***Decisions in the Field***

- In situations with safety concerns
- In situations with weather
- In situations of political import
- In situations relating to LMM / TB

### ***Commands and Actions***

- 1764 Manual of Arms
- Each Command illustrated with  
accompanying action

### ***Maneuvers and Motions***

- Individual (see Manual of Arms)
- Rank and File Illustrated
- Echelon movements
- Advance and retreat

### ***Etiquette***

- In Uniform
- At Battle
- In Camp
- In Colonials

### ***Authenticity***

- Requirements
- Avoid
- Resources
- Last Word

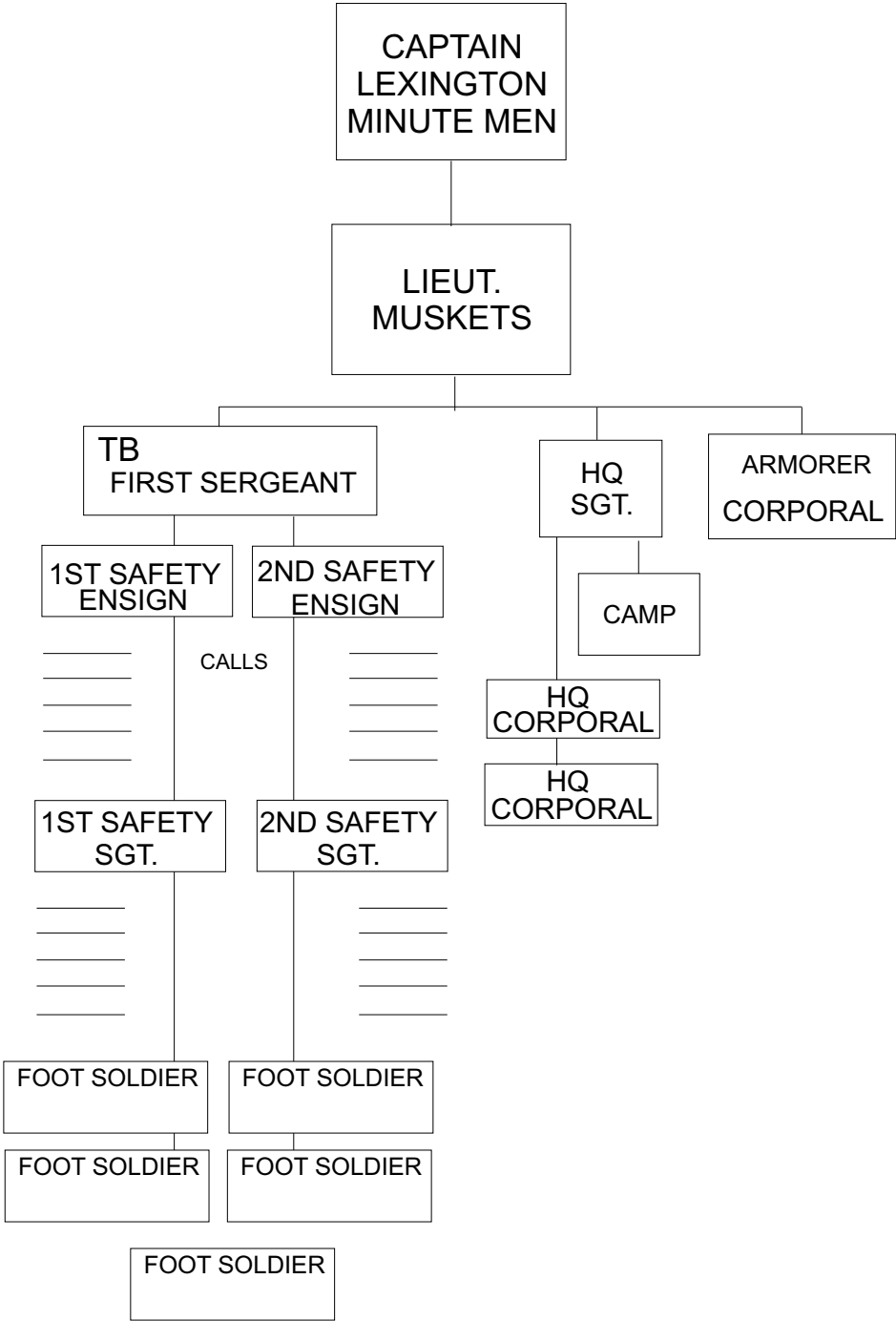
### ***Logistics***

- Phone List
- Meeting points
- Travel considerations

### ***Expenses***

- LMM responsibilities
- Individual responsibilities
- Treasury
- Camp Equipment

Lexington Training Band  
 Chain of Command  
 Organization Chart



## Lexington Training Band Chain of Command

*All appointed positions are based on commitment and frequency of participation.*

Captain Commanding LMM

2nd Lt. Muskets: Officer-in-charge of LTB

Appointed Positions of LTB:

-First Sergeant (In-charge of drilling-semi permanent position)

-Primary Safety Officers (Two “Ensigns” annually appointed)

- Alternate Safety Officers (Two “Sergeants” annually appointed)  
Sergeants would be called upon only if the Ensign(s) are not present at a designated drill or event. Sergeants would be promoted to Ensign the following year. Both Sergeants are also part of “Alarm List System”. (See “Alarm List” procedures below).

-Armorer Sergeant (In charge of powder procurement and cartridges)

-Armorer Corporal (Assists in cartridge making, etc.)

-Headquarters Sergeant (Aid-de-Camp - permanent position)

Would be responsible for “Event Coordination” in areas of: Liaison to Continental Line including attendance at all Line meetings, report and formalize all information for events to 2<sup>n</sup> Lt., coordinate setup of LTB camp and equipment at official Line Events. Coordinate camp layout and kitchen duties, where applicable, based on Alarm List returns for each event.

- Headquarters Corporals (Two Corporals annually appointed)

Corporals to aid HQ Sergeant and would be promoted to Sergeant (Alternate Safety Officers) the following year.

Note: Primary Safety Officers could be designated as “Ensigns” and Alternate Safety Officers can be designated as “Sergeants” for clarity between both ranks and duties.

# Lexington Training Band

## Chain of Command Responsibilities

### ***Captain***

The Captain of the Lexington Minute Men Company (LMM) shall have overall command of the Lexington Training Band (LTB). The Captain may yield command of the LTB in the field during drills and re-enactment events to designated officers (see below).

### ***Musket Lieutenant***

The 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant of Muskets of the LMM shall have command of the LTB in the absence of the Captain, and may yield command of the LTB in the field during drills and re-enactment events to designated officers. The 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant shall be responsible for safety inspections, drills, and providing gunpowder for the LTB. The 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant shall be responsible for calling line officers (Ensigns and Sergeants) to inform them of upcoming events.

### ***First Sergeant***

The First Sergeant shall assist the Captain and 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant for command of the LTB. The First Sergeant shall be responsible for authenticity of LTB members, and assist in safety inspections and drills of the LTB. The First Sergeant shall be appointed by the Captain, and will serve in this role until resignation or until the Captain appoints another person to this role. This position is not limited to current officers (appointed or elected) of the LMM and, as such, shall not have any command authority within the LMM.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Ensign***

The 1<sup>st</sup> Ensign shall assist the 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant and First Sergeant in the command of LTB members during drills and re-enactment events. In the line of battle, the 1<sup>st</sup> Ensign shall act as a safety officer or, on a case-by-case basis, the Ensign may be designated as a platoon commander for field events. Upon being informed of events by the 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant, the 1<sup>st</sup> Ensign shall call designated LTB members to inform them of the events. This position shall be an elected position from members of the LTB. In the event of a vacancy, the Captain may, with the recommendation of the First Sergeant, appoint an individual to this position until an election can take place. This position is not limited to current officers (appointed or elected) of the LMM and, as such, shall not have any command authority within the LMM.

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Ensign***

Position description is the same as the 1<sup>st</sup> Ensign above.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Safety Sergeant***

The 1<sup>st</sup> Safety Sergeant shall assist the 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant, First Sergeant, and Ensign(s) in the command of LTB members during drills and re-enactment events. In the line of battle, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant shall act as a safety officer or, on a case-by-case basis, the Sergeant may be designated as a platoon commander for field events. Upon being informed of events by the 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant shall call designated LTB members to inform them of the events. This position shall be an elected position from members of the LTB. In the event of a vacancy, the Captain may, with the recommendation of the First Sergeant, appoint an individual to this position until an election can take place. This position is not limited to current officers (appointed or elected) of the LMM and, as such, shall not have any command authority within the LMM.

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Safety Sergeant***

Position description is the same as the 1<sup>st</sup> Safety Sergeant above.

# Lexington Training Band

## Continental Line Events, Equipment and Alarm List

### **Event Procedures and Equipment:**

- Vote taken by LTB members to attend Continental Line “Event” with support of men and equipment.
- All costs for event food, etc. to be collected by LMM Treasurer Sergeant at least one month in advance and is *non-refundable*.
- HQ Sgt. to collect “Event” information, Hotel and Camp information. Individual members responsible for making Hotel reservations. Coordinate camp duties to LTB members.
- HQ Corporals to store LTB equipment.

### **LTB Equipment (needed for full Camp setup):**

- A) Tent(s)
- B) Fly
- C) Camp Table
- D) Iron Pots and Pans
- E) Iron Grill and Tripod
- F) Iron Fire set
- G) Cooking Utensils
- H) Camp trunk
- I) Extra plates and cups for guests at Camp
- J) Powder
- K) Coolers for food

### **Personal Equipment required:**

- A) Knife and Fork
- B) Tin or stainless steel plate
- C) Wooden bowl
- D) Wooden or pewter spoon
- E) Tin and ceramic mugs (for hot & cold drinks)
- F) Canteen (Wood “round”, Tin or Stainless Steel “kidney shaped”)
- G) Bayonet and sheath
- H) Musket tools (no modern screw driver, etc)
- I) Extra Flints with leather or lead holders
- J) Pick and Brush
- K) Leather Cartridge Box
- L) Snapsacks, knapsacks, market wallet, or blanket roll

### **Optional Equipment:**

- A) Wooden Camp Trunk
- B) Pack Basket
- C) Snap Sack
- D) Tent
- E) Leather Hunting Bag
- F) Wood Lantern



## Lexington Training Band Continental Line Events, Equipment and Alarm List

- Only 18<sup>th</sup> Century style equipment (including eating utensils) are allowed in Camp. See attached equipment information.
- Cloth Haversacks, although acceptable, must be worn only under a coat (haversacks are not actually authentic for 1775 New England).
- Modern “Army” style cots, sleeping bags, air mattresses, plastic tarps, and blankets are allowed inside tents. No coolers outside of wooden boxes.
- The above equipment can be found in the Townsend Catalog [www. Jastown.com](http://www.Jastown.com) - (1-800-338-1665), Smoke & Fire Catalog - (1-800-766-5334), G. Gedny Godwin.

### “Alarm List” Procedures:

- 1) 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lt. of Muskets to initiate “Alarm Call” and forward information to LTB Ensigns & Sergeants.
- 2) Ensigns and Sergeants to pass on 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lt's information to footsoldiers. Alarm List is to be split-up evenly between Ensigns and Sergeants for calls to LTB members. Ensigns and Sergeants will individually report back to 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lt. with information from “Alarm List” LTB members.
- 3) Email information sent to LTB with permission of 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lt. only. Email should be used for secondary (backup) information to Alarm List after Alarm Call is out.
- 4) “Reminder” Alarm List Call should be placed to LTB within 3 days of designated Event (not for Drills) from those who volunteered.
- 5) Published “Alarm List” to be distributed to all LTB members. List should also indicate a header with LTB Chain-of-Command including LTB appointed positions.



# Lexington Training Band

## Weapons Handling and Safety

### **General Rule**

Your personal safety and that of others is of primary concern when drilling, demonstrating, or serving on the battlefield. You are expected to observe any and all safety regulations concerning the loading, and firing of your musket, the storage and carrying of powder, the handling of edged and pointed weapons, and the use of your ramrod.

### **Handling Your Musket**

When handling your musket, you must be aware at all times of its position relative to yourself and others. Be constantly aware of where your musket is pointing, particularly when loading and firing. Too frequently in the heat of action weapons are discharged too close to other participants and spectators. Firing should be carried out methodically and carefully. There is always the danger of someone crossing in front of you. Take the time to glance around to insure that you are loading and firing safely. The Continental Line has a rule that weapons should not be discharged within thirty yards of opposing forces. It's best to elevate or oblique your musket whenever participants or spectators are nearby. Above all, listen to the directions of your safety officers whose responsibility it is to ensure the safety of you and others.

Every musket must be equipped with a ramrod, flash guard and hammer stall. You will not be allowed to fire or be issued powder if any of these pieces of equipment is missing. You must also carry a brush and pick. It is the responsibility of the safety officers to inspect weapons and equipment prior to firing, and to forbid individuals from firing unless all deficiencies are corrected.

### **Powder**

Powder must be handled safely. Cartridges should be carried in your cartridge box, or stored as foil wrapped "potatoes," and placed where they cannot explode accidentally.

### **Ramrods**

Ramrods must not be removed from muskets during battle reenactments. An accidentally fired ramrod is a lethal projectile. As a reenactor, you will use the ramrod only to sound the barrel of your musket or for cleaning purposes. When drawing or replacing your ramrod in formation, keep it in line with your musket. A flailing ramrod comprises a danger to your rank and file mates.

### **Edged and Pointed Weapons**

Officers and enlisted men will be required frequently to make use of pointed or edged weapons (bayonets and swords). As with any weapon, be aware of the position of your weapon with regard to others when drawing or replacing it. Precision and speed may be desirable, but not at the expense of safety. Edged weapons shall not be drawn except upon command.

### **In the Heat of Action**

Most musket accidents happen in the heat of battle. It is easy to get carried away by what is taking place around you, and forget musket safety. Officers should be aware that rapidity of firing is not the goal, safety is. Don't try to squeeze in an extra volley if it involves having your men loading and firing too rapidly for safety, or if it endangers other units, be they friend or foe.

# Lexington Training Band

## Weapons Handling and Safety

Officers and enlisted men should be guided by the following rules.

- Always be aware of where muskets are pointing. When loading and firing, make sure that muskets are pointed away from rank and file mates.
- Muskets can become fouled very easily, particularly the touch hole. Make sure that touch holes are cleared every two to three shots.
- Sometimes as a result of maneuvering, shorter individuals may wind up in a rear rank. This may mean that some individuals have to change places during the action. Shorter individuals should never attempt to fire over the shoulder of a taller file mate.
- Individuals in the front rank who have trouble with their muskets must inform their rear file mate of the difficulty. The rear file mate then will not fire until the problem is cleared up or the individual in the front rank drops out.
- Do not unwrap foil potatoes and attempt to refill cartridge boxes while firing is still taking place. A spark could accidentally set off the cartridges.
- Units should not charge bayonets on the battlefield.

### **Storage and Distribution of Gunpowder**

The 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant of Muskets shall be responsible for storage of LTB gunpowder that complies with statutory guidelines, and in a manner in which provides access by designated individuals. In addition, the 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant shall be generally responsible for providing powder for LTB members for drills and field events. The Captain or First Sergeant shall provide sufficient advance notice to the 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant to enable arrangements to be made for enough prepared cartridges for LTB event participants. LTB members may, at their own discretion, roll their own cartridges; however, they must adhere to strict guidelines for materials and load amounts.

### **Guidelines For Cartridge Material and Loads**

Only plain paper, approved by the 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant and First Sergeant, may be used for cartridges. No glue, tape, or other artificial methods of adhesion may be used to roll cartridges. Loads shall consist of no more than 110 grains of FFF black powder per charge for LTB field events with the Continental Line.

The 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant or First Sergeant may confiscate any LTB-member produced loads brought to Continental Line events that do not conform to these guidelines. In addition, the 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant or First Sergeant may prohibit any LTB member from participating in any event if non-conforming loads are discovered.

At the discretion of the 2<sup>n</sup> <sup>d</sup>Lieutenant and First Sergeant, larger loads may be used, but only for events outside of the Continental Line. Nevertheless, these larger loads should not exceed 125 grains of FFF black powder per charge.

# Lexington Training Band

## Etiquette and Decorum

### **The LTB as a part of the LMM**

It is important to remember that as members of the Lexington Training Band we are first of all Lexington Minute Men. Thus, we are required to fulfill all of our usual obligations and duties, and will be expected to adhere to the high standards expected of members of the LMM. When conflicts in schedule arise, the LMM comes first. If the LTB is invited to an event, or a number of individuals wish to take part in a particular reenactment **using the name Lexington Training Band**, the Captain will insure that any obligations of the LMM are fulfilled first before permission to participate is granted.

### **The LTB in Battle**

Again, members of the LTB and LMM, we are expected to be “the best”, and our actions on the battle field should fulfill that expectation. Our drill should be crisp and unified, and our maneuvers well-coordinated. Onlookers should be able to pick out the LTB within any group because of the sharpness of our drill, and the precision of our maneuvers. It should be the goal of the LTB to uphold the reputation of the LMM on any battlefield, and to make those with whom we may be brigaded proud to serve with us.

We may frequently find ourselves serving under the command of non-LTB officers. Their orders should be carried out in the same spirit with which we fulfill those of our own officers. The LTB has a reputation of being a privilege and joy to command. We need to maintain that reputation

### **The LTB in Camp**

It is expected that members of the LTB will make themselves available to assist with setting up and breaking down camp, joining in work details, and helping out with fatigue duties. The willingness of members to take part in and share the various aspects of camp life will determine the level of acceptance our unit will attain within the Continental Line and with the units with which we are brigaded. Rules and regulations set down by the Continental Line or the unit to which we are attached must be respected and observed.

Camp life can be interesting, involving, and most of all a lot of fun as you take part in the many activities associated with camp life. However, your enjoyment should not be at the expense of others. Obviously you are expected to follow the several rules and regulations concerning behavior as set down by the Continental Line or the unit to which we are attached. Beyond that, however, politeness and concern for others should also help guide your activities in camp. This is particularly true if your fun results in keeping others awake or otherwise interfering with their enjoyment of camp life. Remember, your behavior reflects on the reputation of both the LTB and LMM for good or ill. Unacceptable and/or disgraceful behavior such as public drunkenness or lewdness will not be tolerated, and comprise grounds for dismissal from camp. You should also watch your language, as there will be women and children in camp and among the spectators. Washington was a stickler for good behavior among his troops, and frequently condemned drunkenness, lewdness and profanity.

# Lexington Training Band

## Clothing and Accoutrements Guidelines

The goal of the Lexington Training Band is to accurately portray a Massachusetts militia company as it appeared between April 18, 1775 and September 1, 1775. As a result, every member of the Lexington Training Band is expected and, more importantly, required to accurately portray a Massachusetts militiaman to the extent permitted by up to date research. Wearing outfits made of polyester, sewing plastic or modern buttons to clothing, wearing 18th century clothing uncommon to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, or simply wearing an outfit without a coat, smock or jacket, actually distorts the historical period and events we cherish so deeply. Further, by knowingly recreating clothing and equipment incorrectly, we engage in mis-education and do a disservice to American History.

The Lexington Training Band adheres to the “ten-foot rule”, the Continental Line's standard for authenticity. The ten-foot rule came into existence in 1988 when the Continental Line was created as an umbrella organization to oversee Revolutionary War reenactments. All member units of the Continental Line are required to follow this rule. There are several prerequisites to the ten-foot rule:

- A. All clothing **MUST** be produced from natural sources (cotton, linen, wool, or leather) rather than man made sources.
- B. All clothing and equipment must be from the correct period **AND** from the correct location. For example, a reproduced 1778 linen hunting shirt from the Ohio River Valley would not be appropriate for a person portraying a 1775 Massachusetts militiaman, but a reproduced wool frock coat from 1757 Massachusetts would.
- C. All clothing and equipment must be supported and justified by at least two (2) primary and documented sources. Primary sources include 18th century prints, paintings, letters, diaries, depositions, court records, Provincial Congress minutes, petitions, journals, newspaper advertisements, estate inventories and town resolves.

### The ten-foot rule is defined as:

A person will be authentic if the spectator, from a distance not less than ten feet, cannot:

1. Identify or observe any items that are not reproductions of 18th century articles of clothing, weapons or equipment.
2. Identify or observe any article of clothing that is not cut in the proper 18th century manner. “Cut in the proper 18th century manner” is defined as clothing that is produced, cut and sewn so that it is identical or nearly identical to 18th century clothing-patterns and surviving articles of clothing.
3. Identify or observe any 19th, 20th, or 21st century anachronisms, including, but not limited to, modern shoes, modern shoes with buckles tied to them, modern glasses and modern wristwatches.

Please keep in mind that under the ten-foot rule, the “spectator” is considered to be an experienced reenactor who is able to identify and observe what does or does not look authentic. However, for the ten-foot rule even to apply, you **MUST** meet the required pre-requisites listed above. If your clothing and equipment do not qualify under the ten-foot rule, you will **NOT** be allowed to participate in an event with the Lexington Training Band.

# Lexington Training Band

## Clothing and Accoutrements Guidelines

### ***Mandatory and Prohibited Items***

The following items are mandatory and must be acquired by members of the Lexington Training Band before they can field with the unit. Failure to acquire these items will result in exclusion from events with the Lexington Training Band.

1. Coat, smock and/or jacket
2. Knapsack, blanket roll, snapsack, or market wallet
3. Tin or wooden canteen, gourd and/or rumlet
4. Mess kit: knife, two-prong fork, wooden bowl and spoon, tin plate and cup
5. Cartridge box or hunting pouch
6. Flashguard and hammerstall
7. Lock-pick and brush
8. Bayonet and Scabbard

The following items are prohibited by the Lexington Training Band and cannot be worn or carried onto the field. Failure to remove these items will result in exclusion from events with the Lexington Training Band.

1. 19th century clothing and equipment
2. Belts with round hand forged buckles from JAS Townsend
3. Military overalls
4. Blanket shirts from JAS Townsend
5. Hunting shirts or hunting frocks
6. Frontier knives and axes
7. Scottish dirk knives and basket-hilt swords
8. Rifles
9. Company pins, logos, and nameplates
10. Economy tricorn hat from JAS Townsend (TH-915 and 918)
11. Suede leather hunting bags/ canvas hunting from JAS Townsend

### ***Clothing Standards***

**Headgear and Caps:** Acceptable styles include floppy hat, round hat, liberty cap, workman's cap highland bonnet or civilian cocked hat. All hats must be made of wool or fur felt.

**Neckerchief:** A person portraying a farmer or craftsman would wear a linen or cotton neckerchief made from a square or triangle of fabric, rolled diagonally and knotted at the neck. Solid, checked or striped colors are acceptable. Fine, white-linen cravats of the 1760's may be worn by those portraying older or wealthier men.

**Workshirt:** A member of the Lexington Training Band should acquire at least two (2) shirts. Shirts must be full sleeved, have high-necked collars and arm and neck gussets. Wool, linen or cotton cloth in white, natural or checked colors is acceptable. Buttons should be pewter, wood or bone.

## Lexington Training Band Clothing and Accoutrements Guidelines

**Farmer's/Waggoner's Smock:** A smock is a heavy, oversized, 18th century styled shirt worn over other clothing. Any earth toned or checked colors are acceptable. Material should be linen, cotton or cotton-linen blend. A pullover style rather than an open front style is recommended.

**Civilian/Frock Coat:** The coat, or frock coat as it is often called, would have reflected the status of its wearer. The fabrics most often used for an everyday New England coat were woolens or linens (known by various names). The frock coat, always worn over a waistcoat, could be of the same color and fabric as the waistcoat, or more commonly, as noted in ads concerning run-away servants or slaves, of quite different fabrics and colors altogether. The linings of frock coats were often of a complementary shade, with some being quite bold in pattern and bright in color. The New England wool or linen frock coat should be collarless, with shoulder seams set high on the shoulder, and with pewter, copper, bone, horn, wood, or cloth-covered buttons along the lapel. Styles between 1740's and 1770's are acceptable. A 1740's/1750's coat would have full pleats in the rear. Cuffs for this period are optional, but if present should be about 4"-7" wide with four buttons holding them to the sleeves. A 1760's/1770's style coat should not have full pleats. Cuffs are again optional, but if present should be about 3" wide with or without three to four buttons holding them to the sleeves. Dark-colored cloth is strongly suggested and acceptable buttons include pewter, copper, bone, horn, wood or cloth-covered.

**Jackets/Laborer's Coat/Sleeved Waistcoat:** The jacket or the sleeved waistcoat is a garment for the working class. It might be described as a shortened version of a coat, or a waistcoat with sleeves. Since terms vary so widely in period descriptions of these garments, we settled on the following profiles to help us in discussing them. A sleeved waistcoat would be collarless and cut in the style of a waistcoat. It would have buttons of 5/8-inch diameter or smaller and spaced reasonably close together as smaller buttons generally are. A jacket would be cut much like a sleeved waistcoat, and may or may not have a collar and cuffs. The buttons would generally be larger than 5/8-inch diameter and, therefore, spaced further apart. Both the jacket and the sleeved-waistcoat would have pockets and pocket flaps, with or without buttons on the flaps. Acceptable materials are linen and wool. Dark colors, particularly brown and blue, are encouraged. Buttons should be pewter, wood or cloth-covered.

**Greatcoat:** A greatcoat is a large, wool coat worn in cooler weather over a civilian coat, sleeved waistcoat or jacket. The greatcoat must be made of wool, have a collar and at least one circular shoulder cape sewn into the coat. Cuffs should be turned back and have three buttons. The greatcoat should have four to six buttons down the front. Pockets are optional. Appropriate colors include gray, navy-blue and black. The greatcoat should be worn only in camp, on guard duty and perhaps on morning patrols. It cannot be worn in field events during reenactments.

**Weskit (Vest):** Must be made out of wool, cotton or linen. Adjustment laces up the back are optional. The 1750's style must extend to between mid-thigh and knee, and have 8 to 10 buttons down the front. Functional pockets should be located at waist level, and be covered by flaps with or without buttons and buttonholes. The 1770's style should extend below the waist to the hip, have 10 buttons down the front and either functional or false pockets (flaps only). Waistcoats can be made of materials of a contrasting color and texture to the coat and breeches. Buttons should be pewter, wood or cloth covered.

**Trousers:** Must be either fall front or fly front style, tight fitting on the leg, have a baggy rear seat and adjustable ties in the rear. Trousers may be solid, striped or checked in pattern and color. Fabrics may include wool, linen, or cotton. Buttons should be pewter, wood or cloth-covered.

## Lexington Training Band Clothing and Accoutrements Guidelines

**Breeches:** Breeches must be made out of linen, wool, cotton or leather. Any basic color is acceptable. Fringed suede leather is not acceptable. Breeches must have a baggy rear, be tight fitting to the knee, have a fall-front or French fly and four to five buttons extending up from the bottom of the breeches. Ties, buckles or buttons may secure the knee-bands. Acceptable buttons include pewter, wood or cloth-covered.

**Stockings:** Stockings must come up over the knee and be cotton or wool. Colors may be white, brown, red, gray, navy or horizontally striped. Tube or athletic socks are prohibited.

**Gaiters, Half/Farmer's Boot:** These should be made of black or brown canvas or leather, have pewter buttons, and extend about three inches above the ankle.

**Gaiters, Full:** Full gaiters should be made of black, brown or white canvas or leather, have either three pewter or wood buttons at the bottom, or pewter or wood buttons running up the length of the gaiters. The top of the gaiters should extend up to four inches above the knee.

**Shoes:** Should be plain, 18th century style black leather shoes with a square or moderately squared toe. Leather may be smooth or rough side out. Brass buckles, or leather or linen laces are acceptable. Modern black plain-toed shoes may be substituted provided gaiters cover them.

### *Equipment Standards*

**Musket:** May be a Brown Bess (1st or 2d Model), Charleville (1763 model), Fowler, Fusil de Chasse de Tulle, Fusil Grenadier, Fusil Fin or a Dog Lock musket. Blunderbusses, rifles and 1804/1816 Springfield muskets are prohibited.

**Bayonets:** May be a socket or plug style. Bayonet scabbards must be correct to the period.

**Cartridge Box:** May be French and Indian War pattern (French, British or provincial design), British issue (early war patterns) or American pattern (early war pattern). Over the shoulder and belly boxes are acceptable. Drilled holes may vary between 9 and 36 rounds. Cartridge belts are to be of the correct period and constructed from linen or tan, buff, white or black leather. All buckles must be of the correct period as well. Hunting bags may be used as a substitute for a cartridge box, but must be made of leather with beaver tailed or half moon shaped flaps. Designs on pouches are encouraged, but should be confined to geometric shapes, flowers, or hearts. Frontier, fringed hunting bags; suede-leather hunting bags and canvas hunting bags are not permitted.

**Suspension Systems:** Suspension systems are slings, belts, frogs and carriages used to hold sword scabbards and/or bayonets, as well as axes and tomahawks. All slings, belts, frogs and carriages must be made of white, tan, buff or black leather, or white or natural linen. Buckles must be of the "double d" pattern. Slings, belts, and carriages may be worn around the waist or slung over the shoulder. King George's War and French and Indian War patterns are permissible.

**Canteens:** May be tin, cheese box, single band or double band pattern with cotton, linen or leather slings. Wooden canteens may be painted with period-correct colors. Gourds and rumlets are also acceptable as canteens.

## Lexington Training Band Clothing and Accoutrements Guidelines

**Knapsacks/Snapsacks/Blanket Rolls/Market Wallets:** May be constructed from white canvas, white linen, ticking, natural gray linen or leather. Knapsack patterns include the single strap French and Indian War pattern and the double strap single bag.

**Powder Horns (Optional):** Cow horn with wooden plugs on both ends and a leather or linen sling. Engravings of maps, names, dates or period slogans are encouraged.

**Axe/Tomahawk:** English light infantry axe and forged tomahawk are acceptable. French throwing axes, “peace pipe” axes or any other type of axe with a long thin blade are inappropriate.

**Mess Kit:** A militia man with the Lexington Training Band should have the following items in his mess kit: wooden bowl, tin plate, tin or ceramic cup (you might prefer a ceramic cup for hot drinks and a tin cup for cold), two prong fork, knife, wooden spoon and a period folding knife.