

## 2014-03 Hopkins – The Original First Responders

### The Original First Responders

*by Suzy Hopkins*

In the center of my hometown of Lexington, Massachusetts is a grassy triangle 500 feet long on each side. This tree lined area was called The Common or The Green until April 19, 1775 when 77 local volunteer colonist soldiers, called Minutemen, faced British troops on this Green for the first battle of the American Revolution. This has been called 'the shot heard 'round the world'. George Washington wrote in his diary: "Today the first blood was spilt in the dispute with Great Britain." About this day Samuel Adams said to John Hancock, "What a glorious morning for America." This Green has been renamed the Battle Green and is considered The Birthplace of American Liberty. On July 4, 1799 a granite obelisk war memorial called The Revolutionary Monument was erected on the Battle Green over the graves of the eight Minutemen who died in this battle. It is the oldest war memorial in America. There is also a life size bronze statue of a Minuteman on this much visited famous Green.