

The Original First Responders

By Suzy Hopkins

In the center of my hometown of Lexington, Massachusetts was a well-groomed grassy triangle five hundred feet long on each side. This tree lined area was called The Common or The Green. It was used for hangings, political rallies, summer concerts and grazing by a fat goat to keep the grass down. On April 19, 1775, seventy-seven local volunteer colonist soldiers, called Minutemen, faced British troops on this very Green for the first battle of the American Revolution. This has been called "the shot heard 'round the world". President George Washington wrote in his diary: 'Today the first blood was spilt in the dispute with Great Britain.' About this day Samuel Adams, a local political leader, said to Massachusetts Governor 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 20' 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 musket-armed Minuteman on this much visited famous Green.

National and international tourists come by the busload to see where some brave men responded to keep our country American on a quiet green triangle.