

Parker's Revenge Project Overview

Introduction

April 19, 1775 marked the first battles of the American Revolution that led to the birth of the United States. Every schoolchild in America has heard of the action on the Lexington Green and the "Shot heard round the world" at Concord's North Bridge.

We are now seeking to uncover an additional heroic battlefield that marked an important component of the events of April 19th – the restoration of Parker's Revenge.

The Friends of Minute Man National Park, a registered 501(c)3, is sponsoring archaeological research, site restoration and the development of educational resources centered on this largely unknown but very important battle site.

When 700 British Regulars engaged the 77 members of the Lexington militia in the early morning hours of April 19, 1775, the results were tragic. In a matter of minutes, eight militiamen were killed outright and ten others were wounded. By late morning, Lexington's Captain John Parker bravely rallied his company and marched off in the direction of Lincoln and Concord.

Consider the courage of this action – Parker knew all too well the formidable size of the British forces, yet he and his company chose to march *toward* them and engage them a second time.

The Parker's Revenge site is a rocky hill on the border of Lexington and Lincoln within the boundary of Minute Man National Historical Park. It is at this site that the Lexington company waited until the British column was close, then opened fire in a coordinated assault that momentarily stopped the retreating British, thus further exposing them to Minute Man companies in hot pursuit.

Now we are using modern technology to peel back hidden layers of history - to uncover this battlefield and use the findings to tell the story to current and future generations - this is the goal of the Parker's Revenge project.

Parker's Revenge Project Outline

Our Parker's Revenge initiative has four distinct phases -- each of which builds on the previous one.

The first phase, now complete, was research. This included pouring over original depositions from primary sources, historic maps, deeds, land conveyances, tax records aerial maps and previous archeological investigations – and all this data has been input into a software called a GIS, or geographic information system.

The second phase, running currently, is the archeological field investigations.

The archaeology portion of the initiative is integrating advance technologies (geophysical surveys, 3D laser scanning, GIS analysis, X-ray fluorescence) to not only reveal the action of the battle, but also to place individuals back in the landscape

Phase three will be the interpretation or education phase of the project.

Artifacts found will be displayed in the Minute Man Visitors Center. New wayside informational exhibits will be developed. A touch screen kiosk and a mobile app for park visitors will also be planned.

The fourth and final phase of the project will be the land rehabilitation phase. The recreation of historic meadows, rehabilitation of stone walls and other potential contours to the existing landscape will be determined by the National Park Service -- based on the history uncovered.

The National Park Service has a special unit, called the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation which will be heavily involved in developing the landscape plan.