#lexingTEN: A History of Lexington in 10 Objects

We can tell the history of Lexington through the stories of objects in Lexington Historical Society's collection. These 9 objects represent Lexington’s fascinating history . . . but what should the 10th object be? You decide!

Walk through town, tour our historic houses, and visit our new exhibit at Buckman Tavern, #Alarmed! 18th Century Social Media.

Snap a photo of an object that you find meaningful, and tell us why you think it should be #10 by posting the photo to social media using #lexingTEN.

We can’t wait to see what you share!
This sword was made in Boston and used by Captain William Reed in the French & Indian War. Reed was born in 1693 (20 years before the town of Lexington was officially founded), served as a Selectman for 27 years, and lived a life fairly typical of the first generations of Lexington residents.
Reuben Locke carved this powder horn prior to his participation in the Battle of Lexington. He continued his service in the Revolutionary War as a foot soldier and privateer, was taken prisoner in 1777, and was imprisoned in Portsmouth, England. Locke’s experience is one of many amazing stories lived by Lexington’s Revolutionary War veterans.
William Diamond Drum
1775

This drum was used by 19-year-old drummer William Diamond to call the Lexington militia to arms on the morning of April 19, 1775. The battle that followed on the Green was the first battle of the American Revolution.
During his visit to the Lexington Battle Green on November 5, 1789, President George Washington dined at Munroe Tavern with the Munroe family. Since then, many dignitaries and tourists have visited Lexington to see where the war began.
Emily lived during a momentous time in Lexington, but, as with many women, history does not preserve much of her life. If not for this watercolor, executed by itinerant painter Rufus Porter, all we would know of her would be: “born August 16, 1800, died unmarried March 24, 1869.”
Passenger service through Lexington began in 1846 and continued into the 20th century. Benjamin Muzzey spearheaded this effort to benefit businesses and make Lexington more progressive. Lanterns such as this were used for signaling along the train route and at stations, of which there were eventually five in Lexington.
This parade baton was used during the celebration of the one hundred year anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. The centennial was the first large-scale celebration of this event, and President Grant was an honored guest. In 1894, thanks to Lexington Historical Society, the day was proclaimed as Patriot’s Day, a state holiday.
During World War I, Lexington participated in five drives for the sale of bonds to finance American involvement in the war. Lexington met its quota in all five drives and was awarded Liberty Loan flags from the U.S. Treasury. As you can see, this flag’s red border has dulled to brown from being proudly flown for years.
After World War II, Lexington played a fundamental role in the mid-century modernism movements in design and architecture. By the 1960s, there were nine modernist neighborhoods in Lexington — more than any other town in the country. Many were furnished with modern style furniture like this iconic Eames chair.