

For Immediate Release

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**MUSEUM ANNOUNCES “SEEDS OF LIBERTY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN”
TO LOCAL RESIDENTS**

At a recent festive reception at the National Heritage Museum, the likes of Paul Revere, Lydia Mulliken, and Prince Estabrook were on hand to introduce the Museum’s new cornerstone exhibition, *Sowing the Seeds of Liberty: Lexington and the American Revolution* and the Capital Campaign now underway to support the endeavor. The exhibition, designed to stimulate new ways of thinking about the battle at Lexington on April 19, 1775, is scheduled to open on Patriot’s Day weekend 2007. More than 100 Lexington residents turned out for the event.

“Sowing the Seeds of Liberty,” will examine the epic conflict of the Revolution that always sparks the American imagination. In addition to describing the battle and events leading up to the fateful day, the exhibition will explain why members of this small farming community was willing to take arms against their own government to protect a way of life. Through a highly engaging mix of objects, documents, images, re-creations of historic environments, and interactive elements, people of all ages will be able to learn about the roots of the American Revolution.

Said Museum Executive Director, John H. Ott, “Since 1995, ‘Lexington Alarm’d,’ our current our long-term show on the Revolution, has served both our visiting public and school groups well. Since 1995, however, new scholarship provides fresh perspectives on the American colonies and their relationship with Britain, the role of ordinary citizens in shaping historical events, as well as the role played by local people and people of color in the Revolution. Bringing all these pieces together in a new, state-of-the-art, long-term exhibition will provide opportunities for learning about our earliest history for years to come.”

In addition, the Museum has already been at work with Boston-area teachers to create an elementary school curriculum drawn from “Sowing the Seeds of Liberty” that meets both local and national educational standards. The Museum will use its web site to make the resources available to schools across the country. A free Teacher Institute was offered in 2003, and another is planned for summer 2007. A wide array of on-site programs, a

primary source lab, and outreach programs for those who cannot visit the Museum are also being developed. Distinguished national educators and authors will be invited to speak. A colonial encampment will be hosted on the Museum grounds. A colonial tavern sing, craft demonstrations, period-music performers, and book groups are also being planned as public activities.

Continued Ott, “Our exhibition and accompanying programming will further help tie together the public outreach programs of the Lexington Historical Society, and the interpretive work so skillfully presented by the Minuteman National Historical Park, thereby bringing our collaborative efforts into a cohesive overview for visitors and area residents alike.”

Elsa Olsen Sullivan, Chairman of the Seeds of Liberty Capital Campaign spoke of the need for a major fundraising effort to support the exhibition, She said, “‘Seeds of Liberty’ will inspire more than a million visitors during its run, and countless more on-line. We are relying on those of you who appreciate the Museum and its mission to come forward and pledge to our fundraising campaign. The Museum seeks to raise \$440,000 to research, construct, program, promote, and maintain the exhibition, and we need your help. We would like to ask you to add your name to the rolls of those helping the Museum fund this exhibition.”

“From our galleries we soon will be able to meet the citizens of Lexington of that former time and hear their stories,” concluded John Ott. “Their words continue to offer hope for us today, in a world still plagued my war and where liberty remains out of reach for many. Yet, thanks to the commitment of those Lexington patriots of 1775, we remain a country where people from around the globe, to this day, still look to find sanctuary and freedom on our shores.”

For more information on how you can support the Museum and “Seeds of Liberty,” please feel free to contact John H. Ott, Executive Director directly at (781) 457-4102.