

Fighting for Freedom

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As John Dickinson states, “United We Stand, Divided We Fall.” This country has been divided between whether or not The Battle of Point Pleasant was the first battle of the American Revolution. Although Point Pleasant was a significant battle, it was not the first. Many historians and I agree that the Lexington and Concord battles were the first battles of the American Revolution. Between the history of the Point Pleasant battle and the Lexington and Concord battles, it is clear that Lexington and Concord marked the beginning of the American Revolution.

The Battle of Point Pleasant was fought on October 10, 1774, between the Virginia militia and the Shawnee and Mingo tribes. The battle occurred at the junction of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers, now known as Point Pleasant, West Virginia. The brawl was a part of Lord Dunmore’s war which pursued to assert colonial control and dominance over the Ohio Valley. The battle was gruesome because both sides endured multiple casualties. The Virginia militia eventually was victorious, leading the Shawnee and Mingo tribes to retreat and in time sign a peace treaty. The victory of Virginia not only secured the land for settlers but also mapped out more westward expansion. While this can remain a testament to the violent path of freedom, the Battle of Point Pleasant was simply not the first battle to start the American Revolution.

The Battles of Lexington and Concord were on April 19, 1775, fought between British regulars and American provincials. Tensions between American colonies and British rule had been rising for years because of new British laws that imposed taxes without colonial representation in Parliament. Additionally, the colonies were furious that British troops were there to watch them on American soil. After fueling their anger for years, British General Thomas Gage dispatched a force to lead into Concord that would seize colonial weapons and arrest key leaders of the new resistance. However, colonial intelligence found out about this plan, and Revere and Dawes set out at midnight to warn the militias. Local militia gathered on the Lexington Green to overpower the British soldiers. British militia won this battle and set off to Concord where they were taken down by a much larger colonial force. The British were hit with

200 casualties while the American colonies were hit with 100 casualties, marking this an American victory.

The Battles of Lexington and Concord were the first battles of the American Revolution because it marked the beginning of open armed conflict between the British and the American colonies. These battles were directly caused by the rising tensions between the British and U.S. colonies because they wanted their independence. In contrast, the Battle of Point Pleasant was a conflict between colonial Virginia and the Shawnee and Mingo tribes. While it was a significant altercation, it should not be directly related to the American independence movement, nor should it be considered the first battle of the American Revolution. In conclusion, Lexington and Concord should be considered the first battles of the American Revolution because it initiated the struggle for independence from British rule.