



Secondary Source 2: Excerpt from Lemuel Shattuck's History of Concord (1835)

Excerpt is based on an interview done by Shattuck with Mary Prescott Barrett in 1831. She married Col. Barrett's son Peter and was not present at the farm on April 19, 1775

After Colonel Barrett had ordered the militia to march over the bridge, he rode home to give some directions respecting the stores at his house. He set out on his return to the militia companies just before the party of British troops arrived. They said to Mrs. Barrett, "Our orders are to search your house and your brother's from top to bottom." Leave was granted. The soldiers here, as at other places in town, requested and were provided with refreshments. One of the sergeants asked for spirit, but it was refused; and the commanding officer forbid it, as it might render him unfit for duty, saying, "We shall have bloody work to day, - we have killed men at Lexington." The officers offered to pay Mars. Barrett, but she refused, saying, "We are commanded to feed our enemies." They then threw some money into her lap. Hesitating some time, she accepted it with the remark, - "The is the price of blood." They assured her of good treatment, but said they must execute their orders. Mrs. Barrett had concealed some musket balls, cartridges, flints, &c., in casks in the garret, and had put over them a quantity of feather, which prevented discovery. They however took fifty dollars in money from one of the rooms. On seeing Stephen, a son of colonel Barrett, the officer demanded his name. Being answered "Barrett," they called him a rebel, and taking hold of him said, "You must go to Boston with us, and sent to England for your trial." Upon Mrs. Barrett saying, "He is my son, and not the master of the house," they released him. They collected some gun carriages in order to burn them; but before they executed their intention the firing at the bridge was heard, and they immediately retreated...