



Primary Source 5: Deposition of Colonel James Barrett

I, James Barrett of Concord, Colonel of a Regiment of Militia in the County of Middlesex, do testify and say, that on Wednesday morning last about daybreak I was informed of the approach of a number of the Regular Troops to the Town of Concord, where were some magazines belonging to this Province. When there was assembled some of the Militia of this the neighboring Towns, I ordered them to march to the North Bridge (so called) which they had passed and were taking up. I ordered said militia to march to said bridge and pass the same, but not to fire on the King's troops unless they were first fired upon. We advanced near said Bridge, when the said troops fired upon our militia and killed two men dead on the spot, and wounded several others, which was the first firing of guns in the town of Concord. My detachment then returned the fire, which killed and wounded several of the king's soldiers.

CLARIFYING QUESTIONS:

1. What orders did Colonel Barrett give to the militia?
2. Who fired first, the British soldiers or the militia?
3. What else could Colonel Barrett have told us to give us a better idea of his actions that day?