



### **Secondary Source 1: Excerpt from Ezra Ripley's A History of the Fight at Concord (1827)**

*In 1825, the town of Lexington took new depositions from ten surviving participants of April 19, 1775. These depositions were included in The Battle of Lexington by Elias Phinney. The main purpose of the work was to disprove Concord's claim that the first active resistance to the British soldiers was at the North Briodge and show what an important role the Lexington militia had in the events of the day. The town of Concord countered Phinney's work with A History of the Fight at Concord by Ezra Ripley. Ripley included four new depositions from surviving Concord participants in the battle and used them to prove the first true resistance of the day came in Concord.*

The British troops, which went on to Col. Barrett's, found and burnt a number of carriages for cannon and other implements of war. The soldiers were hungry and thirsty; and here, as at other places in town, when disbanded, they requested supplies. The officers very politely offered to pay Mrs. Barrett for victuals and drink, but she refused pay, saying, "we are commanded to feed our enemy, if he hunger." They assured her of good treatment, but said they must search her house and should destroy public stores. Mrs. Barrett had concealed the small articles that belong to cannon, with musket balls, flints, cutlasses, &c. in casks in the garrett, and had put over them a quantity of feathers which prevented discovery. On seeing a son of Col. Barrett, the officers demanded his name. Being answered, Barrett, they called him a rebel, and taking hold of him, said, "you must go to Boston with us." Mrs. Barrett spoke and said, "he is my son, and not the master of the house." – Upon this they released him. Another son was there, viz. the late James Barrett Esq., but being lame and inactive at that time, did not so much attract their attention. They were about to burn the devoted articles, carriages, &c. so near the barn as to endanger it. Observing this, Mrs. Barrett went out to them, and reminded the officers of their promise not to injure private property. They promptly ordered the articles to be carried into the street, where they were consumed.