

Rev. Emerson

Pastor, Town of Concord

This Morning between 1 & 2 o'clock we were alarmed by the ringing of ye bell, and upon Examination found that ye troops...had stole their march from Boston in boats and barges from ye bottom of ye common over to a point in Cambridge, near to Inman's farm, & were at Lexington Meeting House, half an hour before Sunrise, where they had fired upon a Body of our Men & (as we afterward heard) had killed several.

This intelligence was brought us at first by Samuel Prescott who narrowly escaped the Guard that were sent before on Horses, purposely to prevent all Posts and Messengers from giving us timely information.

He by the help of a very fleet horse crossing several walls and fences arrived at Concord at the Time abovementioned. When several Posts were immediately dispatched, that returning confirmed ye account of ye Regulars arrived at Lexington & that they were on their way to Concord.

Upon this a number of our Minute Men belonging to ye Town & Acton and Lincoln, with several others that were in Readiness, marched out to meet them. While the alarm Company was preparing to Receive them in ye Town.

Capt. Minot who commanded them thought it proper to take possession of the hill above the Meeting house as the most advantageous situation.

We then retreated from the hill near Liberty Pole and took a new post back of ye Town, upon a rising eminence, where we formed, before we saw ye British Troops at ye distance of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile, glittering in arms, advancing toward us with the greatest celerity.

Some were for making a stand, notwithstanding the superiority of their numbers, but others more prudent thought best to retreat till our Strength should be equal to the Enemy's, by recruits from neighboring towns that were continually coming to our assistance. Accordingly we retreated over ye bridge when ye troops came into ye town—set fire to several Carriages for the Artillery, destroyed 60 barrels of flour, rifled several houses—took possession of the Town house, destroyed 500 lb. of ball, set a guard of 100 men at ye North Bridge & South. Sent up a party to the house of Col. Barrett, where they were in expectation of finding a quantity of warlike stores; but these were happily secured just before their arrival, by transportation into the woods and other by-places

In the mean time, the guard set by the enemy to Secure the passage at the North Bridge, were alarmed by the approach of our People, who had retreated as mentioned before, and were now advancing with Special Orders not to fire upon ye troops unless fired upon. These orders were so punctually observed that we received the fire of the Enemy in 3 several and separate discharges of their pieces, before it was returned...The firing then soon became general for several minutes, in which Skirmish two were killed in each side, and several of the enemy wounded. It may here be Observed by the say, that we were the more careful to prevent beginning a Rupture with the King's Troops, as we were then uncertain what had happened at Lexington, & know not they had begun the Quarrel there by first firing upon our People and killing 8 men upon the spot.

The 3 Companies [of] Troops soon quitted their Post at the Bridge and retreated in the greatest Disorder and Confusion to ye main body, who were soon upon ye march to meet them. For half and hour ye Enemy by their marches and counter marches discovered great fickleness and inconsistency of Mind, sometimes advancing, sometimes returning to their former posts, till at Length they quitted ye Town, & retreated by ye way they came.

In the mean Time, a Party of our Men, (150) took ye back way through ye Great Fields into ye East Quarter and had placed 'em to advantage laying in Ambush, behind Walls, fences and buildings to fire upon the Enemy on their Retreat.