

## Provincial Congress

In October of 1774 the Provincial Congress assumed the essential functions of government in Massachusetts.

**President:** The Hon. John Hancock      **Secretary:** Mr. Benjamin Lincoln

## Committees of Safety and Supplies

Directed the procurement, storage, and movement of military supplies. Decided when and where the militia should be called out.

## Colonel James Barrett

Responsible for the colony's military supplies deposited in Concord. Commanded a regiment of Middlesex militia. Ordered the minute and militia companies to march to North Bridge.

## Major John Buttrick of Concord

Served as a field officer in Col. Abijah Pierce's (not yet commissioned) Minuteman Regiment. He led the advance at North Bridge and gave the order to fire upon the King's soldiers.

## Captain Isaac Davis

Commanded the Acton minute company. His company was placed at the head of the column for the advance to North Bridge. He was killed instantly when the British opened fire. He was the first Colonial/American officer to die in the Revolutionary War.

"Resolved,... that the field officers so elected, forthwith endeavor to enlist one quarter, at the least, of the number of their respective companies, and form them into companies of fifty privates... who shall equip and hold themselves in readiness, on the shortest possible notice from the said committee of safety, to march to the place of rendezvous; ...on any such emergent and necessary service as they may be called to by the committee of safety."

"Voted: unanimously, that the committee of supplies purchase all kinds of warlike stores, sufficient for an army of fifteen thousand men to take the field."

"March upon the Bridge, but do not fire unless fired upon."

"Fire! - Fellow soldiers! For God's sake - Fire!"

"I haven't a man who is afraid to go!"

## THE PROVINCIAL FORCES

# CHAIN OF COMMANDS      APRIL 19, 1775

## THE BRITISH REGULAR FORCES

## His Majesty's Government

Westminster Palace, London, England

represented by

Lord Dartmouth, Secretary of State for the Colonies  
His Majesty's Government, London, England

Dartmouth to Gage  
Whitehall, London  
January 27, 1775

"With regard to the state of America in general, affairs there are now come to a crisis in which the Government of this Country must act with firm-ness and decision"  
"...It must be understood, however, after all I have said, that this is a matter which must be left to your own discretion to be executed or not..."

## General Gage

Commander in Chief of the British Army in America  
1763-1775

Royal Governor of Massachusetts  
1774-1775, Boston, Massachusetts

Gage received Dartmouth's letter on April 14, 1775. On April 18 he ordered Lt. Colonel Smith to Concord:

"Having received intelligence, that a quantity of Ammunition, Provisions, Artillery, Tents, and small arms have been collected at Concord,... you will seize and destroy all artillery, Ammunition, Provisions, Tents, Small Arms, and all Military Stores whatever. But you will take care that the Soldiers do not plunder the inhabitants, or hurt private property."

## Lieutenant Colonel Smith

His Majesty's 10th Regiment of Foot  
Field Officer in Command, April 19th, 1775

Smith ordered the disposition of troops from Concord Center to search for and destroy military supplies.

## Major Pitcairn

Officer in charge of Marines  
Second Field Officer, April 19th, 1775

Pitcairn was ordered to carry out the search and destroy mission in Concord Center.

## Captain Pole

10th Regiment of Foot

Pole was ordered to secure the South Bridge and search the surrounding homes.

## Captain Parsons

10th Regiment of Foot

Parsons was ordered to secure the North Bridge and search the Barrett Farm.

## Captain Laurie

43rd Regiment of Foot

Laurie was the ranking officer during the action at North Bridge. He ordered the retreat across the Bridge and "street firing" formation.

