

EYEWITNESS TO APRIL 19, 1775

Narrator: Many years later, eyewitnesses gave statements of the events of April 19, 1775.

Solomon Smith was a member of Capt. Isaac Davis' company of minutemen. His deposition was given in 1835 when he was 82 years of age.

Solomon Smith: I was alarmed on the 19th of April about day break. I gave notice to several of the company, went to Capt. Davis's house and found several of the company there...

We set out for Concord when the sun was something more than a hour high. Other members of the company joined us on the road ... we made some delay near Col Barrett's and then proceeded to the high ground north of the bridge. ..Immediately after our arrival the officers of the companies including ours went by themselves and held a consultation for a few minutes. Capt. Davis then came to the head of his company, and drew his sword and said "I haven't a man that is afraid to go" and gave the word "March." We proceeded toward the bridge in double file. Major Buttrick and Col. Robbins marched with Capt. Davis.

Narrator: Amos Baker from Lincoln, the last surviving man who fought at the North Bridge, described the events in a deposition given in 1850.

Amos Baker: I was at Concord Fight on the nineteenth of April, 1775; I was then nineteen years and eleven days old....I saw the British troops coming up the road that leads on to the Common at Concord. The sun shone very bright on their bayonets and guns. When we were going to march down to the bridge, it was mentioned between Major Buttrick and Capt. Isaac Davis that the minute men had better be put in front because they were the only men that had bayonets and it was not certain whether the British would fire, or whether they would charge bayonets without firing. Captain Davis's company of minute men was then brought up on the right.