

## JAMES HAYWARD'S CHOICE

**Narrator:** James Hayward was a 25-year-old school teacher. Due to an injured foot, he was not required to join the militia, but he turned out on April 19th as hundreds of others did. A neighbor and friend of Captain Isaac Davis, he joined the minute company at Davis' farm that morning. He was seen grinding the point of his bayonet "Because," said he, "I expect, before night, we shall come to a push with them and I want my bayonet *sharp*."

After the confrontation at the North Bridge, there was a fierce encounter between the colonial militia and British Regulars at Fiske's Hill. Hayward stopped to drink from the well at the Fiske farm. As he approached the well, he saw a British soldier lingering behind his company, plundering the farm. The two fired at each other; the British soldier died instantly and Hayward was mortally wounded.

According to Reverend Woodbury in a speech before the state House of Representatives, "His venerable father, Deacon Samuel Hayward, whose house he had left that morning in the bloom of vigorous manhood, had time to reach Lexington and comfort him."

**Deacon Hayward:** "James, you are mortally wounded. You can live but a few hours...Are you sorry that you turned out?"

**James Hayward:** "Father, hand me my powder-horn and bullet pouch. I started with one pound of powder and forty balls, you see what is left," –

**Narrator:** he had used all but two or three of them, -

**James Hayward:** "you see what I have been about...tell mother not to mourn too much for me, for *I am not sorry I turned out*."