

David Oliver

David Oliver was born in 1747, in Barre, Worcester, Massachusetts, when both were late in their lives. His father, Lancelot Oliver, was 43 and his mother, Mary Walker, was 41. He married Elizabeth Boyd about 1773, in Barre, Worcester, Massachusetts. They were the parents of at least two daughters -Mehitable and Betsey. He died on 3 March 1821, in Rutland, Worcester, Massachusetts, at the age of 74, and was buried in Old Burial Ground, in Northborough, Worcester, Massachusetts.

During the Revolutionary War, David Oliver served as a Sergeant in the Massachusetts Militia, under Captains John Black, Benjamin Nye, Thomas Lord, and Colonels Nathan Sparhawk and Job Cushing. He also was reported to have been at the Lexington Alarm on that very first day of the War as a **Minuteman**.

Minutemen were members of the New England colonial militia companies trained in weaponry, tactics, and military strategies. They were expected to be ready at a minute's notice to respond to any military threats. Minutemen constituted about a quarter of the entire militia of New England. They were generally younger, more mobile, and were provided with weapons and arms by the local governments.

That first battle of the Revolutionary War was fought in Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. British troops had moved from Boston toward Lexington and Concord to seize the colonists' military supplies and arrest revolutionaries. Paul Revere, on his famous ride, first alerted the Americans to the British movement. In Concord, advancing British troops met resistance from the seventy-seven Minutemen, as well as other American volunteers, who harassed the retreating British troops along the Concord-Lexington Road. Only the arrival of reinforcements sent by General Gage enabled the British soldiers to get back to the safety of Boston. At day's end the British counted 273 casualties out of a total of 1,800 men engaged; American casualties numbered 95 men, including the toll at Lexington. It has been estimated 75,000 shots were fired by the Colonists that day, testifying to the determination of the people of Massachusetts to resist any attempt by the British to impose their will by armed force.