

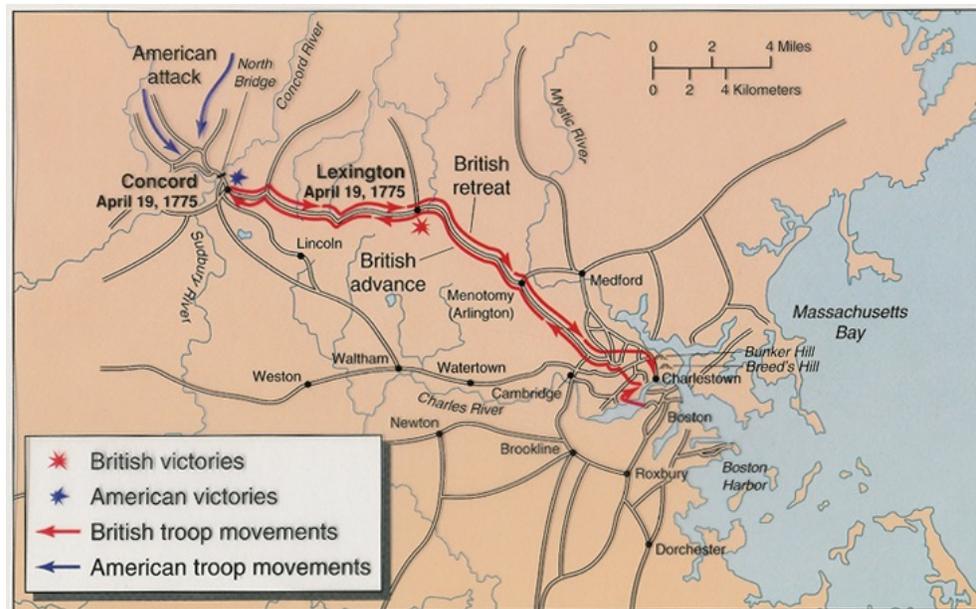
#473 The Unholy Concord – The Concord Bridge and Concord’s Revolutionary War Pastor



Concord’s pastor. Concord’s pastor of the First Parish Church at the time of the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in Lexington and Concord was Ralph Waldo Emerson’s grandfather, the Reverend William Emerson. Samuel Prescott, who had been captured with Paul Revere on his famous ride, escaped and rode on to warn Concord that the British were on the march. Amos Melven, who was on all-

night guard duty in front of the town house, fired his musket into the air as an alarm signal and then ran to the meeting house at the southeastern end of the Common. He yanked the heavy bell rope with a fury. The Reverend William Emerson, described as a stormy young pastor, was a light sleeper. Although he lived almost a mile north of the Common, he was among the first on hand, his musket cradled in arm. The cartouche box hanging from his husky shoulder was packed with ammunition. Between drafting his sermons and counseling his Congregational flock, he had found plenty of time to mold bullets and roll cartridges. Preaching a few weeks before to a gathering of the militia companies of Concord, Lincoln, and Acton, he had taken as his text: “And behold God Himself is with us for our captain, and His priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you.” Source: *Forge of Liberty: The Dramatic Opening of the American Revolution*, by Leonard Faulkner, p. 103, © 1959.

Using his pulpit to indicate the injustices of British rule, Emerson had been selected chaplain of the Provincial Congress when it met at Concord in October 1774 and served in the same capacity with the local militia . . . The time for action to replace words came on the morning of April 19, 1775, as British regulars fresh from killing Americans on Lexington Green approached Concord. At the first sounding of the alarm bell, Rev. Emerson mustered on the Common in his black minister’s frock, musket in hand. As rumors swirled about and courses of action were discussed, tradition has it that Emerson exhorted, “Let us stand our ground; if we die, let us die here.” Encouraging a



Battle of Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775. Americans converged at the Old North Bridge at Concord to stop the British.



The Old Manse built by Concord's patriot minister William Emerson in 1770. Emerson both responded to and wrote about the alarm of April 19, 1775, which sent colonists and British regulars to their historic encounter on the adjacent North Bridge.

frightened 18 year-old, Harry Gould, the Reverend said, "Stand your ground Harry! Your cause is just and God will bless you." **The Reverend William Emerson would be remembered as a patriot, a man of God overseeing his church, a citizen joining countrymen in a common cause,** and a family man loving and protecting his wife and children. And most of all, Concord's minister would be remembered for being at the Concord Bridge with his men on April 19. Source: <http://www.concordma.com/magazine/mayjun01/emerson.html>

Key Understanding: *The concord bridge.* The actual facts of what Emerson did that day are debated. Some say he was at the Concord Bridge, and others say he was not. But the point of the entire matter is that of *concord* and *bridge*, each word representing the Unholy Concord of Christ with Belial that was occurring in those moments at the Concord Bridge

(pictured) on April 19, 1775, through the joining of the Cross of Jesus Christ with the Sword of the State, and the joining, or *bridging*, of those who were supposed to be the Light of the World with the Enlightenment doctrines of America. The joining of Church and State was manifested at the *Concord Bridge*, and that is why the Lord ordained the Revolutionary War to begin there.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (KJV) *BE YE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS:* for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 *AND WHAT CONCORD HATH CHRIST WITH BELIAL?* or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?



The fight at Concord Bridge

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