

### **The Requirements for the Muster or Pay Rolls:**

The requirements for the rolls that were the basis for paying the men who responded to the April 19<sup>th</sup> alarm are summarized in *Massachusetts Militia Companies and Officers in the Lexington Alarm*, Charles E. Hambrick-Stowe and Dona D. Smerlas (Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1976) (hereinafter *Massachusetts Militia*).

Chapter 370 of the Resolves of the Provincial Congress, passed on November 9, 1775, entitled “Resolves providing pay for the militia who came on the alarm at Lexington”, fixed the rates of pay and the process by which pay could be received. All company commanders were directed:

“to make up a Roll of the Travel and Service of himself and the said Men under his Command who did not enlist into the Colony Army and therein exhibit the Number of miles which each Man Travelled from and to his Home at one penny per mile for the Expense of travelling and also the Time which each man was in Service, computing from the Time he left Home to the Time he left the place of Rendezvous and also allowing one Day for each Twenty Miles from said place of Rendezvous to his Home....”

With respect to men who marched with their companies and thereafter enlisted in the army, it was provided that:

“each Captain or other Office as aforesaid is respectively directed to exhibit in his Roll the Time of such Men’s Service computing from the Time they left their respective Homes to the Time they enlisted into said Army without exhibiting their Travel as that is already order’d to be inserted to in the Rolls, which the Officers under whom such men enlisted are directed to make up and return.”

*Massachusetts Militia* at xxi.

Once a company commander completed the roll for his company’s service, he took the roll and a copy of it to the justice of the peace of his county, swearing before the justice that the roll was “true in all its parts”. In response the justice would acknowledge on the copy that the commander had so sworn and would sign his name. The commander then took the roll and the copy to Watertown where the “Committee appointed to approve Muster Rolls” compared the roll and the copy and wrote on the bottom or margin of the copy that “this is a True Copy of the Original” and signed their names. The copy was then taken to the Provincial Congress where the payment requested was approved with the rolls being subscribed with the words: “In Council (date) read and allowed and ordered that a warrant be drawn on the treasury for (amount) in full of said roll” and signed by Perez Morton, treasurer. The company commander then obtained the authorized funds and paid his men. *Id.* at xxii