

MA Militia Narrative

By James McGinn of the Bedford Minutemen Company, describing Massachusetts Militia, including Garner's Regiment and other militia, Veterans of the battles of Lexington & Concord and Bunker hill in June 1775, to the first units assigned to defend Prospect Hill.

“By the end of April 19, 1775, thousands of militia had answered the alarm after the British retreat from Concord and began the Siege of Boston. In June 1775, as the British prepared to break the siege, colonial leaders ordered fortifications on the Charlestown peninsula. Colonel Prescott led 1,200 men to build a redoubt ultimately on Breed's Hill, resulting in a British Army attacked on June 17. One of the local units, Colonel Gardner's Regiment moved from Lechmere Point across Charlestown Neck to support the fighting. Two of Gardner's companies—including many Charlestown men—held the stone wall along the Mystic River, where some of the fiercest fighting took place.

As powder ran out and the redoubt fell, Gardner's Regiment provided covering fire that allowed the retreat from Breed's Hill to Bunker Hill. General Putnam retreated and regrouped on this very ground—Prospect Hill—and held the line until the British evacuation in March 1776.

Subsequently, in July 1775 General Putnam, install a flagpole from a captured ship mast, on top of Prospect Hill, the highest point outside of Boston, creating a visible point able to be seen by all.”