

John Tidd was born on 26 October 1749, his father Joseph Tidd was born in Lexington on 15 May 1707 and died there on 18 September 1773. John's mother Dorothy Stickney Tidd was born on 18 March 1711 in Bradford, MA. Dorothy died on 23 October 1790 and is buried in Lexington's Old Burying Ground. Joseph and Dorothy were married in Woburn on 21 July 1731.

On 19 April 1775, John Tidd was 26 years old and present on Lexington Common along with his brother, Benjamin, and his two cousins, Samuel and Lieutenant William Tidd. Many of his friends and neighbors also stood awaiting the arrival of the King's troops on that fateful April morning. After the skirmish, John was among the last to depart the field. As he was leaving, a British mounted officer rushed upon him and struck him down with his cutlass. While he lay senseless from the effects of the blow to his head, the troops robbed him of his musket, cartridge box and powder horn, leaving him for dead.

The severe cut to his head inflicted by the British officer, along with the loss of his musket and accouterments, meant John could not join with those men of Captain Parker's Company who mustered on the Common later that morning to hear Rev. Clarke's Motivating Speech before courageously marching off to meet the British on their return from Concord. As compensation for his bravery, suffering and losses John received 4 pounds and 10 shillings from the Massachusetts Legislature.

John was on the muster rolls of Captain John Bridges Lexington Company in Eliezer Brooks regiment at Roxbury from 4 March to 8 March 1776. Also in 1776 he served on the "Eighth Campaign to the Jersey's" for which he received 3 pounds and 15 shillings for three months duty. John also served for six months in the "Seventeenth Campaign at Providence."

John married Elizabeth Reed, on 7 April 1778 in Woburn. Elizabeth was born 18 April 1750 in Woburn, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth French Reed. She died on 18 September 1799 and is buried next to John in Lexington's Old Burying Ground. In his later years John moved to Rindge, NH where he married Susannah "Sukey" Todd on 30 May 1802. John died in Rindge at age 63 but his body was returned to Lexington to lie beside Elizabeth's. The epitaph on his tombstone reads stop my friend and cast an eye, remember well you were born to die."

John and Elizabeth had three children, all born in Lexington; John Jr. born 2 March 1779, married Esther Hayward in Lexington; Joseph, born 8 March 1783; Jacob born 14 March 1785.