

Edwin Thomas Scallon



The 245 STEPS of WINDSOR

From The Actual Writings of King George III and those of The American Colonists - The One Important Order that Sparked the American Revolution

*The Origin of the
American Revolution*



To: Those people I hold closest

Alexander (Al) Usenia, my PPD Partner, Mary Lou Synan, her sister Joanne Synan and the Providence School Department in particular Dr. David Conrady

There is no greater honor than the loyalty between Police Partners, Al was always there

In the darkest times of my life, Mary Lou picked me up, dusted me off and gave me hope and inspiration

Joanne spent hours if not days knitting a blanket, not knowing where I would sleep, she sought to keep me warm and comfortable

The Providence School Department and Dr. David Conrady for granting me the opportunity to teach History, Algebra and Physics at Mt. Pleasant High School, Providence, RI.

To them this book is rightfully dedicated

PREFACE

This book is designed for the reader of the American Revolution to better understand, generally, the art of war and why they all begin, particularly the American Revolution.

The war between the American Colonists and Great Britain began as a direct and proximal result of one unforgivable order by King George III. Without that spark, most likely the American Revolution would not have occurred. This book explores that spark.

We are required by history to develop the lineage leading George William Frederick to eventually become King George III of England.

This preface is a thumbnail sketch which will guide you through English history regarding the Monarchy, the kings, queens and more particularly the reign of King George III. This book explores the source of the American Revolution, hence, the origins of our country.

All war, historically, are sparked essentially by a single act. WWI, for example, was a result of the broken Treaty of Paris. That treaty granted Belgium a completely neutral posture. Belgium hence forth, would be free from all other countries wars. All the signatories, which, by signing that treaty recognized and agreed to the terms. When Germany invaded France, the German army crossed Belgium and attacked France from the north, thus igniting WWI when England, a signatory to the Treaty of Paris declared war on Germany.

The Treaty of Paris, also known as the Treaty of 1763, was signed on February 10, 1763 by the kingdoms of Germany, Great Britain, France and Spain, with Portugal in agreement. After Great Britain and Prussia's victory over France and Spain during the Seven Years' War, this treaty also ended

the French and Indian War in North America.

By signing the treaty it formally ended the conflict between France and Great Britain over control of North America (the Seven Years' War, known as the French and Indian War in the United States); [1] and marked the beginning of an era of British dominance outside Europe, [2] Great Britain and France each returned much of the territory that they had captured during the war, but Great Britain gained much of France's possessions in North America. Additionally, Great Britain agreed to protect Roman Catholicism in the New World. The treaty did not involve Prussia and Austria as they signed a separate agreement, the Treaty of Hubertusburg, five days later.

Naturally, prior to any first shot being fired, which normally precedes a war, there are negotiations seeking to prevent war, and as we all know most failed.

Likewise, the United States preached neutrality when Hitler's German Army invaded Poland, sparking WWII. Prior to Germany invading Poland, England's prime minister, Chamberland, reached an agreement with Hitler, that Germany would not expand its territories by invading any other countries. Those negotiations failed.

In the United States, negotiations with Japan sought to avoid a war. The United States did not enter the war until the Empire of Japan attacked the U.S. Naval Air station located in Hawaii.

The American Revolution followed similar paths.

The American Revolution seeking independence from Great Britain did not just happen overnight. Colonists' discontent with the mother country had been building for years. Oddly enough, from the time of the Pilgrims up to April 19, 1775, most of the colonists enjoyed being British

subjects. In fact, when the delegates to the First Continental Congress met, most were Loyalists. Granted the war began at Lexington or Concord Massachusetts, but this was NOT just the culmination of frustration over the oppressive acts of King George III.

The actual war began on APRIL 19, 1775, due to King George III's order to General Gage. The Declaration of Independence wasn't even drafted when the war began. We hadn't even formally declared war on England. War was commenced out of the colonists necessity to protect themselves, as such, a state of war thereafter existed. We hadn't even ratified the Declaration of Independence and it was over a year after the Revolutionary War commenced that our Declaration of Independence was ratified. The Declaration of Independence, quite frankly, was the official notice to the Crown that the colonies would no longer be subject to the will of Parliament or the King.

The American Revolution was an emergency response to King George III's order to General Gage of Boston, MA to confiscate all the colonist's arms and munitions.

Historically, the English Isle was ruled by the Saxons from the first century up to the 11th century. The ruling class, the Monarchy, was the supreme ruler, much as it was after the Norman invasion.

Without knowing the future of England, that Isle would eventually be ruled by the Normands. The Norman King, Charles the Simple, a Carolingian ruled from 911 allowing the Vikings to settle Normandy under their leader Rollo. Rollo, the Viking leader, converted his subjects from paganism to Christianity. Rollo also permitted intermarriage with the local population.

In 1002 King Ethelred II married Emma, the sister of Richard II, Duke of Normandy. Their son, Edward the Confessor eventually ascended

to the English throne in 1042. Edward, now King, brought Norman courtiers, soldiers and clerics with him - appointing them to positions of power, particularly in the Church.

Edward was childless and as such became embroiled in conflict over who would succeed him for the throne of England. On King Edward's death in 1066, no clear heir was found. History demonstrates that the Normand rulers contested the ascension of Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex. Harold Hardrada of Norway also contested the succession. His claim to the throne was based on an agreement between his predecessor, Magnus the Good and the earlier King of England Harthacnut, where, if either dies without heir, the other would inherit both England and Norway. William and Harald Hardrada assembled troops and ships for separate invasions of England.

In early 1066 Harold's exiled brother Tosig Godwinson raided southeastern England with a fleet he had assembled.

The English army [known as *Fyrd*] fought the Normands without success and after the Norman victory. William built a wooden castle at Hastings, the site of the victorious battle. Harold died later in the battle. Further William I or William the Conqueror, also built Windsor Castle. The original castle was built in the 11th century after the Norman invasion. The castle was designed to protect Norman dominance around the outskirts of London and oversee a strategically important part of the River Thames.

William had expected to be recognized and receive the submission of the surviving English leaders after his victory at Hastings. Instead, Edgar the Eheling was proclaimed King by the Witenagemot, with the support of Earls, Edwin, Morcare, and Stigand the Archbishop of Canterbury.

William moved up the Thames valley to cross the river at

Wallingford, where he receive the submission of Stigand. He then traveled north-east along the Chilterns, before advancing towards London from the north-west, fighting further engagements against forces from the City. The English leaders surrendered to William at Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. William was acclaimed King of England and crowned by Ealdredon on December 25, 1066, in Westminster Abbey.

William the Conqueror on his death bed granted the Duchy of Normandy to his eldest son Robert Curthose and the Kingdom of England to his son William Rufus. William Rufus was crowned William II, King of England. William II died without issue, [children]. Prior to his death, William II agreed with his brother, Robert that each other would be heir.

By the Treaty of Wallingford, Steven, in lineage assumed the throne and on his death agreed to make Henry his successor. On August 2, 1100 Henry I became King. Soon, on October 25, 1154 Henry II became King of England.

For you Latin scholars, *Ecclesia Catholica in Anglia et Cambria*, translated as The Catholic Church in England and Wales. This choice of the sect of Christianity will play a part in the American Revolution.

At that time England and Wales were part of the worldwide Catholic Church in full communion with the Holy See. Its origins date from the 6th century when Pope St. Gregory the Great through the Benedictine missionary, Saint Augustine of Canterbury, intensified the evangelization of the Kingdom of Kent linking it to the Holy See in 597. This unbroken communion with the Holy See lasted until King Henry VIII ended it in 1534.

In 1534, during the reign of King Henry VIII, the English church became independent of the Holy See, with Henry declaring himself its Supreme Head. Further reading can be found in articles on Frankalmoign

Law. Suffice it to say, this was the beginning of the Church of England, a Protestant sect following the Bible of King James.

During this period of time, some 102 Pilgrims left England for the “New World”. After some 66 days at sea, the Pilgrims reached the mainland of America on November 11, 1620. Although, history marks the landing in Plymouth, MA that is actually a myth. The ship the Pilgrims crossed the Atlantic Ocean was called the Mayflower. The Mayflower was anchored in Provincetown Harbor. Initially, the Pilgrims were headed to the Colony of Virginia to begin their settlement, but ended up on Provincetown, MA, commonly known as Cape Cod.

Only about one-half of the passengers on the Mayflower were Pilgrims, the rest were a rag tag bunch, many of whom were merchants and were called “strangers”. The Pilgrims called themselves “separatists”. Once they landed they drew up the Mayflower Compact. The first laws of the new land. It simply was a document designed to prevent chaos, in which all passengers consented to follow the community’s rules and regulations. It is often referred to as one of the foundational blocks for what would eventually become our democracy, though many historians including myself disagree.

It all came to a head about a month later, when a group of Wampanoag “Indians” and a contingent of Pilgrims led by Myles Standish skirmished near First Encounter Beach in Eastham. Arrows and bullets flew, but no one was injured. The Natives ran back into the woods and the Pilgrims set off in a small boat, only to be blown off course and ending up in Plymouth. They decided that it was a safer place to settle, thereafter the Mayflower anchored in Plymouth Harbor on December 18, 1620.

The Pope refused to annul King Henry VIII’s marriage to Catherine of Aragon, who had given birth to Mary. King Henry seeking a male child, married his second wife, Anne Boleyn. That marriage also resulted in a

daughter named Elizabeth II. Finally, Henry VIII had a son, Edward, by his third wife Jane Seymour. Poor Anne, King Henry's second wife, was beheaded in the court yard of the Tower of London. Her only error was failing to give Henry a son. When Henry VIII died in 1547, the young Edward succeeded him becoming Edward VI. Edward VI was the first Protestant Sovereign to succeed to the throne of England.

Now in 1714 the house of the Stewards, [Basically the Stuart Monarchs ruled Scotland from 1371-1714], began ruling England and Ireland. Beginning with Elizabeth I's succession gave way to James I of England and Ireland. James's eldest son Charles I, was overthrown and beheaded in 1649. For all intent and purposes the monarchy itself was abolished. A few years later, Oliver Cromwell effectively became a monarch with the title of Lord Protector rather than King. Cromwell had the right to name his own successor, which he exercised on his deathbed by choosing his son Richard Cromwell. Richard was a dunce and was quickly forced from office. Shortly after, the monarchy was restored with Charles I's son Charles II as King.

James II and James VII, both Roman Catholics, followed their brother Charles II, and in despite of efforts in the late 1670s to exclude him in favor of Charles's illegitimate Protestant son the Duke of Monmouth King James II thereafter remained King of England.

Now while England was settling on who their King or Queen would be, colonial history of the United States begins. History of European colonization of North American stems from the early 17th century until the incorporation of the colonies into the United States of America.

In the East, American Colonial colonies were formed and these regions were New England, the Middle Colonies, the Chesapeake Bay Colonies and the Southern Colonies. By and large, the colonies were growing with immigrants from all countries seeking a better life.

In England, King James II, ruled that the New England colonies, New York, and the Jerseys were briefly united as the Dominion of New England (1686-89). The British administration eventually led by Governor Sir Edmund Andros seized colonial charters, revoked land titles and ruled without local assemblies causing anger amongst the colonial population.

In the seventeenth century, Charles II and James II passed various measures to disarm “untrustworthy sorts”. King James II didn’t see his bad times coming, however, in 1671, King James II passed the Game Act. Certain persons were prohibited from owning a firearm. The Act [in] Section II, Identifies [which] persons are prohibited from keeping Guns, Bows, Dogs, &c.

“[a]nd it is hereby enacted and declared, that all and every person and persons, not having Lands and tenements or some other Estate of Inheritance in his own or his wife’s right of the cleare yearly value of one hundres pounds per annum or for terme of life or having Lease or Leases of ninety-nine years or for any long terme, of the cleare yearly value of one hundred and fifty pound, . . . are hereby prohibited to have, keep or use the same”.

The act went further to demand that all gunsmiths who made firearms were required to be licensed by the Crown and every month provide a list of how many firearms they made and if sold to whom.

Unsurprisingly, when the Glorious Revolution of 1688 took place (James was deposed and fled to France). Parliament invited William & Mary to become the new Monarchs. The new Monarchs wrote a Bill of Rights that guaranteed a right to keep arms. It states in part,

“That the subjects which are Protestants, may have arms for their defense suitable to their conditions, and as allowed by

law.”

(** Note** Only Protestants were allowed to keep “arms” and then only to those suitable to their “conditions” - station in life)

From the moment James II ascended to the throne his reign was faced with rebellion. James II was crowned in April and by May there was armed conflict with Protestants.

Soon to be crowned William III’s first act established a Parliament who quickly proceeded to declare that James, having fled to France and abandoning the Great Seal in the process had abdicated the throne.

So, what is the point? Confused about what this has to do with gun control? That *is* exactly the point. The first laws about “the right to bear arms” had little to do with actually owning or bearing *weapons* and more to do with religious authority and political power.

Back in 1689 the colonies experienced the beginning of warfare between the English and French that used North America as one of several theaters using the colonial militias as support of the troops. King William’s War, as it was known, the colonies theater of the Nine Year War (1688-1697) started when James II fled to France and was fought between French Catholic colonists and English Protestant colonists. The war in North America was mainly over the fur trade and was influenced by the native tribes. This conflict would start a cycle of militias and scouts being employed from volunteers within the colonial settlers.

In England, Anne Stuart was Queen. Anne was the last of the Stuart line. She was crowned on May 1, 1707 and died on August 1, 1714.

Thereafter, the house of Hanover was succeeded by George I. George

Luis was King from August 1, 1714 until his death on June 11, 1727.

George the II succeeded his father, and was crowned King on June 11, 1727 and reigned until his death on October 25, 1760.

Finally, the King who would eventually reign in England during the period of time when the colonies began to rebel was born. King George III - born George William Frederick was Crowned on October 25, 1760 but did not begin his reign until he reached majority.

During this period of time, England was suffering financial hardship from the cost of the “French and Indian” War and as such began exacting “tax” from the colonies. When it became obvious that the colonists would open revolt, King George III ruminated that England would not be able to win a war with the colonies without first confiscating the colonists firearms and gun powder. King George III took a page from his predecessor, James II regarding firearms.

In Colonial America, however, things were a bit different. The colonies were far enough away that “the uppity colonists”, as King George III characterized them, with guns weren’t any threat to the king. Although at times the colonists were problematic to the King’s governors and soldiers.

By the time of the First Continental Congress which met from September 5 to October 26, 1774, the delegates wanted relief from the tax burden. On October 25, 1774, they chose to write the King. The day before the First Continental Congress adjourned, John Dickinson, penned a petition to King George III. Congress sent this resentful petition to King George III to inform his majesty that if it had not been for the acts of oppression forced upon the colonies by the British Parliament the American People would be standing behind British rule. At that time, Congress was still willing to assert its loyalty to the King.

King George III did not respond to the petition, and some eight months later, on July 6, 1774, the Second Continental Congress adopted a resolution entitled “Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms”.

When it became apparent that the colonists were rebelling, King George III ordered General Gage to capture all the colonists arms and ammunition. General Gage began preparing the British Army located in Massachusetts to march on what he believed to be the colonists’s cache of arms and ammunition in Concord, MA.

The colonists’ informed the King that such an act of disarming the colonists by confiscation of powder, ball and firearms would be an act of war.

The Author

Chapter 1

GOD SAVE THE KING

King George III, a member of the Hanover dynasty, ruled England for almost two centuries. George III was the King of Great Britain during some of the nation's most tumultuous years which included those of the American Revolutionary War.

England's longest-ruling monarch before Queen Victoria, King George III (1738-1820) ascended the British throne in 1760. During his 59 year reign, he pushed through a British victory in the Seven Year War, lend England's successful remittance to French Revolution and Napoleonic wars. Further he presided over the loss of the American Revolution.

He was the first King born in England. His mother was Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg who was born on November 19, 1719. Princess Augusta was born in Gorha to Frederick II, Duke of Saxe-Gotha-Altenbury and Magdalena Augusta of Anhalt-Zerbst. This will eventually make sense on how George became king.

George was the first king of Great Britain actually born in England. His father Frederick, Prince of Wales, born Frederick Louis, was heir apparent to the British throne from 1727 until his death from a lung injury at age 44. He was the eldest and the estranged son of King George II and his mother, Caroline of Ansbach, eventually became father of King George III.

Augusta became Princess of Wales by marriage to Frederick.

Born, prematurely on June 4, 1738, George William Frederick , son of Prince Frederick of Wales and Princess Augusta, George wasn't expected to live and was baptized the same day. At the time, it seemed unlikely that George William Frederick would one day become King George III. On his father's death in 1751, the 12 year old George became Prince of Wales.

In 1751, George's father Prince Frederick died. That left Frederick's eldest son, Prince George, as the new heir apparent. However, George was then only 12. If the King were to die before Prince George turned 18, the throne would pass to a minor.

Prince Frederick of Wales, was the son and heir of King George II. Augusta became queen consort, as Frederick predeceased his father in 1751. Augusta's eldest son, succeeded her father-in-law as King George III in 1756. After her spouse died, Augusta was presumptive regent of Great Britain in the event of regency until her son reached majority in 1756.

That forced Parliament to provide for a regent by passing Minority of Successor to Crown Act 1751. The Act provided that George's mother, Augusta, Dowage Princess of Wales, would act as regent and specified that a Council of Regency be put in place to rule alongside Princess Augusta. The Council of Regency was to act as a brake on the regent's power; some acts of royal prerogative, such as declarations of war or signing of peace treaties, would require a majority vote of the council.

The Regency Acts are Acts of Parliament of the United Kingdom passed as various times, to provide a regent in the event the reigning monarch being incapacitated or a minor

In his father's writing to the then Prince Frederick advised his young son [George] to, "Avoid war at all costs and find compromise." As one historian, Rachel Banke, observed in the Georgian Papers led her to recast

George as a careful political thinker and thwarted reformer too. She states, “He had high intentions to reform the political system and bring a virtue and success unknown to the nation since Wizagethan era. His failure came not out of malice but resulted from mistakes, circumstances beyond his control, and the harsh consequences of a complex political system.”

Young George was educated by private tutors, and by age 8 he could speak English and German and soon learned French. In 1760, George’s grandfather suddenly died and the 22 year old became king. A year later he married Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

Since 1754, Britain and France had been engaged in a border skirmish along the frontier in North America that began when British colonial militia, initially led by Lieutenant George Washington, the future “father of our country” unsuccessfully attacked the French Fort Duquesne. During the resulting Seven Years’ War, George III was closely advised by his prime minister Lord Bute, who kept the young inexperienced monarch isolated from key members of Parliament. Bute was maligned by members of Parliament and was forced to resign. It was also rumored by members of Parliament that Lord Bute had an affair with George’s mother, a scandal never proven, but boot-strapped the argument for his resignation.

King George III worked for an expedited end to The Seven Years’ War - “The French and Indian War”, so called, (1756-63), King George III taking a position that forced his influential war minister William Pitt the Elder, (who wanted to broaden the conflict), to resign in 1761. The next year King George appointed Lord Bute as his prime minister, the first in a quick succession of five ineffective ministers.

In 1763, George Granville succeeded Bute as King George III’s prime minister. The British Empire deeply in debt at the end of the Seven Years’ War, Granville looked to the American colonies as a source of revenue. He reasoned that since the colonies had benefitted from the outcome of the war

and British troops were needed in North America to protect them colony and as such they should pay for that protection. King George agreed with that reasoning and supported the Sugar Act of 1764 and the Stamp Act of 1765.

By the time the Second Continental Congress convened on May 10, 1775, the deflagrates from 12 of the 13 colonies agreed that they had enough of Parliament's overreach. Although throughout the debates in Congress, members believed King George III would be open to their suggestions since they believed the members of Parliament were corrupt and had extraordinary influence over the King.

Although the Stamp Act was repealed by Parliament, repeal was due to the colonists refusing to abide by the Act, and attacking the Crown's tax collectors. King George III in 1770 appointed Lord North to become prime minister beginning a 12-year period of parliamentary stability. In 1773 he passed an act taxing tea in the colonies. The Colonists complained that taxation without representation was not legal, which resulted in civil disobedience (and staged the Boston Tea Party), but North held firm with George's backing.

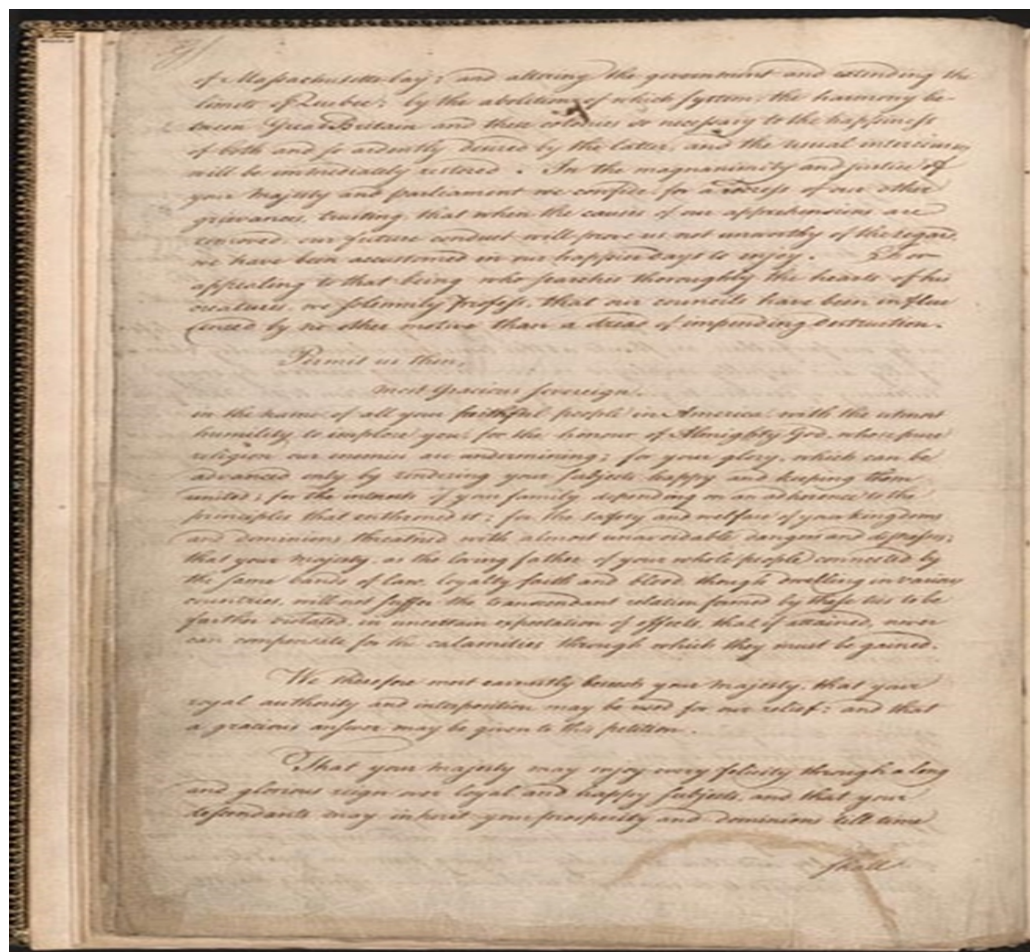
Townsend Acts or Townsend Duties refers to a series of British acts of Parliament passed during 1767 and 1768 relating to the British colonies in America. They were named for Charles Townsend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer who proposed the program. The purposes of the acts were to (1) raise revenue in the colonies to pay the salaries of governors and judges so that they would remain loyal to Great Britain, (2) create more effective means of enforcing compliance with trade regulations, (3) punish the Province of New York for failing to comply with the 1767 Quartering Act and (4) establish the precedent that the British Parliament had the right to tax the colonies.

The Townsend Acts were met with resistance in the colonies, which

eventually resulted in the Boston Massacre of 1770. They placed an indirect tax on glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea, all of which had to be imported from Britain. The Townsend acts were in response to the failure of the Stamp Act of 1765, which had provided the first form of direct taxation placed upon the colonies.

The Second Continental Congress provided another olive branch to King George III, however, King George III refused to receive the colonial petition. The Proclamation of Rebellion of August 23, 1775 effectively served as an answer to the petition.

Below is a copy from the Archives of that petition:





Transit of Venus.

3. of June. 1769.

His most sacred, Majesty King George the 3.
His most excellent, Majesty Queen Charlotte.
The Hon^{ble} the High-Justice & Lord of the Great Bench of England, Sir William Murray.
The Hon^{ble} the High-Justice & Lord of the Great Bench of England, Sir John Pratt.
attended by.

Colonel Desaguliers.
The Hon^{ble} the Viscount of Wollaton.
Captain Kearsley.
John Walling.
Ber. Walling.
John Wall.
Doctor Stephen Demainbray.
present.

His Majesty the King who made his Observation with a 40 foot Reflecting Telescope, magnifying 470 times, was the first who saw the Umbra of Venus touching the Edge of the Sun's Disk.

The exact Time (according to civil reckoning) was 11. 10. 10. by Stephen Demainbray, appointed to the exact time by the Royal Regulator, previously regulated by several Astronomical Observations.

The proclamation of Rebellion was drafted before Colonial Secretary Lord Dartmouth had been given a copy of the Second Continental Congress's Olive Branch Petition. On October 27, 1775, North's Cabinet expanded on the proclamation in the Speech from the Throne read by King George III at the opening of Parliament. The king's speech insisted that rebellion was being fomented by a "desperate conspiracy" of leaders whose claims of allegiance to the King were insincere; what the rebels really wanted he said was to create an "independent empire". The speech indicated that King George III intended to deal with the crisis with armed force and was even considering "friendly offers of foreign assistance" to suppress the rebellion without putting Britain against his own country. A pro-American minority of members within Parliament at the time warned the government was driving the colonists towards independence something many colonial leaders insisted they did not desire.

The American Revolution for independence followed on April 19, 1775 with the battle of Lexington and Concord, MA. The War lasted between 1775 to 1783.

Although King George III and many of the monarchs since the coronation of Edgar in 973AD heard the acclamation 'God Save the King' which was sung at every coronation. Although George in all likelihood heard Thomas Arne performing, what later became the basis for England's National Anthem, at the Drury Lane Theater in 1745 after James II's grandson Bonnie Prince Charlie had defeated George II's forces at the Battle of Prestonpans. This accolade certainly was not entirely wasted on King George III who reigned for over 59 years, until he was 81 years old.

King George, personally, did not have a very peaceful reign. As stated earlier, the American Revolution began on April 19, 1775 with the Battles of Lexington and Concord. The next year the Declaration of Independence laid out the American's case for freedom portraying George III as an inflexible tyrant who had squandered his right to govern the

colonies. In reality the situation was more complex: Parliamentary minister not the crown, were responsible for colonial policies, through George still had means of direct and indirect influence.

The king was reluctant to come to terms with his army's defeat in the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. He actually drafted an abdication speech but in the end decided to defer to Parliament's negotiations. The 1783 Treaty of Paris recognized the United States for the first time had ceded Florida to Spain.

By the end of 1783, Lord North's coalition was forced out by William Pitt the Younger, who would be prime minister for more than 17 years. In 1778 George lapsed into a months-long period of violent insanity. He was restrained with a straightjacket and suffered various treatments as crisis of rule unfolded around him. He recovered the next year and reigned for the next 12 years as a newly beloved monarch and symbol of stability in the era of France's revolution chaos.

George suffered a second major bout of insanity in 1804 and recovered but in 1810 he slipped into his final illness. A year later his son, the future George IV, became prince regent, giving him effective rule for the War of 1812 and Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo in 1815.

By 1810 he was permanently insane. He spent the rest of his life in the care of his devoted wife, Charlotte Sophia, whom he married in 1761. Of their 50 years of marriage they gave birth to 15 children.

George III died blind, deaf and mad on January 29, 1820. His illnesses may have been caused by Porphyria, a defect of the blood that can cause mental illness when not treated which is an inherited metabolic disorder, however, in 2005 an analysis of hair samples suggested arsenic poisoning from medicines and cosmetics as a possible cause.

Chapter 2

GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH

As early as 1651, the English government had sought to regulate trade in the American colonies, and Parliament passed the Navigation Acts on October 9, 1651 to pursue a mercantilism policy intended to ensure that trade enriched Great Britain but prohibited trade with any other nations.¹

King Philip's War ended in 1678, which the New England colonies fought without any military assistance from England, and this contributed to the development of a unique identity separate from that of the British People². But King Charles II determined to bring the New England colonies under a more centralized administration in the 1680's to regulate trade to more effectively benefit the homeland³. The New England colonists fiercely opposed his efforts, and the Crown nullified their colonial charter in response⁴. Charles' successor James II finalized these efforts in 1686, establishing the consolidated Dominion of New England. Dominion rule triggered bitter resentment throughout New England; the enforcement of the unpopular Navigation Acts and the curtailing of local democracy angered the colonists.⁵ New Englanders were encouraged, however, by a change of government in England which saw James II effectively abdicate, and a populist uprising in New England overthrew Dominion rule on April 18, 1689.⁶ Colonial governments reasserted their control after the revolt, and successive Crown Governments made no more attempts to restore Dominion.⁷

Subsequent, the English government continued in their efforts to tax certain goods, passing acts regulating the trade of wool, hats, and molasses.

The Molasses Act of 1733 was particularly egregious to the colonists, as a significant part of colonial trade relied on molasses. The taxes severely damaged the New England economy and resulted in a surge of smuggling, bribery and intimidation of customs officials.⁸

In Massachusetts, during this period of time, one of the greatest sources of income to the colonists was the production of rum. In fact Massachusetts was the leading distiller of rum for the American Colonies. Since molasses and cane sugar were necessary ingredients for the distillation of rum, the tax was over burdensome.

Although taxation was an irritant to the colonists, since they believed that their contribution to the French and Indian war was sufficient evidence that they had supported England. Although England was in a financial bind, many British prime ministers advised the King to tax the colonists to solve their money problems.

In 1764, Parliament passed the Sugar Act, decreasing the existing customs duties on sugar and molasses but providing stricter measures of enforcement and collection. That same year, Prime Minister George Grenville proposed direct taxes on colonies to raise revenue, but he delayed action to see whether the colonies would propose some way to raise their revenue themselves.⁹

Grenville had asserted in 1762 that the whole revenue of the custom houses in America amounted to one or two thousand pounds a year, and that the English exchequer was paying between seven and eight thousand pounds a year to collect. Benjamin Franklin would later testify in Parliament in 1766 to the contrary. He argued that Americans already contributed heavily to the defense of the Empire. He further argued that local governments had raised, outfitted and paid 25,000 soldiers to fight France - as many as Britain itself sent-and spent many millions from American treasuries doing so in the French and Indian War alone.¹⁰

Parliament finally passed the Stamp Act in March 1765, which imposed direct taxes on the colonies for the first time. All official documents, newspapers, almanacs and pamphlets were required to have the stamps—even decks of paying cards. The colonists did not object that the taxes were high; they were actually low. They objected to their lack of representation in the Parliament, which gave them no voice concerning legislation that affected them.

However, at the conclusion of the recent war, [French and Indian War], the Crown had to deal with approximately 1,500 politically well-connected British Army officers. The decision was made to keep them on active duty with full pay, but their command had to be stationed somewhere. Stationing a standing army in Great Britain during peacetime was politically unacceptable, so the next determination was made to sustain them in America and have the Americans pay them. The soldiers had no military mission; they were not there to defend the colonies because there was no current threat to the colonies.¹¹

The Sons of Liberty formed shortly after the Act in 1765. They used public demonstrations, boycotts and threats of violence to ensure that the British tax laws were unenforceable. In Boston, the Sons of Liberty burned the records of the vice admiralty's court and looted the home of chief justice Thomas Hutchinson. Several legislatures called for united action, but none of the colonies sent delegates to the Stamp Act Congress in New York City in October. Moderates led by John Dickinson drew up a "Declaration of Rights and Grievances" stating that taxes passed without representation violated their rights as Englishmen, and colonists emphasized their determination by boycotting imports of British merchandise.

The Parliament at Westminster saw itself as the supreme lawmaking authority throughout all British possessions and thus entitled to levy any tax without colonial approval or even consultation. They argued that the

colonies were legally British corporations subordinate to the British parliament, and they pointed to numerous instances where Parliament had made laws in the past that were binding on the colonies. Parliament insisted that the colonies effectively enjoyed a “virtual representation” as most British people did, as only a small minority of the British population elected representatives to Parliament¹² but Americans such as James Otis maintained that they were not “virtually represented” by anyone in Parliament at all.¹³

The Rockingham government came to power in July 1765, and Parliament debated whether to repeal the stamp tax or to send an army to enforce it. Benjamin Franklin made the case for repeal, explaining that the colonies had spent heavily in manpower, money and blood defending the empire in a series of wars against the French and indigenous people, and that further taxes to pay for those wars were unjust and might bring about rebellion. Parliament agreed and repealed the tax on February 21, 1766, but they insisted in the Declaratory Act of March 1766 that they retained full power to make laws for the colonies “in all cases whatsoever.”¹⁴ The repeal nonetheless caused widespread celebrations in the colonies.

The following two acts, the Townshend Acts and The Tea Act was a direct and proximal result of King George III’s belief that (1) only Massachusetts’s colonists were the problem, not the other colonies and (2) that the Massachusetts colonists were led by John Adams and John Hancock; both of those positions proved myopic. Following Dickinson’s “Bill of Rights and Grievances” King George III literally blew a fuse over the offer of what Congress believed to be an olive branch. As the King was myopic in his belief about the united colonies, the colonists mistakenly believed that Parliament was the corrupting force behind the taxes and the King was sympathetic to the colonists plight.

In 1767, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts which placed duties on a number of staple goods, including paper, glass and tea, and established

a Board of Customs in Boston to move rigorously in executing trade regulations. The new taxes were enacted on a belief that Americans only objected to internal taxes and not to external taxes such as custom duties. However, in his widely read pamphlet, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*, John Dickinson argued against the constitutionality of the acts because their purpose as to raise revenue and not to regulate trade.¹⁵ Colonists responded to the taxes by organizing new boycotts of British goods. These boycotts were less effective, however, as the goods used by the Townshend Acts were not widely used.

The Townshend Acts or Townshend Duties refers to a series of British acts of Parliament passed during 1767 and 1768 relating to British colonies in America. There are named after Charles Townshend, the Chancellor the Exchequer who proposed the program. Historians vary slightly as to which acts were under the heading “townshend Acts”, but five are often listed;

- The New York Restraining Act June 5, 1767
- The Revenue Act June 26, 1767
- The Indemnity Act June 29, 1767
- The Vice Admiralty Court Act July 6, 1768
-

In February 1768, the Assembly of Massachusetts Bay issued a circular letter to the other colonies urging them to coordinate resistance. The governor dissolved the assembly when it refused to rescind the letter. Meanwhile, a riot broke out in Boston in June 1768 over the seizure of the sloop *Liberty*, owned by John Hancock, for alleged smuggling.

Before we get to the riots that followed, a clearer vision of John Hancock is needed. I am not running to the rescue of Hancock, but rather putting him in some historical perspective.

John Hancock was an American merchant, statesman and prominent

Patriot of the American Revolution. He served a president of the Second Continental Congress and was the first and third Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Hancock's father died while he was young and was sent to live with his uncle, Thomas Hancock. Thomas had a very successful business which John learned and became a partner. When Thomas died, childless, John inherited the merchant business.

After repeal of the Stamp Act, we now know that Parliament took a different approach to raising revenue, passing the 1767 Townshend Act. Now smugglers violated the Navigation Acts by trading with ports outside of the British Empire and avoiding import taxes.

Colonial merchants, even those not involved in smuggling found the new regulations oppressive. Other colonists protested that new duties were another attempt by Parliament to tax the colonies without their consent. The Customs Board may have suspected that Hancock was a smuggler, or they may have wanted to harass him because of his politics, especially after Hancock snubbed Governor Francis Bernard by refusing to attend public functions when custom official were present.¹⁶

On April 9, 1768, two customs employees,(called *tidesmen*), boarded Hancock's brig *Lydia* in Boston Harbor. Hancock was summoned, and finding that the agents lacked a writ of assistance (a general search warrant), he did not allow them to go below deck.

Now we come to the event we began with. This incident proved to be a major event in the coming of the American Revolution. On the evening of May 9, 1768, Hancock's sloop *Liberty* arrived in Boston Harbor, carrying a shipment of Madeira wine. When custom officers inspected the ship the next morning, they found that it contained 25 pipes of wine, which was only one forth of the ship's carrying capacity. The tidesmen stated they were posted on the *Liberty* throughout the night and no wine was removed. Eventually, the tidesmen recanted their stories and a riot ensued.

The Crown initiated law suits seeking treble damages from Hancock. John Adams represented Hancock and for unknown reasons, the cases were dropped.

On March 5, 1770, a large crowd gathered around a group of British soldiers on a Boston street. The crowd grew there and began throwing snowballs, rocks and debris at them. One soldier was clubbed and fell. There was no order to fire, but the soldiers fired into the crowd anyway. They hit 11 people. Three civilians died at the scene of the shooting and two died after the incident. The incident came to be called the Boston Massacre. The location of the Massacre is marked by a Packard just below the balcony of the “Old Customs House.”.

The Boston Tea Party was an American political and mercantile protest by the Sons of Liberty in Boston, Massachusetts on December 16, 1773.¹⁷ The target was the Tea Act of May 10, 1773, which allowed the British East India Tea Company to sell tea from China in American colonies without paying taxes apart from those imposed by the Townshend Acts. The Sons of Liberty strongly opposed the taxes in the Townshend Act as a violation of their rights. Protesters, some disguised as American Indians, destroyed an entire shipment of tea sent by East India Tea Company.

The Tea Party was the culmination of a resistance movement throughout British America against the Tea Act, which had been passed by the British Parliament in 1773. Colonists objected to the Tea Act because they believed that it violated their rights as Englishmen to “no taxation without representation”. Colonists should be taxed only by their own elected representatives and not by a British parliament in which they were not represented. In addition, the well-connected East India Company had been granted competitive advantages over colonial tea importers, who resented the move and feared additional infringement on their business. Protesters had successfully prevented the unloading of tea in three other

colonies, but in Boston, embattled Royal Governor Thomas Hutchinson refused to allow the tea to be returned to Britain.¹⁸

The Boston Tea Party was a significant event in the growth of the American Revolution. Parliament responded in 1774 with the Coercive Acts, coined by the colonists as the “Intolerable Acts”, which among the other provisions, ended local self government in Massachusetts and closed Boston’s commerce. Colonists up and down the Thirteen Colonies in turn responded to the Intolerable Acts with additional acts of protest, and by convincing the First Continental Congress, which petitioned the British monarch for repeal of the acts and coordinated colonel resistant to them.

During September and October 1773, seven ships carrying East India Company tea were sent to the colonies: four were bound for Boston and one each for New York, Philadelphia and Charlston. In the ships were more than 2,000 chests containing nearly 600,000 pounds of tea. Americans learned the details of the Tea Act while the ships were en route and opposition began to mount. Whigs, sometimes call themselves, Sons of Liberty, began a campaign to raise awareness and to convince or compel the consignees to resign, in the same way the stamp distributors had been forced to resign in the 1765 Stamp Act crisis.

The protest movement that culminated with the Boston Tea Party was not a dispute about high taxes. The price of legally imported tea was actually reduced by the Tea Act of 1773. Protesters were in stead concerned with a variety of other issues. The familiar “no taxation without representation” argument, along with the question of the extent of Parliament’s authority in the colonies remained prominent. Samuel Adams considered the British tea monopoly to be “equal to a tax” and to raise the same representation issue whether or not a tax was applied to it.

In every colony except Massachusetts, protesters were able to force the tea consignees to resign or to return the tea to England. In Boston,

however, Governor Hutchinson was determined to hold his ground. He convinced the tea consignees, two of whom were his sons, not to back down.

When the tea ship Dartmouth, arrived in Boston Harbor in late November, Whig leader Samuel Adams called for a mass meeting to be held at Faneuil Hall on November 29, 1773. Thousands of people arrived, so many that the meeting was moved to the larger Old South Meeting House. British law required Dartmouth to unload and pay the duties within twenty days or customs officials would confiscate the cargo (i.e unload it onto American soil). The mass meeting passed a resolution introduced by Adams and based on a similar set of resolutions promulgated earlier in Philadelphia, urging the captain of Dartmouth to send the ship back without paying the import duty. Meanwhile, the meeting assigned twenty-five men to watch the ship and prevent the tea - including a number of chests from Davison, Newman and Co., of London - from being unloaded.

Governor Hutchinson refused to grant permission of Dartmouth to leave without paying the duty. Two more tea ships, Eleanor and Beaver, arrived in Boston Harbor. On December 16-the last day of Dartmouth's deadline - roughly 5,000 to 7,000 people out of a population of roughly 16,000 had gathered around the Old South Meeting House. After receiving a report that Governor Hutchinson had again refused to let the ships leave, Adams announced that "This meeting can do nothing further to save the country." According to popular story, Adams's statement was a prearrange signal for the "tea party" to begin.

While Samuel Adams tried to reassert control of the meeting, people poured out of the Old South Meeting House to prepare to take action. In some cases, this involved donning what may have been elaborately prepared Mohawk costumes. While disguising their individual faces was imperative, because of the illegality of their protest, dressing as Mohawk warriors was a specific and symbolic choice. It showed that the Sons of

Liberty identified with America, over their official status as subjects of Great Britain.

That evening, a group of 30 to 130 men, some dressed in the Mohawk warrior disguises, boarded the three vessels and, over the course of three hours, dumped all 342 chests of tea into the water. The precise location of the Griffin's Wharf site of the Tea Party has been subject to prolonged uncertainty; a comprehensive study¹⁹ places it near the foot of what is today's Pearl Street.

Throughout the period of time from 1765 through and including 1775 the British government, via Parliament, enacted taxes and punishments on the colonists which met more and more resistance: First Quartering Act (1765); Declaratory Act (1766); Townshend Revenue Act (1767); and the Tea Act (1773). In response to the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed the Intolerable Acts: Second Quartering Act (1774); Quebec Act (1774); Massachusetts Government Act (1774); Administration of Justice Act (1774); Boston Port Act (1774); Prohibitory Act (1775). By this point, the 13 colonies had organized themselves into the Continental Congress and begun setting up independent governments and drilling their militia in preparation for war.²⁰

The Intolerable Acts consisted of the above laws. The Massachusetts Government Act altered the Massachusetts charter and restricted town meetings. The Administration of Justice Act ordered that all British soldiers to be tried were to be arraigned in Britain, not in the colonies. The Boston Port Act closed the port of Boston until the British had been compensated for the tea destroyed with the Boston Tea Party. The Quartering Act (2nd) (1774), allowed royal governors to house British troops in the homes of citizens without requiring permission of the owner.

In response, Massachusetts patriots issued the Suffolk Resolves and formed an alternative shadow government known as the "Provincial

Congress” which began training militia outside British-occupied Boston.

In 1774, the First Continental Congress convened, consisting of representatives from each colony, to serve as a vehicle for deliberation and collective action. During secret debates, conservative Joseph Galloway proposed the creation of a colonial Parliament that would be able to approve or disapprove of acts of the British Parliament, but his idea was not an affront to King George III [spelling and punctuation corrected to modern standards].



MAKING THE REVOLUTION: AMERICA, 1763-1791
PRIMARY SOURCE COLLECTION

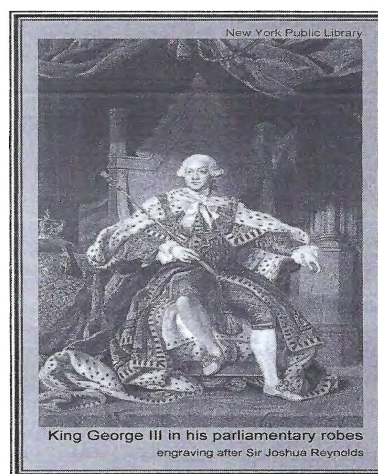
The First Continental Congress
Philadelphia, October 1774

__PETITION TO KING GEORGE III__
EXCERPTS

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

WE your majesty's faithful subjects of the colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, in behalf of ourselves and the inhabitants of those colonies, who have deputed us to represent them in general congress, by this our humble petition beg leave to lay our grievances before the throne.

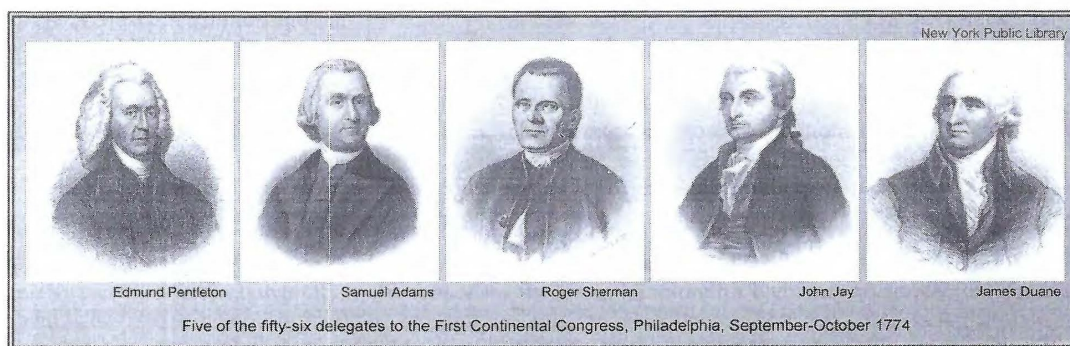
- A standing army has been kept in these colonies ever since the conclusion of the late war [French and Indian War] without the consent of our assemblies; and this army, with a considerable naval armament, has been employed to enforce the collection of taxes.
- The authority of the commander in chief and, under him, of the brigadiers general, has in time of peace been rendered supreme in all the civil governments in America.
- The commander in chief of all your majesty's forces in North America has, in time of peace, been appointed governor of a colony.
- The charges of usual officers have been greatly increased, and new, expensive, and oppressive officers have been multiplied.
- The judges of admiralty and vice-admiralty courts are empowered to receive their salaries and fees from the effects condemned by themselves.
- The officers of the customs are empowered to break open and enter houses without the authority of any civil magistrate founded on legal information.
- The judges of courts of common law have been made entirely dependent on one part [of] the legislature for their salaries as well as for the duration of their commissions.
- Councilors, holding their commissions during pleasure, exercise legislative authority.
- Humble and reasonable petitions from the representatives of the people have been fruitless.
- The agents of the people have been discountenanced, and governors have been instructed to prevent the payment of their salaries.
- Assemblies have been frequently and injuriously dissolved, and commerce burdened with many useless and oppressive restrictions.
- By several acts of Parliament made in the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth years of your majesty's reign:
 - duties are imposed on us for the purpose of raising a revenue, and
 - the powers of admiralty and vice-admiralty courts are extended beyond their ancient limits, whereby our property is taken from us without our consent;



- the trial by jury in many civil cases is abolished;
 - enormous forfeitures are incurred for slight offenses;
 - vexatious informers are exempted from paying damages to which they are justly liable, and
 - oppressive security is required from owners before they are allowed to defend their rights.
- ___ Both houses of Parliament have resolved that the colonists may be tried in England for offenses alleged to have been committed in America, by virtue of a statute passed in the thirty-fifth year of Henry the eighth, and in consequence thereof attempts have been made to enforce that statute.
- ___ A statute was passed in the twelfth year of your majesty's reign directing that persons charged with committing any offense therein described, in any place out of the realm, may be indicted and tried for the same in any shire or county within the realm, whereby inhabitants of these colonies may, in sundry cases by that statute made capital, be deprived of a trial by their peers of the vicinage.
- ___ In the last session of Parliament:
- an act was passed for blocking up the harbor of Boston;
 - another empowering the governor of the Massachusetts Bay to send persons indicted for murder in that province to another colony, or even to Great Britain, for trial, whereby such offenders may escape legal punishment;
 - a third for altering the chartered constitution of government in that province; and
 - a fourth for extending the limits of Quebec, abolishing the English and restoring the French laws, whereby great numbers of British freemen are subject to the latter, and establishing an absolute government and the Roman Catholic religion throughout those vast regions that border on the westerly and northerly boundaries of the free Protestant English settlements; and
 - a fifth for the better providing suitable quarters for officers and soldiers in his majesty's service in North America.

To a sovereign, who “*glories in the name of Briton*,” the bare recital of these acts must, we presume, justify the loyal subjects who fly to the foot of his throne and implore his clemency for protection against them. . . .

Had our creator been pleased to give us existence in a land of slavery, the sense of our condition might have been mitigated by ignorance and habit; but, thanks be to his adorable goodness, we were born the heirs of freedom and ever enjoyed our rights under the auspices of your royal ancestors whose family was seated on the British throne to rescue and secure a pious and gallant nation from the popery and despotism of a superstitious and inexorable tyrant.¹ Your majesty, we are confident, justly rejoices that your title to the crown is thus founded on the title of your people to liberty, and therefore we doubt not but your royal wisdom must approve the sensibility that teaches your subjects anxiously to guard the blessing they received from divine providence, and thereby to prove the performance of that compact which elevated the illustrious house of Brunswick to the imperial dignity it now possesses.



¹ King James II, a Roman Catholic, was deposed in 1688 during the Glorious Revolution and replaced by William III of the House of Brunswick (Hanover).

The apprehension of being degraded into a state of servitude from the pre-eminent rank of English freeman, while our minds retain the strongest love of liberty and clearly foresee the miseries preparing for us and our posterity, excites emotions in our hearts which, though we cannot describe, we should not wish to conceal. Feeling as men and thinking as subjects in the manner we do, silence would be disloyalty. By giving this faithful information, we do all in our power to promote the great objects of your royal cares, the tranquility of your government, and the welfare of your people.

Duty to your majesty and regard for the preservation of ourselves and our posterity — the primary obligations of nature and of society — command us to entreat your royal attention, and, as your majesty enjoys the signal distinction of reigning over freemen, we apprehend the language of freemen cannot be displeasing. Your royal indignation, we hope, will rather fall on those designing and dangerous men² who, daringly interposing themselves between your royal person and your faithful subjects, and for several years past incessantly employed to dissolve the bonds of society by abusing your majesty's authority, misrepresenting your American subjects, and prosecuting the most desperate and irritating projects of oppression, have at length compelled us, by the force of accumulated injuries, too severe to be any longer tolerable, to disturb your majesty's repose by our complaints. . . .

We ask but for peace, liberty, and safety. We wish not a diminution of the prerogative, nor do we solicit the grant of any new right in our favor. Your royal authority over us and our connection with Great Britain we shall always carefully and zealously endeavor to support and maintain.

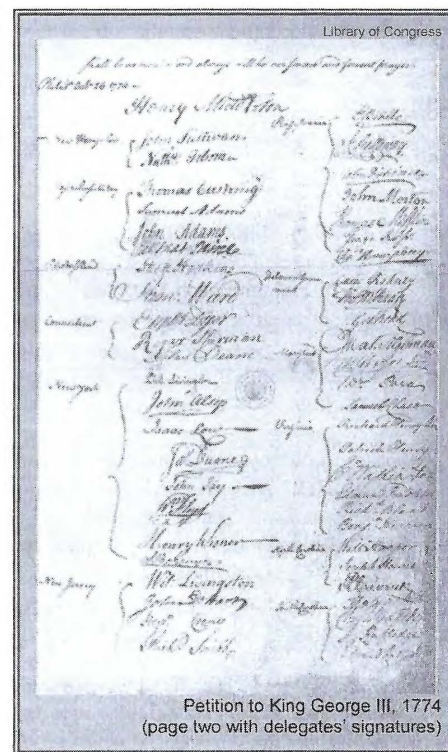
Filled with sentiments of duty to your majesty and affection to the parent state, deeply impressed by our education and strongly confirmed by our reason, and anxious to evince the sincerity of these dispositions, we present this petition only to obtain redress of grievances and relief from fears and jealousies [suspicions], occasioned by the system of statutes and regulations adopted since the close of the late war for raising a revenue in America, extending the power of courts of Admiralty and Vice-Admiralty, trying persons in Great Britain for offenses alleged to be committed in America, affecting the province of Massachusetts Bay, and altering the government, and extending the limits of Quebec by the abolition of which system the harmony between Great Britain and these colonies, so necessary to the happiness of both, and so ardently desired by the latter, and usual intercourses, will be immediately restored.

In the magnanimity and justice of your majesty and Parliament, we confide for a redress of our other grievances, trusting that when the causes of our apprehensions are removed, our future conduct will prove us not unworthy of the regard we have been accustomed in our happier days to enjoy. For appealing to that Being who thoroughly searches the hearts of his creatures, we solemnly profess that our councils have been influenced by no other motive than a dread of impending destruction. . . .

We therefore most earnestly beseech your majesty that your royal authority and interposition may be used for our relief, and that a gracious answer may be given to this petition. . . .

The delegates agreed that if the offending acts of Parliament were not repealed, the colonies would boycott British goods after December 1, and they would meet in a second continental congress the following May.

The petition, presented by Benjamin Franklin while serving as a colonial agent in London, was rejected by Parliament and the king.



Petition to King George III, 1774
(page two with delegates' signatures)

² I.e., the British Prime Minister and cabinet officials.

The foregoing was reprinted with permission from American Class and represents the original petition accepted. The Congress instead endorsed the proposal of John Adams that Americans would obey Parliament voluntarily but would resist all taxes in disguise. Congress called for a boycott beginning on December 1, 1774 of all British goods; it was enforced by new committees authored by Congress.²¹

The Proclamation of Rebellion was drafted before Colonial Secretary Lord Dartmouth had been given a copy of the Second Continental Congress's Olive Branch Petition. Because King George III refused to receive the colonial petition, the Proclamation of Rebellion of August 23, 1775 effectively served as an answer to it.

In the British colonies, the three forms of government were PROVINCIAL (Royal Colony), PROPRIETARY, and CHARTER. These governments were all subordinate to the King of England, with no explicit relationship with the British Parliament. Beginning in the 17th century, the administration of all British colonies were overseen by the Board of Trade in London. Each colony had a paid colonial agent in London to represent its interests.

New Hampshire, New York, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina. Georgia and eventually Massachusetts were crown colonies. The Provincial colony was governed by commissions created at the pleasure of the King. A governor and (in some provinces) his council were appointed by the Crown. The governor was invested with general executive powers and authorized to call a locally elected assembly. The governor's council would sit as a upper house when the assembly was in session. In addition to its goal in advising the governor. Assemblies were made up of representatives elected by the freeholders and planters (landowners) of the province. The governor had the power of absolute veto and could prorogue (i.e., delay) and dissolve the assembly. The assembly's role was to make all local laws and ordinances, ensuring that they were not inconsistent

with the laws of England. In practice, this did not always occur, since many of the provincial assemblies sought to expand their powers and limit those of the governor and Crown, Laws could be examined by the British Privy Council or Board of Trade, of the Crown which also held veto power over legislation.

Pennsylvania (which included Delaware), New Jersey and Maryland were Proprietary colonies. They were governed much as royal colonies except that lord proprietors, rather than the king, appointed the governor. They were set up after the Restoration of 1660 and typically enjoyed greater civil and religious liberty.

Massachusetts, Providence Plantations, Rhode Island, Warwick and Connecticut were Charter colonies. The Massachusetts charter was revoked in 1684 and was replaced by a provincial charter that was issued in 1691. Charter governments were political corporations created by letters of patent, giving the grantees control of the land and the powers of legislative government. The charters provided a fundamental constitution and divided powers among legislative, executive and judicial functions, with those powers being vested in officials.²²

Elected representatives learned to listen to those interests because 90% of the men in the lower houses lived in their districts, unlike England where it was common to have an absentee member of Parliament. All of this was very unlike Europe, where aristocratic families and the established church were in control.

Finally and most dramatically, the Americans were fascinated by the increasingly adopted the political values of Republicanism which stressed equal rights, the need for virtuous citizens, and the evils of corruption, luxury and aristocracy. Republicanism provided the framework for colonial resistance to British schemes of taxation after 1763, which escalated into the Revolution.

Massachusetts was declared in a state of rebellion in February 1775 and the British garrison received orders to disarm the rebels and arrest their leaders.

Chapter 3

THE FLASH POINT - FIREARMS CONFISCATION (The American Revolution Begins -"The Shot heard 'round the World")

The center of gravity illustrated by the foregoing was to set the stage for the upcoming war. The colonists knew that rebellion was on the horizon and so did the Crown. The ebb and flow of taxation and retribution against the colonies had an equal and opposite response, boycott, civil disobedience and finally violence which clearly set the stage for the emancipation of the colonies in the form of war.

General Thomas Gage was a British Army officer and colonial official best known for his many years of service in North America, including his role as British commander-in-chief in the early days of the American Revolution.

Being born to an aristocratic family in England, Gates entered military service, seeing action in the French and Indian War, where he served alongside his future opponent George Washington in the 1755 Battle of Monongahela. After the fall of Montreal in 1760 he was named its military governor.

In 1774 he was also appointed the military governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, with instructions to implement the Intolerable Acts, punishing Massachusetts for the Boston Tea Party.

During Gage's administration, political tensions rose throughout the American colonies. As a result, Gage began withdrawing troops from the frontier to fortify urban centers like New York City and Boston. As the number of soldiers stationed in cities grew, the need to provide adequate

food and housing for there troops became urgent. Parliament passed the 1st Quartering Act of 1765, which permitted British troops to be quartered in vacant houses, barns and outbuildings, but not private residences without the owner's permission.

Gage's thought on the reasons for colonial unrest played an important roll in furthering the unrest. He, at first, believed that the popular unrest after the 1765 Stamp Act was primarily due to a small number of colonial elites, led by those in Boston. In 1768 he recommended the deployment of two regiments to occupy Boston, a move that further inflamed the city. Among the troops quartered in the city was the 29th Regiment of Foot, which had previously clashed with colonists in Quebec and New York, and had a reputation for poor discipline. This occupation eventually led to the Boston Massacre in 1770. Later that year Gage wrote that, "America is a mere bully, from one end to the other, and the Bostonians by far the greatest bullies". Gage later came to change his opinion about the source of unrest, believing that democracy was a significant threat.

Gage returned to Britain in June 1773 with his family and thus missed the Boston Tea Party in December of that year. The British Parliament reacted to the Tea Party with a series of punitive measures against Massachusetts known in the colonies as the Intolerable Acts. Some of the terms of those acts, for example, the option to remove political radicals to England, originated with Gage, and measures such as curbing the activities of town meetings and withholding representative government from the Ohio Country also show his influence. With his military experience and relative youth (Massachusetts governor Thomas Hutchinson was then 62 years old and unpopular, and the equally unpopular lieutenant governor Andrew Oliver was 67 years old and died in March 1774), Gage, a popular figure on both sides of the Atlantic, was deemed the best man to handle the brewing crisis and enforce the Parliamentary acts.

In early 1774, he was appointed military governor of Massachuset,

replacing Hutchinson. He arrived from Britain in early May. He arrived in Boston on May 13, 1774, having been carried there by HMS *Lively*. His arrival was met with little pomp and circumstance, but was generally well received at first as Bostonians were happy to see Hutchinson go. Local attitudes toward him rapidly deteriorated as he began implementing the various acts, including the Boston Port Act, which put many people out of work, and the Massachusetts Government Act, which formally rescinded the provincial assembly's right to nominate members of the Governor's Council, through it retained the elected General Court. Gage dissolved the assembly in June 1774 after he discovered the Massachusetts representatives were sending delegates to the extralegal Continental Congress.

In September 1774 Gage withdrew his troops from New York City, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Halifax and Newfoundland and brought all under his wing in Boston together with a large British naval presence under the control of Admiral Samuel Graves. He also sought to strictly enforce army directives calling for the confiscation of war-making materials. In September 1774, he ordered a mission to remove provincial gunpowder from a magazine in what is now Somerville, Massachusetts. This action, although successful, caused a huge popular reaction known as the Powder Alarm, resulting in the mobilization of thousands of provincial militia men to march towards Cambridge, Massachusetts. Although the militia soon dispersed, the show of force on the part of the provincials had a lasting effect on Gage, and he subsequently grew more cautious in his actions. The rapid response of the provincials was in large part due to Paul Revere and the Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty kept careful watch over Gage's activities and successfully warned others of future actions before Gage could mobilize his British regulars to execute them. A Committee of Safety was also tasked with sounding the alarm for local militias if Gage was spotted sending significant numbers of British troops outside Boston.

Gage was criticized for allowing groups like the Sons of Liberty to

exist. One of his officers, Lord Percy, remarked, “The general’s great lenity and moderations serve only to make them [the colonists] more daring and insolent”. Gage, himself, wrote after the Powder Alarm, “If force is to be used at length, it must be a considerable one, and foreign troops may be hired, for the with small numbers will encourage resistance, and not terrify; and will in the end cost more blood treasure.”

On April 14, 1775, Gage received orders from London to take decisive action against the Patriots. Given intelligence that the militia had been stockpiling weapons at Concord, Massachusetts, he ordered detachment of regulars from Boston garrison to march there on the night of April 18, 1775. The King ordered Gage to destroy the stores of militia ordinance at Concord via Lexington and to capture John Hancock and Samuel Adams, considered the two principal instigators of the rebellion.

Please remember, Parliament addressed King George III, wherein, both houses of Parliament, declaring that a state of rebellion existed and the following is a copy of that address:

We. . . find that a part of your Majesty’s subjects, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, have proceeded so far to resist the authority of the supreme Legislature, that a rebellion at this time actually exists within the said Province and we see, with the utmost concern, that they have been countenanced and encouraged by unlawful combinations and engagements entered into by your Majesty’s subjects in several of the other Colonies, to the injury and oppression of many of their innocent fellow subjects, residents within the Kingdom of Great Britain, and the rest of your Majesty’s Dominions . . . We. . . shall. . . pay attention and regard to any real grievances. . . laid

before us; and whenever any of the Colonies shall make a proper application to us, we shall be ready to afford them every just and reasonable indulgence. At the same time we. . . beseech your Majesty that you will. . . enforce due obedience to the laws and authority of the supreme Legislature; and . . . it is our fixed resolution, at the hazard of our lives and properties; to stand by your Majesty against all rebellious attempts in the maintenance of the just rights of your Majesty, and the two Houses of Parliament.²³

WOW, talk about a run-on-sentence. [Ed. note]. In any event, that was what was delivered to King George III. Remember too, that the King had the ultimate say as to the use of the military. When General Gage received his orders from the Secretary of State Legge, it was simply a communication directly from the sovereign, King George III. The King ordered General Gage to DISARM THE REBELS AND TO IMPRISON THE REBELLION'S LEADERS.

So, on April 14, 1775, Gage received instructions from Secretary of State William Legge, Earl of Dartmouth, to disarm the rebels and to imprison the rebellion's leaders, but Dartmouth gave Gage considerable discretion in his commands. Gage's decision to act promptly may have been influenced by the information he received on April 15, from a spy within the Provincial Congress, telling him that although Congress was still divided on the need for armed resistance, delegates were being sent to the other New England colonies to see if they would cooperate in raising a New England army of 18,000 colonial soldiers.

But here is the ironic twist, the colonists in addition to their Safety Committee, had a spy of their own which they didn't even have to secrete into the inner circle of General Gage. Unbeknownst to Gage, his wife, the

only other person other than his second in command, Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith, knew of the plans to march on Concord. This military action was so secret, that Gage ordered Colonel Smith not to read the instructions to his troops until they were underway.

Gage's wife, Margaret Kemble Gage, who was an American, born in New Jersey, was very friendly with a physician Dr. Joseph Warren, a Sons of Liberty leader. According to most historians, we believe she passed the "profound secret" to Dr. Warren. Warren then informed and dispatched Paul Revere and William Dawes to warn the colonists, which resulted in the Battle of Lexington and Concord, thus starting the American Revolutionary War.^[24] ^[25]

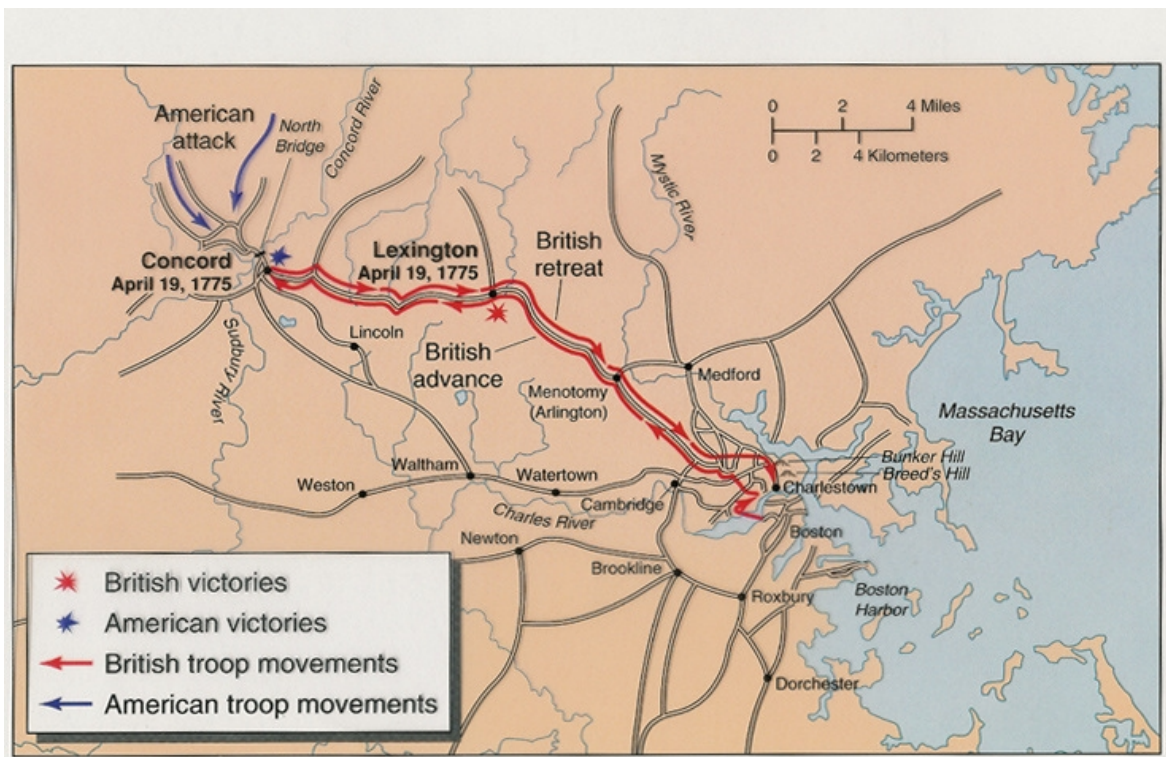
Chapter 4

THE AMERICAN WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE BEGINS

Concerned for secrecy, on the evening of April 18, 1775, General Gage called a meeting of his senior officers at the Province House. He informed them that instructions from Lord Dartmouth had arrived, ordering him to take action against the colonists. He also told them that the senior colonel of his regiments, Lieutenant Colonel Smith, would command, with Major John Pitcairn as his executive officer. The meeting adjourned around 8:30 PM, after which Earl Percy mingled with town folk on Boston Common. According to one account, the discussion among people there turned to the unusual movement of the British soldiers in the town. When Percy question on man further, the man replied, “Well, the regulars will miss their aim.”

“What aim?” asked Percy. “Why, the cannon at Concord” was the reply. Upon hearing this information, Percy quickly returned to Province House and relayed this information to General Gage. Stunned, Gage issued orders to prevent messengers from getting out of Boston, but these were too late to prevent Dawes and Revere from leaving.

The rebellion’s leaders-with the exception of Paul Revere and Joseph Warren-had all left Boston by April 8. They had received word of Dartmouth’s secret instruction to General Gage from sources in London well before they reached Gage himself.²⁶ Adams and Hancock had fled Boston to the home of one of Hancock’s relatives, Jonas Clarke, where they would be safe from immediate threat of arrest.



On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere began the “midnight Ride” to Concord to warn the inhabitants that the British appeared to be planning an expedition. The ride was finished by Samuel Prescott. Revere and Daws were sent out to warn the colonists and to alert colonial militias in nearby towns.

Daws covered the southern land route by horseback across Boston Neck and over the Great Bridge to Lexington. Revere first gave instructions to send a signal to Charlestown using lanterns hung in the steeple of Boston’s Old North Church, (The highest point in Boston). He then traveled the northern water route crossing the mouth of the Charles River by rowboat, slipping past the British warship HMS *Somerset* at anchor. Crossings were banned at that hour, but Revere safely landed in Charlestown and rode west to Lexington, warning almost every house along the route. Additional riders were sent north from Charlestown.

After they arrived in Lexington, Revere, Daws Hancock and Adams discussed the situation with the militia assembling there. They believed that the British leaving the city were too large for the sole task of arresting the men and that Concord was the main target. The Lexington men continued along the road to Concord accompanied by Samuel Prescott. In Lincoln, they ran into the British patrol led by Major Mithell. Revere was captured, Daws was thrown from his horse, and only Prescott escaped to reach Concord.

The ride of Revere, Dawes and Prescott triggered a flexible system of “alarm and muster” that had been carefully developed months before, in reaction to the colonists’ impotent response to the Powder Alarm. This system was an improved version of an old notification network for use in times of emergency. These early warnings played a crucial role in assembling a sufficient number of colonial militia to inflict heavy damage on the British regulars later in the day. Adams and Hancock were eventually moved to a safety, locations, first to what is now Arlington and later on to Billerica.

The British regulars, around 700 infantry, were drawn from 121 of Gage’s 13 occupying infantry regiments. Major Piteairn commanded ten elite light infantry companies, and Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Bernard commanded 11 grenadier companies, under the overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Smith.

The British began awakening their troops at 9 PM on the night of April 18 and assembled them on the water’s edge on the western end of Boston Common. By 10 PM. Colonel Smith was late in arriving, and there was no organized boat-loading operation, resulting in confusion at the staging area. The boats used were naval barges that were packed so tightly that there was no room to sit down. When they disembarked near Phipps Farm in Cambridge, it was into waist-deep water at midnight. After a lengthy halt to unload their gear, the regulars began their 17 mile march to

Concord at about 2 AM. During the wait they were provided with extra ammunition, cold salt pork, and hard sea biscuits. They did not carry knapsacks, since they would not be encamped. They carried their haversack (food bags), canteens, muskets and accouterments, and marched off in wet, muddy shoes and soggy uniforms. As they marched through Menotomy, sounds of the colonial alarms throughout the countryside caused the few officers who were aware of their mission to realize they had lost the element of surprise.

About 3 AM, Colonel Smith sent Major Pitairn ahead with six companies of light infantry under order to quick march to Concord. At about 4 AM Smith made the wise but belated decision to send a messenger back to Boston asking for reinforcements.

Although often styled as a battle, in reality, the engagements at Lexington was a minor brush or skirmish. As the regular's advance guard under Pitairn entered Lexington at sunrise on April 19, 1775, about 80 Lexington militiamen emerged from Buckman Tavern and stood in the ranks on the village common watching them, and between 40 and 100 spectators watched from along the side of the road. Their leader was Captain John Parker, a veteran of the French and Indian War, who was suffering from tuberculosis and was at times difficult to hear. If the militiamen who lined up, nine had the surname Harrington, seven were Monroes, including the company's orderly sergeant, William Munroe, four Parkers, three Tidids, three Lockes, and three Reeds; fully one-quarter of them were related to Captain Parker in some way. This group of militiamen were part of Lexington's "training band", a way of organizing local militias dating back to the Puritans, and not what was styled as a minuteman company.

After having waited most of the night with no sign of the British troops (and wondering if Paul Revere's warning was true), at about 4:15 AM., Parker got his confirmation. Thaddeus Bowman, the last scout that

Parker had sent out, rode up at a gallop and told him that they were not only coming but coming in force and close. Captain Parker was clearly aware that he was outnumbered in the confrontation and was not prepared to sacrifice the men for no purpose. He knew that most of the colonists' powder and military supplies at Concord had already been hidden. No war had been declared, (The Declaration of Independence was more than fourteen months in the future.) He also knew the British had gone on such expeditions before in Massachusetts, found nothing and marched back to Boston.

Parker had every reason to expect that this British march was nothing more than a regular exercise to inspect. The Regulars would march to Concord, find nothing, and return to Boston, tired but empty-handed. He positioned his company carefully. He placed them in parade-ground formations, on Lexington Common. They were in plain sight (not hiding behind walls), but not blocking the road to Concord. They made a show of political and military determination, but no effort to prevent the march of the Regulars. Many years later, the participants recalled Parker's words as being what is now engraved in stone at the site of the battle: "Stand our ground; don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here". In Parker's deposition after the incident at Lexington Common, he stated that he ordered the Militia to disperse, and not fire.

A British officer (probably Pitcairn, but accounts are uncertain, as it may also have been Lieutenant William Sutherland) then rode forward, waving his sword, and called out for the assembled militia to disperse, and may also have ordered them to "lay down your arms, you damned rebels:". Captain Parker told his men instead to disperse and go home, but, because of the confusion, the yelling all around added to the raspiness of Parker's tubercular voice, some did not hear him, some left very slowly, and did not lay down their arms. Both Parker and Pitcairn ordered their men to hold fire, but a shot was fired from an unknown source.²⁷

Lieutenant John Baker, 4th Regiment of Foot likewise gave a deposition of the events which, self serving, departed from Parker's deposition saying that they [the British] were fired upon first.

According to one member of Parker's militia, none of the Americans had discharged their muskets as they faced the oncoming British troops. The British did suffer one casualty, a slight wound, the particular of which was corroborated by a deposition made by Corporal John Munroe. In his deposition Munroe stated to his relative Ebenezer Munroe, that he believed that the British were just shooting powder without a ball loaded, however, that theory went up in smoke when he, John Munroe was struck in the shoulder by a British round.

Some witness among the regulars reported the first shot was fired by a colonial onlooker from behind a hedge or around the corner of a tavern. Some observers reported a mounted British officer firing first. Both sides generally agree that the initial shot did not come from the men on the ground immediately facing each other. Historian David Hackett in his proposal stated that there may actually have been multiple near-simultaneous shots.²⁸

Witnesses at the scene described several intermittent shots fired from both sides before the lines of regulars began to fire volleys without receiving orders to do so.

The regulars then charged forward with bayonets. Captain Parker's cousin, Jonas was run through. Eight Lexington men were killed and ten were wounded. The only British casualty was a soldier who was wounded in the thigh. Jonathon Harrington, fatally wounded by a British musket ball, managed to crawl back to his home, and died on his own doorstep. One wounded man, Prince Estabrook, was a black slave who was serving in the militia.

In response to the raised alarm, the militiamen of Concord and Lincoln had mustered in Concord. They received reports of firing at Lexington and were not sure whether to wait until they could be reinforced by troops from towns nearby, or to stay and defend the town, or to move east and greet the British Army from superior terrain. A column of militia marched down the road toward Lexington to meet the British, traveling about 1.5 miles until they the approaching column of regulars. As the regulars numbered about 700 and the militia at this time only numbered about 250, the militia column turned around and marched back to Concord, preceding the regulars by distance of about 500 yards. The militia retreated to a ridge overlooking the town, and their officers discussed what to do next. Caution prevailed, and Colonel James Barrett withdrew from the center of town and led the men across the North Bridge to a hill about slightly north, where they could continue to watch the troop movements of the British and the activities in the town center. This step proved fortuitous, as the ranks of the militia continued to grow as minutemen companies arriving from the western towns joined them there.

When the British troops arrived in the village of Concord, Lt. Col Smith divided them to carry out Gage's orders. The 10th Regiment company of grenadiers secured South Bridge under Captain Mundy Pole, while seven companies of light infantry under Captain Parsons, numbering about 100, secured the North Bridge, where they were visible across the cleared fields to the assembling militia companies. Captain Parsons took four companies up to the road 2 miles beyond the North Bridge to search Barrett's Farm where intelligence indicated supplies would be found. Two companies were stationed to guard their return route, and one company guarded the bridge itself. These companies, which were under the relatively inexperienced command of Captain Walter Laurie, were aware that they were significantly outnumbered by the 400-plus militiamen. The concerned Captain Laurie sent a messenger to Lt. Col. Smith requesting reinforcements.

Using detailed information provided by Loyalists spies, the grenadier companies searched the small town for military supplies. When they arrived at Ephraim Jones tavern, which also served as the jail on the South Bridge road it was closed. The Red-Coats found the door barred shut, and Jones refused them entry. According to reports provided by local Loyalists, Pitcairn knew cannons has been buried on the property. Jones was ordered at gunpoint to show where the guns were buried. The cannons turned out to be three massive pieces, firing 24-pound shot, that were much too heavy to use defensively, but very effective against fortifications, with sufficient range to bombard the city of Boston from other parts of the nearby mainland. The grenadiers smashed the trunnions of three street guards so they could not be mounted. They also burned some gun carriages found in the village meeting house, and when the fire spread to the meetinghouse itself, local resident Martha Moulton persuaded the soldiers to help in a bucket brigade to save the building. Nearly a hundred barrels of flour and salted food were thrown into the millpond, as were 550 pounds of musket balls. Of the damage done, only that which was done to the cannons were significant. All of the shot and much of the food was recovered after the British left.

Barrett's Farm had been an arsenal weeks before, but few weapons remained now, and according to family legend, they were quickly buried in furrows to look like a crop had been plowed. The troops sent there did not find any supplies of consequence.

Now for the "Shot Heard Around The World." This phrase refers to the opening shot of the battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, which began the American Revolutionary War and led to the creation of the United States of America.

The phrase comes from the opening stanza of Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Concord Hymn" (1837) and refers to the first shot of the American Revolution at the Old North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts,

where the first British soldiers fell in the battles of Lexington and Concord.

Historically, no single shot can be cited as the first shot of the battle which began the Revolution, which ultimately became the United States of America. Shots were fired earlier that day at Lexington, Massachusetts, where eight Americans were killed and a British soldier was slightly wounded [hit in the thigh] but accounts of that event are confusing and contradictory. The North Bridge skirmish did see the first shots by Americans acting under orders, the first organized volley by Americans occurred resulting in the first British fatalities, which ended when the British retreated.

As a side note, Emerson lived in a house known as the Old Manse at the time when he was composing the “Concord Hymn”, from which his grandfather and father (then a young child) had witnessed the skirmish. The house is located approximately 30 feet from the North Bridge.

Back to the North Bridge and the battle. Colonel Barrett’s troops, upon seeing smoke rising from the village square as the British burned cannon carriages, and seeing only a few light infantry companies directly below them, decided to march back toward the town from their vantage point on Punkatasset Hill to a lower, closer flat hilltop about 300 yards from the North Bridge. As the militia advanced, the two British companies that held the position near the road retreated to the bridge and yielded the hill to Barrett’s men.

Five full companies of Minutemen and five more of militia from Acton, Concord, Bedford and Lincoln occupied this hill as more groups of men streamed in, totaling at least 400 against Captain Laurie’s light infantry companies, a force totaling between 90-95 men. Barrett ordered the Massachusetts men to form one long line two abreast on the highway leading down to the bridge, and then he called for another consultation. While overlooking North Bridge from the top of the hill, Barrett, Lt. Col.

John Robinson of Westford and other captains discussed a possible advance on the bridge. Barrett asked Captain Isaac Davis, who commanded a company of Minutemen from Acton, if his company would be willing to lead the advance. Captain Davis assembled his brave men.

Barrett told the men to load their weapons but not to fire unless fired upon, and then ordered them to advance. Laurie ordered the British companies guarding the bridge to retreat across it. One officer then tried to pull up the loose planks of the bridge to impede the colonial advance, but major Buttrick began to yell at the regulars to stop harming the bridge. The Minutemen and militia from Concord, Acton, Lincoln and a handful of Westfore Minutemen, advanced in column formation, two by two, led by Major Burrick, Lt.. Col. Robinson, then Capt. Davis, on the light infantry, keeping to the road, since it was surrounded by spring flood waters of the Concord River.

Captain Laurie then made a poor tactical decision. Since his summons for help had not produced any results, he ordered his men to form position for “street firing” behind the bridge in a column forming them into lines perpendicular to the river. This formation was appropriate for sending a large volume of fire into a narrow alley between buildings of a city, but not for an open path behind a bridge. Confusion reigned as regulars retreating over the bridge tried to form up in the street-firing position of the other troops. Lt. Sutherland, who was in the rear of the formation, saw Laurie’s mistake and ordered flankers to be sent out, but as he was forming a company different from the men under his command, only three soldiers obeyed him. The remainder tried as best they could in the confusion to follow the orders of the superior officer.

A shot rang out. It was likely a warning shot fired by a panicked, exhausted British soldier from the 43rd, according to Captain Laurie’s report to his commander after the fight. Two other regulars then fired immediately after the shots splashing in the river, and then the narrow

group up from, possibly thinking the order to fire had been given, fired a ragged volley before Laurie could stop them.

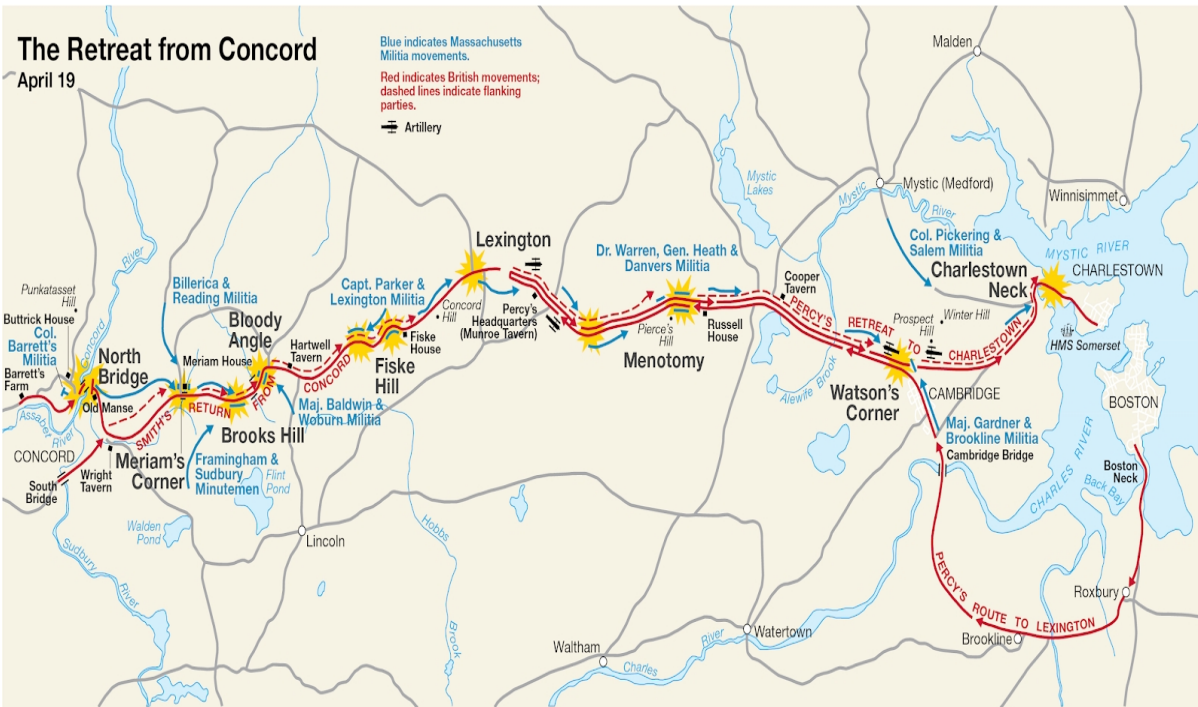
Two of the Acton Minutemen, both Private Adner Hosmer and Captain Isaac Davis, were at the head of the line marching to the bridge and were hit and killed instantly.

Four more men were wounded. Major Buttrick then yelled to the militia, "Fire, for God's sake, fellow soldiers, fire!" At this point the lines were separated by the Concord River and the bridge, and were only 50 yards apart. The few front rows of colonists bound by the road and blocked from forming a line of fire managed to fire over the other soldier's heads and shoulders at the regulars who were massed across the bridge.

The regulars found themselves trapped in a situation where they were both outnumbered and outmaneuvered. Lacking effective leadership and terrified at the superior numbers of the enemy, with their spirit broken, and likely not having experienced combat before, they abandoned their position, and fled to safety of the approaching friendlier companies coming from the town center isolating Captain Parsons and his company searching for arms at Barrett's Farm.

The colonists were stunned by their success. No one actually believed either side would shoot to kill the other. Some advanced, many retreated and some went home to seek the safety of their homes and families. Colonel Barrett eventually began to recover control of his troops. He moved some of the militia back to the hilltop 300 yards away and sent Major Buttrick with others across the bridge to a defensive position on a hill behind a stone wall.

British troops began marching east toward Boston. As they reached Lexington, most regulars were exhausted, hungry and thirsty. The colonists continued to ambush the British as they marched.



In their accounts afterward, British officers and soldiers noted their frustration that the colonial militiamen fired at them from behind trees and stone walls, rather than confronting them in large, linear formations in the style of European warfare.²⁹ This image of the individual colonial farmer, musket in hand and fighting under his own command, has also been fostered in American Myth: “Chasing the red-coats down the lane / Then crossing the fields to emerge again / Under the trees at the turn of the road, / And only pausing to fire and load.”³⁰ To the contrary, beginning at North Bridge and throughout the British retreat, the colonial militias repeatedly operated as coordinated companies even when dispersed to take advantage of cover.

General Gage had anticipated that Lt. Col. Smith’s expedition might require reinforcement, so Gage drafted orders for reinforcing units to assemble in Boston at 4 AM. But in his obsession for secrecy, not knowing

that his wife was a spy, Gage sent only one copy of the orders to the adjutant of the 1st Brigade, whose servant then left the envelope on the table. Also at about 4 AM., the British column was within three miles of Lexington and Lt. Col. Smith now had a clear indication that all elements of surprise had been lost and that alarm was spreading throughout the countryside. So he sent a rider back to Boston with a request for reinforcements. At about 5 AM., the rider reached Boston, and the 1st Brigade was ordered to assemble. The companies and battalion of Royal Marines were commanded by Earl Percy. Unfortunately for the British, once again, only one copy of the orders was sent to each commander, and the order for the Royal Marines was delivered to the desk of Major John Pitcairn, who was already on the Lexington Common with Smith's column at that hour. After these delays Percy's brigade, about 1,000 strong left Boston at about 8:45 AM and headed toward Lexington.

Percy took the land route across Boston Neck and over the Great Bridge, which some quick thinking colonists had stripped of its planking to delay the British.³¹ Percy's troops arrived about 2:00 PM. They could hear gunfire in the distance as they set up their cannon and deployed lines of regulars on high ground with commanding views of the town. Colonel Smith's men approached like a fleeing mob with the full complement of colonial militia in close formation pursuing them. Percy ordered his artillery to open fire at extreme range, dispersing the colonial militiamen. Smith's men collapsed with exhaustion once they reached safety of Percy's lines.

Against the advice of his Master of Ordnance, Percy had left Boston without spare ammunition for his men or for the two artillery pieces they brought with them, thinking the extra wagons would slow him down. Each man in Percy's brigade had only 36 rounds, and each artillery piece was supplied with only a few rounds carried in side-boxes. After Percy had left the city, Gage directed two ammunition wagons guarded by one officer and thirteen men to follow. This convey was intercepted by a small party of

older, veteran militiamen still on the “alarm list”, who could not join their militia companies because they were well over 60 years of age. These men rose up to ambush and demand the surrender of the wagons, but the regulars ignored them and drove their horses on. The old men opened fire, shot the lead horses, killed two sergeants, and wounded the officer. The British survivors ran, and six of them threw their weapons into a pond before they surrendered.³²

Percy assumed control of the combined forces of about 1,700 men and allowed his men to eat, drink and rest at their field hospital which they set up in Munroe Tavern before resuming the march. They set out from Lexington at about 3: 30 PM in a formation that emphasized defense along the sides and rear of the column.

The fighting grew more intense as Percy’s forces crossed from Lexington into Menotomy. Percy was on the way back to Boston, via Mentomony. During the respite at Lexington, Brigadier General William Heath arrived and took command of the militia. Before leaving Boston, Heath discussed tactics with the Massachusetts Committee of Safety.

Upon arrival at Percy’s position, Heath ordered the militiamen to break ranks and not to get into formation, since Percy’s artillery could hit them. Heath then ordered the militia to take positions along the road and hide behind walls and trees and fire their muskets at the approaching regulars.

The fighting grew more intense. Fresh militia poured gunfire into the British ranks from a distance and individual homeowners began to fight from their own property. Eventually, Percy lost control of his men, and many regulars began to commit atrocities to repay for the supposed scalping at North Bridge and for their own casualties at the hands of a distant, often an unseen enemy.

The British troops crossed the Menotomy River (today known as Alewife Brook) into Cambridge and the fight grew more intense.

The Lexington and Concord battles were now over, but the war had just begun. The minutemen of the militia and all who served as volunteer minutemen ultimately became what we now know as the Continental Army. This all had its origin at the North Bridge where the American Revolution began.

In writing the legacy of the American Revolution, it is important to note that the spirit of the American Colonist were equal to the task against the greatest military force known at that time. The British Army was comprised of professional soldiers. Most were veterans of several battles and trained in field combat. Their military leaders were the best that Great Britain had available to deploy. The one thing that the British lacked was the will which each and every patriot had. Several colonists remained loyal to the British throne and as such they either left or grumbled to their dying day.

More probably than not, the colonists were as surprised at the outcome of the first battle for independence as were the British. The Sons of Liberty carried the day with the intelligence they gathered and used to their advantage.

In conclusion, we analyze the actual spark of the war. General Gage on April 14, 1775 received orders from King George III of Great Britain, through channels, to “take decisive action against the Patriots.” The king and therefore General Gage had intelligence that the militia had been stockpiling weapons at Concord, Massachusetts, therefore, he ordered detachments of regulars from Boston garrison to march there on the night of April 18, 1775 to confiscate them.

Why were the colonists stockpiling arms outside Boston? Did they

have intelligence that the Crown would be making arrests? Did the colonists expect an armed conflict? The answers are simple. The Colonists could not train within the confines of Boston, since the British troops were occupying Boston. Therefore, the colonists had to train their militia outside Boston. To train they needed arms. The colonists knew that British spies were at foot seeking information and transmitting same to General Gage the commander in Boston. It was just a matter of time, based on the history of gun control prevalent during the preceding 200 years of British rule that firearms were the first item to be seized. Further, King George III himself in his writings ruminates that if armed conflict did occur with the "Rebels who were in open insurrection" and they had guns.

King George III, on September 1774 wrote in his diary that he will enforce his directive calling for the confiscation of war-making materials. That very month, King George III ordered a mission to remove provincial gunpowder from a magazine in what is now Somerville, MA.

The battles of Lexington and Concord resulted in 273 total casualties for the British and 93 for the American rebels.

Remember, the British expedition to Lexington and Concord was supposed to have been a "profound secret", but nevertheless Sons of Liberty leader Joseph Warren found out about it.

Chapter 6

HISTORY'S REAR VIEW MIRROR - A LOOK BACK

It was important to the early American government that an image of British fault and American innocence be maintained for this first battle of the war. The history of the Patriot preparations, intelligence, warning signals, and uncertainty about the first shot was rarely discussed in the public sphere for decades. The story of the wounded British soldier at the North Bridge, struck solemn on the head of a Minuteman using the hatchet, the purported “scalping” was suppressed. Depositions mentioning some of these activities were not published and were returned to the participants.

The history of that historic day has been bent and twisted as all malleable historical events eventually become. On April 19, 1875 President Ulysses S. Grant and members of his cabinet joined 50,000 people to mark the 100th anniversary of the battles. The sculpture by Daniel Chester French, “The Minute Man”, located at the North Bridge, was unveiled on that day.

The American Revolution was sparked by King George III's demand to confiscate all the war-making material, the colonists guns. But for this order by King George III, the American Revolution might not have occurred, based on the feelings of the delegates to the Continental Congress. After Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress then had no choice but to succeed.

GUN CONTROL IN THE COLONIES

The Second Amendment, and the equivalent guarantees of a right to

keep and bear arms that are in most of the states constitutions included them, and therefore, for the sole reason to prevent a government from oppressing their citizens - gun control is not a new idea, but an old one. English kings, starting at least in the realm of Henry VIII attempting to limit who was allowed to own guns. Henry VIII, for example, prohibited poor people from shooting crossbows or guns. If you were a king, wouldn't you want a rabble disarmed?

In the seventeenth century, Charles II and James II passed measures to disarm untrustworthy sorts, requiring gunsmiths to register guns that they worked on, and limited imports of guns. Unsurprisingly, when the Glorious Revolution of 1688 took place, and Parliament invited William & Mary to become the new monarchs, they wrote a Bill of Rights that guaranteed a right to keep arms."That the subjects which are Protestants, may have arms for their defense suitable to their conditions, and as allowed by law".

In Colonial America things were a bit different. The colonists recognized that possession of guns were needed for an armed population to protect themselves from the Indians, but also from foreign armies and pirates.

This doesn't mean that there were no gun control laws in Colonial America, however, some of these laws should not be any great surprise, especially in light of the open racism of many of the gun control laws passed in the slave states in the nineteenth century. Massachusetts and Plymouth colonies prohibited sale of guns to Indians, at least at times, and to some Indian tribes. Rhode Island, on the other hand, required Indians who worked as servants to whites to be members of the militia, and "carefully provide for arms and ammunition for said service. . ."

Other gun control laws of this period are a little startling today, but would doubtless please modern gun control advocates. A Bostonian named

Anne Hutchinson in 1637 began to teach her notion of Christianity, and as her ideas spread rapidly through Puritan society. Her message was, :

”[S]ome persons being so hot headed for maintaining of these sinful opinions that they feared breach of peace even among the members of the Superior Court. . . those places of government caused certain persons to be disarmed in several Townes, as in the Towne of Boston, to the number of 58, in the Towne of Salem 6, in the Towne of Newbery 3, in the Towne of Roxbury 5, in the Towne of Ipswich 2 and Charles Towne 2.”

Other laws are startling as well, but in another direction. A 1632 statute of Plymouth Colony ordered that.

“Every freeman or other inhabitant of this colony provide for himselfe and each under him able to beare armes a sufficient musket and other serviceable peace for war with bandaleroes and other appurtenances with what speede my be. . .”

By the end of the following May, each person was to own “two pounds of powder and ten pounds of bullets” with a fine of ten shillings per person who were not armed.

THERE ARE 245M STEPS TO THE ANSWERS

The title of this book is based on the number of steps needed to climb from the foyer of Windsor Castle to the top of the Middle Ward where the Royal Archives are located. This is where the words of King George III are housed.

Windsor Castle is a royal residence at Windsor in the English county

of Berkshire. It is strongly associated with the English and succeeding British royal family, and embodies almost 1,000 years of architectural history. The original castle was built in the 11th century after the Norman invasion of England by William the Conqueror.

At the heart of Windsor Castle is the Middle Ward, a bailey formed

I
HISTORIC ROYAL SPEECHES AND WRITINGS

GEORGE III (r. 1760-1820)

Letter on the loss of America written in the 1780s (precise year unknown)

America is lost! Must we fall beneath the blow? Or have we resources that may repair the mischief? What are those resources? Should they be sought in distant Regions held by precarious Tenure, or shall we seek them at home in the exertions of a new policy?

The situation of the Kingdom is novel, the policy that is to govern it must be novel likewise, or neither adapted to the real evils of the present moment, or the dreaded ones of the future.

For a Century past the Colonial Scheme has been the system that has guided the Administration of the British Government. It was thoroughly known that from every Country there always exists an active emigration of unsettled, discontented, or unfortunate People, who failing in their endeavours to live at home, hope to succeed better where there is more employment suitable to their poverty. The establishment of Colonies in America might probably increase the number of this class, but did not create it; in times anterior to that great speculation, Poland contained near 10,000 Scotch Pedlars; within the last thirty years not above 100, occasioned by America offering a more advantageous asylum for them.

A people spread over an immense tract of fertile land, industrious because free, and rich because industrious, presently became a market for the Manufactures and Commerce of the Mother Country. An importance was soon generated, which from its origin to the late conflict was mischievous to Britain, because it created an expense of blood and treasure worth more at this instant, if it could be at our command, than all we ever received from America. The wars of 1744, of 1756, and 1775, were all entered into from the encouragements given to the speculations of settling the wilds of North America.

It is to be hoped that by degrees it will be admitted that the Northern Colonies, that is those North of Tobacco, were in reality our very successful rivals in two Articles, the carrying freight trade, and the Newfoundland fishery. While the Sugar Colonies added above three millions a year to the wealth of Britain, the Rice Colonies near a million, and the Tobacco ones almost as much; those more to the north, so far from adding anything to our wealth as Colonies, were trading, fishing, farming Countries, that rivalled us in many branches of our industry, and had actually deprived us of no inconsiderable share of the wealth we reaped by means of the others. This comparative view of our former territories in America is not stated with any idea of lessening the consequence of a future friendship and connection with them; on the contrary it is to be hoped we shall reap more advantages from their trade as friends than ever we could derive from them as Colonies; for there is reason to suppose we actually gained more by them while in actual rebellion, and the common open connection cut off, than when they were in obedience to the

II HISTORIC ROYAL SPEECHES AND WRITINGS

Crown; the Newfoundland fishery taken into the Account, there is little doubt of it.

The East and West Indies are conceived to be the great commercial supports of the Empire; as to the Newfoundland fishery time must tell us what share we shall reserve of it. But there is one observation which is applicable to all three; they depend on very distant territorial possessions, which we have little or no hopes of retaining from their internal strength, we can keep them only by means of a superior Navy. If our marine force sinks, or if in consequence of wars, debts, and taxes, we should in future find ourselves so debilitated as to be involved in a new War, without the means of carrying it on with vigour, in these cases, all distant possessions must fall, let them be as valuable as their warmest panegyrists contend.

It evidently appears from this slight review of our most important dependencies, that on them we are not to exert that new policy which alone can be the preservation of the British power and consequence. The more important they are already, the less are they fit instruments in that work. No man can be hardy enough to deny that they are insecure; to add therefore to their value by exertions of policy which shall have the effect of directing any stream of capital, industry, or population into those channels, would be to add to a disproportion already an evil. The more we are convinced of the vast importance of those territories, the more we must feel the insecurity of our power; our view therefore ought not to be to increase but preserve them.

around the motte or artificial hill in the center of the ward. The motte is 50 feet high and is made from chalk originally excavated from the surrounding ditch. The keep called the Round Tower, on the top of the motte is based on an original 12 century building, erected upward in the early 19th century under architect Jeffry Wyattville by 30 feet to produce a more imposing height and silhouette. The interior of the Round Tower was further redesigned in 1991-1993 to provide additional space for the Royal Archives.

King George III was a noble person who did care about his subjects but throughout his life, certain maladies changed his personality. Throughout this research looking at the man, during the American Revolutionary war, King George III did not demonstrate any conditions which affected his reign or decision. After the loss to the colonies, King George III suffered a number of disabling ailments. In 1788 illness brought on a mental breakdown, but he briefly recovered, regaining popularity and had admiration of his virtue and steady leadership through the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars. Ultimately, recurring bouts of insanity led Parliament to enact regency to his son, and George III lived his final year with sporadic periods of lucidity, until his death in 1820.

As one can see, King George III was reviewing all that occurred at different points in his reign, and it seems like he is pragmatic but saddened.

Chapter 7

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE

After the battle of Lexington and Concord, the battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775 ended with a British victory. British forces under General Howe seized the Charlestown Peninsula at the Battle of Bunker Hill. It was a pyrrhic victory: Britain won but suffered more than 1,000 casualties without significantly altering the state of the siege. Henry Clinton called it “[a] dear bought victory, another such would have ruined us”, while other officers noted that nothing had been gained in the victory. Gage himself wrote the Secretary at War:

These people show a spirit and conduct against us they never showed against the French. Their renowned spirited up by a rage and enthusiasm as great as ever people were possessed of any you much proceed in earnest or give the business up. A small body acting in one spot will not avail, you must have large armies making diversions on different side, to divide their force. The loss we have sustained is greater than we can bear. Small armies cannot afford such losses, especially when the advantage gained tends to do little more than the gaining a post.

On June 25, 1775, Gage wrote a dispatch to Great Britain, notifying Lord Dartmouth of the results of the battle of June 17th. Three days after his report arrived in England, Dartmouth issued the order recalling Gage and replacing him with William Howe. The rapidity of this action is likely attributable to the fact that people within the government were already arguing for Gage’s removal, and the battle was just the final straw. Gage

received the order in Boston on September 26, 1775 and set sail for England on October 11, 1775.

The nature of Dartmouth's recall order did not actually strip Gage of his offices immediately. Although King George III wanted to reward his "mild general" for his service, Gage's sole reward was that he retained the governorship of Massachusetts.

On Gage's return to England, the family eventually settled into a house on Portland Place in London. Although he was presumably given a friendly reception in his interview with a sympathetic King George, the public and private writing about him and his fall from power were at times vicious. One correspondent wrote that gage had "run his race of glory. . . let him alone to the hell of his own conscience and the infirm which must inevitably attend him!" Others were kinder; New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth characterized him as a "good and wise man. . .surrounded by difficulties.

Gage's health began to decline in early 1780's and he died at Portland Place on April 2, 1787. His wife survived him by almost 37 years.

ANALYSIS

The war had ended, and a new democracy was created, but the decision by King George III ordering the confiscation of the colonists firearms definitely sparked and was the primary cause of the American Revolution.

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