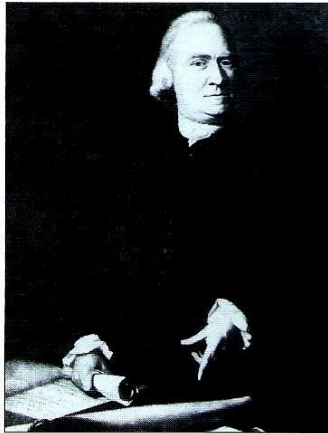


Please return
this handout to
Mrs. Mueller
when you are
finished!!
Thank you!

12 The Firebrands



After the Boston Massacre (you'll read about it in the next chapter), Samuel Adams made an official protest to the royal governor of Massachusetts.

A **deist** (DEE-ist) believes in God as creator of the universe. Deists reject the idea of an active God who directs worldly events.

In 1770 the annual meeting of New England Quakers prohibited slave-owning—the first American organization to do so.

Can you guess what a firebrand is? Firebrands were very useful when people didn't have matches and the only heat in a house came from the fireplace.

You have probably figured it out. A firebrand is a stick of wood with a spark of fire at one end.

Now, if you look in the dictionary you will see another meaning for firebrand. A firebrand can be a hothead: someone who sparks a revolution, someone who lights a fire in people's minds and hearts.

Historians say the American Revolution had three firebrands: Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, and Thomas Paine. That war of independence might have happened without them, but it certainly would have been different.

Patrick Henry was a great speaker; Tom Paine was a great writer. Samuel Adams could write well and think well, but what Adams really was was a super busybody. He got everyone keyed up, inspired, and moving.

Sam Adams was a New Englander from Boston with a Puritan background. Tom Paine came from England and lived in the Middle Colonies, in Philadelphia. He was a deist with Quaker friends. Patrick Henry was a Southerner, an Anglican, a Virginian, and a country boy. These men were very different from one another, but alike in one important way: each understood, before most other Americans did, that a break from England was necessary.

I've told you before that it took a long time for the colonists to think of themselves as Americans. They thought of themselves as English colonists. Even those who came from France or Germany or Holland soon thought of English rights as their rights.

When they stopped seeing themselves as English, they began to say they were Virginians, or New Englanders, or Carolinians. It was hard for them to understand that they could all be part of the same country. To begin with, they didn't know each other. That was because overland travel between colonies was very difficult. There were no good roads and few bridges. On the fastest stagecoach you could make eight miles an hour—as long as there were no ruts in the road, or mud, or ice. For poor people, travel meant going on foot. But if you were like most travelers, you rode horseback. If you needed to cross a river you usually had to find a boat. Your horses had to swim the river. If you had a lot of baggage, it might take many trips to get it all across. If the river current was swift, you could lose everything—even your life.

By 1760, with good winds and good luck, you could sail from Baltimore to London in four weeks. So wealthy Marylanders were more likely to go to England than to Massachusetts. And the same was true of the Virginians and the South Carolinians. London still seemed the most exciting city in their world. Now can you see why most people in the different colonies were strangers to each other?

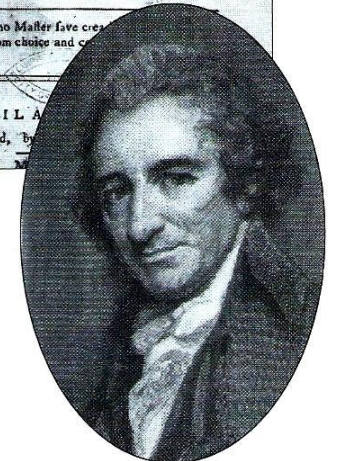
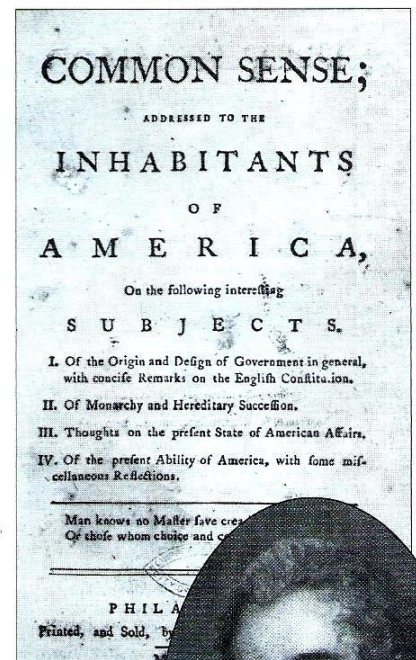
Well, the firebrands helped change that. Sam Adams started something called "committees of correspondence." They were groups of prominent citizens who wrote back and forth between colonies and helped each other with problems. They began to be friends.

Adams started other groups, such as the Sons of Liberty. In Boston, the Sons met under an old elm tree that Adams called the Liberty Tree. As soon as the British got a chance they chopped that tree down. (A liberty tree still stands in Annapolis, Maryland.)

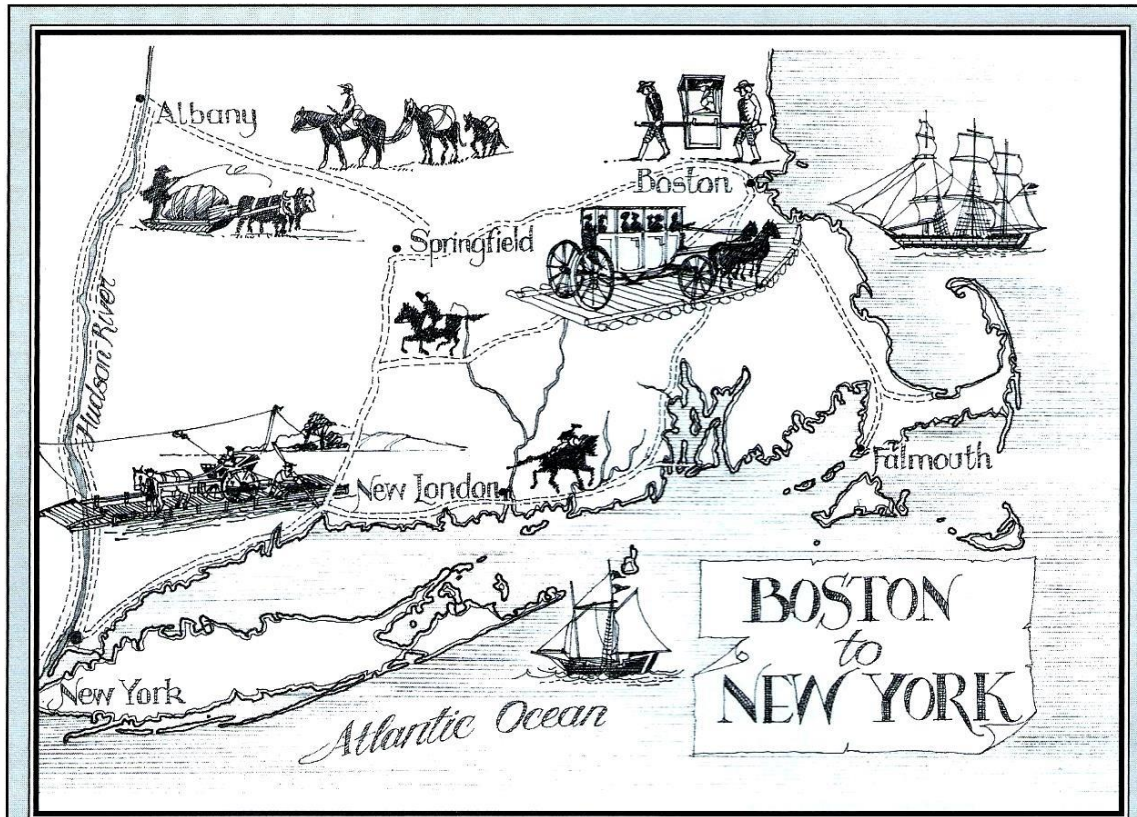
But mostly what Sam Adams started was trouble for the British. He was a rabble-rouser and an agitator—a real firebrand—who helped brew up the Boston Tea Party and the fight against the Stamp Act. But you never would have known that to look at him.

Sam Adams was a Humpty Dumpty-looking man: rumped and pudgy. He came from a prominent Boston family, but he lost almost all the family money because he didn't care about business. Some people said that he was lazy, but he wasn't lazy when it came to fighting for freedom.

The English called Adams a public enemy, an outlaw, and a rebel. They wanted to hang him. He certainly was a troublemaker, but Sam



On the title page of Tom Paine's *Common Sense* runs a couplet: "Man knows no Master save creating Heaven, / Or those whom choice and common good ordain." What does that mean?



On the Road, or Getting Around in Colonial Times

Until the middle of the 19th century, most American roads were made of dirt. Some were surfaced with gravel or oyster shells. With ice or snow on them they often became impassable. Spring thaws made them turn to mud. Even when they were dry and hard they were full of holes. A horseback rider could make his way, but for a heavy wagon or coach it was a disaster—wheels

and axles broke or got mired in the mud.

When Benjamin Franklin became postmaster of the colonies he improved the roads so the mail could be carried more efficiently. These new roads were called post roads.

Some roads were made with rough logs; dirt was put on top of the logs. These roads were called corduroy roads. They were so rough that

sometimes they made horses go lame and jolted wheeled vehicles into pieces.

There were good roads in ancient America. They were built by the Incas. The Inca roads were 25 feet wide and made of stone and asphalt with retaining walls, suspension bridges, and a series of watchtowers. The roads stretched thousands of miles, over mountaintops and across ravines, from Ecuador to Peru. They were constructed before the arrival of Christopher Columbus.



A post rider blows a horn to announce his arrival in a town.

Adams was different from other rebels in other times. He wanted more than just separation from England. He was inspired by a grander idea: the idea that America could be a special nation where people would be free of kings and princes. A nation where, for the first time in all of history, people would truly rule themselves.

His Puritan ancestors had described their colony as an experiment. They had hoped it would be a close to perfect society. They called it “a city on a hill,” and they meant that others should see it and that it would be an example to the whole world. But the Puritan dream was only for Puritans. Sam Adams had a great dream that was for all people.

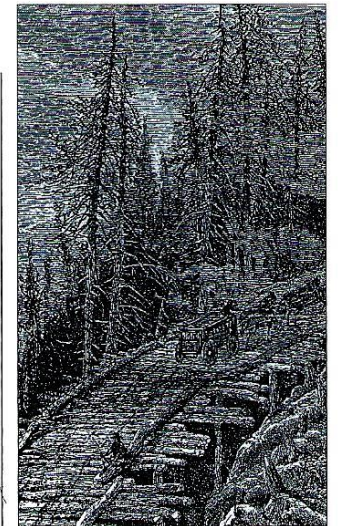
So did Tom Paine. Now, Sam Adams was a Harvard man who had old roots in the young country. Tom Paine was hardly off the boat from England, in 1774, when he became a firebrand of revolution. He didn’t plan it that way. “I thought it very hard,” he wrote, “to have the country set on fire...almost the moment I got into it.”

He had been apprenticed to a corsetmaker when he was a boy in England. Corsets are tight undergarments that women wore to hold in their stomachs and make their waists look tiny. Being a corsetmaker was not exactly an exciting career—not for a boy with a mind like Tom’s. So he ran away and went to sea. But that didn’t work out. Then he tried to be a grocer, and a schoolteacher, and a tobacco seller. Nothing worked—except his fine mind, and that kept him learning. He went to lectures and he read everything he could find to read. When he met Ben Franklin in London, he knew he wanted to go to America.

He almost didn’t make it. He caught a fever on board ship and was carried ashore half dead, but he was young and strong and he survived. Franklin had given him a letter that got him a job as a writer and magazine editor in Philadelphia. That was the perfect use for his talents, for he was a magician with words.

By the 1770s, the colonists were beginning to want to separate from England. But they weren’t quite sure why, and they wondered if it was right to do so. Tom Paine was able to say clearly what people really knew in their hearts. He wrote a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. In it he told the colonists three important things:

- *Monarchy was a poor form of government and they would be better off without it.*
- *Great Britain was hurting their economy with taxes and trade restrictions.*
- *It was foolish for a small island 3,000 miles away to try to rule a whole continent.*



A wagon negotiates a corduroy road. These were laid when a path was too muddy or steep to be traveled any other way. But it was like riding on a giant washboard.

The first stagecoach from New York to Boston began operation in 1772. The trip took six days. Travelers slept in their clothes at inns along the way. They could expect to be waked at three in the morning and to spend 18 hours each day traveling.

A **monarchy** is a government headed by a king or queen.

If you send a package to someone, you will pay *shipping charges*. We talk of *shipments* of freight. That's because in early America most freight was sent by oceangoing ships or riverboats. The 13 colonies hugged the Atlantic Ocean.



This is how an artist imagined Patrick Henry's 1765 speech against the Stamp Act to Virginia's House of Burgesses. On the floor in front he has thrown down a gauntlet—a glove—which is a traditional challenge to fight.

Well, of course, all that made common sense. But Tom Paine said it so eloquently that a whole lot of copies of *Common Sense* were sold in a very short time.

When the revolution began, Paine enlisted in the Continental army. Then he wrote a series of pamphlets about the war. He started one of them with these words: "These are the times that try men's souls." Stop and read that line again. "These are the times that try men's souls." What do you think of that as a way to start a book about war? Tom Paine made people stop and think. He was a man of deep beliefs. He believed in the American cause. He was not rich, but he gave a third of his salary to help Washington's army, and he never took any money for his patriotic writings. He said that would demean them.

To **demean** means to lower the worth of something.

"We have it in our power to begin the world again," wrote Paine, and he really meant it.

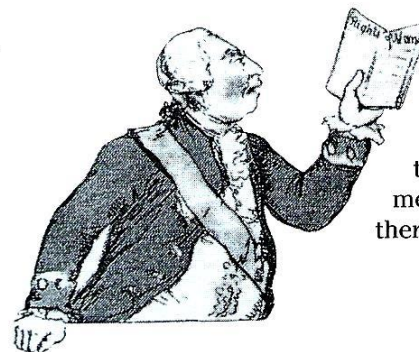
Patrick Henry was the third firebrand, and, like Adams and Paine, he was a failure at first. He was born on a Virginia frontier farm. His father came from Scotland and had been to college there. He taught his son to read—both English and Latin. They read the Bible aloud together, and Patrick learned to love the sounds of the English language. He used English as no American speaker had done before him. He was called a "forest-born Demosthenes," and that was a compliment, because Demosthenes (dih-MOSS-thin-eez) was a great orator and a fighter for freedom in ancient Greece.

But Patrick Henry started out as a storekeeper, and then tried being a planter, and failed at both. Perhaps it was because he had a "passion for fiddling, dancing, and pleasantries." Finally, he studied law and spoke so well as a lawyer that he soon entered politics. He was elected to the House of Burgesses, which met in Virginia's capital, Williamsburg. And that was where he was when the Stamp Act was passed. He was young, but he stood up and said what he thought—that the stamp tax was a threat to liberty. Some of the older Virginians cried, "Treason!" because he was attacking the king. To that Patrick Henry is supposed to have answered, "If this be treason, make the most of it."

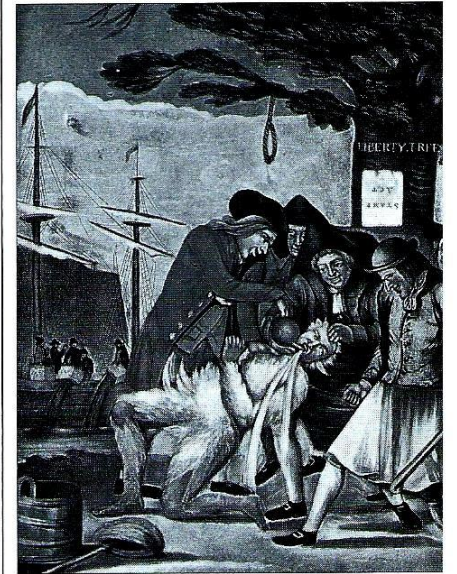
Some townsfolk and students from the College of William and Mary stood in the doorway of the House of Burgesses and heard that speech. Among them was a young lawyer named Thomas Jefferson. He never forgot it. He said Henry spoke "as Homer wrote," and Jefferson thought Homer the greatest of writers.

When the English governor of Virginia heard about Patrick Henry's speech, he was furious. He dissolved the House of Burgesses. (That means he told the members to go home.) But that just made them angry. They walked over to the Raleigh Tavern, where they kept on meeting. And Patrick Henry kept talking.

By 1775, 10 years after Henry's Stamp Act speech, it was no longer safe for the burgesses even to gather in Williamsburg. So they met in a church in Richmond. It was there that Patrick Henry gave his most



You can imagine how George III felt when he read Tom Paine's books.



A noose hangs ominously from the Liberty Tree as a mob of colonists makes a royal official drink a pot of tea.

If you've read any books of Greek myths, legends, or history, you've probably read some of the stories that Homer told. Homer lived in ancient Greece and wrote two stories, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, which are still among the most exciting tales of heroism and adventure ever written.

Someone who heard Patrick Henry said, "The tendons on his neck stood out white and rigid like whipcords. His voice rose louder and louder, until the walls of the building seemed to shake....Men leaned forward in their seats...their faces pale."

famous speech. The port of Boston was closed, English soldiers were in the city, and the Massachusetts Assembly had been dissolved. Would Virginia sit idly by?

Henry stepped into the aisle, bowed his head, and held out his arms. He pretended his arms were chained as he began calmly, "Our chains are forged, their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston." His voice strengthened as he said, "The war is actually begun. The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms. Our brethren are already in the field. Why stand we here idle?...Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?"

Then Patrick Henry threw off the imaginary chains, stood up straight, and cried out, "Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, *give me liberty, or give me death!*"

Fellow Fiddlers



Thomas Jefferson first met Patrick Henry at a fiddling session. No, they weren't fiddling around; well, maybe they were.

Gangly, carrot-headed Thomas Jefferson was on his way to the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. Sturdy Patrick Henry, who was 23, was a not-very-successful shopkeeper.

On my way to the college, I passed the Christmas holydays at Col. Dandridge's in Hanover," wrote Jefferson. (Colonel Nathaniel Dandridge was a close relative of Martha Washington.) "During the festivity of the season, I met him [Patrick Henry] every day, and we became well acquainted, although I was much his junior, being then in my seventeenth year, and he a married man. His manners had something of a coarseness in them; his passion was music, dancing, and pleantry. He excelled in the last, and it attached everyone to him." It was 1759, and they

both got out their violins and were soon playing the jigs and reels and other country dances that were part of the Virginia holiday celebration.

Patrick Henry wasn't happy as a shopkeeper weighing out flour, coffee, and sugar, so in his spare time he studied the law. In 1775—almost 16 years after that Christmas meeting—he said, "Give me liberty, or give me death," and helped inspire the American revolution.

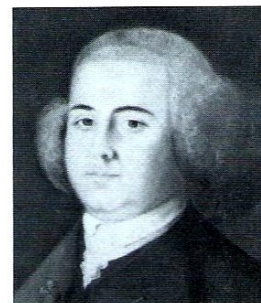
But he never stopped fiddling. He was a country musician and always popular.

Jefferson's taste was different. He loved serious music and amassed one of the largest collections of sheet (printed) music in America. He played the violin almost every day until the day he died.

Thomas Jefferson (above, in 1776, aged 33), designed and built his own folding music stand (right) for a string quartet.



13 A Massacre in Boston



John Adams hated to study when he was a boy. "I spent my time...in driving hoops, playing marbles...wrestling, swimming, skating."

Samuel Adams had a young cousin named John. "I have heard of one Mr. Adams," said King George to the Massachusetts governor, "but who is the other?" The other—honest, serious John Adams—would become even more famous than Sam.

Sam was an agitator and an organizer who helped start a revolution. John was a farmer and a lawyer, a solid citizen, who helped lead that revolution. Someone who knew John Adams said that he possessed more learning than anyone in the colonies. That may have been an exaggeration, but John had done a

lot of reading and studying. And he knew how to use his mind.

Here is a story about both Adams cousins: the story of the Boston Massacre. A massacre, as you may know, is a gruesome killing. That's what happened in Boston in 1770.

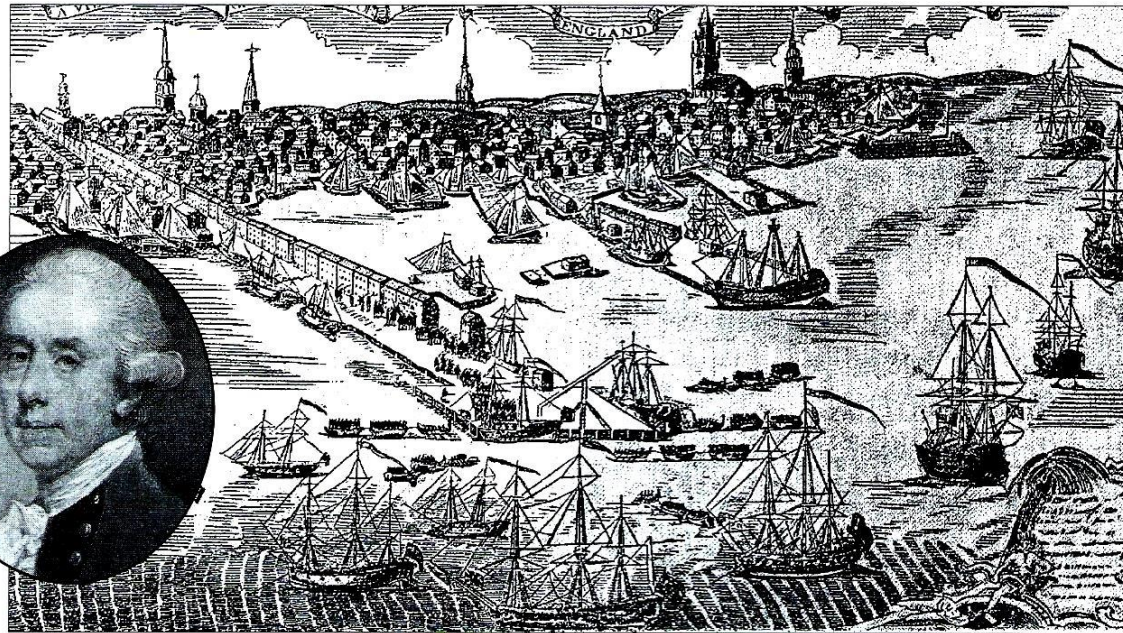
The story begins in 1765, when the English Parliament passed a law that said American citizens had to provide quarters for British soldiers. The quarters they were talking about are not the kind you get when you add two dimes and a nickel. Quarters can also be houses where soldiers live. The law was called the Quartering Act. English soldiers, who were called redcoats because of the color of their uniforms, were to be quartered in American towns and cities.

Well, the Americans didn't want British redcoats quartered in their towns, or cities, or even in their country. So when the soldiers arrived, in 1768, the colonists weren't very kind to them. Sometimes they made fun of them, sometimes they threw snowballs or rocks, sometimes they called them lobsterbacks, or worse names.



THE PATRIOTIC AMERICAN FARMER. D-K-NS-N, Esq.; BARRISTER at LA

Delaware's aristocratic John Dickinson wrote a series of articles that were made into a book, here titled *The Patriotic American Farmer*. He attacked British policy, but for different reasons from those that Tom Paine used. Dickinson said Parliament was acting radically and that it was the colonies that were trying to preserve ancient British liberties.

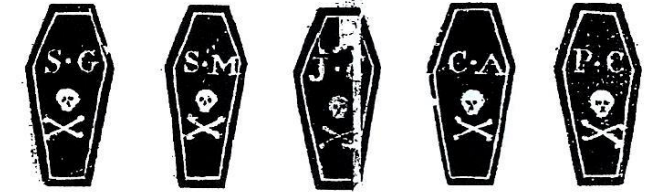


In 1768 the British fleet sailed into Boston harbor (above) and unloaded regiment after regiment of redcoats. General Thomas Gage (inset) had the thankless job of commanding an army that didn't want to be there among a people who didn't want it to be there either.

The people in Boston were especially annoyed, and, at first, wouldn't even provide quarters. So the soldiers set up tents on the Boston Common (a big grassy area in the center of town) and played their drums and bugles—loudly—at the most inappropriate times. Most of the English soldiers didn't want to be in America anyway. They were poorly paid, and many were homesick. Some ran away from the British army. (Soldiers who run away are called deserters. British deserters who were caught were shot.) A few redcoats—especially the officers—were treated well. Some married American women.

But for most of the British soldiers, the winters in Boston seemed longer and colder and more miserable than any they had ever known. On a freezing March day in 1770, one of the king's soldiers was looking for work to earn some extra money. Someone started making fun of him and told him to get a job cleaning toilets. (Only they didn't have the kind of toilets we have today. They had outdoor "privies," which were dirt-floored holes, and they smelled.) One thing led to another, and there was a fight.

That started things. Soon a noisy, jeering group of mischief-makers gathered in front of the Boston Custom House. They began pushing and shoving and throwing stones and pieces of ice at the British sentry. He got knocked down and he called for help. Captain Thomas Preston came to the rescue with eight British soldiers.



A particular Account of the most barbarous and
HORRID MASSACRE!

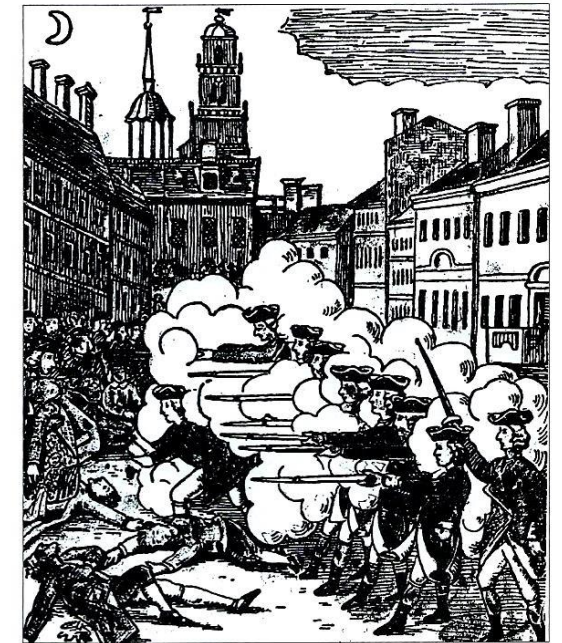
There is some confusion about what happened next. The mob is said to have taunted the redcoats, yelling "Fire! Fire!" Captain Preston is said to have yelled, "Hold your fire!" Then a British soldier was hit with a big stick.

He claimed he heard the word "fire," so he fired his gun into the crowd. The street gang moved forward; the redcoats panicked and fired at unarmed people. Five Americans died; seven were wounded.

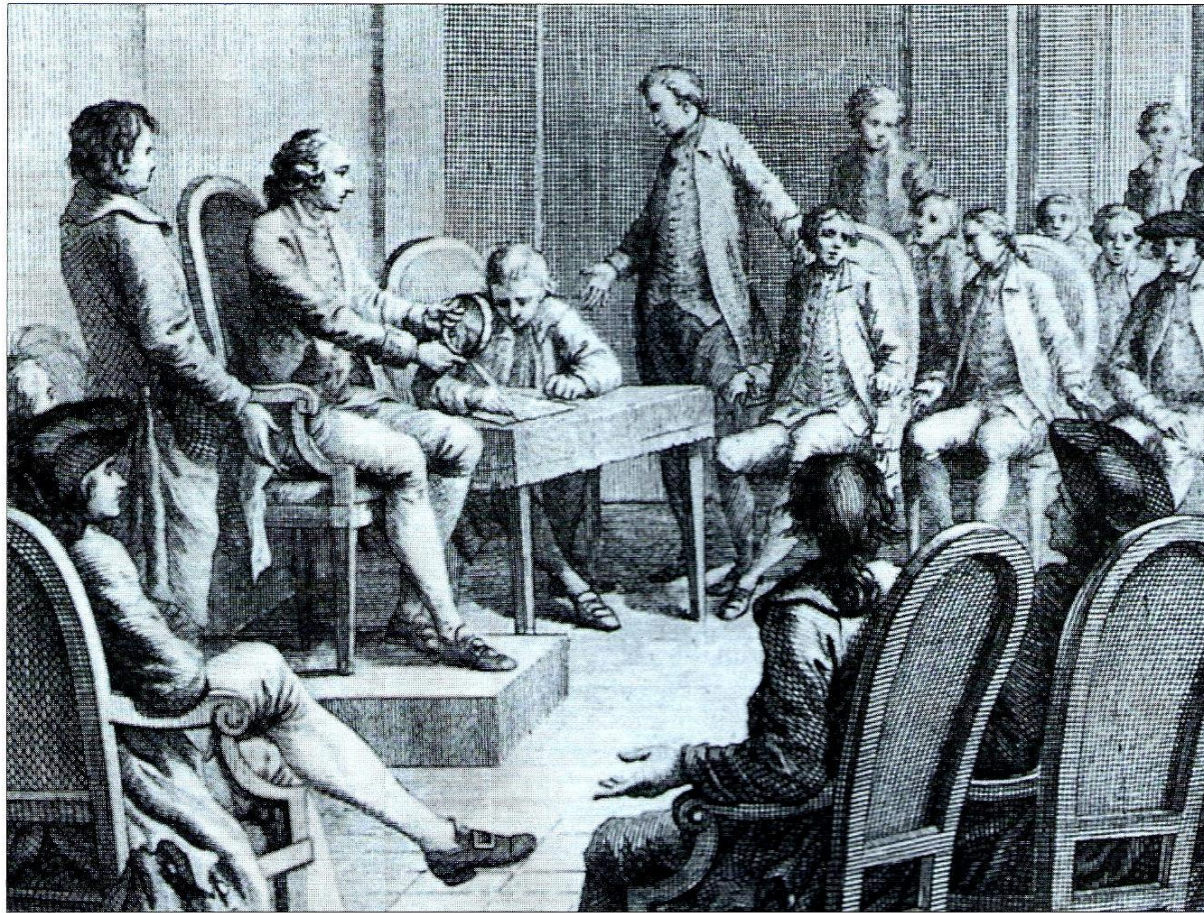
None of them was a hero. The victims were troublemakers who got worse than they deserved. The soldiers were professionals (the British army was supposed to be the best in the world), who shouldn't have panicked. The whole thing shouldn't have happened. Sam Adams made the most of it. He had Paul Revere engrave a picture of the shooting in front of the Boston Custom House. Adams was already calling it the Boston Massacre. Revere was a silversmith who made fine teapots and pitchers. He was also a dedicated Patriot, a dentist, a printer, a good horseback rider, and a friend of Samuel Adams.

The picture that Paul Revere chose to etch into a piece of copper—so it could be printed over and over again—showed British soldiers firing at peaceful Boston citizens. That wasn't the way it had actually happened—Adams and Revere knew that—but the drawing made good propaganda. It made people furious at the British. That drawing was soon seen all over the colonies. It helped start a war.

There is one hero in the story of the Boston Massacre: John Adams. John didn't want British soldiers in Boston; he wanted freedom for his country. But he was fair and he always did what he thought was right. And even though everyone in America wanted to blame the British soldiers, John Adams believed they should have a fair trial. He knew they needed a good lawyer, and he was one of the best lawyers in the colonies. So he took



Henry Pelham's drawing of the Boston Massacre (you can see Paul Revere's copy on the cover of this book). The coffins on the news sheet (top) carry the initials of the five Americans who died. Second from the right is C.A., for Crispus Attucks, a black laborer.



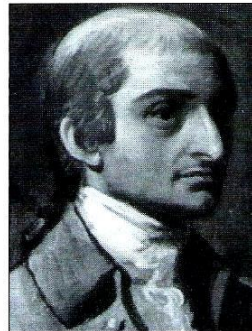
John Adams said that the representatives at the First Continental Congress (above) possessed “fortunes, ability, learning, eloquence, acuteness, equal to any I ever met with in my life.”

A **congress** is a group of delegates who get together for discussion and action.

the case of the redcoats. Adams argued that the soldiers had defended themselves against an angry mob. A Boston jury found six of the soldiers not guilty. Two soldiers were found guilty of manslaughter—not murder; they were branded on their thumbs.

Long after the American Revolution, someone asked John Adams what the war had been about. There were two revolutions, he explained. One was the war itself. But the important revolution, he said, had occurred even before the war began. It had to do with ideas and attitudes. “The revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people,” said John Adams. What do you think he meant by that?

John Adams was fighting for more than just separation from England. He wanted a chance to form a totally new kind of government: a government based on fair play and self-government.



John Jay (top) was a lawyer descended from two of New York’s richest and most powerful families. Peyton Randolph (bottom) became the first president of the Congress.

It was 1774 when the congress met in Philadelphia, midway between New England and the Southern colonies. Philadelphia was America’s leading city, so it made sense to meet there. Representatives came from every colony except Georgia. Samuel Adams and John Adams were both delegates. Sam wore a new wine-red suit with gold buttons, a gift from a Boston craftsman who didn’t want his representative to look shabby. Alexander McDougall and John Jay (who would later be a new nation’s first chief justice) came from New York determined to see that the colonies put pressure on England by not importing her goods. John Dickinson, who lived in Philadelphia, argued that a way must be found to get along with England. South Carolina’s Christopher Gadsden and Virginia’s Patrick Henry didn’t agree with Dickinson. They were considered radicals. “Arms are a resource to which we shall be forced,” said the fiery Patrick Henry. (When he said arms, he meant guns.) The Congress soon advised the colonists to form and arm militia (mill-ISH-uh) units and to stop buying goods from England.

Virginia’s Peyton Randolph, a moderate, was elected president of the congress. South Carolina’s John Rutledge (whom you first met when he

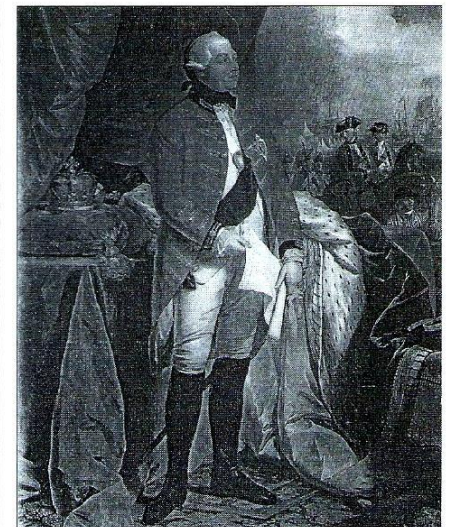
Are people able to govern themselves? That question wasn’t even being asked in most of the world. Always there were kings, or priests, or a ruling class. A country where people made their own laws? That sounded strange. Could the mass of people be trusted to choose their own leaders? It was a radical idea.

Samuel and John Adams knew that people in the colonies had much experience in self-government. They believed Americans could run their own nation and elect their own leaders. The Adams cousins would convince others; they would help form an American republic.

There was much to do before it could all work out. Plans had to be made. A congress was needed. Samuel Adams’s Committees of Correspondence were made up of leaders from all of the colonies. Those committees then became a congress: the First Continental Congress.

It was 1774 when the congress met in Philadelphia, midway between New England and the Southern colonies. Philadelphia was America’s leading city, so it made sense to meet there. Representatives came from every colony except Georgia. Samuel Adams and John Adams were both delegates. Sam wore a new wine-red suit with gold buttons, a gift

Remember, **Patriots** were Americans who wanted to be free of British rule. Sometimes Patriots were also called **Whigs**—the Whigs were an English political party who mostly believed that the colonials should be allowed to govern themselves. Americans who supported the king were called **Loyalists**—because they remained loyal to the existing government—and sometimes **Tories**. The Tory political party believed the king should keep firm control of the colonies.



In 1774 King George wrote: “The New England governments are in a state of rebellion, blows must decide whether they are to be subject to this country or independent.”

Historian Edmund S. Morgan says, "John Adams not only learned to work hard, but he always worked for something more than money....He took the interesting cases rather than the lucrative ones and spent his time studying, studying, studying."

visited New York for the Stamp Act Congress) was another moderate. "There is in the Congress a collection of the greatest men upon this continent," John Adams noted in his diary.

The delegates at the Congress passed 10 resolutions listing the rights of the colonists, including the right to "life, liberty and property." But perhaps the most important thing that happened was that the colonial leaders got together and talked about their common problems. Then they wrote a polite, respectful petition and sent it to King George, urging him to consider their complaints. But George wouldn't even think about that.

The delegates made plans to meet again, if the situation in the country didn't improve.

Things got worse.

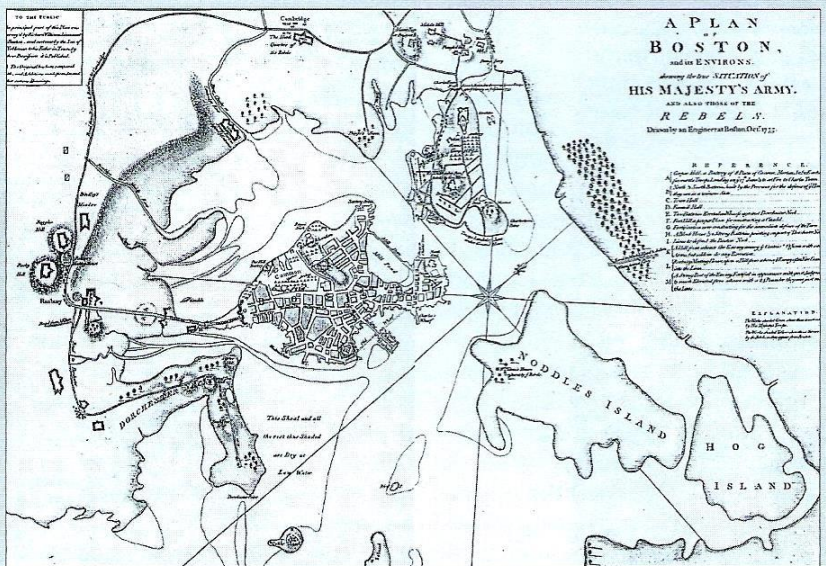
Knowing Where to Fight

Look at the map of Boston. Notice: Boston is a peninsula, a piece of land with a narrow neck connecting it to the mainland. (In the 18th century the neck was only a few hundred feet wide; today it is much wider.) Do you see how easy it would be to trap people in the city by stationing soldiers at the neck and putting boats in the harbor? The British weren't dumb. They figured that out. But, as you'll soon see, the Americans outsmarted them.

Now, check Charlestown, across the river. Paul Revere will begin a famous horseback ride in Charlestown. Notice Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill. A big battle will be fought on those two hills. The British will say they won the battle of

the Hills—and they will capture them—but they will lose more than double the number of men the Americans lose. They can't afford many victories like that. Do you see Dorchester

Heights? Henry Knox will put cannons on that high spot above the harbor. You'll soon hear more about Knox and the trouble brewing in Boston harbor. Keep reading. The conflict is heating up.



14 One If by Land, Two If by Sea



An American rifleman, better equipped than most of his fellow revolutionaries.

Three men rode horseback on an April night in 1775: Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Dr. Samuel Prescott. Each carried the same message: "The redcoats are coming." You may have heard of Paul Revere, because a poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, wrote a famous poem about his ride.

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.*

Did you hear that Longfellow makes his words gallop, like horses' hoofs? If you read the story of Paul Revere in prose, you can compare it to the poet's version. Here it is:

The Patriots were worried. It looked as if war with Britain couldn't be avoided. The Patriots were the colonists who wanted independence. They wanted to be free of British rule. The other colonists—the ones who wanted to stay British subjects—were called Loyalists. Some Patriots, like Samuel Adams, expected war. But most Patriots still hoped to find peaceful ways to settle their differences with England.

It was scary to think of war. England was a great power; the colonies were scattered and had little military experience.

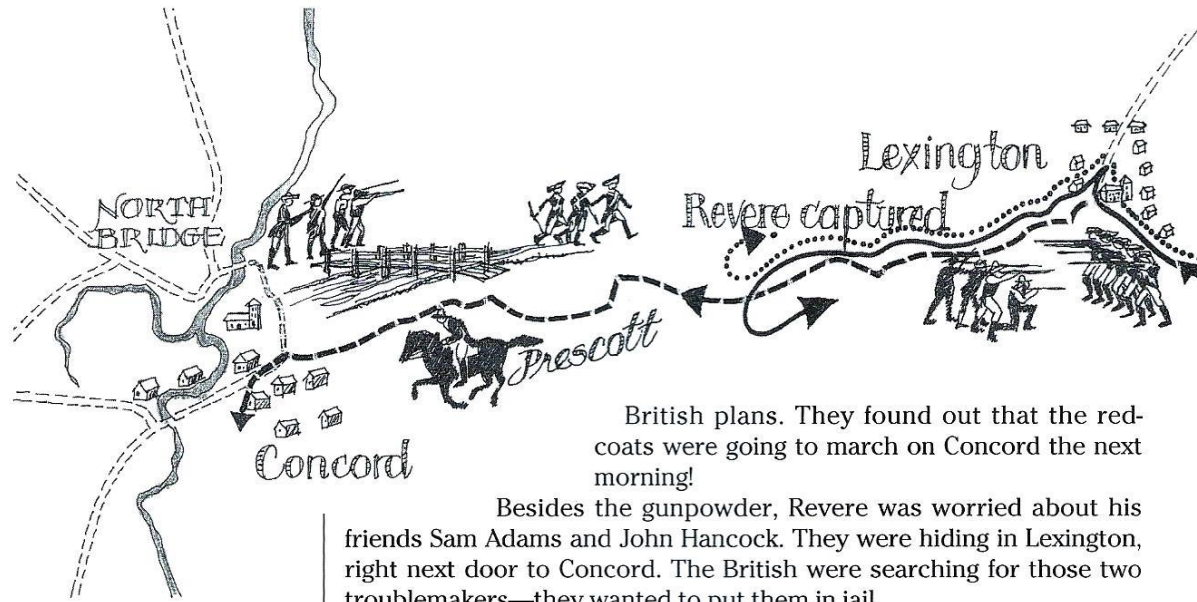
Still, it made sense to be prepared for the worst, so New Englanders began to stockpile cannonballs and gunpowder. They piled them up in Concord, a small town about 20 miles northwest of Boston.

When the British officers heard about those munitions, they decided to get them. Paul Revere and his Boston friends learned of the

TO all Gentlemen VOLUNTEERS, who prefer LIBERTY to SLAVERY, and are hearty Friends to the GRAND AMERICAN CAUSE; who are free and willing to ferre the STATE, in the Character of a Gentleman MATROSS, and learn the noble Art of Gunnery, in the Massachusetts State Train of Artillery, commanded by Col. THOMAS CRAFTS, now Stationed in the Town and Harbour of BOSTON, and not to be removed but by Order of the honorable House of Representatives, or Council of said State; let them appear at the Drum-Head, or at the ~~place~~ ^{place} where they shall enter into present Enrolment, by a ~~Company~~ ^{Company} of ~~Shillings~~ ^{Shillings} per Month. For their Encouragement they shall receive Twenty Dollars Bounty on passing Muster, one Suit of Regimental Cloaths yearly, a Blanket, &c. with Arms and Accoutrements suitable for a Gentleman Matross. For their further Encouragement, the Colonel would inform all Gentlemen Volunteers, that there are twenty-two Non-Commission Officers in each Company, who receive from three Pounds four and six Pence, to three Pounds twelve shillings per Month; and no one will be accepted in full Regiment, but Men of good Characters, such only will be promoted, whose steady Conduct and good Behaviour merits it.

You are desired to take Notice of the Difference of Pay and Station.
Galloway Ball on Fountain Green
The Gentlemen's Recruiting Office

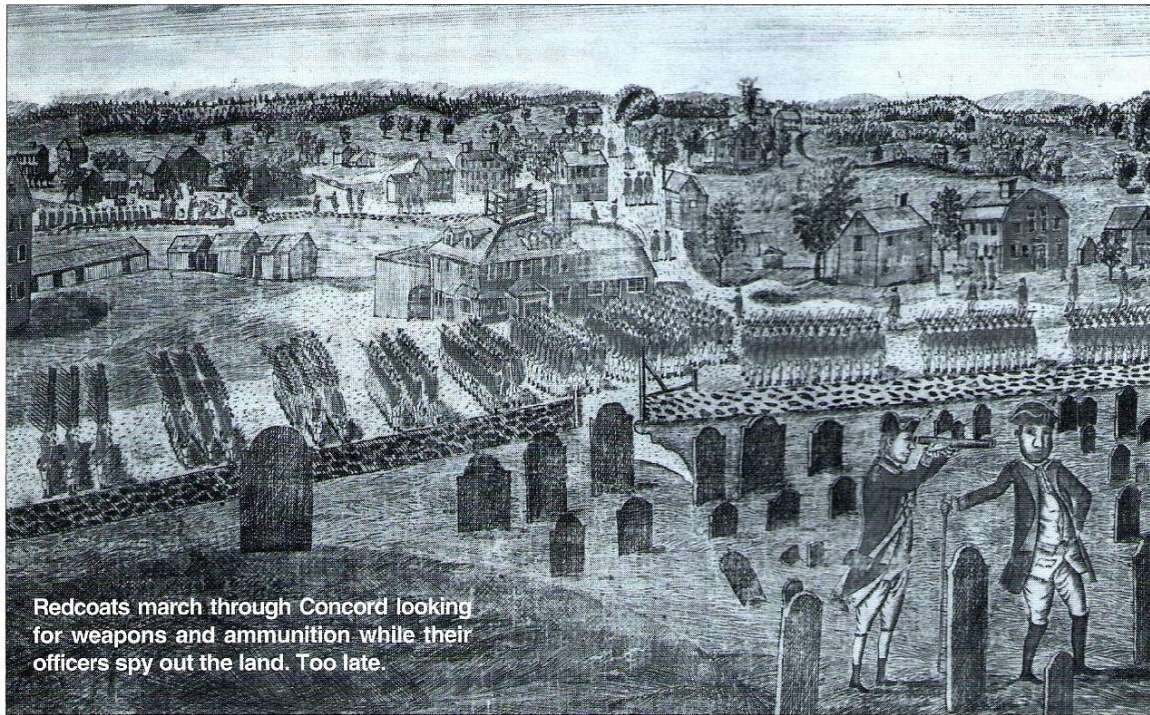
Advertisements like this one, for volunteers to fight for the colonies, were soon plastered around Boston.



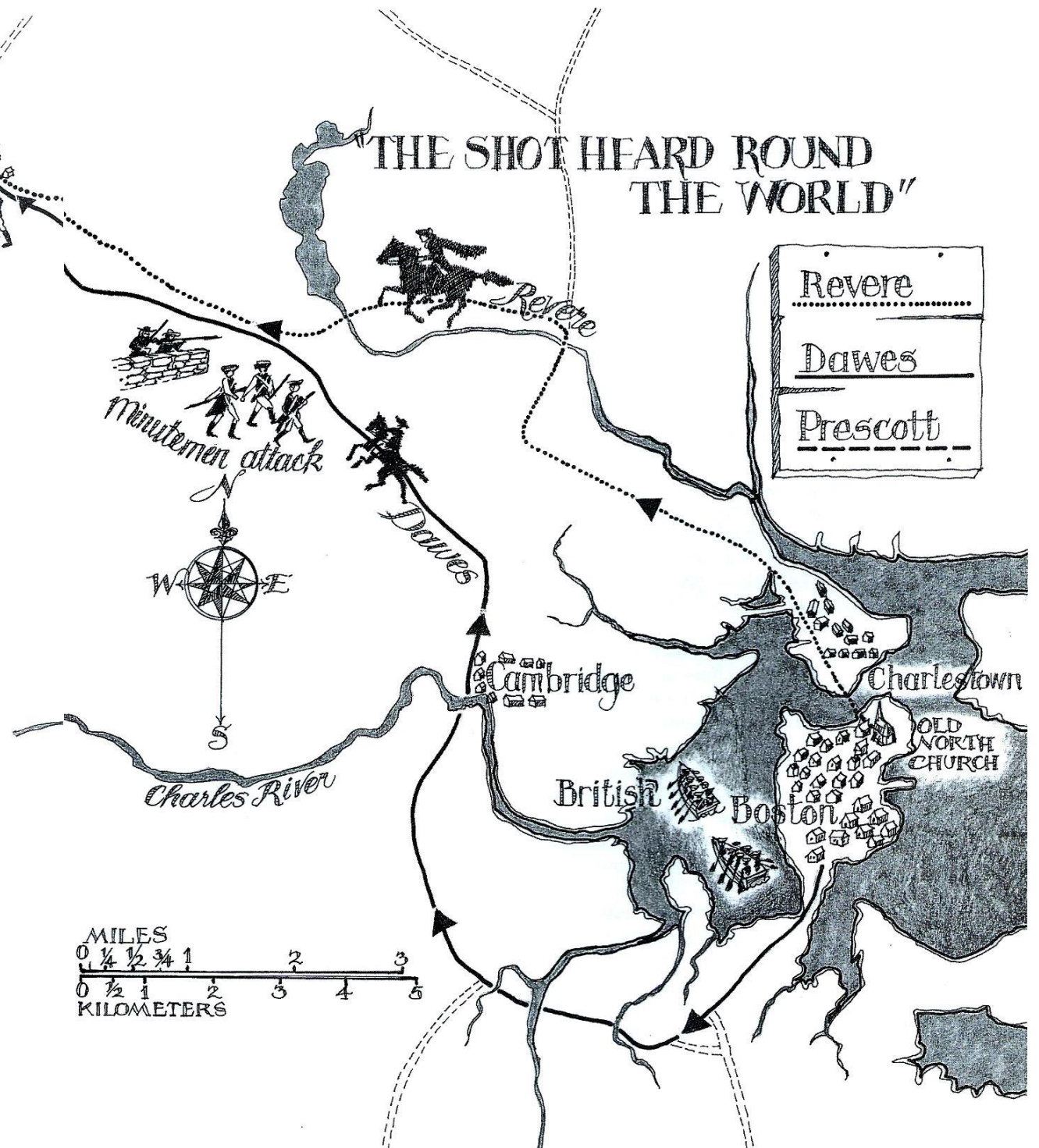
British plans. They found out that the redcoats were going to march on Concord the next morning!

Besides the gunpowder, Revere was worried about his friends Sam Adams and John Hancock. They were hiding in Lexington, right next door to Concord. The British were searching for those two troublemakers—they wanted to put them in jail.

Someone had to get a warning to those towns—and fast. It would



Redcoats march through Concord looking for weapons and ammunition while their officers spy out the land. Too late.



Who Started It?

The story of Lexington and Concord as

The troops came in sight just before sunrise...the Commanding Officer accosted the militia in words to this effect: "Disperse, you rebels, damn you, throw down your arms and disperse;" upon which the [American] troops huzzaed, and immediately one or two [British] officers discharged their pistols, which were instantaneously followed by the firing of four or five of the soldiers, and then there seemed to be a general discharge from the whole body. Eight of our men were killed and nine wounded.

—FROM THE SALEM GAZETTE, SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, APRIL 25, 1775



seen in Massachusetts and in England:

Six companies of light infantry...at Lexington found a body of the country people under arms, on a green close to the road. And upon the King's troops marching up to them, in order to inquire the reason of their being so assembled, they went off in great confusion. And several guns were fired upon the King's troops from behind a stone wall, and also from the meeting house and other houses....In consequence of this attack by the rebels, the troops returned the fire and killed several of them.

—FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE, LONDON, ENGLAND, JUNE 10, 1775

A **green** is a grassy lawn or common. Many New England villages have a green for public gatherings.

To **accost** someone means to approach and speak to or touch him or her—but not gently.

Disperse means to break up and scatter.

Huzza is an old-fashioned word for "yell." It's something like "hurrah." The rebels were yelling at the British soldiers.

Grenadiers, dragoons, regulars, redcoats—they're all British soldiers.

help to know which way the redcoats would march. Would they go by the long land route over the Boston neck? Or would they take the shorter route—by boat across the water to Charlestown and then on foot from there?

Billy Dawes didn't wait to find out. He pretended to be a drunk farmer and staggered past the British sentry who stood guard at the neck. As soon as he was out of sight of the guard, Dawes jumped on a horse and went at a gallop. He knew the redcoats would start out soon, and he shouted that message at each Patriot house he passed.

That same dark night Paul Revere sent someone to spy on the British. "Find out which way the redcoats will march," the spy was told. "Then climb into the high bell tower of the North Church and send a signal. Light one lantern if they go by land. Hang two lanterns if they go by sea."

Revere got in a boat and quietly rowed out into the Charles River. A horse was ready for him on the Charlestown shore. He waited—silently. (Revere was a known Patriot and would have been arrested if the British had found him outdoors at night.)

*And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight
A second lamp in the belfry burns!*

Now he knew! The redcoats would take the water route across the Charles River, just as Paul Revere was doing. What happened next? Well, both Billy Dawes and Paul Revere rode hard, through the night, warning everyone in the countryside that the British were coming. They met at Lexington in time to tell Sam Adams and John Hancock to escape. But before they could go on to Concord, they were stopped by a British patrol. The redcoats took their horses. Luckily, by this time, a third man, Dr. Samuel Prescott, was riding with Dawes and Revere. (Prescott had been visiting the girl he intended to marry, who lived in Lexington.) The doctor managed to escape from the British, ride home to Concord, and warn everyone there.

The American farmers were ready, and they grabbed their guns. They were called minutemen because they could fight on a minute's notice. (Some had been trained fighting in the French and Indian War.) Captain John Parker was the leader of the minutemen, and what he said on that day is now carved in stone near the spot where he must have stood. "Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon. But if they mean to have a war let it begin here!"

And it did begin right there, at Lexington. Each side said the other fired the first shot. No one knows who really did, but a poet named Ralph Waldo Emerson called it "the shot heard round the world." (Can you see why?)

When the smoke cleared, eight American farmers lay dead. It was April 19, 1775. The American Revolution had begun.

But it was gunpowder that the redcoats had set out to get, so they marched on—to Concord—but they couldn't find the powder. That made them so angry they started a fire. "Will you let them burn the town down?" shouted one colonist. "No, I haven't a man who is afraid to go,"

The stanza with Ralph Waldo Emerson's famous line goes like this:

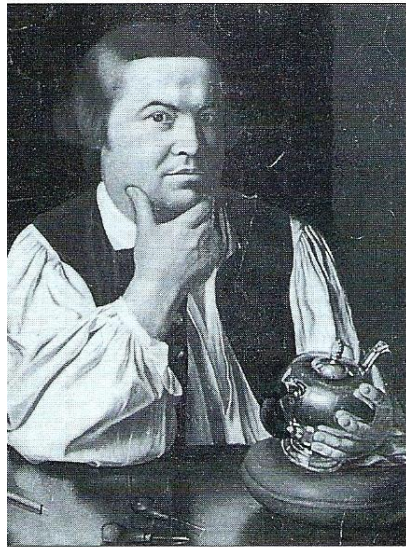
*By the rude bridge that
arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze
unfurled,
Here once the embattled
farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard
round the world.*

Senior Citizen's Arrest

One of the best stories of the Revolutionary War involves an old woman. She was called Mother Batherick, and she lived near Concord. On the day of the famous battle, all the young men of her town became minutemen and rushed off to fight, leaving behind a group of old men. They were supposed to guard the town. The old soldiers chose as their leader a veteran of the French and Indian War, a black man whose name was David Lamson. Lamson and his men were all behind a stone wall when some British

supply wagons came by. Lamson told the redcoats to halt. They didn't, and the old warriors fired. Two British soldiers and four horses went down. The other redcoats ran.

Mother Batherick was digging weeds at a nearby pond. Six breathless British soldiers rushed up and surrendered to her. She turned them over to Lamson and his old troopers. After that, Americans liked to ask this question: "If one old lady can capture six grenadiers, how many soldiers will King George need to conquer America?"



Paul Revere in his regular job as a silversmith, showing off one of his teapots.

said the minutemen's Captain Isaac Davis. The British stood at the North Bridge in Concord. They fired at the colonists. The minutemen fired back. Now the British were scared, and they tried to retreat. The Americans followed and whipped the redcoats. More than two Englishmen fell for every American casualty.

Do you know the song "Yankee Doodle"? Well, the British made it up to insult the Americans. They said a Yankee Doodle was a backwoods hick who didn't know how to fight. When the British marched to Concord and Lexington, they wore their fancy red uniforms, and their drummers and pipers played "Yankee Doodle."

After the battle, it was the Americans who sang that song. They said, "We'll be Yankee Doodles and proud of it!"

But that isn't the whole story. There is always more to war than winning or losing. These are words written in 1775:

Isaac Davis...was my husband. He was then thirty years of age. We had four children; the youngest about fifteen months old....The alarm was given early in the morning, and my husband lost no time in making ready to go to Concord with his company...[he] said but little that morning. He seemed serious and thoughtful; but never seemed to hesitate....He only said, "Take good care of the children." In the afternoon he was brought home a corpse.

Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle went to town,
A-ridin' on a pony.
Stuck a feather in his cap
And called it Macaroni.

Chorus:
*Yankee Doodle, keep it up,
Yankee Doodle Dandy,
Mind the music and the step
And with the girls be handy.*
Father and I went down to camp,
Along with Captain Gooding,
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as hasty pudding.

(Chorus)
And there we saw a thousand men,
As rich as Squire David;

And what they wasted every day,
I wish it could be savéd.

(Chorus)
And there was Captain
Washington
Upon a slapping stallion,
A-giving orders to his men;
I guess there was a million.

(Chorus)
And there I saw a little keg,
Its head was made of leather;
They knocked upon it with two
sticks
To call the men together.

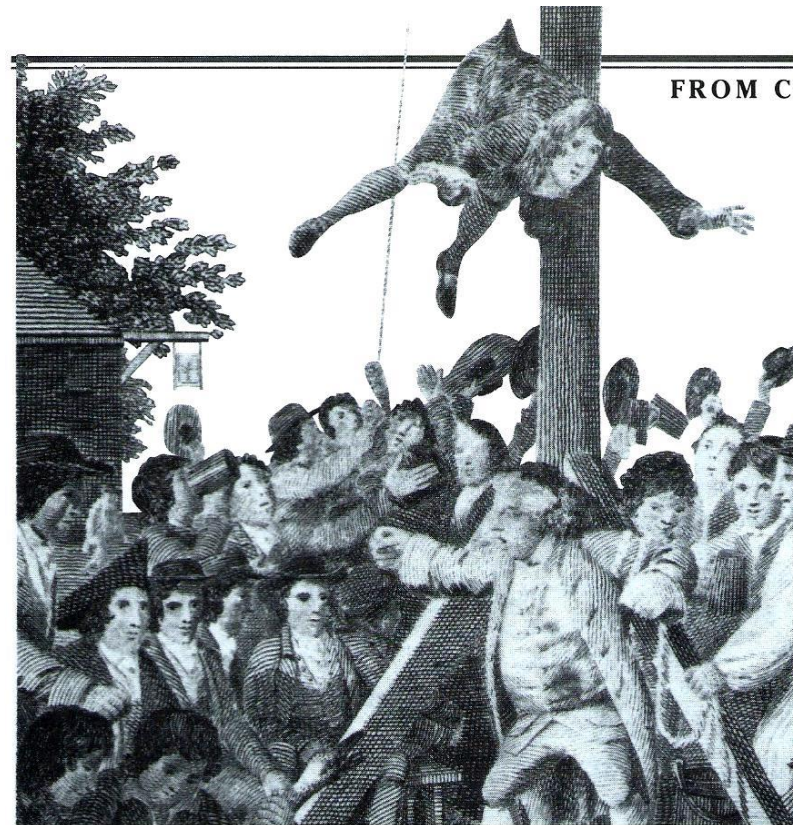
(Chorus)
And there I saw a swamping gun,
As big as a log of maple,

Upon a mighty little cart,
A load for father's cattle.

(Chorus)
And every time they fired it off
It took a horn of powder,
It made a noise like father's gun,
Only a nation louder.

(Chorus)
I can't tell you half I saw,
They kept up such a smother,
So I took my hat off, made a bow
And scampered home to mother.

(to tune of chorus)
Yankee Doodle is the tune
Americans delight in.
'Twill do to whistle, sing or play
And just the thing for fightin'.



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow finished the story:

*You know the rest. In the books you have read
How the British Regulars fired and fled,—
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farmyard wall,
Chasing the redcoats 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.*

*So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm,—
A cry of defiance and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo forevermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.*

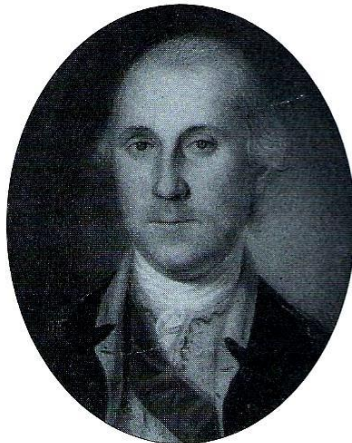
After Lexington and Concord, a known British sympathizer—a Loyalist—could be strung up and ridiculed, like this man, or sometimes find a worse fate.

The people of New England did not wish for war. This was not a warrior culture...and showed none of the martial spirit that has appeared in so many other times and places. There were no cheers or celebrations when the militia departed. ...The people of New England knew better than that. In 140 years they had gone to war at least once in every generation, and some of those conflicts had been cruel and bloody. Many of the men who mustered that morning were themselves veterans of savage fights against the French and Indians. They and their families knew what war could do.

—DAVID HACKETT FISCHER,
PAUL REVERE'S RIDE

16 On the Way to the Second Continental Congress

Do you think we should make heroes of our politicians? What kinds of people might want to serve in Congress if we treated politicians like superstars? Do you think politicians get enough attention? Or too much?



Washington, said his friends, was serious but never stern, and always cheerful with his soldiers.

A Virginian described Washington as “sensible, but speaks little.” Washington spoke up when something mattered. In 1785 he wrote about slavery: “There is not a man alive who wishes more sincerely than I do, to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it.” He believed slavery should be ended by “legislative authority” (laws), because slave owners would not willingly give up wealth and property. Washington remained a slave owner himself. He freed his slaves in his will.

Pretend it is 1775. You are a British subject living in the American colonies in Philadelphia. At least that is the way you have been taught to describe yourself. But now you are confused. You have overheard violent arguments. Some people are calling the Bostonians “heroes”; others call them “rabble.” Politics is making people angry. Your parents are no longer talking to some of their old friends.

Your parents are Patriots; some of your neighbors are Loyalists. If there is war, the Loyalists hope Britain will win. They don’t see any need for independence. England is the greatest nation on earth, they say. They remember the good old days before the French and Indian War. England didn’t bother the colonists with many taxes then. They expect those times to return again. Benjamin Franklin’s son William is a Loyalist. He is sincere in his beliefs, but he will break his father’s heart.

Being a Patriot may mean going to war. That worries you—and it should. What side will you be on? In May, when the Virginia delegation arrives in Philadelphia, you make a decision. You will stick with the American Patriots’ cause.

Back in the 18th century there were no TV stars and no big sports figures, which may explain why, in 1775, everyone in Philadelphia seemed to want a glimpse of Virginia’s political leaders when their carriages rolled into town. The Virginians had been in Philadelphia the

year before, when the First Continental Congress met. Now they were back for the Second Congress: heroic-looking men who rode their horses proudly, who danced with energy and grace, and who thought and spoke as well as any Americans anywhere. Even John Adams of Massachusetts said that they represented “fortunes, ability, learning, eloquence, acuteness, equal to any I ever met with in all my life.”

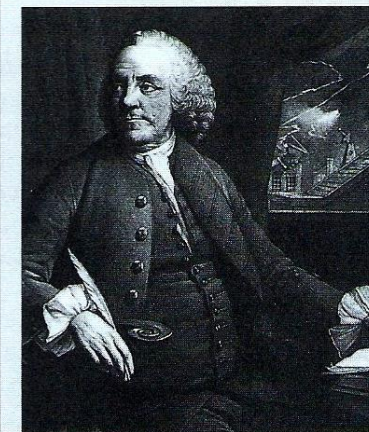
Take George Washington, for instance. He was more than six feet tall, big-boned, muscular, lean, and very strong. Once he came upon some young men who were throwing weights as far as they could. They had their shirts off and were sweating from the effort. George Washington asked if he could try. He took a weight—didn’t even take off his jacket—and out-threw them all. Does that sound as if he was a show-off? He wasn’t. Everyone agreed about that. He was modest, and only spoke when he had something to say.

His adventures during the French and Indian War had made him famous, even in England. In America both men and women admired him. One friend called him “the best horseman of his age and the most graceful figure that could be seen on horseback.” He had gray-blue eyes, auburn hair, and hands and feet so large that several people of his time remarked about them. He loved to dance and he dressed with care. He wore his military uniform to Philadelphia—bright blue with brass buttons—and they called him Colonel Washington.

When John Adams’s wife, Abigail, met George Washington she found a poem to describe him:

*Mark his majestic fabric; he’s a temple
Sacred by birth, and built by hands divine.*

George Washington was in his coach, riding to Philadelphia with



Dr. Benjamin Franklin

And So to Bed

In early America, inns were often crowded, and travelers expected to share beds. It happened to Ben Franklin and John Adams one night in 1776, when “but one bed could be procured for Dr. Franklin and me in a chamber little larger than the bed.” Adams, with his fussy ways, wanted to close the window. (Most physicians then thought the night air foul and dangerous.) This is what Adams wrote in his diary about Franklin’s views:

Oh! says Franklin, don’t shut the window. We shall be suffocated. I answered I was afraid of the evening air. Dr. Franklin replied...come! open the window...and I will convince you....Opening

the window and leaping into bed, I said I had read his letters to Dr. Cooper...but the theory was so little consistent with my experience that I thought it a paradox. However, I had so much curiosity to hear his reasons that I would run the risk of a cold. The Doctor then began a harangue upon air and cold and respiration and perspiration, with which I was so much amused that I soon fell asleep, and left him and his philosophy together.

Stephen Hopkins of Rhode Island had “palsy,” which was a vague term covering many illnesses in the 18th century. Whatever his disability, it didn’t keep him out of a long career in public service. It didn’t limit his enthusiasm for independence, either. As he put his pen to the paper to sign the Declaration, he said proudly: “My hand trembles, but my heart does not.”

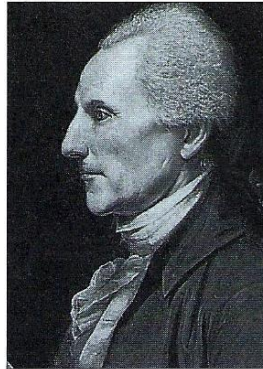
Step. Hopkins

another Virginian: Richard Henry Lee. The fingers on one of Lee’s hands had been shot off in a hunting accident; he kept a silk handkerchief wrapped around that hand and pointed with it when he spoke. That should give you an idea of the man’s style. He was good-looking and wore elegant clothes, and he talked smoothly.

Lee was full of surprises. He was a slave owner, but he hated slavery and spoke out against it. Though he was dashing and aristocratic, he got along well with rumpiled Samuel Adams. It was Richard Henry Lee (along with Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson) who organized the first Committee of Correspondence in Virginia.

Lee came from a talented family. His brothers were all outspoken leaders. That means they said what they believed. So did his sister Hannah. She was furious when she was turned away from the voting polls because she was female. It was taxation without representation, said Hannah Lee.

As Lee and Washington rode toward Philadelphia, they were joined



Richard Henry Lee (above) and Patrick Henry were Virginia’s best speakers.

Meet Some of the Delegates

Delegate **PHILIP LIVINGSTON** lived like a prince in New York. His family had been prominent in the colonies for five generations, but Philip Livingston made his own fortune as a trader and privateer during the French and Indian War. In spite of his wealth, he identified with ordinary people and opposed the colony’s royal governor and the Stamp Tax. Livingston believed in political and religious freedom.



JOSEPH HEWES, who came from North Carolina, was opposed

to separation from Great Britain—even when people in North Carolina told him to vote for it. Then, during a debate at the convention, something happened. “He started suddenly upright,” reported John Adams, “and lifting up both his hands to Heaven, as if he had been in a trance, cried out, ‘It is done! and I will abide by it.’” Hewes was now for independence!



STEPHEN HOPKINS, who was selected governor of Rhode Island 10 times, attended the Albany Congress in 1754 with

Benjamin Franklin, Sir William Johnson, and Hendrick. Stephen Hopkins helped Ben Franklin write a plan for a union of the colonies. Most Americans weren’t ready for that in 1754. Now it seemed that they were.



Georgia’s **BUTTON GWINNETT** had an unforgettable name and just a year to live. Gwinnett—Georgia’s governor—was killed in a duel. Afterwards, no one could remember what the duel was about—except honor, they said.



by other members of the Virginia delegation. Farmers along the way took off their hats and cheered. Then, six miles from Philadelphia, 500 soldiers on horseback appeared to escort them. By the time they entered the city, a military band was playing and infantrymen were marching—it was some parade.

The Virginians were the same seven men who had been at the first congress in 1774 (although some would leave almost immediately and others would take their place). Three were the best orators in the state, perhaps in the nation: Patrick Henry (who looked like a country boy, and seemed to want it that way), Richard Henry Lee (who asked this congress to declare for independence), and slim, graceful Edmund Pendleton (who debated with cool logic).

Virginia’s Benjamin Harrison was the biggest man at the Convention. He was six feet four inches tall and was said to weigh 400 pounds. (Many of the delegates were big—it was normal to be heavy. Meals were large: soup, fish, meat, vegetables, potatoes, pie and cake, fruit and cheese—all at one sitting. John Adams, just five feet six inches tall, grew to weigh 275 pounds.) Harrison told a friend he would have come to this convention on foot, if he’d had to, rather than not come. He became governor of Virginia; his son and grandson became presidents of the United States.

Popular Peyton Randolph, another giant of a man, had been president of the First Continental Congress and was expected to preside again. But he did not stay long. Nor did Patrick Henry. They were needed in Williamsburg. Virginia’s House of Burgesses had been called back into session. State business seemed more important to them than anything that might occur at this experimental gathering.

Peyton Randolph’s cousin, who was just 33, came to take his place in Philadelphia. The cousin was a thoughtful, quiet man who was known to be a good writer. His name was Thomas Jefferson.

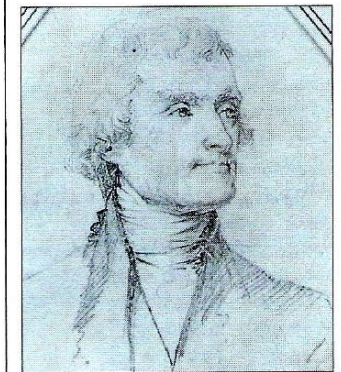
The Virginians were the crowd-pleasers, but the congress as a whole was so extraordinary it would still inspire awe 200 years later.

The Adams cousins—Sam and John—were back from Massachusetts, along with rich John Hancock, who became president of this Second Continental Congress. John Witherspoon, a Scotsman who had needed persuading to come to America to head Princeton College, was a delegate from New Jersey. So was Francis Hopkinson, an inventor and scientist who wrote poetry, composed music, and painted.

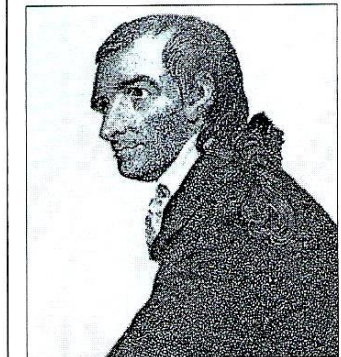
Of Caesar Rodney, the delegate from Delaware, John Adams wrote: “[He] is the oddest looking man in the world; his face is not bigger than a large apple, yet there is a sense of fire, spirit, wit, and humor in his countenance.”



Virginia’s Benjamin Harrison when he was young and slim.

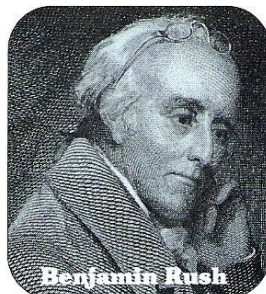


Thomas Jefferson was President Peyton Randolph’s cousin.

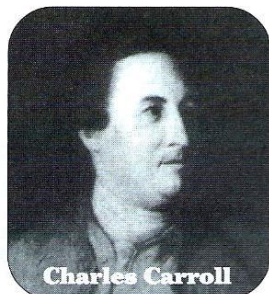


Francis Hopkinson, a delegate from New Jersey.

Men of the Middle Colonies

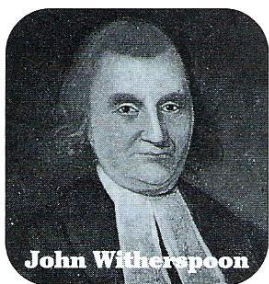


Benjamin Rush



Charles Carroll

Benjamin Rush went on to serve as an army surgeon during the Revolutionary War. He set up the first free clinic in America, and became the country's most famous medical professor. When Rush was studying medicine in Edinburgh, Scotland, he helped persuade John Witherspoon, a famous Scots clergyman, to come to America to be president of Princeton, where Rush had gone to college. Dr. Witherspoon was the only



John Witherspoon

minister to sign the Declaration of Independence. Charles Carroll of Maryland was the last of the Signers to die (in 1832) and the only Roman Catholic one.

Benjamin Rush was a doctor and a teacher. He'd learned medicine as an apprentice to a doctor and then had gone to Scotland to learn more. Rush had ideas that seemed strange to some people: He hated slavery, tobacco, and capital punishment. He thought girls and blacks should go to school and that they could learn as much as white boys. Rush was one of Pennsylvania's representatives, and remarkable. Pennsylvania's Ben Franklin was even more so.

No American was better known than Benjamin Franklin. He'd come to Philadelphia from Boston as a penniless boy and soon made his fortune as a printer and publisher. He made his fame as an inventor, scientist, philosopher, and political leader. Franklin had spent years in London as an agent for several of the colonies. No one tried harder than he to avoid a break with England. He proposed the idea of a British commonwealth of independent nations, each with its own parliament, but all with the same king. The leaders of Britain's Parliament rejected that idea and treated Franklin with contempt.

Franklin changed his thinking; he began to favor independence. He arrived home from England on May 5, 1775, just in time to attend the opening of this congress.

In March he was traveling again, this time on a wild goose chase to Canada. It was hoped that the Canadians would join the other colonies and fight Britain. Franklin and two delegates from Maryland—Charles Carroll (said to be the wealthiest man in America) and Samuel Chase (who was a leader of the Sons of Liberty in Annapolis)—headed north together. It was an exhausting trip, especially for 69-year-old Benjamin Franklin. (In Albany they noted that most people still spoke Dutch. In upper New York, they had to sleep in the snowy woods.) When they finally arrived at their destination, they couldn't persuade the Canadians to join the Revolution. (Religion had something to do with it. Catholic Canada feared an alliance with the mostly Protestant colonies.)

In June Franklin was back at the convention, where he was asked to serve (with John Adams and Thomas Jefferson) on a committee that was to write an important declaration. Some people say this was the most important political statement ever written. It was addressed to King George III. Hold on for a few chapters and I'll tell you all about it.

17 Naming a General



John Adams wrote, "I am determined this morning to make a direct motion that Congress should adopt the army before Boston."

At first the Continental Congress found itself in a strange situation. Americans were in fighting mood, but war had not been declared. Should they prepare for war? Should they work for peace? Could they do both?

People were calling for a Continental army. The minutemen who fought at Lexington and Concord were gathered near Boston. Others had come from the countryside with rifles and muskets. If someone didn't take charge they would all go back home.

The Continental Congress couldn't ignore the problem, especially after a letter arrived from the Boston Patriots pleading for the Congress to take over their forces.

John Adams spoke up. He called for a "Grand American Army" to be made up of volunteers from all of the colonies. The guns fired at Lexington and Concord might be heard next in Charleston, or Baltimore, or even in Philadelphia, Adams told the delegates. They must have shuddered, because they knew he spoke the truth.

In each of the colonies, citizen soldiers—militia—were ready to fight. Someone had to organize the militias and the minutemen into an army. A general was needed, said Adams.

John Hancock from Massachusetts believed he was the man for the job. He had done a bit of soldiering, and it was his money that was paying some of Congress's bills. So when John Adams stood up to nominate a general, almost everyone—especially John Hancock—thought it would be Hancock. But, as you know, John Adams always did what he

1775: Making a Revolution

April 19: the battle of Lexington and Concord.

May 10: Second Continental Congress convenes in Independence Hall, Philadelphia.

May 10: Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold capture Fort Ticonderoga.

June 15: George Washington appointed head of the Continental army.

June 17: the Battle of Bunker and Breed's Hills.

July 3: General Washington takes command of 17,000 men at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

July 26: the Continental Congress establishes a post office department and appoints Franklin Postmaster General.

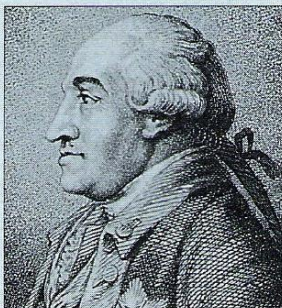
August 1: Tom Paine publishes an article in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* supporting women's rights.

August 23: George III declares the American colonies in rebellion.

The Love of His Men

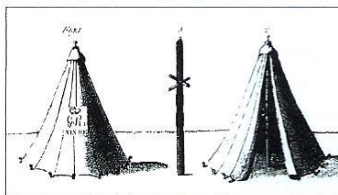
From Baron von Steuben's instructions to his company officers:

A captain...must pay the greatest attention to the health of his men, their discipline, arms, accoutrements, ammunition, clothes and necessaries. His first object should be to gain the love of his men by treating them with every possible kindness and humanity, inquiring into their complaints and when well founded, seeing them redressed. He should know every man of his company by name and character. He should often visit those who are sick, speak tenderly to them, see that the public provision, whether of medicine or diet, is duly administered, and procure them besides such comforts and medicines as are in his power.



Baron von Steuben

27 Valley Forge to Vincennes



In bad weather, even muskets spent the night under cover, in little tents like these.

Things weren't going well for George Washington. He lost two battles in Pennsylvania: one at Brandywine, the other at Germantown. Then Sir Billy Howe captured Philadelphia, and that meant that Congress—which was meeting in the State House (now called Independence Hall)—had to flee. The fall of 1777 turned to winter. Howe was warm and comfortable in Philadelphia, as he had been the winter before in New York. He was partying again. Loyalist families entertained him and his men. Eighteen miles away, Washington, Lafayette, Baron von Steuben, and the American soldiers were miserable.

Washington had brought his army to a place called Valley Forge. It had been named for a nearby iron foundry, although the foundry was now in ruins—the British had destroyed it. Valley Forge was a good site from a military point of view. The land was high, near enough to Philadelphia to keep watch on that city, but not so close that the British could cause trouble with surprise raids.

There was little there, except for farmland and the Schuylkill (SKY-kull) River. There were no buildings for the army to use as barracks, and, in December when they arrived, the ground was covered with snow. The men had marched a long distance, and many were in rags. Within a few days the river turned ice hard. A cold wind began blowing. The soldiers pitched tents and started building huts of sticks, logs, and mud plaster. Washington, who was precise and cared about appearances, insisted that they all be the same size.

Picture 2,000 dirt-floored, drafty wooden huts lined up in streets like a village, and you have an idea of the architecture at Valley Forge. If you look at the ground, you may see blood. Some of the soldiers had no

shoes, and their toes froze and left bloody tracks. Now add hunger to the scene, and you begin to get an idea of that terrible winter. But that was not the worst of it. Disease swept the camp. About 2,000 soldiers died.

That is the way it was at Valley Forge. There wasn't enough clothing. There wasn't enough to eat. It was fiercely cold. The officers feared a mutiny, and there were desertions. But not many. Most of those who slipped over to the British in Philadelphia were newcomers to the colonies.

There were no battles fought at Valley Forge. None at all. But something astounding happened there. A spirit evolved. It was amazing; the men who made it through that winter were better for it. They became a team: strong, confident, and proud of themselves, their country, and their leaders.

Lord—Lord—Lord

Dr. Albigence Waldo of Connecticut, a surgeon serving at Valley Forge, wrote about the Continental army's misery in his diary:

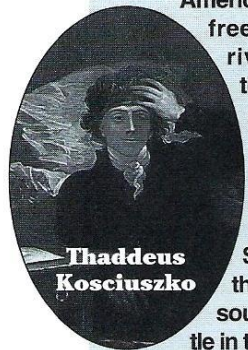
Dec 12th We are ordered to march over the river—it snows—I'm sick—eat nothing—no whiskey—no baggage—Lord—Lord—Lord. The army were till sunrise crossing the river—some at the wagon bridge and some at the raft bridge below. Cold and uncomfortable....
Dec 14th Poor food—hard lodging—cold weather—fatigue—nasty clothes—nasty cookery—vomit half my time—smoked out of my senses—the Devil's in it—I can't endure it—why are we sent here to starve and freeze.... Here comes a bowl of beef soup—full of burnt leaves and dirt, sickish enough to make a Hector spew—away with it Boys—I'll live like the chameleon on air.

Washington tries to cheer his troops at Valley Forge. Benjamin Rush was shocked at the conditions he saw: "The troops dirty, undisciplined, and ragged...bad bread; no order; universal disgust."



Liberty Lover

It was lucky for the rebellious American colonies that Thaddeus Kosciuszko had a broken heart. You see, when he tried to elope with the girl he loved, her father wouldn't allow it. Kosciuszko hoped to forget the girl by coming to America to fight for freedom. He arrived just in time to join the American army in the battles of Fort Ticonderoga and Saratoga; then he headed south to do battle in the Carolinas.



Thaddeus Kosciuszko

Kosciuszko was more than a warrior. He was a fine thinker who cared about liberty. He became a friend of Thomas Jefferson. After the Revolutionary War, the grateful nation gave him United States citizenship and 500 acres of land in Ohio. But he wasn't ready to settle down. He returned to Europe to fight for freedom in Poland and France and Russia. Kosciuszko also freed all the serfs (who were almost like slaves) on his Polish estate (and that left him poor and in debt). In his will he asked that his American land be sold and the money used to buy freedom for slaves.

George Washington had a lot to do with that. At first Washington lived in a tent, among his men, and put up with hardships as they did. Later, he made his headquarters in a nearby four-room stone house, but the soldiers remained awed by his example. A young Frenchman who was there wrote of General Washington,

I could not keep my eyes from that imposing countenance... Its predominant expression was calm dignity, through which you could trace the strong feelings of the patriot, and discern the father, as well as the commander of his soldiers.

Martha Washington could often be seen with a basket in her arms, bringing food and socks and cheer to those who needed it. Von Steuben made a difference that cold winter, too. He began training 100 men at a time and soon had the whole army drilled. The Americans were astonished. British officers did not conduct drills; they left that to their sergeants. This man did the drilling himself. He seemed to thrive on hard work, and nothing upset him. He was always good-humored, even when he was shouting and swearing.

Before long the Americans could march and maneuver, load and fire, use bayonets, and respond to complicated orders. But that wasn't enough for von Steuben. He expected them to be neat and shaved. Even rags, he told them, could be clean. He made all the officers set their watches by the same clock. He was determined that this army was going to be precise and proud of itself. Soon it was just that.

Washington appointed Nathanael Greene as quartermaster general. The quartermaster is in charge of supplies. Greene protested that he didn't want the job, but General Washington knew what he was doing. Greene brought enormous energy and determination to everything he did. He tramped around the countryside, found big caches of food and supplies, and hauled them to Valley Forge. By spring there was plenty of food, and clothing too.

In June the British left Philadelphia and headed for New York. They'd had a pleasant winter, but they hadn't accomplished a thing. The men who had gotten through the winter at Valley Forge were now a strong fighting force. They knew they could endure almost anything. They were ready to follow George Washington wherever he led.

While all that was going on at Valley



"God grant we may never be brought to such a wretched condition again!" wrote quartermaster Nathanael Greene of Valley Forge.

Forge, the Indians, who were being paid by the British for American scalps, were creating havoc on the frontier. (The Americans paid for British scalps.) But no matter which side they chose, the Native Americans would be losers. Their land was being taken from them. The European way of life and the Native American way of life seemed incompatible.

Most of the settlers didn't understand what was happening. When they heard of Indian raids and scalplings, they were horrified. They believed what they had been told—that Indians were savages. They



George Rogers Clark took Kaskaskia with 175 men. It surrendered in 15 minutes.

knew the English were signing treaties that gave Native Americans protection and rights; that was another reason they wanted the British out.

So most colonists thought of Indian fighters as great heroes. Those Indian fighters, like George Rogers Clark, believed they were doing the right thing. Mostly they just wanted to push the Native Americans west, to free new lands for the settlers.

Clark was a frontiersman and a Patriot, as well as an Indian fighter. Born in Virginia, near Jefferson's home, Clark knew Indians well and could talk to them

in a way they understood: he had learned to use their form of oratory. They called him Mitchi Malsa, which means Big Knife.

Clark was smart; he was also brave and daring. He had hardly any schooling, but he read all the books he could find. Some people called him the "Washington of the West." Like George Washington he was tall, very strong, and a surveyor—but that was where the resemblance ended. He had none of the dignity of the Virginia planter. Clark's personality swung from fierce temper to calm persuasion, but rarely rested anywhere.

He was 25 years old in 1778, when he persuaded Virginia's governor, Patrick Henry, to let him gather a force to take the Ohio Valley from the British and their Indian allies. Then he proceeded to win some astounding battles.

Here is some of what he did: with just 175 men and a few barges, Clark captured three strategically located British forts: Cahokia, Kaskaskia, and Vincennes. Then he talked the French inhabitants of the region into coming over to the American cause.

It was the battle of Vincennes that made him famous. When Clark

A **cache** is a hiding place for provisions, arms, or any kind of treasure.

Things that are **incompatible** can't get along together.

fought at Fort Vincennes, he had only 150 men, most of whom were sick with chills and fever.

"A desperate situation," he said, "needs a desperate resolution." Clark sent a note to the British commander demanding the surrender of the fort. The British leader refused.

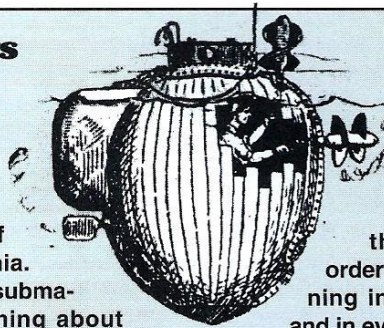
Clark attacked. He decided to confuse his enemy. He kept his men yelling like maniacs and demons as they fired through gun holes into the fenced fort. To those inside, it seemed as if a huge army was attacking. The fort depended on cannons for protection, but cannons are useless against moving targets. Clark never stopped moving. The British surrendered.

Later, England moved back into much of that region. But, for a while, it seemed as if a young backwoodsman had captured the Ohio territory. The Americans were frustrating the British. Men like George Rogers Clark just wouldn't fight the way they were expected to fight—and they never seemed to give up.

The Battle of the Kegs

What were the Americans to do about the British ships in the river near Philadelphia? David Bushnell was sure to figure out something, thought Colonel Joseph Burden, who was in charge of the American forces in Philadelphia. Bushnell had already invented a submarine; maybe he could do something about those British ships. The colonel was right. Bushnell came up with a simple plan. He filled wooden barrels (called kegs) with gunpowder. Then he had the barrels put in the river. He expected the kegs to bump into the British ships and wham!—that would trigger an explosion.

Nothing happened. It looked as if the kegs would float harmlessly past the British ships. And they would have, if it hadn't been for some curious British sailors. They hauled a few of the kegs onto a barge—where they did explode. Actually, they didn't do much harm, but they certainly caused a commotion. "The alarm and consternation of the British was extremely great—



David Bushnell's submarine Turtle. It failed to sink the British ship *Eagle* in 1776—but the British were so surprised that they fled anyway.

the Military of every kind & order was seen in an instant, running in every degree of confusion and in every direction," said a report of the day. The Americans found it all funny, especially after Francis Hopkinson (a signer of the Declaration of Independence) told the tale in a tongue-in-cheek poem. With mock seriousness, he described the heroic British fight against some wooden kegs. Here is the last stanza of his poem:

*Such feats did they perform that day
Against those wicked kegs, sir,
That years to come, if they get home,
They'll make their boasts and brags, sir.*

The British, it seems, weren't poetry lovers. Soon afterwards they burned Hopkinson's house.

28 The States Write Constitutions



George Mason was a bit of a loner; he had a low opinion of people's ability to get anything done by committee.

Most Americans wanted to be free of British rule. On that they now agreed. But exactly what kind of rule would they have after the British left? Who was going to be in charge? With a war going on, few people had time to think about what would come next. It was liberty that everyone was talking about.

But the men at the Continental Congress knew that someone had to plan for the future, so they suggested that each state write a constitution. Most of the states had been royal colonies with royal governors and royal charters. Now they needed new rules and new governors.

The states produced some fine constitutions—and a few that weren't so fine. And they learned things that were helpful later, when they wrote a constitution for the new nation.

State leaders spent a lot of time worrying about power. They didn't want anything in America like a too-powerful English king or a too-powerful Parliament. So they drafted state constitutions that divided power between a state congress (sometimes called an assembly), a governor, and law courts. They called it separation of powers. Think of a tree with three main branches: the assembly is the *legislative* branch, the governor is the *executive* branch, the courts are the *judicial* branch. The constitution writers tried to balance power so that no branch would have more weight than the others.

In 1780 Massachusetts found a good way to write its constitution. It elected special people to do it at a constitutional convention. Then all

**Here reason shall
new laws devise
And order from
confusion rise.**

—PHILIP FRENEAU,
AMERICAN POET (1752–1832)

New Hampshire
drafted its first constitution in January 1776, but a final version that pleased most of its citizens wasn't approved until 1783, after several tries.

30 When It's Over, Shout Hooray



General Washington, in skirts, beats Britannia. His whip has 13 lashes, one for each colony.

The American Revolutionary War lasted almost nine years and was longer than any war in American history until the Vietnam War in the 20th century. It actually went on for two years after the battle of Yorktown, but mostly there were just small skirmishes. The battle of Yorktown convinced most people—but not King George III—that Great Britain had lost.

Now, back to the War of Independence. The British had more fighting men, more guns, and more experience. But the Americans had a big advantage: they believed in their cause. In England the war was not popular, and the longer it lasted, the more unpopular it became. It went on and on and on—for more than eight years. Besides, the military leaders in England were trying to plan a war that was being fought thousands of miles away. That never works well. After the American victory at Saratoga, the war in the North became stalemated. That means it was even. That was good for the Patriots. Holding

on was a kind of victory for the Americans; the British had to beat the rebel forces in order to win. So the English generals tried a new strategy: they shifted the war south. By 1778, three years into the war, Sir William Howe had gotten tired of the war and of being criticized for the way he was running things, so he resigned. General Henry Clinton became the new commander in chief of the British forces. Clinton believed the South was full of Loyalists and that they would help the English soldiers. He named Lord Charles Cornwallis commander of his troops in the southern states. Then he loaded soldiers onto ships



Lord Cornwallis won battles in the South, but he lost many men. "What is our plan?" he wrote. "Without one, we cannot succeed, and I assure you I am quite tired of marching about the country."

in New York harbor and sent them south. (Clinton kept a force in New York to hold on to that important city.) Cornwallis was an able leader. First the British captured Savannah, Georgia. A British colonel wrote of ripping "one star and one stripe from the Rebel flag of America." He was talking about Georgia. It seemed to be in British hands. Next Cornwallis took Charleston, South Carolina. An American who was there described the British attack.

It appeared as if the stars were tumbling down...cannon balls whizzing and shells hissing continually amongst us; ammunition chests blowing up, great guns bursting and wounded men groaning.

The British won again at Camden, South Carolina. That was a big win. England thought it had won the South, but those who believed in the Patriot cause wouldn't let them have it. Americans formed guerrilla bands and fought as the Indians did—with raiding parties. "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again," said Nathanael Greene (the same man who was quartermaster general at Valley Forge). It must have been frustrating for the English officers. They kept winning the big battles, but they seemed to be losing the war.

Then came the most important battle of all, the battle of Yorktown. Yorktown is a river port, near the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. That's where General Cornwallis brought his troops in August 1781. It seemed an ideal headquarters spot for an army that got its supplies and support from the sea. (This is a good time to check a map.) Cornwallis's boss, General Clinton, was at the British military headquarters in New York; Clinton promised to send men and supplies by sea. The British were sure they would soon control Virginia.

Washington and a French general, the Comte de Rochambeau (kont-duh-ROSH-um-bo), were in Rhode Island making plans. At first they thought they would march their armies to New York, although they knew that city would be hard to take. Then they got word that a French admiral, Admiral de Grasse, was sailing from Haiti in the West Indies to Chesapeake Bay with a fleet of 28 ships. Could he blockade the bay and keep supplies from Cornwallis? That was what they hoped would happen. Rochambeau and Washington decided it was the chance they had been waiting for. They knew they would have to march their troops south—almost 500 miles. They had only a few weeks to do it; the French fleet couldn't stay for long.



The siege of Yorktown really succeeded because the French navy drove off the British rescue fleet sent from New York. After that, Cornwallis and his redcoats were trapped.

The American war is over, but this is far from being the case with the American Revolution. Nothing but the first act of the drama is closed.

—BENJAMIN RUSH

After the war, some 100,000 Loyalists moved from the United States to Canada.



John Paul Jones

John Paul Jones was a Scottish-born merchant seaman who became America's first naval hero. In 1779, his ship, the *Bonhomme Richard* (the French name for Ben Franklin's Poor Richard), sank a British warship, the *Serapis*. The English called him an outlaw and portrayed him as a devilish pirate.

When the British army surrendered at Yorktown on September 18, 1781, it was exactly four years to the day after Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga.

They marched south together, and it must have been some sight. The French officers were elegant in white uniforms with gold braid. Their horses pulled wagons holding chests full of coins.

Most of the American officers wore bright blue uniforms with cream-colored trim (called buff). By this time many American privates (the ordinary soldiers) had uniforms, too, although they were often torn and ragged. But it didn't matter; the soldiers marched proudly with their general. They had become a disciplined army.

At Yorktown, three great military leaders greeted them: the dashing Frenchman, the Marquis de Lafayette; the cheerful German, Baron von Steuben; and a bold American, General Anthony Wayne (who was called "Mad Anthony" because he was so daring). They had great news for General Washington.

The French admiral, the Comte de Grasse, had arrived at Chesapeake Bay, fought the English fleet, and sent it sailing back to New York. And that wasn't all. De Grasse had brought extra troops who could fight on land. When George Washington heard all that news he took off his hat and handkerchief and waved them about.

That was unusual behavior for the dignified general. "I have never seen a man moved by a greater or more sincere joy than was General Washington," wrote a French duke. When a French general stepped ashore, Washington gave the startled officer a big hug.

The French-American army moved into Yorktown. They dug deep trenches at night. In the morning the British redcoats found themselves trapped. A half-circle of entrenched soldiers faced them. The York River was behind them. The Americans began firing their cannons. Then a brave young colonel named Alexander Hamilton led an attack. He captured a key British earth fortress.

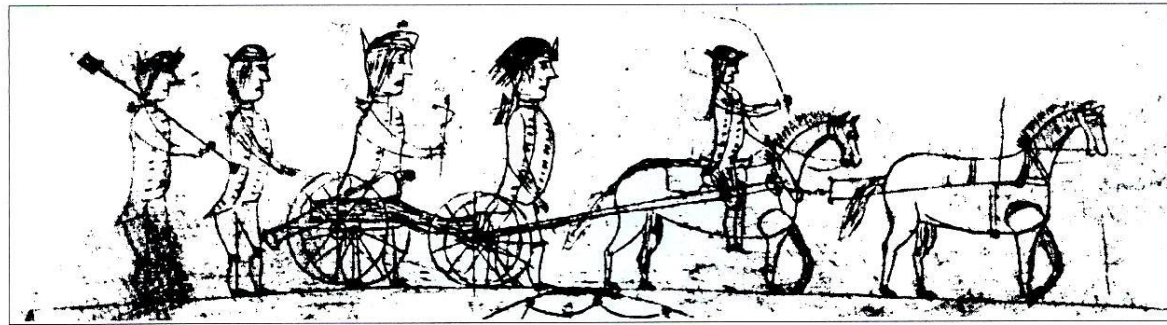
The British didn't have a chance. They were outnumbered and outflanked. Cornwallis did everything he could. He even tried to save his army by sailing his soldiers across the York River to safety. But he had bad luck—a sudden storm swamped the boats.



After beating off the British fleet, the French admiral de Grasse sent ships to fetch the American troops to Williamsburg.



On October 19, 1781, the British surrendered at Yorktown. Lord Cornwallis could not bring himself to hand over his sword in person, so Brigadier-General Charles O'Hara of the Guards did the deed. The War of Independence was over.



In this drawing scratched on a powder horn, a band of Continental soldiers moves a siege cannon toward enemy lines. This type of cannon was used at Yorktown.

The British adventure in America was coming to an end at Yorktown, just 25 miles from Jamestown, where it had all begun.

An English drummer boy climbed on top of a trench and beat his drums. An officer followed waving a white handkerchief. The great British army was surrendering. It was October 17, 1781.

Two days later, American soldiers stood proudly in a long line; facing them was a line of happy French soldiers. Between them marched the British and German armies; the defeated men were wearing clean uniforms and trying to keep their heads high, but many British soldiers cried when they laid down their arms. Army bands played an old English nursery tune, “The World Turned Upside Down.” Here are the words and music:

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

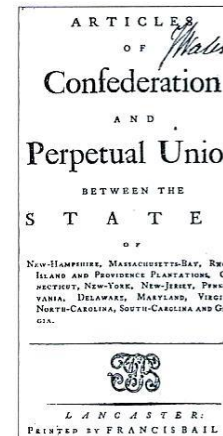
*If buttercups buzzed after the bee;
 If boats were on land, churches on sea;
 If ponies rode men and grass ate the cows;
 And cats should be chased to holes by the mouse;
 If the mammas sold their babies to the gypsies for half a crown;
 Summer were spring and the t'other way round;
 Then all the world would be upside down.*

And upside down it was. David had licked Goliath. The colonies would soon be states; the infant New World was growing up. A superpower had been defeated by an upstart colony.

A new nation was being formed: a nation that would try not to make the mistakes of its European parents. A nation that would be founded on ideas of freedom and equality. A nation ruled by laws, not kings. That nation soon had a great seal—which you can see on every dollar bill. On one side are two Latin words, *annuit coeptis*—“[God] has favored our venture.” On the other side are the Latin words *novus ordo seclorum*. They mean, “A new order of the ages [is created].”

The official end of the war came on January 14, 1784, when Congress ratified a treaty signed in Paris the year before.

31 Experimenting With a Nation



The Articles of Confederation were the country's first constitution—but they were too weak to do a good job.

Imagine a city built of wooden blocks. Do you see it in your mind? Make sure it has houses and bridges and walls. Knock it down. Now build it again.

Which takes longer, destroying or building? Which is harder?

It's the same way with governments.

Revolutions are difficult—overthrowing Britain wasn't easy at all for the American colonists—but building a strong nation was much harder.

The American Revolution was unusual; it produced people who were good at nation-building. When you study other revolutions, like the ones in France and Russia, you'll see how lucky we were.

At first, though, it looked like it might not happen. It seemed as if the 13 states would never get along. They certainly weren't “united.” Each state

was printing its own money and making its own rules. Eleven states had their own navies. Virginia's navy had 72 ships. The Continental Congress was trying to run a national government, and it had a navy, too—but it was smaller than Virginia's. The Congress was also printing money. As you can guess, soon none of the money was worth anything, and that was terrible for most citizens.

Besides all that, each state got into the taxing business: New York was taxing goods from New Jersey, and New Jersey was taxing goods from New York. Virginia and Maryland were

In 1782, Colonel Lewis Nicola wrote a letter to General Washington suggesting that he use his army to seize power and proclaim himself king. Washington replied, “You could not have found a person to whom your schemes were more disagreeable.”

Supply & Demand

There is an economic law called the law of supply and demand. If there is a big supply of something, the price—and the demand for it—usually goes down. Gold is expensive because it is beautiful and rare. If there were gold nuggets all over the place, the price of gold would go way down. Money works in roughly the same way. If a government prints lots of money, the value of its money goes down. That means it costs many dollars to buy something that once took only a few dollars. That is called *inflation*.