

From Protest to War

1763-1800



by Joe Burton

From Protest to War

- ❖ In 1773...
- ❖ ...Americans learned that they would now be required to purchase all their tea...
- ❖ ...from *Britain's East India Company*.
- ❖ Angry Patriots in every port refused to accept the tea.
- ❖ They saw the *Tea Act* as the first step in controlling colonial businesses.

From Protest to War

- ❖ In Boston..
- ❖ ...Sons of Liberty...
- ❖ ...dressed as Mohawk warriors...
- ❖ ...dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.
- ❖ The British immediately acted to punish the colonists...
- ❖ ...for this “*Boston Tea Party*.”
- ❖ The Patriots responded by calling the First Continental Congress into session...
- ❖ ...and then resorting to armed resistance...
- ❖ ...and finally creating a Continental Army.

The Story Behind The Story

In every colony except Massachusetts... protesters were able to force the tea to be returned to England. In Boston, however, Governor Hutchinson was determined to hold his ground. He convinced the tea haulers, two of whom were his sons, not to back down to the Patriots.

A notice from the "*Chairman of the Committee for Tarring and Feathering*" in Boston - denounced the tea haulers who stayed in the harbor as "*traitors to their country.*"

When the *Dartmouth*, arrived in Boston, Adams called for a mass meeting. Thousands of people arrived, so many... that the meeting was moved to a larger building. Adams urged the captain of *Dartmouth* to send his ship back to England without paying the required import duty.

Roughly 5,000 - 7,000 people out of 16,000 gathered. After receiving a report that Hutchinson was pressuring ships not to leave, Adams announced that "*This meeting can do nothing further to save the country.*" This statement was a brilliantly planned and prearranged signal for the "*Tea Party*" to begin.

John Adams called *The Boston Tea Party* a Grand Event.



The Intolerable Acts

- ❖ Parliament and King George III...
- ❖ ...outraged by the “*Boston Tea Party*,”
- ❖ ...passed the *Coercive Acts* during the spring of 1774.
- ❖ The Laws closed the port of Boston...
- ❖ ...took away most self-government rights in Massachusetts...
- ❖ ...and sent a military governor to take control.

The Intolerable Acts

- ❖ In September 1774...
- ❖ ...50 delegates from 12 colonies met in Philadelphia...
- ❖ ...the First Continental Congress order of business was to decide...
- ❖ ...what to do about the “*Intolerable Acts.*”
- ❖ They demanded that the laws be repealed...
- ❖ ...and insisted on having a voice...
- ❖ ...in all tax measures.

The Intolerable Acts

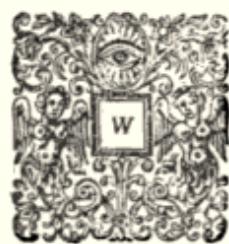


By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION.

For suppressing Rebellion and Sedition.

G E O R G E R.



HEREAS many of Our Subjects in divers Parts of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, misled by dangerous and ill-designing Men, and forgetting the Allegiance which they owe to the Power that has protected and sustained them, after various disorderly Acts committed in Disturbance of the Publick Peace, to the Obstruction of lawful Commerce, and to the Oppression of Our loyal Subjects carrying on the same, have at length proceeded to an open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile Manner to withstand the Execution of the Law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying War against Us: And whereas there is Reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous Correspondence, Counsels, and Comfort of divers wicked and desperate Persons within this Realm: To the End therefore that none of Our Subjects may neglect or violate their Duty through Ignorance thereof, or through any Doubt of the Protection which the Law will afford to their Loyalty and Zeal; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring that not only all Our Officers Civil and Military are obliged to exert their utmost Endeavours to suppress such Rebellion, and to bring the Traitors to Justice; but that all Our Subjects of this Realm and the Dominions thereto belonging are bound by Law to be aiding and assisting in the Suppression of such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous Conspiracies and Attempts against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; And We do accordingly strictly charge and command all Our Officers as well Civil as Military, and all other Our obedient and loyal Subjects, to use their utmost Endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all Treasons and traitorous Conspiracies which they shall know to be against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; and for that Purpose, that they transmit to One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, or other proper Officer, due and full Information of all Persons who shall be found carrying on Correspondence with, or in any Manner or Degree aiding or abetting the Persons now in open Arms and Rebellion against Our Government within any of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, in order to bring to condign Punishment the Authors, Perpetrators, and Abettors of such traitorous Designs.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twenty-third Day of *August*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Fifteenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

L O N D O N:
Printed by Charles Eyre and William Strahan, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1775.

- ❖ They also agreed to meet again the following spring.
- ❖ Parliament rejected the delegates' demands...
- ❖ ...and the king declared the colonies to be in a state of rebellion (left).



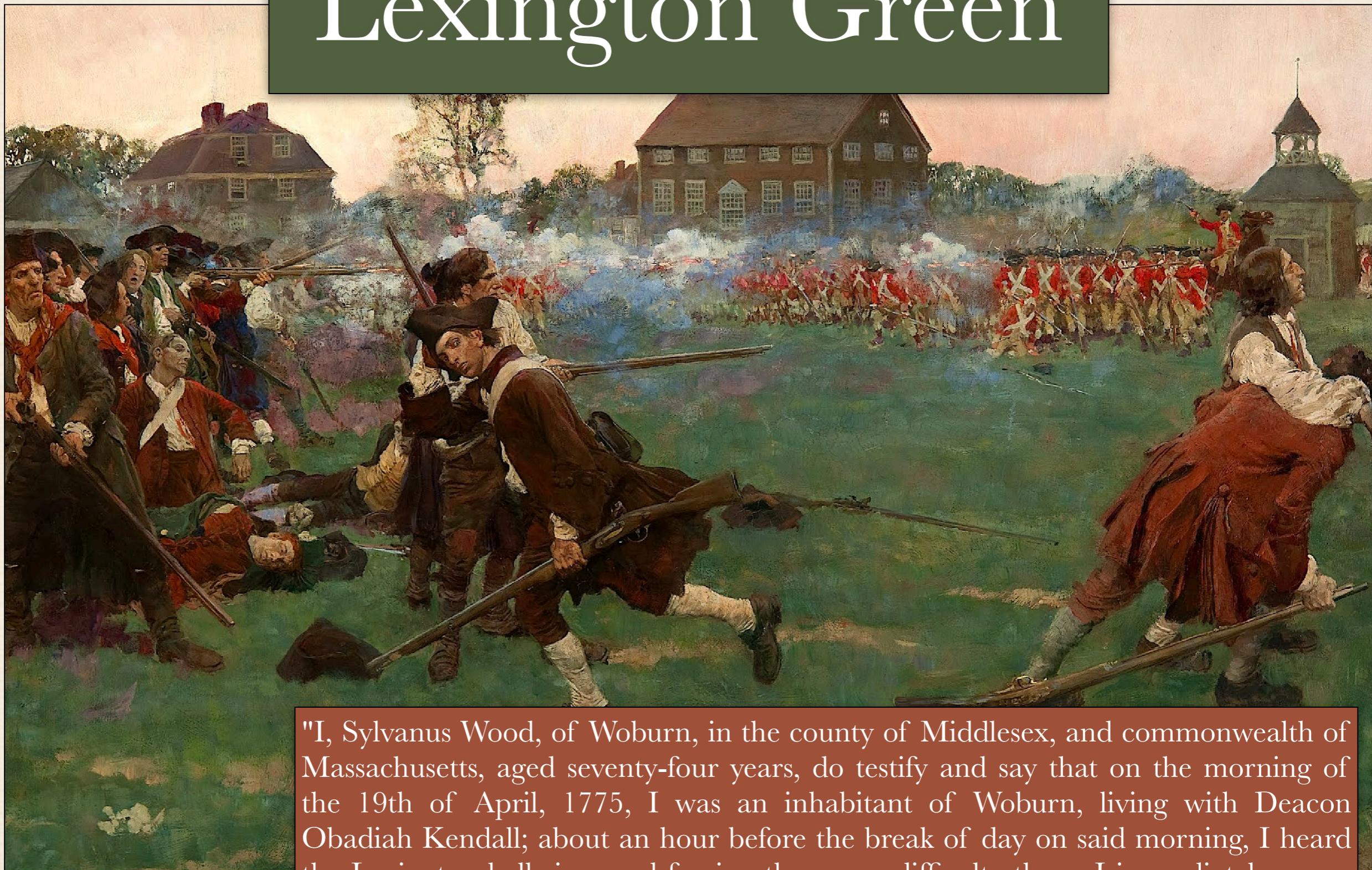
Minutemen became a symbol of the Patriots' willingness to fight for their rights. They got their name because they could get dressed, grab their rifles, and be out the door in a minute.

Spring 1775

Outbreak of War

- ❖ Shortly before the dawn on April 19, 1775...
- ❖ ...as church bells and signal cannons sounded the alarm in Lexington...
- ❖ ...the warning was of approaching the British '*Redcoats*'...
- ❖ ...Minutemen arrived from every direction.
- ❖ The British fired on one band of the Minutemen...
- ❖ ...that had gathered in Lexington's village green...
- ❖ ...killing eight.

Lexington Green



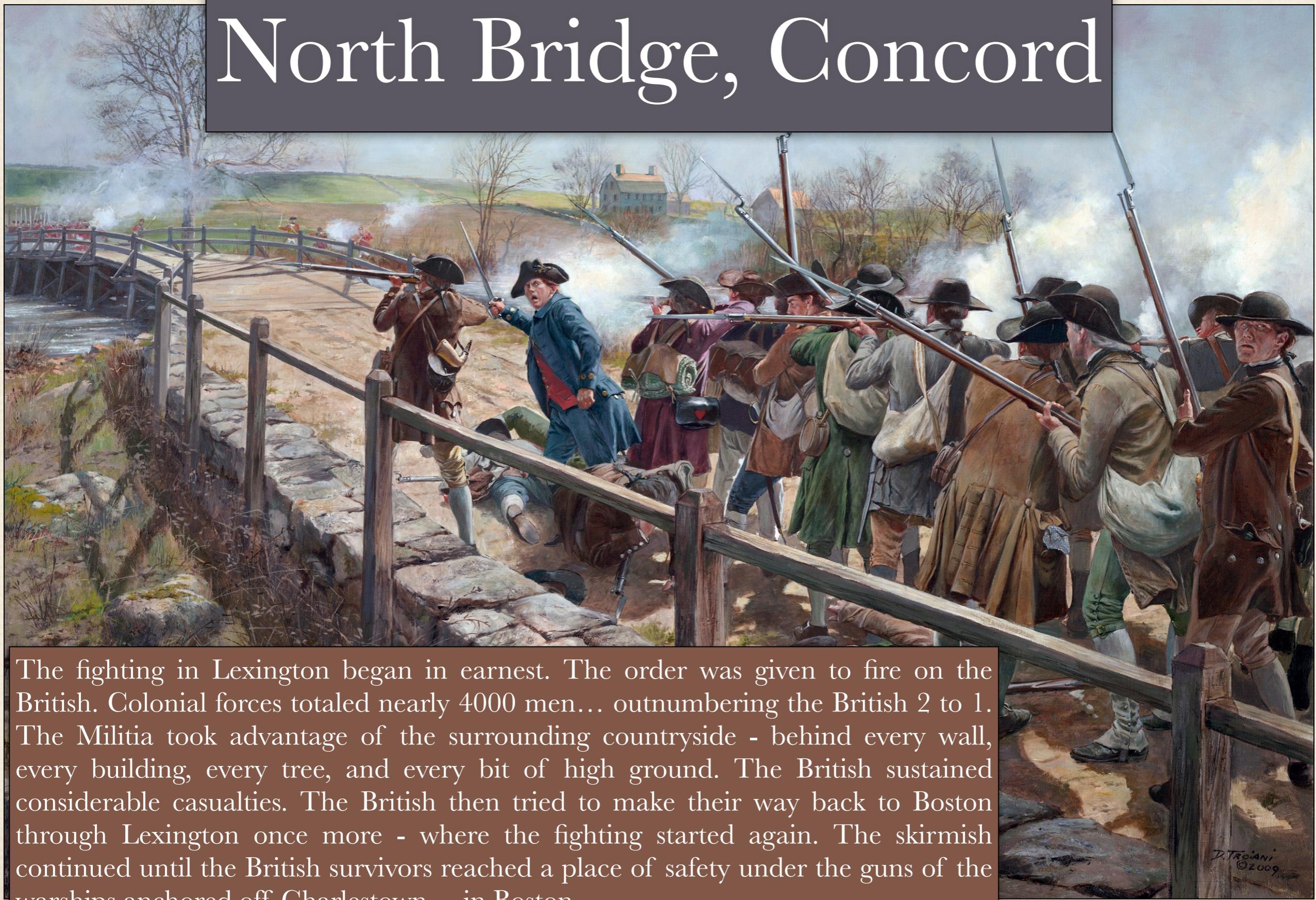
"I, Sylvanus Wood, of Woburn, in the county of Middlesex, and commonwealth of Massachusetts, aged seventy-four years, do testify and say that on the morning of the 19th of April, 1775, I was an inhabitant of Woburn, living with Deacon Obadiah Kendall; about an hour before the break of day on said morning, I heard the Lexington bell ring, and fearing there was difficulty there, I immediately arose, took my gun and, with Robert Douglass, went in haste to Lexington,

Spring 1775

Outbreak of War

- ❖ Then the British marched on to Concord...
- ❖ ...where they planned to capture Patriot weapons...
- ❖ ...and two radical Patriot leaders...
- ❖ ...*Sam Adams* and *John Hancock*.
- ❖ The Minutemen clashed with the Redcoats at *The North Bridge* in Concord...
- ❖ ...then harassed them as they retreated on their long march back to Boston.

North Bridge, Concord



The fighting in Lexington began in earnest. The order was given to fire on the British. Colonial forces totaled nearly 4000 men... outnumbering the British 2 to 1. The Militia took advantage of the surrounding countryside - behind every wall, every building, every tree, and every bit of high ground. The British sustained considerable casualties. The British then tried to make their way back to Boston through Lexington once more - where the fighting started again. The skirmish continued until the British survivors reached a place of safety under the guns of the warships anchored off Charlestown... in Boston.

Concord Hymn

BY RALPH WALDO EMERSON

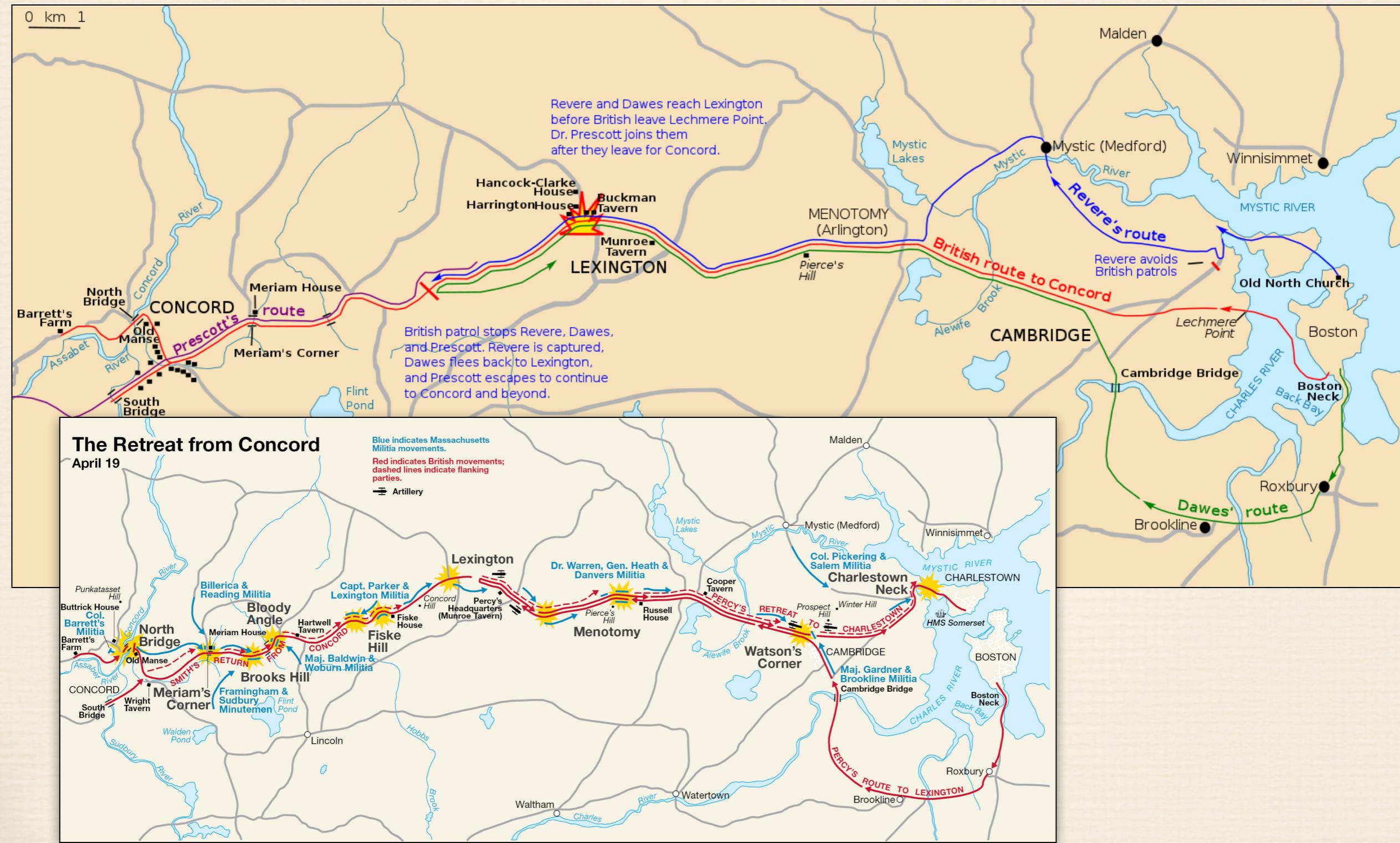
By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set today a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

The Route of Attack and Retreat by The British The Warning Rides of Revere and Dawes



Paul Revere, 1735-1818

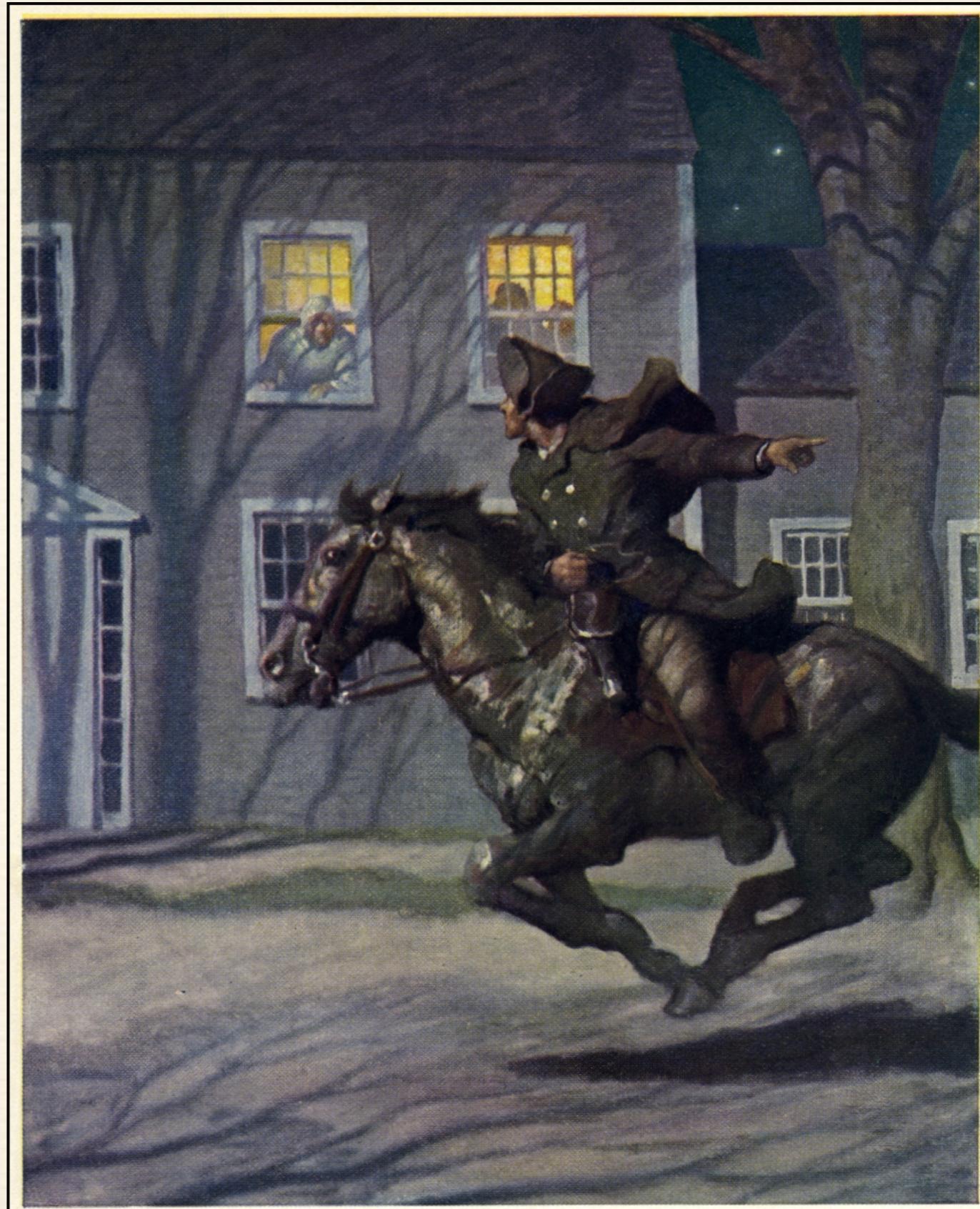
The Famous Ride: Fact and Legend

During the night of *April 18-19, 1775*, Patriots *Paul Revere* (right) and *William Dawes* rode from Boston toward Concord to warn Massachusetts towns that the British *Redcoats* were advancing.

Neither Revere nor Dawes actually made it all the way to Concord; they were stopped by British officers.

It was a young doctor named *Samuel Prescott* riding with them who carried the final warning to Concord.

Little attention was paid to Revere's ride until, some 80 years later, American Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote "*Paul Reveres Ride.*"



Paul Revere's Ride

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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.
He said to his friend, "If the British march...
By land or sea from the town tonight,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch...
Of the North Church tower as a signal light.

One, if by land, and two, if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm.

Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country folk to be up and to arm.

Spring 1775

Outbreak of War

- ❖ When the Second Continental Congress met on May 10, 1775...
- ❖ ...it voted to create a *Continental Army*...
- ❖ ...out of the militiamen...
- ❖ ...who camped just outside of Boston.
- ❖ By the time Washington met up with his men...
- ❖ ...the Patriots had already fought...
- ❖ ...the *Battle of Bunker Hill*.

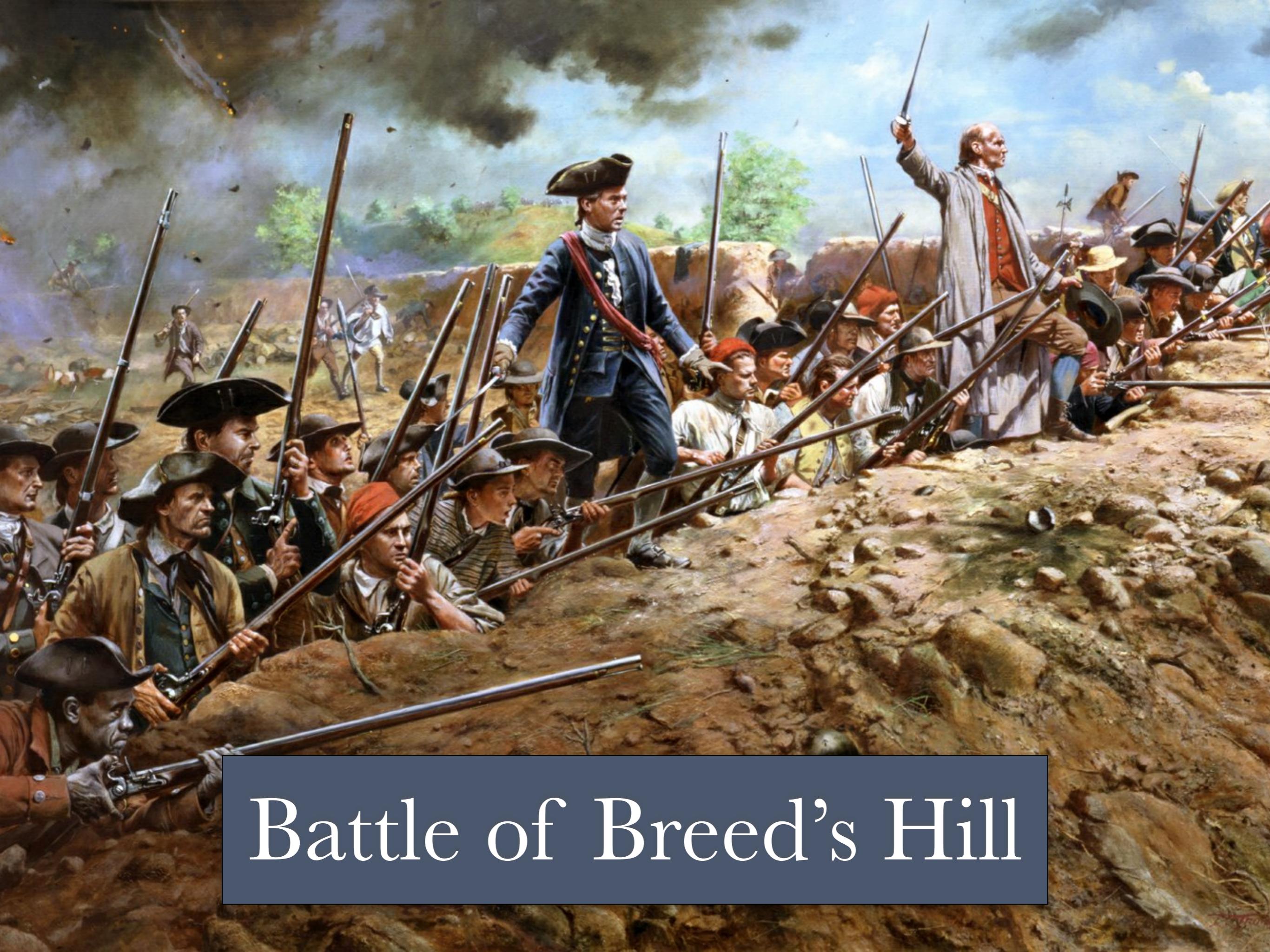
The Continental Army



- ★ The **Continental Army** (the army of the Thirteen Colonies)... was formed by the Second Continental Congress after the outbreak of the *Revolutionary War*, and was established by a *Resolution of Congress* on **June 14, 1775**.
- ★ The Continental Army was created to coordinate all military efforts up and down the east coast. *General George Washington* was the commander-in-chief of all the military forces throughout the war.
- ★ The Army was supplemented by local militias and volunteer troops that were either loyal to individual states or otherwise independent.
- ★ Most of the Army was disbanded in 1783, after the *Treaty of Paris* formally ended the fighting.
- ★ The 1st and 2nd Regiments of the Army went on to form what was to become the **Legion of the United States** in 1792. This became the foundation of what is now the *United States Army*.

Moral Victory at Bunker Hill

- ❖ On the morning of June 17, 1775...
- ❖ ...2,400 British Troops were ferried across the bay...
- ❖ ...to Charleston in Massachusetts...
- ❖ ...and marched up the steep slope of *Breed's Hill*...
- ❖ ...against 1,600 Patriot militiamen.
- ❖ The Patriots had dug trenches overnight...
- ❖ ...and piled up logs and rocks in front of themselves.



Battle of Breed's Hill

Moral Victory at Bunker Hill

- ❖ These became known as “*Breastworks*,” ...
- ❖ ...but the British were confident...
- ❖ ...that the untrained militiamen...
- ❖ ...would be no match...
- ❖ ...for the battle-hardened regulars.
- ❖ After British warships in the harbor stopped...
- ❖ ...their artillery bombardment...

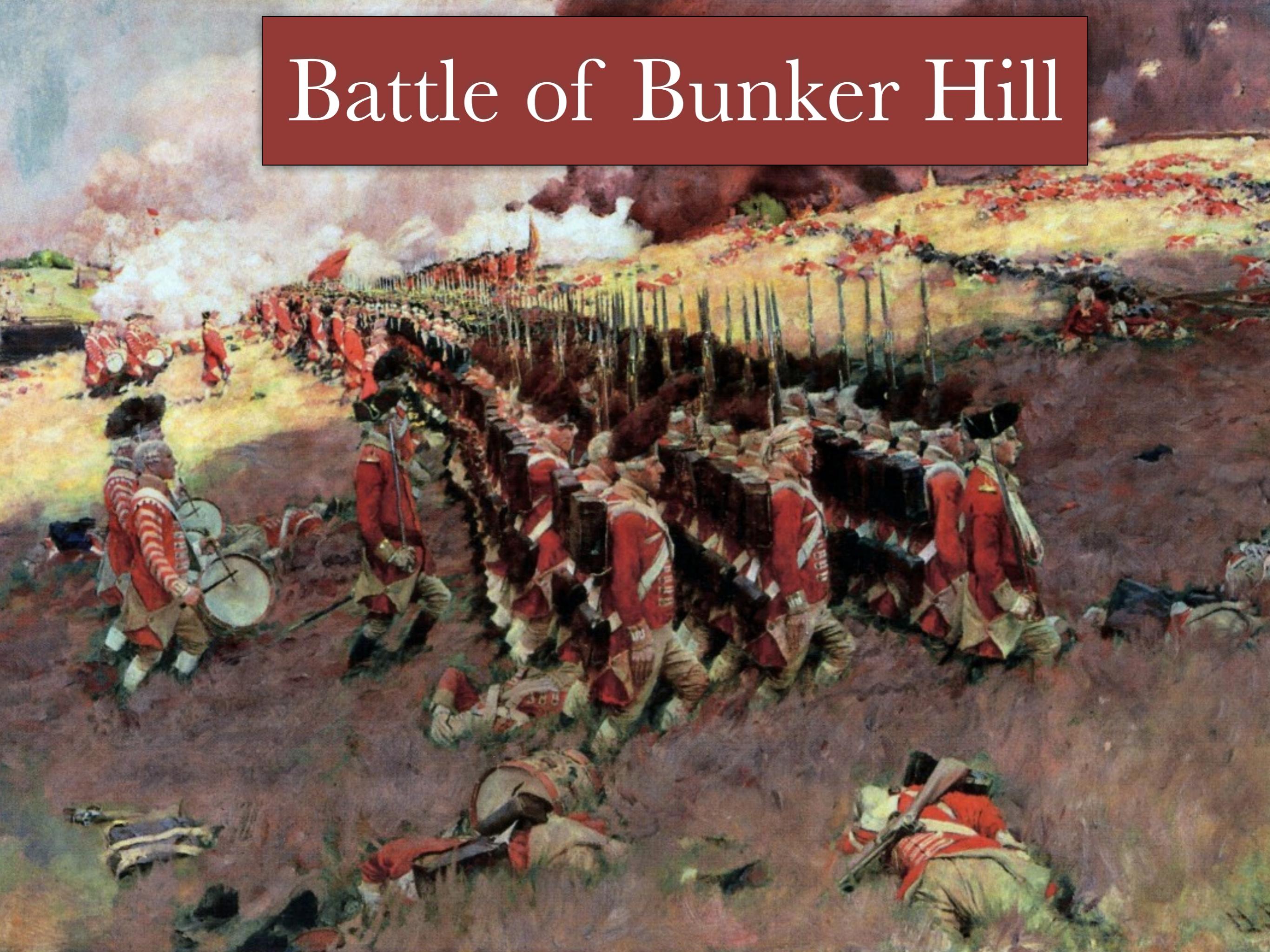
Moral Victory at Bunker Hill

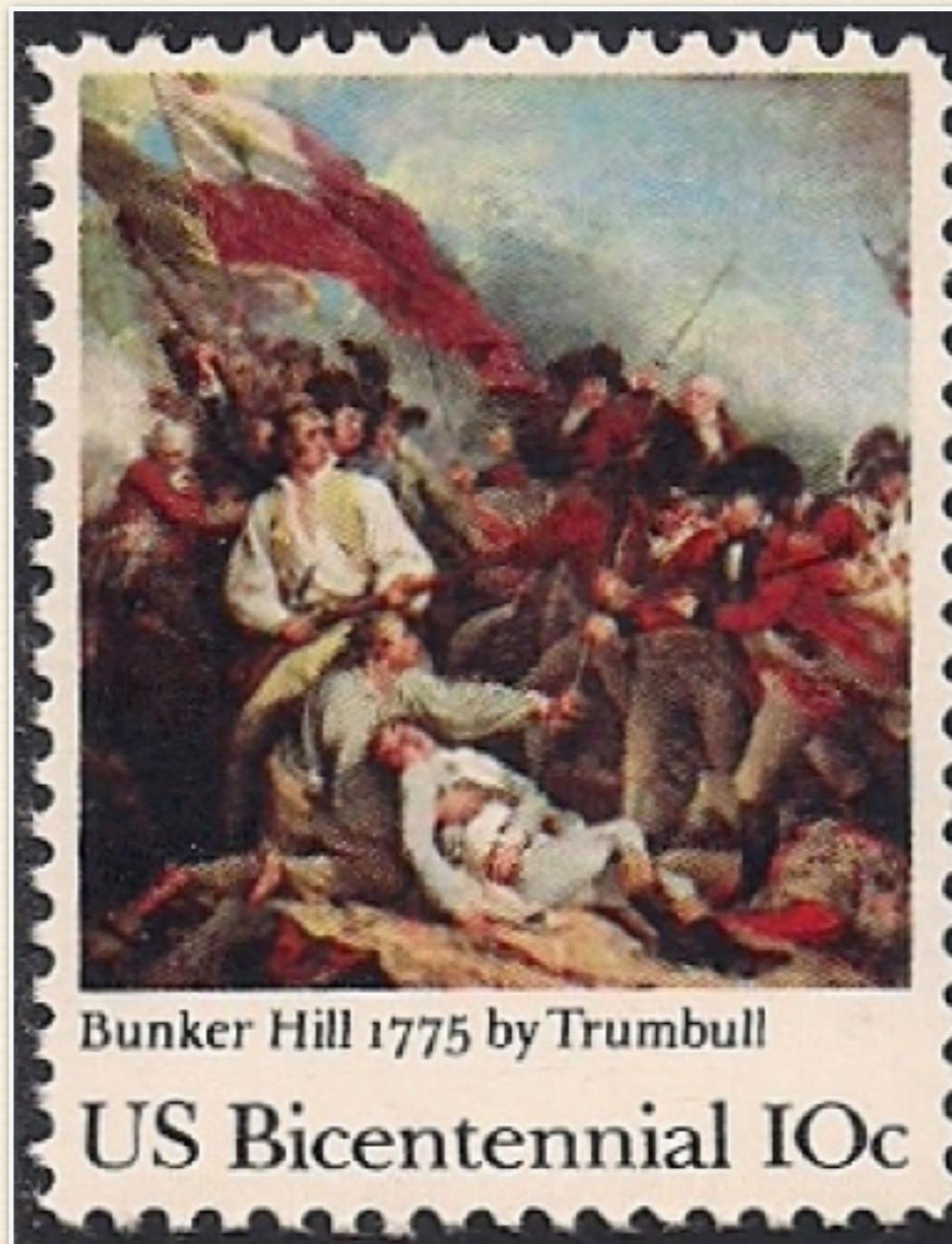
- ❖ ...the Redcoats approached...
- ❖ ...only to be driven back down the hill...
- ❖ ...by musket fire.
- ❖ The British attacked a second time...
- ❖ ...with the same result...
- ❖ ...but on the third assault...
- ❖ ...the Americans ran out of ammunition.

Moral Victory at Bunker Hill

- ❖ The British took both *Breed's Hill* and *Bunker Hill*...
- ❖ ...but at a great cost...
- ❖ ...nearly half of their force...
- ❖ ...while the Patriots achieved a great victory...
- ❖ ...in morale...
- ❖ ...by proving they could stand up to professional soldiers...
- ❖ ...of the world's mightiest army.

Battle of Bunker Hill





Bunker Hill 1775 by Trumbull

US Bicentennial 10c

Stamp depicting the Battle of Bunker Hill

