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Vignette III

Characters: Narrator, Members of Parliament (2), King George III, Samuel Adams, John Hancock

Narrator: Patrick Henry's cry for liberty rang out through the colonies, and many people agreed with him that war was unavoidable and the time had come for the colonies to arm themselves. Listen to King George's reaction to news from his soldiers in Massachusetts that the colonists are preparing to fight.

Great Britain, Early April 1775

Member of Parliament 1: Your Majesty, word has come that the colonists are organizing militias, stockpiling guns, and preparing to fight.

King George III: Then the soldiers we have in Boston will not be enough. It is time to send an army. Are the Sons of Liberty still leading this revolt?

Member of Parliament 2: There is support trickling throughout the colonies; but, yes, the Sons of Liberty are still at the heart of things in Boston. Word has it Samuel Adams and John Hancock are two of the biggest troublemakers.

King George III: Tell my army to confiscate any weapons they can find and arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock.

Narrator: Tensions had been high in and around Boston for many years now. Constant clashes between British soldiers and colonists finally came to a head in the nearby towns of Lexington and Concord. Listen as Samuel Adams and John Hancock discuss the events of April 19, 1775, and what it means for the future.

Massachusetts, Late April 1775

Samuel Adams: John, it is a miracle we are alive!

John Hancock: Certainly it is, for King George's army was hunting us down.

Samuel Adams: They were also hunting down the weapons we hid, not too far from Boston in Concord.

John Hancock: Well, they found the weapons, but not how they had hoped!

Samuel Adams: Ha, that's right! Little did they know that Paul Revere and other riders had a plan to warn people when the British army marched out of Boston.

John Hancock: We all owe those men a great debt, for we were able to be ready to stand our ground in Lexington and prepare to fight as the army marched to Concord and back.

Samuel Adams: The British army was smaller when it got back to Boston than when it left. But we lost many men, too.

John Hancock: Indeed, and it is with a heavy heart that I say: this is only the beginning.