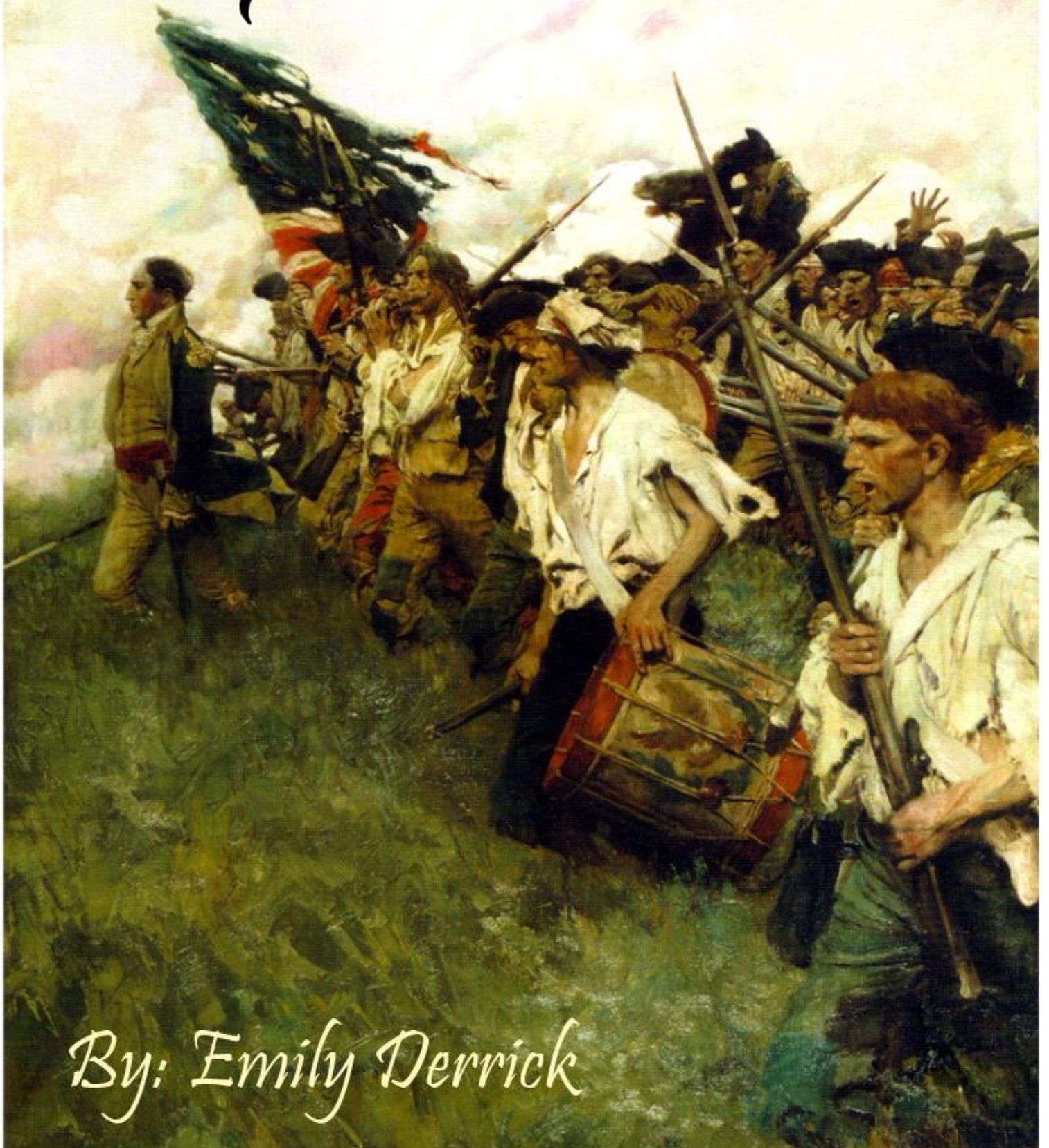


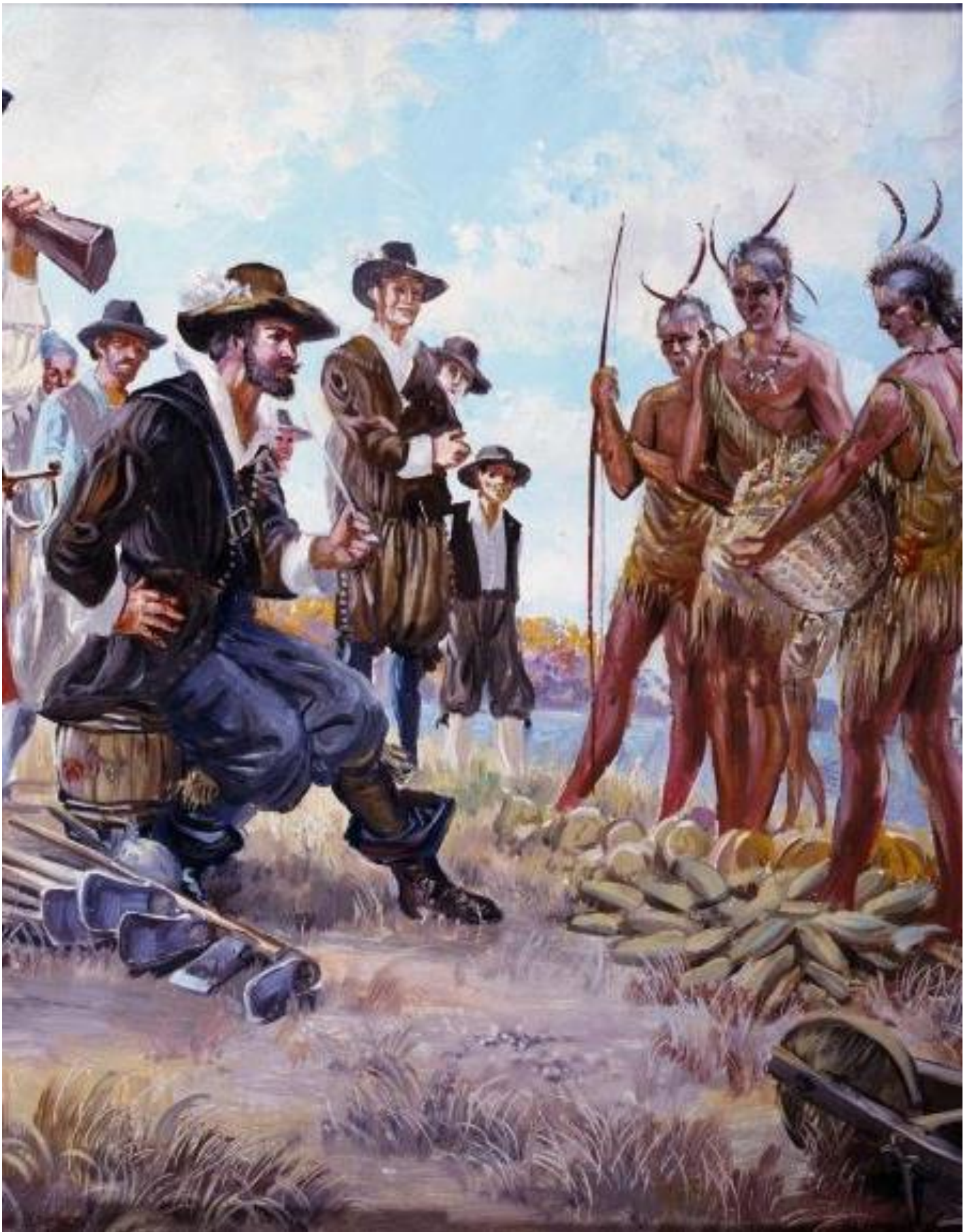
Six Buttons



By: Emily Derrick

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John Smith Trading with the Indians, Sidney E. King, www.nps.org

CHAPTER 1

My Home

I have always felt that this land is a part of my blood. My ancestors were among the first Europeans to come to the new world. Many of them came as **indentured servants**. They worked for seven years as laborers in New York and Virginia. In return, they were given 25 acres of land and a new life. They had a dream and a goal in mind that they could not accomplish in England. In Great Britain, they had no fortune and no future, but the new world was full of possibilities and potential. They could build the colonies from nothing and make a difference in the world.

I grew up hearing the stories of Jamestown from my father and older brother, Samuel. I loved hearing the stories of the wild Indians who had saved the early settlers from starvation that first year. I was fascinated by the journals of my Puritan ancestors who had come to the new world to become “a city upon a hill.” I had always admired these brave men and women who had sacrificed everything for my home. I hoped that one day, I would be able to do my part to build upon their legacy and help to make these lands into something even greater.

CHAPTER 2

Six Buttons

My father was a soldier. He felt such a tie to these lands that, for him, it would be an honor to give his life to protect them. He fought bravely in the **French and Indian War**. For seven years he fought French and Indian soldiers for more land in the new world. As a visionary man, he always dreamed of the colonies expanding so that others could come to this paradise. He often told Samuel and I the stories of the war, and about the heroes who gave their lives for this land.

There were six buttons that my father always carried in his pocket. One for each friend he knew who paid the ultimate price, their lives, to obtain more land in the new world. He had cut a button from their coat after they took their final breath, so he would never forget that his home was bought with a price. I never met these men, but I felt as if I knew them personally because I had heard so many stories about them. I did not want to lose my life as a soldier, but I did want to feel like I had done my part to build the American colonies.



Death of General Wolfe, Benjamin West, <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/92515474/>

CHAPTER 3

Taxation

The French and Indian war changed everything for the colonies. When the war ended we thought that the new world would once again be forgotten by the mother land. However, England did not forget about its colonies. Taxes were imposed to help pay for war debts. The **Townshend Acts**, and the **Stamp Act** taxed the colonists for tea, paint, paper, lead and glass. The Massachusetts House of Representatives deemed these acts unconstitutional because the colonies were not represented in Parliament. In response to these unjust taxes, my family started to help smuggle tea from the Netherlands.

At the end of the war, **The Proclamation of 1763** was issued prohibiting colonists from settling the land west of the Appalachian Mountains. This enraged my father and other soldiers. Often my father would hold the six buttons in his hand and proclaim

“These good men did not give their lives for nothing. They dreamed of expansion, and I will fight their fight until that dream becomes a reality.”

Samuel and I vowed that we would also take their place in defending this most precious land.



By the KING, A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

GEORGE R.



HEREAS We have taken into Our Royal Consideration the extensive and valuable Acquisitions in *America*, secured to Our Crown by the late Definitive Treaty of Peace, concluded at *Paris* the Tenth Day of *February* last; and being desirous, that all Our loving Subjects, as well of Our Kingdoms as of Our Colonies in *America*, may avail themselves, with all convenient Speed, of the great Benefits and Advantages which must accrue therefrom to their Commerce, Manufactures, and Navigation; We have thought fit, with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby to publish and declare to all Our loving Subjects, that We have, with the Advice of Our said Privy Council, granted Our Letters Patent under Our Great Seal of Great Britain, to erect within the Countries and Islands ceded and confirmed to Us by the said Treaty, Four distinct and separate Governments, titled and called by the Names of *Essex Florida*, *West Florida*, and *Grenada*, and limited and bounded as follows; *viz.*

First. The Government of *Essex Florida*, bounded on the *Labrador* Coast by the River *St. John*, and from thence by a Line drawn from the Head of that River through the Lake *St. John* to the South End of the Lake *high Pitch*, from whence the said Line crossing the River *St. Lawrence* and the Lake *Champlain* in Forty five Degrees of North Latitude, passes along the High Lands which divide the Rivers that empty themselves into the said River *St. Lawrence*, from those which fall into the Sea; and also along the North Coast of the *Bay des Chaleurs*, and the Coast of the Gulf of *St. Lawrence* to Cape *Reforte*, and from thence crossing the Mouth of the River *St. Lawrence* by the West End of the Island of *Anticosti*, terminates at the aforesaid River of *St. John*.

Secondly. The Government of *West Florida*, bounded to the Westward by the Gulf of *Mexico*, and the *Apalachicola* River, to the Northward, by a Line drawn from that Part of the said River where the *Chatauchee* and *Pist* Rivers meet, to the Source of *St. Mary's* River, and by the Course of the said River to the *Atlantic* Ocean; and to the Eastward and Southward, by the *Atlantic* Ocean, and the Gulf of *Florida*, including all Islands within Six Leagues of the Sea Coast.

Thirdly. The Government of *Essex Florida*, bounded to the Southward by the Gulf of *Mexico*, including all Islands within Six Leagues of the Coast from the River *Apalachicola* to Lake *Pantheris*; to the Westward by the said Lake, the Lake *Mauripia*, and the River *Mississippi*; to the Northward, by a Line drawn due East from that Part of the River *Mississippi* which lies in thirty one Degrees North Latitude, to the River *Apalachicola* or *Chatauchee*; and to the Eastward by the said River.

Fourthly. The Government of *Grenada*, comprehending the Island of that Name, together with the *Grenadines*, and the Islands of *Dominica*, *St. Vincent*, and *Tobago*.

And, to the End that the open and free Liberty of Our Subjects may be extended to and carried on upon the Coast of *Labrador* and the adjacent Islands, We have thought fit, with the Advice of Our said Privy Council, to put all that Coast, from the River *St. John's* to *Hudson's* Strait, together with the Islands of *Anticosti* and *Maddalena*, and all other smaller Islands lying upon the said Coast, under the Care and Inspection of Our Governor of *Newfoundland*.

We have also, with the Advice of Our Privy Council, thought fit to annex the Islands of *St. John's*, and *Cape Breton* or *St. Peter's*, with the lesser Islands adjacent thereto, to Our Government of *New Scotia*.

We have also, with the Advice of Our Privy Council aforesaid, annexed to Our Province of *Georgia* all the Lands lying between the Rivers *Altamaha* and *St. Mary's*.

And whereas it will greatly contribute to the speedy settling Our said new Governments, that Our loving Subjects should be informed of Our paternal Care for the Security of the Liberties and Properties of those who are and shall become Inhabitants thereof; We have thought fit to publish and declare, by this Our Proclamation, that We have, in the Letters Patent under Our Great Seal of Great Britain, by which the said Governments are constituted, given express Power and Direction to Our Governors of Our said Colonies respectively, that so soon as the State and Circumstances of the said Colonies will admit thereof, they shall, with the Advice and Consent of the Members of Our Council, summon and call General Assemblies within the said Governments respectively, in such Manner and Form as is used and directed in those Colonies and Provinces in *America*, which are under Our immediate Government; and We have also given Power to the said Governors, with the Consent of Our said Councils, and the Representatives of the People, to be summoned as aforesaid, to make, constitute, and ordain Laws, Statutes, and Ordinances for the Publick Peace, Welfare, and Good Government of Our said Colonies, and of the People and Inhabitants thereof, as near as may be agreeable to the Laws of *England*, and under such Regulations and Restrictions as are used in other Colonies; And in the mean Time, and until such Assemblies be called as aforesaid, all Persons inhabiting in, or resorting to Our said Colonies, may continue in Our Royal Protection for the Enjoyment of the Benefit of the Laws of Our Realm of *England*; for which Purpose, We have given Power under Our Great Seal to the Governors of Our said Colonies respectively, to erect and constitute, with the Advice of Our said Councils respectively, Courts of Judicature and Publick Justice, within Our said Colonies, for the hearing and determining all Causes, as well Criminal as Civil, according to Law and Equity, and as near as may be agreeable to the Laws of *England*, with Liberty to all Persons who may think themselves aggrieved by the Sentences of such Courts, in all Civil Cases, to appeal, under the usual Limitations and Restrictions, to Us in Our Privy Council.

We have also thought fit, with the Advice of Our Privy Council as aforesaid, to give unto the Governors and Councils of Our said Three New Colonies upon the Continent, full Power and Authority to settle and agree with the Inhabitants of Our said New Colonies, or with any other Persons who shall resort thereto, for such Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, as are now, or hereafter shall be in Our Power to dispose of, and then to grant to any such Person or Persons, upon such Terms, and under such moderate Quit-Rents, Services, and Acknowledgments as have been appointed and settled in Our other Colonies, and under such other Conditions as shall appear to Us to be necessary and expedient for the Advantage of the Grantees, and the Improvement and Settlement of Our said Colonies.

And whereas We are desirous, upon all Occasions, to testify Our Royal Sense and Approbation of the Conduct and Bravery of the Officers and Soldiers of Our Armies, and to reward the same, We do hereby command and empower Our Governors of Our said Three New Colonies, and all other Our Governors of Our several Provinces on the Continent of *North America*, to grant, without Fee or Reward, to such Reduced Officers as have served in *North America* during the late War, and to such Private Soldiers as have been or shall be disbanded in *America*, and are actually residing there, and shall personally apply for the same, the following Quantities of Lands, subject at the Expiration of Ten Years to the same Quit-Rents as other Lands are subject to in the Province within which they are granted, as also subject to the same Conditions of Cultivation and Improvement; *viz.*

To every Person having the Rank of a Field Officer, Five thousand Acres.—To every Captain, Three thousand Acres.—To every Subaltern or Officer, Two thousand Acres.—To every Non-Commissioned Officer, Two hundred Acres.—To every Private Man, fifty Acres.

We do like to authorize and require the Governors and Commanders in Chief of all Our said Colonies upon the Continent of *North America*, to grant the like Quantities of Land, and upon the same Conditions, at the Times of the Reduction of *Louisbourg* and *Quebec* in the late War, and who shall personally apply to Our respective Governors for such Grants.

And whereas it is just and reasonable, and essential to Our Interest and the Security of Our Colonies, that the several Nations or Tribes of *Indians*, with whom We are connected, and who live under Our Protection, should not be molested or disturbed in the Possession of such Parts of Our Dominions and Territories as, not having been ceded to, or purchased by Us, are reserved to them, or any of them, as their Hunting Grounds; We do therefore, with the Advice of Our Privy Council, declare it to be Our Royal Will and Pleasure, that no Governor or Commander in Chief in any of Our Colonies of *Essex Florida*, *West Florida*, or *High Florida*, do presume, upon any Pretence whatever, to grant Warrants of Survey, or pass any Patents for Lands beyond the Bounds of their respective Governments, as described in their Commissions; as also, that no Governor or Commander in Chief in any of Our other Colonies or Plantations in *America*, do presume, for any Lands beyond the Heads or Sources of any of the Rivers which fall into the *Atlantic* Ocean from the West and North West, or upon any Lands whatever, which, not having been ceded to, or purchased by Us as aforesaid, are reserved to the said *Indians*, or any of them.

And We do further declare it to be Our Royal Will and Pleasure, for the present as aforesaid, to reserve under Our Sovereignty, Protection, and Dominion, for the Use of the said *Indians*, all the Lands and Territories not included within the Limits of Our said Three New Governments, or within the Limits of the Territory granted to the *Hudson's Bay* Company, as also all the Lands and Territories lying to the Westward of the Sources of the Rivers which fall into the Sea from the West and North West, as aforesaid; and We do hereby strictly forbid, on Pain of Our Displeasure, all Our loving Subjects from making any Purchases or Settlements whatever, or taking Possession of any of the Lands above reserved, without Our especial Leave and Licence for that Purpose first obtained.

And We do further strictly enjoin and require all Persons whatever, who have either wilfully or inadvertently feasted themselves upon any Lands within the Countries above described, or upon any other Lands, which, not having been ceded to, or purchased by Us, are still reserved to the said *Indians* as aforesaid, forthwith to remove themselves from such Settlements.

And whereas great Frauds and Abuses have been committed in the purchasing Lands of the *Indians*, to the great Prejudice of Our Interests, and to the great Dissatisfaction of the said *Indians*; in order therefore to prevent such Irregularities for the future, and to the End that the *Indians* may be convinced of Our Justice, and determined Resolution to remove all reasonable Cause of Discontent, We do, with the Advice of Our Privy Council, strictly enjoin and require, that no private Person do presume to make any Purchase from the said *Indians* of any Lands reserved to the said *Indians*, within those Parts of Our Colonies where We have thought proper to allow Settlement; but that if, at any Time, any of the said *Indians* should be inclined to dispose of the said Lands, the same shall be purchased only for Us, in Our Name, at some Publick Meeting or Assembly of the said *Indians* to be held for that Purpose by the Governor or Commander in Chief of Our Colonies respectively, within which they shall lie; and in case they shall lie within the Limits of any Proprietary Government, they shall be purchased only for the Use and in the Name of such Proprietaries, conformable to such Directions and Intructions as We or they shall think proper to give for that Purpose: And We do, by the Advice of Our Privy Council, declare and enjoin, that the Trade with the said *Indians* shall be free and open to all Our Subjects whatever; provided that every Person, who may incline to trade with the said *Indians*, do take out a Licence for carrying on such Trade from the Governor or Commander in Chief of any of Our Colonies respectively, where such Person shall reside; and also give Security to observe such Regulations as We shall at any Time think fit, by Ourselves or by Our Commissaries to be appointed for this Purpose, to direct and appoint for the Benefit of the said Trade; and We do hereby authorize, enjoin, and require the Governors and Commanders in Chief of all Our Colonies respectively, as well Those under Our immediate Government as Those under the Government and Direction of Proprietaries, to grant such Licences without Fee or Reward, taking especial Care to insert therein a Condition, that such Licence shall be void, and the Security forfeited, in case the Person, to whom the same is granted, shall refuse or neglect to observe such Regulations as We shall think proper to prescribe as aforesaid.

And We do further expressly enjoin and require all Officers whatever, as well Military as Those employed in the Management and Direction of *Indian* Affairs within the Territories reserved as aforesaid for the Use of the said *Indians*, to seize and apprehend all Persons whatever, who, being charged with Treasons, Misdemeanors, Murders, or other Felonies or Misdemeanors, shall fly from Justice, and take Refuge in the said Territory, and to send them under a proper Guard to the Colony where the Crime was committed of which they stand accused, in order to take their Trial for the same.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the Seventh Day of *October*, One thousand seven hundred and sixty three, in the Third Year of Our Reign.

G O D save the KING.

L O N D O N :

Printed by *Mark Baskett*, Printer to the King's most Excellent Majesty; and by the Assigns of *Robert Baskett*. 1763.



CHAPTER 4

Fife

My brother and I couldn't wait to join the ranks of heroes. When Samuel turned ten, he became a drummer for the army. Both he and my father would leave for months at a time to protect the settlers on the western borders from the attacks of the redskins.

Because I was not old enough to enlist in the army myself, I stayed home with my mother and younger sister, Lydia. We had extra work to do because of my brother and father's absence, but I always found the time to play the flute Samuel had whittled for me from a log of pine. I was determined to play well enough to become a fife for the militia by the age of ten.

I spent hours daydreaming of what I would do as a soldier. I dreamed of defeating hundreds of enemy soldiers with my brother by my side. When I finally did turn ten I became a fife for the army. I accompanied my father and brother on their trips to the east to defend the Appalachian border. I was not permitted to fight, but I would play different melodies to convey the commands of the officers to all the soldiers.

CHAPTER 5

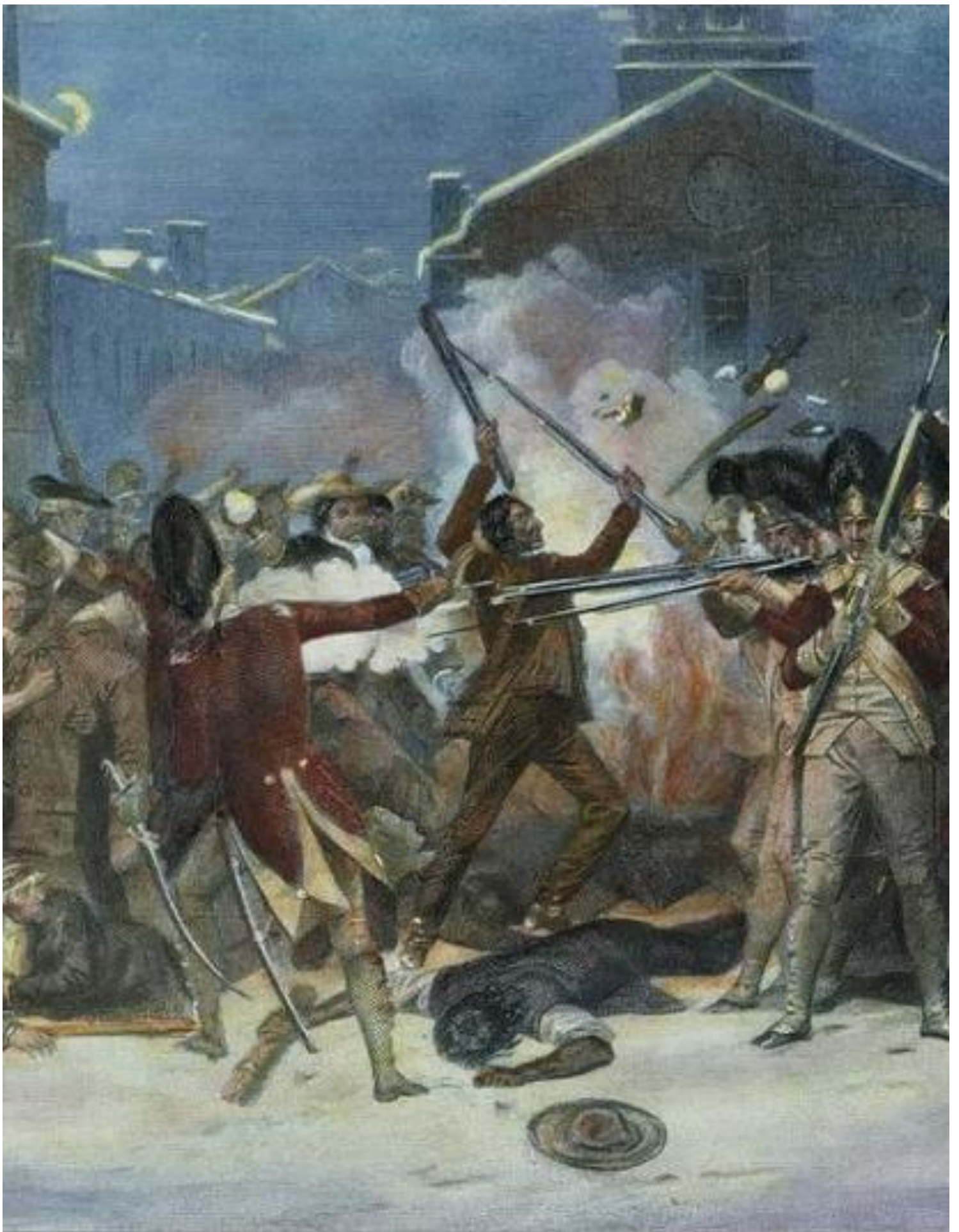
The Boston Massacre

In 1770, tension between the colonists in Massachusetts and the British government was increasing. Parliament repealed the Stamp Act, however the Townshend Act was still in full force. In addition to the tax on goods, British soldiers were sent to Massachusetts to enforce the laws. Colonists were required to **quarter**, or provide shelter, food and other needs to British soldiers.

The revolutionary war did not officially start until 1775, but for me it started on March 5, 1770. I was twelve years old at the time. I had gone into town with Samuel, who was sixteen, to meet with some friends and to talk about politics. As we discussed taxation and representation we heard a bell sound and went outside to find a crowd of people.

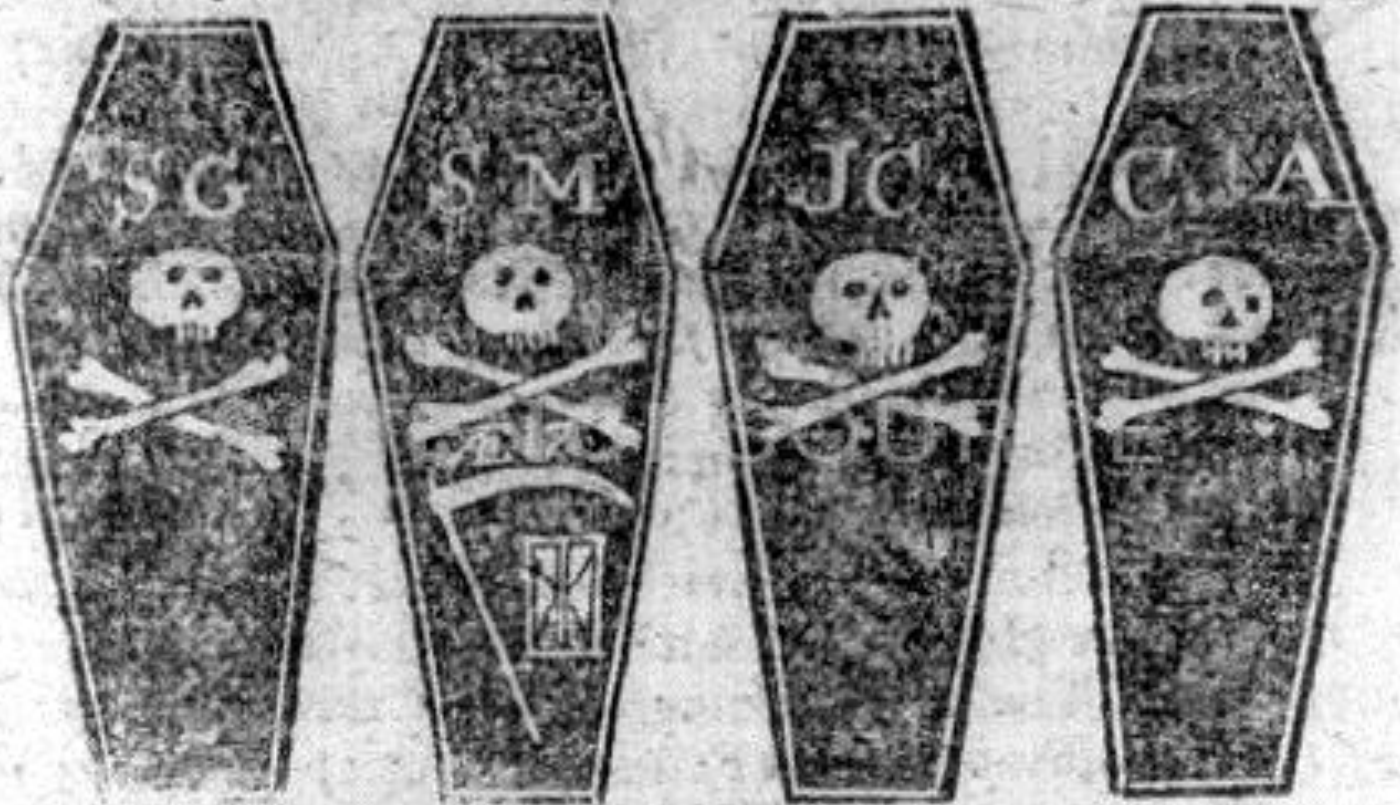
The colonists and the Redcoat soldiers were fighting. Some were throwing rocks at the soldiers, and the soldiers threatened to open fire on the colonists.

I turned to leave the crowd when I heard the sound of gun shots. As I turned toward my brother, I saw him fall to the ground, grabbing the wound in his chest. Samuel had been shot, Samuel had given his life for my home.



The Boston Massacre, Alonzo Chappell, historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6805/

Last Thursday, agreeable to a general Request of the Inhabitants, and by the Consent of Parents and Friends, were carried to their *Grave* in Succession, the Bodies of *Samuel Gray*, *Samuel Maverick*, *James Caldwell*, and *Crispus Attucks*, the unhappy Victims who fell in the bloody Massacre of the Monday Evening preceeding !



On this Occasion most of the Shops in Town were shut, all the Bells were ordered to toll a solemn Peal, as were also those in the neighboring Towns of Charlestown Roxbury, &c. The Procession began to move between the Hours of 4 and 5 in the Afternoon ; two of the unfortunate Sufferers, viz. Mess. *James Caldwell* and *Crispus Attucks*, who were Strangers, borne from Faneuil-Hall,

I cut the button from his coat and put it in my pocket. I was too shocked to cry. My only thought was of the fight that now lay ahead of me. I promised to do whatever I could to fight for the rights of my friends and family. The redcoat soldiers may have taken my brother from me, but I would not let them take away my freedom. That day, I became a rebel.

The soldiers who were involved in the killing of my brother and the other four men did stand trial. None of them were found guilty of any charges. If my own brother had not been involved, I would have thought that the sentence was fair. I would have believed that the riot in the street had gotten out of hand, and the deaths were an accident.

However, I had the button from my brother's coat that weighed me down. My whole life I had envisioned my brother and I fighting for the colonies side by side. I imagined ourselves becoming war heroes that helped make the colonies a powerful force. I pictured us cutting the buttons of our friends' uniforms as they fell in the noble cause. I never thought that one day, I would carry a button that belonged to Samuel.

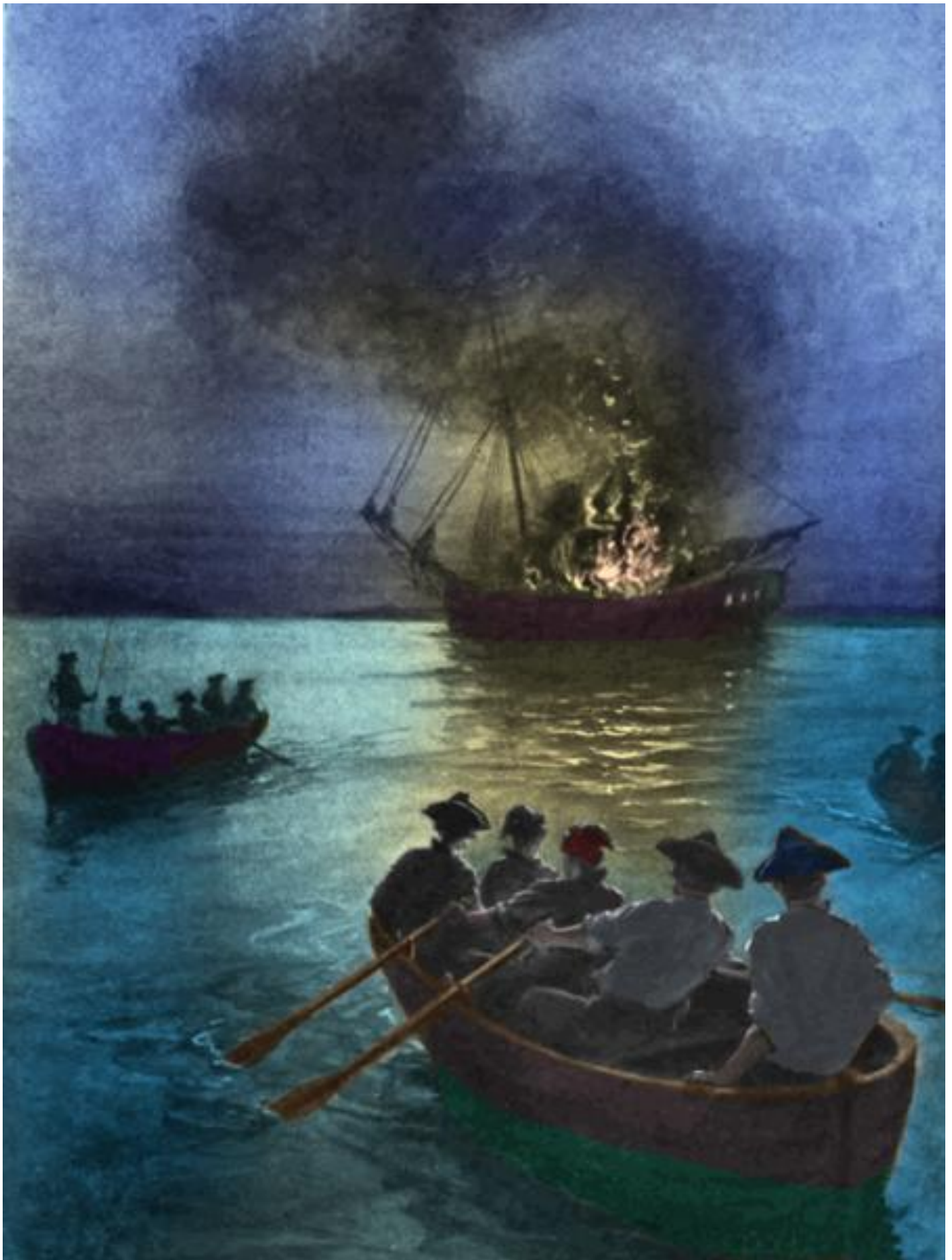
CHAPTER 6

The Tea Tax

The conflict between the Colonies and Great Britain was like a Chess game. One side would make a move and the other would react to defend themselves. King George repealed all the taxes on the colonies except the tea tax to try and calm the disputes in the colonies, while still exercising authority. But the massacre of my brother and four others in Boston sent a clear message to those living in the American colonies. The British would use force if necessary to keep the colonists enslaved.

The colonists wanted changes to be made, however, it seemed as if the mother country wouldn't listen. What may have started as small disputes in the new world, turned into much greater acts of violence to get the attention of Great Britain. The people started to boycott, or refuse to buy tea from the British. Ships carrying tea were blocked from entering the harbor by rebels. The ships that refused to turn around were burned by enraged colonists.

Both England and the American Colonies were at a stalemate. The colonists refused to pay the tax on tea until they had representation in British Parliament, and the government officials refused to repeal the tea act or grant the colonies the right of representation. Then the rebels made their boldest move yet.



The burning of the ship *Gaspee*. <https://www.usni.org>



Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor, <https://www.loc.gov/item/91795889/>

CHAPTER 7

The Boston Tea Party

It was the night of December 16, 1773. The colonists had successfully stopped three ships laden with tea from making port for several days. However, the ship's captain threatened to open fire if he was not granted access to land by the following day. When no direction was given by the local governor, we decided on our own course of action.

When my father and I arrived at the wharf that night, there was already a large crowd of men gathered. I couldn't tell who most of them were because of the layers of paint on their faces, but that didn't matter. I knew we all had the same objective. We quickly divided into three groups, one for each ship, and boarded the boats.

Once we reached the ships, chaos ensued as barrels of tea were torn apart by hatchets and thrown overboard. I took care to make sure that every bit of tea was destroyed. A few men tried to smuggle some of the tea in their pockets, but they were all caught and forced to leave it behind. It took a couple of hours to dispose of all the tea on board the ships. Once we had finished, we left the ships without a word and returned home.

CHAPTER 8

The Coercive Acts

The night was so still as my father and I walked back to our house. I could hear the sound of splintering wood echo in my mind with each footstep. The strong smell of tea was still burning in my nose. This act was not about tea or even taxes, it was about our human rights. The tea filled harbor was our message to King George that we would not allow men, who lived across the sea, to dictate life for the colonies.

King George and the other British officials received the message that we left in the sea that night. Parliament saw the colonists as unruly vandals and sought retaliation. **The Coercive Acts** were passed the following year by British Parliament. These acts closed the Boston harbor, restricted town meetings, and denied Massachusetts the right to prosecute British officials.

These acts were intended to make the other colonies abandon Massachusetts and realign with the mother land. But instead of cutting ties to New England, all of the 13 colonies united in opposing Parliament. This unification between the colonies opened the door for a meeting of representatives from each colony in the summer of 1774. For several weeks delegates from each colony, except Georgia, met together to determine a plan of action in response to the coercive acts. This meeting would later become known as the **First Continental Congress**.

Georgii III. Regis.

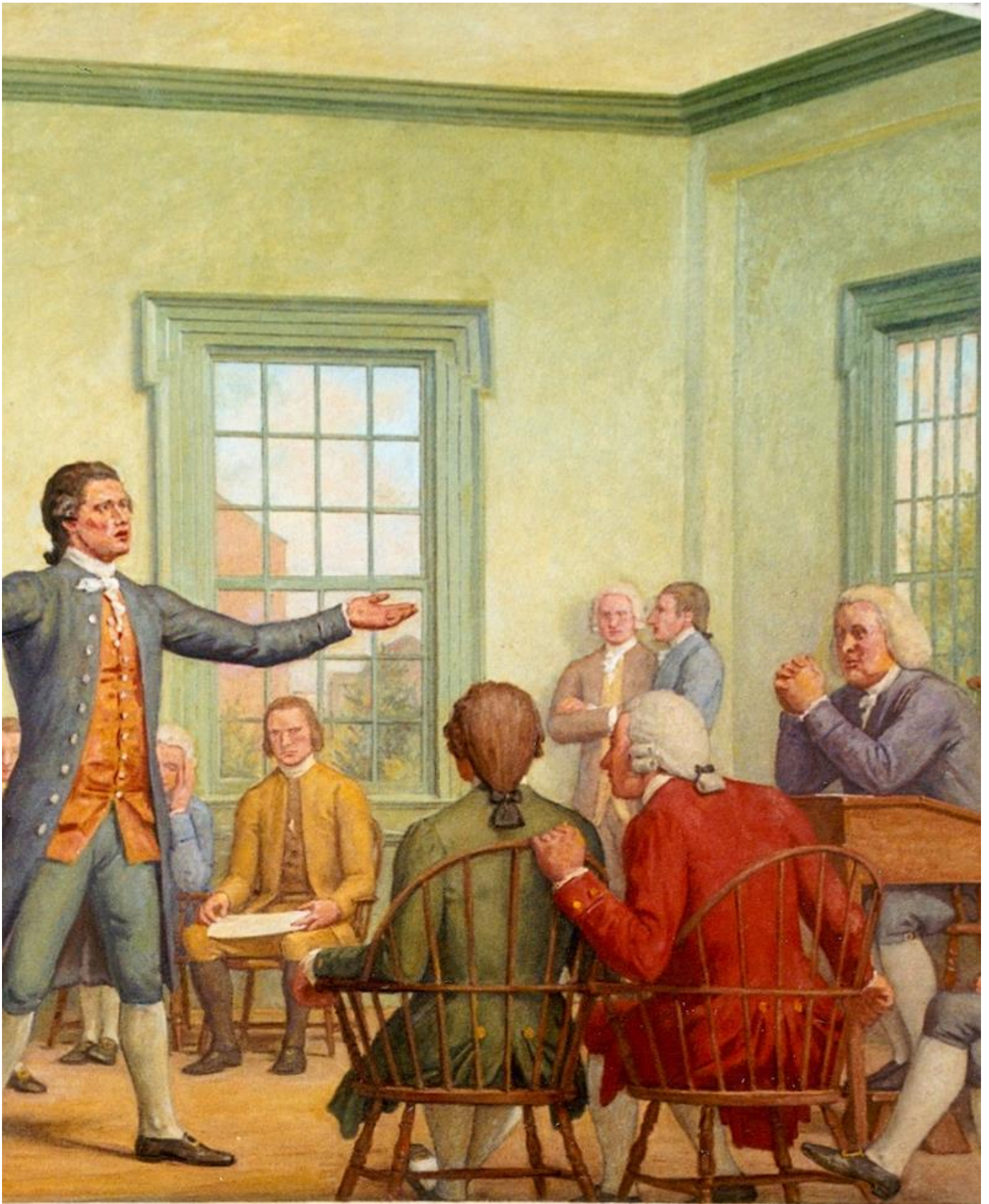
C A P. XIX.

An Act to discontinue, in such Manner, and for such Time as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of Goods, Wares, and Merchandise, at the Town, and within the Harbour, of *Boston*, in the Province of *Massachusetts's Bay*, in *North America*.



WHEREAS dangerous Commotions and Insurrections have been somented and raised in the Town of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts's Bay, in New England, by divers ill-affected Persons, to the Subversion of his Majesty's Government, and to the utter Destruction of the publick Peace, and good Order of the said Town; in which Commotions and Insurrections certain valuable Cargoes of Teas, being the Property of the East India Company, and on Board certain Vessels lying within the Bay of

2 60 2 Hardout



The First Continental Congress, Allyn Cox, www.bostonteapartyship.com

CHAPTER 9

The First Continental Congress

John Adams returned from the continental congress in Pennsylvania after the seven-week convention. A few days later, he came knocking on our door to tell us all that had transpired during the meeting. My mother welcomed him in and insisted on feeding him supper. I was so excited to hear about the great meeting that I hardly even touched the delicious stew that my mother had made.

After John had finished eating his supper, we gathered by the hearth as he recounted everything that had happened at the great congress. He told us that some of the delegates wanted to reconcile with England in finding a compromise that would allow the colonies and Britain to keep ties. Other delegates wanted to write a declaration of rights and liberties that couldn't be violated by the British crown. Some delegates even suggested making a form of American government that was separate from the governing body in England.

In the end, John Adams told us, the congress decided to enforce a boycott of British goods in every colony. If this attempt was not successful, the congress would reconvene the following year and determine another course of action.

“Things are changing”, John Adams whispered. “I do not think that the relationship between Great Britain and her colonies can ever be the way it once was.”

CHAPTER 10

Lexington and Concord

John Adams was right, the history of the American Colonies was forever changed less than a year later. Small militias started to train to ensure the safety of the colonists against the standing army of Great Britain. As I was finally of age, I was a part of the local militia in Boston. We were known as the **minutemen** because we weren't a full-time army, but a group of soldiers that would be ready to fight within a minute's notice.

The first call to fight came on April 18, 1775. Patriot spies relayed that the British troops were headed to Lexington to seize the weapons that were held there. Once the army searched for military supplies at Lexington and Concord. they began their retreat toward Boston.

I spent several hours kneeling behind a tree, on the road between Lexington and Boston, waiting to see the English militia. In a fair fight both armies would be exposed and out in the open, but this was not a fair fight. We were heavily outnumbered by British soldiers and had no leadership. Several other minutemen and I fired shots at the passing British army from the safety of our hiding places. We didn't defeat all the Redcoats, but we did show our strength and determination. That day, the 13 united colonies started a war with England – the strongest army in the world.



Retreat of the British From Boston, Thomas Higginson, <http://etc.usf.edu>

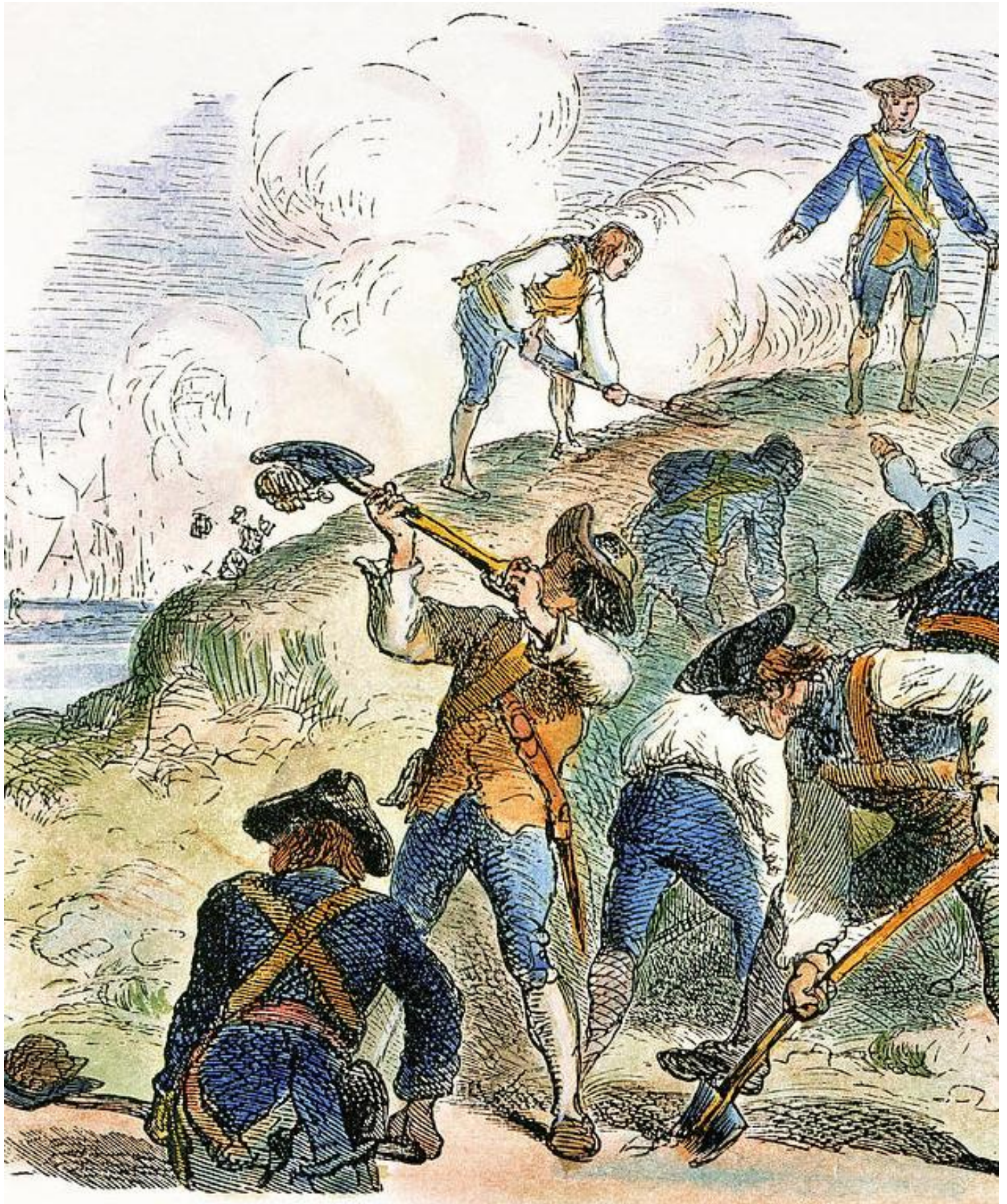
CHAPTER 11

Bunker Hill

A few months after the battles of Lexington and Concord, the second continental congress convened. Now that the war had officially begun, the congress decided to create a continental army out of existing local armies. George Washington was appointed as the general, and lead the troops in battle.

The first battle that we fought as a continental army was at Bunker Hill. As we made our way to the top of the hill, some of the soldiers made nervous chatter. The fear of the soldiers was so thick that it could have been cut by my sword blade. At the top of the hill we were instructed by General Prescott to build fortifications. Using our swords, we made trenches and surrounded them with mounds of dirt. The small dirt mounds would do little to protect us against the mighty British soldiers.

As we waited for the enemy to begin hiking up the hill I clutched the button in my pocket. I knew that Samuel would have loved to have been on that hill, fighting for the place he loved so much. It made me feel braver to know that I wasn't just fighting for me, I was fighting for him, and my father, my mother, my little sister, and all the men whose buttons my father carried in his pocket.



Continental Army building fortifications on Bunker Hill, Charles Granger, <http://www.britishbattles.com>



Storming of Bunker Hill, Don Troiani, www.Dontroiani.com

The incoming soldiers looked like tiny black ants as they rushed up the hill. When they were close enough to look like men we fired at them. When the smoke cleared I watched as the men started to retreat back down the slippery slope. The hill was now dotted with dead and wounded soldiers. After a time, the soldiers came back up the hill in another wave. When the soldiers were so close that I feared their bayonets would pierce me, I fired my weapon.

By the third time the soldiers started mounting the hill we had almost no ammunition left. Once the militia was upon us I fired the few remaining shots I could, then started to sprint as fast as I could down the other side of the hill. As I ran, I felt a piercing pain in my left shoulder. Afterwards I felt the cool metal ball enter my body, I had been shot.

Even though the pain bit into me every time I took a step, I kept a brisk pace until I reached a bridge in the town below. Once I was safely at the bridge I sat and rested, slowly sleep overcame me. I don't know how long I slept, but I was awakened by a tap from a musket on my shoulder.

“Thomas, are you alive?”

When I opened my eyes, General Prescott was standing over me. A medical soldier started cleaning my wound. I breathed a sigh of relief. The war was not over, but we had won another battle against the British army.

To the **Kings** most excellent Majesty

Most gracious sovereign,

We your Majesty's
faithful subjects of the colonies of New-hampshire,
Massachusetts-bay, Rhodeisland and Providence
plantations, Connecticut, & New-York, New-Jersey,
Pennsylvania, the counties of New-Castle Kent &
Sussex in Delaware, & Maryland, Virginia, North-
Carolina and South Carolina in behalf of ourselves
and the inhabitants of these colonies, who have de-
puted us to represent them in general Congress, en-
treat your Majesty's gracious attention to this our
humble petition

The union between our Mother country and
these colonies, and the energy of mild and just govern-
ment, produced benefits so remarkably important, and
afforded such an assurance of their permanency and
increase, that the wonder and envy of other nations were
excited, while they beheld Great Britain rising to a
power the most extraordinary the world had ever known.

Her rivals observing, that there was no
probability of this happy connection being broken
by civil dissensions, and apprehending its future
effects if left any longer undisturbed, resolved to pre-
vent her receiving such continual and formidable
accessions of wealth and strength, by checking the
growth



CHAPTER 12

The Olive Branch Petition

The battle at Bunker Hill boosted the morale of the American colonists. For the first time they believed that they had a fighting chance to win the battle against Great Britain and to have representation in British parliament. It was also a turning point for the British, they realized that the Americans were willing to fight for what they wanted, and they were a much stronger force than they had originally anticipated.

The second continental congress feared that a war would cost many lives. In a final attempt to reconcile with King George, the Second Continental Congress signed the **Olive Branch Petition**, in hopes of sparing the blood of many soldiers. This petition attempted to peacefully negotiate with King George and declared that the colonies were still loyal to Britain. The king refused the Olive Branch Petition, and the plea of the colonies to remain united with England.

The American colonies had been disowned by the mother country. Many of the colonists started to realize that we would never be given representation in England. As long as the colonies were still tied to Great Britain, the colonists would be subject to the mandates of a government in which they had no part. Independence was the only option to keep the new world from becoming enslaved to England.

CHAPTER 13

Independence

In 1770, Even the men who became the founding fathers of the United States didn't know that their fight for representation would become a revolutionary war for independence. But on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress signed the **Declaration of Independence**, listing grievances against King George, defining inalienable rights, and declaring the separation of the American colonies from England. The fight for independence was not over the day that the Declaration of Independence was signed. In fact, it had only just begun.

On Christmas day 1776, I sat huddled in the bitter, December cold with my fellow soldiers on the bank of the Delaware river. We had lost so many battles and I had cut the buttons off five more of my fallen friends. I would have given up were it not for the six buttons in my pocket. These men had given their lives for freedom, I had to finish their fight.

As tears started rolling down my frozen cheeks, one of my commanding officers began reading a speech written by Thomas Paine.

“The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman... The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

Ruston, Gainsborough
Lynnhall Hall,
Gt. Malvern

Joseph H. Moore
Oct. 20

Edward L. Mudge

The Haywards Jail
Shenandoah, Va. Feb.
Arthur Middleton

John Hancock

Samuel Davis
 100 Bush
 New York

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
The Jefferson
Thomas Harrison
H. Wilson Jr.
James Lightfoot Lee
Charles Braxton ...

Robt Moore
Benjamin Russell

John Norton

James Hill
Mt. Top
no change
no change
no change

Dear Sir,
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Susan L. Love
Laura M. Love

Mr. Nathan
Mr. H. H. H.
Mr. H. H. H.
Mr. H. H. H.
Mr. H. H. H.

Frank Barthele
St. Myrille

John Adams
Rev. Mr. Paine

William Ellery
Roger Sherman
John Huntington
The Purvises
Caleb Babbitt
Nathan Brewster



The Hour of Victory, Edward Percy Moran, www.mountvernon.org

The next day we crossed the freezing river and won the battle of Trenton. Many more battles and difficult conflicts followed for the next seven years, until the day of glorious triumph came at last. In 1781, the **Treaty of Paris** was signed making the United States of America a free and independent nation.

Some people might think that the Declaration of Independence made the United States a free nation, but the fight for freedom started long before Thomas Jefferson began penning an official document. It began when explorers crossed the great ocean to find a new world. It continued, as my ancestors and other men and women, left their comfortable lives in England to make a new life across the sea. My father, the men who wore the six buttons he carried, and countless other soldiers did their part in fighting the French and Indian War. My brother, Samuel, and the men who fought by my side during the battles of the revolutionary war also played a part.

Sometimes I take the six buttons out of my pocket and I look at them. I can still picture the faces of each person. Their names, just like my name may one day be forgotten. We do not have a signature at the bottom of the Declaration of Independence, but we gave everything we had for this land. It is a part of us. Our legacy is the freedom and independence found in the United States of America

Glossary of Terms

Coercive Acts: Acts passed by British Parliament in response to the Boston Tea Party. These acts closed the Boston Harbor, restricted town meetings, denied Boston the right to prosecute British officials, and forced colonists to quarter British soldiers. Also known as the Intolerable Acts.

Declaration of Independence: A document written by Thomas Jefferson and signed by the continental congress. This document declared independence from Great Britain and addressed grievances against King George III

First Continental Congress: A meeting in 1774, of delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies. Delegates decided to boycott the tea, and meet again the following year if the relationship between the colonies and Great Britain hadn't improved.

French and Indian War: A war that started in 1754, between France and Great Britain, for power in North America. France and their allies-the American Indians, lost the land between the east coast and the Mississippi River to Great Britain.

Indentured Servants: English laborers who came over to the American Colonies in the 17th century. They worked for four to seven years as farm laborers. At the end of their service they were compensated with land and other goods.

Minutemen: Before the creation of the Continental Army in 1775, colonists formed small militias that would be ready to fight with a moment's notice.

Olive Branch Petition: Document written in 1775 by the second continental congress as a last attempt to reconcile with Great Britain. It was refused by King George III

Proclamation of 1763: Proclamation given by King George III, that forbade colonists from settling the land west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Quarter: To provide food, and shelter to British soldiers.

Stamp Act: A tax on newspapers and official documents in the American colonies. This act was passed by British Parliament in 1765.

Townshend Acts: British tax, imposed on American colonists in 1767, to help pay for the war debt of the French and Indian War. Taxes were collected on paper, tea, glass, paint and lead.

Treaty of Paris: A treaty signed by Great Britain and the United States in 1783. This treaty officially ended the Revolutionary War, and Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation.

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