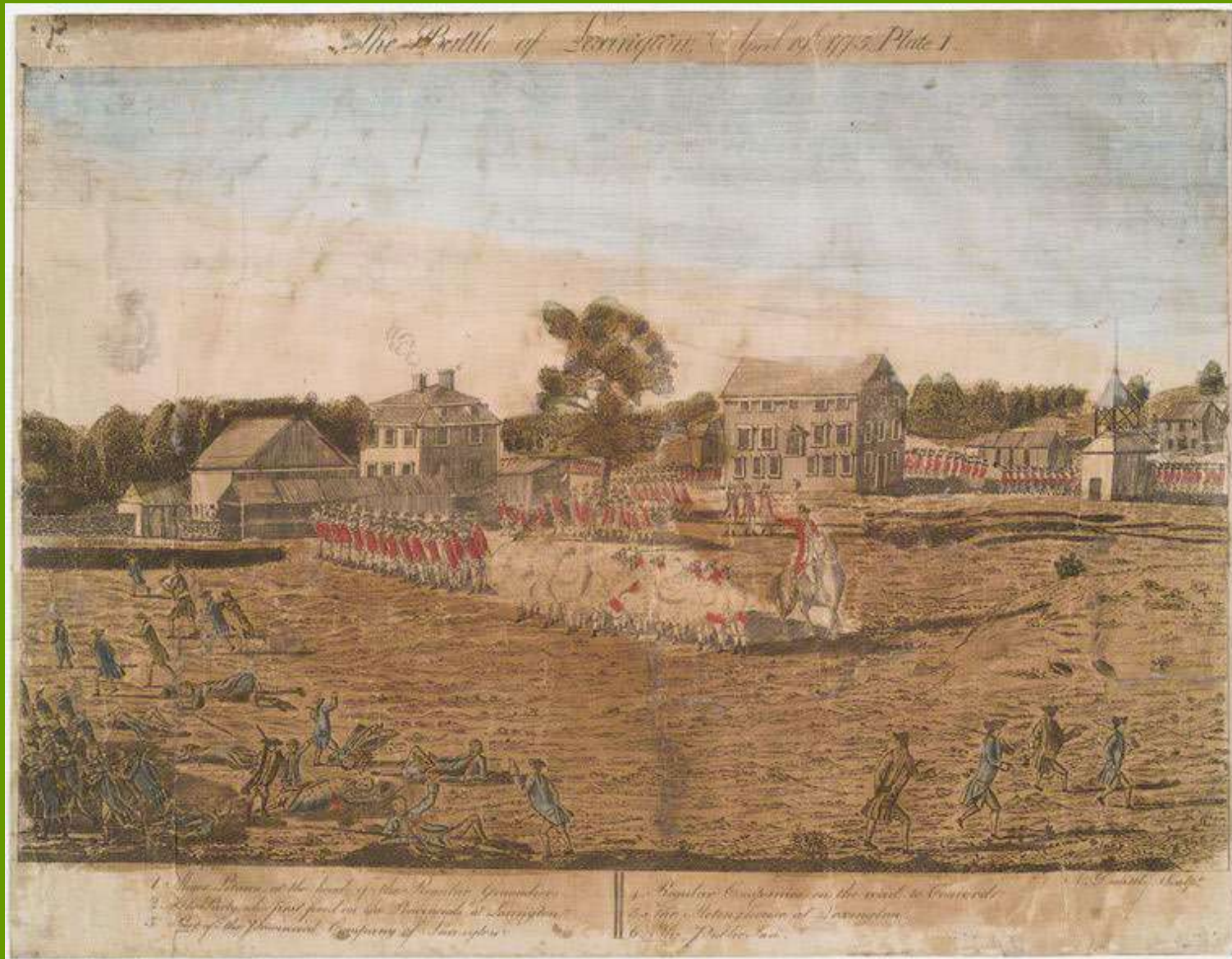


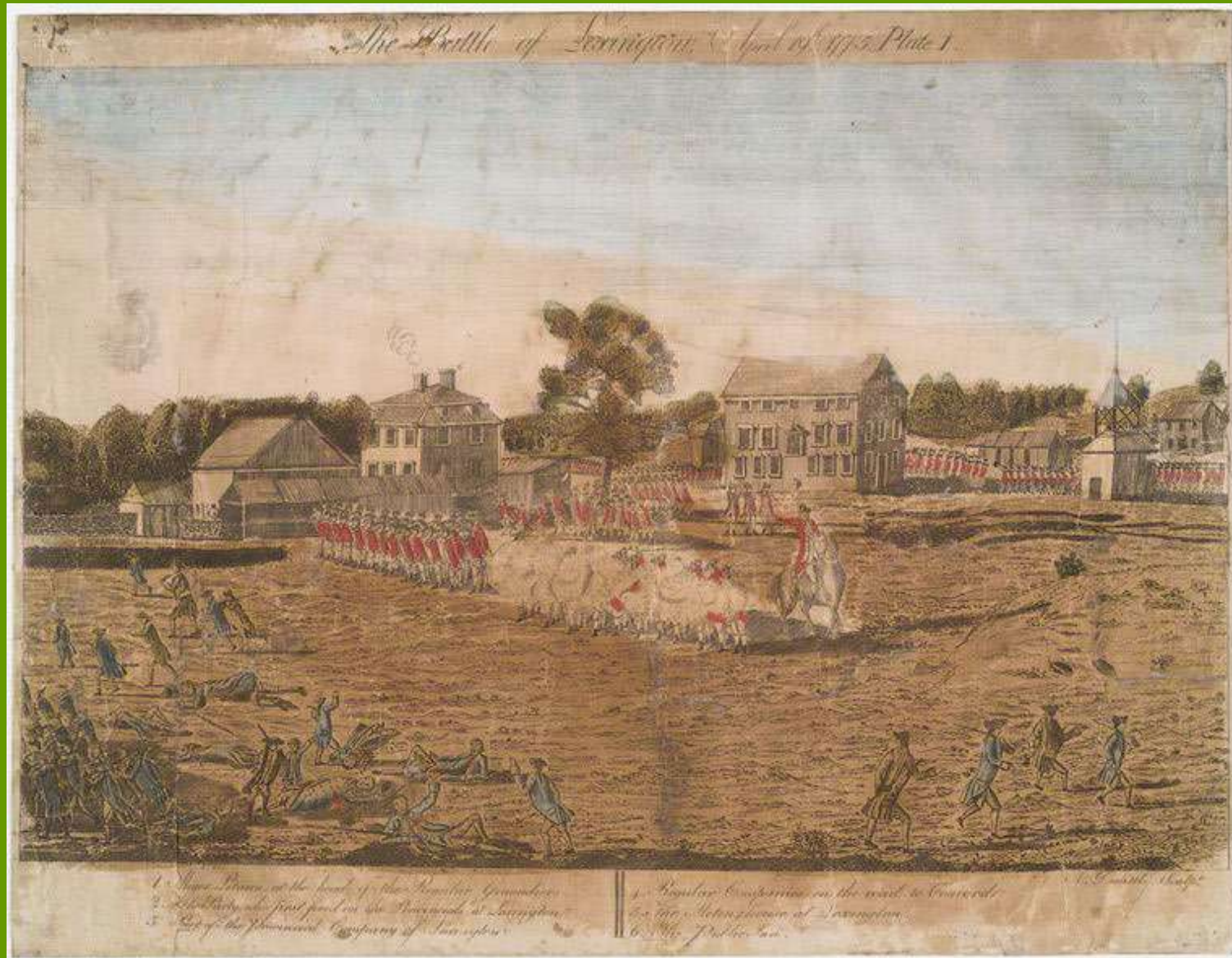
# LEQ: Where was the first battle of the American Revolution?



Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) was an American engraver and silversmith who visited the sites of Lexington and Concord. He also interviewed eyewitnesses to the battles. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

LEQ: Where was the first battle of the American Revolution?

**Lexington, Massachusetts**



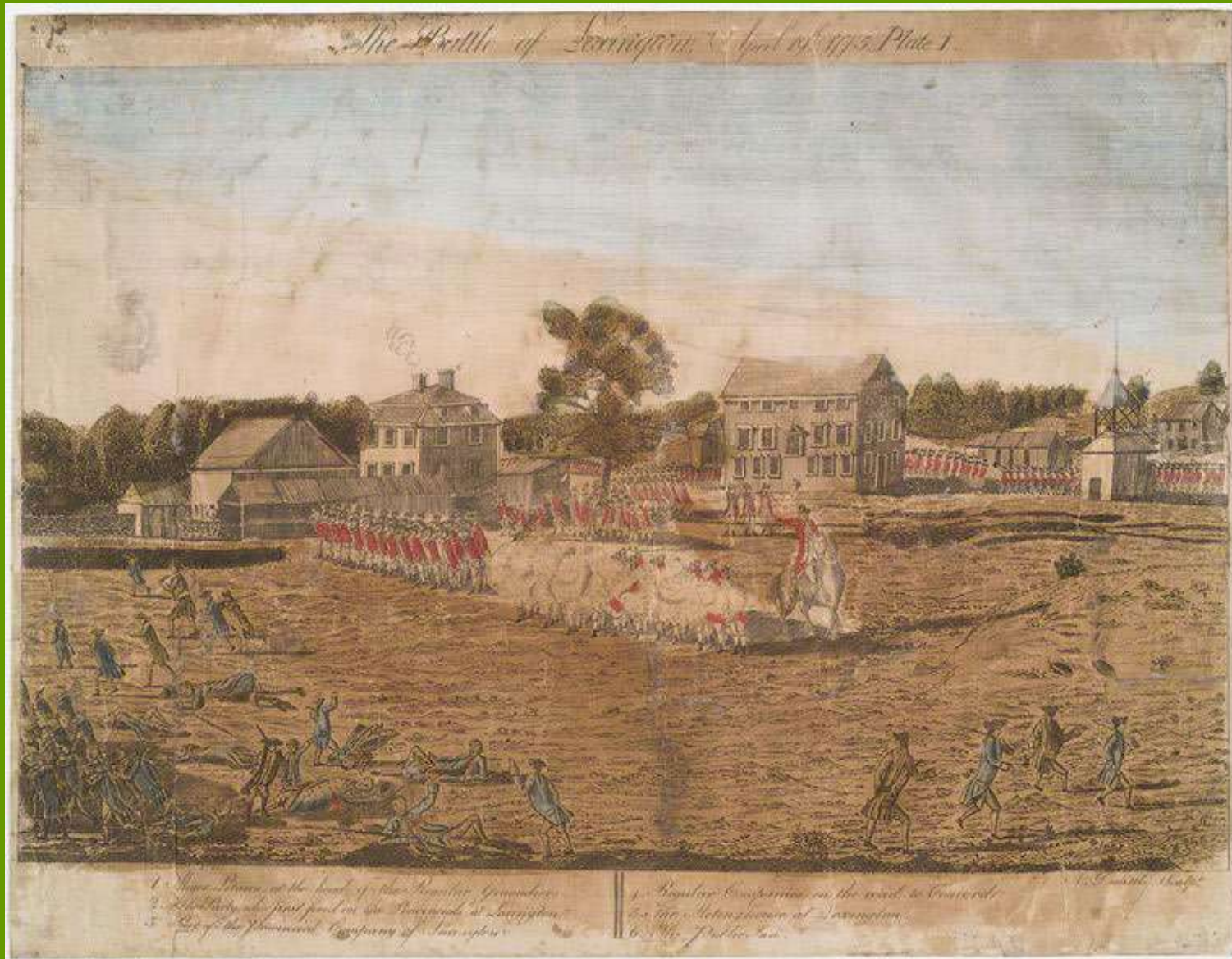
Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) was an American engraver and silversmith who visited the sites of Lexington and Concord. He also interviewed eyewitnesses to the battles. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

# The American Revolution Begins



Some events that occurred in the American Revolution included clockwise from top left to right: Battle of Bunker Hill, the death of General Montgomery at the Battle of Quebec, the Battle of Cowpens, and the Battle of Cape St. Vincent. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

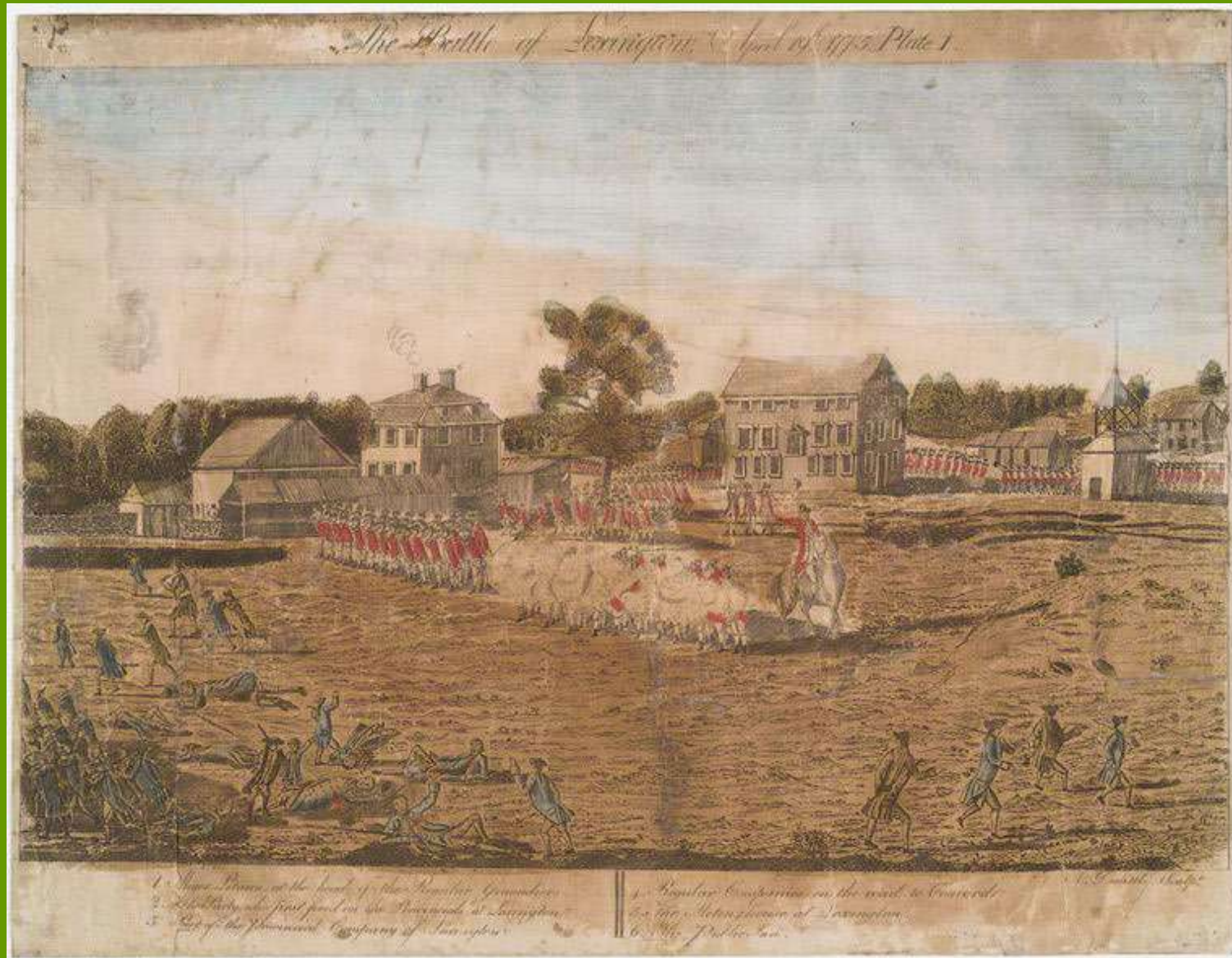
# LEQ: Where was the first battle of the American Revolution?



Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) was an American engraver and silversmith who visited the sites of Lexington and Concord. He also interviewed eyewitnesses to the battles. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

**LEQ:** Where was the first battle of the American Revolution fought?

**Lexington, Massachusetts**



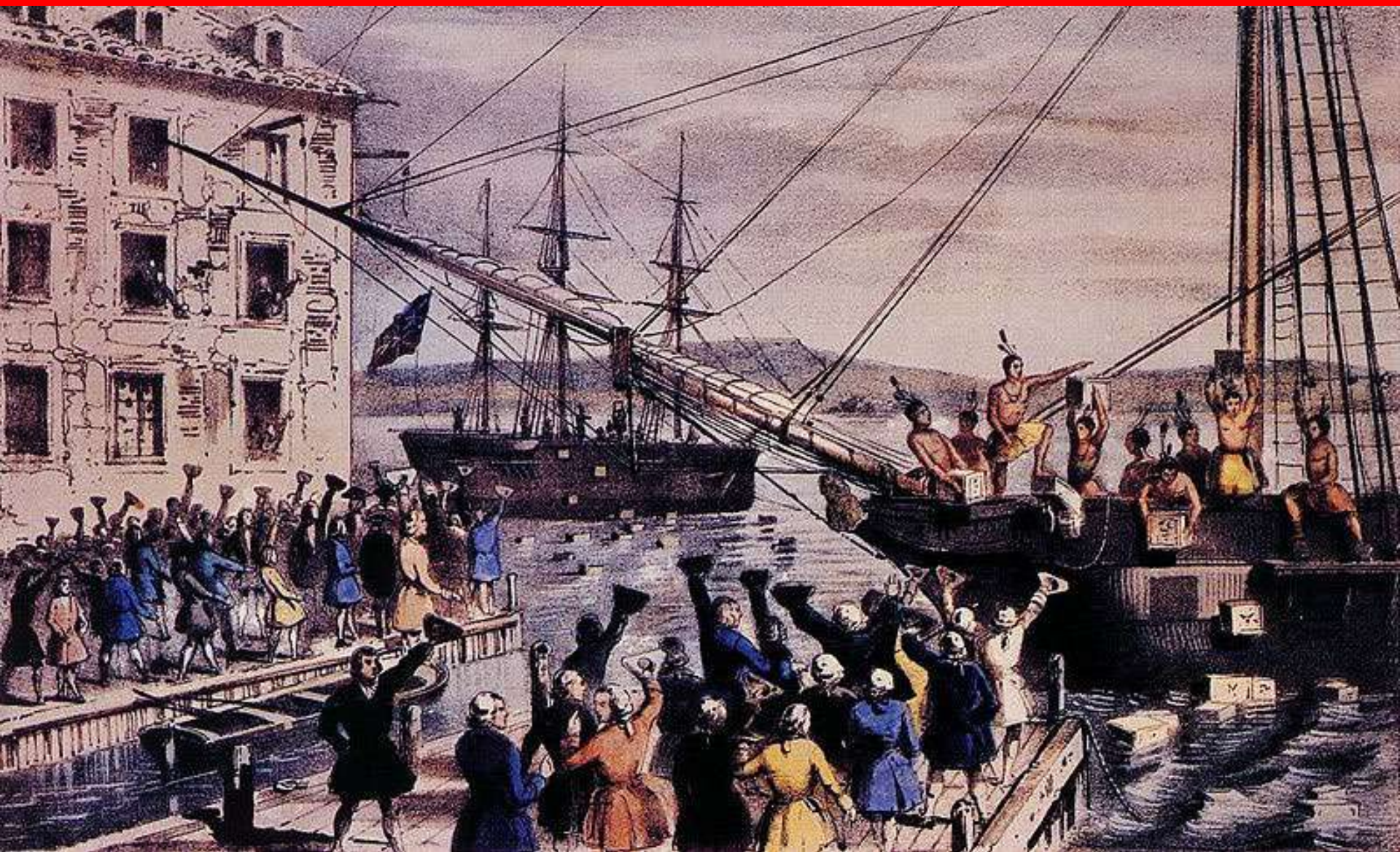
Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) was an American engraver and silversmith who visited the sites of Lexington and Concord. He also interviewed eyewitnesses to the battles. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Following the Boston Tea Party the British Parliament passed a series of four laws which were meant to force the colonists to do what Parliament wished.



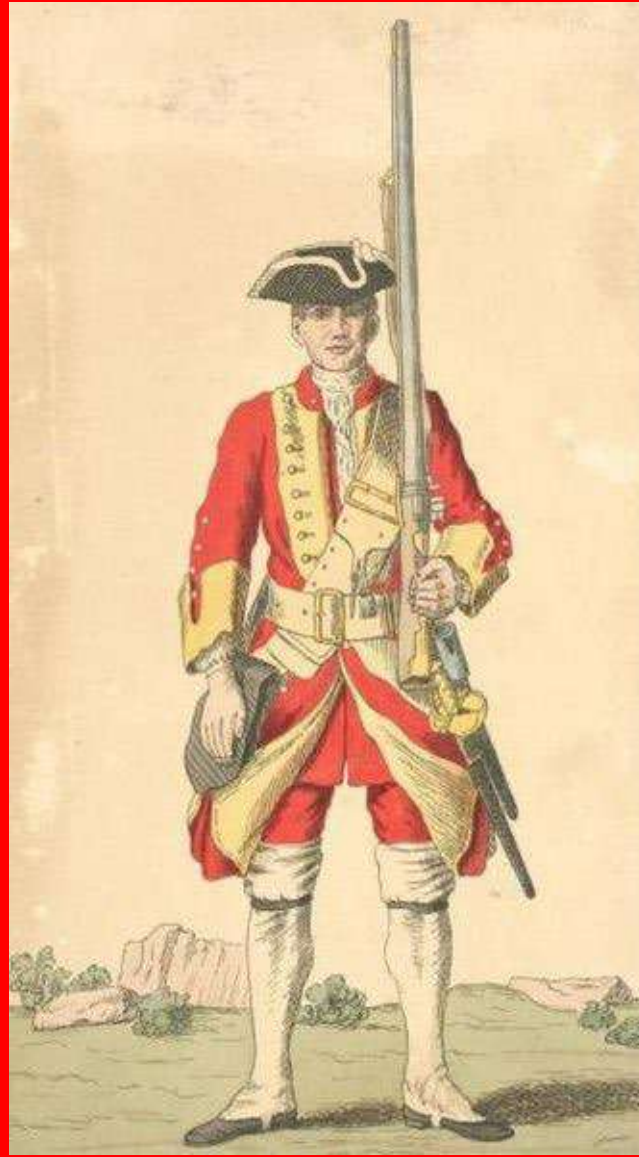
These laws were called the Coercive Acts, and they were known to the colonists as the Intolerable Acts. This engraving by Franz Habermann shows Boston and its harbor. Two ships are at anchor, and British soldiers and other men are working. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

One of the Coercive Acts closed the port of Boston until payment was made for the tea.



"The Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor" was painted in 1846 by Nathaniel Currier. It depicts some colonists disguised as Native Americans. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

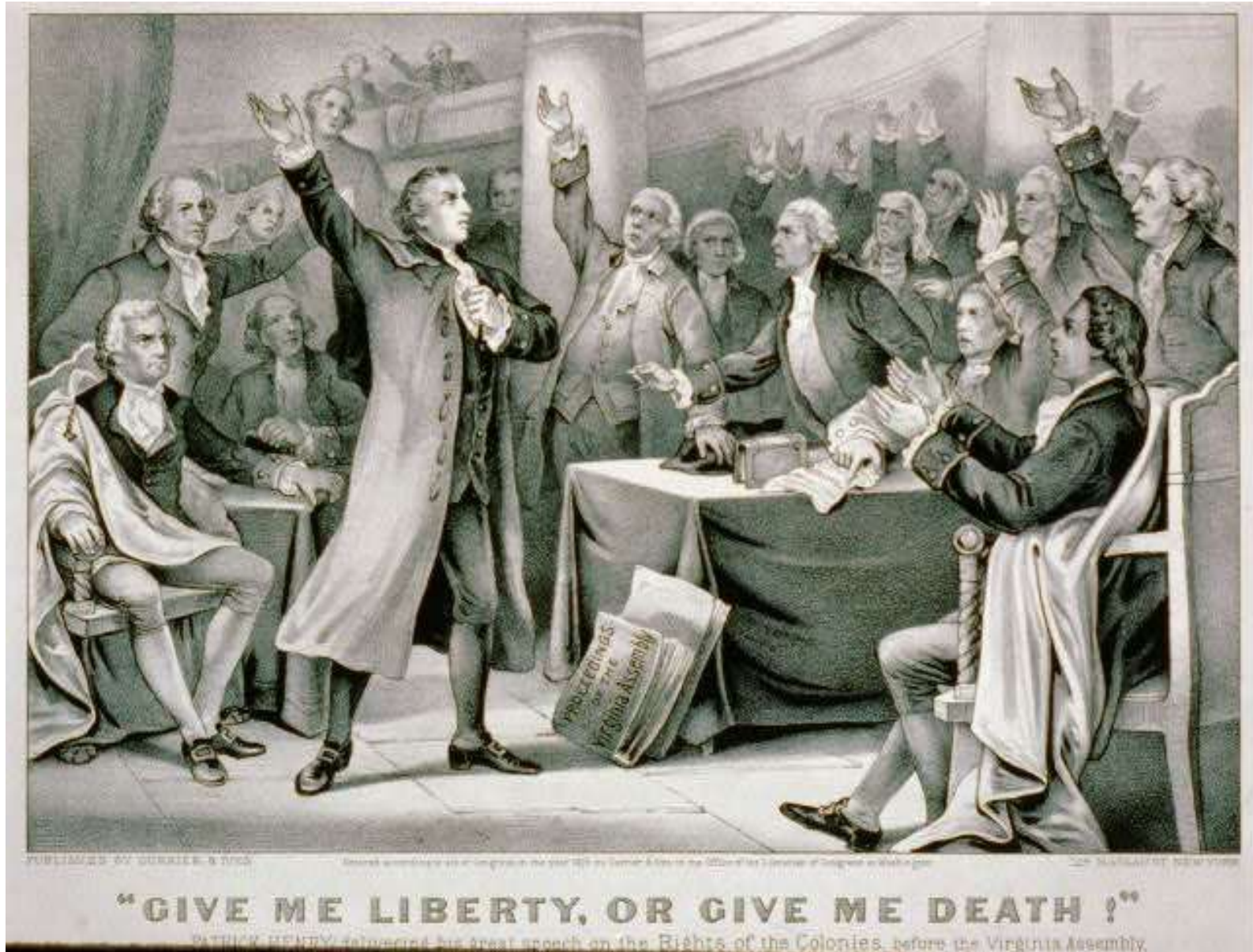
Another of the Coercive Acts provided that British troops could be quartered in any town in the colonies, although in buildings that were unoccupied.



This is a drawing of a soldier in the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the British Army. The 29<sup>th</sup>'s Grenadier Company fired on civilians during the "Boston Massacre." This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



## Another Coercive Act closed down colonial Legislatures.



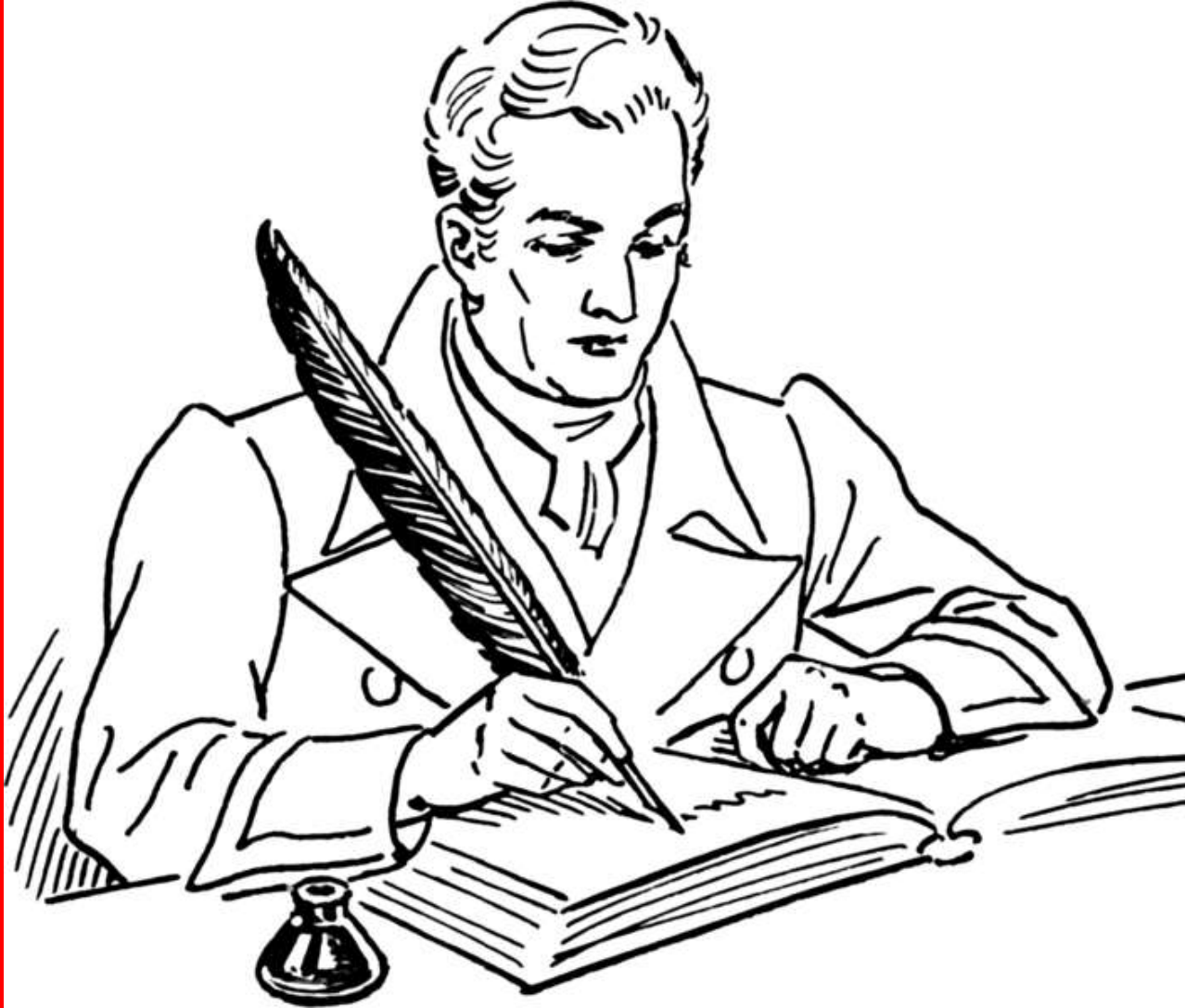
Colonial assemblies had to find other places to meet besides the old colonial capitols. The words “Give me liberty, or give me Death!” were delivered by Patrick Henry before the Virginia Assembly at Richmond, Virginia on March 23, 1775. This is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

With letters filled with information sent to newspapers across America, the Committees of Correspondence united the colonists more than ever before.



This painting shows a meeting in Belmont Hall located in Smyrna, Delaware. Political meetings were held in this house from 1772 until the adoption of the Federal Constitution in 1789. This image is courtesy of [belmonthall.org](http://belmonthall.org).

A call went out for delegates from each colony to meet and discuss their common concerns.



Most of the writing during the Colonial period was created by quill pens made from a moulted flight feather of a large bird, such as a goose. The quills were dipped in a bottle of ink. This image by Pearson Scott Foresman is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In 1774, 56 delegates from every colony except Georgia met in Philadelphia to form what became known as the First Continental Congress.



The First Continental Congress met in Carpenter's Hall, which is shown at the end of this street. This image was taken facing southwest by Robert Housch on July 30, 2009.

Carpenter's Hall was a new structure, and wasn't completed before the First Continental Congress met here.



Carpenters Hall was completed in 1775. It was a meeting place of a group of Philadelphia master builders known as the Carpenters' Company. The Carpenters banded together to set architectural standards and prices. They also provided aid for family members if needed. This image by Robert Housch was taken facing northwest on July 30, 2009.

Discussions were difficult because each colony had its own needs and viewpoints.



When the First Continental Congress met, Carpenter's Hall was very plainly furnished with yellow pine boards, simple moldings around the windows and doors, and untrimmed fireplaces. This image was taken by Robert Housch on July 30, 2009.

The most outspoken criticisms of Parliament came from the colonies of Massachusetts and Virginia.



The figures in the left foreground are from left to right, John Adams, Patrick Henry, and Samuel Adams. This is an artist's conception of them meeting outside Carpenter's Hall during the sessions of the First Continental Congress in the autumn of 1774. This image by Robert Housch was taken from the National Park Service wayside exhibit outside Carpenter's Hall on July 30, 2009.

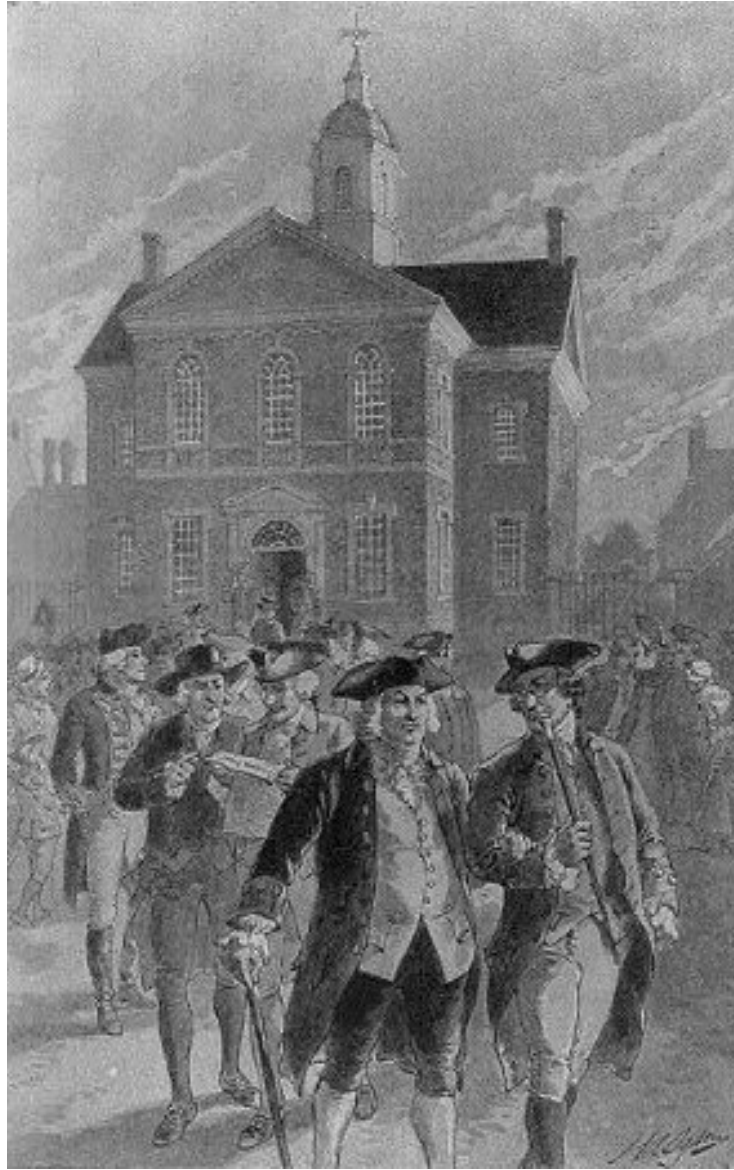
The delegates approved Massachusetts' plan for arming and training a militia.



In Massachusetts, all “free men,” ages 16 to 60, were required to serve in their town’s militia company. This image is from the “Conflicting Duties” wayside exhibit at Minute Man National Historical Park.



# The Continental Congress met for a month and a half.



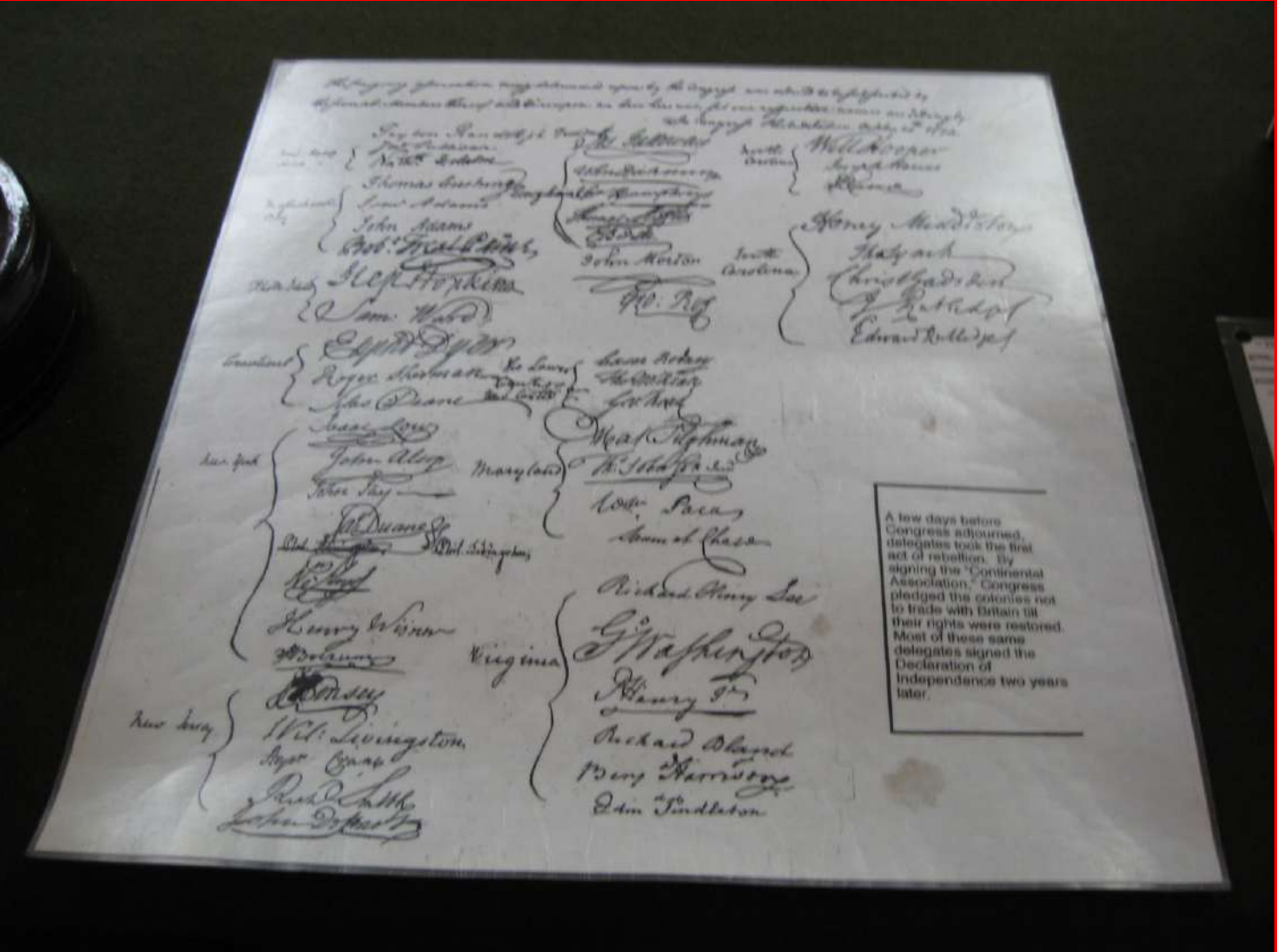
The First Continental Congress met from September 5-October 26, 1774. This drawing is titled "Delegates Leaving Carpenters' Hall After a Session." It was created by Henry Alexander Ogden (1856-1936), and is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The delegates of the Continental Congress issued a statement that as Englishmen, they were entitled to “life, liberty, and property.”



This image by French engraver Francois Godefroy (1743?-1819) is titled “Premiere Assemblée du Congres.” It depicts the First Continental Congress in Carpenter’s Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in September, 1774. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Their statement went on to declare that the colonists would never give up one of these rights against their will.



The delegates to the First Continental Congress placed their signatures on a document titled the "Continental Association." They pledged not to trade with Britain until their rights were restored. George Washington's signature is near the bottom of the document. This image was taken by Robert Housch on July 30, 2009.

The Congress insisted that they, and the people they represented, were loyal subjects of King George III.



King George III of the United Kingdom (1738-1820) is shown in a General Officer's coat in 1771. It was painted by Johann Zoffany (1733-1810). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

However, a crisis was quickly approaching.



American colonists confront British soldiers in a painting by E. Percy Moran (1862-1935) titled "The First Resistance." This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

During the winter of 1774, Parliament debated ways to respond to the colonists.



From the 1600s to the early 1800s the British Parliament met in St. Stephens Chapel. This is the House of Commons circa 1710. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

William Pitt, the former Prime Minister who won the French and Indian War for Great Britain argued that British troops should be withdrawn from America.



William Pitt (1708-1778) was a “Whig,” and was known as the “Great Commoner.” He twice served as Prime Minister of Great Britain although he did not hold that office during these events. This painting was created by William Hoare (1707-1792) circa 1754. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

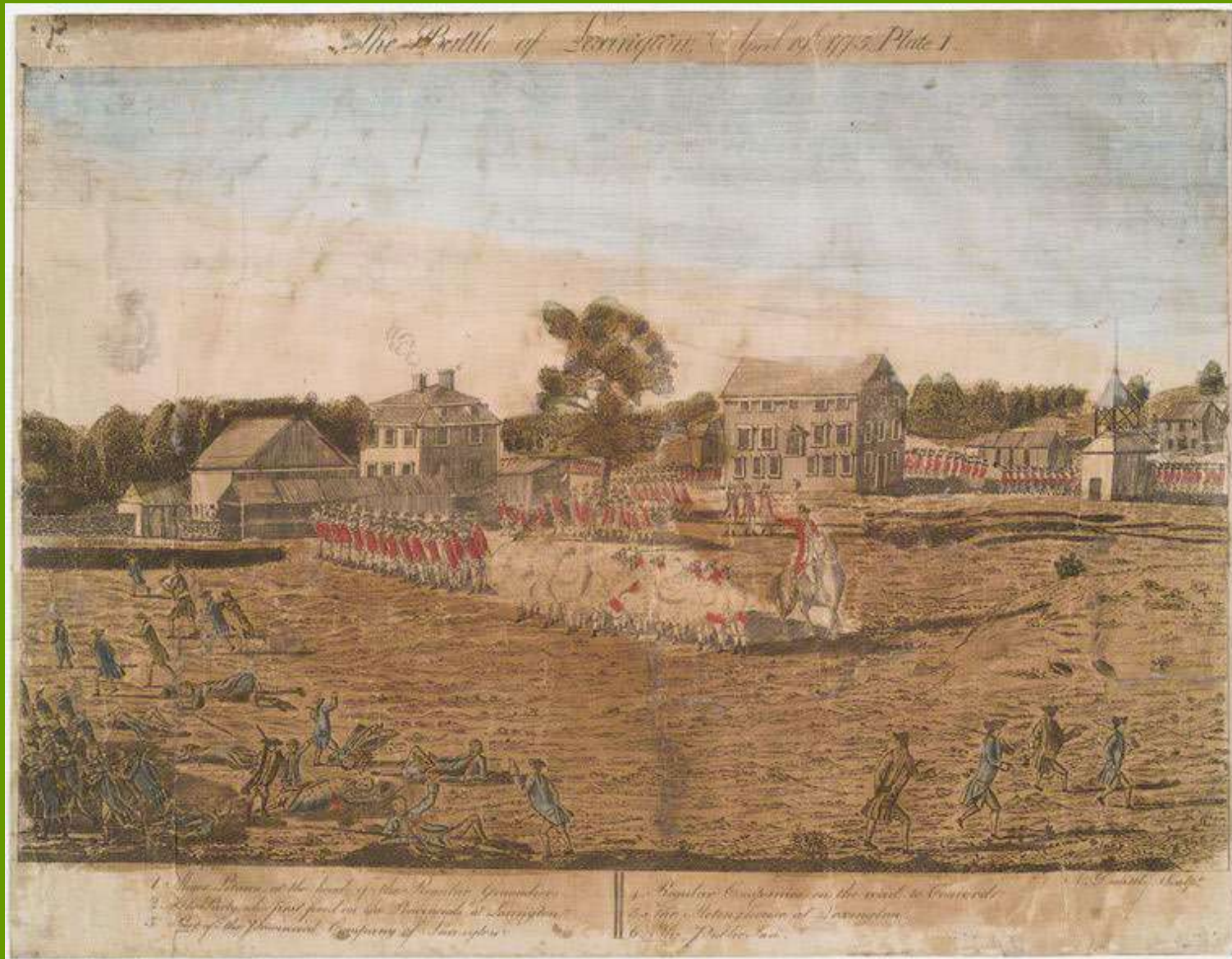
King George III and his advisers, however, would not listen. They saw the colonies as disobedient children.



The event pictured in this cartoon took place after the American Revolution. King George III (on the left, his face hidden by the pillar) is removing from his presence those who wanted to give equal rights to Catholics. This image by James Gilray was created in 1807. It is courtesy of the Library of Congress.



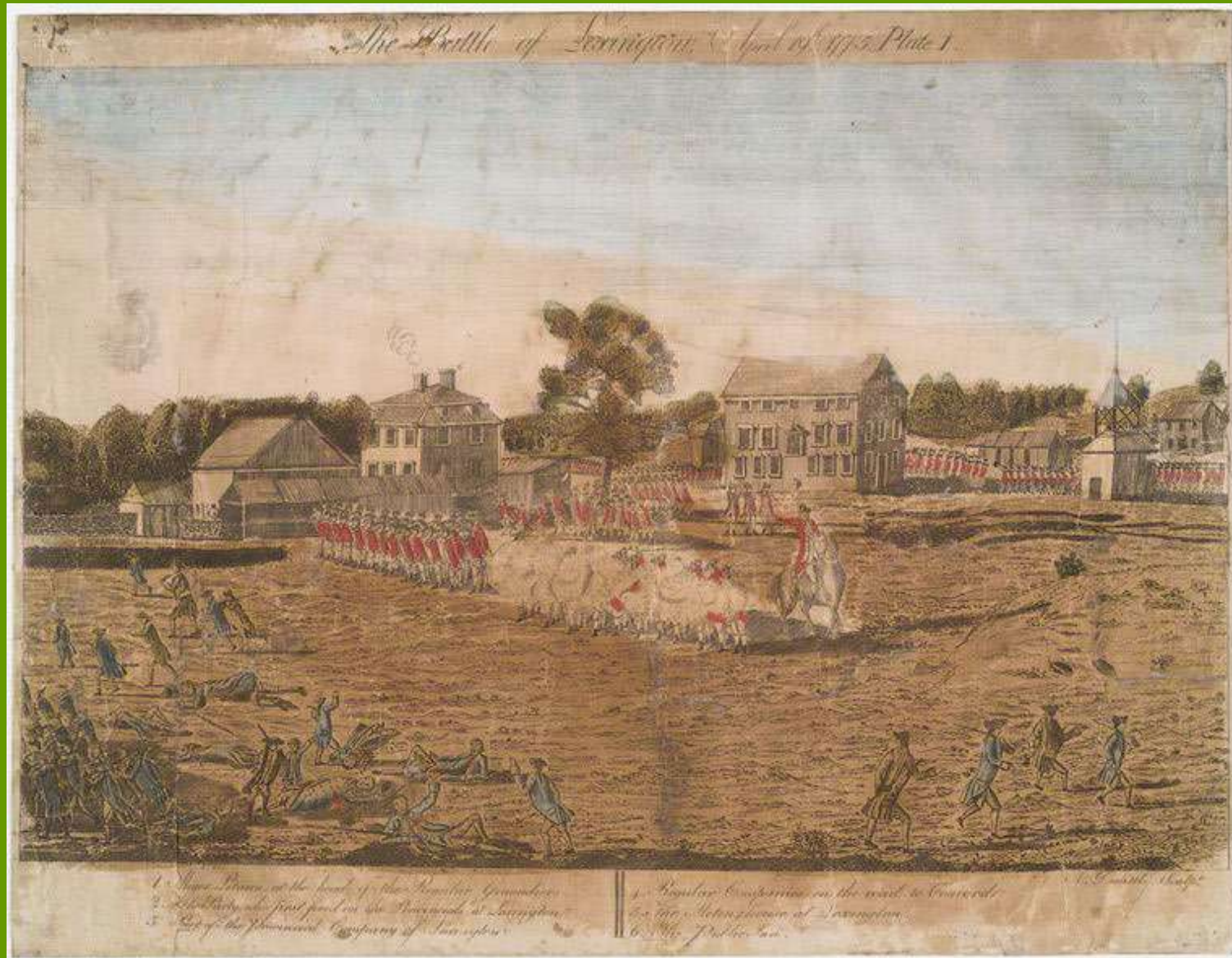
# LEQ: Where was the first battle of the American Revolution?



Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) was an American engraver and silversmith who visited the sites of Lexington and Concord. He also interviewed eyewitnesses to the battles. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

LEQ: Where was the first battle of the American Revolution?

**Lexington, Massachusetts**



Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) was an American engraver and silversmith who visited the sites of Lexington and Concord. He also interviewed eyewitnesses to the battles. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

# The American colonists began to arm themselves.



The British Land Pattern Musket, was commonly referred to as the “Brown Bess.” This weapon, and various patterns based on the Brown Bess, was used from 1722-1838 by both the British Army and by the United States Army. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Daily tensions between the colonists and British soldiers grew.



This image shows an event that occurred well before the American Revolution. Civilians were not happy that soldiers were leaving Fort Frederica, Georgia. This image was taken in the Fort Frederica National Historic Site Visitor Center by Robert Housch circa April 23, 2011.

Some of the farmers and artisans in the militia, drilling on the village greens, were called “Minutemen” because they could be ready to fight at a minute’s notice.



“The Minute Man” is a statue by Daniel Chester French erected in Concord, Massachusetts in 1875. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In the Virginia House of Burgesses, Patrick Henry said: "...I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"



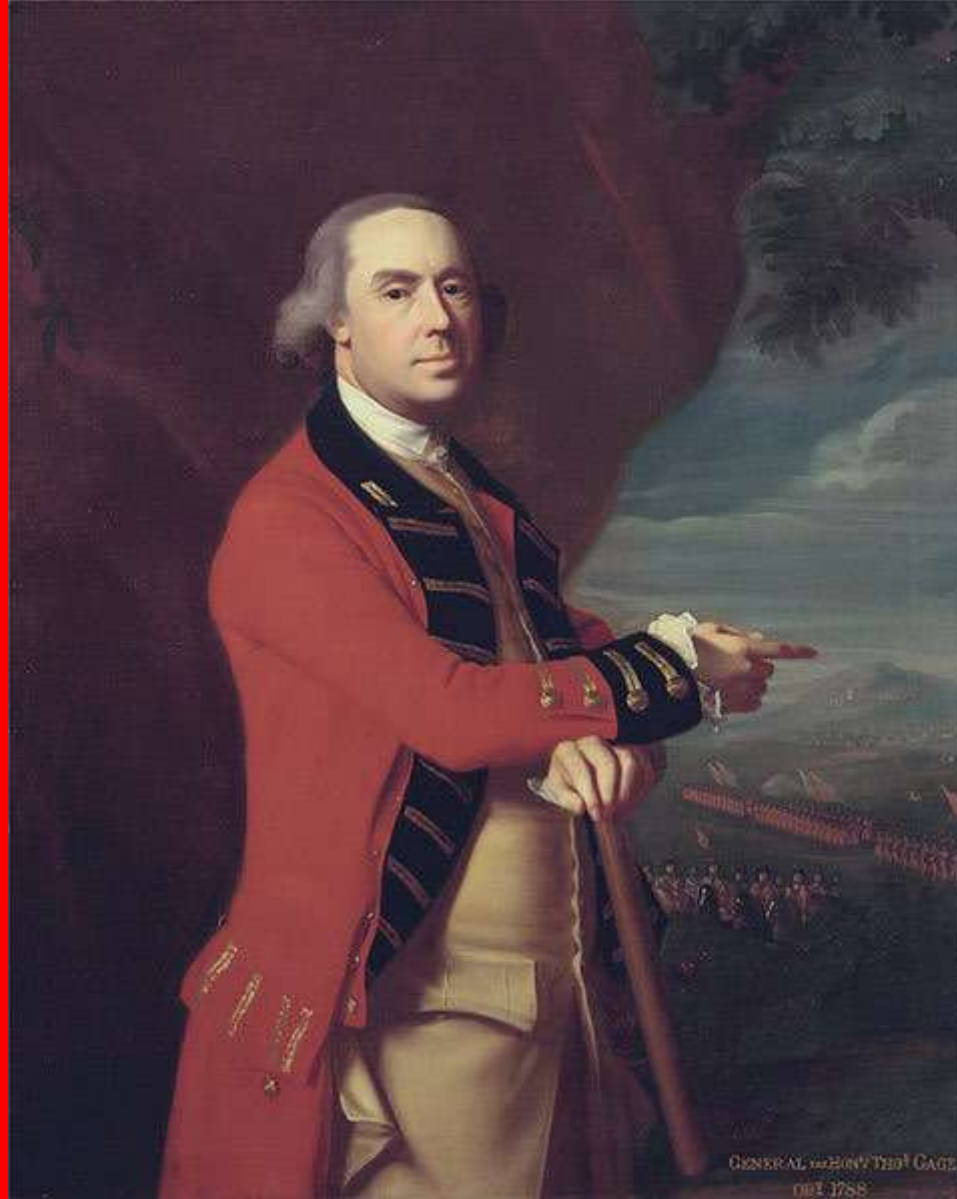
When Patrick Henry spoke before the Virginia Assembly on March 23, 1775, they were meeting in St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia because the Burgesses had been barred from meeting at the colonial Capitol. This image is from Mara L. Pratt's *American's Story for America's Children* published in 1901.

A warning system was developed to alert the countryside when the British “Regulars” were going to march.



Paul Revere, and William Dawes were the most famous riders who rode through the towns from Boston to Concord warning the locals that the British army was on the march. There were also other backup riders whose names have been lost to history. This image is courtesy of the National Archives.

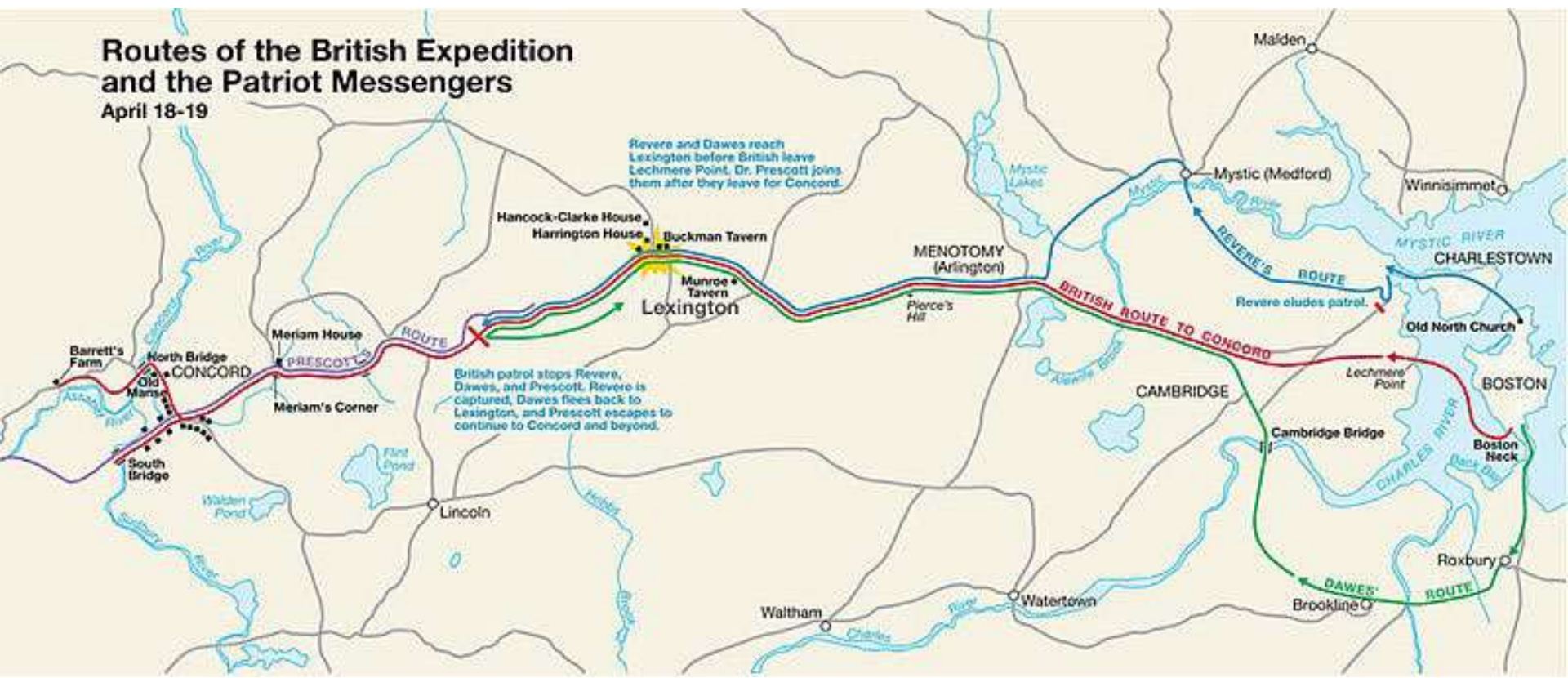
American spies heard that British General Thomas Gage was sending soldiers to take the colonists' supply of guns and gunpowder stored in Concord.



General Thomas Gage served as commander-in-chief of British forces in North America from 1763-1775. This image was painted in 1788 by John Singleton Copley (1738-1815). It is courtesy of the Yale Center for British Art.



The British planned to march from Boston to Concord. What the American spies didn't know was **would the British go all the way by land, or partly be water?**



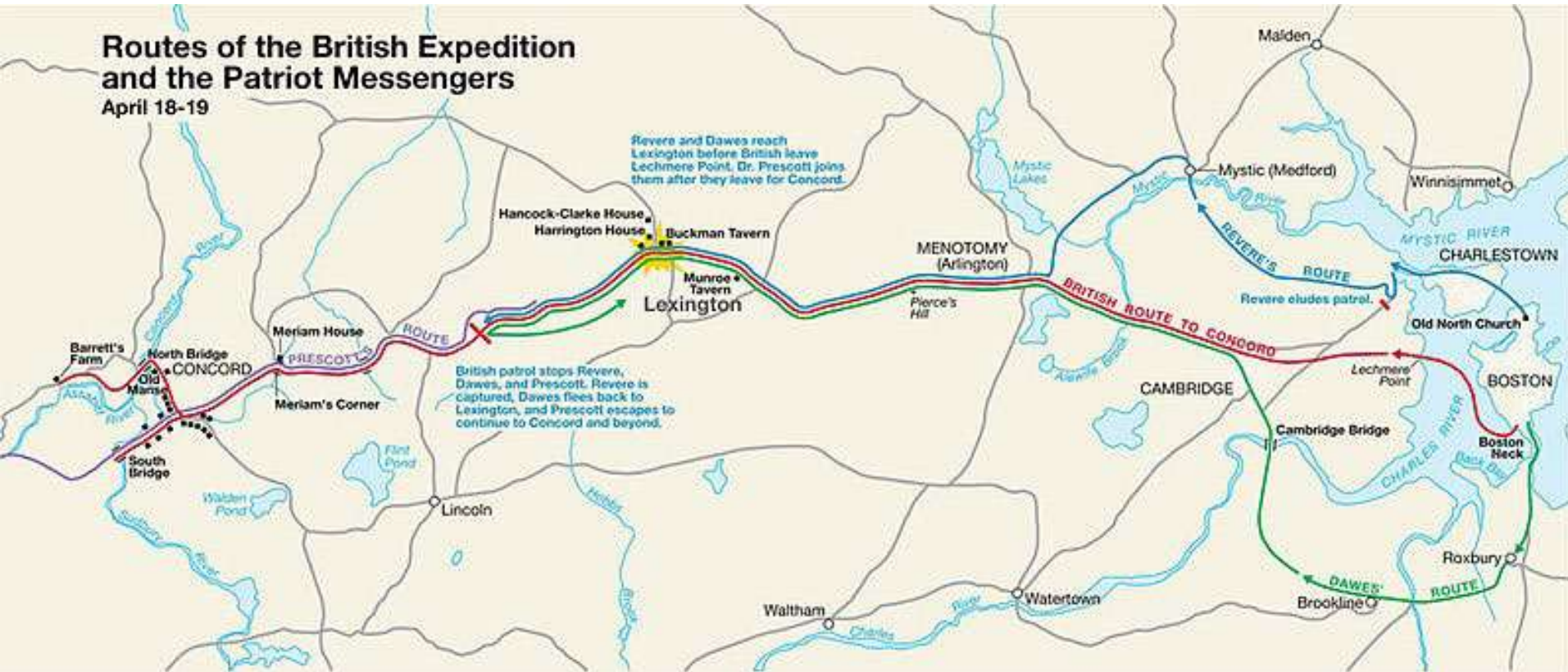
Ahead of the British would be the Patriot riders warning the towns along the way. This map is oriented to the north, or is facing in the direction of north. Boston is on the far right or east. Concord is on the far left or west. It is approximately 20 miles from Boston to Concord. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Dr. Joseph Warren planned to flash one light from the Old North Church bell tower if the British were leaving Boston by land and two lights if they were going by water.



While Dr. Warren was in charge of the overall warning operation, he did not climb the steps to the steeple. Christ Church Sexton Robert Newman and Vestryman John Pulling carried and lit the lanterns. The steeple at the time of the Revolutionary War was destroyed by a fire in 1804. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

Spies informed Dr. Warren that at first the British **would travel by water.**



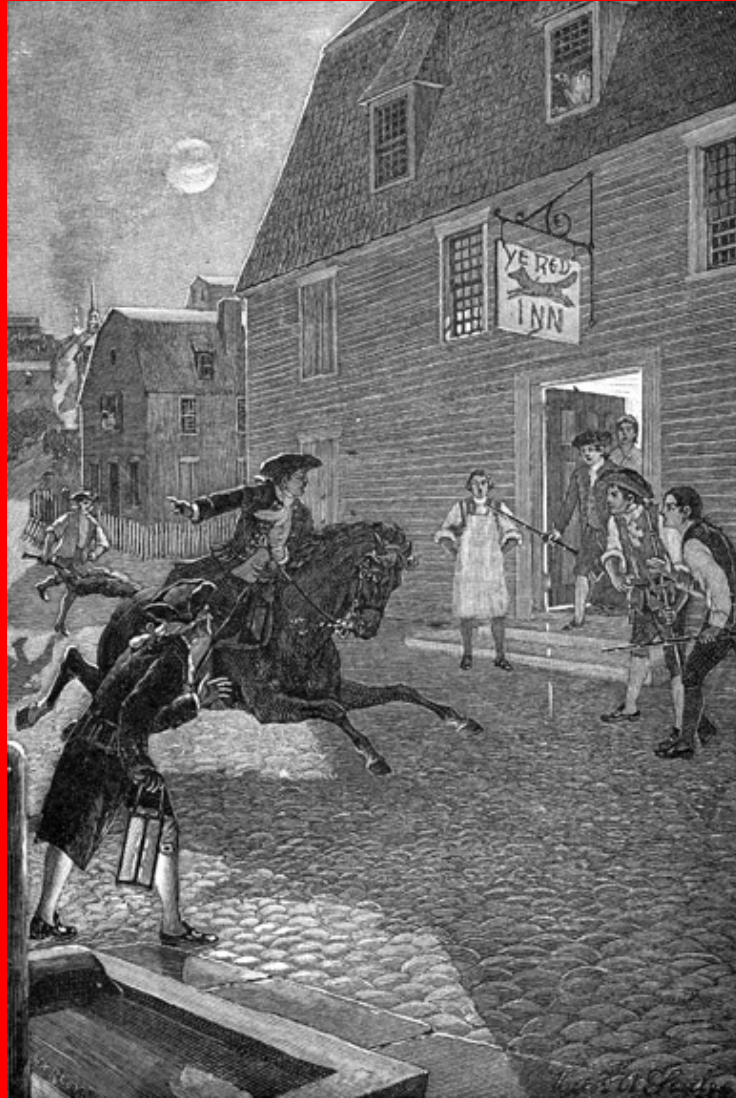
Going by water meant the British soldiers would use boats to cross the Charles River instead of using the "Boston Neck" and going entirely by land. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Two lanterns were displayed in the church tower to inform riders who were supposed to warn the colonists.



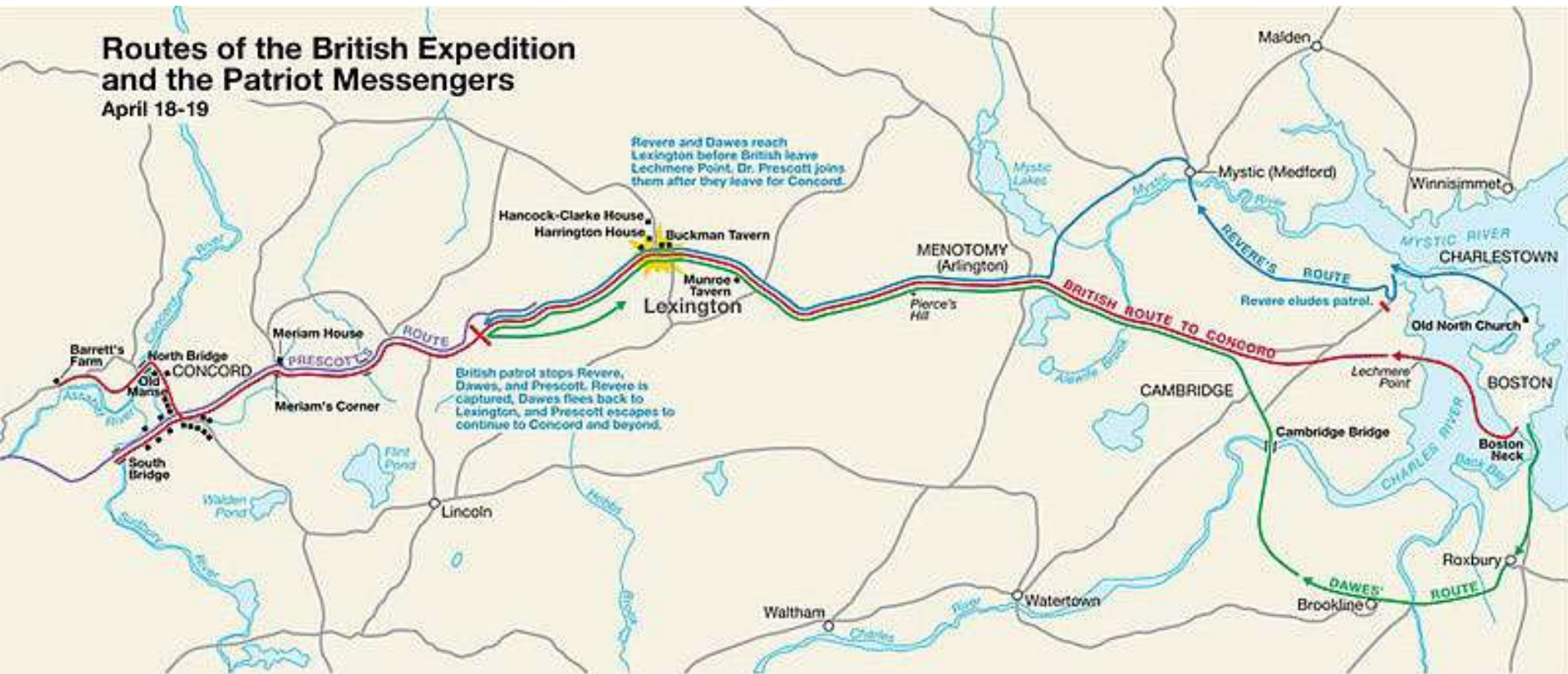
The signal was to be one lantern if the British were going by land, and two lanterns if they were using the water. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

Immediately multiple riders jumped on their horses and galloped to towns in the region, and especially near the expected marching route.



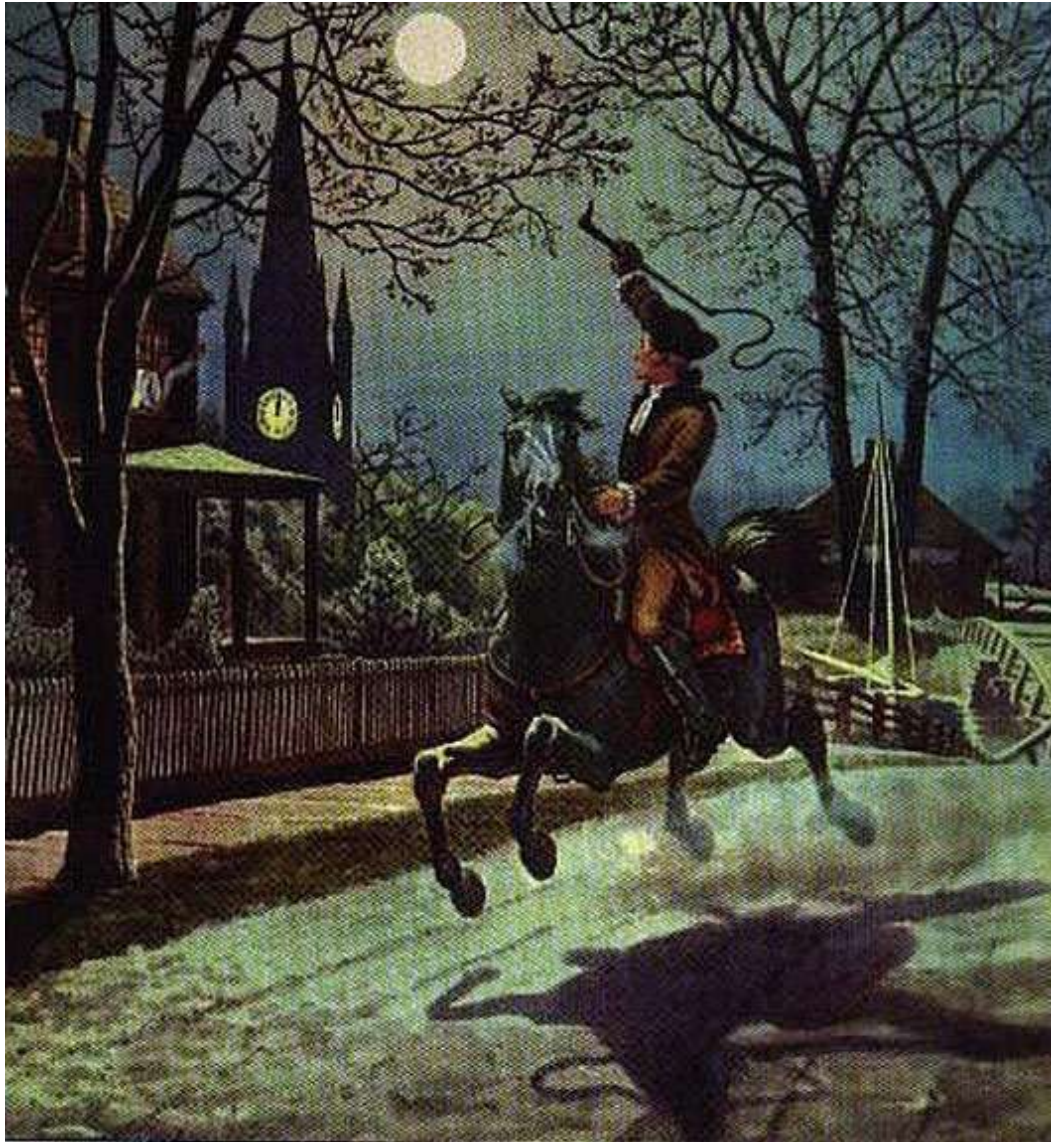
There were backup riders because nobody knew which riders which get through or which ones would be arrested. Although there may have been as many as 40 riders warning the towns and other riders, Paul Revere has received the most publicity because of an 1861 poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow titled "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere." This image is from D. H. Montgomery's *The Beginner's American History* published in 1902.

Paul Revere went north by water, and William Dawes went south by land.



The rebels expected that the British might close Boston and both riders might not make it through. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Although legend and a famous poem about the event has the riders such as Paul Revere yelling “The British are Coming!” most of the people in America considered themselves to be British and that wouldn’t make much sense.



They might have shouted “the Regulars are out!” or “the Regulars are coming!” or “the Redcoats are coming,” meaning the regular, full time soldiers in the British army, who wore red uniforms, not part time militiamen. The famous poem is called “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow written in 1861. This image is courtesy of [mssimonsays.weebly.com](http://mssimonsays.weebly.com).

Paul Revere, and a half an hour after him, William Dawes, at Lexington, Massachusetts warned Samuel Adams and John Hancock that the British soldiers were coming, and might attempt to capture them.



Hancock and Samuel Adams had been part of a rebel assembly meeting in nearby Concord, Massachusetts. They were staying at a home in Lexington where Hancock grew up. It is now known as the Hancock-Clarke house. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.



Paul Revere, William Dawes, and a young doctor that they met in Lexington named Samuel Prescott then rode towards Concord to alert farmers along the way that the British Regulars were coming.



Dr. Samuel Prescott, who was from Concord, had been in Lexington on a social visit to see a young lady. He was returning from the visit and was near Lexington when he met Revere and Dawes. This image is from the wayside exhibit "Midnight Riders" at Minute Man National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

Approximately halfway between Lexington and Concord, Dawes and Prescott were warning some farmers when a British patrol on horseback blocked the road.



At first there were four horsemen. Revere attempted to escape through some woods. This photograph was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

Revere was captured. Dawes was able to escape as he turned and rode back to Lexington.



Revere was questioned, held for a while, and then released by the British officers after they took his horse. Revere walked back to Lexington in time to hear the gunfire at dawn on the town green. Dawes fell off his horse near Lexington and also wasn't able to complete his ride. This image is from the "Paul Revere Captured!" wayside at Minute Man National Historical Park. The photograph of the image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

Samuel Prescott, not Paul Revere or William Dawes, carried the alarm to Concord and beyond.



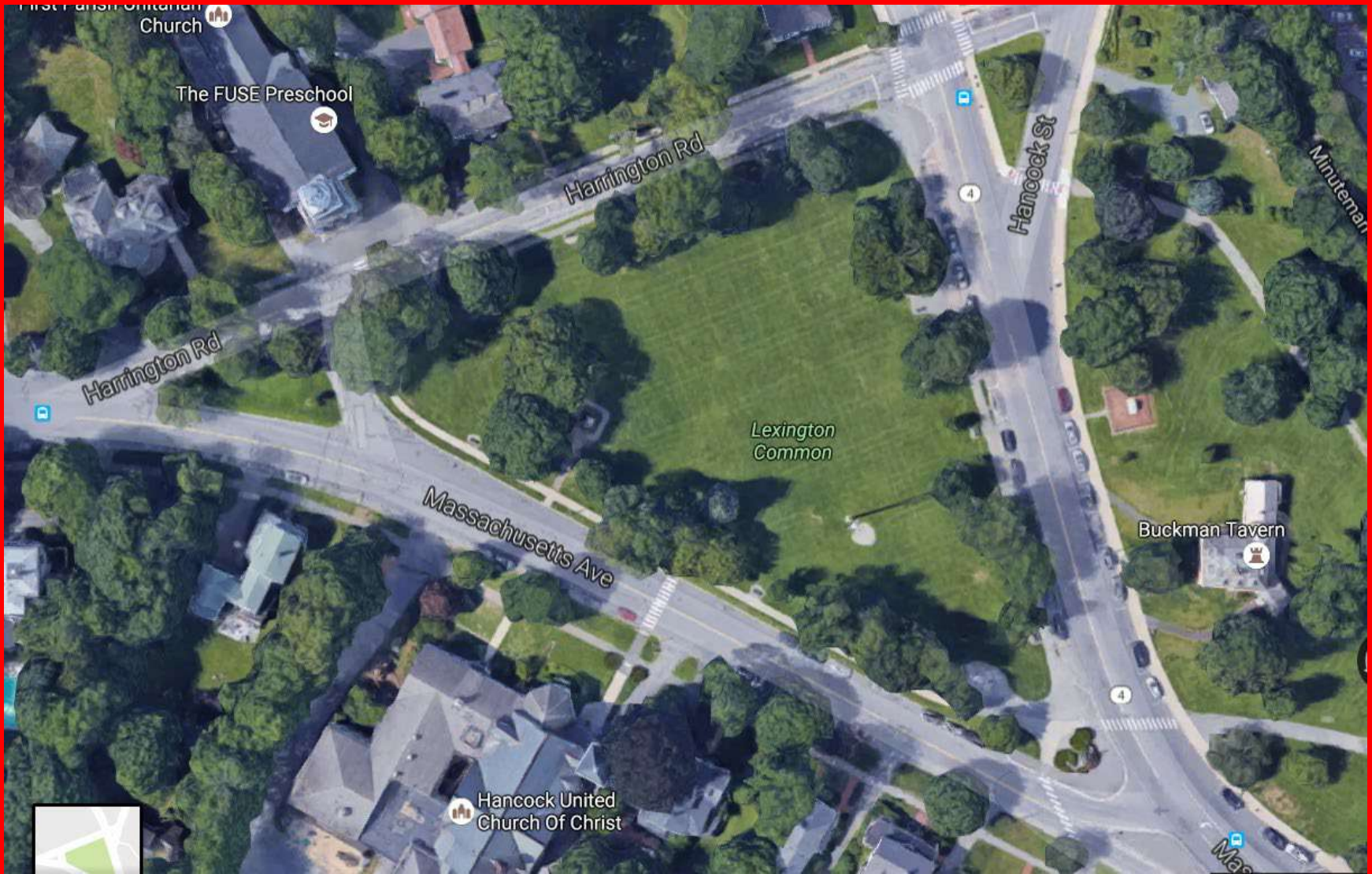
Dr. Samuel Prescott (1751-1777) warned Concord and Acton, Massachusetts. He witnessed the Battle of Concord, then rode back to Lexington and became a volunteer surgeon there for approximately two weeks. There is evidence that he was a surgeon in the Continental Army and died during the war. This image is in the Visitors Center of Minute Man National Historical Park. The photograph of the image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

# The “Battle” of Lexington



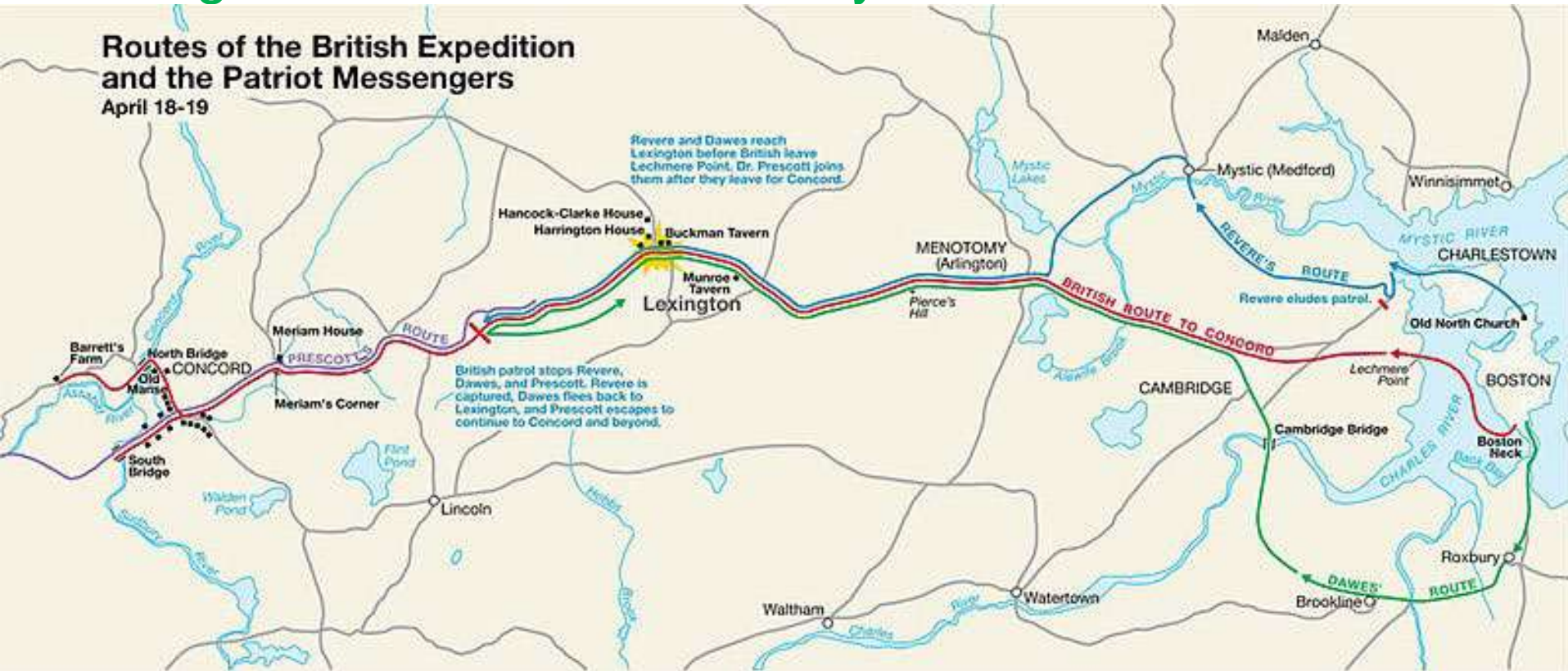
This image, titled “The Battle of Lexington” was painted by Alonzo Chappel (1828-1887) circa 1875. This image is courtesy of [arttrans.com.ua](http://arttrans.com.ua).

Approximately 250 British soldiers reached Lexington, a town on the way to Concord, soon after dawn on April 19<sup>th</sup>.



This is an aerial view of the Lexington Common or Green. The British approached from the bottom right, moving to the left. The total British force was 700. The rest were behind the group of 250 that first entered Lexington. This image is courtesy of google.com.

# Lexington is a little over half way from Boston to Concord.



Concord is almost 20 miles from Boston. Lexington is approximately 13 miles from Boston. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Waiting for the British soldiers were approximately 70 militia men armed with weapons on Lexington Green.



Lexington Militia Captain John Parker instructed his men, "Do not fire unless fired upon; but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here." This image is courtesy of [lexingtonminutemen.com](http://lexingtonminutemen.com).



Some accounts say a British officer rode up to the militiamen, and ordered them to disperse.



This photograph is taken behind the rebel line, facing the British. The right of the militia is represented by the big monument on the right. The left of the militia is represented by the large stone on the left. Other sources state that the right was pulled back more to the camera position, and the militia was facing the Concord Road, which is where the vehicles are parked in the center background. This photograph was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

Accounts by those who were pro-rebel state that the militia was leaving the Green.



Most British accounts state that the Lexington militia was not dispersing, and opened fire first. The large stone closest to the camera marks the left of the militia line. The monument in the distance marks the right of the militia line. This photograph was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

Someone fired a shot. Nobody knows who fired it. Then, more shots were fired.



The first shots of the Battle of Lexington are depicted in William Barnes Wollen's (1857-1936) "The First Fight for Independence, Lexington Common, April 19, 1775." He created it in 1910 and it is courtesy of Great Britain's National Army Museum.

When the firing was over, 8 rebel militia fell dead or mortally wounded, and 10 were wounded.



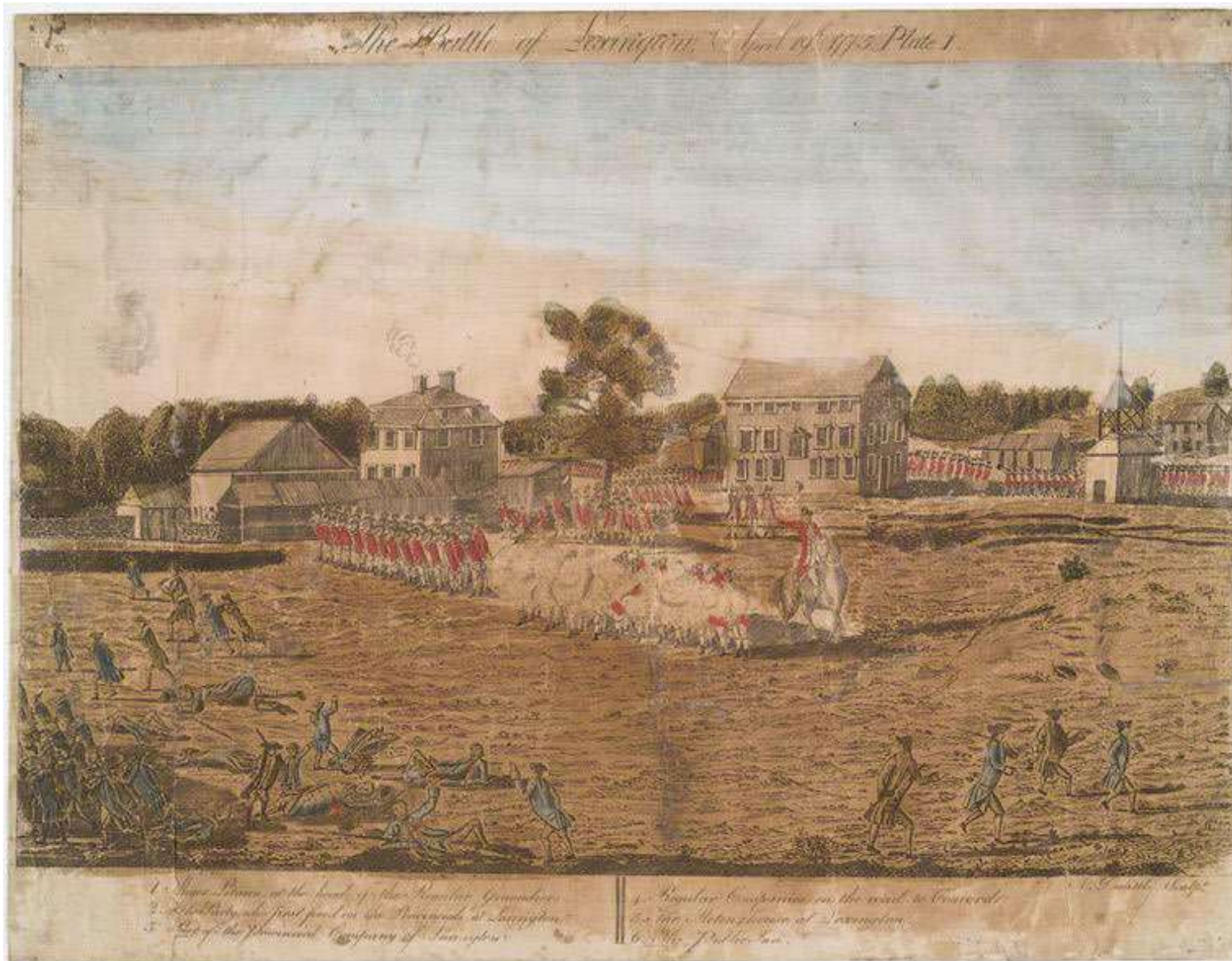
This monument considered the oldest memorial to the Revolution. This granite obelisk was erected in 1799. In 1835, the remains of seven of the eight militiamen killed in the battle were exhumed from the nearby Old Burying Ground and reburied within the monument's iron fence. The monument could also mark the approximate western (right) end of the Patriot line. This photograph was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

Only one British soldier was wounded.



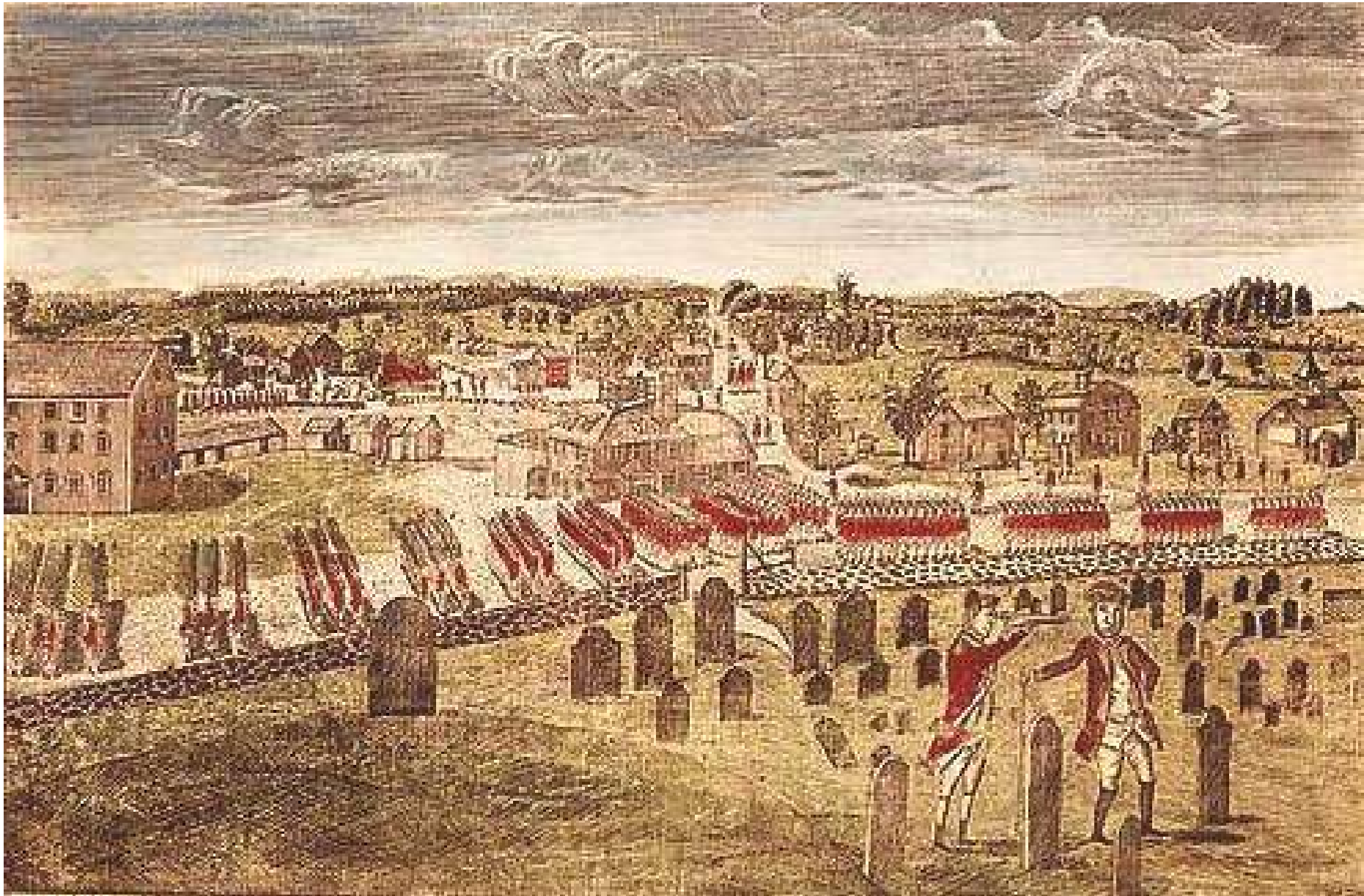
*Stand Your Ground* is a painting by Don Troiani. It is a National Guard Heritage Painting, and is courtesy of the National Guard Bureau.

The rest of the British force arrived. The British fired a victory salute, gave three cheers, and marched to Concord.



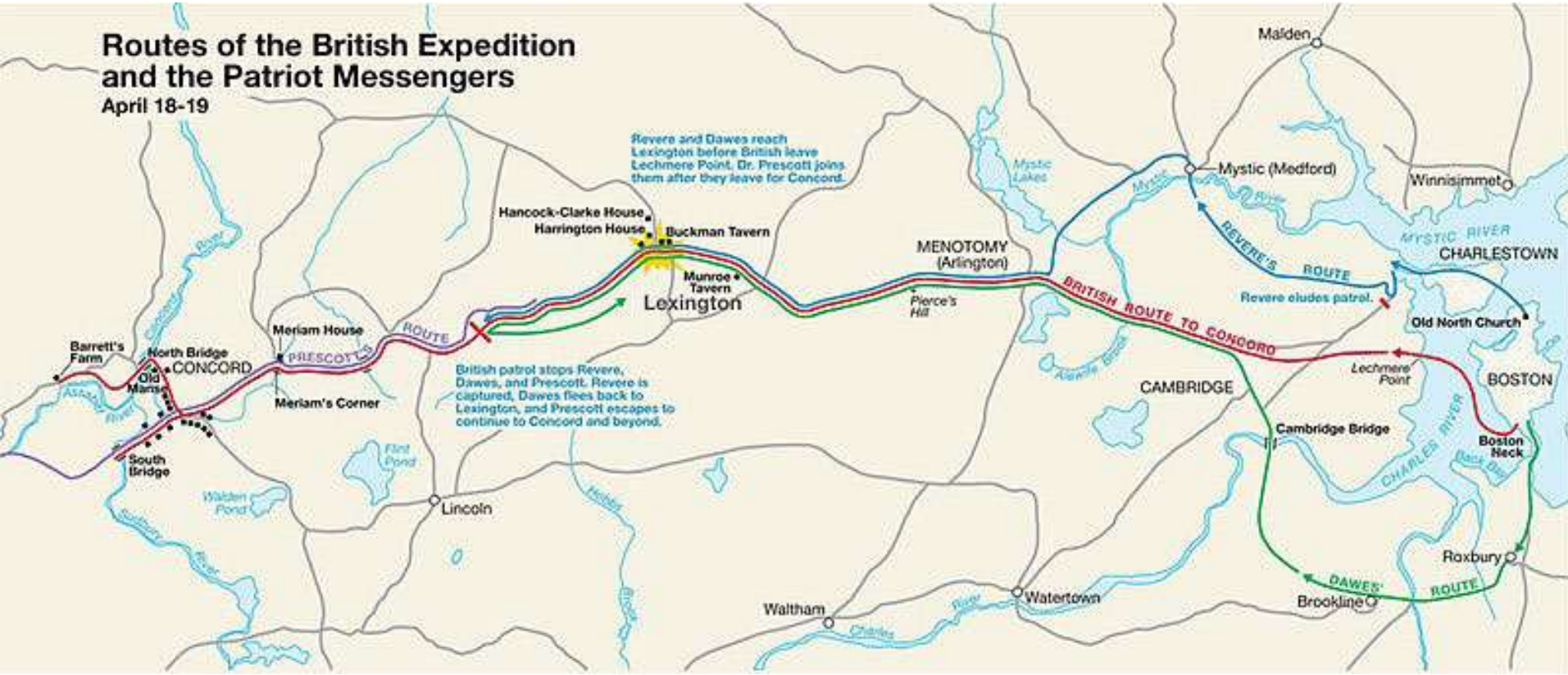
Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) was an American engraver, silversmith, and soldier who visited the sites of Lexington and Concord. He also interviewed eyewitnesses to the battles. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

# The Battle of Concord



This image by Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) shows the British marching into Concord, Massachusetts on the morning of April 19, 1775. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

It took approximately three hours for the British to march from Lexington to Concord.



Lexington is approximately seven miles from Concord. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.



When the British got to Concord, they split their force into at least four parts, looking for the guns, gunpowder, and ammunition that were supposed to be hidden in Concord.



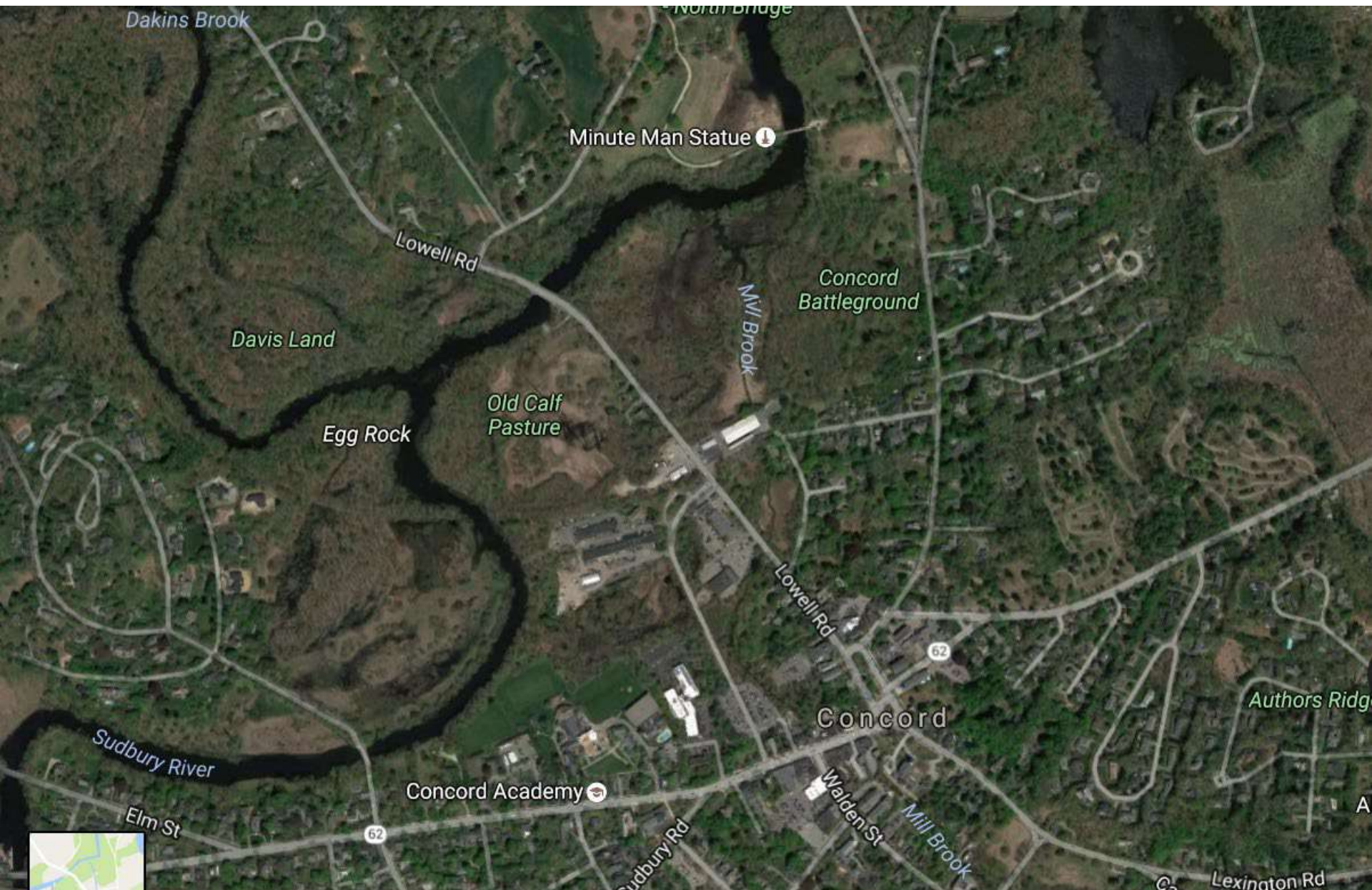
Most of the guns and gunpowder had previously been removed, and the British did not find many items for which they were searching. This image shows an exhibit at the Minute Man Visitors Center. This photograph was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

While the British searched Concord, the size of the colonial force in the surrounding area grew.



This image shows Concord, Massachusetts in 1794. This image appeared in the July 1794 issue of The Massachusetts Magazine. This image is courtesy of common-place.org.

One of the places guarded by the British soldiers was the North Bridge on the Concord River.



The Old North Bridge is at the top of this image where it is labeled "Minute Man Statue." This image is courtesy of googlemaps.com.

The British Captain responsible for guarding the bridge became concerned as he saw more and more rebel militia arriving on the hills overlooking his position.



The area was much more open in 1775. The rebels would have been where the trees were on the hill in the background. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

The British force in Concord burned the few supplies that they found.



The British accidentally set a structure or two on fire and eventually put out the fire. This is not an image of the British burning Concord. This is an image of the British burning some structures in Lexington. This image is a detail of an image created by Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) circa 1775. This image is courtesy of [historicalfirearms.info](http://historicalfirearms.info).

The rebels on the hill looked above the bridge and could see the smoke rising from the town.



One of the American rebels asked his commander, “Are you going to let them burn the town?” The rebels marched off the hill and towards the bridge. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

As the Rebels got closer to the bridge, they could see the British soldiers removing the wooden planks from the bridge.



This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

This action, combined with the appearance that the town was being burned, made some in the militia very angry.



*The Shot Heard Round the World* is a painting by Domenick D'Andrea. It is a National Guard Heritage Painting, and is courtesy of the National Guard Bureau.



The American militia began running to the bridge when the British fired, and killed two Minutemen. The Americans returned fire.



Major John Buttrick ordered the militia to fire. The American militia later said that no more of their members were killed because the British fired too high. This image is on display at the North Bridge Visitors Center at Minute Man National Historical Park. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

The British had three soldiers killed, and six soldiers wounded.



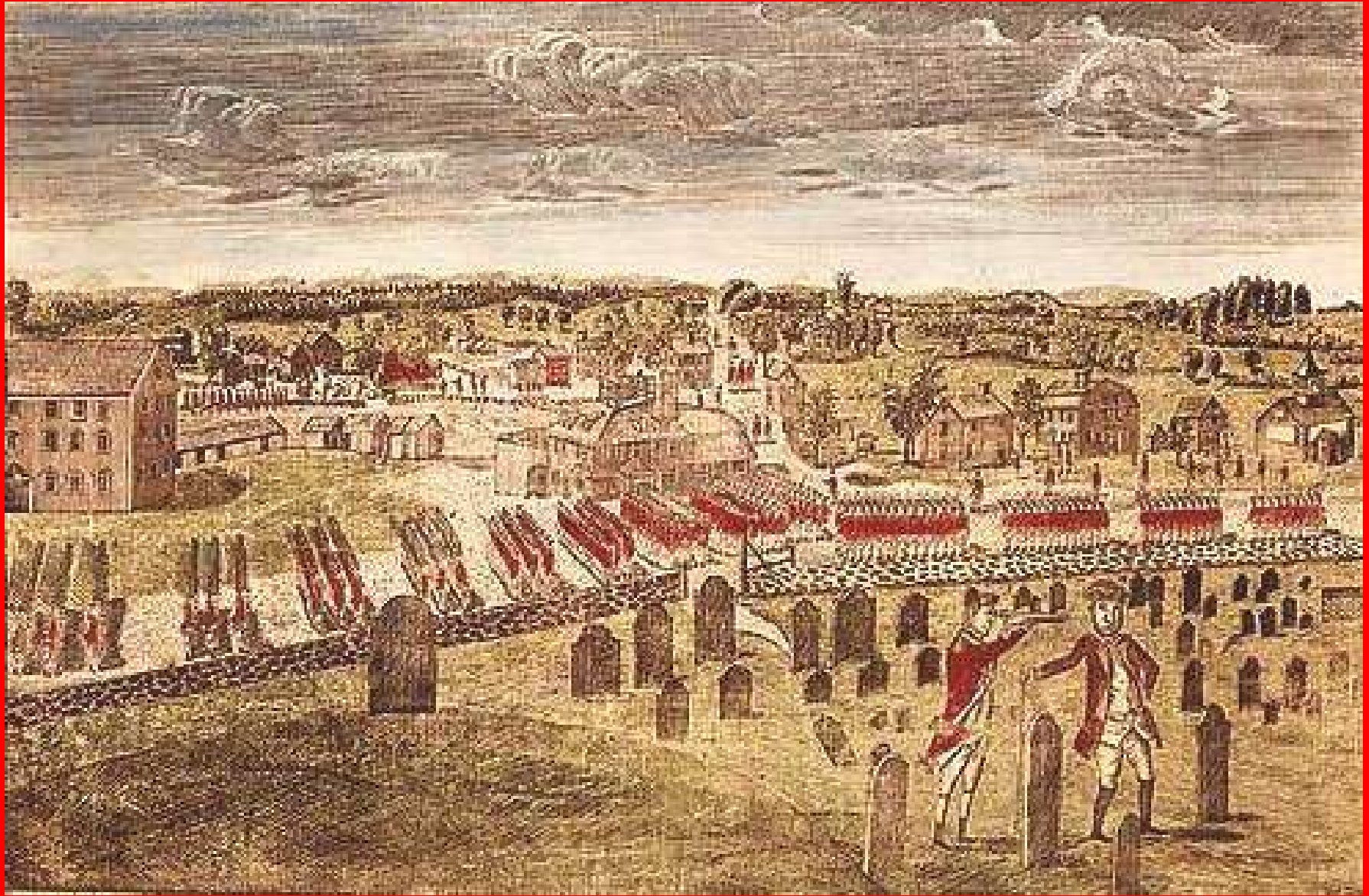
The three British dead all held the rank of Private. This grave is on the British side of the Old North Bridge. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

Then, to the great surprise of the Americans, the British began to run back to Concord.



This image by Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) shows the colonists attacking the British at Concord, Massachusetts' North Bridge on the morning of April 19, 1775. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The British decided to retreat back to Boston. The colonists would be waiting for them along the route of their march.



This image by Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) shows the British entering Concord, Massachusetts on the morning of April 19, 1775. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The militia from neighboring towns who had been awakened early that morning, now arrived along the road to shoot at the British as they marched back to Boston.

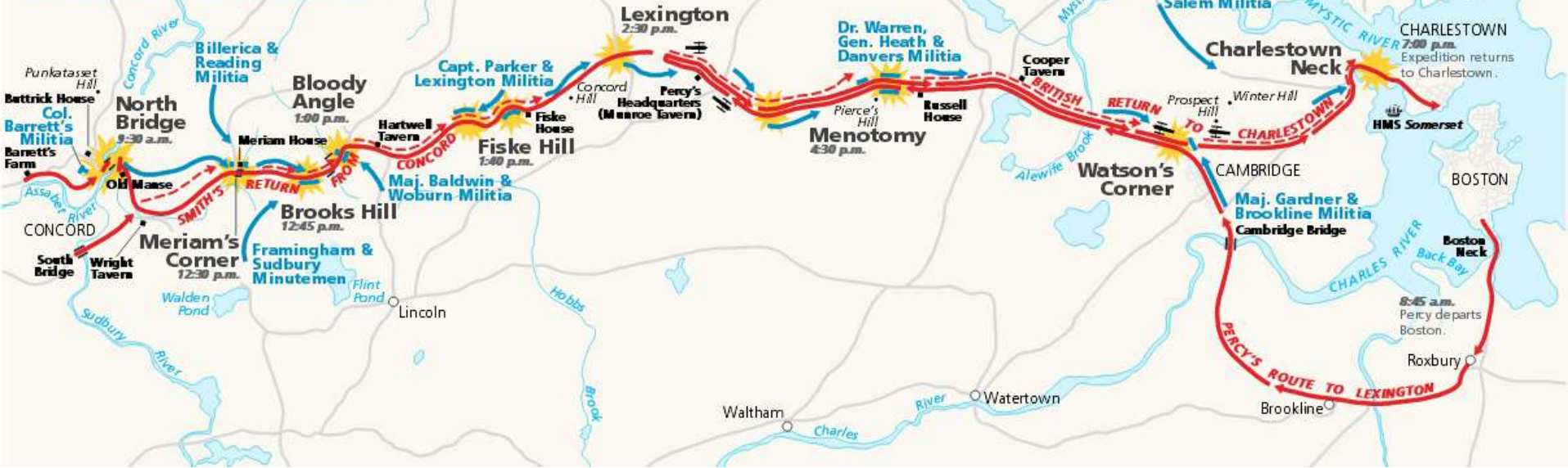
## British Return from Concord

April 19, 1775

Red indicates British movements;  
dashed lines indicate flanking parties.

⇒ British Artillery

Blue indicates Massachusetts Militia movements.



The British goal was to get back to Boston with as many people alive as they could. This map is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Crouched behind trees and stone walls, militia from multiple towns along the road to Boston fired at the British.



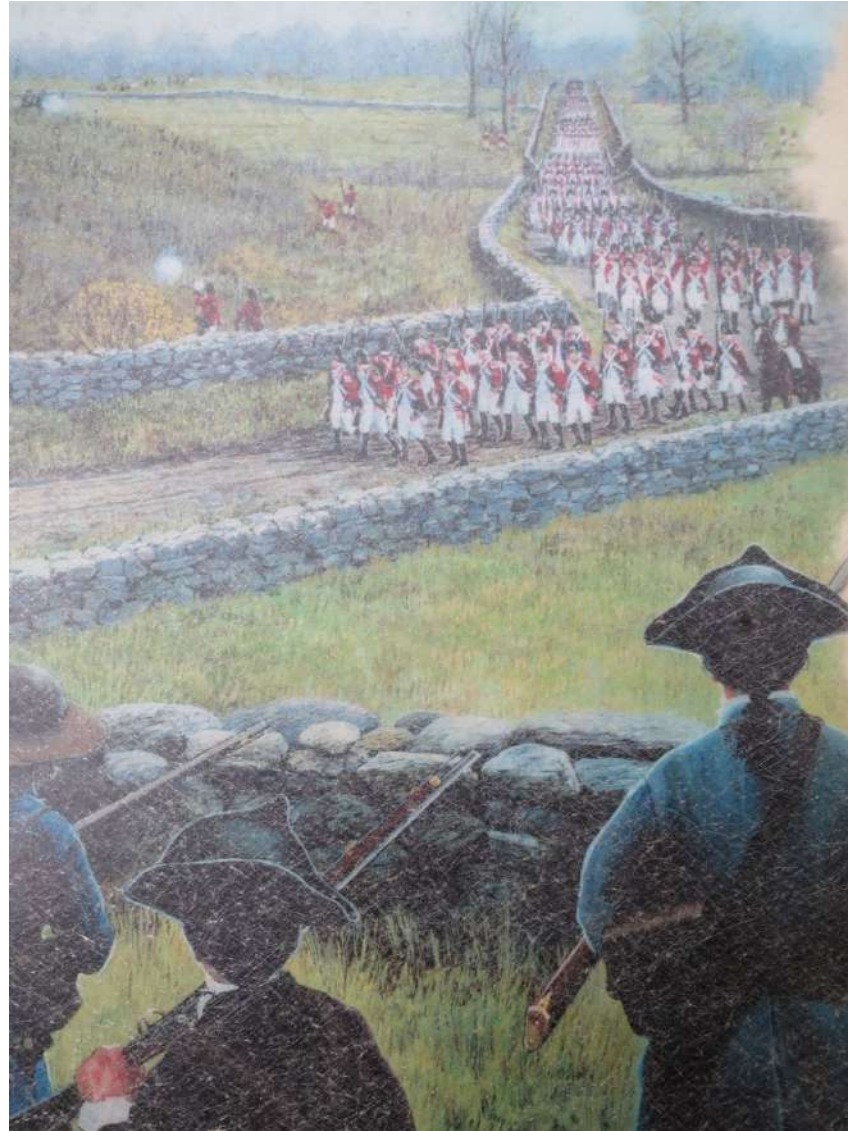
This photograph shows the Battle Road area between Concord and Lexington. This area was known as the "Bloody Angle." This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

The British didn't only march on the road. They sent out "flankers" to keep the militia from getting too close to the marching column.



This image is titled "Battle Road—April 19, 1775." It is on display at the Minute Man National Historical Park Visitors Center. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

Just west of Lexington, Captain John Parker and his men whom the British had easily pushed aside on Lexington Green saw an opportunity.



The British flankers had fallen behind, and at a curve in the road, the militia from Lexington saw that they could fire into the side or flank of the British marching column. This image is on the “Parkers Revenge” wayside at Minute Man National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.



The Lexington men killed at least two British soldiers here, and continually fired on the British as they marched to Lexington.



This area became known as “Parker’s Revenge.” The British were marching from right to left on the original road, which is the sandy dirt path near the wayside exhibit. This photograph was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

In Lexington, the British were reinforced by approximately 1000 soldiers sent to help them from Boston.



This image by Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) shows the colonists at Lexington on the afternoon of April 19, 1775 attacking the British as 1000 British soldiers reinforced the British soldiers retreating from Concord. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Most of the British did make it back to Boston that night.



This image is titled “A view of the country round Boston, taken from Beacon Hill: showing the lines, intrenchments, redoubts, &c. of the rebels...” This image is courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The British losses this day were 300 (73 killed, 174 wounded, and 53 missing).



The Rebel losses were 93 (49 killed, 39 wounded, and 5 missing). This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016.

When the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in May, 1775 events had dramatically changed.



The Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia with approximately 50 members, but each colony had only one vote. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia's Independence Hall, which was known at the time as the Pennsylvania State House.



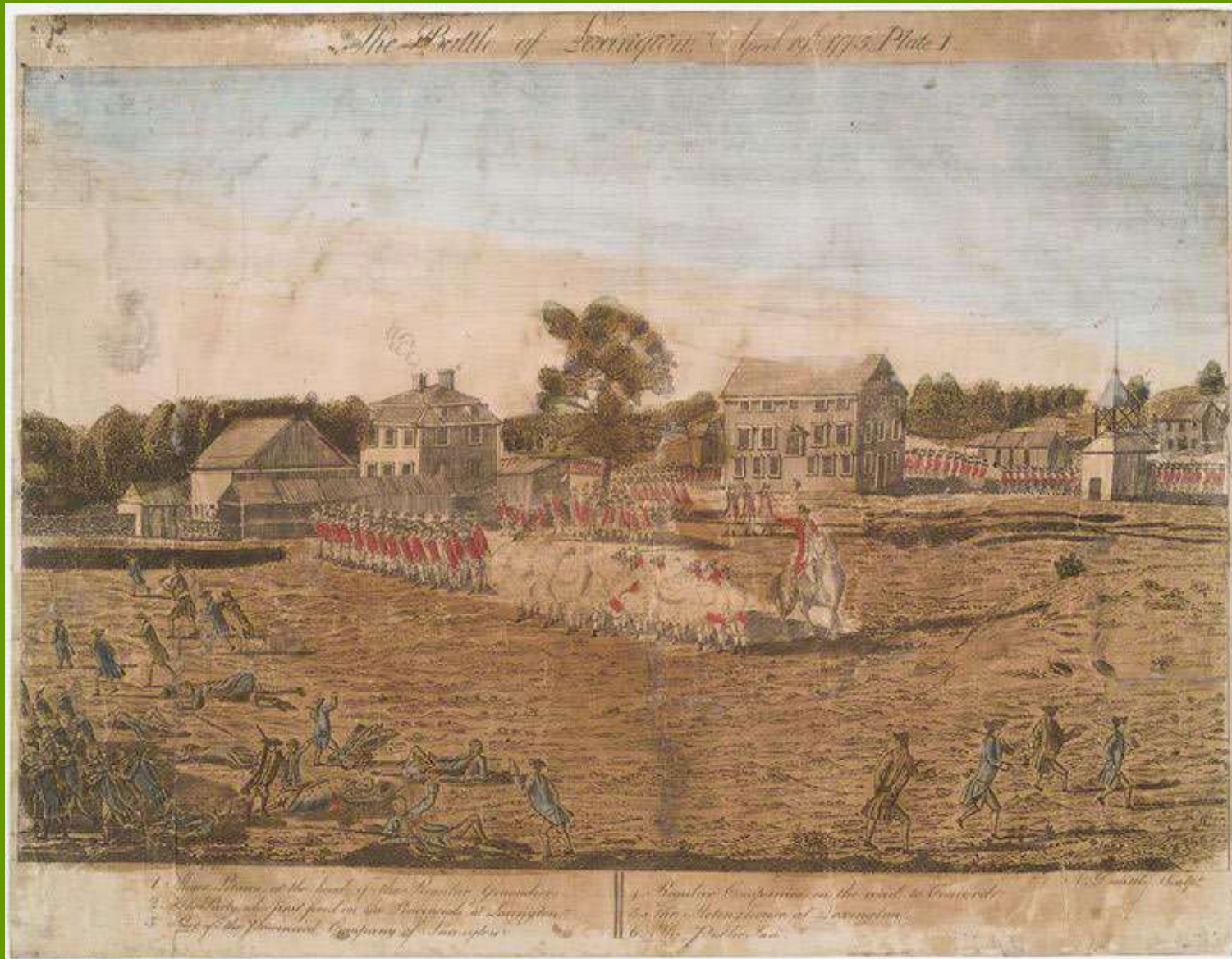
They met on May 10, 1775, less than a month after the fighting at Lexington and Concord. This photograph was taken by Robert Housch, facing southwest on July 30, 2009.

The congress chose George Washington to build a Continental Army.



This image shows George Washington accepting his commission as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army from the Second Continental Congress. This image was painted in 1876 by Currier and Ives and is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

# LEQ: Where was the first battle of the American Revolution?

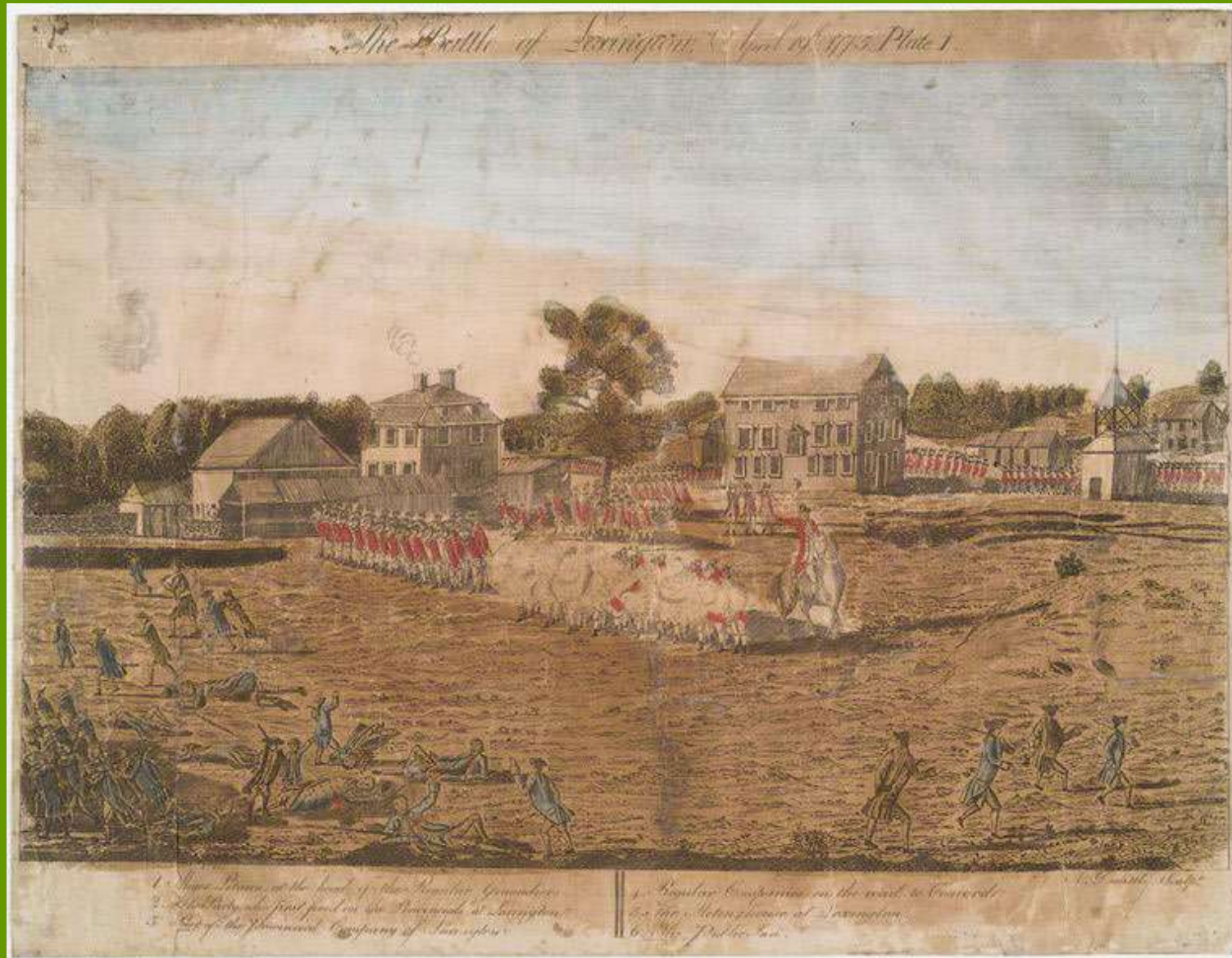


Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) was an American engraver and silversmith who visited the sites of Lexington and Concord. He also interviewed eyewitnesses to the battles. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



LEQ: Where was the first battle of the American Revolution?

**Lexington, Massachusetts**



Amos Doolittle (1754-1832) was an American engraver and silversmith who visited the sites of Lexington and Concord. He also interviewed eyewitnesses to the battles. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.