



American History

Talk 5: From Unity to Revolution

Overview

- French and Indian) war 1753-1762
- A change in colonial policy
- Actions and reactions (1763-1774)
- The road to war (1775-1775)



French and Indian War

North America 1753



British America population 1,500,000
.....French less than 75,000

France compensates by alliances with Indians and sends army of 10,000 to Canada. by the capable Marquis de Montcalm

British army a 40,000 strong mix of regulars & colonials dispersed along frontier and coast

Boundaries dotted by forts, each a 'tinderbox'

George Washington (1732-1799)

4



Born in Virginia. Oldest son of 6 born to wealthy Virginia Planter's second marriage, 4 older siblings, including half brother Lawrence

educated at technical school , excels at map Making and draughtsmanship

Father dies when GW 10, inherits 10 Slaves and one of father's estates Lawrence Adopted father. Contracts small Pox...survives

Compiles ' Book of Civility and Decent behaviour aged 13

Joins British army as surveyor, sent to investigate French incursions on Frontier at age 20

Washington "Rules of Civility"

Sleep not when others Speak, Sit not when others stand, Speak not when you Should hold your Peace, walk not on when others Stop.

Kill no Vermin as Fleas, lice ticks &c in the Sight of Others, if you See any filth or thick Spittle put your foot Dexteriously upon it if it be upon the Cloths of your Companions, Put it off privately, and if it be upon your own Cloths return Thanks to him who puts it off.

Shew not yourself glad at the Misfortune of another though he were your enemy.

When you see a Crime punished, you may be inwardly Pleased; but always shew Pity to the Suffering Offender.

Superfluous Complements and all Affectation of Ceremonie are to be avoided, yet where due they are not to be Neglected.

'Lighting the tinder box'

6



GW expedition
Intercepts French
Expedition...and attacks
Kills leaders

French claim expedition
Peace ambassadors

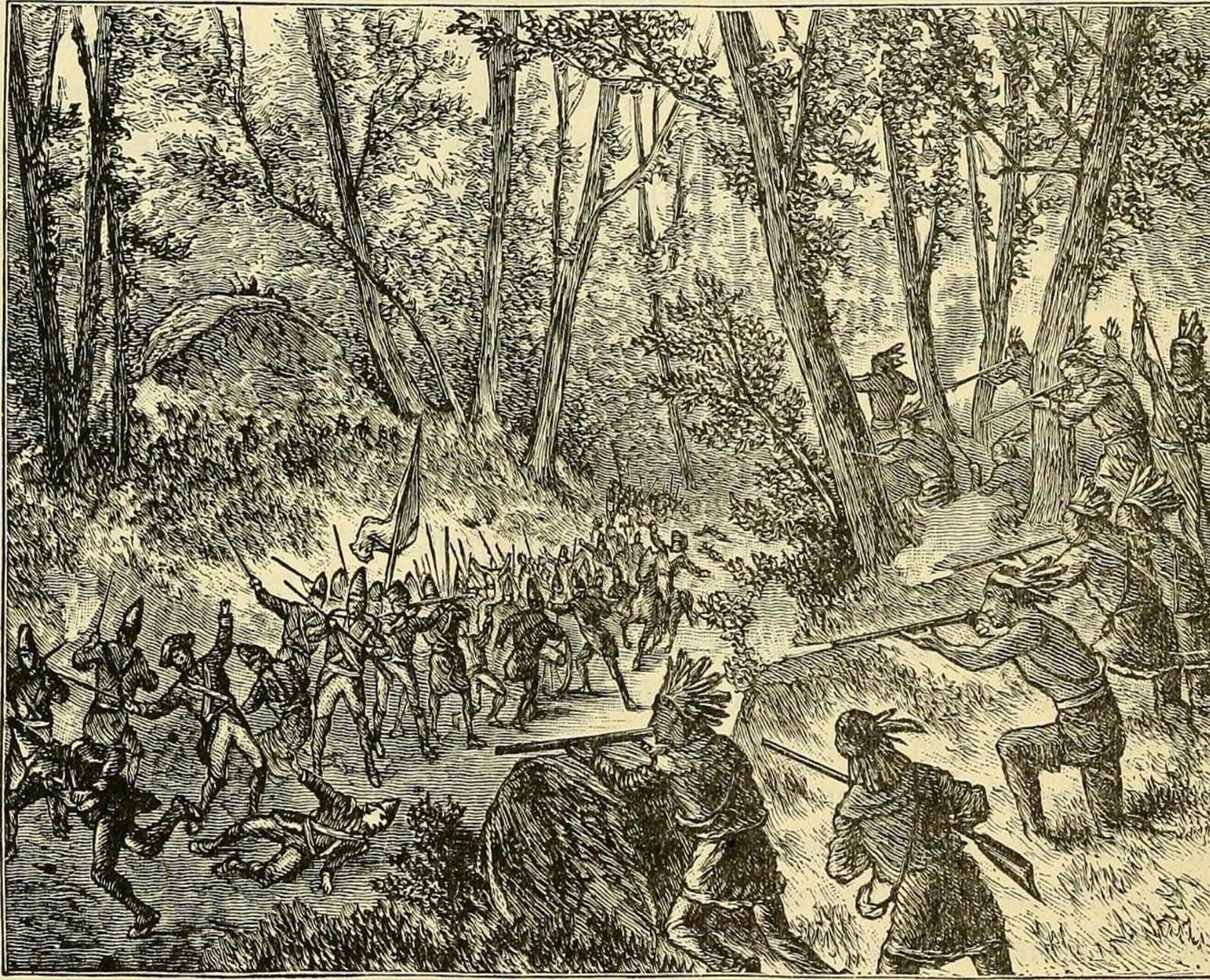
French army pursues
Washington's men. W
Retreats, builds for
Ft Necessity

Washington surrenders
400 men to French

Incident reaches
Paris/London, negotiation
Collapse and war
declared

Battle of Monongahela 1755 (attempt 1)

7



Governor promises 200k acre grants to share among colonists who join fight based surveys made by GW. GW reserves 20k for himself, joins General Braddock expedition

Braddock with 1,500 men enter Wilderness. Determined to 'fight Like gentlemen'

100 French + 700 Indians hidden in forest. 1,000 British killed including Braddock

Washington survives, leads retreat ...war hero

Battle of Carillon 1758 (attempt 2)

8



British tries again. Sends General Abercrombie with 18,000 army of Regulars and colonials to take French fort Carillon

Montcalm entrenches Fort with 3,000 men and wait for British attack

A orders frontal assault uphill through brush without artillery

British lose 2,000 men and retreat

The new regime takes over 1758

William Pitt..the elder



General Amherst



William Pit 'effective' PM (partner to Lord Newcastle) fires General Abercrombie. Plans simultaneous attacks on Great Lake forts, Arcadia, and Quebec. General Amherst in charge.

Amherst advances north, sends General Wolfe to attack Quebec
Montcalm withdraws to defend Quebec.

Battle of Quebec 1759

10



General Wolfe with 4,000 Men Leads surprise attack Up cliffs behind Quebec

Montcalm's army of 4,000 destroyed, Wolfe & Montcalm killed. Quebec occupied

British capture Montreal. French army surrenders, Canada now British

French ally and Ottawa chief Pontiac realises no more help from France and must unite tribes to keep land

Pontiac's War 1762-63



Pontiac secures alliance with multiple Great Lake Tribes : "If you suffer the English among you, you are dead men. Sickness, smallpox, and their poison [alcohol] will destroy you entirely"

Amherst believes Indians incapable of resistance, attempts to disarm them, withdraws most of army

Pontiac attacks

English forts taken, 500 Soldiers 2,000 settlers killed.Amherst fired

Battle of Bushy Run 1763 and Peace Treaty

12



British recover and adapt to
To war in forest and return

British (42nd Highlanders ambush
Indians, 'win' battle and recover
forts..

Peace Treaty. British agree to
Abandon forts and new
boundaries

Colonists see treaty
as too generous

Impact of war on British & North America

13

- British America triumphant and never more united
 - Empire expanded to include Canada, Bengal, and Florida.
 - France territory west of Mississippi transferred to Spain
- Empire includes new population of French Catholic subjects
 - Quebecois considered manageable and must be accommodated
 - Arcadians considered too 'French' and hostile ---entire population of 10,000 removed to France and Louisiana (colonies refuse to accept Catholics)
- Native peoples classified as new 'subjects' to be reconciled

British debt rises to more than 50% of national budget
(£140m --£4Bn in 2023 money)



A Change in Colonial Policy

The new British Approach to its colonies.... 15

- ▶ End 'salutary neglect'. Colonies must be governed rationally based on Mercantilist theory
- ▶ Army of 10,000 required to defend North America and end smuggling
- ▶ British America to be treated as an Empire of different peoples
- ▶ Colonies to cover costs of their administration

New young King determined to meet his duty and advised by 5 prime ministers 1760-1770..each with different ideas on how

George 3rd (1738 – 1820))

16



King in 1760 at aged 22, coronation coincides with victory in war

First 'English King' since Tudors

Earnest, educated, incorruptible, 'enlightened', insular, obdurate and remote

Dedicated to Empire and 'rational' govern...by Tories

Lord North (1732-1792) Prime Minister

17



6th prime minister in 7 years,

Indolent son of minor aristocrat
Eton, Oxford, occupies unopposed
seat, popular, intelligent, logical

Chancellor of Exchequer,
Trusted by Parliament and King
Prime Minister 1770-1782

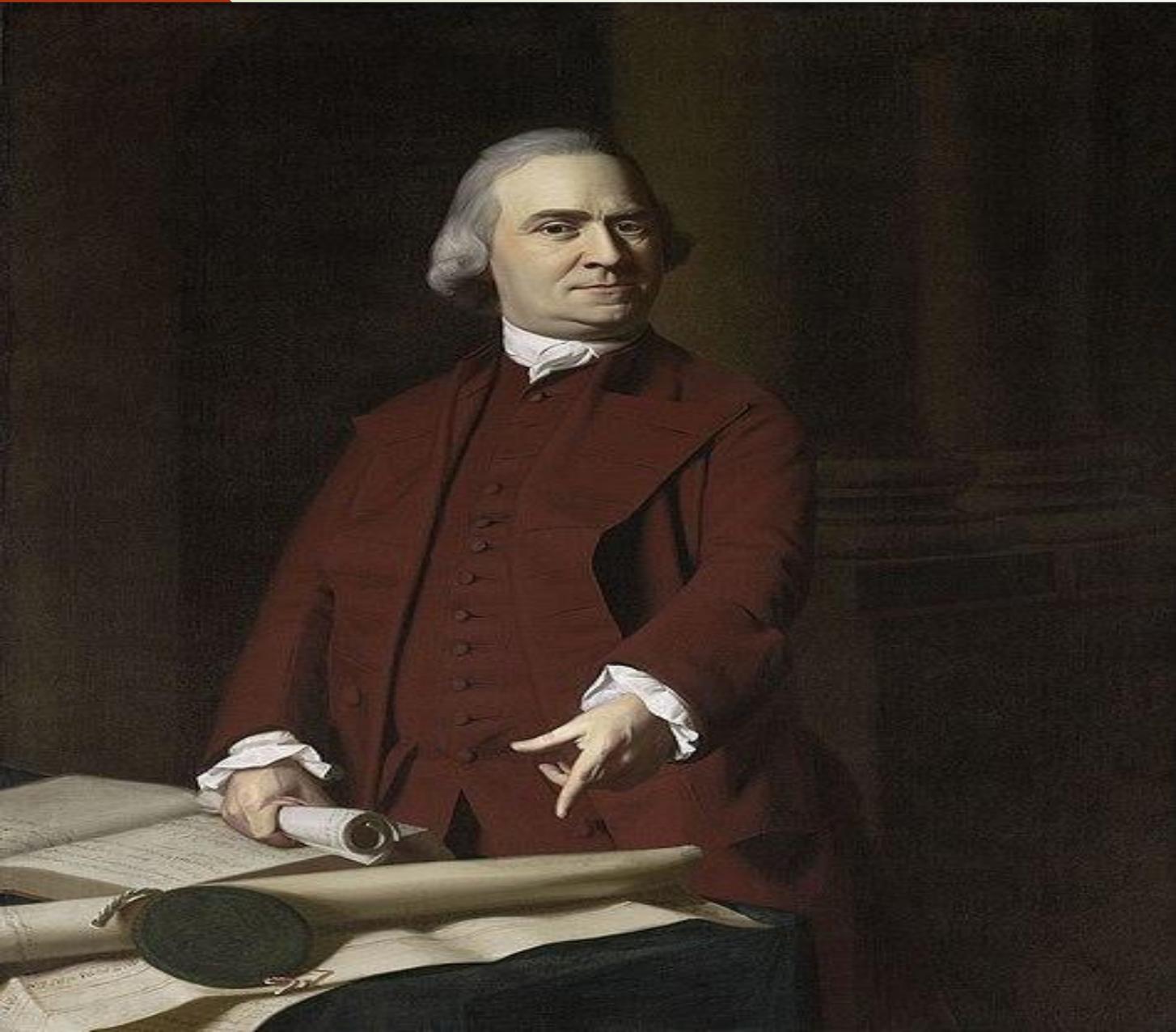
Trusted by King and unable to
understand irrational behaviour

The problem : British America no longer a 'backwater'¹⁸

- Population increase from 1.5 million (1750) to 2.5m million by 1770
Already more than a third that of Britain (7million)
- Major cities have emerged Philadelphia population 50,000 (2nd largest English city) New York 25,000 (same size as 1770 Birmingham) Boston 16,000 (same size a 1770 Manchester)
- Large and growing middle class : 60% of male population property owners earning higher wages, paying lower taxes, more politically active ...and healthier ("3" taller on average!).
- New class of 'Enlightened' leaders has emerged who think of themselves British and equals...and demand to be treated as such

Samuel Adams (1722-1803)

19



One of 12 children born to
of Boston Puritan Banker and
maltster'

Graduates from Harvard,
becomes brewer. Loses
business, fails as 'popular' tax
Collector.

Enters local politics, starts
newspaper to fight new taxes:
"no taxation without
representation"

Becomes propagandist and
Agitator, founds agitator group
'Sons of Liberty

John Hancock (1737-1793)

20



Wealthy son of Boston merchant, Harvard graduate, active Mason

Business man, most wealthy Bostonian, accused of smuggling. Poor speaker, funds Adams and his supporters

Confidante of British governor ...leaks letters showing Governor seeks to impose force to collect taxes

Becomes president of Continental Congress and future Governor of Massachusetts

Patrick Henry (1736-1799)

21



“Virginia born to wealthy Scottish farmer/planter, taught by tutor, devout Anglican and follower of Jonathan Edwards..second son and poor, runs tavern

Self taught lawyer. Gains fame by defying British Government veto regarding Virginia laws

Marries well, inherits slaves, opposes New British taxes, famous for flowery Speech ... “Give me Liberty or give Me death”

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

22



Born in Boston, 8th of 10 children
born to English to candle maker

Inventor, writer, newspaperman,
moves to Philadelphia, starts first
subscription library, fire service,
active Mason and prolific writer

Travels to England on business,
ambassador to France. Fails to
influence government, writes
pamphlet "How to make a large
Empire a small one", returns to
advise Hancock and Adams

The British Americans



The British



Britain and its colonies heading into conflict. Violence avoided only by mutual understanding and respect.....two very different mind sets....



Intermission



Actions and Reactions 1763- 1774

Royal Proclamation of 1763

British Intention

Create an agreed boundary between colonies and Indian lands

Secure Indian loyalty by agreeing Indian treaty after Pontiac's War

Allow gradual and orderly expansion of colonies through future treaties

British American Reaction

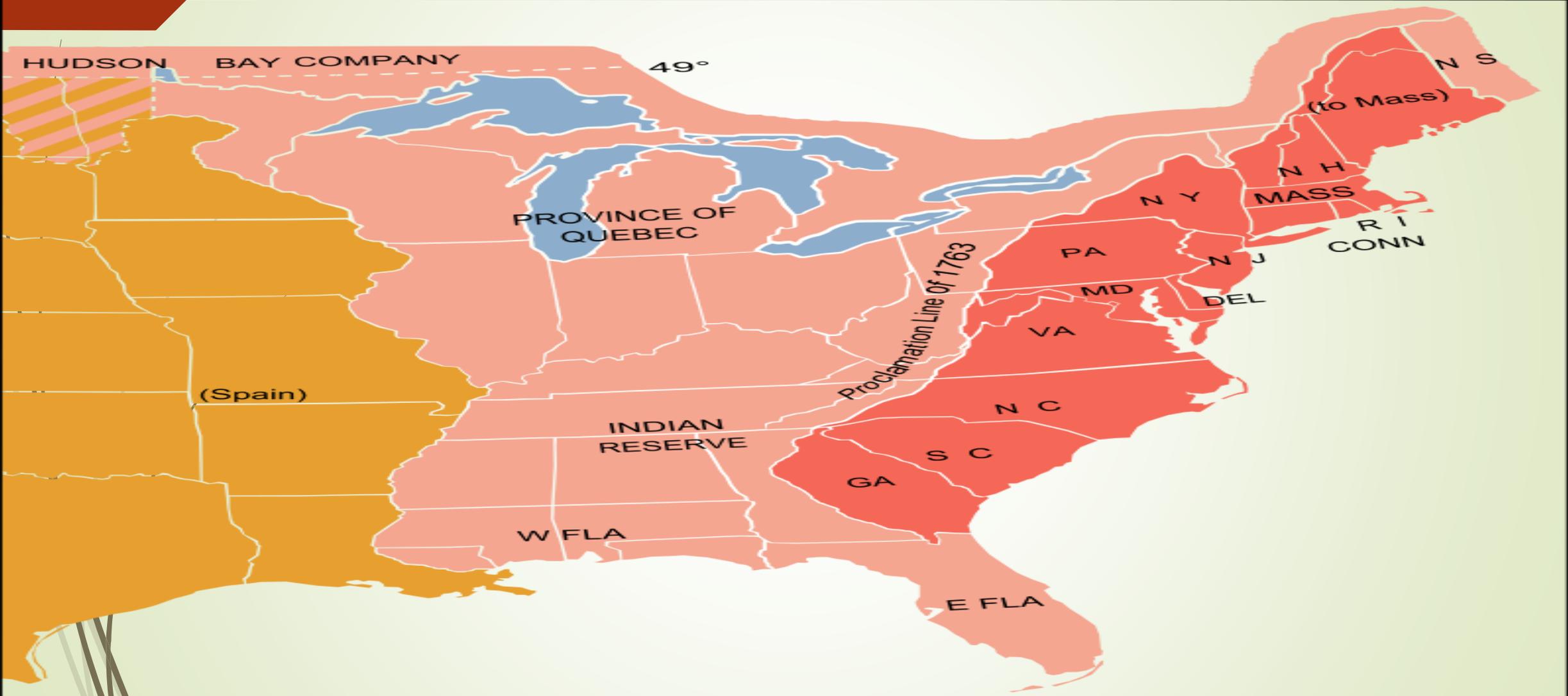
Colonist feel cheated of lands promised them during French and Indian war and think 'theirs'

British Government seen as 'pro Indian'

Patrick Henry & Washington have major uncollectible real estate investments in protected Indian lands.....Unenforceable and this known. George Washington conspires to get his share.

"I can never look upon the Proclamation in any other light (but this I say between ourselves) than as a temporary expedient to quiet the minds of the Indians. ...my plan is to secure a good deal of land. You will consequently come in for a handsome quantity.... All of this can be carried on by silent management" letter to Ian Crawford surveyor 1764

The new boundaries



Boundary between Mississippi River and 49th parallel uncertain due to misconception that source of Mississippi River lay further north

1775

The new tax regime 1765

British Intention

Ensure colonies pay at least 1/3 cost of army, Governor & administration

Sugar Tax (reduced rates but higher compliance)

Stamp Tax... legal documents, paper, attorney licenses, property deals, playing cards

British American ('Patriot') Reaction

New taxes on middle class incensed

Hancock & Adams 'No taxation without representation', launch mass tax avoidance propaganda campaign

Set up 'Sons of Liberty' groups across all colonies.. Tax collectors tarred and feathered...rebrand as 'Patriots'

'Sons of Liberty' Propaganda

St—p! st—p! st—p! No!

Tuesday-Morning, December 17, 1765.

THE True-born Sons of Liberty, are desired to meet under LIBERTY-TREE, at XII o'Clock, THIS DAY, to hear the the public Resignation, under Oath, of ANDREW OLIVER, Esq; Distributor of Stamps for the Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay.*

A Resignation ? **YES.**

Stamp Act 'Riots'





British abandon 'Stamp Tax' in 1766
.....and try again

British Intention

Increase import taxes (tax the wealthy only by avoiding direct taxes)

Secure control of tax collection by centralising control to British and remove power of Assemblies

Colonies to provide accommodation for British soldiers

British American ('Patriot') Reaction

Middle class outraged. Removal of rights

Claim British troops to billeted in colonist homes (untrue...only within empty homes)

Hancock accused of smuggling, acquitted...increase propaganda, coins term "Patriots" for supporters

British send regiment to occupy Boston and restore order...tensions rise

Boston 'Massacre' Propaganda



Adams & Hancock ensure this print
Sent across colonies
Immediately after event

British Army shown
as ruthless killers,
Patriots innocent
Victims...

Soldiers put on trial
for murder

Boston Massacre: an organised riot?

34

Soldiers attacked 'snowballs containing stones, unclear who fired first shot

Soldiers defended by Sam Adam's cousin future President John Adams

6 of 9 soldiers Acquitted, 1 branded on thumb, 2 flogged for manslaughter



British Intention

Save East India Company from bankruptcy... surplus of tea on market

Increase tax collection by **reducing** the tax on tea...making smuggling less attractive

Use taxes to fund new regime of tax collectors

'Patriot' Reaction

Smuggling community in Boston stuck with high price smuggled tea and face ruin

Send 'sons of Liberty' to board ships, to destroy tea and increase value of smuggled tea

Destruction of £2 million of tea

'Tea Party' 1773

36



'Sons of Liberty'
board ships
disguised as
Indians

£2m worth of tea
destroyed

Samuel Adams "This is
magnificent Movement
There is a Dignity, a Majesty,
a Sublimity, in this last Effort
of the Patriots, that I
greatly admire.

Sons of Liberty forcing tea into 'Placeman'³⁷



Violent reactions
Across Colonies
Tax collectors and
Officials attacked
across colonies'

British consider riot
Acts of terrorism

King and Parliament
Consider Boston
'in Rebellion'

Lord North's Response to Parliament



“The Americans have tarred and feathered your subjects, plundered your merchants, burnt your ships, denied all obedience to your laws and authority; yet so clement and so long forbearing has our conduct been that it is incumbent on us now to take a different course. Whatever may be the consequences, we must risk something; if we do not, all is over.”





Beyond the 'tipping point'

The 'Coercive' (Intolerable Acts) 1774

British Actions

Close port of Boston, send in army to occupy the city and restore order
Massachusetts charter removed,

Capture ringleaders and put them on trial outside the colonies (to avoid Biased juries)

Secure Canadian Catholics loyalty by giving Catholics the vote and expanding boundaries of 'Quebec'

Patriot' Reaction

British depicted as tyrants & Catholic

Massachusetts requests help from colonies...leaders establish First Continental Congress all colonies

Meets September 1774 to organize boycott of British goods, sets up "Committees of Correspondence" to enforce

'Sons of Liberty' replace most British Governors, Seize cannons, muskets and ammunition from Boston armoury and stockpile at Concord, assemble militia

British army arrives in Boston



1 Beaver *2* Senegal *3* Martin *4* Glasgow
5 St. Mermad *6* Romney *7* Launceston *8* Bonetta

On Friday Sept^r 30th 1768. the Ships of War, armed Schooners, Transports, &c. came up the Harbour and Anchored round the Town: their Cannon loaded & a Spring on their Cables, as for a regular Siege. At noon, on Saturday, October the 1st, the fourteenth & twenty-ninth Regiments, a detachment from the 59th Reg^t and Train of Artillery, with two pieces of Cannon, landed on the Long Wharf: then Formed and Marched with military Parade, Drums beating, Pipes playing, and Colours flying, up KING STREET. Each Soldier having received 16 rounds of Powder and Ball.

A Long Wharf
B Hancock's Wharf.
C Irish Battery

To the Earl of Halifax, His Majesty's Secretary for America this View of the only well Plan'd Expedition, formed for supporting & defending the City of BOSTON, & chastising the insolence of AMERICA, which has

ENGRAVED, PRINTED & SOLD by PAUL REVERE BOSTON.

General Gate (1718-1787)

42



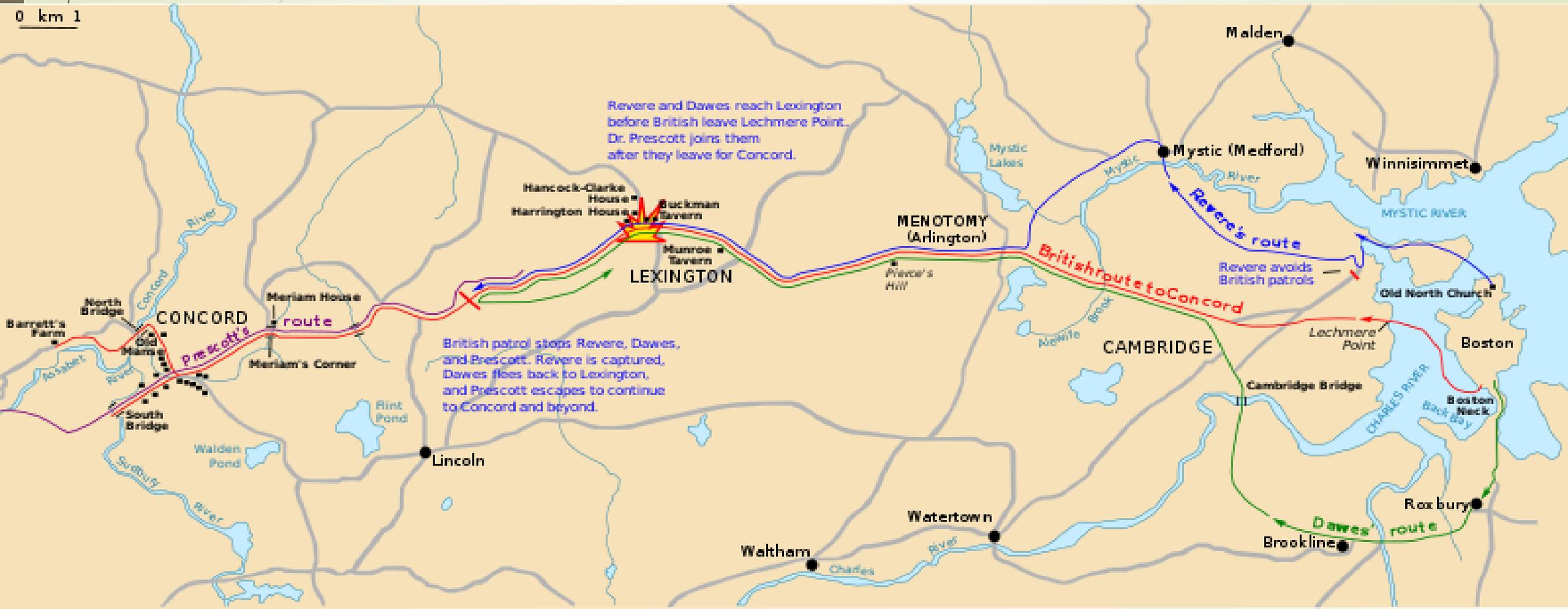
Aristocratic family, career soldier
Veteran of European wars, Culloden

Replaces Amherst and led army
against Pontiac

Former Governor of Massachusetts
and sympathetic to colonists

Married to an American...with
Patriot relatives...outside Boston

Gage's plan to seize cannons, gunpowder and muskets in Concord...by 'surprise'...



Margaret Kemple Gage (1734-1820)



Born in America, wife of
British Commander Gage

Argues for peace, overhear
Husband's planned surprise

'Probably' gave plan to
Family members...who alerted
colonists

Returns to England, reunites
With husband in London when
Gage is fired...long happy
marriage

Lexington April 19, 1775 'shot hear around world'



300 Patriot Militia
Block Gage army pf 800

British demand patriots
Lay down arms and
withdraw

Not known who
Fired first shot
7 Patriots killed

Patriots retreat, British
Advance to Concord

Concord: British turn back



Patriot army grows to
More than 400

Advance guard of
100 British attempt to
Cross bridge

5 British killed, decide
To retreat. 'Raid' now
a battle. Ask
For reinforcements

British retreat to Boston



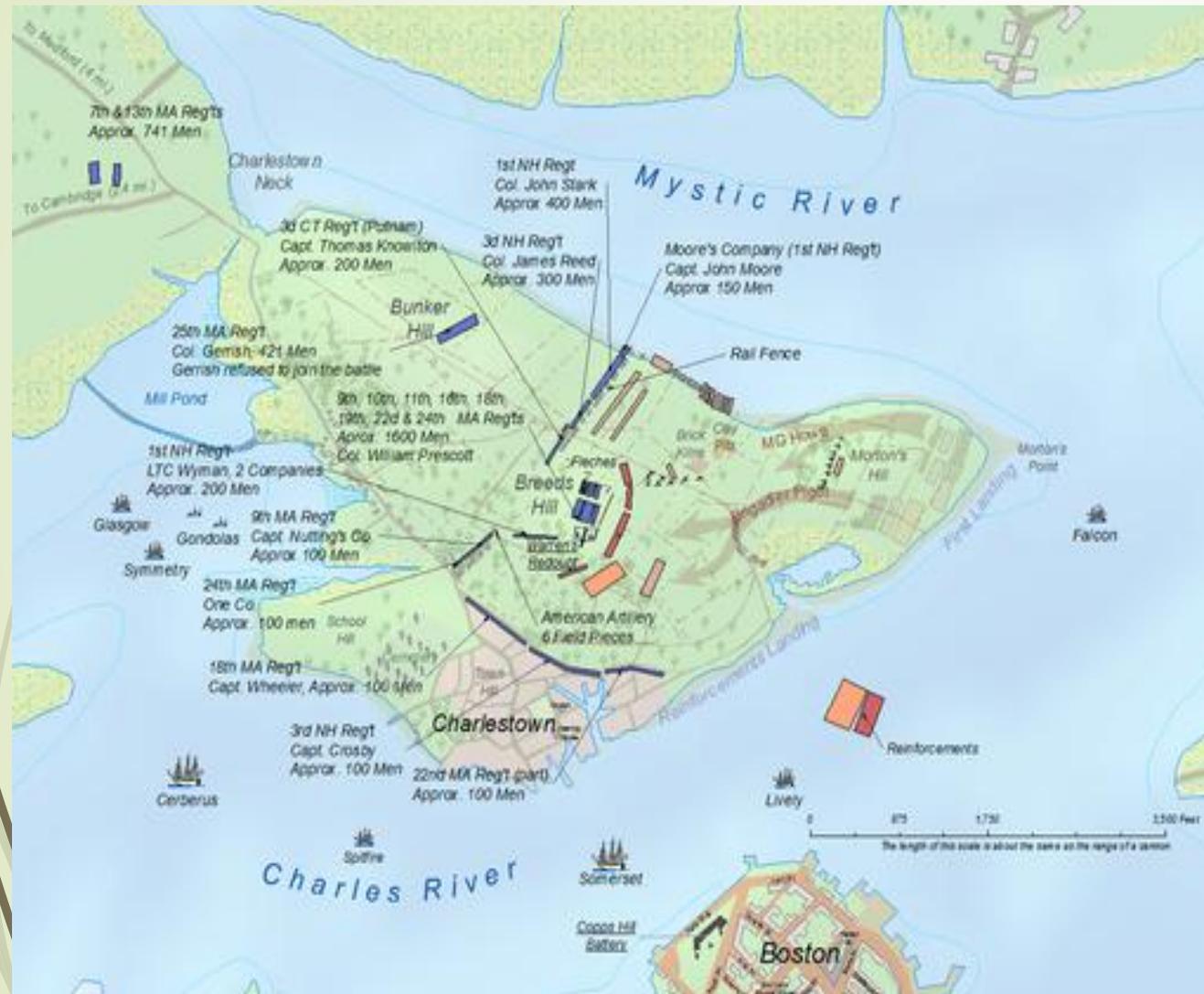
Patriot numbers increase to 4,000 plus, British at 1,600 retreat

British ambushed 250 British, 100 Patriots Killed or wounded

Gage trapped In Boston, waits for reinforcement,

Second Continental Congress convenes May 1775 and waits for developments.....

Boston July 1775



Nothing happens for 3 months,
6,000 'Patriots' surround Boston
And British army of 4,000

Gage does not know if patriots will
Fight, his officers convinced they
will run

Gage observes Patriot army split b
Charlestown and Boston

Decides to gamble on full front
Assault on hills above Charlestown

Battle of Bunker Hill

48



British force of 3,500
Attack 2,500 Patriots
First two attacks fail
Third succeeds

British lose 1,000 men,
Patriots less than 500

British do not pursue
return to Boston
And siege continues
And Patriot army
Increases to 15,000 +

News of Bunker Hill reaches Congress...

Benjamin
Franklin

“Britain, at the expense of three millions, has killed 150 Yankees this campaign, which is £20,000 a head ... During the same time, 60,000 children have been born in America. From these data his mathematical head will easily calculate the time and expense necessary to kill us all.”.†

Continental Congress action

- ▶ 'Radicals and Moderates' agree compromise response
- ▶ Sends "Petition to the King"
 - ▶ Don't seek independence
 - ▶ Remove 'Intolerable Acts'
 - ▶ Set up Mediation Process
- ▶ Prepares for war in case King does not respond
 - ▶ Establish 'Continental Army, appoint George Washington General
 - ▶ Commission force to seize British forts and secure artillery for siege of Boston
 - ▶ Invade Canada

British Reaction

- ▶ King and Lord North receives news of Bunker Hill before Petition arrives
- ▶ Parliament and King refuses to accept Petition, issues Proclamation of Rebellion and orders 'army' of 32,000 to America
- ▶ Cannot recruit enough soldiers
- ▶ Sends agents to Germany to hire 12,000 Hessians as mercenaries



And so.....Unity' dissolved and replaced by
Revolution and war