

# Taxes and Protest

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April 1764

## The Sugar Act

In order to help pay for the French and Indian war a tax was levied on lumber, molasses and food products.

September 1764

## The Currency Act

Parliament controls colonial currency. No colony is permitted to issue their own money.

March 1765

## The Stamp Act

In order to pay for royal troops stationed in the colonies, Parliament places a tax on all paper goods.

The tax is repealed in 1766.

March 1765

## The Quartering Act

Colonists were required to provide food and shelter to any British soldier that requested it.

June 1767

## Townshend Act

Taxes placed on all glass, paint, lead and paper.

Colonists boycott all imported goods from England.

English merchants begin to lose money and have Parliament repeal Townshend duties, in 1770, except for the one on tea.

March 5, 1770

## The Boston Massacre

Colonists were angry with having British troops in their city.

Colonists protested in front of the customs house where they threw snowballs at the soldiers. Fighting erupted and shots were fired.

Five colonists were killed including Crispus Attucks, the first African American to die in the struggle for independence.

June 1772

## The Gaspee Incident

Colonists lure a British naval vessel to shallow waters, board the ship, injure the captain of the ship, and captured the crew.

They brought the crew ashore and left them to watch their ship burn.

December 16, 1773

## The Boston Tea Party

Parliament issues a Tea Act which was designed to help the struggling East India Tea Company.

Tea would be sold to the colonies for cheaper prices.

It was thought that at cheaper prices the colonists would not mind paying the tea tax.

The colonists responded by throwing the tea into the Boston Harbor.

*Americans throwing the Cargoes of the Tea Ships into the River, at Boston*



# Steps to War

1774

## The Intolerable Acts

The King closes off all of Boston Harbor.  
Preventing any ships from entering or leaving.  
They also remove many government powers  
from the Massachusetts colony.

September 1774

## First Continental Congress

12 colonies met at Carpenters' Hall in  
Philadelphia to create a list of complaints  
(Declaration of Grievances) to send to the  
King.

They agree to meet again in May of 1775.

April 18, 1775

British troops were ordered to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock, as well as, confiscate any ammunition stored in Concord, Mass.

Paul Revere and William Dawes were chosen to send message and warning to Hancock, Adams and the inhabitants of Concord.

At 9:30 in the evening, Revere ordered two lanterns to be lit, in the steeple of the Old North Church, to warn the surrounding towns  
that the British were coming by water (sea).

Revere met up with William Dawes and another Son of Liberty, Dr. Samuel Prescott.

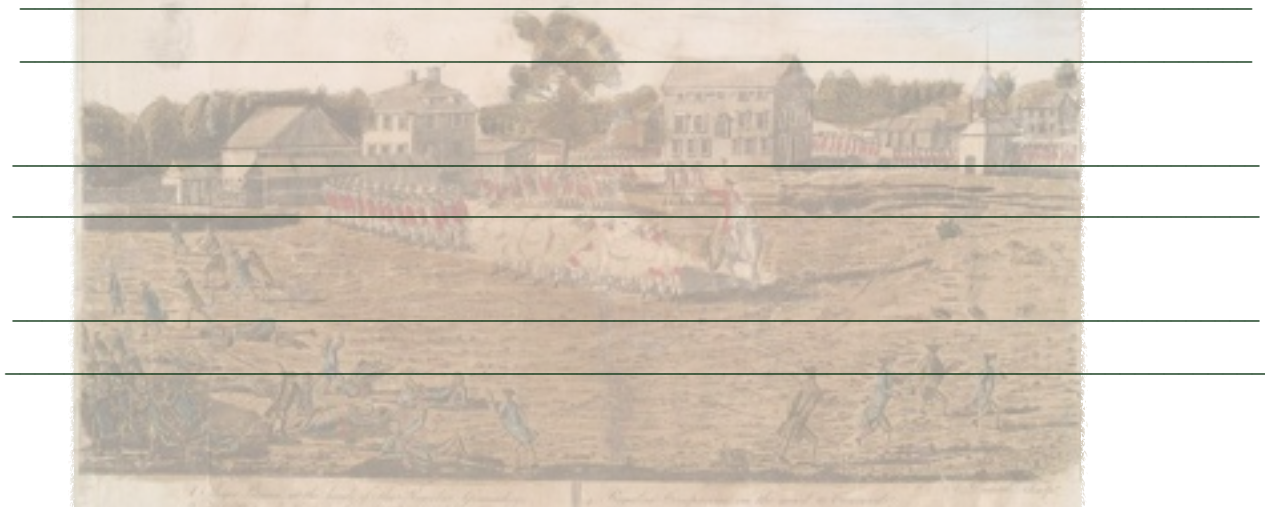
All three were captured by British soldiers. However, they all managed to either escape or convince the soldiers to release them.

Dawes and Revere headed back to Lexington to warn Hancock and Adams.

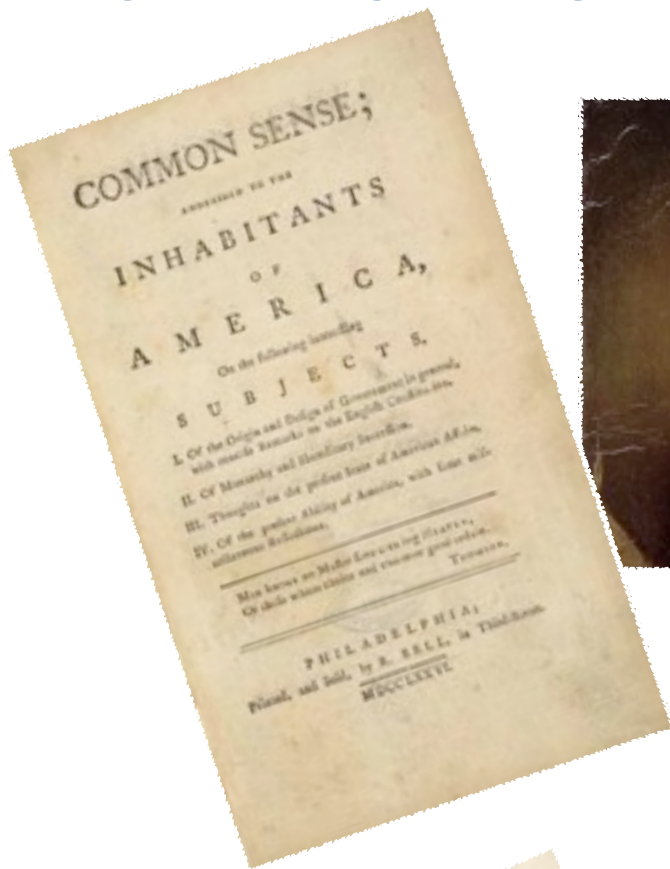
Only Prescott made it to Concord to warn the militia.

April 19, 1775 -- Lexington Green

"The Shot Heard Round the World" *Simile or Metaphor*

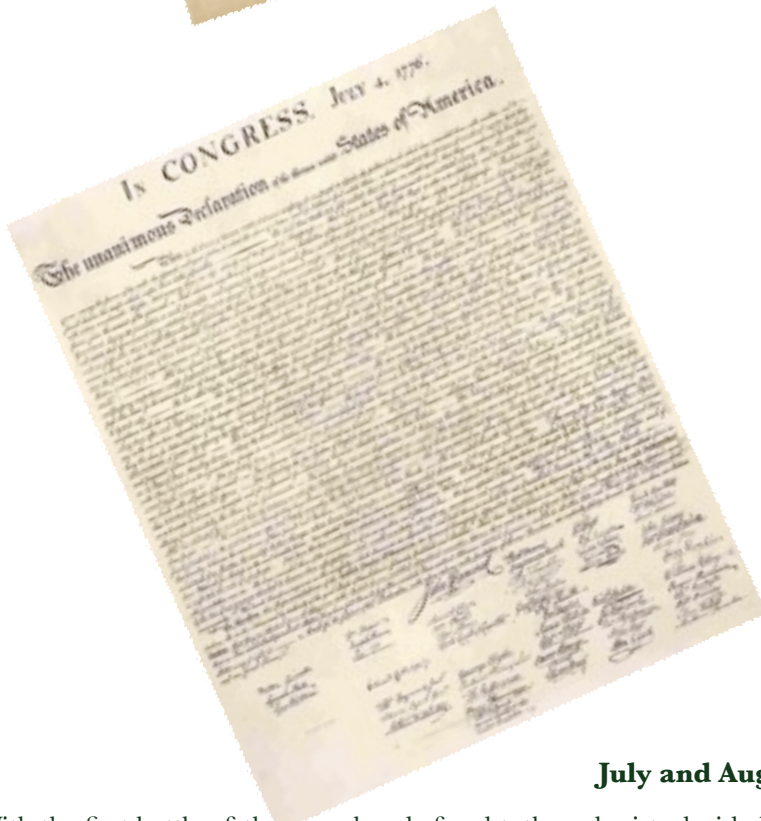


# Common Sense to Independence



**January 15, 1776**

- Thomas Paine publishes a pamphlet called Common Sense.
- In his pamphlet, he discusses the need for the colonies to declare independence.
- The document was extremely successful.
- All profits from the pamphlet went directly to the war effort.



**July and August 1776**



With the first battle of the war already fought, the colonists decided to officially declare their independence.

The Congress nominates Thomas Jefferson to construct a draft for the Declaration.

The Congress revises the draft and adopts the Declaration of Independence on July 2, 1776. (Written document dated July 4th.)

The Declaration is read in public on July 8th.

The document is signed on August 2nd. (*Delegates understand that signing this document could mean their death.*)

Note: Thomas Jefferson was not happy with the revisions made to his draft. *Ex.) removal of slavery from the document.*