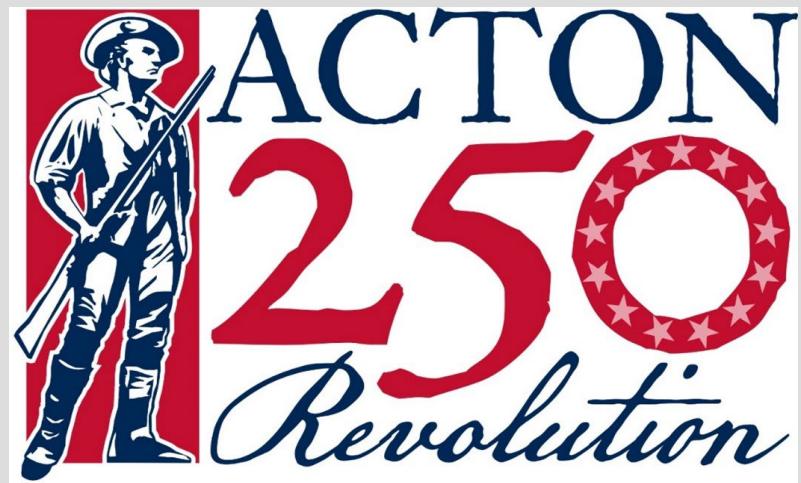


The Gathering Storm

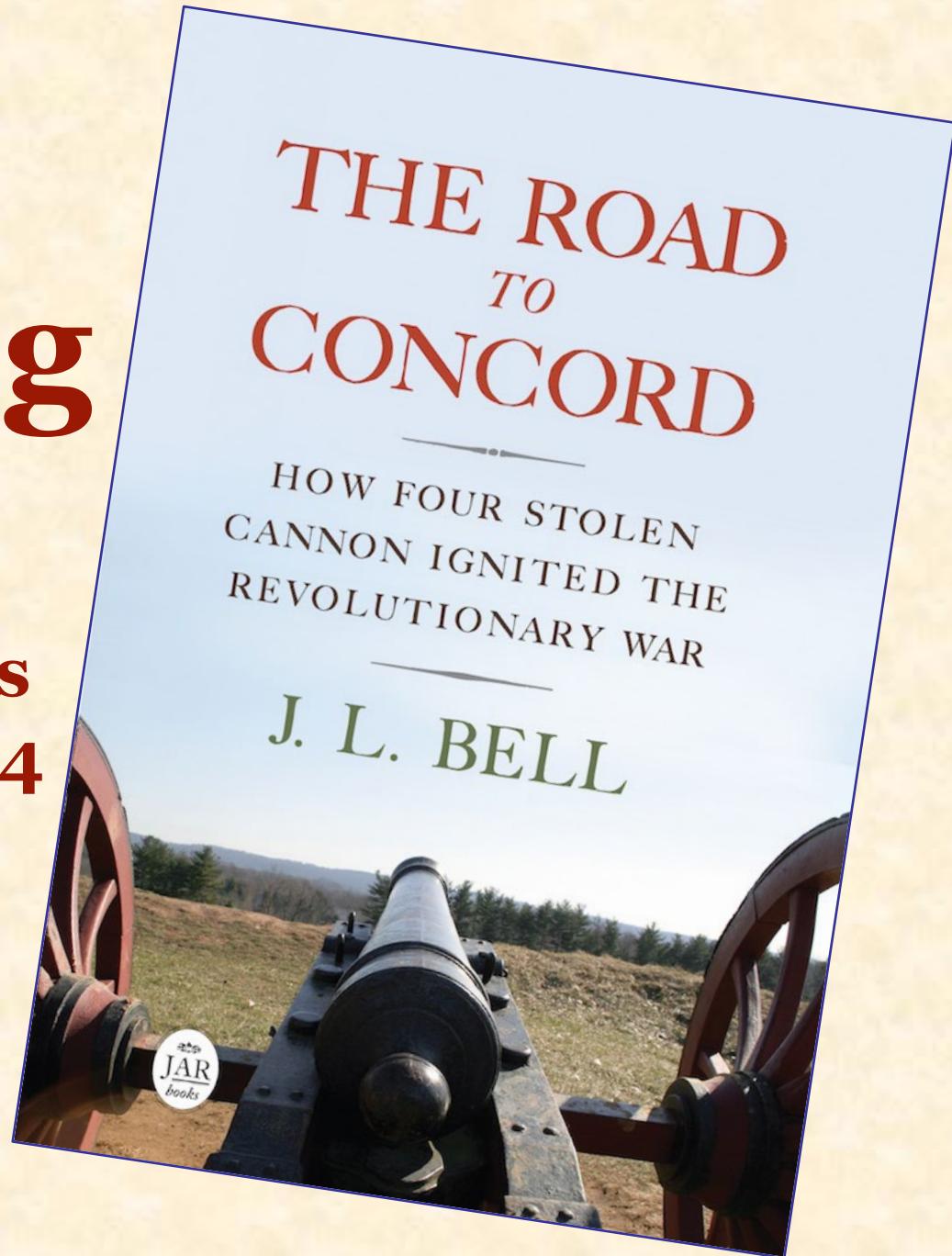
with historian J. L. Bell

Author of *The Road to Concord:
How Four Stolen Cannon
Ignited the Revolutionary War*

- Presented by the Acton 250 Committee
- More events of all kinds to follow.
See <https://www.actonma.gov/250>
- Acton has a lot of history to celebrate!



The Gathering Storm: The Massachusetts Countryside in 1774





New England

Massachusetts

Connecticut

Rhode Island

New Hampshire

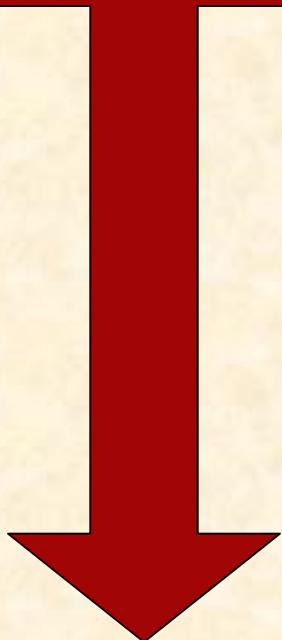
- Puritan founding
- Town meetings
- Elected governors under their first charters



— Royal Government —

King, Ministers & Parliament

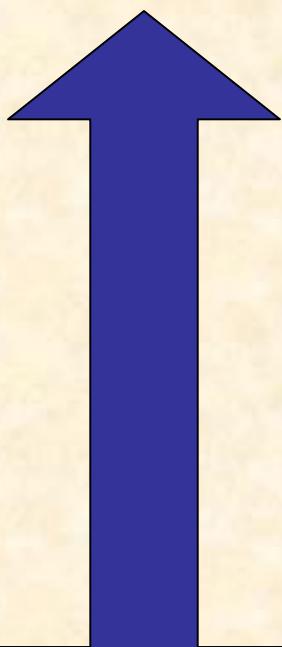
TOP
DOWN



- Governor, Lt. Governor
 - Judges, other court officials
 - Justices of the Peace
 - Sheriffs
 - Militia officers
- Treasurer, Secretary
- Army and Navy officers
- Customs Service

— Popular Government —

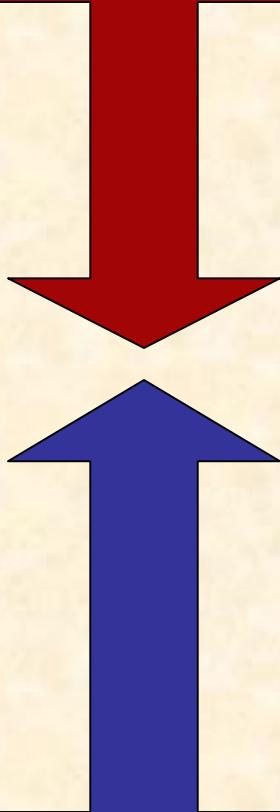
White Property-Owning Men



**BOTTOM
UP**

- Town Meetings
 - Selectmen
 - Tax Collectors, Constables
 - House Representatives
- House
 - Speaker, Clerk
 - Councilors
- Council

TOP
DOWN

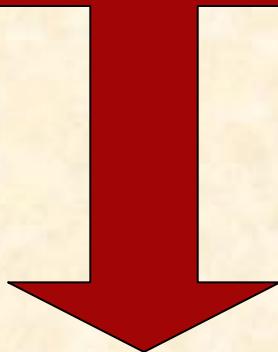


BOTTOM
UP

Areas of Overlap

- Council votes/negatives
- Council approval for some acts by the governor
- Legislative votes/negatives
- Judges and juries
- Militia officer choices

TOP
DOWN



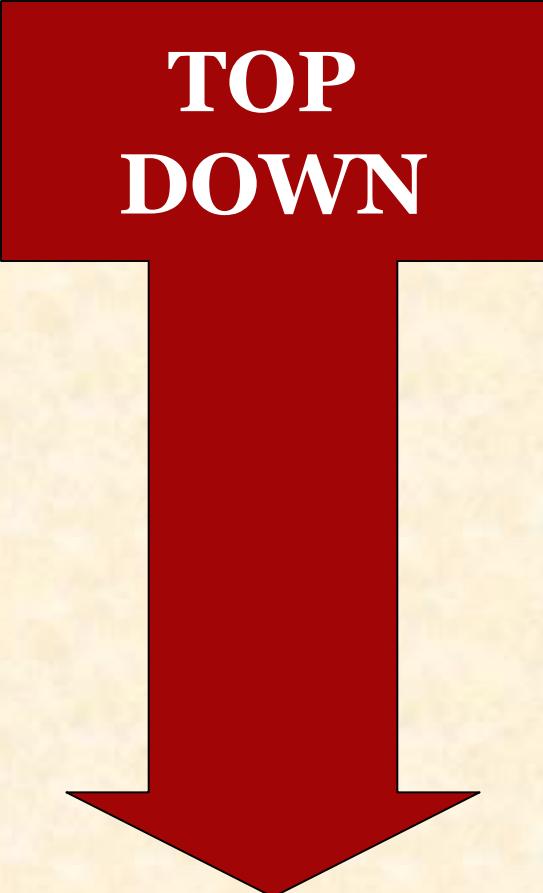
BOTTOM
UP

Areas of Overlap

- Council votes/negatives
- Council approval for some acts by the governor
- Legislative votes/negatives
- ~~Judges and juries~~
- Militia officer choices

— Royal Government —

Strengthening Measures, 1767-1774



TOP
DOWN

- Salaries for Governor, Lt. Governor, others
- Salaries for Judges
- Increased funds for Customs Service
 - *All paid from tea duties*
- Army and Navy deployed to Boston, 1768-1770 and again in May 1774

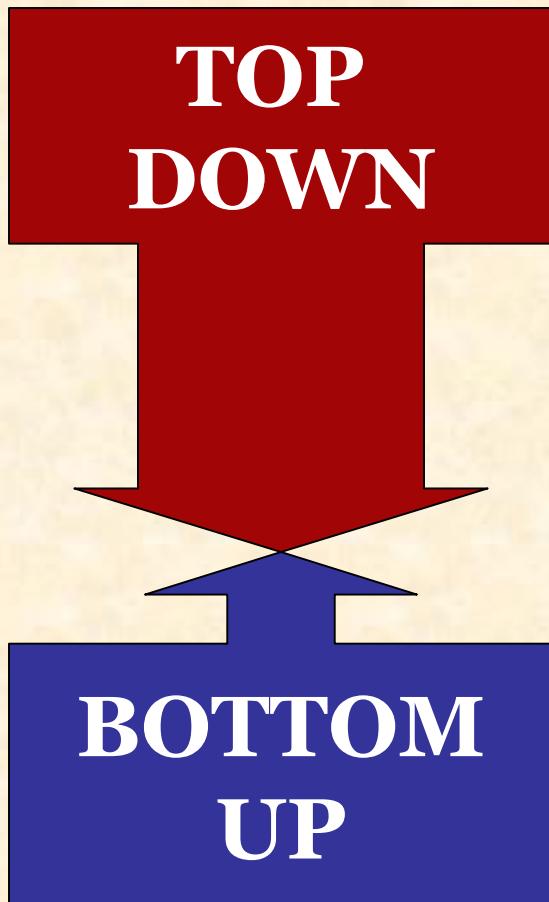


Gen. Thomas Gage

- commander-in-chief of the British Army in North America
- stationed in New York for decades
- appointed governor of Massachusetts in May 1774

— Popular Government —

Limiting Measures, 1774

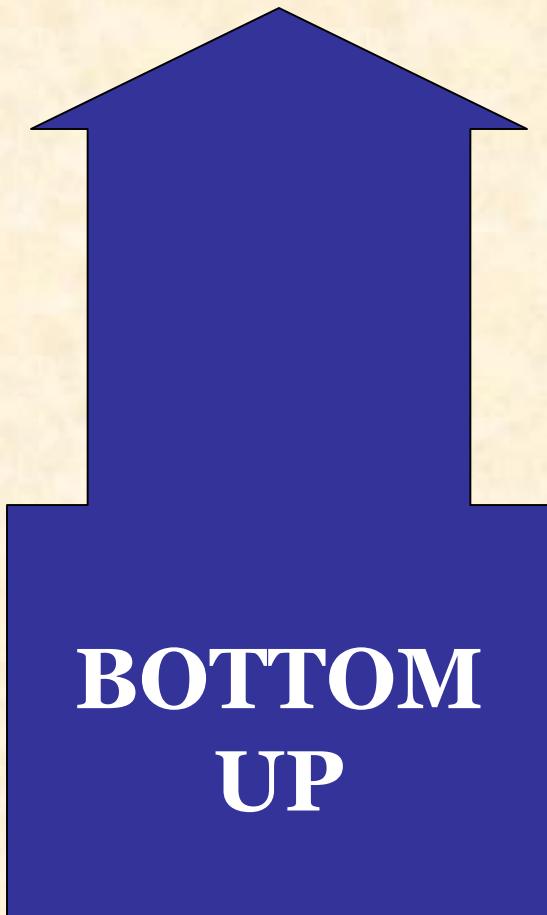


— Under the Massachusetts Government Act

- Town Meetings restricted to one per year
- “Mandamus” Council instead of Councilors elected by the House
- Province-wide Conventions forbidden

— Popular Government —

Resistance Measures, summer 1774



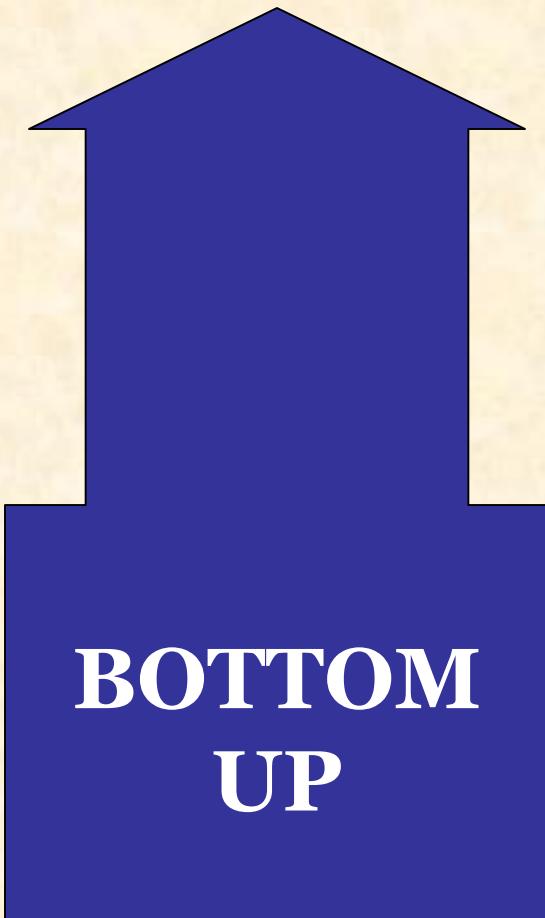
- House chose delegates for a Continental Congress
- Solemn League & Covenant
- County Conventions
 - *Berkshire County, July 6*
- Town committees of correspondence gathered
 - *Worcester County, August 9–10*



Tim Abbott

— Popular Government —

Resistance Measures, August 1774



- Town meetings by adjournment
- Men refused jury duty
- Crowds halted courts
 - *Berkshire County, August 16*
 - *Hampshire County, August 30*
- Intimidation of Councilors



Middlesex County Convention Concord, August 30–31, 1774

Acton





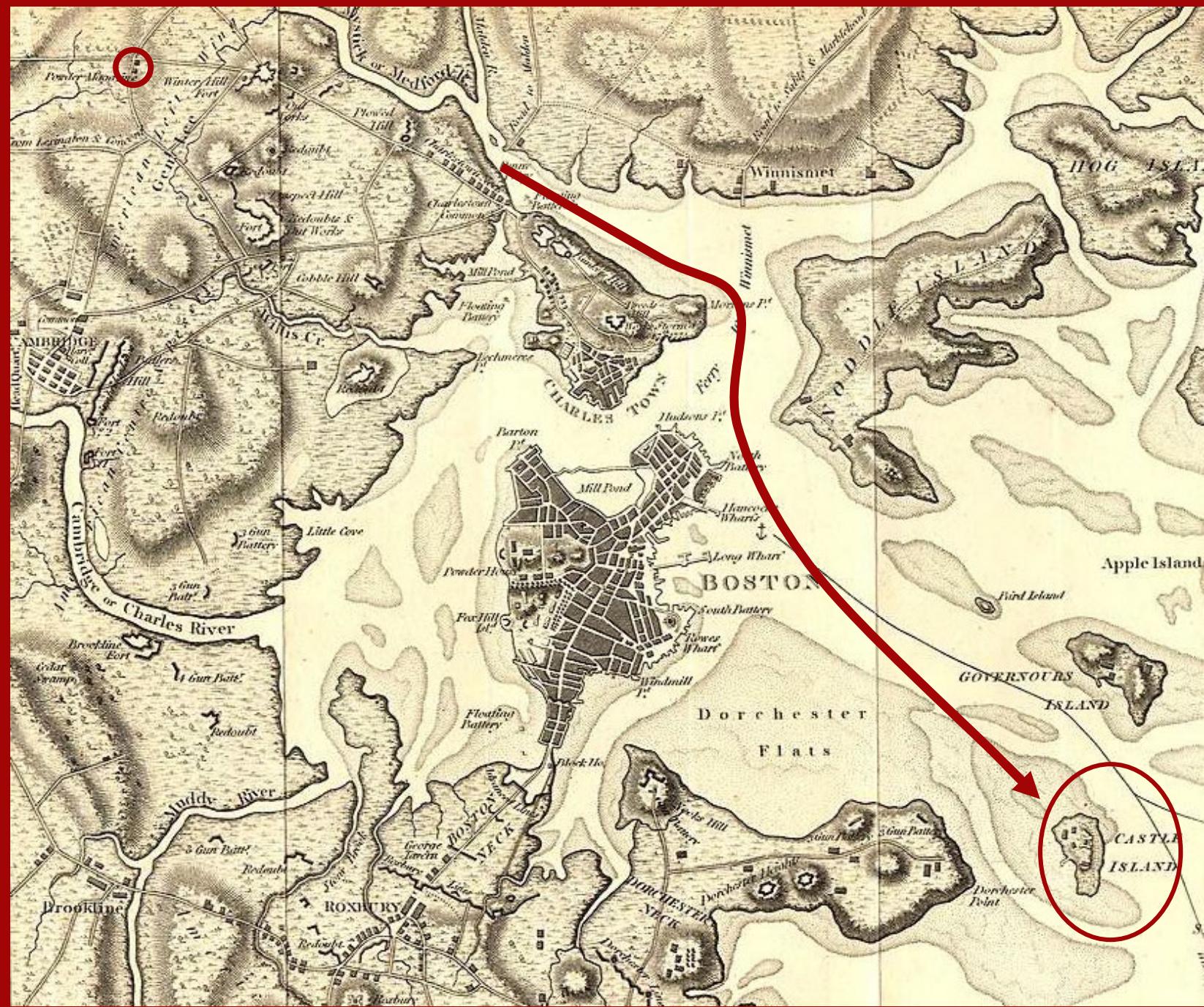
Provincial Powderhouse

- Remote area of Charlestown
- Storage for both towns and province
- Represented militia preparedness







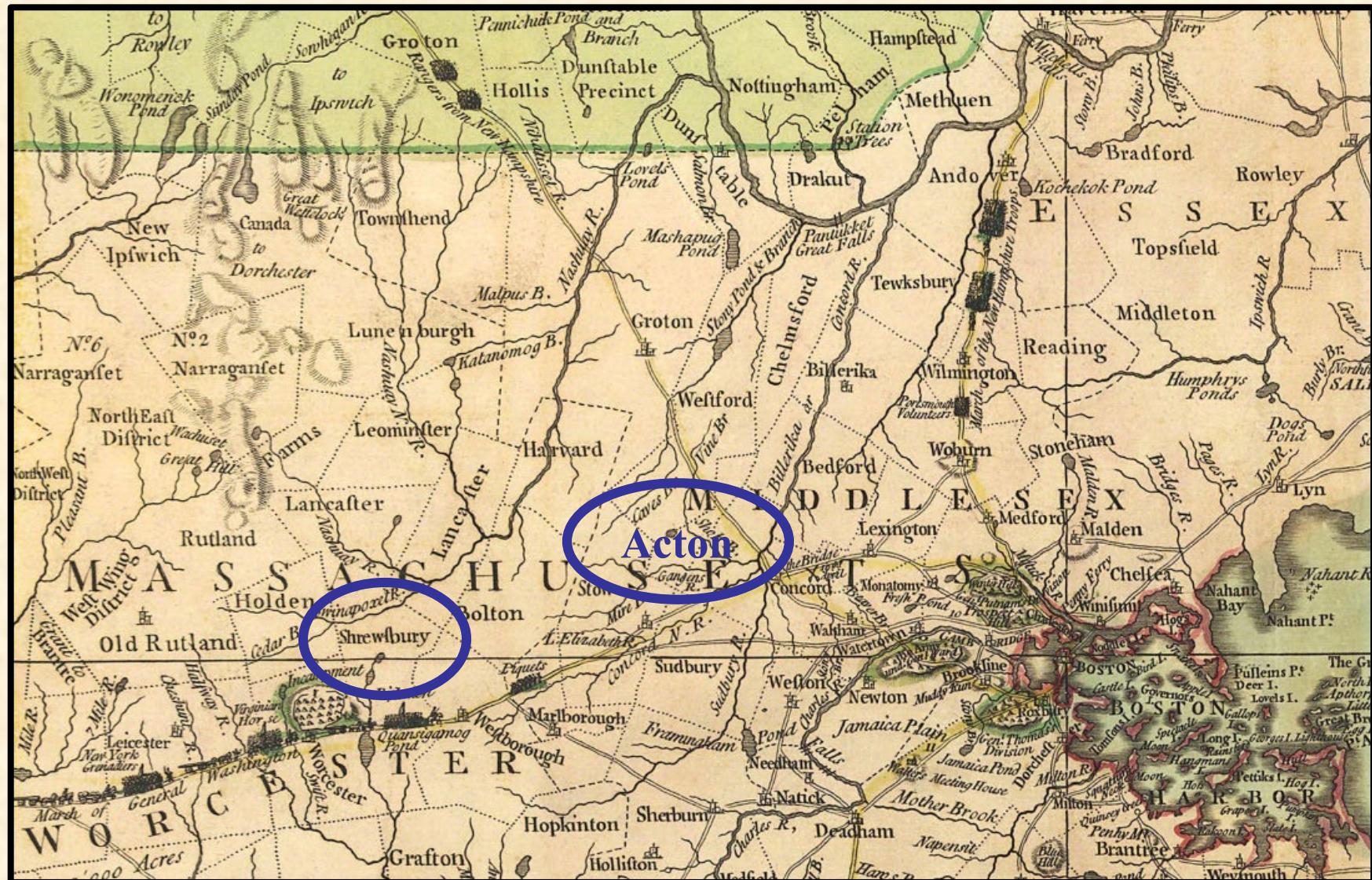




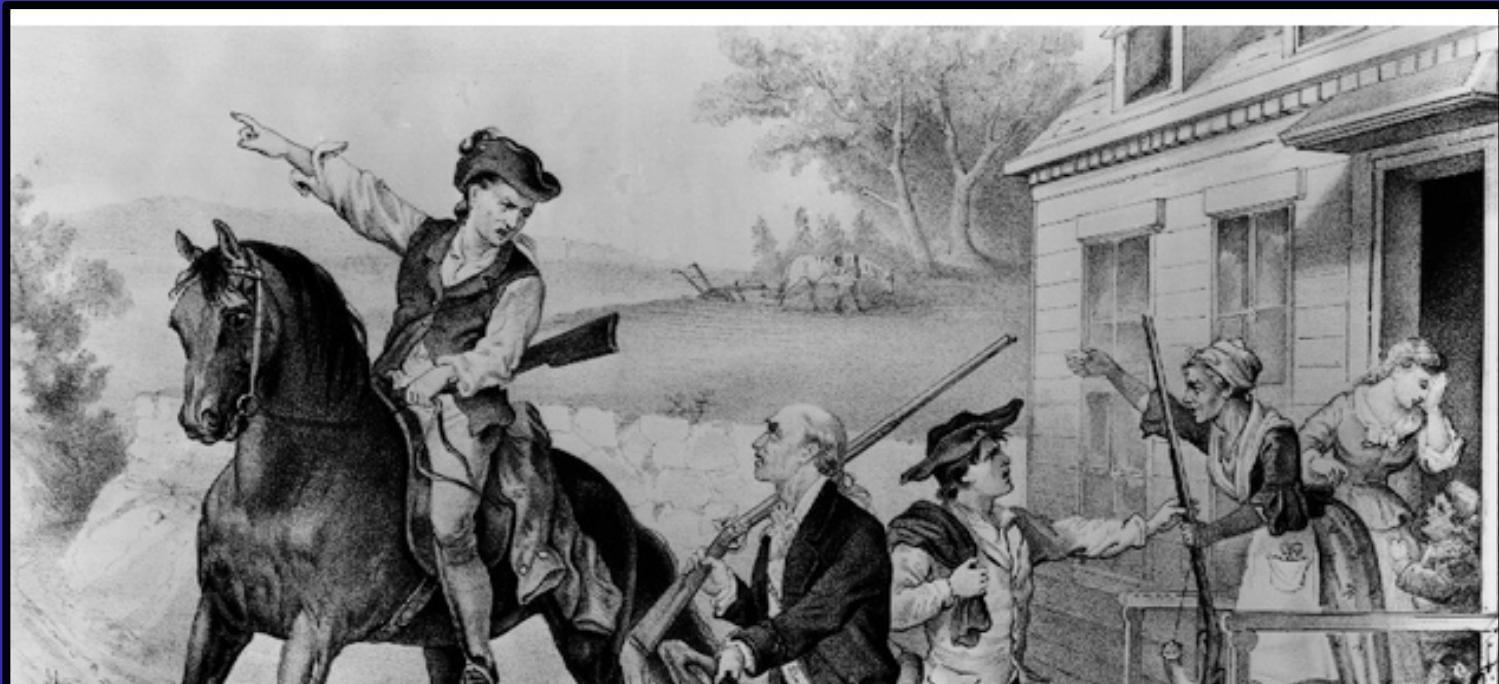
NEW ENGLAND.

WILLIAM H. DAVIS,
NEW HAMPSHIRE, WITH
THE COOPERATIVE OF
CONNECTICUT AND
BOSTON, MASS.







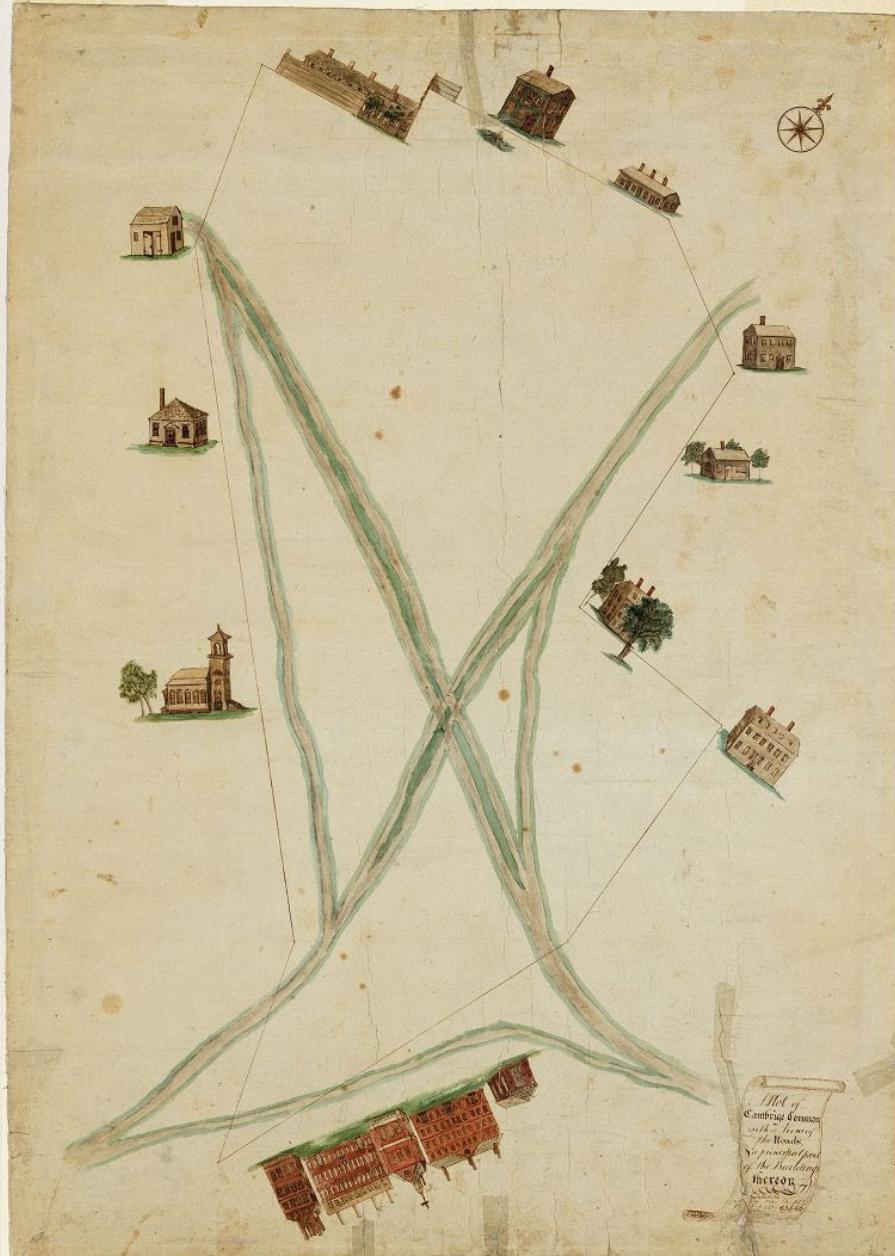


September 2, 1774

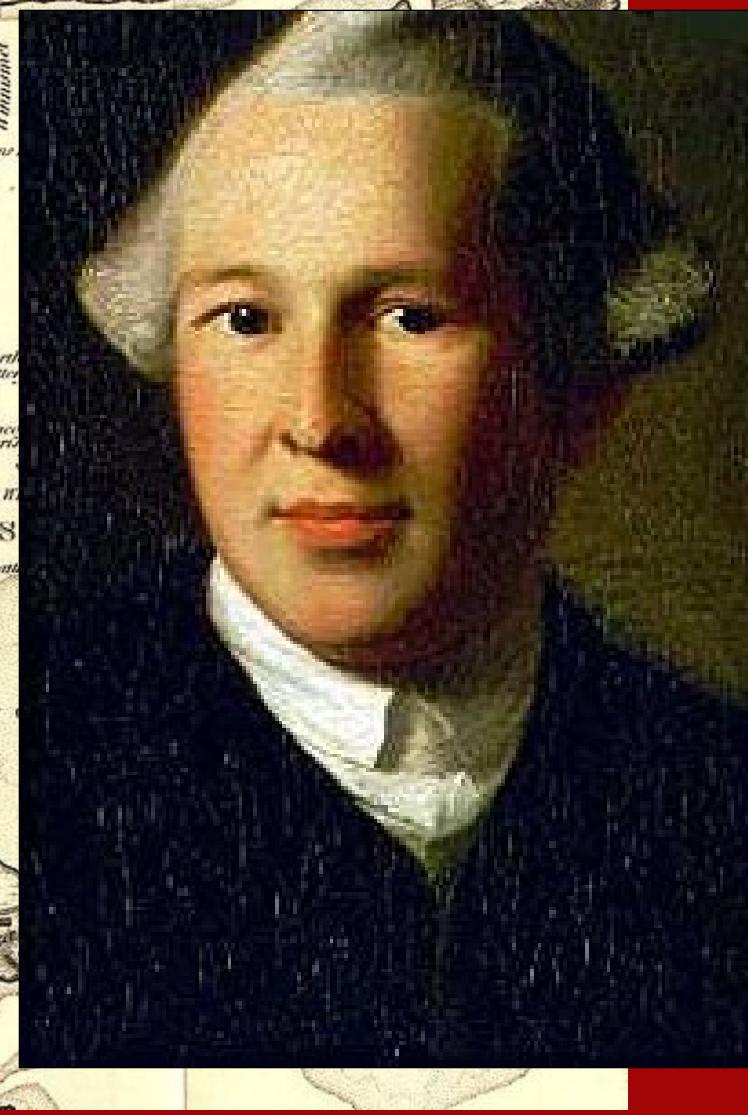
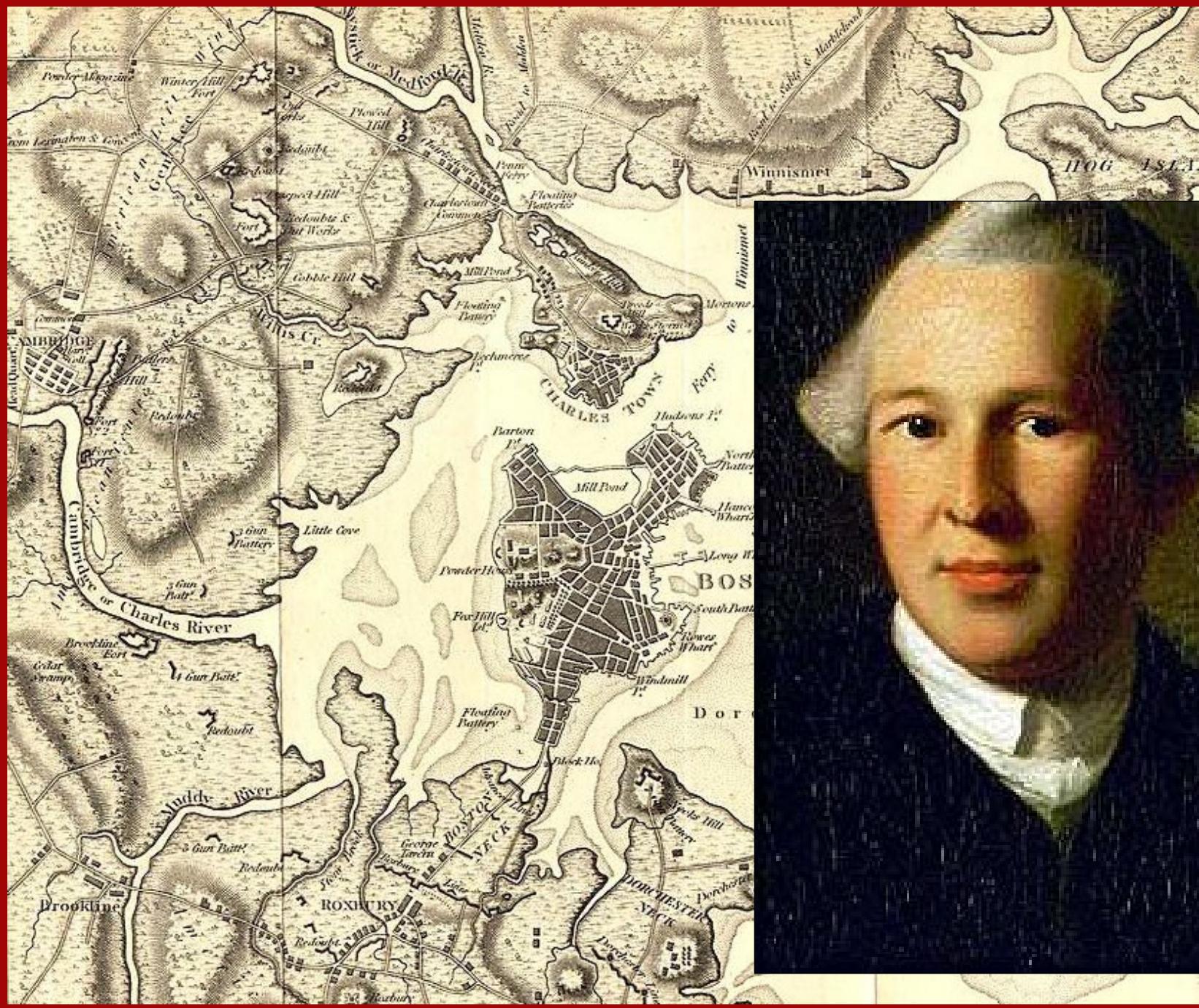


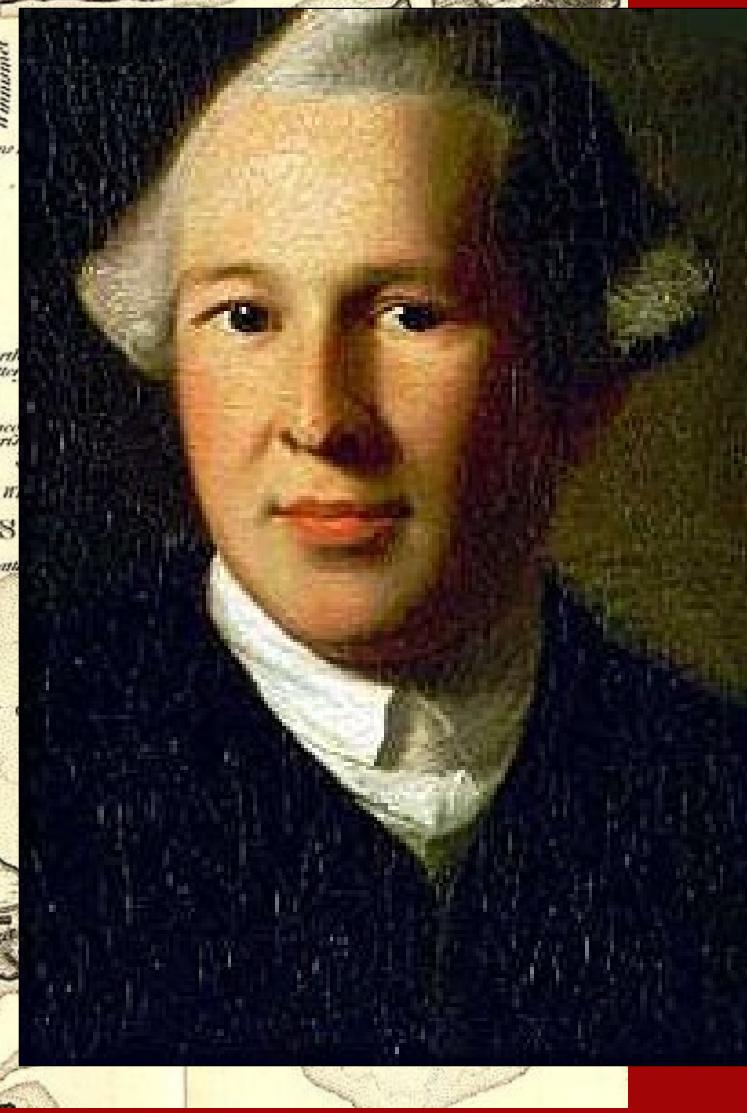
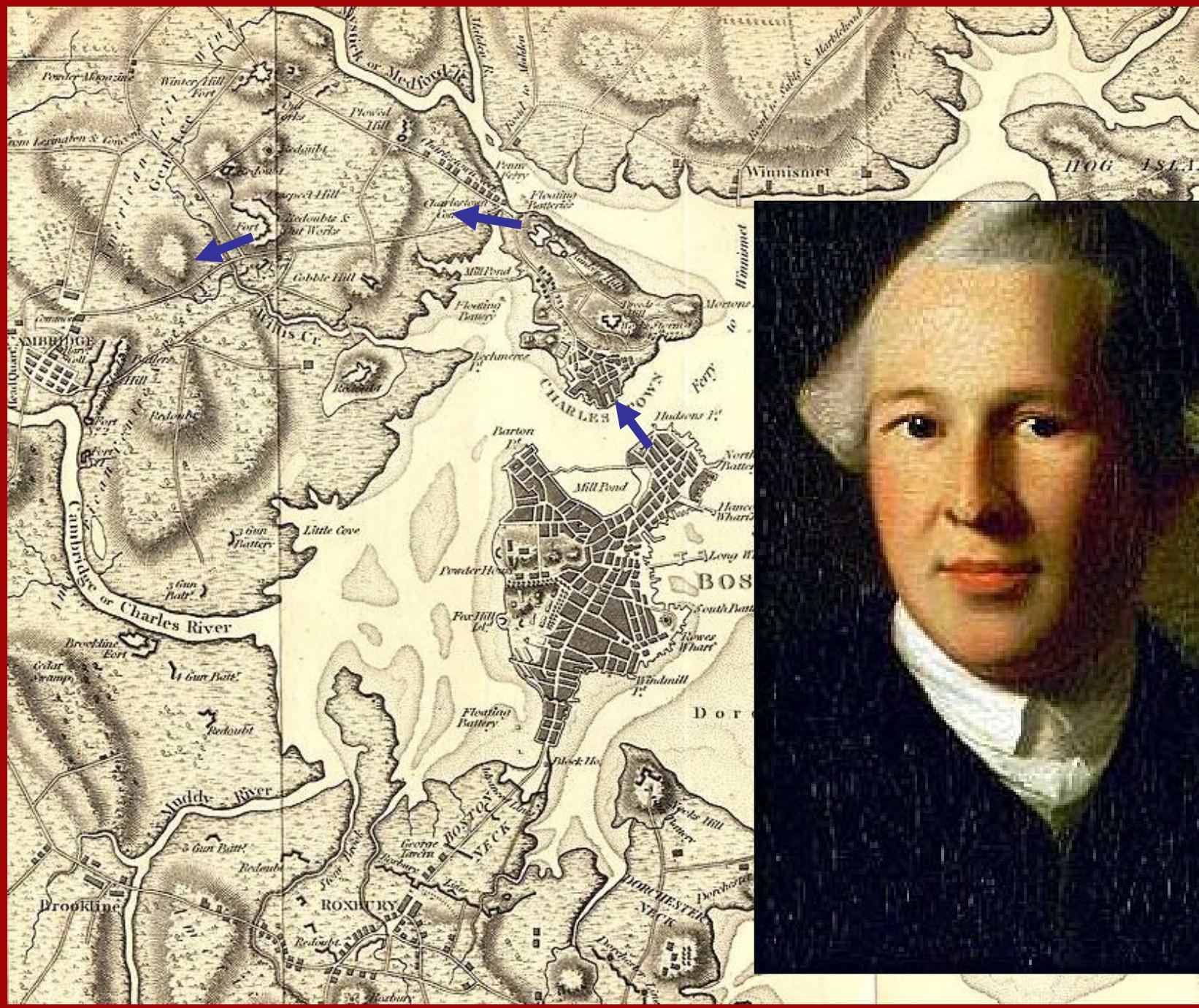


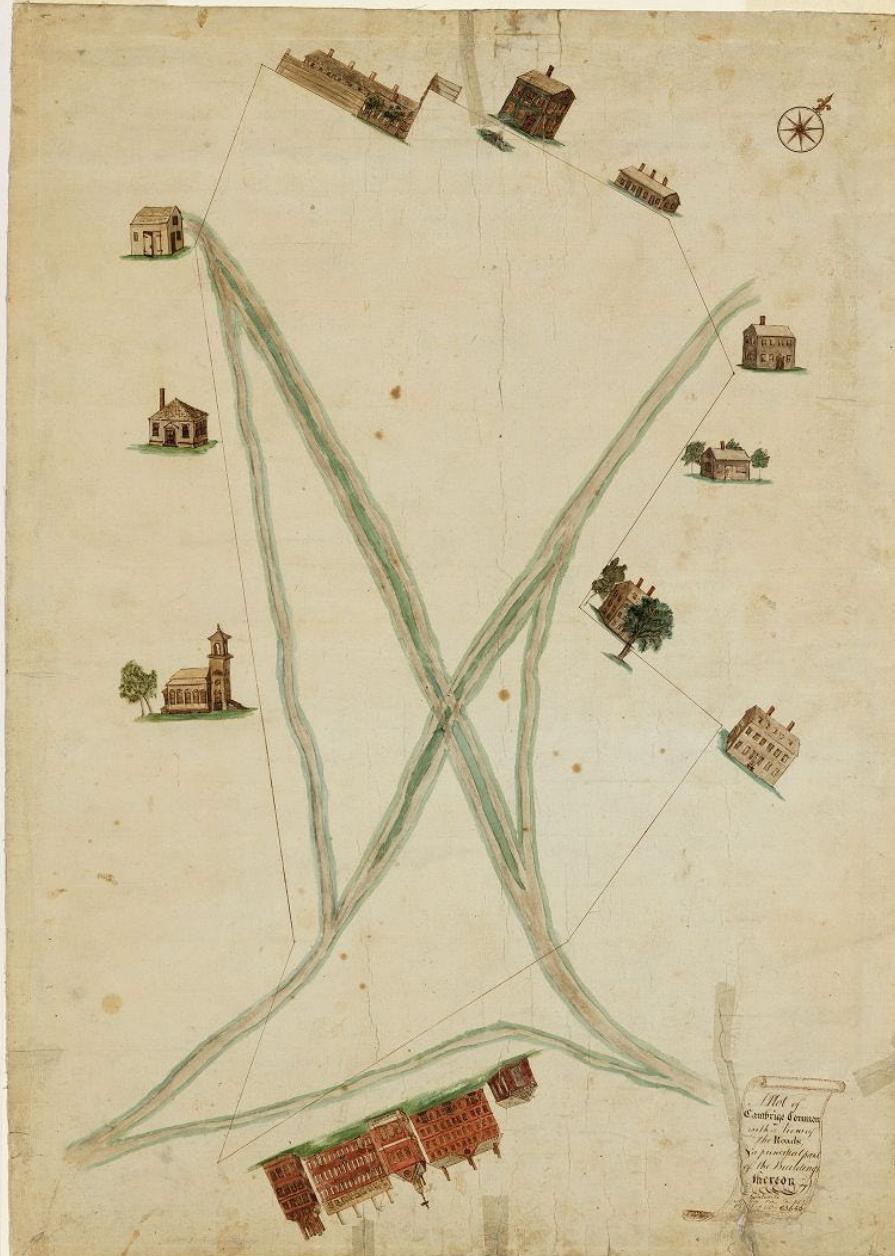




Harvard University – Harvard University Archives / Green, Joshua, 1764–1847. Drawings by Joshua Green. A Plot of Cambridge Common with a view of the Roads & a principal part of the Buildings thereon, ca. 1781. HUV 2181 Folder 3, Harvard University Archives.



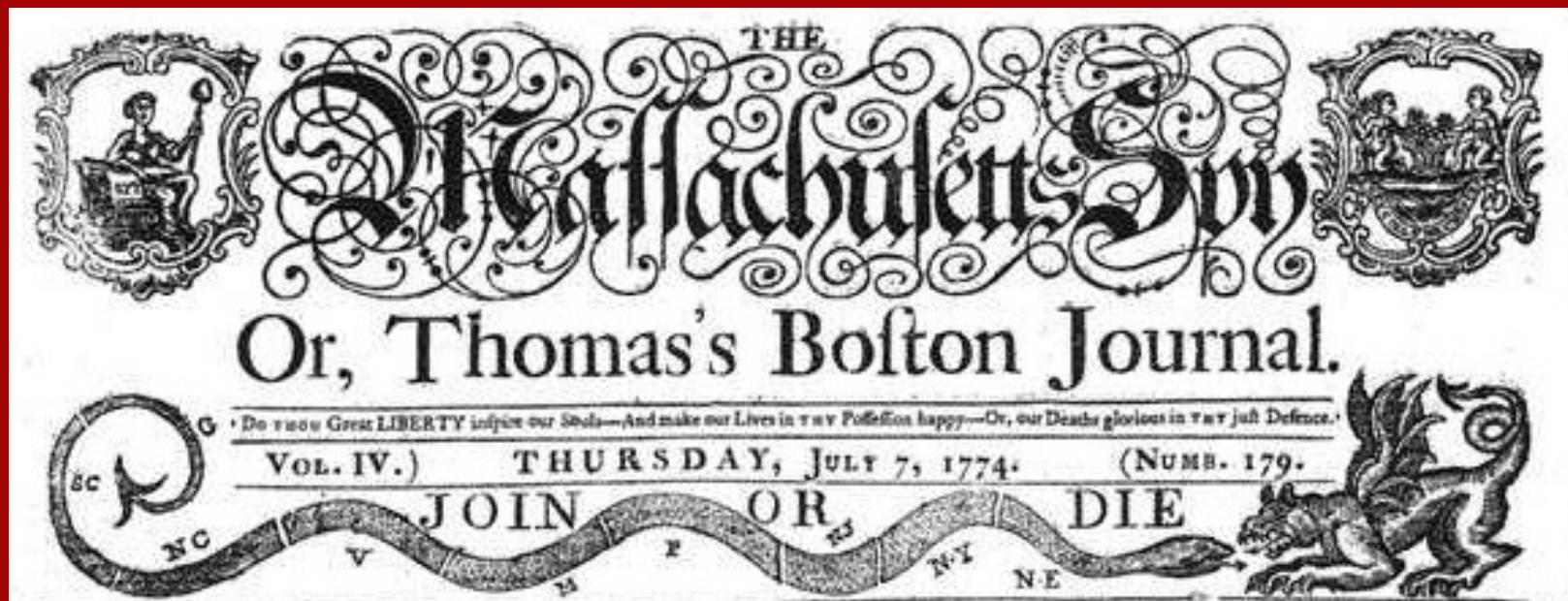




Harvard University – Harvard University Archives / Green, Joshua, 1764–1847. Drawings by Joshua Green. A Plot of Cambridge Common with a view of the Roads & a principal part of the Buildings thereon, ca. 1781. HUV 2181 Folder 3, Harvard University Archives.



Isaiah Thomas and the *Massachusetts Spy*











Thomas Oliver's house







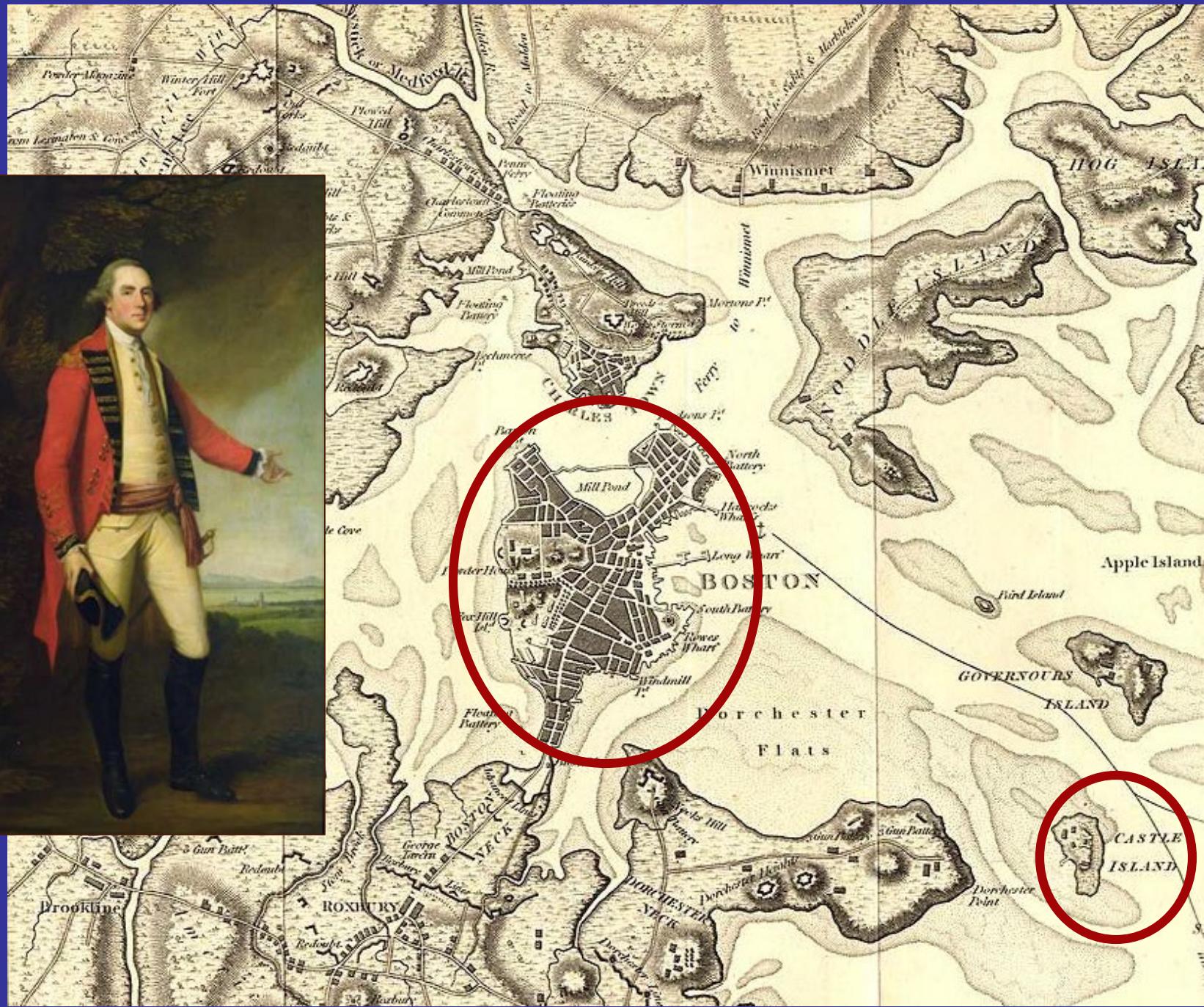


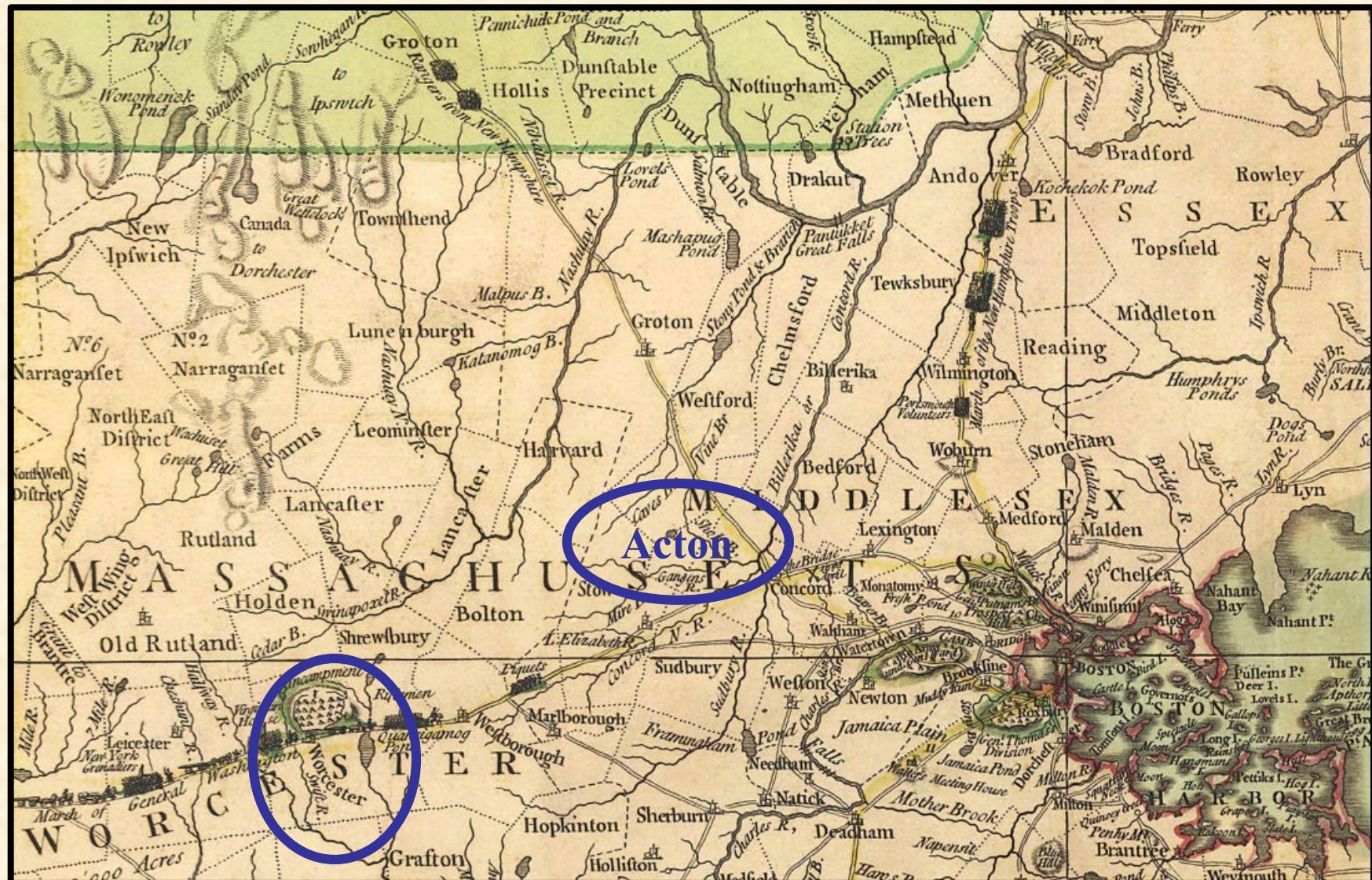


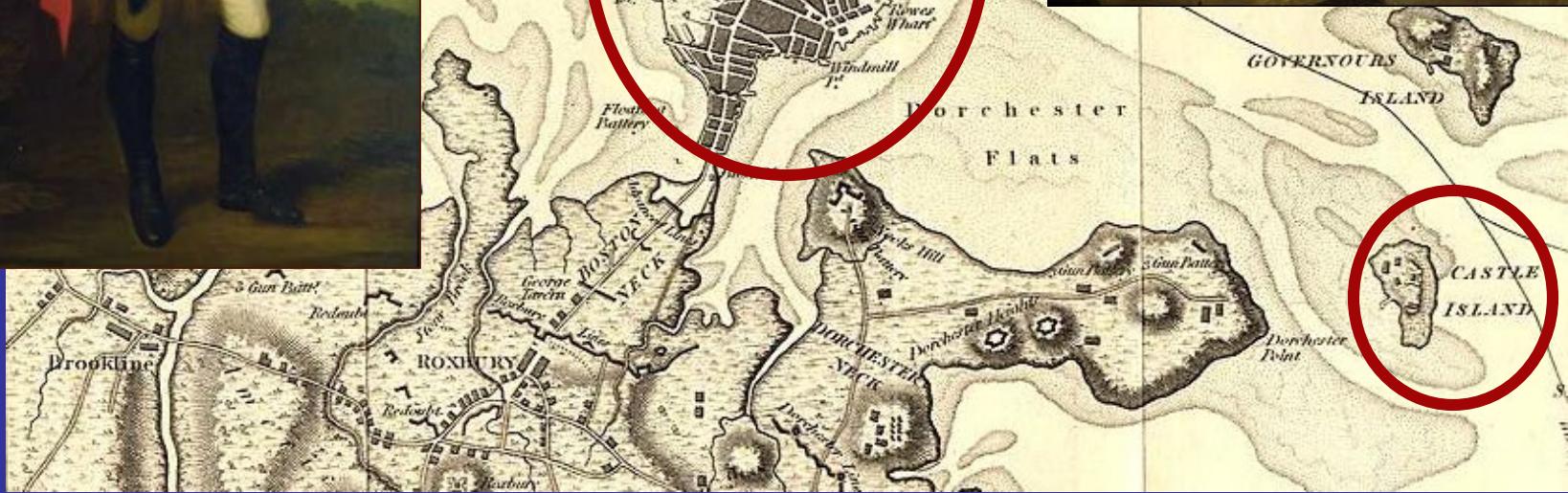














A DRAUGHT of the TOWNS of
BOSTON and CHARLESTOWN
and the Circumjacent Country shewing the
Works thrown up by HIS MAJESTY'S
Troops, and alſo thoſe by the *Rebels*,
during the Campaign: 1775.

N.B. The Rebels Entrenchments are express'd as they appear from Beacon Hill which are color'd yellow.

Map Division
Library of Congress

A Scale of 10000 Yards

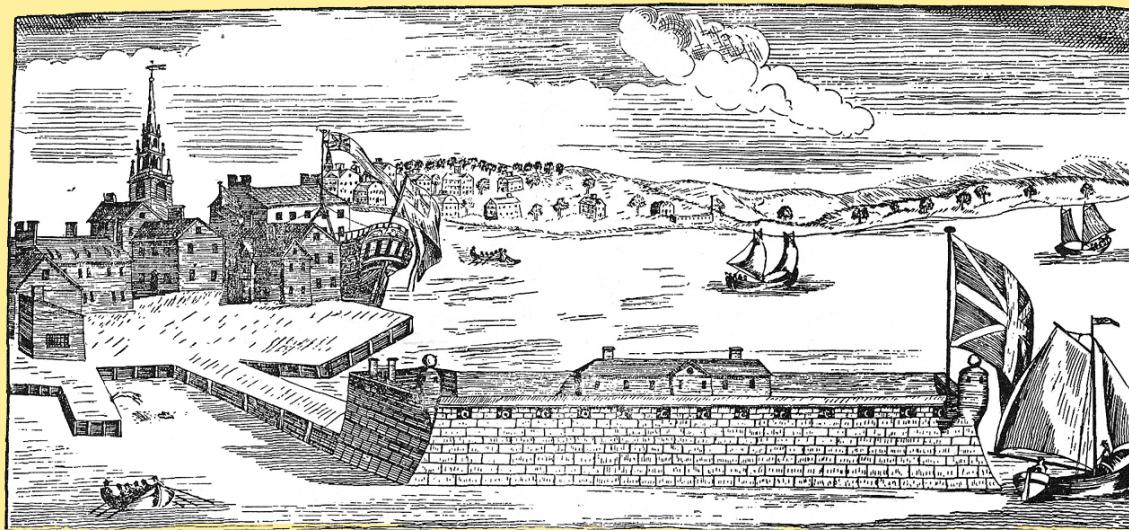


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Map Division
Library of Congress

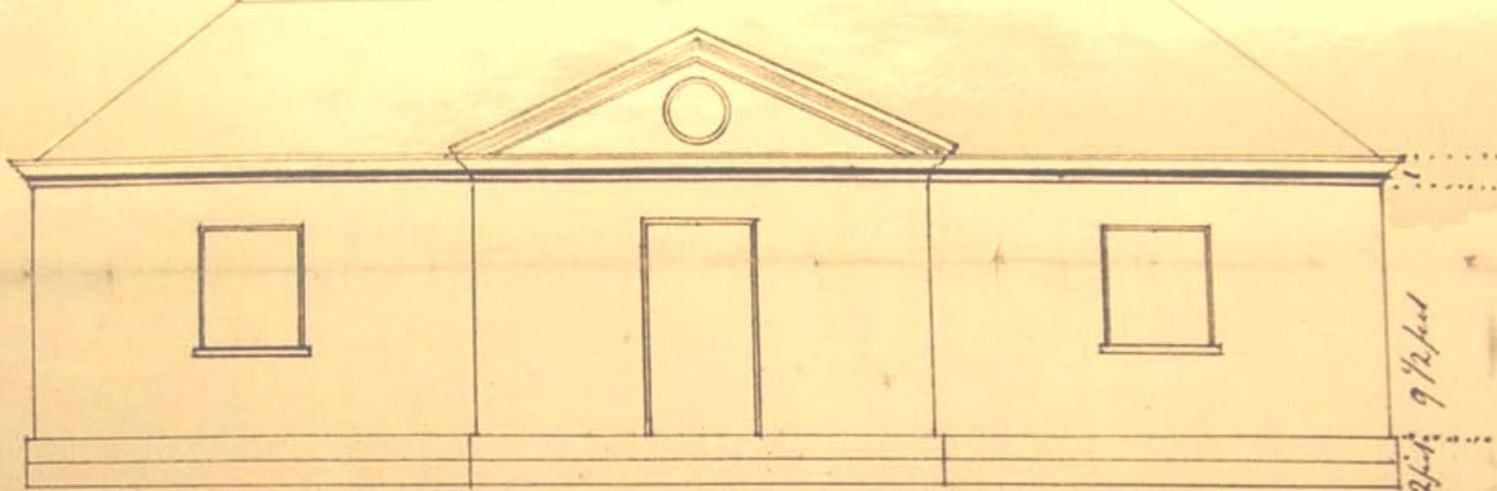




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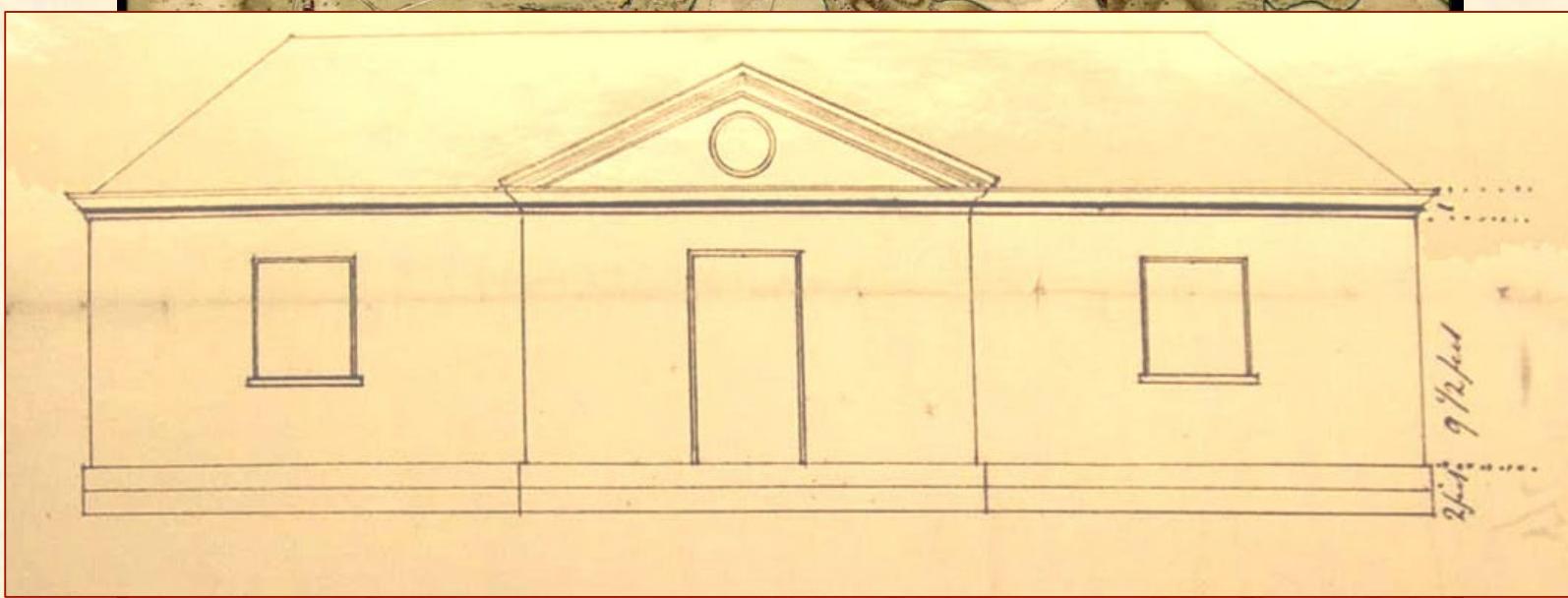
Map Division
Library of Congress



A DRAUGHT of the TOWNS of
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Works thrown up by **HIS MAJESTY**
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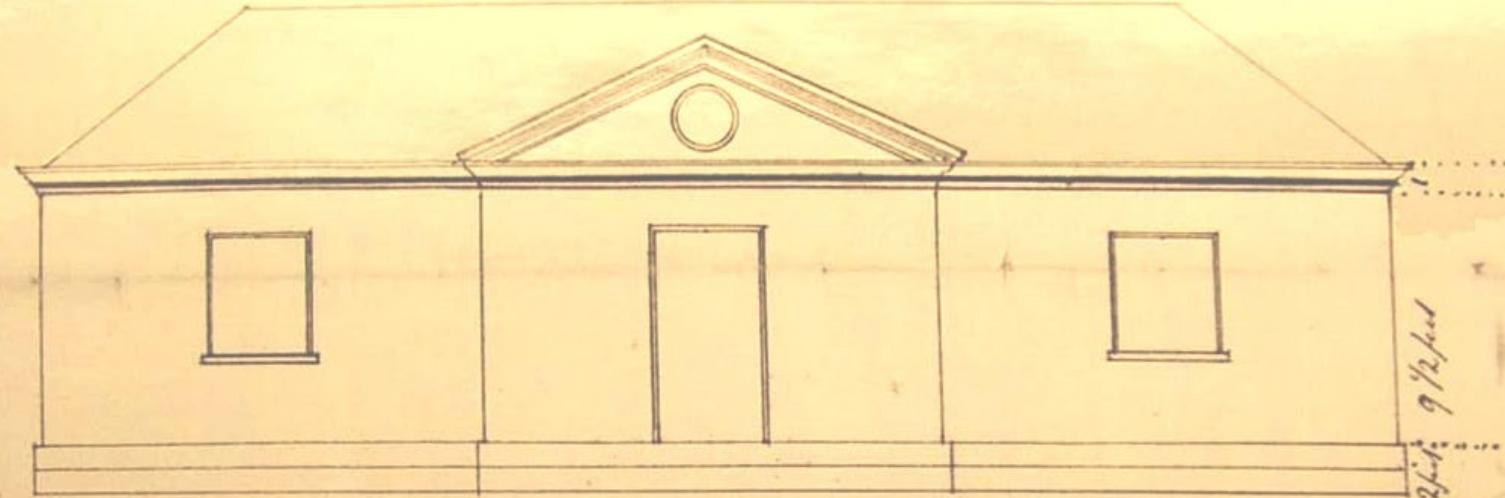
Map Division
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Map Division
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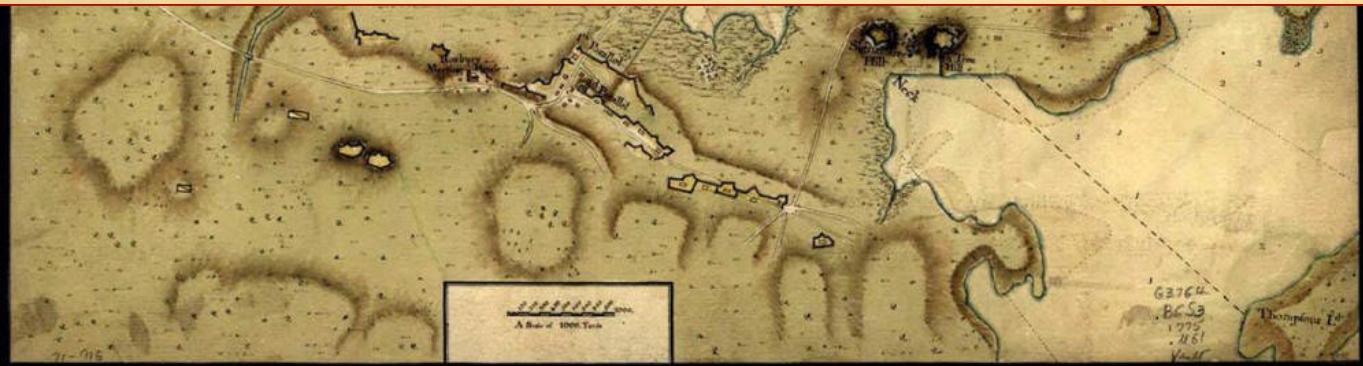
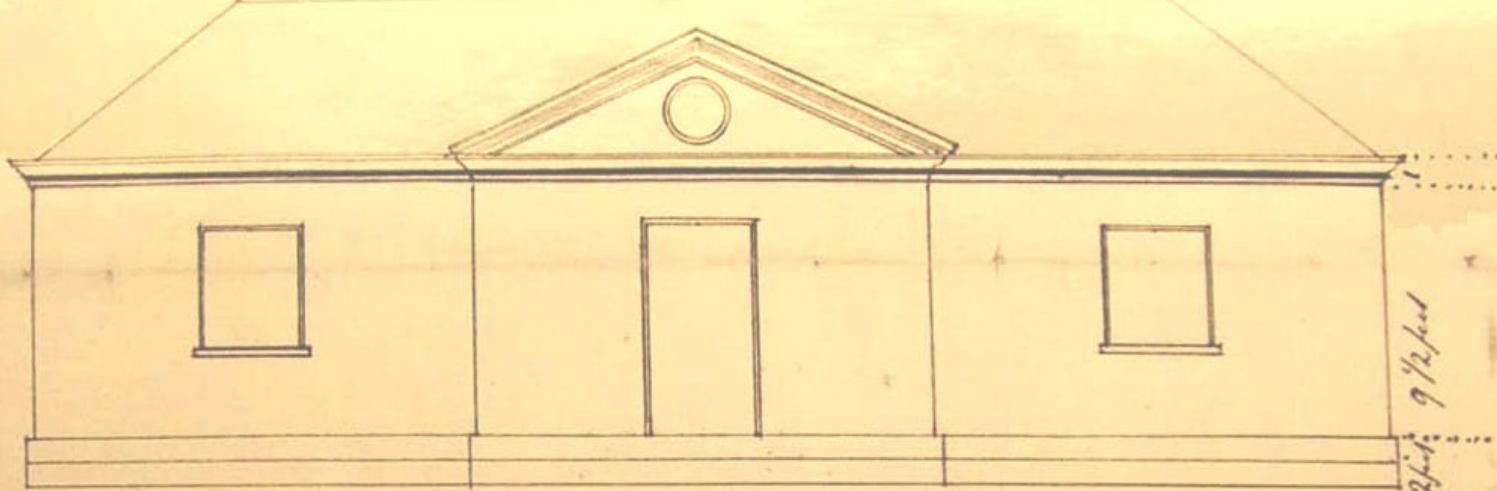
Thompson Ld.



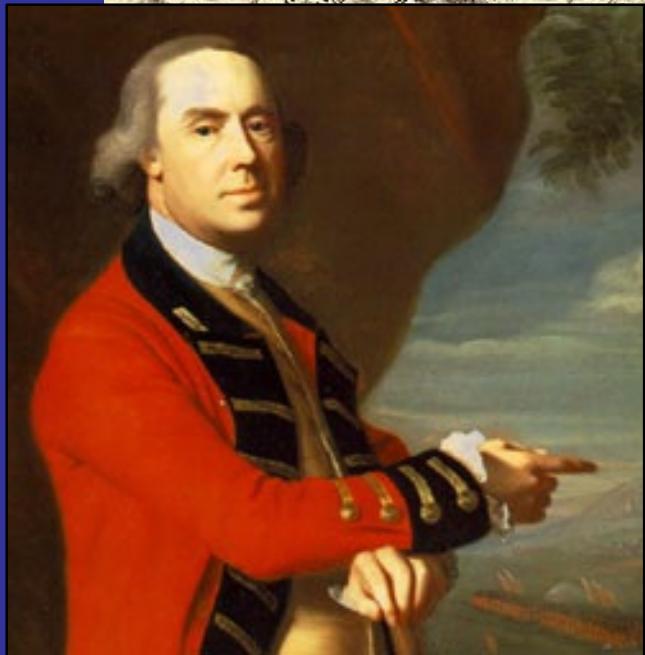
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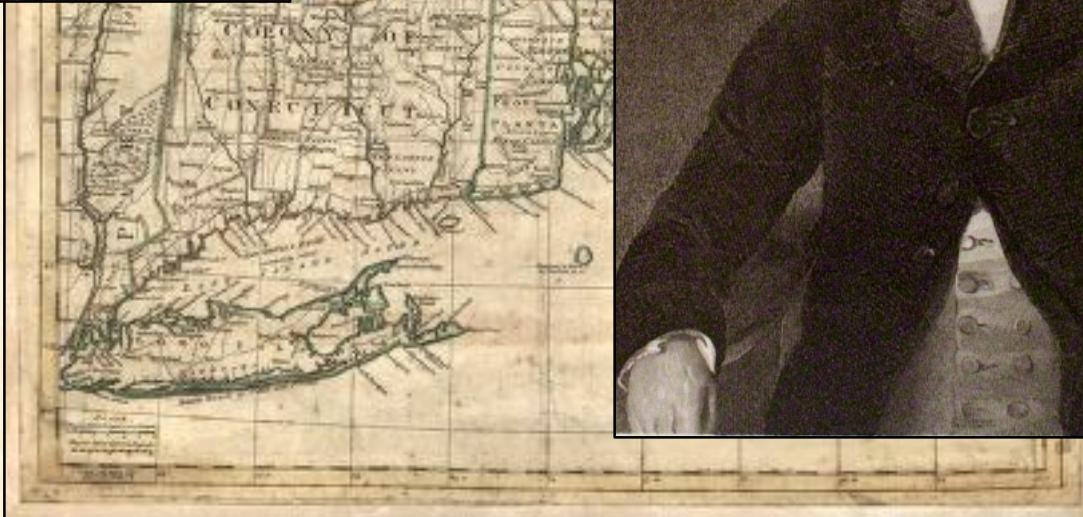
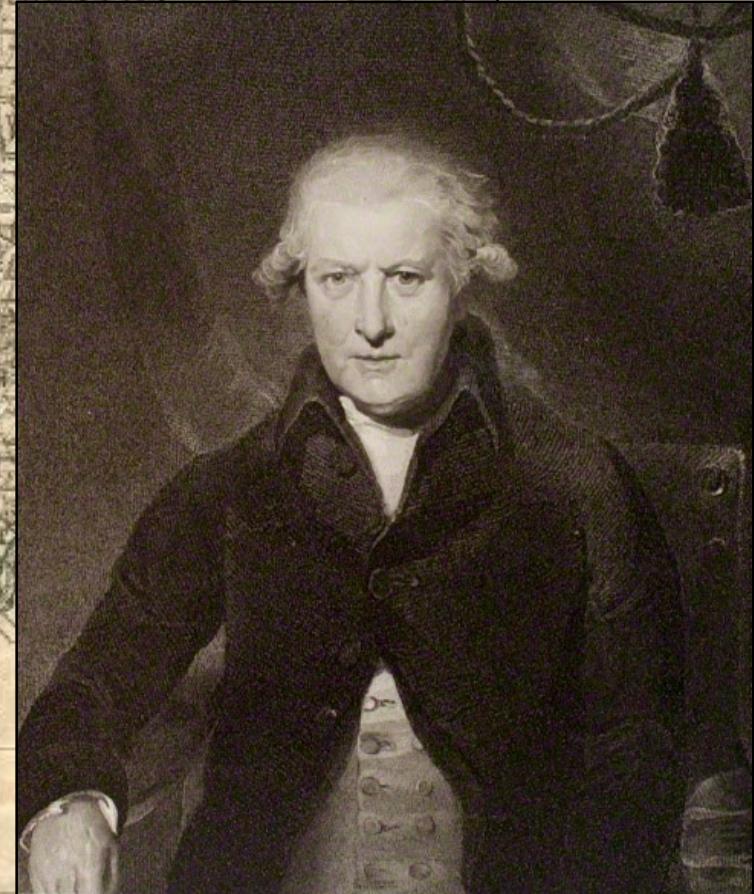
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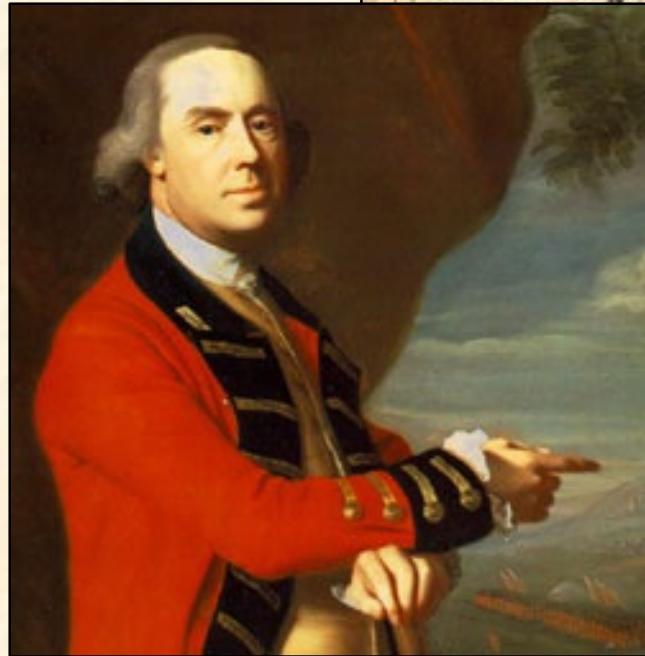
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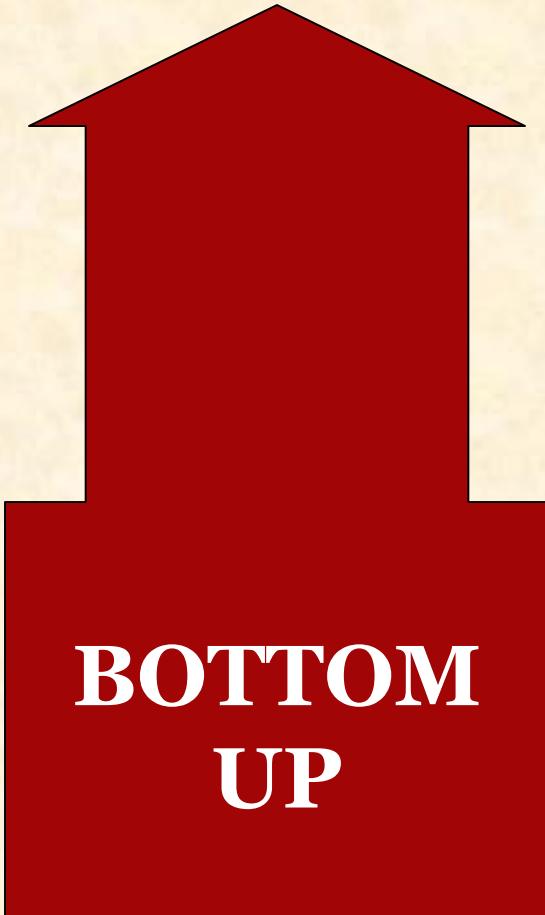






— Popular Government —

Resistance Measures, fall 1774



- Towns sent delegates to a Provincial Congress
- Towns sent tax revenue to Congress's Receiver General
- Militia regiments elected new officers (or reelected old)
- Militia regiments formed new minuteman and artillery companies, drilled more often
- Congress collected artillery



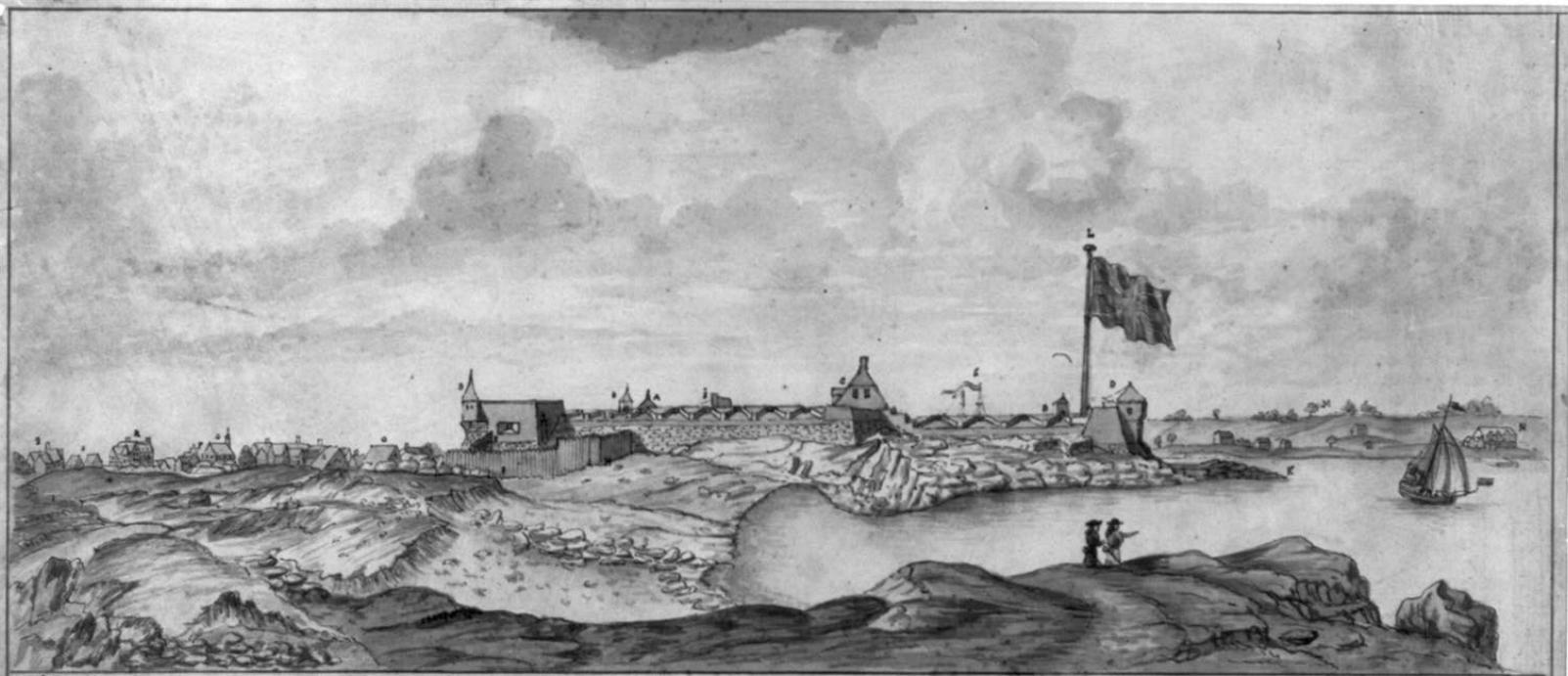












An explanation on the prospect draft of the Fort William and Mary on Piscataqua River in y^r Province of New Hampshire on the continent of America. — a The new made powder house. b The new made centry box. c The new made lodgings for officers & Men. d The new made blockhouse & dungeon. e The new made fresh water well. f A pipe coming thro' the Palisados for the Queen's ship to water. g The Sally port for to have correspondence with the Well. h Blockade Sally port. i The old guard house. k The Piscataqua River. l The new flag staff. m Part of the provinces of Maine. n Justice Peperils Taresen's house. o The Town of new Castle on the Great Island. f the church. g The Ministers house. R Justice Atkinson house. S The Province gallly Capt Cyprian Southack Commander.





Benjamin Church's cipher

George Washington Papers

Image from the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Not to be reproduced without permission.

GENERAL GAGE's INSTRUCTIONS,

Of 22d February 1775.

To Captain *Brown* and Ensign *D'Bernicre*, (of the army, under his command) whom he ordered to take a sketch of the roads, passes, heights, &c. from *Boston* to *Worcester*, and to make other observations :

With a *curious*

NARRATIVE Of OCCURRENCES during their mission; Wrote by the *Ensign*.

Together with an ACCOUNT of their doings, in consequence of further Orders and Instructions from General *Gage*, of the 20th *March* following, to proceed to *Concord*, to reconnoitre and find out the state of the provincial magazines ; what number of cannon, &c. they have, and in what condition.

ALSO,

An ACCOUNT of the Transactions of the British troops, from the time they marched out of *Boston*, on the evening of the 18th, 'till their confused retreat back, on the ever memorable *Nineteenth of April 1775* ; and a Return of their killed, wounded and missing on that auspicious day, as made to Gen. *Gage*.

[Left in town by a British Officer previous to the evacuation of it by the enemy, and now printed for the information and amusement of the curios.]

BOSTON

Printed, and to be sold, by J. GILL, in Cornhill Street,
1779.

THE SEAT OF WAR,
IN
NEW ENGLAND.

an American Volunteer,
with *THE MARCHES*
of the Several Corps sent by the
COLONIES.
Towards BOSTON,
with the Attack on
BUNKER S-HILL.

English Miles.



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English Miles.



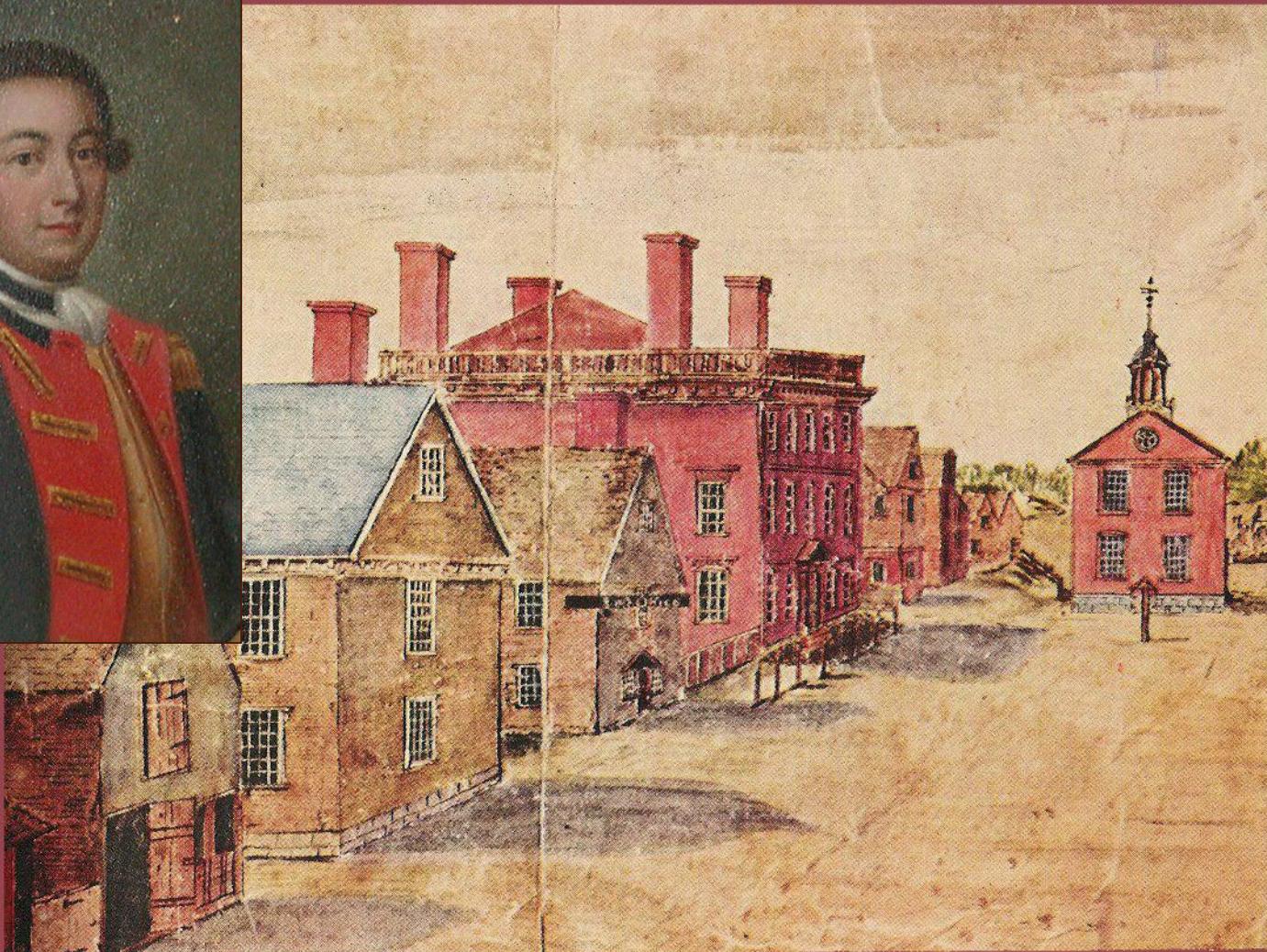




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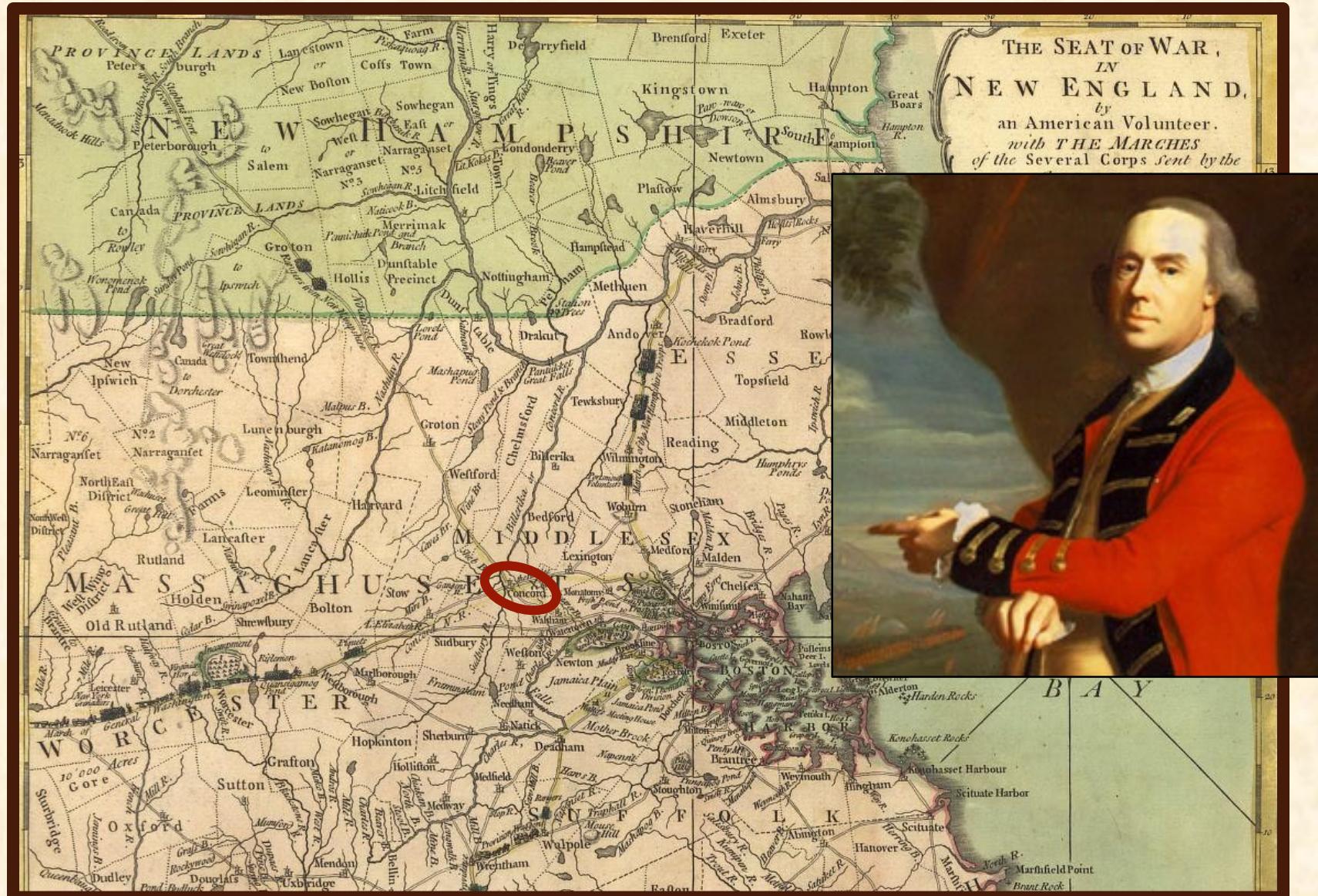
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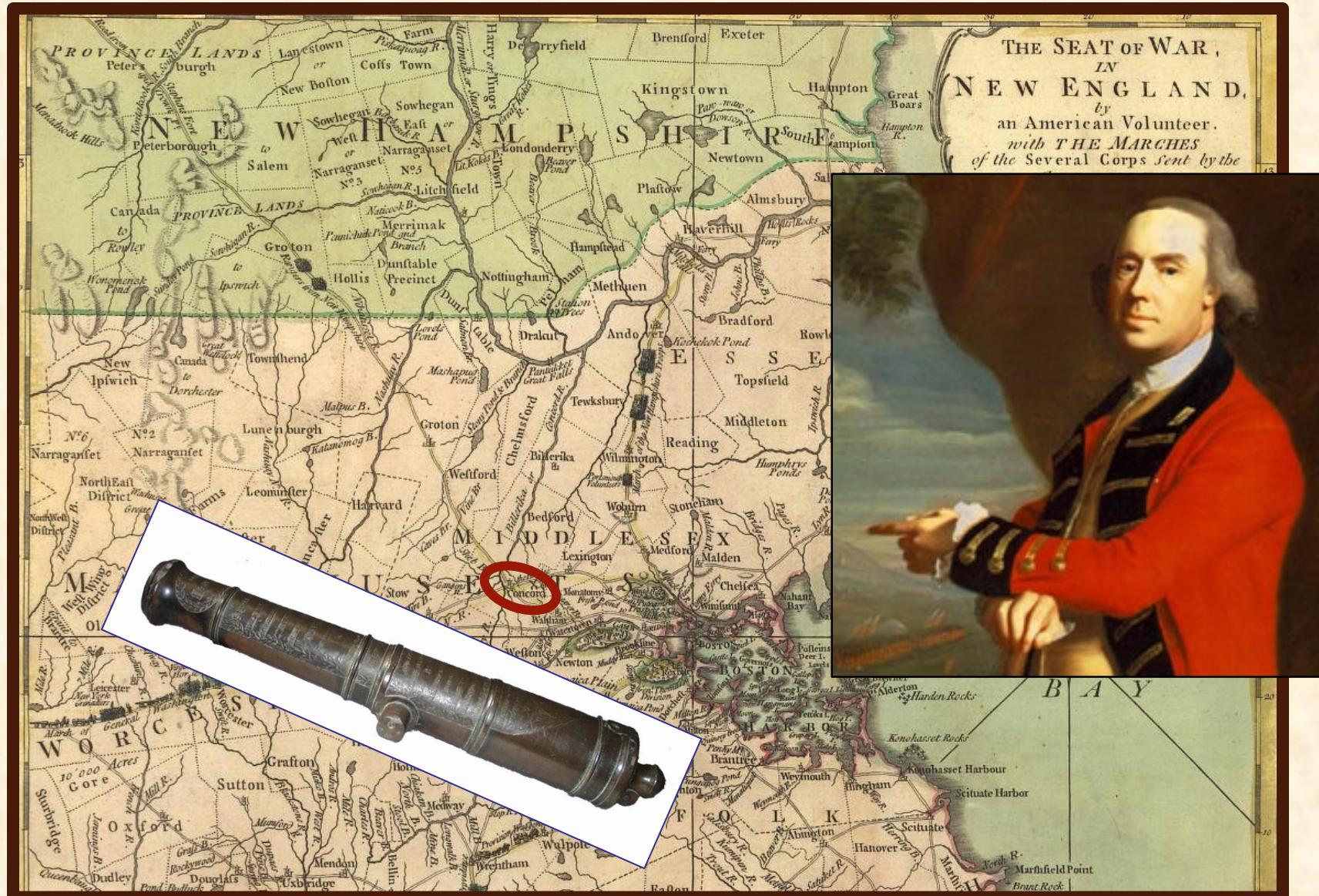
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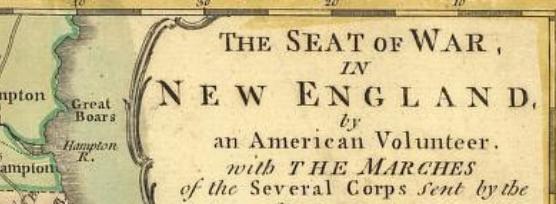
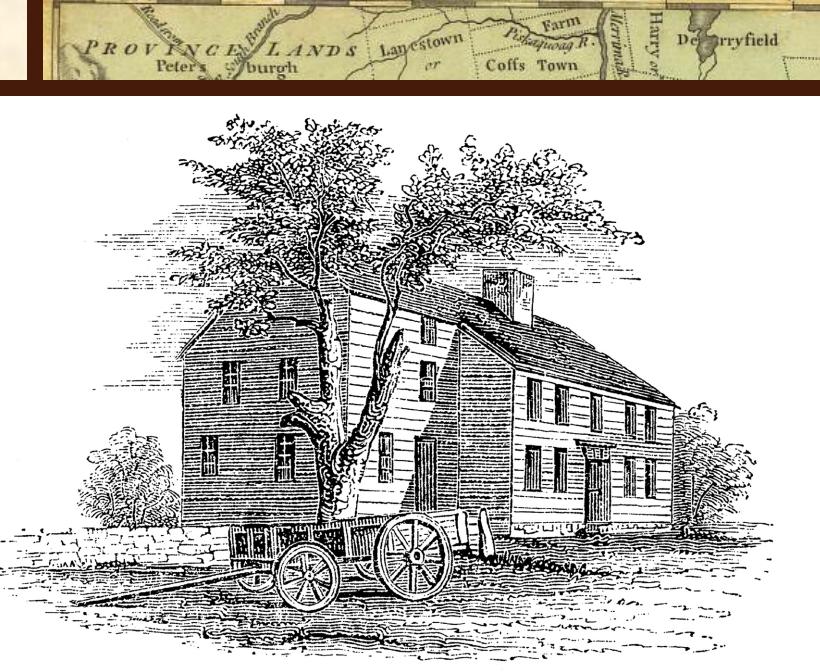
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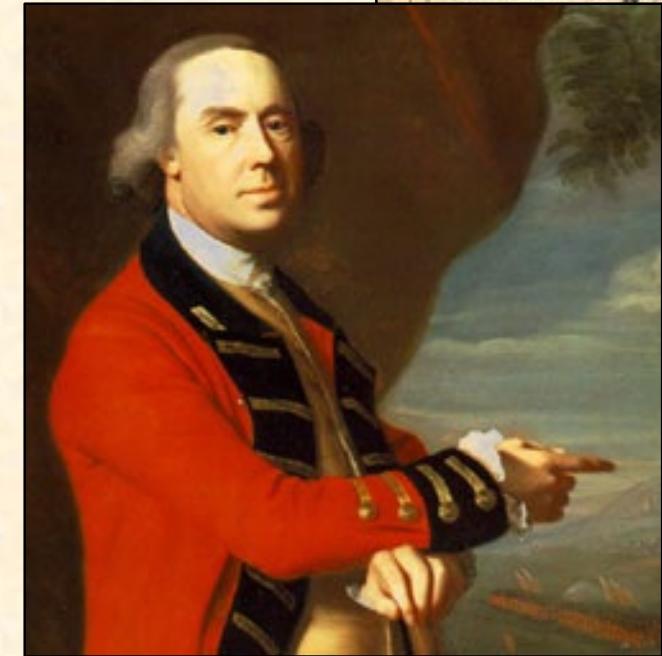
English Miles.



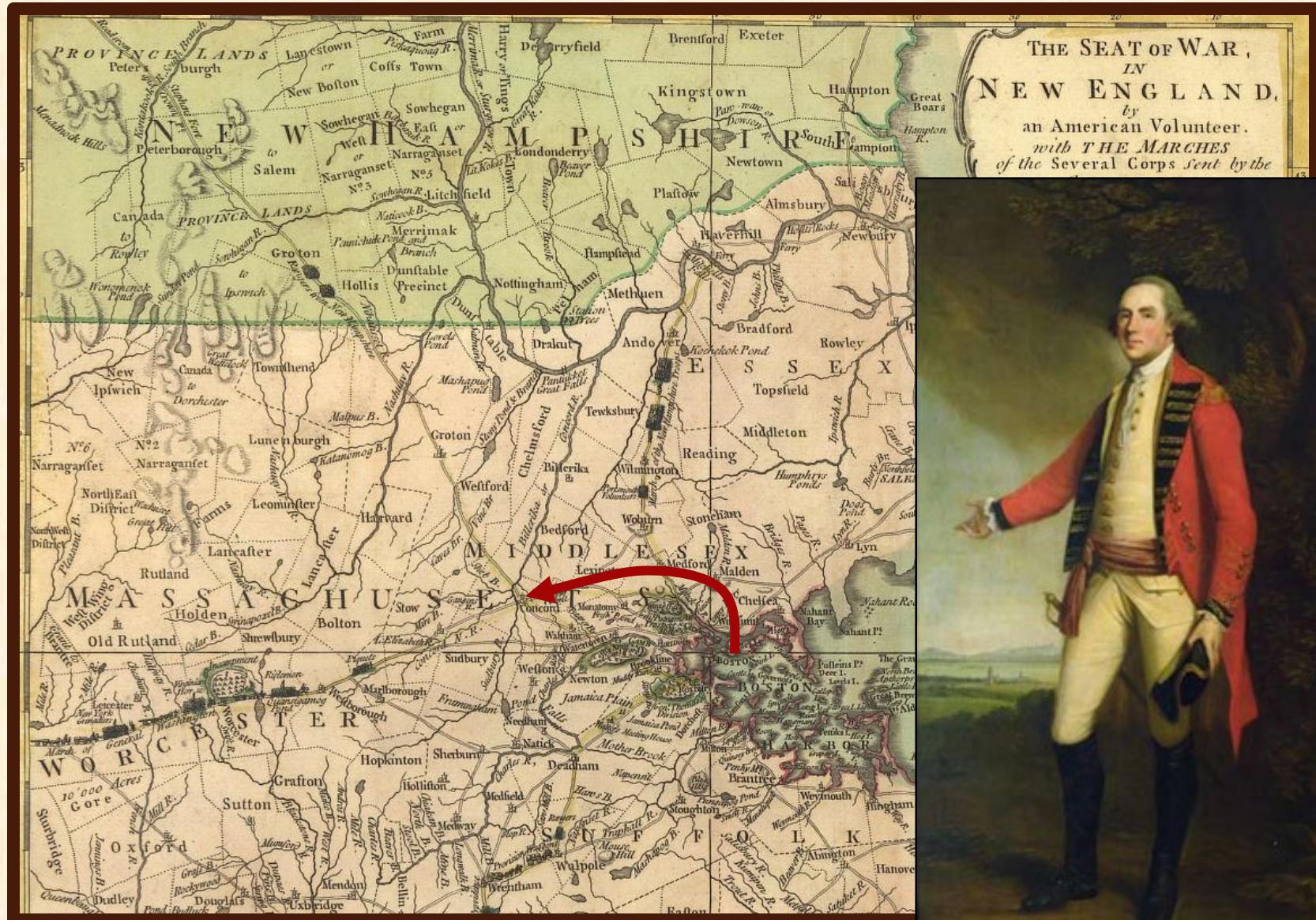


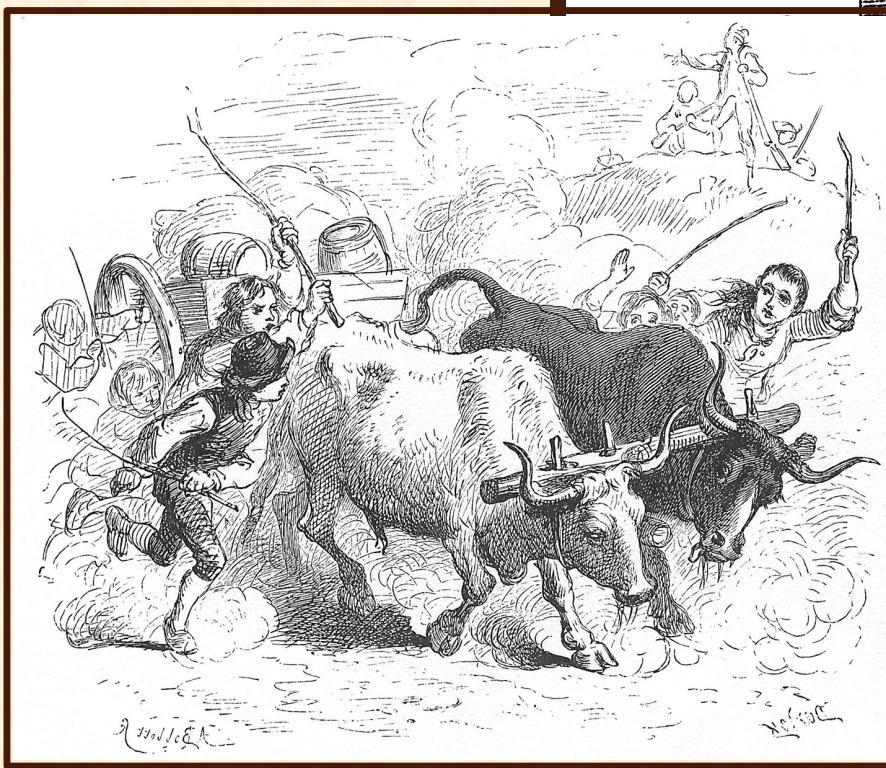
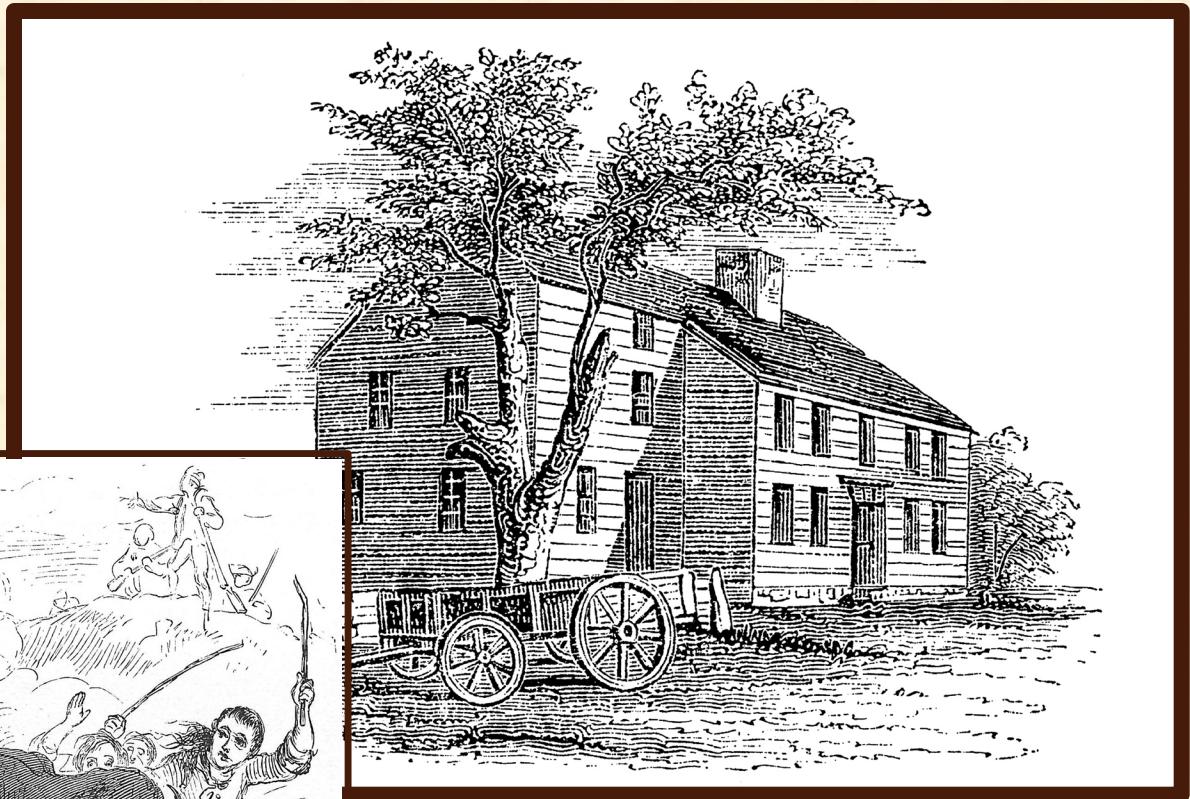




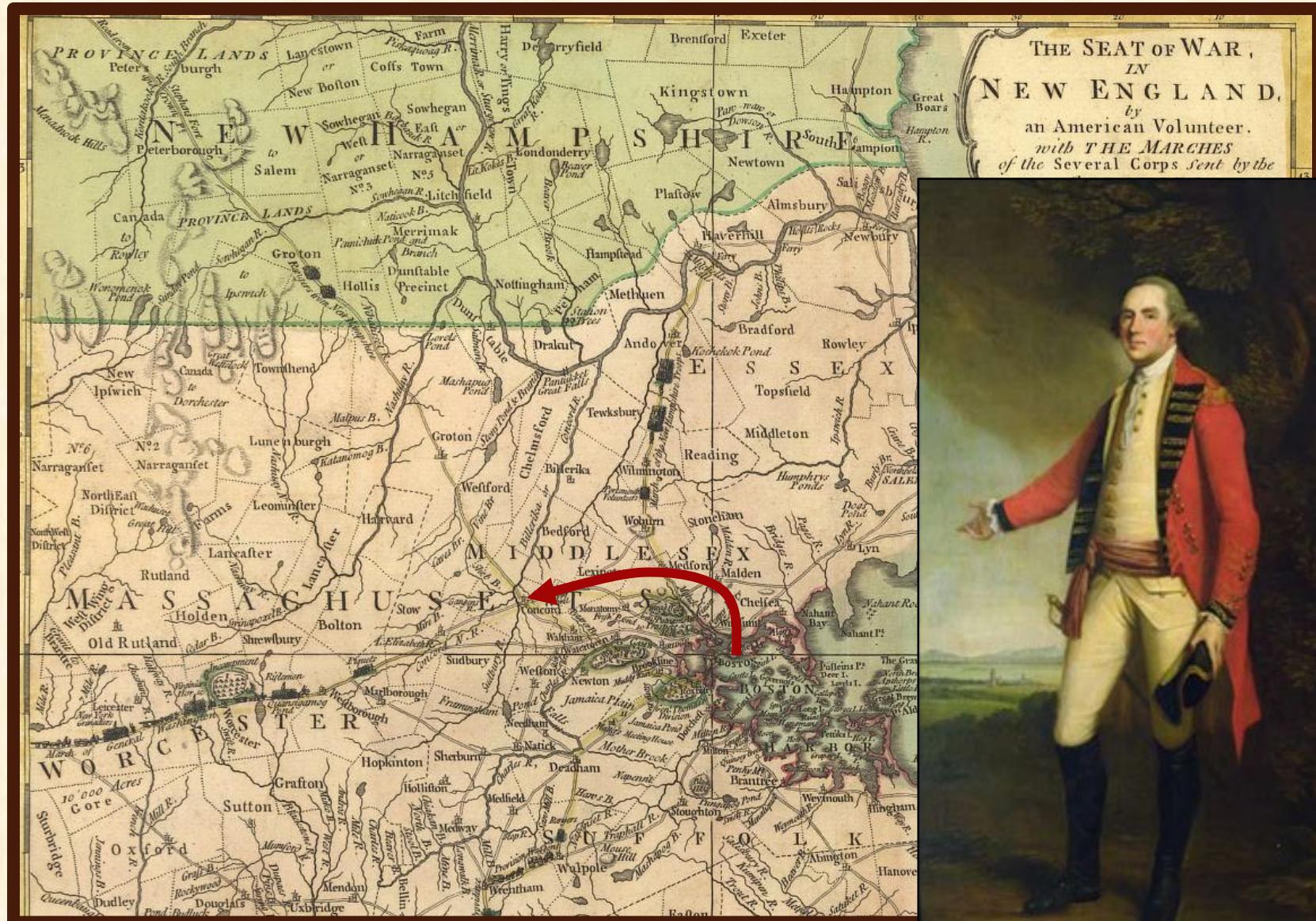












The Battle of Lexington, April 19th 1775, Plate 1.

Presented by John C. Stagg



1. Major Brown at the head of the Regulars.
2. The Party who first fired on the Provincials at Lexington.
3. Part of the Provincial Company of Lexington.

4. Regular Companies on the road to Concord.
5. The Muster-house at Lexington.
6. The British Line.

7. British Charge.

Plate III. The Engagement at the North Bridge in Concord.

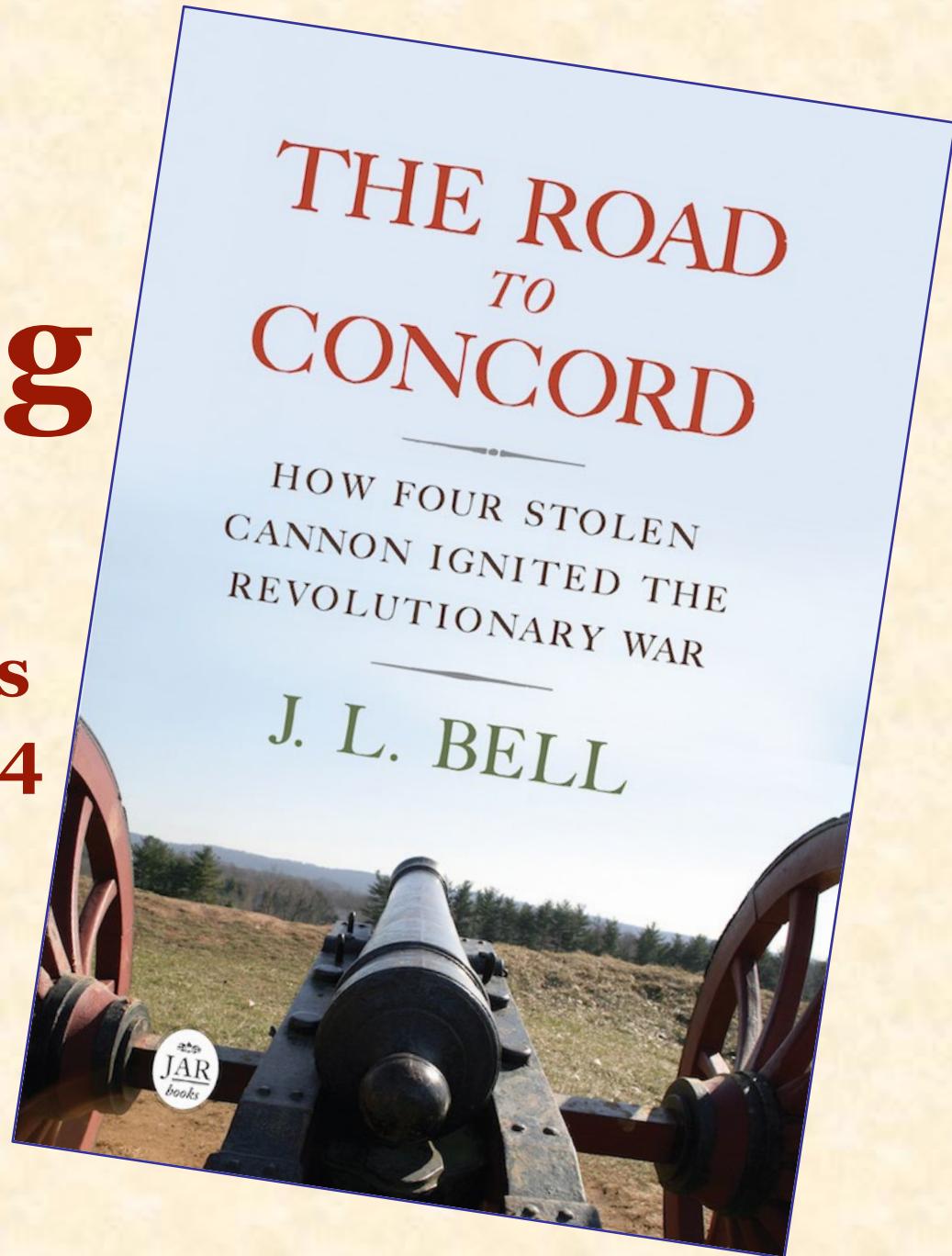


1. The Detachment of the Regulars who fired first
on the provincials at the Bridge

2. The provincials headed by Colonel Robinson, &
Major Bullock. 3. The Bridge

A. Postlethwait

The Gathering Storm: The Massachusetts Countryside in 1774





Please
do not
touch
cannon.



J. L. Bell

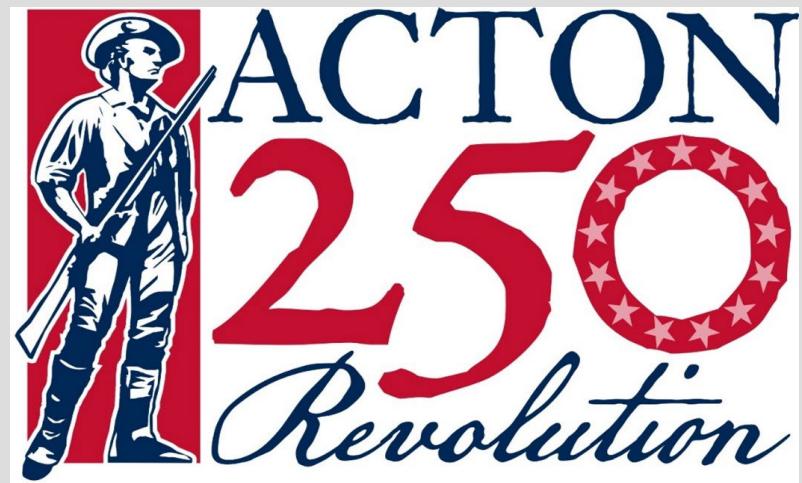
www.Boston1775.net

@boston1775

*“History, analysis, and
unabashed gossip about
Revolutionary New England”*

Question and Answer Time!

- Please wait until called upon
- Please be respectful and save time for others



Thank You! ... and More to Come!

See <https://www.actonma.gov/250> for upcoming events

