

Figure 10-12 Americans were very upset by the Stamp Act. Pamphlets attacking the stamps helped spread the protest. This "warning stamp" is one form of protest.

were everywhere, and Americans were being asked to put soldiers up in their houses, or pay for their lodging. In 1770, nervous British soldiers misunderstood an order and fired their muskets into a mob of Boston protesters, killing several people. The so-called "Boston Massacre" hurt the British cause. Over the next few years, violent incidents proved that the American colonies were on the brink of revolution, led by colonial leaders and by people who now called themselves the "Sons of Liberty." In 1773, about fifty Sons of Liberty, dressed as Mohawks, threw tea into the harbour to protest the new Tea Act. The Boston Tea Party, as it

became known, was an important event. It was well-organized and supervised by leaders, and was not the action of a wild mob.

When the Quebec Act was passed in 1774, all the colonies sent delegates to the First Continental Congress, in Philadelphia. The Congress took the first steps toward full independence from Britain. The leaders soon demanded a boycott of all goods from England, cutting economic ties to the home country. British General Gage readied the thousands of British troops from his headquarters in Boston, and the rebellious colonists began to train and to store weapons and ammunition.



Figure 10-13 This engraving of British troops firing on helpless people during the Boston Massacre was created by Paul Revere. It appeared in a pro-American broadside, *The Boston Gazette*. How might a loyalist broadside report the same event?

O happy Boston! see thy Sons deplore,
 thy hallow'd Walks befiar'd with gullefs Gore:
 While faithless P—n and his savage Bands,
 With murderous Rancour stretch their Wood-hand:
 Like fierce Barbarians grinning o'er their Prey,
 approve the Carnage, and enjoy the Day.
 If scalding drops from Rage from Anguish spring,
 If speechless Sorrows lab'ring for a Tongue,
 Or if a weeping World can ought appease,
 The plaintive Sighs of Victims such as these,
 The Patriot's copious Tears for each are shed,
 A glorious Tribute which embalms the Dead.
 But know Extraneous to that awful Goal,
 When Justice strips the Murderer of his Soul,
 Should vend C— to the scandal of the Land,
 Snatch the reluctant Victim from his Hand,
 Keen Executions on this Plate infer'd,
 Shall reach a JUDGE who never can be blind.

The unhappy Sufferers were: JOHN SAM'L GRAY, SAM'L MAVERICK, JAMES CALDWELL, CRISPUS ATTUCKS & PATRICK CARR
Killed, See a number of them (CHRISTOPHER MONK & JOHN CLARK) Mortally

THE REVOLUTION BEGINS

It is straining that their warnt no more killed, but they fird to high.

—AMOS BARRETT, COLONIAL MILITIA,
LEXINGTON GREEN, APRIL 19, 1775

The opening shots of the American Revolution were fired on Lexington Green, in Massachusetts. As British and American soldiers faced each other, the British told the Americans to leave and also ordered his soldiers not to fire. The situation was tense. Because of the excitement, a shot was fired—probably by an American. This so-called “shot heard round the world” caused the British line to fire their muskets at the Americans.

Although the Americans were driven away, surprisingly few were killed or wounded. On the road back to Boston, however, the British force was attacked by militia from all over the countryside, and many British soldiers were killed and wounded. The War of the American Revolution had begun, and there was no turning back.

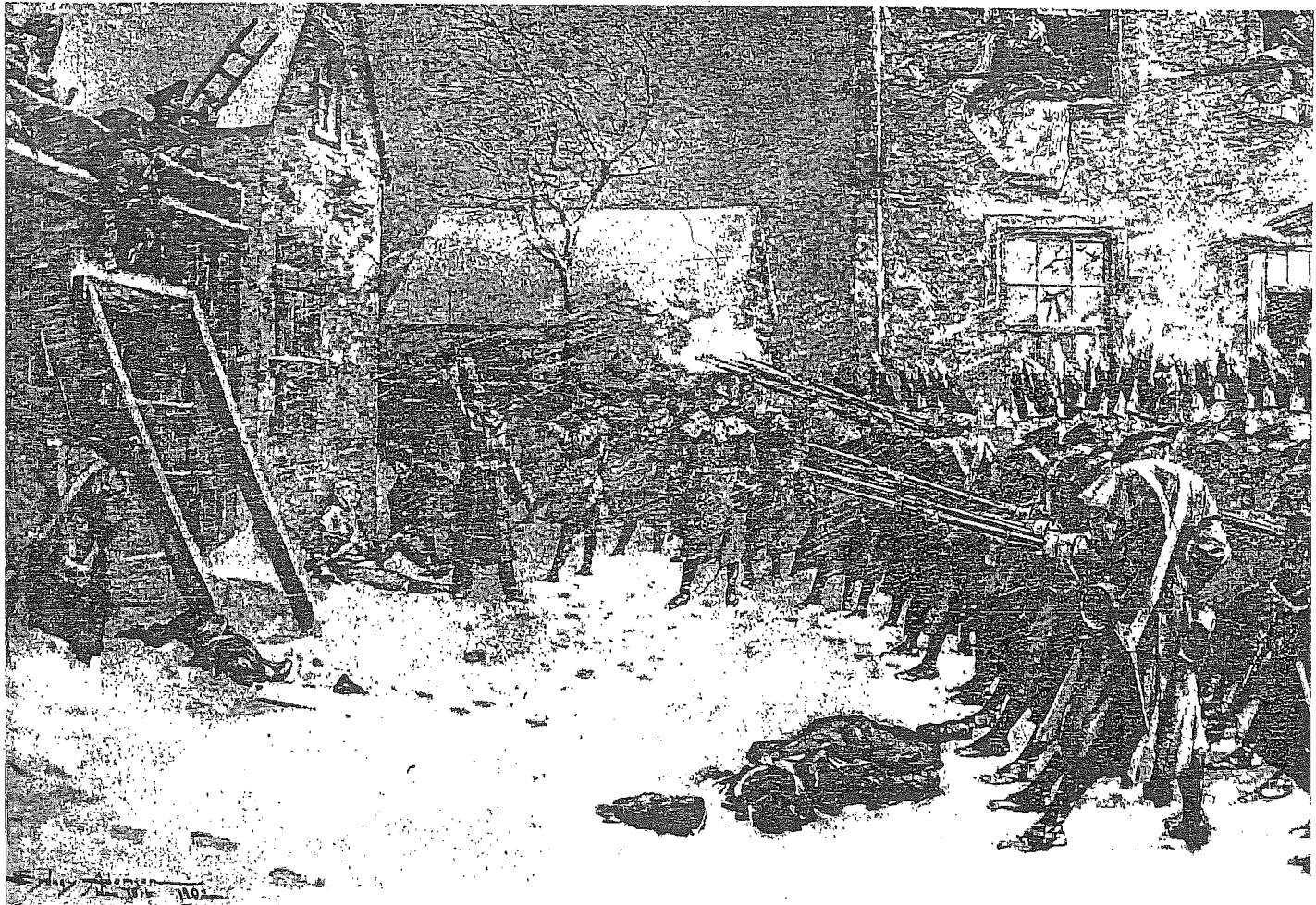
THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Almost everyone in America, and many people in Britain, understood that the battle at Lexington was a major event. In England, many believed that the grievances of the Americans were

DID YOU KNOW?

Only men—not women—who owned property and had a certain income had the right to vote and to participate in the colonial government. These were the people who had been hurt by British taxes and regulations. Catholics could not vote or hold any government office. Native peoples had few rights, certainly not the vote. African Americans, most of whom were slaves, also had no rights.

Figure 10-14 After the battle at Lexington Green, the Americans tried to invade Quebec. The invasion was unsuccessful.



just. Perhaps some compared the Americans to the forces of parliament in their own English Revolution. Although English democracy was not democratic the way our system is today, the English themselves felt they had more rights than almost any other group of people in the world.

As for the Americans, they knew they needed an army to fight the British on the battlefield. With the help of colonial leaders such as George Washington (who would eventually become the first American president), the revolutionaries were able to put together a sizable force. In the first major battle, near Bunker Hill in Boston, the rebel army held its own against crack British regiments. Around the same time, George Washington was made commander of the Continental Army.

The government of the united colonies had not only cut ties to the home country, it had also challenged the military might of one of the world's great powers. This was serious business. Congress leaders first looked to defend the northern borders. They were sure that Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland would join them in revolution. In any case, British troops had to be stopped from coming through the "back door" of Quebec. In the winter of 1775, Americans led by Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold tried and failed to seize Quebec. The failure helped convince Canadians to remain loyal to Britain.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The American Revolution was underway, but it lacked an overall plan. Many of its leaders did not want to completely break with England. Indeed,

the philosophy of the revolution itself had come from England. As you learned in earlier chapters, the philosopher John Locke believed that people had the right to freedom and should be able to rid themselves of a bad monarch.

While fighting continued on the battlefield, the colonial delegates of the Continental Congress continued to meet. It seemed obvious to most delegates that independence was really the only option. Some of the most famous and important people in the colonies, such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams, were in agreement. Together, they decided to draft a statement that would declare their independence from Britain. This document, mostly written by Thomas Jefferson, in 1776, is the American Declaration of Independence, an important statement of principles of democracy and freedom.

THE REVOLUTION SUCCEEDS

The Declaration of Independence did not end the revolutionary war. In fact, it caused King George and the British government to enlarge the British army and navy, and the war continued for another seven years. It caused great hardship on both sides. When France joined the war on the side of the Americans, the British were in serious trouble. French troops swung the balance in favour of the Americans. The British lost a whole army at the battle of Yorktown, in 1781. Sir Guy Carleton surrendered the ports of Savannah and Charleston, before abandoning New York, the last British stronghold in 1783. The revolutionary war had ended.

The colonists, who had begun by protesting taxes on tea, sugar, and paper, had won a revolution, and created the new United States of America.

Using a Declaration of Rights as a Primary Source

CATALOGUE CARD

What is it? An excerpt from the Declaration of Independence

Who wrote it? Thomas Jefferson

When? 1776

Why? To create a democratic republic

The American Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in world history. It established a new nation unlike any the world had previously seen. This new nation, the United States, was based on the belief that all people have certain rights that no government can take away.

Because he was well-schooled in the classics and in English history,

Thomas Jefferson was asked to compose the declaration. He did so rather quickly, after considering the advice of other delegates.

The Declaration of Independence includes some powerful phrases. While it was a revolutionary document for its time, it is actually part of a great chain of statements on human rights, beginning with the ancient Greeks, and including the English Magna Carta, the French Revolution's Declaration of Rights of Man and the Citizen. Our own Charter of Rights and Freedoms is a recent link in this "chain."

The ideals of the Declaration of Independence also inspired others, including those men and women who overthrew King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette during the French Revolution. Today people in the United States and Canada who feel they have been left out, or are being persecuted, demand that their rights and freedoms be guaranteed in law.

inalienable: incapable of being taken away or transferred

We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **inalienable** rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.



Figure 10-15 Jefferson's original copy of the Declaration of Independence shows how hard it was to find just the right word. Just as you might do, he changed phrases to get the wording just right. The declaration first explains why the Americans want to be free. The second paragraph begins with the famous phrase that demands the basic human freedoms that people in democracies cherish.

A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for ^{one} people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the ^{separate and equal} station to which the laws of nature and of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to ~~that~~ ^{the} separation.

We hold these truths to be ^{self-evident} that all men are created equal, independent, that ^{they are endowed by their Creator with certain} rights are inalienable, among ^{right; that} which are ~~life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness~~ ^{life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness}; that to secure these ^{rights}, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from