



My Family HERITAGE

 **ancestry**ProGenealogists®



*This book is dedicated to
Crystal Farish, Hauley Farish, Lane Farish,
Brooke Barker, Heidi Thornton, Justin
Thornton, Anthony Thornton, and
Jasmine Parker, all of whom are the
5th-great-grandchildren of Levi Temple.*

THE AMAZING LIFE OF
Levi Temple
1751–1821

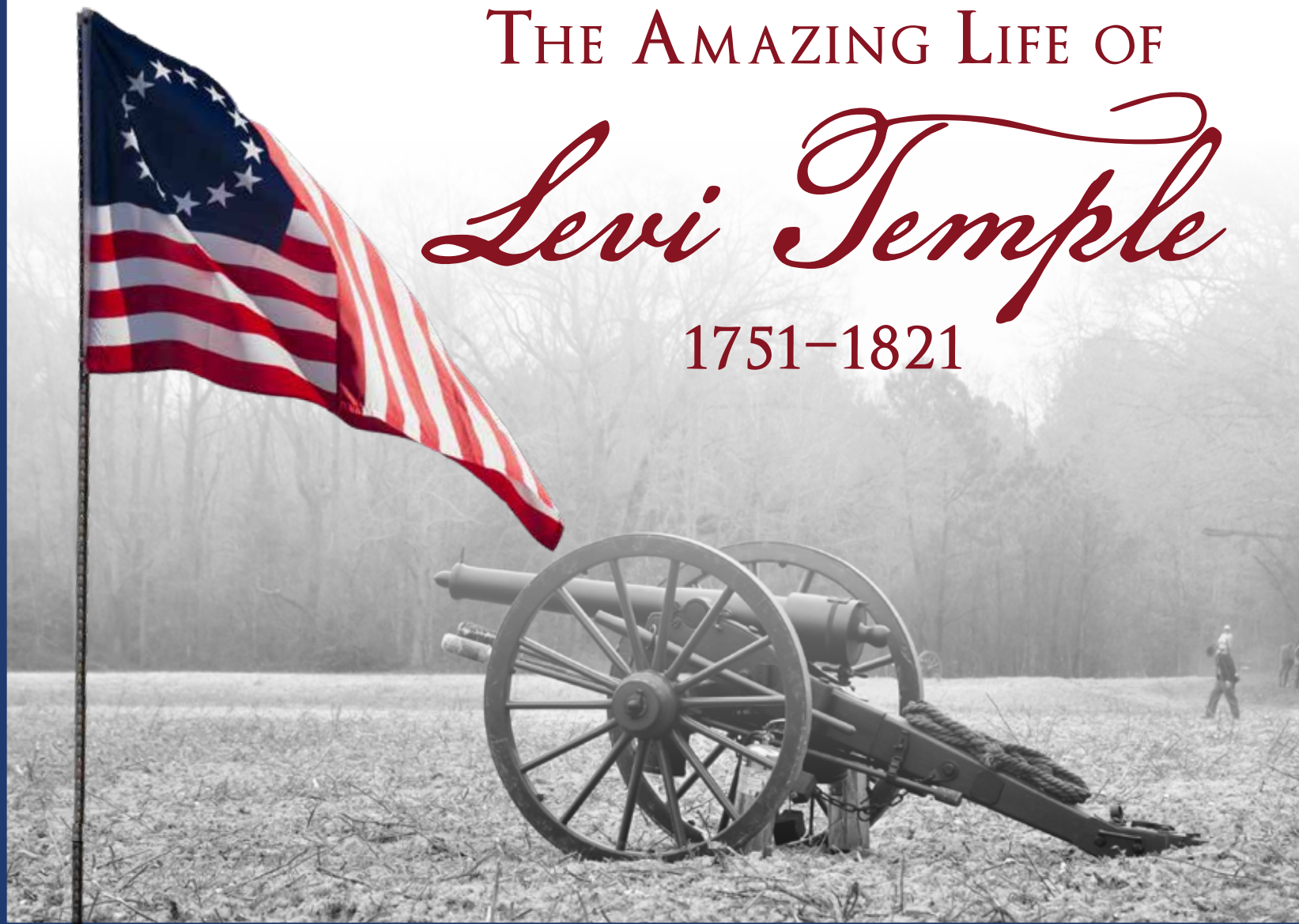




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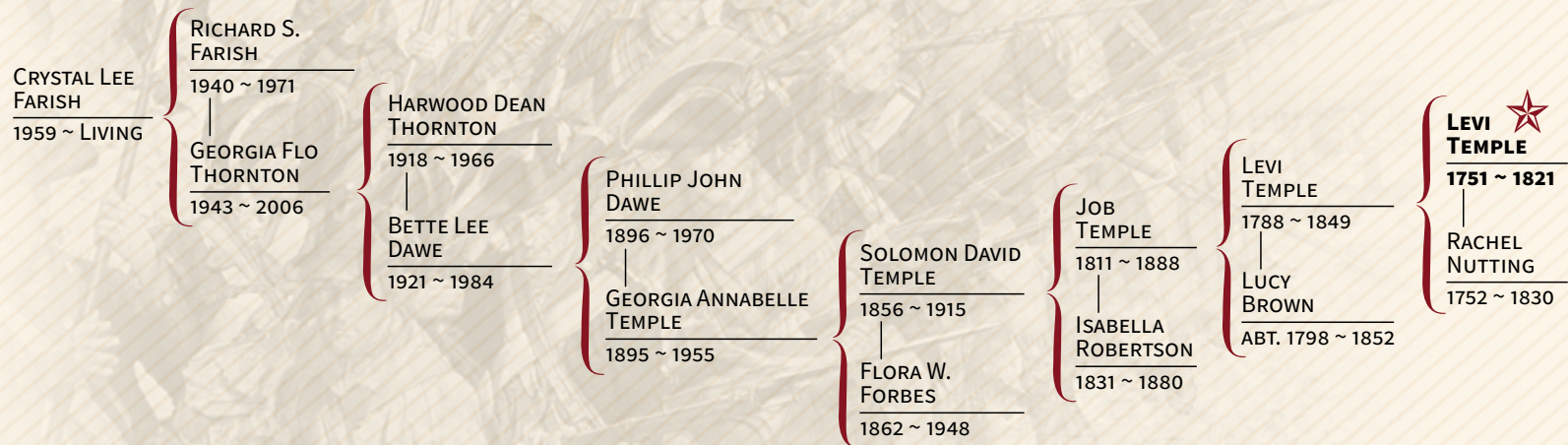
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LEVI TEMPLE'S Descendants



Thirteen stars represent the original colonies in this Revolutionary War flag.



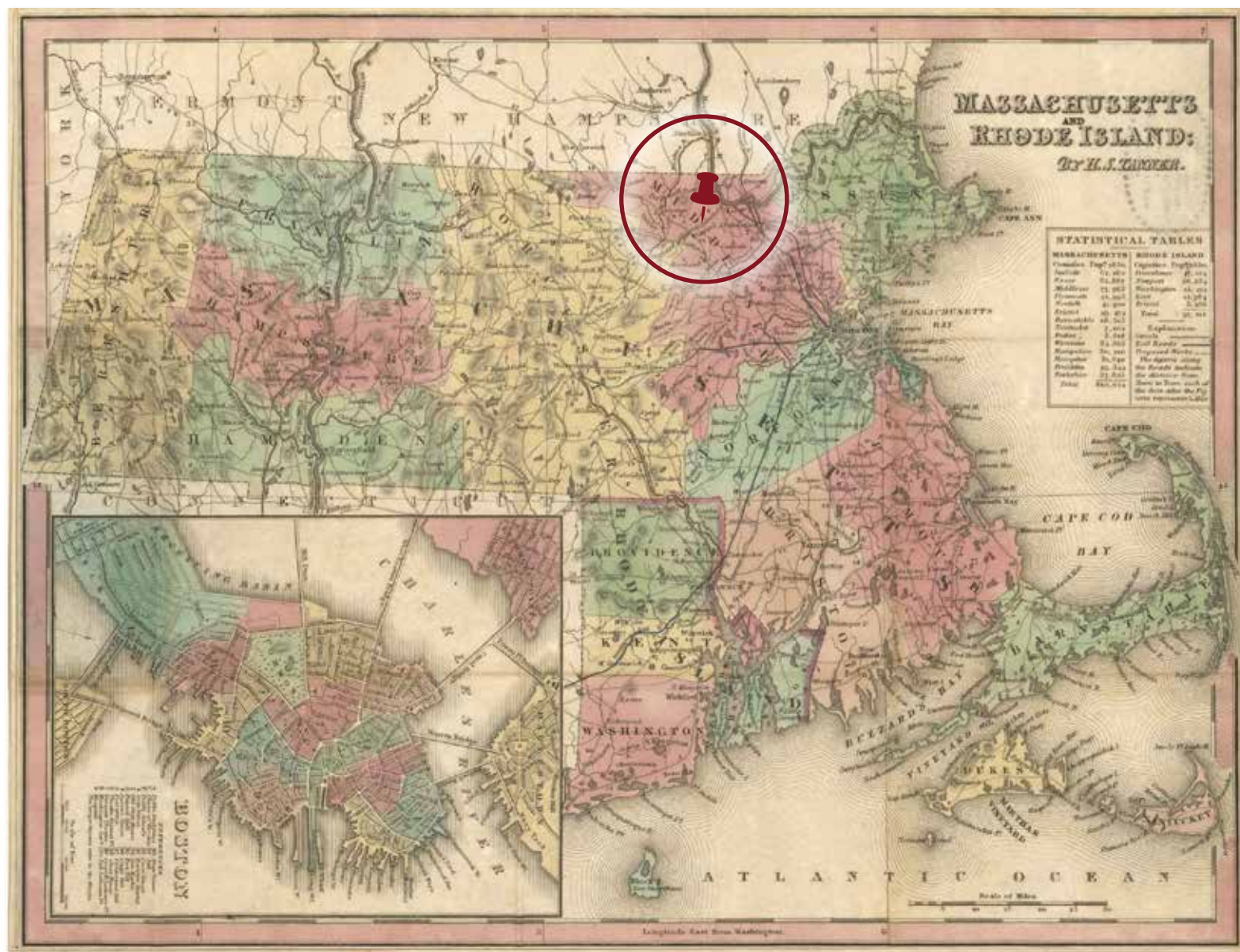
The Life of Levi Temple

Your ancestor, Levi Temple, was one of many American colonists who risked his life to win freedom from British rule. This brave decision helped make the United States of America a reality, but it also put him and his family in danger. He and the other men who fought were Patriots, a ragtag army standing up to the strongest military in the world. If they won, they would become heroes and America would become a free nation. But if they lost, they would lose

everything they owned, ruin their families, and risk suffering the undignified death of a traitor.

Courage and determination allowed the Patriots to overcome incredible odds. After seven long years of war, the British surrendered, and the United States of America was born. This is the story about how your ancestor helped the founding fathers and mothers realize their dream of a free country.





Levi's Life Before the War

Levi Temple was born in 1751 in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which had been founded by the Puritans more than 100 years earlier. Farmers from England were drawn to the colony's fertile land, along with blacksmiths, millers, innkeepers, and many other craftsmen. They settled in villages throughout Massachusetts, and the colony soon flourished.

Levi grew up with his parents and 10 siblings in the village of Westford, about 30 miles northwest of Boston. They were subjects of the British crown, but like other American colonists, the Temple family

enjoyed more wealth and freedom than the people who lived in England.¹ Most northerners lived in rural farming villages like Westford. In the south, many lived on plantations that grew cash crops like tobacco and rice. Thousands of African slaves arrived in the colonies each year. Few white colonists could afford to own slaves, but those who did used slave labor to tend crops, build roads, and do housework.

Levi became a shoemaker like his father. He may have sold factory-made shoes in his shop, but he also made shoes by hand for those who wanted them.²



Westford, Massachusetts, 1886

In keeping with hundreds of years of tradition, Levi would have specialized in making shoes only for men or only for women. Regardless of who the customer was, Levi would have been able to make a pair of shoes in less than 24 hours. Shoemaking was a commonly practiced trade in the colonies, and competition could be fierce.

Levi was about 23 years old when he married Rachel Nutting in Westford on 10 March 1774.



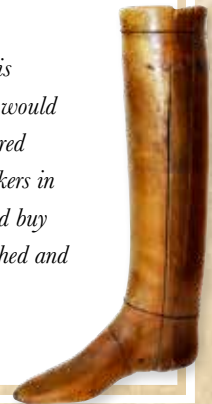
THE CHILDREN OF LEVI TEMPLE AND RACHEL NUTTING:

- MARTHA (born 1776)
- NOAH M. (born 1778)
- SARAH (born 1780)
- WILLIAM WILSON (born 1782)
- STEPHEN (born 1784)
- LEVI JR. (born 1786)
- JOSEPH (born 13 October 1786)



They lived together in Westford for about one year, and then they moved to the town of Bowdoin, Maine. They were some of the first people to settle there, and their daughter Martha became the second child to ever be born in Bowdoin. In all, Levi and Rachel had seven children together.

Did you know the word snob once referred to a shoemaker or his apprentice? If he made new shoes from new leather, a shoemaker would have called himself a cordwainer. In Britain, a person who repaired used shoes was only allowed to call themselves a cobbler. Shoemakers in Levi's time usually offered ready-made shoes that a customer could buy right away, but also sold custom-made shoes that were hand-stitched and made with wood, leather, and other materials.³



1774 March 10 1774 Levi Temple to Rachel
Nutting both of Westford
By W. H. P.

April 7 1774 Daniel Goodhue to Sarah
Hilditch both of Westford
By W. H. P.

May 2 1774 Samuel Farewell to Mary
Lawrence both of Westford
By W. H. P.

November 28 1774 Thomas Richardson to Abigail
Lawrence both of Westford
By W. H. P.

1775 January 6 1775 Silas Howard to Sibel
Head both of Westford
By W. H. P.

March 8 1775 Galt Putnam of Milton & Hamp
to Amy Spaulding of Westford
By W. H. P.

1776 April 24 1776 Ebenezer Wright to Susanna
Lynes both of Westford
By W. H. P.

June 13 1776 Alexander Gray to Ann Greenough for
marty of Boston but now resident at Westford
By W. H. P.

1777 December 11 1777 Levi Parker to Rebecca
Fletcher both of Westford
By W. H. P.

1777 December 17 1777 William Dutton of Westford to
Phoebe Temple of Boston
By W. H. P.

1778 November 23 1778 Abel Head to Rebecca
Farrar both of Westford
By W. H. P.

November 25 1778 Timothy Fletcher Junr to Hannah
Parker both of Westford
By W. H. P.

1779 February 9 1779 Capt Benjamin Fletcher to widow
Elizabeth Symmes both of Westford
By W. H. P.

October 21 1779 Jeremiah Fletcher to Mary
Welch both of Westford
By Matthew Seidenow Minister

November 18 1779 Phineas Spaulding of Westford to
Rebecca Juggith of Amherst
By Mr. S. M.

November 22 1779 David Fletcher Junr to Sarah
Richardson both of Westford
By Mr. S. M.

1780 February 15 1780 Stephen Heads resident in Westford
to Lucy Wright of Westford
By Mr. S. M.

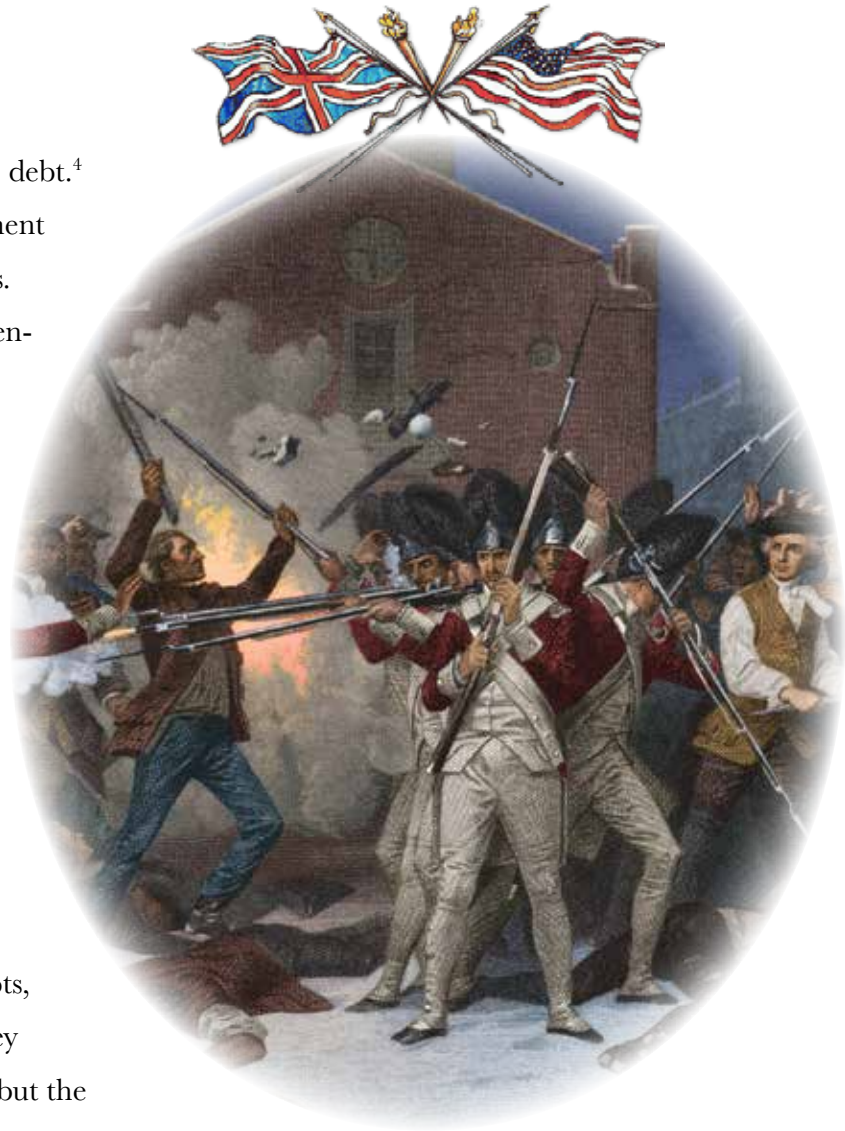
February 28 1780 Ebenezer Lawrence to Sarah
Foster both of Westford
By Mr. S. M.

Marriage record for Levi Temple and Rachel Nutting, 10 March 1774

Why did American Colonists want freedom from England?

War with France had left Great Britain deeply in debt.⁴ To make this money back, the British government raised taxes paid by its subjects in the American colonies. Newspapers, sugar, tea, and other goods became so expensive that colonists could no longer afford to buy them. Americans grew frustrated because they did not have someone in the British government to fight for the things that were important to them, and they believed these new taxes were illegal. Many refused to buy British goods in protest.

Some colonists supported the king and wanted to remain part of the British Empire. They were called Loyalists, Tories, Royalists, or King's Men. But a growing number of colonists wanted to break free from England and form their own nation. British soldiers clashed often with these angry rebels, called Patriots, Revolutionaries, Continentals, or American Whigs. They risked harassment and the fearsome charge of treason, but the desire for independence grew stronger and stronger.




The Boston Massacre, 1770

The Boston Massacre

The people of Boston were especially angry with Great Britain, so the king sent thousands of soldiers to the city. On a bitterly cold day in the spring of 1770, the tension that had been growing between colonists and the British reached a boiling point. A mob of colonists began harassing a group of British soldiers in Boston on 5 March 1770. At first, the colonists only hurled angry words at the soldiers. But the crowd grew larger and more agitated, and they began pelting the soldiers with snowballs. Frightened and outnumbered, the British soldiers fired into the crowd, killing five unarmed civilians and wounding six others. In the days that followed, newspapers showed graphic pictures of the event, and public officials called for anti-British protests throughout the colonies. The event came to be known as the Boston Massacre, and the people who died that day became victims of British cruelty in the eyes of the public. Six years later, that anger would spark the American Revolution.



THE BOSTON MASSACRE ~ FAST FACTS ~

- ★ EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A PATRIOT, FUTURE U.S. PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS CHOSE TO DEFEND THE EIGHT BRITISH MEN WHO WERE ARRESTED AFTER THE BOSTON MASSACRE. HE WANTED TO SHOW THAT AMERICAN COURTS WERE FAIR AND TRUSTWORTHY.
 - ★ THERE WAS VERY LITTLE EVIDENCE TO PROVE THE BRITISH CAUSED THE BOSTON MASSACRE, SO SIX OF THE BRITISH MEN WERE SET FREE. HOWEVER, TWO SOLDIERS WERE CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER AND BRANDED WITH AN 'M' ON THEIR THUMBS.
 - ★ ONE OF THE PEOPLE KILLED IN THE ATTACK WAS CRISPUS ATTUCKS, A BOSTON MAN WITH AFRICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN ANCESTRY. SOME SAID HE WAS THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE, MAKING HIM THE FIRST MARTYR TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE.
 - ★ PAUL REVERE MADE AN ENGRAVING OF THE EVENT THAT WAS USED AS EVIDENCE IN THE TRIAL, EVEN THOUGH HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED.
- 

The Boston Tea Party

By 1773, Boston had become a hub of Patriot activity and anti-British feeling. So, when the British passed the Tea Act that year, it didn't surprise colonists that the largest protest took place in Boston Harbor. Under the cover of night, a group of people dressed as Mohawk Indians boarded merchant ships docked in the harbor and dumped 342 chests of tea into the icy waters below.

"This is the most magnificent movement of them all," wrote John Adams, one of America's future founding fathers. Inspired by Boston's bravery, other colonies held their own

tea parties and destroyed British merchant ships. But not all colonists supported the Boston Tea Party. Many believed that destruction of private property (the tea) was illegal and needed to be repaid.

The British agreed. Furious with its rebellious colonies, England clamped down and closed the Port of Boston. Suddenly, businesses could not get the supplies they needed to make money. Food shipments stopped coming in, and many went hungry. The people of Boston were forced to house and feed British troops, creating even more resentment among the colonists.



A U.S. postage stamp from 1970 commemorating the bicentennial of the Boston Tea Party.

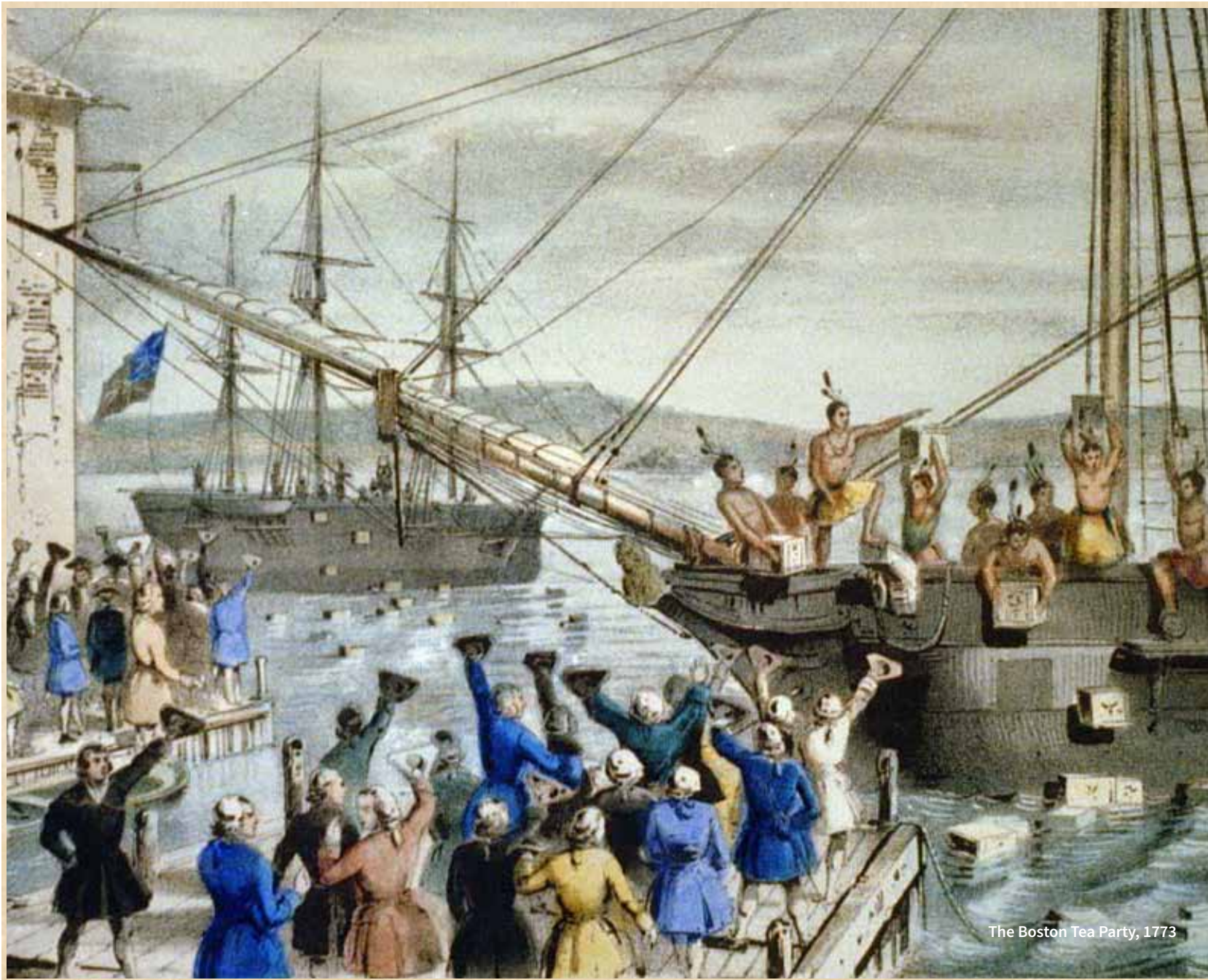


The official U.S. Mint \$20 coin commemorating the Boston Tea Party, 2000.

THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

~ FAST FACTS ~

- ★ THE PROTESTERS THREW OUT 90,000 POUNDS OF TEA, WHICH WOULD BE WORTH \$1 MILLION TODAY.
- ★ THE EVENT WASN'T CALLED THE BOSTON TEA PARTY UNTIL THE EARLY 1800s. AT THE TIME IT WAS SIMPLY CALLED, "THE DESTRUCTION OF TEA AT BOSTON HARBOR."
- ★ THE TEA ACT ACTUALLY MADE THE POPULAR DRINK CHEAPER, BUT COLONISTS THOUGHT THE TAX VIOLATED THEIR RIGHTS BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE SOMEONE REPRESENTING THEIR VIEWS IN PARLIAMENT, WHERE THE LAW WAS CREATED.
- ★ PARLIAMENT DIDN'T EXPECT THE TEA ACT TO UPSET THE COLONISTS. THEY PASSED THE ACT TO PREVENT SMUGGLING AND TO SAVE THE BRITISH EAST INDIA COMPANY FROM GOING BANKRUPT, AND THEY ASSUMED THE LOWER COST OF TEA WOULD PLEASE THE COLONISTS.



The Boston Tea Party, 1773

The Minutemen

The people of Massachusetts knew that war with Britain was likely to happen, and they wanted to be ready.

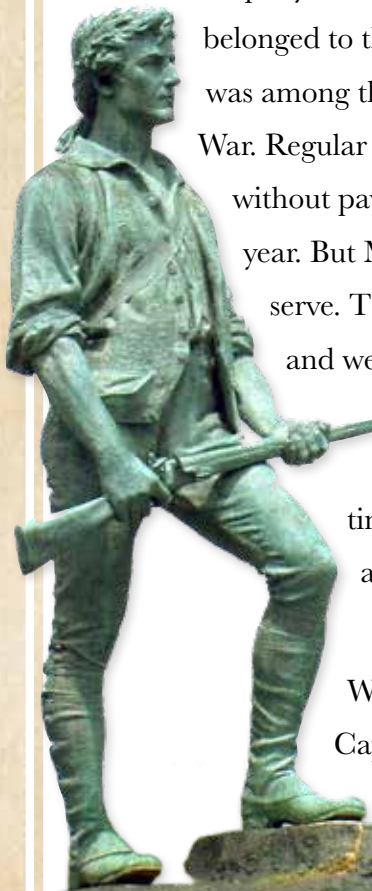
They removed anyone loyal to Britain from the state militia, a military force made up of civilians, and created a new

company of soldiers called the Minutemen.⁵ Levi belonged to this special group of fighters, and he was among the first to serve in the Revolutionary War. Regular militia men were required to serve without pay, and they trained only a few times a year. But Minutemen like Levi volunteered to serve. They trained several times each week

and were paid for their service. They were expected to remain armed at all times so they could be ready to fight at a minute's notice.

Levi served under Colonel William Prescott in the company of Captain Timothy Underwood on the historic night of 18 April 1775.

The Lexington Minuteman statue is in Lexington, Massachusetts, representing Captain John Parker.



That night, British troops planned to arrest two Patriot leaders in

Lexington before marching to Concord.⁶ There, they hoped to seize weapons hidden by the colonists. But Patriot spies learned of their plan and set out to warn the rebels. Paul Revere, Samuel Prescott, and William Dawes made their historic ride from Boston that night, alerting everyone in their path that the British were coming. Paul Revere never delivered his message, because he was captured by the British army, but Prescott escaped and successfully warned the people of Concord.

The news reached Levi and his fellow Minutemen in Westford around 10 o'clock the next morning. They grabbed their guns and marched to Concord, but the fighting was over by the time the Minutemen had arrived.⁷



U.S. Postage stamp of a Minuteman, issued 1925



W. H. Prescott

Colonel William Prescott

They hurried on to Cambridge, and by the next day, thousands of Minutemen had gathered from nearby towns. Together, brave men protected Boston from British attack. The war had begun, and the Patriots would spend the next seven years fighting fiercely for their freedom.

The Minutemen were not expected to keep fighting after that first battle in Boston, and many of them returned

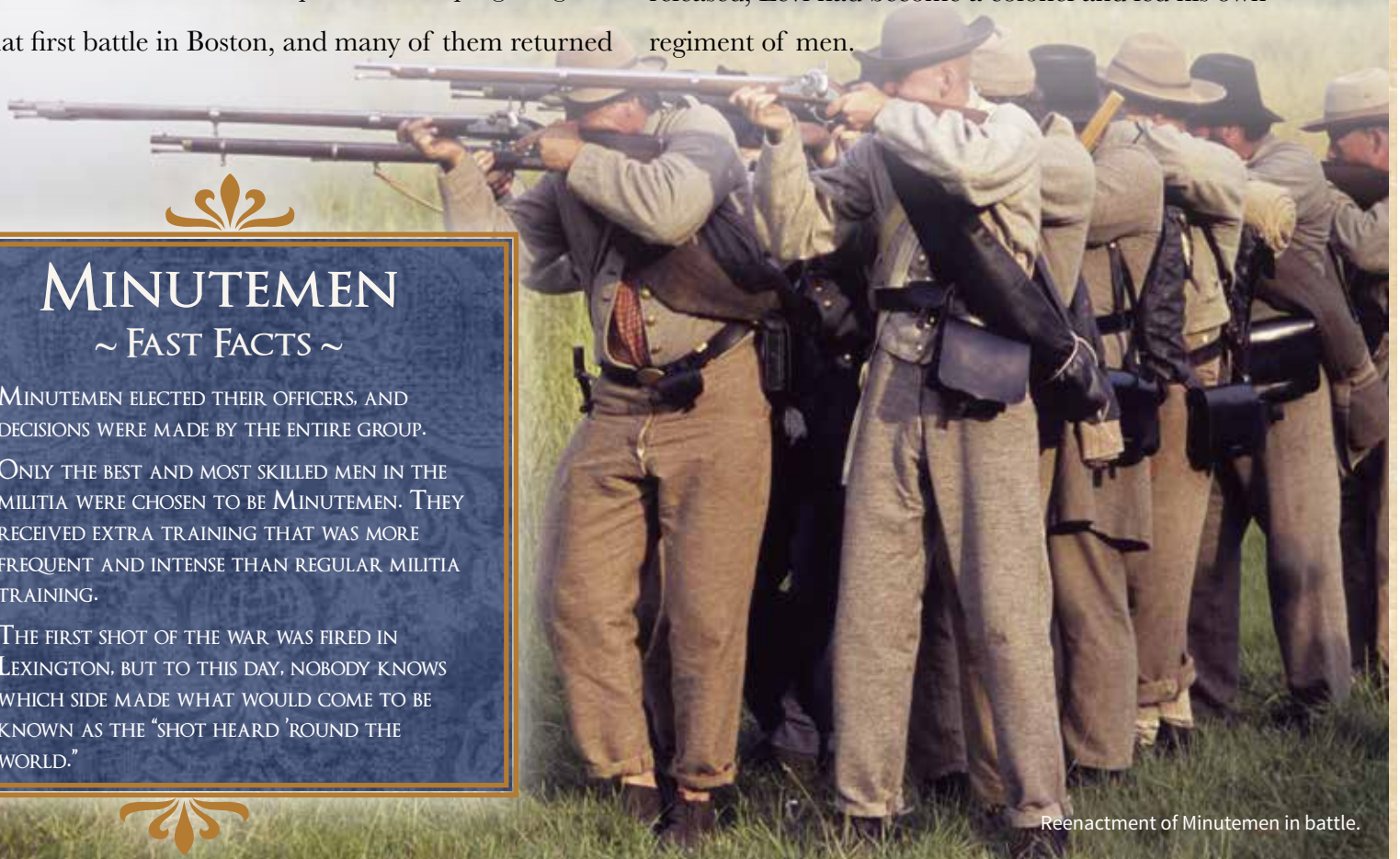
home. But Levi believed in the Patriot cause, so he joined the 7th Continental Regiment headed by Colonel Prescott. In June 1775, Levi's regiment became part of General George Washington's Continental Army. He was issued a coat, which probably served as his uniform. Levi served in the Continental Army for 97 days. By the time he was released, Levi had become a colonel and led his own regiment of men.



MINUTEMEN

~ FAST FACTS ~

- ★ MINUTEMEN ELECTED THEIR OFFICERS, AND DECISIONS WERE MADE BY THE ENTIRE GROUP.
- ★ ONLY THE BEST AND MOST SKILLED MEN IN THE MILITIA WERE CHOSEN TO BE MINUTEMEN. THEY RECEIVED EXTRA TRAINING THAT WAS MORE FREQUENT AND INTENSE THAN REGULAR MILITIA TRAINING.
- ★ THE FIRST SHOT OF THE WAR WAS FIRED IN LEXINGTON, BUT TO THIS DAY, NOBODY KNOWS WHICH SIDE MADE WHAT WOULD COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE "SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD."



Reenactment of Minutemen in battle.

THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL

~ FAST FACTS ~

- ★ PATRIOT MILITIA MEN WERE TOLD TO SEIZE BUNKER HILL BUT THEY MISUNDERSTOOD AND FORTIFIED NEARBY BREED'S HILL INSTEAD. THIS IS WHERE THE BATTLE ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE, ALTHOUGH IT IS REMEMBERED AS THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.
- ★ DURING THE BATTLE, RESIDENTS OF CHARLESTOWN FLED THEIR HOMES TO NEARBY HILLTOPS AND WATCHED AS THEIR CITY BECAME ENGULFED IN FLAMES. RESIDENTS OF BOSTON WATCHED THE BATTLE FROM ROOFTOPS, HILLTOPS, AND CHURCH STEEPLES.⁸
- ★ AMONG THE MANY HEROES OF THAT DAY WAS A FORMER SLAVE NAMED SALEM POOR. COLONEL PRESCOTT AND OTHER COLONIAL OFFICERS SAID POOR HAD "BEHAVED LIKE AN EXPERIENCED OFFICER, AS WELL AS AN EXCELLENT SOLDIER," AND THEY PETITIONED THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS TO GIVE HIM A REWARD.



The death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill, 17 June 1775



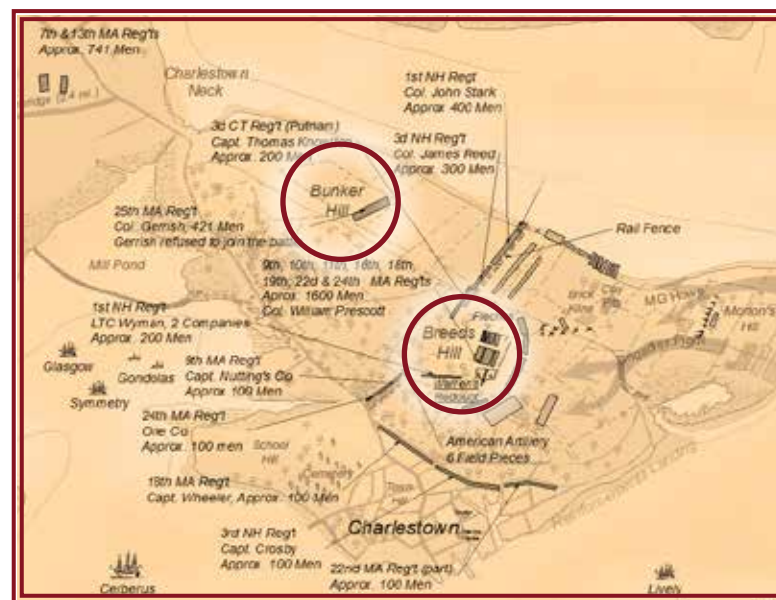
The Brown Bess was one of the most popular muskets among soldiers. To load it, a soldier pulled back the firelock and measured powder into the pan inside the gun. Then he jammed a bullet cartridge into the barrel with a ramrod. When he pulled the trigger, the powder caught fire and exploded, forcing the cartridge out of the barrel.⁹

The Battle of Bunker Hill

Soon after joining General Washington's army, Levi fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He is lucky to have survived—more than 1,400 soldiers were killed or wounded, and it was one of the war's bloodiest battles. It began on the morning of 17 June 1775, when Patriot forces blocked British troops from leaving Boston by securing Breed's Hill.^{10, 11} The British marched up the hill in perfect formation with their bayonets ready—a fearsome sight to the Patriots, who had limited ammunition, food, and water.

There were many inexperienced fighters on Breed's Hill that day, but the seasoned veterans among them kept the men steady. As the British marched closer, Colonel Prescott shouted, "Do not fire until you see the whites of their eyes!" His command allowed the Patriots to shoot more accurately and save precious ammunition. Twice the British advanced, only to be mowed down within point-blank range of the Patriots. Surrounded by dead soldiers, the British threw down their packs and desperately charged the Patriots. Out of ammunition, they were forced

to retreat. The British captured Breed's Hill, but 1,000 of their men were left dead and wounded, compared to the Patriots' 400. Although they lost the battle, the Patriots learned that they could stand their own against Britain's best soldiers.



Map of the Battle of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill

The Life of a Patriot Soldier

Weapons

The Patriots beat one of the most powerful armies in the world, despite having little training and a limited supply of weapons. Levi likely fought with a simple gun called a musket.¹³ Colonists used these guns for hunting, and to protect themselves from wild animals and other people. Muskets were not very accurate, especially for targets more than 100 yards away. Reloading a musket was a slow process, and a soldier could only fire two or three shots per minute.

During battle, troops stood in lines shoulder to shoulder and marched toward the enemy while firing at them. Men who had been shot dropped to the ground, but the rest continued to march forward. The

Muskets were essential weapons during the Revolutionary War. These long, smooth guns were not accurate beyond 100 yards, so armies often fought in lines, shooting enemies at close range.¹²



The Charleville musket, 1777



Powder horn

battlefield soon became hazy with smoke from the gunpowder, making it difficult to tell who was an enemy and who was not. Once the Patriots came within close range of British troops, they fought hand-to-hand using the long, metal blade attached to the barrel of their musket, called a bayonet.

Uniforms

Many Patriot soldiers fought in their own clothes, which they wore for months or even years at a time.¹⁴ Soldiers walked wherever they went, and it was important to keep their feet warm and dry. Many men wrapped rags around their feet in place of shoes, even in winter. Those who did own shoes alternated feet to wear them out slower. Some soldiers wore helmets into battle, made of hard leather, or brass, or covered with bear fur or horse hair to protect them from the blows of a sword.



General George Washington ordered that soldiers in the Continental Army wear blue wool coats in 1779, but each militia had its own uniform. The inside color of a coat lining indicated which state a soldier was from. Soldiers from Massachusetts, like Levi, wore a blue wool coat with a white lining.



General George Washington

Food



Wild rice

Daily rations for an American soldier included one pound of beef, one pound of bread or flour, 6.8 ounces of peas, 1.4 ounces of rice, one pint of milk, and one quart of spruce beer (which prevented a disease called scurvy, caused by a diet lacking fresh fruits and vegetables).¹⁵



1 pound of flour



Soldiers preferred to camp near cities and towns, where they fared better than soldiers on the march. Delivering food to an army spread out in the wilderness

Fire cakes



How to Make Fire Cakes

Ingredients:

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup wheat flour, large pinch of salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water.

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Combine flour and salt in a mixing bowl. Slowly add water to the mixture and stir until a dough forms. It should form into a ball without being too sticky. Divide the dough into two sections and flatten each section into a disk using your hands. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and place the disks of dough on a baking sheet. Bake for 30 minutes. Eat while still warm.

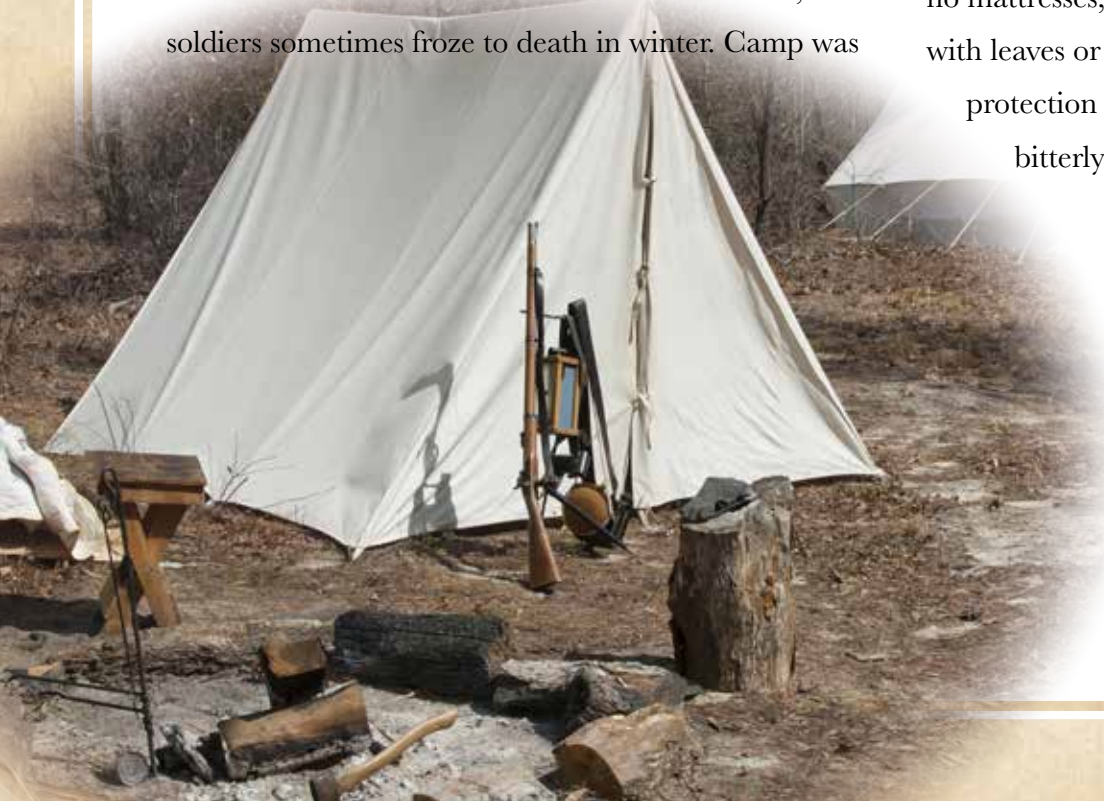
was difficult. Continental soldiers often lived close to starvation, eating only “fire cakes” made of water and flour paste that was cooked over a fire.

Shelter

Soldiers marched and made camp in all types of weather: rain, heat, cold, and snow.¹⁶ Their tents were made of canvas and designed to shelter six men, although many more men than that were often squeezed inside. When tents were not available, soldiers slept on the ground with blankets outside or in a crude shelter made of sticks and blankets. With little insulation, soldiers sometimes froze to death in winter. Camp was

usually a disgusting and dangerous place that smelled of sweat, dirt, and human waste.

It became too difficult to fight in the extreme cold and snow of winter, so soldiers lived in more permanent camps like the one at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The conditions at Valley Forge were harsh. The camp had about 2,000 log huts that held 12 men each. They had no mattresses, so soldiers slept on wooden bunks piled with leaves or straw. Although these huts gave more protection than tents, they were still drafty and bitterly cold.



Canvas tents to shelter six men or more

Women on the Battlefield

The brave work of American women helped the Patriots win the Revolutionary War.¹⁷ Groups of women often followed their men to battle and provided the support services needed to keep the army going. They cooked, baked, did laundry, mended uniforms, and nursed the wounded. They received supplies and money for their work, but these women also believed in the importance of winning. Sarah Osborn spoke for many

women when she said, “It would not do for the men to fight and starve, too.” Women like Kate Moore Barry scouted and spied for the army, while the name “Molly Pitcher” was used to represent the many women who took up arms or disguised themselves as men to fight throughout the revolution. Women and children also made good spies. Women working in taverns listened to soldiers talking about troop movements or battle plans. Some even stored weapons and gunpowder.



Women provided support to the Continental Army during the American Revolution.



Life at Home During the War

Women at Home

Women played an important role in events that led to the Revolutionary War, especially in boycotts on British goods.¹⁹ They held spinning bees to weave cloth by hand so they would not have to buy it from England. During the war, women made uniforms and raised money for the Patriot cause. Women also made excellent spies. Anna Strong conveyed messages to other Patriot spies with laundry.²⁰ A black petticoat hung on the line or a certain number of handkerchiefs conveyed the locations of important people and meeting places.

In winter, work was done indoors. It was a time to spin wool into cloth and sew. A young girl might practice stitches on her sampler in the evening, after her mending work was done.



The Boston Chronicle in April 1766 wrote that women there “exhibited a fine example of industry, by spinning from sunrise until dark...”¹⁸

Many women found themselves running their husband's farm or business while also cooking, cleaning, and raising children.²¹ When battles happened nearby, women often had to cope with armies taking over their land or camping on it. They were sometimes forced to house officers in their homes, and hungry soldiers often raided their gardens and killed their livestock.



Children

Children in colonial America lived much different lives than children today.²² They were treated like adults from a



young age and were expected to do many chores like fetch water, clean the house, and feed farm animals. There was little time for play, but children still found moments here and there for a game of hopscotch, leap-frog, or hide-and-seek. Children treasured the few toys they had, perhaps a doll, a kite, a top, or a bag of marbles.

Most children did not go to school, because their parents needed their help on the farm. Those who did go to school rarely had books or writing tools. Boys became apprentices at the age of 14, where they learned a trade in addition to reading, writing, and math. Some mothers taught their daughters to read and write, but many did not.



The war made children's lives much more difficult. With their fathers, brothers, and other male relatives gone, children had to help their mothers plow the fields or do housework while their mothers ran the family business. Children often witnessed the war's violence themselves, and had to cope with the painful loss of loved ones who were killed or captured by the British.

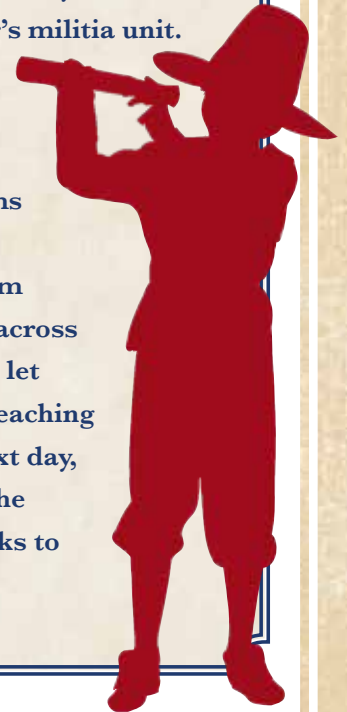


CHILD SPIES OF THE REVOLUTION



Child spy Dicey Langston, also known as “Daring Dicey,” became well known for her bravery and patriotism during the Revolution.

Her father, Solomon, and her brother, James, were patriots. Whenever Dicey heard anything of interest, she would hike across the Enoree and Tyger rivers to James's militia unit and report the information. Once Dicey overheard a group of Loyalist soldiers called the “Bloody Scouts” planning to wipe out her brother's militia unit. After dark, in the pouring rain, Dicey headed to the unit's camp to inform the soldiers of the plan. She had to cross streams and marshes. Then, because the footbridges were washed out from the heavy rain, she had to swim across the Tyger River. Dicey refused to let these conditions stop her from reaching James's camp that night. The next day, when a British scout arrived at the camp, he found it deserted, thanks to Dicey's efforts.²³





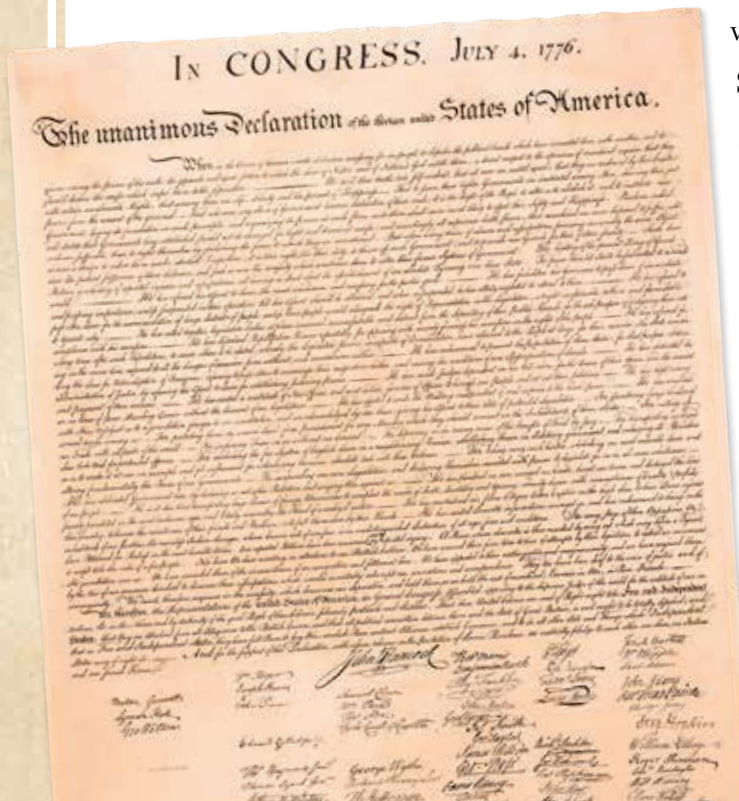
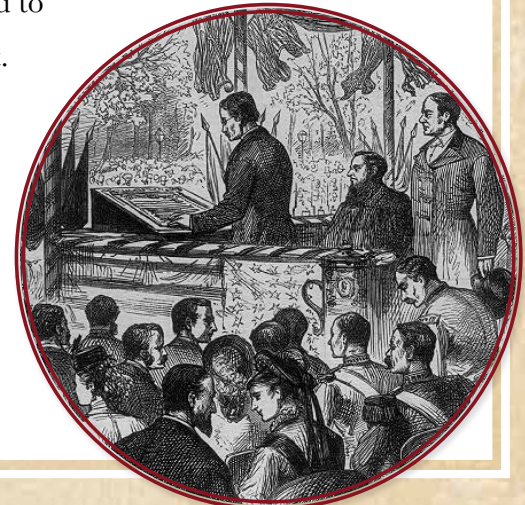
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

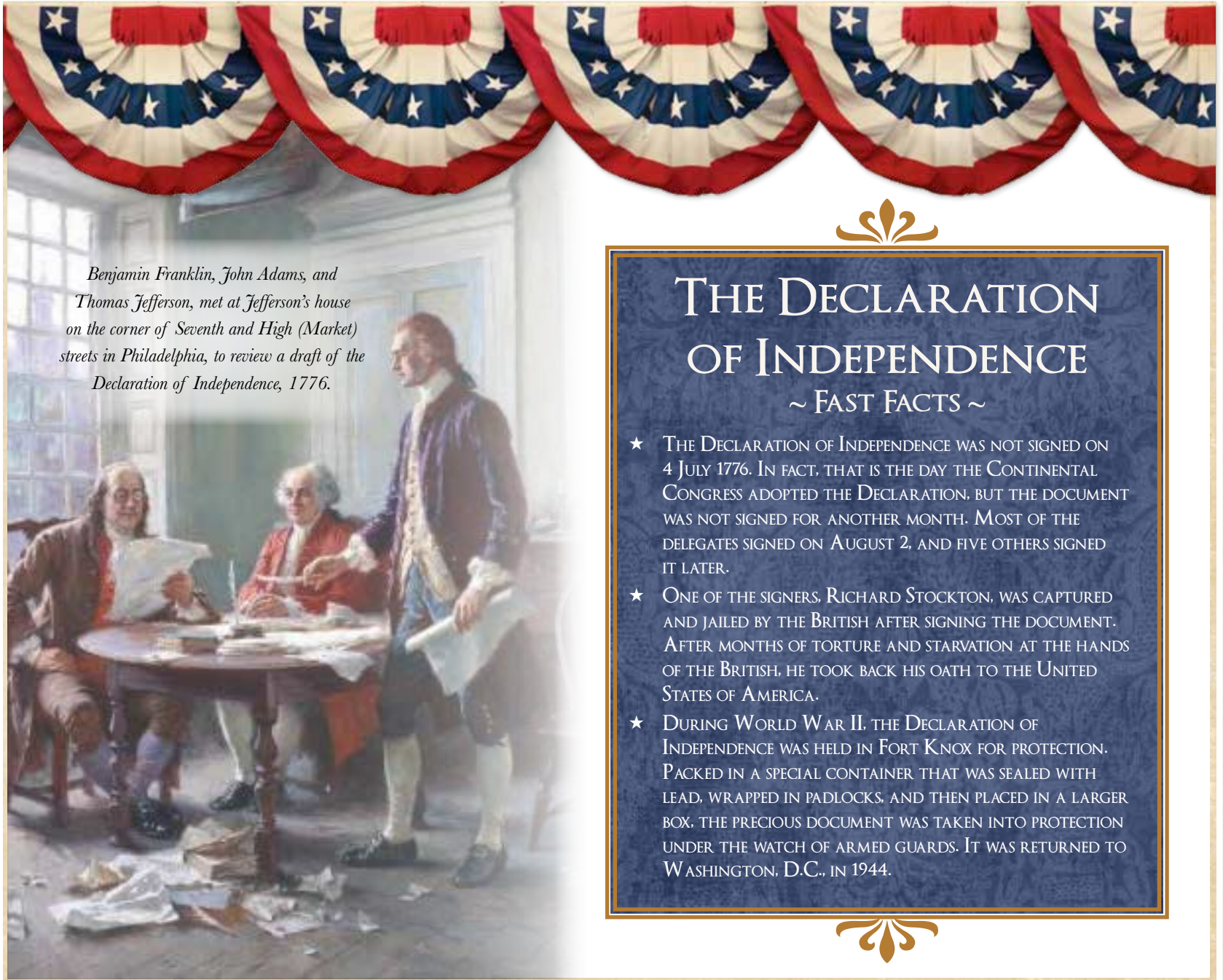
On 8 July 1776, a bell rang through the city of Philadelphia, calling the people to gather.²⁴ Colonel John Nixon stood on the steps of the Pennsylvania State Hall and read the Declaration of Independence in public for the first time. The document told Great Britain that the colonies had formed a new and free nation called the United States of America. They were no longer subjects of the British crown.

Nixon barely made it through his reading, interrupted as the audience cheered and fired their muskets. They were thrilled with what the Continental Congress had sent to the king. Some cities celebrated by making bonfires and burning puppets of King George III. The Declaration was read in churches across the colonies, to people who shouted in support. However, some colonists who were still loyal to the king reacted to the document with anger and disgust.

Nevertheless, the Declaration swept through the colonies like wildfire and inspired many people to join the cause for independence.

Richard Henry Lee reading the Declaration of Independence at the centennial 4th of July celebration in Philadelphia, 1876.





Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, met at Jefferson's house on the corner of Seventh and High (Market) streets in Philadelphia, to review a draft of the Declaration of Independence, 1776.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

~ FAST FACTS ~

- ★ THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS NOT SIGNED ON 4 JULY 1776. IN FACT, THAT IS THE DAY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ADOPTED THE DECLARATION, BUT THE DOCUMENT WAS NOT SIGNED FOR ANOTHER MONTH. MOST OF THE DELEGATES SIGNED ON AUGUST 2, AND FIVE OTHERS SIGNED IT LATER.
- ★ ONE OF THE SIGNERS, RICHARD STOCKTON, WAS CAPTURED AND JAILED BY THE BRITISH AFTER SIGNING THE DOCUMENT. AFTER MONTHS OF TORTURE AND STARVATION AT THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH, HE TOOK BACK HIS OATH TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
- ★ DURING WORLD WAR II, THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS HELD IN FORT KNOX FOR PROTECTION. PACKED IN A SPECIAL CONTAINER THAT WAS SEALED WITH LEAD, WRAPPED IN PADLOCKS, AND THEN PLACED IN A LARGER BOX, THE PRECIOUS DOCUMENT WAS TAKEN INTO PROTECTION UNDER THE WATCH OF ARMED GUARDS. IT WAS RETURNED TO WASHINGTON, D.C., IN 1944.

THE BRITISH SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN



In the fall of 1781, Washington and the Continental Army surrounded the city of Yorktown in Virginia.²⁵ British Lieutenant General Cornwallis had made the city his headquarters, so the Patriots attacked Yorktown with help from the French navy. American troops used cannons to bombard the city for five days. With his troops exhausted and the city destroyed, Lord Cornwallis finally sent a drummer and an officer with a white flag to Washington. The battle at Yorktown was over by 19 October 1781. The American colonists had finally defeated the British army, and the United States of America was on the path to freedom.





The British Surrender at Yorktown

THE BRITISH SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN

~ FAST FACTS ~

- ★ THE LAST BATTLE OF THE WAR INVOLVED AMERICAN, FRENCH, AND BRITISH TROOPS, BUT ALMOST ONE THIRD OF THE SOLDIERS WERE GERMANS. THOUSANDS SERVED ON BOTH SIDES AS HIRED FIGHTERS.
- ★ THE BRITISH FIRST TRIED TO SURRENDER TO THE FRENCH, WHO INSISTED THEY SURRENDER TO THE AMERICANS.
- ★ GENERAL CORNWALLIS CLAIMED TO BE TOO SICK TO ATTEND THE SURRENDER, SO HE SENT GENERAL CHARLES O'HARA WITH HIS SWORD TO MEET THE AMERICANS.

THE TREATY OF PARIS



In 1783, the United States and Great Britain began peace talks that officially ended the American Revolutionary War. John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams forced Great Britain to recognize the United States as an independent nation. When the treaty was signed, Franklin wrote, “the great and hazardous enterprise we have been engaged in, is, God be praised, happily completed.” The Continental Congress ratified the treaty in early 1784, and Americans across the country toasted everyone from the army to French King Louis XVI.



Delegations at the Treaty of Paris. The British delegation refused to pose, and the painting was never completed. Painted by: Benjamin West, 1783.



THE TREATY OF PARIS

~ FAST FACTS ~

- ★ IT TOOK MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS TO RATIFY THE TREATY AFTER IT WAS SIGNED, BECAUSE OF THE SLOW NATURE OF 18TH CENTURY TRANSPORTATION. KING GEORGE TOOK NEARLY 18 MONTHS TO RATIFY THE TREATY— FIVE MONTHS AFTER HIS DEADLINE.²⁶
- ★ THE TREATY IS NAMED FOR WHERE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND BRITAIN NEGOTIATED ITS TERMS. THE TREATY ALLOWED THE UNITED STATES TO EXPAND WESTWARD, WHICH WOULD LATER ALLOW THE U.S. TO SPAN FROM COAST TO COAST.
- ★ OTHER NATIONS INVOLVED IN THE WAR, SUCH AS FRANCE, SPAIN, AND THE DUTCH REPUBLIC, ALSO SIGNED TREATIES. SPAIN RECEIVED FLORIDA AS PART OF ITS TREATY.²⁷





The preliminary articles of peace stated that the British could "carry off no Negroes or other American property." Artwork by Carl Wilhelm Anton Seiler.

Levi's Life After the Revolutionary War

Only a few details are known about how Levi spent his life after the war. The Temple family moved to the farming town of Bowdoin, Maine, where people raised sheep and grew many crops like apples, wheat, hay, and potatoes.²⁸ There was also an ice company, sawmill, gristmill, carding mill, and brickyard. He became a Freewill Baptist Minister and died around 1821, when he was about 70 years old. His descendants believe that he was buried on Beaver Hill in the town of Freedom, Maine.



Hand-colored map showing Bowdoin, Maine, where Levi Temple lived until his death in 1821.

Thompson's Range

Co. Me. 1800

Benjamin Henderson	3	1	1	"	1	"	1	"	1	"	"
Simon Crockett	2	"	"	1	"	2	1	"	1	"	"
Benjamin Jordan	3	1	1	1	"	1	1	"	1	"	"
Jonathan Weymouth	1	3	1	"	1	"	2	1	"	1	"
Edmund Weymouth	"	1	"	"	1	"	"	3	"	1	"
Abraham Frost	2	1	"	1	"	2	1	"	1	"	"
Alexander Gray	1	2	2	"	1	"	1	1	"	1	"
William Heath	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	1	"
John M. Mannus	3	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	1	"	"
John Samborne	4	1	"	1	"	"	1	"	1	"	"
Simcon Hamblinton	"	"	1	"	1	"	"	2	"	1	"
Silas Hamblinton	2	1	"	2	"	3	"	"	1	"	"
Edmund Weymouth Jr.	3	"	"	1	"	1	"	"	1	"	"
John Hewey	"	"	2	"	1	1	"	2	"	1	"
James Hewey	3	"	"	1	"	3	"	"	1	"	"
John Hewey Jr.	2	"	"	1	"	2	"	"	1	"	"
Elisha Hasincomb	2	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	1	"	"
William Higgins	2	"	"	1	"	3	"	"	1	"	"
Timothy Higgins Jr.	1	"	2	"	"	1	"	1	"	"	"
Nathan S. Gilpatrick	3	2	"	1	"	2	"	"	1	"	"
John Smith	1	"	"	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"
John Henderson	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"
Joseph Dearing	1	"	"	1	"	1	"	1	"	"	"

Levi Temple

1 2

Levi Temple

Levi Temple	1	2	"	1	"	1	"	"	1	"	"
Sampson Freeman	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	8
John Rydout	1	"	"	1	"	3	"	"	1	"	"
Jacob Pittengail	"	"	1	"	"	1	"	1	"	"	1
Thomas Maxwell	"	"	2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Nahum Weymouth	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	1
Belcher Jones	"	"	1	"	"	1	"	1	"	"	1

Whole number is 77.

835

LINCOLN COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS

~ 1800 CENSUS ~

HEAD OF FAMILY:

LEVI TEMPLE

FREE WHITE MALES:

UNDER 10 1

10-16 2

26-45 1

FREE WHITE FEMALES:

UNDER 10 1

26-45 1

SLAVES 0

Census record for Levi Temple, Lincoln County, Massachusetts, 1800

A photograph of several Revolutionary War soldiers in uniform, standing in a line. They are wearing white coats with red and blue accents, and holding rifles. The image is used as a background for the text.

LEVI'S LEGACY

Levi was one of nearly 400,000 men who risked their lives for American freedom. About 25,000 of those men died, and those who survived endured physical and psychological scars for years to come. Their sacrifice is remembered every Fourth of July, the day America's Founding Fathers adopted the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The descendants of American Revolutionary War Patriots have a unique opportunity to preserve the story of their ancestors and to carry on their legacy of freedom.



*Few will have the greatness to bend
history itself; but each of us can work to
change a small portion of events, and in
the total of all those acts will be written
the history of this generation.*

~Robert Kennedy

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Writing of the Declaration of Independence

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