

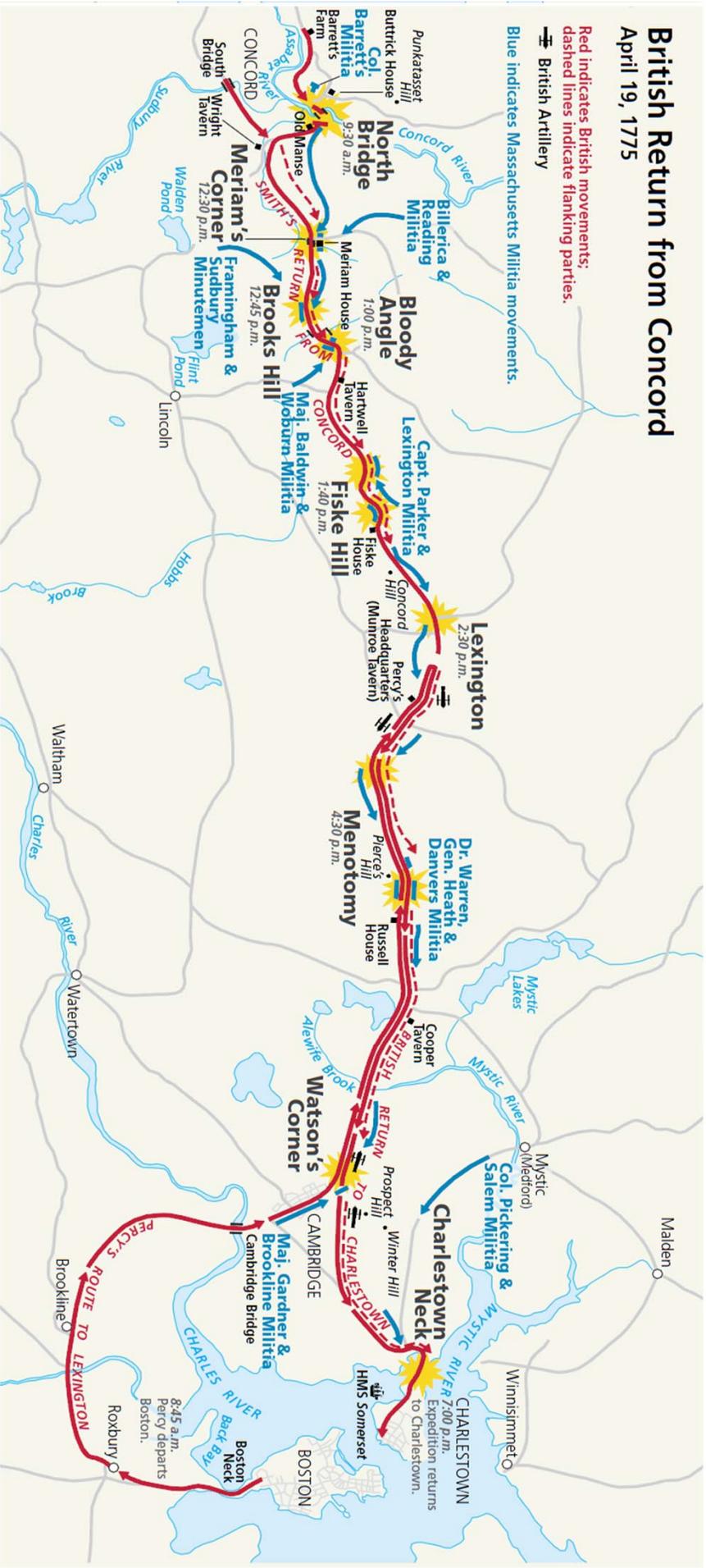
British Return from Concord

April 19, 1775

Red indicates British movements;
dashed lines indicate flanking parties.

☞ British Artillery

Blue indicates Massachusetts Militia movements.



Big Picture Timeline

1763	End of 7 Years' War. Britain £140 million in debt. 4/5: Sugar Act imposes taxes on wide range of goods in America and subjects Americans to British Admiralty courts.
1764	Protests and boycott over Sugar Act. Sam Adams calls for colonial congress, publishes statement of colonial rights.
1765	Stamp Act passed by Parliament. Stamp Act Congress unites colonies in opposition. In August, Bostonians hang in effigy a Stamp agent.
1766	Stamp Act repealed; not one stamp issued. Troops stationed in New York City. Townshend Acts passed in June, raising taxes on wide range of products and putting judges and governors on king's payroll.
1767	Townshend Acts: duties on wide range of goods, "writs-of-assistance" warrants, judges and governors paid directly by England. Boycott widened. Parliament dissolves New York assembly.
1768	"True Sentiments of America" published. Colonies boycott all British goods. Adams initiates Circular Letter among colonies, endorsed by CT, NH, NJ, and VA. British begin military occupation of Boston. Troops "impress" Bostonians to serve in navy.
1769	
1770	March 5: Boston Massacre. Sam Adams forces end of military occupation of Boston.
1771	
1772	Adams creates Committees of Correspondence throughout the colonies.
1773	Tea Act imposes small tax on tea with discounted price as ploy to get Americans to accept Parliament's authority to tax them. 12/16: Boston Tea Party
1774	"Coercive Acts" passed. Gen. Gage made Governor of Massachusetts, determined to disarm Americans. Congress passes Suffolk Resolves to ignore Coercive Acts, train militia, withhold taxes from royal government. 9/1: Gage's Cambridge Powder Raid succeeds without opposition. 12/14: Portsmouth Powder Alarm foiled.
1775	2/1: Salem Powder Alarm: foiled by townspeople's delaying action at drawbridge. 4/19: Start of Revolutionary War 6/13: Battle of Bunker Hill – a draw. Siege of Boston begins 10/ : Americans take Ft. Ticonderoga, move cannon to Boston. 3/76 British leave Boston

April 19, 1775 Timeline

4/18	Daytime	9:00am: Cannon and powder removed from Concord. Muskets buried at Barrett's Farm. Noon: British prepare the longboats. Dr. Warren gets report from an informant detailing the entire British plan. Soon everyone in Boston knows everything.
	9:00 pm	
	10:00	Col. Smith's force of 800 leaves Boston. Revere tells Newman to hang two lanterns in Christ Church. 10:15 Revere leaves for Charlestown. 11:00 Revere sets out on horseback.
	11: 00	
4/19	12:00 am	Revere arrives at Lexington. British complete landing at Lechmere Point.
	1:00	Smith's force begins marching toward Concord.
	2:00	1:30: Paul Revere captured by Mitchell's patrol.
	3:00	
	4:00	4:30: American horsemen confront British on road. Pitcairn orders troops to load.
	5:00	British troops arrive at Lexington. First shots. Eight Americans killed, nine wounded. 5:30: British leave Lexington.
	6:00	Capt. Isaac Davis leaves home for Concord.
	7:00	
	8:00	British arrive at Concord
	9:00	Percy's force of 1200 men leaves Boston to reinforce Smith. Bonfire on Concord Green
	10:00	Battle at the North Bridge. Isaac Davis and Abner Hosmer killed. British break and run after two volleys – about 1 minute.
	11:00	
	12:00	
	1:00 pm	
	2:00	Percy arrives in Lexington. Smith arrives about 2:30.
	3:00	3:30: British leave Lexington. Fighting is continuous at every step. British kill civilians, loot and torch homes in Menotomy.
4:00		
5:00		
6:00		
7:00	British arrive in Charlestown., where they are protected by <i>Somerset's</i> cannon. British casualties: 65 killed, 157 wounded, 24 missing. Total 272 American casualties: 50 killed, 39 wounded, 5 missing. Total 94	

People to Remember

Americans

Before the Battle

Samuel Adams: "Father of the American Revolution"

Paul Revere: organized alarm system of riders and signals

Robert Newman: sexton of Old North Church, set lanterns

William Dawes: sent afternoon of 4/18 to warn Hancock

Samuel Prescott: rode on to Concord after Revere captured

Dr. Joseph Warren: a leader in Sons of Liberty

Dr. Benjamin Church: traitor and spy for Gen. Gage

John Hancock

Margaret Kemble Gage: believed by some historians to have told Dr. Warren of British plan

Lexington

Capt. John Parker

Jonas Clarke

Jonathan Harrington

William Dimond (16): drummer

Jonathan Harrington (17): fifer

Joshua Simonds: ready to blow the powder, took 1st prisoner

Concord

Capt. Isaac Davis: Acton minutemen leader, first officer KIA

Col. James Barrett: Concord militia leader. Hid muskets in cornfield.

Maj. John Buttrick: Concord minutemen leader, owned farm directly north of North Bridge

Lt. Joseph Hosmer: "Will you let them burn the town down?"

Battle Road

Hezekiah Wyman: "Death rides a pale horse."

Sam Whittmore (80): Hero of the Commonwealth

David Lamson: Captured Percy's supply wagons

Ruth Batherick: Captured 6 Grenadiers

Gen. William Heath: "Circle of Fire" tactic

Col. Timothy Pickering: His lethargy allowed British escape

British

Before the Battle

Gen. Thomas Gage

Col. Francis Smith

Maj. Edward Mitchell (captured Revere)

Lexington

Maj. John Pitcairn

Lt. Jesse Adair: possible first shooter

Concord

Cpt. Walter Laurie: commander at North Bridge

Battle Road

Brig. General Lord Hugh Percy

What They Said...

- Loyalty is founded in the love and possession of liberty. It includes in it a thorough knowledge of our constitution, its conveniences and defects as well as its real advantages; a becoming jealousy of our immunities, and a steadfast resolution to maintain them. (Samuel Adams, 1748)
- America should be deprived of its militating and contradictory charters, and its royal governors, judges and attorneys be rendered independent of the people." (Charles Townshend, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1766)
- For if our trade be taxed, why not our lands? Why not the produce of our lands and everything we possess or make use of? (Samuel Adams, 1764)
- "The Americans will not lose out of view their rights and privileges; and, next to their fanaticism for religion, the fanaticism for liberty is the most daring in its measures and the most dangerous in its consequences." (Étienne François Choiseul, French minister of war, 1769)
- That it is an indispensable duty which we owe to God, our country, ourselves and posterity, by all lawful ways and means in our power to maintain, defend and preserve those civil and religious rights and liberties, for which many of our fathers fought, bled and died, and to hand them down entire to future generations. (Suffolk Resolves, September 9, 1774, attributed to Dr. Joseph Warren)
- During the whole affair, the rebels attacked us in a very scattered, irregular manner, but with perseverance and resolution, nor did they ever dare to form into a regular body. Indeed they knew too well what was proper, to do so. Whoever looks upon them as an irregular mob, will find himself very much mistaken. They have men amongst them who know very well what they are about, having been employed as rangers against the Indians and Canadians, and this country being very much covered with wood, and hilly, is very advantageous for their method of fighting. (Gen. Hugh Percy, in his report on the battle)
- ...we most solemnly, before *God* and the world, *declare*, that, exerting the utmost energy of those powers which our beneficent Creator hath graciously bestowed upon us, the arms we have been compelled by our enemies to assume, we will, in defiance of every hazard, with unabating firmness and perseverance, employ for the preservation of our liberties; being, with one mind, resolved to die freemen rather than live slaves. (Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms, 2nd Continental Congress, July 6 1775)
- Posterity! You will never know, how much it cost the present Generation, to preserve your Freedom! I hope you will make a good Use of it. If you do not, I shall repent in Heaven, that I ever took half the Pains to preserve it. (John Adams)
- "A Republic, if you can keep it." (Ben Franklin to a woman who asked what kind of government the Constitutional Convention gave us)
- "Young man, what we meant in going for those Redcoats was this: we always had governed ourselves and we always meant to. They didn't mean we should." (Captain Levi Preston, of the Danvers militia, at age 91, remembering the day in an 1842 interview)

60 Years After Lexington

Alexis de Tocqueville was a French political philosopher who traveled throughout the United States in the 1830s. His most famous book, *Democracy in America*, was published in 1835.

Tocqueville, in *Democracy in America*, remarked that while the Americans of the 1830s were not as cultured or artistic minded as Europeans, nearly everyone was literate, knowledgeable and active in matters of politics and public affairs. Later in the book he warned us what could happen if we were to lose that happy aspect of our national personality:

"I seek to trace the novel features under which despotism may appear in the world. The first thing that strikes the observation is an innumerable multitude of men, all equal and alike, incessantly endeavoring to procure the petty and paltry pleasures with which they glut their lives. Each of them, living apart, is as a stranger to the fate of all the rest; his children and his private friends constitute to him the whole of mankind. As for the rest of his fellow citizens, he is close to them, but he does not see them; he touches them, but he does not feel them; he exists only in himself and for himself alone; and if his kindred still remain to him, he may be said at any rate to have lost his country...

"Above this race of men stands an immense and tutelary power, which takes upon itself alone to secure their gratifications and to watch over their fate. That power is absolute, minute, regular, provident, and mild. It would be like the authority of a parent, if, like that authority, its object was to prepare men for manhood; but it seeks, on the contrary, to keep them in perpetual childhood; it is well content that the people should rejoice, provided they think of nothing but rejoicing. For their happiness such a government labors; but it chooses to be the sole agent and the only arbiter of that happiness; it provides for their security, foresees and supplies their necessities, facilitates their pleasures, manages their principal concerns, directs their industry, regulates the descent of property, and subdivides their inheritances; what remains, but to spare them all the care of thinking and all the trouble of living? Thus it every day renders the exercise of the free agency of man less useful and less frequent; it circumscribes the will within a narrower range and gradually robs a man of all the uses of himself. The principle of equality has prepared men for these things; it has predisposed men to endure them and often to look on them as benefits...

"They devise a sole, tutelary, and all-powerful form of government, but elected by the people. They combine the principle of centralization and that of popular sovereignty; this gives [men] a respite; they console themselves for being in tutelage by the reflection that they have chosen their own guardians...By this system the people shake off their state of dependence just long enough to select their master and then relapse into it again...

"Subjection in minor affairs breaks out every day and is felt by the whole community indiscriminately. It does not drive men to resistance, but it crosses them at every turn, till they are led to surrender the exercise of their own will. Thus their spirit is gradually broken and their character enervated...It is in vain to summon a people who have been rendered so dependent on the central power to choose from time to time the representatives of that power; this rare and brief exercise of their free choice, however important it may be, will not prevent them from gradually losing the faculties of thinking, feeling, and acting for themselves, and thus gradually falling below the level of humanity."

Tocqueville wrote that in the 1830s, and where are we now? Apathy and ignorance are our greatest enemies. If we Appleseeders can restore that active, vigilant citizen, we will have honored our Founders and done our descendants the greatest possible service.

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Continuing the Legacy

The battle of April 19 was a victory because of the strong community bonds among the Americans, which enabled them to organize within their towns and communicate between towns. Without internet or cell phones, they mobilized 14,000 men in one day to defend their liberty. How many people can you mobilize to participate in your government today?

The Americans of 1775 had no choice but to fight an occupying military force for their liberty. Thanks to them, we can work within our Constitutional system to protect our rights and ensure our representatives are doing the job for which we elected them.

The real measure of Appleseed's success is not the number of students who make Rifleman, but the number who act like those ordinary Americans whose volunteer involvement from 1775 to 1792 gave us our exceptional American system.

There is a wide range of ways that you can get involved and be influential:

Join your political party's local committee. Get involved in the process of selecting, vetting and supporting candidates for office at all levels - town, county, state and federal.

Most state party committees write a platform to publicly state where they stand on important issues. These platforms are written by committees. Get on your committee. And there is no reason you can't put out a local platform for your city, town or county races. Tell the voters where you stand and what you will do.

Do you wonder why so many poor candidates seem to be on the ballot or in office? It is often difficult to get good people to run for office. If you know someone who would be great in the position, get a group of people to recruit him or her to run - and support your candidate. If you oppose a powerful incumbent, organize an effort, and a replacement, to depose him. If you believe you're better than the available candidates, run yourself.

Write your local paper. If you like to write, try to get a regular column in it.

Contact your representatives and let them know what you expect them to do about the issues you care about - in detail. Your congressman and senators should know your name, and recognize your face. Whether they embrace you or try to run away depends on how well they meet your standards.

Get together with some like-minded friends and use the power of your numbers to amplify your message. How many friends? Ten are good, a hundred are better. Even if your letters to representatives are all identical, politicians pay attention to voters who care enough to organize and take action as a group. And at all levels, the difference between a real grassroots effort and "Astroturf" is obvious. Imagine the impact if every one in your group of a dozen parents testifies during the public comments section of your local school board meeting.

Money talks; and bigger money has a louder voice. Don't be seen as just an individual, nearly anonymous check. If your group of friends organizes to make "bundled" contributions to your candidates' campaigns which are delivered together with your message about your positions and expectations for their representation, you can make your money roar. (Be sure to check the election laws in your jurisdiction when organizing such efforts.)

If you have other ideas or have a success story, please tell us at newsletter@projectappleseed.net. We will spread the word to over 25,000 fellow Americans in our newsletter.