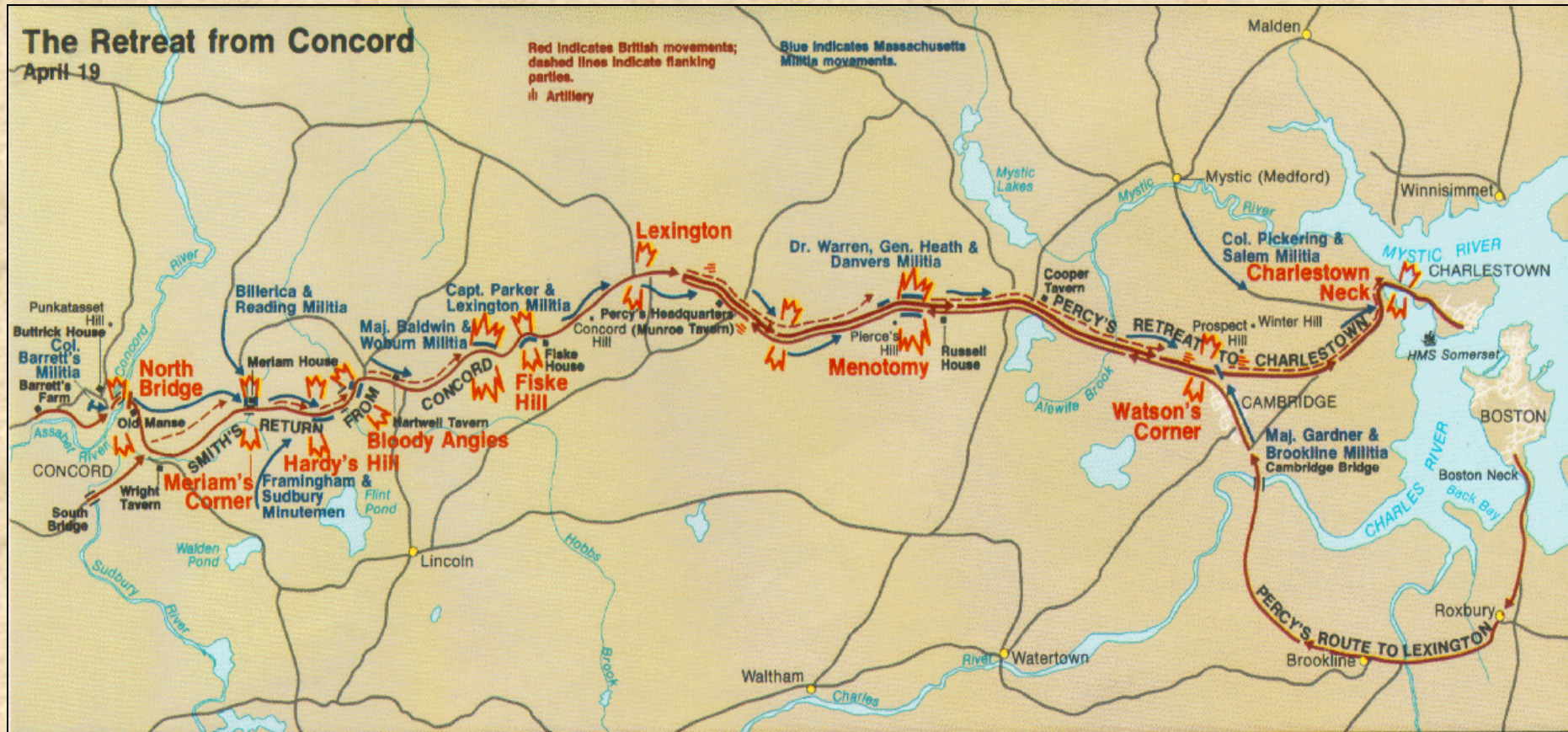


The Revolutionary War began

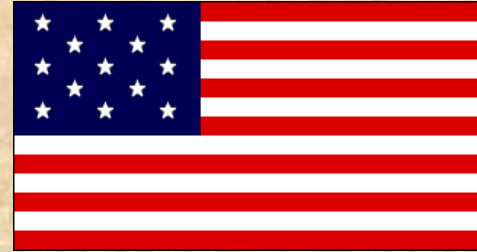
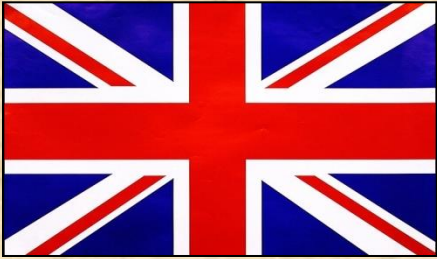
- ❖ **Major early battle locations**
- ❖ **Strengths and weaknesses of both sides**
- ❖ **Second Continental Congress**
- ❖ **George Washington**
- ❖ **Siege of Boston**
- ❖ **Bunker Hill**



Map of locations of various battles fought in the first days of the Revolutionary War, April, 1775



Strengths



Britain

Well-trained and equipped army

Strong central government with a strong economy

Support of Loyalists and some Native Americans

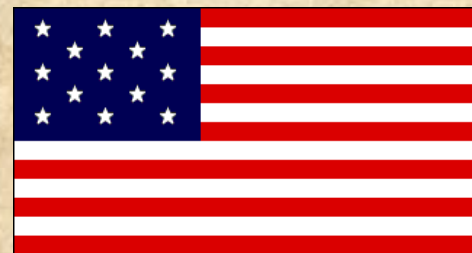
Colonists

Familiarity of territory

Capable leadership of Washington and other generals

A common cause—fighting for independence

Weaknesses



Britain

Distance from homeland

Troops unfamiliar with terrain

Weak military leaders

No common cause to rally army or British people

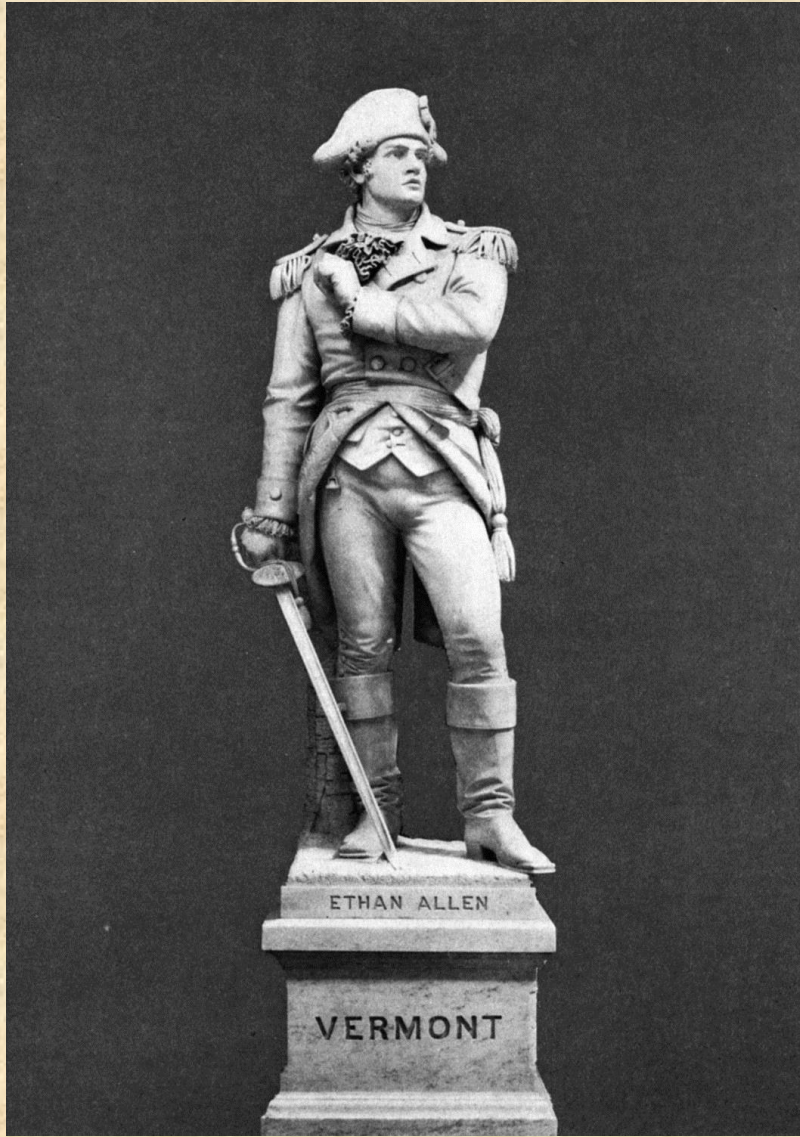
Colonists

Many soldiers untrained and uneducated in military tactics

Shortages of food and ammunition

No central government to enforce wartime laws

Inferior navy



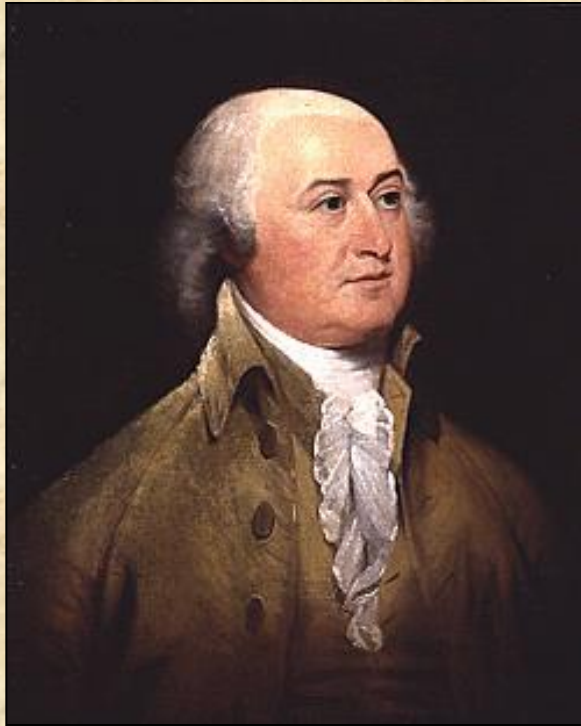
Battle of Fort Ticonderoga



Ethan Allen demanded the surrender at Fort Ticonderoga in 1775. The British retook the fort in 1777, but abandoned it later that year.

Second Continental Congress

May 10, 1775, to March 2, 1789



John Adams

- **Congress' focus changed from forcing Britain to repeal the Intolerable Acts to fighting a war against the British Army**
- **Some more radical delegates pushed for independence from Britain; moderates pushed for reconciliation**
- **John Adams suggested that each colony create its own government, a continental army be formed, and the colonies declare independence**
- **Congress created the Continental Army, appointed George Washington commander, and printed paper currency. Eventually they produced the Declaration of Independence**

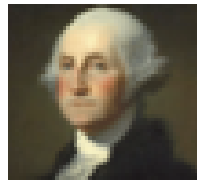
Washington appointed General of the Continental Army



Many, including Continental Congress president John Hancock, desired to be commander of the Continental Army. Other delegates, led by John Adams, sought to appoint George Washington to the post.

Washington was selected for two main reasons:

- 1. His prior military experience during the French and Indian War**
- 2. He was from Virginia, and it seemed necessary to include Virginia in the military operations around the city of Boston**

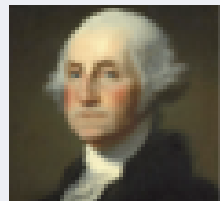


George Washington I was elected General of the Continental Army....I suppose wearing my uniform paid off!

June 1775

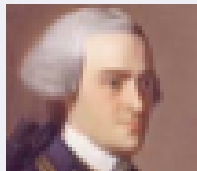


John Adams likes this.



George Washington Thanks for the nomination John!

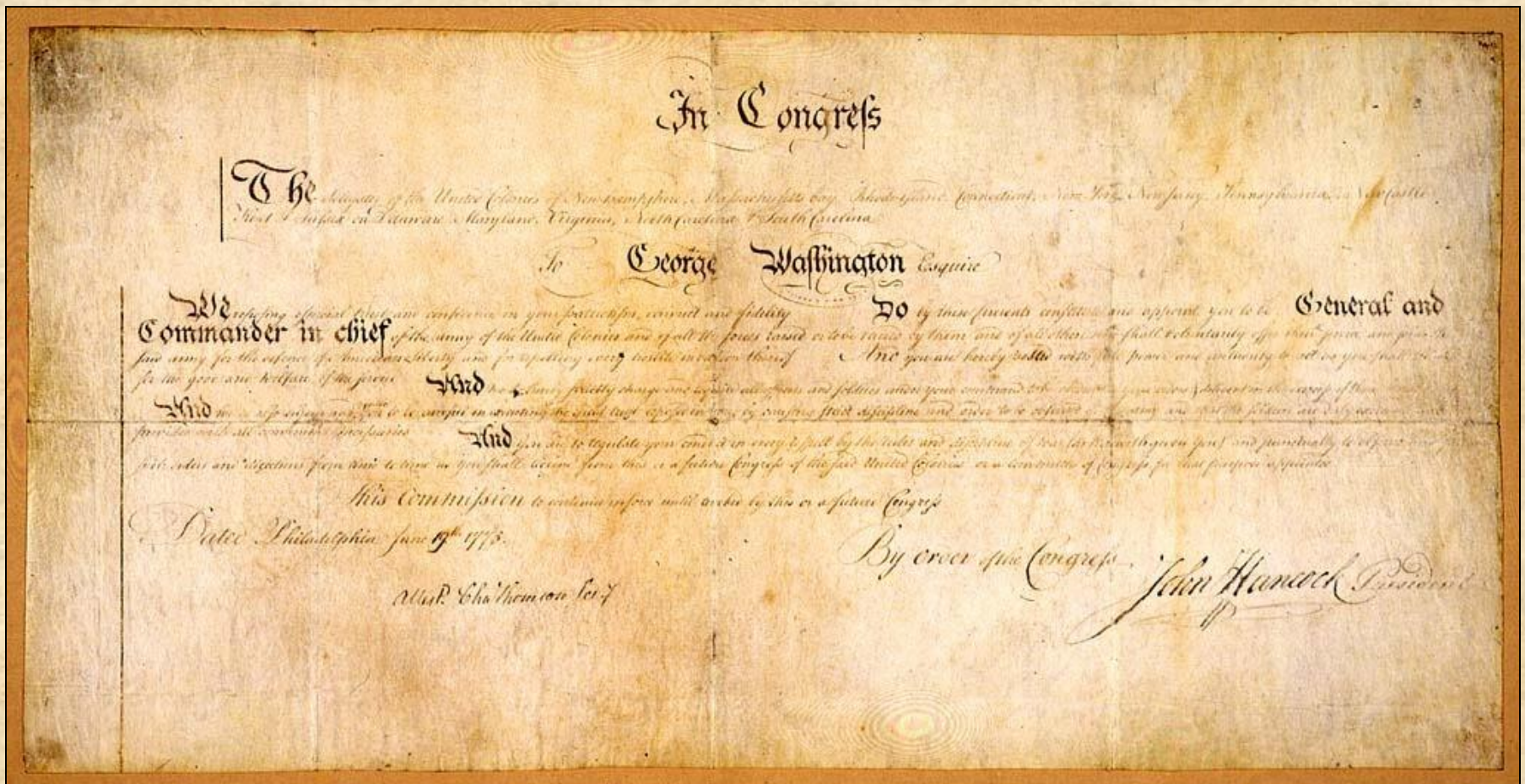
June 1775



John Hancock I really wish there was a dislike button! It should have been me!

June 1775

This commission certified George Washington's appointment as General and Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. The signature of John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, is visible in the lower right corner. Washington wrote to his wife, Martha, that he had accepted the commission only after, "I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it."



George Washington, the man



George Washington's physical appearance made him head and shoulders above his men, however his character and bravery endeared him to his men, and his nation.

On several occasions, he personally exposed himself to enemy fire while encouraging his men to fight on. At Valley Forge, he dealt with the same hardships as his men. For the duration of the war, he kept his outmanned army intact and ready to fight the larger, better equipped British army.

By the end of the war, many were already calling him "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen".