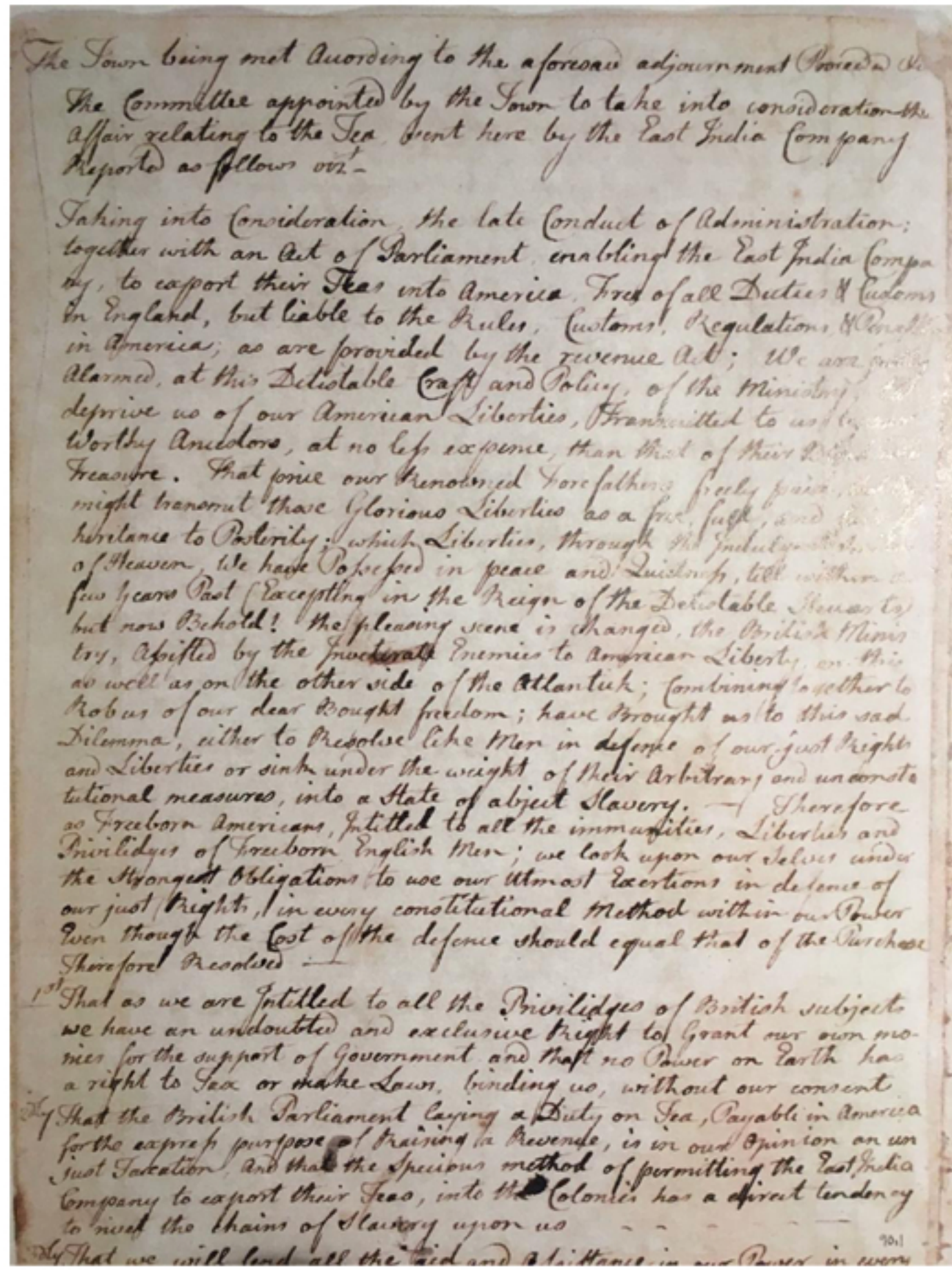


# 1770-1780



Re-enactors preparing to march to Old North Bridge



A copy of the statement sent to the Boston Committee on Correspondence in the Town Book

Britain was deep in debt at the end of the French and Indian War, a war fought in defense of its American colonies. To help repay its debt, British officials imposed a series of taxes on British imports to America. The colonists regarded British policies as unfair *taxation without representation*

Sudbury and other towns in Massachusetts kept informed of the rising tensions between the Boston patriots and the British through letters sent by the Boston Committee on Correspondence. Sudbury stood firmly with the Boston patriots.

After the Boston Tea Party in December of 1773, Sudbury's Committee on Correspondence met and wrote a statement that included resolutions denouncing the British tax on tea and endorsing the boycott of British goods.

*That as we are entitled to all the privileges of British subjects ... that no Power on Earth has a right to Tax or make laws binding us, without our consent*

In response to a directive from the October 1774 Massachusetts Provincial Congress in Salem, Sudbury formed six military companies to prepare for potential conflict with the British. In all, 348 men or 1/5 of the population of Sudbury began training for battle.

The Regulars are coming! Early in the morning of April 19, 1775, a messenger raced from Concord to Sudbury to alert the residents that the British were on their way to Concord to capture the patriots' war supplies. The town bell was rung and muskets were fired to sound the alarm to ready the troops on the Sudbury Common.

When the West Sudbury companies reached the Old North Bridge, the British were retreating. Sudbury soldiers aggressively pursued the retreating British soldiers continuing to fire at the Red Coats. The East Sudbury troops likely encountered the British at Merriman's Corner and Hardy Hill in Concord. At the end of the conflict, two Sudbury men lay dead – Ashael Reed and Josiah Haynes.



Re-enactors at Old North Bridge



The Town Training Field



Isaac Maynard's Brass Step-down Bullet and Shot Mold

Over the course of the war, nearly 500 men and boys from Sudbury fought for American independence at Bunker Hill; in New York at battles in Saratoga, White Plains, Peekskill, Stillwater, and Fort Ticonderoga; and in the campaign to capture Canada. John Nixon, a Sudbury Minuteman, rose to the rank of Brigadier General in George Washington's Continental Army.

In July 1776, The Massachusetts Bay Council ordered that the Declaration of Independence be printed and a copy sent to the ministers of each parish in the state who were required to read the document to their congregations. Sudbury's Town Clerk recorded the Declaration in the Town Book as a perpetual memorial.

In Congress July 4 1776  
1859 p1  
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 Cause which impel them to the Separation  
We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: - That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive to these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter, or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light & transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shown, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses & Usurpations,  
*Transcript of the Declaration of Independence in the Town Books*