

The Battle of Lexington & Concord

Audience Question #1

The Lexington & Concord Combatants
were Pejoratively Known as
Rebels and Redcoats.

How were they More Formally Identified?

Combatants – April 1775

- **Rebels**

- ~~Americans~~
- ~~Colonials / Colonists~~
- ~~Whigs~~
- ~~Patriots~~

- **Provincials**
- **Minutemen &
Militia**

- **Redcoats**

- ~~British~~
- ~~Loyalists~~
- ~~Tories~~
- ~~British Army~~

- **Regulars**
- **Ministerial
Troops**

Before 18 April 1775

British Political Leadership: 1775



King George III



Prime Minister
Lord North

Parliament vs Massachusetts: 1774

- Boston Tea Party – 16 Dec 1773
- Parliament's Coercive Acts Implemented – 1 June 1774
 - The Trade Act – Closes Port of Boston
 - Massachusetts Government Act – End of Local Government
 - Administration of Justice Act – Trials in Admiralty Court
 - The Quartering Act – Soldiers in Citizen Homes
- Massachusetts Provincial Congress – 7 Oct 1774
- First Continental Congress: 14 Oct 1774 – Declaration and Resolves

British Take-Over



Thomas Gage
Royal Governor

- Gage Becomes Royal Gov: 13 May 1774
- Powder Alarm: 1 Sept. 1774 – Powder Grab Successful
- British Army Concentrates in Boston: Sep. 1774
- Portsmouth Alarm: Dec. 1774 – Provincials Foil Powder Grab
- Provincials Concentrate Supplies at Concord

Audience Question #2

Today, If a Group of **American Citizens**
Directed **Deadly Fire** upon a Formation
of **United States Marines or Soldiers**,
What **Crime** are They **Committing**?

Constitutional Definition of Treason

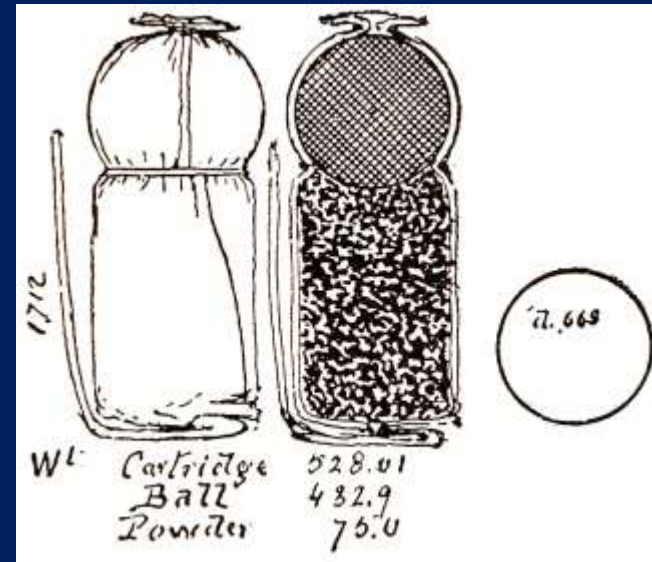
- Article III, Section 3.
- **Treason** against the **United States**, shall consist only in **Levying War Against Them**, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort.

Audience Question #3

Can You Foresee **Any Circumstance** in
which **You Personally** would Direct
Deadly Fire upon a Formation of **United**
States Marines or Soldiers?

The Musket

Brown Bess, Cartridge, Bayonet & Scabbard



Soldier's Equipment: 1775

Weapons:

Brown Bess – musket

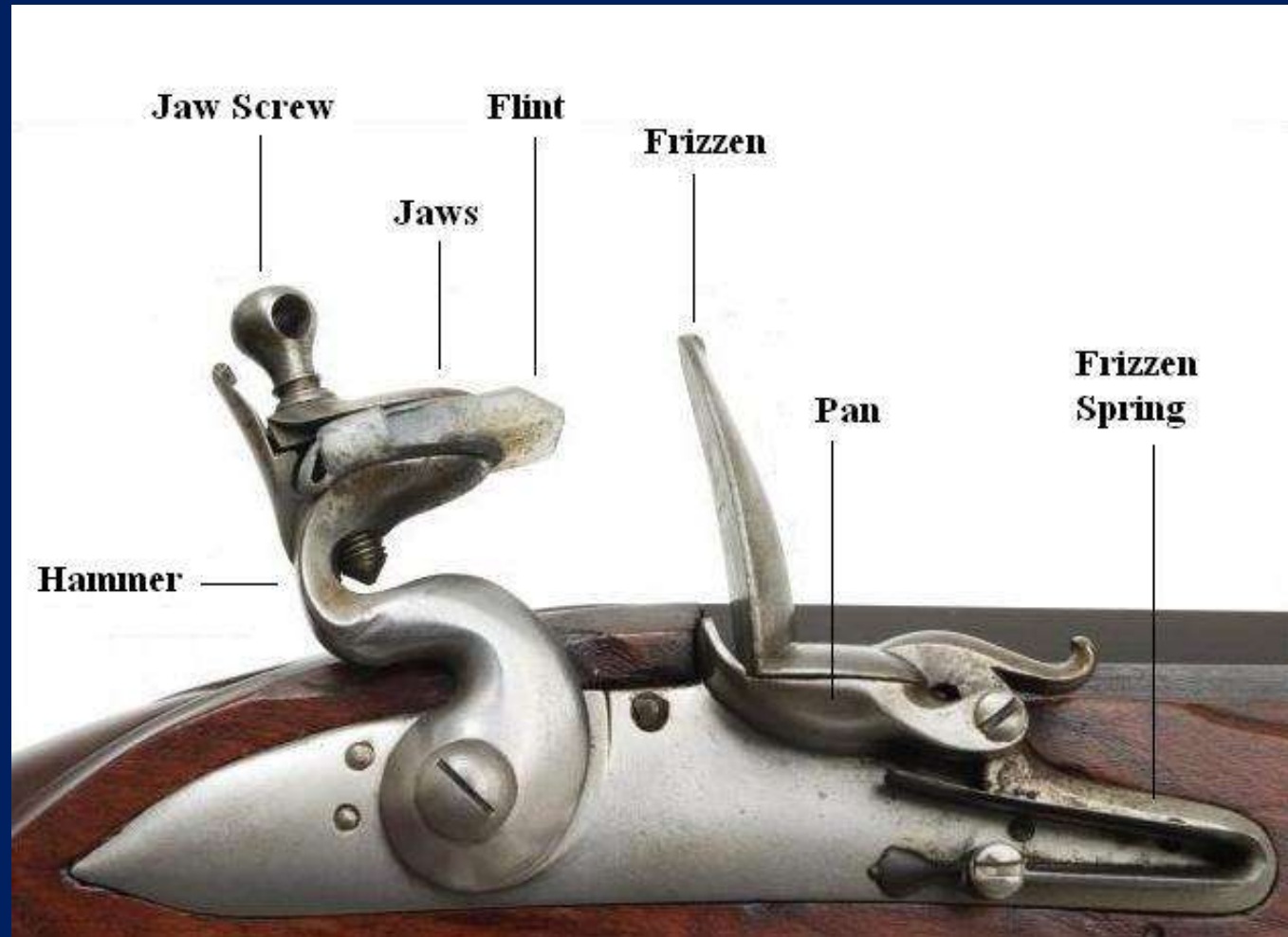
14 lbs. / .75 in. bore / .69 in. ball

Bayonet – 14 in. length, 1 lbs.

Ammunition:

36 Cartridges / Soldier, 1 oz. each
Cartridge box

Flintlock Action



Musket Shortcomings – 19 April 1775

- Muzzle Loading Musket → Incompatible with Bayonet
- Complicated Reload → Slow Rate of Fire → Squad Tactics
- Incomplete Gunpowder Burn → Fouls the Barrel →
 Undersized Musket Ball → Uncertain Ball Trajectory
- Musket Weight & Length → 'Barrel Heavy' → Difficult to Aim
- Subsonic Gunpowder + Long Discharge Time → Target Shift
- Variations in Balls & Gunpowder → Uncertain Ball Trajectory

The Regulars

Regulars: April 1775



Grenadiers



Light Infantry

British Army: April 1775

Organization:	Companies in Regiments
Manning:	Recruiting, Impressment → Under Strength
Training:	Mass Infantry Attack, Bayonet Proficiency
Leadership:	Professional Officers & NCO's, Class System
Favored Tactic:	Mass Volley → Charge Using Bayonet
Equipment:	Dependent on Army Bureaucracy
Salary:	Low, Many fees

23rd Regiment of Foot: 1775

CO:	Colonel
HQ Staff:	Lt. Col., Chaplain, Adjutant, Surgeon & Mate
Companies:	10 – 1 Light, 1 Grenadier, & 8 Line
Company:	Officers: 1 Captain & 2 Lieutenants
	NCO's: 2 Sergeants + 3 Corporals
	Enlisted: 38 Privates + 1 to 3 Musicians
Establishment:	477

Regulars in Boston – April 1775

Soldiers: 4,078

Regiments: 4th , 5th , 10th , 18th (8/10), 23rd , 38th , 43rd , 47th ,
52nd , 59th , 64th , & 65th (6/10)

No Cavalry or Dragoons

Marines: 400

GOC: General Thomas Gage

Regulars' Strengths: April 1775

Weaponry:	Artillery & Bayonet Superiority
Organization:	Regimental / Brigade Formations
Tactics:	House-to-House Fighting

Regulars' Weaknesses: April 1775

Planning:	Overemphasized Bayonet Mixed Troops from Different Regiments Underestimated Ammunition Needs Failure to Know / Appreciate Terrain Underestimated Adversary: Numbers / Tactics
Intelligence:	Weak Security → Thoroughly Penetrated
Logistics:	Did Not Adequately Secure Ammunition Supply
Tactics:	Not Ambush Oriented

The Provincials

Provincials: April 1775



New England Militia: April 1775

Organization:	Companies on a per Town Basis
Staffing:	Universal Conscription
	Tour: 16 to 60 YEARS OLD
Training:	Ambush Attacks, Musket Proficiency
Leadership:	Elected Officers
	Numerous Older, Combat Veterans
Equipment:	Individual Responsibility: Musket & Ammunition
Salary:	Only for Approved, Out of Town Service

Alarm Company: April 1775

Differences from Militia

Organization:	Separate Companies on a per Town Basis
Staffing:	Conscription: > 60 YEARS OLD
Duties:	Intelligence Gathering, Guarding Prisoners, 19 April: Prominent in Combat

Minutemen: April 1775

Differences from Militia

Organization:	Separate Companies on a per Town Basis
Volunteer:	From Militia, Top One-Third
Readiness:	30 Minutes: Civilian → Active Duty

Provincials' Strengths: April 1775

Intelligence:	Thorough Penetration of Boston
Mobilization:	Very Rapid: 4,000 in a Day → 11,000 in 2 Days
Morale:	Strong Unit Cohesion at Company Level Individual Perseverance
Tactics:	Ambush, Learned from Indian Wars

Provincials' Weaknesses: April 1775

Organization:	Weak Above Company Level No Engineering Troops
Leadership:	No Combat-Experienced General Officers
Equipment:	No Rifles or Artillery
Training:	None on Holding Positions

General Gage's Plan

Concord Provisional Expeditionary Force



- Destroy Munitions Stored at Concord
- Quick, Stealthy, Nighttime Strike
- 20 Companies from Ten Regiments
- One Marine Company
- Approximately 700 Foot Soldiers
- Lack of Unit Cohesion
- No Supply Wagons → Ammunition & Water Shortages

Lt. Col. Francis Smith

Intelligence Gathering and Dissemination

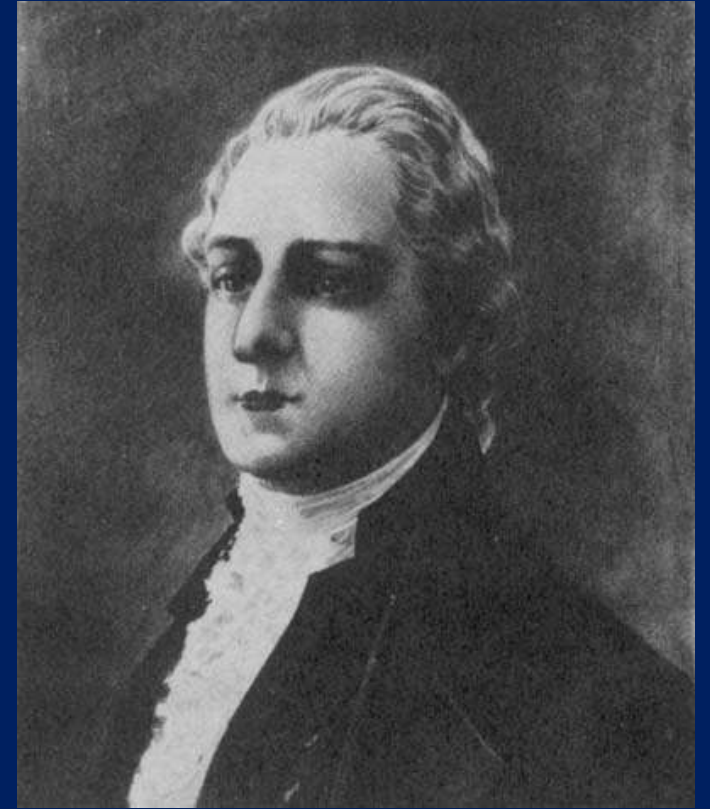
Espionage: Massachusetts 1775



Margret K. Gage



Dr. Joseph Warren



Dr. Benj. Church

Alerting the Provincials: April 1775



Paul Revere



Joseph Warren



William Dawes

Audience Question #4

What is Meant by the Expression

“One if by Land or

Two if by Sea”?

Old North Church – 19 April 1775



1807 Steeple



Current



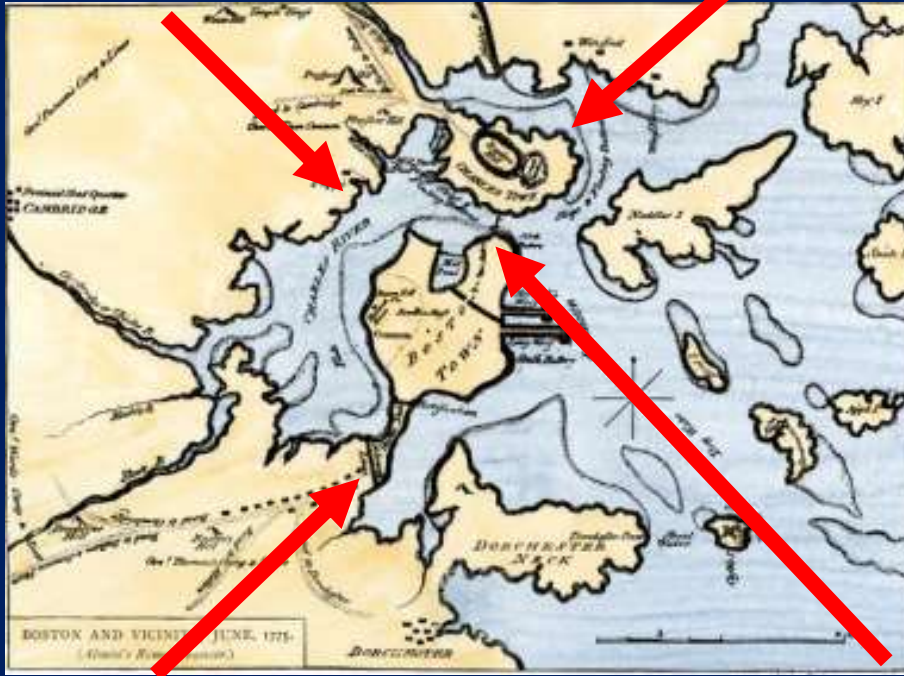
1954 Hurricane Carol

Smith's March Route Options

Smith's Landing Site

Two Lights

Charlestown



Boston Neck

One Light

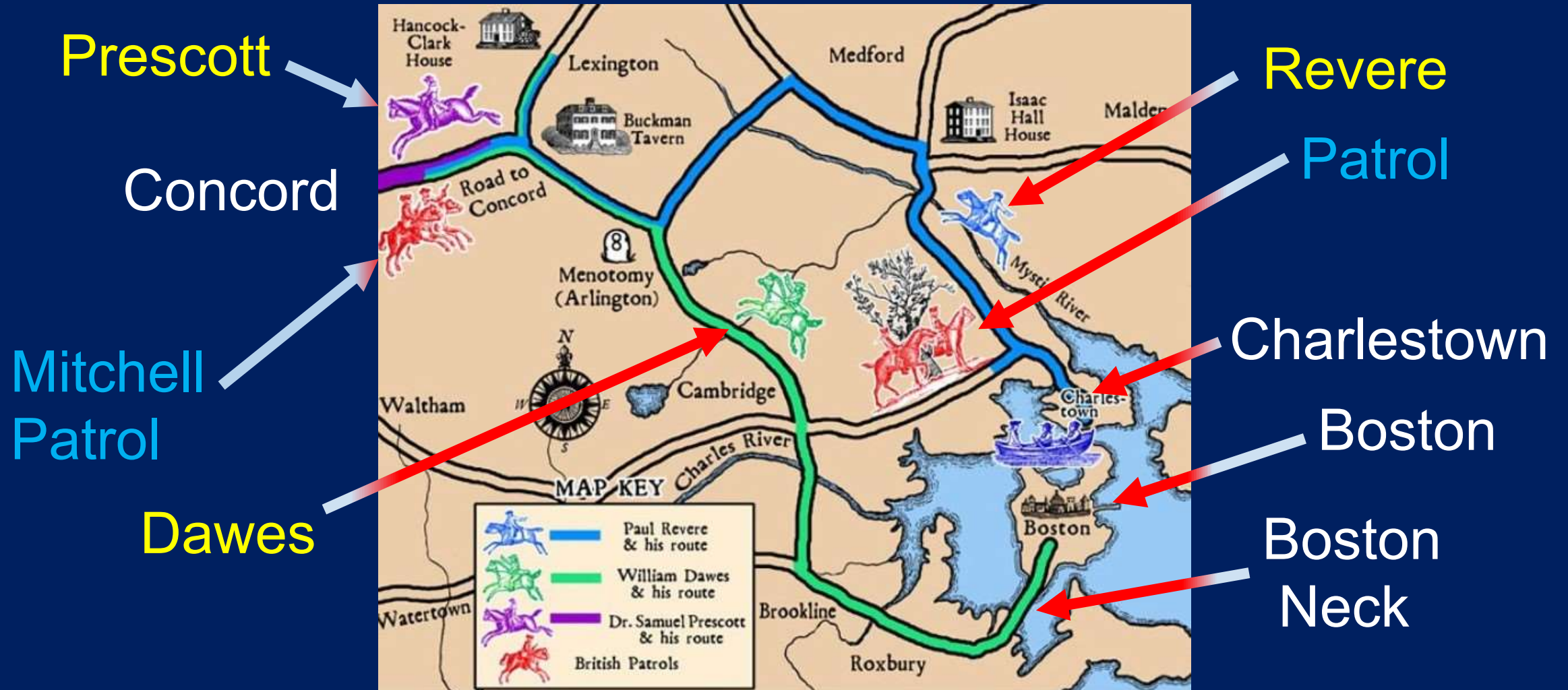
Old North Church



Warning the Countryside and Concord

- Revere:
 - Crosses to Charlestown → Sees North Church Message
 - Nearly Captured in Cambridge → Diverts to Medford
 - Arrives Lexington → Adams & Hancock Flee North
- Dawes:
 - Boston Neck: Talks Way Past Guards → Arrives Lexington
- Revere, Dawes & Prescott:
 - Prescott Joins Revere & Dawes → All Leave for Concord
 - Captured by British Patrol → Escape → Prescott to Concord
 - Revere Recaptured → Tells of 500 Minutemen in Lexington

Alarm Riders: Night of 18 & 19 April 1775



Political Leaders at Lexington: 3 AM



John Hancock



Hancock-Clarke House
Functioned as Parsonage



Samuel Adams

Gage Creates Relief Column

Lexington Relief Column: 9:45 PM, 18 April



Lord Hugh Percy

- Percy to Gage: Your Plan Talk of Town
- Gage to Percy: Form a Relief Column
- 700 Soldiers in 24 Companies from 4th, 23rd & 47th Regiments
- 300 Man Marine Battalion
- 2 Six Pounders
- Gage to Percy: No Additional Reinforcements Available

Lt. Col. Smith's March

Smith's March to Lexington

- Goal: Catch Provincials Sleeping → Arrive Concord At Sunrise
- Provisional Multi-Regiment Unit Structure
 - Inadequate Staff Support → Confusion at Loading Site
 - Poor Coordination with Navy → Slow Troop Barge Loading
- Landing Site: No Connection to Road Net → Added Delays
- Delayed March Start: ETA Concord → Well After Sunrise
- Subordinates: Provincials Have Been Alerted → Cancel March
- Smith to Gage → Percy's Relief Column Needed

Lexington Green

Audience Question #5

What **Event** or **Action** Would Initiate the
Use of **Deadly Force** by the
Provincials?

Lexington Leaders: 19 April 1775



Francis Smith

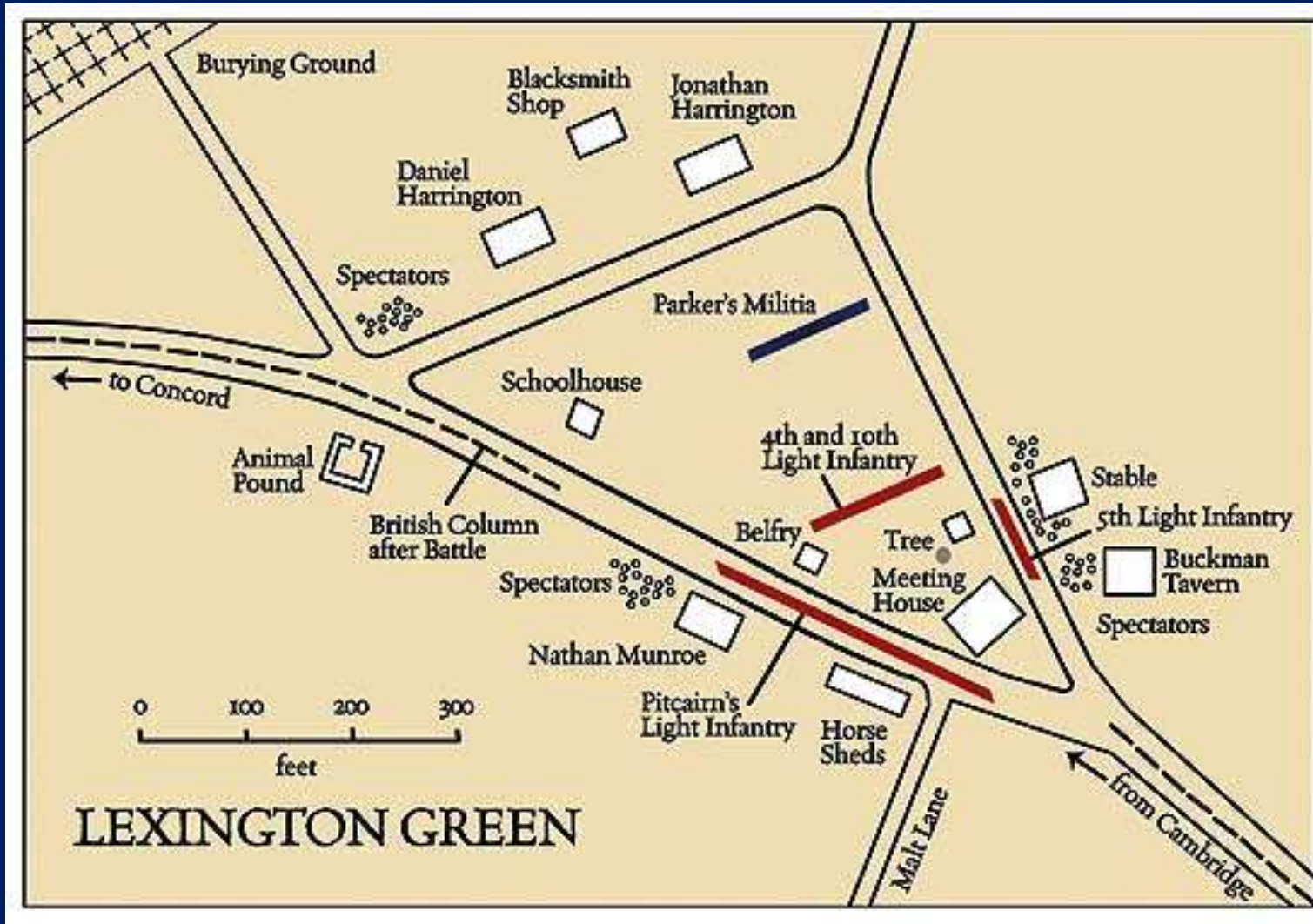


John Pitcairn



John Parker

Lexington: 5 AM



Lexington: 5 AM Doolittle #1

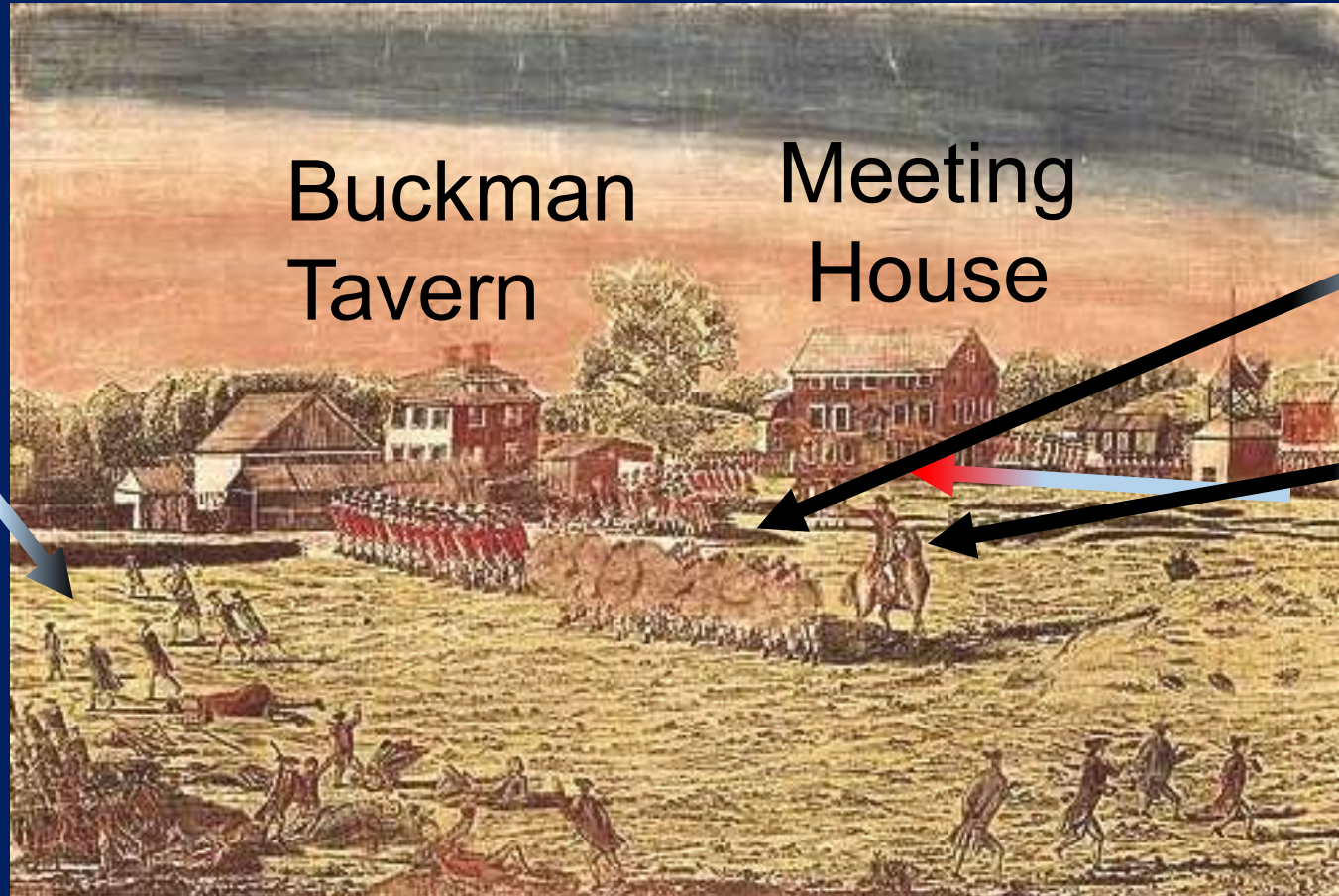
Provincials

Buckman
Tavern

Meeting
House

Regulars

Pitcairn



Provincial's Version: Capt. John Parker

- Stand your ground; *don't fire unless fired upon*, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here.
- ... upon their sudden Approach, *I immediately ordered our Militia to disperse, and not to fire:*—Immediately said Troops made their appearance and *rushed furiously, fired upon*, and killed eight of our Party *without receiving any Provocation* therefor from us.

Regular's Version: Lt. John Barker

- [A]t 5 o'clock we arrived ... [and] still continued advancing, keeping prepared against an attack though without intending to attack them; but on our coming near them **they fired on us** two shots, upon which **our men without any orders, rushed upon them**, fired and put them to flight; several of them were killed ... We then formed on the Common, but with some difficulty, ***the men were so wild they could hear no orders.***

Casualties: 6 AM

	Lexington Green
Regular Dead	0
Regular Wounded	1
Regular Missing	1
Regular Casualties	2
Provincial Dead	8
Provincial Wounded	10
Provincial Missing	0
Provincial Casualties	18

Lord Percy's Relief Column

Lexington Relief Column: 5 AM to 2 PM

- Smith Call for Assistance Arrives: 5 AM
 - Weak Staff Work → Marines Receive March Orders 7:30 AM
 - Percy Refuses to Bring Extra Artillery Ammunition
- Column Begins March: 8 AM
 - Column Marches Across Boston Neck
 - Ammunition Wagon Breakdown → Trails Column
 - Charles R. Bridge Partially Dismantled → Column Must Repair
 - Column Gets Lost → Harvard Scholar Gives Percy Directions
- Column's March Observed, but Unopposed
- 6 Elderly Provincials Capture 2 Weakly Escorted Ammo Wagons

Concord Occupation

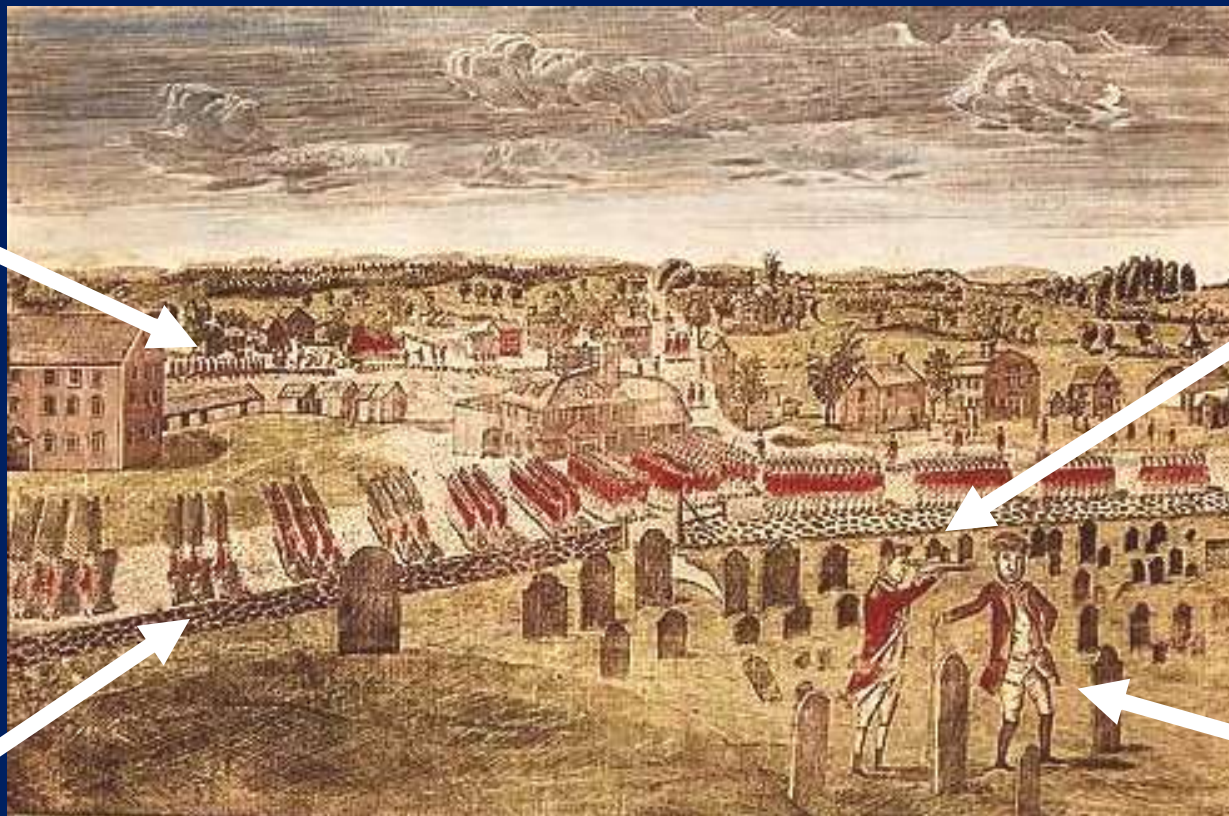
Entry into Concord: 7:30 AM

Provincial
Action
Company

Maj. Pitcairn

Col. Smith

Regulars



Doolittle #2 Depiction

Concord Munitions

Major Provincial Storage Depot

- Cannons including Three 24 Pounder Siege Guns
- 10 Tons of Musket Balls and Cartridges
- 35 Half Barrels of Powder
- 350 Tents
- 14 Medicine Chests
- Tons of Salt, Beef, Fish, Flour, Rye, Oatmeal
- Harnesses for Horses

Concord: Destruction of Supplies

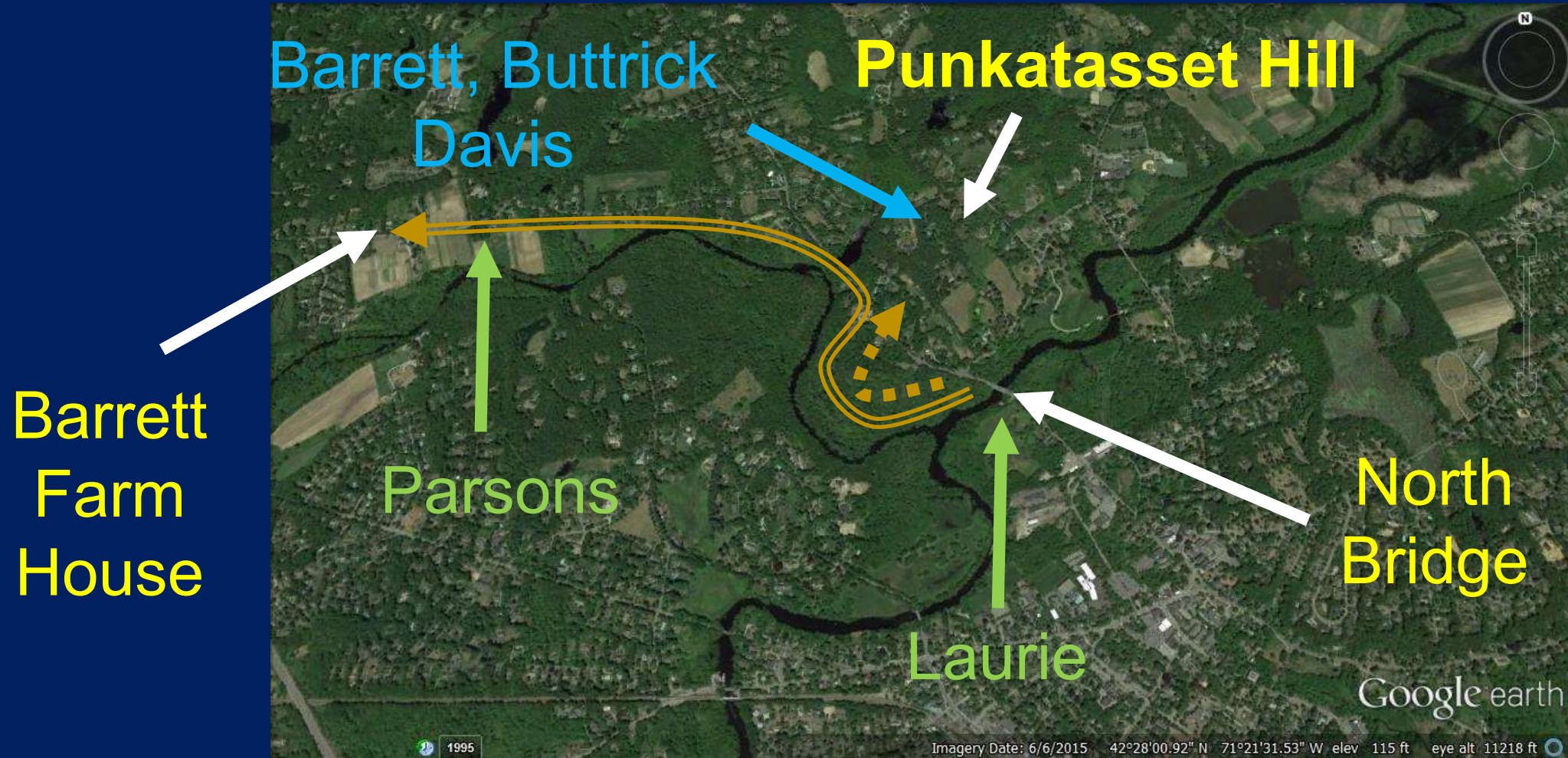
Provincial Supplies Destroyed by Regulars

- Three 24 Pounder Siege Guns Damaged
- 550 Lbs. of Musket Balls Thrown in Concord River
- 17 Half Barrels of Powder Thrown into
Concord River
- Three 24 Pound Siege Gun Carriages Burned

Regulars Respectful of Civilians

North Bridge, Concord

1 North Bridge, Concord: 8:30 AM



North Bridge, Concord: Present Day

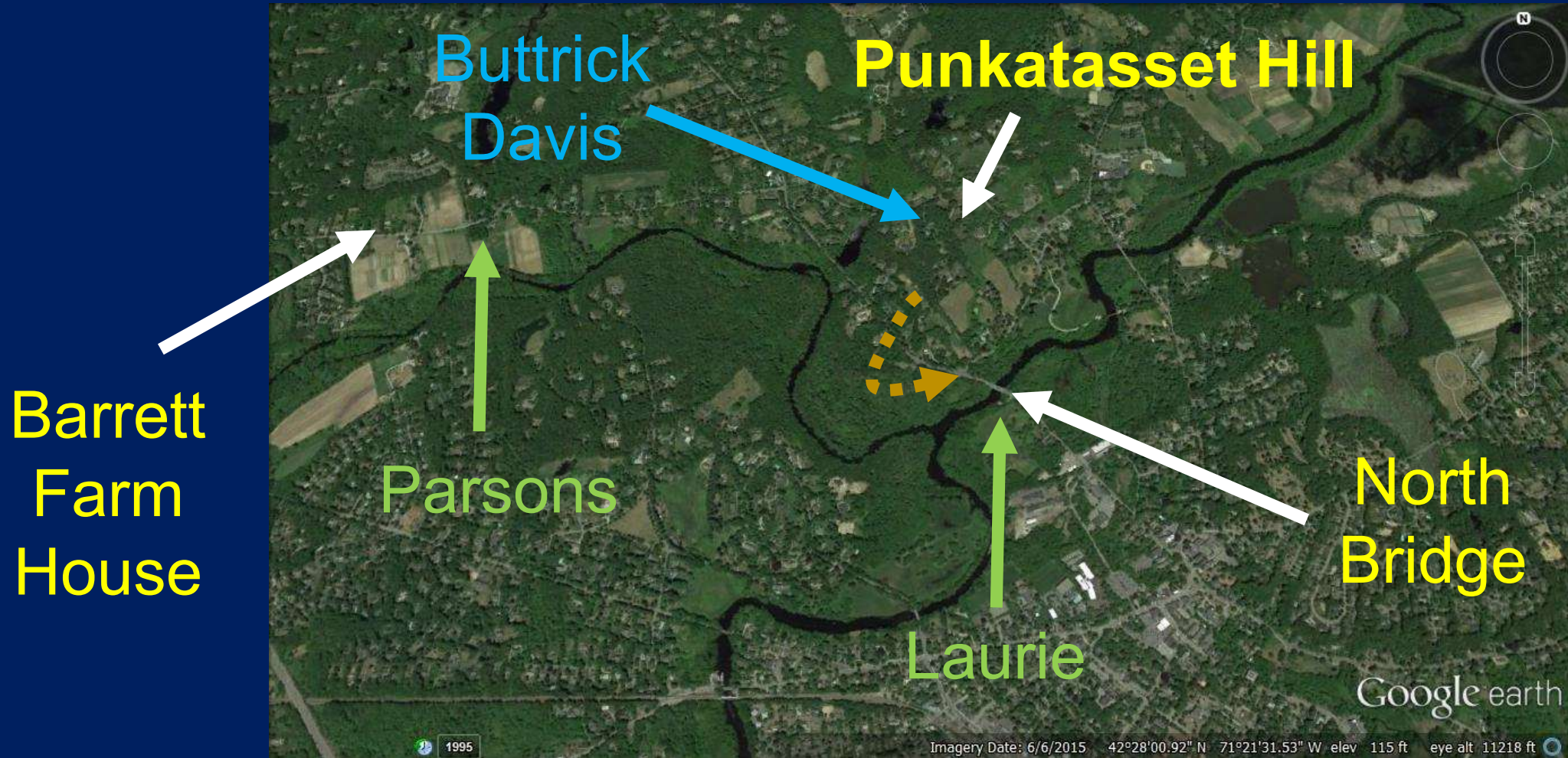


Barrett Farm House



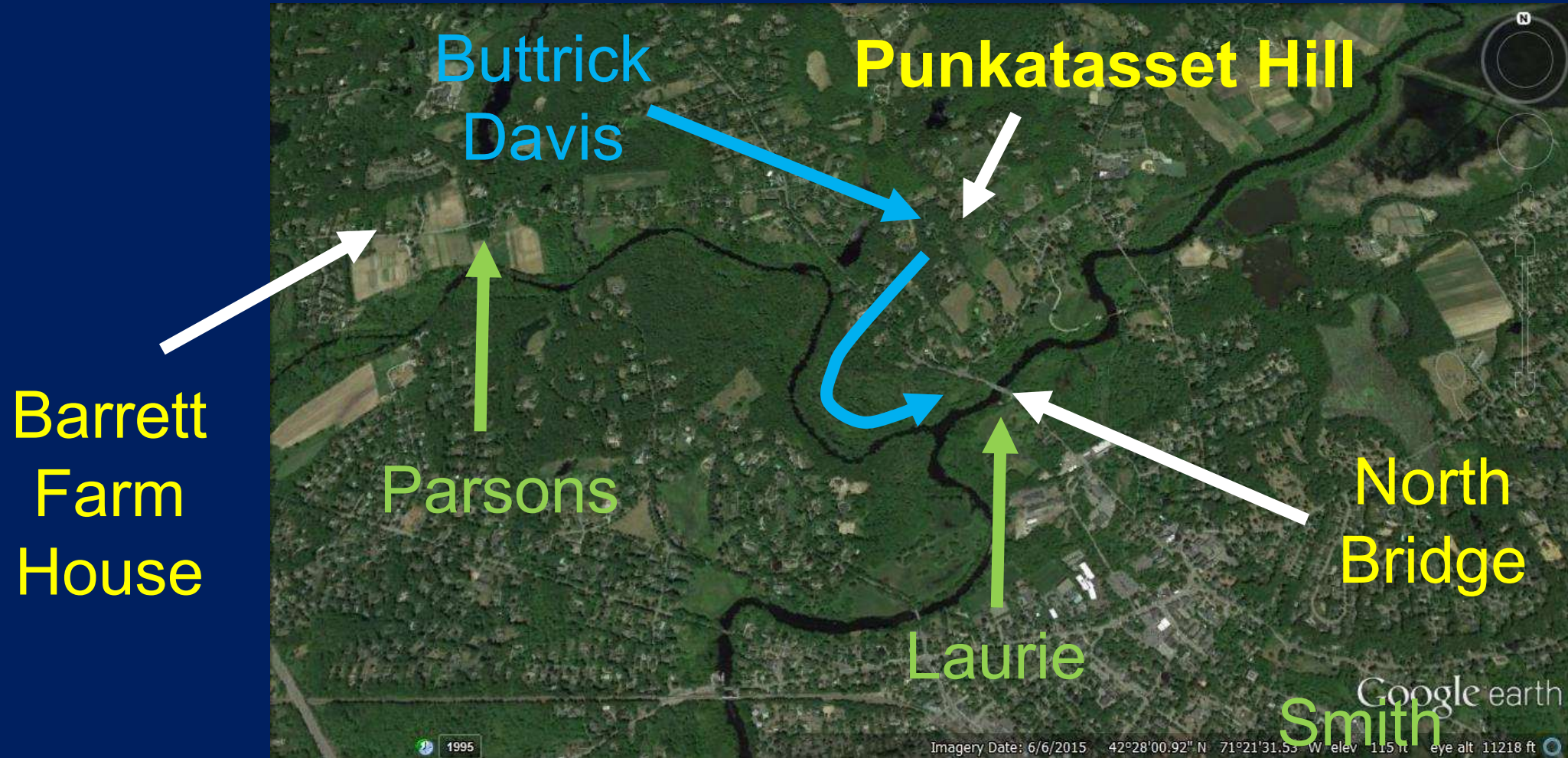
North Bridge Replica

2 North Bridge, Concord: 10:15 AM



Laurie Concentrates

3 North Bridge, Concord: 10:30 AM



Buttrick Advances

North Bridge Engagement: 9:30 AM

Buttrick's
Provincials

Laurie's
Regulars

North
Bridge



Doolittle #3 Depiction

North Bridge Engagement Commemoration

Concord Hymn

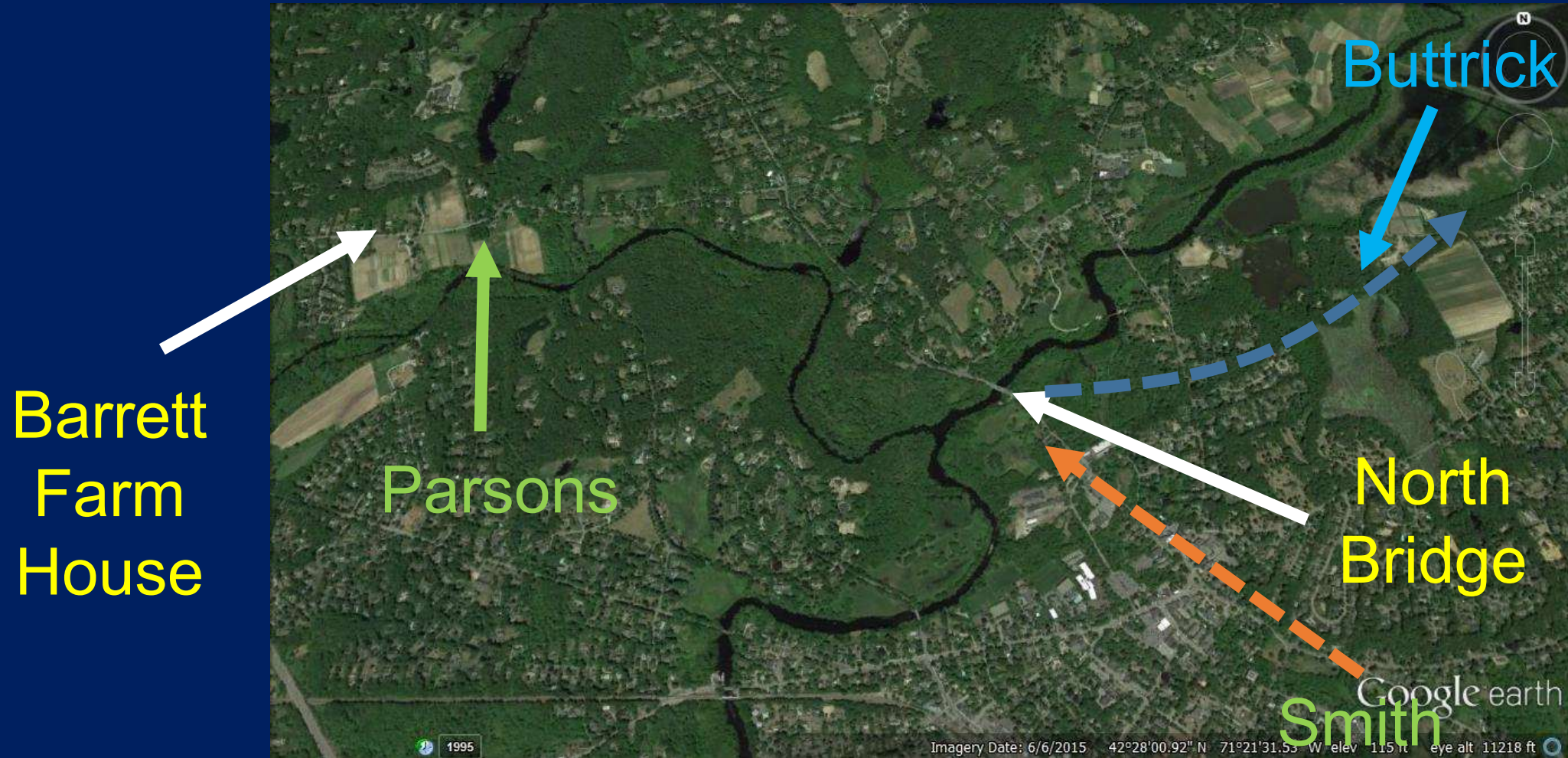
By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1837



Isaac Davis

4 North Bridge, Concord: 10:40 AM



Buttrick Repositions & Smith Reoccupies

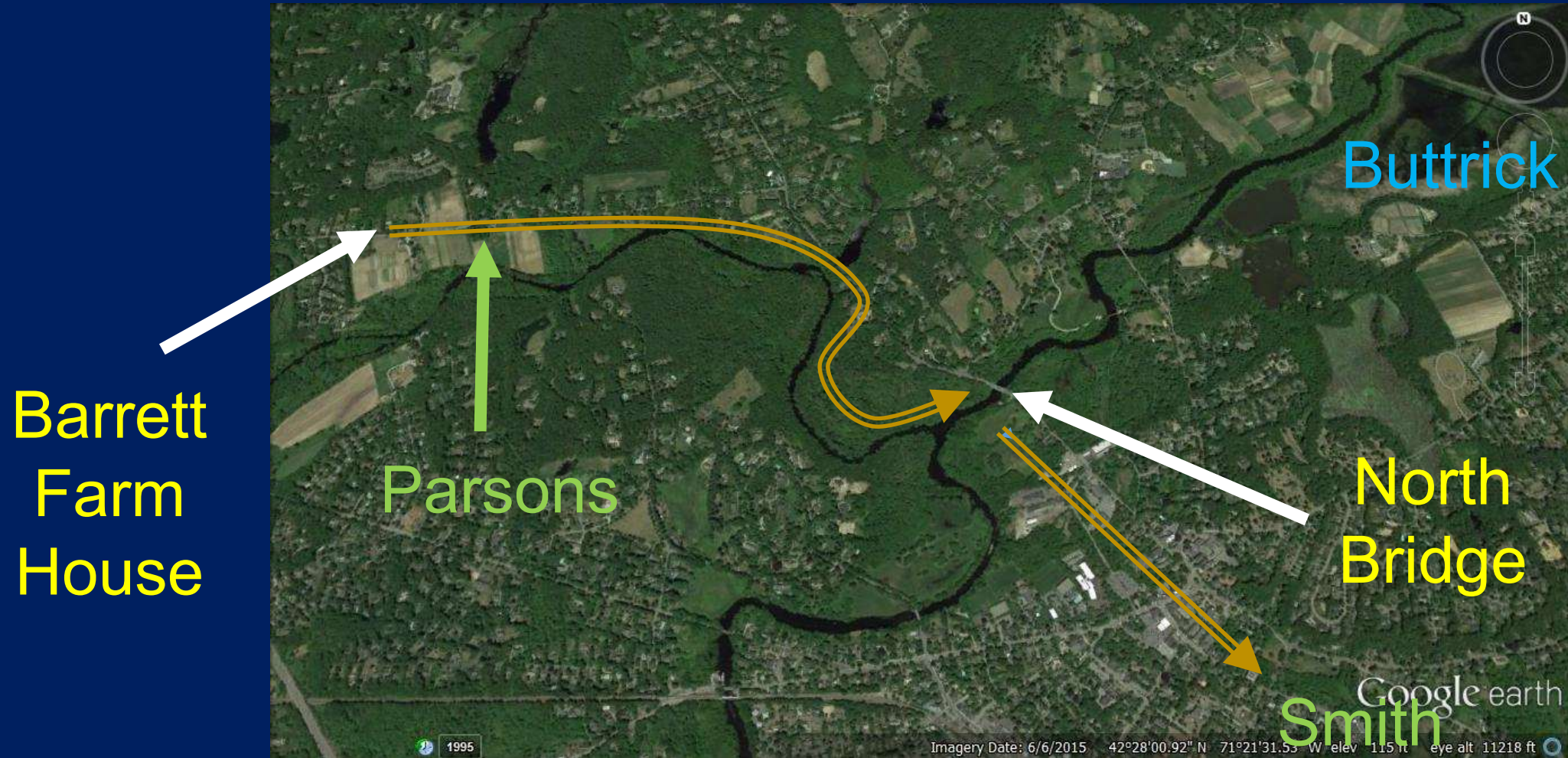
North Bridge: “Scalping” Incident



Snowshoe Man

- Indian Wars :
 - Snowshoe Men Earn **100 £ / Scalp**
- Musket-Shot Regular:
 - Abandoned Alive at North Bridge
 - Later, Discovered Dead from
Axe Wound to Head
- Regulars: **Attempted Scalping**
- Provincials: Done by Teenager,
Not by Militia or Minutemen
- No Prosecution

5 North Bridge, Concord: Noon



Parsons Returns & Smith Leaves Concord

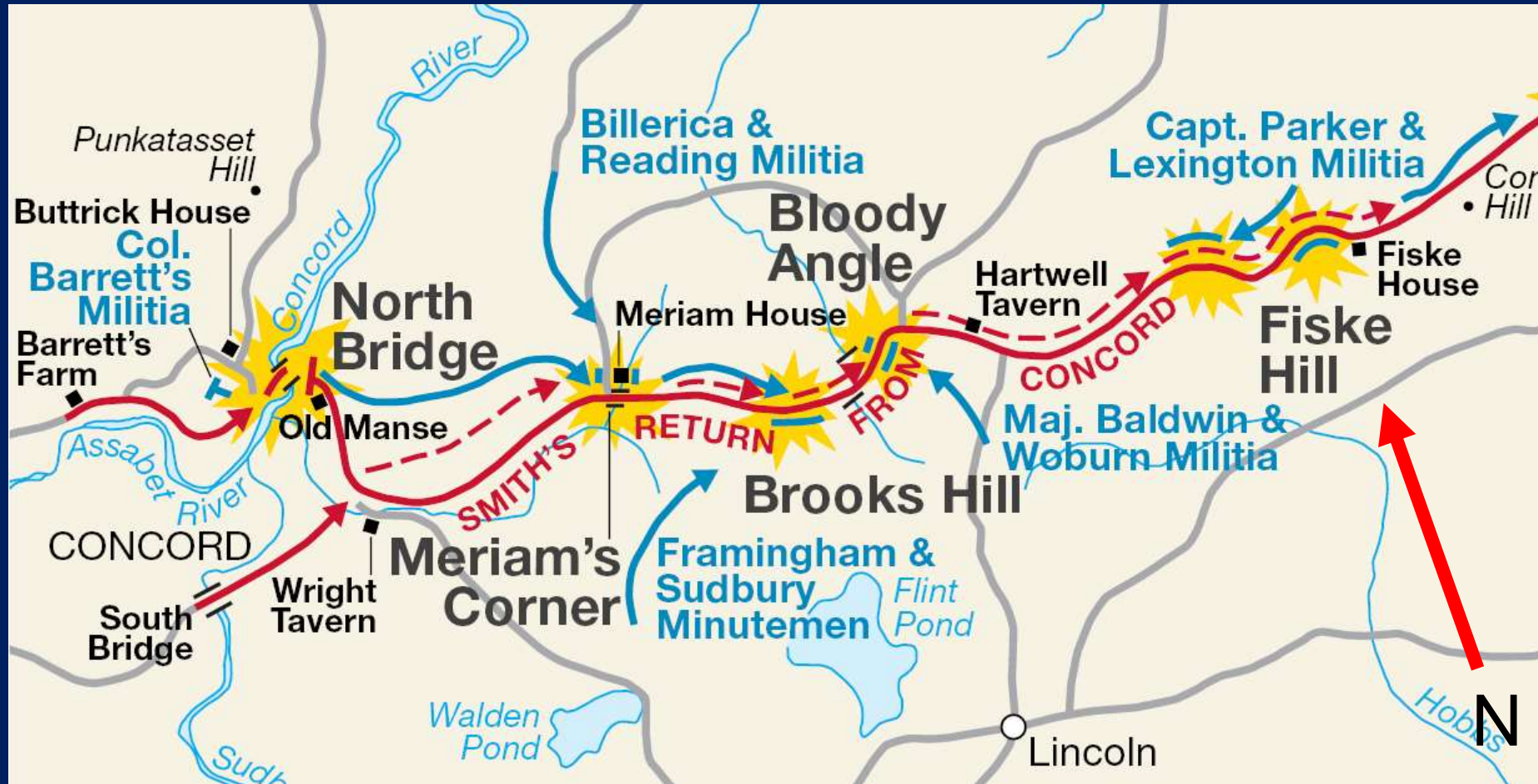
Casualties: Noon

	North Bridge	Cumulative
Regular Dead	3	3
Regular Wounded	8	9
Regular Missing	0	1
Regular Casualties	11	13
Provincial Dead	2	10
Provincial Wounded	4	14
Provincial Missing	0	0
Provincial Casualties	6	24

Battle Road

Concord to Lexington

Smith's Retreat: Noon – 2 PM



Smith's Retreat: Present Day

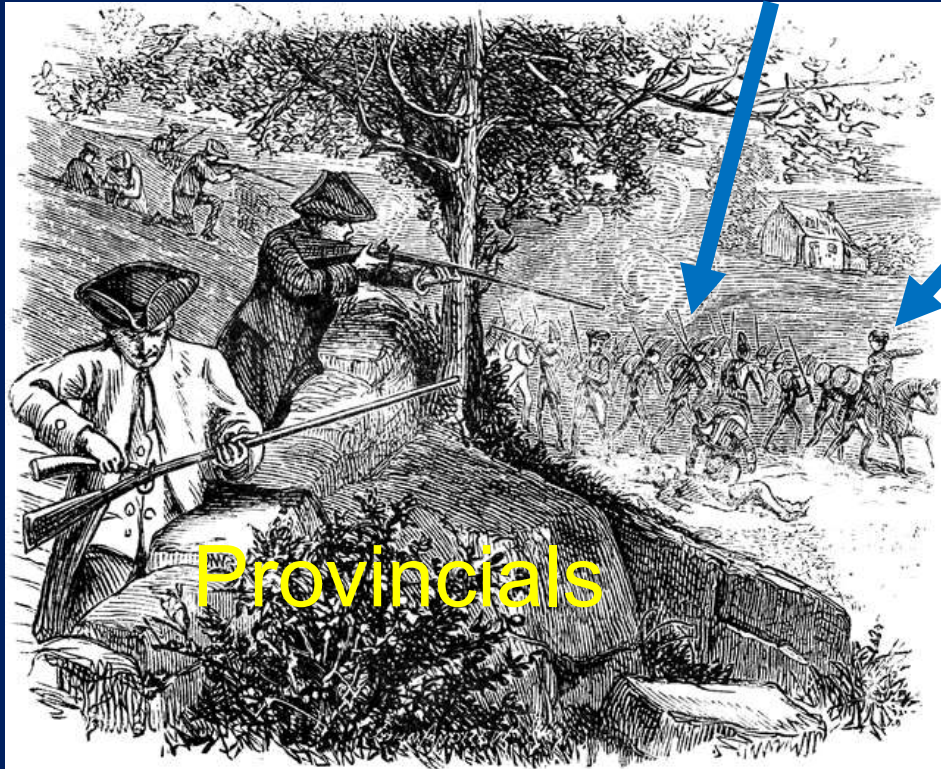


Concord – Lexington Road

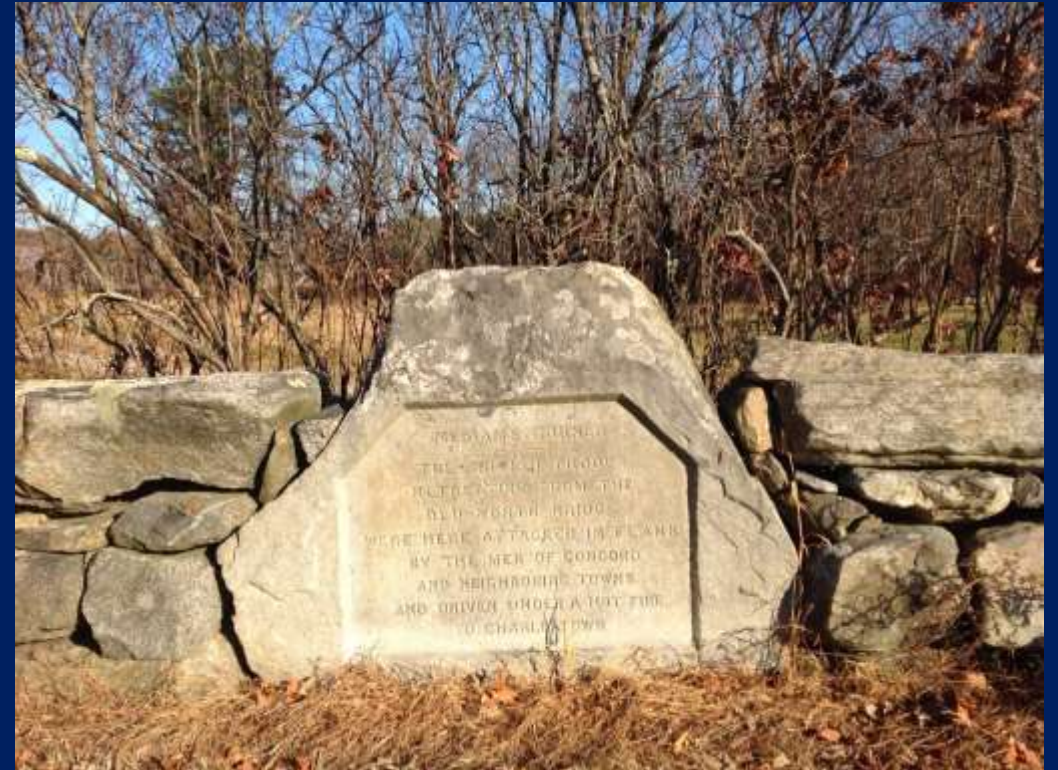
Smith's Retreat: Noon – 2:30 PM

Regulars

Smith



Provincials



Provincial Ambush at Meriam's Corner

Firefights: Factors Influencing

- Regulars:
 - Smith Forms Column
 - Light Infantry Guards Flanks & Grenadiers Guard Rear
 - Column: Quickest Retreat → Most Direct Road, Avoid Delays
 - Bayonets Ineffective, Marksmanship Poor
- Provincials:
 - Arrivals Swell Force: 400 at Concord → 1,500 at Lexington
 - Fight as Squads and Companies, Not as Individuals
 - Stage 5 Roadside Ambushes
 - Attack Rear of Column → Hasty Retreat

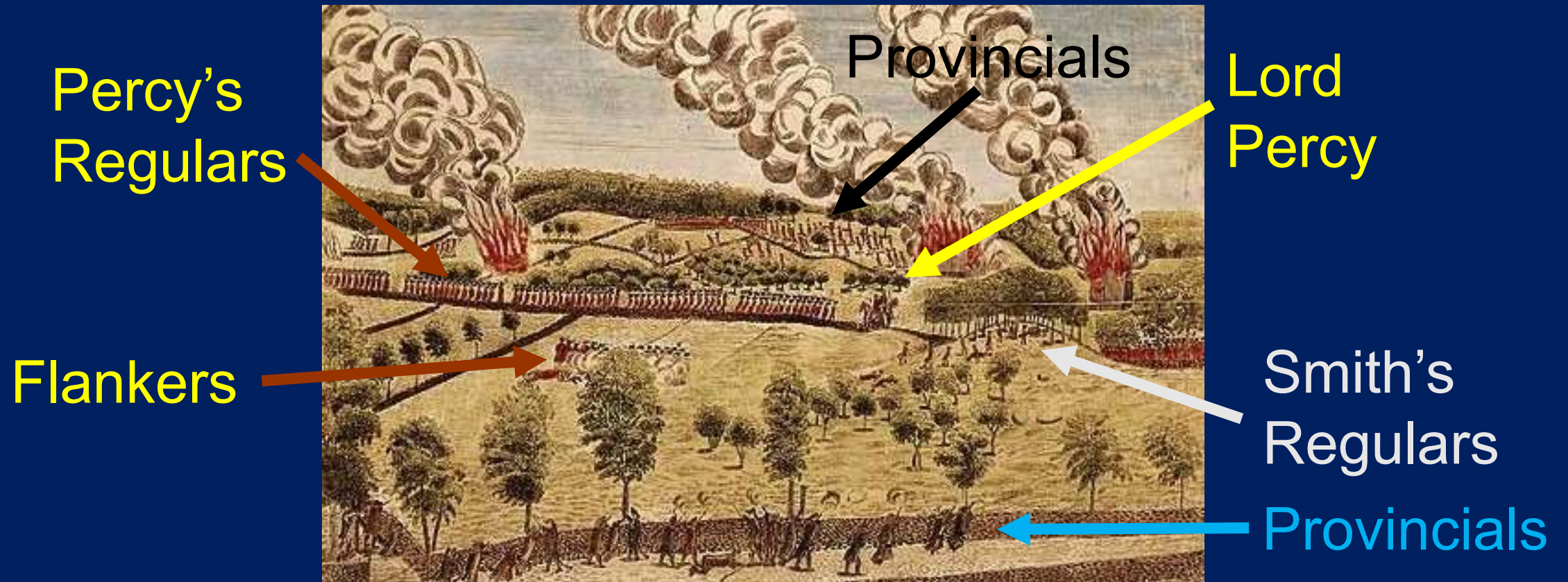
Firefights: Impact on Regulars

- Provincials Target Officers & NCO's → Highest Casualty Rates:
 - Smith Shot in Leg → Pitcairn Takes Over Command
- Long Marches + Heavy Fighting → Exhaustion
- Continuous Firing → Shortage of Ammunition
- Plight of Wounded: 1 Corpsman, Minimal Transport
- Morale Crisis: Troops Stop Firing → Start Running
- Near Lexington: Column Begins to Disintegrate
 - Officers Threaten Troops with Their Swords
- Smith's Column is being Annihilated, End is Near

Battle Road

Lexington

Lord Percy's Rescue: 2 PM



Doolittle #4 Depiction

Lord Percy's 6 Pounder Artillery



Lexington Relief Column: 2 PM – 3:30 PM

- Smith's Troops Begin Cheering
- Lord Percy's Rescue Column has Arrived

Regulars Avert Disaster

- Percy Allows Smith Survivors 1 Hour Respite
- Houses Torched → Deny Sniper Usage

Lexington Rescue: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM



Buckman Tavern

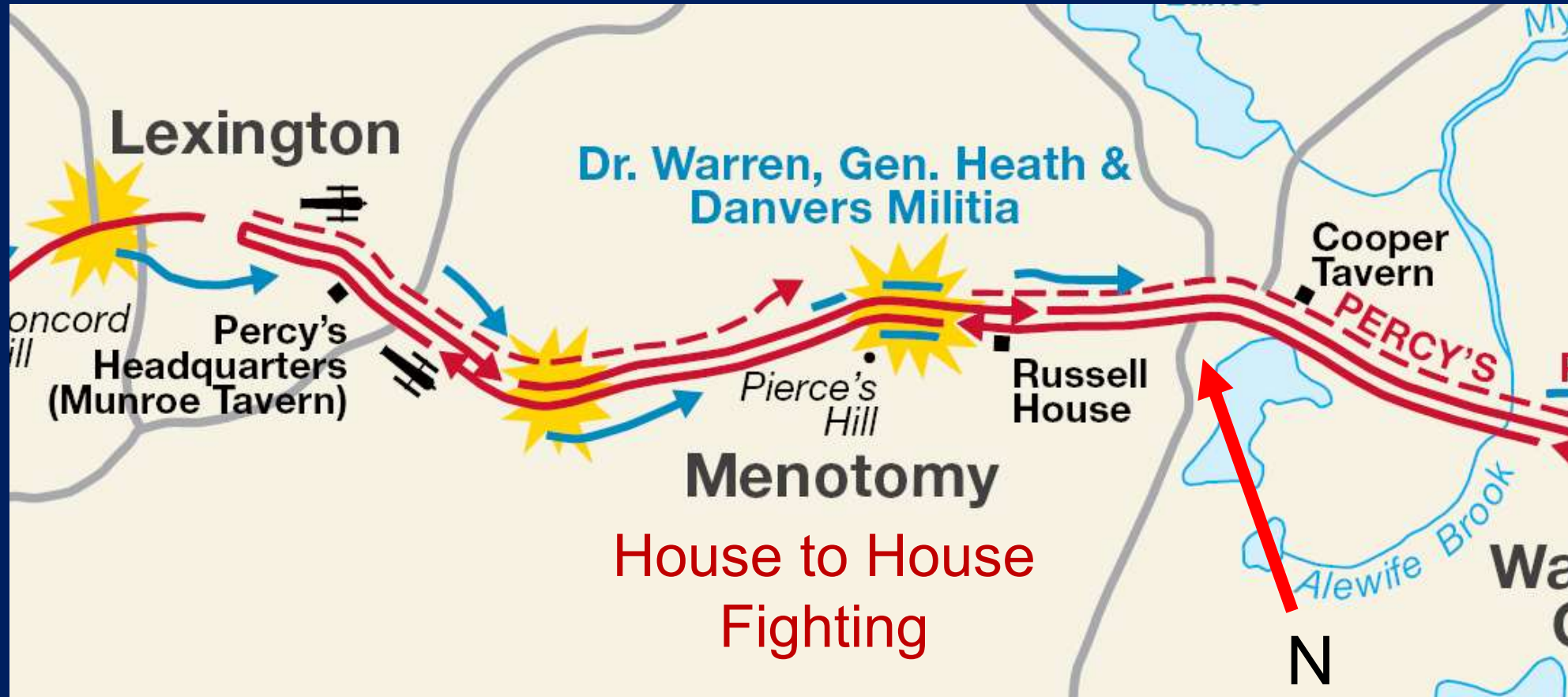


Munroe House

Battle Road

Lexington to Menotomy

Lord Percy's Retreat: 3:30 – 6 PM



Lexington Relief Column: 3:30 PM

- Percy Assumes Command of Smith's Troops
- 1,700 Man Column
- Begins March to Boston
- Marines & Smith Survivors Lead Column
- 4th , 23rd & 47th Regiments Protect Flanks & Rear
- Regiments Rotate Rear Guard Responsibility
- Regulars
 - Most Troops Know Their Officers
 - Fight as Squads

Provincial Military Leaders: Battle Road

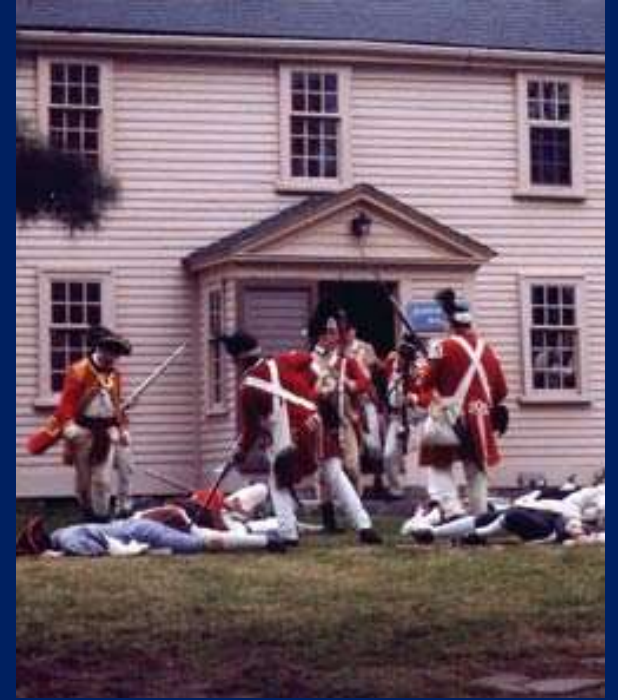


Dr. Joseph
Warren



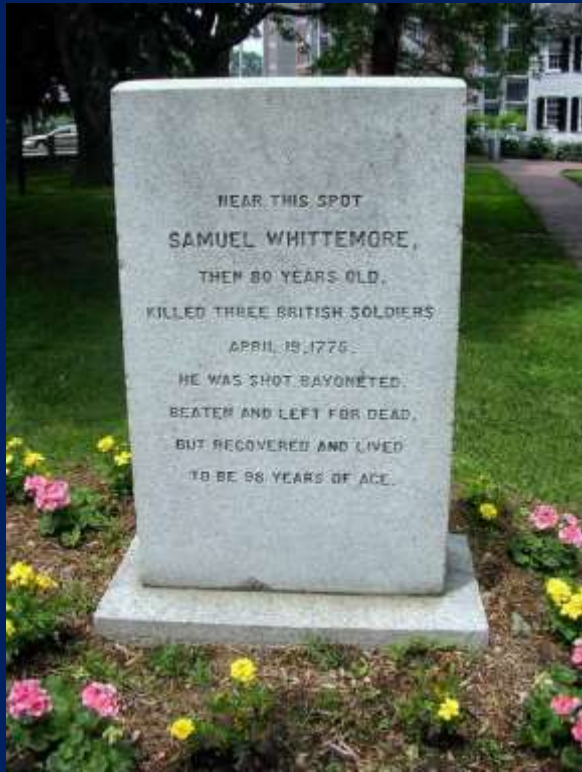
Gen. William
Heath

Menotomy (Arlington) – 19 April 1775



Jason Russell House

Massachusetts State Hero (2005): Samuel Whittemore

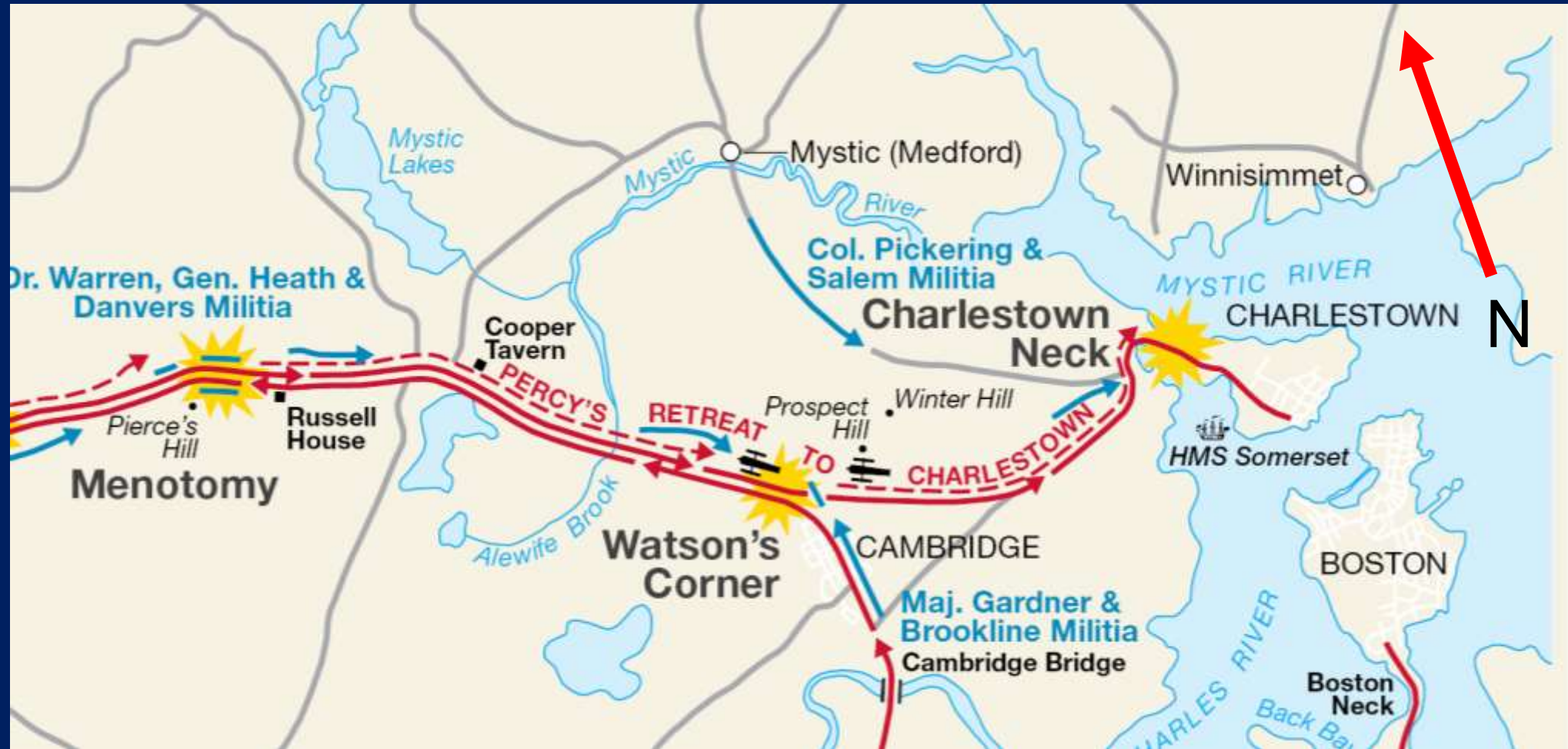


Near this spot, Samuel Whittemore, then 80 years old, killed three British soldiers, April 19, 1775. He was shot, bayoneted, beaten and left for dead, but recovered and lived to be 98 years of age.

Battle Road

Menotomy to Charlestown

Lord Percy's Escape: 6 – 7 PM



Percy's Choice

- Where Have Provincials Established Blocking Positions?

Boston or **Cambridge**

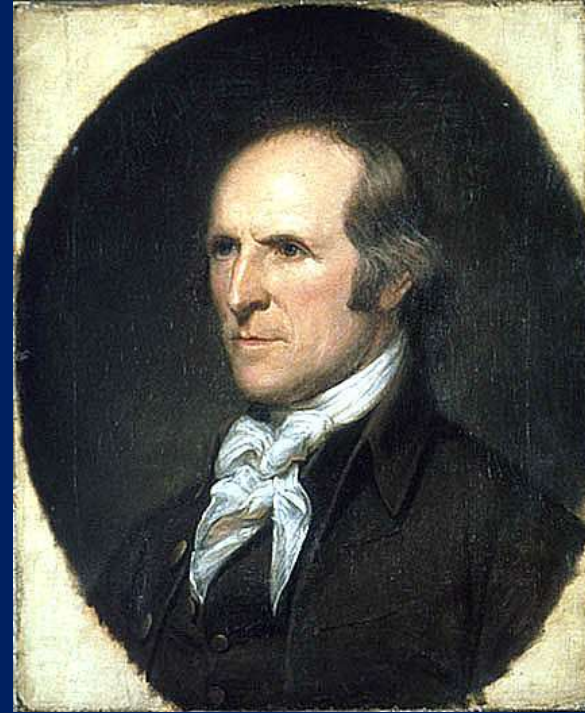
- Boston Option
 - Great (Cambridge) Bridge: Partially Dismantled
 - Strong Provincial Blocking Force
- Cambridge Option
 - 5 Miles Shorter
 - Small Provincial Force on Prospect Hill

Percy Choses Cambridge Option

Provincial Military Leaders: Prospect Hill



Gen. William
Heath



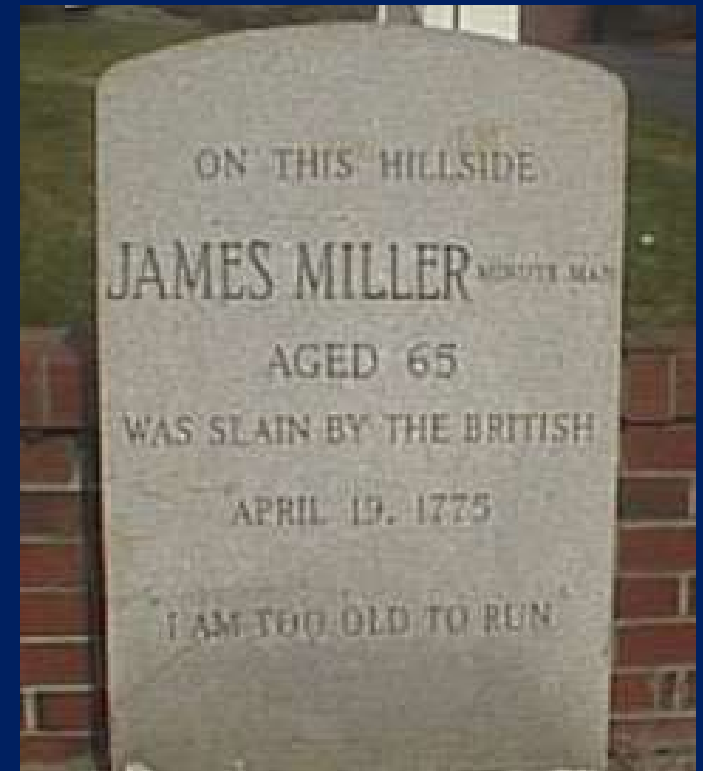
Col. Timothy
Pickering

Charlestown Controversy

- Gen. Heath orders Col. Pickering's Regiment to **Block** Percy's Cambridge Escape Route
- Col. Timothy Pickering
 - Anglophile
 - Commands a Strong, 1,000 Man Force from Salem, Ma.
 - Acknowledged as **Best Provincial Regiment**
 - Claims that He Never Received Heath Blocking Order
- Pickering Does **Not** Cut Off Percy's Escape Route

PROSPECT HILL

ON THIS HILLSIDE
JAMES MILLER MINUTEMAN
AGED 65
WAS SLAIN BY THE BRITISH
APRIL 19, 1775
“I AM TOO OLD TO RUN”



Lord Percy's Escape

- Prospect Hill
 - Regulars: Expend Their Last Artillery Rounds
 - Regulars: Attack Small Provincial Force
 - Provincials Retreat
 - James Miller: I am too old to run.
- Charlestown
 - Royal Navy Cannons: Cover the Retreating Regulars
 - Regulars: Reach, Occupy Bunker Hill
 - Heath to Provincials: Stop Your Pursuit

George Washington's Commentary

- If the retreat had not been as precipitate as it was—and God knows it could not well have been more so—the ministerial troops must have surrendered or been totally cut off. For they had not arrived in Charlestown (under the cover of their ships) half an hour before a powerful body of men from Marblehead and Salem [Pickering] was at their heels

Casualties: 7 PM

	Battle Road	Cumulative
Regular Dead	70	73
Regular Wounded	165	174
Regular Missing	52	53
Regular Casualties	287	300
Provincial Dead	39	49
Provincial Wounded	25	39
Provincial Missing	5	5
Provincial Casualties	69	93

Battle Road Analysis

Lord Percy's After-Action Report 1

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 any regular body. Indeed, they knew too well what was proper, to do so.

Lord Percy's After-Action Report 2

Whoever looks upon them as an irregular mob, will find himself 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 much covered with wood, and hilly, is very advantageous for their method of fighting.

Lord Percy's After-Action Report 3

Nor are several of their men void of a spirit of enthusiasm, as we experience yesterday, for many of them concealed themselves in houses, & advanced within 10 [yards] to fire at me & other officers, [although] they were morally [mortally?] certain of being put to death themselves in an instant.

Effectiveness of the Provincial's Musket Fire

Factors Increasing Musket Effectiveness

- Perseverance (1775) : \Leftrightarrow Suicide Attacks (21st Century)
- Fighting Alongside Family and Neighbors
 - Community Commitment
 - Reliance on Elderly Personnel
- Prioritizing Musket as Primary Weapon
 - Extensive Weapons Training
 - Regulars' Emphasis on the Bayonet
 - Loose or Open Squad Formation
- Utilizing the Abundant Ground Cover & Houses

Factors Reducing Musket Effectiveness

- Many Limitations of the Musket Itself
- Skirmishing by the Regulars' Light Infantry
- Lord Percy's Artillery
- Open Terrain After Menotomy

Impact of the Fighting After 19 April 1775

Impact of 19 April 1775

- Ended British Control of New England, ex Boston
- Pre-Condition for the Establishment of the Continental Army
- Colonies:
 - Strengthened Independence Movement
 - 2nd Continental Congress
 - Olive Branch Petition – 5 July 1775
 - Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms – 6 July 1775
- Great Britain: Majority of Citizens of New England and Possibly the 13 Colonies Were No Longer British

George Washington's Commentary

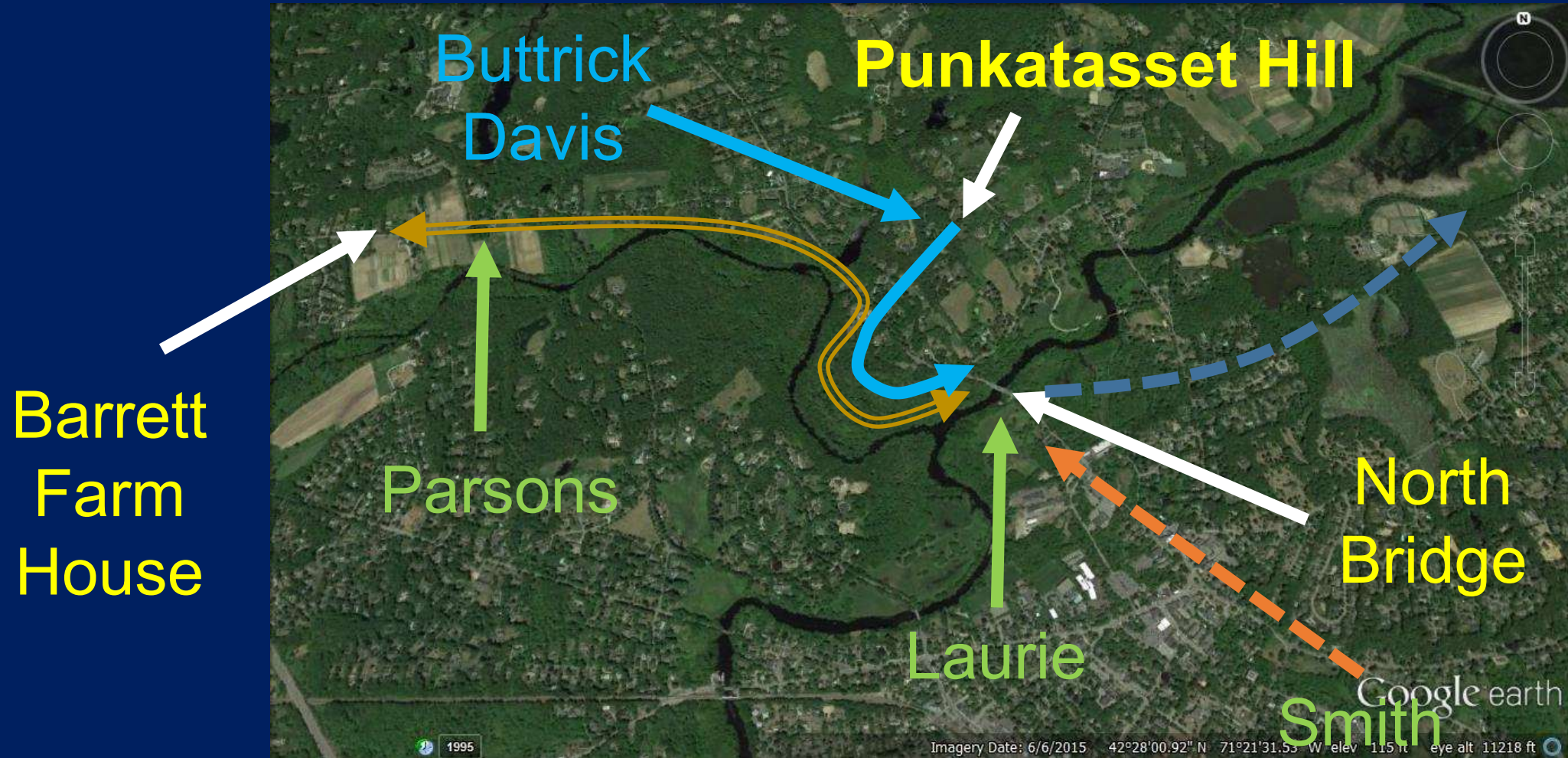
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0 North Bridge, Concord: 8 AM – Noon



Audience Question #1

The Combatants were Pejoratively Known as
Rebels and Redcoats.

What Did the Rebels and Redcoats Call
Themselves?