

Important Dates on the

Road to Revolution

NJSBF's Road to Revolution poster outlines British laws that set American colonists on the "Road to Revolution." Below is what happened next.

1765 Formation of the Sons of Liberty

The Sons of Liberty is an organization founded in the American colonies during the summer of 1765. Initially formed to oppose the Stamp Act, the organization took their name from a speech given in Parliament by a British politician. In the speech, he refers to the colonists who opposed unjust British measures as the "sons of liberty." The Sons of Liberty adopt the motto: "No taxation without representation."

1770 The Boston Massacre

Tensions had been running high since 1768 when British soldiers occupied Boston to enforce the Townshend Act and suppress violence between Bostonians and royal customs officials. On March 5, 1770, tensions came to a head when seven British soldiers fired into a crowd of agitated Bostonians, killing five and wounding another six.

1773 Boston Tea Party

The Boston Tea Party is considered by many to be the spark that ignited the Revolutionary War, deepening the divide between England and the colonists. On December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty dumped 340 chests (46 tons) of British East India Company tea into Boston Harbor. According to some modern estimates, the destroyed inventory could have brewed 18,523,000 cups of tea. The damage incurred was approximately £9,659 (English pounds). In today's dollars, the cost would be approximately \$1.7 million.

1775 Shots Fired at Lexington and Concord

Sixteen months after the Boston Tea Party, on April 19, 1775, the "shot heard round the world" was fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, marking the start of the Revolutionary War. News of the skirmish ran up and down the eastern seaboard and thousands of volunteer soldiers converged in Cambridge, MA. Called Minute Men because they were expected to be ready at a "minute's warning," this was the formation of the Continental Army.

1776 A New Nation Declared

In June 1776, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to hammer out the details of the Declaration of Independence. Ultimately, the document would consist of 27 grievances against the King of England. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776; however, the official copy was actually signed on August 2, 1776.

