

AMERICAN SCENE

THE THOMAS GILCREASE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND ART, TULSA, OKLAHOMA



THE WAR YEARS

AMERICAN SCENE

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THE WAR YEARS

The fourth edition of Vol. XVI of the *American Scene* is centered around the Revolutionary War. The articles begin with the year 1775 and the ride of Paul Revere, and each following year is illustrated with one or two events a year until 1781 with the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown.

The twelve events chosen to illustrate the war years are mostly military or political, and all materials used to illustrate the brief articles are from the art and library collections of the Institute.

While the Institute owns an impressive collection of early Americana, we do not intend to limit our celebration of the Bicentennial to the Revolutionary period. It is our intention to extend the observance of this special date to cover various historic events throughout the two hundred years since our independence. The Gilcrease collections are rich with material covering westward expansion and the hardy explorers who first ventured beyond the Appalachians, which one early settler referred to as "endless mountains." It is our hope to be able to provide our readers with interesting, and perhaps some new, glimpses of this part of our nation's history.



Appearing for the first time in the *American Scene* is our Bicentennial symbol, which will be on all of our publications for 1976. Throughout the coming year, Gilcrease Institute will have several special exhibitions and events honoring our nation's 200th birthday.



THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF PAUL REVERE

*Listen, my children, and
you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of
Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April,
in Seventy-five,
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous
day and year.*

The poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was written in 1863 and, according to Clarence S. Brigham in his *Paul Revere's Engravings*, Paul Revere had not been mentioned in any history book before that time. It seems unlikely that the poem would have been the one thing that would have caused everyone to remember that fateful day or even Paul Revere, but it surely did help. In Esther Forbes' book, *Paul Revere & The World He Lived In*, she reminds us that "Paul Revere was more than a figure on horseback, more than a great silversmith, bell caster, powder maker and shrewd leader of Boston's artisans. He was the handyman of the Revolution. He helped to plant the Tree of Liberty, and lived to enjoy its fruits."

As a boy, Paul might have played on a kitchen floor covered with sand, perhaps using a shingle for a shovel, as it was common in those days for children to play in sand on the kitchen floor rather than the familiar sandbox of today. He might

have had a dog, but according to a Boston town law, the dog could not have been over ten inches in height. It would seem, however, that even as a boy, Paul Revere was interested in more factual matters, and under the tutelage of his father, he soon became a proficient silversmith.

Paul's father was Apollos Rivoire of French Huguenot descent, and his mother was Deborah Hichborn (Hitchbourn). Apollos reportedly said that he adopted the Anglicized version of his name "merely on account that the Bumpkins should pronounce it easier."

Paul was described as dark, with a stocky build and "indifferent height." He was a vital, energetic man, and soon branched out from his silversmith profession into the

art of engraving and other fields. He carved many frames for portraits painted by John Singleton Copley. When the difficulties between the United States and Great Britain intensified, he became actively engaged in the political situation. Paul was an accepted leader among the working class and was able to furnish willing workers for such men as John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and Joseph Warren.

Vol. V of the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society* Boston, 1798, contains a copy of a letter written by Paul Revere to the corresponding secretary of that society. It reads in part:

"... On Tuesday evening the 18th, it was observed, that a number of soldiers were marching towards

Cambridge April 29. 1775

This may certify that the bearer
Mr Paul Revere is messenger to the Committee of safety
and that all dispatch and assistance be given him in
all instances, that the business of the Colony may be
facilitated.

For Warren Chair

Paul Revere's Certification as Commissioner of Public Safety.

the bottom of the Common. About 10 o'clock, Dr. Warren sent in great haste for me, and begged that I would immediately set off for Lexington, where Messrs. Hancock and Adams were, and acquaint them of the movement, . . . When I got to Dr. Warren's house, I found he had sent by express by land to Lexington — a Mr. William Dawes. I returned at night through Charlestown; there I agreed with a Colonel Conant, and some other gentlemen, that if the British went out by water, we would shew two lanthorns in the north church steeple; and if by land, one, as a signal; . . .”

Revere went on to describe the ride, his capture, and eventual release. He also told of a meeting with Dr. Joseph Warren:

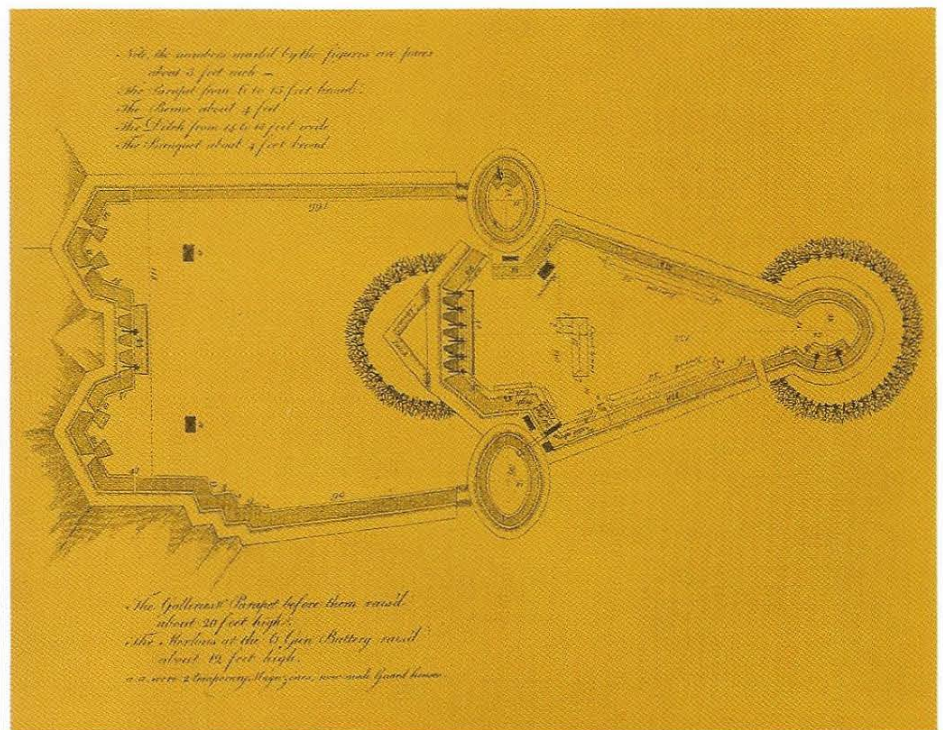
“The same day I met Dr. Warren. He was president of the committee of safety. He engaged me as a messenger to do the out of doors business for that committee; . . .”

Lack of space prohibits sharing all of the details of the rich and adventurous life of Paul Revere. He was fiercely loyal to friends, family, and most of all to his country and the cause of freedom. The fact that one of his sons is named Joseph Warren attests to his friendship and admiration for Dr. Warren.

In reviewing Esther Forbes' book, Dorothy Canfield ended by saying, “Paul Revere had started on a ride which, in a way, has never ended.”

WILLIAM CARTER'S LETTERS

William Carter wrote in, 1784, *A Genuine Detail of the Several Engagements, Positions and Movements of the Royal and American Armies. . . . The author of this rare and historically important work was a Lieutenant in the 40th Regiment of Foot in the British Army. His*



Plan of the works on Bunker's Hill from the William Carter book.

narrative is written in the form of a series of letters addressed to a friend in England, and not only do they cover the operations around Boston, but also those on Long Island, Staten Island, the occupation of New York, and Fort Washington.

LETTER I.

Boston, 20th April, 1775.

“The sword is drawn; when it will be sheathed again, time must determine. I confess, I fear that much to be wished-for period is to be removed to a far greater distance than people in general seem to imagine.

“Yesterday morning a detachment from the army received orders to march to Concord, a town distant from hence about five and twenty miles, with intent to take, or destroy, some artillery and stores the Provincials had deposited there.

“We reached the place without any thing material occurring; but on our return were fired upon by the country people, who lined the

hedge-rows, &c. and as the detachment had but a few rounds of ammunition and was closely pressed on all sides, the consequences must have proved far more serious, had not a brigade, under the command of Lord Percy, marched to our support.

“The people of every village through which we passed (and indeed the whole road is an almost continued chain of houses) kept up a heavy and well directed fire.

“During a march of fifty miles, without the least refreshment, you may easily conceive how excessive our fatigue was.

“Our loss, I am concerned to add, has been greater than we had reason to expect, having above two hundred rank and file killed and wounded, with several officers.

“Boston grows dull, numberless families have left the town. Shops are shut; and the inhabitants (in general) that remain, look coolly on us.”

LETTER II.

Charles-Town Heights, 20th June, 1775.

"We have struck a blow. — At dawn of day, on the morning of the 17th instant, we, to our no small astonishment, discovered the Provincials finishing a redoubt they had thrown up, during the preceeding night, on Bunker's hill; which lies on the opposite side of the water, immediately above Charles-Town, and entirely overlooks New Boston.

"From this post it was absolutely necessary to dislodge them.

"General Howe embarked with the Light Infantry, Grenadiers, &c. &c. in all about two thousand men, in boats; made good a landing at the foot of the hill, and attacked their works, which were much more numerous than was expected.

"The enemy had run a very strong breast work, with several rows of paling; the intervals of which were stuffed with bags of hay entirely down to the water's edge, and almost round the hill.

"Charles-Town (which is situated on the side of the hill opposite New Boston) was filled with armed men, who, from the tops of the houses, &c. supported a very heavy and galling fire upon us.

"Their works were manned (according to the report of prisoners) with seven thousand people, and they had five pieces of artillery; the whole under the command of a Mr. Warren, a most violent partizan, but who fell in the action.

"The officers wounded in our regiment, are the Major, two Captains, and one Lieutenant; and we have two Lieutenants killed; one of whom, with the most sincere regret I inform you, is — — — — —. What will become of his two helpless boys!"



THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

"Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

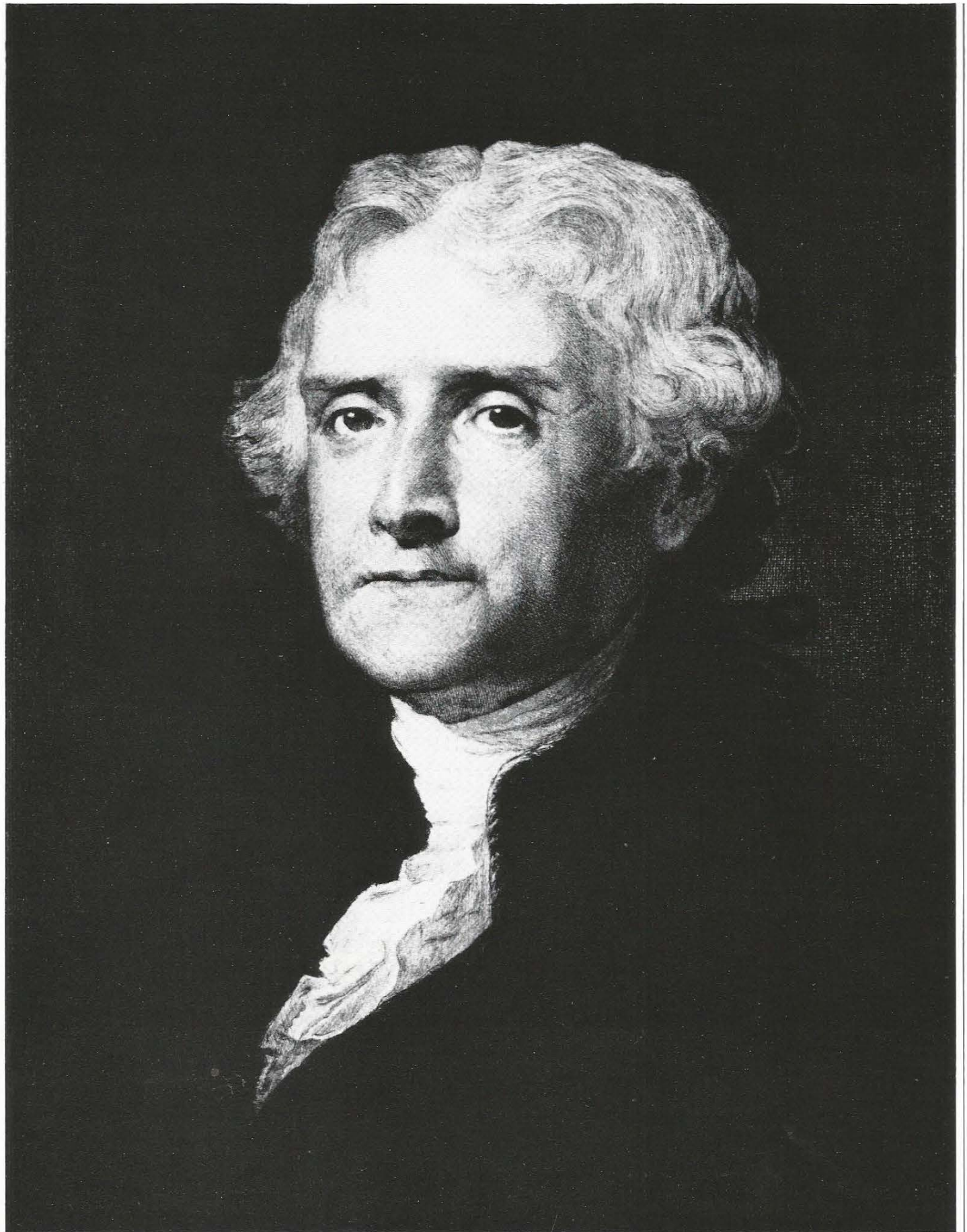
That was the beginning of a resolution presented to the Continental Congress by Richard Henry Lee on June 7, 1776. It was in this resolution that Mr. Lee included his proposal that a "plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies." So it was from this resolution that both the Articles of Confederation and the Declaration of Independence grew. The Declaration of Independence has been called "one of the greatest statements of the principles of democracy ever penned."

But however great a document is, it can be no greater than the man who wrote it. That man, of course, was Thomas Jefferson, and it is a tribute to Richard Henry Lee that Jefferson included, almost exactly, Lee's own words in his draft of the declaration. Lee's resolution was adopted on July 2, and in Jeffer-

son's letter of July 1, 1776, displayed in Gilcrease Museum's Gallery One, he wrote the now famous words: ". . . my country will have my political creed in the form of a 'Declaration &c.' which I was lately directed to draw. . . ."

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) born to Peter and Jane Randolph Jefferson in Virginia, received his aristocratic heritage from his mother and considerable amount of property from his father. Young Jefferson could well have become a play boy type, but instead he became one of the most brilliant and dedicated statesmen in American history. He was a lawyer, scientist, musician, and philosopher. He was twice President of the United States, Vice-President before that, Governor of Virginia, and first Secretary of State. He acquired one of the finest libraries of his time, and it later became the nucleus of the Library of Congress. He was an inventor and mathematician and probably the greatest architect of his time.

Jefferson married Martha Skelton January 1, 1772, and to them one son and five daughters were born. Only two of the daughters lived to



A portrait etching of Thomas Jefferson by Jacques Reich

In Congress July 4, 1776
A Declaration by the Representatives of the
United States of America in general Congress
assembled.

When for the course of human events, it becomes neces-
-sary for one People to dissolve the political bands which
have connected them with another, and to assume an-
-mong the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station
to which the Laws of Nature & Nature's God entitle them,
it decent respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that
they should declare the causes which impel them to the
separation.

We hold these truths 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 & the pursuit of Happiness — That to secure
these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriv-
-ing their just powers from the consent of the Governed,
that whenever any form of Government becomes destruc-
-tive of these ends, it is the right of the People to alter
or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, lay-
-ing its foundation on such principles and organizing
its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most
likely to effect their safety & happiness, Prudence, indeed

conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Com-
-merce, and to do all other acts & things which Inde-
-pendant States may of right do. And for the sup-
-port of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the
Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to
each other our lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by Order and in behalf of the
Congress;

John Hancock President.

Attest

Charles Thomson Secretary

True Copy of the Original Declaration

J. J.
Franklin.
Doane

Certified copy of the Declaration of Independence.

adulthood. Martha died only ten years after their marriage and, while he was President, his two daughters, Martha Randolph and Mary Eppes served as hostesses occasionally, but it was Dolly Madison who most frequently filled this role.

In Daniel Boorstin's book, *The Lost World of Thomas Jefferson*, he points out that at the time of Jefferson's birth there were about one million settlers on the east coast, and the area to the west was considered a barrier rather than a land of promise to be explored. All that was known of this unexplored land was what had been written by Peter

Kalm and Mark Catesby. (Peter Kalm's *Travels Into North America* is included in the rare book collection of the Gilcrease Library along with Catesby's drawings which have been used in earlier American Scenes.) By the time of Jefferson's death in 1826, the population had increased to ten million and, through the exploration of Lewis and Clark and others, much was learned about those hitherto unknown regions. The Louisiana Purchase had been accomplished — probably Jefferson's greatest achievement as President — and the westward movement had begun.

However great his other accomplishments may have been, it is unlikely that any surpass the Declaration of Independence. The original document rests in the National Archives, but a certified copy (said to be the only copy extant) is on permanent display in Gallery One of Gilcrease Museum. It is true that if the documents had been destroyed, our freedom would not have been threatened. Still the spirit of freedom rests in the written words — words that have lived on and lost nothing of their importance in the two hundred years since they were penned.

Mr Fleming

Philadelphia July 4. 1776.

Yours of 22^d June came to hand this morning and gratified me much as this with your former contains interesting intelligence.

Our affairs in Canada go still retrograde, but I hope they are now nearly at their worst. The fatal sources of these misfortunes have been want of hard money with which to procure provisions, the ravages of the small pox with which one half of our army is still down, and an unlucky choice of some officers. By our last letters, Gen^l Sullivan was retired as far as Ile au Roi - with this deprived army and Burgoyne pursuing him with one of double or treble his numbers, it gives much concern that he be determined to make a stand then as it exposes to great danger of losing him & his army, & it was the universal sense of his officers that he ought to retire. Gen^l Schuyler has sent him position orders to retire to Crown point but whether they will reach him time enough to withdraw him from danger is questionable. Here it seems to be the opinion of all the General Officers that an effectual stand may be made & the enemy not only prevented access into New York, but by presenting a superiority on the lakes we may renew our attacks on them to advantage as soon as our army is recovered from the small pox & recruited. But recruits, the long ordered, are very difficult to be procured on account of that dreadful disorder.

The Conspiracy at New York is not yet thoroughly developed, nor has any thing transpired the whole being kept secret till the whole is got through. One fact is known of necessity, that one of the General's lieutenants being thoroughly convinced was to be shot last Saturday. General Howe with some ships (we know not how many) is arrived at the Hook, & as is said, has landed some horse on the Jersey shore. The famous Major Rogers is in custody on violent suspicion of being concerned in the conspiracy.

I am glad to hear of the Highlanders carried into Virginia. It does not appear certainly how many of these people we have but I imagine at least six or eight hundred. Great efforts should be made to keep up the spirits of the people the succeeding three months: which in the universal opinion will be the only ones in which our trial can be severe.

her than others for giving me an I have no other state of it but the of Harrison & Braxton & my being full situation to be 200 miles from tion without a possibility of self-de has been done in my case, I get me, my country will have my & which I was lately directed to on sentiment concerned with the on to go a day later we might old matter.

till this morning but

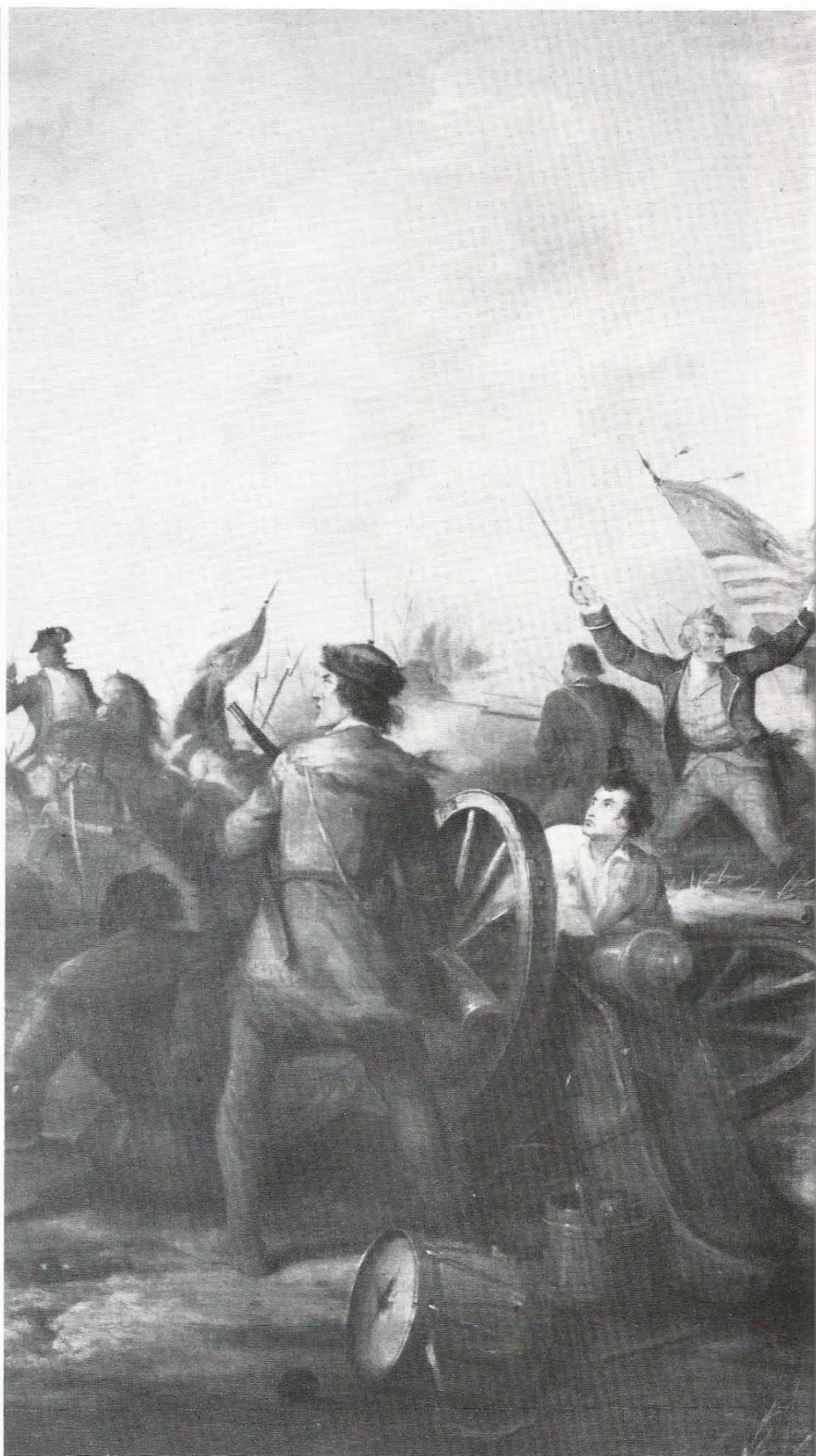
Th: Jefferson

1777

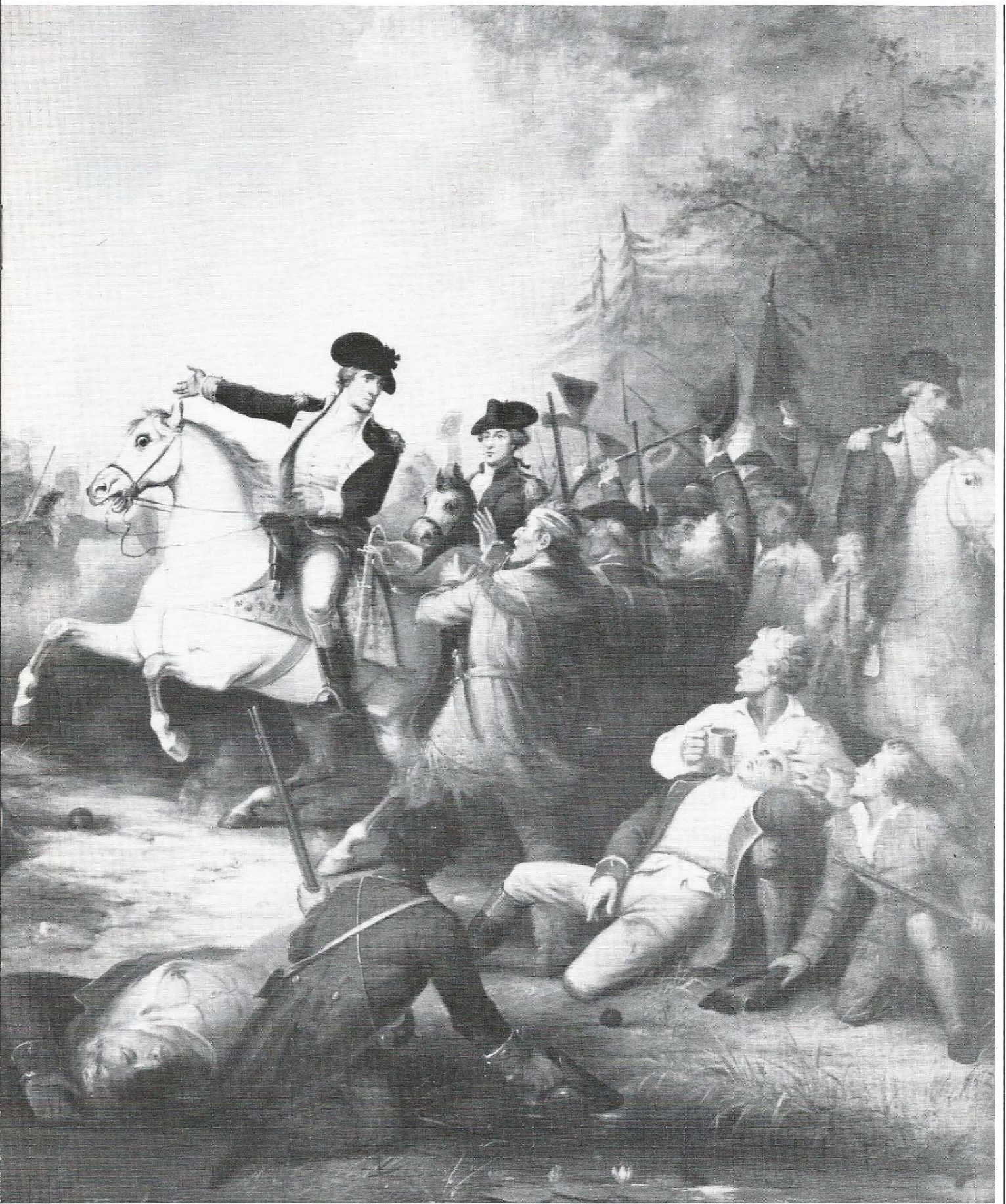
THE PRINCETON CAMPAIGN

On August 22, 1776, when British General Howe landed on Long Island, Washington commanded an army of 20,000. On December 8, 1776, Washington's army numbered only 3,153. During the interval, he had suffered three major defeats, abandoned New York City, and lost two forts leaving the British a mere twenty miles from Philadelphia. Add to this the fact that the enlistments of Washington's men were to expire on December 31st and you have an understanding of Washington's feelings when he wrote on December 17 that "... I think the game will be pretty well up, as, from disaffection and want of spirit and fortitude, the inhabitants, instead of resistance, are offering submission and taking protection from Gen. Howe in Jersey."

Obviously something dramatic had to be done or the war was over. Had General Howe based all 32,000 of his men in or around Trenton, Washington would have been powerless to do anything. As it was, Howe had scattered his troops in a train of camps eighty miles in length. By December 22, Washington had managed to literally beg, borrow, or steal enough men to raise his force to about 11,000. On December 26, complete surprise was achieved and nearly 900 Hessians were captured in



Washington at the Battle of Princeton, William T. Ranney



Trenton, but Washington could not exploit his victory as his army was exhausted and would disband in less than four days unless somehow persuaded to re-enlist.

On New Year's morning, a Mr. Morris roused the Philadelphians from their beds, and borrowing \$50,000 from them, sent it to Washington who was thus able to persuade half his men (5,000) to extend their service for six weeks. It was almost too late. By nightfall of January 2, 1777, General Cornwallis and 8,000 men reached Trenton. With his enemy only thirty minutes away and with his back to the river, General Washington, the American Army, and the cause again faced annihilation.

Once again, however, Washington rallied his forces, gambled everything, and pulled off another miracle. Leaving the campfires burning, the General led 3,600 men all night around the flank of the British Army. Dawn found them on the road to Princeton. On the march, they met, defeated, and put to flight three British regiments on their way to reinforce Cornwallis at Trenton. Washington occupied Princeton, bagged 300 prisoners, resupplied his army, and cut his enemy's supply line all at the same time. When Cornwallis attempted pursuit, the Americans fled north into the New Jersey highlands forcing the British to fall back toward New York for a reliable base of supply.

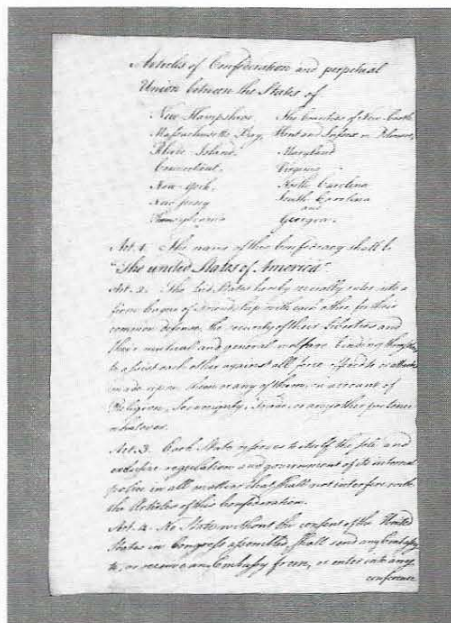
These victories, as if by magic, changed the entire campaign. All of New Jersey, except that which could be supplied by sea, was lost to the British, and Philadelphia was temporarily saved. Above all, this campaign gave stature to Washington as a general. Of him, Frederick the Great said: "The achievements of Washington and his little band of

compatriots between the 25th of December and the 4th of January, a space of ten days, were the most brilliant of any recorded in the annals of military achievements."

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

ARTICLE I

"The Thirteen States above mentioned, confederate themselves under the title of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."



Certified copy of the Articles of Confederation.

Thus began the written instrument that was to serve as the basis of the government of the Thirteen Original Colonies until the Constitution took its place in 1789.

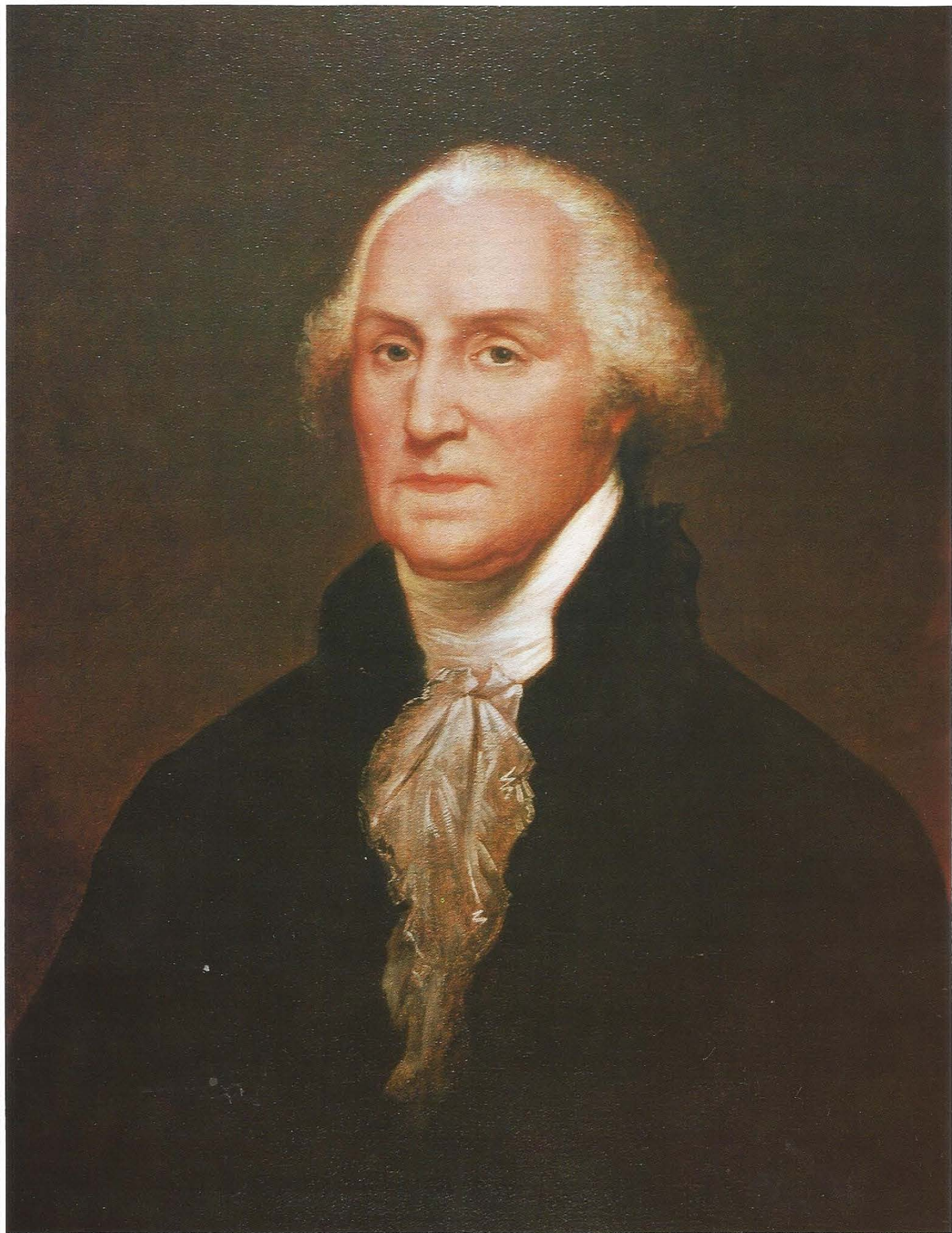
Even before independence, it was decided by the Continental Congress that in order for the Colonies to have a firm foundation for their government, something must be put in writing. As would have been the case with anything of this magnitude, many ideas and plans were submitted — some appearing in the press. The subject was included in Richard Henry Lee's motion of June 7, 1776, concerning independence. On June 11, Congress appointed a

committee to draw up some workable plan for establishing a government. On July 12 a draft, which had been prepared by John Dickinson of Delaware, was presented to the Continental Congress. Due to disagreements on the Articles and their involvement in war matters, Congress did not get around to serious discussion of the Articles for more than a year.

After discussion began, the principal points of conflict rested upon the method of levying taxes, whether the large and small states should have equality in voting, whether Congress should regulate Indian affairs, and whether Congress should be allowed to establish western boundaries of those states which claimed lands reaching as far west as the Mississippi. On November 15, 1777, copies of the Articles were sent to the various states with the understanding that they would have to be ratified by all before they could go into effect.

Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia all claimed lands to the west. Maryland objected to these claims and held out for some time in ratifying the Articles on the grounds that all lands to the west should be held for the common good of all the states.

One thing feared by many was the placing of too much power in the hands of any central government or executive. After all, most of these men had fled from a monarchy and feared another one. Still, it was agreed by all that a unified government of some sort must be had. The problems must have been staggering, and they must have caused many a wise soul to speculate upon the awesome responsibility which rested on their shoulders. Judge William Henry



George Washington, Rembrandt Peale

Drayton, Chief Justice of South Carolina, in a speech to the General Assembly of his state, January 20, 1778, said, "... Sir, my mind labors under the load that is thus thrown upon it. — Millions are to experience the effects of the judgment of those few, whom the laws permit to think and to act for them in this grand business. Millions—posterity innumerable, will bless or curse our conduct!—Their happiness or misery depend upon us—their fate is now in our hands! ..."

The certified copy of the Articles of Confederation displayed in Gallery One at Gilcrease Museum is an early draft and differs somewhat from the final document which was ratified and made into law on March 1, 1781. Although the men who were responsible for the drafting of the Articles disagreed on many issues, and the states individually held different views on crucial matters, they finally saw that their strength lay in *unity*. Patrick Henry, in an earlier speech, phrased it well: "The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are no more. I am not a Virginian, but an *American*." Let it be to their everlasting credit that they were able to lay aside personal opinions—and some of these opinions were strongly felt—and vote together for the common good of all.

THE MONMOUTH CAMPAIGN

Since Howe had landed on Long Island in 1776, Washington had been defeated in five battles and had lost two major cities, including the American Capitol. His two victories at Trenton and Princeton had been do-or-die battles of survival which kept the Americans in the game, but

little else. With this record, the question naturally arises as to how good a general Washington actually was. Before judging him too harshly, his strategic and tactical situations must be considered. His enemy was in complete control of the sea. This meant an uninterrupted flow of weapons, supplies, and manpower. The British could come and go anywhere up and down the coast at any time, thus forcing the Americans to react to the dictates of British strategy. Washington's men lacked discipline. When under frontal assault they could stand their ground until their ammunition was exhausted but they could not maneuver



in the open under fire, nor were they capable of coordinate movements. Washington's army lacked cavalry and, therefore, stumbled blindly into each battle, enabling General Howe time and time again to get around Washington's flank and surprise him. It is not surprising then that Washington was beaten many times. That he was still in the field in spite of all these conditions testifies to the magnitude of his ability. Fortunately, the winter of 1777-78 would bring a change for the better in his situation.

In June of 1777, Gen. Burgoyne began a march south from Canada. He captured Fort Ticonderoga on June 27, but suffered defeat at Ben-

nington on the 15th of August, at Freeman's Farm the 12th of September, and at Bemis Heights on the 7th-9th of October. On the 17th of October, Burgoyne surrendered 5,000 men at Saratoga.

These events led to a military alliance with France in February 1778. In that same month, Baron von Steuben, a Prussian officer, entered American service under Washington. The French alliance changed the strategic situation. Britain would now have to defend its far-flung possessions in the West Indies, the Mediterranean, and India instead of fighting solely in North America. Because of the French fleet, the British Government decided that Philadelphia would be untenable and ordered General Clinton (Howe had resigned) to evacuate the city and return to New York. On June 18, Clinton marched out of Philadelphia. Washington re-occupied that city and pursued Clinton. The changed strategic situation had made victory possible. Three months of hard drilling by von Steuben had enabled the Americans to improve their tactics, making their army as capable as any. The American Army initiated the battle on June 27, 1778, *but did not win*. The initial attack was led by Gen. Charles Lee, Washington's second in command. Lee advanced, gave no specific orders, and when the shooting started, ordered a retreat. In the midst of a British attack, Washington stopped the retreat, turned his units about, brought up some artillery and repelled wave after wave of Redcoats, a feat the Americans could not have accomplished before von Steuben's drilling. The well-trained American Army might not be able to win without Washington, but with him they would not be beaten.

LE VUE FRANCAIS DE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"... his name was familiar to government and people, to kings, courtiers, nobility, clergy, and philosophers, as well as plebians . . . when they spoke of him, they seemed to think that he was to restore the golden age. . . ."

Benjamin Franklin had already won the love and respect of the people when he made his third journey to France on December 3, 1776, as one of the triad of commissioners appointed by the American Congress.

As we begin to view the pleasures that Franklin shared with his beloved French friends, we also

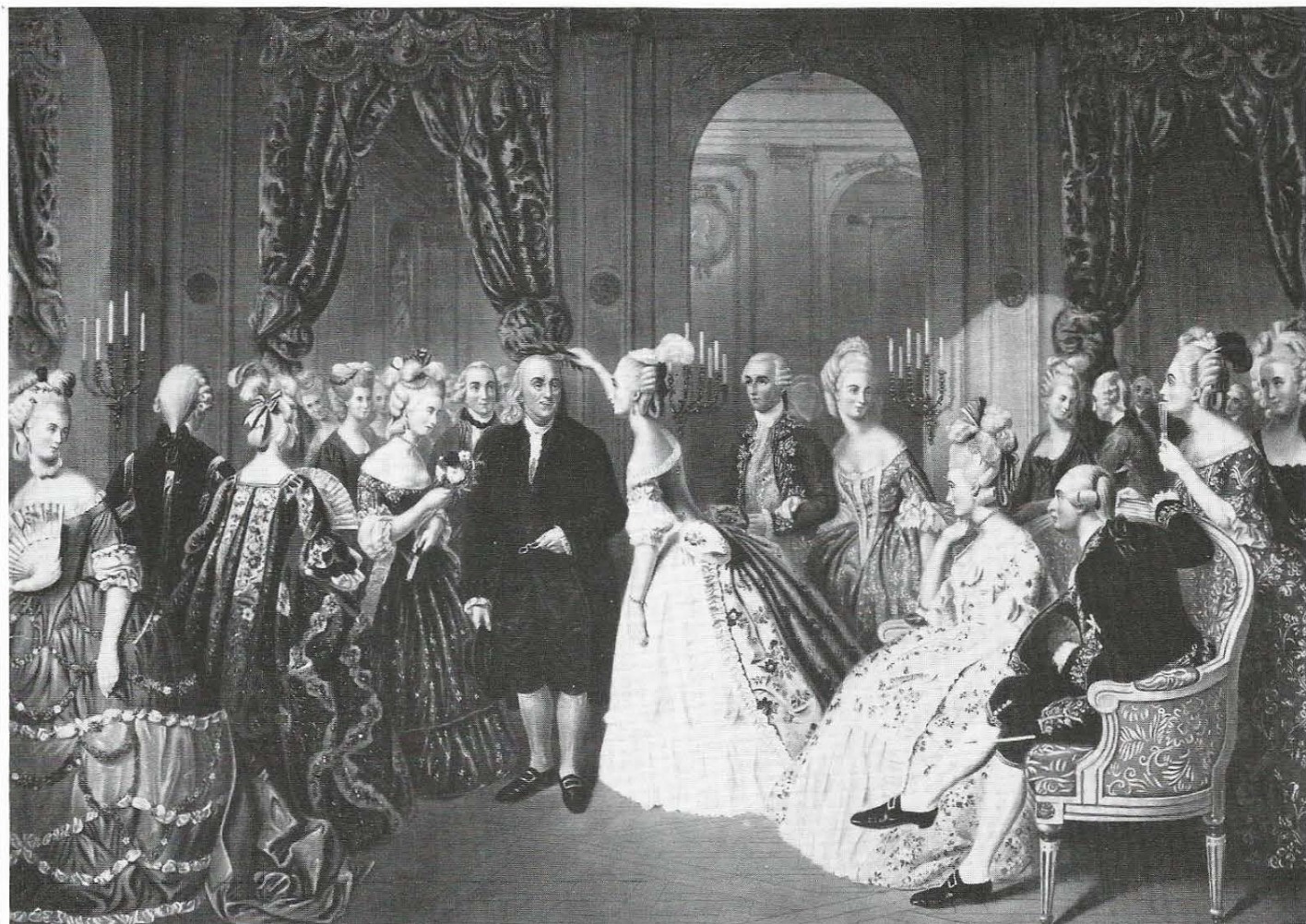
glimpse a brief moment in history which illuminates the intensely personal way he conducted the affairs of state and encountered the adulation of the masses.

Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee were sent to France to represent a government which France was not in a position to recognize officially and to obtain military and economic aid. The position of the American revolutionists was precarious—the Colonies were without money, they had very little credit, no system of taxation, and were almost without unity of purpose.

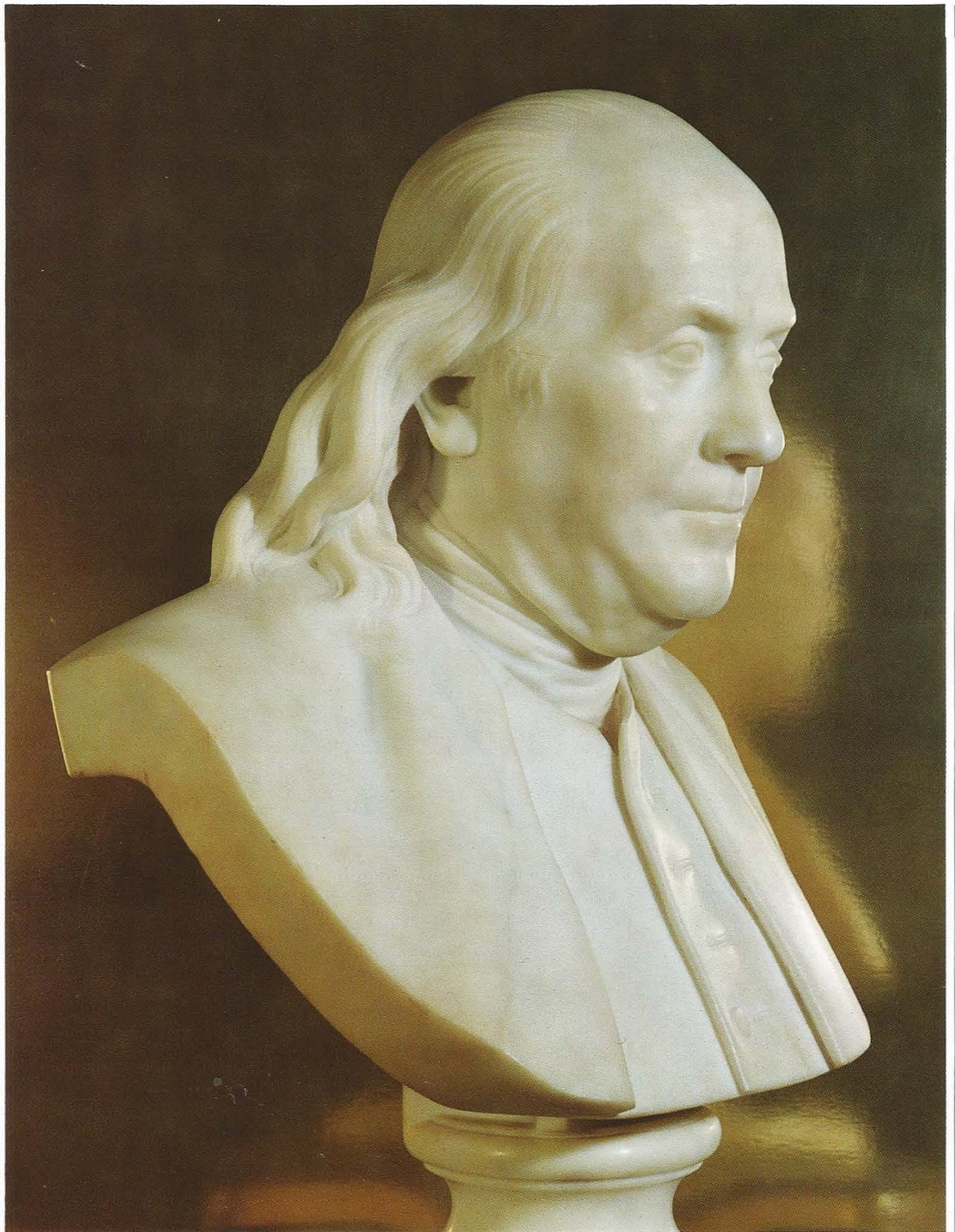
In French political, social, and

philosophical circles, Benjamin Franklin was considered to be endowed with the qualities that enabled him to be among the most celebrated men seeking to create a new nation. To the French, he was thought to be the personification of the unsophisticated nobility in the New World.

At his residence in Passy, Franklin began his long and cherished friendship with his neighbors, Madame Brillon de Jouy and her family. The relationship lasted for over twelve years. To her, Franklin was *mon cher papa*. Some one hundred and thirty letters exchanged between



Benjamin Franklin at Court, Hand-colored print by W. O. Geller



Benjamin Franklin, Hiram Powers

the two reveal the extraordinary communion that existed between the 70-year-old philosopher and the romantic woman twenty-four years younger than he. Her beauty and wit, as well as her letters, inspired the *Bagatelles* along with numerous poems.

It seems as though Franklin never wholly committed himself to love. To be sure, he had mastered the rules of courtship and he played the game with elegance.

"Somebody gave it out that I lov'd Ladies; and then every body presented me their Ladies . . . to be embraced. . . . The French Ladies have however 1000 other ways of rendering themselves agreeable . . ." he wrote to his stepniece in 1779 after a celebration where the most beautiful of three hundred ladies was chosen to crown Franklin with a laurel wreath and kiss him on both cheeks. Although he seemed to enjoy the attention lavished on him by the ladies, he never let his governmental duties go unattended and was rewarded in 1778 by being appointed Minister Plenipotentiary, and the long-sought-for treaty with France was signed.

Franklin proposed to another of his favorite "Ladies," Madame Helvétius—his *mon cher ami*. Born a noblewoman, Minette Helvétius charmed Franklin with her exuberance, dignity, and grace. Her home was the gathering place of scientists and men of letters. Voltaire was perhaps the most illustrious visitor but Franklin was *Vénérable*, or grand master at *l'Académie d'Auteuil*. So joyous were these shared years that Abbé de la Roche wrote to Franklin years later, "In those days, we would gladly have renounced that other Paradise to keep the one we had, and live, just as we were, for all eternity."

CONSTITUTIONS DES TREIZE ÉTATS-UNIS DE L'AMÉRIQUE.



A PHILADELPHIE;

Et se trouve A PARIS,

Chez { PH.-D. PIERRES, Imprimeur Ordinaire du Roi,
rue Saint-Jacques.
PISSOT, pere & fils, Libraires, quai des
Augustins.

1783.

*Constitutions of the Thirteen United States of America,
printed in Paris for Benjamin Franklin.*



WASHINGTON AND THE DELAWARE

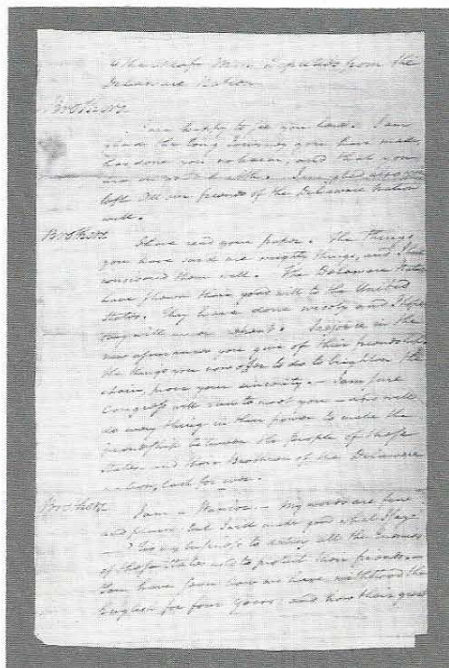
"To the Chief Men, Deputies from the Delaware Nation—Brothers . . .," begins a letter in the Gilcrease Library written by and signed "G. Washington, Commander in Chief of all the Armies in the United States of America" dated May 12, 1779.

Throughout the war years, the greatest threat to the success of the Revolution on the American frontier was not the British Army; rather it was the large number of Indian tribes which might be stirred to hostile activity. Though at first Congress assured the Indians that the dispute with the "Great Father across the sea" was a family quarrel, and the Indians should sit still and take as little notice of it as possible, Congress later came to realize that with them lay the balance of power and actively attempted to win them over. Washington writes further:

"We have till lately fought the English all alone.—Now the Great King of France is become our Good Brother and Ally.—He has taken up the hatchet with us, and we have sworn never to bury it, till we have punished the English and made them sorry for all the wicked things they had in their hearts to do against those States.—And these and other great Kings and Nations on the other side of the big Waters, who love us and wish us well—and

will not suffer the English to hurt us.

"Listen well to what I tell you and let it sink deep into your hearts.—We love our friends and will be faithful to them—as long as they will be faithful to us.—Good brothers the Delawares will always be so.—But we have sworn to take vengeance on our enemies—and on false friends."

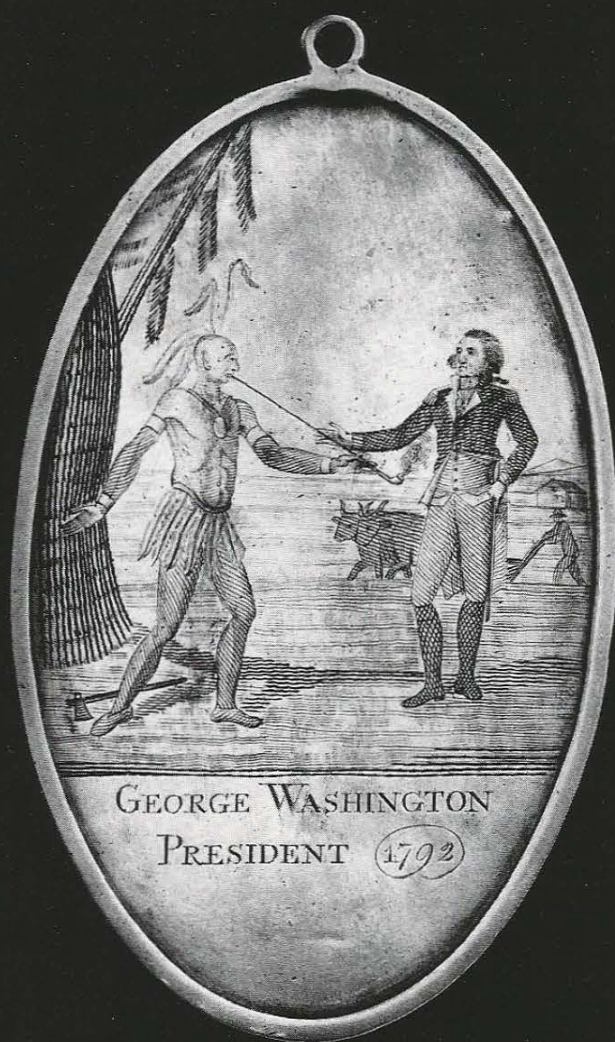


Washington's letter to the Delaware

Native Americans reading the above today might feel their intelligence insulted by Washington's paternalistic attitude and simplistic explanation of the war, but it must be remembered that 200 years ago the Delawares did not understand the nuances in the political conflict

between England and the Colonies resulting from mercantilism, which was foreign to Indian economic life. The divided attachments among the colonists themselves, which caused some to remain Loyalists and others to side with the rebel patriots, puzzled the Indians. For years the Delawares had been told repeatedly by colonial officials that the King of England was the "Great Father" of whites and Indians alike and that above all his word was law.

To placate the Delawares, it was arranged in April 1779 that an Indian delegation should meet with representatives of the Continental Congress. Killbuck, a member of the Turtle Clan, and "the first chief," was the ranking member of the mission. After being entertained, the Delawares were granted an interview with General Washington at his Middlebrook headquarters. The situation was doubtless ironic to the chiefs who remembered that during the French and Indian War they were on the side of the French, and Washington was their enemy. After the interview, the Delawares asked if they could have a written copy of Washington's remarks for they had discontinued the use of wampum in favor of the same kind of written records the government used. The letter here at Gilcrease is what they received.



Following the Revolutionary War, George Washington used peace medals as instruments of peace in his dealings with the Indians. A medal was frequently given to a head Chief after the signing of a treaty — hence the term Indian Peace Medals. (See American Scene, Vol. XI, No. 2, "Portraits, Presents, and Peace Medals," by Herman J. Viola.)

JAMES MADISON

James Madison, "Father of the Constitution," Secretary of State under President Jefferson, and fourth President of the United States, arrived in Philadelphia in March 1780 as an elected member of the Continental Congress from Virginia. Madison was the youngest delegate there—twenty-nine—and appeared younger than that. He was known to many as "young Madison." He was five feet, six inches in height and slightly built; and one delegate spoke of him in his diary as "just from the college."

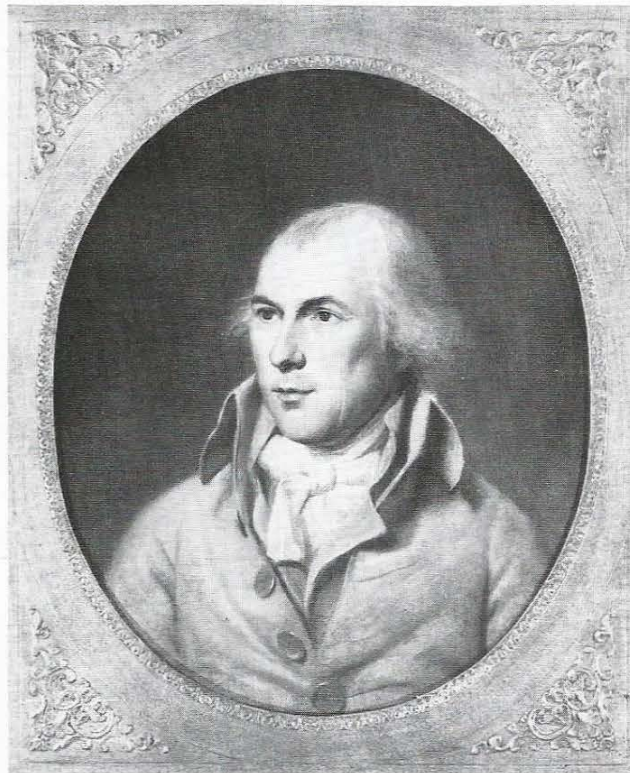
In Williamsburg, Madison had been in complete support of the Revolution, and his election to the Congress illustrated the confidence that the Virginia leaders had in his abilities. At Philadelphia, he was to encounter more complex issues and

develop a national outlook in regard to uniting the Colonies. The year 1780 was one of military crisis as well as one for policy-making in Congress. His strengths were recognized early by the members of Congress, and in August of 1780, Madison learned the lessons of politics and the conduct of Government, the quarrelsomeness of its members, and the weaknesses and stresses of a freely-elected body. The loosely-knit and independent Colonies were averse to any centralized control. These stresses helped convince James Madison that only a strong authority could stop the chaos and defeat. He realized that high rhetoric could not win the Revolution, and it can be said that effective Federal power, which he helped incorporate in the Constitu-

tion of 1787, grew from the distress that he felt in Philadelphia during that summer of 1780.

He used his insight, his pen, and all his political skills in Congress to sustain the Revolution and during the four years he served, he had a better attendance record than any other delegate. It was not until peace had been achieved that he took a leave of absence to return to Virginia.

His planned system of checks and balances that regulate the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the United States Government were his contributions toward building a strong Federal system. He spoke out on behalf of strengthening the national union of states when most Americans were putting states rights ahead of national interests.



This portrait of James Madison by Charles Willson Peale is the earliest extant oil portrait of the President, and it was probably painted in 1792 when Madison was forty-two years old. This picture was painted for Peale's Museum Gallery in Philadelphia. Madison was a member of the Board of Visitors of the museum along with Jefferson and other prominent men. This gallery was an effort on Peale's part to advance his museum toward public status similar to that held by the French National Museum.

THE WAR FROM THE BRITISH POINT OF VIEW

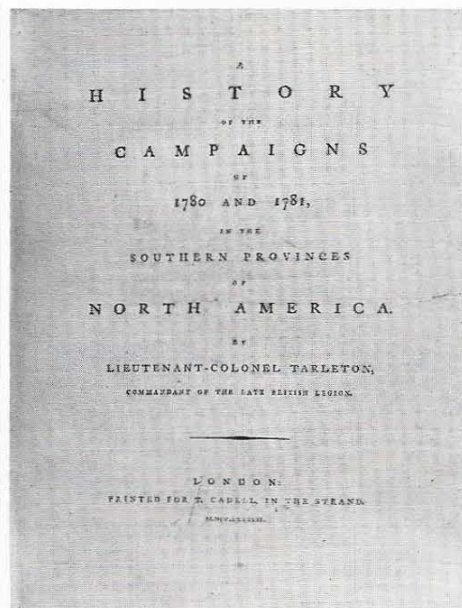


British Colonel Banastre Tarleton, not an unskilled cavalryman, won for himself the name Butcher Tarleton for his massacre of Abraham Buford's force at Waxhaus, South Carolina, in 1780. Buford's men had tried to surrender, and that unfortunate slaughter gave rise and credence to the expression "Tarleton's Quarter." In 1787, Tarleton wrote a book about his experiences in the southern Colonies in 1780 and 1781. The book is marked by his disregard for the leadership of Earl Cornwallis and marred by the vanity of the author, but nevertheless offers an interesting insight to the Revolutionary War from the British point of view.

On page thirty of *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America*, by Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton (1782), he describes the action at Waxhaus:

"The disposition being completed without any fire from the enemy though within three hundred yards of their front, the cavalry advanced to the charge. On their arrival within fifty paces, the continental infantry presented, when Tarleton was surprised to hear their officers command them to retain their fire till the British cavalry were nearer. This forbearance in not firing before the dragoons were within ten yards of the object of their attack, prevented their falling into confusion on the charge, and likewise deprived the Americans of the farther use of their ammunition: Some officers, men, and horses, suffered by this fire; but the battalion was totally broken, and slaughter was commenced before

Lieutenant-colonel Tarleton could remount another horse, the one with which he led his dragoons being overturned by the volley. Thus in a few minutes ended an affair which might have had a very different termination. The British troops had two officers killed, one wounded; three privates killed, thirteen wounded; and thirty-one horses killed and wounded. The loss of officers and men was great on the part of the Americans owing to the dragoons so effectually breaking the infantry, and to a report amongst the cavalry, that they had lost their commanding officer, which stimulated the soldiers to a vindictive asperity not easily restrained. Upwards of one hundred officers and



Title page of Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton's book.

men were killed on the spot; three colours, two six-pounders, and above two hundred prisoners, with a number of waggons, containing two royals, quantities of new clothing, other military stores, and camp equipage,

fell into the possession of the victors.

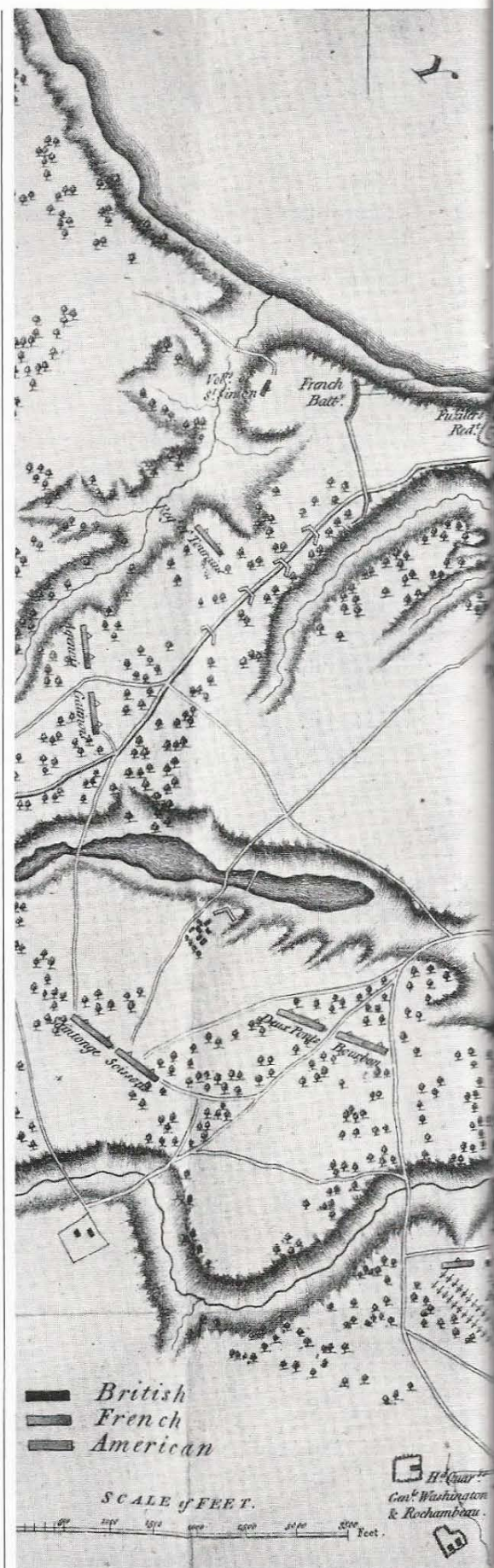
"The complete success of this attack may, in great measure, be ascribed to the mistakes committed by the American commander: If he had halted the waggons as soon as he found the British troops pressing his rear, and formed them into a kind of redoubt, for the protection of his cannon and infantry against the assault of the cavalry, in all probability he either would not have been attacked, or by such a disposition he might have foiled the attempt: The British troops, in both cases, would have been obliged to abandon the pursuit, as the country in the neighbourhood could not immediately have supplied them with forage or provisions; and the continentals might have decamped in the night, to join their reinforcement. Colonel Buford, also, committed a material error, in ordering the infantry to retain their fire till the British dragoons were quite close; which when given, had little effect either upon the minds or bodies of the assailants, in comparison with the execution that might be expected from a successive fire of platoons or divisions, commenced at the distance of three or four hundred paces"

TARLETON'S RECOLLECTION
OF THE AMERICAN AND
FRENCH ARMIES BEFORE
YORKTOWN.

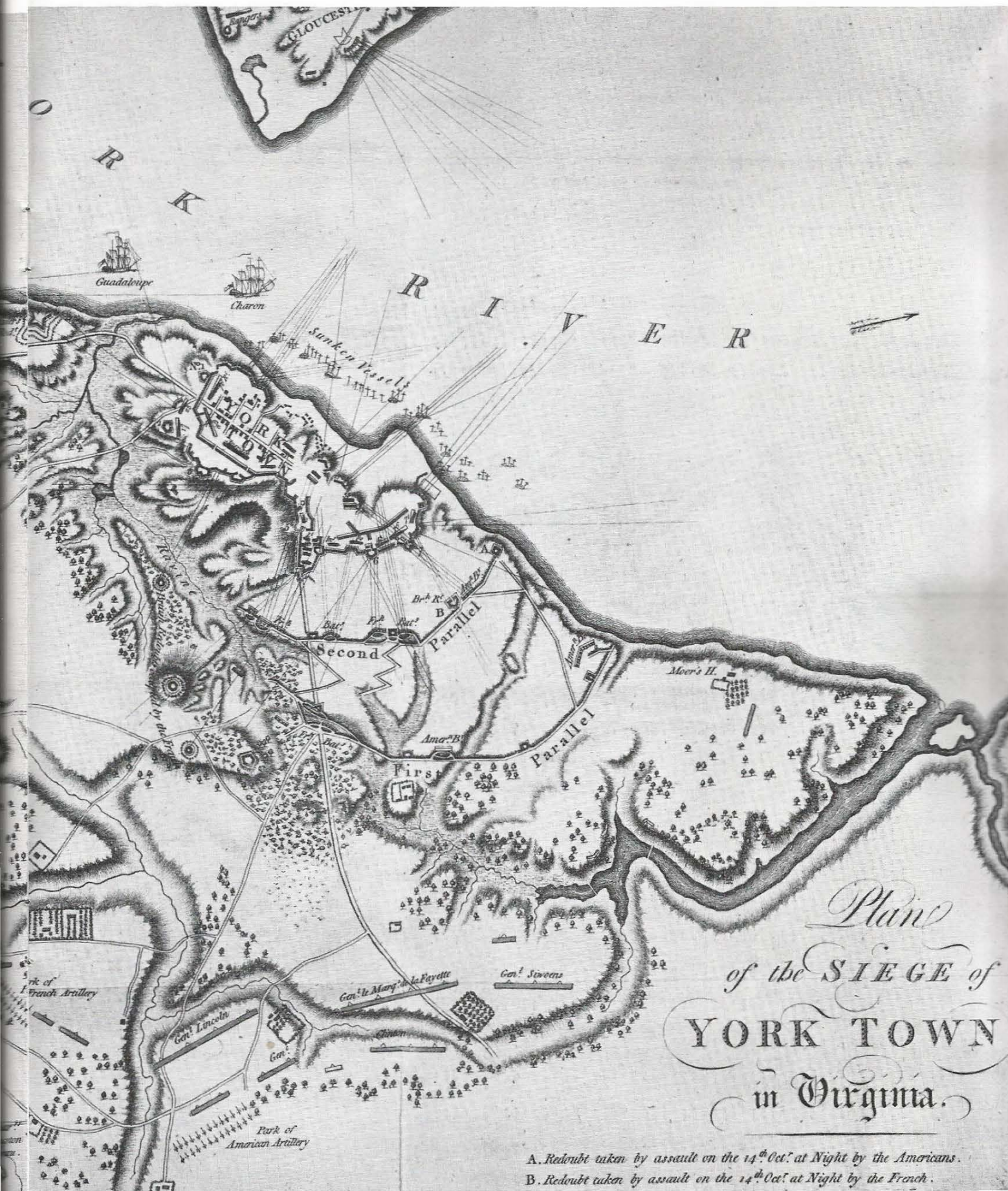
"On the evening of the 14th, General Washington directed a detachment from each army to attack, after dark, the two outward redoubts upon the left of the British lines at York. The Marquis de la Fayette commanded the assault made from the American works, and the Baron de Viomenil that which proceeded from the French trenches. The Americans, headed by a number of officers and volunteers, performed their

duty with vigour and courage: The British redoubt, which had been much damaged by the fire of the batteries, was soon carried, and the commanding officer, with many of his detachment, was made prisoner. Colonels Hamilton, Lawrance, and De Gimat, distinguished themselves on this occasion. The Baron de Viomenil was not less successful in his attempt. The French chasseurs and grenadiers met with more difficulties and greater loss; but they entered with fixed bayonets, and made themselves masters of the redoubt. The Count de Deux Ponts, the Count Charles de Damas, and several other French officers of distinction, were amongst the foremost of the assailants. No trial was made by the King's troops to re-possession the redoubts; and the working party of the combined army included them within their parallel before morning. The loss of men sustained by the British was not great, or nearly so important as the loss of the ground covered by the redoubts. The enemy's works were pushed forwards with skill as well as assiduity, and, by their nearer approach to the body of the place, the situation of the besieged became every hour more disadvantageous. The batteries of the first parallel had silenced the cannon of the town, and made considerable impression on the fortifications: Those of the second parallel were nearly finished on the 15th, and soon expected to open with redoubled devastation.

"In this critical situation, Earl Cornwallis wrote to the commander in chief, and advised him not to run great risk with the British navy and army, in attempting to relieve him, as his condition was nearly desperate, and his defense of York town could not much longer be protracted. . . ."



Plan of the Siege of York Town from Tarleton's book.



THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

This is the song the English played at the surrender of Cornwallis. It seems now, prophetically, to identify loss of the American colonies with the unbelievable, apparently unimportant, first step in the long, slow dissolution of world empire. Tune and nursery rhyme are traditional.



If buttercups buzzed after the bee,
If boats were on land, churches on sea,
If ponies rode men, and if grass ate the cows,
And cats should be chased into holes by the mouse,
If the mammas sold their babies to gypsies for half a crown,
If summer were spring, and the other way 'round,
Then all the world would be upside down."

THE SURRENDER OF LORD CORNWALLIS

It was two o'clock on an unusually warm October afternoon. The clear blue sky revealed the panorama of Yorktown. The French, looking fresh and trim, lined one side of Hampton Road. On the other side, the Americans in their bedraggled, heterogeneous uniforms looked on as the vanquished Redcoats marched by with their colors furled, drums beating—and fifes playing *The World Turned Upside Down*.

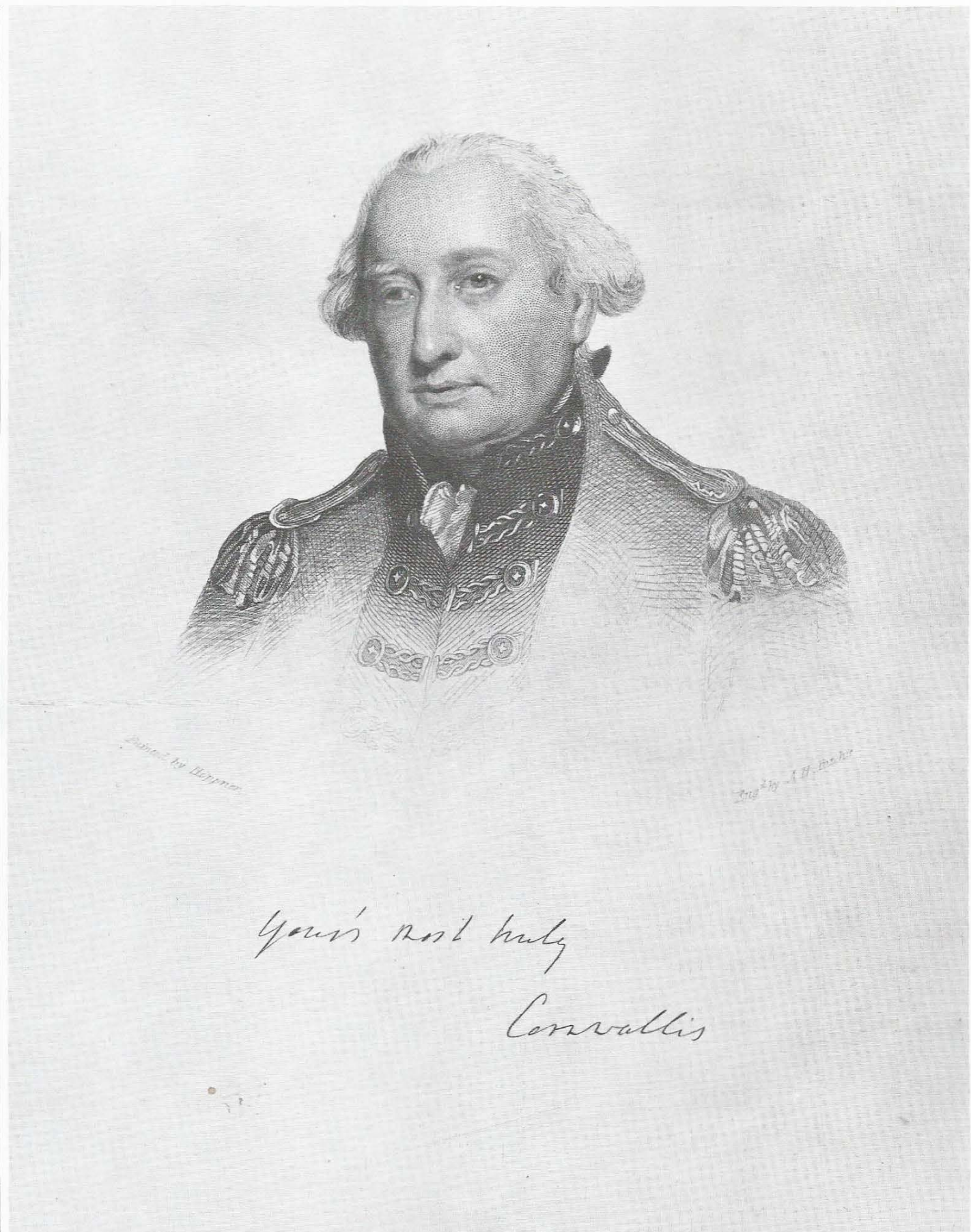
Cornwallis did not ride at the head of the columns but pleaded illness and sent Brig. Gen. Charles O'Hara to carry out the ceremonies. O'Hara attempted to present his sword to the French commander but

was directed instead to General Washington who, in turn, anticipating O'Hara, directed him to his own second, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln. The American Commander-in-Chief would not accept the sword except from his own British counterpart.

The British soldiers marched out to the surrender field and grounded arms. Many of them cursed or wept; none had anticipated this during the stormy events that had led to the surrender.

This engraving is after the original and well-known painting by Col. John Trumbull, the patriot-artist who was once aide de camp to Gen. George Washington. Trumbull was





An engraving of Lord Cornwallis from B. F. Steven's Facsimiles of Manuscripts in European Archives Relating to America.

the chief visual recorder of the American Revolution, and it is through his eyes that we, today, envision the major events and the heroic participants of that epic period of our history. His scenes of *Bunker Hill* and *Declaration of Independence* are familiar to school children as textbook illustrations. His portraits of our Founding Fathers are reproduced on our national currency and postage stamps and are known unconsciously to millions of Americans. His portrait of Alexander Hamilton can be found on the face of a ten-dollar bill today.

Trumbull completed the original *Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, 19 October 1781* in London in 1797. Later he received the commission to paint four large murals for the Capitol

Rotunda in Washington. The *Surrender* is the subject of one of those monumental paintings.

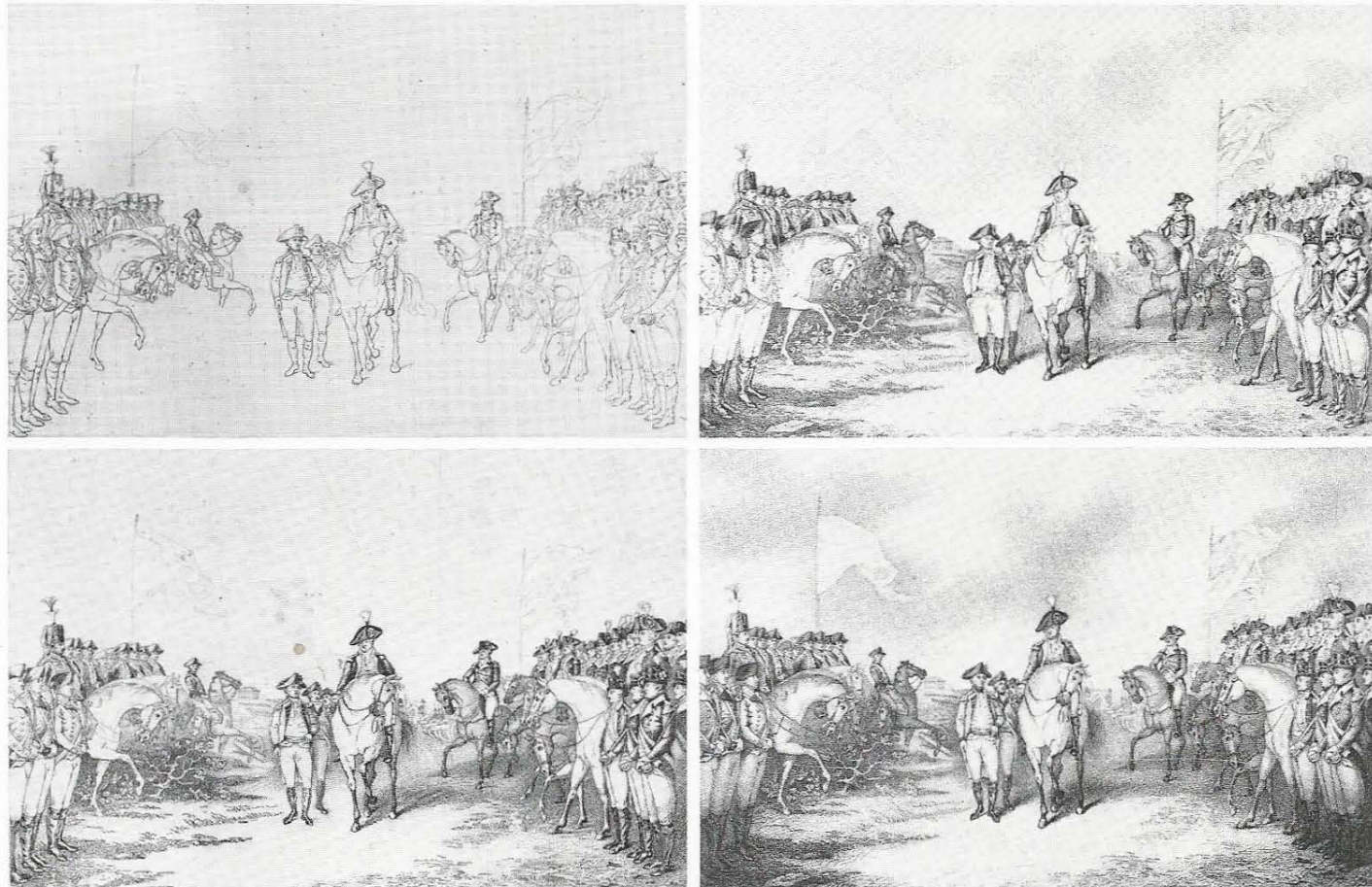
In 1852, N. Currier made lithograph prints from Trumbull's paintings. Trumbull's Revolutionary scenes reached the masses through the popular and inexpensive Currier and Ives prints.

In the Gilcrease Institute Archives is found a small scrapbook containing a collection of the Col. John Trumbull's original letters and papers. Several items included in this collection are one of Trumbull's letters to Richard Rush, Trumbull's invitation to the dinner given for Daniel Webster, and Trumbull's descriptions and color scales of the pallet he employed in painting *Our Savior Receiving Little Children*. Also included in the scrapbook are prints

in various "states," from Trumbull's painting of the surrender of Cornwallis by D. C. Hinman, a "capital" engraver of portraits in "stipple" during the 1830's and 1840's. The engraver who practiced stipple engraving relied upon dots of different sizes varying in their proximity to one another for effect. By this means he secured light, shade, and depth of color. The "dots" were made with steel points which, to the naked eye, appear to touch, although they seldom do.

The early engraver of prints occasionally made trial impressions of the plate as their work progressed. These interesting "states" provide the opportunity for comparing an early impression with the fine touches made in the final impression of this excellent engraving.

The different stages in the development of the engraving of John Trumbull's *Surrender of Cornwallis* illustrates the common practice among engravers to compare the early impressions with the finished engraving.



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