



Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

Second Continental Congress

War broke out in Massachusetts (Lexington and Concord) on April 19, 1775 as many delegates were already enroute to Philadelphia, where Congress was scheduled to convene on May 10, 1775.

On June 14, the Second Continental Congress created a continental army and appointed George Washington commander-in-chief.

Meanwhile, the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775 forced many delegates to rethink their position on reconciliation.

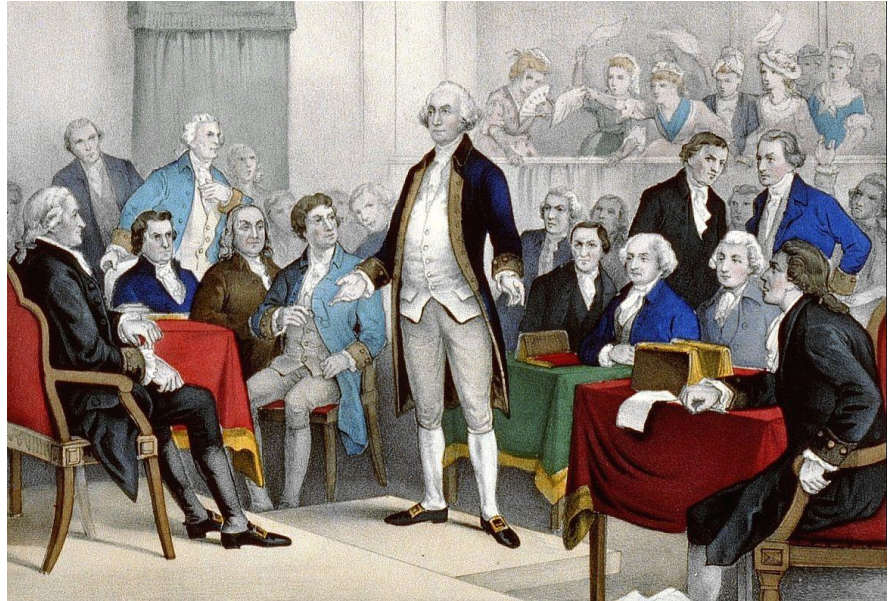
As accounts of the battle reach Philadelphia, Thomas Jefferson and John Dickinson are drafting the Declaration of the Causes and Necessity for Taking up Arms. John Adams called the document a spirited Manifesto.

Unwilling to completely abandon their hope for peace, the Olive Branch Petition was adopted on July 5, 1775 to be sent to the King as a last attempt to prevent formal war from being declared.

The Petition emphasized their loyalty to the British crown and emphasized their rights as British citizens.

After a flurry of activity in June and July, Congress adjourned for a brief respite on August 2, 1775.

William Penn carried the Olive Branch Petition to London, but the king refused to see him.



The Congress reconvened on September 13, 1775.

Opposition to independence was steadily waning in Congress, in part due to the popular support.

Common Sense is published in Philadelphia in January 1776.

On July 4, 1776 the Congress took the important step of formally declaring independence from Great Britain.

In September, Congress adopted the Model Treaty, and then sent commissioners to France to negotiate a formal alliance.

They entered into a formal alliance with France in 1778.

Congress eventually sent diplomats to other European powers to encourage support and to secure loans for the war effort.

Congress and the British government made further attempts to reconcile, but negotiations failed when Congress refused to revoke the Declaration of Independence.

The war raged on throughout this time.

The Second Congress continued to meet until March 1, 1781, when the Articles of Confederation that established a new national government for the United States took effect.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: www.sar.org

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