

FACT OR FICTION?

One of the interesting questions readers typically ask themselves when reading historical fiction novels is; which parts are historical, and which are fiction? Without Googling the answers, test your knowledge of these various People, Places, and Things featured in *The Road to Revolution*, book 1.

QUESTIONS

PEOPLE:

Were the following people real (i.e. based on a real, historical person or persons) or fictional?

1. **Ethan Chambers**
2. **Daniel Morgan**
3. **Lord Dunmore**
4. **Private Levi Miller**
5. **Private Peter Brown**
6. **Sergeant Timothy Murphy**
7. **Colonel Benedict Arnold**
8. **Penobscot Indian guides (Soncier, Eneas, Sebatis, Metagone, and Sewanockett)**
9. **Eleazer Oswald**
10. **British Lieutenant John André**
11. **Aaron Burr**
12. **Brigadier General Richard Montgomery**

13. British Engineer John Montresor
14. British General Guy Carleton
15. British Lieutenant Colonel Allan Maclean
16. British “deserter” scar-faced spy

PLACES:

Were the following places real (i.e. described in the book as they would have been in the year 1775) or fictional? (either made up, or were not as depicted)?

1. Winchester, Virginia
2. Porto Bello, Virginia
3. Berry’s Tavern, Virginia
4. Washington’s Army Camp, Cambridge, Massachusetts
5. Fort Ticonderoga, New York
6. Newburyport, Massachusetts
7. Kennebec River, Maine
8. Great Carrying Place, Maine
9. Spider Lake, Quebec
10. Chaudière River, Quebec
11. Fort St. Johns, Quebec

THINGS:

Did the following things (physical items as well as ideas, concepts, etc.) actually exist in the America of 1775 as described in the book?

1. Surveying and Map Making
2. Battle of Bunker Hill
3. Morgan’s March to Boston
4. Siege of Boston
5. American Long Rifle
6. Card Game Whist
7. Fourteenth Colony
8. Kennebec Expedition
9. Montresor’s Map
10. “Forlorn Hope” military formation
11. Battle of Quebec
12. Rockets

ANSWERS

PEOPLE:

Were the following people real (i.e. based on a real, historical person or persons) or fictional?

1. **Ethan Chambers** – **FICTION**: The story's main protagonist is entirely fictional. He is the great grandfather of the main (fictional) protagonist in the Road to the Breaking series, set in the American Civil War, Nathaniel Chambers.
2. **Daniel Morgan** – **FACT**: He was already a local legend in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia before the American Revolution. He went on to become one of the most important officers in the Continental Army.



3. **Lord Dunmore** – **FACT**: John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore, served as Royal Governor of Virginia until forced to flee the colonial capital of Williamsburg in 1775 when American colonists, led by Patrick Henry, seized control of the government.



4. **Private Levi Miller – FICTION:** Levi, along with his buddy Seth, are the fictional companions of the main protagonist, Ethan Chambers.
5. **Private Peter Brown – FACT:** He kept a journal, later published, of the Battle of Bunker Hill in which he fought, within which was the memorable quote: *“The wave of Brits advanced towards us in order to swallow us up ... but they found a choaky mouthful of us.”*
6. **Sergeant Timothy Murphy – FACT:** He is recorded as one of Daniel Morgan’s Virginia Riflemen. He survived the Battle of Quebec and later gained fame for sniping a British General at the Battle of Saratoga, a decisive turning point in the war. Other real-life Morgan riflemen included in the book are privates **Adam Kurtz** and **George Merchant**.
7. **Colonel Benedict Arnold – FACT:** He is best known in American history as an infamous traitor, but he didn’t start out that way. The numerous accounts of the Kennebec expedition agree that Arnold served heroically and honorably before, during, and after the action. He is generally considered to have been one of the brightest stars in the Continental Army at the beginning of the conflict.



8. **Penobscot Indian Guides (Soncier, Eneas, Sebatis, Metagone, and Sewanockett) – FACT:** Arnold spoke highly of his valued and highly expert crew, and named them in his journals. The Penobscot (P̄anawáhp̄skewi) are an indigenous people from the Northeastern Woodlands region of Maine.



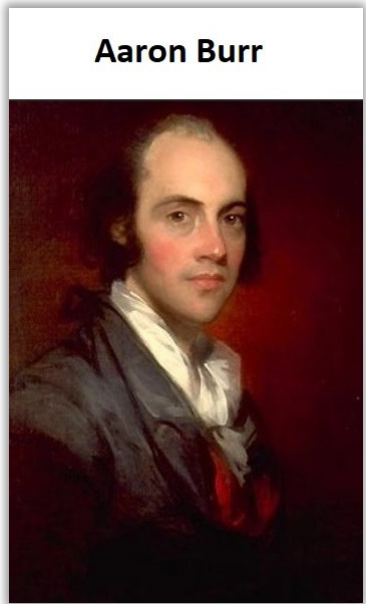
9. **Eleazer Oswald** – **FACT:** Oswald served as an aide to Benedict Arnold in the latter's capture of Fort Ticonderoga at the outset of the conflict, and later during the expedition to Quebec in 1775 as told in the Book. During the action he served as a volunteer, in the hopes of receiving an officer's commission afterward, based on his good conduct.



10. **British Lieutenant John André** – **FACT:** He was a man of many talents, including leading men in battle, conducting espionage operations, speaking multiple languages, and indulging in numerous artistic pursuits at which he excelled. His most historically noteworthy action, however, was his involvement in the ultimate subterfuge of Benedict Arnold.



11. **Aaron Burr** – **FACT:** Young, handsome, highly educated, and energetic, he is best known as the future United States Vice President who shot and killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel. Burr served as a volunteer officer during the Quebec expedition, in much the same role as **Eleazer Oswald** (see above.)



12. **Brigadier General Richard Montgomery** – **FACT:** He was the beloved and highly respected American commander of the western arm of the Canadian expedition who led his forces northward from Fort Ticonderoga. The only **FICTION** concerning Montgomery in *The Road to Revolution* is that he was originally from Ireland, so spoke with an Irish accent, though he was also a high-class gentleman. As I hadn't a clear understanding of what an upper-class gentleman of the late 1700's from Ireland might sound like, I invoked my literary license and made him speak with a typical, American accent instead.



13. **British Engineer John Montresor** – **FACT:** At the time of the *Seven Years' War* between England and France (called the *French and Indian War* in North America) Montresor did in fact explore the area of Quebec Province and Maine that included the Kennebec River during which he made a map, as described in the Book. See **Montresor's Map** below for more details.
14. **British General Guy Carleton** – **FACT:** He was Royal Governor of Quebec Province, who led British forces against the Americans in the battles for Montreal and Quebec, as told in the Book. Carleton was not only a capable military and civilian leader, but treated his prisoners of war much more humanely than was typical of the time.



15. **British Lieutenant Colonel Allan Maclean** – **FACT:** An experienced soldier, he recruited a company of Scots Royal Highlanders when the conflict with the Americans broke out, and played a pivotal role in the British defense upon his unexpected but timely arrival at Quebec City.



16. **British "deserter" scar-faced spy** – **FICTION:** Though British General Gage, commander of all North American forces, reportedly had his spies in Washington's camp, and even embedded within the

Kennebec expedition, at least one of which was posing as a British Army deserter, the scar-faced soldier who interacts with Ethan in the Book is a fictional character, representative of his ilk.

PLACES:

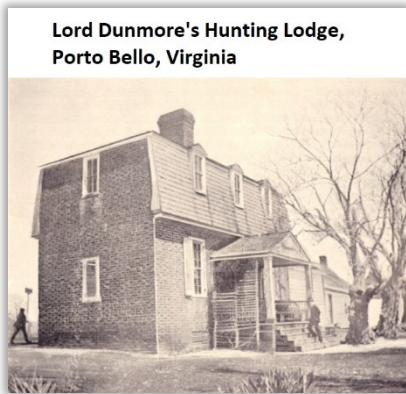
Were the following places real (i.e. as described in the book as they would have been in the year 1775) or fictional? (either made up, or not as depicted)?

1. **Winchester, Virginia – FACT:** The hometown of **Daniel Morgan**, Winchester served as the launching point for his rifle company of ninety-six men, which ultimately fought in the **Battle of Quebec**. Winchester was also a focal point during the American Civil War, with numerous major and minor battles fought in and around it, causing the city to change hands multiple times. See the ***Road to the Breaking series*** for details of those actions.



2. **Porto Bello, Virginia – FACT:** After Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia, was forced from the governor's palace in Williamsburg, he fled with his family to his rough, two-story hunting lodge called Porto Bello, about five miles west of town on the York River. Later he was forced to take refuge on a British warship, from which he was never again able to take command of the colony. The lord's structure still stands, now included within the grounds of Camp Peary, a US military

reservation used for special ops training, among other missions.



3. **Berry's Tavern, Virginia** – **FACT:** Located just north of Winchester, the tavern named for its proprietor, Ben Berry, was a popular gathering place for local “rough characters”, such as **Daniel Morgan**. It was the location Morgan chose to host his tryouts used to select the ninety-six men who would accompany him on his initial foray into the war.
4. **Washington's Army Camp, Cambridge, Massachusetts** – **FACT:** When newly appointed commander in chief George Washington arrived at Cambridge to take charge of the newly formed Continental Army in July 1775, the siege of Boston (April 19, 1775 – March 17, 1776) was already well underway. Washington set up his headquarters to the John Vassall House in Cambridge, that later became known as the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.



5. **Fort Ticonderoga, New York** – **FACT:** A large 18th-century star fort built by the French at the south end of Lake Champlain in northern New York, Ticonderoga was of strategic importance during the 18th-century colonial conflicts between Great Britain and France, and again played an important role during the American Revolutionary War. The British controlled the fort at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, but the troops under the command of Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured it in May 1775. Continental Army officer Henry Knox later led an expedition tasked with transporting

the fort's cannon to Boston for use in the siege against the British.

Guns of Fort Ticonderoga



- 6. Newburyport, Massachusetts – FACT:** A small port town 35 miles northeast of Boston, Newburyport was the launching point for Colonel Benedict Arnold's expedition to Canada in September, 1775.
- 7. Kennebec River, Maine – FACT:** The Kennebec is as wild and beautiful as depicted in the Book, running almost due south from its source, Moosehead Lake, into the Atlantic at the Gulf of Maine.

Kennebec River, Maine

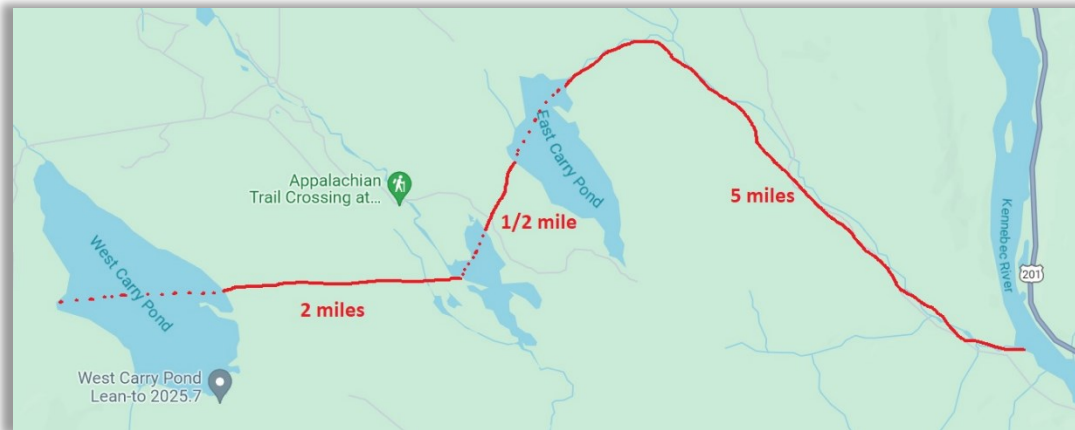


Course of the Kennebec



- 8. Great Carrying Place, Maine – FACT:** Over the eons as America Indians developed trade routes between the Atlantic coastal region and the St. Lawrence River villages, they utilized two major rivers, the south-flowing Kennebec and the north-flowing Chaudière. To shorten the journey, the natives discovered a 13 mile portage that traversed in a east-west manner between the Kennebec's west branch, also known as the Dead River, and the main body of the Kennebec . Because of the portage trail's length and difficulty, the natives named it the Great Carrying Place. This portage utilized three small ponds, easing the difficulty of the route. When Benedict Arnold's expedition used the portage, they named the three ponds the First Carry Pond, Second Carry Pond, and Third Carry Pond. The modern map below shows that the three ponds still bear those names, though

they've been amended to East, Middle, and West to accommodate travel in either direction.



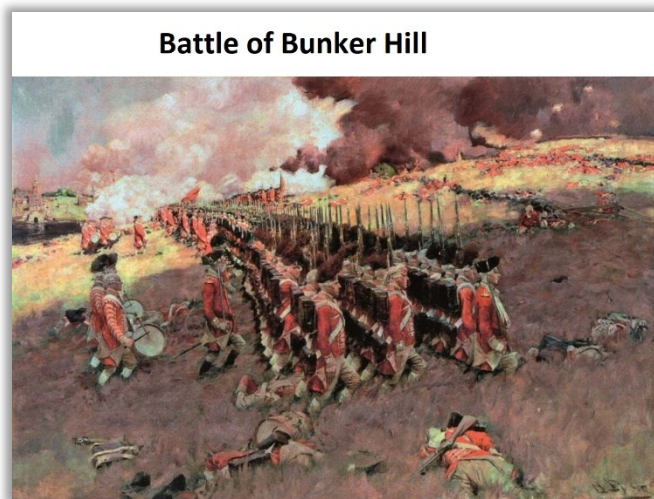
9. **Spider Lake, Quebec – FACT:** *Lac aux Araignées* in French, Spider Lake can be seen on the map in the southeast corner of Lake Megantic, just as Arnold’s expedition encountered it. Curiously, this infamous lake did not appear on the British map drawn by engineer **John Montresor** (compare a present-day map with **Montresor’s Map** in the **Things** section below.)
10. **Chaudière River, Quebec – FACT:** Its name translates to “boiler” in English, which **Daniel Morgan** and company found appropriate, as the river, which flows north from Lake Megantic toward the St. Lawrence River opposite Quebec City, churned with a ferocity that tested the limits of the company’s small boats.
11. **Fort St. Johns, Quebec – FACT:** The small British fort (Saint-Jean in French), located at the north end of Lake Champlain, endured a forty-five day siege by the Americans, under the command of **General Richard Montgomery**. The fort’s most notable defender during the action was **British Lieutenant John André**, in command of a rifle company from the acclaimed Seventh Regiment of Foot.



THINGS:

Did the following 'things' (physical items as well as ideas, concepts, etc.) actually exist in the America of 1775?

1. **Surveying and Map Making – FICTION:** In the Book, fictional character **Gideon Chambers** was employed by **Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of the Virginia Colony**, to perform *both* surveying and map-making in the Shenandoah Valley. Although both professions existed at the time (George Washington is the most famous example of a surveyor, which he practiced in his youth), these skills were not mastered or practiced by the same men. Surveyors served the much more practical role of drawing up plat maps for properties to be sold in parcels, usually in the employ of private, individual landowners. Map making was a much more demanding skill, only mastered by a relatively few men, who generally worked in the employ of governments, due to the large costs in treasure and time involved.
2. **Battle of Bunker Hill – FACT:** It was the first major conflict of the war, and it also proved the deadliest for the British. Though they carried the field, and were thus able to claim victory, the British suffered more than a thousand casualties, including over a hundred officers. By contrast, the Americans, who “lost” the battle, suffered only 450 killed or wounded in the action.



3. **Morgan's March to Boston – FACT:** After **Daniel Morgan** recruited his company of 96 marksmen, nicknamed "Morgan's Riflemen", he took them on a forced march of 600 miles from Winchester, Virginia to Boston, Massachusetts in just 21 days (an average of 28.5 miles per day), arriving on August 6, 1775. Morgan may have been motivated by his rivalry with Hugh Stephenson, who raised another rifle company in Shepherdstown, Virginia. Stephenson's march took 24 days, giving Morgan the “victory” in the undeclared contest.
4. **Siege of Boston – FACT:** After “winning” the Battle of Bunker Hill, the British, under the command of General Thomas Gage, found themselves cutoff and besieged within the city of Boston by the Americans, who controlled the mainland surrounding the city. After an eleven month siege, the British were forced to evacuate the town when George Washington placed artillery—brought in through heroic effort from the captured British Fort Ticonderoga—on Dorchester Heights where

they could threaten the British naval fleet in the harbor.



5. **American Long Rifle** – **FACT:** Daniel Morgan was one of the first military men to recognize the potential of the long rifle—a uniquely American development unknown in Europe—for its ability to target enemy soldiers with deadly accuracy at long range (300-400 yards.) The British, who believed in massed firepower from smooth-bore muskets—which were much more powerful and quicker to load, but less accurate (80-100 yards)—had no answer for the Americans’ long-range weapon.

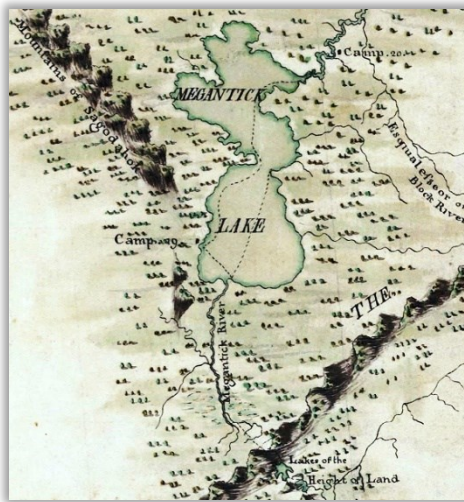


6. **Card Game Whist** – **FACT:** Popular in the 18th century, Whist, played with a 52 card deck, took its name from the now archaic word “whist” meaning quiet, silent, or attentive—root of the modern word “wistful.”
7. **Fourteenth Colony** – **FACT:** Members of the Continental Congress, along with George Washington, hoped to bring the disaffected, French-speaking citizens of Canada into the war as the Fourteenth American Colony. By doing so, they would not only broaden the scope of the war, but would deprive

the British of critical military bases and sources of supply in North America.



8. **Kennebec Expedition** – **FACT:** More than 1,000 Americans worked their way up the wilderness river and into Canada, an arduous journey of over 300 miles. Overcoming numerous obstacles and hardships, including starvation and the onset of the deadly Canadian winter, they ultimately arrived at their destination, Quebec City. This incredible journey has been described by historian Arthur S. Lefkowitz as “one of the greatest adventure stories in American history.”
9. **Montresor’s Map** – **FACT:** Not only did the map exist, as described in the Book, if it is clearly missing important features that Montresor would’ve encountered during his exploration, most notably the so-called “Spider Lake” (*Lac aux Araignées*) that ought to appear just to the southeast of Lake Megantic. Compare a modern map to the enlarged portion of Montresor’s map below:



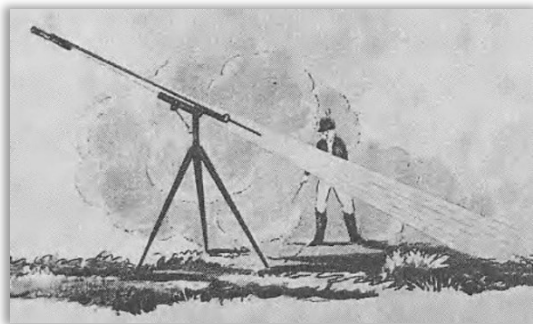
10. **“Forlorn Hope” military formation** – **FACT:** A *forlorn hope*, in military parlance, is a band of soldiers in the vanguard of an operation, such as a suicidal assault through the breach of a defended position, where the risk of casualties is high. **Colonel Benedict Arnold** personally led such a unit, consisting of twenty-five volunteers, in his initial assault against Quebec City.
11. **Battle of Quebec** – **FACT:** Launched on December 31, 1775 in a blinding snowstorm, the American expedition, led by General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold with a force of 1,200 men, attempted to wrest control of the fortified Canadian capital from the British with the goal of

making the province into the Fourteenth Colony.

Battle of Quebec



12. Rockets – FACT: Every account of the American attack on Quebec includes mention of rockets being employed by the attackers, though there is a dearth of information concerning their type or capability. Although rockets had been around for hundreds of years by the time of the battle, they were generally so woefully inaccurate that their military use was limited to signaling and general harassment of large, stationary targets such as the Quebec fortress (as they were employed in this case.) It wasn't until British inventor Sir William Congreve developed the much more accurate "Congreve Rocket" in 1808 that it became a standard implement in military artillery, famously providing the "rocket's red glare" of Star-Spangled Banner fame.



HOW DID YOU SCORE?

Give yourself 1 point for each correct answer, then rate yourself below:

- 0 – 13: You enjoy reading history because you can't wait to find out who wins the war.
- 14 – 26: You were paying attention in Mrs. Petersen's ninth-grade history class (way to go!)
- 27 – 39: You're a wiz at this! (Hey, why aren't you writing this stuff instead of me?!)