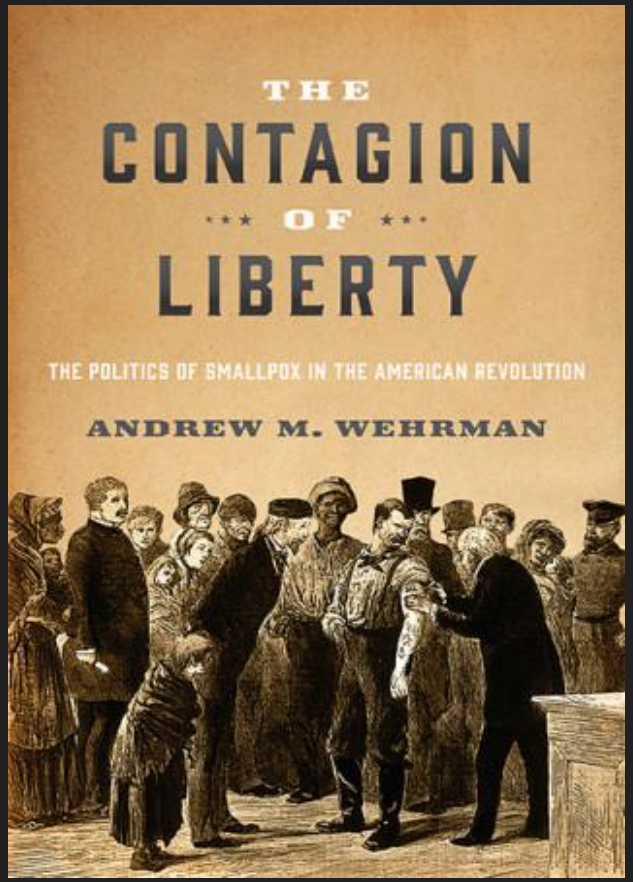
A Revolution for Public Health: George Washington's Inoculation Decision



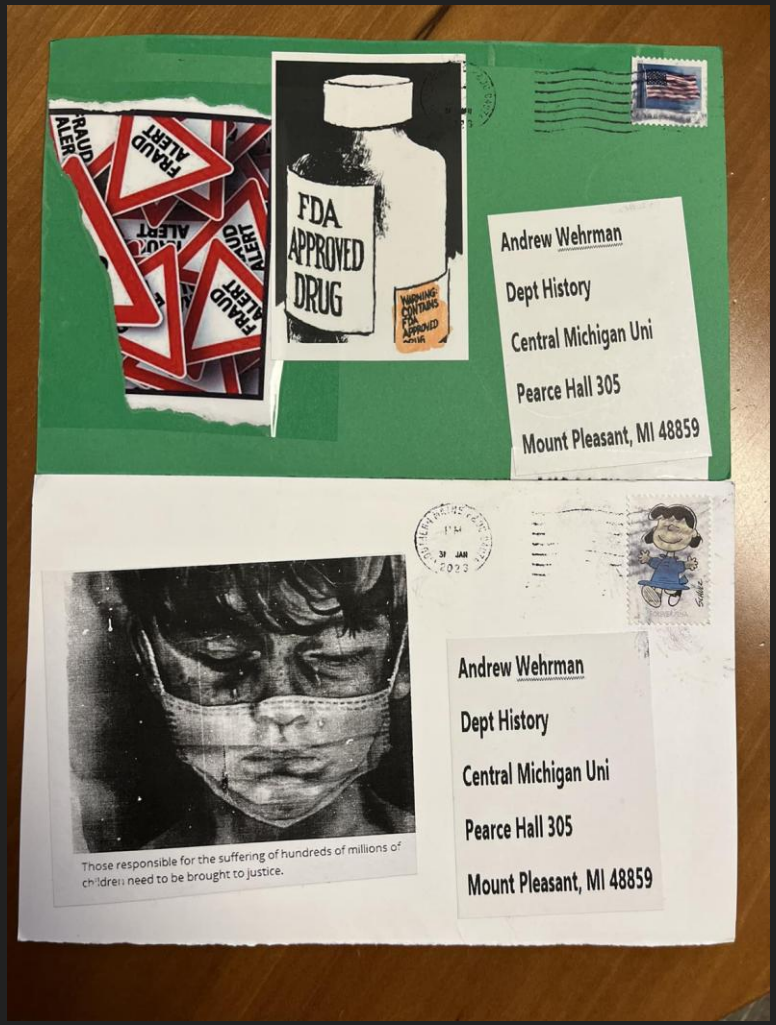
Dr. Andrew Wehrman
Central Michigan University
wehrm1am@cmich.edu

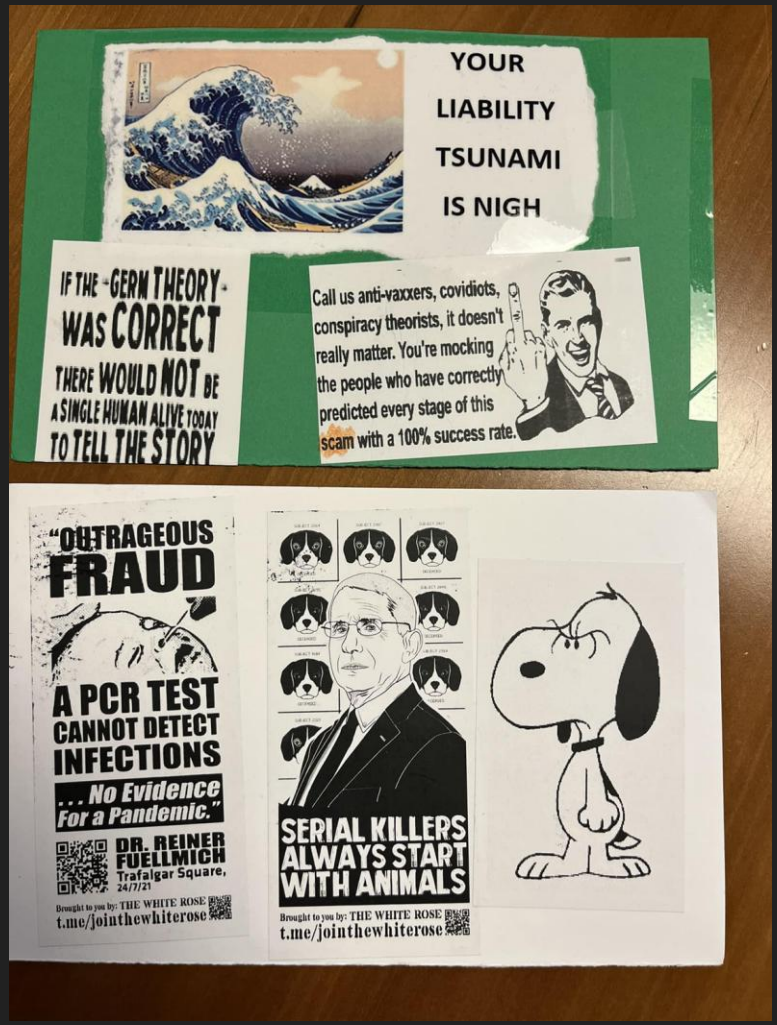
Michigan Premier Public Health Conference,
Port Huron, Michigan,
October 8, 2026



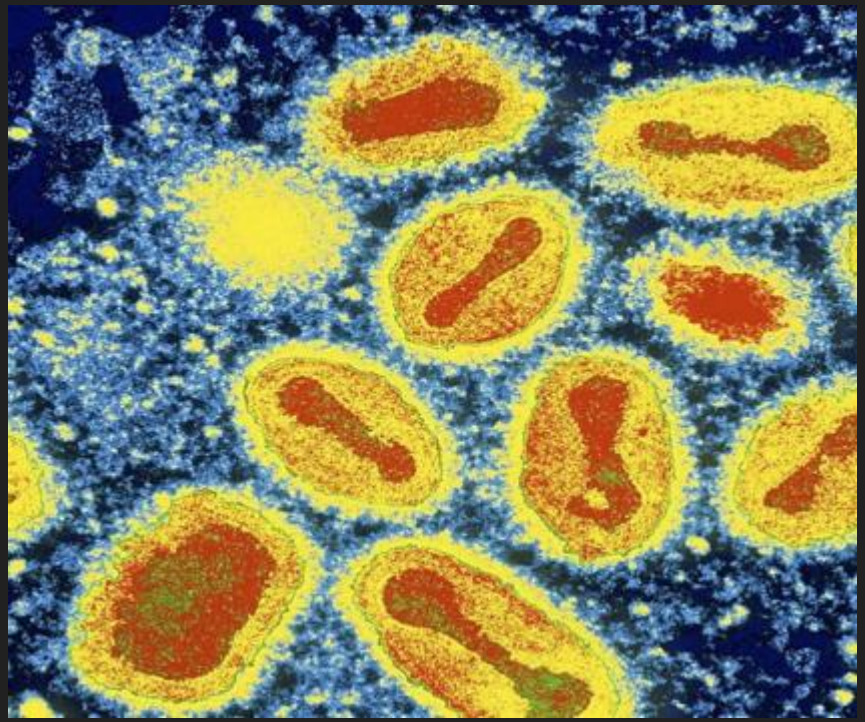


Revolutionary War Flags at the “Fight for Medical Freedom” Protest, Lansing, August 6, 2021


FRAUD ALERT
FDA APPROVED DRUG
WARNING: CONTAINS FDA APPROVED
Andrew Wehrman
Dept History
Central Michigan Uni
Pearce Hall 305
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Those responsible for the suffering of hundreds of millions of children need to be brought to justice.
Andrew Wehrman
Dept History
Central Michigan Uni
Pearce Hall 305
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859


YOUR LIABILITY TSUNAMI IS NIGH
IF THE "GERM THEORY" WAS CORRECT THERE WOULD NOT BE A SINGLE HUMAN ALIVE TODAY TO TELL THE STORY
Call us anti-vaxxers, covidiots, conspiracy theorists, it doesn't really matter. You're mocking the people who have correctly predicted every stage of this scam with a 100% success rate.
"OUTRAGEOUS FRAUD
A PCR TEST CANNOT DETECT INFECTIONS
... No Evidence For a Pandemic."
DR. REINER FUELLMICH
Trafalgar Square, 24/7/21
Brought to you by: THE WHITE ROSE
t.me/jointhewhiterose
SERIAL KILLERS ALWAYS START WITH ANIMALS
Brought to you by: THE WHITE ROSE
t.me/jointhewhiterose

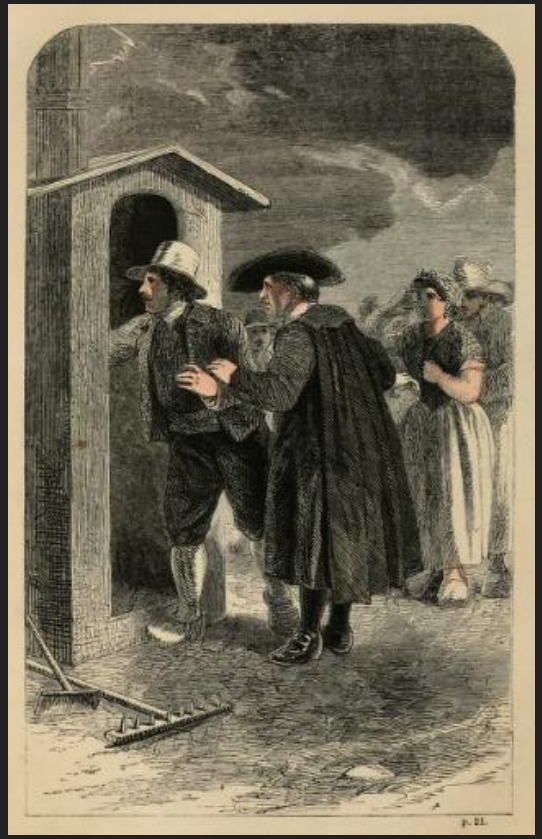
What is smallpox?



- *Variola*
- Mankind's greatest killer
- *Not endemic in Colonial America*
- Inoculation vs. vaccination

Colonial Public Health Laws

- Quarantine Acts (1604 King James Act)
- Lazarettos, Pesthouses
- **1731, Boston created a threshold for inoculation (20 Households)**; forbade residents from concealing smallpox
- Variations by Colony: Connecticut (enslavement), Virginia (mandatory cleanings), Rhode Island (inn-keepers and border stops) South Carolina (smallpox commissioners)
- **Securing the public against disease was broadly considered a *duty* of government**



Smoking Travelers in Marblehead, Mass

Don’t Tread On Me?

Charles Gadsden, designer of the Gadsden Flag, was a Smallpox Commissioner in Charleston, SC, tasked with keeping weekly records of infections, enforcing quarantine, punishing violators with heavy fines and jail time.

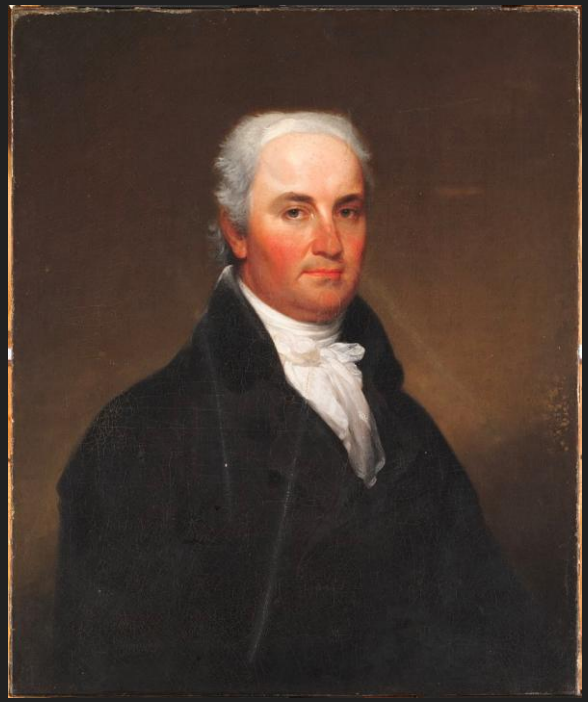
Gadsden came to oppose a distant arbitrary government but did not oppose all government interventions



No one in 1776 protested public health laws. They protested when they weren’t enforced!

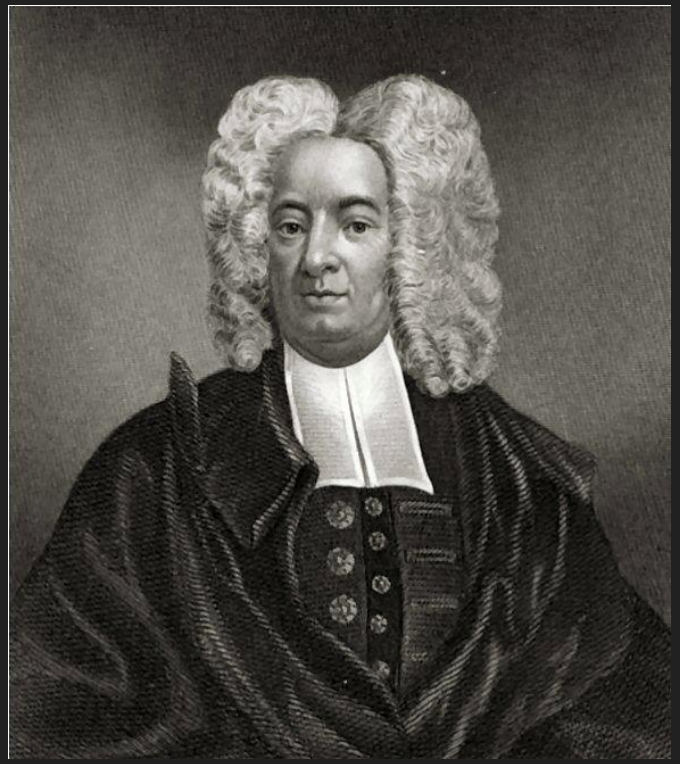
The Meaning of Liberty

- **Everyone as he is bound to preserve himself, so ought he, as much as he can, to preserve the rest of Mankind."--John Locke, 1689**
- **Liberty is not "*doing as we please*." It is not "a freedom from all law and government."**
- **Liberty is the "freedom to act for the general good without incurring the displeasure of the ruler or the censure of the law."--Rev. Levi Hart *Liberty Described and Recommended*, 1775**

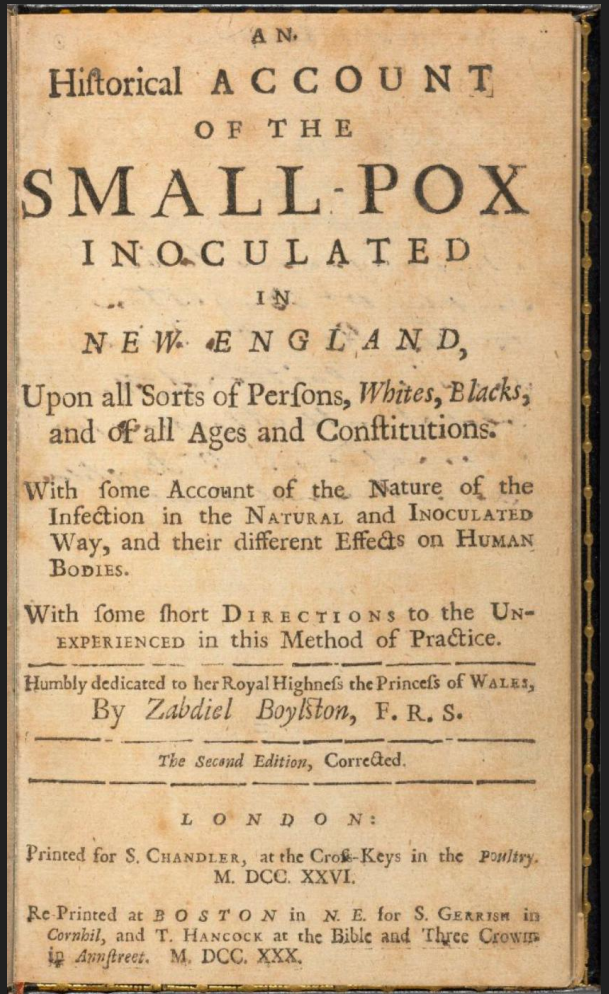


Public Health is "undoubtedly the first duty of humanity and patriotism….Of all the duties which the Representatives of a free people have to perform, none can be more pleasant than that of preserving the lives and health of their fellow citizens." Mass. Governor Christopher Gore, 1810.

Boston's 1721 Smallpox Epidemic



Cotton Mather (Not Pictured: Onesimus, the real hero)



AN
Historical ACCOUNT
OF THE
SMALL-POX
INOCULATED
IN
NEW ENGLAND,
Upon all Sorts of Persons, *Whites*, *Blacks*, and of all Ages and Constitutions.

With some Account of the Nature of the Infection in the NATURAL and INOCULATED Way, and their different Effects on HUMAN BODIES.

With some short DIRECTIONS to the UNEXPERIENCED in this Method of Practice.

Humbly dedicated to her Royal Highness the Princess of WALES,
By *Zabdiel Boylston*, F. R. S.

The Second Edition, Corrected.

LONDON:

Printed for S. CHANDLER, at the Cross-Keys in the *Poultry*. M. DCC. XXVI.

Re-Printed at BOSTON in N. E. for S. GERRISH in *Cornhil*, and T. HANCOCK at the Bible and Three Crowns in *Annstreet*. M. DCC. XXX.

Smallpox in Boston by the Numbers

Natural Smallpox: Cases / Deaths (CFR%)

- 1721: 5759 / 842 (14.6%)
- 1730: 3600 / 500 (13.9%)
- 1752: 5545 / 539 (9.7%)
- 1764: 699 / 124 (17.7 %)
- 1776: 304 / 29 (9.5%)

Inoculations: Number / Deaths (CFR%)

- 1721: 287 / 6 (2.1%)
- 1730: 400 / 12 (3%)
- 1752: 2124 / 30 (1.4%)
- 1764: 4947 / 46 (0.9%)
- 1776: 4988 / 28 (0.6%)

Essex Hospital, Marblehead, Massachusetts: Destroyed January 26, 1774

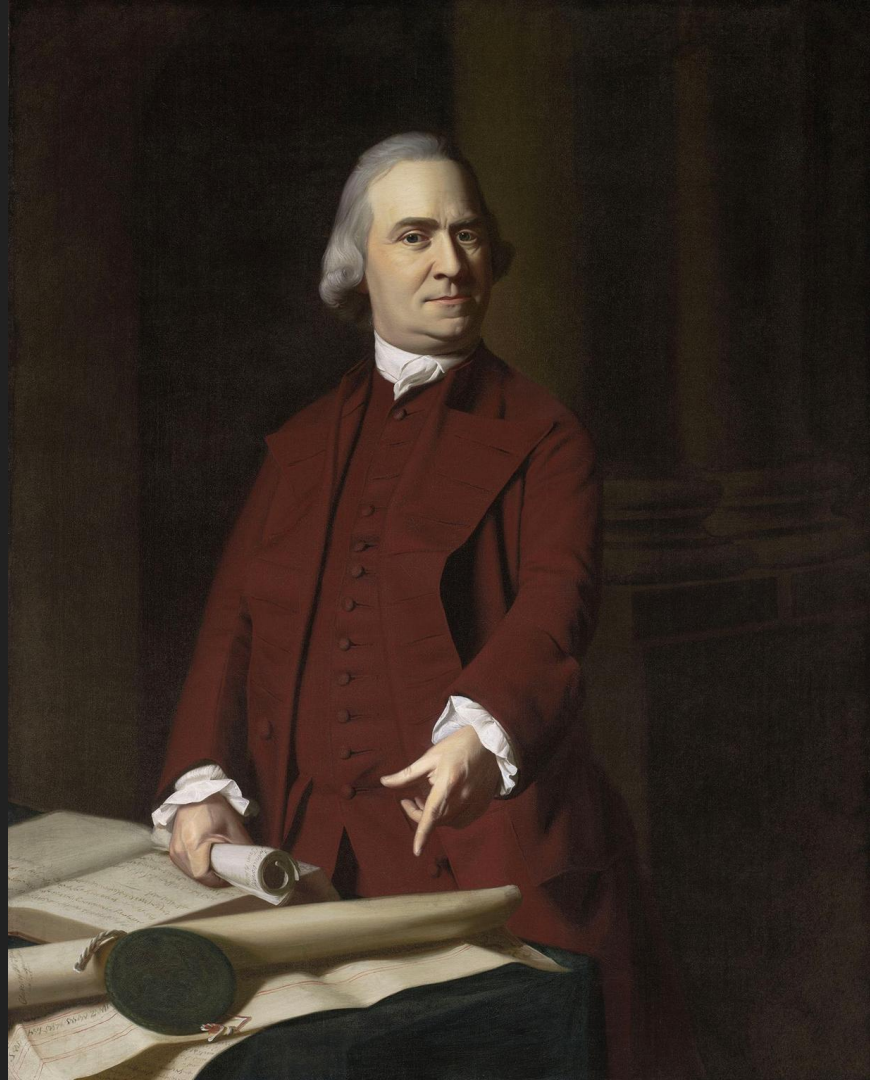


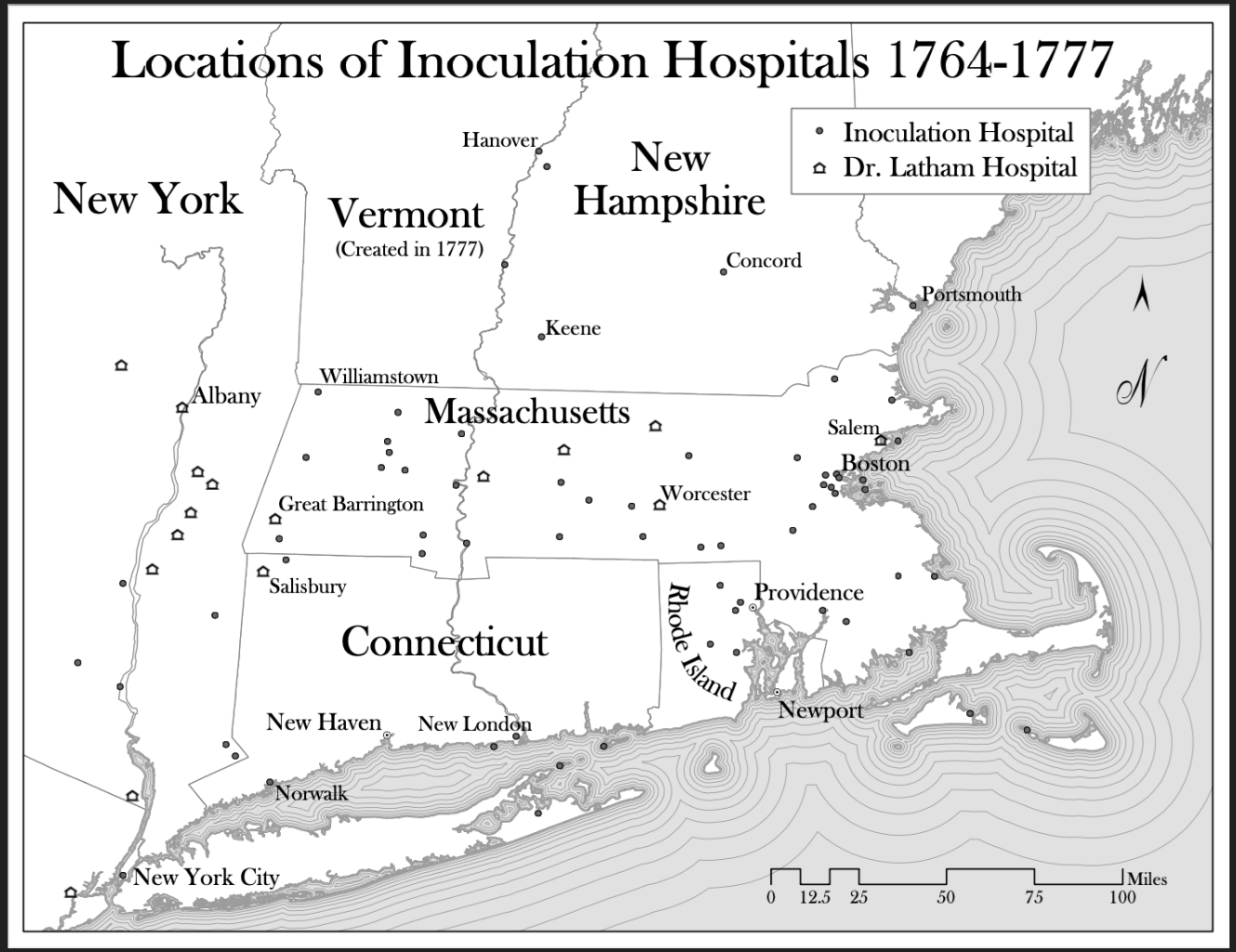
Caption Reads [*sic*]: WSW View of Catt Island, at the Entrance of the harbour of Marblehead ware the Pest House was arected for Enocoalation for Small Pox in the year 1773. The Boat Burnt January 14, 1774

The Aftermath

“The Tumults and riotous destruction,” was caused by “a loss of confidence of the poorer sort, of which the majority of the town is composed….not being able to bear the expence of inoculation.” –Report of the Massachusetts General Assembly, Feb. 18, 1774

The people of Marblehead “deliberately, and I may add rationally [destroyed the hospital] when the men in power had rendered the destruction of that property the only means of securing the property of ALL.”--Samuel Adams letter to Elbridge Gerry

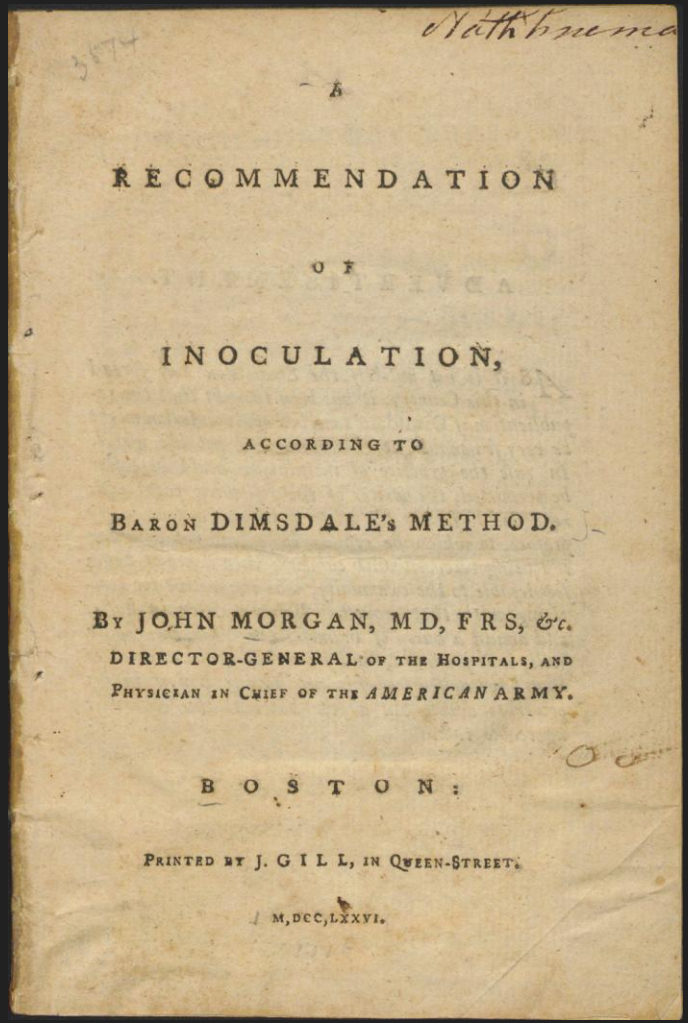



Locations of Inoculation Hospitals 1764-1777
Inoculation Hospital
Dr. Latham Hospital
New York
Vermont
(Created in 1777)
New Hampshire
Hanover
Concord
Portsmouth
Keene
Williamstown
Albany
Massachusetts
Salem
Boston
Worcester
Great Barrington
Salisbury
Providence
Rhode Island
Connecticut
Newport
New Haven
New London
Norwalk
New York City
N
0 12.5 25 50 75 100
Miles

Smallpox was not just a “deadly by-product” of war but rather a common cause.



John Trumbull, *The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec, December 31, 1775*



A

RECOMMENDATION

OF

INOCULATION,

ACCORDING TO

BARON DIMSDALE's METHOD.

BY JOHN MORGAN, MD, FRS, &c.
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE HOSPITALS, AND
PHYSICIAN IN CHIEF OF THE *AMERICAN* ARMY.

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY J. GILL, IN QUEEN-STREET.

M,DCC,LXXVI.

"Next to luxury, ambition, and the pride of kings, this [smallpox] appears to be the severest scourge that ever afflicted the unhappy race of man."

"To forbid [inoculation] when thus circumstanced is a greater violation of the natural rights of mankind...How wise is it, then, in every community, where there is danger of spreading the disease, to provide for the safety of its members, by rendering the practice of inoculation as universal as possible."--Dr. John Morgan, April 1776

General Inoculation in Boston, July 3, 1776



- **“Liberty is given to inoculate for the small-pox;’ many begin upon it this afternoon.”--Ezekiel Price**
- **“Men, women, & children eagerly crowding to inoculate is a I think as modish as running away from the Troops of a barbarous George!”--Hannah Winthrop**
- **“[public inoculation] cannot in any way more essentially serve this Colony and the common cause of America.”--A.B. July 18, 1776**



Rachel Weeping, Charles Willson Peale (1776)

George Washington and the Army



Any soldier caught inoculating “must expect the severest punishment.” Any officer “who shall suffer himself to be inoculated, will be cashiered and turned out of the army, and have his name published in the Newspapers throughout the Continent, as an Enemy and Traitor to his Country.” General Orders, May 26, 1776

Martha Washington's Inoculation



"Mrs. Washington is still here [New York], and talks of taking the Small Pox, but I doubt her resolution." George Washington, April 29, 1776

Martha sought inoculation on arriving in Philadelphia, May 18, 1776.

"Mrs. Washington is now under Innoculation in this City, and will, I expect, have the Small pox favorably–this is the 13th day, and she has very few Pustules."--George Washington, May 31

Washington's Decision

Jan. 28, 1777, Inoculation "can never be safely done. We should Check, not spread the infection."

Feb. 5: Wrote letters to John Hancock and General Gates opposing inoculation.

Feb. 6: Altered the letters to support it: "No [other] precaution can prevent it from running through our whole Army, I have determined the Troops shall be inoculated."



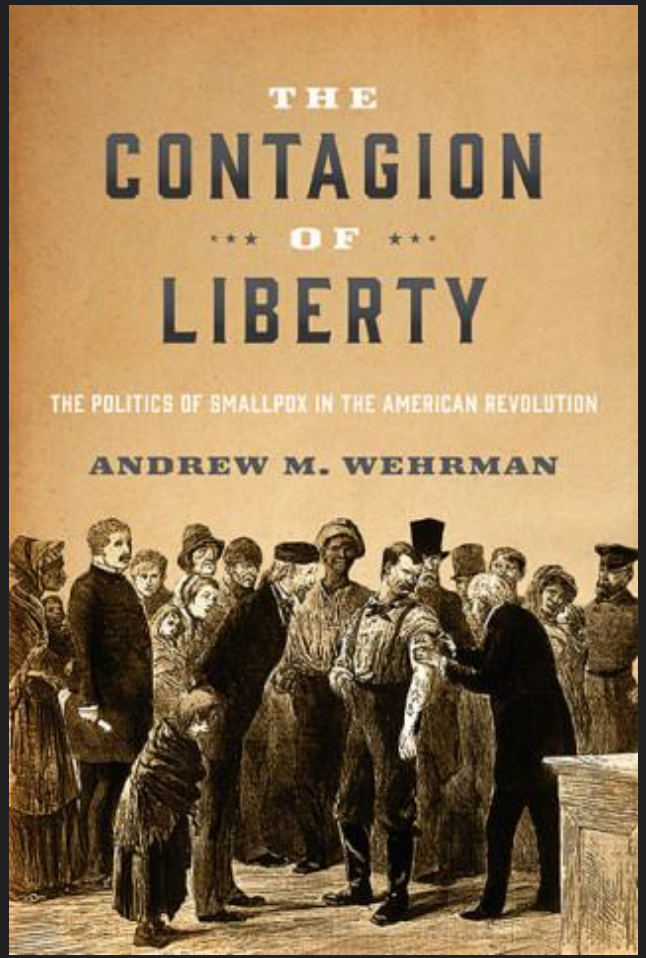
The Decision: Morristown, New Jersey, February 6, 1777



“I shudder when ever I reflect upon the difficulties of keeping it [smallpox] out.”

“If I was a Member of that [Virginia] Assembly I would rather move for a Law to compel the Masters of Families to inoculate every Child born within a certain limited time under severe Penalties.”--George Washington, June 1, 1777.





“Shall we wait for another return of the deadly foe, or by the right improvement of a most merciful dispensation, testify a grateful sense thereof by securing ourselves and our country forever!”--The people of Milton, Massachusetts, calling for public vaccination efforts in 1810.

Dr. Andrew M. Wehrman
Professor of History,
Central Michigan University

www.andrewwehrman.com
@profwehrman.bsky.social