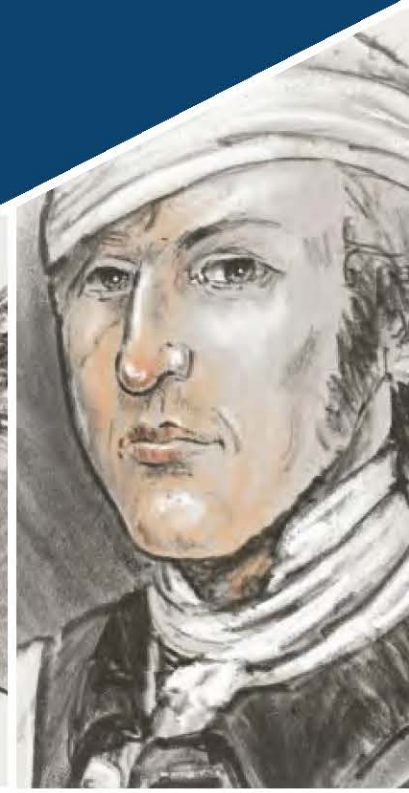
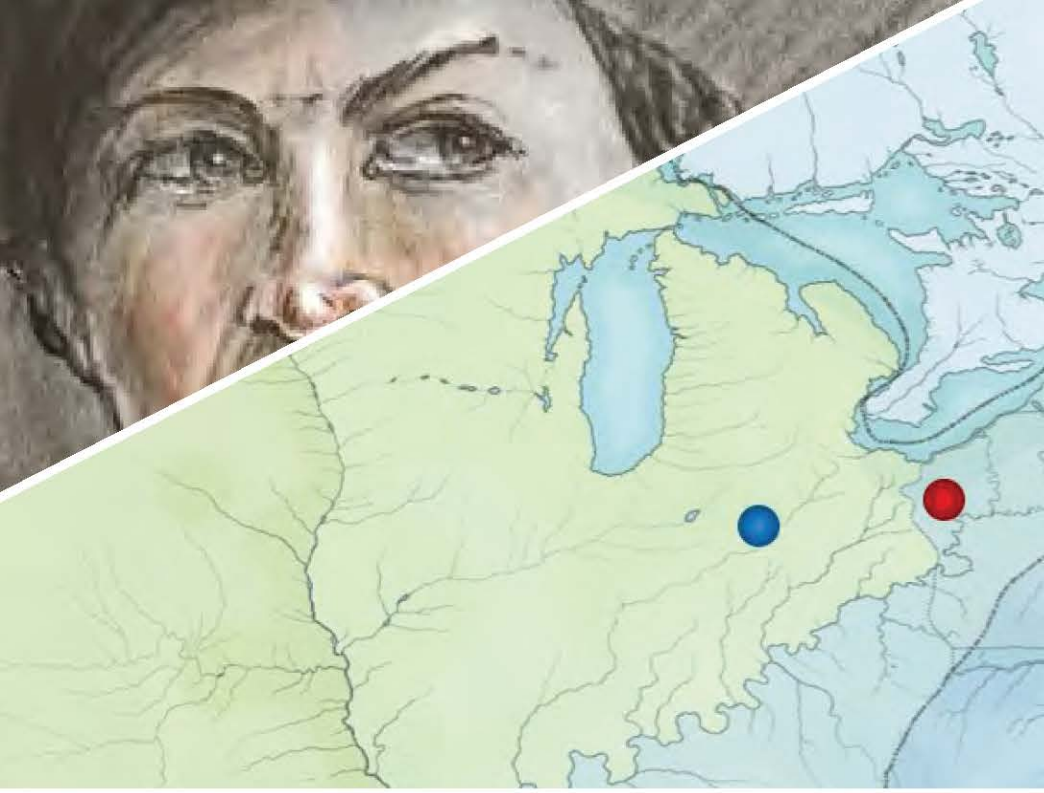


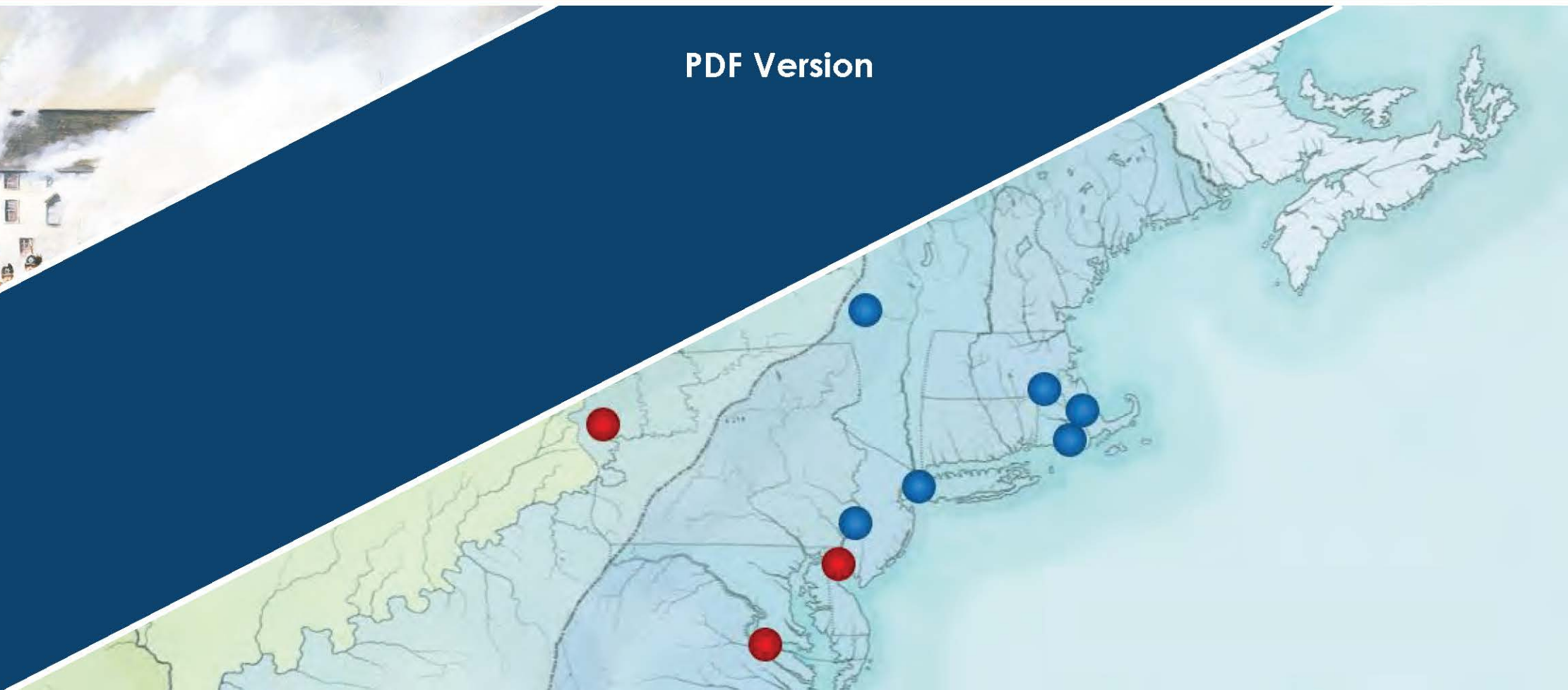


AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★

The American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibition



PDF Version

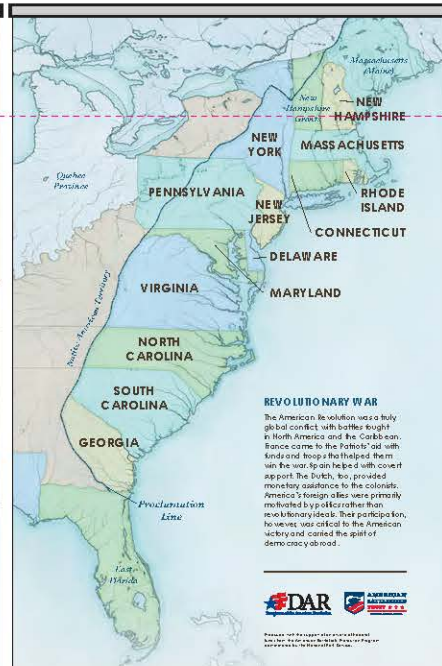


78'

The Revolutionary War (1775–1783) shaped “the course of human events.” With 165 principal engagements, the conflict secured American independence and spread the ideals of liberty around the world. Explore the lives of ordinary people — patriots fighting for independence and Loyalists defending the King — who contributed to this pivotal time in American history.

Years before guns were fired at Lexington and Concord in 1775, unrest was growing in the 13 colonies. Great Britain had successfully defended its North American colonies from french expansion in the french and indian War (1754-1762). That struggle proved very costly to the british government. Parliament wanted the colonies to help pay the debt incurred on their behalf. They enacted a series of taxes — on everything from paper to tea — to raise revenue. Americans were outraged but they had no voice in Parliament. Tensions increased when they protested taxation without representation. Ideas about independence and self-governance began to spread among the population. To some, those goals seemed worth fighting for.

Scan here to learn
more about the people
and places highlighted
in this exhibit!



When war came to the 13 colonies, people had a difficult choice: stay loyal to the King or fight for independence. The colonies were British subjects and breaking with their country seemed inconceivable to some, but painful to others. Decisions were very personal and were complicated by family, friendships, financial circumstances, and race. Some colonists remained committed to their ideals while others sought revenge and self-interest. Several changed side as the war raged on. As British and Continental troops clashed in battle, Loyalists and Patriots experienced doubt and fears about the future. Both sides held their own beliefs and values. What would you choose?

remained committed to their ideals while others acted out of revenge and self-interest. Several changed sides as the war raged on. As British and Continental troops clashed in battle, Loyalists and Patriots experienced doubt and fears about the future, both points held in uncertainty. With so much at stake, which side would you choose?

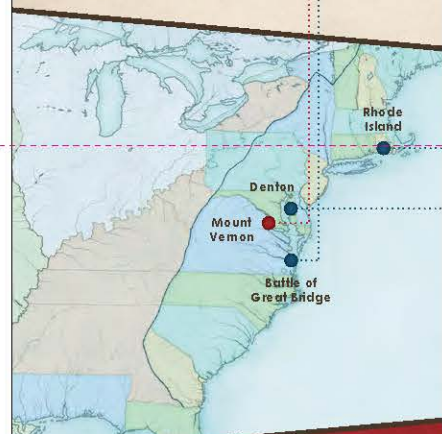
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James, then employed on the island of Guernsey in 1776, while he became a poet and historian. Despite the fact that he remained loyal to his crown in August 1792, he was invited to participate in the French revolution. He returned to his native island of Guernsey and then to England, where he was forced to flee to French territory. He then published a series of letters to the French and English, and also a collection of his poems. He was then invited to participate in the French revolution. He returned to his native island of Guernsey and then to England, where he was forced to flee to French territory. He then published a series of letters to the French and English, and also a collection of his poems.



The Declaration of Independence did not extend "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" to African Americans, yet Black people in the colonies were encouraged by the language of that document. Which side — loyalist or Patriot — would guarantee their liberty? Early in the war, Britain promised freedom to enslaved workers owned by Patriots, prompting thousands of them to join loyalist forces. The Continental Army approved the enlistment of 6,000 free and enslaved Black soldiers later in the conflict. Many promises were made to Black individuals who risked their lives serving Britain and the United States in the American Revolution but in the end, few were kept.

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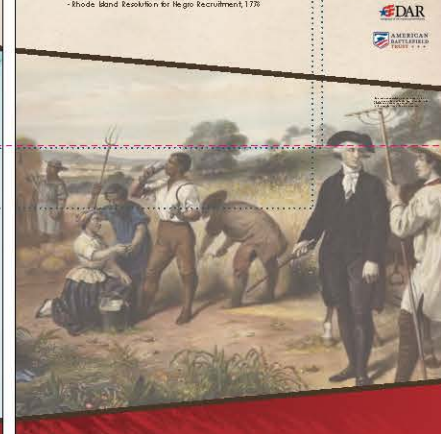
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rough production to make an added address in the Commercial Army. General Frasier on a lance in 1777 after coming to battle during the war. The last soldiers who joined the for their last together commanded by New England naval Christopher Greene was a general freedom in exchange for his services and was another in 1777. The first of the war on the morning of May 17/78. Greene's engagement at Brandywine, New York, was created by a royal unit. Greene was killed and his body was mutilated. Some reports suggested that the severity was punishment for leadership on a military unit. A few months later, Greene's third largest formation would sail at Yorktown and we miss the South Army surrender without the

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"That every slave so intisting shall upon his passing muster before Col. Christopher Greene, be immediately discharged from the service of his master or mistress, and be absolutely free, as though he had never been incumber'd with any kind of servitude or slavery."

- Rhode Island Resolution for Negro Recruitment, 1730



Theme 2b

27'

- description of Nan Yerry, Battle of Oriskany
Pennsylvania Journal, September 2, 1777

...of hard and a long-term use of Clear
...Clear allowed suppliers to be shipped up

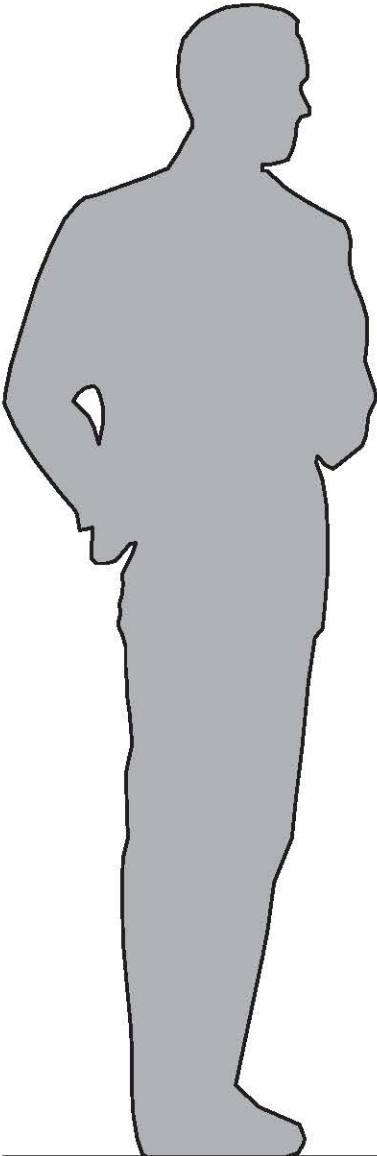
- Bernardo de Gálvez to George Morgan the commander at Pittsburgh's Fort Pitt April 1777

involved. He received an officer's commission in the Belarusian formation in January 1975, and

When you walk the grounds on which historical events occurred, you gain a greater understanding of the past and its impact on our lives today. Help protect these precious sites. Become part of the effort to preserve American history by learning more about the work of the American Battlefield Trust.

Theme 5b

Introduction



The AMERICAN REVOLUTION Experience

THE LIVES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE IN EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

The Revolutionary War (1775-1783) shaped "the course of human events." With 165 principal engagements, the conflict secured American independence and spread the ideals of liberty around the world. Explore the lives of ordinary people — Patriots fighting for independence and Loyalists defending the King — who contributed to this pivotal time in American history.

THE ROOTS OF REBELLION

Years before guns were fired at Lexington and Concord in 1775, unrest was growing in the 13 colonies. Great Britain had successfully defended its North American colonies from French expansion in the French and Indian War (1754-1763). That struggle proved very costly to the British government. Parliament wanted the colonists to help pay the debts incurred on their behalf. They enacted a series of taxes — an everything from paper to tea — to raise revenue. Americans were outraged but they had no voice in Parliament. Tensions increased when they protested taxation without representation. Ideas about independence and self-governance began to spread among the population. To some, those goals seemed worth fighting for.

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REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The American Revolution was a truly global conflict, with battles fought in North America and the Caribbean. France came to the Patriots' aid with funds and troops that helped them win the war. Spain helped with covert support. The Dutch, too, provided monetary assistance to the colonists. America's foreign allies were primarily motivated by politics rather than revolutionary ideals. Their participation, however, was critical to the American victory and carried the spirit of democracy abroad.

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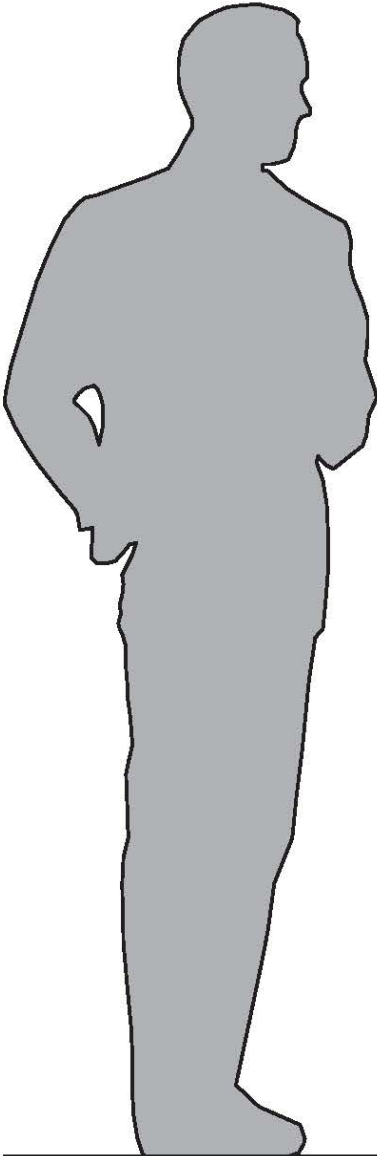
78"

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Introduction a

Introduction b

Theme 1:
Choosing Sides



Choosing Sides

When war came to the 13 colonies, people had a difficult choice: stay loyal to the King or fight for independence. The colonists were British subjects and backing with their country seemed inconceivable to some, but essential to others. Decisions were very personal and were complicated by family, friendships, financial circumstances, and race. Some colonists remained committed to their ideals while others acted out of revenge and self-interest. Several changed sides as the war raged on. As British and Continental troops clashed in battle, Loyalists and Patriots experienced doubts and fears about the future. Both paths held risk and uncertainty. With so much at stake, which side would you choose?

PEGGY SHIPPEN ARNOLD
A Loyalist would lie and spy

Born to a wealthy Philadelphia family, Peggy Shippen was intelligent and educated. Her father remained neutral when war broke out, but Peggy developed a loyal feeling after establishing a close friendship with British officer Major John Arnold during the British occupation of Philadelphia. Later, when the Americans gained control of the city, Peggy became captivated with Continental Army general Benedict Arnold. The unlikely political partnership in 1777 soon after, Benedict's allegiance shifted. He offered his services to the British in a secret code that was a key to the city. Peggy, who still loved her father, was the perfect go-between. The British now could manage to escape capture by the Patriots, but Arnold was caught and hanged.

THOMAS BROWN
An unsympathizing Loyalist

Thomas Brown, emigrated from England to Georgia in 1774, where he became a planter and magistrate. During the Revolution he remained loyal to his roots. In August 1778, he was tortured for his refusal to join the Patriot cause. Undaunted, Brown called to volunteer Georgia and South Carolina militia was forced to flee to British East Florida. There, he was killed. Overseas, veterans to fight for the British and waged several campaigns in the South. Brown led a Loyalist company called the King's Rangers during the 1778 invasion of Georgia. The 1779 Siege of Savannah, and Loyalist occupations of Augusta in 1779 and 1781. He was later added to the British Garrison.

LUCY RUCKER KNOX
A Patriot who followed her heart

Lucy Rucker's father, a wealthy merchant, family expected her to marry a man of their social standing and loyal to the King. But her heart was set on Henry Knox, a British soldier who had fought in 1777 and the two fell in love. The Ruckers disapproved of Henry, who was from a lower class, and they disowned their daughter when she was married. After war erupted, Henry enlisted with the Continental Army, and Lucy, defying her parents again, pledged her support to the fight for independence. Lucy occasionally joined her husband and military camps like he did in Valley Forge in May of 1778 where she befriended Martha Washington. After the Revolution, Henry served as President Washington's secretary of War.

THAYENDANEAGA (JOSEPH BRANT)
A Mohawk warrior and Loyalist

Mohawk leader Thayendaneaga, also known as Joseph Brant, fought for his people. War between Britain and the colonies threatened the ancestral lands of his and other Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) tribes. When King George III promised to safeguard their territory in upstate New York, in exchange for Thayendaneaga's support in the war, the Mohawk warrior chose to side with the British. He formed a Loyalist fighting force, called Brant's Volunteers, which conducted raids on the New York and Pennsylvania borders. With the Patriot victory in the Revolution, Brant broke his promise to Thayendaneaga. All British-held territory south of Canada and east of the Mississippi was ceded to the United States, including the lands traditionally held by the Mohawk and other Haudenosaunee nations.

"You have now pointed out to you, Gentlemen, two Roads — one evidently leading to Peace, Happiness, and Restoration of the publick Tranquility — the other inevitably conducting you to Anarchy, Misery, and all the Horrors of a Civil War."

Governor William Franklin, son of Patriot statesman Benjamin Franklin, urging the New Jersey General Assembly in 1775 to remain loyal to the King

Theme 1a

Theme 1b

A gray silhouette of a man standing with his hands on his hips, facing right. The silhouette is used as a placeholder for a photograph of the participant.

The Declaration of Independence did not extend "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" to African Americans, yet Black people in the colonies were enraptured by the language of that document. Which side — Loyalist or Patriot — would guarantee their liberty? Early in the war, Britain promised freedom to enslaved workers owned by Patriots, prompting thousands of runaways to join Loyalist forces. The Continental Army approved the enlistment of both free and enslaved Black soldiers later in the conflict. Many promises were made to Black individuals who asked their lives saving Britain and the United States in the American Revolution but in the end, few were kept.

WILLIAM FLORA
A free Black man fighting for independence

After the British governor of Virginia threatened violence against citizens who refused to swear allegiance to King William III, a free Black man from Norfolk, made his way to the Pamlico River to fight with the 2nd Virginia Regiment of the Battle of Great Bridge near Norfolk, on September 1, 1775. He was a soldier on the common bridge when British troops started advancing. Ross and his troops fled to the enemy, leaving their guns behind. The 2nd Virginia Regiment helped attack the British in the Pamlico River, but William Flora was killed for his heroic actions. He is buried in Yorktown and was eventually reinterred in a final resting place.



Hero of the Battle of Great Bridge

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Though reluctant to enlist enslaved soldiers in the Continental Army, General Washington enlisted in 1777 after casualties badly depleted his ranks. The Black soldiers who joined the 1st Rhode Island Regiment were granted freedom in exchange for their service and their enslavers received compensation. Early on the morning of May 14, 1781, Greene's encampment at Pines Bridge, New York, was attacked by a Loyalist unit. Greene was killed and his body was mutilated. Some reports suggested that the savagery was punishment for leading an integrated unit. A few months later, Greene's Rhode Island Regiment would serve at Yorktown, and witness the British Army's surrender without him.

THOMAS CARNEY
After Black men and white Patriots, fighting

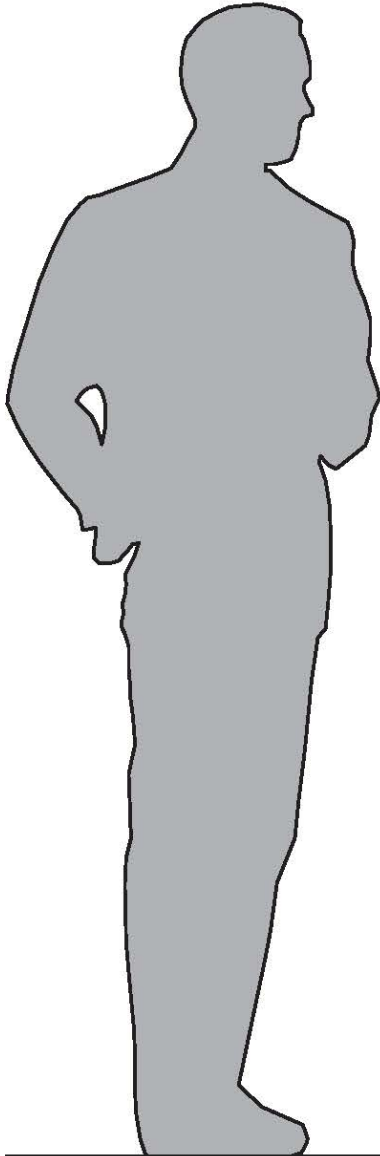
Thomas Carney, a free Black man from Maryland's Eastern Shore, served for the Patriots in the Maryland Continental Brigade during the Revolution. He was unusually tall for the time—over six feet—and known as a fearless fighter. He fought with the British and Germans in Pennsylvania, and across the South. When the Patriots became the loyalist outcast at Hinson's Hill in South Carolina in 1781, Carney saved the life of this commanding officer, Captain Peter Bensen. He was captured by the British and sent to a prison camp. He was critically wounded but refused to be hospitalized to a surgeon's tent. Carney returned to Maryland after his discharge in 1782 and Bensen served with Carney's army's permanent application. Carney used his 100-acre land grant to start a farm.

"That every slave so inlisting shall, upon his passing muster before Col. Christopher Greene, be immediately discharged from the service of his master or mistress, and be absolutely free, as though he had never been in chamber'd with any kind of servitude or slavery."

- Rhode Island Resolution for Negro Recruitment, 1778



Theme 3:
On the Front Lines



On the Front Lines

An army needs officers, but ordinary soldiers and citizens help win wars. The Continental Army was formed at the outbreak of the American Revolution. Local militia members assisted the military forces and protected the home front from British invasion. Some Native American warriors formed units to support the army, as well. Wives and children of soldiers often accompanied men to war and traveled with the troops. They endured dangerous conditions while caring for the wounded, washing laundry, and cooking. Even young Patriots who were not yet old enough to enlist as regular soldiers served as drummer boys, providing essential communication on the front lines through the din of battle.

SARAH OSBORN BENJAMIN

A wife on the Patriot front

In 1777, Sarah married Aaron Osborn and accompanied him to war. In camp, she cooked and washed clothing for Aaron and his fellow soldiers. One cold night while a firing line, New York, Sarah joined Aaron while he was on sentry duty. She wore her husband's overcoat and carried his gun. When General George Washington asked who placed her on the post, she boldly answered, "Them who had a right to it." Sarah marched south with the troops and witnessed the British surrender at Yorktown. After the war, Aaron abandoned Sarah and their children. She remarried and her son, William John Benjamin, recalled his mother's endurance for each husband, and lived to be more than 100 years old.

STEPHEN TANTER

A young Patriot armed with a drum

Stephen Tanter was barely 14 years old when he joined the 1st Massachusetts militia unit in 1776. The beat of his drum kept soldiers in sync as they marched and told soldiers when to fire, go for food, and end the day's work. During battles, his drumbeat conveyed battle orders through the noise and confusion of combat. Stephen spent the winter of 1776-1777 with the Continental Army at Morristown, New Jersey, and was with Patriot General Nathaniel Greene's army when Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga on October 17, 1777. He spent eight years with the militia before his 24th birthday. After the war, he had a 30-year career as a physician.

HAN YERRY TEWAHANGARAHKEN

An Onondaga warrior battling for the Patriots

Han Yerry Tewahangarahken was born around 1724 in the Mohawk Valley, upstate New York, to an Onondaga mother and German father. His encroachment on Oneida land drew Han Yerry to the Patriot side in the American Revolution. When a Loyalist army invaded Oneida territory and laid siege to American Fort Schuyler (Blenheim), Han Yerry and his army took up arms against them. They fought valiantly with Patriot militia at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777. Han Yerry and other Onondaga warriors also joined at Valley Forge in 1778 and he may have fought at the Battle of Red Bank under the direction of the Marquis de Lafayette. The Patriot warrior continued to represent Onondaga interests after the war.

RICHARD LUSHINGTON

A Quaker who went to war for the Patriots

Son to Quaker immigrant parents, Richard Lushington agreed to wear acceptance among Charleston's elite. He became a merchant and married into a prominent Charleston family. Despite the Quaker commitment to nonviolence, he embraced the Patriot cause during the American Revolution. Because of his residential district, he was appointed captain of a militia unit made up mostly of Jewish soldiers. Known as The Jew Company or The Company of Free Citizens, they fought on the front lines in the Battle of Fort Mifflin in February 1777. They also witnessed the British victory in Charleston in 1780, where Lushington was among Patriot officers captured and sent to British-occupied St. Augustine, Florida. He was released in a prisoner exchange in July 1781.

"The Indian killed nine of the enemy, when having received a ball through his wrist that disabled him from using his gun, he then fought with his tomahawk."

—Description of Han Yerry, Battle of Oriskany, Pennsylvania Journal, September 3, 1777

DAR

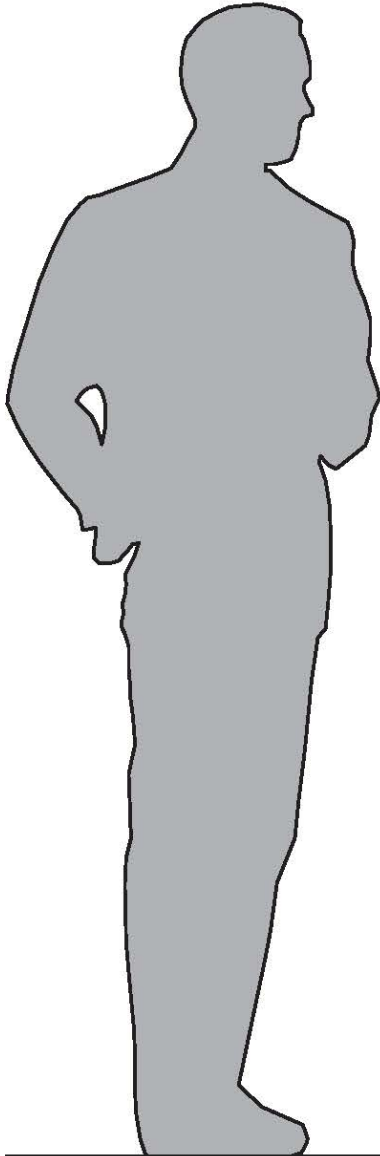
AMERICAN

ANTHROPOLOGY

Theme 3a

Theme 3b

Theme 4:
Help From Abroad



Help From Abroad

The Revolution provided several foreign powers with an opportunity to humiliate a global adversary—Great Britain. France teamed with Britain in earlier wars and wished to see their foe defeated. They sent weapons, equipment, and troops to support the Patriots. Similarly, the Spanish and Dutch aided the Americans to loosen Britain's dominance in world politics.

The war gave some foreign soldiers a chance to earn greater pay and advance their military careers through service to the Patriots. To boost their status and power at home, Britain also used foreign fighters. They paid approximately 30,000 German troops, called Hessians, to join their cause.

FRANÇOIS JOSEPH PAUL DE GRASSE
A heroic French naval commander

François Joseph Paul de Grasse was a naval hero in the French Navy during the American Revolution. In 1781, he was commanding the French fleet in the West Indies when orders arrived to sail to North America, where his mission was to support the American and French armies attempting to trap British Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. On September 5, 1781, de Grasse's ships engaged and defeated a Royal Navy fleet in the Battle of the Capes. With the French in control of the Chesapeake Bay, the British could not resupply. Realizing defeat, the British evacuated their army for transport to Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown, which marked Britain's defeat in the war.

BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ
An unlikely Patriot ally

Bernardo de Gálvez chose to support the Patriots for political purposes rather than personal beliefs. The young governor of the Spanish colony in North America at the time of the Revolutionary War, Spain was often an ally of France and a long-time foe of Great Britain. Gálvez also used supplies to be shipped up the Mississippi River to British forces in the North, and when Spain officially entered the war in 1779, Gálvez raised an army and attacked British bases in Baton Rouge and Natchez. Gálvez also fought the British at Pensacola and Mobile, weakening British hold on the American South.

Saratoga

Battle of Monmouth

Battle of the Capes

New Orleans

Theme 4a

MICHEL-CAPITAINE DU CHESNOY
A revolutionary in the Patriots

French army lieutenant and engineer Michel Capitaine du Chesnoy traveled to America with the Marquis de Lafayette's entourage in spring 1777 to serve the Patriot cause. He not only knew the value of Lafayette's position for the ideals of liberty or simply seized the opportunity to advance his military career. Chesnoy was appointed a captain in the Continental Corps of Engineers and became an aide-de-camp and mapmaker to Lafayette. Maps were critical tools in wartime, especially for French officers fighting on foreign terrain. Chesnoy's talent for France in the Revolution and his service in America earned him a promotion to the rank of captain in the French army and an assignment to the King's Dragoon.

FREDERIC A. CHARLOTTE
A German wife in the British army

Many women traveled to camp with their husbands during the American Revolution, but Fredericka Charlotte von Riedel made a transatlantic voyage to get there. She and her three young children followed Baron von Riedel to North America during his service with German troops supporting the British Army. After a difficult ocean crossing, the family participated in British General John Burgoyne's expedition to New York. In fall 1777, they learned that they had during the bloody Battle of Red Bank and were detained as prisoners at the British's Hummel's Fort. The British evacuated the Germans in 1780. After her husband's death in 1780, Charlotte lived in Berlin and wrote her memoirs of the American Revolution.

"I will extend...whatever assistance I can, but it must appear that I am ignorant of it all."

Bernardo de Gálvez to George Morgan, the commander at Pittsburgh's Fort Pitt, April 1777

Saratoga

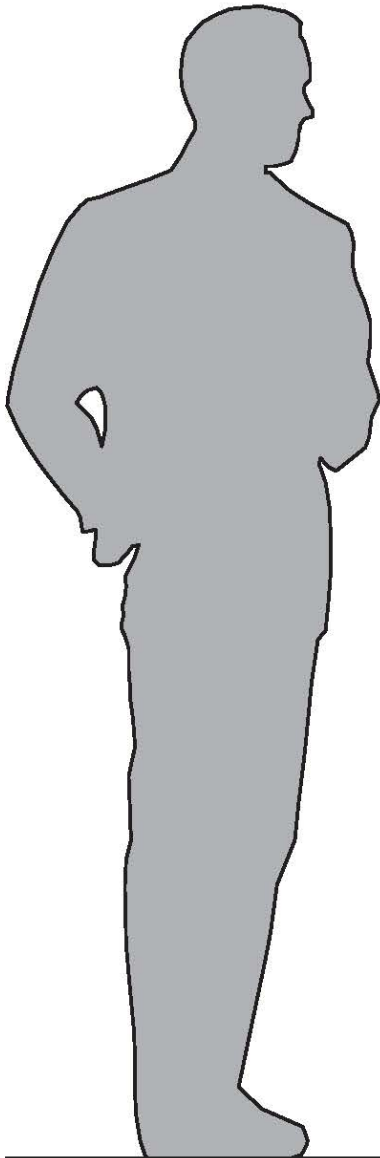
Battle of Monmouth

Battle of the Capes

New Orleans

Theme 4b

Theme 5:
Post-War Lives
and Legacies



Post-War Lives and Legacies

With independence came change and instability. The 13 colonies became 13 sovereign states with no federal government to unify them until the Constitution was ratified in 1788. After returning from war, some wounded or away for years, often found their farms and homes gone. Loyalists were joined by warring Americans and occasionally

settled. The Continental Congress had promised pensions to those who served in battle, but veterans struggled to secure compensation for their military service. Some who sacrificed for the new nation are only now — finally — being rediscovered and recognized.

BUTTON GWINNETT
An Englishman who signed the Declaration of Independence

A native of England, Gwinnett moved to Savannah, Georgia, in 1733 to become a merchant but ended up in politics. As tensions escalated with Britain, he became increasingly radical. In 1774, Gwinnett represented Georgia at the Second Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. One of the 56 delegates who signed, Gwinnett was one of only eight born in Britain. During the war, he developed a bitter rivalry with another British-born Patriot, General George Clinton. Gwinnett publicly denounced Clinton, Clinton challenged him to a duel. Both men were wounded in the confrontation on May 14, 1775, but Gwinnett died days later and never saw independence won.

ROBERT KIRKWOOD
A Patriot veteran of more than 30 battles

A native of Rhode Island, Robert Kirkwood was drafted to the military until he was 16 years old. He received an officer's commission in the Rhode Island Regiment in January 1776, and was soon promoted to captain. Kirkwood began recording army life in his journal. He saw action in New York and Pennsylvania, closely observed the Continental Army's winter quarters at Valley Forge, and participated in southern battles from Camden to Bunker's Landing. After the war, he moved to the North Carolina frontier and joined the Second Kentucky Regiment, raised to address the war in the region. On the morning of November 4, 1776, a coalition of British and American forces attacked the U.S. Army in the Battle of the Wabash, or H. Clay's Defeat, killing the Patriot Revolutionary War Patriot.

WINSTORY
A free Black man and long forgotten Patriot soldier

In 1775, Rhode Islander Thomas Fry bequeathed his Negro man named Winslow Fry to his son. Two years later, Winslow managed to escape his bondage and join the Patriot army as a private. Fry survived many of the war's pivotal engagements and a related winter with the Continental Army at Valley Forge. In 1777, he stood a court-martial in March of 1778 for stealing from the commissary's store and the libelous sentenced him to be executed. General George Washington intervened on his behalf and saved his life, but Fry's luck ran out after the war. He died in 1812, almost forgotten, until new research enabled his descendants to gather at a Rhode Island cemetery in 2019 to dedicate a monument to his memory.

HENRY DEARBORN
A Patriot officer who thwarted the Revolution

In April 1775, Henry Dearborn's New Hampshire militia unit marched to join the Patriot forces besieging Boston and participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Months later, he joined with Patriot Colonel Benedict Arnold on the Continental Army's expedition to Canada and was captured during the Battle of Quebec. Upon his release as a prisoner of war, in March 1776, he was promoted to major. Dearborn's journal documents his time at Fort Mifflin, the winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge, and the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781. After the Revolution, he was appointed Secretary of War under President Thomas Jefferson and Major General in the War of 1812, where he challenged the British once again.

LIVES CHANGED FOREVER

The ideals of liberty that fueled the fight for independence had a great impact on American attitudes, yet free and enslaved Blacks who served in the war saw little or no difference in their circumstances. Women's support at home and on the battlefield: failed to earn them education, equality, or voting rights. Native Americans, those who fought for the British and those who fought for liberty, were forced from their territory. Still, the American Revolution ultimately gave hope and a voice to these groups and many others seeking freedom around the world.

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Battle of the Wabash

New Hampshire

Rhode Island

Savannah

Theme 5a

Post-War Lives and Legacies

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In April 1775, Henry Dearborn's New Hampshire militia unit marched to join the Patriot forces besieging Boston and participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Months later, he joined with Patriot Colonel Benedict Arnold on the Continental Army's expedition to Canada and was captured during the Battle of Quebec. Upon his release as a prisoner of war, in March 1776, he was promoted to major. Dearborn's journal documents his time at Fort Mifflin, the winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge, and the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781. After the Revolution, he was appointed Secretary of War under President Thomas Jefferson and Major General in the War of 1812, where he challenged the British once again.

LIVES CHANGED FOREVER

The ideals of liberty that fueled the fight for independence had a great impact on American attitudes, yet free and enslaved Blacks who served in the war saw little or no difference in their circumstances. Women's support at home and on the battlefield: failed to earn them education, equality, or voting rights. Native Americans, those who fought for the British and those who fought for liberty, were forced from their territory. Still, the American Revolution ultimately gave hope and a voice to these groups and many others seeking freedom around the world.

When you walk the grounds on which historical events occurred, you gain a greater understanding of the past and its impact on our lives today. Help protect these precious sites. Become part of the effort to preserve American history by learning more about the work of the American Battlefield Trust.

Battle of the Wabash

New Hampshire

Rhode Island

Savannah

Theme 5b