

From Royalty to Independence

Chapter Preview

Georgia character word: Liberty

Terms: apprentice, Puritans, proprietary colony, royal colony, parish, French and Indian War, palisades, cracker, independence, Tories, Patriots, boycott, Proclamation of 1763, Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Liberty Boys, Townshend Acts, Quartering Act, Second Continental Congress, Declaration of Independence, ratify, Articles of Confederation, siege, Treaty of Paris (1783)

People: John Reynolds, George Washington, Henry Ellis, James Wright, Noble Wimberly Jones, Lyman Hall, George Walton, Button Gwinnett, Thomas Paine, John Treutlen, Elijah Clarke, Austin Dabney

Places: Midway, Sunbury, Ohio Valley, Lexington, Concord, Kettle Creek, Yorktown

Section 1 The Colonial Period

Section 2 Georgia Becomes a Royal Colony

Section 3 The Call for Independence

Section 4 The Revolutionary War Period



The period after Georgia returned its charter and became a British royal colony until the end of the American Revolution was a time of unrest and turmoil in Georgia and in the other colonies. As you read more, it is important to remember that in 1763, when the trouble really started, Georgia was only 30 years old. Virginia and Massachusetts and other colonies had been colonies for 100 to 150 years. That is quite a difference in both experience and outlook.

Below: This painting by John Trumbull is of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in what is now Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The painting includes portraits of 42 of the 56 signers and 5 other patriots. It can be seen in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Building.



Signs of the Times

1752-1783

Population: About 10,000 by 1759 in Georgia, including approximately 3,600 slaves

Life Expectancy: 37, if a child lived past 5

Wages: Plantation owners could make over 1,000 pounds a year. A skilled craftsman might earn about 85 pounds a year. The average laborer made 30 pounds; a journeyman (a skilled artisan who worked in various shops) made 40 to 45 pounds. The annual pay for a ship's boy was 2 pounds, 10 shillings. In the South, workers might be paid in farm goods, particularly tobacco.

Cost of Living: A supper of bread, cheese, and beer cost around 3 pence (pennies). If meat was added, it was just under a shilling (12 pennies). A day's worth of coal cost 1 pence. A yard of good cloth cost about 12 shillings. Knit stockings were 2 shillings. In the South, a good flintlock musket cost less than 1 pound. For 16 shillings, one could buy a new saddle, a dictionary, a table or a chair, or a nice winter coat. For 200 pounds, one could purchase or build a nice home.

Art/Architecture: Important American painters of the period were Benjamin West, John Singleton Copley, and Charles Wilson Peale. Homes became more ornate. The kitchen was often in a separate building, as was the "necessary house." Farmhouses had 3-4 small bedrooms downstairs, a combined family room-kitchen, and two small bedrooms upstairs or up the ladder to a loft area.

Literature: Books that were popular for adults to read to their children included *Robinson Crusoe*, *Gulliver's Travels*, and *Aesop's Fables*. Phillis Wheatley, a gifted black poet from Boston, had a book of her poems published in 1773.

Music: Revolutionary War favorites included "Johnny Had Gone for a Soldier," "The Foggy, Foggy Dew," "All the Pretty Little Horses," "The Rebels," and "God Save the King." British soldiers sang "The Yankeys Return from Camp" to make fun of the colonists. Today it is known as "Yankee Doodle."

Leisure Time: Horse racing was popular throughout the colonies. Popular games in cities included tennis, badminton, whist (a card game), cricket, and backgammon, checks (checkers), dominoes, jacks, marbles, spinning tops. Young people enjoyed fishing, kite flying, hopscotch, berry picking, tag, and blind man's bluff.

Fashion: Wealthy colonial women adopted the fashion of the “Tower.” Hair was piled over crinoline pads until there were lots of curls. It was greased, powdered white, and decked with jewels, ribbons, vegetables, fruits, flowers, or lace. It literally took hours to complete the hair style, but it might last for 3 weeks.

Education: King’s College (Columbia University) was founded in New York City in 1754. Harvard Medical School opened in 1782.

Science/Inventions: Benjamin Franklin performed his now-famous kite experiment in 1752. Franklin also designed Philadelphia’s first street lights and invented bifocal glasses. In 1753, black inventor Benjamin Banneker built a wooden clock that kept time for fifty years. John Hobday invented a threshing machine in 1772 and was awarded a gold medal by the “Virginia Society for the Promotion of Usefull Knowledge.”

Fads: “Bosom bottles” were worn for the first time in 1765. These small ribbon-decorated glasses became the first live “corsages.”

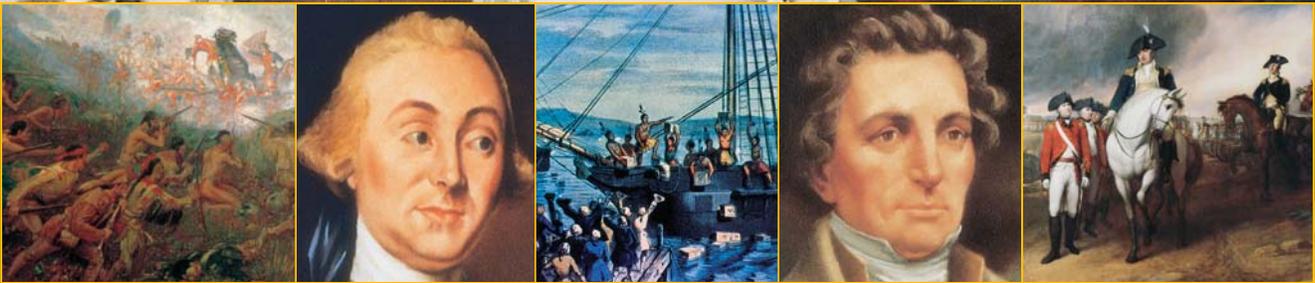
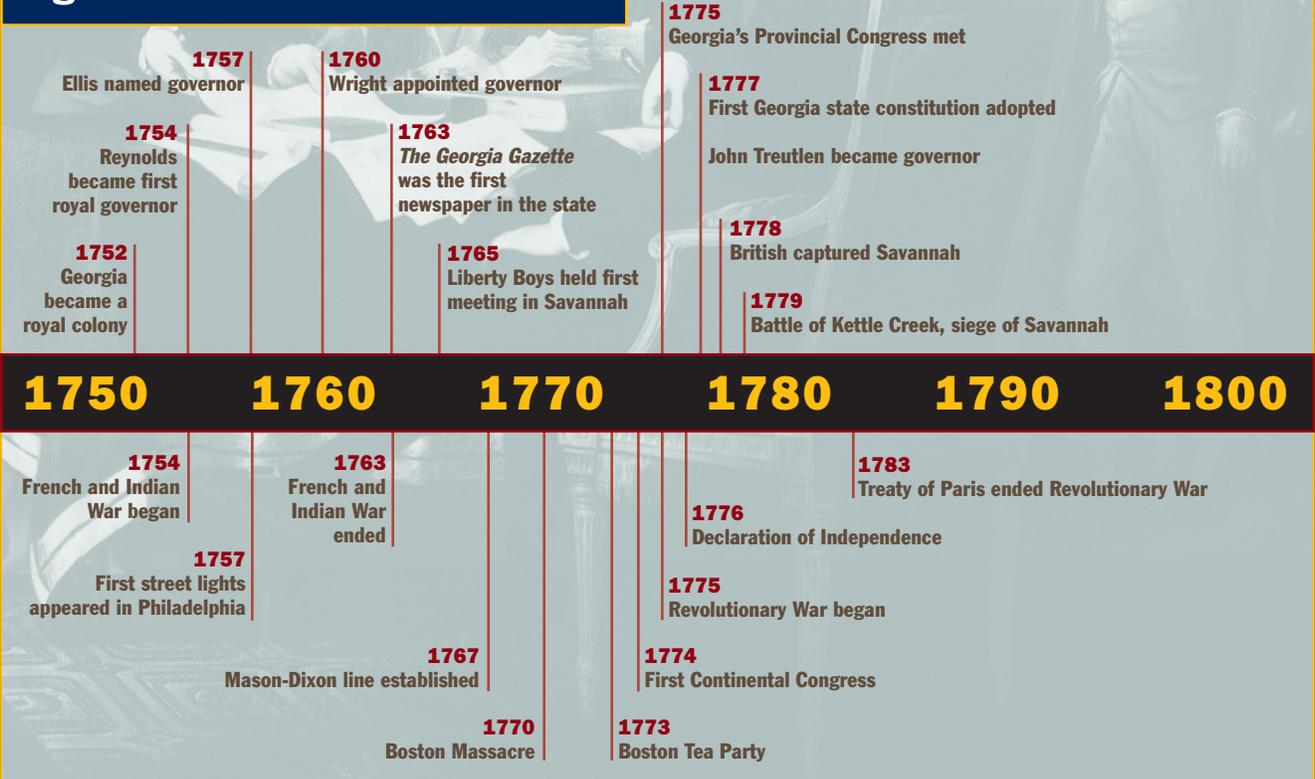


Figure 12 Timeline: 1750 – 1800



Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the economy of the British colonies,
- transportation, communication, and education in the British colonies,
- the culture of the British colonies, and
- **vocabulary terms:** apprentice and Puritans.

The Colonial Period

Much of the period from the mid-1700s until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War was overshadowed by the political events that led to the break between Great Britain and its colonies. But the concerns of most of the people in the thirteen colonies centered on the problems of everyday living.

The Colonial Economy

Great Britain's thirteen colonies could be divided into three groups. Although those within each group worked together, there was little cooperation

and few similarities between the three sections even in terms of their economies. The New England Colonies were located in cold, rugged terrain with rocky soil. The people there made their living building ships, fishing, and whaling. They also engaged in buying, selling, and shipping goods, particularly fine, handcrafted furniture, to Great Britain and the other colonies.

The Middle Colonies had a milder climate and a rich soil for farming fruits and vegetables even though the farms were relatively small. Wheat was especially important in Pennsylvania and New York, leading to their nickname of the “breadbasket colonies.” The Middle Colonies also prided themselves on the number of their industry including manufacturing, mining, textiles, and shipbuilding.

The third group of colonies—the Southern Colonies—includes the area where you live today. Here the climate was even milder, and the soil was rich. There were many large plantations. Farmers grew tobacco, indigo, silk, and rice. Forest products were a large part of the southern economy. Casks and barrels for shipping goods and naval stores were produced from the vast longleaf pine forests.



Map 22 The British Colonies in America

Map Skill: Name the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies.

Transportation and Communication

Transportation continued to be a problem. Colonists on foot or horseback still followed Indian paths, while boats delivered passengers and trade goods from port to port. Stagecoaches offered quick transportation among the colonies. That is, if you call the week it took to travel the ninety miles between New York and Philadelphia quick.

By the mid-1700s, most cities had cobblestone streets. Citizens, however, walked at their peril because some streets were used as garbage dumps. While



Did You Know?

Naval stores—tar, pitch, rosin, and turpentine—were used to **preserve the wood** and **ropes on ships**.

watching where they stepped, the city dwellers also had to stay out of the way of wandering hogs and the occasional chicken.

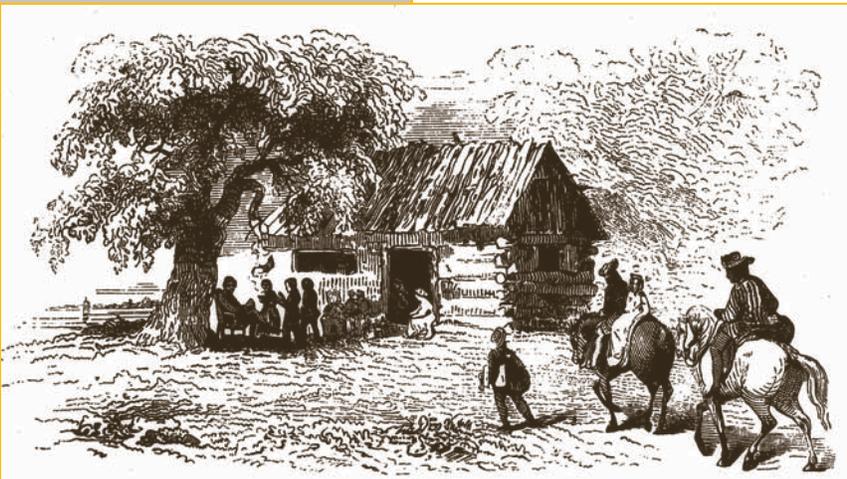
Written communication was equally limited right before the Revolutionary War. People in the cities relied on newspapers for information. Those in rural areas had to wait

for their newspapers, often as long as several weeks or months. Trading posts were sources of information, and bulletins and announcements were placed at the posts and in whatever local shops there were. In Savannah, the riverfront was also a source of information as ships came into port from Great Britain or from other colonies and shared the latest news. It was still news to the Southern Colonies even though much of the information was weeks old when it finally arrived at the Savannah port.

Education

For most children, schooling was something that occurred between daily chores. Seasonal agricultural needs took precedence. In the early days, most schooling took place either in the home or in the church. Boys were taught practical skills, such as farming or horseshoeing. If they lived in or near

Above: This David Wright painting depicts a common activity during colonial days. This turkey hunter was successful in providing food for his family.



Top: “Old field schools” were built in an old worn-out field that was good for nothing else. The one-room buildings were poorly heated and let in little light. **Above:** Punishment in colonial schools could be very harsh. Students could be caned for not knowing their lessons.

cities, they might be sent away to **apprentice** in a trade; that is, to learn a particular skill from a master craftsman. Girls learned homemaking skills, either to use in their own homes or working for others as “hired” hands.

When public schools first began in the New England Colonies, only boys attended. They studied the “3 Rs”: reading, ‘writing, and ‘rithmetic. The alphabet included many religious and secular jingles to teach reading, religion, and community values. For example:

“A — Adam — In Adam’s Fall, We sinned all.”

“B — Bible — Thy Life to Mend, This Book Attend.”

In some towns, both boys and girls could attend a “dame school,” where a woman who was knowledgeable in the “3 Rs” opened her home as a school. Students carved their writing pens from goose quills and used ink made from boiled bark. Many boys continued on to Latin

grammar schools to prepare for college. Colleges such as Yale, Harvard, Brown, Dartmouth, Princeton, and William and Mary opened in the colonies.

In the Middle Colonies, education was intended to prepare boys for a trade or skill. Most schools were run by different religious denominations. For those who could not afford to put their children in private schools, elementary school was considered adequate. There was very limited secondary level schooling.

Discipline in these early schools was very rigid. In many of the colonies, students were caned (whipped with a thick rod) if they could not show that they knew their lessons. Like many other things in their lives, going to school was not something to be treated lightly.

In the South, boys from wealthy families either had a *tutor* (a private teacher) or were sent overseas to be educated in Great Britain or France. “Old field schools” also became

Did You Know?

Education for wealthy young southern men included Latin, Greek, Hebrew, reading, writing, arithmetic, plane geometry, Italian bookkeeping, and navigation.

more common as small planters and farmers put up a one-room building in an abandoned tobacco shed. The schools charged a small fee, and students attended when they were not needed on the farms. Only the most basic education was provided. In some communities, parents banded together to pay someone, almost always a man, to teach the basics to their children.

Religion

Depending on the colony, church was generally both a place of worship and the center of community activity. In the stricter New England Colonies, church services often lasted three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon. The Puritans were especially demanding of their followers. **Puritans** were a group of people who had broken away from the Church of England because of religious differences. Those who did not observe the Puritan beliefs to the letter often received punishment ranging from caning to banishment from the area. For the Puritans, learning to read was extremely important in order to read the Scriptures. Although Puritanism eventually died out, many of the basic Puritan values, such as their work ethic and their strong determination in the face of challenges and adversity, became a part of early American culture.

In the Southern Colonies, although church attendance was expected, services tended to have more singing and shorter sermons. After-church socials were times for women to visit and chat while girls played hopscotch and boys played hoop ring or flew kites.

Georgia was a haven for such varied religious groups as the Moravians and the Jews. But the Anglican Church, or Church of England, was the major denomination. In fact, in 1758, it was made the official church of the colony of Georgia.

During the late colonial period, religion remained an important part of colonists' lives. New denominations appeared, and people slowly became more tolerant of the beliefs of others. To ensure there were enough ministers to serve the needs of the colonists, churches started colleges. The Baptists founded Brown University; the Presbyterians founded Princeton; the Congregationalists began Dartmouth; the Anglicans founded Columbia. Another consequence of the changes in religion during this period was that the colonists learned that they had more in common with each other than they had thought. Those commonalities would be important when it came time for action later.



Above: Midway Church was built by the Puritans who settled in the Midway area in the 1750s. This building was completed in 1792.



Top: The Thornton House at Stone Mountain Park is typical of the home of an upper-class family in the late 1700s.
Above: This is the dining room at Thornton House.

Leisure Time

Even recreation differed among the three regions. In the New England and the Middle colonies, most of the recreation centered around work and included such activities as barn raisings, quilting bees, and corn huskings. As they were in other aspects of their lives, the Puritans remained quite strict. People in their colonies were not allowed to gamble, dance, play cards, or wear frilly clothes. In the early colonial period, punishment for engaging in such activities had included public whippings, having one's legs locked in stocks, and being dunked into a pond or river while sitting in what was called the dunking chair. Later, strictness lessened considerably. One of the most popular leisure-time activities became horse racing. Balls and dinner parties were also popular activities.

In the Southern Colonies, fox hunting, horse races, and week-long parties with friends and relatives were a welcome change from the drudgery and isolation of farming or running a plantation. Food was always central to any large social gathering. Tables were laden with roasted pigs, pheasant, chicken,

venison, wild turkeys, oysters, and fish. Vegetables included steamed pumpkin pudding, squash, corn, and succotash. Desserts included such treats as shoofly pie (a spice pie with molasses), slump (a fruit cobbler), and sweetmeats (candied nuts, fruits, or flowers).

For young people, games included jump rope, hoops, tennis, London bridge, hopscotch, leap frog, and other outdoor activities. Card games, if parents approved, were popular, as were yo-yo's and puzzles. Story telling was a great pastime.

Romance and Marriage

Romance during the late colonial period had a very different meaning than romance today. Girls could be “promised” in marriage as early as their birth, and they could be married by 14 or 15. A young man had to get permission from the father to call on a young woman. Courtships, such as they were, took place at dances, church, or carefully supervised home visits. Weddings were a time for great joy and celebration. Most ceremonies took place at 11:00 a.m. to allow a full day afterward for toasting, feasting, and entertainment.

For the wealthy families, marriage was primarily a business arrangement. For example, a father with a shipping company might marry his daughter to the son of another shipper. The two fathers could then merge their companies to form a larger business. Two plantations might be joined when the owners' children married. If the marriage resulted in a love relationship, so much the better. But love was not considered essential.

For less well-to-do families, marriage plans were much easier, and love often played a vital role in choosing a spouse. A social-class marriage was considered to be a lasting partnership. Divorce was a shocking rarity.

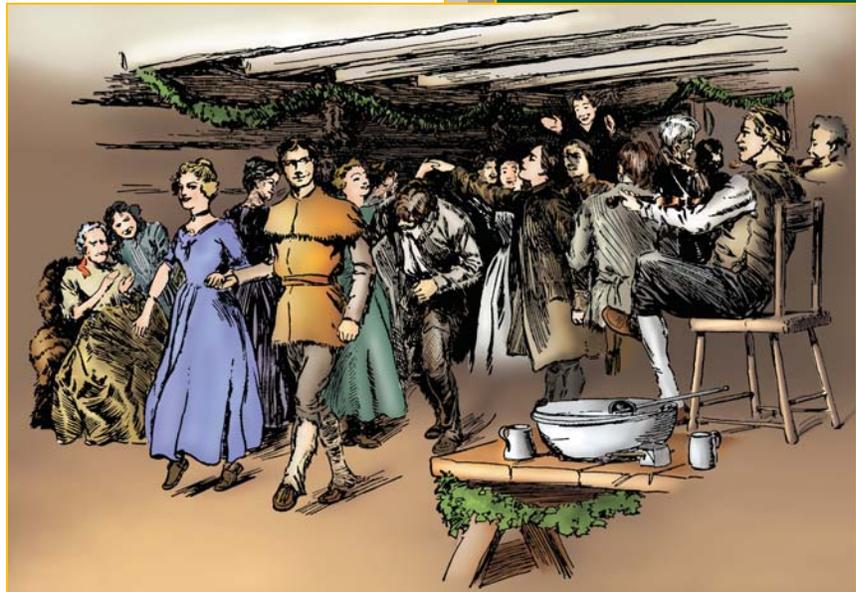
In these relationships, each spouse had a clearly defined role. Since women could not own property, their role was to provide a smoothly run home and well-behaved children. Many wives kept the family books, planned social gatherings, oversaw household servants, and taught their daughters the skills and arts needed for their future homemaking roles. Husbands were expected to be the providers and to be gallant and polite.

If her husband died, the surviving wife was expected to remarry after an appropriate mourning period of one or two months. Since half of all wives died in childbirth, men often had four or five wives.

Did You Know?

Since wedding guests often came from far away, wedding activities could last for weeks.

Below: Weddings were major events in the Southern Colonies. Dancing was an important part of the festivities, which often lasted until the early hours of the morning.



It's Your Turn

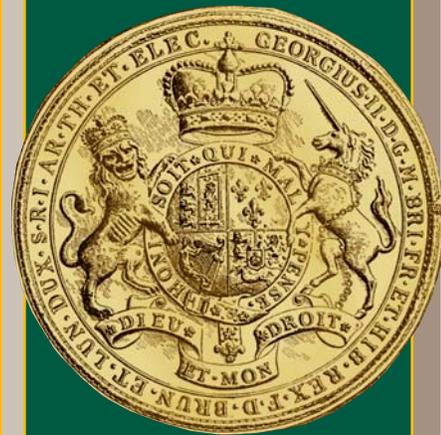
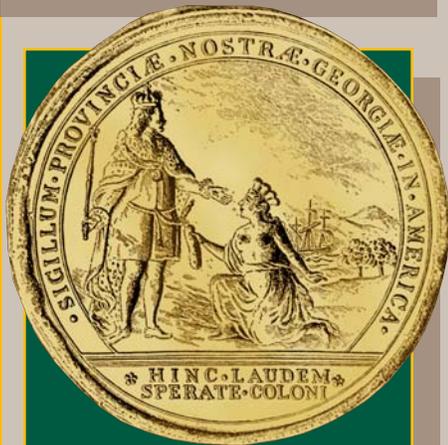
1. In what way were the economies of the colonies alike during this period?
2. In what ways did the Southern Colonies differ economically from the New England and Middle colonies?
3. What role did religion play in education during the colonial period?
4. What was the biggest difference in the leisure-time activities of young people in the colonial period and today?

Section 2

Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- Georgia's royal governors,
- how the French and Indian War affected Georgia,
- the government and economy of colonial Georgia, and
- **vocabulary terms:** proprietary colony, royal colony, parish, French and Indian War, palisades, cracker, and independence.



Top: The front of Georgia's colonial seal showed the colony giving the king silk spun in the colony. **Above:** The back had the coat of arms of the king.

Georgia Becomes a Royal Colony

In 1752, Georgia ceased to be a proprietary colony and became a royal colony. A **proprietary colony** was one that was governed by a board of trustees. A **royal colony** was one directly governed by the king.

During the two years before the first royal governor was appointed, some of the people who had left Georgia while it was a proprietary colony began to return. In 1752, Puritans from South Carolina bought 32,000 acres of land at Midway in present-day Liberty County. They moved there, bringing their slaves with them. Soon they began growing rice and indigo. A port was built nearby at Sunbury so the planters could ship their crops.

Did You Know?

By 1750, there were less than **80,000 Europeans** in the entire land area of **Canada**, compared with **1.5 million settlers** in the **thirteen British colonies**.

Georgia's First Royal Governor and First Government

On October 1, 1754, Georgians cheered when John Reynolds, their first royal governor, arrived. Because the trustees had believed that the first Georgia settlers were not able to govern themselves, they had not given them the right to vote, hold elections, or collect taxes. Reynolds, a navy captain, introduced the idea of self-government. Unlike the trustees, Governor Reynolds wanted the colonists to help run the government.

A **bicameral**, or two-chamber, legislature was set up to represent the eight parishes of the colony. A **parish** was both a church and a British government district. The lower house of the legislature was called the Commons House of Assembly; the upper house was called the Governor's Council. In order to vote, a settler had to own at least 50 acres of land. Those wishing to become a member of the Assembly, however, had to own at least 500 acres of land. Members of the Assembly could write and vote on bills before they became laws. The king of England appointed the members of the Governor's Council. The men selected were wealthy, influential landowners. They were to advise the governor, approve land grants, make laws, and, sometimes, act as judges in legal cases.

Governor Reynolds also set up a court system. When the colonists had differences with each other, they went before the Court of Conscience, over which presided a local justice of the peace. Cases that could not be settled in the Court of Conscience could be carried to the Governor's Council.

It was during this period that the French and Indian War began in a dispute over land in North America.

The First Real World War

In 1754, three countries had settlements in North America. The Spanish had settlements in Florida and Mexico. The French controlled a vast area from Louisiana north to the Great Lakes, plus part of Canada. To protect their interests, the French had built forts, settlements, trading posts, and missions throughout the area, anchored by the cities of New Orleans and Detroit. The British had thirteen colonies along the Atlantic coast.

The **French and Indian War** was the result of disputes between France and Great Britain that had been going on for almost sixty-five years. The causes of the nine-year war that began in 1754 were greed and fear. The greed was a hope to capture the most land in the New World and control the treasures of the territory. The fear was that one country would gain more power than the other. With the exception of population differences in America, France and Great Britain were well matched. The British navy was the most powerful in the world, but France had the stronger army. Great Britain had a strong alliance with the six tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy, but the French were trading partners with many of the western tribes. The French had more experienced military leadership and, unlike the British colonists, the French settlers did not argue among themselves.

The Rivalry Intensifies

The tension between the two countries increased because both claimed the area of the Ohio River Valley. This frontier region was a huge area of about 200,000 square miles, which was about the size of France. British traders had formed profitable agreements with many tribes that had formerly traded only with the French.

At the same time, Virginia colonists were ready to move beyond the Allegheny Mountains into the Ohio River Valley. A group of businessmen had received a land grant of 500,000 acres in 1749, but the French continued to build forts throughout the area. This angered the Virginians.

In 1753, Virginia's governor sent a young George Washington to warn the French that the Ohio River Valley did not belong to them and to stop building forts there. Those demands were ignored, and Governor Dinwiddie warned his colony's government that the "Welfare of all the Colonies on the Continent were in grave danger from the French and Indian alliances."



Map 23 North America, 1754

Map Skill: Which country claimed the land along the Mississippi River?



Above: In 1754, a young George Washington was sent to tell the French to stay out of the Ohio River Valley.

Opposite page: British General Braddock was killed during a battle near Fort Duquesne in 1755.

Dinwiddie got the support he wanted. The following year, he again sent Washington to the French with a message. This time, however, Washington did not go alone.

War Erupts

Washington, a 22-year-old land surveyor and captain, led 150 Virginia militia troops to Fort Duquesne near the modern city of Pittsburgh. Washington's men set up a crude, round stockade of wooden stakes, which they named Fort Necessity. After a scout reported about 30 French soldiers in a nearby camp, Washington's men attacked, killing 10 and forcing the rest to surrender. As expected, the French attacked Fort Necessity a short time later. On July 3, 1754, severely outnumbered and having lost about one-third of his troops, Washington had no choice but to surrender to the French. The war had begun. It soon spread to Europe.

The first few years of the war in America consisted of a series of disappointing losses for the British and their colonies under the leadership of Major General Edward Braddock. The 60-year-old Braddock was a well-respected soldier,

but he knew nothing about fighting the Indians. When he arrived, he decided to go to Fort Duquesne first in an attempt to defeat the French quickly. George Washington went with him as an aide. The colorful red uniforms of the British and the smart blue coats of the Virginia militia made good targets as the soldiers marched in long, straight lines through the forest. The French and the Indians hid among the trees. When the Indians screamed out their war cries, Washington wrote that the British lines broke and soldiers "ran as sheep pursued by dogs."

When the battle ended, General Braddock was dead and about two-thirds of his men were either killed or wounded. Although they were soundly defeated, Washington showed himself to be a brave military leader who had learned from Braddock's mistakes. He was made commander of a small Virginia force that now had to protect the colony along a 300-mile front.

As the war progressed, Great Britain continued to suffer losses both in the colonies and on the continent of Europe. In 1757, William Pitt was put in charge of the war effort. He used the strength of the British navy and was able to capture the key French Canadian cities of Quebec and Montreal. A year later, Washington again led troops to Fort Duquesne;

Did You Know?

A 21-year-old **Daniel Boone** served as a **teamster** with **Braddock's forces**.



this time he was victorious. The frontier was made safe and came under British control.

Georgia's Role in the War

Georgia did not take part in the war, but it was helped by the war. The Treaty of Paris of 1763, which formally ended the war, set Georgia's western boundary at the Mississippi River. A few months later, King George III issued the **Proclamation of 1763**. This proclamation moved the state's southern boundary to the St. Marys River. The Proclamation also forbade the colonists to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. At the same time, the Cherokee and the Creek gave up all lands between the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers north to Augusta, which was Georgia's second oldest city. They also gave up the coastal land south of the Altamaha River.

Figure 13 Results of the French and Indian War

- The British gained control of Canada, which today continues to be a friend and trading partner of the United States.
- The western frontier—the Ohio River Valley and all lands east of the Mississippi River—was opened to Virginia and the other colonies.
- Great Britain obtained Florida from Spain, which had been an ally of the French during the war.
- For its help, France gave the Louisiana Territory to Spain.
- After 150 years of colonization, France lost all of its land in the area.
- Perhaps most importantly, the French and Indian War led to the American Revolution as Great Britain found itself left with a huge war debt.



Map 24 North America, 1763

Map Skill: What happened to France's territory in North America as a result of the war?

When the land came under Georgia's control, settlers began to migrate to the colony. The new boundaries were important to Georgia's growth. Not only did they provide water access for future shipping, but they also provided good farmland and dense forests with timber and naval stores resources.

Georgia's First Assembly

Georgia's new government met for the first time in 1755 in Savannah, the colony's capital and largest city. The delegates reorganized the state militia and passed bills so roads could be built and repaired. The colonial assembly also drew up codes that restricted the rights of slaves.

For a while, Governor Reynolds and the colonial assembly worked well together. However, during one legislative session, members of the Governor's Council could not agree on how much was needed to improve the military defenses of the colony. Governor Reynolds became so angry at their failure to agree that he stopped the meeting and sent the legislators home.

During the months that followed, Reynolds tried to govern Georgia by himself, leaving the colonists angry. There were arguments between those who thought he should leave and those who wanted him to remain. Many Georgians did not like having their right to self-government taken away and wrote to King George to complain. However, when Reynolds recommended moving Savannah to the Ogeechee River (close to today's Richmond Hill in Bryan County), we can guess that most of his limited support evaporated. Finally, after two years, the group who wanted self-government won. Georgia's first royal governor was replaced.

Governor Henry Ellis

In February 1757, the king chose Captain Henry Ellis as the next royal governor. Governor Ellis was a naturalist and a scientist who had led voyages to many different parts of the world. According to reports, he walked the streets of Savannah checking a thermometer that hung around his neck and making notes of its readings. Ellis believed that Savannah was one of the hottest places in the world, and he often carried an umbrella to protect himself from the sun.

Ellis learned quickly from Reynolds's mistakes. During his three years as governor, Ellis brought together people of many different political groups.

Did You Know?

Governor Ellis wrote several books and pamphlets, including one entitled “Heat of the Weather in Georgia.”

He sought the advice of the governor of the neighboring colony of South Carolina. He also depended on well-known and wealthy citizens to lead the colony.

While Ellis was governor, new colonists came to Georgia from South Carolina and the West Indies.

Many of these new settlers brought slaves with them, and the governor granted the newcomers large amounts of land. By 1759, the population of the colony had grown to about 10,000, including 3,600 slaves.

Not all Georgians wanted slaves in the colony. The Highland Scots at Darien and the Salzburgers at New Ebenezer believed that hard work by the white settlers would result in the same economic growth as a system of slave labor.

Ellis was a popular governor, under whose direction the colony made economic gains. There were more and profitable farms. There were more merchants with a greater variety of items to sell. As a result, the colonists could buy the things they could not grow or manufacture, such as cloth, sugar, farming tools, and seeds for planting.

In 1759, Governor Ellis became ill, perhaps from heat-related problems, and asked to return to Great Britain. However, he was re-assigned to Nova Scotia as its royal governor in 1761.

A Savannah square was named for this “active, sensible, and honest man.” Today there is discussion of whether to restore the square to its original appearance or to build a replica of the City Market, which once stood there.

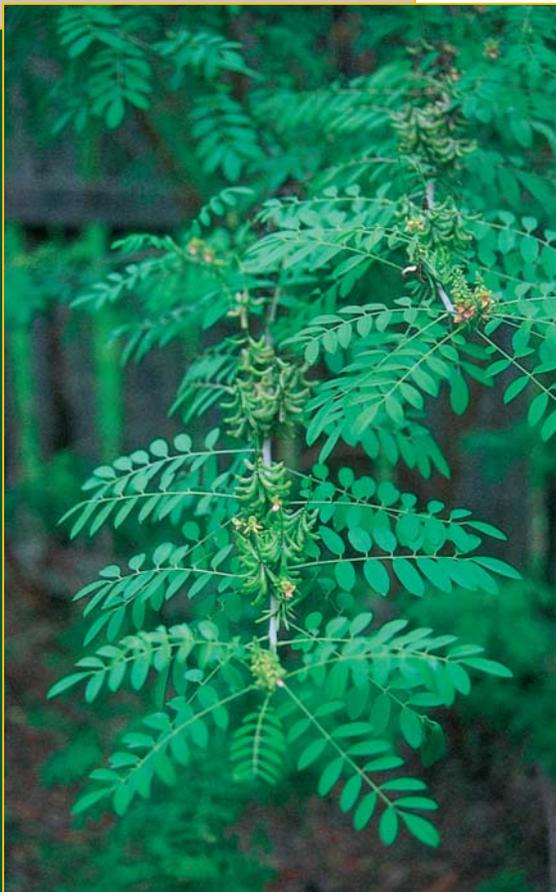
Governor James Wright

After Henry Ellis left, the Honorable James Wright became governor. Wright was born in Charleston but educated in Great Britain. He had arrived in Georgia on October 11, 1760, to serve as lieutenant governor. Before coming to Georgia, he had been attorney general of South Carolina for twenty-one years. He was loyal to the king, but he also wanted the colonies to do well. He believed that Georgia would continue to grow if large farms were even bigger, if trading expanded, and if the western lands of the colony were opened to settlers. Wright agreed with the self-government program Governor Reynolds had started, and the colonists were pleased with him at first.

During his early years as governor, Wright completed the defenses around Savannah. Savannah was surrounded with **palisades**

Below: James Wright followed Henry Ellis as royal governor of Georgia. He served in that position until 1776.





Above: Indigo was one of Georgia's main crops before the American Revolution. The plant was used to create a blue dye.

(fences made of sharpened stakes), and the area forts were made stronger. The town of Sunbury grew and became the colony's official port of entry for ships arriving from other countries and colonies. Both houses of the colonial assembly worked together to promote Georgia's economic growth. Farmers were allowed to borrow more money, so they bought more land. The amount of owned land grew from 1 million acres to 7 million acres.

Rice and indigo became profitable crops. Enough silk was being produced so that, by 1767, almost a ton of it was exported to Great Britain each year. There were more schools, and more and more people were reading. Many books were sold, and, in 1763, the colony's first newspaper, *The Georgia Gazette*, was started. Many of the small frame houses were taken down. In their place, two-story houses were built of wood or tabby (a mixture of lime, crushed shells, sand, and water).

There was, however, another side to Georgia during these early years. Many mothers died in childbirth. School was mostly for children in the upper economic class. Also a group of what plantation owners called "undesirable people" moved from Virginia and the Carolinas to settle in the middle and western parts of the colony. These people became known as **crackers**. The term may have come from the cracking sounds of whips used on oxen or horses as these new settlers went to market to sell their goods. It may have come from the crack-

ing of corn as they prepared corn meal. Some say the term came from a Scottish word that mean "boasters." No matter how it started, the term was meant as an insult for the lower classes. The crackers were thought of as people who did not obey the law and were not welcome in the colony.

During this time, other issues also grabbed Governor Wright's attention. There was no plan for defending the colony even after the forts had been strengthened. Also, a growing number of Georgians who were not wealthy began to ask for a greater voice in government. They were not alone. Shortly, their voices joined with others as the colonies began trying to gain **independence** (political or economic freedom) from Great Britain.

It's Your Turn

1. What were the results of the French and Indian War?
2. How did Georgia gain as a result of the French and Indian War?
3. When did Georgia's first legislature meet?
4. Who was Georgia's second governor? In your opinion, did he like his job? Defend your response.
5. What did Governor Wright succeed in doing that Governors Ellis and Reynolds had failed to accomplish?

The Call for Independence

Discontent in the Colonies

During the fifteen years before the American Revolution, many colonists began to tire of British rule and resent its policies. Although Great Britain had been victorious in the French and Indian War, the war had cost a great deal of money. Great Britain also had to pay soldiers to protect the colonies from any other aggressors. To the British, it seemed only logical to levy (impose) additional taxes on the colonies to cover these expenses.

When the American colonists complained about the unfairness of the new taxes, Great Britain passed some strict laws and started enforcing some old laws. The Navigation Acts, passed in the 1660s, said the colonies could only ship their goods on British vessels. This was not a problem for Georgia. Most of its trade was still with Great Britain, and British ships often sailed to and from Georgia. But those colonies that traded with several countries were no longer allowed to do so.

In 1764, Great Britain's increased tax on wine and imported goods received very little opposition in Georgia. Most of the money Georgia needed for its government was provided by Parliament, so the colony paid little tax to Great Britain. This was not true in the older colonies, and those colonies became very angry about the new tax. However, Georgia became more concerned when the **Sugar Act** was passed placing a tax on sugar and molasses imported from the West Indies. Georgia did a great deal of trading with sugar-producing countries such as Jamaica and Barbados.

In 1765, Parliament passed the **Stamp Act** in an attempt to raise money to pay for the French and Indian War. This act placed a tax on newspapers, legal documents, and licenses.

Section Preview

As you read, look for:

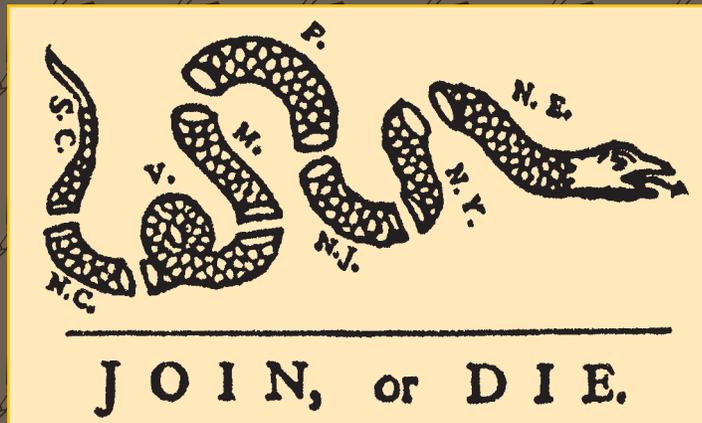
- the reasons why the colonists became unhappy with Great Britain,
- how Georgians felt about the British taxes,
- the first Provincial Congress,
- **vocabulary terms:** Tories, Patriots, boycott, Proclamation of 1763, Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Liberty Boys, Townshend Acts, and Quartering Act.

Figure 14 The Cast of Characters

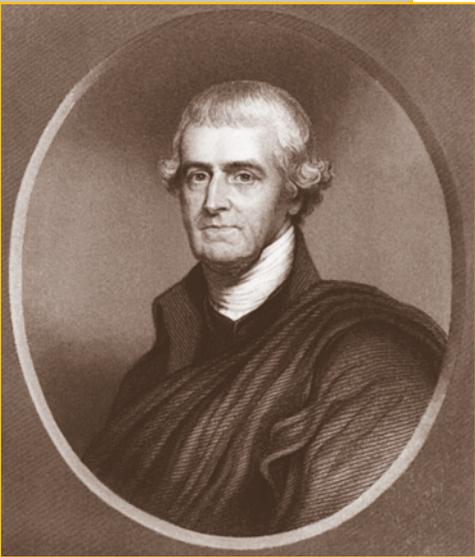
As Georgia grew in population, the other colonies were growing in frustration. As you begin reading about the Revolutionary period, keep in mind the cast of characters. The 1.6 million people who lived in the colonies in the 1760s could be divided into many distinctive groups.

- The **Tories** (also called Loyalists, British Royalists, or "King's friends") were those who were loyal to the king of England, George III.
- The **Patriots** (also referred to as Whigs, Liberty Boys, Colonials, Sons and Daughters of Liberty) were those citizens ready to cut ties with Great Britain.
- **Quakers, Mennonites, and Moravians** (who left Georgia) were pacifists who did not believe in fighting and had religious objections to war.
- **Redcoats and Lobsterbacks** (so called because of their red uniforms) were British soldiers, some of whom were forced to fight against the Patriot colonists.
- The **Council of Safety** was set up by the Patriots in Georgia in 1775 when the Provincial Congress voted to join the other colonies in a boycott of trade with Great Britain. (A **boycott** is a protest in which people refuse to buy certain items until specific conditions are met.) The Council was to enforce the trade boycott. All of the colonies had similar groups.
- Finally, there were the **fence sitters** who, out of fear of choosing the losing side, would not commit to being Tory or Patriot or pacifist.

The Art of Politics



This cartoon, created by Benjamin Franklin, is widely considered to be the first American political cartoon. It was published in Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette*.



Above: Noble Wimberly Jones was a member of the colonial assembly. In 1768 and 1769, he was elected as its speaker.

Jones as its speaker. Jones, a Patriot, was a second-generation colonist from Savannah. Unlike his father who was a Tory (as were many first-generation colonists), Jones was an outspoken leader of the discontented Georgians.

Governor Wright became upset with the growing discontent and particularly with the idea of having

Throughout the colonies, the reaction to the Stamp Act was swift and sometimes violent.

A Stamp Act Congress met in Boston, Massachusetts, to speak against British taxes. The Georgia colonial assembly was not in session at the time, so it did not send a representative to the Stamp Act Congress. Nevertheless, on the day before it went into effect, a few Georgia citizens showed their dislike of the Stamp Act by burning an *effigy* (a likeness) of the stamp master in the streets of Savannah.

On November 6, a group of Georgians came together to oppose the Stamp Act. They called themselves the **Liberty Boys**. Older Georgians called them the "Liberty Brawlers" because they met in local taverns. Tondee's Tavern in Savannah was a favorite meeting spot. The Liberty Boys were part of a larger group, the Sons of Liberty, whose daring acts came to represent the spirit of the Revolution.

Although the taxes did not bother the average Georgian very much, the colony felt their effect. Georgia was the only colony that ever sold the stamps. Only a few were sold, but Georgia's neighbors in South Carolina, who were more directly affected, spoke out with anger against it. Also, Georgia's only newspaper, *The Georgia Gazette*, had to stop printing until the Stamp Act was repealed a year later.

Georgians Begin to React

During the next four years, many Georgians talked openly about their dislike of the strict new British laws. Between 1768 and 1772, members of the Georgia colonial assembly spoke against the **Townshend Acts** of 1767, which placed import taxes on tea, paper, glass, and coloring for paints. Later, without the approval of the governor, the assembly elected Noble Wimberly

Did You Know?

In some Savannah hotels, guests walked from their rooms through the windows and out onto the verandah. Since doors in hotels were taxed, hotels built more windows than doors and allowed guests to use the windows as passageways.

as the speaker of the assembly someone whose ideas were not the same as those of the king. Wright tried to end the protests by doing away with the assembly. However, the people were not so easily silenced.

Protests Increase

Protests against British taxes soon were more open in the other twelve colonies. The slogan “No taxation without representation” became a pre-Revolution war cry. Because the Townshend Acts had placed a tax on coloring for paints, the people stopped painting their homes. Because of the tax on tea, they quit drinking tea and turned to coffee. By 1770, the British Parliament had repealed the Townshend Acts, except for the tax on tea.

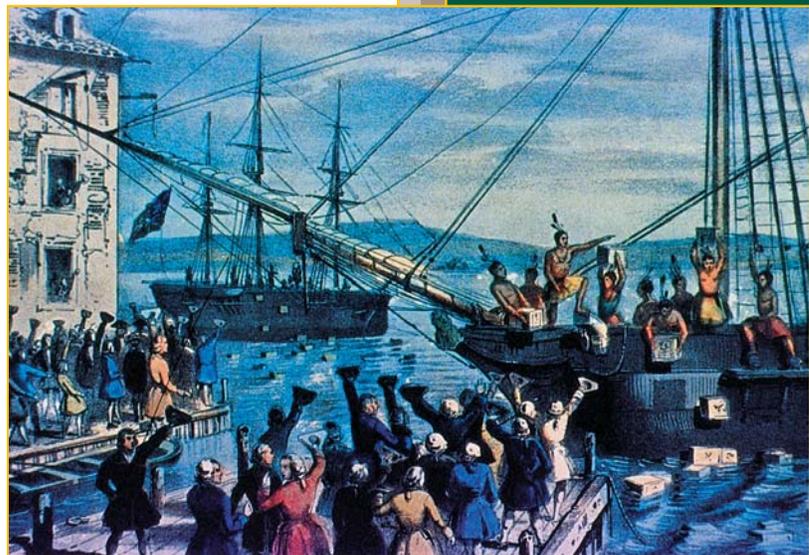
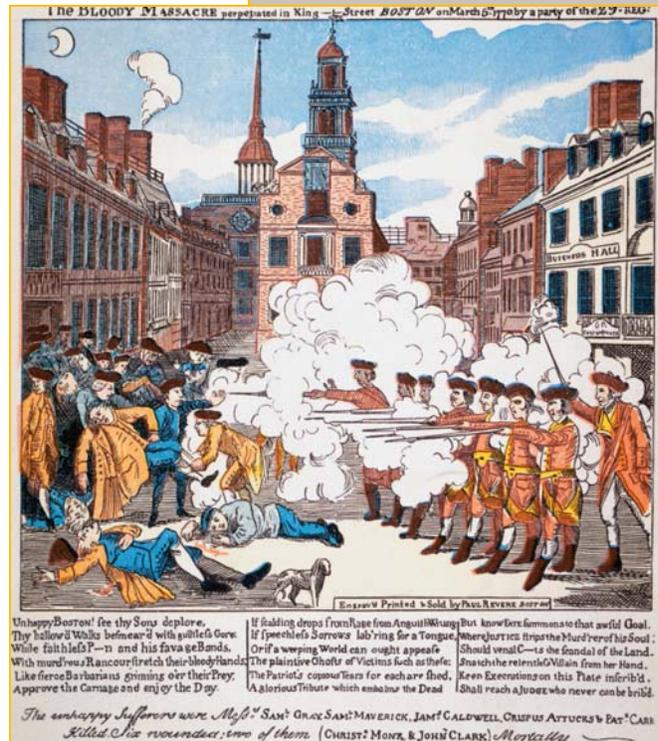
On a cold day in March 1770, some people in Boston threw snowballs at British soldiers and called them names. The soldiers fired into the crowd, killing five civilians, including a freed slave named Crispus Attucks. Unfortunately for the British, engraver Paul Revere made a copper etching of the event, which was reproduced again and again. As you can see, it shows a very different picture than what actually happened. But it was this view of a line of British soldiers calmly firing into the midst of innocent Boston citizens that helped ignite the cry for war.

In 1773, the East India Company had large amounts of tea it could not sell and was on the verge of bankruptcy. Parliament passed the Tea Act of 1773, which allowed the company to ship tea directly to the colonies. It could then sell the tea for less than colonial merchants could. The colonists looked on the law as a trick to get them to buy the tea and pay a lower tax.

In December of that year, to protest the law, a group of Patriots (including Samuel Adams and Paul Revere) dressed as Mohawk Indians, boarded three British ships anchored in Boston harbor, and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston bay. This action is remembered as “the Boston Tea Party.”

The Intolerable Acts

To punish the colonists of Massachusetts for the actions of the Patriots, Parliament enacted four laws, which because of their harshness became known as the *Intolerable Acts*. Under one of the laws, the British closed the port of Boston until the citizens of Massachusetts paid for the tea. Under



Top: This is the etching of the Boston Massacre created by Paul Revere. Prints of the etching were distributed all over Boston. **Above:** Patriots at the Boston Tea Party took matters into their own hands when protesting the Tea Act.

another, Massachusetts colonists could not have a town meeting without the agreement of their governor, who was also the commander of the British troops. The operation of the court system was changed so that any British officials who committed capital crimes would be tried in Great Britain rather than by a colonial court. As a final punishment, Parliament passed the **Quartering Act**. Under this act, the citizens of all colonies had to house and feed British soldiers at their own expense.

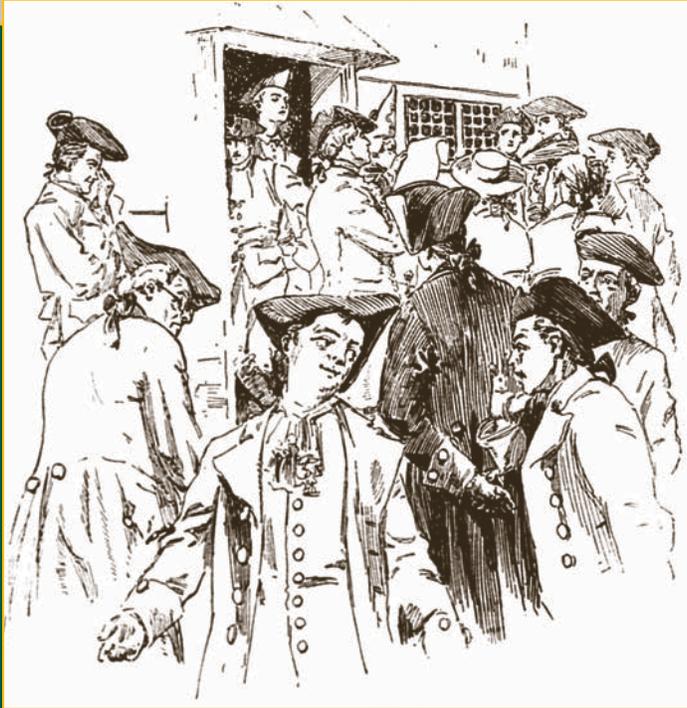
Although the laws were aimed at Massachusetts, representatives of all the colonies except Georgia gathered in Philadelphia to protest them. On September 5, 1774, the delegates organized a *Continental Congress*. At this Congress, there were two major groups. One group wanted to pull away from Great Britain and seek independence. The other wanted to make changes but still remain under British rule. The colonists may not have been sure which group was right, but they agreed on one thing. Something had to be done, and it had to be done soon!

The Continental Congress agreed to stop all trade with Great Britain and urged each colony to set up *committees of safety*. These committees would enforce the boycott. Because its actions would have been called treason by the Crown, the Congress carried on its work in secret.

A Colony Divided

Anti-British sentiment was growing in Georgia, but the people still seemed to care more about which parish would have the most power in the Georgia assembly. Because the colony still depended on Great Britain, the assembly chose not to send a delegate to the Continental Congress. However, in August 1774, a group of Georgians met to discuss their reaction to the Intolerable Acts. After talking for a long time, they decided to send a resolution to Parliament demanding that citizens of the thirteen colonies have the same rights as British citizens living in Great Britain. They insisted that the Intolerable Acts did not agree with the “Rights and Privileges of an Englishman.”

The assembly also decided to have a meeting in Georgia to talk about the growing unhappiness over their ties with Great Britain. This meeting, called the *Provincial Congress*, was held in Savannah in January 1775. Less than one-half of Georgia’s parishes were represented, and the meeting ended without much being done.



Above: Owned by Peter Tondee, Tondee’s Tavern was a favorite meeting place of the Liberty Boys. The first liberty pole in Georgia was erected in front of the tavern.

It's Your Turn

1. What items were taxed under the Stamp Act?
2. Who were the Liberty Boys?
3. What was the colonists’ slogan about British taxes?

Section 4

The Revolutionary War Period

It took a long time for news to get around the colonies, so it was May before word reached Georgia of the battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson described those battles as “Here once the embattled farmers stood/And fired the shot heard round the world.” The battles marked the beginning of the Revolutionary War and forced Georgians to take a stand. In just a few days, a group of radicals broke into the royal arms storehouse in Savannah and stole 600 pounds of gunpowder.

Other protests followed quickly. Gunpowder used to fire cannon salutes on the king’s birthday was tampered with and would not explode. A liberty pole was put up outside Tondee’s Tavern. Tories were openly harassed. Guns were stolen from public warehouses, and no one paid any attention to what the governor said.

In September 1775, Georgia’s Joseph Habersham and Captain Oliver Bowen captured a British schooner carrying gunpowder. Georgia kept 9,000 pounds and sent 5,000 pounds to the newly formed Continental Army.

Preparing for War

Three weeks after the battles at Lexington and Concord, the **Second Continental Congress** opened in Philadelphia. One of the early decisions made by the Congress was to send a petition to King George III, asking him to not take further unfriendly steps against the colonies. The king refused the petition. At the same time, the Congress also called for the creation of a Continental Army, which was to be led by George Washington of Virginia.

Georgia was absent for the first few days, but on May 13, 1775, Lyman Hall of Midway arrived in an unofficial capacity. The other colonies were furious with Georgia because it did not seem very supportive. Some members of the Congress even called for punishing the youngest colony.

Very shortly, however, Georgia was ready to act. In July 1775, a second Provincial Congress was held at Tondee’s Tavern in Savannah. Unlike the

Section Preview

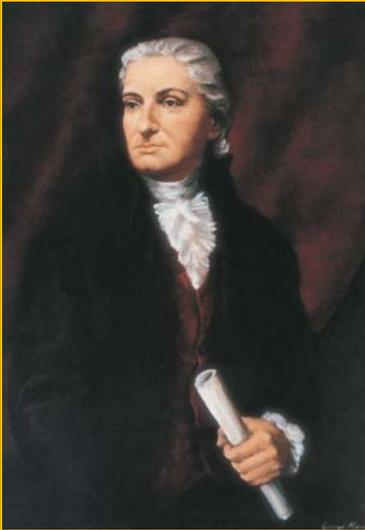
As you read, look for:

- the steps taken by Georgia and Georgians before the American Revolution,
- the Declaration of Independence,
- the new government established by Georgia,
- Georgia’s role in the American Revolution, and
- **vocabulary terms:** Second Continental Congress, Declaration of Independence, ratify, Articles of Confederation, siege, and Treaty of Paris (1783).

Figure 15 The Tories

About one-third of the colonists remained loyal to Great Britain, and many of those lived in Georgia. Their reasons for staying loyal to Great Britain were as varied as the people themselves.

- Some believed that since the British king was still paying money to support the colonies, he had the right to rule them.
- Some believed that the British had founded the colonies and had the right to govern them.
- Many colonists still had family or relatives in Great Britain, and they did not want to put them in danger or to cause them to lose the “perks” of royal approval. Some colonists even split their families by sending some members of the family back to Great Britain.
- Some colonists feared that life under the control of rich Patriots would be even harder than life under the control of the British.
- Finally, some colonists were simply afraid of the well-organized, well-equipped British soldiers.



Top: One of the first battles of the Revolutionary War was fought at Concord, Massachusetts in April 1775. **Above:** Lyman Hall was declared an “enemy of the crown” after signing the Declaration of Independence.

First Provincial Congress, this group was prepared to take positive steps. In addition to Lyman Hall, four others, all from Savannah, were chosen to go Philadelphia. In the group were Archibald Bulloch, John Houstoun, Noble Wimberly Jones, and Reverend John Zubly. The delegates were given no specific instructions to relay to the Continental Congress. Instead, they were asked to vote as they thought best for the common good of all Georgians. Finally, Georgia was ready to join ranks with the other colonies.

Earlier, shortly after the first shots had been fired at the battles of Lexington and Concord, a Council of Safety had met and prepared to form a new government. To show they meant what they said, the group officially withdrew from Great Britain. In so doing, the Patriots left Governor Wright without power. Wright was arrested in mid-January of 1776 by the Liberty Boys when he asked the Council of Safety to allow British vessels to purchase supplies from the colony. A month later, Wright escaped and fled to a waiting British warship, leaving the Council of Safety to govern the colony. In the following April, the Georgia Provincial Congress issued a series of guidelines, called “Rules and Regulations,” which were to be used in governing Georgia until a more permanent document could be drawn up.

Did You Know?

Patriots in Massachusetts were called “minutemen” because they could be ready to fight in a minute.

The Declaration of Independence

In January 1776, Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* appeared. In it, Paine urged the colonists to separate from Great Britain in language all people could understand. The pamphlet was a sensation and sold 120,000 copies in less than three months. By the end of the year, it had sold 500,000 copies. Paine quickly followed *Common Sense* with a series of pamphlets. In *The Crisis*, Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." Paine had a great deal of influence on the actions of the Second Continental Congress. John Adams said, "Without the pen of Paine, the sword of Washington would have been wielded in vain."

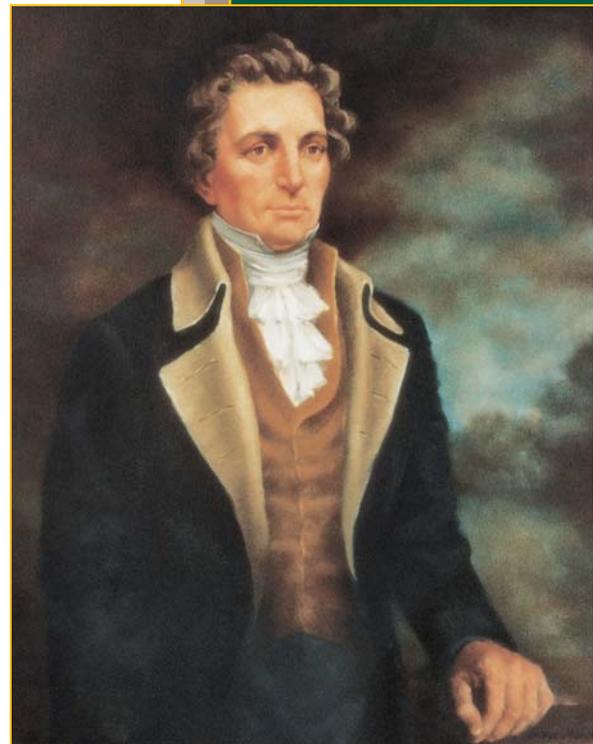
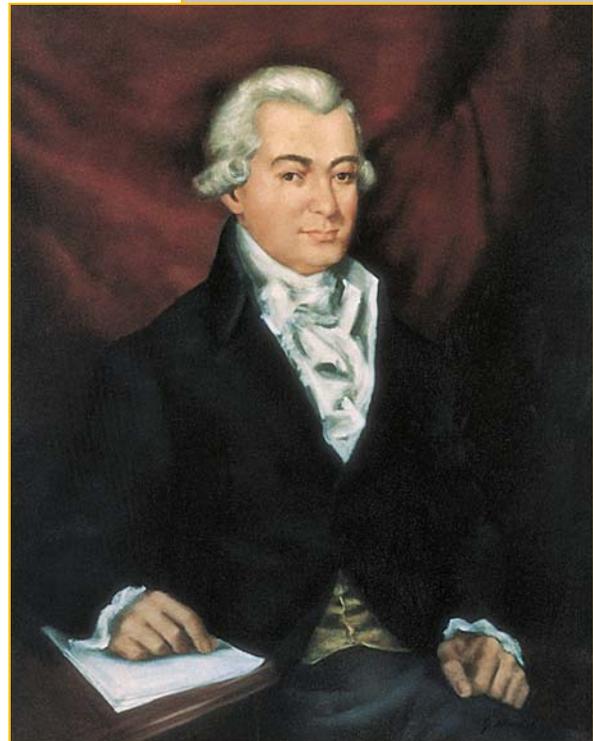
On July 4, 1776, over a year after the battles of Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress approved the **Declaration of Independence**. When it was officially signed on August 2, 1776, the names of three Georgians—Lyman Hall, George Walton, and Button Gwinnett—appeared on the left side of the document, right below the signature of John Hancock. But it was over a month before Georgians found out how their representatives had voted or even what the Declaration said.

The 1,458-word document, written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, can be divided into three parts. The *Preamble*, or introduction, stated how the colonists felt about democracy. The second part, or body, listed twenty-seven grievances (complaints) against King George III and his government that led the colonists to seek independence from Great Britain. The third part, the conclusion, declared the colonies to be an independent nation for all future times.

The Declaration meant that the colonies were one nation, still not in total agreement, but one nation nevertheless. When the Declaration of Independence was read in Georgia, it produced great excitement, although some colonists decided to return to Great Britain. Finally, Georgians began to prepare for war. They sent food and ammunition to the Continental Army and began to strengthen the home militia.

Political Changes in Georgia

Georgia joined the other colonies in celebrating the decision to become independent of Great Britain. The former colonies were tired of being governed and living under laws made by Great Britain, which they believed was both out of touch and too far away to understand their needs. The new goal



Top: George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. **Above:** John Treutlen, Georgia's first governor.

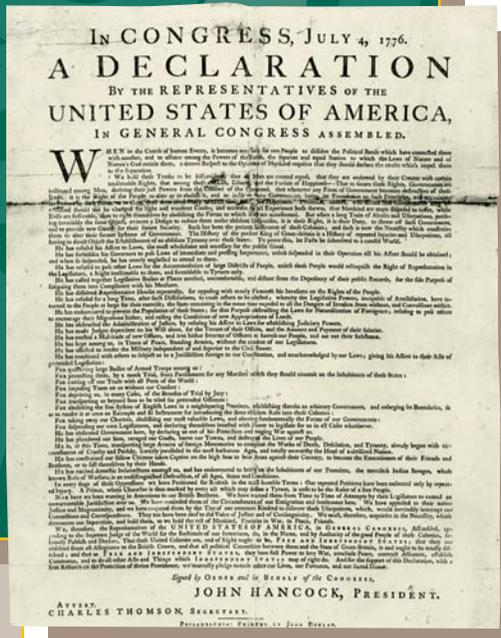
History by the Numbers

The Dunlap Broadside

On the night of July 4, 1776, John Dunlap printed an unknown number of copies of the Declaration of Independence. Each document, called a *broadside*, was about 14 inches by 18 inches. Only 25 of those copies are known to exist.

On July 19, 1776, the Continental Congress ordered another printer, Timothy Matlack, to *engross* (print in final, legal form) the Declaration of Independence. Members of Congress who were present in Philadelphia signed the engrossed copy on August 2, 1776. Other members of Congress signed later. The signed, engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence, which is 24½ inches by 29½ inches, is on permanent exhibit at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

In 1989, a man bought a painting at a flea market for \$4. Hidden in the painting's frame was an original Dunlap broadside of the Declaration of Independence. It was the 25th known copy of the document. It recently sold for \$8.14 million, the highest price ever paid for an object sold at an Internet auction.



for each colony was statehood. Each new state was to develop its own method of governance and pass laws that met its needs.

Work was begun on a state constitution to replace the earlier “Rules and Regulations.” Writing the new constitution was not easy. Some citizens wanted a government like the one already in place, with most of the power in the hands of a few wealthy landowners and merchants. The Whigs, a more extreme group, wanted to give all the people of Georgia a chance to govern themselves. The Whigs won, and Georgia decided on a government that would be based on the separation of powers and the rights of citizens to agree with how they were governed.

By May 1777, Georgia adopted its first state constitution at a constitutional convention held in Savannah. The parish system was done away with, and eight counties were formed. Burke, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Richmond, and Wilkes were named for British subjects who had been in favor of the Revolution; Liberty County was named in honor of American

independence. **Liberty** is the character word for this chapter. What were the liberties that the young colonies wanted to secure for themselves?

However well meaning the lawmakers were in developing the 1777 constitution, there were problems. Rather than a bicameral legislature, the constitution of 1777 provided for a *unicameral*, or one-house, legislature. This single legislative body had very broad powers, including the ability to make appointments to the judicial branch (the courts) and the executive branch (the governor).

Stung by the loyalty of former governors to the king, the members of the constitutional convention wanted to limit severely the influence and power of the governor. They proposed a one-year term for the governor. The governor was to be selected by the legislature rather than voted on by the people. The actual power, therefore, was in the hands of twelve lawmakers from the legislature who served as an executive council. The executive council could

accept or reject any proposals initiated by the governor. The constitutional convention selected John Treutlen, a Salzburger, as the first state governor over Button Gwinnett. It also adopted a new state seal.

Although the constitution of 1777 was changed in 1789, this first endeavor in providing for state's rights was an important step in Georgia's development.

On July 4, 1778, Georgians **ratified** (approved) the **Articles of Confederation**, which was the first constitution of the United States of America. The Articles did not go into effect until January 1781, when Virginia and Maryland ratified it.

The Revolutionary War in Georgia

During 1777 and 1778, Georgian members of the Continental Army made several unsuccessful attempts to capture British-held St. Augustine and parts of east Florida. Little other fighting took place in Georgia. In December 1778, however, British troops attacked and took control of Savannah. Soon there were reports of looting, burnings, and even murders at the hands of British troops as they tried to force Tories to put down their arms or flee the area. A month later, the British took the port of Sunbury. Before long, Augusta was under fire from British guns.

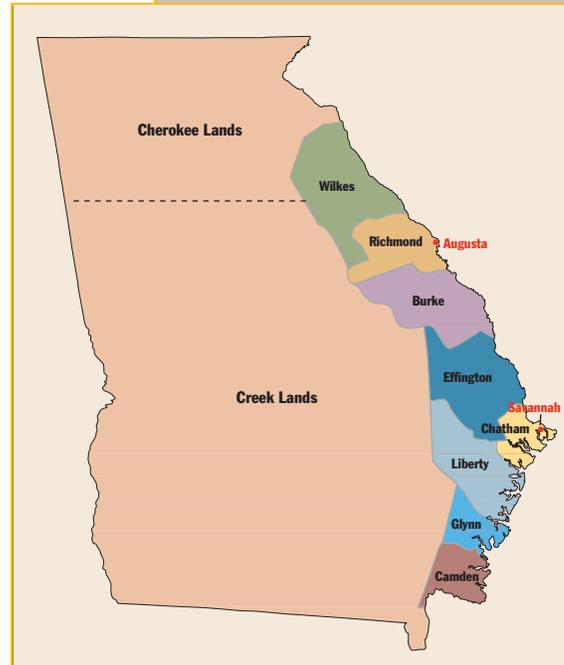
In all three cases, the poorly armed and understaffed Georgia militia could do little to stop the British. Georgia was once again under British military rule, and Governor Wright returned to Georgia to take charge of the government.

The Battle of Kettle Creek

The Battle of Kettle Creek

Morale throughout the colonies was at an all-time low. Finally, in February 1779, Georgia had a victory. A rebel militia group led by Colonel Elijah Clarke (after whom Clarke County is named) defeated a force of more than 800 British troops at the Battle of Kettle Creek, about eight miles from Washington, Georgia.

The Battle of Kettle Creek was minor when compared to those fought in other parts of the country. It was, however, important to Georgia. The militia was able to take badly needed

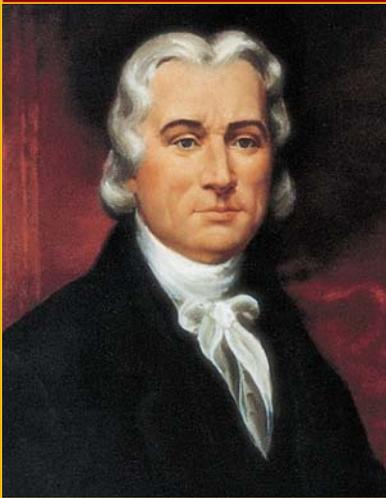


Map 25 Georgia's First Counties

Map Skill: In which county is Savannah located?

Did You Know?

George Walton, at age **twenty-six**, was the **youngest signer** of the Declaration of Independence. An **autograph of Button Gwinnett** (below) is one of the most sought-after collector's autographs in the world. Today, it is valued at over **\$250,000**.



weapons and horses from the British soldiers, and the spirits of the Georgia militia were lifted by their victory.

Did You Know?

The colonists who had uniforms in the new Continental Army wore blue because indigo, grown in the Southern Colonies, was the only color available.

The Siege of Savannah

In early September 1779, twenty-two French ships and 4,000 soldiers under the command of Charles Henri Comte d'Estaing arrived off Tybee Island. Those troops joined about 15,000 Americans under the command of General Benjamin Lincoln. The combined armies laid siege to Savannah. A **siege** occurs when forces try to capture a fortified fort or town by surrounding it and preventing any supplies from reaching it.

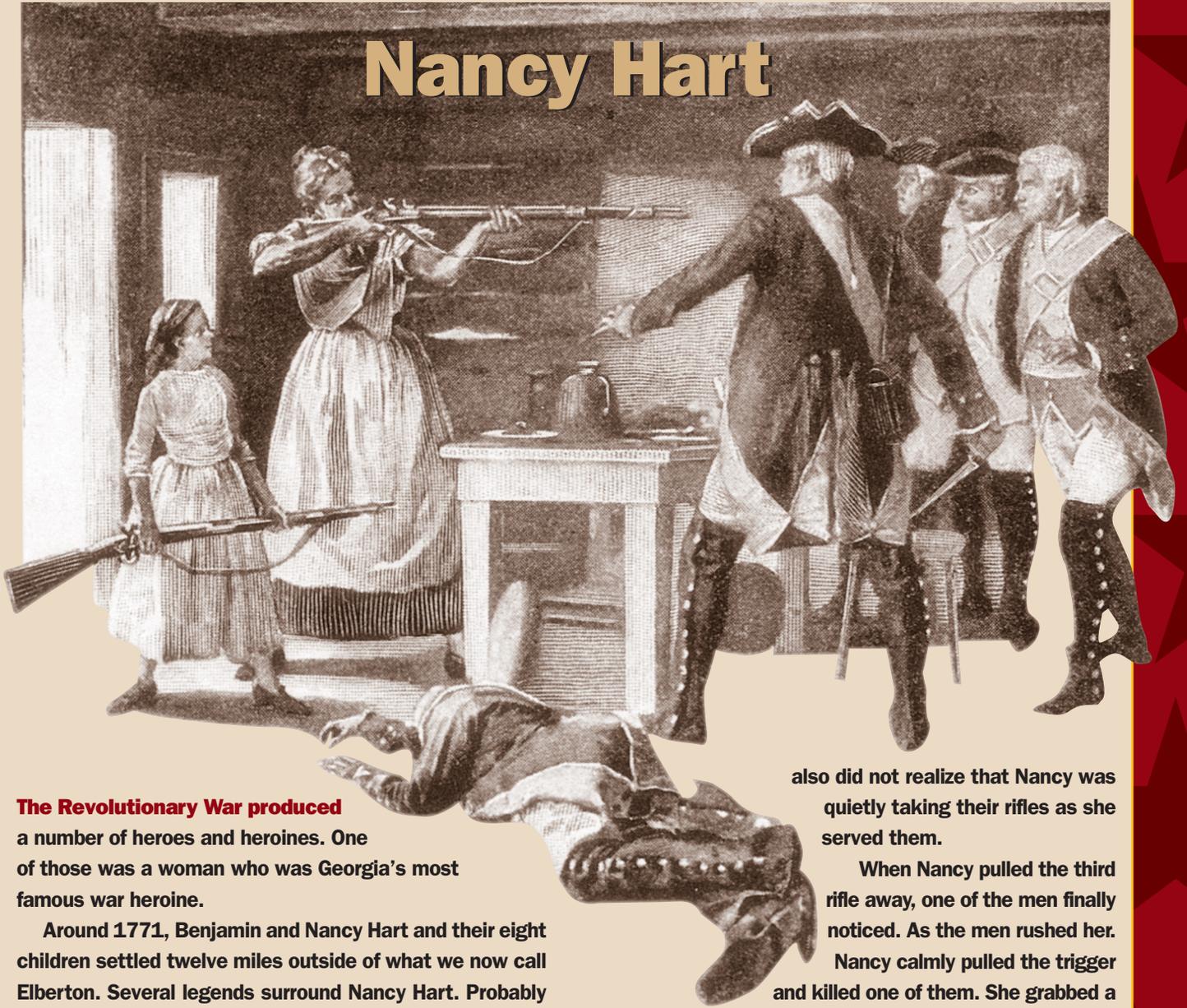
Finally, at daybreak on October 9, the American and French troops attacked British positions. The attack, which lasted only 45 minutes, failed. By the time it was over, more than 1,000 men with the American forces (821 of whom were French) and 40 British lay dead. Over 600 men were wounded. One of America's best foreign patriots, Polish Count Casimir Pulaski, had given his life for a country not his own. And, Savannah was set to remain in British hands for the next 3½ years.

Below: This French map, drawn in 1779, illustrates the French plans for the siege of Savannah. This battle marked the first time that American and French troops fought together. One of the heroes of the siege was Sergeant William Jasper.



American Spotlight

Nancy Hart



The Revolutionary War produced a number of heroes and heroines. One of those was a woman who was Georgia's most famous war heroine.

Around 1771, Benjamin and Nancy Hart and their eight children settled twelve miles outside of what we now call Elberton. Several legends surround Nancy Hart. Probably the most repeated one concerns Colonel John Dooley, a neighbor of the Harts who was killed by Tories. A few days after Dooley's murder, five of those Tories stopped by Nancy's home and demanded that she cook dinner for them. As the men talked, Nancy overheard them bragging about the murder.

Thinking quickly, Nancy brought out a jug of whiskey and offered it to the men. As they drank, they did not notice Nancy motioning to her daughters to go to the woods and sound the alarm for help. Enjoying their drink and food, they

also did not realize that Nancy was quietly taking their rifles as she served them.

When Nancy pulled the third rifle away, one of the men finally noticed. As the men rushed her.

Nancy calmly pulled the trigger and killed one of them. She grabbed a second rifle and held the other soldiers at gunpoint until help arrived. Some reports say she may have killed two of the soldiers; in any event, the rest were soon put on trial and hanged.

We may never know if the stories of Nancy Hart's courage are true. However, the legend of Nancy Hart remains as an example of the revolutionary spirit of Georgia. Hart County and its county seat, Hartwell, located in northeast Georgia, are named for her. Hart is the only county in Georgia named for a woman.

Spotlight on the Economy

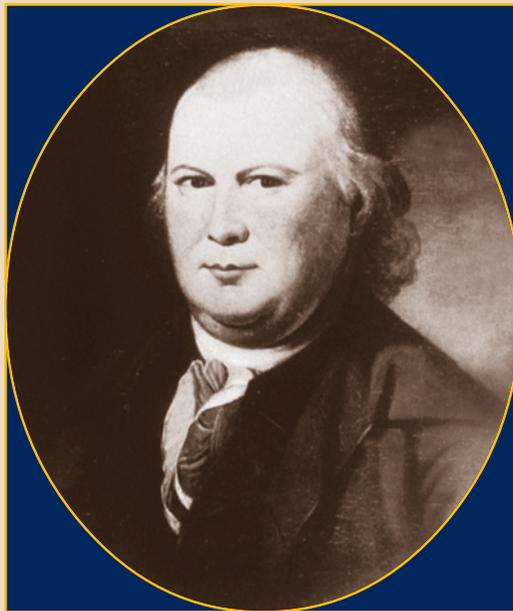
Financing the American Revolution

How did the newly formed United States of America manage to find the funds to pay for its war against Great Britain?

In 1775, as the Continental Congress began making plans for war, it decided to print and issue paper money called “Continental” to pay for war materials, supplies, and soldiers’ salaries. But by 1778, the nation faced serious economic problems. The Continentals were worthless because there was nothing (gold or silver) to back them up. To complicate the economic situation, each state began to print its own paper money. By 1780, the new nation had printed over \$241 million Continentals, and the individual states had issued almost \$210 million of their own paper notes. Congress realized that the Continentals were of little value and tried to take them out of circulation. It also began to collect taxes to help pay off some of its loans.

Loans and gifts from foreign countries helped the United States obtain the weapons, ammunition, and supplies it needed. Most of the loans were arranged by Robert Morris, a delegate to the Continental Congress who became special commissioner of finance in 1776. In 1781, Morris developed a plan for a national bank, the Bank of North America, to stabilize the economy and establish the credit of the new nation with the nations of Europe.

But Robert Morris was not alone in finding funds for the new nation. He was greatly helped by Haym Salomon. Salomon was a wealthy, successful businessman described as a “Broker to the Office of Finance,” which meant that



Above: Pennsylvanian Robert Morris

he helped the new government obtain loans from European nations, banks, and merchants. Because he was a trusted businessman, European bankers would loan money to Salomon when they had refused to loan it to Congress. Both Morris and Salomon gave their own personal fortunes to support the Revolution.

Under the new Bank of North America, there was some relationship between the country’s supply of gold and silver and its paper notes. As head of the Bank of North America, Morris issued treasury notes, called “Morris notes,” that could be redeemed for hard currency. Congress also

began to issue a new type of paper note that paid interest and that could be turned in for hard currency after a five-year period. The new government used the paper notes, the interest notes, and the treasury notes to pay for its revolution.

After the war, Alexander Hamilton became the financial planner for the new government. The new nation had accumulated almost \$78 million in debts from the war, and it needed about \$4 million to operate its new government. However, the country’s income was very limited. The United States earned about \$4.4 million in **tariffs** (taxes) on goods and about \$19,000 from other sources for a total federal income of \$4,418,000. The young nation began its life under a system of **deficit spending**, owing and spending more than was available. It is a system we understand well today. In 2001, for example, the federal government cost \$1.8 trillion to operate.

Georgia was left in the hands of two governments, one royal and one rebel. Each government tried to take charge of the state, but neither was very effective. Some Georgians openly supported the king, while others just as openly supported the cause of independence. The major battles of the war were over, but guerrilla warfare—both political and military—continued in the backcountry of Georgia.

The Battle of Yorktown

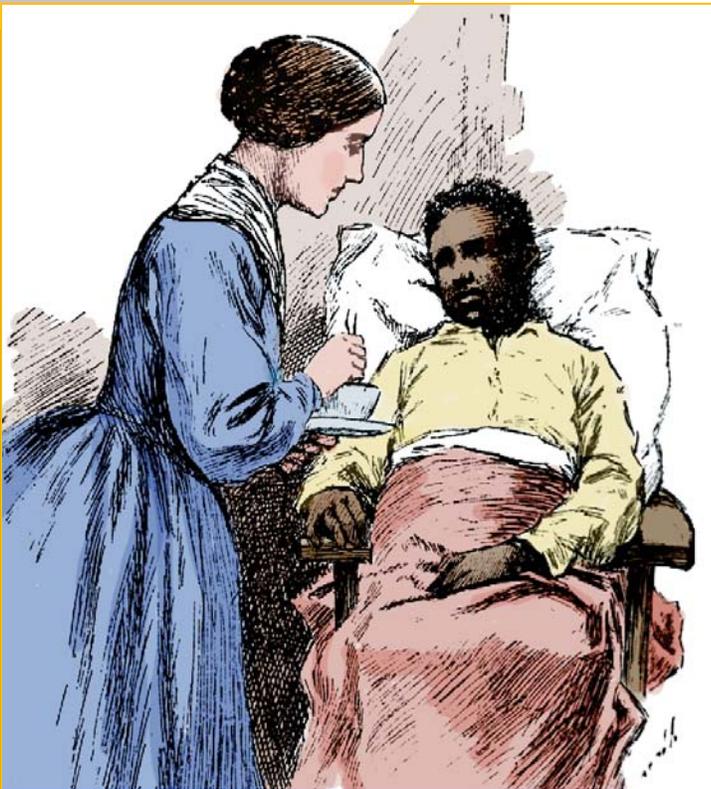
In June 1781, Georgia's militia was again under the command of Colonel Clarke. With the help of Continental troops, Clarke took Augusta from the British. General George Washington, the commander of the Continental Army, was helped by French forces when he faced British General Lord Cornwallis in October 1781, at the Battle of Yorktown, Virginia. The American forces won that battle, forcing Cornwallis to surrender.

Cornwallis did not know that British ships carrying 6,000 men were on their way to help him. They arrived just six days after his surrender. Had the French not delayed the landing of the British ships, the results of the American Revolution might have been very different. By the spring of 1782, British forces in Georgia believed they could not defeat the Americans. They left Savannah, ending 3½ years of occupation.

The **Treaty of Paris** was signed by Great Britain, France, and the United States in September 1783. Independence was finally a reality. There were only eleven battles and skirmishes on Georgia's soil. However, Georgians could

Below: In October 1781, combined American and French forces trapped the British army at Yorktown, Virginia. British General Cornwallis surrendered on October 18, 1781.





Above: During the heroic fighting at the Battle of Kettle Creek, Austin Dabney was hit by a rifle ball that passed through his thigh. Dabney is credited with saving the life of Elijah Clarke by giving the colonel a horse after his had been shot out from under him.

be proud of their part in the Revolutionary War as the work of building a new country began.

Blacks in the American Revolution

One of the men who followed Colonel Clarke at Kettle Creek was a Revolutionary War hero named Austin Dabney. Dabney was a freeborn *mulatto*, a child of mixed parentage. He arrived in Georgia just before the war with a man named Richard Aycock. Aycock, a white North Carolinian, was not known for his bravery. Instead of joining the Georgia militia himself, Aycock proposed that Austin Dabney take his place. After much discussion, some of which centered on whether he was freeborn or a slave, Dabney was accepted. He proved to be a good soldier at Kettle Creek and was wounded in action. A family named Harris cared for him while his wounds healed.

After the Revolutionary War, veterans were given plots of land as part payment for their military service. Many did not want Dabney to get his veteran's share of land. However, Governor George Gilmer and some members of the Georgia legislature praised Dabney as a patriot. After months of debate, Dabney received a valuable piece of land in Madison County. When he moved to his new home, he took the Harris family with him. Together, they made the property profitable. Austin Dabney died in 1834, fifty-five years after the Battle of Kettle Creek.

Dabney was just one of the many people of color who fought in the Revolutionary War. As early as the battles of Lexington and Concord, blacks took up arms against Great Britain in search of freedom. Thousands of slaves crossed over to British lines working as soldiers, boat pilots, cooks, musicians, and in many other jobs. The British both actively recruited blacks to serve as soldiers and captured slaves for use by the British Army. In November 1775, the British governor of Virginia offered freedom to all slaves willing to bear arms against the rebelling colonists. His proclamation led American leaders to accept blacks into the Continental Army, promising that they would receive freedom at the end of their enlistment. The government also made provisions to pay slave owners for all slaves freed in such a way. While there are

Did You Know?

During the **Revolutionary War**, almost as many **colonists** fought on the **British side** as fought on the **American side**. Out of **282,000 men** in the thirteen colonies, **George Washington** never had an army numbering over **25,000**.

no exact figures on the participation of blacks in the Continental Army, it has been estimated that about 5,000 served.

Although many blacks distinguished themselves in the Revolutionary War, support for their enlistment in the army varied. Southern states did not want to use slaves or freedmen as soldiers because the idea of recruiting and arming slaves raised fears of slave revolts.

General George Washington, himself a fourth-generation slave owner, questioned the wisdom of using black troops, but most of the former colonies began to enlist both slaves and free blacks in the armies. Georgia and South Carolina were the only two states to refuse to legalize slave enlistments in their militias.

Antislavery sentiment mounted after the war; in most states, public opinion turned strongly against slavery. In many states, blacks were given both their freedom and land at the end of the war. In the South, however, the decline of such staple crops as tobacco, indigo, and rice made the farmers reluctant to free their black slaves.

Looking Back at the Revolutionary War

When fighting broke out at Lexington and Concord, the British had a number of advantages in the coming military conflict. They had a strong central government, while the thirteen colonies were separate governments with no real central power. The British had a well-equipped, professional army; the colonies had eager citizen-volunteers with little training, discipline, and equipment and with limited experience. Fortunately, many experienced European soldiers seeking adventure came to join America's cause. The British had the world's most powerful navy; the colonies had only merchant ships. The Americans did commission four battle ships in 1775 and authorized private ships to attack the British Navy and keep any profits they made. The British were well financed by their government; the colonies had no major sources of revenue for their new government. Perhaps the most important British advantage was the divided loyalties of the colonists. Almost one-third of the colonists were neutral, and a large number, almost 20 percent of the population, remained loyal to Great Britain.

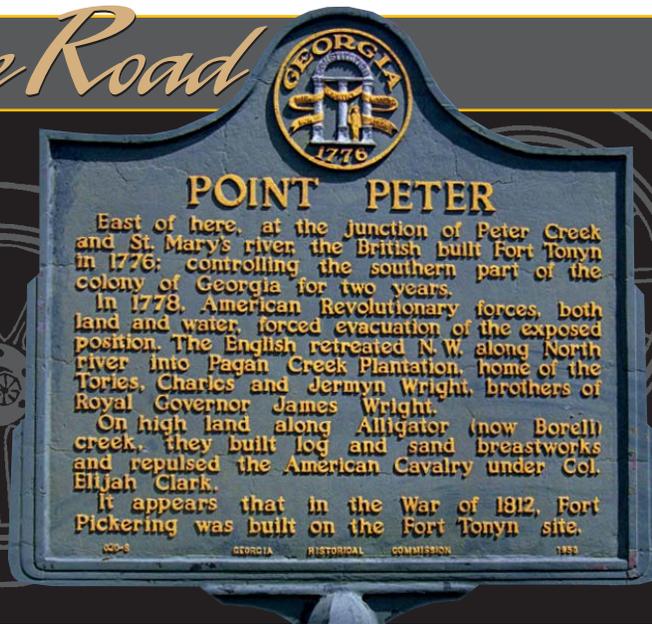
Despite the British military might, the colonists had four advantages that could not be overcome. First, they were fighting on their

Below: In 1775, General George Washington, leader of the Continental Army, recommended that blacks not be permitted to serve in the Continental Army.



By the Side of the Road

Other than guerilla warfare and fighting between Tories and Patriots, there were few major Revolutionary War battles in Georgia. The British-controlled areas of north and east Florida were sandwiched between forces at St. Augustine and a small fort, Fort Tonym, in what is now Camden County. When you travel in southeast Georgia, check out the area around Point Peter close to the Georgia-Florida boundary.



Above: King Carlos III of Spain supported the colonies in their war for independence. He secretly shipped arms, munitions, cattle, uniforms, medicine, blankets, and money to the American colonies.

home soil. They were fighting not only for their belief in freedom but also for their own homes and farms and villages. Second, the British were fighting very far from home and had to deal with long and dangerous supply lines. Third, the colonies had no central area that could be captured to declare victory. Fighting was spread out among all thirteen colonies, along the Gulf of Mexico, the western frontier, and even north of the Great Lakes in Canada. Fourth, the battles were fought over the rugged terrain of forests and swamps familiar to the colonists and not the open, flat battlefields that the British were accustomed to using.

While everything seemed to favor the British over the colonists, the Americans won their Revolutionary War to become a new and independent nation.

With Thanks to Spain

Spain is an often forgotten ally in the American Revolution. Spain and France had been at war with Great Britain for almost one hundred years before the American Revolution. Spain was angry and embarrassed when it lost Florida and other territories at the end of the French and Indian War. It wanted revenge. Also, King Carlos III of Spain had become impressed with the colonials. Although he did not totally approve of the "idea of colonials seeking independence" since he himself had a number of colonies, he did want to help.

For over five years, Spain sent a great deal of money and supplies to support the colonists. The funds came from people living in what is now Texas, New Mexico, California, and Mexico. Men from Spanish possessions in the region fought with the colonists. Spain also provided invaluable information from a very effective spy network. Although Spain was not in a position to open defly Great Britain, it did a great deal behind the scenes.

Pedro Pablo de Bolea was the Spanish ambassador in France and met with Benjamin Franklin and others traveling to Europe to help break the British

naval blockade. Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish governor of Louisiana, provided military assistance against Great Britain in Florida, Louisiana, along the Gulf of Mexico, and in the Mississippi River Valley. He also helped the colonists move men, arms, and supplies through the Gulf of Mexico and on the Mississippi River while resisting British attempts to blockade the river.

A Final Note

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence showed extreme courage and took great risks. Had the colonists lost the war, each man who signed the document could have been shot for treason. Would you have been willing to risk your life and all that you owned for your belief in freedom?

Chapter Summary

- In the years before the Revolutionary War, everyday life in the thirteen colonies remained difficult.
- Georgia became a royal colony in 1752 and as such was governed directly by the British king.
- Georgia continued to prosper, and many people who had left the colony when it was under the rule of the trustees returned to the royal colony.
- A new group of settlers from South Carolina and the West Indies bought land and moved to Midway, bringing slaves with them.
- Governor John Reynolds was the first royal governor. He was followed as governor by Henry Ellis and James Wright.
- Georgia gained land at the end of the French and Indian War. Its southern boundary was set at the St. Marys River, and the Indians gave up lands north and east of the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers northward to Augusta and south of the Altamaha River.
- A series of laws imposed by the British on the colonies increased resentment against British rule.
- In 1775, the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired during the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- In July 1776, Georgia joined the other twelve colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.
- Georgia was occupied by British forces for most of the war.
- Several battles were fought on Georgia soil, including the Battle of Kettle Creek.
- The final battle of the Revolutionary War took place at Yorktown, Virginia.
- The official end of the war came with the signing of the Treaty of Paris of 1783.
- People of color, including Austin Dabney, fought in the Continental Army.

It's Your Turn

1. Name the Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence.
2. What was the purpose of the second part of the Declaration of Independence?
3. For whom were the original parishes of Georgia renamed as counties?
4. What was our country's first constitution called?



Above: Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish governor of Louisiana, helped the American cause through diplomatic, financial and military exploits against Great Britain in the Mississippi River Valley, the Gulf Coast, Louisiana, and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Chapter Review

Reviewing People, Places, and Terms



Explain why each of the following people appears in a chapter on the Revolutionary War.

1. Elijah Clarke
2. Henry Ellis
3. Button Gwinnett
4. James Wright
5. Lyman Hall
6. John Treutlen

Understanding the Facts



1. Why did the South, unlike the other regions, have so many large plantations?
2. What was the difference between a royal colony and a proprietary colony?
3. What were the two chambers of Georgia's first legislature?
4. What areas of North America did Great Britain gain as a result of the French and Indian War?
5. In what city did Georgia's first legislature meet?
6. What was Georgia's first newspaper?
7. Name the six groups that existed in the colonies in the pre-Revolutionary War period.
8. What two things did the First Continental Congress agree to do?
9. What were the "Rules and Regulations" set forth by the Georgia Provincial Congress?

10. What advantages did the British have in the Revolutionary War and what advantages did the colonists enjoy?

Developing Critical Thinking



1. If you had lived in Georgia in 1772, would you have been a Patriot or a Tory? Why?
2. What does the slogan "No taxation without representation" mean? Can you think of some instances in the 1900s where this may have also been used?
3. Why do you think so few battles were fought on Georgia soil?
4. Suppose the British ships had broken through the French lines before Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. What might have happened and how would it have affected you today?

Checking It Out



1. Use your research skills to find out the role played by the French in America's war for independence. While gathering information, examine the role played by George Washington's good friend, the Marquis de Lafayette.
2. Use your research ability and find out why Georgia granted several hundred acres of land to Mordecai Sheftall for his sacrifices on behalf of independence. Sheftall, whose father was one of the original settlers of the Georgia colony, was a leader of Georgia's Jewish community.

Writing Across the Curriculum



1. Persuasive writing is meant to convince readers to think or act in a certain way. Try your hand at persuasive writing. Write a pamphlet for your community calling for support of any school program or activity that you think should be expanded or for any new program that should be developed.
2. Imagine that you are a newspaper writer in colonial and Revolutionary times. Write two newspaper articles. Write one for a colonial audience in Georgia describing the signing of the Declaration of Independence; write the other for a London newspaper describing the same event from a different perspective.
3. A *precis* is a concise summary of essential points. Read the Declaration of Independence and write a precis of the document using language more understandable to today's teenagers. Use standard English and punctuation and avoid slang.



Exploring Technology

1. All of the young nation's soldiers were not men, and a list of Revolutionary heroines does not stop at Nancy Hart. Use your favorite search engine to find out about Deborah Sampson, the woman who disguised herself as a man and served under General Washington for three years. Share your findings with your classmates.
2. Many of the heroes of America's revolution were about your age. One young man of 14 joined the privateer *Royal Louis* to fight the British. Use your favorite search engine to find out about the successes and bravery of this young lad, James Forten, a free black who became one of Philadelphia's most successful and influential citizens after the war.

3. Use your favorite search engine to solve this "history mystery." Who actually designed the American flag that is so associated with the name Betsy Ross? Share your findings with your classmates.
4. Research the Mennonites and Quakers. See if you can determine why they refused to fight. Do you agree or disagree with their beliefs? Explain.



Applying your Skills

1. Which members of Georgia's delegation to the Second Continental Congress have counties named after them? Using a blank map on which the counties of Georgia are outlined, shade each of these counties. Then label the county seats. Which Georgia counties are named after Georgia's early governors? Label them on your map.
2. All five of Georgia's delegates to the Second Continental Congress either lived or worked in Savannah. On a modern-day map of the eastern United States, trace a land route from Savannah to Philadelphia and determine the number of miles. Also research the land routes that were available to the delegates at the time the Congress met.



Photo Question

Name this river which became the southern border of Georgia after the French and Indian War.

