

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHARLOTTE COUNTY AND  
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION REGARDING INSTALLATION OF  
TEMPORARY EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY AT WILLIAM R GAINES JR. VETERANS  
MEMORIAL PARK.**

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** (“Agreement”) is made by and between CHARLOTTE COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (the “County”), and the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION – CHARLOTTE COUNTY CHAPTER, a national non-profit organization (the “SAR”); (collectively, the “Parties”).

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, William R. Gaines, Jr., a resident of Charlotte County, Florida, was killed in action while serving his country as a Marine in the U.S. component of the United Nations multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut, Lebanon; and

**WHEREAS**, the William R. Gaines, Jr., Veterans Memorial Park (the “Memorial Park”) is a County-owned Park located on Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte, Charlotte County, Florida, named in honor of William R. Gaines, Jr. and established to provide a place where veterans, neighbors and families can come together to experience the beauty of nature and honor the sacrifices of veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the SAR, founded in 1889 and headquartered in Louisville Kentucky., is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.; and

**WHEREAS**, the SAR wishes to temporary display an educational History Walk (the “Display”) in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the United States in the Memorial Park to be placed for a term ending on November 20, 2026, at the location identified in **Exhibit A** attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed content of the Display are attached herein as **Exhibit B**

**WHEREAS**, the County is willing to allow such an display.

**WHEREAS**, the Parties wish to enumerate their respective responsibilities and rights regarding the Marker in this Agreement.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Parties agree as follows:

1. **Recitals.** The recitals above are incorporated into this Agreement by reference.
2. **Maintenance.** The SAR agrees to display the History Walk temporarily and maintain it in good working order and in clean condition, until its removal at the termination of this agreement.

3. **Term.** The effective date of this Agreement shall be the last date on which it is signed by either party. The term shall expire on November 27, 2026 This term may be modified by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

4. **Consideration.** In addition to the mutual promises described in this Agreement, the Parties agree that as further consideration for the Agreement, the SAR shall install, maintain, and remove the display without cost to the County.

5. **Limitations on Agreement.** The SAR is permitted to use this Agreement for the sole purposes set forth herein. The SAR agrees to be responsible for its own compliance, and for the compliance of its employees, agents and contractors, with the terms of this Agreement, with all applicable laws, rules, orders, ordinances and regulations issued or in force.

6. **Installation Date.** Installation of the display will be completed by a date no later than May 7, 2026, or at any other time as may be agreed to in writing by the Parties.

7. Notice. In the event either party desires or is required to provide notice to the other party, the party desiring or required to provide such notice shall do so in writing and by hand delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, to the other party at the address listed below:

If to the COUNTY:

Director  
Community Services Department  
2300 El Jobean Road  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

With a copy to

County Attorney  
18500 Murdock Circle, Suite 573  
Port Charlotte FL 33948

If to SAR

Ken G. Eitenmiller Jr. , Club Secretary  
5226 Blackjack Circle  
Punta Gorda, FL 33982-9603

8. **Termination.** This Agreement may be terminated by either party by providing thirty (30) day written notice to the other party.

9. **Public Records.** Pursuant to Section 119.0701 of the Florida Statutes, Contractors acting on behalf of the County must comply with the public records laws, specifically: a)

keep and maintain public records required by the County to perform the contracted services; b) upon request from the County's custodian of public records, provide the County with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes or as otherwise provided by law; c) ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the contract term and following completion of the contract; and d) upon completion of the contract, keep and maintain all public records required by the County to perform the service, and meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records.

**IF THE CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO RETAIN AND PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE COUNTY'S CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT (941) 743-1441, E-MAIL TO RECORDS@CHARLOTTECOUNTYFL.GOV, 18500 MURDOCK CIRCLE, BLDG. B, Suite 200, PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA 33948.**

**10. Applicable Law.** This Agreement and the rights and obligations of the Parties will be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, with venue in Charlotte County, Florida.

**11. Severability.** If any provision of this Agreement, or the application of its provisions to any person or circumstance, is adjudicated as invalid or unenforceable to any extent, the remainder of this Agreement, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall remain in effect to the fullest extent practicable.

**12. Counterparts.** This Agreement may be signed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be considered an original and all of which, when taken together, constitute one and the same instrument.

**13. Assignment.** This Agreement may not be assigned to another party without the prior written consent of the County.

**14. Entire Agreement, Amendments.** This Agreement is the entire agreement between the Parties and may not be modified except by written agreement executed by both Parties, and no oral representation of any officer or employee of the County constitutes an amendment to this agreement. No representations or warranties have been made, or relied upon, except as set forth herein.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have executed this Agreement in Charlotte County, Florida as of the date last written below.

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph M. Tiseo, Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**  
Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of Circuit  
Court and  
Ex-officio Clerk of the Board of  
County Commissioners

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas M. David, County Attorney  
LR: 2026-0241 *XC*

<p><b>WITNESS:</b> By: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Date: <u>04/02/2026</u></p>	<p><b>FLORIDA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, CHARLOTTE CHAPTER</b></p> <p>By: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Martin Calkins, Ph.D., President</p> <p>Date: <u>April 2, 2026</u></p>
--	---

**Map Layout**



March 25, 2026

- Override 1
- Freeway
- Major Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Collector
- Local
- Unknown
- Property Ownership
- Block Number
- Lots

1:1,000  
0 0.01 0.02 0.03 mi  
0 0.01 0.02 0.04 km  
Charlotte County, Charlotte County GIS  
Charlotte County GIS



# THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Sponsored by the Charlotte Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution





# America in the Mid-1700s



Florida Society

Charlotte Chapter



In the mid-1700s, America was not yet a nation, but a collection of thirteen British colonies stretching along the Atlantic coast. With a population of 1.5 million people, these colonies were part of the British Empire and owed loyalty to the British Crown. At the same time, they developed strong local identities and long-standing traditions of self-government.

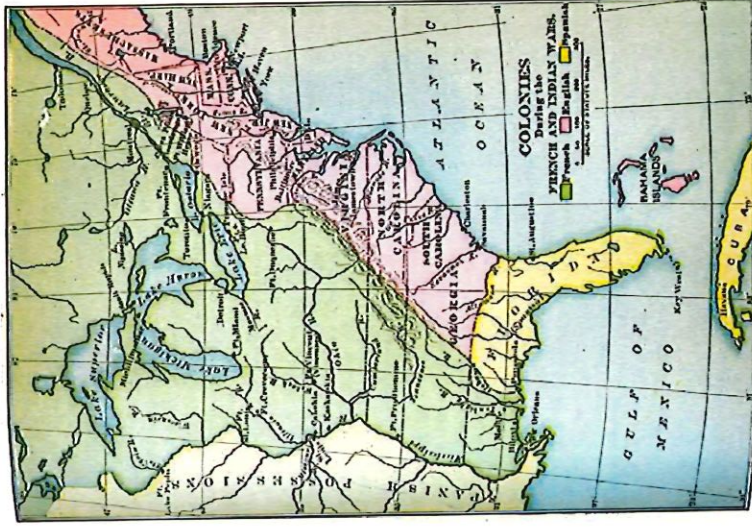
Colonial society was largely rural, with most people living on farms or in small towns. Port cities such as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston thrived on trade within the British imperial system. While Britain regulated commerce, the colonies enjoyed considerable freedom in local affairs through elected colonial assemblies.

The population was diverse:

- Most colonists were farmers, laborers, or artisans
- Wealth and political power were concentrated among elites
- Slavery was legal in all colonies and especially entrenched in the South
- Native Americans controlled large inland regions
- France and Spain claimed territory to the north, south, and west

**The French and Indian War (1754–1763) also known as the Seven Years War was a conflict between Great Britain and France for control of North America. Both sides received support from the Native American tribes. Battles were mostly fought in the Ohio River Valley and along the colonial frontier.**

**The war ended with a British victory that removed France as a major power in North America. However, the war left Britain deeply in debt. It then decided to tighten control over the American colonies—setting in motion the tensions that would soon lead to the American Revolution.**



Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."

# Roots of the Revolution



After the French and Indian War, Britain emerged victorious but deeply in debt. To pay for imperial defense, Parliament began **taxing and regulating the colonies more tightly**, fundamentally changing a relationship that colonists had long taken for granted.

### Proclamation of 1763

King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763 establishing a boundary along the **Appalachian Mountains** limiting colonial settlement westward. However, colonists viewed the proclamation as an unfair restriction on land they believed they had earned through war, making it another major source of resentment.

### Stamp Act (1765)

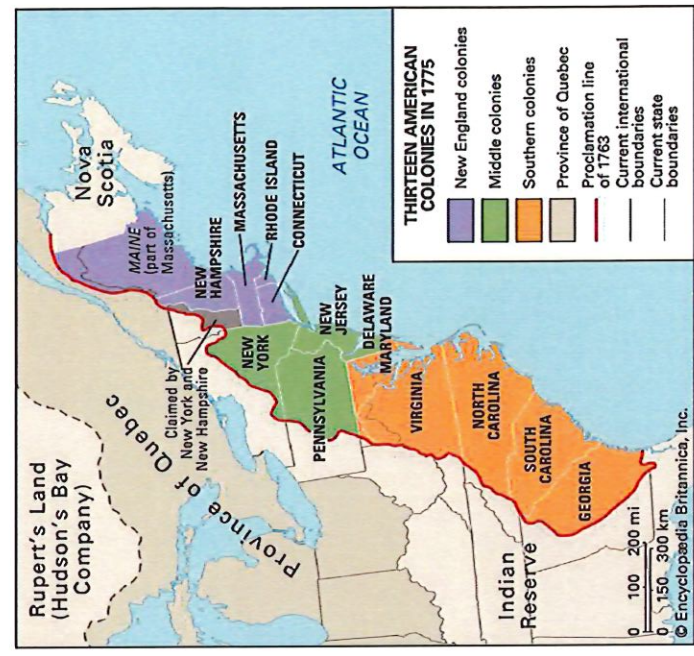
In 1765, Britain imposed its **first direct tax on American colonies**, requiring official stamps on all printed materials such as newspapers, legal documents, and playing cards. The tax was intended to pay for British troops in North America.

Colonists fiercely protested, arguing **"No Taxation Without Representation."** Widespread boycotts, protest and riots followed, forcing Parliament to repeal the act in 1766. However, the crisis **deepened colonial distrust of British Authority.**

### Townshend Acts (1767)

In 1767, Parliament passed a series of laws imposing new taxes and stricter controls on the colonies. Duties were placed on **glass, lead, paper, and tea** with revenues used to pay British officials in America.

Colonists saw the act as another attempt to assert Parliament control, further escalating tension between Britain and the colonies.





# Protest Turns to Violence



Paul Revere's engraving "The Bloody Massacre"

## Boston Massacre 1770

On the evening of March 5, 1770, British soldiers guarding the **Boston Custom House** became involved in a confrontation with a local apprentice. One soldier struck a boy with his musket, heightening tensions already running high due to the unpopular **Townshend Acts**.

As word spread, colonists gathered and began to argue with soldiers. Over several hours, a crowd of more than **300 people** formed, surrounding the troops stationed on the steps of the Customs House. British reinforcements arrived, eventually **nine soldiers** including **Captain Thomas Preston** came out from a nearby barracks.

The crowd hurled snowballs, stones, and insults at the soldiers. Amid the chaos and confusion, soldiers panicked and fired into the crowd. **Three colonists were killed instantly** and **two more died later of their wounds**. **Eight additional civilians** were injured.

## The Boston Massacre Trials

The soldiers were arrested and tried by colonial courts. **John Adams**, a future Founding Father, served as their defense attorney. Captain Preston and most soldiers were **acquitted**. Two soldiers, **Hugh Montgomery** and **Matthew Kilroy**, were convicted of **manslaughter** rather than murder. They avoided execution by pleading "**benefit of clergy**" and were punished by being branded on the thumb. The trial demonstrated early American commitments to **justice and due process-even for political enemies**.



Boston Massacre Trial

*Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."*



Florida Society  
Charlotte Chapter



# Protest Becomes Defiance

## The Boston Tea Party (1773)

In 1773, Parliament passed the **Tea Act** to help the financially struggling **British East India Company** by granting it a monopoly on tea sales in the American colonies. The act allowed the company to sell tea at a **lower price**, even with the tax included. Colonists viewed this as a **trick to make them accept Parliament's right to tax, violating "no taxation without representation."**

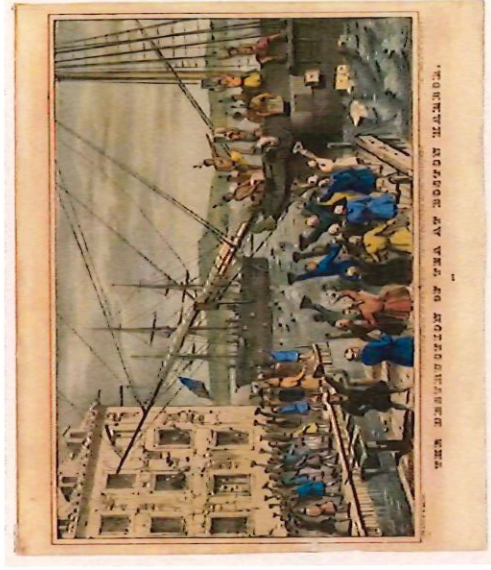
Colonists protested and refused to unload the tea, demanding it be sent back to Britain. **Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson** refused, insisting the tea be landed and the tax paid.

On the night of **December 16, 1773**, thousands of colonists gathered in protest. Members of the **Sons of Liberty**, some disguised as **Mohawk Indians**, boarded three British ships and dumped **342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor**. The protesters carefully destroyed the tea leaving the ships and cargo unharmed.



Samuel Adams

**Samuel Adams** played a key role in organizing resistance using speeches, meetings, and boycotts to rally oppositions against British policies. His leadership helped transform protest into organized defiance.



## British Response: The Intolerable Acts (1774)

In response, Parliament passed the **Intolerable Acts** (called the **Coercive Acts** in Britain), a series of punitive laws meant to punish Massachusetts. The Acts closed **Boston Harbor**, restricted **local self-government**, allowed British officials accused of crimes to be tried outside the colonies, and expanded the **Quartering Act** (requiring colonists to house, feed and supply British soldiers).

Rather than isolating Massachusetts, the Intolerable Acts **unified the colonies in outrage**, leading directly to the **First Continental Congress** and pushing the colonies closer to revolution.

*Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."*

# From Protest to War

## The First Continental Congress (1774)

In response to the Intolerable Acts and growing British tyranny following the Boston Tea Party, delegates from twelve colonies (Georgia did not attend) met in Philadelphia in 1774. Among them were **John Adams, Samuel Adams, George Washington, and Patrick Henry**.



The delegates hoped for a **peaceful resolution**, but they also laid the groundwork for **united resistance** if their grievances were ignored. They also agreed to reconvene if conditions did not improve.

The Congress:

- > Adopted the **Declaration of Rights and Grievances** that asserted the colonists' rights as Englishmen
- > Created the **Continental Association** to enforce a complete boycott of British goods
- > Sent petitions seeking reconciliation to **King George III** and the people of Great Britain

## Road to War (1775)

Parliament ignored the Congress's petitions and instead increased its **military presence** in Massachusetts. Tensions reach a breaking point in **April 1775**.

### The Battle of Lexington and Concord

On **April 19, 1775**, British troops marched from Boston to **Concord** to seize colonial military supplies. Colonial riders - most famously **Paul Revere** - alerted local **Minutemen**. A tense standoff occurred at Lexington where an **unknown shot** was fired triggering British volleys. Fighting intensified at **Concord's North Bridge**, and British forces suffered heavy casualties as they retreated to Boston.

These clashes marked the **start of the American Revolutionary War**

### Capture of Fort Ticonderoga

On **May 10, 1775**, a small force of **Green Mountain Boys** led by **Ethan Allen** and **Col. Benedict Arnold** captured **Fort Ticonderoga** in a surprise attack. The Fort's **59 cannons** and military supplies were hauled **300 miles** to Boston by **Col. Henry Knox** and then used to fortify **Dorchester Heights**, forcing the British to evacuate Boston during the **Siege of Boston**.



Battle at Concord's North Bridge

*Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."*



# War Begins

## Second Continental Congress (May 1775)

One month after the fighting at Lexington and Concord, the **Second Continental Congress** reconvened in Philadelphia. With open conflict underway, the Congress assumed the role of a wartime government.

The Congress:

- Established the **Continental Army**
- Authorizes the creation of the **Continental Navy**
- Appoints **George Washington** as **Commander-in-Chief**

The Congress also penned the “**Olive Branch Petition**”

In July 1775, Congress sent **King George III** the **Olive Branch Petition** expressing loyalty to the British Crown and urging the King to intervene and restore colonial rights. It was the colonies' last effort to avoid full-scale war.



**King George III** refused to see the petition, instead declaring the colonies to be in the state of rebellion and accused them of waging war against the British Empire.



General George Washington

**Siege of Boston (April 1775 to March 1776)** – Following Lexington and Concord, **15,000 New England militiamen** surrounded British Troops in Boston beginning the **Siege of Boston**. The British, outnumbered 2-to-1, remained confined to the city while awaiting reinforcements. In June 1775, British troops attacked Colonial positions on the **Charlestown Peninsula**, leading to the **Battle of Bunker Hill**. Although the British captured the ground, they suffered heavy casualties, proving the colonial forces could stand against professional soldiers.

In **July 1775**, **George Washington** arrived in Boston and began transforming the militia into a disciplined **Continental Army**. In **March 1776**, American forces fortified **Dorchester Heights** using artillery captured from Fort Ticonderoga. British **General William Howe** judged his position indefensible and **evacuated Boston** by sea, thereby ending the Siege.



Second Continental Congress 1775





# Declaration of Independence

In January 1776, Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, a pamphlet that powerfully argued for **American independence** from Great Britain. Written in clear and simple language accessible to ordinary people, it attacked the monarchy and British rule while making a compelling case for a new self-governed republic. The pamphlet became an immediate bestseller and was widely read aloud in taverns, town meetings, and even to Washington's troops.

Before *Common Sense* many colonists still hoped for reconciliation with Britain. By the summer of 1776, public opinion shifted dramatically. **Independence was now widely favored.**

On July 4, 1776, the **Second Continental Congress** unanimously adopted the **Declaration of Independence**. The document formally announced that the **thirteen colonies were separating from Great Britain** and asserting their right to **self-government**.

Authored primarily by **Thomas Jefferson**, the Declaration:

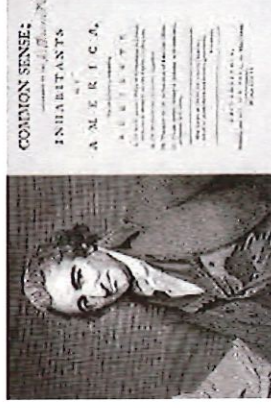
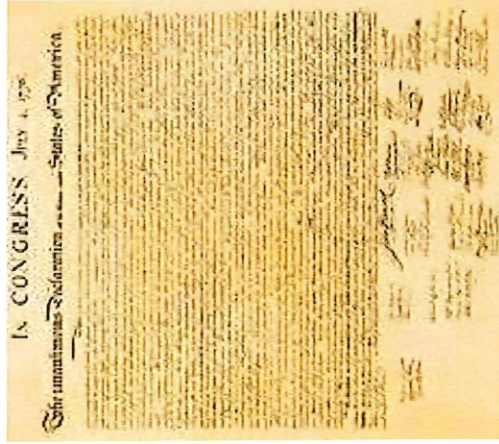
- Proclaimed the equality of all people
- Asserted natural rights to **life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness**
- Listed grievances against **King George III** to justify separation
- Declared the colonies to be **free and independent states**



Thomas Jefferson

With its adoption, the colonies committed themselves fully to revolution and entered into **open war with Britain as a new nation.**

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness..."*



Thomas Paine

Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."



# Initial Defeat Turns to Success



## Battle of Long Island (August 1776)

The Battle of Long Island (also known as the **Battle of Brooklyn**) was a major British victory and a crushing defeat for George Washington's Continental Army. British forces outmaneuvered and nearly trapped the Americans. However, Washington's daring nighttime evacuation across the **East River**, aided by fog and small boats, saved his army from capture. Although the British gained control of **New York City** for the remainder of the war, Washington's retreat preserved the Continental Army and kept the Revolution alive.

## Crossing the Delaware & Trenton (December 1776)

On Christmas night 1776, Washington led his army across the icy **Delaware River** in a risky winter operation. The surprise attack the following morning resulted in the capture of the Hessian troops at Trenton, delivering a much-needed victory that revived American morale at a critical moment.



Battle of Brooklyn



Washington Crossing the Delaware

## Battles of Saratoga (September–October 1777)

The Battles of Saratoga marked a decisive American victory. Continental forces led by **General Horatio Gates**, with key battlefield leadership from **Benedict Arnold**, defeated British General **John Burgoyne**. The victory prevented Britain from cutting off New England by controlling the **Hudson River Valley** and, most importantly, convinced France to form a military alliance with United States. Saratoga is widely considered the **turning point of the American Revolution**.

## Princeton Campaign (January 1777)

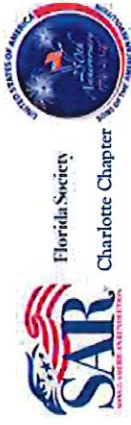
Following the success at Trenton, Washington launch a bold **ten-day campaign**. On January 2, 1777, he repelled a British attack at the **Battle of Assunpink Creek**. That night, Washington slipped away and marched his army toward **Princeton**, surprising British forces the next morning.

During the Battle, **Brigadier General Hugh Mercer** was mortally wounded while leading American troops. Believing Mercer to be Washington, British soldiers demanded his surrender and bayoneted him when he refused. Washington rallied his men, counterattacked, and secured victory.

The victories at **Trenton and Princeton** – three engagements in ten days – forced the British to **evacuate much of central New Jersey** and transformed the strategic outlook of the war.



# Revolution Becomes Global War



Recognizing that American colonies could not defeat the British alone, Benjamin Franklin was sent to France in 1776 as an American diplomat. In Paris, Franklin used his scientific fame, wit, and political skill to win French public and government support. At first, France provided **secret financial aid, weapons and supplies**.

After the American victory at Saratoga (1777) convinced France that the colonies could win, France formally recognized American independence and signed the Treaty of Alliance (1778), entering the war against Great Britain



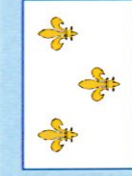
Comte de Rochambeau



Marquis de Lafayette



Admiral de Grasse



French support proved decisive, providing:

- > Vital loans and military supplies
- > Professional troops and officers
- > Naval power that challenged British dominance at sea

**Marquis de Lafayette:** A young French aristocrat who volunteered as a general in the Continental Army. He became to close aid to Washington and lobbied French court for aid.

**Comte de Rochambeau** Commanded thousands of French troops who fought alongside American forces and played a critical role in the campaign that led to victory at Yorktown.

**Admiral de Grasse:** Commanded the French fleet that defeated the British fleet at the Battle of Chesapeake (1781), cutting off General Cornwallis's escape by sea.



Benjamin Franklin in Paris

**Spain** officially entered the American Revolutionary in 1779, declaring war on Great Britain. Led by **Governor Bernardo de Galvez**, Spanish forces launched successful campaigns against **British West Florida**, captured **Baton Rouge** (1779), **Mobile** (1780), and the crucial port of **Pensacola** (1781). These victories removed British control from the Gulf Coast and **diverted British troops and resources** that were indirectly aiding the American cause.



The American Revolution had become a **global war** by 1780, with Britain fighting **France, Spain, the Dutch Republic, and the American Colonies** simultaneously. Britain was under great pressure having to defend, Europe, the Caribbean (vital sugar colonies), India, and the Atlantic.

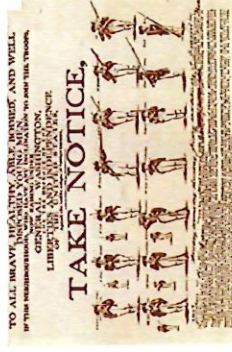
*Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."*



# Challenges of War



Florida Society  
Charlotte Chapter



Benedict Arnold

## Benedict Arnold: Hero turned Traitor

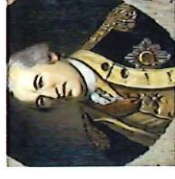
Benedict Arnold began the war as one of the **boldest and most effective Patriot commanders**. He led daring operations and played a decisive role at the **Battle of Saratoga** (1777), a turning point of the war.

Despite his success, Arnold grew **angry and disillusioned**. Feeling unappreciated by Congress, criticized by fellow officers, and burdened by debt, Arnold secretly agreed in **1780** while commanding the strategic fort at **West Point**, to surrender it to the British. His plot was uncovered when his collaborator, British officer **John André**, was captured while carrying incriminating documents. Arnold escaped to the British line before being captured.

Arnold later fought for Britain but was **distrusted by his new allies and despised by his former countrymen**. His name became synonymous with **treason**.

## How the Colonists Kept Up with News of the War

Colonists stayed informed through a **surprisingly fast and effective information network** that combined **print media**, **personal communication**, and **public gatherings**. **Newspapers** (a primary source of information) frequently reprinted articles from other colonies, allowing news to spread from New England to the South in just days or weeks. Many newspapers openly supported either the **Patriots or Loyalists**, thereby shaping public opinion as much as reporting events. **Pamphlets and Broadides** (single page posters) were also used in **town centers, churches, and marketplaces**. They were often **read aloud** for those who could not read.



Baron von Stueban

## Winter at Valley Forge

During the winter of **1777-1778** at **Valley Forge, Pennsylvania**, **George Washington's Army** endured extreme hardship. Soldiers suffered from **freezing temperatures**, **lack of food**, **inadequate clothing** (many lacked shoes), and **widespread disease**, leading to thousands of deaths from illness and exposure.

Amid these conditions, **Baron von Stueban**, a Prussian military officer, introduced **rigorous training and discipline** that transformed the Continental Army into a more professional fighting force. Valley Forge became not only a symbol of suffering but a **testament to resilience and unity**.

*Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."*



# Southern Campaign



Florida Society

Charlotte Chapter



For the first four years of the war, British leaders believed that isolating New England would bring a quick end to the rebellion. They captured **New York City** in 1776 and the American capital of Philadelphia in 1777. Despite these gains, the British suffered a devastating defeat at **Saratoga**, and generals **Sir William Howe** and **Sir Henry Clinton** failed to to to destroy the Continental Army. By 1779, Washington had fought the British to a costly stalemate in the North.

British strategy then shifted south. British leaders believed capturing the **Southern colonies' wealth and Loyalist support** would secure success.

## British Successes in the South

Early in the campaign British forces achieved **significant successes**, capturing **Savannah** (1778) and **Charleston** (1780), the largest American city to fall during the greatest defeat of the Revolution. British troops also won major battles at **Camden**, temporarily shattering Continental resistance in the South.



General Nathaneal Greene

## Patriot Resistance and Adaptation

Despite these victories, British control weakened due to harsh occupation policies, violent **Patriot-Loyalists warfare**, and effective American guerrilla tactics.

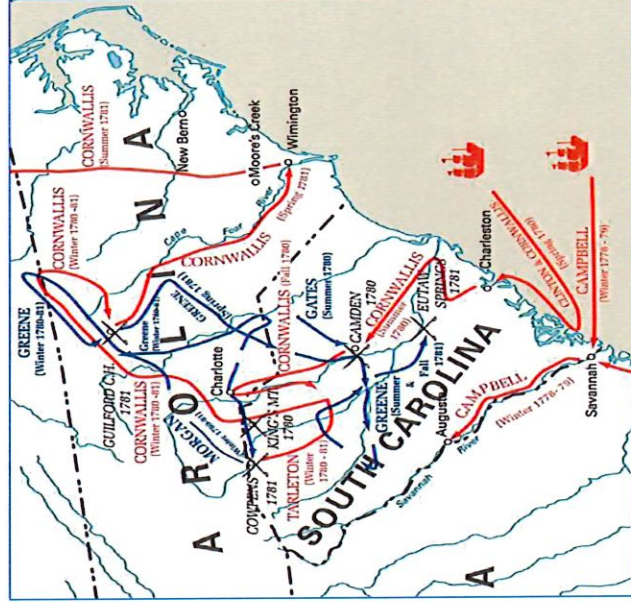
Patriot militias rebounded with decisive victories at **Kings Mountain** (1780) and **Cowpens** (1781).

Meanwhile, **General Nathaneal Greene** adopted a strategy of attrition thereby avoiding a decisive defeat while also exhausting the British.

**Gen. Greene's strategy: "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again."**

The campaign culminated at the **Battle of Guilford Courthouse** (1781) in North Carolina. British General **Charles Cornwallis** technically won the battle, but at devastating the cost of nearly **25-30 percent casualties**.

With his army weakened and supplies depleted, Cornwallis withdrew to **Virginia** in search of reinforcements thereby setting the stage for the final confrontation at **Yorktown**.



Battles of the British Southern Campaign

Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."



# Victory at Yorktown



Florida Society  
Charlotte Chapter

The American Revolutionary War effectively came to an end at the **Siege of Yorktown (1781)** through a carefully coordinated **American-French victory** that trapped and defeated Britain's main southern army.

By 1781, British General **Charles Cornwallis** had taken his army north from the Carolinas into **Virginia**, hoping to:

- Receive reinforcements by sea
- Establish a secure British base
- Disrupt American supply lines

Cornwallis fortified the port town of Yorktown, Virginia, believing the powerful **British Navy** would protect him.

## Allied Strategy

American General **George Washington** and French General **Comte de Rochambeau** recognized an opportunity for a decisive blow using **French naval power**.

- The French fleet under **Admiral Comte de Grasse** sailed into Chesapeake Bay
- In September 1781, it defeated the British navy at the **Battle of the Chesapeake**
- The victory sealed off Yorktown from the sea.

**Cornwallis was now trapped.**

## The Siege

Washington and Rochambeau marched their combined armies – about **17,000 American and French troops** – to Yorktown.

- Allied forces surrounded the British defenses
- Heavy artillery bombarded British positions
- American and French troops captured key outer fortifications

With **no escape, no reinforcements, and dwindling supplies**, the British position collapsed.



## The Surrender

On **October 19, 1781**, Cornwallis surrendered his army.

- More than **8,000 British soldiers** laid down their arms
- It was **Britain's largest defeat of the war**

Although some fighting continued elsewhere, **Yorktown shattered British political will** to continue the conflict and effectively secured **American independence**.

*Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."*



# BATTLE RESULTS



The American Revolutionary War included dozens of military engagements, with roughly 17 major battles shaping the outcome. American independence was not decided by a single victory but rather, a series of successes on land and sea stretching from New England to the Gulf Coast.

Britain did not “lose” the Revolutionary War because it was defeated everywhere. Instead, Britain chose to abandon the conflict because the war became too costly, widespread, and politically unsustainable.

Battle / Campaign	Date(s)	Location	Winner / Commander	Losers / Commander	Estimated Casualties
Lexington and Concord	Apr 19, 1775	Massachusetts	American Militia / John Parker	Britain / Francis Smith	90 British / 95 Colonists
Battle of Bunker Hill	Jun 17, 1775	Massachusetts	Britain / William Howe	America / William Prescott	1054 British / 450 Colonists
Siege of Boston	Apr 1775 to Mar 1776	Massachusetts	America / George Washington	Britain / William Howe	Minimal Casualties
Battle of Long Island	Aug 27, 1776	New York	Britain / William Howe	America / George Washington	1,500 Colonists / 400 British
Battle of Trenton	Dec 26, 1776	New Jersey	America / George Washington	Britain (Hessians) / Johann Rall	900 Hessians captured
Battle of Princeton	Jan 3, 1777	New Jersey	America / George Washington	Britain / Charles Mawhood	100 British / 40 Colonists
Battle of Brandywine	Sep 11, 1777	Pennsylvania	Britain / William Howe	America / George Washington	1,300 Colonists / 600 British
Battle of Saratoga	Sep - Oct 1777	New York	America / Horatio Gates	Britain / John Burgoyne	6,000 British surrendered
Battle of Monmouth	Jun 28, 1778	New Jersey	America / Britain	George Washington / Henry Clinton	1,100 total
Siege of Savannah	Sep - Oct 1779	Georgia	Britain / Augustine Prevost	America & France / Benjamin Lincoln / Comte d'Estaing	900 Allied / 150 British
Siege of Charleston	Mar - May 1780	South Carolina	Britain / Henry Clinton	America / Benjamin Lincoln	5,500 Colonists captured
Battle of Kings Mountain	Oct 7, 1780	South Carolina	America / Isaac Shelby & John Sevier	Loyalists / Patrick Ferguson	600 Loyalists casualties
Battle of Cowpens	Jan 17, 1781	South Carolina	America / Daniel Morgan	Britain / Banastre Tarleton	900 British casualties
Battle of Guilford Courthouse	Mar 15, 1781	North Carolina	Britain / Charles Cornwallis	Britain / Charles Cornwallis	500 Colonists / 500 British
Siege of Pensacola	Mar - May 1781	West Florida	Spain / Bernardo de Galvez	Britain / John Campbell	300 -400 total
Battle of Chesapeake	Sep 5, 1781	Coastal Virginia	France / de Grasse	Britain / Thomas Graves	330 British
Battle of Yorktown	Sep-Oct 1781	Virginia	America & France / Washington & Rochambeau	Britain / Charles Cornwallis	8,000 British surrendered

Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as “Fair Use.”



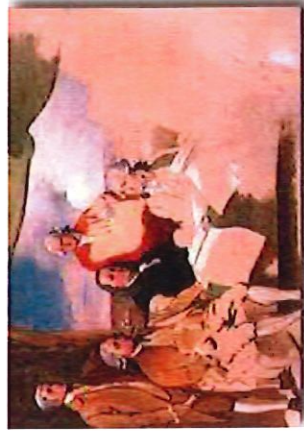
# Negotiating the Peace & Building a New Nation



## The Treaty of Paris (1783)

America independence was secured through the skilled diplomacy of Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, and John Adams. Negotiating directly with Great Britain – while leveraging French support and Britain's desire to end a costly global war – the American delegation achieved a **remarkably favorable peace settlement**.

The **Treaty of Paris (1783)** formally ended the Revolutionary War and recognized the United States as an independent nation.



Treaty of Paris

## The Constitution & New Government (1789)

In 1787, delegates met at the **Constitutional Convention** intending to revise the Articles but instead drafted an entirely new U.S. Constitution. The Constitution established a stronger federal system with three branches of government (legislative, executive, judicial). In June 1788, the Constitution took effect when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify, as required.

## The Bill Rights (1791)

In June 1788, the **First Congress** led by **James Madison** proposed **12 amendments** to protect individual liberties. By **December 1791**, **10 amendments** had been ratified by the states thereby forming the **Bill of Rights**.

## Legacy

Today, the **U.S. Constitution** and **Bill of Rights** remain the foundation of the **American System of government** – born from revolution, refined through debate, and sustained by democratic ideals.

## Key Treaty Provisions:

- **Formal Independence:** as a free and sovereign nation
- **Vast Territory:** Atlantic to the Mississippi River and Canada to Florida.
- **Fishing Rights:**– Valuable fishing rights off Newfoundland coast
- **Loyalist Property:** Congress agreed to fair treatment of Loyalists
- **British Evacuation:** British troops to withdraw from U.S. Territory

## The Articles of Confederation 1781 to 1789

In 1781, the new nation adopted its first written constitution, **The Articles of Confederation**. The Articles created a loose **“league of friendship”** among the states, with a weak central government and strong state authority.

These weaknesses soon became clear. The national government struggled to pay war debt, regulate trade, enforce laws, or raise taxes.

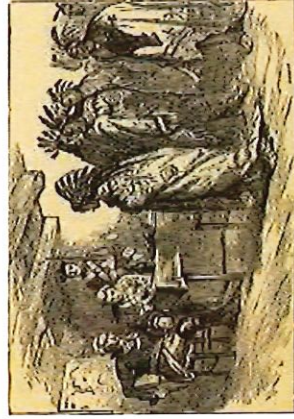
As a result, many leaders began calling for a **stronger national government**.



Bill of Rights and James Madison

*Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as “Fair Use.”*

# Impact of the Revolutionary War



## Disbanding the Continental Army

In November 1783, following the Treaty of Paris, Congress ordered the disbandment of the Continental Army. George Washington issued his Farewell Orders and dismissed most of the troops. Doing so reflected the deep American distrust of standing armies and reduced costs. A small force was retained to guard the frontier, forming the foundation of the United States Army which Congress established in 1784.

## Northwest Ordinance

In 1787, the Confederation Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance, one of the most important laws of the early republic. It created a system for governing the Northwest Territory (lands northwest of the Ohio River) and established a clear path for new territories to become states on equal footing with other states. The ordinance prohibited slavery, guaranteed civil liberties (religion, trial by jury), and promoted public education.

## Impact on Native American Tribes, Enslaved People, and Loyalists

The end of the American Revolutionary War brought independence for the United States but severe consequences for many groups. Native American tribes suffered widespread displacement and land loss as the new nation claimed territories ceded by Britain in the Treaty of Paris without tribal consent, fracturing alliances and leading to decades of conflict and forced migration. Enslaved African Americans faced mixed outcomes. Thousands sought freedom by joining British or American forces. Slavery gradually ended in some Northern states but expanded in the South, deepening the nation's central contradiction between liberty and bondage. Loyalists in support of the Crown often faced hostility, property confiscation, or violence. As a result, 60,000–80,000 fled the United States after the war, resettling primarily in Canada, Britain, and the Caribbean.



Patriot Prisoners of War



1st Rhode Island Regiment

## Captured American Soldiers and Their Fate

Captured soldiers during the Revolutionary War endured brutal conditions and many did not survive captivity. Historians estimate that approximately 11,000–18,000 American prisoners of war died in British captivity, a number greater than the total number of American soldiers killed in combat. Many were held in overcrowded prison ships, especially in New York Harbor, or in poorly supplied camps where disease, starvation, exposure, and neglect were widespread. Officers were more likely to be paroled or exchanged while enlisted men suffered the harshest treatment. After the war, surviving prisoners were gradually released or exchanged, but few received compensation or support. Many returned home permanently weakened, carrying lifelong physical and emotional scars—the often overlooked human costs of the Revolution.

Information presented here is solely for educational or research purposes. It is not for profit in any manner. As such, it may be categorized as "Fair Use."



# Test Your Knowledge



Florida Society  
Charlotte Chapter

1. Before independence, America was made up of how many British colonies?

- A. 10
- B. 12
- C. 13
- D. 15

2. Which war left Britain deeply in debt and led Parliament to tax the American Colonies more heavily?

- A. King Phillip's War
- B. The Seven Years War (French and Indian War)
- C. The Napoleonic Wars
- D. War of 1812

3. Which British law of 1765 required stamps on newspapers, legal documents, and other printed materials?

- A. Tea Act
- B. Townshend Acts
- C. Stamp Act
- D. Proclamation of 1763

4. What event on March 4, 1770, resulted in the death of five colonists and increased tensions between Britain and the Colonists?

- A. Boston Tea Party
- B. Battle of Bunker Hill
- C. Boston Massacre
- D. Lexington and Concord

5. Why did colonists dump tea into the Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party?

- A. Tea Shortages
- B. Poor quality of tea
- C. Protest against taxation without representation
- D. Anger at British soldiers

6. Which document, adopted on July 4, 1776, formally declared the Colonies' independence from Great Britain?

- A. Olive Branch Petition
- B. Articles of Confederation
- C. Declaration of Independence
- D. Treaty of Paris

7. Which American victory in 1777 convince France to formally ally with the United States?

- A. Trenton
- B. Yorktown
- C. Saratoga
- D. Camden

8. What was the main reason George Washington's army survived the defeat at the Battle of Long Island?

- A. British retreat
- B. French Reinforcements
- C. A daring nighttime evacuation
- D. Colonial reinforcements

9. Why was the Siege at Yorktown a decisive victory for the Americans?

- A. It was the first major battle of the war
- B. Cornwallis escaped safely
- C. French naval power Trapped British forces
- D. War of 1812

10. Which agreement officially ended the Revolutionary War and recognized American independence?

- A. Olive Branch Petition
- B. Treaty of Paris (1783)
- C. Northwest Ordinance
- D. Articles of Confederation

To join the SAR Charlotte Chapter contact: [WWW.SAR.ORG](http://WWW.SAR.ORG)

Answers 1. C, 2. B, 3. C, 4. C, 5. C, 6. C, 7. C, 8. C, 9. C, 10. B