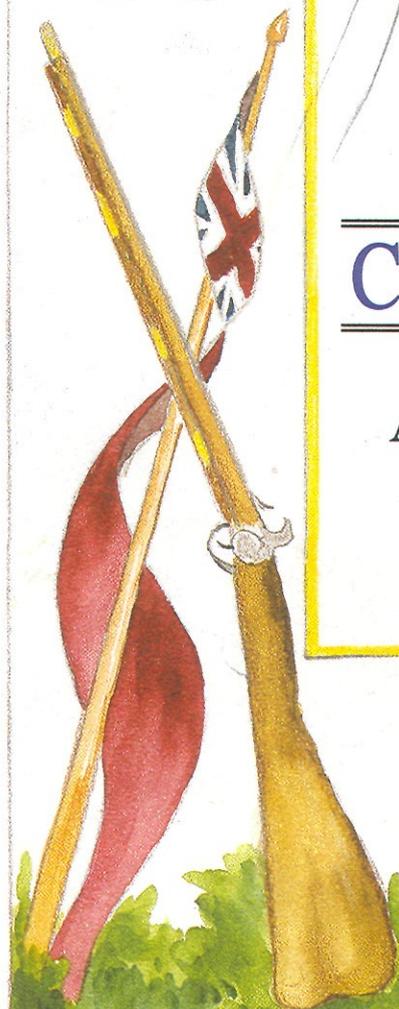


**THE
WORLD
TURNED
UPSIDE
DOWN**

CHILDREN OF 1776

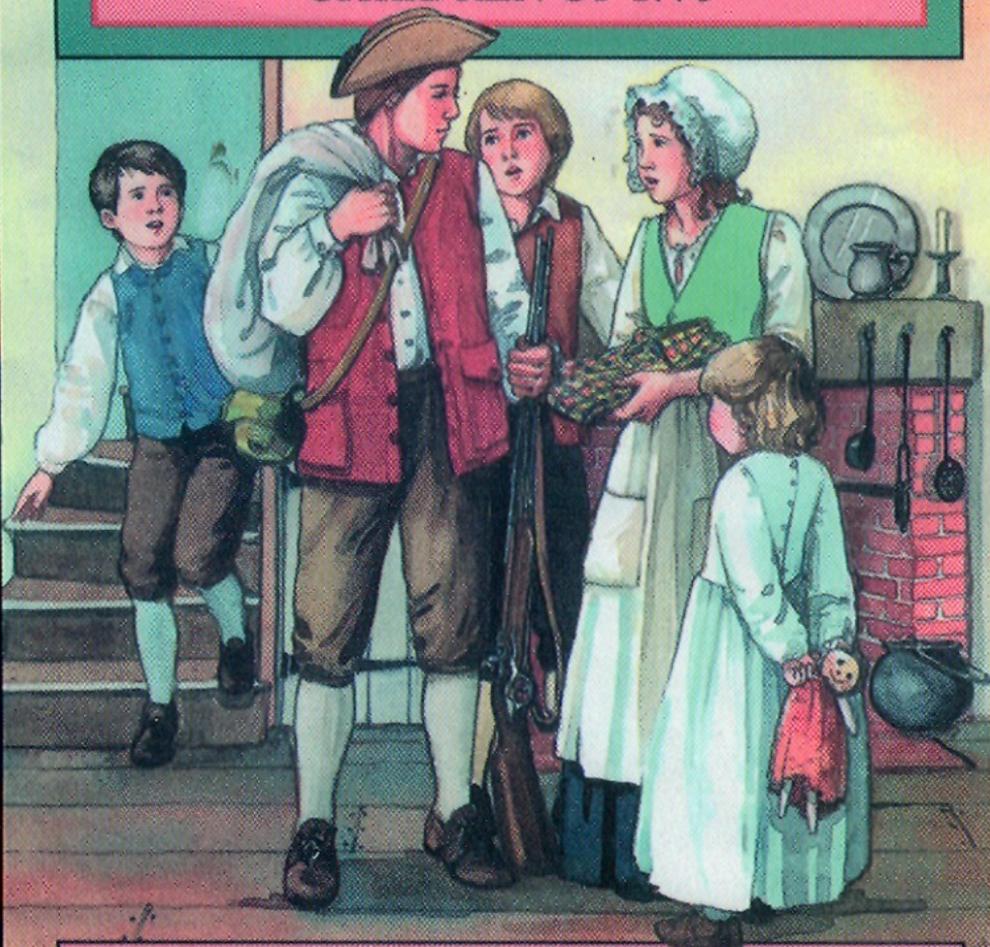
The Story of an
Annapolis Family During the
Revolutionary War

WRITTEN BY ANN DOWSETT JENSEN
ILLUSTRATED BY GAYLE TRAVIS-KEENE



THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

CHILDREN OF 1776



by ANN JENSEN
illustrated by MARCY DUNN RAMSEY



Join the Sands family in 1776 in Annapolis, Maryland, and learn how the American Revolution turned their world upside down. From the Annapolis "tea party" to the war's end, the five Sands children were part of events that created a new nation. Ordinary Marylanders played a vital role in winning independence. This new version of *The World Turned Upside Down* is written especially for fourth and fifth graders, and a teacher's guide is available to complement it.

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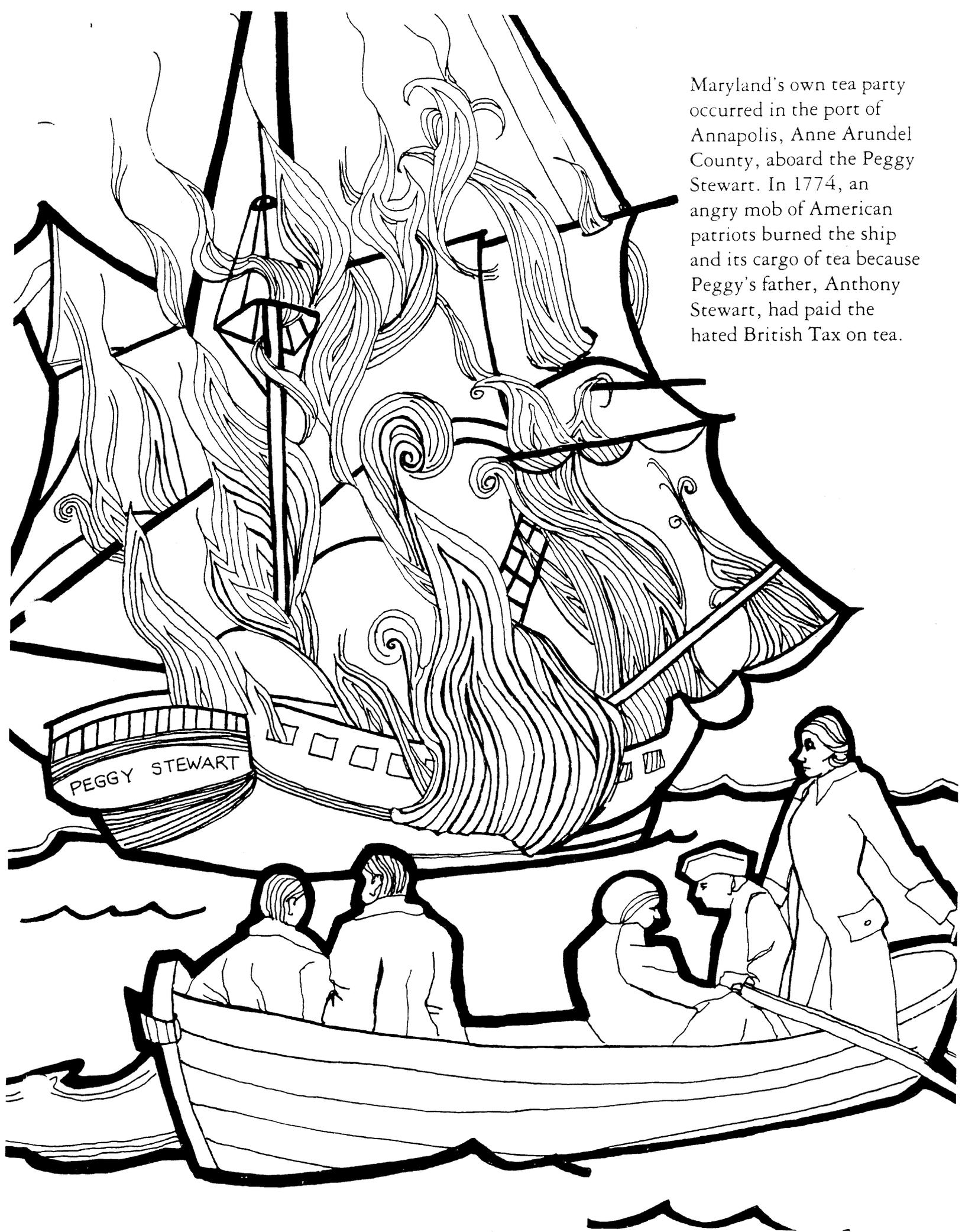
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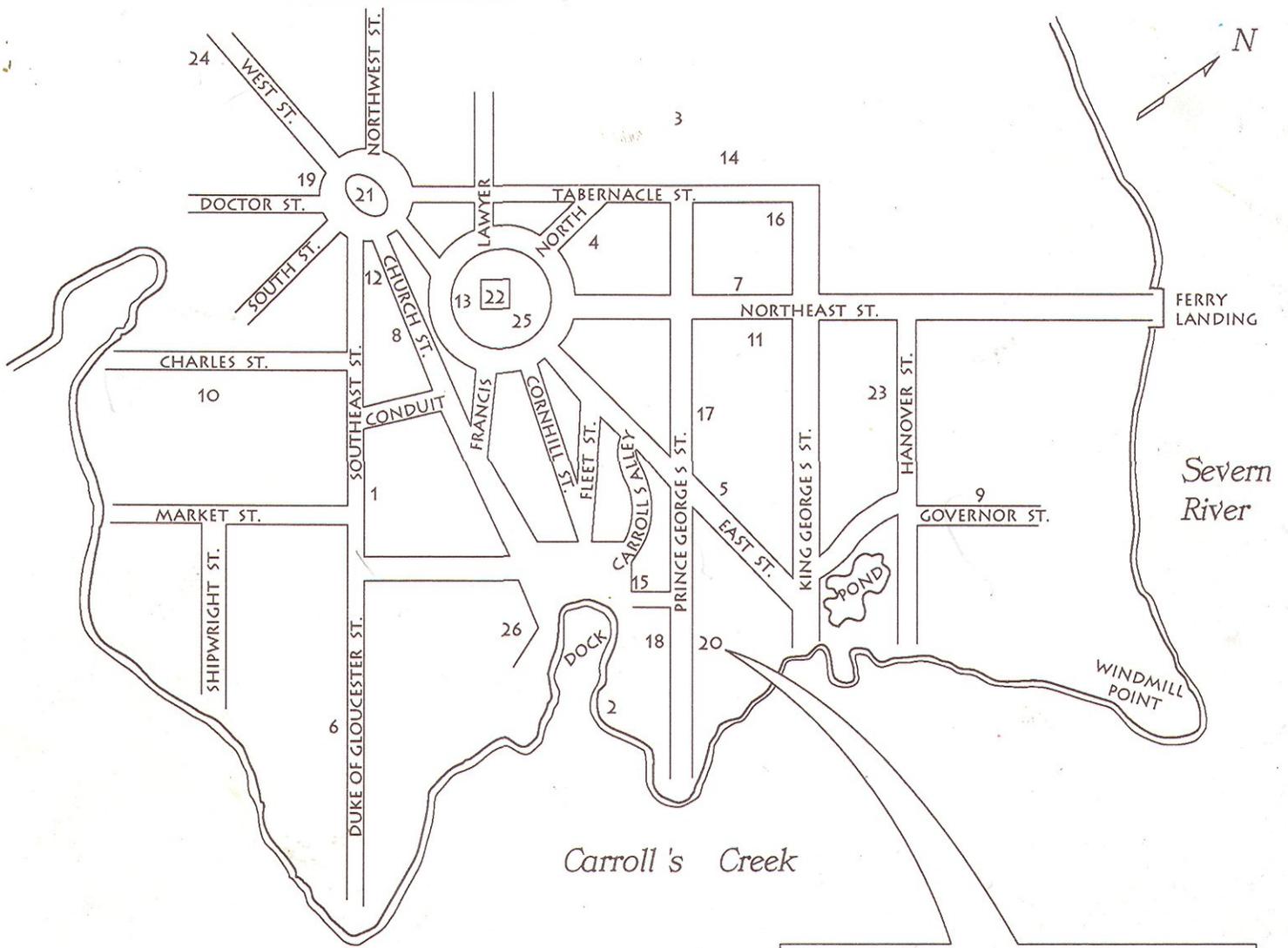
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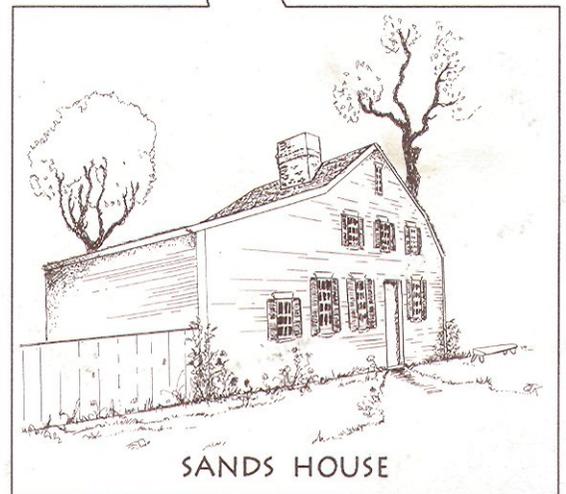
Maryland's own tea party occurred in the port of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, aboard the Peggy Stewart. In 1774, an angry mob of American patriots burned the ship and its cargo of tea because Peggy's father, Anthony Stewart, had paid the hated British Tax on tea.





— MAP KEY —

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 ASSEMBLY ROOMS | 14 LIBERTY TREE |
| 2 BATTERY | 15 MIDDLETON TAVERN |
| 3 BLADEN'S FOLLY | 16 OGLE HALL |
| 4 BORDLEY HOUSE | 17 PACA HOUSE |
| 5 BRICE HOUSE | 18 PRISON |
| 6 CARROLL HOUSE | 19 REYNOLD'S TAVERN |
| 7 CHASE-LLOYD HOUSE | 20 SANDS HOUSE |
| 8 COFFEE HOUSE | 21 ST. ANNE'S CHURCH |
| 9 GOVERNOR'S HOUSE | 22 STATE HOUSE |
| 10 GREEN HOUSE | 23 STEWART HOUSE |
| 11 HAMMOND HOUSE | 24 TOWN GATES |
| 12 HYDE'S HOUSE | 25 TREASURY BUILDING |
| 13 KING WILLIAMS SCHOOL | 26 VICTUALLING WAREHOUSE |



The Sands Family & Their Life In Colonial Annapolis

Many travelers passing through Annapolis stopped at the Sands' ordinary on Prince George's Street. The house was built in

the 1690s, around the time Annapolis became the capital of Maryland. John Sands bought it in 1771.

At the center of the house was built a



giant chimney that served four fireplaces in four rooms, two upstairs and two downstairs. One of the downstairs fireplaces was in the public room where people gathered to eat and drink.

According to colonial custom, dinner was served in the middle of the day. In the Sands' house, everyone ate in the public room. This was also where the men gathered to talk, play card games and checkers, and to drink their ale or rum punch. They rented long clay pipes and each new smoker broke a piece of the pipe stem off so he would have a fresh mouthpiece. The pipes were in a rack beside the fireplace. Men filled them with tobacco from a jar on the mantel.

At the Sands' ordinary, a customer could get a hearty, but plain meal for a shilling, a quart of beer for a penny and a place to sleep for six pence. At six pence a night, a person didn't expect a bed all his or her own. People almost always had to share - usually with another traveler, but sometimes with a member of the family.

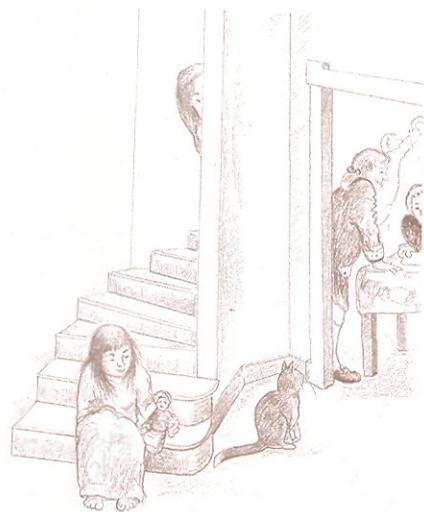
In the 1700s, working class people seldom had a bedroom of their own. Beds were in almost every room of a house, even the kitchen. On court days, market days, and fair days, all the beds in all the rooms were full. The men almost always finished the day with a bumper or two of ale in the public room. Then, Will or Nan lit the way with an oil lamp up the curving front stair to a bed. Some nights, the snores would rattle the roof timbers.

Sarah and Nan shared a tester bed in one of the upstairs chambers. There were two other beds in the room. Not many women stopped for the night, so the girls hardly ever had to share their bed with strangers. If their bed was needed for men, they slept in their parents' room.

Sharing a bed did have advantages. Especially in the winter. It was much better to climb into bed, pull the bed curtains, and snuggle down into the feather bed with another warm body. The coals smoldering in the fireplace across the room were not enough to keep them warm. The last thing Nan did before she and Sarah climbed into bed was to fill the bed warmer's pan with a few hot coals and run it between the covers.

The kitchen was behind the house in a separate building. It had the largest fireplace of all, big enough for Joseph to stand in and not even bump his head. Behind the house were a necessary, a small stable, a smoke house, a large kitchen garden, and pens for chickens and pigs.

Colonial children were expected to help their parents as soon as they were able, which meant that many began working around their homes at the age of six or seven. A working class boy as young as eleven or twelve often became an apprentice or went to work with his father to learn a trade, such as that of a blacksmith, a bricklayer, a carpenter, a shoemaker, a tailor, a weaver, or a shipwright. Some Annapolis boys attended King William's School near the State House. The sons of the wealthy either had tutors or were sent to England or Europe to school. Girls did not go to school. A great many children



were taught by their parents, grandparents or older brothers and sisters.

While boys learned a trade, girls learned how to manage a household. They learned how to cook and bake, to spin and sew, to make candles and soap, to wash and clean, to care for children, and to nurse the ill. Sometimes, when a young woman married, she worked with her husband to keep a shop, or work a farm, or as Ann Sands did, to run an ordinary or tavern.

JOHN & ANN SANDS

John Sands was a mariner and on the eve of the Revolutionary War, he owned a sloop

called the *Hope*. He used her to carry freight on the Chesapeake Bay from its Eastern to its Western Shore, to Norfolk in Virginia, to the little town of Baltimore up the Patapsco



River, and to the Elk River at the top of the Bay. He carried wheat, beans, corn, tobacco, beeswax, empty barrels, barrels full of salt meat, wooden staves for making barrels, lumber for houses and boats, feathers for feather beds, letters, messages and packages of all sorts. When there was room, he even carried a passenger or two.

Besides carrying freight in the *Hope*, John Sands kept a small store in his house on Prince George's Street. There, he sold grain, salt

meat, lumber, and a variety of dry goods. When he was away on the *Hope*, Ann managed the

store as well as the ordinary. The Sands kept cattle and hogs. They sold their hides to the tanyard across town. Some of the meat went into their smokehouse. Some was salted in barrels.



Ann Sands' day usually began with plans for the baking of bread and other cooking that had to be done that day. Meat might be cooked fresh, but it also was smoked or salted for later use. In her kitchen garden, Ann grew vegetables, fruits, herbs, and plants to be used for making medicines and dyes.

John Sands went to sea as a boy and had no schooling, so Ann did much of the book-keeping for the ordinary and taught their children to read and write.

WILLIAM SANDS

Will Sands spent a short time in school and then went to work with his father on the Bay. At home, he also helped with the butchering of cattle and hogs, and kept the household supplied with wild fowl and game from his hunting trips. His fringed hunting shirt



became his uniform when he enlisted in Captain Scott's Company. The men of the First Maryland Regiment did not have regular uniform coats for nearly a year. As a part of his equipment, Will also carried a leather cartridge box, a small ax and a knife in his belt, a wooden canteen and a knapsack. He carried a single-shot, muzzle-loading musket.

NAN SANDS

Nan helped her mother in the ordinary. She did sewing and mending for her family, made hundreds of linen napkins for the Sands' ordinary, and earned money by sewing for other people in town. Nan taught Sarah to sew, and also taught her and Joseph to read and write and do arithmetic. Sarah practiced her sewing, her writing, and her arithmetic by making samplers.



Nan was proud of her small collection of books. Among them was a book on Africa, Guinea and other strange lands, called "A Curious Collection of Travels." Books of her day declared that a young lady must have "a spirit of obedience, pliability of temper and humility of mind," which might have prompted her to write in one book:

"Nan Sands, her book, her hand, her pen.
She will be good, but God knows when."

JOHNNY SANDS

Johnny tended the Sands' cattle. They were kept in pens with everyone else's cows beyond the town gates at the end of West Street.

Johnny knew his cattle because they were ear-marked by notches in their ears.

The family's pigs were also ear-marked, but they were penned near the pond behind the

Sands' house. They were not like the cows. He did not mind the cows. They stayed where they were put, but the pigs were another matter. They were always getting loose, and running in the streets.

Johnny's favorite chore was fishing. In fair weather, he could almost always be found out in his skiff. Often, he caught diamond back terrapins which his mother served in soup for midday dinner. His least favorite chore was tending the fires in the five fireplaces. Every night, he banked the coals with ashes so he would not have to start a fresh fire in the morning. He was up with the sun, to rake away the ashes and gradually build up the fire with kindling and logs. He helped it along with the careful use of the bellows. The kitchen fire came first so that he could start a kettle of water for tea and for his father and Will to use for shaving.





SARAH SANDS

Sarah helped in the kitchen. She liked baking days best. They baked bread twice a week. Every day, there were dozens of iron knives and pewter spoons to be washed.

Forks were used in only a few of the finest houses in town. The family and customers used pewter plates—exactly sixty-eight of them. Sarah kept a count every week when she had to polish the pewter with wood ashes and water.

Every morning, Sarah fed the chickens and collected their eggs. That was her favorite job. Everybody's least favorite job was making soap, but they did not do that often. Ann Sands usually bought soap. It came in a large block and she cut off pieces as they were needed. The Sands still made candles though—dozens in large and small molds. Another of Sarah's jobs was to make sure the candle boxes on each mantel were filled.



JOSEPH SANDS

One of Joseph's most important jobs was to keep the wood-box full. His other big job was fetching water from the town well. He had help with both jobs from the slave boy Davey, who was

just Joseph's age. They shared most chores. If people could not find one boy, they would start

looking for the other when there were errands to be run or water buckets to be filled. Joseph was big for his age and strong, from carrying wood and especially the heavy water buckets. He and Davey had to step carefully between the ruts in the street so as not to slosh the water. If they spilled too much, they would surely have to go back to the well for more.

SLAVES

Like many Annapolitans, the Sands owned negro slaves. Two were young men named

James and Harry. They worked for John Sands on the waterfront. He received



the money they earned. He also hired them out to carry a sedan chair. Streets in the town were dusty when dry and a sea of mud when it rained, so colonial visitors and wealthier Annapolitans hired sedan chairs to carry them from place to place.

Another of John Sands' slaves was Tom, a pilot, who knew the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and creeks as well as anyone. He often sailed John Sands' sloop *Hope* or went aboard other boats to guide them up and down the Bay. Tom's wife Hagar worked in the ordinary as the cook. They had two children, ten-year old Eliza and seven-year old Davey, and all four lived in the attic above the kitchen.

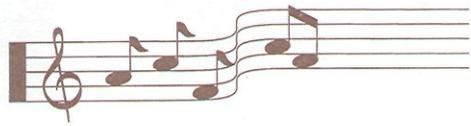














A Precious Hour in American History The Maryland 400 at Long Island

Photographs by Tom Milmore



Diorama of the battle at the Cortelyou House

Maryland 400 Monument

On August 27, 1776 the Continental Army fought its first major battle of the Revolution.

The battle was predictable by both sides. After the British evacuated Boston in March 1776, Washington reasoned that they would invade the New York area. He was right, for the British saw New York as the place to gain a decisive victory and turn sympathies away from the revolutionary cause. Thus, when the Continental Army moved South from Boston in the spring of 1776, the confrontation was inevitable. For the

Maryland soldiers who hurried North in July to join the American army gathering in New York, it would be a severe test indeed -- one in which they would prove themselves more than worthy.

In all, there were roughly 3,900 Marylanders with the army, although not all were directly involved in the Long Island action. In this brief article, we will focus on the so-called Maryland 400; five companies from Smallwood's battalion that were thrust into a critical role and performed heroically.

The events that placed the Maryland 400 in that critical role on that August day in 1776 were unusual. Washington's Continental Army was outnumbered, outgunned, and outsupplied. It was sorely lacking in ability to collect and use intelligence information, divided in the face of a superior foe, and meeting a well-disciplined, well-supplied enemy on their terms.

Although Washington had over 30,000 men on paper, roughly one-third were absent or too ill to fight, and better than half were militiamen with various terms of service and uncertain capabilities. Altogether he had perhaps 20,000 ready for duty, with three of his four divisions bivouacked on Manhattan while the fourth was partly on Governor's Island at the mouth of the East River and partly on the Long Island side of the river to protect the left flank. The Long Island contingent fortified themselves on Brooklyn Heights (site of the present Borough of Brooklyn) and established strong outposts along the heavily-wooded, five-mile ridge that lay about a mile and a half to their front.

The British force, based on Staten Island, had nearly 27,000 men (including 7,000 Hessian mercenaries) under General Sir William Howe, and 400 ships of war manned by 10,000 seamen under his older brother, Admiral Lord Richard Howe.

General Howe recognized Washington's isolated left wing on Long Island and decided to attack it. On August 22, he landed 15,000 men in Gravesend Bay on the southern shore of Long Island. Washington expected a two-pronged attack and considered Manhattan to be the primary objective. He did send 1800 reinforcements across the East River to Brooklyn Heights but held to his belief that the Long Island attack was only the beginning of a large-scale invasion on Manhattan. By 26

Cortelyou

August 1776, however, Howe had landed 20,000 and Washington was convinced that the main thrust would be against Brooklyn Heights. Eventually the Americans placed a total of 10,000 troops on Long Island under the divisional command of General Israel Putnam. The advance positions along the ridge were manned primarily by two brigades; Sullivan's on the left (to the NE) and Stirling's on the right (to the SW). Lord Stirling, (actually the title assumed by William Alexander) had Haslet's Delaware Continentals and Smallwood's Maryland Regiment in his command. At the time, however, Smallwood was on Manhattan Island attending to a court's martial matter, and command of the Maryland Regiment fell to Major Mordecai Gist, the young, sharp-eyed Baltimore merchant.

The full story of this critical period is replete with brilliance, mistakes, luck and heroism. In this review, however, we will try to highlight only the key elements to provide a context for the heroic actions of the Maryland 400.

In the early hours of 27 August, the British sent two diversionary columns against Sullivan's and Stirling's brigades to occupy them while a third, led by Howe, moved secretly through the night to envelop Sullivan's left flank. At sunrise, the Hessians probed key passes in the center while Howe's 10,000 completed their surreptitious flanking movement through the virtually unguarded Jamaica Pass. Then at 8:30 a.m., Howe sent his men charging into the rear of the American center and left flank. Sullivan turned to meet them, but the unexpected thrust caused great confusion and, with the Hessians breaking through the American center behind them, Sullivan's entire left wing collapsed and rolled South in shattering defeat.

Meanwhile, on the American right, Stirling also came under heavy pressure. Gist had awakened his Marylanders at 3:00 a.m., when word of the enemies advance was received, and quickly moved them out to take up defensive positions with Haslet's Delawares to their left, and wait. Soon, the advancing red line appeared in the cold, gray dawn and a heated exchange began, continuing four hours until 11 o'clock, as Stirling's troops stood fast.

Finally, the British commander, resupplied and reinforced to 9,000 men, launched his all-out attack, applying heaviest pressure to the Marylanders on the right. Stirling realized his 950 could not hold and that the enemies flanking thrust on his right could shut off his only remaining avenue of retreat across the Gowanus Salt Marsh to the primary American positions in Brooklyn Heights. As his men withdrew toward the Mill Dam road and bridge (the only solid ground over the swamp) Stirling realized that another British force was coming upon his left around Cortelyou House, a two-story house that commanded the escape route. Acting to save what he could, Stirling promptly detached half of the Maryland element and ordered the Delawares and remaining Marylanders to retreat across the creek. Stirling formed Gist and his 250 Marylanders and moved directly to meet the British in and around Cortelyou House in a desperate effort to hold them while the rest of his command escaped. The British met them with a devastating volley. Under intense fire, the Marylanders halted, fell back and reformed to rush the house again. Again, heavy British fire cut them down, forcing them to withdraw and regroup. In spite of heavy casualties, the heroic Marylanders rallied for three more gallant but futile charges. Their 6th attack was shattered by British reinforcements, and the survivors scattered, desperately seeking a way back to their lines.



With the British in control of the Cortelyou House, the survivors were denied the Dam Road crossing. Discarding weapons and equipment, they stumbled through the marsh and into the swamp. Their flight was observed from the Brooklyn defenses by Washington, now joined by

Smallwood, who acted to bring up two light artillery pieces and a few infantrymen to deter the pursuing British on the far side of the swamp. He was successful, and the few remaining Americans who could swim made their way to safety. It was two o'clock in the afternoon and the fight was over. Stirling had been captured and only ten (including Major Gist) of the 250 heroic Marylanders in his gallant counter-attack force had returned.

The result of the brief battle was stunning for the Americans. More than a thousand men were killed, captured, or missing. Generals Stirling and Sullivan were in the enemy's hands. The battalion lost more than 250 of their number. Most of the Marylanders' casualties occurred in the retreat and desperate covering action at the Cortelyou House. Of the original Maryland 400 muster, 96 returned, with only 35 fit for duty.



The Marylanders performance at Long Island began a long and proud reputation, and the heroic stand and counter attack by the members of the Maryland 400 is still recognized as the State's major contribution to the struggle for independence. Washington recognized the gallant performance and included the men from Maryland in his rear guard to cover the remarkable evacuation of the American force back to Manhattan on the night of the 29th.

Thomas Field, who wrote of the Battle of Long Island in 1869, called the stand of the Marylanders an hour more precious to liberty than any other in history. And well it might be! They stood as the final anchor of the crumbled American front line, and their heroic action not only saved many of their fellows but afforded Washington critical respite to regroup and withdraw his battered troops to Manhattan and continue the struggle for independence.

Mordacai Gist ultimately became a Brigadier General and distinguished himself as an exceptional leader. A strong patriot, he named his two sons States Rights and Independence. The states' rights issue today still includes the use of National Guard troops outside of the individual states. In 1776, the Province (States) felt strongly that the militia existed to protect the province, in accordance with the King Charles Charter of 1632, and should not be deployed beyond state boundaries. As a matter of historical fact, few militiamen joined the Continental Army. Smallwood's command was converted to Continentals and the earlier-formed units in western Maryland were organized as Continentals. For the most part, states kept their militiamen inside the state boundaries and formed new units to answer the call of the Continental Congress for support in the Revolution.

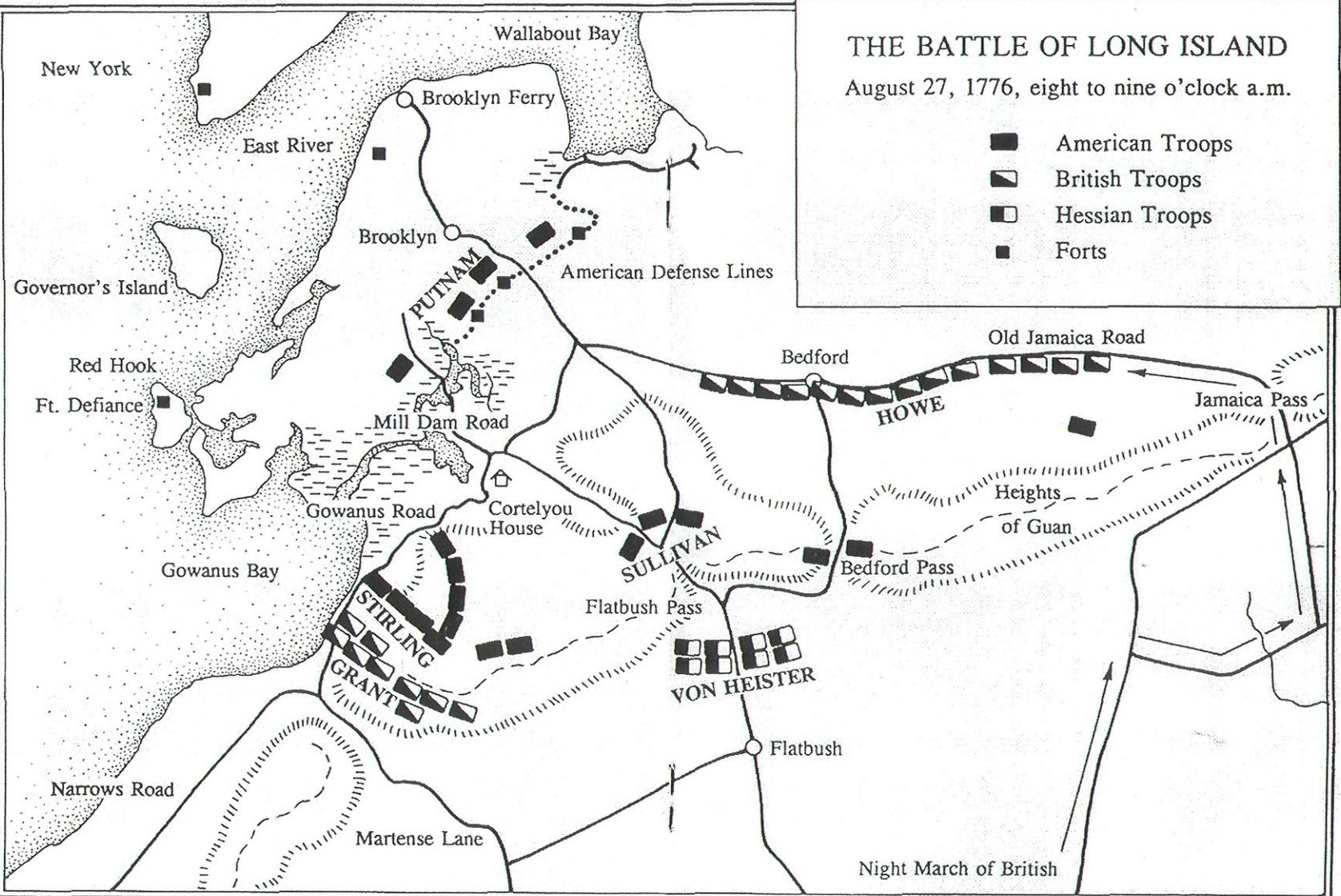
The importance of the Maryland 400 effort at New York during the Battle of Long Island can hardly be overstated. Their heroic stand was truly a precious hour in American history.

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Last Modified . bv

THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND

August 27, 1776, eight to nine o'clock a.m.

-  American Troops
-  British Troops
-  Hessian Troops
-  Forts



Name _____ Date _____

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

WORDS TO KNOW

Chapter 1, "They're Burning the *Peggy Stewart!*" p. 7-15.

1. amiss _____
2. coverlet _____
3. shilling _____
4. tar and feathers _____
5. molasses _____
6. fife, fifer _____
7. brig _____
8. skiff _____
9. Peggy Stewart _____
10. *Peggy Stewart* _____



Name _____ Date _____

“They’re Burning the *Peggy Stewart!*” p. 7-15.



Directions: Read these questions. Then read pages 7-15. Remember to answer all questions in complete sentences.

1. Why did Nan go to the Stewart’s house?

2. Why did James order Peggy away from the window?

3. Why was this a poor time to have the name Peggy Stewart?

4. First Parliament had taxed _____. Then it taxed _____. Finally in 1773 it taxed _____.

5. After the Boston Tea Party the English closed the port of Boston. What two things did the Marylanders send to the people of Boston?

6. What two important things did the Marylanders decide to do next?

7. Did Anthony Stewart pay the tax on tea? _____

8. What happened to the *Peggy Stewart*?

Name _____ Date _____

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

WORDS TO KNOW

Chapter 2, "The World Turned Upside Down"

1. smoldering - _____

2. concoctions - _____

3. Liberty Tea - _____

4. lobsterback, boiled lobsters - _____

5. Tory - _____





Name _____ Date _____

“The World Turned Upside Down”

Directions: Read pages 17 – 21.

The Elements of Literature:

Beginning:

Middle:

End:

Questions:

1. There were two ways the Annapolitans seemed to feel after the burning of the Peggy Stewart. What are the two ways? _____

2. As angry as most Annapolitans were, they wished to be loyal to King George, for they still felt they were "English". Tell five ways the Annapolitans still seemed English. _____

A. _____

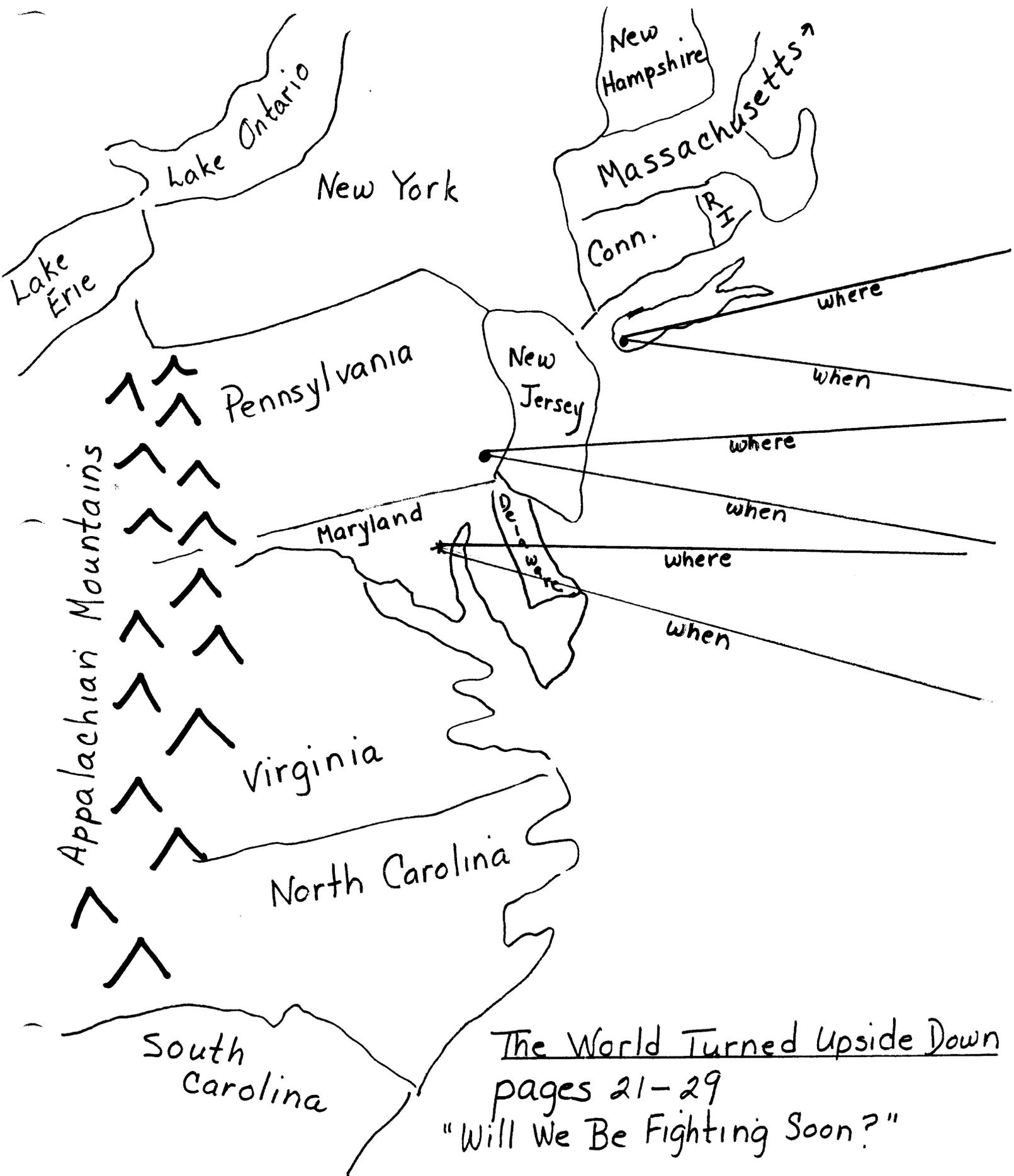
B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

Setting Activity



The World Turned Upside Down
pages 21-29
"Will We Be Fighting Soon?"

Name _____ Reading

Date _____ The World Turned Upside Down



“What Brave Fellows I Must This Day Lose” - pages 31 – 35

Setting: Add to your “middle” setting
Setting Map for the Battle of Long Island

Characters: Add leaders of the War for Independence mentioned in this and the previous chapter.

Plot: Read pages 31 through 35. Review pages 21 through 29. Using your book, number the following in the order they happened:

_____ Will’s company is ordered to join Washington’s army in New York.

_____ Will is killed in battle.

_____ Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown.

_____ The British sloop-of-war, the Otter sails into the Chesapeake Bay.

_____ During the night, Cornwallis and 24,000 redcoats move up Long Island and surround Washington’s army.

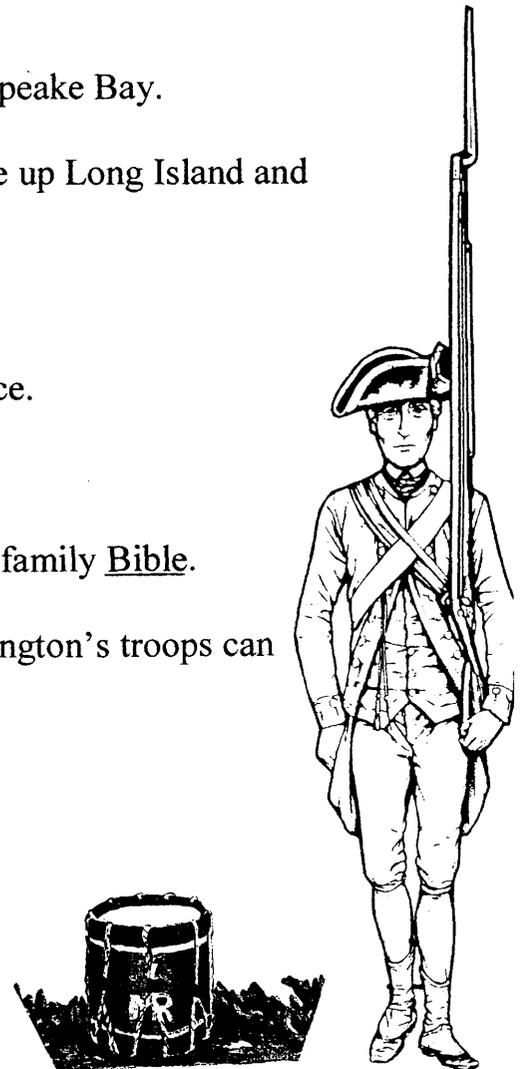
_____ Maryland’s last colonial governor returns to England.

_____ Four Marylanders sign the Declaration of Independence.

_____ Maryland troops are sent to a place called Brooklyn.

_____ Will’s last letter is read by the family and put into the family Bible.

_____ Maryland troops keep the British at bay so that Washington’s troops can escape from Long Island.



Name _____ Date _____

"Yankee Doodle," p. 37-41.

1. What was the job of the First Maryland Regiment during the retreat across the East River to New York?

2. Look up the word courier in your glossary. Write its definition here.

3. How did the Sands family receive the news of Will's death?

4. Why was there no time for the Sands family to mourn?

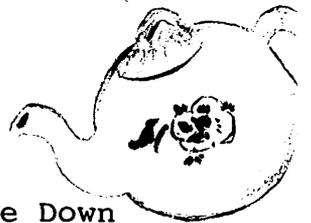
5. What did John Sands do to help the Americans?

6. What did Johnny do to help his family?

7. What did Nan do to help the Americans?

8. Where and when did the war end?



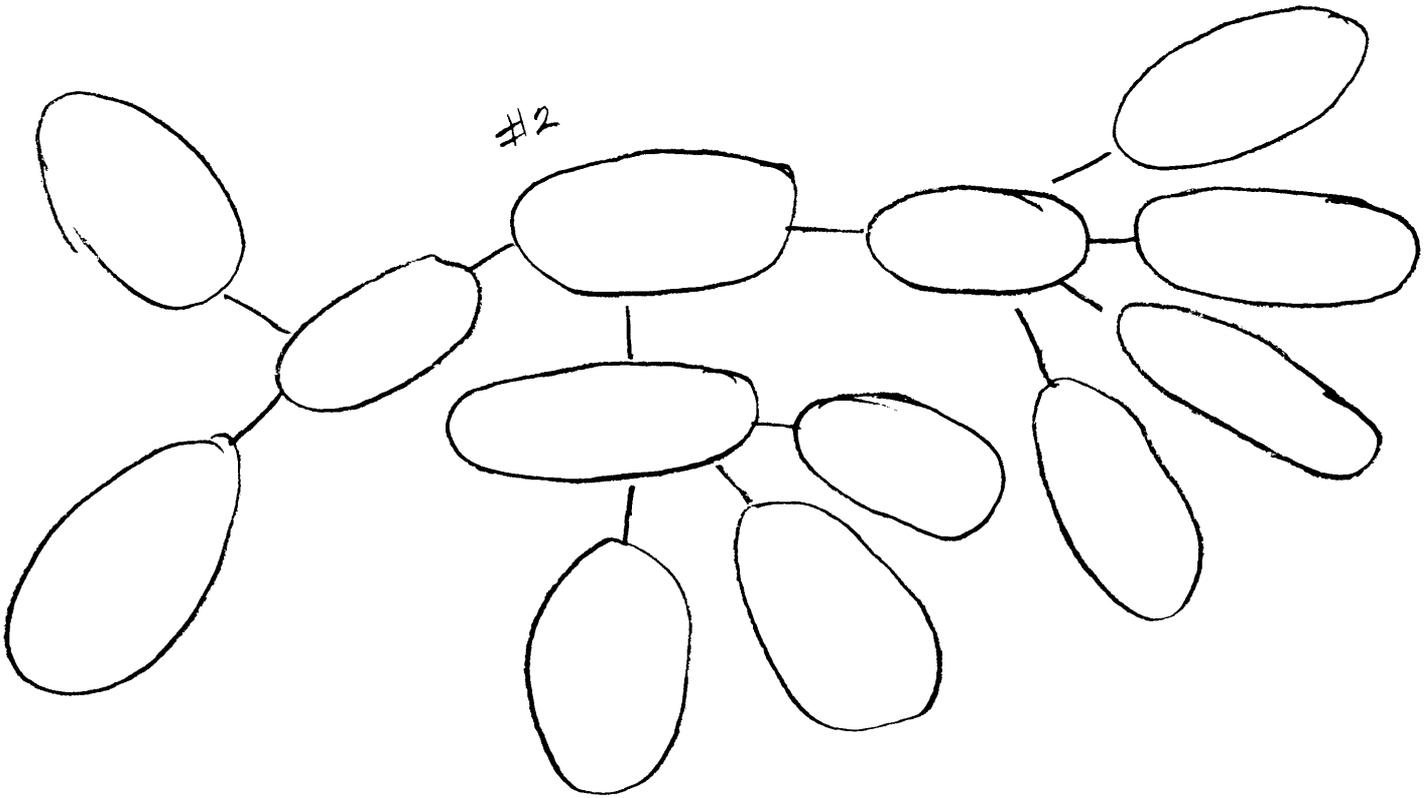
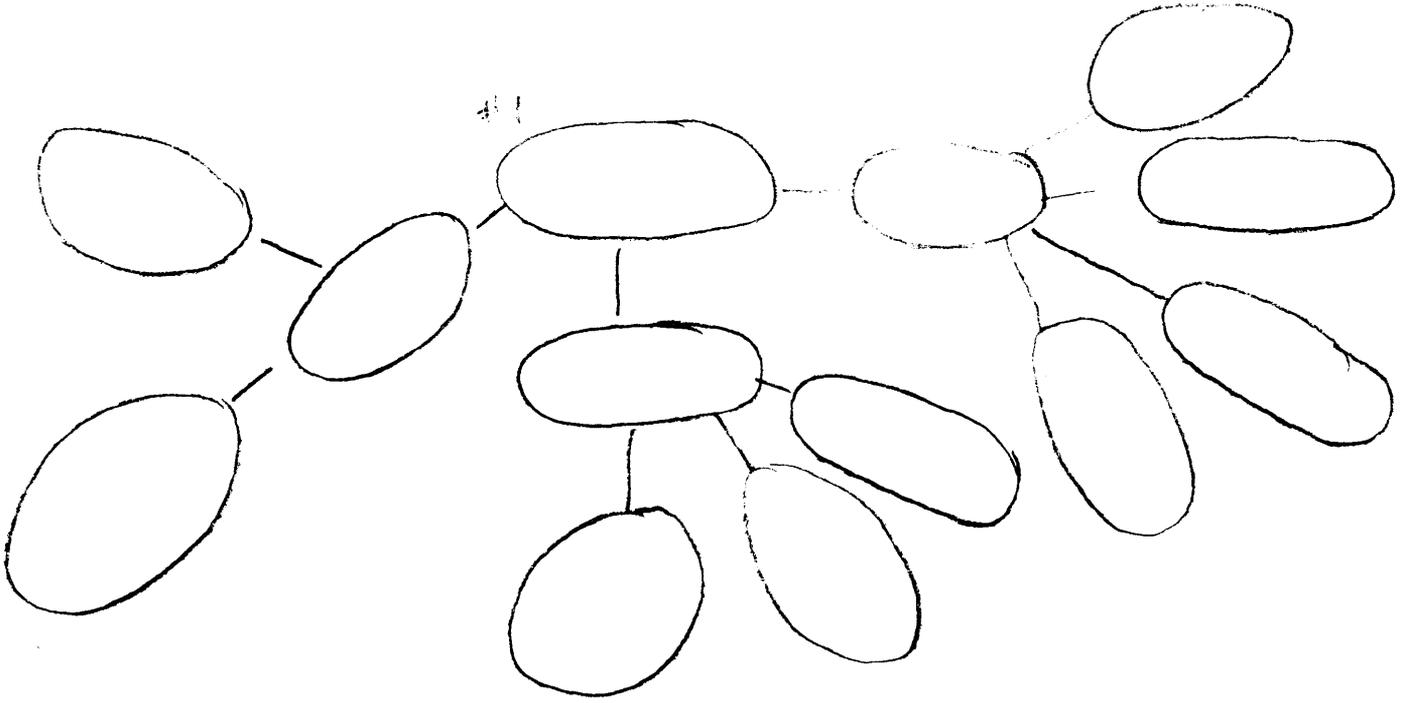


Name _____

Date _____ The World Turned Upside Down

WORD WEBS

Select TWO NEW WORDS from the GLOSSARY. Write each one in the center of a web. Web each word by adding synonyms, antonyms, and other word associations you can make and explain

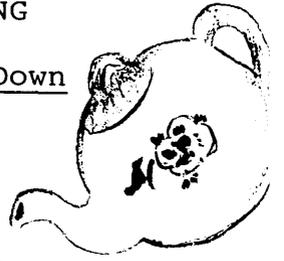


NAME _____

LANGUAGE ARTS/READING

DATE _____

The World Turned Upside Down



UPSIDE DOWN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

We will use the World Turned Upside Down to find a word for each letter of the alphabet. However, we will write them in reverse (upside down) order starting with the letter Z. Pick interesting words. Do not use words such as and, or, but, like, good, bad,

Z _____

O _____

Y _____

N _____

X _____

M _____

W _____

L _____

V _____

K _____

U _____

J _____

T _____

I _____

S _____

H _____

R _____

G _____

Q _____

F _____

P _____

E _____

D _____

C _____

B _____

A _____



Now choose 10 of the words you wrote and use them in interesting, well written sentences that show you know what each one means. Use separate paper. Proofread your sentences. Underline the word in the sentence. Attach your sentences to this activity sheet.

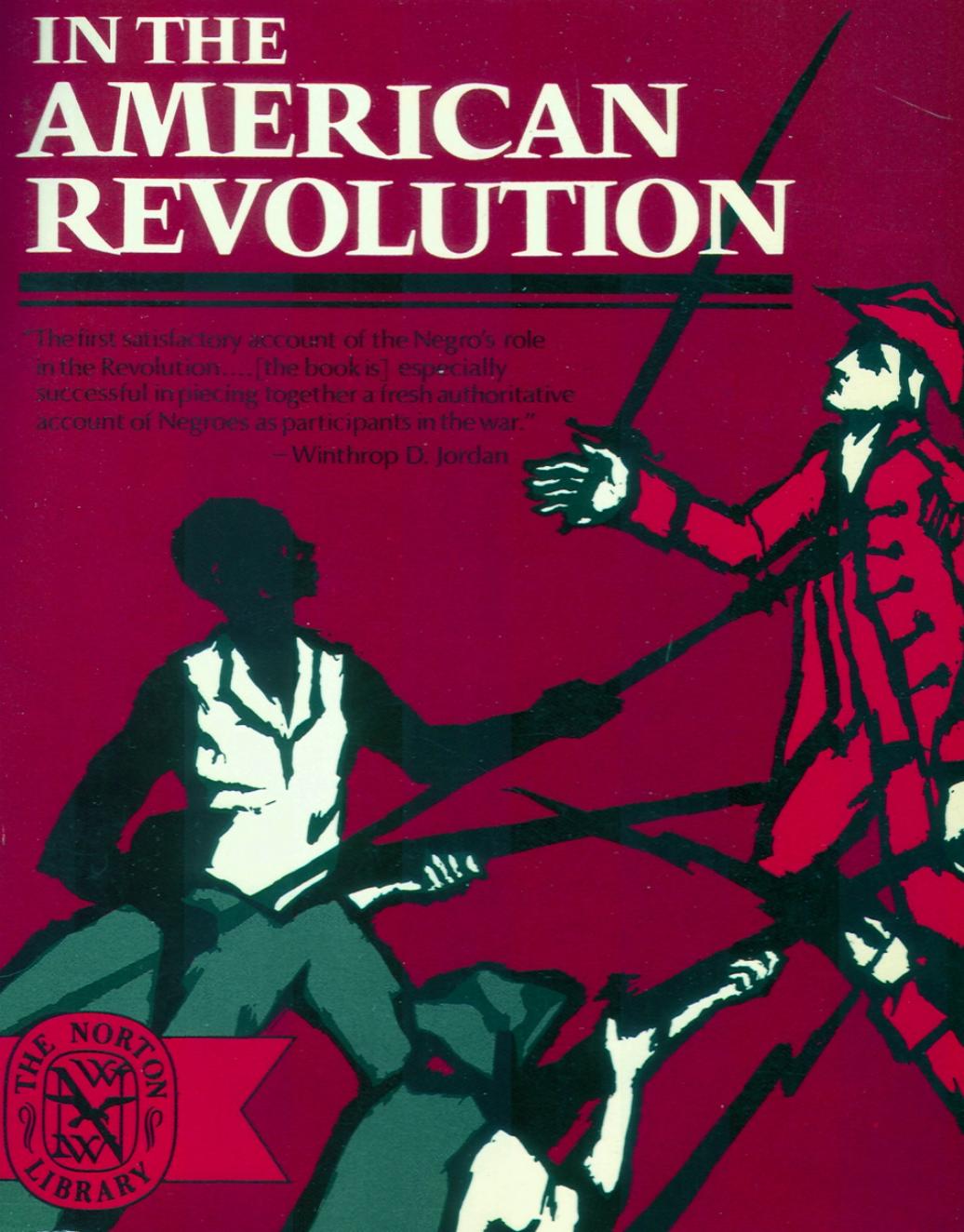
Benjamin Quarles

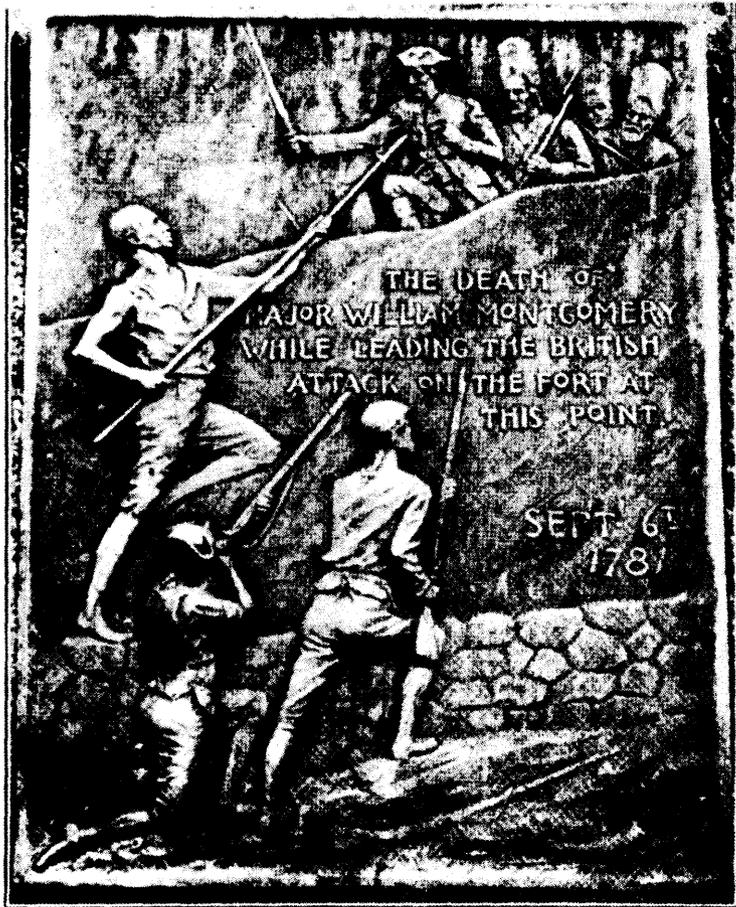
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THE NEGRO IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

"The first satisfactory account of the Negro's role in the Revolution....[the book is] especially successful in piecing together a fresh authoritative account of Negroes as participants in the war."

—Winthrop D. Jordan





Jordan Freeman at the Battle of Groton Heights, Connecticut, September 6, 1781, about to launch the spear which killed British Major William Montgomery. Freeman himself was killed a few minutes later. Tablet, in Old Fort Griswold, New London, Conn. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

THE NEGRO in the American Revolution

By
BENJAMIN QUARLES



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TO RUTH

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ruary 1778 passed the slave enlistment act. It provided that upon passing muster a slave would be declared free. His master would be paid a sum according to his worth, a sum which was to be paid by the state, which in turn expected reimbursement from Congress. "The number of slaves in this State is not great," Governor Cooke informed Washington, "but it is generally thought that three hundred and upward will be enlisted."¹⁶

The military employment of Negroes went farthest in New England. Among the middle states only New York took forthright action. In order to raise two regiments the legislature on March 20, 1781, provided that a land grant bounty would be given to any person who delivered his able-bodied slave (or slaves) to a warrant officer. The slave was to serve for three years, or until "regularly" discharged.¹⁷

Of the Southern states Maryland alone authorized slave enlistments. Hard pressed after 1777 to supply troops for the state and Continental service, Maryland decided to abandon its time-honored opposition to arming the Negro. By the summer of 1780 militia colonels were welcoming the colored man. "Our recruiting business in this County goes on much worse than I expected," wrote Richard Barnes of St. Mary's to Governor Lee. "The greatest part of those that have enlisted are free Negroes & Mulattoes, all of which from what I have been informed will not amount to more than fifteen."¹⁸ Another colonel in the same county asked the Governor to think twice before sending down a warrant for the execution of a Negro under sentence of death since "he is young and healthy and would make a fine Soldier."¹⁹

Reading the changing times, the state legislature in October 1780 ordered that "any able-bodied slave between 16 and 40 years of age, who voluntarily enters into service, and is passed by the lieutenant, in the presence and with the consent and agreement of his master, may be accepted as a recruit." In the following spring, still short by 1,340 men, Maryland reached out for the non-slave Negro. On May 10, 1781, the legislature

16. *Ibid.*, 358-60; Cooke to Washington, Feb. 23, 1778, Jared Sparks, ed., *Correspondence of the American Revolution: Being Letters of Eminent Men to George Washington*, 4 vols. (Boston, 1853), II, 78. Hereafter cited as Sparks, ed., *Letters to Washington*.

17. *Laws of the State of New York* (Poughkeepsie, 1782), 179.

18. Richard Barnes to Governor Lee, July 23, 1780, *Arch. of Md.*, XLV, 24.

19. Zachariah Forrest to Lee, Apr. 17, 1781, *ibid.*, XLVII, 196.

decreed that all free men, "although blacks or mulattoes," were thenceforth subject to the draft.²⁰

Three weeks later the lawmakers pondered the idea of raising a regiment of 750 slaves. A bill was proposed stipulating that a person having six or more slaves between the ages of fourteen and fifty-five must furnish one slave if the latter consented to enlist for the war's duration.²¹ "I wish the regiment would be raised. I am of the opinion that the Blacks will make excellent soldiers—indeed experience proves it," wrote Major Edward Giles of Harford County to his close friend, General Otho H. Williams. "As to the danger of training them to Arms—tis the Child of a distempered Imagination. There are some people who are forever frightening themselves with Bugbears of their own Creation."²²

In early June the bill seemed likely to pass,²³ but four weeks later a change of attitude had set in. "The Assembly is up and abandoned the Design of raising a Regiment of Blacks," wrote the Council to General Lafayette in answer to his recommendation of an officer to take command of the proposed colored companies.²⁴

Perhaps the chief reason for the rejection of the slave regiment act was the planters' fear of economic loss. "I hope none of our negroes will enlist—the price if paid . . . is not equal to the value of a healthy, strong, young negro man," Charles Carroll wrote to his father in early June when the bill's prospects were good.²⁵ Whatever the reasons, Maryland was willing to take slave soldiers only in limited numbers and refused to constitute them as a distinct military unit.

Virginia drew the line against slave enlistments in any form. James Madison, one of the state's representatives in the Continental Congress, favored liberating some slaves and making soldiers of them, taking the safeguard of "having white officers

20. *Laws of Maryland Passed at a Session of the Assembly in the Year One Thousand and Seven Hundred and Eighty* (Annapolis, 1781), Oct. Sess., chap. 43, Sect. IV; *Arch. of Md.*, XVIII, 375.

21. Charles Carroll (of Carrollton) to Charles Carroll, June 4, 1781, Carrollton Manuscripts, Maryland Historical Society.

22. Giles to Williams, June 1, 1781, Otho Holland Williams Papers, Md. Hist. Soc.

23. John Cadwalader to Washington, June 5, 1781, Sparks, ed., *Letters to Washington*, III, 331.

24. Council to Lafayette, July 3, 1781, *Arch. of Md.*, XLV, 494.

25. Carroll to Carroll, June 4, 1781, Carrollton MSS.

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Photo courtesy of www.blackpatriots.org

Black Patriots OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Black Patriots of the American Revolution

Americans have lost much of their knowledge of basic historical facts, particularly those relating to the American Revolution. In fact, a recent survey of high-performing college seniors found that more thought that Ulysses S. Grant (a Civil War general in the 1860s) commanded the troops at Yorktown than George Washington (who actually did lead those troops in the 1780s). Since advanced college seniors cannot identify the commander-in-chief of the American Revolution, it is not surprising that today's Americans know even less about the thousands of African Ameri-

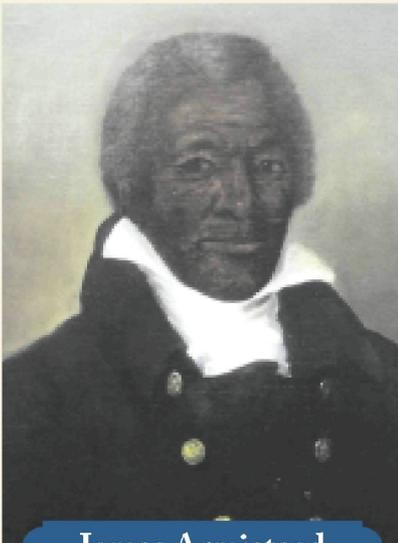
cans who fought during the Revolution, or that they participated in every major battle of the War.

Although this part of our history is unfamiliar today, it was known in previous generations because of the writings of black historians such as William Nell, an award winning young scholar in Boston during the 1830s. He studied law and became the first black American to hold a post in the federal government. In 1852, he authored *Services of Colored Americans in the Wars of 1776 and 1812*, and three years later, he penned *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*.

This issue is dedicated to a recovery of the knowledge of our black patriot heroes to whom today's Americans of all colors owe a debt of gratitude.

James Armistead (Lafayette) **(1760-1832)**

James Armistead was one of the most important American spies during the Revolution. As a slave in Virginia, he witnessed much of the War; and following the British siege of Richmond in 1781, he asked his master, William Armistead, for permission to



Valentine Richmond History Center

James Armistead

serve in the cause of American independence with General Marquis de Lafayette, a young Frenchman who came to fight with the Americans. His master agreed, and Lafayette accepted his services. Lafayette dispatched Armistead to the camp of the patriot-turned-traitor, Benedict Arnold (then a British general), to pose as an escaped slave looking for work. Arnold accepted Armistead and allowed him to work in the camp, thus placing him around other British generals, including British commander-in-chief Lord Cornwallis. Armistead obtained much vital information about British plans and troop movements, which he daily sent to General Lafayette. Ironically, Lord Cornwallis so trusted Armistead that he even asked him to become a British spy to watch the Americans.



General Lafayette

Armistead agreed and thus became a double-spy, feeding accurate information to the Americans and inaccurate information to the British.

Upon learning that the British fleet was moving Cornwallis and his troops to Yorktown, Armistead quickly

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relayed that information to Lafayette and Washington, who gathered the American forces at Yorktown. After the British troops had landed and the British fleet had unsuspectingly departed from Chesapeake Bay, the Americans engaged the British while the French fleet blockaded the Bay to keep the British navy from returning. The Battle of Yorktown ensued, and the British – without their navy to provide reinforcements or supplies and with no way to retreat off the peninsula on which they were trapped – finally surrendered. Armistead’s crucial information had helped bring a victorious end to the American Revolution.

Following the War, Armistead returned to slavery on his master’s plantation. Three years later, in 1784, General Lafayette returned to America for a visit and met with his friend, Armistead. Lafayette penned a certificate to Virginia leaders praising the work and important contributions of Armistead. Armistead then petitioned the legislature for his freedom, which was granted on New Year’s Day,



General Lafayette and American spy James Armistead, whose information greatly shortened the American Revolution.

1787. (In his latter years, Armistead also received a retirement pension from the State for his military services.) Following his emancipation, Armistead adopted the name Lafayette and thereafter called himself James Lafayette. He remained in the State as a farmer.

General Lafayette became an ardent foe of slavery both in America and in Europe, and it is believed that it was his association with James Armistead that helped clarify his views on slavery, leading him to begin his strong

public crusade against that evil.

In 1824, General Lafayette made his final visit to America; his tour across the nation was greeted by crowds of thousands in city after city. When touring Richmond, the General recognized in the crowd his black comrade from four decades earlier (now an old man) and called him out by name and embraced him – the last time the two patriot friends were to meet.

Jordan Freeman (? – 1781); Lambo (Lambert) Latham (? – 1781)

In 1781, both black and white soldiers fought side by side at the Battle of Groton Heights, Connecticut. The American force of only 84 men, led by Lt. Col. William Ledyard, was attempting to defend the town of New London from a large invading force led by American traitor-turned-British General Benedict Arnold.

After suffering heavy casualties against the overwhelming British numbers, Col. Ledyard and his remaining troops retreated to tiny Fort Griswold, equipped with only a few small cannons. The Americans eventually ran out of

ammunition; and when the British charged the fort, the Americans used their rifles as clubs, fighting back the British with only bayonets and pikes. The British began scaling the walls of the fort; upon reaching the top, the British officer leading the attack – Major Montgomery – was speared and killed by black patriot Jordan Freeman. The British rushed over the walls and quickly overran the fort, overpowering the few remaining Americans.

A British officer then asked the American prisoners, “Who commanded the fort?” Colonel Ledyard replied, “I did once. You do now,” and handed his sword



Benedict Arnold

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to the British officer, as was customary with a surrender. The British officer then took Ledyard's own sword and thrust it through Ledyard's body all the way to the hilt.

That act was witnessed by all the remaining Americans, including black patriot Lambert Latham. (When the flagpole of the fort had earlier been shot down by the British during the battle, Lambert grabbed the American flag and held it high until he was captured.) Latham had stood silently with the other American prisoners, but upon witnessing the cold-

blooded murder of his commander, Nell records what next occurred: "Lambert . . . retaliated upon the [British] officer by thrusting his bayonet through his body. Lambert, in return, received from the enemy thirty-three bayonet wounds, and thus fell, nobly avenging the death of his commander."

The British – angered by the loss of so many of their soldiers at the hands of so few Americans – promptly slaughtered all the remaining Americans left in the fort, including Jordan Freeman.

Interestingly, Freeman had been a slave of Col. Ledyard, the commander of the fort, but had been freed by him. As a free man, Freeman had remained in the area and married. When the region came under attack from the British, Freeman chose to stay and fight for America side by side with the man who had once been his owner.

Today, at the site of old Fort Griswold is a plaque showing the moment in which Jordan Freeman killed the attacking British officer. There is also a huge monument standing there; the names of Jordan Freeman and Lambert Latham appear on



Courtesy of Robert Barham

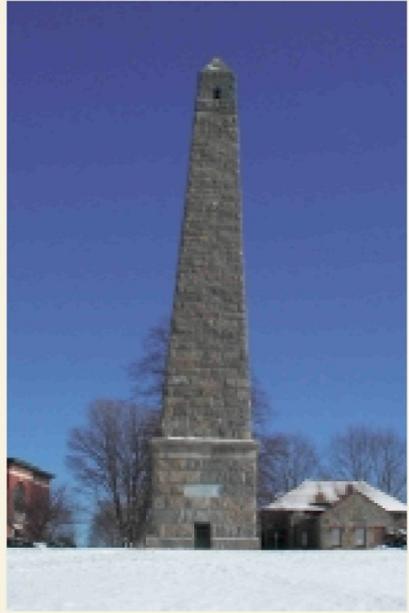
Memorial plaque at Ft. Griswold honoring Jordan Freeman, who killed the attacking British officer.

that monument, along with the other American soldiers who gave their lives defending American liberty in that battle.

Peter Salem (1750-1816)

Peter Salem was a member of the famous Massachusetts Minutemen and was involved in a number of important battles, including the battles of Bunker Hill, Concord, and Saratoga (the first American victory of the Revolution). However, it was in the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, that he gained notoriety.

After the battles of Lexington and Concord, American troops from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island assembled at Boston to confront the 5,000 British troops stationed there. The outmanned American forces engaged the British outside the city. The Americans were winning the conflict until they began running out of ammunition. With the Americans near defeat, British commander Major John Pitcairn (who had earlier led the British forces against the Americans at



Courtesy of Robert Barbano

Monument at Fort Griswold honoring the American soldiers who valiantly defended the fort.

Lexington) mounted the hill and shouted, “The day is ours!” whereupon Salem promptly shot him, sending the British troops into confusion and allowing the Americans to escape safely. Peter Salem was honored before General Washington for his soldierly act.

Salem became a member of the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment and served throughout the rest of the Revolution – a total of seven years of military

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Peter Salem (circled far right) shot British Major John Pitcairn at the Battle of Bunker Hill, allowing the Americans to escape safely.

service in behalf of his country, a length of time achieved by few other soldiers in the Revolution. Salem had entered the Revolution as a slave but finished it as a free man, marrying in 1783, at the conclusion of the Revolution.

A stone monument was erected to Peter Salem at Framingham, Massachusetts, in 1882; and Salem is pictured in the famous painting of John Trumbull titled, “The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill.”

Prince Whipple (c. 1756 – c. 1797)

Prince Whipple had been part of a wealthy (perhaps even a royal) African family. When he was ten, he was sent by his family to America for an education; but while on the voyage, he was shanghaied by the ship’s treacherous captain and sold into slavery in Baltimore. He was bought by New Hampshire ship captain William Whipple, a famous leader in that State.

William Nell, in his 1852 *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*, tells the early story of Prince in America:

As was customary, Prince took the surname of his owner, William Whipple, who would later represent New Hampshire by signing the Declaration of Independence. . . . When William Whipple joined the revolution as a captain, Prince accompanied him and was in attendance to General Washington on Christmas night 1776 for the legendary and arduous crossing of the Delaware. The surprise attack following the crossing was a badly needed victory for America and for Washington's sagging military reputation. In 1777, [William Whipple was] promoted to Brigadier General

and [was] ordered to drive British General Burgoyne out of Vermont.

An 1824 work provides details of what occurred after General Whipple's promotion:

On [his] way to the army, he told his servant [Prince] that if they should be called into action, he expected that he would behave like a man of courage and fight bravely for his country. Prince replied, "Sir, I have no inducement to fight, but if I had my liberty, I would endeavor to defend it to the last drop of my blood." The general manumitted [freed] him on the spot.

Prince Whipple did enter the service of America as a soldier during the Revolution and is often identified in a number of early paintings of the War, including that of General Washington after crossing the Delaware. In fact, many identify Prince Whipple as the man on the oar in the front of the boat in the famous crossing of the Delaware picture painted in 1851. Although Whipple did not actually cross the Delaware with Washington in the manner



William Whipple

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Courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

Prince Whipple, pictured in the front of Washington's boat crossing the Delaware.

depicted, he was representative of the thousands of black patriots who did fight for American independence – and of the many African Americans who did cross the Delaware with Washington.

Prince Whipple fought in the Battle of Saratoga in 1777 and the Battle of Rhode Island in 1778. He directly attended General Washington and the general staff throughout the Revolution, serving as a soldier and aide at the highest levels.

Lemuel Haynes (1753-1833)

Lemuel Haynes was abandoned by his parents when he was five months old. He was taken in and

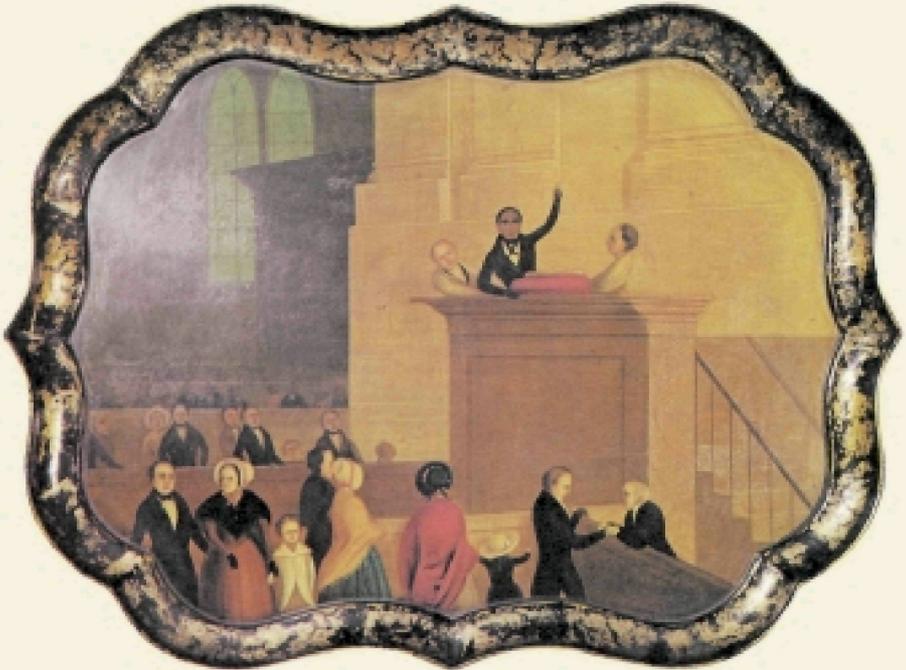
apprenticed by the David Rose family. According to Haynes: “He [David Rose] was a man of singular piety. I was taught the principles of religion. His wife . . . treated me as though I was her own child.”

Haynes was given the opportunity for education – something rare for African Americans in that day. Haynes explained: “I had the advantage of attending a common school equal with the other children. I was early taught to read.” He also educated himself at night by reading in front of a fireplace. He developed a lifelong love for the Bible and theology, and even as a youth he

frequently held services and preached sermons at the town parish. He also memorized massive and lengthy portions of the Bible.

In 1774 when he turned 21 and had finished his tradesman apprenticeship, he enlisted as a Minuteman in the local Connecticut militia. While he was not part of the Battle of Lexington, he did write a lengthy ballad-sermon about that famous battle. However, a week follow-

ing that battle, Haynes and the Connecticut troops were part of the siege of Boston. Haynes was also part of the military expedition against Fort Ticonderoga, made legendary by Ethan Allen and the famous Green Mountain Boys. Haynes became an ardent admirer of George Washington and remained so throughout his life. In fact, Haynes regularly preached sermons on Washington's birthday and was an active member of the Washington



An old tray depicting Lemuel Haynes preaching in a white church.

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Benevolent Society.

After the Revolution, Haynes continued his studies in Latin, Greek, and theology and became the first African American to be ordained by a mainstream Christian denomination (the Congregationalists, in 1785), to pastor a white congregation (a congregation in Connecticut), and to be awarded an honorary Master's Degree (by Middlebury College in 1804). Over his life, Haynes pastored several churches in Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York (often white churches), published a number of sermons, and was a confidant and counselor to the presidents of both Yale and Harvard.

Lemuel Haynes died at the age of eighty, having written the epitaph for his tombstone: "Here lies the dust of a poor hell-deserving sinner, who ventured into eternity trusting wholly on the merits of Christ for salvation. In the full belief of the great doctrines he preached while on earth, he invites his children, and all who read this, to trust their eternal interest on the same foundation."

Black Commandos

In December 1776, the second-in-command of the American Army, General Charles Lee, was taken prisoner by the British. In order for the Americans to effect his release through a prisoner exchange, a British general of the same rank was needed. A bold plan was therefore undertaken by Lt. Col. William Barton. He would slip past British forces at Newport, Rhode Island, enter the heart of the British camp, capture British General Richard Prescott in his quarters, and return him to the American side before the British learned of the raid.



Col. William Barton



Gen. Charles Lee

Col. Barton hand-selected about forty elite soldiers, both black and white. He gathered the group, explained to them his plan, warned them of the risk, and asked for volunteers. All chose to be part of the daring operation.

Waiting until the middle of the night, the group loaded into small boats, and with muffled oars, rowed silently past General Prescott's warships and guard boats anchored in the harbor. Landing near the general's headquarters, the Americans quickly overpowered the guards and surrounded the house of the sleeping general.

They entered his house and, standing outside his locked door, they had only to break down the door and quickly grab Prescott before he realized what had occurred.

At that moment, one of the black commandos, Prince Sisson – a powerful man – stepped forward and charged the door, using his own head as a battering ram; on the second try, the locked door gave way and Prince entered the quarters and seized the surprised general. They safely returned with Prescott to the American lines where he was subsequently exchanged for the second-in-command of the American Army, General Charles Lee. The daring act of Sisson is still celebrated to this day.

Rhode Island Fighters

The First Rhode Island was a regiment of 125 black patriots – both slave and free – commanded by Colonel Christopher Greene. That regiment, created during the infamous winter at Valley Forge, became noted for its bravery and courage, receiving its first baptism by fire during the Battle of Newport in 1778.

When reinforcements failed to

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arrive during that battle, the Americans were forced to retreat in the face of heavy British attacks, especially from the dreaded Hessian mercenaries. The First Rhode Island thrust themselves between the retreating Americans and the advancing Hessians and repulsed the British forces three separate times, inflicting heavy casualties on the mercenaries. (Following the battle, the Hessian commander asked to be transferred to a different location for fear that his remaining soldiers might shoot him because of the fearful losses which had been inflicted on them, and the deaths of so many of their comrades.)

In 1781 during the Battle of Croton River, Colonel Greene – commander of the regiment – was cut down by the British. William Nell, in his 1855 *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*, described what next occurred:

“Colonel Greene, the commander of the regiment, was cut down and mortally wounded: but the sabres of the enemy only reached him through the bodies of his faithful guard of blacks, who hovered over him, and every one of whom was killed.”

While Colonel Greene’s squad was killed, others of the Rhode Island First survived and served the remainder of the War. A battle-hardened and loyal unit, they were with George Washington when he accepted the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown to end the Revolution.

Conclusion

Numerous other black patriots distinguished themselves during the American Revolution, including James Forten, Peter Poor, Cuff Smith, Cesar and Festus Prince, and thousands of others. It is appropriate that during African American history month, we should remember these great black patriots who contributed so much to the establishment of America as the foremost nation of the world. ■



Photo depicting black soldiers of the American Revolutionary War is used by permission of The Black Patriots Foundation, www.blackpatriots.org.