

American Revolution in Georgia

- 1 Elbert County – Fight at Van(n)'s Creek
GPS: N34.162 W82.744
- 2 Wilkes County – Battle of Kettle Creek
GPS: N33.691 W82.886
- 3 Lincoln County – Elijah Clarke & John Dooly:
Heroes of the Hornet's Nest
GPS: N33.856 W82.410
- 4 Augusta – Sieges of Augusta and Revolutionary
Capital of Georgia GPS: N33.476 W81.964
- 5 Screven County – Battle of Brier Creek
GPS: N32.811 W81.466
- 6 Savannah – Battles of Savannah,
Royal & Revolutionary Capital of Georgia
GPS: N32.076 W81.100
- 7 Liberty County – Sunbury, Fort Morris & Midway
GPS: N31.764 W81.279
- 8 St. Simons Island – Frederica Naval Action
GPS: N31.224 W81.393

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Georgia Society Sons
of the American Revolution

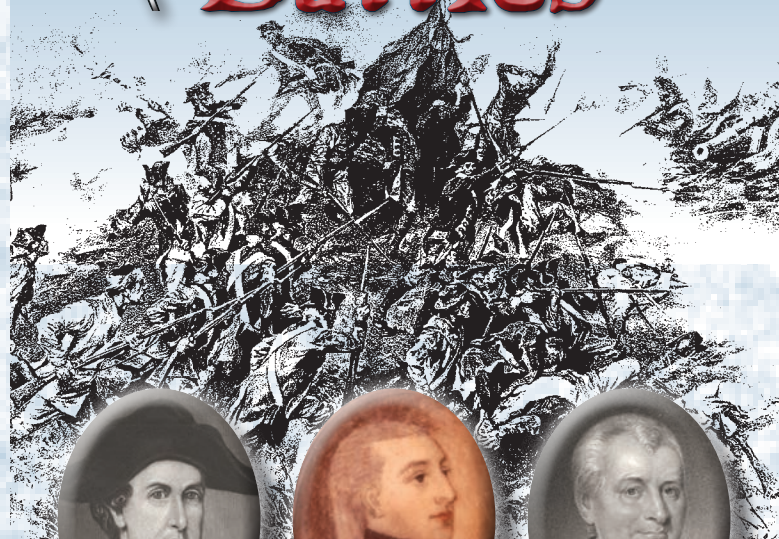


Georgia's Revolutionary War Trail

1775 1783

"Discovering Our Heritage and History"

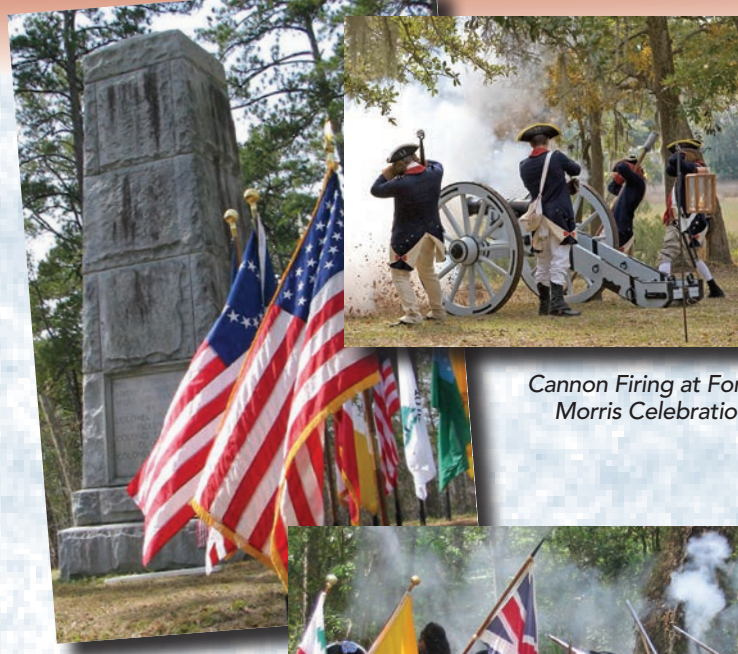
Major Georgia Battles



CLARKE ELBERT McINTOSH

...in the American Revolution
The British called the backcountry
"The Hornet's Nest."

Past - Found in the Present



Cannon Firing at Fort Morris Celebration

Monument at Kettle Creek Battleground



Musket Salute at Patriots Day Celebration



Backcountry Cabins at Elijah Clark State Park

Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard



The "shot heard 'round the world" at Lexington, Massachusetts on April 19, 1775, began a long and difficult fight for American Independence. When British warships arrived in the Savannah River in January 1776, Georgia Patriots entered the fight and arrested the Royal Governor. The following month, the British ships exchanged heavy cannon fire with the Patriots during the Battle of the Riceboats. By 1778, the American Revolution had reached a stalemate, and the British high command initiated a "Southern Strategy" with an invasion of Savannah to restore British rule in Georgia and set the stage for capture of other southern colonies.

The Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution has highlighted Georgia's major battles, leaders and key events during the American Revolution in a series of Brochures and WebPages. Exploring Georgia's Revolutionary War Trail, you can discover where the past can be found in the present.

Discovering history is more fun and memorable when experienced in person. You can stand on the Savannah battleground where General Casimir Pulaski was mortally wounded, or visualize a seaman in the naval battle in the Frederica River at St. Simons, or walk where Colonel Elijah Clarke fought Loyalists alongside Kettle Creek in Wilkes County. At the Fort Morris earthworks, you can imagine hearing Lt. Col. John McIntosh shout "Come and take it" or imagine hearing the French cry "Vive le roi!" at the Spring Hill redoubt in Savannah.

Standing with your back to Brier Creek, you can suppose Colonel Samuel Elbert surrounded by British Highlanders, or pretend you are in "Light Horse Harry" Lee's cavalry during the capture of Fort Cornwallis in Augusta. You can honor the memory of Revolutionary War Patriots buried at Colonial Cemetery in Savannah, St. Paul's Cemetery in Augusta, and the Midway Cemetery.

Plan your trip to the historic sites on the Georgia's Revolutionary War Trail website - www.grwt.gassar.org and locate nearby State Parks with accommodations at www.exploregeorgia.org/. If you explore Georgia's Revolutionary War Trail during the annual Celebrations, you can hear historians describe the Revolutionary War action and see personalities who portray the men and women who fought and died for our freedom.



23 September 1783
Treaty of Paris signed

July 1781
Whig Government re-established in Augusta

22 May - 5 June 1781
Second Siege of Augusta

1781

11 July 1782
British evacuate Savannah, Patriots reclaim Georgia

25 July 1782
Delegals' Plantation, last battle of the Revolution

23 June 1782
Fight at Gibbons' Plantation

12 January 1782
Gen. Anthony Wayne entered Georgia

1782-1783



23 June 1782
Fight at Gibbons' Plantation

12 January 1782
Gen. Anthony Wayne entered Georgia

Declaration of Independence

4 July 1776

Portraits courtesy of Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries

Button Gwinnett

Lyman Hall

George Walton

25 May 1780
Whig Government collapsed

14-18 September 1780
First Siege of Augusta

September 1781
Georgia Militia fights in the Carolinas

May 1780 -

11 February 1779
Fight at Vann's Creek

14 February 1779
Battle of Kettle Creek

3 March 1779
Battle of Brier Creek

July 1779
Royal Gov. Wright revived Colonial Parishes



Struggle for the Backcountry

1780-1781



25 November 1778
Siege of Fort Morris

29 December 1778
Capture of Savannah

9 January 1779
Surrender of Sunbury and Fort Morris

Sept-Oct. 1779
Siege of Savannah

9 October 1779
Attack at Spring Hill

1778-1779



19 April 1778
Frederica Naval Action

April-June 1778
Third Florida Expedition

Georgia Leaders & Key Events

1776-1777-1778

10 August 1776
Declaration of Independence read at Savannah

5 February 1777
Georgia Constitution approved

April-June 1777
First Florida Expedition

June-Sept. 1776
Second Florida Expedition



1776-1777

18 January 1776
Royal Gov. James Wright arrested

2-7 March 1776
Battle of the Riceboats

18 January 1775
Provincial Congress Convened

May 1775
News of Lexington and Concord reached Georgia

5 June 1775
Liberty Pole and Union Flag raised

July 1775
Council of Safety formed; Whig Government established

8 July 1775
Powder Ship Phillipa captured



Rebellion to Independence

1775

Major Georgia Battles in the American Revolution

1. Fight at Van(n)'s Creek

Encouraged by the capture of Savannah, the British commissioned Loyalist Col. Boyd to raise militia in the Carolina and Georgia backcountry. With over 700 Loyalists, Boyd attempted to cross the Savannah River at Cherokee Ford where the Patriots thwarted his approach. He moved five miles upstream and

on February 11, 1779, crossed at Van(n)'s Creek in present day Elbert County, but severe Patriot opposition weakened his forces by about 100 men, many of whom deserted and returned to the Carolinas. See Cherokee Ford - Van(n)'s Creek Monument, located at Richard B. Russell State Park, Elbert County, GA.

2. Battle of Kettle Creek

Outnumbered more than two to one, Patriot Colonels Andrew Pickens, John Dooly and Elijah Clarke attacked when Loyalist Col. Boyd halted his troops for breakfast in a flat area between a steep hill and Kettle Creek. Boyd led about 100 men up the hill and was mortally wounded. The Loyalists were routed with 70 killed or

wounded, and 150 captured. The Battle of Kettle Creek on February 14, 1779, was one of Georgia's most memorable victories during the American Revolution. Visit Kettle Creek Battleground, located 10 miles from Washington off SR 44 in Wilkes County, and see artifacts at the Washington Historical Museum, Washington, GA.

3. Heroes of the Hornet's Nest

Two of Georgia's heroes -- Elijah Clarke and John Dooly -- are buried close to where they fought the British, Loyalists and Indians. In addition to the Georgia battles, Clarke and other leaders of the Georgia Militia took decisive roles in the fight-

ing in the Carolinas from May 1780, through September 1781, while Georgia witnessed a relative lull in the war. See log cabins, furnished and equipped like a Georgia backcountry home at the Elijah Clark State Park, Lincoln County, GA.

4. Augusta — Two Battles

Augusta, site of two major battles, was Georgia's Capital after the capture of Savannah. **First Siege of Augusta** – On September 14, 1780, Lt.Col. Elijah Clarke led an attack on Loyalist Lt.Col. Thomas Brown's garrison for four days until a British relief force broke off the siege. Clarke was forced to leave behind many wounded of whom thirteen were hanged by the Loyalists. **Second Siege of Augusta** – In May 1781, Continental Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene ordered Gen. Andrew Pickens and

Lt.Col. "Light Horse Harry" Lee to join Clarke in besieging Augusta again. In the course of a two week battle, Lee's engineers built a wooden tower from which a cannon could reach the interior of British Fort Cornwallis. Lt.Col. Thomas Brown held out until June 5, 1781, when he was finally induced to surrender. The capture of Augusta gave American peace negotiators in Paris reason to demand the independence of Georgia. Contact Augusta Museum of History for more information.

5. Battle of Brier Creek

After capturing Savannah, British Lt.Col. Archibald Campbell proceeded to Augusta to recruit Loyalists, and then retreat-

ed south of Brier Creek. In a plan to retake Savannah, Continental Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln ordered Gen. John Ashe's 1,300

North Carolina Militia to Brier Creek and await reinforcements. Campbell instructed British Lt. Col. Mark Prevost with 1,000 men to proceed northwestward, cross Brier Creek and attack the Patriots from the rear on March 3, 1779. Against overwhelming odds,

Col. Samuel Elbert with his back to Brier Creek attempted to fight his way through British lines. Of 150 Patriots killed, more than half were Elbert's men. Visit Brier Creek Battle Site in Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area, Screven County, GA.

6. Savannah — Three Battles

Battle of the Riceboats – During March 2-7, 1776, British warships took possession of several rice-laden merchant ships, leading to a heavy exchange of cannon fire with the Patriots. **Capture of Savannah** – By 1778, the British initiated a "Southern Strategy." Lt.Col. Archibald Campbell's 3,500 troops landed below Savannah at Brewton's Hill, brushed away token resistance, and on December 29, 1778, routed the Patriots who lost 83 men killed and 483 captured. Royal Governor James Wright returned to Savannah and revived the Colonial Parishes. **Siege of Savannah** – In September 1779, French Count Henri d'Estaing disembarked 4,000 troops at Beaulieu on the Vernon River, and Continental Maj.

Gen. Benjamin Lincoln arrived from Charles Town with 1,500 men. The Franco-American attack on the Spring Hill redoubt began early on October 9, 1779. British artillery and musketry ripped the attackers, and Scottish bagpipes responded to the French battle cry, "Vive le roi!" British, Loyalist, and Hessian defenders cut down those who reached the parapet and planted their colors. The Allied attack failed with 1,094 killed, of whom 650 were French. Sir Henry Clinton stated that the British victory at Savannah was "the greatest event that has happened in the whole war." Visit Battlefield Memorial Park, located at Louisville Road and M.L. King, Jr. Boulevard, Savannah, GA.

7. Sunbury, Fort Morris & Midway

On November 19, 1778, British Lt.Col. Mark Prevost crossed the Altamaha River with 750 men, ravaged the plantations, ambushed and mortally wounded Patriot Gen. James Screven, and burned the Midway Meeting House. British Col. Lewis Fuser's naval force of 500 men occupied Sunbury and demanded Fort Morris' surrender on November 25, 1778. Patriot Lt.Col. John

McIntosh, defiantly replied, "... Come and Take it!" Fuser refused to attack and returned to British East Florida. On January 9, 1779, Patriot Maj. Joseph Lane surrendered Fort Morris when he discovered it and Sunbury surrounded by over 2,000 British Regulars, Loyalists and Indians. Visit Fort Morris State Historic Site, Georgia's only Revolutionary earthworks, Liberty County, GA.

8. Frederica Naval Action

During 1776 and 1777, four heavily-armed row galleys were constructed in Savannah for the Georgia Navy, all underwritten by the Continental Congress. In the Frederica River at St. Simons Island, beginning at dawn on April 19, 1778, Georgia galleys *Lee*, *Washington*, and *Bulloch*, commanded by Continental Col. Samuel Elbert, attacked HM brigantine *Hinchin-*

brook, armed sloop *Rebecca*, and a brig. The British attempted to retaliate, but were out-gunned and out-maneuvered. As they tried to gain an advantage by moving down river their ships grounded, were abandoned, and captured. See Georgia Navy Historical Marker, located at Fort Frederica National Monument, St. Simons Island, GA.

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Georgia's Revolutionary War Trail



Georgia's Revolutionary War Trail Brochures You can download a copy of each Brochure from webpage www.grwt.gassar.org or can obtain copies at one of Georgia's Visitor Information Centers. Contact: Manager, Georgia Visitor Center (I-20 East GA/AL Line), P. O. Box 595, Tallapoosa, Georgia 30176, telephone 770-574-2621, email pcain@georgia.org or www.exploregeorgia.org/

Georgia Battles, Leaders and Key Events in the American Revolution For additional details about Georgia during the American Revolution, see the book, *Morningstar's of Liberty: The Revolutionary War in Georgia 1775-1783*, by Gordon Burns Smith. You can find how to obtain this book from webpage <http://factorswalk.com/morningstar/morning1.htm>