

REVOLUTIONARY CITY™



See p. 2

AMERICANS  
*Becoming* TODAY

CITIZENS AT WAR: 1776 TO 1781

HISTORIC AREA



See p. 4

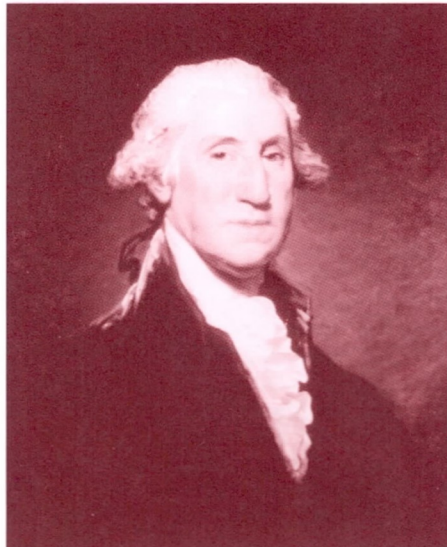
April 29 to  
October 19, 1781

Newsline

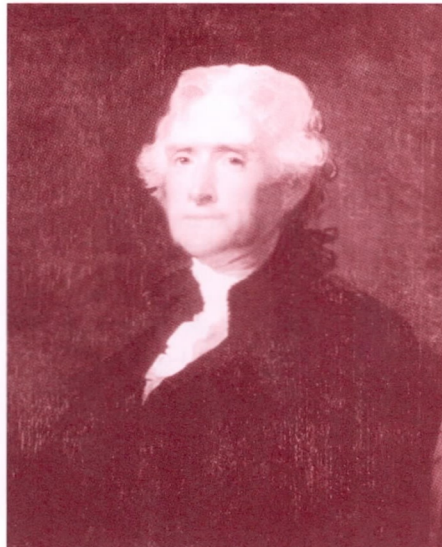
- April 29:  
Lafayette and his Continental Army reach Richmond.\*\*
- May 21:  
Reinforcements from Clinton in New York arrive, bringing the British forces under Cornwallis in Virginia to 7,000.\*\*
- May 24:  
The British evacuate Petersburg to pursue Lafayette to the Rapidan River near Fredericksburg.\*
- May 27:  
Cornwallis forces American evacuation of Richmond.\*\*
- June 4:  
Capt. John Jouett Jr. sees Tarleton's troops in Louisa County and races at night to Monticello to warn Jefferson and to Charlottesville to warn the General Assembly. Jefferson and all but seven legislators escape.\*\*
- June 12:  
Thomas Nelson Jr. of Yorktown elected governor.\*\*
- June 19:  
Von Steuben's men join Lafayette and Wayne making 1,900 Continentals and about 3,000 militia under his command.\*
- June 25:  
Cornwallis reaches Williamsburg.\*
- June 26:  
The main American army reaches Bird's Tavern about 10 miles from Williamsburg.\*

Continued on page 4

REVOLUTIONARY CITY™



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson

MIND SET OF THE FOUNDERS

As we interpret the "founders" of the new nation to our guests or respond to their questions about Washington, Adams and Jefferson it might be helpful to consider Gordon Wood's analysis of their characters as he presents them in his new book *Revolutionary Characters*:

There is no doubt that the founders were men of ideas, were, in fact, the leading intellectuals of their day. But they were as well the political leaders of their day, politicians who competed for power, lost and won elections, served in their colonial and state legislatures or in the Congress, became governors, judges, and even presidents. Of course they were neither "intellectuals" nor "politicians," for the modern meaning of these terms suggests the very separation between them that the revolutionaries avoided. They were intellectuals without being alienated and political leaders without being obsessed by votes. They lived mutually in the world of ideas and the world of politics, shared equally in both in a happy combination that fills us with envy and wonder. We know that something happened then in American history that can never happen again.

... What we need is not more praise for the founding fathers but more understanding of them and their circumstances. We need to find out why the revolutionary generation was able to combine ideas and politics so effectively and why subsequent generations in America could not do so. With the proper historical perspective on the last quarter of the eighteenth century and with a keener sense of the distinctiveness of that period will come a greater appreciation of not only what we have lost by the passing of that revolutionary generation, but more important, what we have gained. For in the end what made subsequent duplication of the remarkable intellectual and political leadership of the revolutionaries impossible in America was the growth of what we have come to value most, our egalitarian culture and our democratic society. One of the prices we had to pay for democracy was a decline in the intellectual quality of American political life and an eventual separation between ideas and power. As

the common man rose to power in the decades following the Revolution, the inevitable consequence was the displacement from power of the uncommon man, the aristocratic man of ideas. Yet the revolutionary leaders were not merely victims of new circumstances. They helped create the changes that led eventually to their own undoing, to the breakup of the kind of political and intellectual coherence they represented. Without intending to, they willingly destroyed the sources of their own greatness...

Preoccupied with their honor or their reputation, or, in other words, the way they were represented and viewed by others, these revolutionary leaders inevitably became characters, self-fashioned performers in the theater of life. Theirs was not character as we are apt to understand it, as the inner personality that contains hidden contradictions and flaws. (This present-day view of character is what leads to the current bashing of the founders.) Instead their idea of character was the outer life, the public person trying to show the world that he was living up to the values and duties that the best of the culture imposed on him. The founders were integrally connected to the society and never saw themselves standing apart from the world in critical or scholarly isolation. Unlike intellectuals today, they had no sense of being in an adversarial relationship to the culture. They were individuals undoubtedly, sometimes assuming a classical pose of heroic and noble preeminence, but they were not individualists, men worried about their social identities. They were enmeshed in the society and civic-minded necessity, thus they hid their personal feelings for the sake of civility and sociability and their public personas.

[Source: Gordon Wood, *Revolutionary Characters*]

VIRGINIA TODAY  
SNAPSHOT

REVOLUTIONARY GENERALS  
UNDER WASHINGTON

Joseph Reed:

"Of those on his immediate staff, his military "family" as he called it, Washington prized especially Joseph Reed, a talented young Philadelphia attorney who served as secretary and became his closest confidante. Reed's admiration for his commander was boundless."

General Nathanael Greene

"Greene of Rhode Island, a handsome, Good-natured Quaker who walked with a limp, new little of military life other than what he had read in books, when, at thirty-three, he became the youngest brigadier general in the American army. With experience, he would stand second only to Washington."

General Israel Putnam

"Indomitable, popular, "Old Put" of Connecticut was afraid of nothing but unsuited for the multiple responsibilities of a large command."

General Henry Knox

"Big, gregarious, artilleryman Knox, the former Boston bookseller, was, like his friend Nathanael Greene, a man of marked ability, which Washington saw from the start. Under the most trying conditions, through the darkest hours, Knox proved an outstanding leader, capable of accomplishing almost anything, and, like, Greene, he remained steadfastly loyal to Washington."

[Source: David McCullough, 1776, Simon and Shuster, New York. Illustrations 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30]



Cartouche from the United States of America Map of 1783.

BRITISH SHIPS ARRIVE IN NEW YORK HARBOR!

"The British armada that sailed into New York Harbor in early summer, 1776, numbered more than 400 ships. It was the largest naval force ever seen in American waters, the largest sent out from the British Isles to defeat a distant foe. With no fighting ships of their own, the Americans faced an almost impossible task of defending against such might."



British Ships

British ships began arriving in New York Harbor during the intolerably hot and dry midsummer of 1776. Samuel Webb counted five ships on July 25, eight on July 26, and 20 on July 29. To the surprise of Americans 45 ships returning from South Carolina carrying 3,000 troops with generals Henry Clinton and Charles Cornwallis in command appeared off Sandy Hook. On August 4, Nathaniel Greene sighted General Howe's fleet of another 21 ships. Another 100 ships were sighted at sea beyond the narrows on August 12, "a fleet so large that it took all day for them to come up the harbor under full canvas, colors flying, guns saluting, sailors and soldiers on the ships and on shore cheering themselves hoarse." After three hard months at sea 3,000 British troops and 8,000 Hessians had arrived.

"Nothing like it had ever been seen in New York. Housetops were covered with 'gazers'; all wharves that offered a view were jammed with people. The total British armada now at anchor in a 'long thick cluster' off Staten Island numbered nearly four hundred ships large and small, seventy-five warships, including eight ships of the line, each mounting fifty guns or more. As British officers happily reminded one another, it was the largest expeditionary force of the eighteenth century, the largest, most powerful force ever sent forth from Britain or any nation. . . .

Still, by the scale of things in the American colonies of 1776, it was a display of military might past imagining. All told, 32,000 troops had landed on Staten Island, a well-armed, well-equipped, trained force more numerous than the entire population of New York or even Philadelphia, which, with a population of about 30,000 was the largest city in America.

Joseph Reed, writing to his wife, expressed what many felt: "When I look down and see the prodigious fleet they have collected, the preparations they have made, and consider the vast expenses incurred, I cannot help being astonished that a people should come 3,000 miles at such risk, trouble and expense to rob, plunder and destroy another people because they will not lay their lives and fortunes at their feet."

[Source: David McCullough, 1776, New York, Simon and Shuster, 2005, pp. 37, 147-149]



# THE DIE IS CAST

## RUNNING TO FREEDOM . . .



The Scene: April 20, 1781

### Running to Freedom!

A group of enslaved people hear about freedom offered by the British for service to the army. They debate whether they should leave home, as have more than 600 former slaves who left their rebel masters in the Carolinas to follow the British northward.

Eve:

"And what of you? General Cornwallis and the British Army are here and they welcome the Negroes to their cause. In exchange, they'll give us freedom. What will you do?"

Enslaved men and women faced an important choice during the British occupation of Williamsburg. Should they take their chances and run to join forces with the British or should they stay with their masters on the hope of eventual freedom? What a difficult, dangerous, and certainly life-altering choice to have to make.

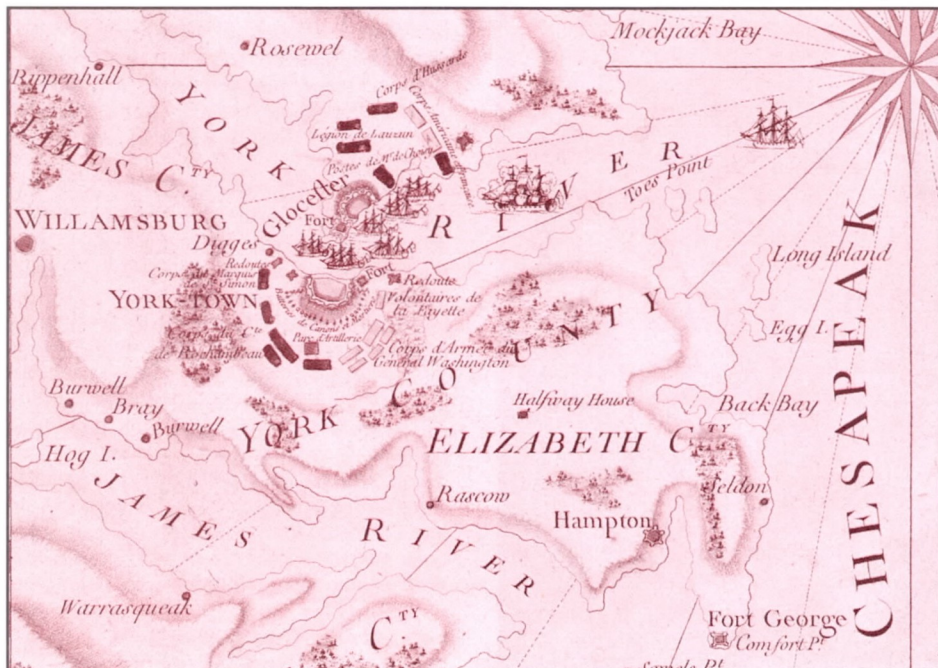
Enslaved members of the Randolph household faced this decision at least three times during the Revolutionary period. The first opportunity was between the spring of 1775, when Dunmore began to consider the emancipation of slaves owned by patriots, and the summer of 1776, when he left Virginia for New York. The majority of slaves who joined during that time did so after November 16, 1775 (the issuance of Dunmore's Proclamation). It would have been difficult, but not impossible, for Randolph slaves to join Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment in late 1775 or earlier because they had to travel to Norfolk to reach him.

Another opportunity arose in 1778, when the British returned to Norfolk. Again, the distance between Williamsburg and Norfolk made it unlikely that Randolph's slaves took this opportunity to seek freedom.

The best opportunity for escape was in 1781. Perhaps the presence of British forces in Williamsburg in April and again between June 25 and July 4 helped 13 of the Randolph slaves decide to run for freedom. Eight urban slaves—Billy, George, Henry, Sam, Eve, Great Aggy, Lucy, and Peter—ran to the British. Five more slaves—Denbo, Roger, Dick, Jimmy, and Nanny—ran from the Randolph plantation in James City County.

Several documents suggest that the widow Randolph's slaves ran in 1781. Bequests in the will that Betty Randolph wrote on June 1, 1780 imply that the Randolph slaves had not yet joined the British.

Part of the Map of Virginia Showing the Combined Armies of France and the United States of America: October 19, 1781



In August of 1780, justices of the peace noted that Betty Randolph's 19 tithes were to be added to the list for Bruton Parish, an indication that her bond laborers were still in Williamsburg.

A letter from St. George Tucker to his wife Fanny on July 11, 1781 reveals that several Williamsburg slaves joined Cornwallis in June and July of 1781. Tucker also informed his wife that Betty Randolph did not have any slaves in her household. Tucker writes: "Your old friend Aunt Betty is in that situation. A child of Sir Peyton Skipwith's who is with her, was deserted by its nurse, and the good lady was left without a human being to assist her in any respect for some days."

Soon after, Betty Randolph moved her remaining household slaves to Berkeley Plantation in Charles City County so they would not be exposed to the deadly epidemic of smallpox. [Colonial Williamsburg, *Enslaving Virginia Manual*]

In *Epic Journey's of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and Their Global Quest for Liberty*, Cassandra Pybus reveals, "From the moment that hostilities commenced in 1775, enslaved men and women took to their heels, with rhetoric about the inalienable rights of free people ringing in their ears, entrusting their aspirations for liberty not to their Patriot masters, but to the King's men... (These are) people in the process of entering their own stories and creating their own destiny... people who emancipated themselves from enslavement and struggled tenaciously to make the rhetoric of liberty a reality in their own lives. (pgs. xvi, xvii)

Author Simon Schama writes in *Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution*: "For blacks, the news that the British Were Coming was a reason for hope, celebration and action. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, a Pennsylvania Lutheran pastor, knew what he was talking about when he wrote that the black population 'secretly wished the British army might win for then all Negro slaves will gain their freedom. It is said that this sentiment is universal among the Negroes in America.'" (pg. 8)

Possibly a bit overstated given the 5,000+ African-Americans who also fought with the colonial militias and the Continental Army and Navy. Schama goes on to explain: "The story of this mass flight (of African-Americans with the British after the war) aptly characterized by Gary Nash as the Revolutionary War's 'dirty little secret,' is shocking in the best sense, in that it forces an honest and overdue rethinking of the war as involving, at its core, a third party. This third party of African-Americans, moreover accounted for 20% of the entire population of 2.5 million colonists, rising in Virginia to as much as 40%. When it came to the blacks caught up in their struggle, neither side, British or American, behaved very well. But in the end...it was the royal, rather than the republican, road that seemed to offer a surer chance of liberty. Although the history that unfolded from the entanglement between black desperation and British paternalism would prove to be bitterly tragic, it was, nonetheless, a formative event in the history of African-American freedom." (pgs. 9-10)

"And what of you? . . . What would YOU do?"

[Submitted by Rose McAphee]

## SECURING FREEDOM



The Scene: September 28, 1781

### On to Yorktown and Victory!

The general addresses his men and the citizens of Williamsburg as he prepares to leave for Yorktown.

At the beginning of 1781, George Washington probably did not imagine that in a few months he'd be taking his army to Virginia for his last and greatest offensive against the British. He had long been encamped outside New York City, intent upon finding a way to bring about the fall of that British stronghold and to restrict the enemy's advance beyond the city.

The theater of war had been moving ever southward, however, with great British advances in 1779. Lafayette had been already sent south with 1,200 New England and New Jersey troops. In January of 1780, British General Henry Clinton and his subordinate Lord Cornwallis had sailed to Charleston with plans to capture that city, take the Carolinas, and then occupy Virginia. After British victories at Charleston and Camden, South Carolina, however, the tide began to turn. Washington appointed Nathanael Greene as head of the southern army, and the British suffered setbacks at Cowpens and Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina. Cornwallis moved north into Virginia and in the summer of 1781 established a base of operation at Yorktown. From then on, the French greatly influenced the course of events and focused attention on Virginia as the point of an allied attack.

New York had been so heavily fortified throughout 1780 that Washington and the French general Rochambeau had felt it "imprudent to throw an Army" there. Admiral de Grasse, whose fleet of 29 warships with 3,000 troops was expected on the coast in the summer of 1781, agreed. Rochambeau had told de Grasse in May: "There are two places for an offensive against the enemy: the Chesapeake Bay and New York. In view of the southwest winds and the distressed state of Virginia, you will probably prefer Chesapeake Bay, and it is there that we think you can render the greatest service, besides which it will only take you two days to come there from New York."

On August 14, Washington learned that de Grasse had indeed decided to steer clear of New York and operate instead in the safer waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Washington wrote simply that there was a "disinclination in their Naval Officers to force the harbor of New York." He could hardly object because of the "feeble compliance of the States" to supply him with the necessary men to launch his own attack on New York.

Once Virginia was settled upon, Washington sought to maximize the advantage of his intimate knowledge of his home terrain. As he hurried to Virginia beginning on August 19, the general urged Lafayette "to prevent if possible the retreat of Cornwallis toward Carolina." Lafayette managed to tighten the net while waiting for the army from New York and was pleased, as he put it, to be participating in the fifth act of the play.

Washington, Rochambeau, and French general François-Jean Chevalier de Chastellux left the allied army at Baltimore and Head of Elk, Maryland, hoping that water transport to Virginia could be found for the troops. Washington's party then stopped for two days at Mount Vernon, which the American general had not seen for six years.

The generals set out for Williamsburg on September 2 and arrived on the 14th. St. George Tucker described the event in a letter to his wife the next day:

. . . About four o'clock in the afternoon his approach was announced. He had passed our camp which is now in the rear of the whole army, before we had time to parade the

militia. The French line had time to form. The Continentals had more leisure. He approached without any pomp or parade attended by only a few horsemen and his own servants. The Count de Rochambeau and Gen. Hand with one or two more officers were with him. To my great surprise he recognized my features and spoke to me immediately by name. Gen. Nelson, the Marquis etc. rode up immediately after. Never was more joy painted in any countenance than theirs. The Marquis rode up with precipitation, clasped the General in his arms and embraced him with an ardor not easily described . . . The General—at the request of the Marquis de St. Simon—rode through the French lines. The troops were paraded for the purpose and cut a most splendid figure. He then visited the Continental line. As he entered the camp the cannon from the park of artillery and from every brigade announced the happy event. His train by this time was much increased; and men, women and children vied with each other in demonstrations of joy and eagerness to see their beloved countryman. His quarters are at Mr. Wythe's house. Aunt Betty [Randolph] has the honour of Count de Rochambeau to lodge at her house . . .

That evening, the officers attended a grand dinner with an entertainment of popular tunes played by a French band. The party ended about ten o'clock "after mutual congratulations and the greatest expression of joy," as an observer noted. In the midst of the festivity came the joyous news that French admirals de Grasse and de Barras had driven the British fleet from the Virginia capes the day before. The Comte de Barras arrived from Rhode Island with Rochambeau's heavy weaponry.

The next day, Washington issued from his headquarters at the Wythe house a proclamation saluting Lafayette and expressing gratitude and enthusiasm for the presence and support of the French army, navy, and commanders. During the next days in Williamsburg he ordered inspections and reviews of the troops and their supplies to ensure their readiness for battle. On September 18, Washington met with Admiral de Grasse on the 110-gun French flagship *Ville de Paris* and convinced him to remain in Virginia through the end of October. De Grasse also offered to supply Washington an additional 2,000 men and sent ships to bring the allied troops from Maryland.

On September 24, Washington made final decisions about the composition of his brigades and appointed their commanders. Weather had slowed the landing of the troops on the shores of the James River, but the last contingents finally arrived in Williamsburg on September 26. Two days later the army set out for Yorktown, where Cornwallis found himself ill prepared. British intelligence had underestimated the strength of the French and American forces until after the French navy appeared in the Chesapeake Bay in early September, and Cornwallis had no idea that Washington and Rochambeau were approaching until September 8. Thus he had delayed fortifying Yorktown until it was too late. Despite his vulnerable position, Cornwallis thought the cost of a hasty flight from Yorktown too great, as he would have to abandon ships and equipment, his sick and wounded soldiers, and the loyalists and escaped slaves who had run to him.

By September 29, the allied armies had reached Yorktown, set up camp with no opposition, and set the stage for a siege.

[Submitted by Bob Doares]

## FORUM

## THOMAS PAINE'S ARGUMENT

Jon Butler. *Becoming America: The Revolution before 1776*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 2000, pp.225–226]

1776

Thomas Paine saw an America radiantly destined for independence when he published *Common Sense* in January 1776. "The time hath found us," Paine exulted. America owed little to England because "Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America." Indeed, Britain had only harmed America. "America would have flourished as much, and probably much more had no European power had anything to do with her." America was "the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty from every part of Europe." Soon, America would "be too weighty, and intricate, to be managed with any tolerable degree of convenience, by a power, so distant from us, and so very ignorant of us." American independence was destiny, not choice...Paine's stress on the broadly European character of the American people largely ignored the colonies' engagement with African and Indian populations. Nor did "the times" find independence in America on their own. American freedom from Britain required immense, painful labor, a cause to which *Common Sense* contributed mightily.

Yet Paine's *Common Sense* indelibly penetrated critical elements of the American and modern transformations that preceded the struggle with Britain. Paine proved especially prescient about one very important fact. The America of 1776 was not the America of 1716 or of 1680. Americans were indeed "not the little people now that we were sixty years ago." In 1770 America had become a society strikingly different from what it had been only decades earlier. Emigration, forced and voluntary, as well as conquest reshaped the colonial population, creating a diverse and uneasy mix of peoples unknown anywhere else. Economic development had produced an extraordinarily vital domestic as well as export economy without forceful central planning and, certainly, without always understanding important subtle and direct consequences of this achievement. Politics emerged as assertive, provincially driven, institutionally sophisticated, and cohesive, not only from within the colonies but from region to region.

A vibrant, secular life capped by explosive, broadly available arrays of material goods turned European colonists into powerful consumers. A vigorous and unprecedented religious pluralism proved simultaneously astonishing and distressing to Europeans, added new and not always welcome choices to American Indian religious life, and turned Africans toward an engagement with Christianity that would ultimately transform African-American culture, though not before 1770. As a result, Paine indeed wrote *Common Sense* at the precipice of something so utterly remarkable that it is not clear even he understood what it was—the first modern revolution in the first modern society . . .

**Becoming AMERICANS TODAY**  
is a publication of the  
**Department of**  
**Interpretive Training**

Editors:

Margot Créviaux-Gevertz  
Anne Willis

Contributors:

Bob Doares, Wesley Green,  
Kevin Kelly, Rose McAphee,  
Nancy Milton, Wayne Randolph,  
Robin Reed, and Garland Wood

Production:

Beth Lawrence, copy editor  
Diana Freedman, production© 2006 The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.  
All rights reserved.All images are property of The Colonial  
Williamsburg Foundation, unless otherwise noted.

Map of parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

## ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

At the same time that the revolutionaries were creating the state constitutions, they were drafting a central government. Yet in marked contrast to the rich and exciting public explorations of political theory accompanying the formation of the state constitutions, there was little discussion of the plans for a central government. Whatever feelings of American nationalism existed in 1776, they paled before people's loyalties to their separate states. While the United States was new, most of the states had existed for a century or more and had developed symbols and traditions that were emotionally binding. When people in 1776 talked about their "country" or even their "nation," they usually meant Virginia or Massachusetts or Pennsylvania. Although the Declaration of Independence was drawn up by the Continental Congress, it was actually a declaration by "thirteen united States of America," who claimed that as "Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which independent States may of right do." Despite all the talk of union, few Americans in 1776 could conceive of creating a single full-fledged continental republic.

Still, the Congress needed some legal basis for its authority. Like the various provincial conventions, it had been created in 1774 simply out of necessity, and it was exercising an extraordinary degree of political, military, and economic power over Americans. The Congress had established and maintained an army, issued a continental currency, erected a military code of law, defined crimes against the union, and negotiated abroad. With independence it was obvious to many leaders that a more permanent and legitimate union of the states was necessary. Although a draft of a confederation was ready for consideration by the Congress as early as mid-July 1776, not until November 1777, after heated controversy, did Congress present a document of union to the states for each of them to approve or reject. It took nearly four years, until March 1781, for all the states to accept this document and thereby legally establish the Articles of Confederation.

The Articles created a confederacy called the "United States of America" that was essentially a continuation of the Second Continental Congress. Congress was granted the authority earlier exercised by the British crown: to control diplomatic relations, requisition soldiers and money from the states, coin and borrow money, regulate Indian affairs, and settle disputes between the states. Although a simple majority of seven states was needed to settle minor matters, a larger majority, nine states, was required to resolve important issues, including engaging in war, making treaties, and coining and borrowing money. There was no real executive, but only a series of congressional committees with a fluctuating membership.

The Union was stronger than many people expected. The states were forbidden from conducting foreign affairs, making treaties, and declaring war. The citizens of each state were entitled to the privileges and immunities of the citizens of all states. All travel restrictions and discriminatory trade barriers between the states were eliminated. The judicial proceedings of each state were honored by all the states. These provisions, together with the substantial powers granted to the Congress, made the United States of America as strong as any similar republican confederation in history.

Nevertheless, the Americans' fears of distant central authority, intensified by a century of experience in the British empire, left no doubt that this confederation was something very different from a real national government. Under the Articles the crucial powers of commercial regulation and taxation—indeed all final lawmaking authority—remained with the states. Congressional resolutions continued to be, as they had been under the Continental Congress, only recommendations that the states were supposed to enforce. And should there be any doubts of the decentralized nature of the confederation, Article Two stated bluntly that "each State retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled."

"The United States of America" thus possessed a literal meaning that is hard to appreciate today. The confederation resembled more an alliance among closely cooperating sovereign states than a single government—something not all that different from the present-day European Union. Each state annually sent a delegation to the Confederation Congress (called "our embassy" by some states), and each delegation had only a single vote. The confederation was intended to be and remained, as Article Three declared, "a firm league of friendship" among states jealous of their individuality. Not only ratification of the Articles of Confederation, but also any subsequent changes in the document required the consent of all the states.

The local self-interest of the states prolonged the congressional debates over the adoption of the Articles and delayed their unanimous ratification until 1781. The major disputes—representation, the apportionment of the states' contributions to the Union, and the disposition of the western lands—involved concrete state interests. Virginia and other populous states argued for proportional representation in the Congress, but these larger states had to give way to the small states' determination to maintain equal state representation in the unicameral Congress. After much wrangling over the basis for each state's financial contribution to the general treasury, the Confederation eventually settled on the

## WAR

proportion of people in each state, with slaves counting as three-fifths of a person.

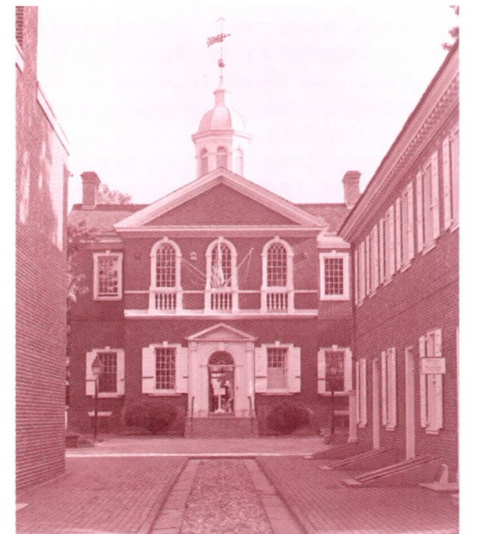
The states' rivalries were most evident in the long, drawn-out controversy over the disposition of the western lands between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. The Articles sent to the states in 1778 for ratification gave Congress no authority over the unsettled lands of the interior, and this omission delayed their approval. States like Virginia and Massachusetts with ancient charter claims to this western territory wanted to maintain control over the disposal of their land. But states without such claims, such as Maryland and Rhode Island, wanted the land pooled in a common national domain under the authority of Congress. Only in 1781 after Virginia, the state with charter rights to the largest amount of western territory, finally agreed to surrender its claims to the United States was the way prepared for other land cessions and for ratification of the Articles of Confederation by all the states. But the Confederation had to promise, in return for the cession of claims by Virginia and the other states, that the national domain would "be settled and formed into distinct re-publican states."

The Congress drew up land ordinances in 1784 and 1785 that provided for the Northwest Territory to be surveyed: formed into neat and orderly townships. In 1787 it adopted the famous Northwest Ordinance that at once acknowledged, as the British in the 1760s had not, the settlers' destinies in the West. In the succeeding decades the Land Ordinance of 1787 and the Ordinance of 1787 remained the basis for the sale and the political evolution of America's western territories.

Apart from winning the War of Independence, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was the greatest accomplishment the Confederation Congress. It created an entirely new notion of empire and in one stroke solved the problem of relating colonial dependencies to the central authority that Great Britain had been unable to solve in the 1760s and '70s. The monarchies of early modern Europe claimed new dominions by conquest or colonization; they inevitably considered these new provincial additions as permanently peripheral and inferior to the metropolitan center of the realm. But the Northwest Ordinance, which became the model for the development of much of the Southwest as well, promise end to such permanent second-class colonies. It guaranteed to the settlers basic legal and political rights and set forth unprecedented principle that new states settled would enter the union "on an equal footing with the original States, in all respects whatsoever." Settlers could leave older states with the assurances that they were not losing their political liberties and that they would be allowed eventually to form new republics as sovereign and independent as the other states of the Union. With such a principle there was presumably no limit to the westward expansion of the empire of the United States.

[Source: Gordon Wood, *The American Revolution: A History*, *A Modern Library Chronicles Book*, The Modern Library, New York, 2002, pp. 70–74.]

Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia.



## MONEY



Prentis Store

## TRADESMEN'S PAY

There was no standard agreement by which tradesmen were compensated by their masters. Instead individual journeymen and masters negotiated a working arrangement with one another depending upon their particular circumstances for their rate of compensation and how they should be paid. Tradesmen were paid by the hour, the day, the week, or by the "piece" (by the bucket, rifle, or brick produced).

Most money statements would have been in Virginia currency. Pound sterling was the money of account between Britain and the colony. In theory "par" was set at 125 by law in an attempt to hold hard currency here in Virginia.

Wages could be credited to the tradesman's account in Virginia current money. That is not to say that some were paid in credit usually established with the master. Merchants would then debit the master for their employee's purchases at his particular store.

Individuals would have to establish how they were going to pay for the goods they needed. These transactions were always a matter of negotiation between the merchant and the customer. Interest was charged usually five percent and you could not charge more than the law allowed.

Virginia current money was all metallic money in circulation in the colony. This included Spanish silver dollars (reales), Spanish gold pistoles, and Portuguese gold moeadas and deobfras. There were also French and German coins and some English coins in circulation. After 1754, current money included the newly issued treasury notes—paper money.

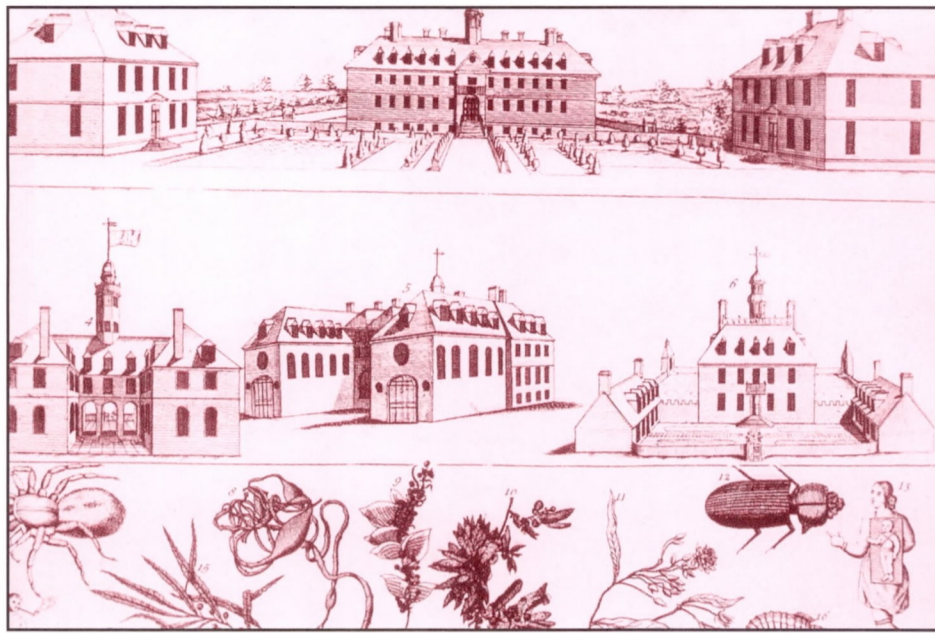
## CROP NOTES AND TRANSFER NOTES

The Tobacco Inspection Act of 1730 established warehouses along the rivers that would receive planters' tobacco to be inspected by appointed tobacco inspectors. The good tobacco would be retained at the warehouse until shipment to England while the bad tobacco would be burned.

Planters received a "crop note" in exchange for the value of their hogsheads of inspected tobacco from the inspector at the warehouse where the tobacco had been delivered. In 1774 a full hogshead of tobacco weighed approximately 1,100 pounds. A "transfer note" was issued by the tobacco inspector for less than a hogshead of tobacco that would be added to other inspected loose tobacco to make up a hogshead for shipment.

The warehouse receipts (or notes) were allowed to be passed from one person to another until the final holder redeemed the note usually from a merchant for the amount of tobacco specified on the note. They had no fixed or intrinsic value as they represented whatever that amount of tobacco might be worth at the current price on any given day. When these notes were taken to a Scottish merchant, store money was often given in exchange for the crop or transfer note, although sometimes for a lesser price.

[Submitted by Wesley Greene, Kevin Kelly, and Anne Willis]



Bodleian Plate: Williamsburg as the Colonial Capital

HISTORIC AREA PROGRAMMING  
FALL 2006

The fall of 2006 offers a return to morning programs in the Historic Area as the Revolutionary City programming moves back to the afternoon. Programs that pre-empt the events of the afternoons will focus on the year 1774, Collapse of Royal Government days, and 1776 or 1781, Citizens at War days.

At the Governor's Palace guests find Lord Dunmore and members of his government holding forth on the "recent" actions of the House of Burgesses in response to the closing of the port of Boston. Special drop-in programs are also found at Great Hopes Plantation along with the excitement of the construction on the tobacco barn and other possible attractions.

"The Challenge of Independence" moves from the afternoon of Collapse of Royal

Government to the morning of Citizens at War. In light of declaring independence from England, what does the future hold for the citizens of the new nation? Guests meet with Virginia's leaders and voice the concerns of the American people. "Preparing for a Siege" finds George Washington and members of his staff discussing their plans for the siege of Yorktown in 1781 at his Williamsburg headquarters—the Wythe house—on the Citizens at War days. The Randolph house experiences debate on issues pertinent to this important household—not the least of which is how issues of the day affect the enslaved members.

Other sites within the Historic Area adjust their interpretations to reflect the adjustment the overall programming scheme.

## Newsline

Continued from page 1

July 4:

Cornwallis's troops leave Williamsburg and cross the James River on July 6. At Green Springs Anthony Wayne attacks and the British army inflict heavy casualties on the Americans before moving on to Portsmouth by July 16.\*

July 9–24

From his base in Suffolk, Cornwallis conducts raids along the south side of the James River.\*\*

August 2:

Cornwallis occupies Yorktown after General Clinton orders him to fortify Old Point Comfort where the land would not support heavy fortifications.\*

August 19

General Washington begins to move his own troops and the Comte de Rochambeau's army from the north toward Virginia,

upon the intelligence that the French admiral, the Comte de Grasse, is sailing with 3,000 men from the West Indies for the Chesapeake Bay.\*

August 26:

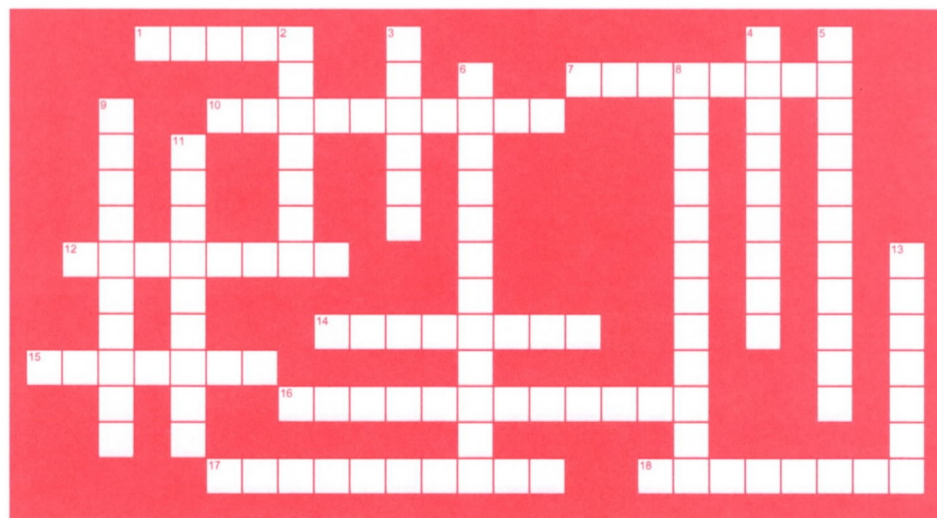
The Comte de Grasse arrives in Chesapeake Bay and on September 2 3,000 troops land at Jamestown under Marquis de St. Simon.\*

Sept 5:

Outside the Virginia capes, de Grasse damages the part of the British fleet under Adm. Thomas Graves; Graves is forced to return to New York, closing an escape route for Cornwallis's forces.\*

September 14:

Washington and Rochambeau arrive in Williamsburg before their troops, who are marching from the north. After conferring with de Grasse on board de Grasse's flagship they return to Williamsburg on September 22.\*



## ACROSS

- 3 Unifying "articles"
- 4 Betty Randolph moved her slaves here to avoid smallpox in 1781
- 6 A French general who visited Mount Vernon
- 10 Stopped at Mount Vernon on his way to Virginia in late summer 1781
- 11 Connecticut general
- 12 Rode to warn Jefferson and assembly of British approach
- 13 Driven from Virginia capes by Admiral de Grasse
- 14 This general arrived in Richmond in April 1781
- 15 He became governor in 1781
- 16 Established by the Tobacco Act of 1730

## DOWN

- 1 This general moved south to Virginia with Washington
- 2 To run or not to run?
- 3 Deemed safer theater of operation than New York for French navy.
- 5 New Hampshire general
- 7 This 1787 ordinance greatest accomplishment of Confederation congress
- 8 Authored *Common Sense*
- 9 October 1781 storm prevented this general's escape to Gloucester

## INTERPRETATION



Williamsburg Patriot

"REVOLUTIONARY  
CITIZENS" PROGRAMMING

During the fall of 2006 "Revolutionary Citizens" programs will be featured in the mornings at three Historic Sites. These programs are designed to further enhance the Revolutionary City guest experience. Please consult the weekly guide for these advertised programs.

## Day 1 Programming

*The Challenge of Independence*

In light of declaring independence from England, what does the future hold for the citizens of the new nation? Meet with Virginia's leaders and hear their visions for the American people.

Location: *Governor's Palace Gardens*

## Day 2 Programming

*Preparing for a Siege*

Take part in the meeting of General Washington's staff as they prepare for the siege at Yorktown.

Location: *Wythe House Gardens*

September 26:

The main body of American and French troops under Lincoln and Viomenil move from Maryland to the James and meet in Williamsburg.\*

September 28:

The combined American and French armies of 16,000 men march from Williamsburg to Yorktown.\*

\*September 29–October 17:

The Siege of Yorktown\*\*

September 30:

British surrender their outermost earthworks at Yorktown.\*

October 3:

Near Gloucester, Virginia, French cavalry attack a foraging party under Tarleton and pushes them back. Additional French forces and Virginia militia begin a siege of Gloucester Point, which helps block any overland escape by Cornwallis.\*\*

October 14:

Two British strongholds fall, allowing the allies to complete a second parallel of breastwork closer to Yorktown.\*

October 16:

A violent storm and a steady bombardment prevent Cornwallis' from escaping across the York River to Gloucester.\*

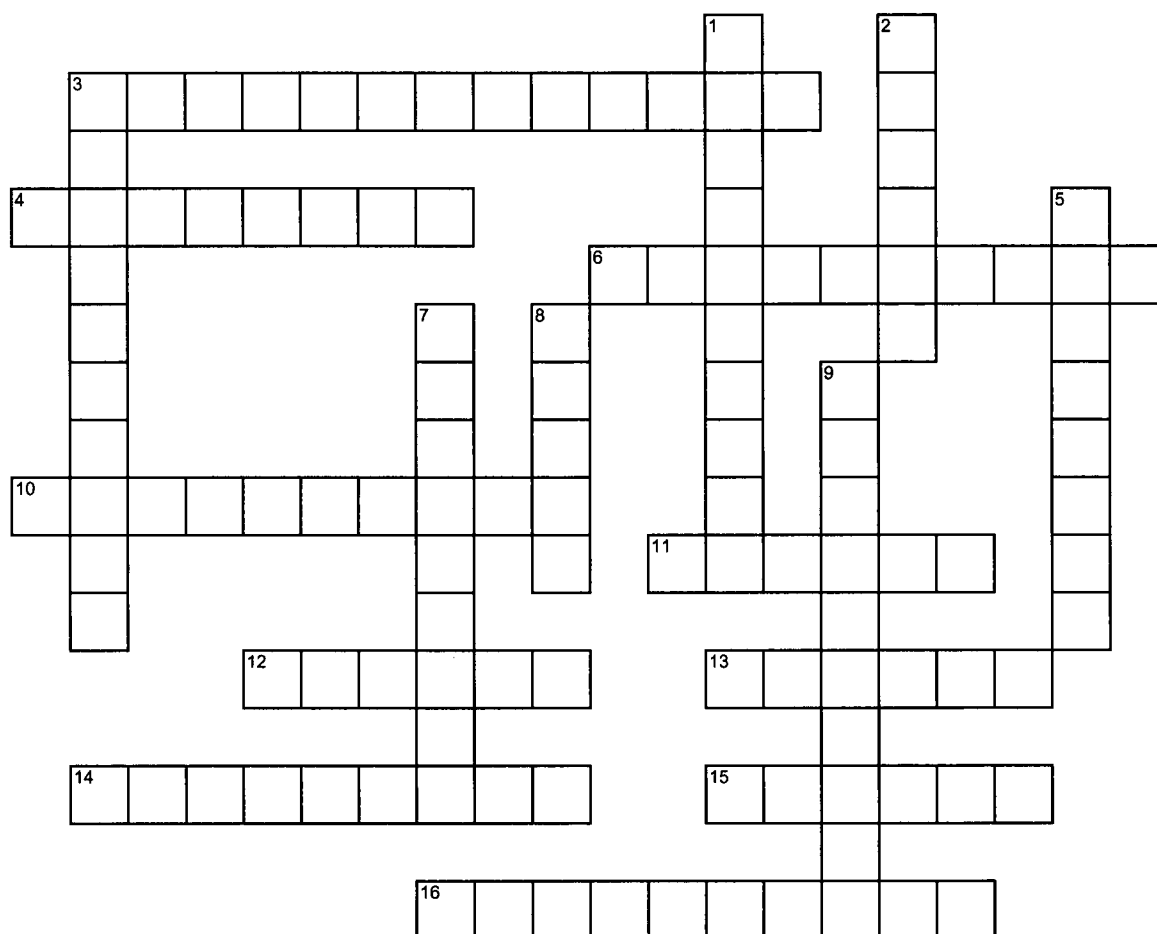
\*October 19:

Cornwallis surrenders the British army of 7,247 men at Yorktown. General Washington, with the assistance of the French, has won independence for the colonies.\*

\*John E. Selby, *A Chronology of Virginia and the War of Independence 1763–1783*, Charlottesville, Virginia, University Press of Virginia, 1973

# Citizens at War (Red Issue)

Please substitute this puzzle for the one printed in this issue. Enjoy!



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

## ACROSS

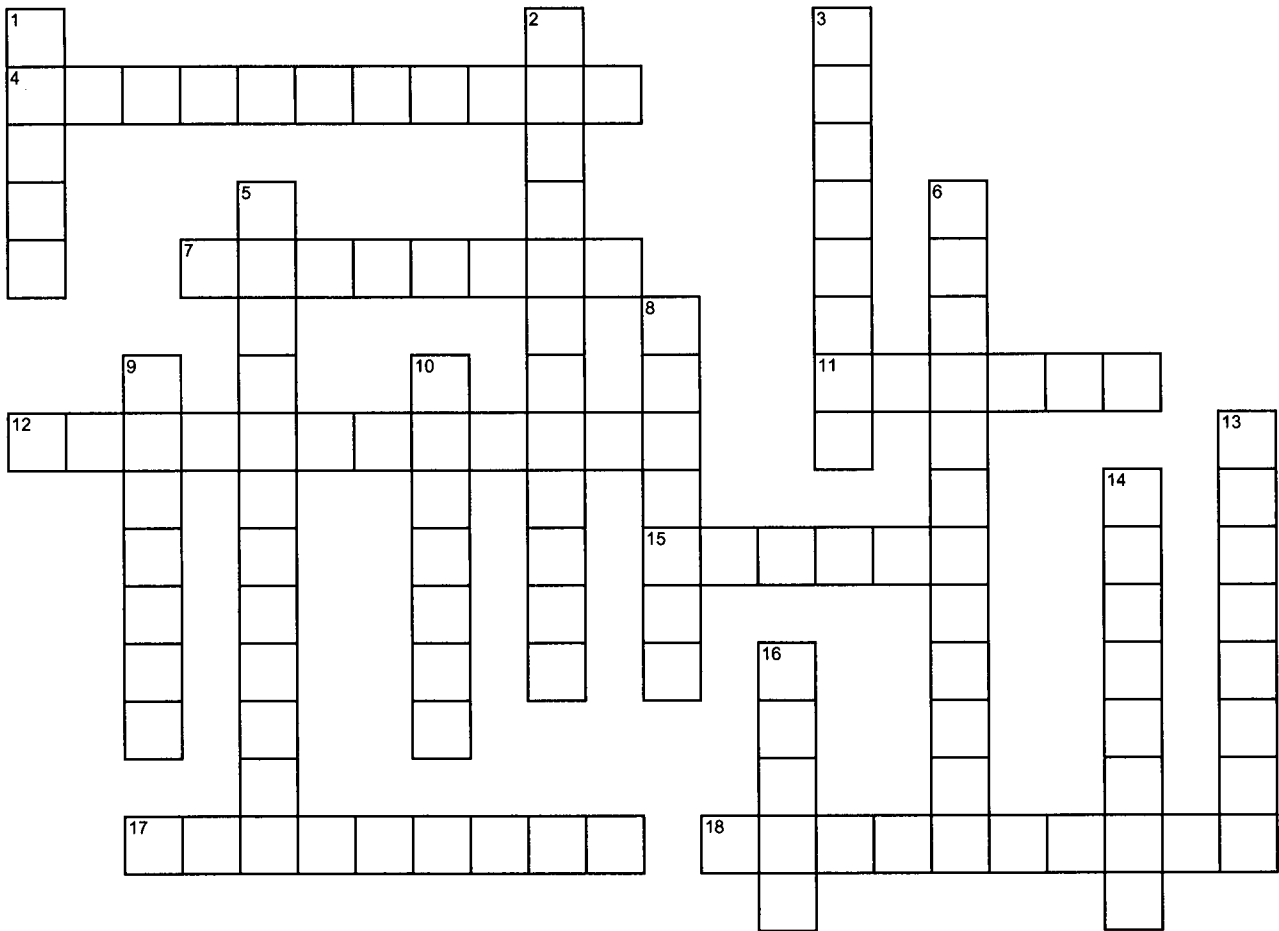
- 3 Unifying "articles"
- 4 Betty Randolph moved her slaves here to avoid smallpox in 1781
- 6 A French general who visited Mount Vernon
- 10 Stopped at Mount Vernon on his way to Virginia in late summer 1781
- 11 Connecticut general
- 12 Rode to warn Jefferson and assembly of British approach
- 13 Driven from Virginia capes by Admiral de Grasse
- 14 This general arrived in Richmond in April 1781
- 15 He became governor in 1781
- 16 Established by the Tobacco Act of 1730

## DOWN

- 1 This general moved south to Virginia with Washington
- 2 To run or not to run?
- 3 Deemed safer theater of operation than New York for French navy
- 5 New Hampshire general
- 7 This 1787 ordinance greatest accomplishment of Confederation congress
- 8 Authored *Common Sense*
- 9 October 1781 storm prevented this general's escape to Gloucester

# Collapse of Royal Government (Blue Issue)

Please substitute this puzzle for the one printed in this issue. Enjoy!



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

## ACROSS

- 4 Liberty Pole helped force compliance with this
- 7 Patrick Henry becomes this in June 1776
- 11 General Charles Lee's headquarters in May 1776
- 12 Home county of Archibald Cary
- 15 Political cartoon
- 17 Revolutionary militiaman
- 18 Synonym for "resistant, obstinate"

## DOWN

- 1 Drafted Virginia Declaration of Rights
- 2 State of Virginia
- 3 Family divided
- 5 Virginia adopts this in June 1776
- 6 Most populous colonial city
- 8 Influenced language of Virginia Declaration of Rights
- 9 Patrick Henry disappointed not to become this in February 1776
- 10 Southern colonies' predominant ethnic group
- 13 Virginia Convention and Congress disagreed over expansion of this
- 14 Instrument of redress
- 16 Nickname for Susannah