

Chapter 1 : George Washington the ultimate crisis leader - The Musings of the Big Red Car

The Battle of Princeton was a battle of the American Revolutionary War, fought near Princeton, New Jersey on January 3, General Lord Cornwallis had left 1, British troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood in Princeton.

The early death of his father when he was 11 eliminated the possibility of schooling in England, and his mother rejected attempts to place him in the Royal Navy. Washington played a key role in the outbreak of the French and Indian War, and then led the defense of Virginia between and as colonel of the Virginia Regiment. Although Washington never received a commission in the British Army, he gained valuable military, political, and leadership skills, [5] and received significant public exposure in the colonies and abroad. He demonstrated his toughness and courage in the most difficult situations, including disasters and retreats. He developed a command presence—given his size, strength, stamina, and bravery in battle, he appeared to soldiers to be a natural leader and they followed him without question. From his observations, readings and conversations with professional officers, he learned the basics of battlefield tactics, as well as a good understanding of problems of organization and logistics. Although he expressed opposition to the Stamp Act, the first direct tax on the colonies, he did not take a leading role in the growing colonial resistance until protests of the Townshend Acts enacted in became widespread. In May, Washington introduced a proposal, drafted by his friend George Mason, calling for Virginia to boycott British goods until the Acts were repealed. However, Washington regarded the passage of the Intolerable Acts in as "an Invasion of our Rights and Privileges". The goal was always independence. When France entered the war, he worked closely with the soldiers it sent—they were decisive in the great victory at Yorktown in Washington worked hard to develop a successful espionage system to detect British locations and plans. In it discovered Benedict Arnold was a traitor. In June, Congress made its first attempt at running the war effort with the committee known as "Board of War and Ordnance", succeeded by the Board of War in July, a committee which eventually included members of the military. The results of his general staff were mixed, as some of his favorites never mastered the art of command, such as John Sullivan. Eventually, he found capable officers such as Nathanael Greene, Daniel Morgan, Henry Knox chief of artillery, and Alexander Hamilton chief of staff. The American officers never equaled their opponents in tactics and maneuver, and they lost most of the pitched battles. The great successes at Boston, Saratoga, and Yorktown came from trapping the British far from base with much larger numbers of troops. There was never nearly enough. His long-term strategy was to maintain an army in the field at all times, and eventually this strategy worked. His enormous personal and political stature and his political skills kept Congress, the army, the French, the militias, and the states all pointed toward a common goal. Furthermore, he permanently established the principle of civilian supremacy in military affairs by voluntarily resigning his commission and disbanding his army when the war was won, rather than declaring himself monarch. He also helped to overcome the distrust of a standing army by his constant reiteration that well-disciplined professional soldiers counted for twice as much as poorly trained and led militias. He utilized agents behind enemy lines, recruited both Tory and Patriot sources, interrogated travelers for intelligence information, and launched scores of agents on both intelligence and counterintelligence missions. He was adept at deception operations and tradecraft and was a skilled propagandist. He also practiced sound operational security. He emphasized his desire for receiving written, rather than verbal, reports. He demanded repeatedly that intelligence reports be expedited, reminding his officers of those bits of intelligence he had received which had become valueless because of delay in getting them to him. He also recognized the need for developing many different sources so that their reports could be cross-checked, and so that the compromise of one source would not cut off the flow of intelligence from an important area. In accounting for the sums in his journals, he did not identify the recipients: Washington appeared at the Second Continental Congress in a military uniform, signaling that he was prepared for war. Washington had the prestige, military experience, charisma and military bearing of a military leader and was known as a strong patriot; he was also popular in his home province. There was no other serious competition for the post, although Washington did nothing to actively pursue the appointment.

Massachusetts delegate John Adams nominated Washington, believing that appointing a southerner to lead what was then primarily an army of northerners would help unite the colonies. Washington reluctantly accepted, declaring "with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the Command I [am] honored with. Washington assumed command of the colonial forces outside Boston on July 3, , during the ongoing siege of Boston , after stopping in New York City to begin organizing military companies for its defense. British arsenals were raided including some in the West Indies and some manufacturing was attempted; a barely adequate supply about 2. The establishment of the Continental Army only had enlistment terms of one year, a matter that would again be a problem in late Somewhat surprised that regional differences would be a problem, on August 1 he read a speech to the army, in which he threatened to punish "any officers or soldiers so lost to virtue and a love of their country" that might exacerbate the regional differences. New England troops serving in northern New York under General Philip Schuyler , a scion of an old patroon family of New York, objected to his aristocratic style, and their Congressional representatives lobbied Washington to replace Schuyler with General Gates. Washington tried to resolve the issue by giving Gates command of the forces in Quebec, but the collapse of the Quebec expedition brought renewed complaints. To avoid a potentially messy situation, General Washington gave Schuyler overall command of the northern department, but assigned Gates as second in command with combat authority. General Howe refused to act on a significant tactical advantage that could have resulted in the capture of the remaining Continental troops on Long Island, but he chose instead to besiege the fortified positions to which they had retreated. In what some historians call one of his greatest military feats, he executed a nighttime withdrawal from Long Island across the East River to Manhattan to save those troops and materiel. Four days later the British landed on Manhattan , a bombardment from the river scattering inexperienced militia into a panicked retreat, and forcing Washington to retreat further. To defend against this move, Washington withdrew most of his army to White Plains , where after a short battle on October 28 he retreated further north. This isolated the remaining Continental Army troops in upper Manhattan, so Howe returned to Manhattan and captured Fort Mifflin in mid November, taking almost 3, prisoners. Washington brought much of his army across the Hudson into New Jersey, but was immediately forced to retreat by the aggressive British advance. When Lee strayed too far from his army on December 12, his exposed position was betrayed by Loyalists, and a British company led by Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton surrounded the inn where he was staying and took him prisoner. Since Lee had previously served in the British Army, he was treated as a deserter , and threatened with military punishments appropriate to that charge. Even though he and Lee did not get on well, Washington threatened to treat captured British officers in the same manner Lee and other high-profile prisoners were treated. He reassembled an army of more than 6, men, and marched most of them against a position Washington had taken south of Trenton. The British troops engaged Mercer and in the ensuing battle , Mercer was mortally wounded. Washington sent reinforcements under General John Cadwalader , which were successful in driving Mawhood and the British from Princeton, with many of them fleeing to Cornwallis in Trenton. The British lost more than one quarter of their force in the battle, and American morale rose with the victory. Frederick the Great , one of the greatest military minds, wrote that "the achievements of Washington [at Trenton and Princeton] were the most brilliant of any recorded in the history of military achievements. When Howe then moved his army southwest from New Brunswick, Washington correctly interpreted this as a move to draw him out of his strong position, and refused to move. Concerned that Howe was heading up the Hudson, he ordered Arnold, [95] along with Daniel Morgan and his corps of riflemen, north to assist General Gates with the defense of the Hudson. Congress had adopted a per-state scheme for the promotion of general officers, which resulted in the promotion of several officers to major general ahead of other officers with more experience or seniority. Combined with the commissioning of foreign officers to high ranks, this had led to the resignation of John Stark. Arnold, who had distinguished himself in the Canadian campaign, had also threatened to resign. Washington had also laid the seeds for conflict between Arnold and Gates when he gave Arnold command of forces in Rhode Island in late ; because of this move Gates came to view Arnold as a competitor for advancement, and the previously positive relationship between Gates and Arnold cooled. In part to silence his critics, Washington planned an elaborate assault on an exposed British base in Germantown. Historian Robert

Leckie observes that the battle was a near thing, and that a small number of changes might have resulted in a decisive victory for Washington. Congress authorized Washington to seize supplies needed for the army, but he was reluctant to use such authority, since it smacked of the tyranny the war was supposedly being fought over. His loss of Philadelphia prompted some members of Congress to discuss removing him from command. French entry into the war changed its dynamics, for the British were no longer sure of command of the seas and had to worry about an invasion of their home islands and other colonial territories across the globe. The British, now under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton, evacuated Philadelphia and returned to New York City, with Washington attacking them along the way at the Battle of Monmouth; this was the last major battle in the north. Prior to the battle Washington gave command of the advance forces to Charles Lee, who had been exchanged earlier in the year. When Washington arrived at the head of the main army, he and Lee had an angry exchange of words, and Washington ordered Lee off the command. Lee was court-martialed and eventually dismissed from the army. This was approved, and in the summer of a sizable force under Major General John Sullivan made a major expedition into the northwestern frontier of New York in reprisal for the frontier raids. When Clinton weakened the garrison there to provide men for raiding expeditions, Washington organized a counterstrike. General Anthony Wayne led a force that, solely using the bayonet, recaptured Stony Point. American morale was dealt a blow later in the year, when the second major attempt at Franco-American cooperation, an attempt to retake Savannah, failed with heavy casualties. New York Harbor froze over, and the winter camps of the Continental Army were deluged with snow, resulting in hardships exceeding those experienced at Valley Forge. General Clinton withdrew the British garrison from Newport, and marshalled a force of more than 10,000 men that in the first half of the year successfully besieged Charleston, South Carolina. In June he captured over 5,000 Continental soldiers and militia in the single worst defeat of the war for the Americans. Knowledge of discontent within the ranks in New Jersey prompted the British in New York to make two attempts to reach the principal army base at Morristown. These attempts were defeated, with significant militia support, in battles at Connecticut Farms and Springfield. Washington then made one of the worst decisions of his career, appointing Arnold as military governor of the rich, politically divided city. No one could have been less qualified for the position. Arnold had amply demonstrated his tendency to become embroiled in disputes, as well as his lack of political sense. Above all, he needed tact, patience, and fairness in dealing with a people deeply marked by months of enemy occupation. Arnold began secret negotiations with General Clinton. Arnold pleaded with Washington, who appointed him commander of West Point, the major Patriot stronghold in New York.

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Washington escaped from one enemy to attack another at Princeton Despite their success in repulsing several frontal attacks at the Battle of Assunpink Creek (Battle of Second Trenton) on January 2, , Gen. George Washington and his senior officers were filled with a sense of dread.

Chapter 1 No discussion questions here, but some noteworthy ideas. Military history is the study of institutions formed by society to do violence on its behalf, the interaction of society with these institutions, and the operations of these institutions. The Army has nine principles of war. This is how one seizes, retains, and exploits the initiative. Give yourself the advantage by placing your forces where you can do the most damage for the least cost. Concentrate your combat power at the decisive action. Combat power is a limited resource; use the minimum amount necessary on secondary efforts. The best way to ensure all elements work towards a common goal is to operate under one commander. Take the enemy unaware. Complex plans have more points of failure; given a choice between simple and complex plans, all else being equal, choose the simple plan. To what degree is the American Army a European Army? The American Army draws its heritage from two separate lines of European military history. The first is the development of the modern European army; the American Army adopted many European conventions of rank, drill and ceremonies, uniforms, and organization. The second is the Anglo-Saxon tradition of the fyrd, or militia. In accordance with this ancient tradition, every male citizen of majority age registers for Selective Service, thus entering the unorganized militia. How did our early colonial experience modify our European military inheritance? Americans have always been a highly individualistic people. We work best when we know and value what we are working for; this has married military service with a proudly nationalist sentiment. American individualism has strengthened the militia tradition into the concept of the citizen-soldier, trained and capable of response in emergency situations, but like Cincinnatus, eager to go home when the fighting is over. The second factor, the American environment, drove the American Army to adopt new tactics, techniques, and procedures TTPs ; European armies were used to fighting in the great fields of settled lands, and found many of their TTPs unsuitable for the heavily wooded American wilderness. TTPs developed for use in wooded areas, along with technological innovation like the rifle, led to many of the individual and small unit tactics used today. What did the British learn about the nature of warfare in the Americas from their initial defeats in the French and Indian War? How could this have helped them in their later fight against the "colonists"? They began to employ skirmishers and scouts, often camouflaged or disguised as Indians, to secure the main body of their forces. They took advantage of cover and concealment, and learned to travel faster and lighter through dangerous areas. In short, they took advantage of maneuver, security, and surprise. Still, when appropriate, the British used the Frederickian line of battle to devastating effect. Patriots, loyalists, and British regulars all developed new warfighting doctrine in the French and Indian Seven Years War that could be recycled in the Revolutionary War. Many officers of the former war returned to fight in the latter, most notably General Washington and General Gage. This provided each force with a great deal of intelligence about the other; in modern parlance, this order of battle OB data could have been used to develop situational templates. The British and American forces were composed of a large number of regulars and colonial militia subsidized by the Crown. The French forces were generally smaller and more dispersed, and their Indian allies fought as an ad hoc force, not organized units bound to a French commander for the duration. The British and American forces had superior mass and unity of command. The French forces began the war with superior talents for security, surprise, and maneuver, but the British quickly adapted to this imbalance. What did the British learn about the military capabilities of their American "cousins"? What should they have learned? The British learned that the Americans were familiar with the terrain and, through their experience with hostile Indians, had recognized the value of surprise and stealth. They should have learned that the incipient American Army would be highly mobile, specializing in maneuver and only employing mass at decisive engagements, preferring the offense and placing less value on strategic positions such as forts -- all of which will, given enough time, fail. It was also more difficult to manufacture and maintain, requiring a unique bullet mold for

each hand-made piece. Discuss the various differences between the Massachusetts Minutemen and the British troops they fired on during the battles of Lexington and Concord. The Minutemen were organized militia, raised from the local populace, drilled with some regularity, and armed with their own weapons. Many of their officers had more combat experience than their British counterparts, especially in the American operating environment OE. Unlike regular militia, the Minutemen were a rapid reaction force. The British troops were regulars with more training but less experience in the American OE. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the British military system and the new American Army in the opening days of the Revolution? What challenges did each side face in its attempts to prosecute its military operations? While it had problems recruiting and supplying soldiers, those men not enlisted were able to keep the American economy afloat and, when necessary, act as militia. The militia was unable to maintain sustained operations over great distance, but were capable of attacking British flanks or performing envelopments of isolated British outposts. While it was largely adapted to the environment, the American Army had problems exploiting those adaptations. Initial enlistments in the Army were only for a year; the Continental Congress had not anticipated a long campaign. Component armies did not coordinate their campaigns with each other or with the commander-in-chief, General Washington. Supply was difficult and pay depended on quickly depreciating paper Continental Dollars. Many officers and men lacked training in tactics, strategy, and logistics. The British Army had the centralized command that the Americans lacked and was in a much better financial position. It was better trained in 18th century warfare, and retained some memory of the French and Indian War. The Royal Navy was capable of landing troops and establishing outposts at any point along the American coast and moving inland via rivers. Like the Americans, British commanders had unattainable requests for manpower. Some of the manpower deficit was made up by mercenaries, particularly Hessians. Transporting men and materiel from Britain to America took months, and transport ships were threatened by American privateers. While the British were able to maintain control of cities and rivers, they were unable to maintain supply lines from these secured areas into the field. Nor were they able to force a decisive confrontation with the Continental Army in a European-style field engagement. Even when victorious, the British often neglected or failed to exploit their victories, letting defeated Continentals retreat. Although not as divided as the American Army, the British command was divided between Canadian and United States campaigns. Neither army developed long-term strategy. American strategy was hampered by insufficient unity of command and the early expectation that the war would be short. British strategy was hamstrung by a similar expectation and the habit of fighting yearly campaigns, anticipating a break in fighting for winter and not planning much in advance of that. Given the state of the American Army in , how do you think Washington should have conducted operations in the New York City area? What should Howe have done? The British had control of the waterways, subjecting the river banks to naval gunfire and the rapid deployment of troops. They were more interested in capturing key terrain, such as Brooklyn Heights and the two forts on the Hudson, than they were in attriting the Continental Army. Washington should have evacuated the forts and the vicinity of the river and set up a thorough surveillance and reconnaissance plan, including a screening force around the main body of his army, to keep himself apprised of British actions. Did he make good use of this principle? What were the dangers in relying on surprise? A militia group was to attack Bordentown to the south, and another would block the escape route across Assunpink Creek, effectively enveloping Trenton. Although the two militia groups did not reach their objectives, the surprise attack on Trenton came out as planned; forty Hessians were killed, taken prisoner, and only escaped. Only two Americans were killed and two wounded. The principal danger in such a surprise attack lay in its ambitious tactics. The night was dark, and the Delaware in December was filled with chunks of ice. This prevented the two militia groups from reaching their objectives. By 2 January, Cornwallis had reoccupied Trenton. He decided to let his troops rest a day before attacking. Washington did not afford his troops this day of rest; his army evacuated their camp during the night, leaving the fires burning to deceive enemy reconnaissance. And Washington did surprise the British at Princeton the next morning. Three British regiments on their way to reinforce Cornwallis suffered heavy losses. After this, Washington withdrew to winter camp. Cornwallis, repeating a common British failing, did not pursue. Howe withdrew his New Jersey outposts. Washington had brought the winter season to an end with American victories. What role did

Congress play in setting military policy and determining military operations in the opening days of the Revolution? Why was this important? Congress appointed general officers and a staff, set the pay scale, ratified the Articles of War, authorized personnel numbers, and charged the states with recruitment and fiduciary quotas. It did not have the ability to tax the populace, and states rarely met their assigned quotas. Personnel raised by states were often loyal to their states, not the national government, and lines of de facto authority would criss-cross. Because Americans were poorly disposed towards concentrated power, the Continental Congress had no executive and its work was done by committees. For all its faults, the Continental Congress was the duly authorized civilian authority, and Washington was assiduous in recognizing it as such. This was paramount in earning the trust of the American government and people. Why was it important to create the Continental Army in rather than relying upon the existing state militias to prosecute the war? The existing state militias were not full-time soldiers and did not receive full-time training. Nor were they disciplined enough to engage in long-term campaigns or move freely from state to state under national control.

Chapter 3 : Battle of Princeton - Wikipedia

General George Washington's army crossed the icy Delaware on Christmas Day and, over the course of the next 10 days, won two crucial battles of the American Revolution. In the Battle of

Park grounds are open daily from sunrise to sunset Thomas Clarke House Hours: Then in December, after months of defeat and retreat, Washington came up with the bold plan to cross the Delaware for a surprise attack on the Hessians at Trenton. The American victory that resulted is what is now known as the First Battle of Trenton. Several days later, this was followed up with another victory at the Second Battle of Trenton. In the evening following the second Battle, Washington held an important council of war. The decision was made there to attack the portion of the British army that was then occupying Princeton, about twelve miles away. The early part of the fighting occurred at this site. American troops approached in two columns on the morning of January 8. The right column passed around a wooded area by the nearby Friends Meeting House, which still exists today See entry below on this page. It has furnishings from the Revolutionary War era, and exhibits which include a large collection of firearms from the period. Later fighting occurred that day in the area at and around Nassau Hall of Princeton University, which was then known as the College of New Jersey. See Nassau Hall entry lower on this page. Following the Battle of Princeton, Washington and his army headed to Morristown for winter quarters. The war would last another 6 years, and the American Army and Washington had a great deal of hardship to encounter over those years. Their victories greatly improved the morale of both the army and the country. Three of the notable spots in the park are detailed below: Mercer died from wounds suffered at the battle, when he was clubbed and bayoneted by British soldiers after having his horse shot out from under him. He was carried to the Thomas Clarke House, where he survived for nine days before dying. A legend later grew that after Mercer was wounded, he lay under an oak tree, refusing to leave the battlefield until victory had been achieved. While the story is not true, the legend stuck, and that tree became known as the "Mercer Oak. The "Mercer Oak" survived for over two centuries. Its image became commonly associated with the region, appearing on the official seals of both Princeton Township and Mercer County. The "Mercer Oak" finally collapsed on March 3, These include fifteen American and twenty-one British soldiers. It was originally the portico of a home in Philadelphia owned by a man named Matthew Newkirk. The portico was moved to Princeton in where it became the entrance to Mercer Manor, which stood on the east side of the Battlefield. It was re-erected at this site in , and was dedicated at a ceremony on November 11,

Chapter 4 : The Battle of Princeton - HISTORY

After a skirmish, Washington set up militia to keep the fires burning, and without telling them where he was going "Fall back if the British attack", he took the rest of his forces east, across frozen fields and swampland, then north to Princeton along the Quaker-bridge road.

His troops followed on January 3, Washington advanced to Princeton by a back road, where he pushed back a smaller British force but had to retreat before Cornwallis arrived with reinforcements. The battles of Trenton and Princeton were a boost to the morale of the Continental troops, leading many recruits to join the Continental Army in the spring. Mercer and his troops were overrun, and Mercer was mortally wounded. Washington sent a brigade of militia under Brigadier General John Cadwalader to help them. Washington rode up with reinforcements and rallied the fleeing militia. Mawhood gave the order to retreat and most of the troops tried to flee to Cornwallis in Trenton. In Princeton itself, Brigadier General John Sullivan encouraged some British troops who had taken refuge in Nassau Hall to surrender, ending the battle. After the battle, Washington moved his army to Morristown, and with their third defeat in ten days, the British evacuated southern New Jersey. With the victory at Princeton, morale rose in the American ranks and more men began to enlist in the army. George Washington and consisted of about 1, Soldiers. British Forces was commanded by Lt. Charles Mawhood and consisted of about 1, Soldiers. Casualties - American casualties were estimated to be 30 killed and 75 wounded. Outcome - The result of the battle was an American victory. The battle was part of the New York and New Jersey campaign. On December 31, Washington appealed to his men, whose enlistments expired at the end of the year, "Stay for just six more weeks for an extra bounty of ten dollars. Also, Washington learned that Congress had voted to give him wide-ranging powers for six months In response to the loss at Trenton, Cornwallis left New York City and reassembled a British force of more than 9, at Princeton to oppose Washington. On January 1, Cornwallis left 1, men under the command of Mawhood at Princeton. Washington sent troops to skirmish with the approaching British to delay their advance. It was almost nightfall by the time the British reached Trenton. After three failed attempts to cross the bridge over the Assunpink Creek, beyond which were the primary American defenses, Cornwallis called off the attack until the next day. During the night, Washington called a council-of-war and asked his officers whether they should stand and fight, attempt to cross the river somewhere, or take the back roads to attack Princeton. Although the idea had already occurred to Washington, he learned from Arthur St. Clair and Cadwalader that his plan to attack Princeton was indeed possible. Two intelligence collection efforts, both of which came to fruition at the end of December , supported such a surprise attack. After consulting with his officers, they agreed that the best option was to attack Princeton. By midnight, the plan was complete, with the baggage on its way to Burlington and the guns wrapped in heavy cloth to stifle noise and prevent the British from learning of the evacuation. Washington left men behind with two cannon to patrol, keep the fires burning, and to work with picks and shovels to make the British think that they were digging in. Before dawn, these men were to join up with the main army. The men were ordered to march with absolute silence. Along the way, a rumor was spread that they were surrounded and some frightened militiamen fled for Philadelphia. The march was difficult, as some of the route ran through thick woods and it was icy, causing horses to slip, and men to break through ice on ponds. As dawn came, the army approached a stream called Stony Brook. The road the army took followed Stony Brook for a mile farther until it intersected the Post Road from Trenton to Princeton. However, off to the right of this road, there was an unused road which crossed the farmland of Thomas Clark. The road was not visible from the Post Road, and ran through cleared land to a stretch from which the town could be entered at any point because the British had left it undefended. Death of Brigadier Hugh Mercer at the Battle of Princeton However, Washington was running behind schedule as he had planned to attack and capture the British outposts before dawn and capture the garrison shortly afterward. By the time dawn broke, he was still two miles from the town. Cornwallis had sent orders to Mawhood to bring the 17th and 55th British regiments to join his army in the morning. Mawhood had moved out from Princeton to fulfill these orders when his troops climbed the hill south of Stony Brook and sighted the main American army. Unable to

figure out the size of the American army due to the wooded hills, he sent a rider to warn the 40th British Regiment, which he had left in Princeton, then wheeled the 17th and 55th Regiments around and headed back to Princeton. That day, Mawhood had called off the patrol which was to reconnoiter the area from which Washington was approaching. Mercer received word that Mawhood was leading his troops back across the bridge and back to Princeton. When Mawhood learned that Mercer was in his rear and moving to join Sullivan, Mawhood detached part of the 55th Regiment to join the 40th Regiment in the town and then moved the rest of the 55th, the 17th, fifty cavalry, and two artillery pieces to attack Mercer. Mawhood ordered his light troops to delay Mercer, while he brought up the other detachments. The Americans took up a position behind a fence at the upper end of the orchard. However, Mawhood had brought up his troops and his artillery. The American gunners opened fire first and for about ten minutes, the outnumbered American infantry exchanged fire with the British. However, many of the Americans had rifles which took longer to load than muskets. Mawhood ordered a bayonet charge and because many of the Americans had rifles, which could not be equipped with bayonets, they were overrun. Mercer was surrounded by British soldiers and they shouted at him "Surrender you damn rebel". Declining to ask for quarter, Mercer chose to resist instead. The British, thinking they had caught Washington, bayoneted him, and then left him for dead. John Haslet, was shot through the head and killed. Mawhood gathered his men who were all over the battlefield and put them into battle line formation. Meanwhile, Sullivan was at a standoff with the detachment of the 55th Regiment that had come to assist the 40th Regiment, neither daring to move towards the main battle for risk of exposing its flank. Cadwalader attempted to move his men into a battle line but they had no combat experience and did not know even the most basic military maneuvers. Cadwalader was able to get one company to fire a volley but it fled immediately afterwards. Washington ordered the riflemen and the Virginians to take up a position on the right hand side of the hill. There is but a handful of the enemy and we shall have them directly! Washington, with his hat in his hand, rode forward and waved the Americans forward, while he rode ahead on his horse. At this point, Mawhood had moved his troops slightly to the left to get out of the range of the American artillery fire. Washington gave orders not to fire until he gave them the signal, and when they were thirty yards away, he turned around on his horse, facing his men and said "Halt! The riflemen were slowly picking off British soldiers while the American artillery was firing grapeshot at the British lines. At this point, Hitchcock ordered his men to charge, and the British began to flee. The British attempted to save their artillery but the militia also charged, and Mawhood gave the order to retreat. The British fled towards the Post Road followed by the Americans. Some Americans continued to pursue the fleeing British until nightfall, killing some and taking some prisoner. At the edge of town, the 55th Regiment received orders from Mawhood to fall back and join the 40th Regiment in town. The 40th had taken up a position just outside town, on the north side of a ravine. The 55th formed up to the left of the 40th. The 55th sent a platoon to flank the oncoming Americans, but it was cut to pieces. When Sullivan sent several regiments to scale the ravine, they fell back to a breastwork. After making a brief stand, the British fell back again, some leaving Princeton, and others taking up refuge in Nassau Hall. Alexander Hamilton brought three cannons up and had them blast away at the building. Then some Americans rushed the front door, broke it down, and the British put a white flag outside one of the windows. Exactly British soldiers walked out of the building and laid down their arms. Aftermath After entering Princeton, the Americans began to loot the abandoned British supply wagons and the town itself. Washington wanted to push onto New Brunswick and capture a British pay chest of 70, pounds but Knox and Major General Nathanael Greene talked him out of it. Instead, Washington moved his army to Somerset Courthouse on the night of January 3, then marched to Pluckemin by January 5, and arrived at Morristown, by sunset the next day, for winter encampment. After the battle, Cornwallis abandoned many of his posts in New Jersey, and ordered his army to retreat to New Brunswick.

Chapter 5 : The History Reader - A History Blog from St. Martins Press

Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis had left 1, British troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood in Princeton. Following a surprise attack at Trenton, General George Washington of the Continental Army decided to attack the British in New Jersey before entering winter quarters.

The site is administered as a state park operated and maintained by the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry. That night, he evacuated his position and went to attack the British garrison at Princeton. Mercer and his troops were overrun and Washington sent some Militia under General John Cadwalader to help him. Washington rode up with reinforcements and rallied the fleeing Militia. Mawhood gave the order to retreat and most of the troops tried to flee to Cornwallis in Trenton. In Princeton itself, General John Sullivan forced some British troops who had taken refuge in Nassau Hall to surrender, ending the battle. Washington moved his army to Morristown, and with their third defeat in 10 days, the British evacuated New Jersey. With the victory at Princeton, morale rose in the ranks and more men began to enlist in the army. He had surprised his opponents at Trenton on December 26 and in the following days hoped to build on that momentum. Washington also was acutely aware that the enlistment terms of many of his soldiers would expire at midnight on the 31st. Arriving in Princeton on January 1, Cornwallis left a rear guard of 1, men under Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood and proceeded south toward Trenton with 5, soldiers. During this march, the British encountered resistance from American soldiers intent on slowing their progress. He left men in the camp to stoke bonfires and make digging noises as if they were preparing earthwork defenses for the coming battle. In actuality, a mass evacuation was underway. The movement of American cannon was silenced by wrapping the wheels in cloth, and both soldiers and artillery were aided during the night as the muddy roads froze. At daybreak, Lieutenant Colonel Mawhood left a small force behind in Princeton and proceeded south to join Cornwallis. Along the road, he encountered American forces under Brigadier General Hugh Mercer, who had hoped to secure a bridge over Stony Creek and isolate Princeton. The British pursued with fixed bayonets and it appeared that a rout was imminent. However, Washington, who was with the main force advancing on Princeton, heard the exchanges and rode to the battle. In a remarkable display of courage and leadership, he headed directly toward the British lines, yelling at the soldiers to rally behind him. Sullivan trained his cannon on the building and, as legend has it, his second shot entered the building and decapitated a portrait of George II. The British soldiers promptly surrendered. Cornwallis missed these events. When he was alerted at dawn that the Americans had decamped, it was assumed that they had retreated southward and, being penned against the Delaware River, would become easy targets. Later, messengers arrived with word of events in the north. A livid Cornwallis and his soldiers immediately set out on the road to Princeton, where they faced the unpleasant task of fording the frigid and swollen waters of Stony Creek; the Americans had burned the bridge as they departed. Washington was faced with a crucial decision. His more conservative side, however, realized that Cornwallis was in pursuit and that his own army was exhausted. He and the Continental Army headed for Morristown, arriving on January 5 and 6 to establish its winter quarters. Cornwallis retired to New Brunswick. Several days later, the seat of the Continental Congress, recently deserted by the delegates, was safe and the British presence in New Jersey was confined to a small area in the northeastern corner of the state. This remarkable turnaround greatly increased American morale. The main body of the British armies was to be avoided; attacks were to be made on smaller forces in outlying areas, a strategy that made it difficult for the British to extend their control over broad expanses of territory. Lindsay Johnson On January 3, at 1: The wagon wheels were wrapped in rags to prevent them from making any noise. With Mercer in place, Washington intended to move his force north and east along the Back Road and rapidly close on the 1,man British garrison at Princeton. Mawhood soon realized that they were Americans. Both sides deployed quickly into line and began opening fire on one another at a range of only 50 yards while unlimbering a pair of field pieces each. After his men fired only one volley, Mawhood ordered his men to make a bayonet charge. The militia panicked and retreated south toward the Back Road. During the assault, Mercer was mortally wounded, including seven stab wounds. Washington, Cadwalader, and Maj. Nathanael Greene then moved among the

troops to rally them. Washington rode into the middle of the battlefield and rallied the fleeing militia. When Mawhood spotted the head of the new Patriot reinforcements arriving on the scene, he fell back and took up a defensive position. Once the main body of his force had moved up, Washington led his men against the British line. At a distance of 30 yards, he halted and ordered his men to attack the British. Knox was able to bring up his cannon force and joined in the fight. The British troops broke and some headed to New Brunswick while the rest, including Mawhood, broke through the lines and headed for the bridge and Trenton. The Patriots chased the fleeing British and captured 50 prisoners before Washington recalled them and continued advancing toward Princeton. The rest of the action consisted after the British retreating through the town and then northward as the Americans moved behind them. There was a man force that had barricaded themselves in Nassau Hall, a thickly walled building that served as the College of New Jersey. The Americans fired two cannon shells into the building and then made a charge, forcing the British to surrender. Washington was unable to occupy Princeton because of he knew that Cornmalls would be counterattacking soon. He wanted to push on to New Brunswick, but his troops were too tired. Washington left a detachment of soldiers to destroy Stony Creek Bridge, which would delay the British army. Seeing the bridge gone, Cornwallis sent his men across the icy stream and pressed ahead. The British vanguard spotted the withdrawing Patriot force but was unable to catch up with them.

Washington's aim was to conduct a surprise attack upon a Hessian garrison of roughly 1, soldiers located in and around Trenton, New Jersey. Washington hoped that a quick victory at Trenton would bolster sagging morale in his army and encourage more men to join the ranks of the Continentals come the new year.

He had surprised his opponents at Trenton on December 26 and in the following days hoped to build on that momentum. Washington also was acutely aware that the enlistment terms of many of his soldiers would expire at midnight on the 31st. Arriving in Princeton on January 1, Cornwallis left a rear guard of 1, men under Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood and proceeded south toward Trenton with 5, soldiers. During this march, the British encountered resistance from American soldiers intent on slowing their progress. He left men in the camp to stoke bonfires and make digging noises as if they were preparing earthwork defenses for the coming battle. In actuality, a mass evacuation was underway. The movement of American cannon was silenced by wrapping the wheels in cloth, and both soldiers and artillery were aided during the night as the muddy roads froze. At daybreak, Lieutenant Colonel Mawhood left a small force behind in Princeton and proceeded south to join Cornwallis. Along the road, he encountered American forces under Brigadier General Hugh Mercer, who had hoped to secure a bridge over Stony Creek and isolate Princeton. The British pursued with fixed bayonets and it appeared that a rout was imminent. However, Washington, who was with the main force advancing on Princeton, heard the exchanges and rode to the battle. In a remarkable display of courage and leadership, he headed directly toward the British lines, yelling at the soldiers to rally behind him. Sullivan trained his cannon on the building and, as legend has it, his second shot entered the building and decapitated a portrait of George II. The British soldiers promptly surrendered. Cornwallis missed these events. When he was alerted at dawn that the Americans had decamped, it was assumed that they had retreated southward and, being penned against the Delaware River, would become easy targets. Later, messengers arrived with word of events in the north. A livid Cornwallis and his soldiers immediately set out on the road to Princeton, where they faced the unpleasant task of fording the frigid and swollen waters of Stony Creek; the Americans had burned the bridge as they departed. Washington was faced with a crucial decision. The aggressive side of his character wanted to march directly on the British regional headquarters at New Brunswick, which held? His more conservative side, however, realized that Cornwallis was in pursuit and that his own army was exhausted. He and the Continental Army headed for Morristown, arriving on January 5 and 6 to establish its winter quarters. Cornwallis retired to New Brunswick. On January 1, the British had been in control of New Jersey and were in a position to take the prize of Philadelphia, if they so chose. Several days later, the seat of the Continental Congress, recently deserted by the delegates, was safe and the British presence in New Jersey was confined to a small area in the northeastern corner of the state. This remarkable turnaround greatly increased American morale. The experience of the twin victories helped Washington to grasp how to fight the war most effectively. The main body of the British armies was to be avoided; attacks were to be made on smaller forces in outlying areas, a strategy that made it difficult for the British to extend their control over broad expanses of territory. The results of Trenton and Princeton were noted in France. See also campaigns of and timeline of the War of Independence. Princeton celebrates this amazing New Jersey town that has managed to remain quaint and charming while becoming a renowned center for education and re

Chapter 7 : American Military History, Volume 1

The Battle of Princeton (January 3,) was a battle in which General George Washington's revolutionary forces defeated British forces near Princeton, New Jersey.. On the night of January 2, George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, repulsed a British attack at the Battle of the Assunpink Creek in Trenton.

However, Mawhood had brought up his troops and his artillery. However, many of the Americans had rifles which took longer to load than muskets. Declining to ask for quarter, Mercer chose to resist instead. The British, thinking they had caught Washington, bayoneted him, and then left him for dead. Meanwhile, Sullivan was at a standoff with the detachment of the 55th Regiment that had come to assist the 40th Regiment, neither daring to move towards the main battle for risk of exposing its flank. Washington shouted, "Parade with us my brave fellows! There is but a handful of the enemy and we shall have them directly! Washington gave orders not to fire until he gave them the signal, and when they were thirty yards away, he turned around on his horse, facing his men and said "Halt! At this point, Hitchcock ordered his men to charge, and the British began to flee. Some Americans continued to pursue the fleeing British until nightfall, killing some and taking some prisoner. The 55th formed up to the left of the 40th. The 55th sent a platoon to flank the oncoming Americans, but it was cut to pieces. Then some Americans rushed the front door, broke it down, and the British put a white flag outside one of the windows. A civilian eyewitness the anonymous writer of A Brief Narrative of the Ravages of the British and Hessians at Princeton in 1777 wrote that 24 British soldiers were found dead on the field. Ketchum states that the Americans had "30 enlisted men and 14 officers killed"; [5] Henry B. Dawson gives 10 officers and 30 enlisted men killed; [47] while Edward G. Lengel gives total casualties as 25 killed and 40 wounded. Some other historians, such as Edward Lengel consider it to be even more impressive than Trenton. But while his noble horse is represented thus terror stricken, the dauntless hero is calm and dignified, ever believing himself the instrument in the hand of Providence to work out the great problem of liberty. There are only thirty current units of the U. Army with colonial roots.

Chapter 8 : Battle of Princeton | World History Project

George Washington figures memorably in Princeton's early history. He made two visits to Princeton that played vital roles in the unfolding narrative of the young college. The first was on January 3, 1777, at the Battle of Princeton, when Washington launched an attack that drove the British from their garrison in Nassau Hall.

Most soldiers' contracts would be up by the end of the year, and it seemed that the Revolution was lost. Washington knew he needed a quick victory in order to inspire new recruits and get old ones to stay. He decided that they would attack the British at Trenton. The American Plan[edit] The American plan relied on launching coordinated attacks from three different directions. General John Cadwalder would launch a diversionary attack against the British garrison at Bordentown, in order to block off any reinforcements. General James Ewing would take militia across the river at Trenton Ferry, seize the bridge over the Assunpink Creek and prevent any enemy troops from escaping. The main assault force of 2,000 men would cross the river nine miles north of Trenton, and then split into two groups, one under Greene and one under Sullivan, in order to launch a pre-dawn attack. Depending on the success of the operation, the Americans might possibly follow up with separate attacks on Princeton and New Brunswick. During the week prior to Christmas, American advance parties had begun to ambush enemy cavalry patrols, capturing dispatch riders, and attacking Hessian pickets. This became so effective, that the Hessian commander had to send infantry and an artillery detachment to protect his letter to the British commander at Princeton. Rall had been ordered to build a redoubt at the head of these two streets where the battle monument stands today by his superior, Count Carl von Donop, whose own brigade was stationed in Bordentown. Rall was a year professional soldier with a great deal of battle experience who had requested reinforcements and been turned down by British commander General James Grant. Grant regarded the Americans with great disdain and sent no reinforcements. The Crossing[edit] Washington crossing the Delaware Before Washington and his troops left, Benjamin Rush had come in an attempt to cheer up the General. While he was there he saw a note Washington had written which said "Victory or Death". Those words would be the watchword for the surprise attack. The terrible weather conditions delayed the landing in New Jersey, which were supposed to be completed by another setback also occurred for the Americans. Both General Cadwalder and Ewing were unable to join in the attack due to the weather conditions. For the next four and a half hours, the American troops marched to Trenton. It was a miserable trip. Many did not have boots, so they were forced to wear rags around their feet. Two men even laid down in the snow, only never to get back up. When the squad guarding this post saw the large American force on the march, Lieutenant von Wiederholdt, in command of this Pennington picket, made an organized retreat. Once in Trenton the picket began to receive support from other Hessian guard companies on the outskirts of the town. Another guard company nearer to the Delaware River rushed east to their aid, leaving open the River Road into Trenton. General John Sullivan, leading the southern American column entered Trenton by this route and made hard for the only crossing over the Assunpink Creek, which was the only way out of Trenton to the south, in hopes of cutting off the Hessian escape. Slowly, various companies of the three defending regiments formed and entered the battle. The northern American column quickly took this position. The Americans stationed two cannon on a rise that guarded the two main routes out of the town. The Hessians tried to bring four guns into action, but American fire kept them silent, and denied the Hessians a chance to form in the streets. The remaining men in the column, along with the other American column near the river, moved to surround the Hessians. The other two Hessian regiments, Lossberg and Rall, retreated into an open field and attempted a counterattack that was quickly driven back. Rall ordered his force to retreat southeast into an apple orchard just outside Trenton. The Hessians in the orchard attempted to reorganize, and make one last attempt to retake the town so they could escape to Princeton. The Americans, by this time, occupied the majority of the buildings and, from cover, fired into the ranks of the Rall regiment as the Hessians advanced. As the Hessians fought back into the streets of Trenton, they came under fire from cannons, and even some civilians who had joined the battle. Their formations were broken up by cannon fire. At this point, Rall was mortally wounded. The Hessians then retreated back to the Orchard, where they were then surrounded and

forced to surrender. The remains of the Knyphausen Regiment were attempting to escape to Bordentown, but they were slowed when they tried to haul their cannon through boggy ground. The regiment surrendered just minutes before the rest of the brigade. Casualties and Effects[edit] The American forces had suffered only a handful of wounded, although two men died of hypothermia on the march and more the next night, while the Hessians suffered casualties with at least 25 dead, as well as captured. The captured Hessians were sent to Philadelphia, and later Lancaster only to be moved once again in , this time to Virginia. The Capture of the Hessians at Trenton. Rall was mortally wounded and died later that day at his headquarters. All four Hessian colonels in Trenton were killed in the battle. The Lossberg regiment was effectively removed from the British forces. Also captured were about 1, arms and some much-needed ammunition. Only four Americans were wounded, two during the rush to capture Hessian artillery before they could be used in the battle. These wounded were officers: Monroe was carried from the field bleeding badly after he was struck in the left shoulder by a musket ball, which severed an artery. Doctor John Riker clamped the artery, keeping him from bleeding to death. Following the victory at the Battle of Trenton early in the morning of December 26, , General George Washington of the Continental Army and his council of war expected a strong British counter-attack. Washington and his council decided to meet this attack in Trenton. The Battle[edit] On December 30, he crossed the Delaware River back into New Jersey and, over the next few days, massed his troops on higher ground south of Trenton, across a stream running through downtown called Assunpink Creek. The Americans slowly withdrew, splitting into smaller units in order to harrass the British. The armies were facing each other from yards m apart with only the creek and the bridge in between. Cornwallis ordered the assault. Two more attempts were made by the British to take the bridge, but each time they were repulsed. The bridge held, darkness fell, and Cornwallis withdrew. Hundreds of British soldiers were recovered from the bridge ending the battle. Cornwallis commented "Rest for now. Washington and his staff decided to sneak away in the night, marching around the British forces and attacking their rear in Princeton. The Americans left a token force to build fortifications as though they were planning to defend at the creek and to disguise the sound of their march. British forces perceived the movement, but Cornwallis believed this to be Americans planning a night attack and ordered British troops into defensive positions, allowing Americans to successfully march their army around Cornwallis Battle of Princeton[edit] Throughout the night, the army marched over a back road toward Princeton and reached the Quaker Bridge over Stony Brook, about a mile south of town. While the bridge was being constructed, Washington reformed his army, and then split it into two partsâ€”the smaller left wing under General Nathanael Greene and the larger right wing under General John Sullivan. Washington had intended to attack Princeton before dawn, but the sun was rising. The British were known to have outposts on the roads to the north, east and west, but an abandoned road went into town from the west, which Sullivan took. The last unit of the 4th Brigade was left to hold Princeton with another men. General Mercer was wounded but refused to surrender. When he tried to attack the enemy with his sword, he was bayoneted until presumed dead; he died nine days later. Washington then rode straight into the British fire, personally leading the attack. As Washington charged towards the British lines, he was heard yelling "Parade with me my brave fellows, we will have them soon! Now outnumbered nearly 6 to 1, Mawhood led a final charge to break through American lines. A number of the British soldiers broke through the Americans in a desperate bayonet charge, continuing down the road to Trenton. A number of troops were left behind in Princeton. Facing overwhelming numbers and artillery fire, they surrendered. The British casualty list stated 86 killed and wounded and captured. The Americans suffered 40 killed and wounded. In Trenton, Cornwallis and his men awoke to the sounds of cannon fire coming from behind their position. Cornwallis and his army began to race to Princeton. The exhausted American Army slipped away, marching to Somerset County Courthouse now Millstone , where they spent the night. When the main British force finally reached Princeton late in the day, they did not remain but continued in haste toward New Brunswick, New Jersey. Aftermath[edit] After the battle, Cornwallis abandoned many of his posts in New Jersey, and ordered his army to retreat to New Brunswick. The battle at Princeton cost the British some men killed, 70 wounded captured and greatly boosted the morale of the Continental troops, leading 8, new recruits to join the Continental Army. American historians often consider it a great victory on par with the battle of Trenton, due to the subsequent loss of

control of most of New Jersey by the Crown forces as well as the important political implications of the battle across the Atlantic in France and Spain, both of which would expand their military aid to the Continental forces after the battle.

Chapter 9 : American Revolution/The Battles of Trenton and Princeton - Wikibooks, open books for an open world

The Battle of Trenton was a small but pivotal battle during the American Revolutionary War which took place on the morning of December 26, 1776, in Trenton, New Jersey. After General George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River north of Trenton the previous night, Washington led the main body of the Continental Army against Hessian.

Clair and John Cadwalader that his plan to attack Princeton was indeed possible. Two intelligence collection efforts, both of which came to fruition at the end of December, supported such a surprise attack. After consulting with his officers, they agreed that the best option was to attack Princeton. By midnight, the plan was complete, with the baggage on its way to Burlington and the guns wrapped in heavy cloth to stifle noise and prevent the British from learning of the evacuation. Before dawn, these men were to join up with the main army. The men were ordered to march with absolute silence. The march was difficult, as some of the route ran through thick woods and it was icy, causing horses to slip, and men to break through ice on ponds. However, off to the right of this road, there was an unused road which crossed the farmland of Thomas Clark. Mawhood had moved out from Princeton to fulfill these orders when his troops climbed the hill south of Stony Brook and sighted the main American army. That day, Mawhood had called off the patrol which was to reconnoiter the area from which Washington was approaching. When Mawhood learned that Mercer was in his rear and moving to join Sullivan, Mawhood detached part of the 55th Regiment to join the 40th Regiment in the town and then moved the rest of the 55th, the 17th, fifty cavalry, and two artillery pieces to attack Mercer. However, Mawhood had brought up his troops and his artillery. However, many of the Americans had rifles which took longer to load than muskets. Declining to ask for quarter, Mercer chose to resist instead. The British, thinking they had caught Washington, bayoneted him, and then left him for dead. Meanwhile, Sullivan was at a standoff with the detachment of the 55th Regiment that had come to assist the 40th Regiment, neither daring to move towards the main battle for risk of exposing its flank. Washington shouted, "Parade with us my brave fellows! There is but a handful of the enemy and we shall have them directly! Washington gave orders not to fire until he gave them the signal, and when they were thirty yards away, he turned around on his horse, facing his men and said "Halt! At this point, Hitchcock ordered his men to charge, and the British began to flee. The British fled towards the Post Road followed by the Americans. Some Americans continued to pursue the fleeing British until nightfall, killing some and taking some prisoners. The 55th formed up to the left of the 40th. The 55th sent a platoon to flank the oncoming Americans, but it was cut to pieces. Then some Americans rushed the front door, broke it down, and the British put a white flag outside one of the windows. A civilian eyewitness the anonymous writer of *A Brief Narrative of the Ravages of the British and Hessians at Princeton* in 1777 wrote that 24 British soldiers were found dead on the field. Ketchum states that the Americans had "30 enlisted men and 14 officers killed"; [5] Henry B. Dawson gives 10 officers and 30 enlisted men killed; [49] while Edward G. Lengel gives total casualties as 25 killed and 40 wounded. Some other historians, such as Edward Lengel consider it to be even more impressive than Trenton. The Institute for Advanced Study, which owns the property, is planning a housing project on land where George Washington charged with his men during the battle. Seven of the planned single family dwellings will be replaced with townhouses. In total, 16 housing units will be constructed. The completed purchase ended the long dispute over how and whether the battlefield land would be developed. But while his noble horse is represented thus terror stricken, the dauntless hero is calm and dignified, ever believing himself the instrument in the hand of Providence to work out the great problem of liberty. There are only thirty current units of the U. Army with colonial roots. A famous story, possibly apocryphal, states that during the Battle of Princeton the then commander of an artillery battery Alexander Hamilton ordered his cannons to fire upon the British soldiers taking refuge in Nassau Hall. As a result one of the cannonballs was shot through the head of the portrait of King George II that hung in the chapel, which was subsequently replaced with a portrait of George Washington.