

## American Revolution in Georgia

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

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Georgia Society Sons  
of the American Revolution



# Georgia's Revolutionary War Trail

1775 1783

"Discovering Our Heritage and History"

## Major Georgia Battles

CLARKE ELBERT McINTOSH

...in the American Revolution

The British called the backcountry "The Hornet's Nest."

# Past - Found in the Present



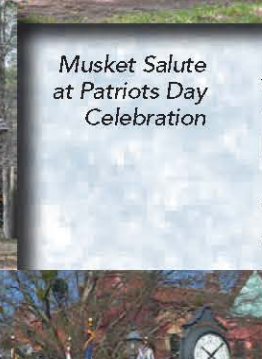
Cannon Firing at Fort Morris Celebration



Monument at Kettle Creek Battleground



Backcountry Cabins at Elijah Clark State Park



Musket Salute at Patriots Day Celebration



Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard

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

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

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

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

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

## Rebellion to Independence

Noble Wimberly Jones

1775

18 January 1775  
Provincial Congress Convened

May 1775  
News of Lexington and Concord reached Georgia

5 June 1775  
Liberty Pole and Union Flag raised

July 1775  
Council of Safety formed; Whig Government established

8 July 1775  
Powder Ship *Phillipa* captured

Archibald Bulloch

Sir James Wright

Joseph Habersham

1776-1777

18 January 1776  
Royal Gov. James Wright arrested

2-7 March 1776  
Battle of the Riceboats

## Georgia Leaders & Key Events

10 August 1776  
Declaration of Independence read at Savannah

1776-1777-1778

June-Sept. 1776  
First Florida Expedition

April-June 1777  
Second Florida Expedition

4 July 1776  
Declaration of Independence

Lyman Hall

George Walton

Button Gwinnett

## War in the Lowcountry

1778-1779

25 November 1778  
Siege of Fort Morris

29 December 1778  
Capture of Savannah

9 January 1779  
Surrender of Sunbury and Fort Morris

Sept-Oct. 1779  
Siege of Savannah

9 October 1779  
Attack at Spring Hill

Robert Howe

Lachlan McIntosh

Samuel Elbert

Henri d'Estaing

Casimir Pulaski

## Struggle for the Backcountry

1779

26 January 1779  
Fight at Burke County Gaol

11 February 1779  
Fight at Vann's Creek

14 February 1779  
Battle of Kettle Creek

3 March 1779  
Battle of Brier Creek

July 1779  
Royal Gov. Wright revived Colonial Parishes

Andrew Pickens

John Wreath

Elijah Clarke

1780-1781

25 May 1780  
Whig Government collapsed

14-18 September 1780  
First Siege of Augusta

May 1780 - September 1781  
Georgia Militia fights in the Carolinas

## Final Fight for Independence

1781

22 May - 5 June 1781  
Second Siege of Augusta

July 1781  
Whig Government re-established in Augusta

1782-1783

12 January 1782  
Gen. Anthony Wayne entered Georgia

23 June 1782  
Fight at Gibbon's Plantation

11 July 1782  
British evacuate Savannah, Patriots reclaim Georgia

25 July 1782  
Delegal's Plantation, last battle of the Revolution

23 September 1783  
Treaty of Paris signed

Nathanael Greene

"Light Horse Harry" Lee

Anthony Wayne

James Jackson



# Major Georgia Battles in the American Revolution

## 1. Fight at Van(n)'s Creek

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

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

## 2. Battle of Kettle Creek

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

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

## 3. Heroes of the Hornet's Nest

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

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

## 4. Augusta — Two Battles

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

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

## 5. Battle of Brier Creek

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

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

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

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

## 6. Savannah — Three Battles

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

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

## 7. Sunbury, Fort Morris & Midway

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

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

## 8. Frederica Naval Action

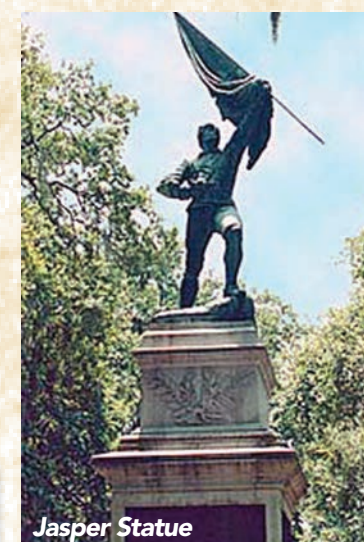
During 1776 and 1777, four heavily-armed row galleys were constructed in Savannah for the Georgia Navy, all underwritten by the Continental Congress. In the Frederica River at St. Simons Island, beginning at dawn on April 19, 1778, Georgia galleys *Lee*, *Washington*, and *Bulloch*, commanded by Continental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

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

Prepared by Bill Ramsaur, Marshes of Glynn Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution.



## Georgia's Revolutionary War Trail



**Georgia's Revolutionary War Trail Brochures** You can download a copy of each Brochure at [www.gasociety.org](http://www.gasociety.org). Go to resources/educational brochures. You can also obtain copies at one of Georgia's Visitor Information Centers. Contact: Manager, Georgia Visitor Center (I-20 East GA/AL Line), P. O. Box 595, Tallapoosa, Georgia 30176, telephone 770-574-2621, email [pcain@georgia.org](mailto:pcain@georgia.org) or [www.exploregeorgia.org/](http://www.exploregeorgia.org/)

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