

# Chapter 4

## **Rising Expectations: African Americans and the Struggle for Independence**

# I. CRISIS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

- French and Indian War ~ Seven Years' War
  - British victory
    - Removed French from the continent
    - French and Spanish threat on frontier removed
    - Indians unable to resist British encroachment
    - Ties between British and colonies weakened
    - British debt increased twofold
    - See Map 4-1

# GTR SEC 1 Q 1

- What was the crisis in the British Empire?
- In debt due to F&I war demanded colonists to pay.  
Also losing control of colonists due to their declaration of independence



# A WIDENING GULF

- Parliamentary Sovereignty
  - Proclamation Line of 1763
  - Revenue
    - Increased taxes and prevented smuggling
- Tea Act
  - Boston Tea Party
  - Intolerable Acts
  - First Continental Congress
- Lexington and Concord
  - Bunker Hill

# GTR SEC. 1 Q2& 3

- What British policies in the 1760's led to rising resistance in the colonies?
  - Proclamation 1763
  - Sugar Act 1764
  - Stamp Act 1765
  - Townshend Act 1767
- What was main provision of Tea Act of 1773? Why did some colonists object to it?
  - East Indian Tea company was British and got tax breaks whereas colonial business were heavily taxed and forced out of business.



## II. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

- Thomas Jefferson
  - Did not support black claims for freedom
  - Denounced the Atlantic slave trade
    - Deleted because Deep South delegates objected
- Revolutionary Rhetoric and Natural Rights
  - Patriotic claims for equality and human rights
    - African Americans read accounts
    - Heard discussions
    - Gave African Americans cause to hope

# GTR SEC 2 Q1 & 2

- What did the Declaration of Independence mean to African Americans?
- It meant Universal human rights should logically include all people, and gave them hope for their own Independence.
- What influence did the ideas of John Locke have on the ideology of the American Revolution?
- Protected natural rights of men Life, Liberty, & Property with right to overthrow unjust/oppressive government



# THE ENLIGHTENMENT: AN AGE OF REASON

- Isaac Newton
  - Natural laws
- John Locke
  - “Concerning Human Understanding,” 1690
    - Consent of the governed
    - Protect natural rights of man to life, liberty, and property
    - People’s right to overthrow oppressive government
    - Tabula Rasa
      - Knowledge and wisdom acquired through experience





# REVOLUTIONARY PAMPHLETS

- Slavery metaphor
  - Slavery used to define colonists' liberty
  - Claimed Britain would deny colonists their rights as Englishmen
  - Reduce them to slaves
  - Establish tyranny



# AFRICAN AMERICANS: THE REVOLUTIONARY DEBATE

- Revolutionary Rhetoric
  - Improved conditions for black people
    - Escapes reduced black numbers
      - South Carolina black population fell one-third
  - New England
    - Slaves sued for freedom
      - Claims of universal liberty
    - Petitioned colonial or state legislatures
      - For gradual emancipation

# AFRICAN AMERICANS: THE REVOLUTIONARY DEBATE GTR SECTION 2 Q3

- Africans actively participated in events
  - Blacks demonstrated against the Stamp Act
  - Rioted against British troops
  - Joined Crispus Attucks
  - Stood with whites at Lexington and Concord
  - Began arguments for abolition.

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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFq657QFNqc>

# III. BLACK ENLIGHTENMENT

- Black intellectuals
  - Jupiter Hammon
  - Josiah Bishop
  - Phillis Wheatley
    - Poet
    - See VOICES



- Benjamin Banneker
  - Mathematician and astronomer
    - Member of survey commission for Washington D.C



# WHEATLEY- GTR SEC 3 Q1 & 2

- How did African Americans contribute to the Enlightenment?
- **It shaped the careers of America's 1<sup>st</sup> Black intellectuals- scientists, philosophers, abolitionists & writers**
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSanJQbdX\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSanJQbdX_U)
- Describe Phillis Wheatley's attitude towards white culture and the American Revolution'
- She was an advocate of assimilation and she believed in Patriot cause even though her owners were Loyalists.

# BANNEKER GTR SEC. 3 Q3

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucjoP0X362o>
- How did Benjamin Banneker's background and education prepare him for his accomplishments later in life?
- He was born free, and his White grandmother passed along her farm to him. He studied literature, Science, mastered Latin & Greek and a working knowledge of German & French. He was also a mathematician and astronomer. He was commissioned for surveying Washington DC 1<sup>st</sup> Black civilian employee of US Govt. Published Almanac



# IV. AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

- Loyalty to a principle
  - Joined those who offered freedom
    - Sided with Patriots in the North
    - Loyalists in the South
- Black soldiers
  - Washington prohibited enlistments in 1775
    - Reenlistment of black men from earlier battles
  - All thirteen colonies followed Washington's lead





# AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE (CONT.)

- Patriot leaders feared enlisting blacks
  - Encouraged leaving their masters without permission
- Paradox
  - White people feared armed blacks
    - Endangered the social order
  - White people thought black men were too cowardly to be effective soldiers
  - Ideas persisted into the 20th century

# AFRICAN AMERICANS IN REVOLUTION GTR SEC 4 Q 1

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3p-uo03CtE>
- What roles did African Americans play in the War for independence?
- They joined the side that offered them freedom so they were both Loyalists and Patriots. No matter which side they fought from beginning at Lexington and Concord, until the end at Yorktown.



# BLACK LOYALISTS

- Fears of British instigated slave revolt
  - Lord Dunmore
    - Proclamation offering to liberate slaves, November 1775
- Slaves escape to British
  - 30,000 in Virginia
  - Laborers and foragers
  - Black Loyalists greater in low country of South Carolina and Georgia
    - Ten thousand blacks leave Savannah and Charleston at end of war

## GTR SECTION 4 Q 2

- What spurred some African Americans to support the Loyalists cause?
- British offered freedom to escaped slaves who joined their forces. They encouraged slaves to escape or rebel against their masters. Patriot leaders at first refused to employ Black troops both out of fear of arming them, and stating that they felt that they were cowards and would not fight.

# 20,000 SERVED BLACK LOYALISTS



# BLACK PATRIOTS

- Dunmore's use of black soldiers prompted Washington to reconsider his ban.
  - "Success will depend on which side can arm the Negro faster."--George Washington
    - Washington permitted reenlistments December 1775
    - Congress reluctant to allow further measures
      - Feared alienating slaveholders
      - Troops shortages forced Congress and state governments to use black soldiers
        - South Carolina and Georgia refused black enlistments



# BLACK PATRIOTS (CONT.)

- New England
  - African Americans found faster acceptance
    - Massachusetts accepted black men in 1777
    - Rhode Island formed a black regiment
    - Connecticut allowed masters to free slaves and to serve as substitutes for masters or their sons
      - New York and New Jersey adopted similar statutes
- Southern states
  - Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina reluctantly enlisted free blacks
  - Only Maryland exchanged service for freedom



# BLACK PATRIOTS (CONT.)

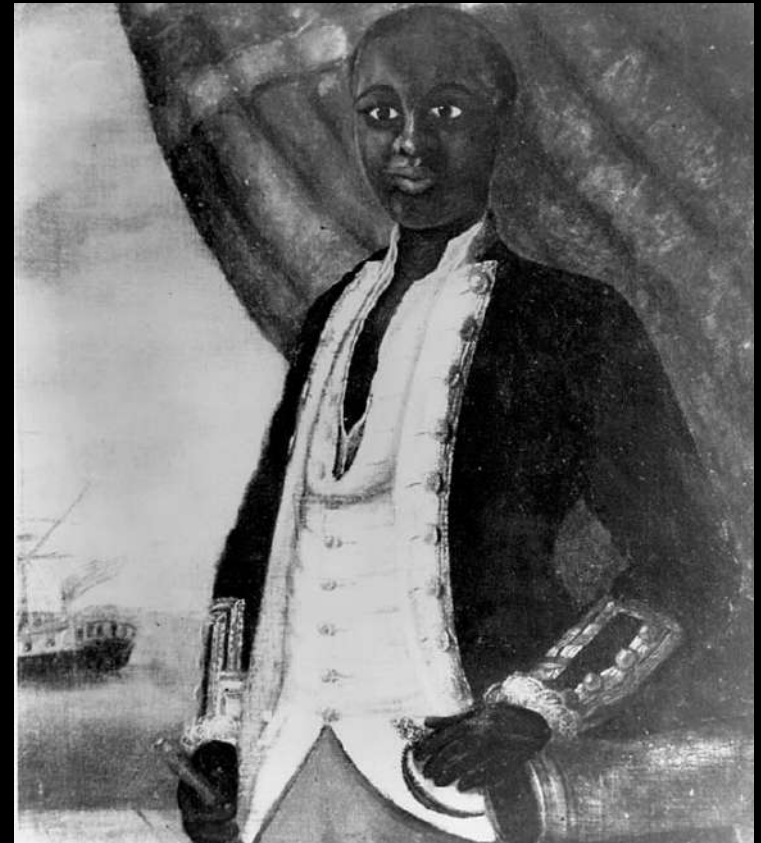
- A Fight for Freedom
  - African Americans wanted their liberty ensured
  - Integrated units
    - Except Rhode Island and some Massachusetts companies
    - 5,000 African American out of 300,000 soldiers served the Patriot cause
    - Fought in nearly every battle
    - Black women sometimes accompanied army camps



## GTR SEC4 , Q 3

- What spurred some African Americans to support the Patriot cause?
- When Congress allowed recruitment of Black soldiers African Americans used the opportunity to press for their own liberation and fought with the colonists (believed in premise that colonists pushed through enlightenment rhetoric for their own liberty).
- There were Black minutemen – Peter Salem, Caesar Dickerson, Pomp Fisk, Prince Hall, Cuff Hayes

# 5,000 SERVED BLACK PATRIOTS



# JAMES ARMISTEAD LAFEYETTE

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8aggoAU04s>

# V. THE REVOLUTION AND EMANCIPATION

- Liberty Bell rang loudest in the North
  - Black soldiers service
  - Christian duty
  - Small economic stake
  - Chesapeake
    - Manumissions but no serious threat to slave system
- Low country of South Carolina and Georgia
  - Economic interest
  - White solidarity against large black populations outweighed intellectual and religious considerations and white commitment to black slavery remained absolute.

# GTR SEC 5 Q1

- How did the American Revolution weaken slavery?
- Economic, religious, and intellectual change, convinces many that slavery should be abolished.
- Slaves escape and are encouraged to by the British
- Rebellions
- manumission

# THE REVOLUTION AND EMANCIPATION (CONT.)

- Abolition
  - Society of Friends ~ Quakers
    - Slavery sinful
    - Condemned slavery and slave trade, 1758
      - Benjamin Lay
      - John Woolman
      - Anthony Benezet
    - Founded antislavery societies
      - North and Chesapeake
      - Petitioned northern legislatures to act against the system

## GTR SEC 5 Q2

- How might one explain Quaker leadership in the antislavery movement?
- They had always believed in conscience, human brotherhood, and non violence. Many were engaged in international business ventures that required educated workers.



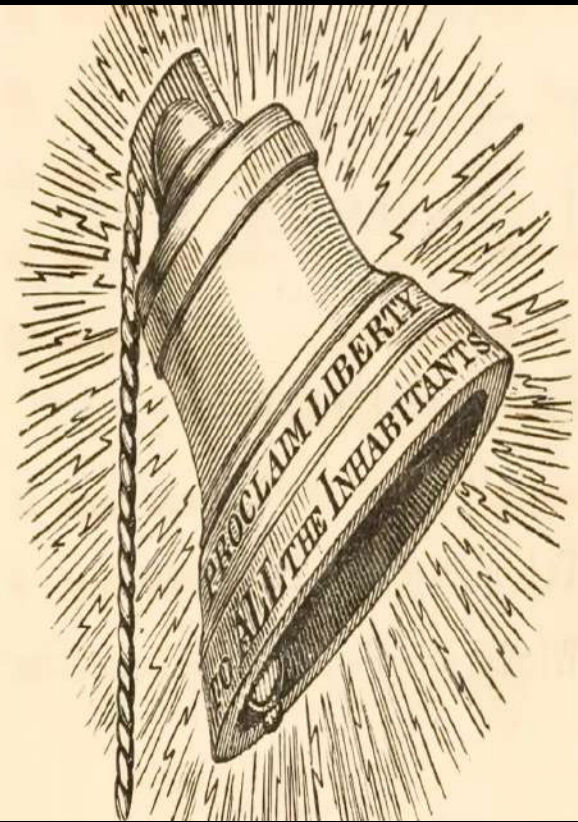
# ANTISLAVERY QUAKERS

Leeds Anti-slavery Series No. 23.

## SLAVE-BRANDING.



A LETTER from an officer on board the "Amphitrite," in the







# REVOLUTIONARY IMPACT

- Antislavery societies emphasized
  - Black service against the British
  - Religious and economic progress
  - Emancipation to prevent black rebellions
    - By 1784, all northern states except New Jersey and New York had legislated some form of emancipation.
    - Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia eased manumission
    - Deep South saw efforts to mitigate brutal excesses

# REVOLUTIONARY IMPACT (CONT.)

- Chesapeake and the North
  - Slaves gained freedom for service
    - Virginia legislature ordered masters to free slaves who had fought for American independence.
  - Chesapeake slaves also made gains
    - Increased autonomy
    - War hastened decline of tobacco
      - Encouraged slaveholders to free excess labor or negotiate labor contracts
      - Permitted slaves to practice skilled trades
      - Hiring out



# REVOLUTIONARY IMPACT (CONT.)

- South
  - Autonomy
    - Increased absenteeism
      - Task system expanded
    - Reduced contacts between blacks and whites
    - South Carolina and Georgia imported Africans
      - Strengthened West African cultural ties



# REVOLUTIONARY PROMISE

- Most newly-freed slaves lived in the Chesapeake
  - Substantial free black population developed
  - Often moved to cities
    - Greater opportunities
    - Black women predominated in this migration
  - Often without economic resources
  - Took new names to signify their freedom

# GTR SEC 5 Q3

- What economic challenges did newly freed black people face in the years after the Revolution?
- Occupational status declined due to lack of resources needed to become independent, forced them to remain with former masters
- White artisans used legal and extralegal (not regulated by the law) means to protect themselves from black competition, so slaves who knew trades could not find work.

# ANSWERS TO CHAPTER 4A QUIZ

- 1. d; (p. 113)
- 2. c; (p. 111)
- 3. c; (p. 119)
- 4. a; (p. 122)
- 5. a; (p. 123)
- 6. b; (p. 125)
- 7. c; (p. 126)
- 8. b; (p. 125)
- 9. a; (p. 125)
- 10. c; (p. 131)

## VI. CONCLUSION

- Regardless of the side they fought on, African Americans hoped to gain personal freedom in their decision to fight in America's war for independence.
- From 1763 to 1783, African Americans sought ways to improve their lives. Black writers, scientists, soldiers, artisans, and activists pushed for freedom in a myriad of ways.
- By the end of the war in 1783, slavery was dying in the North and seemed on the wane in the Chesapeake, but began to expand in the 1790s.