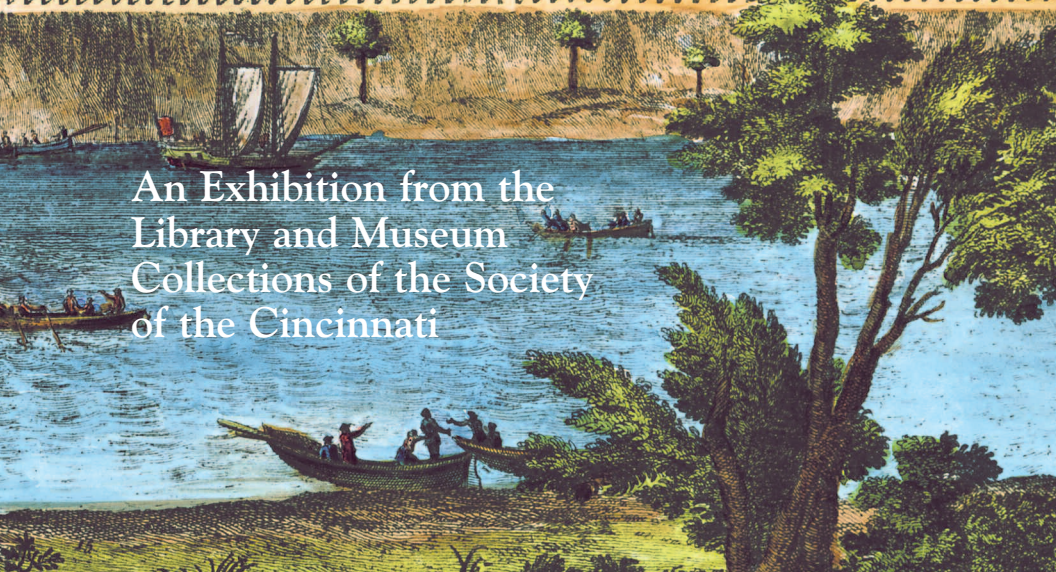
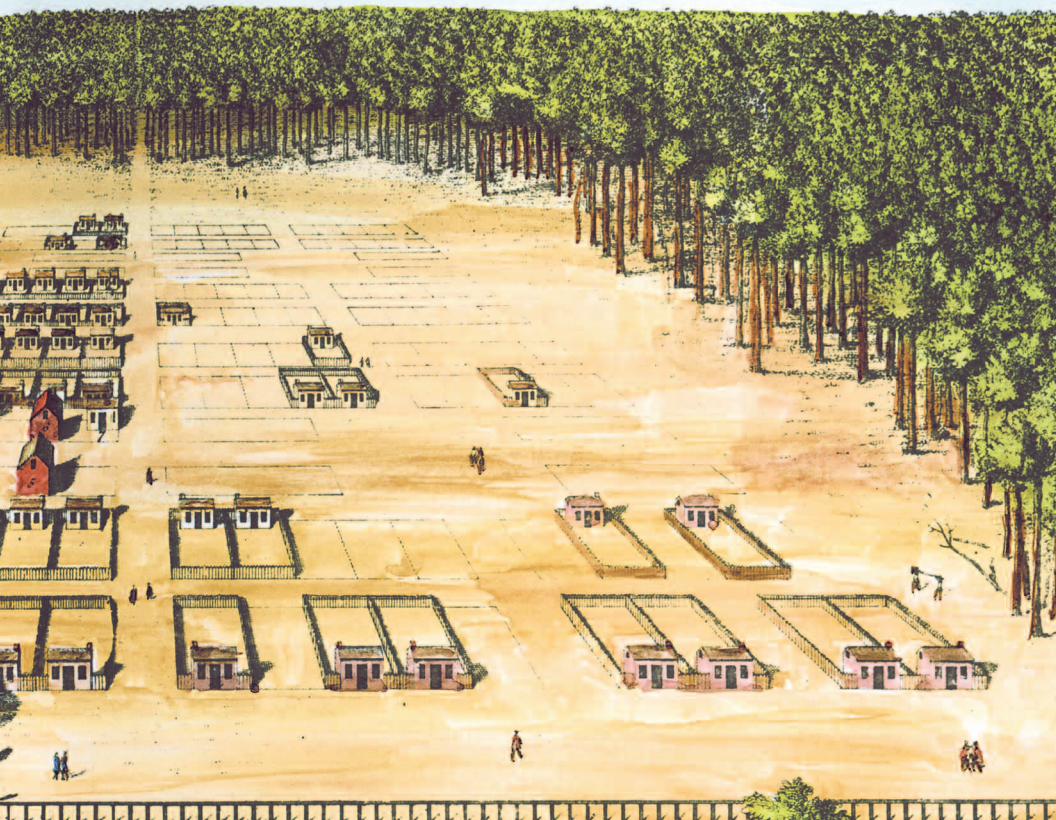


Georgia in the American Revolution



An Exhibition from the
Library and Museum
Collections of the Society
of the Cincinnati

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Museum Collections of
The Society of the Cincinnati



Anderson House
Washington, D. C.
October 11, 2003 – May 1, 2004

This catalogue has been produced in conjunction with the exhibition *Georgia in the American Revolution* on display from October 11, 2003, to May 1, 2004, at Anderson House, Headquarters, Library and Museum of the Society of the Cincinnati, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. The exhibition is the seventh in a series focusing on the contributions to the American Revolution made by the original thirteen states and the French alliance.

Generous support for this exhibition was provided by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia.

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Text by Ellen McCallister Clark and Emily L. Schulz.

Cover illustration: "A View of Savannah as It Stood the 19th of March, 1734." From a facsimile in the collection of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia.

Frontispiece: Portrait of General Lachlan McIntosh wearing the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati. See page 28.

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The Greatest glory of the Cincinnati is that they were prime agents in giving freedom to a great portion of the Globe and leading the way for all the rest to obtain it.

— Lachlan McIntosh, Savannah, 20 April 1784

*Lachlan McIntosh Papers,
Georgia Historical Society*



Engraved by Heppner Meyer from a Painting by J.B. Longacre after an original Portrait.

GENERAL LACHLAN M^CINTOSH.

Lachⁿ. M. Intosh

INTRODUCTION

Georgia was the youngest and most remote of Great Britain's American colonies. As the only colony established under proprietary rule, Georgia was founded in 1732 by trustees who sought to offer the "worthy poor" of Protestant Europe a new chance for moral and productive lives. In January 1733 Georgia's first colonists, led by James Oglethorpe, landed at Yamacraw Bluff and laid out the town of Savannah. The province became home to settlers from England, Scotland, Ireland, Salzburg, and Portugal, in addition to the American Indians, French, Spanish, and Carolinians already on the land. When authority over Georgia passed to the Crown in the 1750s, the colony received its first royal governor, legalized African-American slavery, and shifted away from the Trustees' utopian ideas to emphasize a mercantile economy.

As the controversy over colonial rights intensified, Georgia's strong loyalty to the mother country began to give way to a growing revolutionary fervor. By 1775 Georgians had formed a Council of Safety that would oversee the state's entry into the war. The first Georgia Battalion was established at the request of the Continental Congress in January 1776 as part of the Southern Military Department. On the home front, the Revolution took on the character of a brutal civil war between patriots and loyalists in the backcountry. In 1778 British forces invaded the state and captured Savannah. Despite an allied attempt to retake the city, Savannah remained a British stronghold for nearly four years.

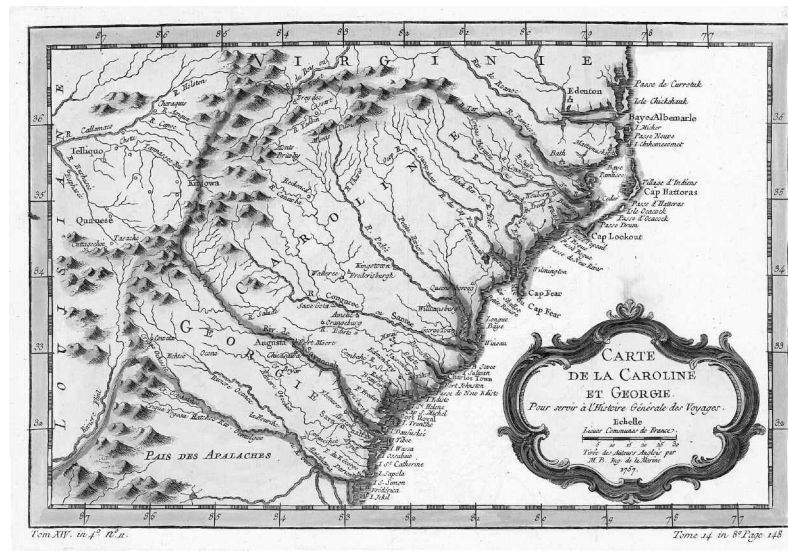
Following the cessation of hostilities in 1783, officers of the Georgia line formed the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia to celebrate the achievement of national independence and to perpetuate their bonds of friendship. This exhibition, sponsored by their present-day successors, chronicles the evolution of Georgia from a loyal and dependent colony to a full participant in the creation of the United States of America.

THE THIRTEENTH COLONY

Georgia entered the period of the American Revolution largely dependent on and loyal to the mother country. Many Georgians were recent immigrants from Great Britain and still felt strong ties to the government, religion, and culture of their native country. With the colony's frontier exposed to Indian nations friendly with British officials and its coastline left undefended, Georgia's vulnerabilities made its residents reluctant to stray from British favor. Although Georgians felt the frustrations of British imperial policies, they remained committed to their royal governor, Sir James Wright (1714?-1785), who continually advocated for the prosperity and protection of his colonists.

The turbulent 1760s galvanized a small group of Whigs, mainly from the backcountry, in support of American rights. Clashes between Governor Wright and the Commons House of Assembly crippled the colony's government in the early 1770s, but they grew out of issues of power, not revolution. It was not until the Boston Tea Party and its aftermath that Georgia patriots entertained the resolutions generated in the more radical colonies. Even in establishing a committee of correspondence and a Provincial Congress, Georgians desired fair treatment as British citizens, not as independent Americans.

Most Georgians were content to remain neutral until the outbreak of hostilities in spring 1775 forced the reality of war upon them. News of the battles of Lexington and Concord, along with pressure from other colonies, pushed Georgia patriots to rebellion. Just weeks after the Provincial Congress declared Georgia's separation from Great Britain, the state's delegates to the Continental Congress—Lyman Hall, Button Gwinnett, and George Walton—signed the Declaration of Independence. Less than a year later, on February 5, 1777, the Provincial Congress approved Georgia's state constitution.



Jacques Nicholas Bellin (1703-1772). "Carte de la Caroline et Georgie: Pour servir à l'Histoire Générale des Voyages." [Paris], 1757.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

More than twenty years after the settlement of their colony, Georgia's residents still made their living on the fringes of colonial civilization. Geographical obstacles and a vast, established network of Creek and Cherokee Indian cities confined almost all Georgia settlers to a few fledgling towns that hugged the Savannah River. Jacques Bellin's hand-colored map shows the uncertain borders and daunting mountain ranges that characterized the frontier-like nature of the southern colonies. This map was published in Abbé Prévost's *Histoire Générale des Voyages* while Bellin was serving as hydrographer in the court of King Louis XV of France.

Spoon used at Tondee's Tavern, Savannah. 18th century.

On loan from the Georgia Historical Society

Tondee's Tavern, owned by two of Georgia's most fervent patriots, Peter and Lucy Tondee, was the center of revolutionary activity in Georgia during the early years of the conflict. Georgia's patriots penned their first formal grievances against the Crown, known as the Tondee's Tavern resolutions, at the establishment in August 1774. The Provincial Congress also used the tavern as a meeting place, and elected Georgia's first delegates to Continental Congress there in 1775. One year later, Georgia president Archibald Bulloch read the Declaration of Independence at the liberty pole outside the tavern's doors.

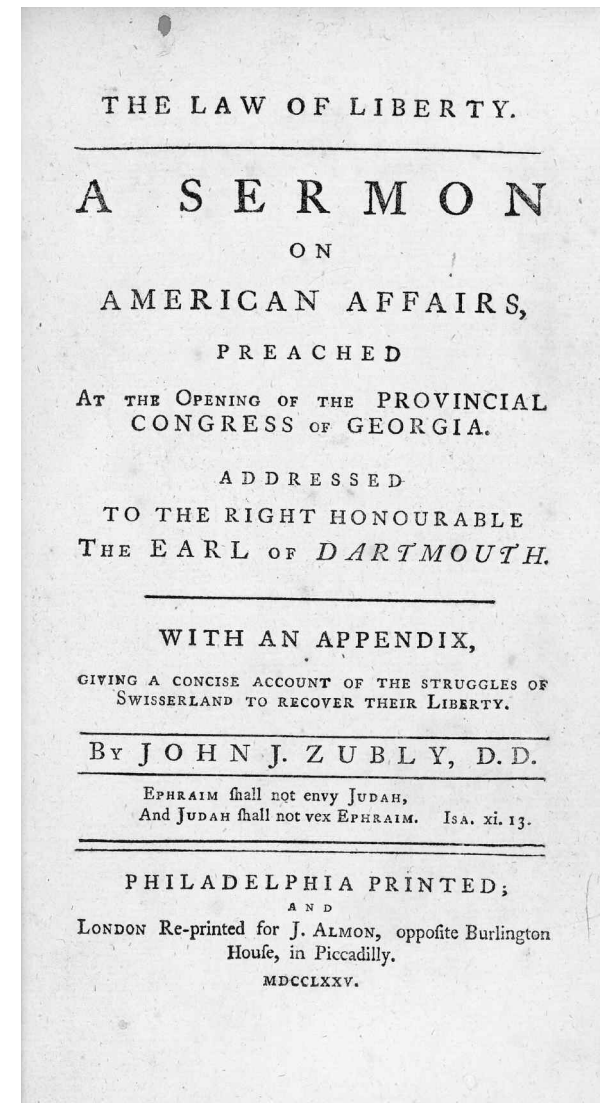
John J. Zubly (1724-1781). *The Law of Liberty: A Sermon on American Affairs, Preached at the Opening of the Provincial Congress of Georgia.* Philadelphia: Printed for J. Almon, 1775.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

On July 4, 1775, the Reverend John J. Zubly opened Georgia's Second Provincial Congress with a sermon to delegates gathered in the Independent Presbyterian Church in Savannah. Ranging in tone from fiercely defiant to humbly loyal, Zubly's address verbalized the uncertainty and hesitation with which many Georgians viewed the conflict. Above all, the minister desired peace and harmony in the British realm: "Let every one earnestly pray ... that he would incline the king to hear the cries of his subjects, and that no more innocent blood may be shed in America."

A native of Switzerland, Zubly quickly gained prominence in Savannah after his arrival in 1760. He vehemently protested the Stamp Act of 1763, and briefly served as a delegate to the Continental Congress, but he could never bring himself to support American independence.

Once Georgia's most eloquent defender, Zubly spent the last three years of his life in exile for refusing to swear an oath to the United States.



Three-pence-sterling note. Georgia, 1776.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

As tensions between Great Britain and the colonies increased in the 1770s, American patriots began to assert their authority over their own daily governance, including issuing currency. In 1775 Georgia's Provincial Congress approved an issue of notes for the first time without authorization from the Crown. Distributed the following year, Georgia's currency quickly began to lose its value and by the end of the war was almost worthless. This unnumbered three-pence-sterling note is signed by William Gibbons and John Houstoun.

Minute book of the Georgia Council of Safety, 1775-1776.

On loan from the Georgia Historical Society

Created by the Provincial Congress to advise it on political matters, the Council of Safety's main role became overseeing the defense of Georgia. These pages of the council's minute book from January 1776 detail its efforts to clear the waters around Savannah of British ships in response to threats to the city's provisions. Patriot leaders and militia companies raided loyalists' plantations, seized British cargo, and captured Governor Wright. Months of similar activity culminated in the first military confrontation of the war in Georgia, the "Battle of the Rice Boats." After a failed attempt to capture rice boats from the Savannah River, the British abandoned the city to American control.



Christ Church, Johnson Square, Savannah. By Preston Russell. Oil on canvas, 2003.

On loan from Preston Russell, Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia

Even before war broke out, political divisions wreaked havoc on the ministries of Georgia's clergy. Christ Church in Savannah suffered from divisions among the town's Anglican population. Patriot leaders ran Tory minister Haddon Smith out of town in July 1775, only to have the British sympathizers on the vestry invite another loyalist to officiate. This tug-of-war left Christ Church virtually unused until 1780, and it did not return to American hands until the British evacuated Savannah in spring 1782.

This depiction of the church interior reflects its 19th-century appearance. No illustrations are known to exist showing the church prior to its destruction by fire in 1796 and hurricane in 1804.

THE GEORGIA CONTINENTAL LINE

On November 4, 1775, the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia called for the formation of a battalion of foot soldiers to be raised in Georgia to aid the war effort. The following January, the Provincial Congress elected Lachlan McIntosh, colonel, Samuel Elbert, lieutenant colonel, and Joseph Habersham, major; and authorized them to raise eight companies. Recruitment was extremely difficult in the sparsely populated and politically divided colony, and the battalion never reached full force. In the early years of the war, the Continental Congress established three additional Georgia regiments, authorizing enlistments from as far away as Pennsylvania. A separate regiment of horse rangers was adopted into Continental service in 1776, and a small naval force was created from the crews of a fleet of state-owned ships: the *Lee*, the *Washington*, the *Congress* and the *Bulloch*.

As part of the Southern Military Department under the command of Brigadier General John Armstrong, the Georgia Continentals served in engagements in the Floridas, Georgia, and South Carolina, suffering heavy casualties. Disease, desertion, and expiring enlistments further reduced their ranks. In May 1780 the remaining six officers of the Georgia line were taken prisoner by the British at Charleston. Following the British evacuation of Savannah in July 1782, the Georgia Battalion was reorganized into three companies to serve out the last months of the war.

Major General Lachlan McIntosh. By C.G. Stapko, after Charles Willson Peale. Oil on canvas, n.d.

Collection of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia

Born in Inverness, Scotland, Lachlan McIntosh (1725-1806) immigrated to Georgia with his parents in 1736, shortly after the colony had been established. An early advocate of the patriot cause, he served in the Provincial Congress and in 1776 was appointed commander

of the Georgia Battalion that would become the core of the Georgia Continental line. In 1777, his personal and political clashes with Button Gwinnett, one of Georgia's delegates to the Continental Congress, resulted in a duel in which Gwinnett was killed. Facing hostility at home, McIntosh had himself transferred north, where he commanded the North Carolina Brigade during the winter encampment at Valley Forge and later took command of the Western Department. He returned to Georgia in 1779 in time to play a prominent role in the allied effort to take back Savannah. In 1783 he took the lead in organizing the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia and was elected its first president.

Resolution for the establishment of the Georgia Line by order of Congress, November 4, 1775. Facsimile page from the Minute Book of the Georgia Council of Safety, Vol. 1. (Illustrated on the following page.)

Facsimile courtesy the Georgia Historical Society

At a special meeting of the Council of Safety, December 19, 1775, Archibald Bulloch presented the resolution of the Continental Congress "that for the defence of the Colony of Georgia, there be one Battalion kept up there at Continental expense." The Battalion was to be divided into eight companies, each one consisting of one captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, four sergeants, four corporals, two "drums and fifes," and seventy-five privates. The resolution also laid out the rate of pay of each member of the corps, from fifty dollars per month for the commanding colonel to six and two-thirds dollars for the privates.

Archibald Bulloch Esq^r laid before the Board the following Resolution of the Continental Congress, In Congress Nov 4th 1775.

Resolved, that for the defence of the colony of Georgia there be one Battalion kept up there at the continental Expence to be composed, as the battalions for the defence of Carolina, V^{ca}, to consist of 720 Men Officers included. This to be divided into 10 Companies, each Company to consist of one Captain, two Lieutenants, one Ensign, 4 Serjeants, 4 Corporals, two Drums artificers and seventy five privates.

The pay of Colonel	50 Dollars of Calendar Month
Lieutenant Col ^d	40 Ditto of " "
Major	33 1/2 ditto of " "
Captain	26 2/3
Lieutenant	18
Ensign	13 1/3
Serjeant	8
Corporal	7 1/3
Drum & Drum	7 1/3
Private	6 2/3
Adjutant	10 1/3
Quarter Master	10 1/3
Chaplain	20

Resolved, that the above Resolution be taken under Consideration on Tuesday the 2^d January 1776.

The Council adjourned to morrow Morning nine o'clock

Peter Copeland. "4th Georgia Regiment, 1779." Colored print, signed by the artist, 1998.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

In October 1779 General George Washington, commander-in-chief of the Continental Forces, issued a General Order that established blue as the color for the uniform coat of the army, with the branches and state regiments to be distinguished by a specific color of linings and facings. The soldiers of the North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia lines were to have blue facings with buttonholes edged with narrow white tape or worsted lace. Lack of funding and severe shortages of materials prevented any of the state lines from being fully uniformed, but officers were expected to conform to the order. Because the Georgia line was so severely reduced in numbers by 1779, John Sanford Dart, Deputy Clothier General, provided Georgia's allotment of uniforms from stores available in Charleston, South Carolina.

Powder horn, ca. 1778.

On loan from the Georgia Historical Society

Designed for carrying loose gunpowder, powder horns were generally made from common cattle horns, boiled and scraped down to a smooth surface. Soldiers often personalized their own, decorating them with scrimshaw engraving. This revolutionary-era example is incised with the name of James Vallatton (1754-1805), a Georgia soldier, and the motto "Don't Tread on Me." During the war, a James Vallatton signed an oath of allegiance to the State of Georgia, renouncing "all allegiance, subjection and obedience to the King of Great Britain."

Lachlan McIntosh. Manuscript list of the Georgia Continental Officers, 1780.

On loan from the Georgia Historical Society

This list, found among General McIntosh's papers, was undoubtedly drawn up before the devastating capture of Charleston by the British on May 12, 1780, when the remnants of the Georgia line, under General Benjamin Lincoln, were taken prisoner.

WAR ON THE FRONTIERS

Even before the Revolution, violence and fear typified life on Georgia's western and southern borders. English settlers and backcountry Carolinians pushed into the lands northwest of Augusta in search of prosperity and independence as farmers and Indian traders. Their presence in Creek and Cherokee territories sparked brutal hostilities. On the southern frontier, German and Scottish settlers established isolated ethnic communities along the Altamaha and St. Marys rivers south of Savannah, but they could not escape the turmoil of the battle over the Floridas that raged throughout the 18th century between Spain and Great Britain.

Inhabitants of Georgia's frontiers remained divided on issues of independence as the conflict intensified. Some of Georgia's most radical patriots came from the backcountry, where they were removed from the influence of the royal government in Savannah and had frequent contact with the more active patriots in South Carolina. Most settlers along the southern border also supported the American cause, but were slower to rebel. Backcountry Georgians who remained loyal to the Crown were likely to be Indian traders and merchants whose livelihood depended on the British-dominated trade, and political conservatives with ties to Savannah's Tories. The Creek and Cherokee Indians were drawn into the conflict through their long-standing allegiance to British Indian Superintendent John Stuart (1718-1779). The southern Indians made alliances as

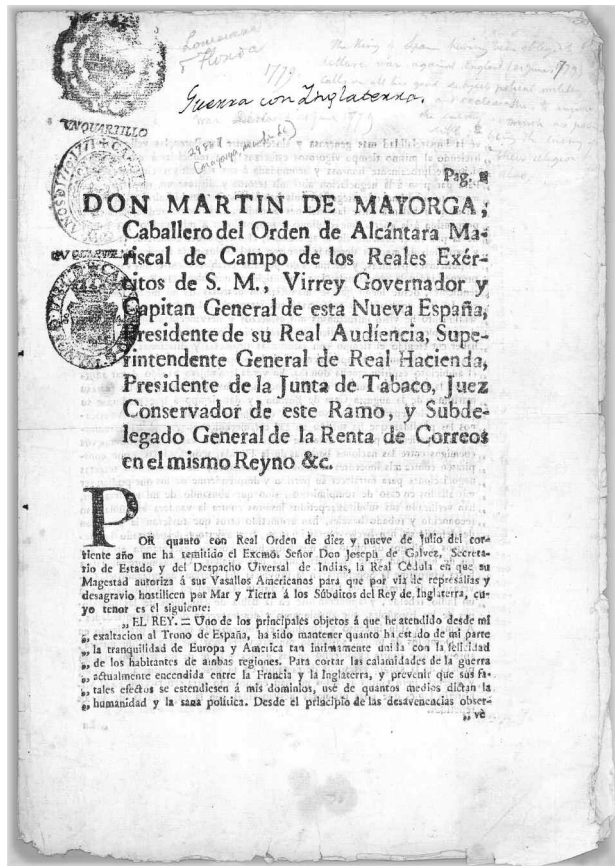
they sought their own independence from the oppression of Europeans and colonists alike.

Military actions along Georgia's frontiers resulted in a stalemate. In 1776 and 1777, Georgia's patriot government launched three disastrous expeditions under Lachlan McIntosh, Samuel Elbert, and Robert Howe that failed to capture the British stronghold at St. Augustine in East Florida. Backcountry patriots were temporarily successful in stalling the British occupation of Georgia in 1779 with their victory at Kettle Creek, but the Tory presence at Augusta continued to thwart American attempts to retake the region.

Louis Brion de la Tour (1756-1823). "Suite du Theatre de la Guerre dans L'Amérique Septentrionale y compris le Golfe Du Mexique." Paris: Chez Esnauts et Rapilly, 1782.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Confined by the Carolinas, the Floridas, and the southern Indian nations, Georgia's settlers engaged in a constant and often violent tug-of-war over land as they tried to expand their small province. During the Revolution, Georgia became the scene of brutal clashes among American patriots and loyalists, as well as the British, Spanish, Creeks, and Cherokees encroaching on its borders. The cartouche of this rare map illustrates George Washington receiving Cornwallis's sword as the British surrender at Yorktown in October 1781. The note in the lower right corner describes the battle, as well as the British campaigns against the Spanish in the Floridas.



Martín de Mayorga (d. 1783). Printed pamphlet announcing Spain's declaration of war against Great Britain. Mexico, 1779.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

In the spring and early summer of 1779, Spain finally declared its official involvement in the American Revolution by allying with France and declaring war on Great Britain. The Spanish had their eyes on retaking territories on America's frontiers that the British had gained at

the end of the Seven Years' War. By 1781, General Bernardo de Gálvez and his Spanish troops had captured British posts in the West Indies and along the Gulf coast. Georgia patriots were encouraged by the Spanish presence in West Florida, which prompted the British to evacuate their forces from Georgia's southern border.

This pamphlet, distributed in New Spain under the authority of Viceroy Martín de Mayorga, reprints King Charles III of Spain's declaration of war against Great Britain.

Banastre Tarleton (1754-1833). *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America.* London: Printed for T. Cadell, in the Strand, 1787. Manuscript notes by Dr. Jackson.

Gift of Thomas B. Cormack, Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia, 1995

These pages of Banastre Tarleton's account focus on the nearly successful attack on Tory-held Augusta in September 1780. Instigated by Georgia and North Carolina militia under Colonel Elijah Clarke and Lieutenant Colonel James McCall, this action set in motion one of the bloodiest periods of the war in the backcountry. In retaliation for the attack, Colonel Thomas Brown, the hated Georgia Tory in command of Augusta, ordered loyalist raiding parties to wipe out suspected rebels and their families.

Not much is known about the Dr. Jackson who inserted his manuscript notes into this copy of Tarleton's history. From the perspective of his comments, it seems that Dr. Jackson supported the British through the war. This note elaborates on the assistance of Creek Indians in the defense of Augusta and recounts the dramatic but unconfirmed dying words of the Creek leader Mad Dog, who pleaded that his warriors "never surrender the fort, or that in their future lives they never would forsake the British."

Nisbet Balfour, Charleston, S.C., to Thomas Brown, Augusta, Ga., 9 February 1781. In letterbook of Lieutenant Colonel Nisbet Balfour, British Commandant of Charleston, S.C., 1 January-1 December 1781.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

With the main American army as far away as North Carolina, Lieutenant Colonel Nisbet Balfour (1743-1832) felt secure enough to congratulate Colonel Thomas Brown on his firm control of Augusta in February 1781. "I am truly happy, that in the present distracted States of this Country, the essential Port of Augusta is in such hands, that the Enemy can form to themselves but little hopes from attempting it." Little did they know that the American plot to recapture the Georgia backcountry was underway. In April, Georgia militia units began the siege of Augusta, which successfully toppled the British from control of the town by early July. Skirmishes between patriots and loyalists continued along the western frontier, but organized British rule was confined to Savannah.

Felix Darley (1822-1888). "Nancy Hart." Paris and New York: Printed by Lemercier, published by Goupil & Co., 1853.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

The life and legend of Nancy Hart (c. 1735-c. 1830) embody the violent struggle between patriot and loyalist neighbors that characterized the American Revolution in the Georgia backcountry. In the early 1770s, Hart and her family left her native North Carolina for Georgia, settling in the Ceded Lands west of Augusta. This 19th-century color lithograph celebrates Nancy Hart's storied encounter with a party of loyalists who stopped at her home during raids aimed at backcountry Whigs. A bold and zealous patriot, Hart killed two of the men, captured the others, and had them hanged.



Felix Darley, one of America's foremost 19th-century illustrators, based this depiction of Nancy Hart's heroics on Elizabeth F. Ellet's account in *The Women of the American Revolution* (1848). Goupil & Company marketed the lithograph to American and French audiences, reflecting the interest in patriotic subjects on both sides of the Atlantic.

THE STRUGGLE FOR SAVANNAH

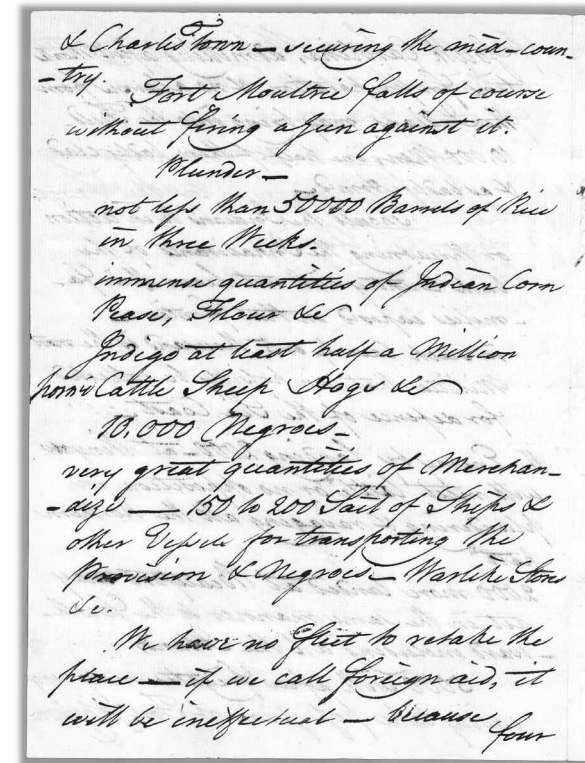
Sir Henry Clinton's plans for retaking the southern colonies began with an invasion of Georgia, which the British would then use as a base for their campaigns northward. Clinton intended to send only a small number of British regulars, relying instead on what the British thought was an overwhelming number of loyalists in Georgia to subdue the province. In late December 1778 British troops converged on Savannah. General Augustine Prevost, British commander of St. Augustine, led his troops north into Georgia while three thousand men under Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell made their way by sea from New York. Clinton hoped that Indian Superintendent John Stuart would march east with allies from the Creek and Cherokee nations to assist the attack, but these forces never materialized. On December 29, 1778, British troops overran the ill-prepared Americans under General Robert Howe to capture Savannah and restore the royal government in Georgia.

In the four years that the British held Savannah, the Americans made only one attempt to dislodge their enemy. In September 1779, Admiral-General Count Charles-Hector Théodat d'Estaing appeared off the Georgia coast with a French fleet carrying more than four thousand troops. George Washington had been expecting d'Estaing's assistance in New Jersey, but the Frenchman made his own decision to attack the British in the South. After more than one thousand Americans under General Benjamin Lincoln arrived, the Franco-American forces settled in for a siege. The action was poorly planned and slowly executed, allowing Prevost time to reinforce Savannah's defenses. Admiral d'Estaing quickly lost patience and ordered an attack on the city, which failed due to confusion among the allied forces and a superior British battle plan. Total allied losses neared one thousand, while combined British forces sustained fewer than one hundred casualties. Disgusted by the defeat, which contemporary chroniclers blamed on the allies' refusal to cooperate with each other, Lincoln's Americans retreated to Charleston and d'Estaing's fleet soon returned to France.

Henry Laurens (1724-1792). Manuscript notes on the threat to South Carolina and Georgia, December 1778.

The Society of the Cincinnati Manuscript Collection

These notes written by Henry Laurens, one of the most influential members of Continental Congress, illustrate his failed attempts to impress upon his fellow delegates the grave threat to Georgia and his native South Carolina. Laurens warns that "Georgia will fall immediately or may be over run by the Troops from St. Augustine & 500 Indians." He also prophetically asserts that foreign assistance will be "ineffectual" in retaking the South.



*& Charles Town - securing the mid-conn-
-try. Fort Moultrie falls of course
without firing a gun against it.
Blunder -
not less than 50,000 Barrels of Rice
in three Weeks.
immense quantities of Indian Corn
Peas, Flour &c
Indigo at least half a Million
horns Cattle Sheep Hogs &c
10,000 Negroes -
very great quantities of Merchan-
-dize - 150 to 200 Sails of Ships &
other Vessels for transporting the
Provisions & Negroes - Marble Stone
&c.
We have no Fleet to retake the
place - if we call foreign aid, it
will be ineffectual - because four*

“Plan of the Siege of Savannah, with the joint Attack of the French and Americans on the 9th October 1779 In which they were defeated by his Majesty’s Forces under the Command of Major Genl. Augustin Prevost, From a Survey by an Officer.” In *The History of the Origin, Progress, and Termination of the American War* by Charles Stedman (London: Printed for the author, and sold by J. Murray, 1794).

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

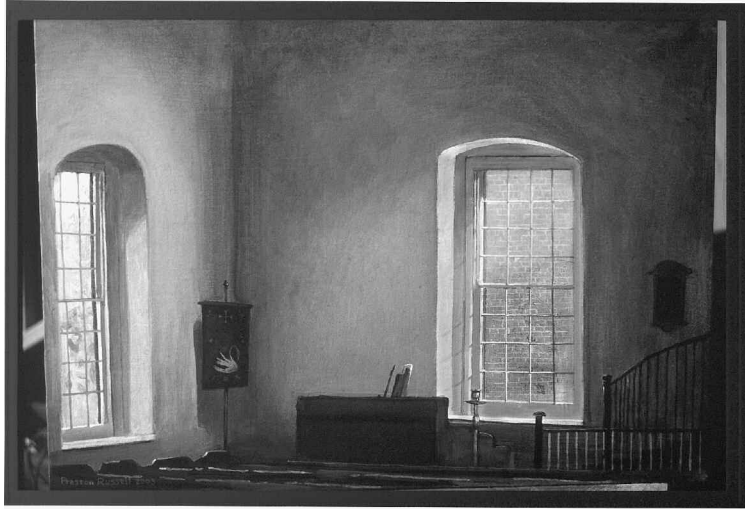
Engraved for Charles Stedman’s monumental work, this plan details the British defenses at Savannah and the attempt of American and French troops to capture the city. Though the allied efforts failed, their attack inflicted significant damage on the buildings and on the morale of Savannah’s British and loyalist defenders. T. W. Moore, an aide-de-camp to General Prevost, called the heavy allied bombardment that opened the siege “one of the most tremendous Firings I ever heard . . . The Town was torn to Pieces, and nothing but Shrieks from Women and Children to be heard.” The shelling kept Anthony Stokes, the loyalist chief justice of Georgia, running for shelter for three days. Emerging from the wreckage, he observed that “the appearance of the town afforded a melancholy prospect, for there was hardly a house which had not been shot through, and some of them were almost destroyed.”

THE BRITISH OCCUPATION OF GEORGIA

Governor James Wright’s return to Savannah in July 1779 completed the reinstatement of royal power in Georgia, the only colony in which this occurred during the war. Even before his arrival, British and loyalist forces spread out into the backcountry to subdue the rest of Georgia. Wilkes County in the former Ceded Lands was the only patriot stronghold that remained, though Whigs throughout the province fought the advance of British authority. The British restored control of Georgia’s merchants, courts, and newspaper, and sent the province’s patriot government into exile in the Carolina backcountry.

The successful recapture of Great Britain’s southern colonies would depend largely on loyalist support, but the British overestimated the number and enthusiasm of Tories in Georgia. The evacuation of British troops from the Georgia backcountry and East Florida in 1780 abandoned the areas outside Savannah to the mercy of the patriot militia and government. General Nathanael Greene’s campaigns in the South over the coming years left the British holding only Charleston and Savannah. Year after year, Governor Wright begged for more British regulars to defend Georgia from an American attack he always feared imminent, but British officials never responded.

Early in 1782, General Greene, commander of the Continental Army in the South, turned his attention to retaking Georgia. Greene’s strategy was to slowly strangle the British in Savannah by cutting off supplies and communications. Finally in July, royal troops peacefully but begrudgingly evacuated the city with thousands of loyalists and slaves, restoring all of Georgia to American authority.



Interior of Salzberger Church in Ebenezer, near Rincon, Georgia. By Preston Russell. Oil on canvas, 2003.

On loan from Preston Russell, Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia

During the British occupation of Georgia, the constant, but often unsupervised, military presence in Ebenezer harassed the largely patriot community of German religious refugees from Salzburg. Residents complained of troops stealing their horses, crops, and slaves and damaging their farms and mills. The British are said to have used the Lutheran church in Ebenezer as a stable, where they conducted target practice on its walls. Relief came in December 1781, when American forces on the push to Savannah regained control of Ebenezer. For several days in July 1782, the town served as the temporary state capital as the Georgia assembly prepared for the British evacuation of Savannah. The Lutheran church's loyalist pastor, Christopher Triebner, fled Georgia with the British a few weeks later.

“Return of 200 Days Forrage Baggage and Batt Money for the New York Volunteers Commencing 1st January 1779.” Signed by Augustine Prevost and Henry L. Sheridan, Savannah, Ga., 11 February 1779.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Composed of four battalions of loyalists serving with the British army, the New York Volunteers participated in the 1778 capture of Savannah. These soldiers remained in Georgia for almost a year, after which their commanders, Lieutenant Colonel George Turnbull and Major Henry Sheridan, submitted this return detailing their expenses. Once the British restored the province's royal government, Governor Wright sought “all spirited young men” to join Georgia's own loyalist regiment “to assist in putting an end to the present unhappy rebellion.”

Grapeshot that killed Casimir Pulaski, October 1779.

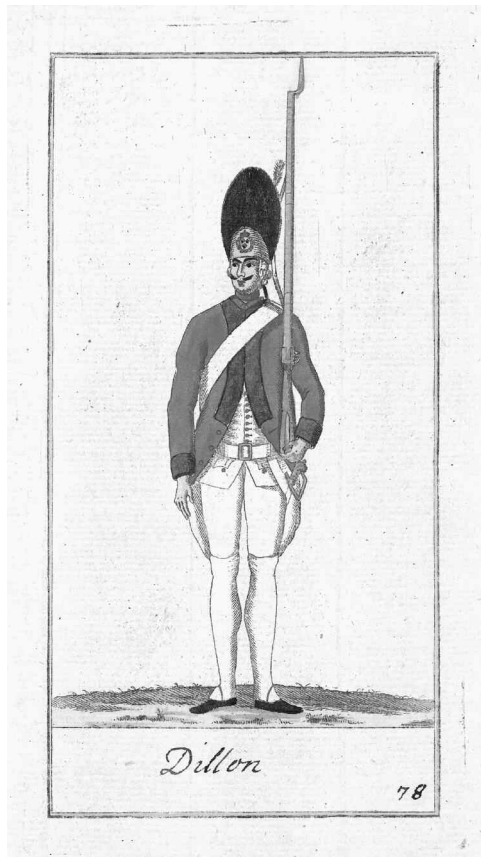
On loan from the Georgia Historical Society

General Casimir Pulaski (ca. 1748-1779) traveled from Poland to join the American cause in 1777 at the recommendation of Benjamin Franklin. Along with Generals Lincoln and McIntosh, Pulaski and his legion joined d'Estaing in the failed allied attack on Savannah in October 1779. As he charged towards the British defenses at the head his regiment of Continental cavalry, Pulaski was mortally wounded by this grapeshot. His military record in America ranged from disappointing to disastrous, but Pulaski's gallant death at Savannah ensured his place among the heroes of the Revolution.

“Dillon.” *Uniformes des Armées Francoises suivant les Reglements du Roi*. Nuremberg: Chez Raspe, [1775?].

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Part of the allies’ strategy for taking Savannah called for the Dillon regiment, pictured in this hand-colored engraving, to surprise the enemy’s right flank. But after losing their way in a swamp, Dillon’s men emerged in plain sight of the British troops, who drove them to retreat under heavy fire. This regiment, one of two French regiments composed of Irish exiles, also served in the West Indies and at Yorktown.



***Extrait du Journal d'un Officier de la Marine de l'Escadre de M. le Comte d'Estaing*. Attributed to Captain Walsh. 1782.**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

The failed attempt to recapture Savannah worsened the American leadership’s disenchantment with d’Estaing’s fleet. This French assault on the admiral’s conduct in America reveals the discontent among his own men. Chronicling d’Estaing’s failures at Sandy Hook, Newport, Grenada, and finally Savannah, this published account contributed to the memory of d’Estaing as a noble but inept military leader. As a friend of Marie Antoinette, he fell victim to the French Revolution’s Reign of Terror and was executed in 1794.

Nathanael Greene, Head Quarters, Round O, to John Twiggs, 10 January 1782. A.L.S.

Gift of Warren Coleman, Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia, 1941

From the southern army's headquarters in South Carolina, Greene sent General "Mad" Anthony Wayne (1745-1796), "who possesses the most imminent military abilities," to rid Georgia of the last vestiges of British power. In this letter, Greene orders General John Twiggs, a Georgia militia leader who spent much of the war fighting loyalists and Indians in the backcountry, to join Wayne with whatever troops he could spare. Greene closes with the hope that "if proper exertions are made by your people, and the enemy don't get reinforcements here that we shall soon be able to disposes[s] them of Savannah."

THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

In May 1783 officers of the Continental Army in cantonment in Newburgh, New York, founded the Society of the Cincinnati to commemorate the achievements of the war and address the common concerns of the officers who were preparing to disband. They took their name from the legendary Roman hero Cincinnatus, who returned to his plow after leading his country to victory in war. Their Institution, adopted on May 13, 1783, laid out the "immutable principles" to which all members must subscribe and called for the establishment of a branch of the Society in each of the states.

When news of the Society's formation reached Georgia, General Lachlan McIntosh assembled a group of Georgia officers in Savannah to consider the tenets of the Institution. After careful deliberation, they voted to establish the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia, becoming the seventh of the state societies to organize. About forty officers of

the Georgia line joined the Society, signing their names to the Institution and paying the equivalent of one month's military pay to the Society treasury. Their numbers nearly doubled with the addition of officers from other states who settled in Georgia after the war and transferred their membership to the Georgia Society.

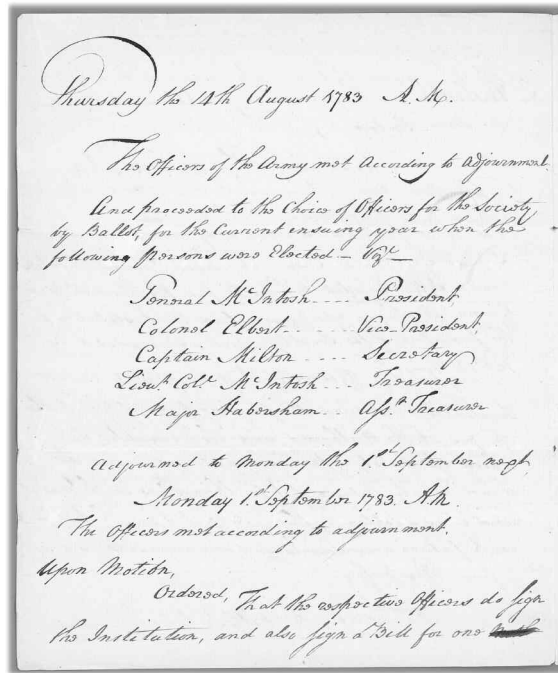
The Georgia Society met quarterly with fair consistency through the remaining years of the 18th century. In 1791, the veteran officers played a leading role in greeting and entertaining President Washington when he visited Savannah, and they were prominent among the mourners who marched in a memorial procession at the time of his death in 1799. But by 1810 there is little evidence that the Society was meeting with any regularity, and notices that its funds were in a "deranged state" were appearing in the newspapers. Although their last recorded meeting was held in 1822, the surviving members of the Georgia Society took part in the festivities celebrating Lafayette's visit to Savannah in 1825.

After decades of dormancy, the Georgia Society was reinstated by descendants of the original members in March 1899. It was readmitted as a constituent society of the Society of the Cincinnati in 1902.

John Milton, secretary. "Abstract from the proceedings of the Cincinnati Society of the State of Georgia. Wednesday, 13th August 1783 A.M."

The Society of the Cincinnati Archives

On the morning of Wednesday, August 13, 1783, a delegation of Georgia officers gathered at Captain John Lucas's headquarters in Savannah to consider proposals for the establishment of a Georgia branch of the Society of the Cincinnati. The minutes report that having "maturely considered the foregoing plan of their brother Officers at the Northward, and the principles upon which the Society of the Cincinnati is founded, [they] do unani- mously approve it for themselves in the General, and it is adopted by them, subject nevertheless to such future



amendments and improvements as may be found necessary.”

The group reconvened the following day and elected the first officers of the Georgia Society: General Lachlan McIntosh, president; Colonel Samuel Elbert, vice president; Captain John Milton, secretary; Lieutenant Colonel John McIntosh, treasurer; and Major John Habersham, assistant treasurer.

“General Lachlan McIntosh.” Engraving by Hoppner Meyer, after James Barton Longacre and Charles Willson Peale, n.d.

Gift of Jack D. Warren, Jr., 2003

Lachlan McIntosh, Savannah, to George Washington, 20 December 1783. A.L.S., docketed by Washington on the verso.

The Society of the Cincinnati Archives

In this letter, the president of the Georgia Society informs George Washington of the establishment of the Georgia branch of the Society and transmits the proceedings of its first meeting held in August. Explaining his delay in submitting his report, McIntosh writes, “we were not informed of your acceptance of the appointment of President General of the Society, and some envious persons had asserted that you refused it.”

Distance and difficulty of communication for this southernmost state society were recurring issues during its early years. Washington’s original letter to McIntosh had taken two months to reach him in Savannah and another two months went by before the Georgia general’s reply arrived back at Mount Vernon. The attached proceedings record that in response to the General Society’s call for each state to send delegates to a general meeting in Philadelphia, the Georgia Cincinnati countered “that it is the opinion of this Society that Fredericksburg in Virginia, being six hundred and seventy Miles from us, divides the distances between the extremes of the United States more equally than any other place; — Moreover this Society have an additional Motive in it, by doing every honor in their power to the place of his Excellency General Washington’s Nativity, and which they flatter themselves will meet with the approbation of the Societies of the other States.”

Major John Berrien's Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati. Made by Jeremiah Andrews, Philadelphia, ca. 1784-1791.

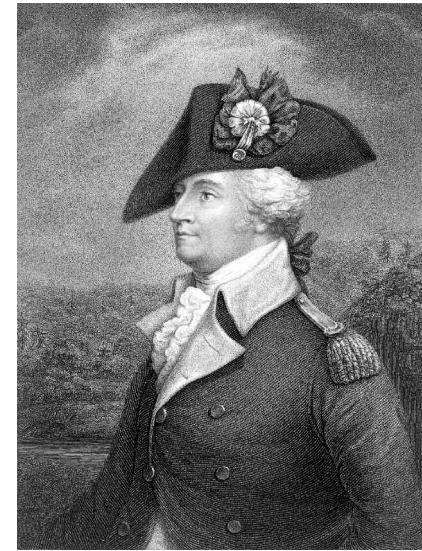
On loan from Swinton McIntosh Burroughs, the great-great-great-great grandson of Major John Berrien

Philadelphia jeweler Jeremiah Andrews produced the first American-made examples of the Society's insignia, the Eagle, beginning in 1784. In late 1788 he placed a notice in the *Georgia Gazette* that the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati would be sold "at Mr. Germain's

Goldsmith on the Bay." Family tradition records that this Eagle was presented to Major Berrien personally by George Washington, who visited Savannah in 1791. In the late 19th century, the Eagle was stolen from the family by an artist who was copying a portrait of Major Berrien. It was eventually recovered, but the thief had pried out most of the jewels.



In 1902 the Berrien Eagle was used as the model for the Georgia Society Eagle, which was manufactured by the A. H. Fetting Company of Baltimore between 1903 and 1904.



"Brigr. Genl. Anthony Wayne." Drawn by James Herring and engraved by John Francis Eugene Prud'homme, after a sketch by John Trumbull. New York: Monson Bancroft, 1834.

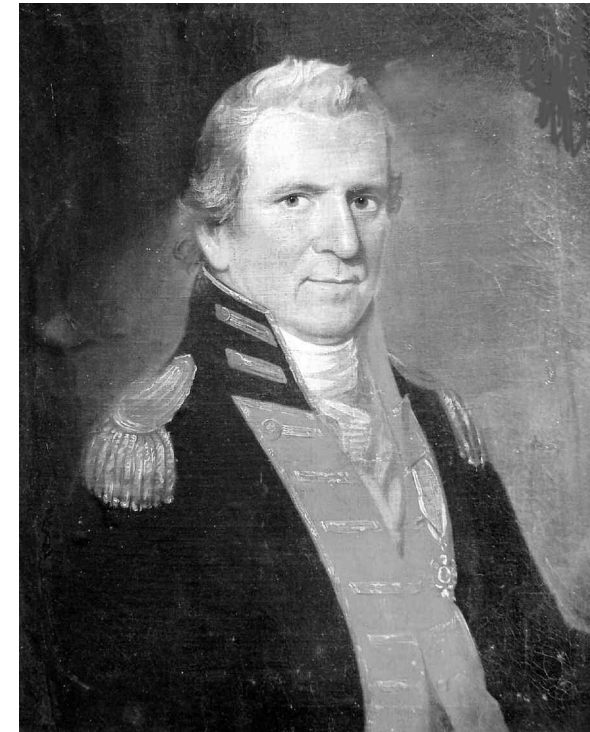
The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

General Anthony Wayne's role in the liberation of Georgia at the end of the war rendered him a hero in the South. When peace was finally declared, he went home to his native state, where he became a founding member of the State Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania. Finding himself in financial straits, he returned to Georgia in 1789, where he had been awarded the confiscated rice plantation of former royal governor Sir James Wright. He transferred his membership to the Georgia Society and in 1789 was elected its president, succeeding General Lachlan McIntosh. When his plantation venture failed, he moved back north. In 1792 he was named major general and commander of the United States Army and successfully took charge of the pacification of the Northwest Territory.

John Wereat, Mount Hope, to “General” [Lachlan McIntosh?], 2 July 1789. A.L.S.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Although the recipient of this letter is not identified, it was most likely General Lachlan McIntosh, a close friend and political ally of John Wereat, president of the Georgia convention that ratified the United States Constitution. In his role as senior ranking officer and president of the Georgia Cincinnati, McIntosh was the principal spokesman for the cause of the veterans of the Georgia line. Here Wereat, who was preparing a claim for the settlement of Georgia’s accounts with the United States, asks the general for an “estimate of the number of Men in the five regiments with the expenses of raising, arming, marching and clothing them together with their pay & rations, ammunition, military stores, contingencies &c. &c.” In 1793, the final settlement of wartime accounts with the states calculated that the balance due Georgia from the United States Treasury was just short of \$20,000.



Major John Berrien. Artist unknown. Oil on canvas, ca. 1800.

On loan from the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia

A native of New Jersey, John Berrien (1759-1815) moved with his family to Georgia in 1775. The following year, at age 17, Berrien joined the first Georgia Continental Brigade with the rank of second lieutenant and rose quickly through the ranks. In 1777, he served under General Lachlan McIntosh as brigade major of the North Carolina troops at Valley Forge. After the war, he returned to Georgia, where he served for several years as

Collector of Customs at Savannah. He was an active member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia, and was elected its president in 1795. In this portrait Berrien is shown in the uniform of the Light Dragoon Troop of the Georgia Militia, which he commanded from 1785 to 1794. He wears his Society Eagle, the original of which is displayed in the case below.

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THE ROBERT CHARLES LAWRENCE FERGUSON COLLECTION

Established in 1988, the Fergusson Collection honors the memory of Lieutenant Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson (1943-1967). A member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia who died of wounds sustained in combat in Vietnam, Lieutenant Fergusson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart. The growing collection that bears his name includes rare books, broadsides, manuscripts, maps, works of art and artifacts pertaining to the military history of the American Revolution and the art of war in the 18th century.

