

INTRODUCTION

The American Revolution took place over two hundred years ago. Today the legends, traditions and statues partially remain but much of the truth has been filtered out and historic memorials have been torn down. The stories and history books lack life and fail to reflect the passion of the Patriots. Life in the Colonies was a struggle and the Patriots were greatly outnumbered by those who opposed a break from King Georg III. Tories and those who remained uncommitted to either side were the majority. The reality of just how great an act it was that brought America to be birthed isn't understood or appreciated by many and is no longer believed to be important enough to be taught in school.

The people of the Revolutionary period were willing to fight and die for what they believed in to make the dream of independence and freedom become a reality. They stood strong for an "idea" based on faith and moral values that would provide freedom and equality for all. The battles extended over years and eventually was aided by allies outside of North America. The militia were citizens who were farmers and shopkeepers not highly trained soldiers. They fought to protect their families and their land – they fought without equipment, with little food and with even less clothing. Yet against all odds they willingly took on the world's greatest army – the Army of England!

In time they began to see that they were more than separate colonies and more than just colonists – they had become a nation! South Carolina's Christopher Gadsden before the fighting began said "There ought to be no more New England men, no New Yorkers...but all of us Americans!"

Individuals took on roles they never wanted yet they persevered and as a result the Declaration of Independence was written. The Constitution created a Republic empowering the "people" with voting rights and representation in a government made up of three branches– the Executive, the Judicial and the Legislative. The Bill of Rights raised freedom to an even higher level with its clear language of the privileges of citizenship granted by the ten amendments.

When the Founders pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor they lived by their pledge and most gave that and more. Yet freedom only thrives when faith and moral values guide America's citizens. Since the Revolution over one million citizens have given their lives to protect what the founding Colonists created and many more have experienced great personal and physical loss. Yet today we ask "what has happened to patriotism?" We must always remember that freedom is fragile and always only one generation away from elimination. Patriotism must be modeled and taught to every generation – it is not inherited.

Today once again there is great division in America and yet many still stand for freedom to honor those who came before us, to enjoy the blessings of liberty and to hopefully pass the torch of liberty onto the future generation. Liberty Camp USA is a patriotic educational camp committed to sharing the truth of our exceptional country. Through reenactment Time Travelers go back to the 1700's and experience the harsh reality of the time and have the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of just how precious and fragile freedom is. It is our goal to create America's next great generation of Patriots one camper at a time. For the American experiment of self-government to endure, our children and grandchildren must understand, love and value America's founding principles. Sadly, we as a nation, are failing. We must teach young people why America deserves to be respected and loved. May we faithfully fulfill George Washington's charge to make "a primary object the education of our youth in the science of government, in a Republic. And what duty more pressing then communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?"

May God bless America!