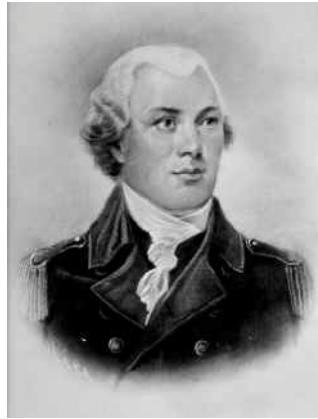


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## MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE



On the night of December 7, 2005 we watched Jon Stewart interview David McCullough, the author of the new treatise on US national history "1776." The historian insisted to this fake-news comedian that there are wars and then there are wars – that one must distinguish between ones that are worth killing for and ones that aren't. Straightforwardly, McCullough asserted the American Revolution to be a prime example of a war that had been worth killing for. Killing, in this particular case, amounted really to the same thing as giving birth, for in the case of our Revolution "we were giving birth to our nation." We sat before our TVs as Jon Stewart politely made no attempt to make fun of such an excellently frayed strand of logic. McCullough, mentioning Rhode Island general Nathanael Greene, pointed to the fact that "he was a Quaker and had a limp." He then offered that it does tell us something, when a **Quaker** gets involved in a war, because you know how **Quakers** usually are about that war sort of stuff – it takes a really **legitimate** war for them to get their asses in gear, yada yada yada. Again, we watched as Jon Stewart sat there politely making no attempt to poke fun at such eloquence.

As it happens, it is accurate that Nathanael Greene "was a Quaker and had a limp" only if the past-tense "was" in "was a Quaker" and the past-tense "had" in "had a limp" are parsed according to the William Jefferson Clinton school of grammar – because whereas Nathanael did have a club foot, did have it all his life, as a very young person he had started reading war books and perhaps as early as 1774 had asked his East Greenwich Monthly Meeting to excuse him from being "under the care of Friends," and in 1775 he had in response to this request been publicly disowned by the Religious Society of Friends. In consequence, during his military service he "was" (in the sense of "had been") a member of the Religious Society of Friends. In fact this man commented, according to his relative and biographer George Washington Greene (I. 10.), that "I was educated a Quaker, and among the most superstitious sort" – and we may parse that as an unambiguous repudiation of the religious heritage. In that same parsed sense of the word "was," of course, Major John André was an American patriot, so perhaps we should invite Mr.



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McCullough to appear on the "Today" show to inform us that "Major John André was a patriot and General Nathanael Greene hanged him."

**1742**

August 7, Saturday (July 27, Tuesday, Old Style; 27th day of 5th month, 3d day, Quaker style): [Nathanael Greene](#) was born in Potowomut, [Rhode Island](#). His mother was Mary Motte Greene and his father Nathanael Greene was a prosperous farmer and ironmaster, and a public Friend (Quaker preacher). (Note that General Nathanael Greene was not closely related to the other Greene from Rhode Island to achieve fame during the Revolution, Colonel [Christopher Greene](#).) From boyhood, Nathanael would work at his father's mills and forge, making primarily anchors. From his childhood forward, he would walk with a noticeable limp. He would make miniature anchors and other toys for sale in [Newport](#), and use part of the proceeds to purchase books. He would become self-educated under the guidance of the grammarian Lindley Murray, a young lawyer working for John Jay's law firm in New-York, and of [Ezra Stiles](#), who would become president of Yale College. He was a birthright Quaker member of the East Greenwich Monthly Meeting. After observing a military parade in Connecticut he would become an avid peruser of military works — something which would be of significant concern for the [Peace Testimony](#) of his meeting of the [Religious Society of Friends](#).

One of the Greene family of Rhode Island's sloops was confiscated by the British revenue schooner operating in Narragansett Bay, the *H.M.S. Gaspée*.



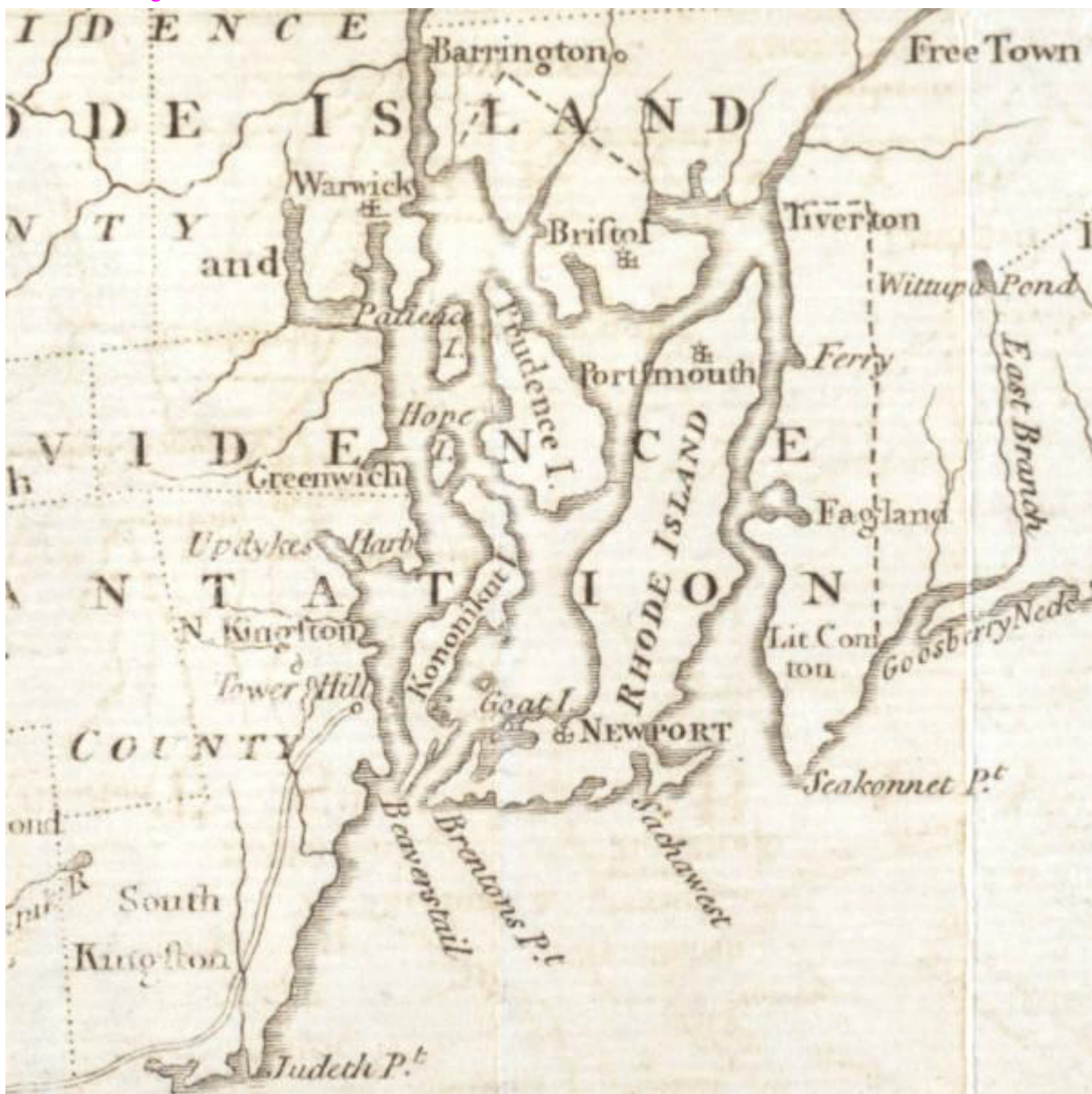
## NATHANAEL GREENE

## MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

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**1770**

[Nathanael Greene](#) moved to Coventry, [Rhode Island](#) to work in the family foundries and would eventually be in charge of one of them. During this year he would become a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly. (He would be re-elected three times.) During this year, also, he would participate in the 1st commencement of the [College of Rhode Island](#) to occur in [Providence](#) rather than in [Warren](#).



NATHANAEAL GREENE

MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEAL GREENE

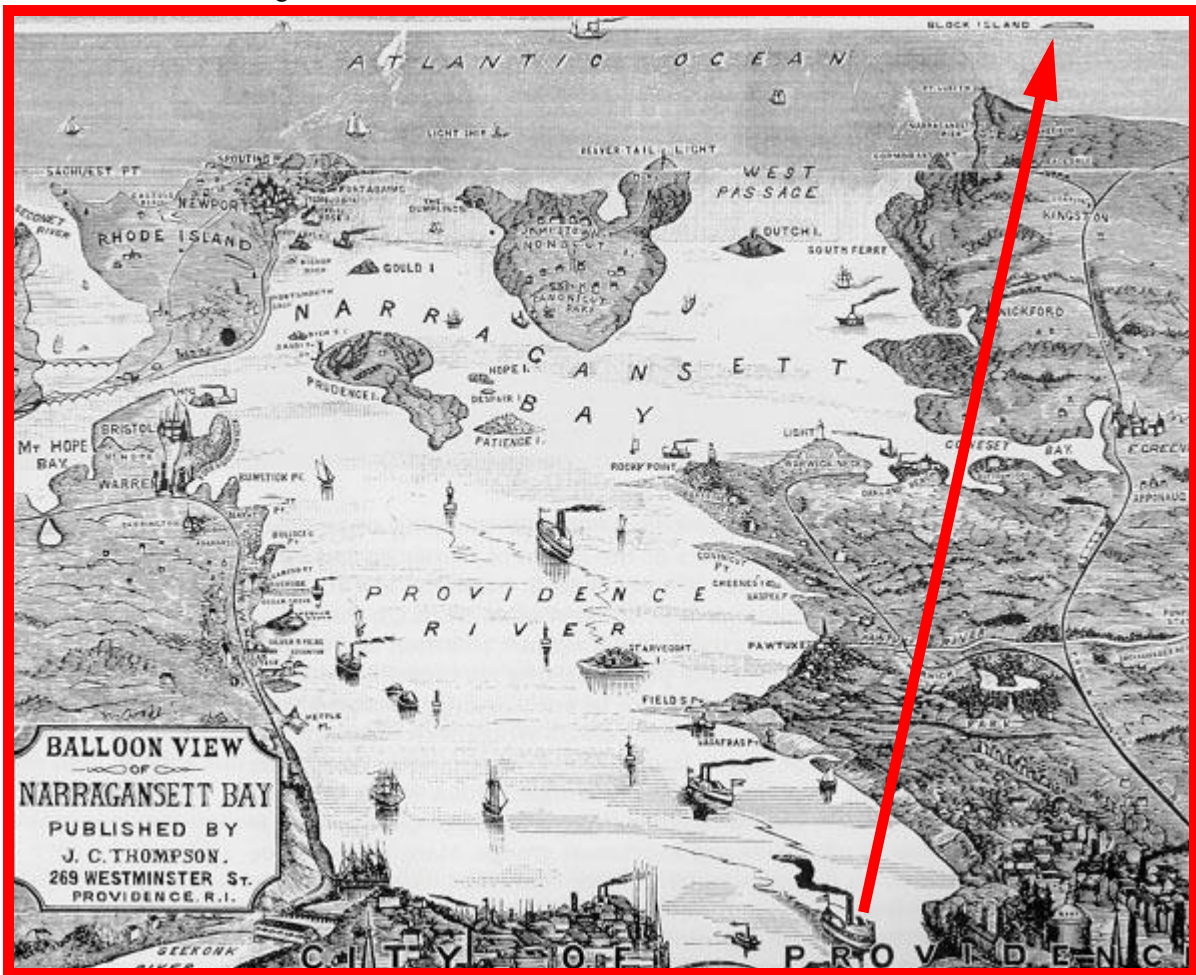
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The 2d edition of Alexander Cluny's THE AMERICAN TRAVELER, published in London, offered a description of Rhode Island.

THE AMERICAN TRAVELER

1774

July 20, Wednesday: Nathanael Greene of Rhode Island on the mainland of the continent and Catharine Littlefield of Block Island in Long Island Sound were wed.





## NATHANAEL GREENE

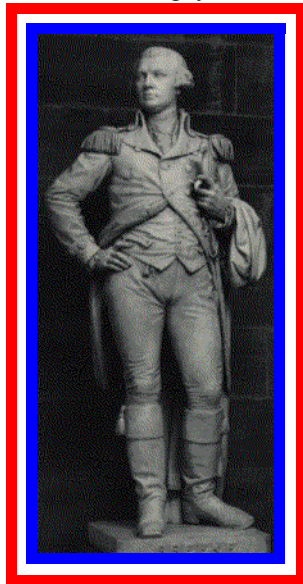
## MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

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August: In [Rhode Island](#), [Nathanael Greene](#) helped to organize a militia company that would acquire the name “Kentish Guards,” and at some point due to this he would request of his East Greenwich Monthly Meeting of the [Religious Society of Friends](#) that he be “put from under the care of Friends.” Because of his limp, his fellow militiamen would deny him a lieutenantancy, with some holding that even as a mere private his limp would make him more of a liability to their outfit than an asset to it.

[QUAKER DISOWNMENT](#)

Hmmm. His statue doesn’t look much like it is of a guy who limps along — or does it?



1775

Private [Nathanael Greene](#) became again a member of the [Rhode Island](#) General Assembly. When the news of the Battle of Lexington arrived, Greene and three of his fellow militiamen went to Boston to help organize a defense.





**NATHANAEL GREENE**

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During the American Revolution there were some Americans who considered it necessary to guard the shoreline of the mainland, and [Nantucket Island](#), against seizure of property by British foraging parties based on [Aquidneck Island](#) in [Narragansett Bay](#). We don't know how effective this fighting was in protecting American property from the British, but Quakers of course refused to contribute to the cost of such protection, and therefore there were 496 cases of seizure of the goods of peace-testimony Quakers in [Rhode Island](#) by local revolutionary authorities. In 1778 the property thus distrained from members of New England [Yearly Meeting](#) by local American authorities amounted to £2,473, while in 1779 the total distraint rose to £3,453. For instance, here are some of the revolutionary seizures made of property of ancestors of [Quaker](#) families of [Providence](#) monthly meeting:

- In 1775, local revolutionary authorities seized a dictionary belonging to Friend Thomas Lapham, Jr. of [Smithfield](#).
- In 1775, local revolutionary authorities seized 5 pairs of women's shoes belonging to Friend Paul Green of [East Greenwich](#).
- In 1776, local revolutionary authorities would seize the fire tongs of Friend Stephen Hoxsie of [South Kingstown](#), as he was the guardian of John Foster but John had not mustered during an alarm.
- Between 1777 and 1782, local revolutionary authorities would seize 7 cows, 5 heifers, and 2 table cloths belonging to Friend Simeon Perry of South Kingstown.
- In 1777, local revolutionary authorities would seize a mare worth £30 belonging to Friend John Foster of South Kingstown.
- In 1777, local revolutionary authorities would seize 3 felt hats belonging to Friend John Carey of [East Greenwich](#).
- In 1780, local revolutionary authorities would seize a silver porringer belonging to Friend Isaac Lawton of [Portsmouth](#).
- Between 1780 and 1782, local revolutionary authorities would seize 29 boxes of spermaceti candles, 20 yards of white linen sheeting, 14 yards of kersey, 16 sides of sole leather, a 3-year-old heifer, and 2 stacks of hay belonging to Friend [Moses Brown](#) of [Providence](#).
- In 1781, local revolutionary authorities would seize 9 sheep and 2 steers belonging to Friend Amos Collins of South Kingstown.
- In 1781, local revolutionary authorities would seize 2 ox chains and an ax belonging to Friend George Kinyan of [Rhode Island](#), because he had not been appearing at militia trainings.

In addition to property seizures, in three cases a Quaker man who refused to participate in militia activities would be jailed. One of these men was Friend David Anthony of [East Greenwich](#). In each case the Friends would conduct an investigation to determine whether the person had acted in the spirit and manner of Friends, and if he had, would go to the General Assembly at [Providence](#) to petition the "tender consciences" of the lawgivers for his freedom.

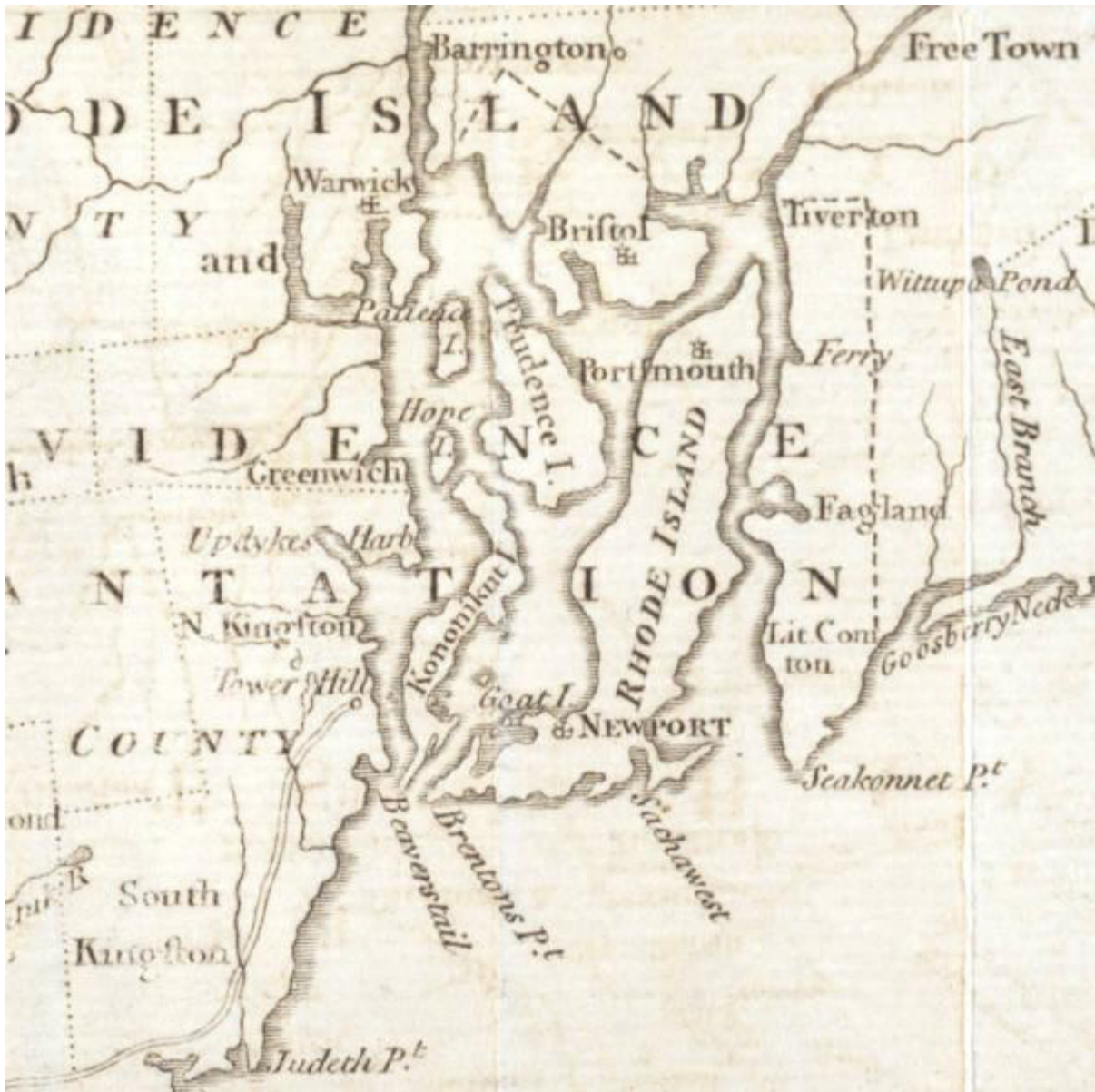
Not all [Rhode Island](#) Quakers refused to participate in the civil unrest of the period but those who did participate in any way were always rigorously and promptly [disowned](#). Between 1775 and 1784, the New England [Yearly Meeting](#) of the [Religious Society of Friends](#) would disown a total of 147 Quakers who had become involved in one way or another with the civil disruption. Among those [disowned](#) was, upon his own request, Major General [Nathanael Greene](#). (Less tolerance, in fact, was shown for those who deviated from the Peace Testimony than for those Friends who continued to hold slaves.)

**THE QUAKER PEACE TESTIMONY**

**NATHANAEL GREENE**

**MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE**

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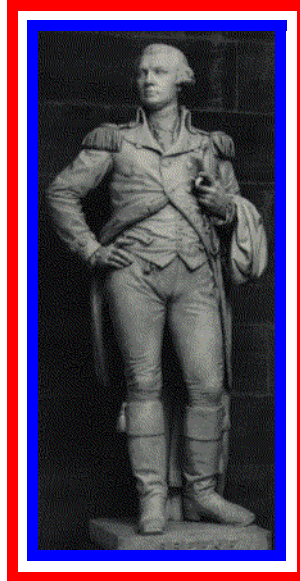
## NATHANAEL GREENE

## MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

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June 22, Thursday: [William Bartram](#) left Fort James and crossed the river to Fort Charlotte where he joined a party of traders bound for Mobile. They traveled along the east side of the Savannah River and lodged at the farm of Jean Louis de Mesnil du St. Pierre near New Bordeaux. They crossed the Savannah River north of Augusta and entered the Lower Creek Trading Path.

General George Washington promoted Private [Nathanael Greene](#) to be the youngest brigadier general of his Continental Army.







## NATHANAEEL GREENE

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July: Brigadier General [Nathanael Greene](#), who in the previous month had been a private, had command of Prospect Hill during the Siege of [Boston](#).





## NATHANAEL GREENE

## MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

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December 14, Thursday: [Friends Moses Brown](#), David Buffum, and others of the [Smithfield, Rhode Island](#) monthly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends rode from Roxbury to Cambridge, carrying with them poor relief for Quakers inside the besieged city of [Boston](#) in the form of gold coins and other currencies amounting to what today would be more than \$4,000. In Cambridge they sought out the headquarters of the American siege commander, General George Washington, for a pass to cross the military lines and visit British General William Howe. The American commander indicated that first they would need to pitch their scheme to his logistics aide, Brigadier General [Nathanael Greene](#) (a birthright Quaker with a club foot who had renounced the faith and asked to be [disowned](#), having become fascinated by the efficacy and necessity of warfare, who had been directly promoted from private to brigadier general by Washington during the previous June).



Brigadier General Greene invited the Quakers to have supper with him, and listened to their plan. He wound up giving their plan the green light, telling them that so long as they “meddled not in the dispute,” they would be able to expect “protection from both sides.”



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**1776**

August 9, Friday: The Congress appointed Brigadier General [Nathanael Greene](#) a Major General.



**1780**

September 30, Saturday: Late in September, Major General [Nathanael Greene](#) had presided over the military court that convicted Major John André of plotting with General Benedict Arnold to betray West Point, and after the court had found him guilty as charged, he ordered his execution. On this day, on Garret Smith's farm near Tappan, New York, André was hanged, and Dr. Timothy Hosmer of Avon, New York pronounced him dead.

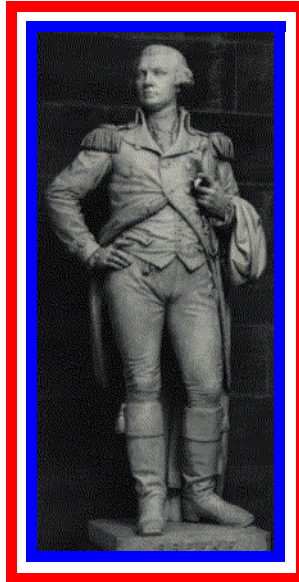


## NATHANAEL GREENE

## MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

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Fall: When Congress suspended the runaway General Horatio Gates from command after his crushing defeat at Camden, South Carolina and General George Washington went to appoint a successor, he chose his clubfooted staff officer, Major General [Nathanael Greene](#).



1781

March 15, Thursday: Near Guilford Courthouse just north of Greensboro, General Cornwallis achieved a victory over Major General [Nathanael Greene](#) that was so costly that he would find himself obliged to withdraw the British forces to Wilmington, [North Carolina](#), and in effect abandon much of the American southland.



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**1785**



Our national birthday, Monday the 4th of July: Dignitaries at an Independence Day dinner in New York raised their glasses to George Washington, to the soldiers who died in combat, to our nation’s European allies, and to “Liberty, peace and happiness to all mankind.” Note well that no dignitary proposed raising a glass to any [Jefferson](#), either as the author of our [Declaration of Independence](#) or for any other reason.



The victory having been attained and properly celebrated, the victors proceeded to a proper distribution of their spoils of war, the former estates of departed Loyalists. During the latter half of the year, Major General [Nathanael Greene](#) would be relocating his family to the piece of the loot that had been assigned to him, a plantation called “Mulberry Grove” on the Savannah River of Georgia.

[Boston](#) began sending its convicts out to the Castle in Boston Harbor to serve their sentences.





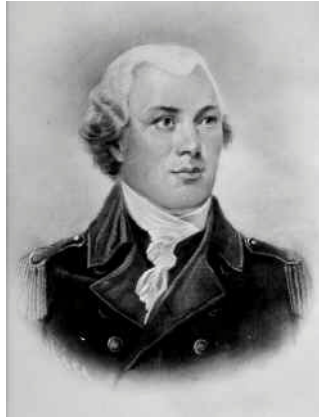
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**1786**

June 12, Monday: While touring the slave plantation of a friend in the sun with bare head, Major General [Nathanael Greene](#) apparently suffered sunstroke.



June 19, Monday: [Nathanael Greene](#) died while he was still 43, less than three years after his nation had with his help achieved freedom, apparently due to the sunstroke he had suffered on June 12th while touring the slave plantation of a friend. Why, it's almost enough to make one believe in a just God!

Mary Tyler DeWolf died. Her and Captain [Charles DeWolf](#) (3)'s children were George, born on June 15, 1778, Charles, who would die in Cuba in 1834, William, who would die unmarried, Martha, and Abby born in 1777.



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**1870**

When a statue of General [Nathanael Greene](#) of [Rhode Island](#) was dedicated in Washington DC, [Thomas Allen Jenckes](#) of Rhode Island made the presentation address. Unsuccessful in his campaign for reelection to the US House of Representatives, however, this Representative would be forced to return to his home state and devote himself energetically to the practice of law.


The memory of Captain [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) was honored by the issuance of a particularly repulsive purple-people-eater stamp:



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

– Remark by character "Garin Stevens"  
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST





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Prepared: December 21, 2013





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*ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT*

*GENERATION HOTLINE*



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.  
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.