

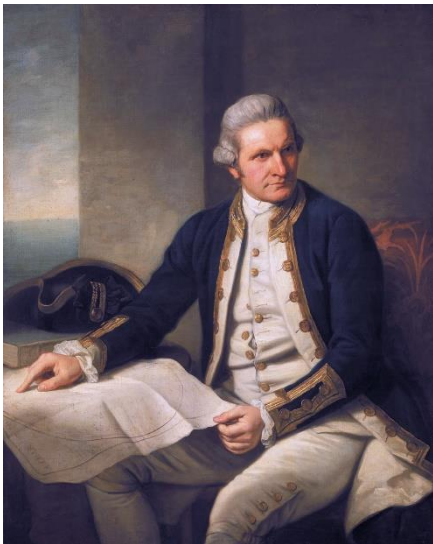


Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

Captain James Cook, Hawai'i and the American Revolution



Between 1768 and 1779, British sea Captain, James Cook, was on three separate voyages of discovery in the Pacific Ocean. At the same time, trouble was brewing in the British North American Colonies – ultimately including the American Revolutionary War.

Just prior to Cook's first voyage, Britain fought and won the French and Indian War in North America. This put Britain in deep debt and the British Parliament imposed new taxes on the Colonists to pay for the war.

These new taxes ultimately led to the cries of "No Taxation Without Representation." The Colonists were British, but they did not have any member of Parliament representing them; and they resented that the taxes were imposed only on them and not all British subjects.

During Cook's First Voyage (1768-1771), on the North American continent the Boston Massacre took place (March 5, 1770); British Red Coats fired upon a crowd of Colonists who were demonstrating against the unfair treatment. Five Colonists ultimately died.

During Cook's Second Voyage (1772-1775), the Revolutionary War started on the North American continent. While Cook was in the Pacific, the Boston Tea Party took place (December 16, 1773), the First Continental Congress met (September 5, 1774 to October 26, 1774), Patrick Henry declared "Give Me Liberty, Or Give Me Death" (March 23, 1775), Paul Revere and others went on their famous rides (April 18, 1775) and "the shot heard round the world" was fired at Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775).

During Cook's Third Voyage (1776-1779), on January 18, 1778, he made 'Contact' with Hawai'i. Hawaiian lives changed with sudden and lasting impact, when western contact changed the course of history for Hawai'i.

At that time, the Revolutionary War was waging across the North American Colonies. However, Captain Cook and his crew were seen not as adversaries, but as "Common Friends to Mankind."

They were on voyages "to make Discoveries of new Countries, in Unknown Seas, under the Conduct of that most celebrated Navigator and Discoverer Captain Cook".

On March 10, 1779, Benjamin Franklin instructed all Captains and Commanders of the Colonies to "not consider [Cook's ship] as an Enemy, nor suffer any Plunder to be made of the Effects contained in her, nor obstruct her immediate Return to England". Likewise, the French government had issued a directive to all French sea captains exempting Cook from military action on his way back to England. (Neither knew at the time that Captain Cook had been killed in Hawai'i on February 14, 1779.)

Franklin's gesture of good will toward Cook was not least among the honors he brought to his fledgling country. Cook's ships did not meet either French or Patriots' ships on the way home.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: www.sar.org

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