



Sons of the American Revolution  
Missouri SAR  
Ozark Mountain Chapter



## History Explorers Introduction

The America 250 SAR Committee, History Explorers, is a program of “patriotic education” with a focus on unique teachable moments, delivered through unique methods. We begin each meeting with “Revolutionary Times;” discussing a significant event related to the American Revolution which took place in the month during the revolutionary period that we are making a presentation. Use of the “Timeline to Revolution” **250th Anniversary events** that are now occurring are the basis for these programs.

Use of costumed presenters is encouraged, because it puts your Color Guard members in a public setting which focuses on our Revolutionary Patriots and offers positive branding for your SAR Chapter. It also makes your presentation more interesting when attendees can relate to your uniformed presenters and greeters in a different way.

Use of historic artifacts and facsimile items can be an important part of exploring our message. It will allow attendees to come into contact with items of interest related to the American Revolution and other time periods that we cover during quarterly History Explorers events.



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# A General, A County & Two Privates



*General Nathanael Greene,  
William Freeman  
&  
James Barham*

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Guilford County Courthouse Flag (Source:  
Wikipedia.org)

# William Freeman: Tar-Heel Patriot

By

Todd Wilkinson

William Freeman was born on October 26, 1759, in Burke County, North Carolina. Little is known about his early life before he enlisted in the North Carolina militia in 1776. North Carolina was one of the earliest battlegrounds in the Revolution, with patriots and loyalists fighting for control of the state, culminating in the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in February, 1776, where a force of 1,000 patriot militia soundly defeated a force of loyalist Scottish Highlanders and effectively ended British rule in the colony. North Carolinians met in April and authorized its delegates to the Second Continental Congress to support any resolution calling for American independence, which would come just three months later in July.

Freeman served three enlistments in the North Carolina militia; his first enlistment was for three months, under the command of a Captain Andrew Oliver in Colonel Hogan's regiment. Unlike Washington's Continental Army, colonial militias frequently supplied their clothing and weapons, and were known for being enthusiastic supporters of the patriot cause, but lacking military discipline. Once a militiaman's enlistment ended, he would frequently return home to tend to his farm or business.

Freeman's second enlistment began in 1778, when he joined the 10<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment, also known as "Sheppard's Regiment." The 10<sup>th</sup> was recruited largely from the Northeastern portion of the colony. Freeman served in Captain Child's company. While family

legend says that Freeman claimed to have served as a scout for General Washington, the 10<sup>th</sup> saw no action and was eventually disbanded in June, 1778 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Freeman enlisted for a third time in Captain Taylor's company in 1781, and during this service he participated in the Southern campaign of General Nathaniel Greene at the battles of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina and Camden, South Carolina. While Guilford Courthouse was considered to be a British victory, Greene was able to buy time for Washington's forces and successfully slowed British General Cornwallis' advance through the Carolinas. "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again," Greene reportedly said, speaking of the hard-fought battles and numerous reverses of fortune of the American forces during the Southern Campaign of the Revolution.

Like many Revolutionary War patriots, Freeman eventually moved west across the Appalachian Mountains as part of the new republic's expansion after the end of hostilities. In 1832, Freeman applied for a pension while living in Maury County Tennessee. The pension was granted, and Freeman and his family – wife Mary Bryan and five children – soon found themselves on the move again in 1834, settling in the small village of Springfield, in the county named for his commander at Guilford Courthouse. Their 160-

acre farm was located near the corner of what is today Glenstone and Cherry Streets in East Springfield. Sheriff Freeman was assisted by Lemuel Austin, one of Freeman's grandchildren, in locating the grave, who remembered that the walnut casket was located under a large elm tree, but said, "Dig crossways for I might be off a little."

William Freeman died at the age of 79 on January 28, 1839, and was buried on his farm. In 1912, one of his descendants, Sheriff Walter Freeman, and the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, sought to locate Freeman's grave and reinter him in the Springfield National Cemetery. He was reinterred on June 22, 1912. He lies there today, the only veteran of the Revolution buried in the cemetery. A simple veterans gravestone, inscribed "Wm.

FREEMAN, 10<sup>th</sup> N.C. MIL. REV. WAR" marks his final resting spot among other Americans who gave, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "The last full measure of devotion".



*Headstone of William Freeman in Springfield National Cemetery (Source: findagrave.com)*

#### Sources

- <http://www.nps.gov/guco/index.htm> (Guilford Courthouse National Military Park)
- <http://www.nps.gov/mocr/index.htm> (Moore's Creek Bridge Battlefield)
- <https://thelibrary.org/lochist/history/paspres/freeman.html> (*Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri*, Springfield-Greene County Public Library Local History & Genealogy Department)

# Nathanael Greene and the Revolution

By  
Gregoy French

Washington. Adams. Jefferson. Lafayette. Greene? In the immense history of the American Revolution, the first four names likely stand out to casual students of the war. All Americans remember Washington, the fearless and innovative general who crossed the Delaware River on Christmas Eve, 1776 to surprise the Hessian garrison at Trenton, New Jersey and later became our first president.

Adams is remembered by many as the politician, diplomat to France and the Netherlands during the Revolution, and second president of the United States. Jefferson stands out in popular memory as the author of the Declaration of Independence, Washington's first Secretary of State, and our third president.

Lafayette captures the popular romantic image of the Revolution as the handsome, young French aristocrat and soldier who became obsessed with the cause of American independence, volunteered to serve under Washington, and later became one of his most trusted generals. His impact on the American memory of the conflict is best illustrated by the actions of the first American troops to arrive in France in 1917, who marched to Lafayette's grave in Paris and

famously announced, "Lafayette, we are here!" But, who is Nathanael Greene? And why is he generally forgotten in the history of the Revolution? Many people may pass through a Greene County, a town named Greenville, or drive past a Nathanael Greene Park, yet would know little of the man.

Several factors may play into Greene's forgotten contributions. He lacked the charisma of Washington in many ways, had a limp which perhaps impacted people's perceptions of him, and was soft-spoken. Greene also died shortly after the war, on June 19, 1786, and therefore did not have the opportunity to serve in the new United States government or military as Washington, Adams, and Jefferson did. He also served prominently in the lesser known Southern Theater of the war, though he was at Washington's side at Long Island, Trenton, and many other Northern engagements. Greene's great battles of Guilford Courthouse, Eutaw Springs, and Cowpens (won by General Daniel Morgan, who served under Greene) took place only a few months before British General Lord Cornwallis' defeat at Yorktown in October 1781.

Washington's victory at Yorktown thus served to overshadow Greene's actions, despite the fact that Greene's hit and run strategies in the South had necessitated Cornwallis' retreat to Yorktown in the first place.



Battle of Guilford Courthouse (Source: Wikipedia)

Despite Greene's lack of prominence in the popular history of the conflict, he nevertheless stands out as one of the most innovative and successful combat generals of the entire Revolution. His ability to outmaneuver his opponents, fight battles at times and places of his choosing, and inflict high casualties on professional European armies highlights his value to Washington. One can learn a lot about an individual through what others say of him. A letter from George Washington to the Continental Congress is instructive as to Washington's high opinion of Nathanael Greene, who is a man "in whose abilities, fortitude and integrity, from a long and intimate experience of them, I have the most entire confidence." Greene, though he may not have realized it and people today tend to forget, was an embodiment of the American dream. Like Lincoln seventy years later, Greene was a self-educated man who taught himself military science by candlelight. He served as the commanding general of Rhode Island's army at the onset of the Revolution, became one of the youngest generals in the Continental Army, and emerged as Washington's choice to command the strategically significant Southern Theater. He deserves our admiration and respect.

#### Sources

- Library of Congress, American Memory Timeline. <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/index.html>
- George Washington's Mount Vernon. <http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/nathanael-greene/>

# Pvt. James Barham: Revolutionary Veteran and Pioneer

By  
Zachary J. Zweigle

The sun beamed brilliantly through the retreating clouds of cannon smoke. On the field of battle stood His Majesty's soldiers lined up and flying the white flag of surrender. Across the field, stood the U.S. Continental Army poised in victory. For over six years, U.S. forces had fought valiantly up and down the eastern seaboard of the United States, and it was now time to enjoy victory. On October 19, 1781, General Lord Charles Cornwallis was expected to surrender his sword to General George Washington as a symbolic representation of surrender. However,

the proud leader of His Majesty's forces instead sent his second-in-command, General Charles O'Hara. In response, Washington sent forth his second-in-command Benjamin Lincoln to receive the sword from O'Hara.



*John Trumbull, Siege of Yorktown, 1820 (Source: Wikipedia.org)*

Standing at attention within the ranks of American soldiers at Yorktown, Virginia, was a young private named James Barham – an eyewitness to this incredible moment. For Barham had fought the war. And now, both young nation and young soldier could proudly proclaim its national status without fear of harassment or threat of war. Private Barham was just seventeen years of age, yet he now carried the label of patriot and veteran.

Barham was born in Southampton County, Virginia on May 18, 1764 to James Sr. and Mary (Thorpe) Barham. At that time, Barham's home was in the Colony of Virginia, under British Rule. He was born a subject, not a citizen. His allegiance was to his sovereign, King George III. Barham was born during a turbulent time. Colonists in New England were beginning to question their position within the British Empire. The French and Indian War had been a costly fight to secure Britain's North American colonies, and the cost of that war filtered down in the form of taxes imposed upon the colonists. Just three weeks prior to the birth of Barham, the British Parliament passed the Sugar Act on April 5, 1764, essentially lighting the long fuse that eventually exploded into Revolution. And that Revolution was defended by young Private James Barham.

At the start of the American Revolution Barham was just eleven years of age. As the war entered into its final year, Barham voluntarily joined the Virginia Militia on January 1, 1781 in place of Zadok Bell, who had been drafted for the war. Barham served in Captain Whitehead's militia regiment under General Nathaniel Greene's division. Barham's total term of service was nine months and three weeks.

Following the Revolutionary War, Barham moved back to Virginia, and four years later in 1785, he married Prudence (Freeman) Dunn. Dunn was a widow with six children. Like so many pioneers during that period, the couple began a series of relocations that would eventually take them to new territories in the west. In 1785, the couple moved south to Wake County, North Carolina, near Raleigh. The couple lived in Wake County for seven years before moving west to Guilford County, North Carolina near Greensboro in 1792. The move to Guilford County was followed by a further move northwest to Stokes County, North Carolina in 1799. Barham would remain in Stokes County for 14 years.

In 1813, Barham moved the family to Logan County, Kentucky. This great trans-Appalachian move was made by many families during the period. The United States was growing in territory, and pioneers sought land claims in the west. Just two years after moving to Kentucky, Barham's wife Prudence died on January 1, 1815. Nine months later, Barham married his second wife Elizabeth Houston. The new couple remained in Logan County for 13 years before moving farther west to Calloway County, Kentucky in 1828. They spent five years in Calloway County before moving to Trigg County, Kentucky in 1833. So it was while living in Trigg County, that Barham reached the age of 69, thus eligible to apply for his Revolutionary retirement pension.

In early 1846, Barham made his final move to Greene County and settled near Willard, Missouri.

He made this final move to be closer to his children during the final years of his life. In 1837, his daughter Phoebe (Barham) Tatum and her husband had established residence in Willard. The young Tatum couple was instrumental in establishing Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. In 1846, Barham transferred his pension from Kentucky to Missouri. Nine years later, on April 10, 1855, Barham applied for a bounty land warrant in Greene County.

Barham spent the rest of his long life in Greene Country, Missouri. His time was spent hunting, fishing, raising pack hound dogs, and telling stories about his life and experiences growing old in the new nation. Barham's long life began as American colonists resisted British rule, he served in the American Revolution, lived through the American War of 1812, moved numerous times as the more western territory was established, and died on January 8, 1865, just four months prior to the conclusion of the American Civil War. Barham was eyewitness to history, and at 101 years of age, he had lived through the first 90 years of his new nation's history.



*Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Willard, Missouri (Source: waymarking.com)*

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- Life of James Barham. <http://curtis-williams-missouri.blogspot.com/2013/05/life-of-celebrated-james-barham.html>
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# Dress in Colonial and Revolutionary America

By  
Gregory French

Throughout this evening's presentation, you will see on stage various styles of colonial clothing worn by our presenters, ranging from military uniforms of officers and common soldiers, the outfit of a "town crier," and the dress of an upper-class eighteenth century woman. As you may have noticed on stage, clothing styles in colonial America could vary greatly in appearance based on one's social class, region in which he or she lived, occupation, and even the time of year! A very common misconception many people may have concerning colonial society is that most people made their own clothing in this era. However, this statement is misleading.

Most Americans, with the exceptions of the extreme lower classes and those citizens living on the frontier, far from a tailor shop, did not make their own clothing.

Colonial citizens, especially those in the middle and upper classes, would buy the vast majority of their clothing from traveling traders and merchants in the larger communities. Many elite colonial citizens, such as George Washington, paid close attention to the latest English fashions and made sure their measurements were on file with London tailor shops to ensure their suits and dresses were in keeping with the latest styles. Men's suits, for example, would be made of fine silk and wool, with added features such as buttons and other accessories. Women would purchase many items for their everyday apparel, such as petticoats, laces, corsets, shoes, aprons, cloaks, and stockings. Everyday items, such as domestic gowns, would tend to be homemade.

Clothing tended to be less formal in the summer, as the heat made heavy coats and gowns unbearable, and in daily business/labor activities. An upper class Virginia tobacco planter, for example, would dress informally and in lighter clothing to work on the plantation, but would be expected to wear his most formal attire for a ball or other social gathering.

How did eighteenth century Americans acquire such a diverse amount of clothing? The short answer is trade. More broadly, colonial America existed as one stop in a vast trans-Atlantic and global trading network. The American colonies existed within the British Empire as a source of raw materials, such as cotton, tobacco, indigo, and timber, which were sent to England in return for manufactured products (such as clothing!). Silks from China, cloth from Holland, and shoes from England all eventually made their way to America as part of this global network of trade.

At the core of this productive trans-Atlantic and global network, unfortunately, was slavery. The lucrative slave trade brought slaves from Africa to Spanish and Portuguese colonies in the Caribbean and South America, as well as to British colonies in North America. Slave labor produced cotton which English

manufacturers would ultimately turn into clothing, and the profits Virginia planters made from slave labor would then be used to purchase the latest fashions. Of course, slaves themselves needed to be clothed. Cheap linens, hose, and caps, continuously made their way across the Atlantic from Europe to be worn by slaves laboring in the fields.

Thus, colonial clothing was incredibly diverse in terms of styles and socio-economic differences amongst the population. The immense variety of colonial dress reflected America's unique place in the British Empire's vast trans-Atlantic global trading network. In many ways, colonial clothing options varied as much as the voluminous fashions and styles of today's global community.



*Portrait of the Washington Family (Source: Wikipedia.com)*

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# Food in Colonial America

By  
Gregory French

Much like clothing and fashion, food and cookware in colonial America also reflected the diversity of social and economic, as well as regional, conditions. The time of year dictated what fruits and vegetables would be available due to the lack of modern refrigerators, but the use of salt or “smoking” meats allowed for some foods to be preserved over a longer period of time. In comparing colonial-era cooking with today’s modern methods, one might be shocked to learn the basic methods are the same. Food could be fried, baked, boiled, and roasted. Many of the items colonial Americans ate also would be familiar to modern observers, as a typical colonial diet consisted of various meats (chicken, beef, pork), fresh fish, bread, and numerous vegetables.

The art of cooking a meal for a large family, or a social gathering such as a ball, represented as much of a challenge to the kitchen staff of a large mansion as it did to the typical colonial mother. If one wanted to prepare fresh meat or fish, the killing and cleaning of the animal would by necessity need to take place on the morning of the dinner. Due to the lack of modern ovens, wood fires would be used extensively. Therefore, colonial families always needed a large supply of wood on hand, not only for cooking but for heating the home as well. A skilled cook was required to light a proper fire, observe its temperature, and use hot coals as colonial versions of modern oven burners (the stove top).

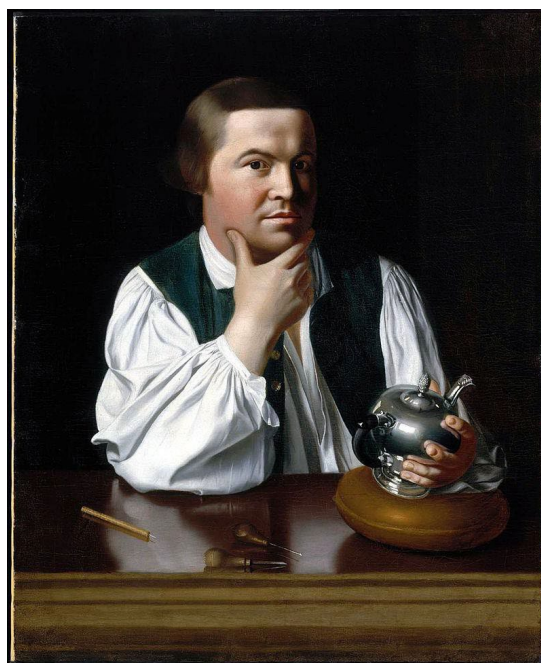
A typical dinner at an upper-class Virginia plantation would look far different than a meal of a middle or lower class family, both in terms of the food served and the utensils and plates on which the food was presented. Cooks used heavy amounts of seasoning in the colonial era, much more than a modern observer would be able to handle! Seasonings such as sugar, salt, nutmeg, and even cinnamon made their way into many colonial dishes. On many occasions, the entire chicken, pig, or fish would be presented with the animal’s head and feet still attached! Items such as hearts and brains were considered by many colonials as rare treats. Much like the fancy meals of today, a formal meal would consist of several stages with different foods served at various times throughout the meal. In terms of drinks served, water was not as popular due to the risk of disease and contamination. Sweet alcoholic wines and punches, along with large amounts of beer, coffee, hard apple cider, and tea, would be more commonly found on the table. For dessert, pies, such as apple, and various sweet pastries would commonly be served.

The types of food, drinks, and desserts served at typical meals varied depending on one’s social class. The utensils, plates, and cups from which colonial Americans enjoyed their meals also varied widely based on a family’s social class and the formality of the event. Plates and bowls could be wooden, or in

middle and upper class homes they would be made of pewter and even silver! Drinks could also commonly be served in wooden, pewter, or glass cups. Much like in many American homes today, some colonial families possessed an extensive set of valuable imported china, which would be used for special occasions (perhaps once or twice a year).

Colonial Americans drank large amounts of alcoholic beverages, including rum and whisky. These items, in upper class homes, would commonly be stored in glass containers and brought out for dinner.

In conclusion, colonial American clothing and food was as diverse as the people who lived in Britain's American colonies, which stretched from Georgia in the south to New Hampshire in the north. Both clothing worn and food served varied immensely based on the time of year, availability of certain meats and vegetables, and one's social class. The world of colonial America in the eighteenth century, then, was incredibly diverse.



*Paul Revere and a silver teapot (Source: Wikipedia.org)*

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