



THE PATRIOT TIMES

The #1 bestselling Epic Patriot Camp eNewsletter

GREAT NEW YORK ESCAPE



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speechless, horrified, and confused.

Our namesake, The New York Times, calls for immediate action on this matter, saying that “[Americans] should not stop searching until the statue is found” and “[we] must scour every inch of the Earth until she returns to our shores”. Searches have even begun in Antarctica, after Virginian soldier George Washton gave an inspiring speech in the morning of July 4th... *Read more on page 5*

WHAT'S INSIDE:



Utah Book Signing



Epic Story of 1777-79 Reveal



Washington Gone Rogue



THE PATRIOT TIMES

WELCOME!

Hello and welcome to *The Patriot Times*! It's nothing short of epic to have you here with me.

Wow, can you believe that it's August already?! Time has flown so fast; it's like Epic Patriot Camp only started yesterday.

This August, we're celebrating not only two months since Epic Patriot Camp, but also that we have an all-new and exciting new eNewsletter—this one!! So I'd like to give you the warmest of welcomes as we embark on reading this monthly periodical.

Inside this month's issue of *Patriot Times*, you'll find some super fascinating articles which I know you're going to love! We'll explore the Revolutionary Battle of Camden with our very own history buff, Madeleine Wenzel, and learn some things about it that we never knew! You'll read about an exciting book signing that took place in Utah this July and find out about one that YOU could join later this year! Plus, we have an epic reveal in store for you that I know you're going to love!

There's all this and more in *The Patriot Times*! Enjoy and I'll see you next month!

Keep writing!

~ Christopher J. Watt

CEO | Next Steps- Epic Patriot Camp 2023

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AND SO MUCH MORE!



EPIC PATRIOT CAMP WRITING CONTEST!

CALLING ALL CAMPERS!

Do you miss Epic Patriot Camp and want to write more? Look no further! The Patriot Times is hosting an EPC Writing Contest! Visit **page 20** to find out how you can enter...and possibly even win!



PHILOSOPHICAL PONDERINGS

with Benjamin Franklin

Sir,

It may not be improper in the first place to inform your readers, that I intend once a month to present them, by the help of this marvellous newsletter, with a short epistle, which I presume will add somewhat to their entertainment.

I was considering, being it the month of August, why the month is named the way it is. I have been told by my lecturers that it is in honour of the Roman emperor by the name of Augustus Caesar.

Now, sir, why in this world would we wish to name a whole period in our lifetimes after a tyrant? To spark remembrance of who we should not be like? I think not. To add to the confusion, the past month of July was named for Augustus' tyrannical predecessor, Julius Caesar.

Did the Caesars force their subjects to do this? If so, why did their subjects not change the months after the Caesars' deaths? If it were me, I would make haste to change August and July to more pleasant names (such as perhaps Mary or Patricia) once my tyrant leader died.

In fact, sir, I would like to make it known to your readers that it were in *August* of 1776 that news reached King George III of Great Britain declaring her Independence. Isn't the irony of history magnificent?

It is purely ingenious; the fact our God Almighty destined this wonderful serendipity to be woven in history since long ago. (Isaiah 25:1)

History has its ways of connecting with both the past and the future in the most marvellous ways, does it not? If you, sir, would like to discover more, I would highly suggest that you read *The Epic Order of the Seven* volumes by Jenny L. Cote. Inside you'll discover some of history's most fascinating tales from the

Holy Writ and even the revolution from which we as America have just won. Say, have you ever heard the tale of young Susanna Bolling? My good sir, I do not believe that you have yet been acquainted with Libby McNamee's real page-turner of a novel,

Susanna's Midnight Ride. I do believe that you will be left in absolute awe of what you find hidden within her pages.

But this page is not to advertise books, sir—so while I highly applaud these marvellous works of the authors, I must return to my duties here in my letter to you at *Patriot Times*.

Speaking of which, the term "patriot" was coined by yours truly as a word used to describe those who were patriotic towards a new and independent America. But I digress, as is the usual custom of my philosophical ponderings.

Where were we? Ah yes, I remember now—the naming of the month of Caesar Augustus; a tyrant leader of a militarily dominant nation.

An interesting fact, sir, is that the land of Great Britain today was once dominated by the Roman Empire. In fact, the British monarchs of today go back in their ancestry to the Roman royal family.

So, could these monarchical tyrants be part of a much grander scale? Is there an ancestral pattern within the 1777 years which span the two leaders apart? Who knows? Perhaps this is a point in history where all we may do for now is speculate.

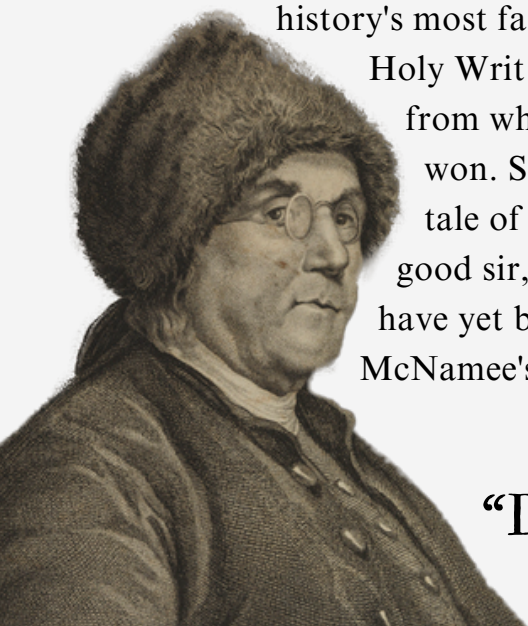
Sir, I am certain that you are glad to know that King George III of England never bothered with naming a month in his honour. My, if it were so, could you imagine? I may end up celebrating my birth in the month of Georgia! Although this seems ridiculous, you may be fascinated to know it wasn't far off.

In 1761, we turned from the Julian calendar to the still-tyrannical Gregorian calendar, making my birthday happen twice in one month. What delight! I daresay, eating cake twice is truly a moment to savour!

So what of this world? What of the month of August? I suppose we'll have to just live with it. Who knows, perhaps Revolution will come of it later in the Almighty's page of our history.

Your most obedient, humble servant,

B. Franklin



“Do not throw stones at your neighbours if your own windows are glass.”



THE KING'S LETTER

Dear Sir,

I was never much for small talk; therefore, I will begin immediately. My sources have informed me that a great injustice has been committed and therefore I must sweep in and right the wrong, in my usual fashion. I am quite adept at such things, so I hear.

I hear you've recently received a letter from one Benjamin Franklin, rebel that he is, explaining, or rather pondering, about months, calendars, Roman monarchs, and of course philosophy. That Benjamin Franklin always did have his head in the clouds, inventing, philosophizing, and other frivolous things of that nature. I bet he wouldn't know anything about ruling a country.

Apparently though Dr. Franklin has already chosen the topic of this newsletter 'epistle', which in England is considered quite selfish, but you can't expect those 'Patriots' to know anything of British etiquette.

Anyway, back to the topic at hand. Today is the fine day of August 1st. Have you, sir, heard that the month of August is named after the glorious Roman emperor, Augustus Caesar? My, but he was a fine man, and such a reasonable ruler.

Had this newsletter been sent a day prior, I could've properly articulated the history of July. Yet I believe Mr. Franklin has not shied away from broaching the topic of prior months, so neither shall I. The month prior to August, July, is named after the illustrious predecessor of Augustus, another fine man by the name of Julius Caesar. Quite the magnificent family that was.

However, August holds some angering memories for me. It is for your sake I painfully recollect; therefore, I do expect at least some compensation. But alas I hear not even you are receiving remuneration, therefore, the kind soul I am, I will not ask of you what you do not receive yourself.

It is in August of the year 1776, that I received quite the troubling

document from the Rebels. *The Declaration of Independence* they called it. Hah! Surely, at least I could've come with a better title than that. I do have a history with wonderful, titled documents. Need I call to your mind the gracefully penned *Proclamation for Suppressing Rebellion and Sedition*? As for the rebel document, I'd advise it to perhaps instead be called the Revelation of Freedom, of the Announcement of Recession, but what's done is done.

If you care to learn more about these injustices, I have recently been gifted the first volume in the trilogy of *The Epic Story Of America* and have sufficiently been pleased with the representation of myself, and my fellow Loyalist. However, some of those writers, I believe were terribly reserved in their articulation of the 'Patriots'. I do not believe they exposed the rebels, for the usurpers they were. I shall have to speak to them of such things. The entire volume, however, was quite engaging, and was masterfully composed, therefore I applaud all of the writers.

I hear that Dr Franklin is "glad to know" that I have not named months in my honor. This has brought to my attention a great travesty, and while I am sorry to disappoint you Mr. Franklin, I hereby am renaming this month to be Georgust or perhaps Georgvember. I shall bring the motion up in Parliament this very day.

Well, I hope you have felt I sufficiently righted all wrongs and injustices, Dr. Franklin presented here. I do heartily wish to be informed should any mockeries of this nature appear again. Alas for now, I shall make my leave. Farewell, readers, I shall speak to you again soon.

For now, I emphatically wish you Happy Georgusvember.

Yours truly,

*His Majesty, George William Frederick III
King of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Colonies*

"I wish nothing but good, therefore everyone who does not agree with me is either a traitor or scoundrel."





JULY'S TOP HEADLINE

THE GREAT NEW YORK ESCAPE!



Reports have been going wild in search of New York City's iconic landmark, the Statue of Liberty. Arriving from France in June 1885, the statue has been part of America's history for almost a century and a half. Shockingly, no civilian nor tourist nor camera caught it suddenly vanishing in the early hours of the morning on July 4th this year. Leaving journalists and news anchors alike at a loss for words, the mysterious disappearance has left the nation—if not the world—speechless, horrified, and confused.

Our namesake, The New York Times, calls for immediate action on this matter, saying that “[Americans] should not stop searching until the statue is found” and “[we] must scour every inch of the Earth until she returns to our shores”. Searches have even begun in Antarctica, after Virginian soldier George Washingface gave an inspiring speech in the morning of July 4th. “My first wish is to see this plague of history, a missing statue, vanished from the Earth, be returned, so that all America may rejoice and celebrate independence as usual,” he cried, rallying a whole team of explorers and archaeologists as he stood upon their table at their monthly guild meeting.

Thankfully, the statue returned to her rightful place once again in the morning of July 5th, but this did not solve any mysteries. It is believed that instead of frantically searching and crying over a missing green lady, we should be celebrating independence as usual, as one newspaper revealed.

Epic Patriot Camp newspaper Patriot Times has managed to get their hands on some shocking media on the matter,



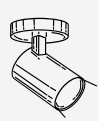
including a shot of what is presumed to be Lady Liberty herself (left). This image taken in Georgia, it is clear that if this is the Statue of Liberty, she's gone through some rapid changes, including the fact that she no longer has her monochromatic features and she is now a normal-sized human.

Rumours have begun circulating that she has magically “come to life”, not too far from what is portrayed in the *Night at the Museum* trilogy. In fact, she even has her own tablet. The Liberty Tablet features the inscription, JULY IV MDCCXXVI, which is the date of U.S. Independence in Roman numerals.

There were sightings last year on July 4th that the Statue of Liberty—or at least, someone with uncanny resemblance to her—was seen floating down the river on a boat, holding the Liberty Torch in hand but without her tablet (below). Believing that this was no other than historical fiction author Jenny L. Cote, most civilians paid no attention.

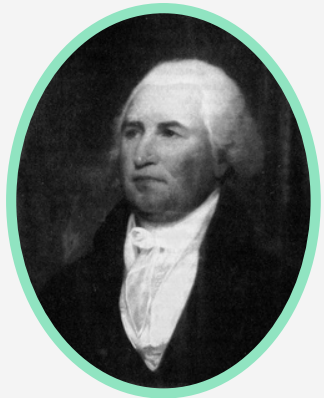
But could this be something else? Was the Georgian photo actually the Statue of Liberty come to life, or was it just Jenny L. Cote? And if it really was just the adventurous author, where did the real statue go? Reports galore have many times had Ms. Cote breaking the law “for the children”. Could this be the world's largest heist? I don't think we'll ever know.





CAMPER SPOTLIGHT

Naomi Hayes (Edward Bancroft)



We contacted Naomi this month to get to know her better and find out what her aspirations for the future are! Let's see what she says!

Hi, Naomi! Tell us a bit about yourself!

I am 12, almost 13 years old (August), and my name is Naomi Hayes. I live in Nashville, Tennessee. My favorite animal is without a doubt a dog, and I love the colors teal, and light pink! I love ice cream, specifically cookie dough flavored, and I love playing soccer and basketball.

I would love to be an author when I grow up, and write fantasy, but I would also like to be a movie producer, illustrator, or perhaps an entrepreneur. Though whatever I do, I want to praise God through it!

Ever, since I was about four years old, I have dreamed of becoming an author. I just love writing, and the feeling of putting words on paper, and letting my imagination flow. I actually was not very interested in history until my seventh-grade year, where I finally learned to enjoy learning about history in history class. I now believe having access to the past is a blessing, and that learning about history is fun! It's also extremely important, and I'm glad I am able to have the chance to educate myself on history at this age. (Thanks Jenny L. Cote and Libby McNamee for helping me perceive history better!)

When did you start writing?

I started writing when I was able to hold a pencil in my hand. I remember writing my first story when I was about four or five about a princess becoming friends with a bear! Though I have been writing for a long time, I am never able to finish a story, so hopefully I get that problem sorted out as soon as possible!

What is your favourite writing style?

My favorite writing style is probably fantasy, though I also enjoy historical fiction and contemporary fiction. Those all happen to be my favorite reading genres too!

How is your writing unique?

How is my writing unique? That is a very hard question. I'd like to think that, because every person is different, and everyone thinks differently, my writing is how only I would write. My writing is my thoughts on paper. I write in first person, I love descriptions, and I love to try to make an image pop out of the book. I try to write how Jesus would want me to write, with a Godly influence, and a striving for improvement.

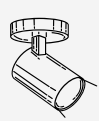
Wow, thanks Naomi! It's been great getting to know you! On behalf of the Epic Patriot Campers, we wish you the best on your next writing adventure!

Want to learn more about Edward Bancroft? Here are three fascinating facts Naomi found!

—Before becoming a double agent, Bancroft was actually a well known chemist and scientist. He wrote about animals, plants, and the effects and mechanics of the eel.

—Interestingly, after studying under his schoolmaster, Silas Deane, Bancroft was apprenticed to a physician at age sixteen. After a few years though, Bancroft ran away, tired of apprenticeship. In 1766, he returned to pay his debt.

—Benjamin Franklin, a close friend of Bancroft, possibly suspected that Bancroft was a spy. Even so, he remained friends with Bancroft throughout and after the war. Maybe he didn't know Bancroft was a double agent, maybe he did.



CAMPER SPOTLIGHT

Mikayla Badenhorst

(Baron de Steuben)



We also got in touch with Mikayla this month to learn more about her and what she's all about!

Hi, Mikayla!

Hello, my name is Mikayla, I turn 13 in August, and live in beautifully sunny Sarasota, Florida. My favorite animals are tigers, lions, and cats (OH, my!) I am not sure what I want to do when I grow up, but I might go into training animals like orcas and dolphins or athletic training. My favorite things to do when I'm not at school or volleyball are pulling pranks (don't trust me with salt and water), playing with my cats (who are adorably crazy), and hanging out with my friends and family.

When did you start writing?

I have been writing since school projects started! The torturous task of learning to write the alphabet where tears were shed, and the equally challenging task of cursive (oh my goodness, I hated it!) all helped make me a better writer. Many grueling hours were spent learning the writing process at homeschool. Although I didn't appreciate it then (sorry Mom!), I love it now. As soon as I started learning colonial history and playing dress-up, I was hooked. The fire continued to be fueled by my best friend, as we

would have historical debates. He ended up joining a debate team and I started writing.

What is your favourite writing style?

My favorite writing style is historical fiction. I also have a huge passion for writing songs and short stories. While my mom pushes me to be the best writer I can, my dad feeds my love for writing songs with time in the car jamming to TobyMac and David Crowder.

I discovered the Epic Order of the Seven when I came across an unread book of my sister's. She had one of Jenny's books and I got my hands on it. Then, three years later, I discovered EPC2022. I was unsure of how to convince my parents to pay for it. My mom came up with the idea of asking my uncle to sponsor camp. I had to write a letter and he decided to pay for camp. Luckily, my birthday was coming up, and my uncle encourages ANYTHING that will "expand my mind".

What do you want to be known for?

I want to be known as a fun-loving, volleyball-playing, prank-pulling Jesus freak who is completely sold out for Him. I want to glorify God in everything that I do, like in 1 Corinthians 10:31. I also want to be known as a great friend who meets no stranger (my dad says I could talk to a tree and the tree would talk back)!

Thank you so much, Mikayla! We've loved getting to know the fun-loving, volleyball-playing, prank-pulling Jesus freak even more! Huzzah!

Baron de Steuben was a fascinating guy. Here's what Mikayla's shared with us about him!

- His godfather was King Fredrick of Prussia
- He became close friends with Alexander Hamilton
- He had a dog named Azor who LOVED food and was quite a character
- His credentials were fabricated by Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane, but helped him gain recognition in Congress, allowing him to train and transform the Continental Army



EPIC NEWS THIS MONTH

GENERAL GREENE AT PROVO, UTAH

Not many people realise that General Nathaniel Greene was actually a huge fan of our book, even back in the 1700s! His scribe, Cameron, recently travelled to Provo, Utah, to celebrate and sign!

"This 4th of July weekend my family and I had the opportunity to go to Utah for the Liberty Festival. I received the invitation last November, when I attended Rebels and Redcoats to sell our first book: The Epic Story 1776. I only received a few sales at that event, but it opened the door to become connected to a group of reenactors learn new things about the time. And an opportunity to promote our book to a wider audience.



"I began my days as young Nathanael Greene attending the bellows and got to work on a project at our Fighting Quaker Foundry blacksmith shop. I learn a lot about the art of blacksmithing and it gives me new insight into my character's life.



"After finishing my shift in the blacksmith shop, I would stop in at the gift shop and check on book sales and was available for any book signings scheduled at 12:30 to 1:00 and 3:30 to 4:00. I sold thirteen books for the weekend. I believe the key to selling more would be there for personal promotion although their gift shop volunteers were amazing at telling people about our book. News of it was all over camp.



"My next duty each day was at the Isaiah Thomas Print Shop. I was able to see what was coming hot off the press as I was on the printing team. The team managed to print one page every twenty seconds but could do it in fifteen if necessary. We warned our patrons to flee quickly from the Kings Way as suspects could be arrested at any time.



EPIC NEWS THIS MONTH

GENERAL GREENE AT PROVO, UTAH



"Overall, I was able to learn a lot. I was able to meet many people all of whom are very knowledgeable about who they were portraying and received several tips on the first-person reenacting. I am even going to be part of training on first-person reenactment from His Excellency George Washington from Mt Vernon. I plan to work hard as my goal is to portray General Nathanael Greene as soon as possible. This was a great opportunity to gain experience, learn more about the time, do some research, sell our book, and grow in my character. I highly recommended if you have the chance—do a book signing and attend a reenactment event near you someday. Huzzah for EPC!!!"

Nath. Greene

"I even infiltrated the British lines and since I was the young Nathanael Greene the Sergeant of the British agreed not to shoot me so I could live and fight another day. But as range safety officer I got an inside look at their defense lines and think our boys are safe. Huzzah!"

"I even snuck out to dance as Nathanael Greene did but after working a long day was not feeling up to participating nor did I have proper attire. However, I did get to watch as they did about three or four different dances. All the people were having fun and I plan to get in on the action next year.



What a truly remarkable experience to have been a part of! If this has inspired you, readers, see if there's a re-enactment or book signing happening nearby and see what you can do to participate and promote The Epic Story!! Huzzah!!

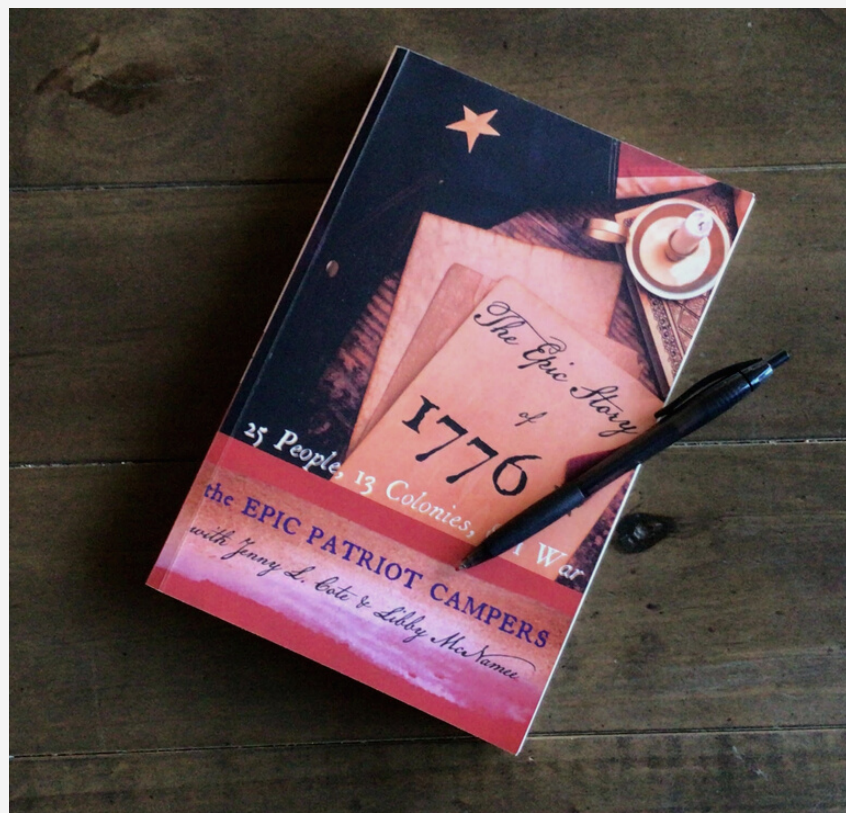


EPIC NEWS THIS MONTH

FIRST TIME IN EPC HISTORY!

On July 1, history was made for *The Epic Story of 1776* when the first-ever virtual book signing took place! Let's hear from Christopher about it.

"It was my friend Georgia's birthday this July, so I of course decided to get her our book (funny, as her last name is Granger and as Jenny was talking about her trip to LaGrange in *Georgia*, I received a birthday invitation from my friend Georgia!). It just so happened that I was on a Zoom call with a small group of other campers on the day. So, live on Zoom, I signed the book and got them to write their own personalised messages on their chapter pages for me to scribe. This was the first-ever official book signing held on Zoom for *The Epic Story of 1776*! HUZZAH!"



THE MARQUIS: WEEKS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!



The next book in The Epic Order of the Seven is nearly upon us! Hot off the press a whopping SEVEN weeks early, *The Marquis, The Escape & The Fox* is a truly extraordinary novel!

Get excited about fascinating events, thrilling turning points, and shocking plot twists—coming to wherever you are hopefully very soon! And rolled off the press *seven* weeks early, too! What a perfect number! HUZZAH!!





YORKTOWN UPDATE

We're all excited for the 2023 Yorktown Book Signing, especially if you attended it last year and got to experience the life of an author! Huzzah!

This year, things are going to look a little different than last year, and not just because there'll be new faces and an extra book to sign.

So continue reading if you plan on coming this year! It's going to be fun, but you'll need to know these very important details so that it can be the best experience possible For The Children!



2023 YORKTOWN BOOK SIGNING

you're invited!

There will be two book signings in Yorktown this year!
Let's see when and where each one will be!

SIGNING ONE

October 18, 3:00pm–4:30pm

Our crowd was a bit much for the American Revolution Museum last year, and they **cannot** host us this year. As well as huge crowds for Yorktown Day, they're also busy setting up for a dinner event that night, so it won't work for a book signing there this year. Thankfully, Libby has arranged an alternate signing venue at the **Watermen's Museum** just down the street!

SIGNING TWO

October 19, 12:30pm–2:30pm

Our second signing for our books will be the **Gallery at York Hall**, huzzah! Due to space constraints, we'll need to take **30 minute shifts** of two signers at a time, as there'll also be four other adult authors in a small space with books on display tables for signing. York Hall will have a special table placed in the window with two chairs for the EPC signers!

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR BOTH SIGNINGS

We will need to know in advance a headcount of how many people will attend the book signing. We are requiring everyone to dress for a **special occasion**, no jeans or hoodies. AND everyone is expected to be on their **best behaviour** and use low voices. (Yes, that means no screaming and no crazy "FOR THE CHILDREN"s, even if George Washington suddenly appears!) More details to follow as we get closer.

Huzzah!!



TALES OF TIME GONE BY

with Madeleine Wenzel

On July 25th, 1780, General Horatio Gates took command of the Southern component of the Continental army, and although his troops were exhausted and hungry, he decided to immediately march to South Carolina to attack Camden. When he arrived, the ragged, run-down army was camped in Coxe's Mill, North Carolina, a hundred and twenty-five miles northwest of Camden. There were two ways to get to the town, Major General Baron de Kalb and the rest of the officers recommended traveling through Charlotte and the Catawba region, where supplies were plentiful, and allies were abundant. Gates disregarded their concerns and took the army along the alternate route, which was fifty miles shorter, but led them through swamps, where the only provisions they were able to find were half ripe corn and green peaches, giving the soldiers stomach problems.

Finally, on August 13th, the men arrived at Henry Rugeley's Plantation, where there was a barn for them to sleep in and food to eat. While there, additional militia arrived, bringing the numbers of the Colonials to about 4,000. While he didn't listen to de Kalb and many of his other officers, Gates listened to Thomas Sumter, sending four hundred militia to help him raid the British.

Meanwhile, Cornwallis was making his own plans. He had pulled his garrisons from Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock, concentrating them at Camden. He met with several officers at the Joseph Kershaw house, including Lord Francis Rawdon, and Banastre Tarleton. They were outnumbered by almost double, having around 2,200 men, yet they decided to take the offensive. Their plan was to march north out of Camden at 10:00 pm on August 15th, up the Great Wagon Road, hoping to surprise the Rebels.

Coincidentally, Gates planned a surprise attack on the British on the same night. His forces would leave Rugeley's plantation at 10:00 pm on August 15th, heading south down the Great Wagon Road. When the time came to set off, Gates fed his men a supper of cornbread, beef, and a gill of molasses, since they didn't have the proper rations of 'spirits'

for each man before the battle. This ended up being a bad idea, giving the soldiers diarrhea, and they kept breaking ranks all through the march.

Sometime around 2:30 am, the armies collided with each other about eight miles outside of Camden. They had a brief skirmish before breaking apart to gather themselves, neither side wishing to fight in the dead of night, taking advantage of the darkness. They prepared for battle. Gates positioned his army so his weakest force, the militia, was on the right flank, and his strongest, Baron de Kalb's Maryland and Delaware troops were on the left, a common British tactic at the time, but one that would spell disaster. Cornwallis used the same tactic with his troops, setting his strongest force against Gate's weakest.

As dawn began to brighten the horizon, the British advanced. The militia fled at the first bayonet charge, throwing down their weapons. The Virginia regiment fled so quickly they had only three casualties, and of the militia regiments present, only one, the North Carolina troops stationed next to the Delaware regiment, held their ground. The Maryland and Delaware troops held back two charges by Lord Rawdon, and nearly broke through his lines with a counterattack before Cornwallis reinforced him, boxing the Continentals in on three sides.

With the Rebels in a vulnerable position, Tarlton and his dragoons charged, finally breaking the American's line. They scattered, with Tarlton pursuing some as far as Hanging Rock before turning back. An early account of the battle, written by Charles Steadman, a Loyalist officer in the British army stated: 'The road for some miles was strewn with the wounded and killed who had been overtaken by the legion in their pursuit. The numbers of dead horses, broken wagons, and



Where the armies stumbled upon each other



TALES OF TIME GONE BY

with Madeleine Wenzel

baggage scattered on the road formed a perfect scene of horror and confusion: Arms, knapsacks, and accoutrements found were innumerable; such was the terror and dismay of the Americans.’

A hundred men, under the command of Brigadier General Mordecai Gist retreated into the swamp where the horses couldn’t follow, and 50-60 more under the leadership of Major Archibald Anderson, Lieutenant Colonel John Eager Howard, and Captain Robert Kirkwood managed to retreat in good order.

Baron de Kalb was unhorsed and wounded eleven times as he attempted to rally his troops, three by musket ball and eight by bayonet. He was captured by the British and held in Camden until his death on the 19th of August. Forty-five years later, in 1825, his friend, Lafayette, would lay the cornerstone to a monument over his grave.

Gates, who had been watching the battle from the rear, was swept away with the retreating militia, and after figuring out that he wouldn’t be able to regain order amongst his troops, retreated back to Rugeley’s plantation, and rode to Charlotte, North Carolina in the same day. On the 19th, he would arrive in Hillsborough, where he waited for the troops who had survived the battle to arrive. After his humiliating defeat, Gate’s reputation was shattered, and though he was allowed to rejoin the army again 1782, he would never again hold a field command.



The Great Wagon Road Trail



Statue of Baron de Kalb



Baron de Kalb's grave



The Joseph Kershaw house (3rd model, the original was burned by the British, rebuilt, then burned again by the Union army in the Civil war)



THE MONTH'S CALENDAR

AUGUST, 2023

| MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|------|--|--|
| 31st | 1st | 2nd  | 3rd  Watermelon Day | 4th | 5th | 6th |
| 7th | 8th Marketing Team zoom | 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th | 13th  Left-Handers Day |
| 14th | 15th | 16th | 17th | 18th | 19th | 20th |
| 21st | 22nd Marketing Team zoom | 23rd | 24th | 25th | 26th  Dog Appreciation Day | 27th |
| 28th  | 29th | 30th | 31st  | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |

Birthdays This Month

August 2: Madeleine's Birthday!!

Hip Hip Huzzah for Madeleine, author of *Beaumarchais 2022* and *Sir Henry Clinton 2023*! You can find her history-buffing contributions in *Tales of Times Gone By*, on page 12!

August 28: Mikayla's Birthday!!

Hip Hip Huzzah for Mikayla! She authored *Joseph Plumb Martin 2022* and *Baron de Steuben 2023*! Find out more about her on page 7!

August 31: Naomi's Birthday!!

Hip Hip Huzzah for Naomi! New to the EPC stage, she's expertly written *Edward Bancroft 2023*, which is a real page turner! She's been spotlighted on page 6!

Do YOU have something special in August or September? Let us know and we'll add it!



COVER REVEAL!

We've been waiting so long for this moment...and now it's finally here.

We've been asking, wondering, about this moment for what feels like centuries.

And now it feels surreal that the time has actually come for this to take place.

So, ladies and gentlemen, it is truly with the most great honour and privilege that I, your good friend and CEO of Next Steps, officially announce to you that the cover for the 2023 sequel to last year's novel has now been completed and is ready to share with the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, without further ado, I hereby present to yo—oh, what's the point, really?! We all know you've gone ahead and looked at the cover, haven't you? Perhaps I should have put the cover on the next page so you had to read this instead of just skipping and looking to the right of this intro.

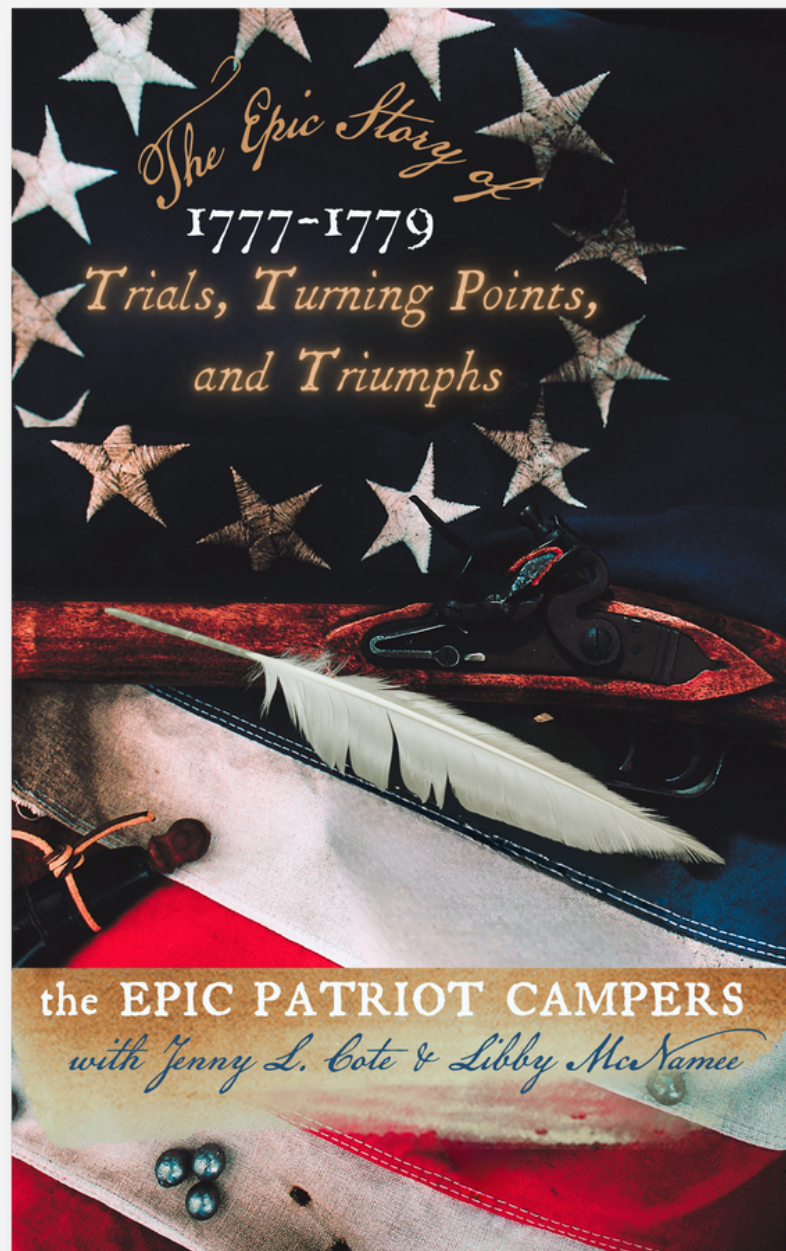
So allow me to at least give you a little more detail. Since May this year, the sequel to 2022's *The Epic Story of 1776* has been in progress. 26 writers from Epic Patriot Camp, spread across the USA (and me, in Australia!), have been working on researching and writing about 26 unique and influential people in the American Revolution.

With great excitement, the cover has now been completed and is ready to be shared with the world!

Ladies and gentlemen, loyalists and patriots—it is with great honour that I officially present to you and reveal the cover design for our newest book,

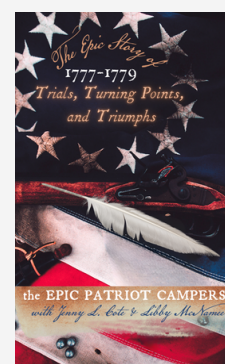
*The Epic Story of 1777-79:
Trials, Turning Points, and Triumphs!*

Hip Hip, **HUZZAH!!**



WOW, isn't this, this masterpiece truly incredible?! I say, our Jenny L. Cote and Libby McNamee really have outdone themselves on this one!

It looks utterly spectacular! The more I look at it, the more I just love it! This truly is a phenomenal cover design and work of art. Just seeing the copies of this adorning the shelves of a bookstore alongside our *Epic Story of 1776* could bring tears to my eyes. A huge, enormous thank you and HUZAH to both Jenny and Libby for this!!





ESPIONAGE DISCOVERY

All wars—including the American Revolution—are plagued with relentless espionage and reconnaissance. Unfortunately, the Spies of the Revolution have even managed to infiltrate this newsletter. Rumours tell that the iconic British spies, Shadow and Nimbus, have hidden themselves within our pages. As CEO, I am putting you on a mission to find them both in these newsletters. We must prevent their intel from reaching Great Britain!



The Battle of Long Island took place in August 1776. Also known as the Battle of Brooklyn, the redcoats claimed victory at the biggest battle in the American Revolution. The Patriots lost 2,200 men, whereas the Loyalists only lost 350. Surviving Patriots evacuated to Manhattan.

Either Shadow or Nimbus (occasionally both) is hiding in the above image. Next month their locations on the image will be revealed. Once you've found them, be sure to let us know with the email subject title "EPC Newsletter: Spies Found" to earn your name on the Winning List next month! You have until the **24th** of this month to submit your answer.

Double points if you find the Royal Spies symbol—an icon used to communicate between Shadow and Nimbus. Unfortunately, it is only known between them and King George III, so I cannot assist you in what it looks like. In fact, these are rumours only and it might not be in the image at all.



FINISH THE STORY

Finish-The-Story is always a fun game—the more added to it, the wackier it gets! It starts off with someone writing a sentence, phrase, or paragraph which ends in a cliffhanger. Then, the next person must continue the story, ending their part in a cliffhanger too. The more it progresses, the more these stories develop! Some of the campers created this one, and would like to share it with us. Each author of the story has a unique colour which indicates when the previous part ends and where they begin. Enjoy!

It was an ordinary day in the year 1776. General George Washington was walking around his army camp, considering his next move against the British.

“Greetings, my old friend,” came a voice from behind him.

Turning around, Washington saw his good friend Benjamin Franklin standing on the banks of the river, looking away and out at the water. “What a pleasure to see you, Dr. Franklin! What brings you here?” he asked.

Franklin turned to face Washington. “Well, I got the feeling that you may need some inspiration; something to inspire your next move.”

“Oh?” George cocked his head. “And what might that be?”

Benjamin Franklin lifted his walking stick and waved it in the air. “Something, a bit like this!” he chuckled with a wink before twirling it in a circular motion in the air.

Suddenly the world started to spin, and before Washington could think of it too much, everything came to a dead halt. The trees and river were gone. Washington was seated in a fancy leather chair facing a long wooden table in some sort of room, with Franklin sitting at the head. On the backrests of the chairs were names, such as King George III, William Howe, Louis XVI, and Lafayette. Washington looked behind his chair. George Washington. The end of the table was empty of chairs, but the wall behind it had a door. On the door was a date. The date was Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

George’s head spun. “Dr. Franklin?” He asked. “What happened?” He turned around to look for the good doctor, but sitting in Franklin’s chair was a young man with brown hair and green eyes, scribbling on a piece of paper.

George looked around, befuddled. “Who are you?” He asked. The boy didn’t seem to notice him, he was busy writing and mumbling to himself. Then George heard the creak of a door. He looked back around to see the door opening and a young lady walk in.

“Writing again, Christopher?” She asked, laughing. “Mind if I join you?”

The boy motioned to the seat with the label King George III. “Not at all, Bella. Come right in.” The lady walked right past Washington, not seeming to notice him. She too sat down, pulled out a teal notebook, and began writing.

George finally spoke up. “Excuse me, where are we?”

The boy, Christopher, glanced up, finally seeming to notice him. “Don’t you know, Olivia, we’re in the Writing Room.”

"Hello there my fellow writers!" A friendly voice from down the hall.

"PATTY!" The others cried out.

"Wait, " said George Washington... "What's on that young man's shirt? How come you aren't dressed in proper attire like the rest of us."

Patrick Henry, AKA Edan, replied "Ah, you see the thing is, George, you had a really big fall yesterday and haven't been remembering things correctly. Oh, by the way my shirt says 1776....Which was a year..."

Suddenly Bella jumped in front of him and yelled "...that nothing of importance happened!"

After she said that the room began to spin again for George Washington.



FINISH THE STORY

Suddenly George found himself staring at a small metal screen full of little boxes.

Suddenly, George heard a loud voice talking. "And that is why Banastre Tarleton..." The woman talking said the name Banastre Tarleton in the most expressive sneering way.

George interrupted. "Um excuse me ma'am. Did I hear you say Banastre Tarleton?"

The woman looked shocked at George's appearance at the Zoom meeting. "Yes, I did. Do you know him?" She asked tentatively.

"Why, I believe I've heard of him. But, my question is why are you on all of those small boxes?"

Another woman spoke up. "You are on the 47th annual Epic Patriot Camp Zoom meeting. I'm Libby and this is my friend Jenny."

"Greetings, Libby and Jenny, of small boxes," Washington greeted them. "It is an honour to meet you." His smile turned into a perplexed frown. "If I may ask, who is this 'Zoom' and why have they encased you in this thin luminescent briefcase?"

Libby laughed in seeing Washington's confusion. "Why, you are not from here, are you? General Washington, this all happened when you were in the year 1776, am I not mistaken?" Washington nodded.

"Well, then, it seems like this is a serious case of time travel!"

Libby 'diagnosed'. "You are in the year 2023, in which we can contact each other from many miles away within seconds! This is called a Zoom meeting. All the faces you see here are many miles away from each other, but we can all talk to each other easily thanks to this futuristic technology!"

"Interesting," Washington nodded in deep concentration.

But suddenly, the lady named Jenny leapt forward, out of the screen, and into the Writing Room, screaming, "FOR THE CHILDRENN!!!"

Washington looked at the lady across the desk, wide-eyed at what he just saw.

"General Washington," Jenny said. "I am Jenny L. Cote and I am your biggest fan. We have the power to do whatever we like, just by simply yelling, "FOR THE CHILDREN!" and thinking of what we want to do." Jenny took a bow.

"Fascinating!" George Washington commented with a snicker.

"Gemma, look out!!" Jenny cried, pointing to a girl whose Zoom name was William Howe. With a scream of "FOR THE CHILDREN!!", George Washington had leapt into Gemma's box and behind her chair.

Unfortunately for him, he had somehow been transported into the exact place an item of her clothing was, meaning he ended up wearing a hoopskirt.

And everyone else in the zoom meeting knew that Gemma/William Howe was the world's best hoopskirt-tackler.

Gemma jumped out of her chair and quickly went into a karate pose. "Don't worry," she said, "I know nothing about karate."

"About what?" George asked when suddenly, there was a great yell of "FOR THE CHILDREN!!!!" and six more kids leapt into the box. Gemma dropped out of her pose and looked around at the others. "Well, guys, welcome to my room. While you're here, look at the window and you can see the Washington Monument."

"What? Really?" All the kids crowded around the window, oohing and aaaahing.

"Excuse me," George said, "but did you just say the 'Washington' monument?"

One of the kids nodded. "Yeah, it's an obelisk built in your honor and named after you."

"After me???" George was baffled.





FINISH THE STORY

"Yeah, you see you are one of history's biggest heroes, George." Gemma started. "I'm not sure how you time traveled all the way to 2023, but while you're here, why don't I give you a tour of our nation's capital... named after you...WASHINGTON D.C.!"

"Alright, I might as well!" Washington replied.

Gemma and the rest of the children who jumped through the screen hurried around D.C. showing Washington the various landmarks. He definitely had some trouble understanding the Lincoln Memorial and who that was for, and when they visited the Jefferson Memorial... he thought he was actually going to visit his pal Thomas!

Right as they concluded their tour, Gemma got a phone call. It was from the White House! Apparently the only way to get George back to 1700's, was to have him yell "IT'S FOR THE CHILDREN" in front of his official presidential portrait (the same one that Dolley Madison saved!).

There was just one problem....Washington didn't want to return to the past. After he explained as much to them all, Bella spoke up. "But Mr. Time-Traveling-Not-Yet-President-Doesn't-Even-Know-He's-The-Father-Of-Our-Nation, George Washington, you have to go back! It's a matter of national protection!"

George Washington shook his head firmly. "No." He stood up from the steps of the Capitol building where they were all sitting. Motioning around to Washington D.C., he continued. "I like this town! It's so...futuristic!"

All of the children groaned. They reluctantly got up and followed George down the steps, and across the lawn to the curb. Suddenly Bella had an idea. She whispered her idea to Gemma, who in turn whispered it to Christopher, who whispered it to Edan. After hearing the message, a very confused expression came upon Edan's face. "Jenny ate 47 purple watermelon-wielding monkeys in Barbados yesterday?!"

They all laughed, and then retold the correct message to him. He then agreed, and they quickly set into action. Edan whipped out a strip of cloth and speedily they all tied the blindfold around George's eyes. Gemma hailed a cab, and they all piled in. Bella quietly told the driver where they wanted to go. "National Portrait Gallery, please!" Once there they all got out and ushered George in and down the various halls until they came to the original portrait of George Washington. Bella turned George toward the portrait. "George, what was the phrase that Jenny said when you first met her?"

"Well, ma'am, I believe it was...'It's For The Children!'" Suddenly, the room around him began to swirl and morph. Gemma quickly unblindfolded George, and then all apologized profusely for the deception but as a matter of national security they had to send him back. Finally after a final thanks for the wonderful time, the Father of Our Nation, George Washington safely portaled back to the 1700's.

"Phew!" Christopher said.

"What an adventure." Edan remarked.

"Really it's just another day in the life of Epic Patriot Campers!" Gemma smiled, and together they all yelled, "IT'S FOR THE CHILDREN!"





THE PATRIOT TIMES

THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!

Huzzah! That's all for this month's edition of *The Patriot Times*. I hope you've enjoyed it! From meeting the campers to a missing statue to the Battle of Camden to a time-travelling president, what's not to love about this wacky yet absolutely epic newsletter?!

Join us next time as we embark on a new adventure and discover more about history, writing, the Epic Patriot Campers, and so much more!

Until then, keep writing!

~ Christopher J. Watt

CEO | Next Steps- Epic Patriot Camp 2023

We value your honest feedback, the good and the not-so-good. Let us know if you've noticed an issue, or just want to comment on an article you thought was fun so we can make *The Patriot Times* as epic as we possibly can!



www.forms.google.com

Find out more about the campers!



www.epicorderoftheseven.net



www.libbymcnamee.com



www.christopherjwattauthor.com



www.bellaraine.com



EPIC PATRIOT CAMP WRITING CONTEST!

Are you a camper and you miss the EPC writing?? Look no further! *The Patriot Times* is hosting an EPC Writing Contest! If you want to participate, here's what you need to know.

Using the chosen theme, write a fictional story between 500-1000 words. It can follow any outline you like and its ending is totally up to you!

Email your final submissions to Christopher by **August 25** and your story will be included in the September issue of *The Patriot Times*. Submissions must include your name, age, and a title for your writing. Stories will be presented **anonymously** in the newsletter.

Campers will get to vote for whoever's story they liked the most. The winner and author of the winning story will be revealed in the October issue.

What do I write about?

Your theme is *A Narrow Escape*. You may incorporate this into whatever kind of story you like. Consider things like *What (or whom) is my character escaping from?* and *Why are they escaping?* *How are they escaping?* As long as it's a narrow escape between 500-1000 words, the pen is on your page! Go wild!

I can't wait to read the submissions! HUZDAH!

**There is no prize for winning the competition, simply the fact you wrote something and everyone enjoyed reading it*



THE PATRIOT TIMES

NEXT MONTH!



RISE OF THE EPIC STORY

It's been an entire year since The Epic Story of 1776 was published...let's take a moment to reflect on this past year and our journey as authors, new and old!

ALSO...

Writer Interview!



EPC Writing Contest!



Book Reviews!



AND MORE, AS ALWAYS!

COMING SEPTEMBER 1ST!*

*Publication date may change