

National History Day Topic: The Great Awakening and the American Revolution

Developed by: Betty Johnson

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Primary Source #1



Image Title: A View of Fort George with the City of New York Engraving by I. Carwithan, c. 1730

Geography & Map Division, Library of Congress

Creator: Engraving by I. Carwithan, c. 1730

Date Created/Published: c. 1730

Persistent URL:

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/pgs/item/98507541/>

Primary Source # 2



Image Title: Prospect of the City of New York

Creator: Woodcut from Hugh Gaine, New York Almanac, 1771. Copyprint The American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts

Persistent URL:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/i49umaxs.jpg>

The growth of the American church in the eighteenth century can be illustrated by changes in city skylines over the course of the century. These two views of New York City in 1730 and 1771 display the increased number of the city's churches. Clearly discernible in the 1730 engraving are (from left to right) the spires of Trinity Church (Anglican), the Lutheran Church, the "new" Dutch Reformed Church, the French Protestant Church (Huguenots), City Hall, the "old" Dutch Reformed Church, the Secretary's Office and the church in Fort George.

Introduction:

In the late 1600s, England had a complete change of thinking when the Church of England became the established religion. The order of worship led some worshipers to complacency, and they sought other ways to keep alive spiritually, including worshipping with emotion. Religious groups and denominations outside of the Church of England were suppressed. After decades of this status quo, the Wesley Brothers Charles and John, and George Whitefield, began to preach with fervor first in England, then in the colonies of America. There are several ways the Great Awakening led to the American Revolution. The first is that the preachers were boldly proclaiming the Word of God, and being open to changes, in preaching style and location.

Other ways the Great Awakening brought forth the American Revolution includes:

The first event all the colonies experienced together-started in New England, and during the

course of the Awakening, missionaries were sent to the South.

Humbler colonists began to question betters and grew to not respect them.

Path to God was from God to ruler to individual, after Great Awakening path was from God to individual, then to ruler.

Instead of one Church of England, the colonies had many different denominations.

Emphasis was on the personal relationship with God

Guiding Historical Question

Did the Great Awakening of the early 1700s bring about the American Revolution?

Additional Primary Sources



Primary Source #3

Title: Portable Field Pulpit

Creator: American Tract Society

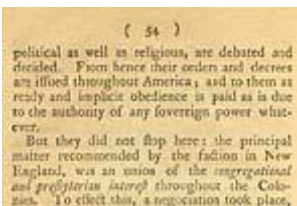
Date Created/Published: c. 1742-1770

Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/rel02.html>

Summary: Preaching in the Field

George Whitefield used this collapsible field pulpit for open-air preaching because the doors of many churches were closed to him. The first recorded use of the pulpit was at Moorsfield, England, April 9, 1742, where Whitefield preached to a crowd estimated at "twenty or thirty thousand people."

Members of the audience who had come to the park for more frivolous pursuits showered the evangelist with "stones, rotten eggs and pieces of dead cat" Nothing daunted, and he won many converts. It is estimated that Whitefield preached two thousand sermons from his field pulpit.



Primary Source #4

Title: [Historical and Political Reflections on the Rise and Progress of the American Rebellion \[page 54\] - \[page 55\]](#)

Creator: Joseph Galloway, London: G. Wilkie

Date Created/Published: 1780

Persistent URL:

Page 54 <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/vc006771.jpg>

Page 55 <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/vc006772.jpg>



Primary Source #5

Title: The Marks of the New Birth. A Sermon. . . .

Creator: George Whitefield

Date Created/Published: 1739

Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/vc006411.jpg>

Summary: The "new birth," prescribed by Christ for Nicodemus (John 3:1-8), was the term evangelicalism used for the conversion experience. For George Whitefield and other evangelical preachers the new birth was essential to Christian life, even though, as Whitefield admitted, "how this glorious Change is wrought in the Soul cannot easily be explained."

Secondary Sources:

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/eighteen/ekeyinfo/grawaken.>

<http://www.great-awakening.com/>

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/first-great-awakening>