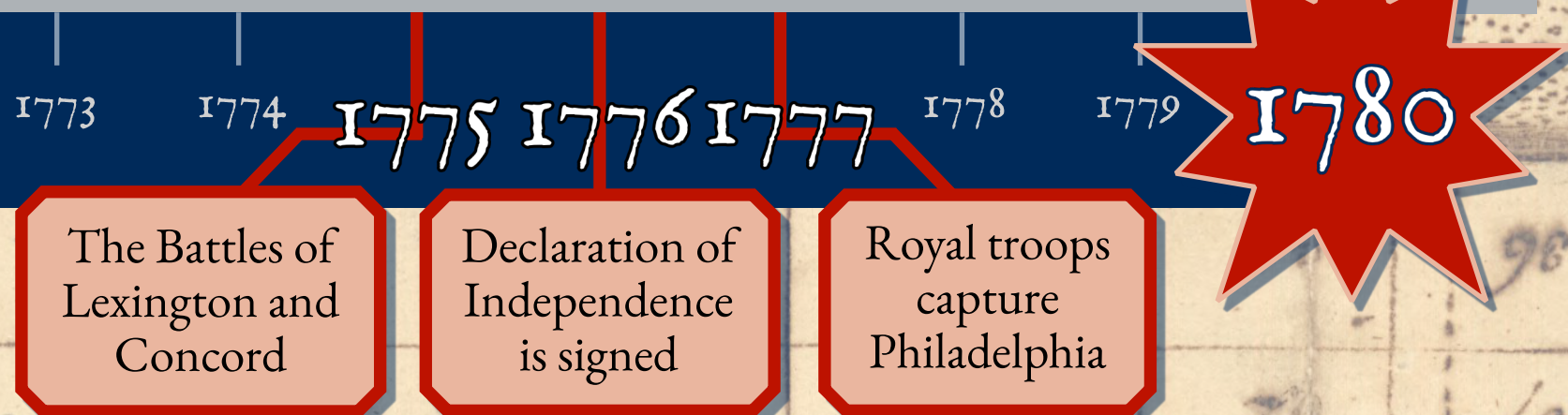


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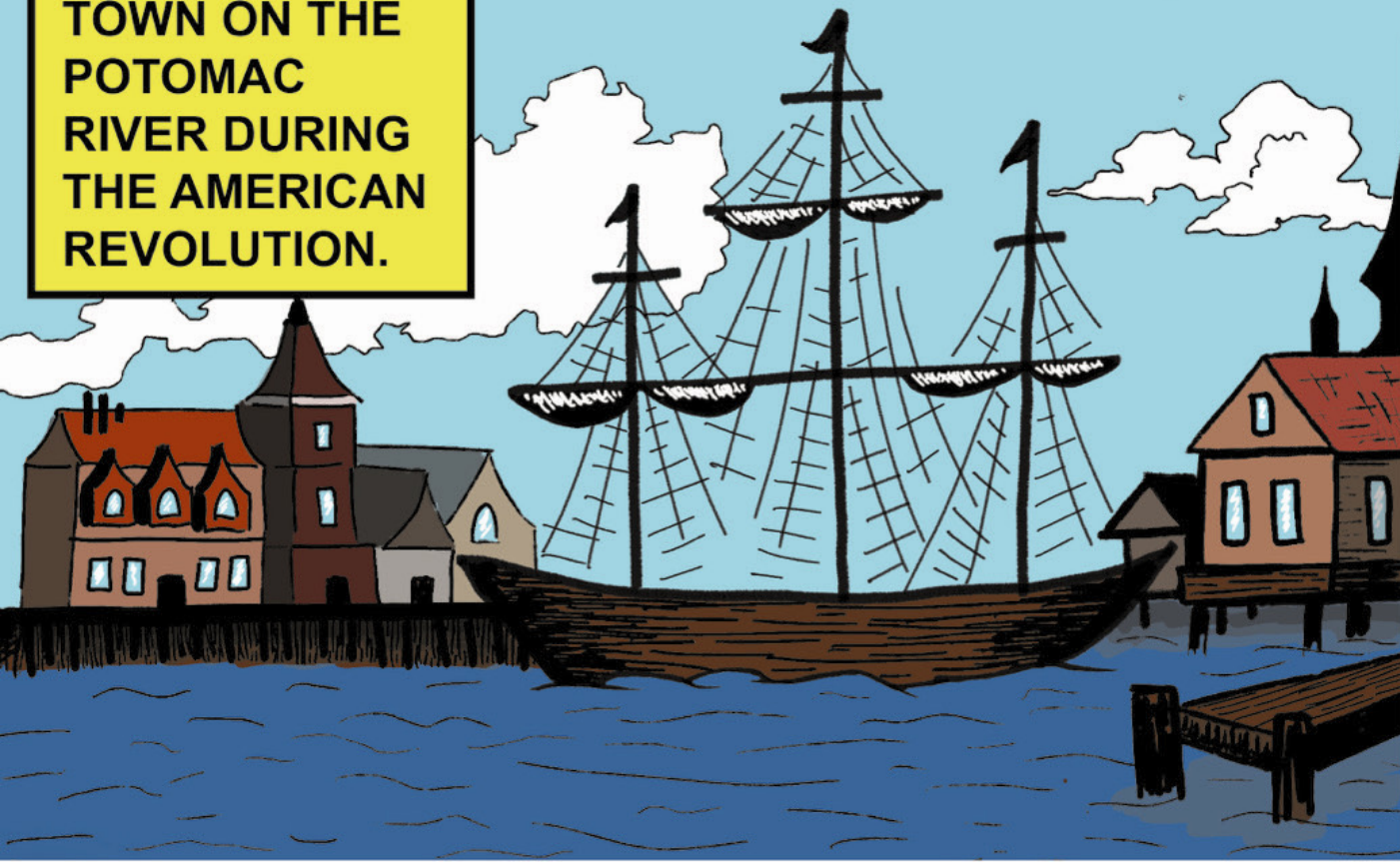
ANN MCCARTY RAMSEY, FUNDRAISER FOR THE REVOLUTION

By Taylor Myers

Ann McCarty Ramsay, wife of a successful Scot trading merchant in northern Virginia, travels across Alexandria and Fairfax County to gather donations from her neighbors to support the Patriot troops who have been fighting the war in a constant state of need for clothing and weapons.



ALEXANDRIA,
VIRGINIA WAS A
BUSY PORT
TOWN ON THE
POTOMAC
RIVER DURING
THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION.



IN ANN RAMSAY'S
STORE, MERCHANTS
AND TOWNSPEOPLE
BOUGHT GOODS FROM
ALL AROUND.

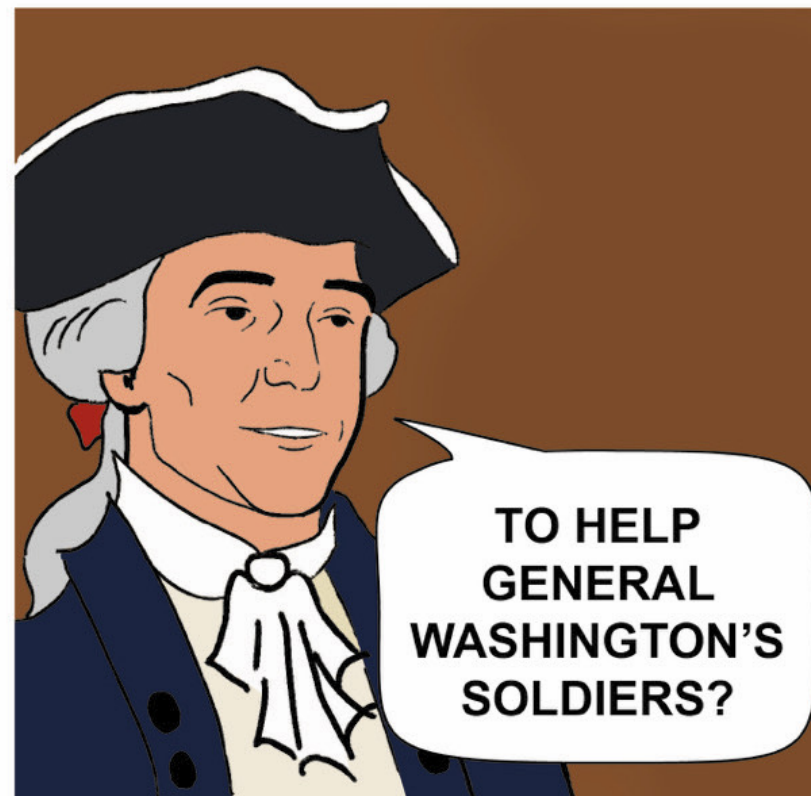


BUT ANN SOLD
SOMETHING ELSE,
SHE SOLD THE HOPE
OF INDEPENDENCE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO
DONATE A LITTLE
EXTRA TO HELP THE
CONTINENTAL ARMY?



TO HELP
GENERAL
WASHINGTON'S
SOLDIERS?



EVERY
COIN CAN
HELP OUR
CAUSE.



USING HER STORE, HER FRIENDS, AND HER COUSIN'S CAUSE, ANN RAMSAY TRAVELED THROUGHOUT ALEXANDRIA AND FAIRFAX COUNTY ASKING FOR DONATIONS.



BY 1780, ANN HAD COLLECTED MORE THAN \$75,000 FOR THE WAR EFFORT. THAT'S WORTH OVER \$1.5 MILLION TODAY!

THE MONEY HELPED GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, WHO OFTEN HAD TO FIGHT WITHOUT ENOUGH FOOD, CLOTHING, OR SUPPLIES.

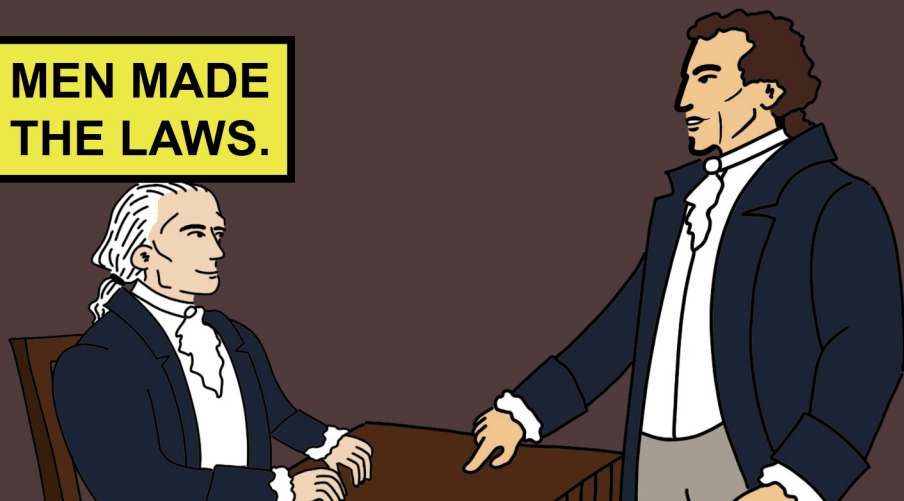


SOME DONATIONS WERE USED TO CLOTHE AND SUPPLY THE SOLDIERS.



IN THE 1700's, WOMEN HAD VERY LITTLE POLITICAL POWER OR LEGAL RIGHTS.

MEN MADE THE LAWS.



BUT WOMEN STILL WORKED HARD TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COUNTRY.



ANN RAMSAY MANAGED ACCOUNTS, WROTE LETTERS, AND USED HER HUSBAND'S BUSINESS AND POLITICAL CONNECTIONS TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE REVOLUTION.



ACROSS THE COLONIES, OTHER WOMEN ALSO TOOK ACTION.



IN PHILADELPHIA, THE LADIES ASSOCIATION RAISED MONEY TO MAKE SHIRTS FOR THE ARMY.

OVER \$300,000 IN LESS THAN A MONTH.

ANN STAYED IN TOUCH WITH MANY PATRIOT FAMILIES, INCLUDING MARTHA WASHINGTON AND ELIZABETH RAMSAY, HER DAUGHTER. THEY SHARED LETTERS AND SUPPORTED EACH OTHER.

MARTHA WASHINGTON



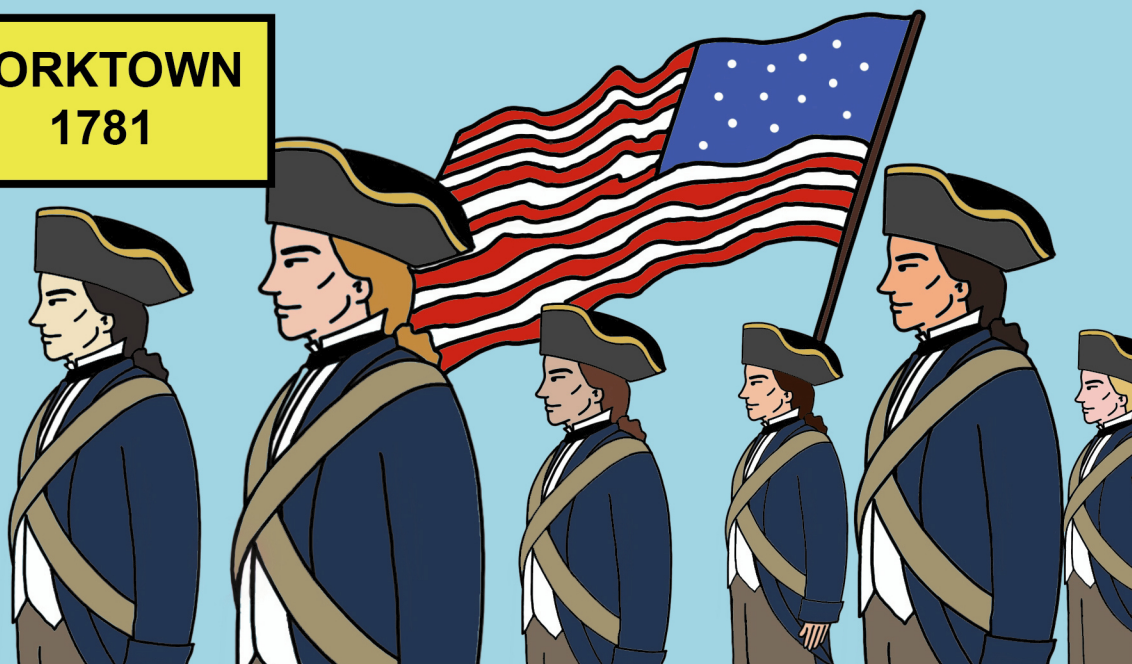
ANN RAMSAY



ELIZABETH RAMSAY



**YORKTOWN
1781**



ANN RAMSAY DID NOT LIVE LONG TO ENJOY THE PEACE SHE HAD HELPED CREATE.

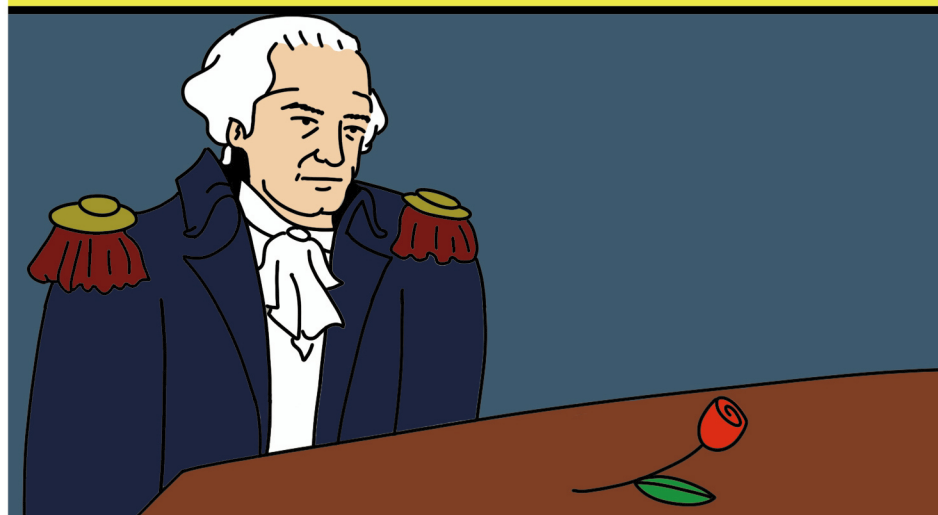


SHE DIED ON APRIL 2, 1785, AT THE AGE OF 55.

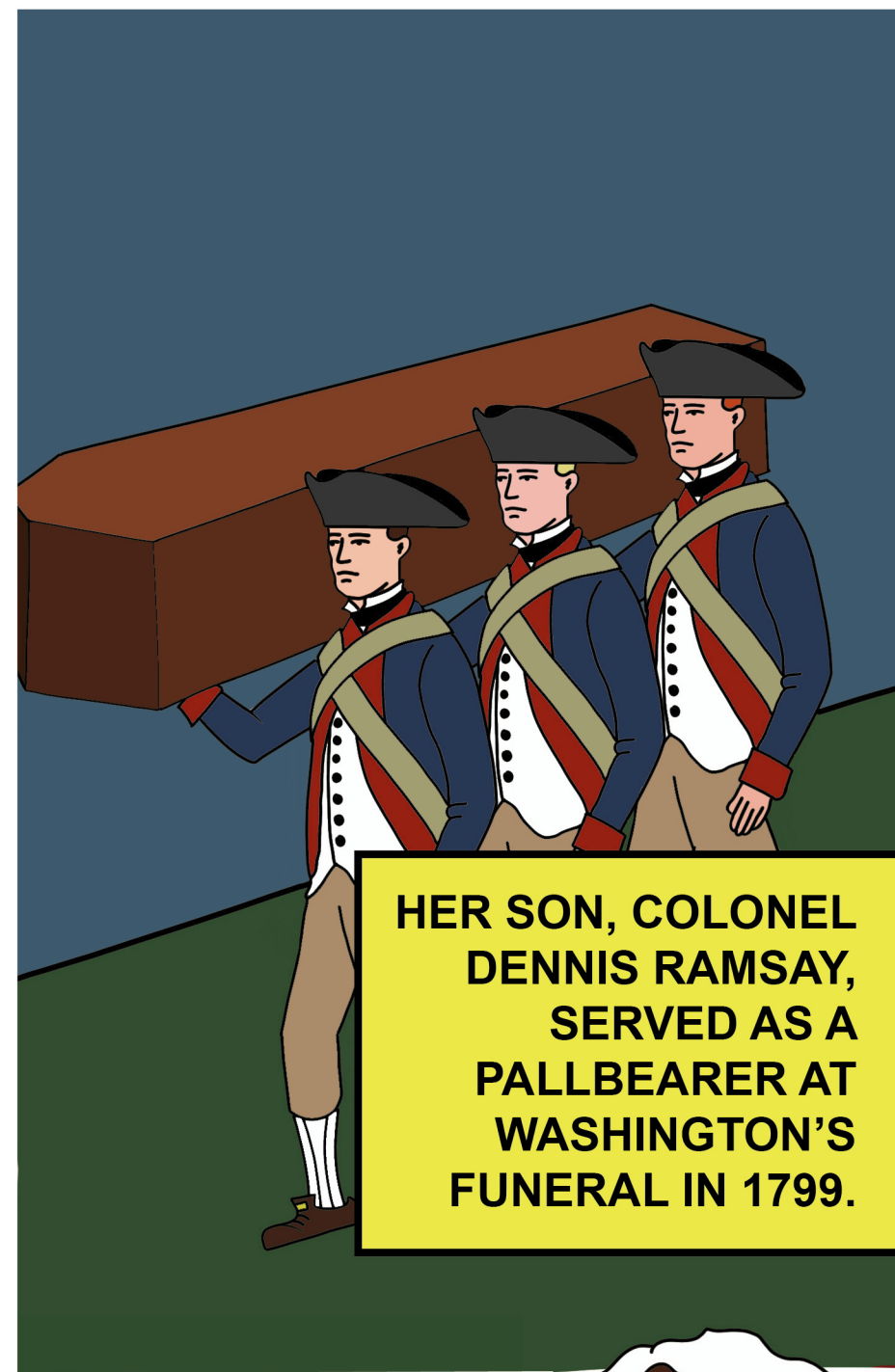
Alexandria Gazette April 4, 1785

The amiable character of this lady exemplified in her conduct as a wife, a mother, and a neighbour, as it procured her through life the general esteem and affection of all who knew her, will render her loss long regretted not only by her near relations.

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON ATTENDED HER FUNERAL.



HER SON, COLONEL DENNIS RAMSAY, SERVED AS A PALLBEARER AT WASHINGTON'S FUNERAL IN 1799.



ANN RAMSAY MAY NOT BE AS WELL KNOWN AS SOME FOUNDING FATHERS, BUT HER COURAGE, GENEROSITY, AND DEDICATION HELPED WIN OUR FREEDOM. HER STORY REMINDS US THAT EVERY PERSON, MAN OR WOMAN, CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT FOR LIBERTY.

**THANK YOU,
ANN RAMSAY!**



Questions to Consider

1. What was the most important point of this chapter?
2. Ann McCarty Ramsay was from Alexandria. Where is that in relation to your home?
3. Why did the Patriot military need the money that Ann McCarty Ramsay raised?
4. How do governments raise money for the military today?

Learn More

-  “Freedom isn't free. Ann McCarty Ramsay helped raise the money for the revolution,” by Emily Hemphill, Cardinal News