

The American Revolution & Cumberland County

Learning Objectives

- Learn how Cumberland County participated in the American Revolution.
- Analyze primary sources and discuss the motives individuals had for choosing a side.

Background

In June 1775, 55 Cumberland County men signed the “Cumberland Association,” a Revolutionary War-era document also known as the “Liberty Point Resolves,” pledging to support the First Continental Congress against British tyranny. This action helped lead to the American Revolution, which ultimately resulted in America’s independence.

In the meantime, Cumberland County was divided over the issue of independence, and Patriots and Loyalists fought each other throughout the war.

Discussion Questions

- Two signers of the Liberty Point Resolves later joined the Loyalists. Why may they have done so? What motivations might have influenced an individual’s choice of side?
- Robert Rowan, a leading Patriot, was accused of being a Loyalist during the war. How did he defend himself? Why may people have accused one another of disloyalty?

Dig Deeper

- Visit the Cumberland Association monument in downtown Fayetteville.
- Read the Colonial and State Records of North Carolina to see how the war played out within the state. Focus specifically on Cumberland County individuals such as Robert Rowan and Patrick Travers.

Resources

- “[America 250 NC](#),” Cumberland County Public Library.
- “[Cumberland Association](#),” in the [Cumberland Association Papers](#), No. 02075-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Rowan, Robert. “[Letter from Robert Rowan to Richard Caswell](#),” Sept. 18, 1777, *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* 11:626–631.