

IT'S REVOLUTIONARY*



When is a tea caddy not a tea caddy?

When it signals defiance.

This tea caddy, passed down in Penelope Barker's family, evokes the 1774 **Edenton** Tea Party, which was not an actual tea party. Instead, Barker and 50 women signed resolves supporting a boycott of imported British goods. This marked one of America's earliest organized political actions by women.



What does this key unlock?

Independence.

Reportedly this key opened the building in **Halifax** where the Fourth Provincial Congress approved the Halifax Resolves on April 12, 1776. The Resolves instructed the colony's delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia to vote for "independency," making North Carolina the first colony to officially call for freedom from Great Britain.

What kind of victory?

A pyrrhic victory.

When victory costs more than defeat. Exhausted after chasing American forces across the state, British troops fought Nathanael Greene's Americans near **Guilford Courthouse**, where the Patriot defensive strategy inflicted heavy British losses. The British victory came at a devastating cost.



Whose gravestone?

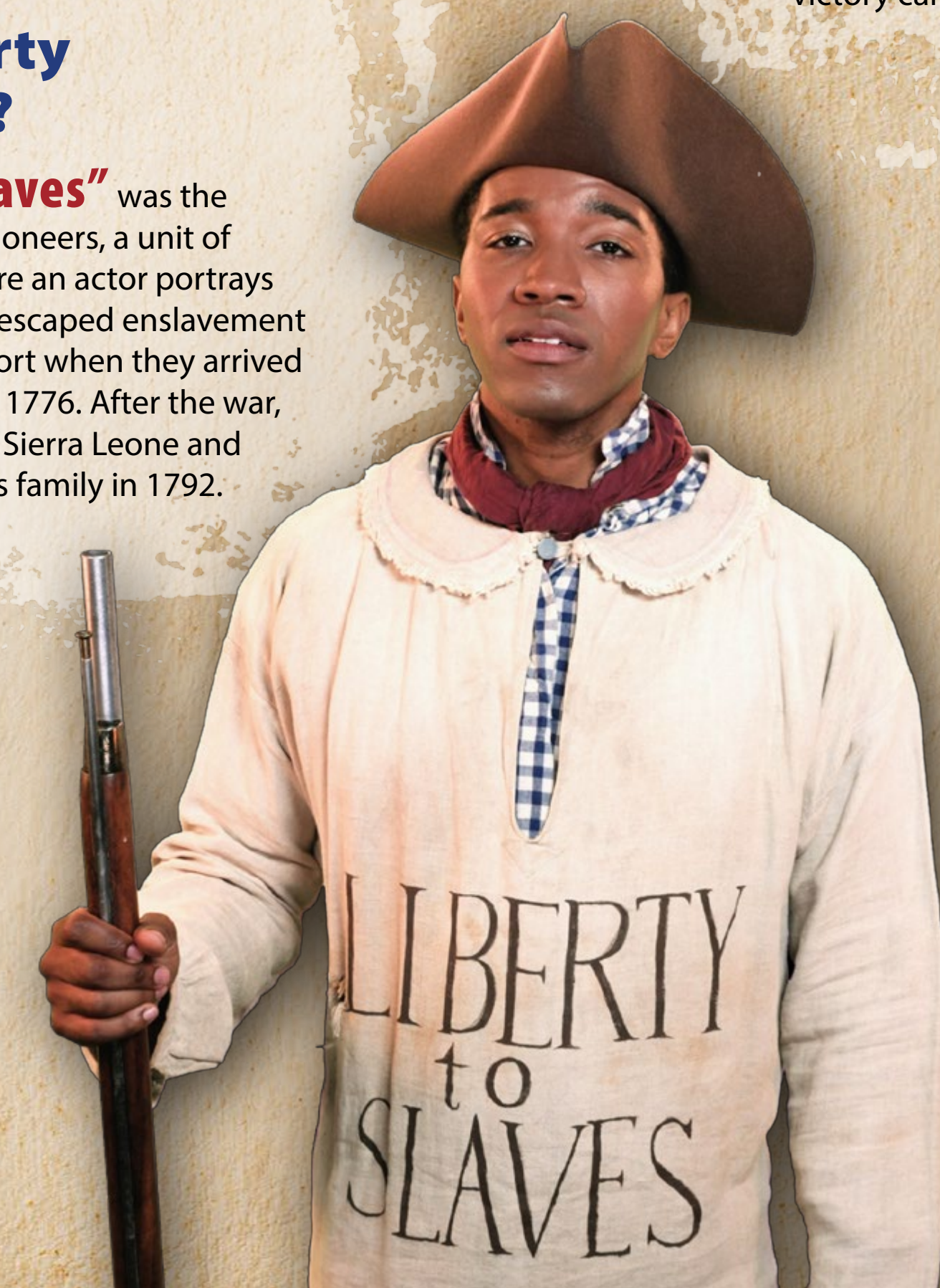
The "Sam Adams of the South."

Likened to the founder of the Sons of Liberty, Cape Fear merchant and enslaver, Cornelius Harnett Jr. was an active Patriot. Harnett helped burn Fort Johnston in 1775, contributed to the Halifax Resolves, and served in the Continental Congress. **Harnett County** is named for him.



Why "Liberty to Slaves"?

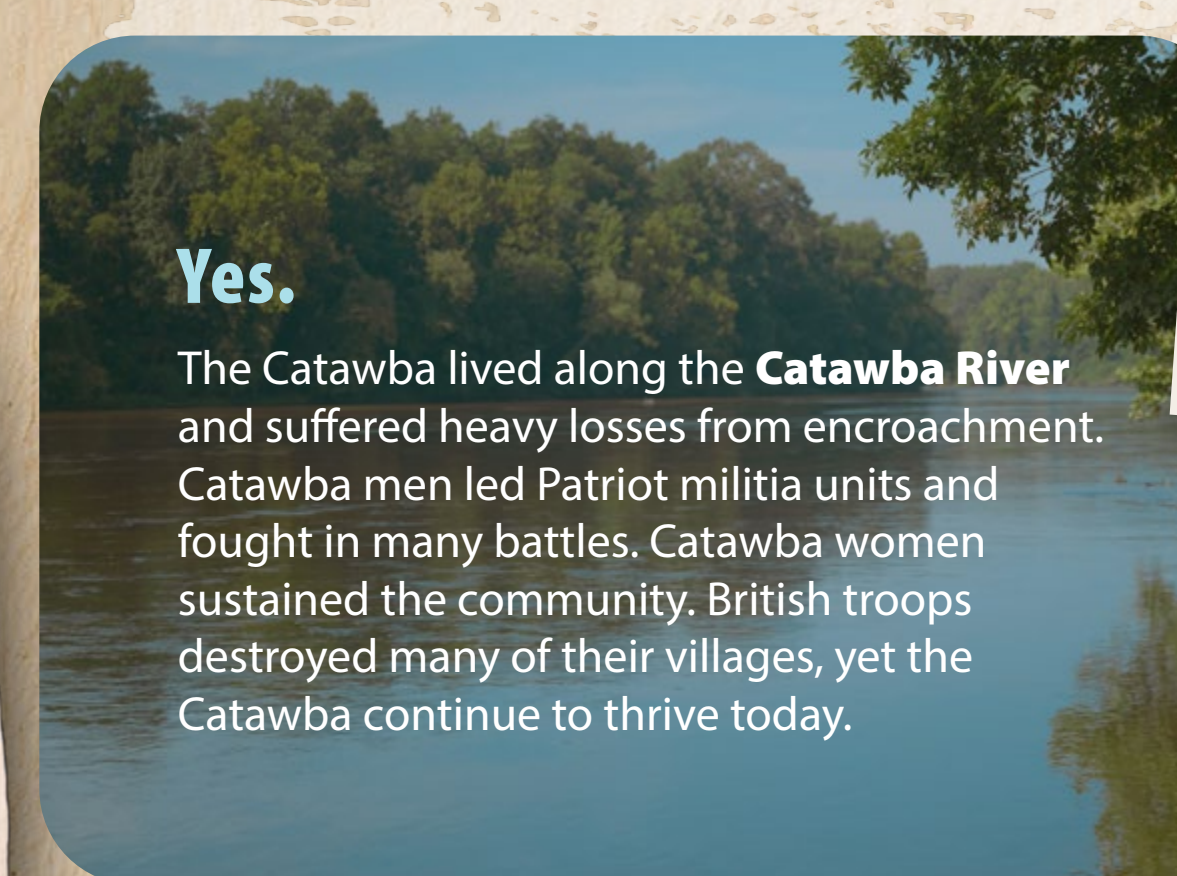
"Liberty to Slaves" was the motto of the Black Pioneers, a unit of freedom seekers. Here an actor portrays Thomas Peters, who escaped enslavement to join the British effort when they arrived near **Wilmington** in 1776. After the war, Peters helped found Sierra Leone and moved there with his family in 1792.



Did American Indians support the Revolution?

Yes.

The Catawba lived along the **Catawba River** and suffered heavy losses from encroachment. Catawba men led Patriot militia units and fought in many battles. Catawba women sustained the community. British troops destroyed many of their villages, yet the Catawba continue to thrive today.



And no.

The Cherokee generally sided with the British, hoping to end unlawful encroachment. In 1776, responding to Cherokee attacks against colonizers, Patriot militia destroyed **Nikwasi**, now the site of **Franklin**, and other Cherokee villages, causing great devastation. The Cherokee persevered and remain.



What did they shout?

"King George and Broadwords!"

cried Scottish Highlanders when they crossed **Moores Creek Bridge** with Loyalist militia to battle Patriots on February 27, 1776. The Patriots stopped Loyalists from reaching Wilmington and British troops, ending British plans for a quick Southern victory.



Image credits: All images courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History unless otherwise noted. Portrait of Nathanael Greene: Independence National Historical Park, National Park Service. Cherokee burial mound: State Archives of North Carolina. Cornelius Harnett signature: New York Public Library.

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