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Georgia's Role in the Revolutionary War

The colonists that occupied Georgia had to decide who they would support in the Revolutionary War, and many were torn. Some people easily and swiftly picked a side, while others struggled to pick a side. There were three groups in Georgia during the war: the Loyalists, Patriots, and those that remained neutral. **Neutral** means that they didn't pick a side to support in any way during the war. This was mainly for religious reasons, and they just wanted a government that would leave them alone and not interfere with their religious practices. The **Loyalists** were firm supporters of Britain, while the **Patriots** supported total independence from Britain and the unfair treatment.

There were more Loyalists in the colony of Georgia than there were Patriots. Many people in Georgia prospered under British rule economically, but it was a complex, difficult situation. While most of the events that led to the Revolution happened outside of Georgia, the news still reached the colony. In July of 1774, a group organized to recruit more Patriots in the Georgia colony at **Tondee's Tavern**. The Patriots were frustrated about the Stamp Act of 1765 and the Intolerable Acts. The Stamp Act placed a tax on many everyday items that the colonists believed were unfair. The Intolerable Acts were a response to the Boston Tea Party. The British would quickly take over control of cities in Georgia, such as Savannah and Augusta. The Patriots in Georgia were heavily outnumbered and had limited resources and weapons in comparison to the British. However, the Patriots would remain in control of some of the more remote, distant, and rural areas of the colony of Georgia.

The **Battle of Kettle Creek** occurred in February of 1779. While it was not a major or significant battle in the Revolutionary War, it boosted the Patriots' confidence and morale in Georgia. The battle was fought in Wilkes County in the colony of Georgia. The Patriots were able to scatter and defeat a Loyalist group traveling to Augusta, Georgia. The Patriots were led by Elijah Clarke and Thomas Dooley and were outnumbered. This battle proved that the Patriots of Georgia could have victories against the Loyalists in the rural backcountry of Georgia.

The **Siege of Savannah** happened in 1779. The city was quickly and firmly captured and held strongly by the British. The Patriots attempted to take over the city from them. This was a joint venture between the French and the Patriots. A **joint venture** is when two groups try to work together for a common goal—in this case, taking the city of Savannah back. The attempt to overtake the British was a major failure. After five grueling days of attempting to overtake the city, very little progress had happened. The Patriots lost drastically more people than the British in this attempt. The Patriots would eventually abandon the attempt. **Jasper Williams** was killed while attacking a British position. He, and several others from the Siege of Savannah, would be considered American heroes across the nation.