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What does Mel Gibson have to do with the Patriots and the Swamp Fox? The filming of *The Patriot* was taped at Brattonsville, SC, which was founded in 1774.

Colonial Brattonsville features 29 historic structures, including slave homes. Initially all the homes were built out of logs, but by 1820 the homes were being built with bricks, including some of the slave houses. The Brattonsville plantation had 775-acres, most of which grew cotton. The Homestead House was used in the filming of the *The Patriot*.

A Revolutionary-War battle, called the Battle of Huck's Defeat (a revolutionary war skirmish), is recreated near its original battlefield site in Brattonsville in July every year. It is an intriguing story of how ruthless the British

could be in trying to find the rebels fighting against them.

South Carolina, in 1774, had more total wealth than many of the countries in the world have today. Of the top-ten wealthiest men in British North America, in 1774, numbers three through ten were all from South Carolina. Although the economic wealth influenced the entire region, South Carolina did have its fair share of poor people. However, there was true assistance for those who were truly poor due to no fault of their own, but little sympathy for those who were poor due to failing economically.

South Carolina faced fifty-nine major epidemics between the years of 1670-1775, including yellow fever, smallpox, and influenza. The largest number of deaths from diseases happened between August and November.

In December 1759, the Cherokee population came down with smallpox and gave it to the governor's soldiers who brought it back to Charleston. Of the eight thousand people living in Charleston, it is believed that six thousand caught the disease and over seven hundred died. In the Cherokee population, nearly one-third died, and in the Catawba population nearly two-thirds died. The Catawba population lost nearly nine-tenths of their population due to the arrival of the Europeans—and their diseases—by the end of the seventeenth century.

South Carolina was also hit by two hurricanes in September of 1752 which did major damage and also killed over twenty-eight people.

In February of 1747, the weather turned so cold, that journals from the time recorded birds falling from the skies, dead due to the cold.

The mortality rate was very high for women giving birth and for children during this time period.

Footnotes:

1) Unknown, South Carolina Plantations, SCIWAY.net, , Jun/12/2015, Jun/12/2015,

<http://south-carolina-plantations.com/york/brattonsville.html>

2) Unknown, Culture and Heritage Museum, Cultural and Heritage Museum , Jun/12/2015, Jun/12/2015,

<http://chmuseums.org/battle-of-hucks-defeat-hb/>

3) Duffy, John, Yellow Fever in Colonial Charleston , South Carolina Historical Society, Jun/12/2015, Jun/12/2015,

http://www.jstor.org/stable/27571297?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

4) Krebsbach, Suzanne , The Great Charlestown Smallpox Epidemic of 1760, The South Carolina Historical Magazine, Jun/12/1996, Jun/12/2015, http://www.jstor.org/stable/27570134?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

5) Tice, Joyce M. , Epidemics and Pandemics in the U.S. , <http://www.joycetice.com/articles/epidemics.htm>, Dec/17/2004, Jun/12/2015, <http://www.joycetice.com/articles/epidemics.htm>

6) Unknown, Historic Brattonsville, Culture and Heritage Museum, Dec/31/1969, Jun/20/2015, <http://chmuseums.org/history-hb/>

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/The-Patriot-Movie-and-Conditions-of-Colonial-Life-South-Carolina-History>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/The-Patriot-Movie-and-Conditions-of-Colonial-Life-South-Carolina-History>

Media Stream



Rainbow Row

Julie Freeland

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