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In the spring of 1778, Thaddeus was commissioned by General George Washington to re-engineer and fortify the defenses at the very important American fort located at West Point, New York. Washington asked Thaddeus to build new military ramparts at this location to defend its position on the Hudson River.

West Point (now the United States Military Academy) is still regarded as impossible to penetrate.

Washington was so pleased by Thaddeus' contributions, he sent him to Virginia to work with General Nathanael Greene, who immediately named Thaddeus as his chief engineer. Thaddeus spent his time locating positions for camps, scouting river crossings, fortifying positions, and developing many intelligence contacts. He received high praise for his efforts, especially when British General Cornwallis had chased the Continental Army across 200 miles of wilderness in 1781.

Thanks to the foresight of Thaddeus' scouting of the rivers, the Continentals safely crossed the Dan River ahead of the British troops. Because the British had no boats, they had no way to cross the river.

It was during this conflict that Thaddeus selected the site where the Continental Army would eventually return to fight Cornwallis at Guilford Courthouse where the Americans defeated the British and gained permanent advantage in the war. During this battle, Thaddeus suffered the only wound he would suffer during the Revolutionary War when he was bayoneted.

After he recovered, he began to do more intelligence work in South Carolina. He was promoted to Brigadier General. He commanded several cavalry squadrons and an artillery unit. He commanded American troops in what is known now as the last battle of the Continental Army at James Island, South Carolina. He then spent the rest of the war in Charleston, South Carolina where he organized a huge fireworks display to celebrate the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Chapter-5-West-Point-Thaddeus-Kosciuszko-Hero-of-the-American-Revolution)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Chapter-5-West-Point-Thaddeus-Kosciuszko-Hero-of-the-American-Revolution>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Chapter-5-West-Point-Thaddeus-Kosciuszko-Hero-of-the-American-Revolution)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Chapter-5-West-Point-Thaddeus-Kosciuszko-Hero-of-the-American-Revolution>

Media Stream



Thaddeus Kosciuszko

Polski Radio

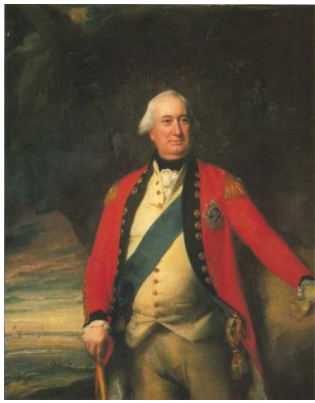
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Thaddeus-Kosciuszko>



West Point

Images and information, U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/West-Point>



Cornwallis - British Commander During the American Revolution

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

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Battle of Guilford Courthouse

Painting by H. Charles McBarron for *Soldiers of the American Revolution*. Image, U.S. Army Center for Military History.

Information and quotes from the National Park Service, Guilford Courthouse web site.

PD

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Treaty of Paris, Granting American Independence

On September 3, 1783—about two years after the actual fighting ceased—America’s Revolution officially ends when Britain and the American Colonies sign the Treaty of Paris.

This image depicts a duplicate original of the document ending hostilities between the “mother country” and her colonies. It also officially recognizes America as an independent nation and allows for the newly formed country to continue its westward expansion.

This key document, in America’s history, is maintained by the U.S. National Archives where [curators provide this description](#):

The American War for Independence (1775-83) was actually a world conflict, involving not only the United States and Great Britain but also France, Spain, and the Netherlands. The peace process brought a vaguely formed, newly born United States into the arena of international diplomacy, playing against the largest, most sophisticated, and most established powers on earth.

The three American negotiators, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay, proved themselves to be masters of the game, outmaneuvering their counterparts and clinging fiercely to the points of national interest that guaranteed a future for the United States. Two crucial provisions of the treaty were British recognition of U.S. independence and the delineation of boundaries that would allow for American western expansion.

The treaty is named for the city in which it was negotiated and signed. The last page bears the signatures of David Hartley, who represented Great Britain, and the three American negotiators, who signed their names in alphabetical order.

Many treaty documents, however, can be considered as originals. In this case, for example, the United States and British representatives signed at least three originals, two of which are in the holdings of the National Archives. On one of the signed originals the signatures and wax seals are arranged horizontally; on the other they are arranged vertically. In addition, handwritten certified copies were made for the use of Congress.

Some online transcriptions of the treaty omit Delaware from the list of former colonies, but the original text does list Delaware.

Click on the image for a more detailed view.

See, also:

Signature Page of the Treaty of Paris, 1783

Image of the Treaty of Paris, 1783, online via the U.S. National Archives; *International Treaties and Related Records, 1778-1974*; General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Treaty-of-Paris-Granting-American-Independence>

