

Revolutionary York-Did You Know?



DID YOU KNOW...



- That York served as the temporary seat of the Continental Congress and a **capital of the United States**? From September 30, 1777 until June 27, 1778, the Continental Congress was forced to meet in York because they had been chased out of Philadelphia by British soldiers.
- That the Continental Congress didn't always meet in Philadelphia or York? During the Revolutionary War, Congress also met at **Baltimore, Lancaster, Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton, and New York City**.
- That the first constitution for the United States was adopted in York by the Continental Congress? **On November 15, 1777, the Articles of Confederation were adopted by Congress.** It created a government that gave more powers to individual states than to the central government. It was later replaced by our current Constitution.
- That a native Yorker was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence? **James Smith**, a lawyer, was born in York, signed the Declaration of Independence and is buried in First Presbyterian Church's graveyard.
- That **Philip Livingston**, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from New York, died in York while attending the Continental Congress on June 12, 1778? He is buried at **Prospect Hill Cemetery**.
- That York has a Liberty bell? It was presented to the congregation of **St. John's Episcopal Church** on Beaver Street by Queen Caroline, hung in the cupola of the original Court House and was rung after the reading of the Declaration of Independence in York.
- That the **United States Treasury** was once located in York? When the Continental Congress stayed here from 1777 to 1778, the Treasury came with it and is believed to have been located on the northeast corner of Center Square in the home of **Archibald McLean**.

- That cannonballs and bar iron for the war effort were produced at the **Mary Ann Furnace** in West Manheim Township (4 miles southwest of Hanover). The **Codorus Furnace**, near present-day Mount Wolf, produced cannonballs and canons. Bar iron for cannon production was made at **Spring Forge**, near what is now Spring Grove.
- That prisoners of war were held in York from 1776 to 1783. Some stayed in the jail on the northeast corner of South George and King Streets. Prisoners of war captured at the Battle of Saratoga were held at **Camp Security**, 4 miles east of York.