

Secretary of War September 27, 1814 - March 2, 1815



James Monroe 1758-1831



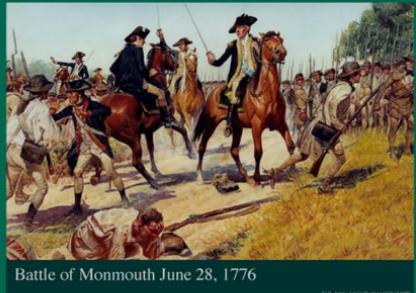
James Monroe was born on the family farm on Monroe's Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia. The eldest of four, he eventually inherited the family property upon his father's death in early 1774. At the time, Monroe's uncle, Judge Joseph Jones of Fredericksburg, was a leading member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and a central figure in the political dissension that was occurring in Virginia between the summer of 1774 and the spring of 1776.

At the encouragement of Judge Jones, Monroe left home in June 1774 to attend the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. He soon became distracted from his studies by the declining political situation and eventual outbreak of hostilities between the American colonies and Great Britain and became caught up in patriotic fervor. He enlisted as a cadet in the Third Virginia Infantry of the Continental Army and was soon commissioned as a lieutenant.



Battle of Trenton, December 26, 1776

In August 1776, General George Washington summoned the Third Virginia to New York. In the ensuing months, Monroe participated in several important battles including Harlem Heights, White Plains, Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. At Trenton, Monroe volunteered to be part of an advanced scouting party that crossed the Delaware River ahead of the main force. While leading a charge against enemy cannon during the battle, Monroe was struck in the shoulder by a musket ball, which severed an artery and nearly killed him. For his gallantry on the battlefield, Monroe was promoted to the rank of captain in a new regiment to be raised in Virginia.



Battle of Monmouth June 28, 1776

After his military service Monroe went on to become a central figure on the political landscape of the young nation. His vast political and diplomatic career included service in the Virginia legislature (1782–1786, 1810); Confederation Congress (1783–1786); delegate to the state convention to ratify the Constitution (1788); U.S. senator (1790–1794); minister to France (1794–1796); governor of Virginia (1799–1802, 1811); minister to Great Britain (1803–1807); and secretary of state (1811–1814; 1815–1817) and, concurrently, secretary of war (1814–1815). In 1817, Monroe was elected the fifth president of the United States, serving two terms. During his tenure, he oversaw a period of national peace and prosperity known as the Era of Good Feelings, he secured benefits for veterans of the Revolutionary War, and he enacted the Monroe Doctrine.

Monroe died in New York on July 4, 1831. He was the third of the first five presidents who would die on the anniversary of the new nation's birth. Monroe is buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia..

Battle of Trenton December 26, 1776

By the summer of 1776 the American cause had hit a low point. Driven out of New York and across New Jersey, General George Washington and the Continental Army had settled into winter quarters on the west bank of the Delaware River. Facing the prospect of a harsh winter, the annual expiration of the Continental Army's enlistment period, and low morale; General Washington decided a bold stroke was needed; and that Trenton with its isolated Hessian garrison would be the ideal spot to strike. Taking advantage of poor weather, the Christmas holiday, Hessian overconfidence, and knowledge gained through the spy John Honeyman, the Continental Army would overwhelm the Hessian garrison, infusing the American cause with new life.

Phase One River Crossing and Troop Deployment



1. 2,400 troops with artillery under the command of General George Washington cross the Delaware River.



2. Moving silently south towards Trenton the Continental Army divides with Major General Sullivan's First Division

Brigades under Colonel John Glover, Colonel Paul Sergeant and Brigadier General St. Clair taking the River Road and the second column with Major General Greene's Second Division Brigades under Brigadier General Stephen, Brigadier General Mercer, Brigadier General Stirling and Brigadier General Fermoy moving inland in order to approach Trenton from the northwest.

3. General Washington sends Brigadier General Fermoy's Brigade further east to block the Princeton Road preventing the Hessians from escaping in that direction.

4. Artillery with Continental infantry at their back are positioned on the heights overlooking High and Bridge Streets, while infantry under the command of Major General Sullivan and Brigadier General St. Clair take up positions on side streets near the Old Barracks.

Phase Two Opening Salvo



1, 2, 3. Firing a combination of canister and solid shot Continental artillery clear the main streets.

4. Brigadier General Mercer's Brigade moves south entering Trenton's west side.

5. Major General Sullivan's Division uses a bayonet charge to rout the Hessians and clear them from the side streets.

6. Colonel Rall's Regiment retreats to the orchard to organize a counter attack. 7. During the retreat they are joined by Colonel Von Lossberg's Regiment.

8. Knyphausen's Regiment under the command of Major Von Dechow marches to join Colonel Rall's regiment but in confusion turns away countermarching to the southeast.



Phase Three Hessian Counter Attacks and Surrender



1. Re grouped Hessians under Colonel Rall move up the hill attempting to outflank the Continental Army.

2. Observing the Hessian movement General Washington shifts Colonel Hand's and Colonel Haussegger's Regiments east to out flank the Hessians.

3. Out flanked and caught in crossfire the Hessians retreat to their starting point.

4. Hessians under Colonel Rall launch a second counter attack, this time into 'Trenton from the east directly towards the American center.

5. The attack fails as Colonel Rall is mortally wounded; Hessian forces retreat east and surrender.

6. Knyphausen's Regiment attempts to cross the bridge over Assunpink Creek but they are turned away.

7. Unable to ford the stream Knyphausen's Regiment surrenders to the Americans.

