





White Plains

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Welcome to White Plains
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0d/North_White_Plains_New_York.jpg







III: Thesis

White Plains is defined as “the Birthplace of the State of New York” because of its integral role in the Revolutionary War.

VI: History of White Plains

Originally White Plains was used as farmland by the Weckquaeskeck tribe

In 1683, men from Rye, New York purchased the land from the Weckquaeskeck Indians

In 1721, King George II granted eighteen settlers a patent to White Plains



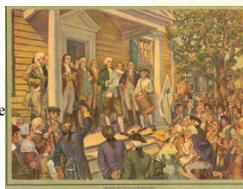

Above: The Weckquaeskeck Indians signing a treaty relinquishing their rights to the land. (<http://www.easotraver.nyc.org/content/history-to-1815/erh2.html>)

Right: The Weckquaeskeck Indians (<http://www2.lhric.org/pstshms/intowns.htm>)

VI: History of White Plains

In 1758, the first courthouse was built and members of the Fourth Provincial Congress of New York assembled on July 9th, 1776 here to revise the copy sent to them of the Declaration of Independence

On July 11th, 1776, Judge John Thomas stood on the steps of the courthouse and read the Declaration of Independence to the public for the first time in the State of New York

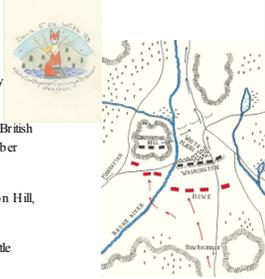
Above: Judge John Thomas, standing on the steps of the courthouse. (<http://www.cityofwhiteplains.com/index.aspx>)

VI: History of White Plains

During September and October of 1776, troops were led by General George Washington and took up positions in the hills of the village of White Plains. General Washington's troops were fiercely pursued by the British under General Sir William Howe, who attacked on October 28th.

The Battle of White Plains took place primarily on Chatterton Hill, and the Bronx River.

The Americans were forced to retreat, but this important battle blocked the British campaign into Westchester County.



Above: The map of The Battle of White Plains (<http://www.britishtudies.com/whiteplains.htm>)

VI: History of White Plains

In 1790, the population of White Plains was 505.

By 1820, the population number increased to 675.

White Plains was an undeveloped village with two churches, a courthouse, and a small collection of houses.

However, in 1844, the railroad reached White Plains and beyond.

A new courthouse was built on Railroad Avenue in 1856.

By 1870, the population exceeded 2,500.

It was incorporated as a village in 1866, but became a city in 1916.

Since then White Plains continues its growth everyday.

Right: Railroad Street (<http://www.kinghigharts.com/NewYorkState/whiteplains.htm>)



Below: The city of White Plains (http://precious-piece.com/newsevent_70.htm)



V: Key Sites... Miller House

Built in 1738

140 Virginia Road

Colonial home of Elijah and Ann Miller

Elijah Miller fought in the French and Indian War in 1757, where he met George Washington.



Miller House 1886



Miller House in repair

Washington is said to have used as a headquarters in October 1776, during the Battle of White Plains.

Mrs. Miller tended to both sick and wounded soldiers at the home throughout the war.

Today it is open to the public as a museum.

V. Key Sites... Jacob Purdy

The Jacob Purdy House was built around 1721 by early White Plains settler Samuel Horton.

In 1730, Samuel Purdy, father of Jacob Purdy, purchased the home.

Jacob, whom his father passed down the house to, served in the Westchester militia from 1775 to the end of the war.

The house has been source-documented as General Washington's headquarters from July 23 to September 16, 1778.

Today the house stands at 60 Park Ave.



Above: Jacob Purdy House



At right: Plaque at Jacob Purdy House

V. Key Sites... Monument at White Plains Armory

Address: 65 Mitchell Place and 35 South Broadway

Built to serve as a National Guard armory

Built on the historic site where the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in the State of New York, coining the White Plains' nickname, "The Birthplace of the State of New York"

The monument in front of the building, topped with a spread-winged eagle, was constructed in 1910 to memorialize the site.

The monument's base was assembled with stones taken from the foundation of the first courthouse.



Left: Birthplace Monument. Below: Image of Armory



V. Key Sites... White Plains Courthouse



Left: Charles L. Breant Courthouse up close. Below: Full building



The White Plains Courthouse has been in effect since the reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 11, 1776 by Judge John Thomas Purchase.

While the armory now marks the original site of the reading, today the federal courthouse is located at 300 Quarropas Street.

In 1978, Congress selected White Plains, in commemoration of where patriots fought for independence during the Battle of White Plains in 1776 and the Declaration of Independence was first read in New York, as a place of holding court.

X: Approaches For Final Case Study

Lesson Plan- Courtney

Guidebook Pages- Meaghan

Itinerary- Bryanna

Wayside Exhibits- Natalie

Highway Markers- Brianna

