



Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

Growth of the British North American Colonies

The Spanish were among the first Europeans to settle in what is now the United States.

Later, European fishing fleets became regular visitors to the coasts from Newfoundland to Cape Cod. They set up camps to dry their catches and to trade with local people, exchanging furs for manufactured goods.

In the early 1600s, in rapid succession, the English began Jamestown in Chesapeake Bay in 1607, the French built Quebec in 1608, and the Dutch began in what is now New York.

Then, Plymouth Company (1620), Massachusetts Bay Company (1629), Company of New France (1627) and Dutch West India Company (1621) began to send colonists to North America.

By the mid-1600s, the colonies were fast becoming lands of opportunity. In 1680, the total estimated population of the colonies reached 151,507. The population of the colonies grew to 250,888 in 1700.

The first American century saw coastal, sparsely populated settlements. The low densities and dispersed settlements minimized the spread of communicable diseases and epidemics.

A typical colonial family had eight children, double that of England and Europe. About 3/4 of



the colonists were farmers; a typical farm exceeded 100 acres.

By 1750, some 80 per cent of the North American continent was controlled or influenced by France or Spain.

There was a huge increase in British population in America during the 1700s; by 1776 there were about 2.5 million British.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: www.sar.org

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