

The Revolutionary War was more than a battle of two countries; it was a clash of many different heritages and eventually a melting pot for those cultures. The Revolution brought Hessians from Germany, Frenchmen, and Englishmen across the Atlantic Ocean to North America where many countries were already represented by the colonists that lived there. Among this patchwork quilt of cultures and people sucked into the war were two of my ancestors: Lt. William Crawford who fought with the Americans in the Virginia Militia and Cpt. Calip Buch who fought with the British as a hired Hessian mercenary. Although these soldiers did not know it, their descendants eventually met and married. These descendants are my parents.

The seeds for the American Revolution were planted with the passing of the Stamp and Townshend Acts. These Acts were both methods of gaining revenue off the American colonies. The colonists detested these acts and dissent started to spread amongst them, appearing most formally in the Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty were a group of colonists who tried to undermine British authority in any way possible. Their most famous demonstration was the Boston Tea Party where they dressed as Indians and dumped tea shipped in from London into the harbor. This event led to the tightening of British control in the colonies and eventually war. Both the Americans and British brought allies from Europe to fight with them. The English hired Hessian mercenaries while the Americans received assistance from the French who wanted to see the defeat of their rival: England. At first, the war seemed in England's favor until the turning point of the Battle of Trenton where General Washington risked everything. Washington crossed the Delaware River at midnight with his men to attack the Hessians in Trenton. The

Hessians surrendered and the war started to tip in the Americans' favor. The Revolutionary war's final battle occurred at Yorktown where the British surrendered.

Both my ancestors became part of the new culture that was created along with America at the end of the war. Lt. William Crawford is my great-great-great-great-grandfather on my mother's side and was a third generation American. His grandfather emigrated from Scotland to America and had a son who was also in the American military as a lieutenant and fought in the French-Indian war. Lt. William Crawford served in the Virginia Militia and fought in the famous battle of Trenton. The Revolution caused him to undergo many life-changing situations and forced him to move. As little of an effect as that might have had at the time, it changed the course of his family's history forever. Cpt. Calip Buch is my great-great-great-great-grandfather on my dad's side and was from Prussia which is now in eastern Germany. Both he and his brother served as captains in the Hessian Army and came to America to fight on the British side when the Hessians were hired. After the war ended, Calip stayed in America as a farmer and Anglicized his name by changing it to Phillip Book. The Revolutionary War made Cpt. Calip Buch an American and gave his family that same privilege for as long as they lived in the United States. His children eventually moved to Boutetort County, Virginia where William Crawford and his family were living at the time. Both families moved to Ohio and then Iowa where my parents met.

The Revolutionary war created a country at the cost of thousands of lives, but it also provided many immigrants with a new life and melded them into the American culture. Two of these men who were part of the first generation of Americans laid the path for an abundance of life in the future. This path now leads to me, a true son of the American Revolution.