**SS8H3 Analyze the role of Georgia in the American Revolutionary Era.**

**c. Analyze the significance of the Loyalists and Patriots as a part of Georgia’s role in the Revolutionary War; include the Battle of Kettle Creek and Siege of Savannah.**

The **Loyalists**, as their name implies, were loyal to Britain and did not want the colonies to break away from the mother country. Many Georgians prospered under royal leadership, so many were reluctant to revolt against Britain. In addition, many Georgians worried that they needed the protection of British troops against American Indians. The First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in 1774, but Georgia did not send a representative. The Congress asked all the colonies to form a group called the Association, which banned trade with Britain.

**Patriots** were outnumbered by the Loyalists in the Georgia colony. Those who supported the idea of a revolution were known as Patriots. In May of 1775, news of the first battles of the Revolutionary War reached Georgia. Many Georgians who had been wavering in their allegiance decided to offer support. These supporters gradually increased in number. In fact, when the Second Continental Congress met in May 1775, at first only one delegate from Georgia, Lyman Hall, attended. But with the news that fighting had broken out in Lexington and Concord, in July of 1775 Georgia did finally choose to join the Association and send delegates to the Second Continental Congress.

The **Battle of Kettle Creek** took place on February 14, 1779. The Georgia militia, led by Elijah Clarke and Thomas Dooly, attacked James Boyd and 600 loyalists where they camped at Kettle Creek in a sneak attack. Though outnumbered, the Patriots killed Boyd and nineteen of his troop members. Loyalist forces fled after hearing the news of Boyd’s death. Some Loyalists were captured, and the remaining Loyalists either returned to the British army or were later captured by Patriot forces. This battle proved that the Loyalists had little support in the southern colonies, raised the morale of the Georgia Patriots, replenished much needed supplies, and set the stage for several victories in the southern back country toward the end of the Revolutionary War.

In 1778, the British recaptured Savannah making Georgia the only colony to be officially retaken by the British during the war. In reality, there were “two” Georgia’s during the war: The Patriot-held countryside and the British held cities of Augusta and Savannah. In October 1779, a joint force of French and Patriot troops attacked Savannah in hopes of retaking the city. This attack was a dismal failure. After five days of intense shelling from French ships and Patriot batteries, little damage was done to the British military but several civilians in the city were killed. When the French and American troops finally attacked the city, they were easily defeated by the British troops. When the fighting ended, over 800 allied troops were killed compared to 18 British soldiers. Savannah stayed in British hands until 1782. The **Siege of Savannah** was a failure for the Patriots.

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|  | **Battle Kettle Creek** | **Siege of Savannah** |
| **When did it happen?** |  |  |
| **Who was involved?** |  |  |
| **Where did it happen?** |  |  |
| **What happened?** |  |  |

Describe the significance of the loyalists and patriots in the Battle of Kettle Creek and the Siege of Savannah in Georgia.

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