

# Timeline for the Revolutionary War, the Schooner *Dolphin*, George Barber, and William Middleton

*The Revolutionary War was between the American patriots and the British, ruled by King George.*

- April 18, 1775** Lexington and Concord – Paul Revere’s ride – the Revolution began.
- May 1775** George Washington was appointed general and commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.
- July 4, 1776** The Declaration of Independence was signed.
- December 1776** Washington crossed the Delaware and spent the winter in Valley Forge.
- July 1777** Marquis de Lafayette arrived from France, volunteered to work without pay, and became one of Washington’s most trusted aides.
- October 1777** The Battle of Saratoga was the first major American victory
- November 1777** The *Articles of Confederation* were written.
- February 1778** Americans signed a treaty with France, bringing in French support.
- December 1779** British General Clinton sailed from New York to Chesapeake Bay.
- March 31, 1780** First orders for the *Dolphin*
- May 1780** British captured the city of Charleston  
George Barber went on board the schooner *Dolphin*.
- October 16, 1780** More orders for the *Dolphin*
- February 17, 1781** *Dolphin* assigned lookout duty in Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay was full of British ships.
- February 1781** Washington ordered Lafayette to take his 1200 troops south and be in Yorktown, Virginia, by March 8 – on the way he got more troops in Philadelphia
- March 3, 1781** Lafayette arrived at Head of Elk, Maryland, but there weren’t enough boats to carry the troops, so they stopped moving.
- March 8, 1781** Lafayette arrived in Annapolis on his way to Yorktown in Virginia.  
Lafayette got on board the *Dolphin* in Annapolis.
- March 9, 1781** Lafayette, aboard the *Dolphin*, wrote a letter to George Washington,
- March 11, 1781** . . . and they sailed to the Patuxent River.  
There were many British ships in the Chesapeake Bay; it wasn’t safe, so Lafayette got off the *Dolphin* and took a barge [*smaller, rowboat-like vessel*] to Virginia.
- March 12, 1781** The *Dolphin* was captured by the British ship *Madeira*.  
George Barber, Captain Middleton, and the other members of the crew were sent to Forton Prison in England.
- March 14, 1781** Lafayette arrived in Yorktown and, with his troops, helped block the British army’s escape route to the sea.
- September 1781** British, French, and American troops were gathered at Yorktown, Virginia.  
The British were caught between Washington’s troops and Lafayette’s troops and French ships in the bay.
- October 17, 1781** The British surrendered.  
The Americans won the war - and their independence from Britain.
- April/May 1782** Captain Middleton escaped from prison, went to France, and, with the help of the Marquis de Lafayette, returned to America.
- 1783** George Barber returned to America.
- 1821** Captain William Middleton was memorialized (*remembered in a ceremony*) by the Maryland House of Delegates.
- August 8, 1832** George Barber applied for a pension and told his story!