

#3 Washington Reviews Continental Troops

As commander-and-chief of the Continental Army, General Washington oversaw the building of the first American army.

George Washington would travel through Stratford several times during the war. The first on his way to Boston on June 28, 1775, after being appointed the commander in chief by the Second Continental Congress.

After the British abandoned Boston, General Washington again travel through the town on his way to New York. On Sept. 19, 1778, the



Marquis de Lafayette, entered the town via the ferry to meet with General Washington at Benjamin's Tavern. When the marquis' aide asked the ferryman the way to the tavern, he was pointed to Alice Benjamin, daughter of the tavern

keeper, who was nearby picking berries. She led them to the tavern where Washington was already waiting. Young Alice served the food. She later recorded that General Washington asked her name, and then told her to be a good girl and gave her his blessing. Washington and Lafayette then proceeded onto Wethersfield, Conn., where they met with French General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau.

As the war moved from the north to the southern part of the 13 colonies, Stratford continued to provide supplies and men for the army.