

American Revolutionary War Study Aid

Camden Reslink
Cecelia DeStefano

Team: The Greater Good

Camden

- Graduated from UB with Bachelor's in Math in 2013
- Working as a software developer for 3 years
- Currently working at Liazon



Cecelia

- Graduated from UB with Bachelor's in English, Master's in Higher Education Administration
- Member of Buffalo's Girl Develop It Chapter - Organizer for 2016 GDI Hackathon
- Currently working at Medaille College



Personal Hackathon Goals

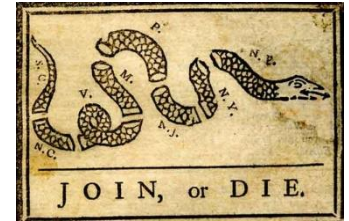
Camden's Goals

- Complete a prototype from start to finish
- Try something new
- Work on a project with Cecelia
- Have fun!

Cecelia's Goals

- First Hackathon
- Learn about the stages (planning, mock-ups, dividing tasks, and execution)
- Learn how to use Git
- Have fun!

Synacor Hackathon Project



Vision: develop an interactive timeline and map for the battles and significant events during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783)

Audience: study aid for students and tool for fans of history

Problem solved: interactive tool for visual learners

Background on Learning Styles

- Popularized in the 1970s, becoming even more popular today.
- Many theories
- VARK – visual, auditory, read/write, kinesthetic
- Learning preferences, not abilities
 - Can be strong or weak
 - For students who don't have studying strategies



Background on Visual Study Aids

- Visual Learners learn best
 - Looking at pictures, videos, posters, slides
 - Previewing headings & vocabulary
 - Using color
 - Recalling images, graphics, and maps from texts



"When I see it, then I understand"

Our Product

- Initial Goal: Node, Express, MongoDB, React, Redux
- Outcome: Custom vanilla JavaScript application

Technical Difficulties

- Underestimated how long it would take to try new technologies for the first time
- Never used MongoDB
- Never completed a full React/Redux project (only toy/demos)
- Wanted to use an SVG map (smaller file size), but could not find an existing file and it would have taken too long to create one



Future Developments



- Add historical events other than battles.
- Add a sidebar to filter and search by victories, losses, Generals, states, dates, battles, non-battle events, etc.
- Improved graphics, aesthetics, and quality (including animations)
- Link out to additional resources
- Maps for other wars or conflicts (Civil War)

Final Thoughts



- Successes:
 - Cecelia – Got to work on design, research content, create presentation
 - Camden – Finished a working prototype
- Challenges:
 - Cecelia – Didn't get to practice coding
 - Camden – Didn't plan my time well enough