

The Patriot ([2000](#))

Distributed by [Columbia Pictures](#) Release date(s) [United States](#)
June 27, 2000

Produced by :

[Dean Devlin](#)
[Mark Gordon](#)
[Gary Levinsoh](#)

Writer:

[Robert Rodat](#) (written by)

Director:

[Roland Emmerich](#)

Cast

- [Mel Gibson](#) as Benjamin Martin: A veteran of the [French and Indian War](#) and widowed father of seven children, Benjamin does what he can to avoid fighting in the [Revolutionary War](#) knowing the implications surrounding it. When his oldest son, Gabriel joins up, and his second born son, Thomas is killed, he takes it upon himself to join and fight with the [Colonial Militia](#). He is mainly based on [Francis Marion](#) aka "The Swamp Fox".
- [Heath Ledger](#) as Gabriel Martin: Benjamin's oldest child, he decides to join up with the [Continental army](#) against his father's wishes.
- [Joely Richardson](#) as Charlotte Selton: Benjamin's [sister-in-law](#) and owner of her plantation. She looks after Benjamin's kids while he is fighting.
- [Jason Isaacs](#) as Colonel William Tavington: Colonel of the [Green Dragoons](#), he is portrayed as ruthless and cold blooded who kills without mercy. He is nicknamed the Butcher by General [O'Hara](#). He is mostly based on [Banastre Tarleton](#).
- [Chris Cooper](#) as Colonel Harry Burwell: One of Benjamin's commanding officers in the French and Indian war and Colonel of the continental army, he puts Benjamin in charge of training the Militia.
- [Tchéky Karyo](#) as Jean Villeneuve: A French soldier who trains the Militia, along with Benjamin, he holds a grudge against him for his part in the French and Indian war, but soon comes to respect him.
- [René Auberjonois](#) as Reverend Oliver: A reverend who volunteers to fight with the militia and also shares Gabriel's view and morality on war. He also tries to give spiritual advice to his fellow soldiers.
- [Lisa Brenner](#) as Anne Howard: Gabriel's childhood friend and love interest.

- [Tom Wilkinson](#) as Lieutenant-General [Charles, Lord Cornwallis](#): The general of [British army](#), he does not share Tavington's views on war and often berates him.
- [Peter Woodward](#) as Brigadier General [Charles O'Hara](#): Cornwallis' second in command, he also does not share Tavington's views on war.
- [Donal Logue](#) as Dan Scott
- [Leon Rippey](#) as John Billings: One of Benjamin's neighbors who joins the militia. He commits [suicide](#) after Tavington's men kill his wife and son.
- [Adam Baldwin](#) as Captain James Wilkins: A [Loyalist](#) to the British army recruited into the [Green Dragoons](#) by Captain Bordon. He fights along side Tavington, and also shares these brutal views on how to handle "traitors". When he is forced to burn a church with town residents inside, only then does he feel guilty.
- [Jamieson K. Price](#) as Captain Bordon: Tavington's second-in-command of the [Green Dragoons](#) and chief intelligence officer. Can be as ruthless as his commander, "strong arming" prisoners during interrogations.
- [Jay Arlen Jones](#) as Occam: An African Slave . He is sent to fight in his master's place. He is taunted and bullied by the other members of the militia, but is treated as an equal by Benjamin and Gabriel.
- [Joey D. Vieira](#) as Peter Howard: Anne Howard's father.
- [Gregory Smith](#) as Thomas Martin: Benjamin's second born son, he, like Gabriel, is anxious to fight in the war, but Benjamin says he has to wait because of his age. He is shot and killed by Tavington when he protest against Gabriels's arrest.
- [Mika Boorem](#) as Margaret Martin: Benjamin's oldest daughter, she is seen often taking care of her younger siblings.
- [Skye McCole Bartusiak](#) as Susan Martin: The youngest child among Benjamin's seven children, she has a problem with speaking, only later on does she finally open up.
- [Trevor Morgan](#) as Nathan Martin: Third born child, he and Samuel help around the farm mostly. When Gabriel is taken prisoner and Thomas is killed, he and Samuel helps his father rescue him. Unlike Samuel, he is glad to kill British soldiers.
- [Bryan Chafin](#) as Samuel Martin: Fourth born child, he is usually seen helping Nathan around the farm. When Gabriel is taken prisoner and Thomas is killed, he helps his father, Benjamin, rescue him by killing several British solders, even though he doesn't want to kill. For a short while, he becomes scared of his father after he witnesses him brutally killing a British soldier with a tomahawk.
- [Logan Lerman](#) as William Martin: Benjamin's youngest son, he is often being taken care of by his sister, Margaret.
- [Terry Layman](#) as General [George Washington](#)
- [Andy Stahl](#) as General [Nathanael Greene](#)
- [Grahame Wood](#) as Redcoat Lieutenant at Martin's farm who interacts with both Martin and Colonel Tavington
- [Dara Coleman](#) as Redcoat Sergeant at King's Highway skirmish
- At the beginning of the [American Revolution](#), Benjamin Martin is a [South Carolina](#) veteran of the [French and Indian War](#) and a widower raising his seven children (Gabriel, Thomas, Margaret, Nathan, Samuel, William, and Susan) on his plantation. Gabriel, the eldest, is anxious to join the [American](#) forces fighting the [British](#) in the [Revolutionary War](#). Knowing war from personal experience, Ben tries to discourage his son's ambitions, but his son enlists anyway.

- Gabriel returns home some time later, stumbling wounded into the family home and carrying military dispatches. The next day, a military skirmish has the Martins caring for the wounded from both sides. British soldiers - the ruthless Green [Dragoons](#) cavalry - arrive and kill the Colonial wounded, burn down the Martin house and arrest Gabriel as a spy, intending to hang him. When Ben's next eldest son, Thomas, protests against Gabriel's capture, he is shot and killed by the leader of the Green Dragoons, Colonel William Tavington.
- Making use of his knowledge of fighting in the wilds, Ben and his two younger sons, Nathan and Samuel set forth to ambush the British column in the woods. They manage to kill most of the soldiers in an ambush and free Gabriel. The boys are horrified at their first glimpse of their father's ferocity. Gabriel rejoins the cause against his father's will again, stating it is his duty as a soldier. Ben decides to join as well, leaving the rest of the children in the care of their aunt Charlotte, Ben's sister-in-law.
- Continental Army Colonel Harry Burwell, having fought alongside Ben in the French and Indian War, asks him to organize a militia designed to keep British [General Cornwallis](#) in the south until the French Navy arrives to assist. French officer Jean Villeneuve, is present to help train the militia.
- Ben's South Carolina militia uses [guerrilla warfare](#), attacking the British supply lines. To combat the militia, Cornwallis has Tavington track Ben's family to their refuge with Charlotte and burns down her plantation. However, the family escapes, and are led to a safe haven by Gabriel. Gabriel also marries his childhood friend Anne. Soon after, Tavington orders Anne and her family, along with all their fellow townspeople, to be burned alive whilst locked in the church for aiding the Continentals.
- A grief-stricken Gabriel rides out with others to avenge their loss. During the ensuing fight, Tavington kills Gabriel and escapes. Ben is devastated and his zeal for combat extinguished, but soon returns to the Continentals to avenge his sons' deaths. During the final battle, in which Ben uses the militia to lure the British into a trap, where Continentals are waiting to charge the British. And soon after, as the Continentals are slowly losing their morale and are retreating, Ben encourages them by raising the flag up high, running forward and yelling "Hold the Line!". They get the signal and push forward. Ben fights Tavington in a vicious duel. Tavington manages to bring Ben to his knees while mockingly noting that his foe is not the better man. Ben then kills Tavington, noting his agreement, and that his sons were in fact better men. The tide of battle quickly turns and Cornwallis is forced to retreat and eventually surrender when the French Navy arrives and starts to attack him. Martin and his family return to their home to find the militia helping to rebuild it.