

# *Occupied or Liberated?*

## *American Cities Under British Rule*

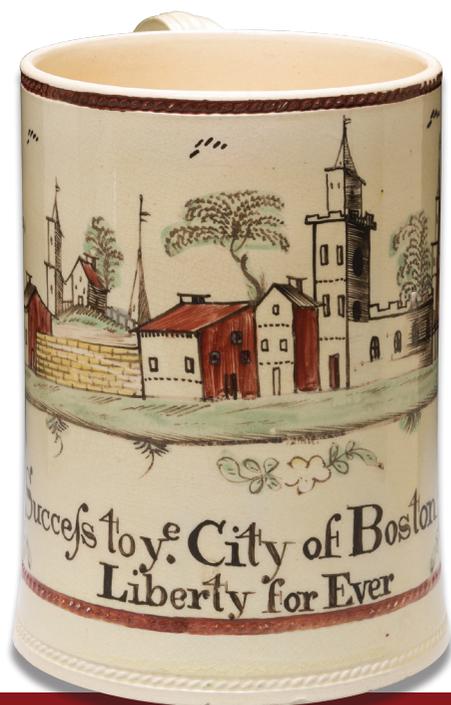


*If the British army arrived in your city, how would you react? Find these stories in the Museum galleries.*

### *Boston* 1768-1776

To quell growing protests in 1768, the British government sent 4,000 troops to Boston. Then, in 1774, the British government closed the port of Boston in response to the “Tea Party” of the year before. This move hurt local businesses and infuriated colonists near and far, uniting them in a growing resentment of British authority. One way to show your politics at the time was to drink from a **mug** seen below, branded with the slogan “Success to ye city of Boston, Liberty For Ever.” Success came in 1776, when British troops left Boston, never to return.

*American Liberties, 1765-1775*



### *New York* 1776-1783

Nearly 32,000 troops arrived in New York harbor in 1776 and captured the city. For the rest of the war, the British occupied New York, but the city wasn't just home to British soldiers. Women and children accompanied the British and American armies during the Revolutionary War and settled wherever the army resided. Find **toys** excavated from a military camp in New York City that were the playthings of the children of British soldiers in the occupied city.

*New York, 1776*

### *Philadelphia* 1777-1778

In 1777, the British captured the capital of the United States, Philadelphia. Many of the civilians who remained in the city during this period saw it as a liberation, not an occupation. “We have not had so much good order and Tranquillity these several years,” wrote one Philadelphian, “as we have had since the British Forces came hither.” The British turned the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) into a jail for American prisoners-of-war, as depicted in the **tableau** in this gallery, but they abandoned the city the following spring and returned to New York.

*Winter Patriots, 1777-1778*

### *Charleston* 1780-1782

During and after the British siege of Charleston in 1780, thousands of enslaved people responded to the Philipsburg Proclamation of 1779, which promised freedom to any slave of a master who rebelled against the King. Some of those enslaved people who fled to the British lines wore the scar left by a **brand**, like the replica on display in this gallery of one from South Carolina. When the British left Charleston in 1782, they took formerly enslaved people with them, some of whom eventually settled in Nova Scotia, London, and Africa.

*The War in the South, 1778-1780*