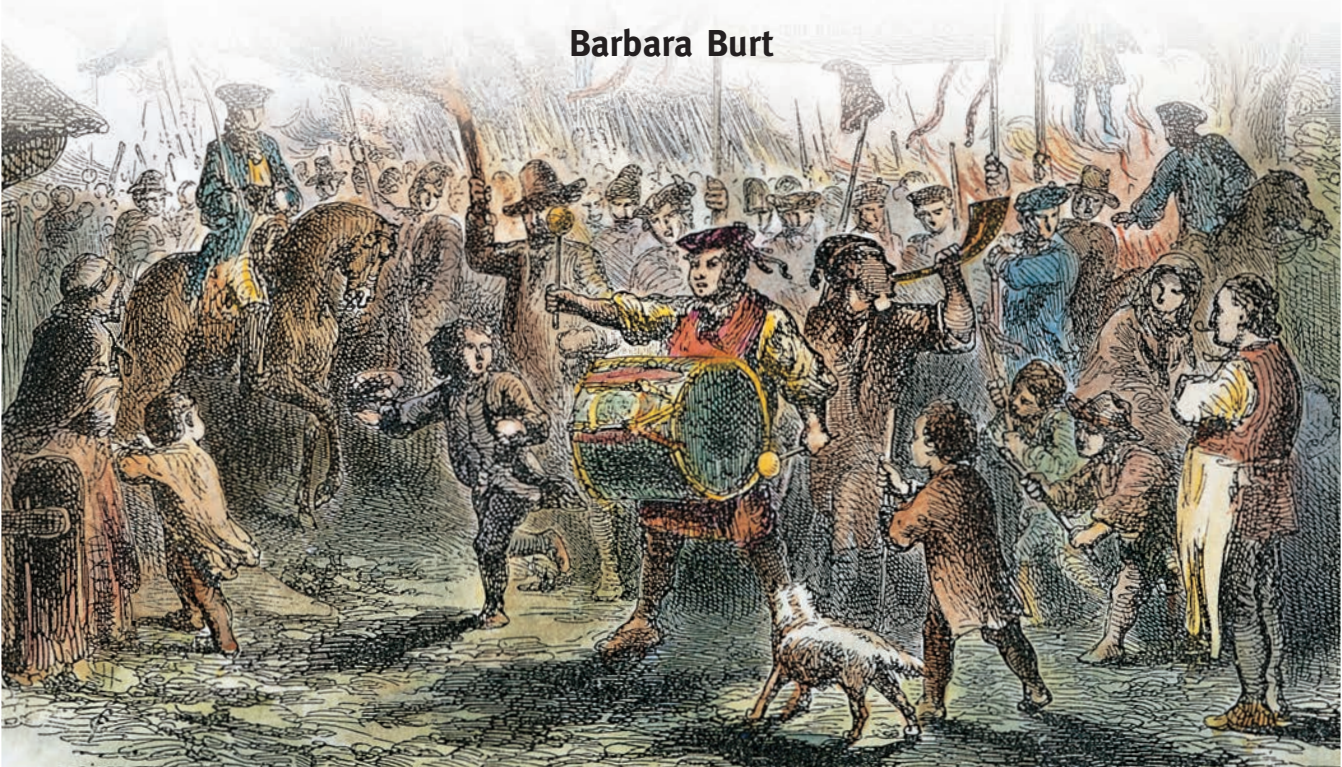


The Eve of Revolution

The Colonial Adventures of
Benjamin Wilcox

Barbara Burt



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Seeds of Revolution

As the 13 British **colonies** of America grew, the colonists depended less and less on Britain. Some colonists resented being ruled by faraway Britain. They wanted to run things themselves and become **independent**.

In the 1760s, Britain decided to tax the colonists to pay for colonial defense. Britain passed the Stamp Act in 1765. This was a tax colonists had to pay each time they bought a newspaper or signed a legal document. A stamp showed that the tax had been paid.

Many colonists protested the Stamp Act. They said that colonial **legislatures**, or lawmaking bodies, had not agreed to this tax. People formed groups, such as the Sons of Liberty and the Daughters of Liberty, to fight against this act. Within a year, the Stamp Act was **repealed**, or canceled.

Then Britain passed another tax, the Townshend Acts. These acts forced the colonists to pay a tax on British **imports** of paint, tea, paper, glass, and lead. These were items that most colonists needed. In Boston some groups decided to **boycott**, or refuse to buy, these British goods. Britain sent soldiers into Boston to enforce the laws and keep the peace. Tensions grew high.





The 13 Colonies



MEET THE WILCOX FAMILY

In 1769, the Wilcox family lives in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Benjamin Wilcox is recovering from scarlet fever at his Uncle Robert's farm in Waterboro, Maine, part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. When Benjamin is well, he decides to join his father at sea. Share his journey as he visits several colonies and discovers that many colonists want freedom from Britain.



*Captain Henry Wilcox,
father*



Margaret Wilcox, 16



Benjamin Wilcox, 12