



“America, the Great”

By David A. Wilson

Performed By

The Grantville Playmakers

At

The John C. Meadows Log Cabin

Grantville Little League Park

(Announcer walks in front of cabin.)

Announcer..... “Good evening on this anniversary of our nation’s Independence.

“The American Revolution was very divisive. One third of the people in the Thirteen Colonies wanted Independence from Great Britain, another third were loyal to King George and thought it treason to want Independence, and another third didn’t care one way or another.

“But part of the root of the American Revolution was the French and Indian War. In this war, Britain spent so much money in defeating France’s attempt to take their colonies that they were forced to go up drastically on the Colonies’ taxes, thus, in large part, provoking the American Revolution.

“Our play opens tonight in the Summer of 1755 during the French and Indian War, with British General Edward Braddock’s ill-fated attempt to take Fort Duquesne, (pronounced Dukane) later Fort Pitt, and today the City of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, from the French and their Indian allies.

“A young George Washington, served

under General Braddock, as a Colonel in the

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British Army.

(Announcer steps to side of cabin.)

ACT ONE

Scene One

(A young guard walks in front of cabin just as Colonel George Washington walks up, saluting him with hat. Washington follows suit.

George Washington walks down steps.)

Young Soldier..... “Colonel Washington, I don’t mean any disrespect to General Braddock, but I just don’t know about his plan to take Fort Duquesne (Dukane) from the French. And we’re deep in Indian territory, too.”

George Washington..... “I’m concerned myself, too, Soldier. But General Braddock is a great general.

“It is important that we win here, in the Ohio Valley, the future of our colonies depends on us. We have to win.”

Young Soldier..... “You are a great leader, Colonel Washington. I can really tell that you’re going places.”

George Washington..... “You flatter me, Soldier. But right now, I would be just satisfied to

take this fort from the French.

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“This war is very important. It will decide whether our descendants will speak French or English.”

Young Soldier..... “That is something to think about, Colonel.”

George Washington..... “I do appreciate all our brave young men, fighting in the British Army.”

Young Soldier..... “And we appreciate you, Colonel Washington.”

End of Scene One

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene Two

(In Calico City, Georgia, school teacher, Susan Haynesworth and a little girl, Katie Landry, are walking out of Calico City School, the log cabin, one day after school.

Katie Landry..... “You look like something is bothering you, Miss Susan. You look so sad about something..”

Susan Haynesworth..... “It is just that I wish I could meet a young man who would steal my

heart away, Katie .”

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Katie Landry..... “You certainly are a very pretty lady, Miss Susan. What about my big brother, Tim.

Susan Haynesworth..... “Thanks, Katie. Tim is a very nice young man, but we have so little in common.”

Katie Landry..... “Wait a minute! Tim is in the British Army, fighting against the French and the Indians in the Ohio Country.

“I just wouldn’t be surprised if he doesn’t have a friend or two that might just be the man you’re looking for, Miss Susan.”

Susan Haynesworth..... “It sure would be nice.”

End of Scene Two

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene Three

(British soldier Timothy Landry is running from the right hand side of the cabin without a musket. He sees that a British flag is flying from it and sits down on steps.

Timothy Landry..... “I hated to leave my

musket back there, but if I had gone for it and not run, those two French soldiers probably would

6 have killed me.

 “Anyway, there’s no sign of the French or their Indian allies around here.”

(He doesn’t see him but an Indian with a Mohawk hairdo steps out of cabin. Sensing something, he turns and glimpses him just as he is about to go for his scalp with a knife. Another Indian runs up to steps with Tomahawk in hand.

Timothy Landry..... “Dear God help me!”

(It looks hopeless for Timothy Landry)

(Suddenly, another British soldier, Lawrence Cushing, comes out from behind cabin chimney charges toward the Indians. With his flintlock pistol, he kills the Indian who is about to scalp Timothy Landry. The Indian actor with knife in left hand, drops knife on right hand side of first step. Actor falls back on cabin’s left - on mattress concealed from audience by stacked wood.

(The other Indian turns his attention to Lawrence Cushing; Timothy Landry is in a daze.

(Cushing picks up scalping knife, not having time to reload his pistol

(He gets into a battle with the Indian, using the s
They have a fierce battle, but Lawrence Cushing

7

kills the Indian.

(Lawrence Cushing helps Timothy Landry get up.)

Lawrence Cushing..... “Are you all right?”

Timothy Landry..... “I’m in shock but I’ll be fine. Thanks you so much for saving my life. I don’t know your name and you don’t know mine. I am Timothy Landry.”

Lawrence Cushing..... “Lawrence Cushing is mine, and you’re welcome.” (They shake hands and get back to shooting their rifles.)

Timothy Landry..... “I think General Braddock underestimated the French and Indians force.”

Lawrence Cushing..... “I couldn’t agree with you more.” (A British officer rushes up.)

British Officer..... “Colonel Washington has ordered us to retreat!”

Lawrence Cushing..... “Colonel Washington?”

What about General Braddock?”

British Officer..... “General Braddock has been killed.”

Lawrence Cushing..... “Oh, no!”

Timothy Landry..... “How terrible!”

British Officer..... “Let us get on with the

8

retreat.”

(They start moving past cabin.)

End of Scene

Three

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene Four

(Timothy Landry and Lawrence Cushing are sitting on a log in camp, to left of cabin.)

Timothy Landry..... “I won’t ever forget what you did for me back there. May I call you Larry?”

Lawrence Cushing..... “By all mean, Tim.”

Tim Landry..... “Say, where are you from? I’m from a little city in Georgia called Calico City.”

Larry Cushing..... “I’m from Philadelphia.”

Tim Landry..... “You live there with your parents?”

Larry Cushing..... “They’re dead. Small pox killed them, my brother and sisters them, my brother and sisters.”

Tim Landry..... “How sad.”

Larry Cushing..... “Yeah, but life goes on. My folks would not want me to spend the rest of my life grieving for them.”

9

A beautiful Indian maiden walks up to them. Both men are immediately taken by her beauty, particularly Tim Landry.)

Indian Girl..... “Hello.” (She is all smiles.)

Tim Landry..... “You speak English?”

Indian Girl..... “Some.”

Larry Cushing..... “She’s one of the guides.”

Tim Landry..... “What is your name? I’m Timothy Landry and this is my friend, Lawrence Cushing.”

Indian Girl..... “My name is Bonawici.”

(A British officer walks up. Both soldiers stand at attention.)

British Officer..... “Go take the sentry post of the other side of the camp, Private Cushing.”

(Larry Cushing has a disgusted look on his face, yet a smile, as he looks at Tim Landry. He takes his rifle, marching away with the officer.

(Tim sits back down on the log, Bonawici joins him.)

Tim Landry..... “What made you want to be scout for the British, Bonawici?”

Bonawici..... “The French and the Hurons wiped out my village, including my family.”

Tim Landry..... “I guess that you wanted to

help defeat the French and their Indian allies

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because of that. You speak good English.”

Bonawici..... “Thank you. There was a British minister who lived in our village. He converted all of my family, taught us some English. I am of the Seneca Tribe.”

(Tim gazes upon her for a moment.)

Tim Landry..... “Has anyone ever told you that you’re beautiful?”

Bonawici..... “They just have.”

(They look at each other for a moment, enchanted, and they kiss and embrace.)

End of Scene Four

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene Five

(Tim Landry is relieving Larry Cushing as a sentry at cabin’s right-hand side.)

Larry Cushing..... “So it looks like you and Bonawici, the Indian girl, are rather fond of each other. Oh, unlucky me, with women!” (He is

somewhat down and depressed.

Tim Landry..... “Come now, Larry. The

out there for you somewhere.

“Hey, there’s a girl back home that is my little sister, Katie’s, school teacher. Her name is Susan Haynesworth. She’s very nice, and very pretty.

“Whenever we get through fighting against the French and Indians, why don’t you go with me down to Calico city, Georgia to meet her?”

Larry Cushing..... “That sounds great! “

Tim Landry “Like I said, Larry, Susan is a pretty girl and a nice girl, and she would make some man a good wife.”

Larry Cushing..... “Then why haven’t you married her already, Tim?”

Tim Landry..... “I’m just not her type. She’s looking for a man that’s sophisticated. Now the fact that you like to draw and paint pictures, now that’s what I call sophisticated.

“She’s a very cultured woman, and needs a very cultured man. Come on down to Georgia with me and I’ll introduce you to her.”

Larry Cushing..... “All right! I’ll go with you down to Georgia, and you introduce me to this Susan Haynesworth.”

END OF ACT

ONE

Curtain closes.

(Announcer walks in front of cabin.)

Announcer..... “And so, after serving in the British Army in the French and Indian War for nearly a year, Timothy Landry returns to Calico City, Georgia with his friend, Larry Cushing, and Bonawici.) (Announcer leaves away from cabin.)

Curtain opens.

ACT

TWO

Scene Two

(Timothy Landry has just walked to front porch of his father’s cabin with Laurence Cushing, when he is greeted by hugs from his father Robert Landry, his mother, Frances, and his little sister, Katie, who are sitting on porch.)

Tim Landry..... “Mama, Papa, , Katie, I want to introduce you to the man who saved me from being massacred by Indians at the Battle of Fort Duquesne (Dukane) - my friend, Laurence Cushing.”

Robert Landry..... “I’m Robert Landry, and

any man who would risk his life to save my son's life, is certainly welcome in this house. Thank you

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so much, Laurence.” (Shakes hand embracing him)

Larry Cushing..... “Please call me Larry. That’s what Tim calls me.”

(The mother hugs him.)

Frances Landry..... “I’m Frances Landry. Thank you so much for saving our son’s life. You are now family, Larry.”

Larry Cushing..... “You are welcome, Mrs. Landry, and I’m indeed honored.”

Tim Landry..... “There’s someone else that I want you to meet.” (He leaves for a minute and returns with Bonawici.)

Tim Landry..... “Mama, Papa, , Katie, this is Bonawici. She was our guide at Fort Duquesne and I’ve asked her to marry me.

“I know that it may come as a shock to you, my returning home with an Indian woman to be my life, but we really love one another.”

(All his family members have looks of shock)

Robert Landry..... “Tim! Get that savage away from here! Get out her away now!”

Frances Landry..... “Tim, are you trying to put your father and me in the grave?”

(Katie Landry has a hurt look on her face)

Robert Landry..... “Tim! Get rid of her or

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never

come back in this house!”

Tim Landry..... “Papa! I love Bonawici and I’m going to marry her!”

Robert Landry..... “From this point on, we no longer have a son!”

Frances Landry..... “That’s right!”

Tim Landry..... “All right! Come on, Bonawici!” (Tim storms out with Bonawici and Larry. Bonawici is nearly in tears.)

Katie Landry..... “Mama, Papa. You can’t just throw Tim away! It may be hard to accept his having an Indian girl, but I can really tell they love one another. And she’s pretty for an ‘Inden.”

Robert Landry..... “I’ll hear no more of this!”

End of Scene

One

—
Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene

Two

(Tim and Bonawici are sitting on a large log

15 outdoors to cabin's right, talking.)

Bonawici..... “I am so sad that your
parents

feels the way they do about me. I know you love
them.”

Tim Landry..... “If they can't accept you as
the woman I love and am going to marry, they are
dead.”

(Larry Cushing has just walked up.)

Larry Cushing..... “Those are mighty strong
words, Tim. Believe you me, you wouldn't want
that to be a reality.

“I envy anyone who still
has their parents, has a family.”

Tim Landry..... “If they can't accept
Bonawici, then I am just as much an orphan as you
are, Larry.”

End of Scene Two

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene Three

(Frances and Katie Landry is standing in front of the cabin

Robert Landry walks up, rifle in hands.)

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Katie Landry..... “I really think you were too hard on Tim, Mama, Papa. He loves Bon...”

Robert Landry..... “Please don’t ever mention that name again, or the white man who is stupid enough to want to marry her!”

Robert Landry..... “Someone’s coming. It better not be him!”

Robert Landry..... “Who’s there?”

Person Outside..... “Larry Cushing.”

(Larry walks up to the cabin.)

Robert Landry..... “What brings you here, Larry? Did Tim send you?”

Larry Cushing..... “He doesn’t know that I came, Mr. and Mrs. Landry, Katie.

“I know that it is none of my business, but he doesn’t realize what he has in you all, and you don’t realize what you have in him.

“My family was all wiped out by small pox. What I wouldn’t give to have my father, mother, brothers, and sisters back.”

Robert Landry..... “You are right, Larry, it is

none of your business!”

Larry Cushing..... “I so wish I had a family. And I know that it is difficult in him bringing an Indian maiden in your house.

**“But Tim really loves
Bonawici,**

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and she does him.

“I was attracted to her, too, and understand why Tim fell in love with her. But he won her heart.

“He’s saying that you are no longer his family - dead because you won’t accept the woman he loves.

“All I have to say is I would give anything to be like Tim, and have a beautiful woman to love and who loves him, and have a father and mother that he still loves, and I think still loves him, even though both parties are saying otherwise.

**“I have to go. Good night.”
(He starts walking away.)**

Katie Landry..... “Listen to what Larry just said, Mama, Papa!”

Frances Landry..... “Katie’s right, Robert.”she begins to cry.)

Robert Landry..... “Larry! Go get our

son and Bonawici!”(He begins crying, too.)

(Larry smiles.)

Larry Cushing..... “I’ll be back soon.”

Frances Landry..... “God bless you, Larry.”

Larry Cushing..... “And God bless you all.”
(Larry departs.)

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End of Scene Three

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens .

Scene Four

(Larry Cushing walks up to the Landry’s log cabin with Tim Landry and Bonawici. Mr. and Mrs. Landry , and Katie are there.)

Robert Landry..... “Son, next to God, family is the most important thing in this world. We love you, Tim.

“And I am sorry for the things I said to you and this beautiful woman you have fallen in love with.”

Frances Landry..... “Yes, Tim, Bonawici.”

(Tim rushes to his parents.)

Tim Landry..... “ Papa! I love you!” (He and his father hug.)

(Then Robert walks up to Bonawici.)

Robert Landry..... “Who am I to question two people who’re in love.” (He and Bonawici hug.)

Bonawici..... “I promise to be good to your son, Mr.and Mrs. Landry.”

Katie Landry..... “This makes me so happy.”

(She walks up to Bonawici and they hug.)

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“Welcome to our family, Bonawici.” (Both parents say, ‘Yes’.”

(Katie walks up to Larry Cushing.)

Katie Landry..... “I can’t thank you enough for bringing us together, Larry.” (She hugs him.)

Larry Cushing..... “You’re welcome.”

Katie Landry..... “I just wish there was something I could do to pay you back for this good deed>“

Larry Cushing..... “There is. Tim says there’s a pretty lady, Miss Susan Haynesworth that is your school teacher. I’d like to meet her.”

Frances Landry..... “Tim, why don’t you, Bonawici, and Larry go to the school tomorrow and pick Katie up when school turns out?”

Robert Landry..... “Good idea, Frances.”

Tim Landry..... “I will, Mama, Papa.”

(Tim walks up to Larry.)

Tim Landry..... “Thanks for everything, Larry. A man couldn’t ask for a better friend than you are.”

Larry Cushing..... “The same here.” (They embrace.)

END OF ACT

TWO

Curtain closes.)

(Announcer walks up to front of cabin.)

20

Announcer..... “So the Landrys are re-united, thanks to Larry Cushing.” (Announcer leaves.)

ACT

THREE

Scene

One

(Calico City School (the Meadows Log Cabin) is turning out school. Susan Haynesworth is with Katie Landry just as Tim, Bonawici, and Larry walk up.)

Susan Haynesworth..... “Tim Landry! How good to see you again!” (She rushes to him and they embrace.)

“I heard that you were nearly killed by Indians.”(She looks a little

shocked seeing Bonawici as she talks of how Tim nearly met his demise.”

Tim Landry..... “Were it not for this man here, who risked his own life to save mine, I would have been killed by those Indians.

“Susan Haynesworth, this is Larry Cushing.”

Susan Haynesworth..... “Anyone who saves Tim’s life is my friend. The Landrys are very special to me, and I just love to teach this little girl.”

Katie Landry..... Miss Susan makes going to

21 school fun. She’s a pretty lady but a very lonely lady.”

Larry Cushing..... “No one should ever be lonely, particularly someone who is every bit as lovely as Tim said you were.”

Susan Haynesworth..... “Thank you for your kind words, Larry.” (They shake hands.)

(Larry and Susan are immediately attracted to one another.”

Tim Landry..... “And this, Susan, is Bonawici. She was one of the guides for the British when we were fighting in the Ohio Country. I’ve asked her to become my wife.

“It was love at first sight for Bonawici and me.”

(The two women shake hands.)

(Larry and Susan smile at each other.)

Larry Cushing..... “Oh, I definitely believe in love at first sight.”

End of Scene One

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene

Two

(Larry Cushing and Susan Haynesworth are

22

sitting on a log outside the Landry’s cabin.)

Larry Cushing..... “You are so lovely that I would like to paint you. I’m an artist. I dream of being like DaVinci and Michaelangelo.”

Susan Haynesworth..... “Really? Do you think I could be your Mona Lisa?”

Larry Cushing..... “You are very lovely when you talk like that.” (He leans forward and they kiss and embrace.)

(Tim and Bonawici walk up, smiling as they see the other young lovers.)

Tim Landry..... “Love is beautiful, Bonawici.”

Bonawici..... “Yes, it is, Tim.” (They kiss

and embrace.)

End of Scene Two

Curtain closes .

Curtain opens.

Scene Three

(Katie Landry is sitting on the steps of the cabin

all smiles when her father walks up.)

Robert Landry..... “Why are you so happy, Katie? School is not out yet.”

Katie Landry..... “I’m happy for Miss

23 Haynesworth and Tim’s friend. She was so lonely and has finally met a nice man.”

Robert Landry..... “Mr. Larry really is a nice man, Katie. Your brother wouldn’t be living today were it not for him.

“And he got us all back together as a family.”

Katie Landry..... “Papa, I’m pulling for Miss Susan and Mr. Larry to get married.”

Robert Landry..... My daughter - the matchmaker.”

(Katie giggles.

End of Scene Three

(Curtain closes.)

(Curtain opens.)

Scene Four

(To the left of the cabin, Tim Landry and Bonawici are standing before Reverend Osgood McCain, getting married. His parents, sister are there, Larry is his best man. Susan Haynesworth is also there.)

Osgood McCain..... “I hereby pronounce you man and wife.” (Tim kisses Bonawici.)

Larry Cushing..... “Congratulations, Tim, Bonawici.” (He shakes hands with Tim, then they

24 embrace, and he embraces Bonawici.)

Tim Landry..... “Thank you so much for being my best man, and most of all, my best friend.” (They embrace again.)

(Larry embraces Susan, smiling at her.)

Larry Cushing..... “And I want you to be my best man when I marry this lady.”

Susan Haynesworth..... “Are you proposing to me?”

Larry Cushing..... “I’ll answer your question this way.” (He takes her in his arms, kissing her so sweetly.)

Osgood McCain..... “Looks like I’m going to be doing another wedding.”

END OF ACT

THREE

Moving curtain closes scene.

(Announcer walks in front of cabin.)

Announcer..... “At this time, ladies and gentlemen, we will break for a ten minute

intermission.”

INTERMISSION

(Announcer walks in front of cabin.)

Announcer..... “And so, Tim and Bonawici got married, and had a son, Andrew. And not

25 long after their marriage, Tim served as Larry’s best man when he married Susan.

“They both settled in Calico City, Georgia. Larry and Susan had a daughter, Catherine.

“Twenty-one years pass and it is 1776,

And protests have begun in the Thirteen Colonies over the high taxes that King George 111 of England has levied on the Colonists to pay for their massive debt for the French and Indian War, and battles have even begun.”

Curtain opens .

ACT FOUR
Scene One

(Tim and Bonawici Landry are standing outside their cabin talking.)

Bonawici..... “The battles with England, Tim, do you think that we are going to be at war? Do you think Independence will be declared?”

Tim Landry..... “It is inevitable, Bonawici. We cannot continue to live under a tyrant across the sea, who shows no mercy in taxing us.”

Bonawici..... “And will you fight if war comes, Tim?”

Tim Landry..... “I want us to be free, and am

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willing to lay down my life to help us become an independent nation.

“It isn’t right, what King George is doing to us. Yes, I will fight.”

(Bonawici embraces Tim.)

Bonawici..... “You must not talk of dying, Tim. I could not bear the thought of losing you. I love you so.”

Tim Landry..... “And I love you.” (They embrace and kiss.)

Bonawici..... “I don’t want our Andrew to

fight if war comes.”

Tim Landry..... “Neither do I.”

(They don’t know it but Larry and Susan Cushing have just walked up.)

Bonawici..... “But this talk of revolution.”

Larry Cushing..... “To talk of such is treason. King George is our king. We are his subjects. He is good to us.”

Tim Landry..... “I cannot believe that you’re talking this way! King George is a tyrant! His taxing, or I should say overtaxing is awful!”

Larry Cushing..... “And I cannot believe that you’re talking this way, Tim! We served in the British Army together in the French and Indian War.

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“King George is good to us!”

Tim Landry..... “Good to us? I don’t call robbing us blind with his taxing as being good to us!”

(They get heated, their wives get between them.)

Susan Cushing..... “Just listen at you two! You are supposed to be friends!”

Bonawici..... “Larry saved your life in the French and Indian War and got you and your father back together when he didn’t want you to

marry me.”

Tim Landry..... “And for those things I am eternally grateful to him. But I will fight to free us from the tyrant in England!”

Larry Cushing..... “And if war comes, I will fight for my country and her king!”

(A young man runs up, stopping to catch his breath.)

Young Man..... “Did you people hear the news from Philadelphia? Independence has been declared! All thirteen colonies have signed the Declaration of Independence, including Georgia!”

Larry Cushing..... “Then the lines have been drawn!”

Tim Landry..... “Yes! Long live the Revolution!”

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Larry Cushing..... “God save the King!”

(He takes Susan by the hand and brushes shoulders with Tim, walking by him.)

End of Scene

One

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene

Two

(Off to the left of Meadows Cabin, with set that looks like the inside of a cabin.)

(General George Washington, Major Timothy Landry, and Lieutenant Silas Jackson, a young Continental officer, are in the room with Betsy Ross, who is showing them the flag she's made.)

Betsy Ross..... “What do you think of my flag, General Washington?”

George Washington..... “A very beautiful flag, Mrs. Ross. It is the perfect flag for our new nation.” (He turns to Tim Landry.)

“And what do you think of it,

Major
Landry?”

Tim Landry..... “I agree, General Washington.”

Lieutenant Jackson..... “It will be a flag that I will be proud to fight under, and I believe all our men will be, too.”

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George Washington..... “A job well done, Mrs. Ross.”

Betsy Ross..... “Thank you all for your kind words. I love my country and want it to have a beautiful flag.”

End of Scene

Two

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene

Three

(To left of the Meadows Log Cabin,
(Colonel Laurence Cushing is chatting with
British General Lord Charles Cornwallis and
Major Ronald Davies at Cornwallis'
headquarters.)

General Cornwallis..... “All we have to do
to break the very will of these Rebels is deliver
them several major defeats and they will see the
error of

their ways and beg His Majesty King George
forgiveness for all this foolishness.”

Larry Cushing..... “I would not count on
breaking their will so quickly and easily, General
Cornwallis. These Rebels are very dedicated to
their cause.”

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Major Davies..... “I tend to agree with
General Cornwallis, Colonel Cushing. These
Patriots, as they call themselves, are like children

who have gone astray. They will see the error of their ways and come back to England.”

Larry Cushing..... “They are just as dedicated to their cause as we are England’s.”

General Cornwallis..... “You talk so personal about this, Colonel Cushing. Do you know someone like this?”

Larry Cushing..... “Yes, he is, or I should say, was my best friend. He is willing to lay down his life for the Revolution. And I’m sure there are many others like him.”

General Cornwallis..... “You say he was your best friend. Just how well do you really know this chap?”

Larry Cushing..... “I saved his life in the French and Indian War, when General Braddock was massacred.”

“I helped get him and his parents back together when they did not want to accept that he was marrying an Indian maiden.

“He introduced me to the woman I married. And we were best men at each other’s wedding.”

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General Cornwallis..... “I see. This has to be very difficult for you, being

that you were so close, but are now on opposite sides in this war.”

Larry Cushing..... “I can’t even begin to tell you how hard it has been - second only to my parents and siblings all dying of small pox.”

End of Scene

Three

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene Four

(In front of the Meadows Log Cabin,
(Major Timothy Landry and Lieutenant Silas Jackson are signing up recruits for the Continental Army. William Pittman, a black man walks up.)

Lieutenant Jackson..... “Your master will have to sign for you to serve.”

William Pittman..... “I am a free man. Here

are my papers.” (He hands them the papers.)

“My name is Pittman.

William Pittman.”

Tim Landry..... “You are free. Why do you want to join the Continental Army, William?”

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William Pittman..... “I heard about that

slave who gave his life up in Boston to make country free from England.”

Lieutenant Jackson..... “Crispus Attucks.”

William Pittman..... “I was freed when Master died.

“I like word ‘free’ and want to help make country free.”

(Tim Landry extends his hand and they shake.)

Tim Landry..... “It will be an honor to serve with you.”

END OF ACT

FOUR

Curtain closes.

(Announcer walks in front of cabin.)

Announcer..... “The American Revolution continues. The first few years are very discouraging for the Continental Army, fighting Against a much more superior force in the British Army.” (Announcer leaves.)

Curtain opens

ACT FIVE

Scene One

(To the left of the Meadows Log Cabin, (Colonel Larry Cushing, the leader of British soldiers into battle with Continentals, and the only one left alive, rushes up to pick up British flag

soldier (“Clarence“ with mask. Silas Jackson rushes up to kill Larry; Tim quickly stops him. Cushing and Landry look at one another for a moment, Larry goes out of sight, flag in hands. Larry goes to rear of cabin.)

Lieutenant Jackson..... “Major Landry! Why did you do that? He’s a British officer, the enemy!”

Tim Landry..... “Yes, I know.”

Lieutenant Jackson..... “But you saved his life!”

Tim Landry..... “That man saved my life once, during the French and Indian War. I introduced him to his wife. He was my very best friend before this War began.”

End of Scene

One

Curtain closes .

Curtain opens .

Scene

Two

(In front of the Meadows Log cabin, (Colonel Laurence Cushing, General Henry Truscott, and two British soldiers come toward the cabin.)

Larry Cushing..... “I miss my sweet Susan so much. I’ll be glad when this war is over and I can

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go home to her.”

(Truscott looks snobbish toward the audience.)

General Truscott..... “Oh, listen to the devoted husband, talking about his precious Susan. Cushing, your chivalry really moves my heart.

“As for me, my Elizabeth is over in London, across the sea. But never a bloody night goes by that I don’t have a woman.

“I have such a problem keeping so many away - I’m such a handsome chap. Ha! Ha! Ha!” (He looks right at the audience as he laughs.)

(Cushing and the others have disgusted looks on faces.)

(Truscott walks up on cabin porch and knocks on the door.)

General Truscott..... “Open up in the Name of His Majesty King George III of England!”

(A young pioneer walks out.”

Phillip Holloway..... “How may I help you, sir?”

General Truscott..... “According to the Quartering Act, we have the right to confiscate housing for our soldiers. You, sir, are hereby ordered to take your family and leave this cabin.”

36

(They walk down the steps in front of the cabin.)

Phillip Holloway..... “My wife, Nancy, is expecting a baby and I have very young children.”

General Truscott..... “Mr. Holloway, you and your family are to leave. My troops are to move in after you leave. You are ordered to leave, sir!”

Phillip Holloway..... “This is my house! And this Quartering Act just isn’t right! My wife can’t be moved, and my children don’t need to be!”

General Truscott..... “Are you going to stand here and disobey one of His Majesty’s Generals, sir?”

Phillip Holloway..... “This is my house and I refuse to take my family and move out!”

(Truscott takes out his pistol and points it at Holloway.)

Larry Cushing..... “Sir, that is not necessary and is uncalled for. We can find other quarters. He can’t move his wife or children. Please, sir, put that firearm away.”

General Truscott..... “He will move, too!”

(Truscott fires the gun at Holloway, killing him.)

(Truscott looks at audience and laughs.)

General Truscott..... “Stupid rebels!”

(Larry Cushing is enraged.)

Larry Cushing..... “So that is what this war

37

is about, killing

innocent people!”

General Truscott..... “Shut up, Cushing!
Who’s side are you on?” (He puts gun away.)

(Larry Cushing pulls out his pistol.)

Larry Cushing..... “The wrong side!”

General Truscott..... “Cushing! Have you
lost your bloody mind?”

Larry Cushing..... “No, I have found it!”

(Larry starts backing away, holding gun right on
Truscott. He goes off stage.)

General Truscott..... “Men! After the
traitor!”

(The British soldiers start after Larry Cushing.)

End of Scene

Two

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene Three

(To the left of the Meadows Log Cabin, Major
Timothy Landry and a sentry are standing in
their camp when Private William Pittman walks
up, saluting Tim Landry.)

William Pittman..... “Major Landry, a
British officer just rode into camp under a flag of
truce. He says he’s your friend, a Colonel
Laurence Cushing. He wants to see you, sir.”

38

Tim Landry..... “Show him in, Private.”

William Pittman..... “Yes, Major Landry?”

(He salutes him and Lieutenant Jackson, departing.)

Silas Jackson..... “That’s the British officer you wouldn’t let me kill, that saved your life in the French and Indian War, sir. What could he want?”

Tim Landry..... “I don’t know but let’s hear him out.”

(William Pittman returns with Larry Cushing.)

(Larry salutes Tim and vice versa.)

Tim Landry..... “What can I do for you, Colonel Cushing?”

Larry Cushing..... “I want to join the Continental Army, sir. Do you have a uniform for me?”

Tim Landry..... “Is this some kind of joke, Colonel Cushing?”

Larry Cushing..... “I assure you it is not. I’ve had a change of heart on this War. It’s time for me to quit serving a tyrant across the sea. I’m being honest, Tim.”

Tim Landry..... “Larry!” (He rushes to him, they shake hands, and then hug.)

Larry Cushing..... “It took me some time but

39

I finally woke up, Tim.”

Tim Landry..... “Private Pittman, get Captain Cushing a uniform. Go with the Private, Larry. You will be a captain in the Continental Army.”

Larry Cushing..... “That will be fine.”

Tim Landry..... “Thank God you woke up, Larry!”

(A young Continental soldier rushes up, saluting Tim Landry.)

Young Soldier..... “Sir, a large company of redcoats is coming this way!”

Tim Landry..... “All right! Every man to his station.

“Change out of that redcoat quit, Captain Cushing. You are about to get your first taste of battle in the Continental Army.”

Larry Cushing..... “Yes, sir, Major Landry!”
(They salute one another.)

End of Scene

Three

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene

Four

(To the left of cabin, a battle is going on between

life.”

Tim Landry..... “I think we’ve driven the British away for now.”

41

Larry Cushing..... “That’s great.”

END OF ACT

FIVE

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens .

(Announcer walks in front of cabin.)

Announcer..... “The tide of the war turns in favor of the Continental Army as it drags into its sixth year in October 1781 at a place in Virginia called Yorktown. There British General Lord Charles Cornwallis faces General George Washington.”

(Announcer walks away.)

Curtain opens .

ACT SIX

Scene One

(To the right of the cabin, British General Charles Cornwallis is standing with a sentry when British Major Ronald Davies walks up, saluting General Cornwallis with his hat.)

Major Davies..... “It doesn’t look good for us, General Cornwallis. I would never have dreamed that it would have come to this.”

General Cornwallis..... “Neither would I,

42

Major Davies. The French ships arrival made it all the more difficult for us. But you cannot deny the resolve of these Rebels.”

Major Davies..... “What are we going to do, sir?”

General Cornwallis..... “We must accept the fate we have been dealt; our entire kingdom has to.”

End of Scene

One

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene

Two

(To the left of the Meadows log cabin, Major Tim Landry and Captain Larry Cushing are standing with General George Washington - Private Pittman is standing sentry.

(Lieutenant Silas Jackson rushes up, saluting

General Washington and other officers.)

George Washington..... “You have some good news to tell us, Lieutenant Jackson?”

Silas Jackson..... “I have some very good news, sir. General Cornwallis just sent in a British officer under a flag of truce. He says that

43

General Cornwallis wants to surrender.”

(Everyone cheers.)

Tim Landry..... “Then the war will finally be over!”

Larry Cushing..... “And we will be a free nation at last! Thank God! And thank God I came over to the right side!”

**Tim Landry..... “Yes, thank God on both!”
(Tim and Larry hug.)**

George Washington..... “I commend you both, Major Landry, Captain Cushing. Yours is a true friendship that has survived this war.

“And I’m so happy you joined our side,

Captain Cushing.”

Larry Cushing..... “So am I, General Washington.”

George Washington..... “With the help of Almighty God and all you fine, brave men, we have won a great victory.”

Tim Landry..... “We had a great General to

44

lead us.”

Larry Cushing..... “Indeed we did.”

Silas Jackson..... “Yes, we did, sir.”

William Pittman..... “God chose the right man in you, sir.”

George Washington..... “Thank you all for your kind words. Now let us give thanks to Him that made it possible.”

(They take off their hats as General Washington begins leading them in prayer.)

George Washington..... “Oh, God, thank you for helping us to persevere. Thank you for all

our fine, brave men.

“Guide them back
to their homes, respectively.

“Guide our new
nation as it begins a
new course. Thru Christ Our Lord. Amen.”
(Everyone puts their hats back on.)

Tim Landry..... “We can all go home now!
Bonawici! I can’t wait to see her, and Andrew will
be coming home, too!”

45

Larry Cushing..... “Susan, my sweet Susan.
And Catherine, our daughter. I can’t wait to see
them.”

(Silas Jackson turns to Larry Cushing.)

Silas Jackson..... “I want to meet your
daughter, Catherine, Captain Cushing. Is she
really as pretty as you say she is?”

Larry Cushing..... “Absolutely. And in the
last letter I got from her mother and her, she
doesn’t have a beau.”

Tim Landry..... “Catherine is indeed a very,

lovely girl.”

Silas Jackson..... “And I can’t wait to meet her.”

George Washington..... “Lieutenant Jackson.”

(Silas Jackson salutes George Washington.)

Silas Jackson..... “Yes, General Washington.”

George Washington..... “Go bring the British officer to me.”

46

(Silas Jackson salutes George Washington.)

Silas Jackson..... “Yes sir!”

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

Scene Three

(In front of the cabin, Bonawici Landry, Susan Cushing, Catherine Cushing walk up with Reverend Osgood McCain.)

Osgood McCain..... “Like any preacher, I like a good Sunday dinner after preaching my sermon. Thank you for inviting all of us to dinner, Bonawici.” (The others chant “Yeah”.)

Bonawici..... “You are all so welcome

“So the war is over and we are now a free country, Reverend McCain. I will be glad when my Tim and Andrew come home.”

Susan Cushing..... “And I will be glad when my Larry gets home. I’m glad that he switched sides in the War.

“I never felt comfortable about him

47 fighting for the British, but he is my husband and I love him. I’m so thankful that he and Tim ended on the same side - the right side.”

Catherine Cushing..... “I will be so glad to see Papa.”

Reverend McCain..... “I know that all of you will be glad to see your men. Thank God the War is over and we are a free nation at last - the United

States of America!”

(Tim Landry, Larry Cushing, Andrew Landry, and Silas Jackson walk in from right side of cabin.)

Bonawici..... “Tim! Andrew!” (She hugs Tim, they kiss, and then hugs Andrew, and the three of them hug.)

Tim Landry..... “Bonawici, my love! Oh, how I’ve missed you!” (They kiss again.)

Andrew Landry..... “Mother!”

Susan Cushing..... “Larry!” (They hug and kiss.)

Larry Cushing..... “Oh, how I’ve missed you,

48

Susan!”

Catherine Cushing..... “Papa!” (She hugs her father and then embraces him with her mother.)

(After the Cushing’s hugging has ceased, Silas Jackson walks up to Catherine.)

Silas Jackson..... “Catherine?”

Catherine Cushing..... “Yes.”

Silas Jackson..... “I am Silas Jackson.”
(They shake hands.) “You are every bit as lovely
as your father and Major Landry said you were.”

(She smiles.)

**Catherine Cushing..... “Is that a fact, Silas
Jackson?”**

**Reverend McCain..... “This is going great
country.”**

(William Pittman comes in from right hand side of
the cabin waving Betsy Ross American flag.

**William Pittman..... “Yes, America, the
great!”**

49

THE END

Curtain closes.

Curtain opens.

**George Washington has joined people, standing in
the center of the crowd - waving American flag.)**

They sing first chorus of “Yankee Doodle”.

**“Father and I went down to camp
along with Captain Gooding**

**“Saw the men and boys there as
thick as hasty pudding.**

“Yankee Doodle keep it up.

Yankee

Doodle Dandy.

**“Mind the music and the
steps and with the girls be handy.”**



