

Colonel John Brooks wrote that the army stayed together because of the “Love of our Country.” Once again, Washington’s determination and patriotic vision inspired the troops to keep fighting.

The Army Grows Stronger Thanks to a German officer, the Baron von Steuben, the inexperienced American army was transformed into a skilled fighting force. Von Steuben began by forming a model company of 100 men. He taught them how to handle weapons properly. He also showed them how to fight the kind of formal battles favored by the British. (See Battle Tactics on page 202.) Within a month, the troops were executing drills with speed and precision. Because of this, the American army emerged from Valley Forge as a more efficient and stronger fighting machine.

 **SUMMARIZE** Describe how Valley Forge transformed the American army.

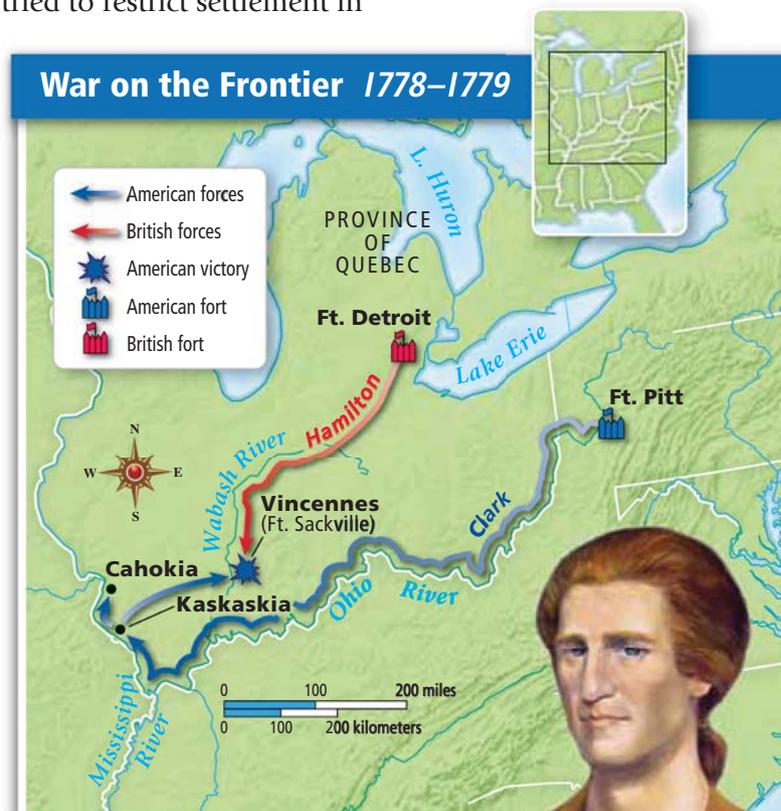
Frontier Fighting

 **KEY QUESTION** Why did the war spread to the frontier?

In the late 18th century, the region between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River was known as the frontier; colonists had only just begun to settle there. In 1763, the British had tried to restrict settlement in this area and had built forts in the region. But some believed that the frontier should be open to settlement. In 1775 Daniel Boone helped build the **Wilderness Road**, a trail into Kentucky. Because Kentucky was claimed by Virginia in 1777, 24-year-old Kentuckian **George Rogers Clark** persuaded Virginia’s governor, Patrick Henry, to allow him to raise an army to capture British outposts on the Western frontier. Clark wanted to expand the war into the frontier by attacking the British and their Native American allies in what is now Indiana and Illinois.

Clark’s Army In May 1778, Clark led a group of frontiersmen to Kaskaskia, a British fort guarding the Mississippi River. They captured Kaskaskia without a fight.

Then they moved east to take Fort Sackville at Vincennes, in present-day Indiana. Earlier, a small force sent by Clark had taken Vincennes, but British forces under Henry Hamilton had recaptured it. Settlers called Hamilton the “Hair Buyer” because he supposedly paid rewards for American scalps.



Connect Geography & History

- 1. Place** Where did the Americans encounter Hamilton’s forces?
- 2. Make Inferences** Why did Clark travel over land, instead of by river, to attack Ft. Sackville?

