

King George III of Great Britain

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In the very heart of Pawtuxet Village one of the oldest roads is George Street. Given that the Village was first established in 1638, the street was most likely named after King George I who reigned between 1714 and 1727 or his son, George II who reigned between 1727 and 1760. In more modern times, Pawtuxet Village is widely known as the locale near where the hated British revenue schooner, HMS *Gaspee*, was attacked and burned in 1772 as America's 'First Blow for Freedom'™. So, it should come as no surprise that most citizens think back to the reigning British king of that time, King George III. George the II was the grandfather of George III; the younger's father having died in 1751.

King George III was born and raised in London, well-tutored in the liberal arts and sciences, and was fluent in both English and German. The future king was very proud of his British upbringing and is quoted "What, tho' a boy! It may with truth be said, A boy in *England* born, in *England* bred." He more formally disavowed his German-Saxony ancestry when he succeeded to the throne in 1760 at the age of 22. Ironically, he shortly afterwards entered into an arranged marriage with Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who first met each other on their wedding day. Together they had a seemingly happy, faithful, and long marriage which produced 15 children.

George III was considered a powerful force in English politics and a strong supporter of the war against the American colonies. He became a shrewd and sensible statesman, although one of conservative views, and went on to become the longest reigning male monarch of Great Britain. In his later years he was much afflicted by a severe mental demise, thought by modern medical historians to have been due to porphyria. By 1811, he was locked away at Windsor Castle and his eldest son George, Prince of Wales, was declared regent (acting King). George III on January 29, 1820 and is buried at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

"YOU'LL BE BACK" Excerpts of lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda from the 2015 musical "Hamilton".

[KING GEORGE]

... And when push comes to shove
I will send a fully armed battalion to remind you of my love!
... Cuz when push comes to shove
I will kill your friends and family to remind you of my love.

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