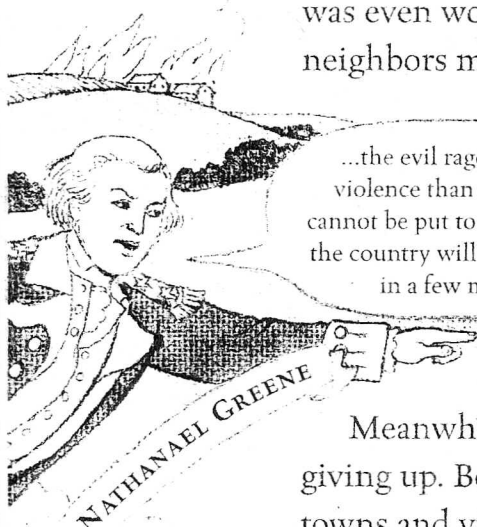


So what was happening to American civilians all this time? For one thing, a vicious civil war was being fought between Americans in favor of independence and Americans who were against it. In the north, rebels broke into homes of Americans loyal to King George and hauled them off to prison. Quakers couldn't fight for religious reasons. The patriots tarred and feathered them anyway, even when they hired substitutes. When times got too rough, loyalists fled to the British colonies of Canada and Nova Scotia, where the government gave them money to pay for their losses. Brutality was even worse in the south, where families were ripped apart and neighbors murdered neighbors.



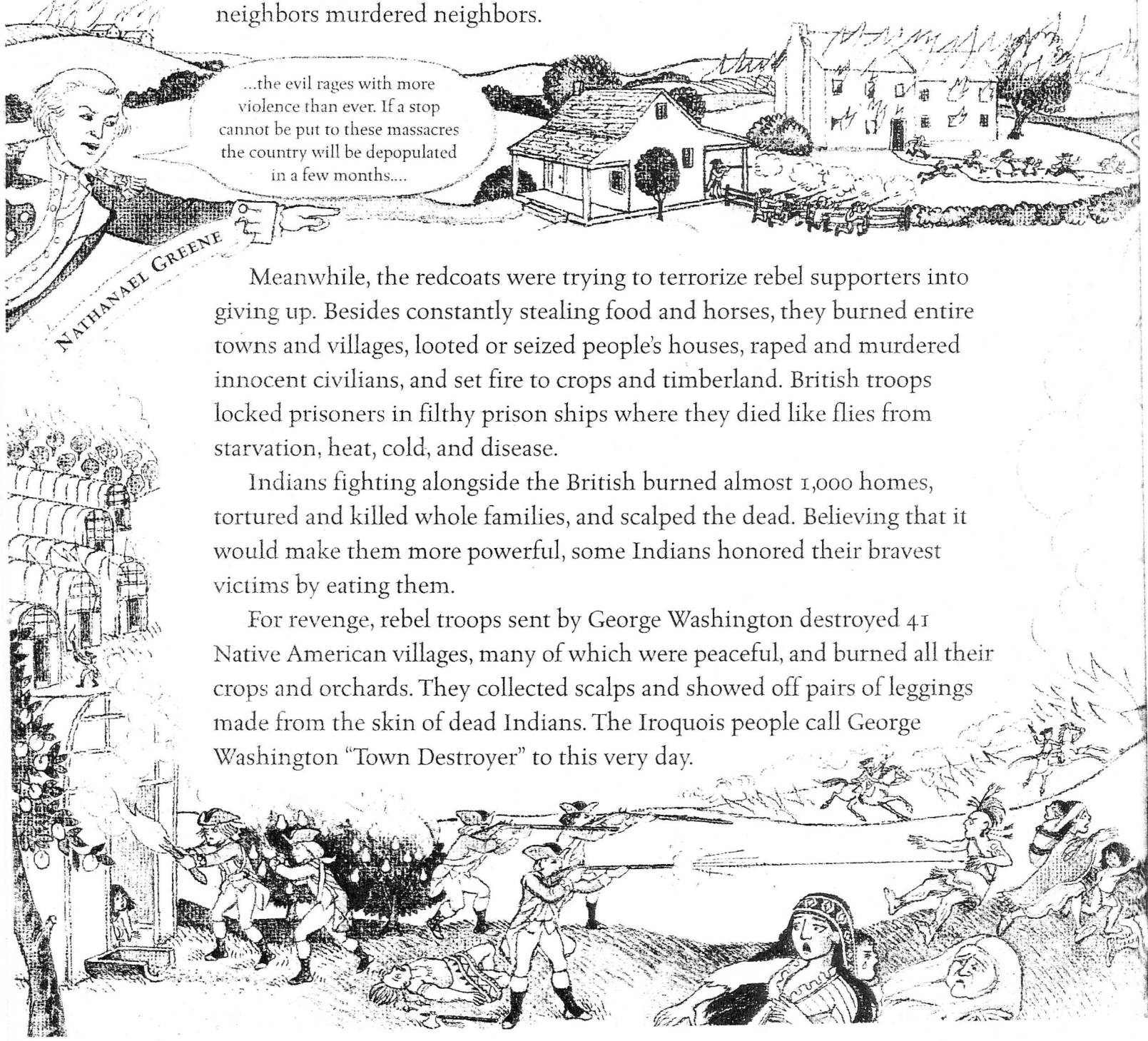
...the evil rages with more violence than ever. If a stop cannot be put to these massacres the country will be depopulated in a few months....

NATHANAEEL GREENE

Meanwhile, the redcoats were trying to terrorize rebel supporters into giving up. Besides constantly stealing food and horses, they burned entire towns and villages, looted or seized people's houses, raped and murdered innocent civilians, and set fire to crops and timberland. British troops locked prisoners in filthy prison ships where they died like flies from starvation, heat, cold, and disease.

Indians fighting alongside the British burned almost 1,000 homes, tortured and killed whole families, and scalped the dead. Believing that it would make them more powerful, some Indians honored their bravest victims by eating them.

For revenge, rebel troops sent by George Washington destroyed 41 Native American villages, many of which were peaceful, and burned all their crops and orchards. They collected scalps and showed off pairs of leggings made from the skin of dead Indians. The Iroquois people call George Washington "Town Destroyer" to this very day.



Plenty of women were involved in the war, too. Some of them served as spies or guides. A Quaker housewife living across from British headquarters in Philadelphia often overheard information about redcoat war plans. She sewed the news inside cloth-covered buttons and sent her young son to deliver them to George Washington. A black woman named Quamino Dolly guided British soldiers through a swamp so that they could sneak up behind rebel troops and capture Savannah, Georgia.

Women on both sides regularly traveled with the soldiers, who were often their husbands. Sometimes they even brought along their children. They cooked food, cleaned out the cannons, washed clothes, made bandages, knit socks, nursed the sick, and laid out the dead. When there was no fighting, they danced and sang with the soldiers, but when times got tough, some women fought in battles right alongside the men. George Washington's wife, Martha, spent eight winters with her husband, and she worked just as hard as anyone.