MEET OUR THROUGH THEIR EYES HISTORICAL FIGURES

Allow us to introduce you to the 18 historical figures whose Revolutionary-era experiences form the heart of our Through Their Eyes School Tour Program. Each student will receive a Character Card featuring information about one of these individuals. As they explore the galleries with their Program Facilitator, they will learn about and consider the experiences of the person on the card. Note that we have not included images of these men and women. That’s because at the end of their guided experience, students will come face-to-face with photographs of these individuals, taken in the 1800s.

Interested in continuing the experience after your visit? Many of these individuals lived distinguished lives after the Revolutionary era. Encourage your students to research their stories into the 1800s.

*SARAH “SALLY” SAYWARD (BARRELL) KEATING WOOD
b. October 1, 1759. Sally was born to a Loyalist father who had served with the British during the French and Indian War and a Loyalist grandfather who served as a judge in York, Massachusetts (now Maine). As a child, her family’s church was attacked by American Revolutionaries because it encouraged loyalty to the King. Her grandfather’s Revolutionary neighbors also turned against him.

*CAESAR
b. 1737. Caesar was born enslaved in Albany, NY, a key strategic location and Revolutionary stronghold. His owner, Francis Nicoll, was heavily involved in local revolutionary efforts, including helping lead the local militia and serving on various political committees.

*ELIZABETH (CALDWELL) GILLAM
b. 1757. Elizabeth and her family were passionate supporters of the Revolution and her brothers were involved in South Carolina’s armed forces. One brother was killed by notorious Revolutionary-turned-Loyalist, William Cunningham. On another occasion, Elizabeth and her mother helped a Revolutionary escape from the same man.

*LEMUEL COOK
b. 1759 or 1764. Lemuel enlisted in the Continental Army as a teen or preteen and agreed to serve for the entire war. He served with the 2nd Light Dragoons, a cavalry regiment, and was one of the few in that unit to travel to Yorktown in 1781.

*GEORGE FISHLEY
b. June 17, 1760. George served in the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment for 3 years. He was at the Battle of Monmouth and participated in actions against the British, Loyalists, and members of the Iroquois Confederacy in western New York under General John Sullivan.

*ALBERT GALLATIN
b. January 29, 1761. Albert was an immigrant from Geneva, Switzerland, who arrived in America in 1780. He discovered a passion and skill for politics and became very involved in Pennsylvania government, helping to rewrite the state constitution and becoming a state representative.

*CONRAD HEYER
b. April 10, 1753. Conrad was the son of German immigrants living in Massachusetts. He served for one year in the 25th Continental Regiment. With that unit, he participated in the Siege of Boston and traveled to Fort Ticonderoga in New York. His enlistment ended in December 1776.
ISAAC GRANGER, AKA ISAAC JEFFERSON  
b. 1775. Isaac and his family were enslaved laborers at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello and served Jefferson when he lived in Richmond as Governor of Virginia. At the age of 5, Isaac was taken by the British from Richmond to Yorktown and was present during the siege that led to British surrender.

MARY MCDONALD  
b. November 14, 1770. Mary may have been born enslaved; she was bound out as a child to a Quaker man named Reese Howell. She lived near Valley Forge and remembered giving food to the Continental Army soldiers.

ALEXANDER MILLINER / MALONEY  
b. 1770. Alexander was enlisted by his stepfather, Florence Maroney, in the 1st NY Regiment when he was 10 years old and served as a drummer boy. His mother may have been a camp follower. He and his stepfather were discharged in June 1783.

DOLLEY (PAYNE) TODD MADISON  
b. May 20, 1768. Dolley was born to Quaker parents whose faith encouraged them not to support the Revolutionary War, or any war. Though initially a slave-holding family, their faith and evolving beliefs shaped by the Revolution inspired them to free all of their enslaved people before the war was over.

WILLIAM PLUMER  
b. June 25, 1759. William was a teenager when the Revolutionary War began, but he did not serve in the military. Instead, he became a traveling Baptist preacher, then turned his attention to law and politics. He served as a town leader and served several terms in New Hampshire’s State Legislature.

ISAAC SNOW  
b. 1757 or 1758. As a teenager, Isaac enlisted in his town’s militia in Massachusetts in 1776. He served in short stints (2 months, 6 months, 6 months) and was present at the Siege of Boston. After his land service ended, he signed up to sail on the Defence, a ship of the Connecticut Navy.

BALTHUS STONE  
b. ca. 1743 or 1747. Balthus was 33 years old when he enlisted in a Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment in Philadelphia. He was captured at the Battle of Long Island in New York soon after. Upon his release, he re-enlisted as a wagoner and was at the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown in Pennsylvania.

THAONAWYUTHE AKA CHAINBREAKER  
b. ca. 1760. Thaonawyuthe was a Seneca chief who sided with the British. Among the many frontier battles and skirmishes he fought in was the Battle of Oriskany in New York. In retaliation for their repeated attacks, Americans troops burned Seneca villages and crops, destroying their communities.

JABEZ HUNTINGTON TOMLINSON  
b. December 24, 1760. Jabez was a student at Yale University. While spending the night at the home of his fiancée and her parents, he was captured by British raiders. Soon after his release, he joined the Continental Army and later became involved in politics, serving as a member of Connecticut’s General Assembly.

DANIEL WALDO  
b. September 10, 1762. Daniel served in the Connecticut militia as a teenager. He was captured in a sneak attack by local Loyalists while standing sentry outside a building at his encampment. He was held at the Sugar House prison in New York until a prisoner exchange freed him.

ABRAHAM WHEELWRIGHT  
b. July 26, 1757. Abraham worked as a seaman prior to the war, then served 13.5 months in the Continental Army. He crossed the Delaware River with George Washington and fought at the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. He then served as a sailor until he was captured by the British and sent to Bermuda. After his release, he returned to Massachusetts.