



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION **HERO BIOGRAPHIES**

RISE OF THE PATRIOTS PREMIERES MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 9/8C

Joseph Warren

In his time, Boston physician Joseph Warren was a nationally known figure and hero of the Revolutionary War yet today qualifies as America's least remembered founding father. He was a central organizer in the earliest years of the Revolution, a gifted orator, and leader of a Boston spy ring. It was Warren who sent Paul Revere on his famous midnight ride. He was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill at the outset of the war, at the age of 33.

John Brown

John Brown's claim to fame during the Revolution was masterminding the seizure and destruction of the British customs ship *Gaspée* in 1772, America's first provocative act against Britain that led eventually to war. He was considered a rogue by some, a loose cannon by others, and a pillar of the community by many. He and others founded the college which today bears his name: Brown University.

Samuel Prescott

Dr. Samuel Prescott from Concord, Mass., was courting his fiancée in Lexington on April 18, 1775 when he crossed paths with Paul Revere and William Dawes during their clandestine mission to alert local militiamen and the citizens that British troops were advancing. He agreed to help them without hesitation, but when Revere was captured and Dawes thrown from his horse, it was Prescott who completed the ride to Concord.

Samuel Whittamore

Samuel Whittamore was the oldest known colonial combatant in the war, born just 75 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. In 1775, at age 78, he stormed from his house in Menotomy (now Arlington), Mass., to battle the British army he once belonged to as they retreated from Concord. He killed three redcoats before suffering a gunshot to the cheek and thirteen bayonet wounds. Left for dead, he survived and lived to be 98.

Salem Poor

Born into slavery in Andover, Mass., Salem Poor purchased his freedom for 27 pounds – a year's salary for an average worker of the era – to join the Massachusetts militia in 1775, becoming one of 5,000 African Americans to fight for the patriots. His signature heroics came at Bunker Hill. Historical sources don't specify the exact nature of his action there, but fourteen officers officially petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts to cite him for his valor under fire.

THE EMPIRE FIGHTS BACK PREMIERES MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 10/9C

John Glover

Short, stocky and bullheaded, John Glover converted his Marblehead, Mass., maritime empire of schooners into an elite amphibious military force. In the Battle of Long Island, his disciplined mariners spearheaded the retreat of Washington's army across the East River to Manhattan and coordinated Washington's crossing of the ice-choked Delaware River that made possible America's crucial victory at Trenton.

John Honeyman

John Honeyman is a renowned spy who, after the Continental Army retreated to Pennsylvania and was on the verge of collapse, secretly reported that Hessian forces were off their guard and vulnerable to a surprise attack. Acting as a double agent, he also informed the Hessians that they had nothing to fear from Washington's disintegrating army, helping to ensure that they'd be unprepared. The patriots' victory at Trenton was a decisive turning point in the war, all made possible by Honeyman's clandestine role.

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Sybil Ludington

Known as the American Revolution's "female Paul Revere," 16-year-old Sybil Ludington made an important midnight ride of her own on April 26, 1777. After British troops invaded Danbury, Conn., she volunteered to alert her father's 400-man militia and rode 40 miles – more than twice as long as Revere, and unlike him, she rode solo and was never captured.

Timothy Murphy

Like many boys raised on the Appalachian frontier, Timothy Murphy learned to use a musket as soon as he was old enough to lift one and wasted no time offering his services to the patriot cause. At the Battle of Saratoga in 1777, Murphy changed the course of the war by firing a fatal shot at General Simon Fraser, without whom Britain's troops faltered and surrendered. The stunning victory encouraged France to join forces with America.

Han Yerry

Han Yerry was a chief of the Oneida nation, one of the few Native American tribes that allied itself with the patriots during the Revolution. He first distinguished himself at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777, where he killed nine redcoats and continued to attack with his tomahawk even after a bullet shattered his wrist. Later that year, he led a crucial expedition to Valley Forge, marching 400 miles to deliver 500 bushels of white corn to Washington's starving troops.

RETURN OF THE REBELS *PREMIERES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 9/8C*

Nancy Hart

Indians in the backwoods of Georgia called Nancy Hart "Wahatche," meaning "War Woman." Her most celebrated contribution was capturing several loyalist soldiers who raided her home and demanded a meal. She shot one dead and held the rest at gunpoint until local militiamen arrived and hanged them. In 1912, workers building a railroad near the Hart property discovered a neat row of six skeletons buried under three feet of earth. Today, Hart has a city, a lake, a highway and a county named after her in Georgia.

Elizabeth Burgin

History's details on Elizabeth Burgin are scarce. Her contribution during the American Revolution is documented in letters she wrote to George Washington, and in letters written by Washington to the Continental Congress. Reportedly, Burgin helped more than 200 American prisoners of war escape Britain's infamous prison ships anchored where the Brooklyn Navy Yard is now located.

Peter Francisco

As a child, Peter Francisco was abandoned by a foreign ship sailing up the James River and adopted by a local judge. He later took up arms in the patriot cause and gained a reputation as a warrior of unequalled prowess. Towering above the crowd at six feet, eight inches, he was nicknamed "The Virginia Giant" and saw action at Brandywine Creek, Germantown, Monmouth, Stony Point, and Guilford Courthouse. George Washington said of Francisco: "Without him, we would have lost two crucial battles, perhaps the war, and with it our freedom."

James Armistead

Virginia slave James Armistead believed his best chance for freedom would come if America won its independence, so he asked his master's permission to join the patriot cause and became an invaluable spy. He relayed intelligence between the American and French forces that triggered a chain of events that eventually led to the allies trapping the redcoats at Yorktown, forcing their surrender and effectively ending the war.

Betty Zane

Betty Zane was the heroine of what some call the last battle of the American Revolution. In her West Virginia hometown, a force of British soldiers and Native Americans besieged the townspeople, who took refuge in the settlement's fort. The patriots seemed doomed when they exhausted their gunpowder, but Zane volunteered to retrieve a supply in a cabin outside the fort. Dodging gunfire and arrows, she narrowly succeeded and the fort's defenders were able to hold off the attackers until they eventually retreated.