

Hi, I'm  
Harriet.



# TALKING HISTORY

with

**Harriet & Roxanne™**

**The American Revolution**

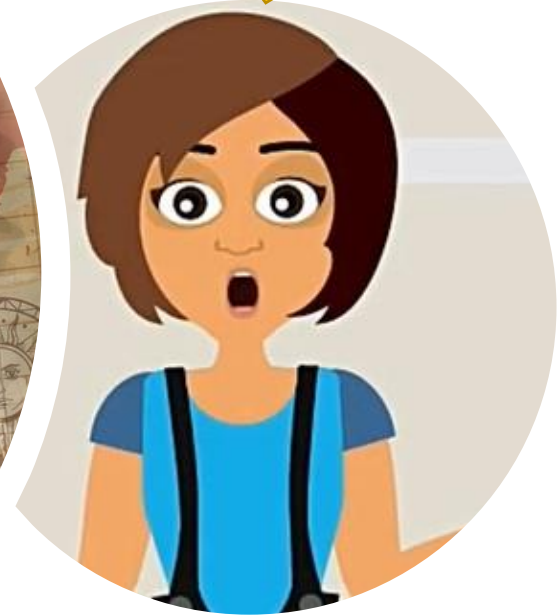
And I'm  
Roxanne.  
Join us for...



Roxanne, did you know that blacks fought in every major battle in the Revolutionary War?



That is amazing!



Today, we are going to share some of the many stories about some of the black heroes in the **American Revolutionary War**.





On **March 5, 1770**, British troops were sent to Boston to control American patriots. **Crispus Attucks**, a whaler and sailor, was the first man shot in what was known as "the shot heard around the world."

He was of mixed race, and it is not clear if he was a free man or an escaped slave. But he was lauded for playing a heroic role in the Revolutionary War.



Harriet, what was the Boston Massacre?



The British fired into a crowd of fifty patriots. A total of three were killed and five were severely wounded.



Harriet, what's going on here?



This is the first battle of the American Revolution, The Battle of Lexington, on April 19, 1775.


In the **Battles of Lexington and Concord** in Middlesex County, there were no fewer than ten black patriots who fought. **Prince Easterbrook**, a slave who lived in Lexington, was the first man wounded on Lexington Green. He was the first black soldier to fight in the American Revolution and a member of the Lexington Minutemen.



Lemuel Hayes was another hero from The Battle of Lexington. At 21, he enlisted as a Minuteman with his local militia.




**Lemuel Hayes** was the son of a black father and a white mother. Hayes was abandoned at five months and was brought up by Deacon David Ross. Lemuel was well-educated and became the first black minister of a church with a white congregation. He served as pastor over white and mixed churches in four different states until his death in 1833.

An illustration of a woman with dark skin, long black braids, and a green headband. She is wearing a green zip-up jacket over a red top and a blue skirt. She has a surprised expression with wide eyes and an open mouth. She is standing in a library or study area with bookshelves filled with books in the background. A white table and two white chairs are in front of her.

Roxanne, did you know that more 12,000 black soldiers served on both sides of the war?

Some fought for the promise of freedom, while others fought for their country's freedom. Let me tell you about Jack Arbus.

An illustration of a woman with short brown hair, wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt under black overalls and brown boots. She has her hands on her hips and a confident smile. She is standing in a classroom or office setting with a desk, two white chairs, and a window in the background. The window shows a landscape with green hills, white daisies, and a purple butterfly.

Why did enslaved people fight on both sides of the Revolutionary War?





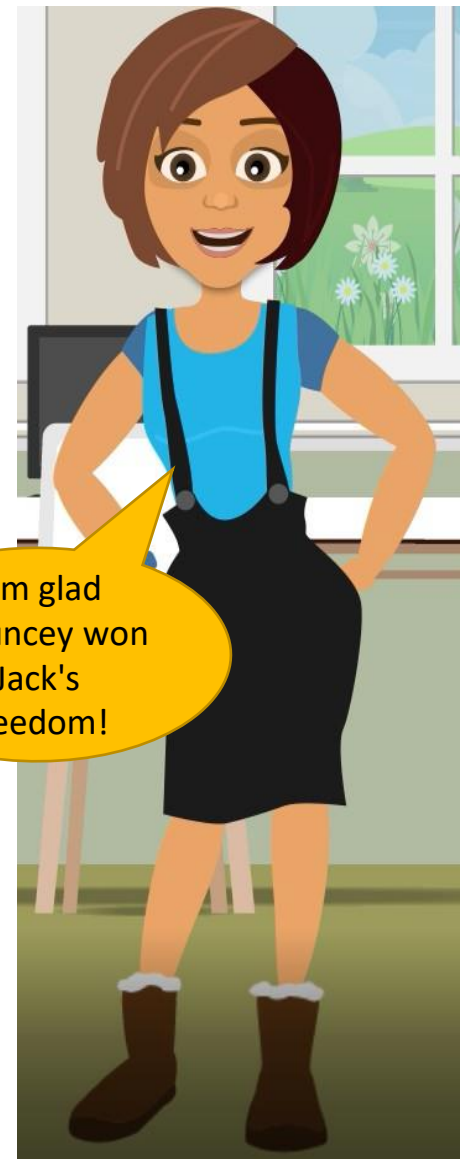
Jack Arabus, was promised freedom by his owner, but upon his return from war, his owner changed his mind.

Lawyer Chauncey Goodrich helped win Jack's freedom. This case helped hundreds of enslaved patriots to win their own freedom as they had won their country's.



**Chauncey Goodrich**  
(1759-1815)

**Jack Arabus** was a slave in Connecticut. It was common in those days for a person to pay someone to take their place in the military. Arabus' owner offered Arabus his freedom if he would fight in the place of his son. Chauncey Goodrich felt that Arabus had a right to sue his dishonest owner.



I'm glad Chauncey won Jack's freedom!



Did you know that blacks and whites fought side by side in the American Revolution?



**Peter Salem** was a slave and a celebrated marksman with the Continental Army. The rebels ran out of ammunition and the British won the Battle of Bunker Hill, but at a high price because Major John Pitcairn was shot.



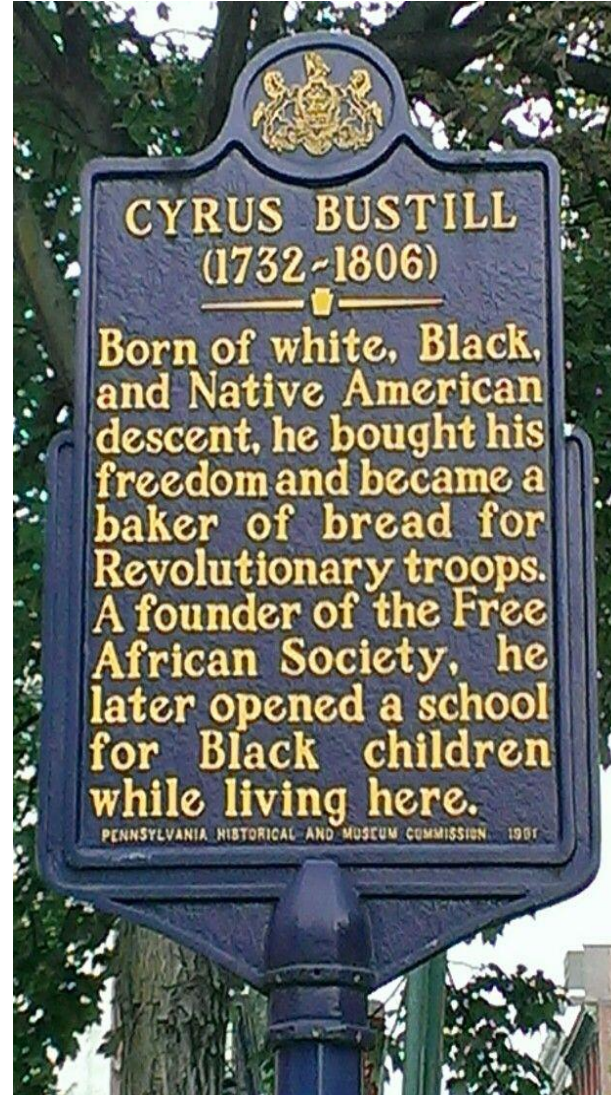


Moreover, there were 3 all-black units that served: 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Regiment, the Black Bucks of America, and the Volunteer Chasseurs.



**The 1st Rhode Island Regiment fought with distinction at the Battles of Newport, Trenton, and Yorktown, to name a few.**

Not all blacks were soldiers in the war. Cyrus helped the army with a great need, bread.



What! Cyrus was a baker?



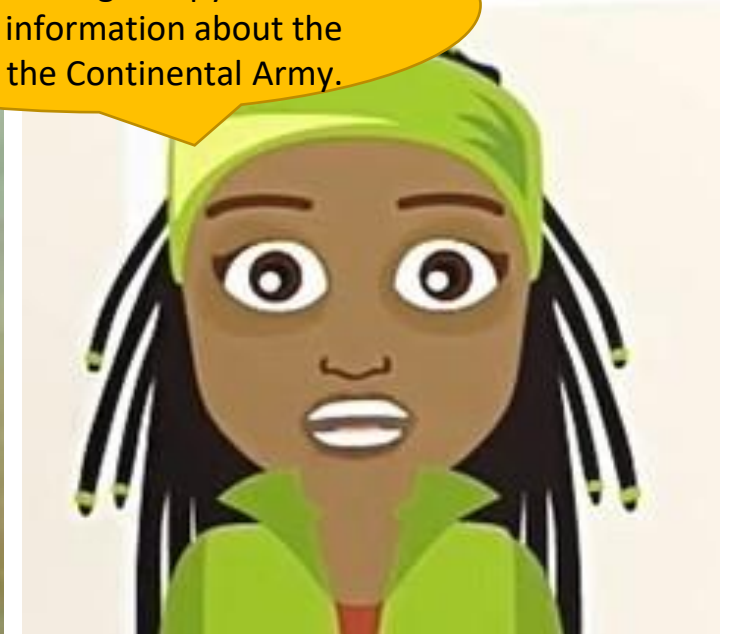
**Cyrus Bustill** was trained as a baker by Thomas Prior, a Quaker. Cyrus was commended for his service and received a silver piece from General George Washington. After the war, Cyrus and his wife moved to Philadelphia becoming a very important family in the abolitionist movement.



Harriet, who is this important looking man?



James Armistead. He was a slave & a double-agent spy who provided information about the British to the Continental Army.



**James Armistead** joined the Continental Army in 1781, and was assigned to French General Marquis de Lafayette, commander of the allied French forces. Armistead provided Lafayette with British troop movements, and strategic information. His espionage efforts helped give the Continental Army a decisive victory at the **Battle of Yorktown** and an end to the war.







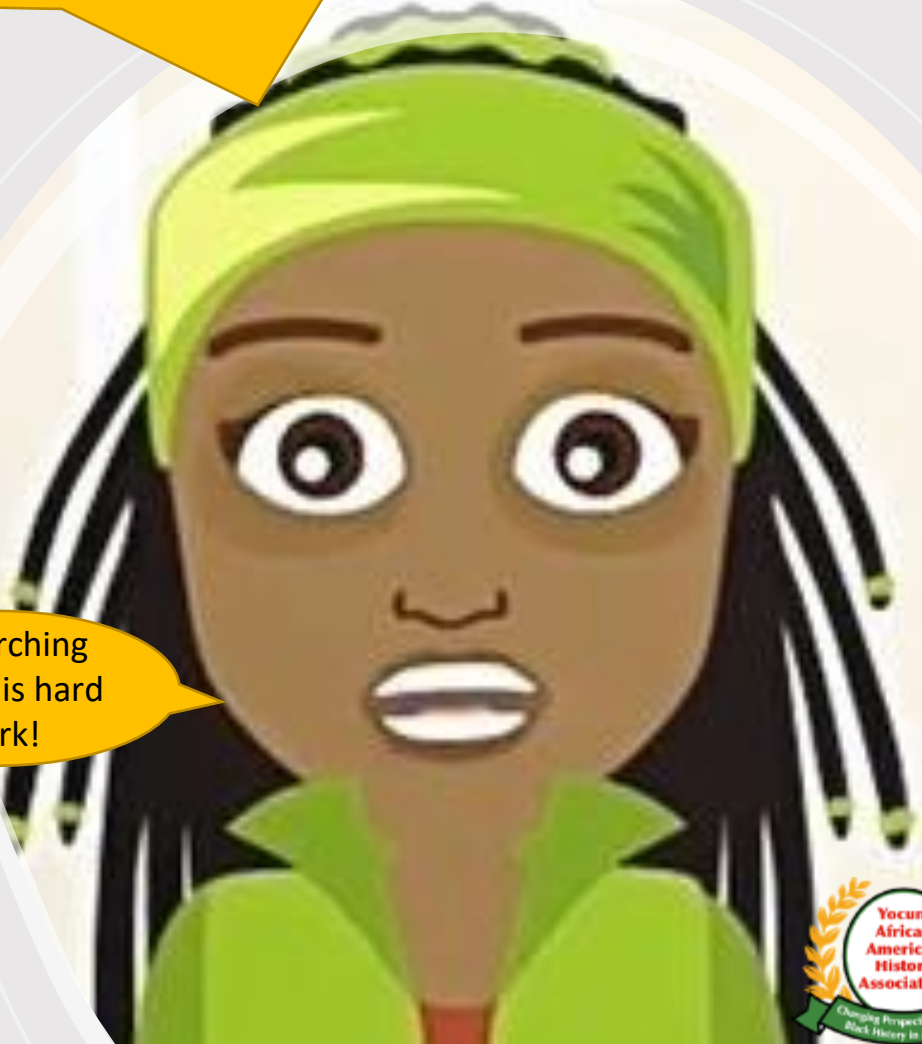
Harriet, is this painting, *Washington Crossing the Delaware*? What can you tell me about it?







Yes, Roxanne, that is correct, but the painting has a problem. Some historians have identified Oliver Cromwell as at the bow of the boat, and Prince Whipple, behind Cromwell to his right. That is wrong. Cromwell was with Washington and again the next day at the Battle of Trenton, but Prince Whipple was 135 miles away at the time.



Researching history is hard work!

**Prince Whipple** may have been a member of an African royal family. At 10, he was sent to America to attend school, but was sold by the captain and bought by Founder William Whipple of New Hampshire. Prince Whipple and General Whipple were in Baltimore at the time of the crossing of the Delaware River, 135 miles away. However, **Oliver Cromwell** was on the crossing with General Washington the day before the Battle of Trenton. He is sitting at the bow of the boat.



Roxanne, Look at this! Salem Poor, the hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill, was honored with a U.S. Postage Stamp back in 1975.




Yes, fourteen officers cited him for being a brave soldier.



Wow, what an honor! He must have been an outstanding soldier.







That's all we have for today! I hope you enjoyed learning about the black heroes of the America Revolution.

Thank you for coming to "Talking History with Harriet & Roxanne."



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