



CARRYING INDEPENDENCE FICTIONAL & HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

As I worked on early drafts of *Carrying Independence*, I had every intention of keeping the number of characters to just a few. Then I read an article that suggested some of the better works of fiction have more than twenty characters. That seemed a staggering number, but then I looked at the books and stories I loved best. More often than not, in order to create deeper protagonists or antagonists, sometimes supporting family and friend roles, and the odd person they encounter at the right time, are required to spur the story onward. Even more so within historical novels.

I began to think the advice had merit. By my final draft, I'd included all those I thought pertinent to furthering the story, and the number of characters I'd invented—both major and minor—eclipsed thirty. This didn't include the historic men and women necessary to support a work about the Revolution that requires my protagonist to meet and engage with them.

Yes, but who was real, and who isn't?

As the book moved through the publishing process, and especially once I began giving presentations about the history behind the book, readers asked again and again... which characters were invented? Which ones were real people from the time period? There was even a time or two when a historian asked if I'd created a character when in fact they were real men or women who'd existed back in 1776. Isn't that wonderful? Historical fiction can teach us about a time period, and when it sparks curiosity, even in those already well-schooled, it is a fine reward for a novelist.

To help scratch the itching curiosity about characters, I built a list of the fictional and historic figures

included in *Carrying Independence*. The list is alphabetical (by first name or title) and is further defined by who was a main character or a supporting character. There's also a sub-list of historic characters who did not have "speaking roles," but who were merely referenced in the narrative.

With regard to the real people, where possible, I've included a link, either to a general biography or to simple overviews online—you can take the research from there if you desire. For the people I invented, if they were based on someone real or from literature (as a couple were), that's where the link will take you.

What is the goal in sharing this list?

I hope this deepens your enjoyment of the story. More important, I hope it helps you see two aspects a little differently. One, it might help illustrate the complexity involved in creating a sweeping story and novel—although I do so delight in character-building, for how often does one get to create people out of thin air? Two, by reviewing the list, you might come to know not just the time period a little better, but the people who helped make our collective history happen.

In looking back at history, we too often glorify the history makers, forgetting they were people who began their lives as ordinary individuals, like you and me. Surely some figures were born to wealthier families or had the right lineage, you say? Yes, however...

As George Wythe says to Nathaniel in the novel, "What if *all* men are created equal? ...Internally we are born free. Free of thoughts and beliefs. Free of fear and prejudice. True, what, and who, surrounds us contributes to who we become... but with our first breath, we are all born free."

We, each and every one of us, no matter how ordinary we may believe we are, has the potential to contribute in extraordinary ways. We are all born with the potential to be both the governed and the governing. Which of the following characters—real or imagined—might you see in yourself or choose to emulate?

FICTIONAL CHARACTERS - 44

MAIN CHARACTERS/SPEAKING ROLES

Arthur Bowman

Nathaniel Marten (Mirtle)

Silas Hastings

Susannah Bowman Pemberley

Wolf (Kalawi) Wetakke

SUPPORTING & SPEAKING ROLES

[Alice Bowman](#)

[Captain Hugo Blythe](#)

Colonel Bowman

Jane Marten

John, the spy

Joseph Marten

Lydia

[Matthew Pemberley](#)

Peter Marten

Revered Kendall

Turtle Kamps

Wolf Nakomtha

MINOR SPEAKING ROLES

Boney prisoner burying soldiers on shore

Bald man & hairy man, workers on Marten Farm

Dawes

Jawara (Elam)

Joshua, Lydia's son/spy

Mister Anderson, oath administrator

Mrs. Elliot, the spinning bee

Ol' George

Rabbit Kisekamuta

Wolf Hunawe & Wolf Olethi

Wolf Wapishi

NON-SPEAKING ROLES

Mr. Jameson, the absent postmaster

Barton, Henry, and John, Blacksmiths

Harold, Matthew, and Johnathan Thompson (Triplets)

Jimmy Sanders & Peyton... Boys lost in the trenches

ANIMALS & SHIPS

[Bayard](#)

Benjamin the Cat

The Frontier

The HMS Montague

The Santa Lolita

HISTORICAL CHARACTERS - 51

MAIN SIGNERS OR SPEAKING ROLES

[Benjamin Franklin](#)... Statesman, PA
[Elbridge Gerry](#)... Signer No. 52, MS
[General Howe](#)... Commander, British Army
[George Wythe](#)... Signer No. 51, VA
[John Dickinson](#)... Brigadier General
[Lewis Morris](#)... Signer No. 53, NY
[Mary Katharine Goddard](#)... Printer,
Postmistress
[Matthew Thornton](#)... Signer No. 55, NH
[Oliver Wolcott](#)... Signer No. 54, CT
[Richard Henry Lee](#)... Signer No. 50, VA
[Thomas Jefferson](#)... Draftsman, Declaration of
Independence (among a few other things)
[Thomas McKean](#)... Signer No. 56, DE

SUPPORTING & MINOR SPEAKING ROLES

[Admiral Howe](#)... Commander of Royal Navy
[Anne McKean](#)... Daughter, Thomas McKean
[Charles Thomson](#)... Secretary to Congress
Chief Crow... Chief, Cherokee ([Referenced here](#))
[Colonel Atlee](#)... Commander, Battle of Brooklyn
[Colonel Magaw](#)... Commander, Fort Washington
[Colonel Morgan](#)... [Indian Agent, Fort Pitt](#)
[Eliza Lucas Pinckney](#)... Indigo crates/producer
[Elizabeth McKean](#)... Daughter, Thomas McKean
[Elizabeth Wythe](#)... Wife to George Wythe
[Esther De Berdt Reed](#)... Sewing Bee, PA
[Francis Lightfoot Lee](#)... Brother, Richard Lee
[Fredrick Wolcott](#)... Son, Oliver Wolcott
[General Clinton](#)... Commander, British
[General Greene](#)... Commander, Colonial
[General Washington](#)... I think you know this guy

[Gouverneur Morris](#)... Brother to Lewis Morris
[Hokoleskwa](#)... Cornstalk, Leader of the Shawnee
[Joseph McKean](#)... Son, Thomas McKean
[Laura Wolcott](#)... Wife, Oliver Wolcott
[Mister Beiber](#)... PA Farmer with [the Massive Oak](#)
[Netawatwees](#)... Grandfather of the Delawares
[Reverend Ewing](#)... Minister at First Presbyterian
[Samuel \(Sam\) Fraunces](#)... Owner, Queen's Head
[Sarah McKean](#)... Second wife, Thomas McKean

HISTORIC FIGURES REFERENCED

[Angstadt & Dickert](#)... Period Gunsmiths
[Blue Jacket](#)... War Chief, Shawnee
[Colonel Kachlein](#)... Commander, 3rd Battalion
[Colonel Knowlton](#)... Killed, Harlem Heights
[Colonel Sterling](#)... Battle of Brooklyn
[Henry Fite](#)... Owner, Baltimore House
[Lord Germain](#)... Secretary of State to America
[Mordecai Gist](#)... Maryland Commander
[Nathan Hale](#)... Soldier, spy
[Nonhelema](#)... Hokoleskwa's sister
[Quartermaster Moylan](#)... Sacked by Washington
[Sarah Goddard](#)... Mother, Mary Katharine
[William Faden](#)... 18th Century Cartographer
[William Penn](#)... Founder, Pennsylvania