

REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORICAL FIGURES

Chronological Impact & Key Contributions

1732 - 1799 George Washington *Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army*

Led the colonial forces to victory against the British Crown and served as the first President of the United States.

1706 - 1790 Benjamin Franklin *Polymath & Diplomat*

Secured vital French military and financial aid; served as a primary negotiator for the Treaty of Paris (1783).

1743 - 1826 Thomas Jefferson *Principal Author of the Declaration of Independence*

Articulated the philosophical foundations of American liberty and served as a wartime Governor of Virginia.

1737 - 1809 Thomas Paine *Philosopher & Political Activist*

Authored "Common Sense," the influential pamphlet that galvanized public support for independence from Britain.

1757 - 1834 Marquis de Lafayette *Major General, Continental Army*

A French aristocrat who volunteered his services, becoming a close ally to Washington and a hero of the Siege of Yorktown.

1741 - 1801 Benedict Arnold *General (Continental / British)*

A brilliant American tactician who eventually defected to the British, becoming the most infamous traitor in U.S. history.