

# African American Soldiers: Unsung Heroes of the American Revolution

The American Revolution was a pivotal moment in history, a struggle for independence that shaped the course of both the United States and the world. Amidst the valiant efforts of the Continental Army, often overlooked is the significant role played by African Americans, who fought alongside their white counterparts with unwavering determination and courage.



## The Black Phalanx: African American soldiers in the War of Independence, the War of 1812, and the Civil War

by Joseph T. Wilson

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 467 pages



Despite facing systemic racism and discrimination, thousands of African Americans joined the fight for freedom, inspired by the promise of liberty and the hope for a more just society. Their contributions to the war effort were substantial, and their bravery and sacrifice helped secure the victory that would lead to the foundation of the United States.

## Crispus Attucks: A Symbol of Resistance

One of the most iconic figures of the American Revolution is Crispus Attucks, a former slave who became a symbol of resistance against British oppression. On March 5, 1770, Attucks was among a group of Bostonians who confronted British soldiers occupying the city. In the ensuing melee, known as the Boston Massacre, Attucks was shot and killed, becoming the first American to die in the struggle for independence.

Attucks's death ignited outrage and fueled the growing resentment against British rule. His legacy as a martyr for freedom continues to inspire generations of Americans.

### **Peter Salem: A Revolutionary War Hero**

Another prominent African American soldier was Peter Salem, a former slave who served in the Continental Army for six years. Salem fought valiantly in numerous battles, including the Battle of Bunker Hill and the Battle of Monmouth. He was known for his courage and skill as a marksman, earning the respect of his fellow soldiers.

In recognition of his service, Salem was granted his freedom and received a pension from the Massachusetts government. He became a respected member of his community and continued to advocate for equality and justice.



### **Phillis Wheatley: A Voice for Freedom**

While many African Americans served on the front lines of the Revolution, others contributed in different ways. Phillis Wheatley, a young enslaved woman, used her powerful voice as a poet to advocate for the cause of freedom and equality.

Wheatley's poems, which condemned slavery and celebrated the ideals of the Revolution, gained widespread recognition and support. Her work inspired both white and black Americans and helped shape the nation's discourse on race and liberty.

## **The Impact of African American Service**

The contributions of African American soldiers to the American Revolution cannot be overstated. Their courage, determination, and sacrifice helped secure the victory that would lead to the foundation of the United States.

However, it is important to recognize that despite their contributions, African Americans continued to face discrimination and inequality in the post-war period. Slavery remained a legal institution in many states, and systemic racism persisted throughout American society.

Nevertheless, the service of African American soldiers during the Revolution laid the groundwork for the struggle for civil rights and equality that would continue for centuries to come.

The story of African American soldiers in the American Revolution is a testament to their unwavering patriotism, courage, and determination. Their contributions to the war effort were essential to the victory that would lead to the birth of the United States.

While they faced racism and discrimination, African American soldiers persevered, fighting for the promise of liberty and equality. Their legacy continues to inspire us today, reminding us of the power of unity, the importance of justice, and the enduring struggle for a more perfect union.

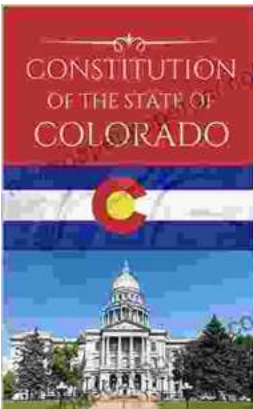


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