



JOHN BARRY

Known as *The Father of the American Navy*, he was a prosperous transatlantic trading captain. Once offered 100,000 British pounds and command of any frigate in the British Navy if he would desert the American Navy, Barry replied that not all the money in the British treasury or command of its entire fleet could tempt him to desert his adopted country.



GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM

From March 1, 1777 to February 21, 1779, Conyngham terrorized British shipping, capturing or sinking more than 80 ships. Commissioned overseas by Benjamin Franklin as a Navy Captain, the paperwork was lost and the Continental Congress refused to recognize Conyngham's appointment despite his contribution to the war effort.



HENRY KNOX

This Boston bookstore owner abandoned his business to join the local Patriot militia. In December 1775, he transported 60 tons of cannon captured at British Fort Ticonderoga across frozen terrain and rivers to fortify Washington's siege of Boston. Rising to the rank of Major General, he was appointed first Secretary of War under the U.S. Constitution in Washington's first Cabinet.



RICHARD MONTGOMERY

His father, Thomas, was a baronet and member of the Irish Parliament. He joined the British Army in Canada in 1756, moved to NY in 1772 and married into the prominent Livingston family. Appointed Brigadier General by the Continental Congress in 1775, and second in command in the successful Montreal Expedition, he was killed leading an assault on Quebec City.



STEPHEN MOYLAN

Son of a wealthy Cork shipping family, Moylan immigrated to Philadelphia and opened his own shipping firm. When the Revolutionary War broke out, he spent his own fortune outfitting the first ships of the Continental Navy, and earned several Continental Army posts. With his red waistcoat, buckskin breeches and bright green coat he brought a touch of color to the cavalry.



HERCULES MULLIGAN

When the British took control of New York, Mulligan remained in the city as an espionage agent, posing as a Loyalist and gathering vital intelligence from British soldiers during their meetings in his clothing store. Mulligan's vital communiqués included the British plan to invade Pennsylvania and a warning that British agents intended to kidnap George Washington.



TIMOTHY MURPHY

Murphy was a member of Col. Daniel Morgan's Rifle Corps, a fierce group of sharpshooters with deadly accurate aim. While Murphy neither rose to great heights in the Continental Army nor sought political status after the war, his participation in the colonies' fight for independence was, like thousands of other Irish Americans, vital to the Revolution's success.



JEREMIAH O'BRIEN

Five days before the Battle of Bunker Hill, O'Brien and his four brothers raided and seized the British warship H.M.S. *Margaretta* in Machias, Maine. The event was the first naval battle of the Revolution. Jeremiah and his brother John were commissioned as privateers and authorized to seize enemy ships.



JOHN STARK

Stark served as an officer in the British Army during the French and Indian war, and at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, joined the New Hampshire Militia. Enlisted by the Continental Army, he was promoted to Brigadier General for defeating the British at the Battle of Saratoga. Later in life, he wrote to his comrades: "Live free or die", which became the New Hampshire state motto.



JOHN SULLIVAN

As a lawyer, Sullivan argued that war had been started by the British attacks on Lexington and Concord. After the war, he served as Attorney General and Governor of New Hampshire, and the first federal judge for the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire. The first President once wrote of him that he had "a little tincture of vanity but along with it military genius."

Famous Irish OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Irish nationals were instrumental in helping secure American independence from England during the Revolutionary War



GEORGE WASHINGTON

As commander in chief of the Continental Army, General George Washington, eager to bring some relief to his oppressed army at Morristown, New Jersey, issued a general order which commemorated St. Patrick's Day on March 17, 1780. Not only was this an opportunity to give his soldiers a day off from their labors, but this order recognized the Irish people's quest for freedom from British rule.



RICHARD IRVINE

Irvine was born in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh. After a period in the British Navy, he set up practice in Carlisle, Pennsylvania as a surgeon. He was assigned command of the Pennsylvania regiment at Monmouth, NJ, and was later in command of Fort Pitt. He also went on to represent Pennsylvania in both the Continental Congress and the United States House of Representatives.



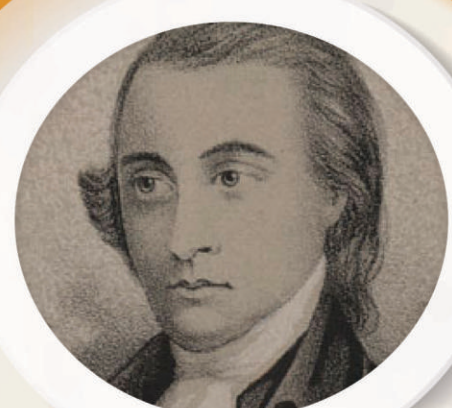
CHARLES THOMSON

Born in Co Derry, he was the first and only Secretary of the Continental Congress. Because of this, Thomson was a tremendous unifying factor. He kept the minutes of all sessions of Congress, including special minutes of all the secret affairs. His journals and files became the archives of our nation. Furthermore, he was the author of the original draft of the Declaration of Independence.



RICHARD BUTLER

From Dublin, he became an Indian agent. He rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the Continental Army. In 1783, the Confederation Congress appointed him to be an Indian commissioner. He helped to negotiate a treaty with the Iroquois people, determining their western boundary with the United States. After the war he returned to his Indian activities where he met his death.



MATTHEW THORNTON

From Limerick, he practiced medicine in Londonderry N.H. before taking several important State posts. He later held royal commissions as justice of the peace and colonel of militia. His medical practice was very successful, and he became a leading member of the community. He sat in the Continental Congress and was the signatory for Pennsylvania of the Declaration of Independence.



EDWARD HAND

Another medical man, Hand practiced in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Born in Co Offaly and an early supporter of the American cause, he started the Revolution as an ensign stationed at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania and eventually climbed the ranks to brevet Major General in the American Army. After the war, Hand was active in civil affairs, and even went on to sit in Congress.



JOHN SHEE

Originally from Co Meath, John Shee commanded one of the most effective combat outfits of the Revolutionary war, the Pennsylvania Line. These troops came largely from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, and included a large number of Irish volunteers. After the war he remained prominent in military affairs and attained the rank of general in the militia.



JAMES MCHENRY

From Ballymena, Co Antrim, he left his mark as surgeon, military man and political figure, and is commemorated by name in Fort McHenry at Baltimore. He served as secretary of war under John Adams and George Washington who described McHenry as "a man of Letters and Abilities, of great integrity, sobriety and prudence... of an amiable temper; very obliging, and of polished manners."



THOMAS LYNCH

Lynch was an Attorney and planter in South Carolina. After being elected to many civil offices of trust, he became much sought after for public service. He became a member of the colony's first and second Provincial Congress and the Constitutional Committee for South Carolina, where he helped draft the state constitution. He later went on to become the youngest signatory to the Declaration.



CHARLES CARROLL

Originally of Carrollton and the grandson of a Co. Offaly O'Carroll, he acquired huge land holdings and was active in canal and road construction. He was also an influential member of the Board of War and an early advocate for armed resistance. As a Maryland delegate to the Continental Congress, Carroll was the last surviving signatory of the Declaration of Independence when he died in 1842.