

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (1775-1783) AND THE WAR OF 1812

AFRICAN AMERICANS ON U.S. POSTAGE

JAMES JOPPY JR.

African heritage Americans, enslaved and free, motivated by the hope of freedom, served in the military on both sides of the wars (American and Britain) as soldiers and sailors. They participated in key battles and made significant contributions to the war efforts despite facing racism and discrimination. The following stamps recognize their sacrifices, bravery, and service.



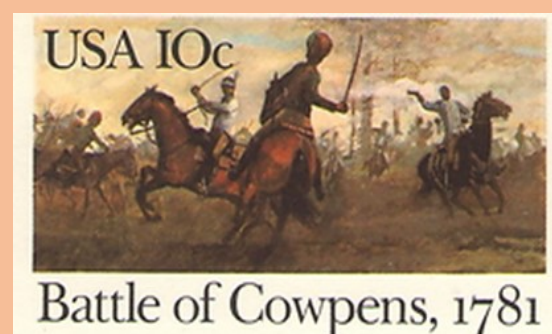
PETER SALEM (1750-1816) The stamp was issued to honor artist John Trumbull's illustration of The Battle of Bunker Hill in Massachusetts and shows Salem behind an officer. Salem was born a slave in Framingham, Massachusetts and named after the hometown of his owner. At the outbreak of the war he was temporarily released by his owner to serve in the Continental Army. After the battle, Salem's owner granted his freedom so he could continue to serve. He was cited for distinguished service and died in a poorhouse in 1816. (Issued 10/18/1968 - Scott #1361)

SALEM POOR (1747-1802) Born enslaved in Andover, Massachusetts, Poor purchased his freedom in 1769 at age 22 and enlisted in the Massachusetts Army colonial forces in 1775. Officers present at the Battle of Bunker Hill submitted a petition to General George Washington that described his outstanding bravery in battle. (Issued 3/25/1975 - Scott #1560)



WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE (1776) The stamp shows two Black soldiers, Prince Whipple and Oliver Cromwell, who were on the boat with Washington when his soldiers crossed the Delaware river to attack enemy forces. Whipple, a slave is in the front of the boat. He was granted his freedom after the war. Cromwell, a farmer born free in New Jersey in 1752, is behind Whipple. (Issued 5/29/1976 - Scott #1688)

THE BATTLE OF COWPENS (1781) The battle was considered a turning point in the recapture of South Carolina from the British. The illustration shows William Ball, the Black soldier to the right on a horse, firing his pistol and saving the life of the Colonel he was enslaved to. (Postcard issued 1/17/1981 - Scott #UX87)



BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE, THE WAR OF 1812 The stamp is based on a 1873 oil painting and shows Hannibal Collins, a former slave who secured his freedom by enlisting in the Continental Army. He was injured in the Battle of Rhode Island and after recuperating, enlisted in the Naval forces and served in the Battle of Lake Erie. Collins is one of the oarsman pictured on the stamp. (Issued 9/10/2013 - Scott #4805)