

# MASSACHUSETTS REVOLUTIONARIES: *Bold Stories Bright Legacies*

## MASSACHUSETTS STUDENTS, TELL US: WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REVOLUTIONARY IN MASSACHUSETTS HISTORY?

As part of the Massachusetts 250 initiative, we're inviting all Massachusetts K-12 public school students to submit your creative work to tell the story of an important revolutionary in our state's history. Use your talents and create a project about your chosen revolutionary and submit it by April 17. This spring, we will choose winning entries and invite those students to a celebration!

## LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION?

Looking for a list of potential topics to help you get started? Here are some important Massachusetts figures who may fit your definition of a revolutionary:

**Mum Bett** – The first African American woman to successfully sue for her freedom in court

**Crispus Attucks** – Boston man of mixed African and Indigenous heritage who died in the Boston Massacre, considered a revolutionary in the cause of independence

**John Adams**: First Vice President and President of the United States, and author of the Massachusetts state constitution, which was the model for the U.S. Constitution

**Lucy Stone**: Women's rights leader and first woman in Massachusetts to earn a college degree

**William Apess**: Pequot preacher who led the Mashpee Revolt, a non-violent protest for indigenous rights

**Francis Cabot Lowell**: Massachusetts entrepreneur, considered to have brought the Industrial Revolution to the United States

**Horace Mann**: First Massachusetts Secretary of Education who established our public school system

**Massachusetts 54th Regiment**: One of the first Black regiments to serve in the Civil War

**Helen Keller**: Disabilities rights leader who was an original member of the Massachusetts Commission of the Blind, among many other accomplishments

**James Naismith**: Inventor of basketball, which began in Springfield

**Robert Goddard**: Clark University professor who invented the liquid powered rocket, a first step in space exploration

**Bobbi Gibb**: First woman to run the Boston Marathon, despite the race only being open to men at the time

**Edward Brooke**: First African American U.S. Senator to be elected by the popular vote

**Frank "Wamsutta" James**: Wampanoag leader and civil rights activist who delivered an important speech about indigenous rights on what became the first National Day of Mourning.

**Jane Swift**: First woman to serve as Acting Governor of Massachusetts