

Black Sam Fraunces: The Revolutionary War Spy Who Betrayed Benedict Arnold

Samuel Fraunces, also known as "Black Sam," was a free black man who played a pivotal role in the American Revolution as a spy for General George Washington. He is best known for his role in the capture of British General John Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga and for his involvement in the exposure of Benedict Arnold's treason.

Early Life

Samuel Fraunces was born in 1722 in the Caribbean island of Nevis. His father was a white plantation owner and his mother was a black slave. Fraunces was educated and trained as a butler and cook. In his early 20s, he moved to New York City, where he worked as a waiter and bartender at several taverns.



"Black Sam" Fraunces: A Revolutionary War Spy

by Angelo Giallombardo

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
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Lending : Enabled

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Revolutionary War

In 1775, the American Revolution broke out. Fraunces joined the Continental Army and served as a waiter to General George Washington. He quickly gained Washington's trust and became one of his most trusted aides.

In 1777, Fraunces was sent on a secret mission to spy on British General John Burgoyne. Fraunces disguised himself as a slave and infiltrated Burgoyne's camp. He gathered valuable intelligence about Burgoyne's plans and movements. This intelligence helped Washington to defeat Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga, a turning point in the war.

Capture of Benedict Arnold

In 1780, Benedict Arnold, one of Washington's most trusted generals, began to plot to betray the American cause. Fraunces was one of the few people who knew about Arnold's treason. He informed Washington, who arranged Arnold's arrest. Arnold escaped, but Fraunces' information helped to prevent him from carrying out his plan.

Later Life

After the war, Fraunces opened a tavern in New York City. The tavern, known as Fraunces Tavern, became a popular meeting place for veterans and politicians. Fraunces continued to serve as a spy for the United States government until his death in 1802.

Legacy

Black Sam Fraunces was a remarkable figure in American history. He was a brave and resourceful spy who played a key role in the American

Revolution. His story is a reminder of the important role that African Americans played in the founding of the United States.

Fraunces Tavern

Fraunces Tavern is one of the oldest surviving buildings in New York City. It is located at 54 Pearl Street in the Financial District. The tavern is a popular tourist destination and is open to the public for tours and dining.

Sarah Fraunces

Sarah Fraunces was the wife of Black Sam Fraunces. She was a successful businesswoman who helped to run Fraunces Tavern. Sarah Fraunces is also known for her work as a spy for the American cause.

Benedict Arnold

Benedict Arnold was one of the most famous traitors in American history. He was a brilliant military commander who turned against the American cause and joined the British. Arnold's treason was a major setback for the American Revolution, but it ultimately helped to strengthen the American cause.

General Burgoyne

General John Burgoyne was a British general who led the invasion of Saratoga in 1777. Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga was a turning point in the American Revolution.

Benjamin Tallmadge

Benjamin Tallmadge was an American officer who served as Washington's chief of intelligence. Tallmadge was responsible for recruiting and

managing spies, including Black Sam Fraunces.

Black Sam Fraunces was a fascinating and complex figure who played a significant role in the American Revolution. His story is a reminder of the important role that African Americans played in the founding of the United States.



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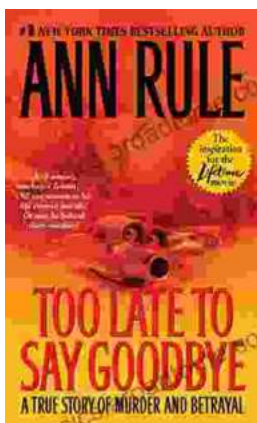
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