



# Second Story Tours

## Newsletter

February 2023

Welcome to Second Story Tours' newsletter! Inside you'll find fun facts, stories that inspired us, and insider information about Philadelphia's most historic neighborhood. Enjoy!

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Independence Hall at dusk, 2022 (copyright Second Story Tours)

Your Philly photo could be featured here! Just tag us on Facebook or Instagram #secondstorytours

# February is Black History Month



*Portrait of Yarrow Mamout (1819) by artist, Charles Willson Peale. In the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.*

At the time of the Revolutionary War, historians estimate that 20% of the population in the colonies was enslaved. Many enslaved people were caught up in the Revolutionary War whether they wanted to be or not. But many others were just trying to survive day-to-day life.

Yarrow Mamout, a man who survived slavery for more than 44 years, managed to avoid the war and make his way out of bondage and into a comfortable life as a businessman.

Captured in West Africa, Yarrow was enslaved at 16 years old and sold to a plantation owner in Maryland. After more than four decades in bondage, Yarrow was freed, and shortly after he purchased freedom for his son. He eventually bought a house in

Georgetown, bought stock in a local bank, and even began loaning money to others.

Learn more about the incredible life of Yarrow Mamout through our classroom-ready educational materials that come free with every tour that is booked with Second Story Tours.

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## Where in Philadelphia?



*Photo copyright Second Story Tours*

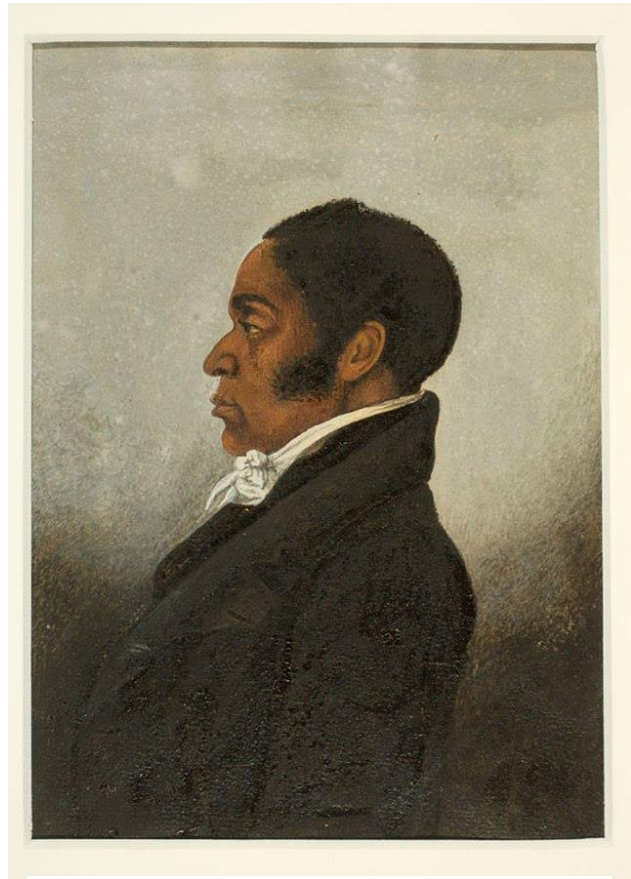
This small sign carved in marble and set into a brick wall reads, "Stock Exchange Place." Can you name the famous building its on? Scroll to bottom to find the answer.

## Black Founders Exhibit Opens Feb. 11

James Forten was just ten years old when he heard the Declaration of Independence read aloud in 1776. Though he was born free, he witnessed slavery all around him. At age 14, he joined the fight, siding with the American Revolutionaries, believing the Declaration's promise that "all men are created equal."

James Forten survived the war and went on to become a wealthy philanthropist. He used his wealth to help many people, including purchasing freedom for enslaved people and helping the Underground Railroad.

This month, the Museum of the American Revolution will open an exhibit titled, "Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia". Ask us about our package tours with the Museum of the American Revolution or [visit their website for more information](#).



*Watercolor of abolitionist James Forten (1766-1842) believed to have been painted during his lifetime. The image comes from The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (public domain).*

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## Flipping the Script

History isn't written in stone. The things we learned as children can change thanks to the hard work of historians (and sometimes scientists) who make new connections through research.

After two centuries of controversy, DNA finally provided the proof of the intimate relationship between Thomas Jefferson and his enslaved servant, Sally Hemings.

But the relationship between Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings is more complicated than it seems.

[Listen to the Hidden Brain podcast episode with Annette Gordon-Reed](#), the historian who has won multiple awards for her research on the Hemings family.

## From Our Partners at...

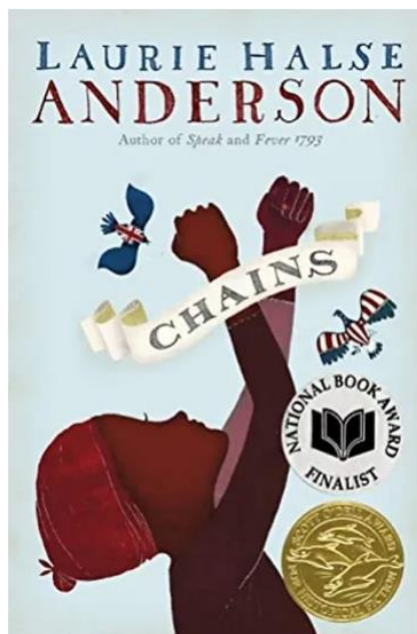
# Arch Street MEETING HOUSE

## Meet Quaker History

Lay was a lifelong Quaker and spent decades disrupting the peace of Pennsylvania Quaker Meetings, railing against his brethren for refuting one of their founding beliefs. Benjamin used public displays to bring attention to his cause and lived as removed from the influence of slavery as possible.

[Learn more about this remarkable, outspoken Quaker by listening to an interview between ASMH and Dr. Marcus Rediker, author of \*The Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quaker Dwarf Who Became the First Revolutionary Abolitionist\* \(2017\).](#)

## A Great Read for Young Adults



Set during the American Revolution, Laurie Halse Anderson's riveting young adult novel *Chains* focuses on the life of a 13 year-old enslaved girl named Isabel. Trapped in a world of arguing Loyalists and Patriots, young Isabel struggles to retain her identity as those around her continue to insist she is nothing more than property. A thoughtful and moving depiction of slavery during American Revolution when freedom from England did not include freedom for the enslaved.

Appropriate for Grade 5 and older

## Where in Philadelphia - The Answer

The First Bank of the United States, located on Third between Chestnut and Walnut Streets has a small marble sign on its southern side that reads, "Stock Exchange Place."

The First Bank of the United States opened in 1791 in Carpenters' Hall, and moved to this new, Greek revival building in 1797. This is where the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, put his ideas for America's financial future to work.



*Photo copyright Second Story Tours*

The sign "Stock Exchange Place" was put onto the building after 1876, when the Philadelphia Stock Exchange operated out of the back of the First Bank building.

[Read more about the First Bank of the United States here.](#)

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## Get in Touch



Do you have an idea for a story or want to list an event in Old City? We want to hear from you!

[Contact Us!](#)

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