

# Required Pre-Visit Activity: Revolutionary Biographies

## **Objectives:**

- Students learn the names and important accomplishments of Josiah Quincy I – “The Colonel”, Josiah Quincy II – “The Patriot”, and Samuel Quincy – “The Loyalist” in preparation for their visit to the Quincy House. At the museum, students will find objects that relate to each of the Quincys they have studied. Students will also reenact the Boston Massacre Trial at the house, involving the Quincy family on either side.

## **Time Needed:**

- Approximately 35 minutes

## **Materials Needed:**

-**Revolutionary War Biographies** for each student.

Some teachers may wish to use the biographies to review events related to the Revolutionary War in the Boston area with their students before doing the Reenactment and Scavenger Hunt exercises at the Quincy House. Events related to the Quincy family will be integrated into the human timeline as well.

## **Instructions**

1. Pass out copies of the **Revolutionary War Biographies** to each student.
2. Ask students to read the worksheet carefully before beginning. Ask them to introduce one of the Quincys to their classmates using the information on the worksheet. Students may work individually or in groups.
3. Once students have completed their worksheets, review the information about each member of the Quincy family as a group. It is helpful to remind students of any connections or overlaps with your classroom social studies curriculum.
4. If students are unfamiliar with a particular person or topic, you may wish to review it further using your social studies textbook or information provided in this binder.

# Josiah Quincy I – “The Colonel”

(1710-1784)

## Where is Josiah Quincy I on your Quincy House visit?

### **Reenactment:**

- You will read part of a letter he writes to his son, Josiah Jr., the defense lawyer.

### **House Tour:**

- He built the current Quincy House in 1770, after his previous residence was destroyed by fire.
- Some of the objects in the house belonged to him.
- You will visit the monitor where he spied on the British ships from his unique vantage point.

### **Letter Dissection:**

- You will read part of the letters he wrote to Washington.
- You will see the comment he carved in the monitor window.



Colonel Josiah Quincy, by John Singleton Copley, c. 1767. Courtesy of the Dietrich American Foundation, Philadelphia

- Graduated from Harvard College in 1728 and started working as a merchant in Boston.
- His ship, the *Bethel*, convinced a Spanish ship to surrender its valuable cargo. Retired from business 1756.
- Sided with the Patriots and was shocked to hear his son Josiah Jr. defend the soldiers accused in the Boston Massacre.
- Wrote letters to General Washington about the war effort between October 1775 and April 1776.

# Josiah Quincy II – “The Patriot”

(1744-1775)

## Where is Josiah Quincy II on your Quincy House visit?

### **Reenactment:**

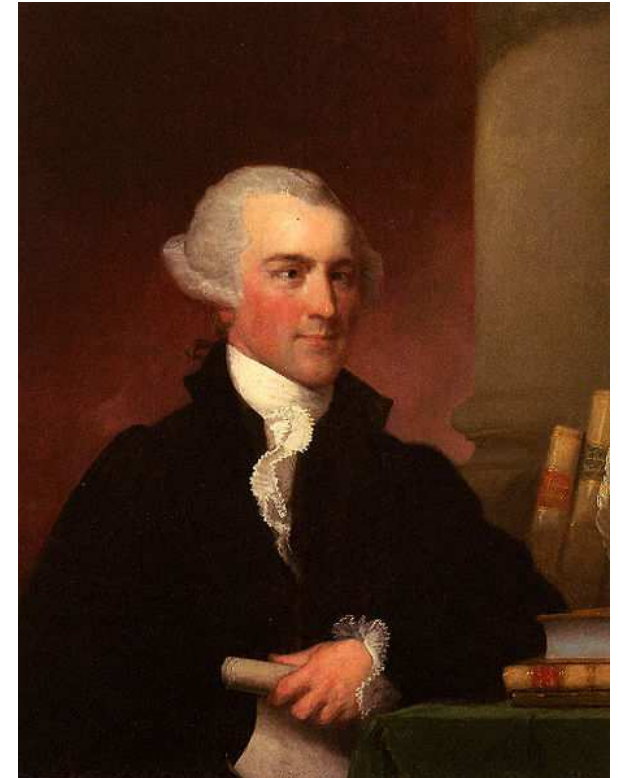
- Josiah Quincy II was one of the defense lawyers for the British soldiers at the Boston Massacre trial.

### **House Tour:**

- Some of the objects in the house belong to him.

### **Letter Dissection:**

- You will read letters that he wrote to his brother Samuel, a Loyalist.



Josiah Quincy, Jr., by Gilbert Stuart, c. 1825.  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

- Born in Boston in 1744. Throughout his life was considered to be in delicate health.
- Graduated Harvard College in 1763 and worked as lawyer.
- Published several patriotic articles in the *Boston Gazette* beginning in 1767. In 1774 he published “The Boston Port Bill” in response to the closing of Boston Harbor by the crown.
- Defended Captain Preston and the British soldiers accused of murder in the “Boston Massacre”, despite being a Patriot.
- Spoke at Old South Meeting House as the Boston Tea Party took place.
- Left for London in 1774, to negotiate a peaceful settlement, but died on the return trip.

# Samuel Quincy – “The Loyalist”

(1735-1789)

## Where is Samuel Quincy on your Quincy House visit?

### **Reenactment:**

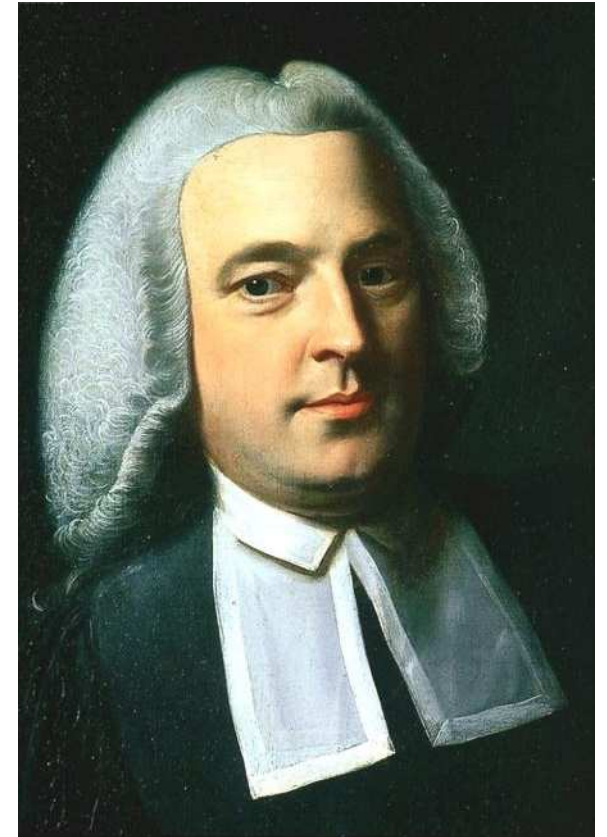
- Samuel Quincy was the prosecuting lawyer for Captain Preston and the British soldiers at the Boston Massacre trial.

### **House Tour:**

- Some of the objects in the house correspond to his lifetime.

### **Letter Dissection:**

- You will read letters that he wrote to his brother Josiah Jr., a Patriot.



Samuel Quincy, by John Singleton Copley, c. 1767. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

- Graduated from Harvard College in 1754 and entered the law profession. Admitted to the bar on the same day as John Adams, a friend from Harvard.
- Was appointed Solicitor-General of Massachusetts. Along with Robert Treat Paine, he prosecuted Captain Preston and the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre Trial, despite being a Loyalist.
- Left for London shortly after the Battles of Lexington & Concord, leaving behind his wife and children. He never returned to the colonies.
- He obtained an appointment as comptroller of the customs on the island of Antigua in 1779.