

A Word from the Author

“GIVE ME FACTS OR GIVE ME DEATH AS A CREDIBLE HISTORICAL AUTHOR!”

It is vitally important to me that I share with you background information on my research that fills the pages of my books, and the liberties I take to tell the stories. The genre I write is historical fiction fantasy, in that order. This means the first layer I begin writing is the *history*. This foundation layer must be rock solid historically, down to the most minute detail. I exhaust my sources of books, online research, site visits, and interviews with historical experts on people, places, and events. Once the bedrock history is laid, I then add the layer of *fiction* which must be *plausible*. For instance, the fictional words I put into Lafayette’s mouth, as well as his actions, must match his character and the cultural setting. Once the historical fiction is as pure as I can make it, I add the layer of *fantasy* where the animal characters come into play. I look for those “unknowns” in the story of things that did happen (but we don’t know how or why) or that *could* have happened. I allow my animals to affect the events of the story without ever giving away their true identities, which makes it fun. Once all three layers are set, the book is an accurate, educational, enjoyable (I hope) read intended to make history come alive for the reader.

Below is a great deal of background information that I hope you will find fascinating, but with a few spoiler alerts for this book and the next. It will fill in some details I cannot possibly cover with an already lengthy manuscript. I wish I could write about every single thing that was going on concurrently in America, France, and England during these exciting years, for there is far more that occurred than what I’ve presented here. In some ways I feel I am just scratching the surface, believe it or not. I highly encourage you to read non-fiction books and biographies that cover this amazing historical period to increase your understanding of and appreciation for our founding fathers and the American Revolution. A fantastic resource for maps to visualize each battle I describe is located at author Rick Atkinson’s website from his superb book, *The British Are Coming*: <https://revolutiontrilogy.com/maps-timeline/>. Please reference my bibliography for his book and others that I hope will get you hooked on learning about the players and events of America’s birth. With every book you finish, I hope you’ll quote my dear friend Richard Schumann (Colonial Williamsburg’s Patrick Henry) who says, “This bears further discovery.”

Chapters 2,3,7,10,13,14,15: A Treacherous Pattern/A Goot Man/A Pattern Emerges/The Sword of the Revolution/Conquer or Die/Peas Please/A Warning to Every Soldier The plot to assassinate George Washington has many twists and turns coupled with some documentation of proceedings, different versions of the same account, unknown anecdotes, and intriguing folk lore. I had to compress time and events as I fictionalized the account of this plot (i.e., Tryon and Matthews, and Green and Forbes had series of meetings, not just the one I portrayed).

If you want the nitty gritty details, read *The First Conspiracy* by Brad Meltzer and *Turncoats, Traitors, and Heroes* by John Bakeless for a more thorough exploration of the intrigue and plotting by Governor Tryon and the back story of all the players involved. The depth of the

counterfeiting ring is especially interesting. Ketcham did indeed travel to Philadelphia to get the paper, and he said that he was thwarted from buying the paper by a Dutchman who told him it was “sworn” paper and discouraged him. That was perfect for Gillamon to play the part. Ketcham returned home to his six children but was soon arrested, leaving them home alone with no one to care for them.

Much is unknown, perhaps by design of necessary secrecy, but also simply from lost documents over time. We have to run with what we *know*: Governor Tryon successfully turned some of Washington’s own Life Guards against him for the purpose of kidnapping or assassinating the Commander-in-Chief as British forces arrived in New York. Ketcham overheard Michael Lynch and Thomas Hickey in prison bragging about their involvement after they were arrested for trying to pass counterfeit bills, and he passed along what he heard to the New York Provincial Congress. There is a reference to the piece of paper with names that Ketcham handed over, but its origin was unknown, and it was lost to history. (Again, it was perfect for Gillamon to provide such a note.) Washington’s request to form the secret Committee on Conspiracies that John Jay oversaw was technically the origin of the first CIA. We don’t know how or when Washington was informed about the plot, but it is reasonable to assume that Jay or someone from the committee notified him immediately in person. It was vital to maintain secrecy about the plot.

The intriguing “poisoned pea” incident has been told as taking place at Fraunces Tavern, or at the Mortier Mansion, and carried out by Thomas Hickey via Fraunces’ daughter who backed out at the last minute and warned Washington, by the housekeeper Mary Smith or by a fictional character written of in London named Mary Gibbs. The story goes that the suspicious peas were tossed outside to the chickens who promptly died. Washington’s real housekeeper Mary Smith was hired from the recommendations of aristocratic families in New York and was on the army payroll. There is no record of complaints over her performance, but she was abruptly removed from Washington’s staff the weekend of June 23, 1776. There is no record of her dismissal or an arrest, but an anonymous letter was printed in the *Pennsylvania Journal* on June 26 indicating that she was somehow involved in the plot. Washington himself later that week wrote to a friend in New York, desperate to find a new housekeeper as he had “occasion to part with my Housekeeper.” So, Mary Smith was a reliable housekeeper at the Mortier Mansion for two months, and then something happened to make her vanish from history. Cue my pen to use her abrupt departure to combine with the poison pea story for an intriguing way to tell the story with a fantasy twist. But what happened to the real Mary Smith? I’ll let you ponder that.

Hickey and Lynch getting the counterfeit bills from the lewd woman in the Holy Ground District and getting arrested at a tavern is fiction on my part, but the scenario unfolded somehow like that. We know they acquired the bills and attempted to pass them for goods but were caught. Since Washington gave an enigmatic warning about “lewd women” that Hickey confessed with his dying breath, it worked to set it up as I did. Hickey’s Court Martial found him guilty and sentenced him to death by hanging as an example and warning to anyone who would consider such treason again.

Ketcham was indeed released after providing the Committee on Conspiracies with at least nine days of intelligence on the details of the plot that he was able to pull from Hickey and Lynch in jail. Ketcham's parallel story to Mordecai and Joseph was too uncanny not to incorporate as Gillamon talked him through his ordeal. Of course, we don't know who cared for Ketcham's children, or what happened to him after this event, but I like to think that the Maker took care of those children, and that Ketcham was a changed man when he returned home.

Gillamon's dialogue about snakes and evil is taken straight from Rabbi Jonathan Cahn's "The Serpent's Blood" in his book, *The Book of Mysteries*.

Chapter 5: To Appear So, it Must Be So

The details of King Louis XVI writing the check for one million *livres* for Beaumarchais to start a fictitious trading company are just as I presented them here. Vergennes's words to Beaumarchais are taken directly from correspondence with the playwright-spy-businessman with instructions to keep the French government out of his dealings to assist the Americans. Beaumarchais signed the receipt of deposit for the check on June 10, 1776, in Paris. A fun factoid: King Louis XVI really did enjoy the hobby of working with locks as a boy. The background for the Marquis de Lafayette is fact, including his masquerade ball insult to escape from his fate as bodyguard for Comte de Provence to pursue military aspirations. Read the full scenes of this event and the fateful dinner at Metz in *The Declaration, the Sword, and the Spy*.

Chapter 6: The Voice of the Revolution

It was astounding that Virginia led the charge to Independence with Patrick Henry at the forefront. It is true that earlier in April, North Carolina had told its delegates to vote for independence should it be brought up at the Congress, but they did not call for the motion of independence. Virginia was the first to instruct its delegates to do so, making it the first colony to declare its own independence as well as lead the nation to do the same. Actual quotations were lifted directly from: Richard Henry Lee's April 12th letter to Patrick Henry, much of General Lee's words from letters he wrote to Washington and words he spoke to Patrick Henry, Patrick Henry's resolve for independence (presented in its entirety, and Pendleton's compromise resolutions (partially presented). Thomas Nelson, Jr.'s words and Patrick Henry's speech were words that I put into their mouths, pulled from reports summarizing points they made, and excellent imagery written by historian Thomas S. Kidd in his wonderful book, *Patrick Henry, First among Patriots*. Patrick Henry usually incorporated references to Scripture, and frequently likened America's quest for liberty to that of the children of Israel and the Promised Land. Williamsburg celebrated in grand style followed by the day of Fasting and Prayer at Bruton Parish Church with the text quoted from II Chronicles. "Old Fiddlehead" was a moniker for Meriwether Smith. But did Patrick pick up a fiddle to celebrate? I think it's entirely possible, as he was as fiery a fiddler as he was an orator.

Chapter 8: The Pen of the Revolution

If you want the nitty gritty details of how the Declaration of Independence came together and an excellent history of British precedent declarations, I highly recommend *American Scripture* by Pauline Maier. I relied heavily on that work as well as *John Adams* by David McCullough. General descriptions of how events unfolded on the floor of Congress were taken from the *Journal of the Continental Congress* and the diaries and letters of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. The exact dialogue of the debate and the scene at City Tavern are fictionalized based on what was said and did take place. The biting flies at the Congress and the Graff House were real!

Chapters 9, 26: Our Dog/Man in Paris

So begins America's dance with France! In my first two Revolution books (*The Voice, the Revolution, and the Key* and *The Declaration, the Sword, and the Spy*) I slowly began setting the stage for America's longstanding friendship with her very first ally. I submit that most Americans do not realize that we would not have won our independence without France. Her aid in money, guns, ships, and men was crucial to sustaining and equipping the Continental Army. It has been estimated that 80-90% of the gunpowder the Patriots used in the Revolutionary War was supplied by France. It was an extremely delicate, secretive task to forge an alliance not only months before the Declaration of Independence in 1776, but also before France *officially* entered the war in 1778, turning it into a world war. Silas Deane was America's first official diplomatic envoy, but little did he know how difficult it would be. There is far more to his story than I can relay here in the scope of work he performed while in France, the intrigue and conflict he shared with Arthur Lee and the controversy surrounding his actions that has cast shadows over his contributions for over two centuries.

Chapter 16: First in the History of the World

America owes Founding Father George Mason a profound debt of gratitude, for without him, we might not have had the firm foundation of rights we enjoy today. I encourage you to research this amazing patriot and the details of how he drafted the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Constitution. Patrick Henry holds the distinct title for being the first elected governor of a free republic under a written constitution in the history of the world. If that doesn't make you admire Mr. Henry, I don't know what will! Throughout these ending chapters and the entire book, I hope I have sufficiently presented the terrible conflict that faced the founders over the issue of slavery. I have sought to present the dilemma as it was, not pass judgment on their decisions, as we in the twenty-first century are apt to do. It wasn't a pretty process, but I've presented the opinions and facts as it unfolded.

Chapters 17, 22, 23: Thirteen Clocks/Deciding Independence/The DOI

I did not present the interaction of the full Committee of Five that worked on the Declaration of Independence, but only the famous interchange with Franklin, Adams, and Jefferson. Much of their dialogue is taken from quotes from diaries and letters. Some is mine alone. But it was a

painful editing process for Mr. Jefferson, as Congress deleted a quarter of what he had written! To read a transcript of each original word and how Congress made the draft bleed with deletions and changes, visit <https://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/congress.html>. The images of the Declaration shown in these chapters are from Jefferson's original rough draft; however, that draft was not the copy he and the committee presented to Congress on June 28th. Jefferson penned and submitted a clean, fair copy that was used to be edited into final form. I searched for it everywhere, but what happened to Congress's 'working copy' remains a mystery to this day. Another unknown is exactly how the editing process worked once John Hancock ordered that that draft be placed on a table for the delegates to review. Did Secretary Thomson make all the changes, or was it Jefferson? It must have been delegated to one individual to make the changes, so as not to have illegible scribbles from dozens of men across the draft. It makes sense to me that Thomson was the one to make all the changes discussed verbally. Did delegates write down requested changes in note form to leave on Thomson's table? That again just seems logical to me. Congress (not Liz and Nigel) did indeed add the last two references to God.

The words of Dickinson and Adams on the debate for Independence were taken mostly from their actual remembrances of what they said. The final paragraph of Adams pleading for future generations was mine. The specific names of delegates standing from each colony to cast their votes were chosen at random by me, as we don't have such specific details. The weather and flies happened as depicted, the latter to the point that delegates hurried the final edits to "escape their tormentors." They did receive word of British ships off New York that night, but I chose to have the news brought during the session. An express rider was sent to retrieve Caesar Rodney, so it worked for me to have Gillam do the honors. John Adams's letter to Abigail is presented word for word. It makes me smile to know that his vision for America celebrating her Independence was only off by a date, not by the method that we use to celebrate.

Chapter 24: Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land

Patrick Henry contracted malaria just as he was sworn in as Governor of Virginia. Many of the Founding Fathers contracted the disease, which recurred throughout their lives. There is no definitive record that the Liberty Bell was rung on July 8th, 1776, in Philadelphia, but because the steeple was in such disrepair, most historians do not think it rang out that day. I hope you and your family will take the time to read every word of the Declaration of Independence aloud every year on the Fourth of July to remember why you celebrate with fireworks, BBQ, and sparklers. I pray that you have a greater understanding of what it took to bring these words to fruition. May Americans never forget how dearly bought was each and every word. A copy was indeed sent to Silas Deane, but it never arrived. A second copy was sent in August, but Deane did not have official word from Congress until November.

Chapter 25: Fighting Words to Topple a Tyrant

I hope you take the time to pay close attention to the original letters and documents that I include in this book. This chapter has several, and you will notice that they reference God and Christianity with normality during correspondence. This is who our Founding Fathers were, and this is what they believed. God was central to them and to the glorious cause of American Independence. Their clear reliance on God for victory, guidance and protection is a common thread. Remember that these letters between Hancock and Washington are from the President of the Continental Congress to the Commander-in-Chief, and they express their utter dependence on God. The heads of civilian and military authority at America's birth revered God.

After the statue of King George III was toppled, the lead was melted to make 42,088 musket balls. Archaeologists recently unearthed a musket ball from Monmouth, NJ and it had the same lead signature from the statue, so the patriots did indeed fire back bits of King George at his forces in the Battle of Monmouth, which I'll cover in the next book. Washington was appalled by the conduct of his men, and although he understood their patriotic fervor upon hearing the Declaration of Independence, he wrote the next day of his disapproval of their actions. Their behavior had "so much the appearance of riot and want of order in the army" that he urged them in the future to leave such matters to "proper authority." Washington was not going to allow his army to disrespect property as this war unfolded, even if it *was* King George III.

Chapter 27: An Official Secret

While I have Dubourg there for the visit to Versailles, far more transpired with him prior to this meeting. He actually tried to prevent Deane's first meeting so he could be the sole intermediary with Vergennes. He also attempted to circumvent Beaumarchais so he could profit from French aid to the Americans. It came to nothing, as Beaumarchais was the glue to the entire scheme. Bancroft indicated he always accompanied Deane to Versailles, but he did not sit in on his meetings; however, other sources said he remained behind in Paris and Deane filled him in upon his return. British Ambassador Lord Stormont's web of spies was extensive, and knew every move Deane made, even before he arrived in France! There was also great trouble with Arthur Lee, Beaumarchais, and Silas Deane. Once Deane was in Paris, Beaumarchais cut off communication with Lee and dealt exclusively with Deane, even though it was Lee who had brought Beaumarchais into the entire affair! Lee traveled to Paris and stirred up things with Deane but returned to London. As you'll see, Arthur Lee resented Silas Deane from that moment, and it only got worse when Benjamin Franklin arrived in France in December 1776. Lee was a suspicious, cranky individual whom no one liked. But he would have his revenge with Deane and Beaumarchais.

Chapters 28-29: Howe, Exactly/No One By That Name

Connecticut Governor Trumbull would write about Howe's offered "pardon": *No doubt we all need a pardon from Heaven for our manifold sins and transgressions, but the American who needs the pardon from his Britannic Majesty is yet to be found.*

The Declaration of Independence seriously undermined Lord Howe's powers as peace commissioner. He had no authority to negotiate with a sovereign nation, but he tried to secure a peaceful resolution anyway.

There was a bit more discussion at the meeting with Washington and Paterson, regarding Washington's complaint over the gross mistreatment of American prisoners in the Canadian theater of war. He had written to Howe on July 15th on the subject and Paterson agreed to express Washington's sentiments on the matter. But everything else transpired as presented here.

It was not until the Battle of Yorktown where American Independence was secured in October 1781 that the British officially recognized General George Washington's title.

Chapters 4,11,12,18: The Battle of Sullivan's Island

When writing the battle scenes for this book, understand that I've had to consolidate and compress a significant amount of military and tactical details and scenes to keep the story moving. There was far more detail in the preparations, planning and orchestrations of the battle both with the Americans and British than I could possibly cover here, especially with the Battle of Breach Inlet. If you really would like to dig into the nitty gritty details of America's first major battle victory over the British, I recommend you read a document provided by the National Park Service at <http://npshistory.com/publications/fosu/sullivans.pdf>.

Many quotes by Clinton, Parker, Cornwallis, Tarleton, Lee, and Moultrie are taken from their actual words spoken or written in reports about the battle. The transport ships *Jenny* and *Kitty* were among the names listed (I couldn't resist using them), but we don't know the one on which Tarleton sailed. The description of Long Island by the surgeon are his actual words from a letter he wrote describing the horrible conditions there. A nine-foot alligator did indeed attack an unnamed the soldier on Long Island, but I couldn't resist making Banastre Tarleton the victim.

It was the fault of local harbor pilots who positioned Peter Parker's ships too far from Fort Sullivan to inflict the kind of damage the ships were capable of doing to personnel with grape shot and other projectiles. Although one harbor pilot is mentioned with Parker on *Bristol*, the others are unknown, and we are uncertain if they acted out of fear or active intent to help the patriots. When the *Actaeon*, *Sphinx* and *Siren* additionally got stuck on the sandbar by three harbor pilots (way to go, Clarie!) they were unable to make their intended position and attack Fort Sullivan from the rear. The *Actaeon* later became the site where Fort Sumter was built. Clinton did return to capture Charleston in 1780, but South Carolina and the southern colonies remained free from active fighting until then. That is also when Banastre Tarleton chased Francis Marion through the swamps and wetland forests of South Carolina, and gave him the *nom de guerre*, "The Swamp Fox."

For his valiant service, Colonel Moultrie was honored in a resolution by the South Carolina Assembly with the renaming of Fort Sullivan to Fort Moultrie. The heroic palmetto tree was also

awarded a position of honor on the South Carolina state flag for its service in repelling the British. South Carolina would forever more be known as “The Palmetto State” because of the spongy trunks that saved Charleston.

It’s interesting that the depth of the water at Breach Inlet was not the 18-inches that Clinton had been told by a local pilot (way to go, Clarie!), but *seven* feet. (Of course, it was seven!) Later, One of England’s opposition newspapers, the *Saint James I Chronicle*, printed a parody in verse describing Clinton’s repulse at Breach Inlet:

*By the Red Sea, the Hebrew host detained,
Through aid divine the distant shore soon gained;
The waters fled, the deep a passage gave,
But this God wrought, a chosen race to save.
Though Clinton’s troops have shared a different fate,
'Gainst thee poor me! not chosen sure of heaven,
The miracle reversed, it still is great--
From two feet deep, the water rose to seven.*

The final result of the ten-hour battle was America’s first major victory of the war over the world’s most powerful navy. “We never had such a drubbing in our lives,” a Royal Navy sailor would write. The British fired 7,000 rounds at the Americans, while Moultrie’s forces returned 960 rounds. British losses totaled 94 killed and 182 wounded. Governor Campbell’s wound from the battle lead to his death a while later. The Americans suffered 12 killed and 26 wounded from Fort Sullivan and Breach Inlet. Clinton and Parker would blame each other for years after the battle as to who was to blame for the failed attack. The British sailed away with their pride hurt, but their Army and Navy were very much intact for the ensuing battles in New York where they would redeem themselves.

Chapter 30: A Newsworthy Recovery

Patrick Henry was sworn in as Governor of Virginia on July 6, 1776, on his sickbed with malaria in Williamsburg. By July 9th, rumors of his death had spread from Hampton through the Northern Neck. He was sick for five weeks and recovered at Scotchtown while Lt. Governor John Page tended to various administrative matters as head of Henry’s Advisory Council. The *Virginia Gazette* excerpts presented here are from the original papers that Patrick Henry would have read from his sickbed. Just imagine him receiving word of the Declaration of Independence, or the buildup of forces in New York as they prepared for battle. In a day when there existed no internet, no email, no phones or any kind of electronic communication, the freedom of the press was crucial to know what was happening throughout the colonies and the world. These

revolutionary papers are a treasure trove of history, and you can read them online. It is striking to see the bold, unashamed prayers offered by the Virginia Convention. No wonder Divine Providence enabled these underdog patriots to achieve victory! They entrusted everything to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, including the wisdom of their elected leaders. For the scenes regarding the October 1774 Battle of Point Pleasant, Lord Dunmore, Andrew Lewis, and Samuel and Elizabeth Crowley, see *The Voice, the Revolution, and the Key*. Yes, Samuel and Elizabeth were my sixth great-grandparents, and I descended from their son, Littleberry. As Governor, Patrick Henry did indeed obtain additional financial aid for Elizabeth, and I have a copy of the document with his signature.

Chapters in Part Three: The Battle of Long Island

I have given as detailed an account of the buildup and fighting of the Battle of Long Island, also called the Battle of Brooklyn. But there is still more! There is always more to learn, and I must leave it to the excellent historians in their factual accounts to give you the full story. I leaned heavily on Schecter's *The Battle of New York* among other books for my research. We have no details of Banastre Tarleton's movements in this battle, but he was eager to be recognized by those in command, so it is plausible that he volunteered whenever he could. The British actually did sound the fox horn, so I put it in the hands of Tarleton as it is something he would gladly do.

The escape from Brooklyn was undoubtedly an unparalleled success. Washington saved over nine thousand men—the bulk of the defensive force—as well as most of their horses, equipment, and supplies. While the evacuation enabled the Continental Army to fight again another day, the Battle of Brooklyn took its toll. Numbers vary, but some three hundred Americans were killed, seven hundred wounded and one thousand captured. In contrast the British and Hessians reported combined losses of sixty-four killed and two-hundred ninety-three wounded. A sad note about those Americans taken prisoner, most of whom the British crammed aboard prison ships anchored in Wallabout Bay. Scarcely half of them survived their captivity. Indeed, during the war more than eleven thousand American prisoners died from starvation and disease—a number far exceeding the sixty-eight hundred total American combat casualties.

I used this quote from Charles Spurgeon: “History bears out that the strongest armies melt like snowflakes when God is against them.”

Chapter 42: From Outlaw to Ovid, Voice to Sword

Patrick Henry indeed was made an outlaw by Lord Dunmore after marching to Williamsburg with the Hanover militia to reclaim the gunpowder stolen by the royal governor in April 1775. And he truly did possess Lord Dunmore's copy of Ovid, which he also signed in the front of the book. When I first saw the book under glass at the Patrick Henry National Memorial of Red Hill in Brookneal, Va. I immediately envisioned this scene. Was it exactly a “yard sale” and did Patrick authorize it? Well, something like that happened. Ironic history is so much fun.

I've packed a ton of factual information in this chapter, both about Patrick Henry's move in as Governor, his dealings with Baptists visiting him at Scotchtown, sending George Rogers Clark to defend Kentucky, the recap of the New York battles of Kip's Bay and Harlem Heights, the fire, and the capture of Nathan Hale. The letters between Henry and Washington are lifted word for word from the actual letters, so misspelled words and abbreviations were as originally written. Henry and Washington maintained their friendship throughout their entire lives, even when they later disagreed politically on the Constitution. They never allowed anything to harm their close bond, which is a testament to both men.

I wish I had time and pages enough to have covered Kip's Bay and Harlem Heights in detail, but I am unable to cover every battle scene in this book. I hope you will look up the battles and study them to learn more about the epic events in 1776 New York.

Chapters 47, 48, 49: The De Broglie Intrigue/Deane's List/The Plot Thickens

The title "The De Broglie Intrigue" is the title of a chapter in the "bible" of Lafayette biographies: *Lafayette in America by Louis Gottschalk*. It is indeed an intriguing series of events that ultimately went nowhere except for surprisingly helping Lafayette to escape France. Silas Deane signed De Kalb's commission on November 7th, and Lafayette's commission on December 7th, 1776. The exact dates of meetings in between are uncertain, so I assigned them. During that month there were indeed parties held by de Broglie, and Lafayette, Noailles and Ségur likely attended several of them. The conversations between Lafayette and De Broglie are written as recorded in Lafayette's biography, with the addition of some fireside lines. The exact dates of when Lafayette first met with de Kalb are uncertain, but supposedly they met daily in November. Their conversations are fictional. De Kalb was indeed a fine man, as you will see, quickly coming around to seeing what a great man was General Washington and paying the ultimate price for American freedom. The progression of events and dynamics between Lafayette, Noailles, Ségur and the Duc d'Ayen are fact.

Excerpts from Deane's letters are lifted word for word. He was going in so many directions and was extremely overwhelmed, so he likely paid no more heed to his suggestion of replacing Washington with de Broglie. I fictionalized De Broglie sending preliminary thoughts and a fictional note to Deane about Lafayette. We know he communicated with Deane about a great many things, and Stormont's papers tell that a British spy saw correspondence between them on Deane's desk as early as August 1776. In Deane's papers, De Kalb wrote to him on December 11th and enclosed a detailed memorandum about the plan that he asked to share with Benjamin Franklin and no one else. According to the 1934 *American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia* paper on "Lafayette and His Companions on the Victoire" by Elizabeth Kite, De Kalb "gave to Deane two documents relating to the de Broglie plan, one written by himself, and the other by de Broglie. Deane undoubtedly turned the documents over to the Secretary of the Minister, Conrad Alexandre Gérard, for they are preserved in the French Archives. ...nothing ever came of the "plan" and de Broglie seems very soon to have completely put the matter out of

his mind, leaving de Kalb in his whole American adventure without instructions or news.” To his credit, Deane passed on the suggestion from de Broglie and thought no more about it, but it invited such trouble upon Deane that he would be recalled back to America to give an account of his overstepping his instructions, some financial questions, and this fateful, foolish paragraph. The “fog of planning war” in this case blinded Deane who truly worked honestly and diligently for America in France. Unfortunately, this one misstep was his undoing in history books.

Chapter 50: Unmasking Figaro

Everything unfolded just as presented here, with Beaumarchais blowing his cover when he found out his play was being performed at the local theatre.

Note on what happened to Beaumarchais. When the French Alliance was formalized and overt French aid began, covert operations with the assistance of Beaumarchais ended. Unfortunately, America’s hero did not receive the gratitude nor payment for what he gave our fledgling nation. Here is a summary of what happened to the debt owed to Beaumarchais by the United States of America, taken from a September 5, 2017 article, “America’s First Black Ops,” in the Journal of the American Revolution by Bob Rubbert: In 1779, Beaumarchais wrote to the Congress in an attempt to get them to pay their debt to him. President John Jay apologized for the tardiness of the payment and said the debt would be settled. Nothing happened. In 1782, Beaumarchais sent to Robert Morris the itemized cost related to each ship that he had sent. Nothing happened. In 1793, Alexander Hamilton, the Secretary of the Treasury, was directed to examine Beaumarchais’ claim. He concluded that the United States owed him 2,280,000 francs. Nothing happened. In 1795, Beaumarchais made his appeal directly to the American people. Nothing happened. Sadly, when Beaumarchais died in 1799, the debt had still not been paid. In 1807, Thomas Jefferson on behalf of the French government asked Attorney General Caesar Rodney to look into the claim. After three months, he concluded that the United States had no legal right to withhold payment from Beaumarchais’ family. Nothing happened. In 1812, President Madison asked the Attorney General William Pinckney again to look into the matter and he agreed with his predecessor’s position. Finally, sixty years later, in 1835, the United States offered a one-time only settlement to Beaumarchais’ family; the amount was 800,000 francs. They accepted the offer, fearing another one would never be made.

Chapters 51, 52: Major General Developments/Slippery Sleds and Blocked Ships

Silas Deane did indeed extend the commission of Major General to young Lafayette on December 7, 1776, and the contract as dictated by Deane and Lafayette in this chapter is presented word for word from Deane’s official papers and shown with Lafayette’s actual signature. De Kalb and his officers departed the following day for Le Havre, not returning until around the third week of December after Vergennes sent out the official order for the ships to be docked. There is far more drama that occurred with Beaumarchais, the departure of *L’Amphitrite* and Major du Coudray actually diverting the ship where he caught another vessel to America

before it set sail again. It arrived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in April 1777, and the guns she delivered allowed the Patriots to win the Battle of Saratoga five months later. Beaumarchais did convince Vergennes to look the other way in order to send more ships to America, but he was far more careful in his secret operations. Once France formally entered the war with the Treaty of Alliance in February 1778, the need for such secret shipments ended.

Chapters 53-56: The Retreat and Capture of General Charles Lee

I highly recommend that you read *Washington's Crossing* by David Hackett Fischer for full details of what happened in the long retreat as Washington escaped New York with his army and fled through New Jersey to cross the Delaware (as well as what followed through the Battles of Trenton and Princeton). The fact that the Continental Army survived is a miracle, made even more victorious as the weapons of the enemy had the opposite of their intended effect. The brutality of the British and Hessian forces on the citizens of New Jersey re-ignited the flame of liberty. It galvanized the people at the right time to rally behind Washington. The fifteen-minute capture of General Lee was indeed the best Christmas gift that Washington could receive to put him firmly at the helm of what was to come. (You'll see more of Lee in the next book.) Tarleton and the dragoons really did get Wilkinson's horse drunk as they celebrated Lee's capture! Tarleton would write to his mother in England that "This is a most miraculous event—it appears as a dream." Tarleton achieved what he set out to experience with adventure and glory in America, and Lee's capture taught him that speed and surprise could counter small numbers of men. The successful raid elevated Tarleton's career, and he was soon promoted, also achieving his dream of rising in the ranks of the British army.

Chapter 63: Evil Below and Spies Above

The information about the Cimetière des Innocents is fact, including the 1774 collapse at "Hell Street." In 1776 King Louis XVI ordered a survey of all the quarries and tunnels in Paris and closed the cemetery in 1780. In 1785-87, buried remains were moved by cover of night to the quarries and tunnels below Paris which eventually became known as the catacombs, named for Rome's famous burial tunnels. The catacombs have become a major tourist attraction in Paris, with over a half a million visitors each year. These catacombs were also used extensively in WWII by both the Nazis and the French resistance.

The ship that sailed with the copy of the Declaration of Independence for Silas Deane was indeed lost at sea, so it was a perfect plot line for Charlatan to sabotage it to thwart the French alliance. Benjamin Franklin's arrival in Paris was just as written, with people lining the streets with kites on sticks, and putting his face on every object imaginable. (Vlack indicates that Deane booked an apartment for Franklin at *Hôtel d'Entraques* where Deane also had rooms, but the primary American headquarters were at *Hôtel d'Hambourg*.) He received mail nine times a day from the adoring crowds, and after two days was climbing the walls to leave the hotel! He began looking immediately and after meeting *Monsieur* Chaumont who offered him lodging at his estate in

Passy, the entire American delegation moved there in February. Silas Deane maintained a Paris hotel for meetings and convenience. It was a strained delegation, with Arthur Lee being the odd man out and causing much discord. Benjamin Franklin's quote about behaving in the presence of spies is taken from a letter he wrote in September 1778 after having been warned of spies. I frequently use verbiage for these true people from their own words in letters.

Chapter 64: La Victoire

Sometimes crazy, unexpected things fall right into my lap when I'm researching. I hadn't planned to start this chapter with the tiny segue of Liz and Kate popping into Notre Dame simply to get to a Bible to transport to the War Room to research stuff for Lafayette's ship. But I briefly looked up the history of Notre Dame and decided to see who the organist was in 1776. He was Armand-Louis Couperin. I clicked on his name and voilà! He was also a composer. And the name of his first piece for clavecin (harpsichord): *La Victoire*. The graphic is an actual program from his dedication concert to Madame Victoire.

Chapter 65: A Newsworthy Diversion

Details matter to get the history right. I've read many books on Lafayette, and they vary on what the ship was named before Lafayette bought her. This drove me nuts, so I went digging to find the trail of ownership and name changes for Lafayette's ship *La Victoire* as presented here. There was one more brief transaction and name change that remains murky in the timeline. Lt. Dubois martin notified Lafayette that he'd found the ship on Feb 11, 1777, but on Feb 12, *La Bonne Mère* was sold to Louis Lanoix, who renamed her *La Clary*. She sold immediately to Reculès who in turn sold her to Lafayette. The series of events with the plan to buy the ship, Lafayette's meetings with Dubois martin, Deane and Carmichael, and Lafayette's travel to London as a diversion unfolded as presented (minus the newspaper props, courtesy of Kate). These are actual newspaper clips from the October 1776 *The Gentleman's Magazine*. For the back story on David Henry as Editor, read my fourth book, *The Roman, the Twelve, and the King*. He is also featured in *The Voice, the Revolution, and the Key*, and *The Declaration, the Sword, and the Spy*.

Chapter 66: Lafayette in the Lion's Den

Marie Antoinette did have a new sled made to race at Versailles with the snowfall, but that scene is fiction here. The sequence of dates and events with Lafayette's three-week diversionary trip to London are approximate, but he did depart on February 16, 1777. Lafayette was prone to seasickness, and indeed did not return home after his trip to London. Lafayette did see Bancroft in London and wined and dined with the British lion's cabinet. Lafayette was presented to King George III, but did they exchange words? I imagine a few words must have passed between them. Was Lafayette as cheeky as I made him here? I don't know, but his quote, "I may take too much pleasure in mocking the tyrant I am about to fight," were his memoir words reflecting on his nineteen-year-old self. The king's words about the rebels are his own. Lafayette did meet

General Henry Clinton at the Opera, and he had just learned about Washington's victory in Trenton, being very vocal in his support of the Americans. Lafayette's words to the Duc d'Ayen are from his letter of March 9, 1777. Ambassador Noailles excused Lafayette's absence from the king's reception, stating his nephew was sick. Lafayette did refuse the invitation to tour the shipyard so as not to "spy" against the British he would soon fight and put his uncle in a precarious situation.

Chapter 67: The First Escape

All events unfolded just as presented here, with Lafayette staying hidden in the gardener's house in Chaillot for three days, visiting Ségur and Noailles early in the morning he left, and dropping off the letters for the Duc d'Ayen and Adrienne. The words the Duchess spoke about faith in Lafayette are from Adrienne's memory of the scene; they both were indeed strong women of faith.

Chapter 68: A Public Secret

The sequence of events occurred as depicted, with Lafayette finally telling de Kalb he had not received permission to leave France from the Duc d'Ayen. He sent the courier to de Coigny who returned just as they were boarding *La Victoire*. De Kalb's letter excerpt to his wife is actual, as is the logbook entry from Bordeaux that Lafayette signed, and Liz's newspaper entry which appeared in the Parisian papers on April 4th, 1777. The scene of the American delegation is fiction, but Franklin described the reality of what was happening, despite Deane's anxiety. There was far more back and forth between Vergennes and Deane, with a packet of letters that the Duc requested Deane to send to Lafayette and Washington. Ultimately, that packet was never sent.