

Deborah Sampson (1760–1827). A Massachusetts native, Deborah Sampson grew up listening to her relatives tell stories of the family's harrowing experiences in the American wilderness after arriving on the Mayflower. At the age of twenty-one, she disguised herself as a man and

enlisted in her local militia under the name Robert Shurtleff. She traveled with her regiment and escaped notice until she was wounded in the leg in New York. The military physician soon discovered her ruse and arranged for her to be honorably discharged and sent home.



Molly Pitcher (1754–1832). Mary Ludwig Hays was a dedicated army wife whose husband, John Hays, enlisted as a gunner in the Pennsylvania artillery. Following him onto the field at the Battle of Monmouth, she occupied herself toward the comfort of the soldiers—washing, mending, cooking, nursing, and bringing vessels of water to the thirsty men, which earned her the good-natured

nickname. According to stories, when her husband collapsed from a wound, Mary Hays courageously took his place at the gun and continued his work at the cannon until the Battle of Monmouth was won. For her heroic actions, the military awarded her a \$40 annual pension until her death.



Marquis de Lafayette (1757–1834). The Marquis de Lafayette was a wealthy French aristocrat who was inspired to come to America and aid the colonists in their struggle for independence. Commissioned a major general by the Continental Congress in 1777, he joined Washington's staff and was tireless in pursuit of the American cause. He returned to France during the war to

elicit aid, and was instrumental in forming the military alliance between America and France that ultimately assured the colonies' independence. In 1780, he commanded the Patriot army in defense of Virginia, and was a key player in the siege at Yorktown in Virginia. He later became involved in the revolution in his own country, narrowly escaping with his life.



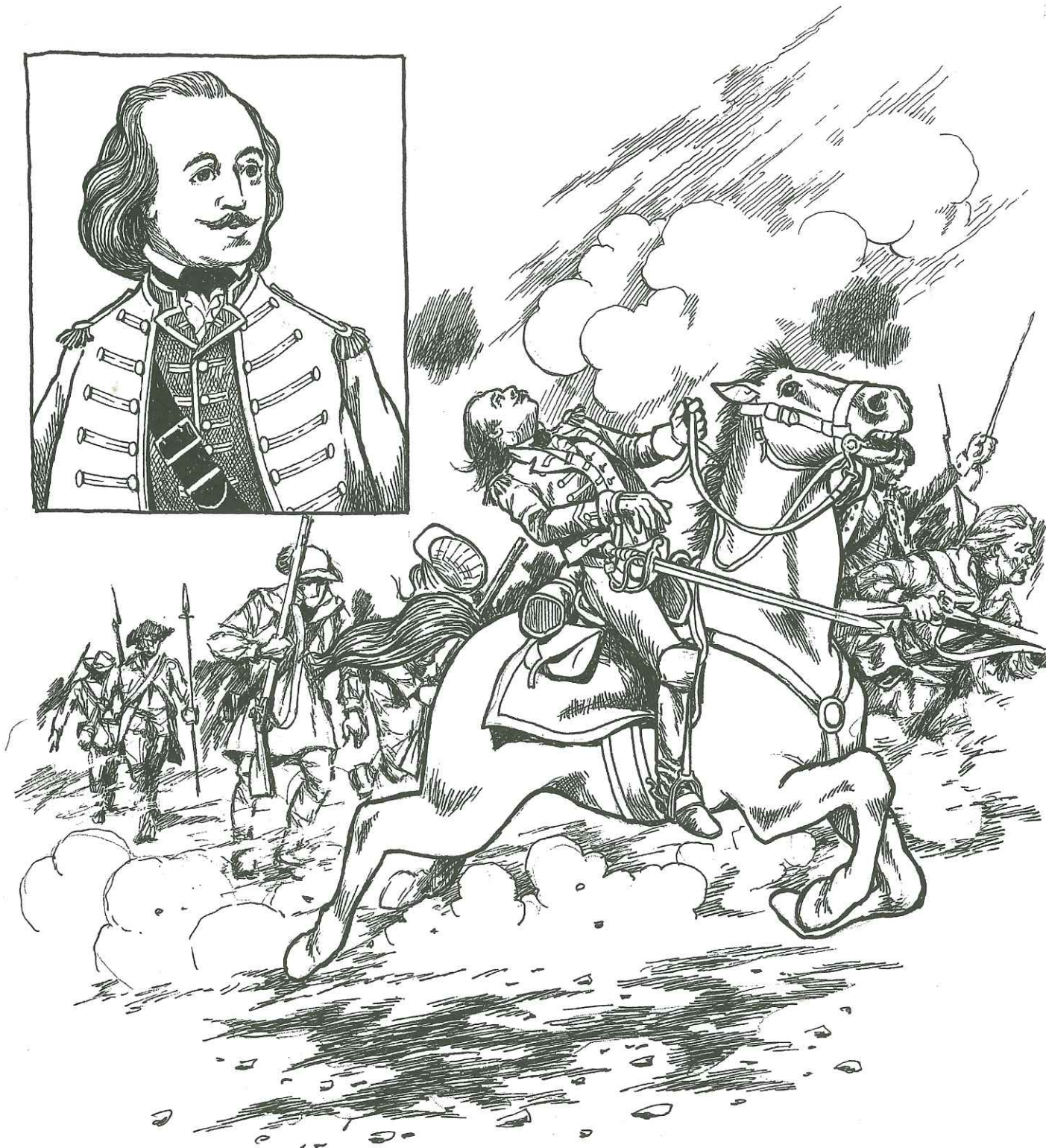
Margaret Cochran Corbin (1751–1800). Born on the frontier, Margaret Cochran married John Corbin in 1775 and accompanied him to battle after he enlisted in the Pennsylvania artillery. With her husband's regiment under attack by Hessian troops, Margaret Corbin watched him get killed at his gunner and took his place

to continue the battle. Wounded by grapeshot, she survived the battle but was seriously disabled from her injuries received that day. Congress recognized her contribution and awarded her a half-pension for the remainder of her life. In later years, it was said "Captain Molly" always wore a soldier's coat and smoked a pipe.



Comte de Rochambeau (1725–1807). Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, a brigadier general and governor in France, brought 6,000 soldiers to the colonies in an expeditionary bid to aid the Patriots against the British. Joining his army with that of George Washington in

Yorktown, Rochambeau and his Franco-American comrades laid siege to Cornwallis's troops from both land and sea, securing his defeat. This victory for the Patriots was the defining event that ensured the independence of the colonies.



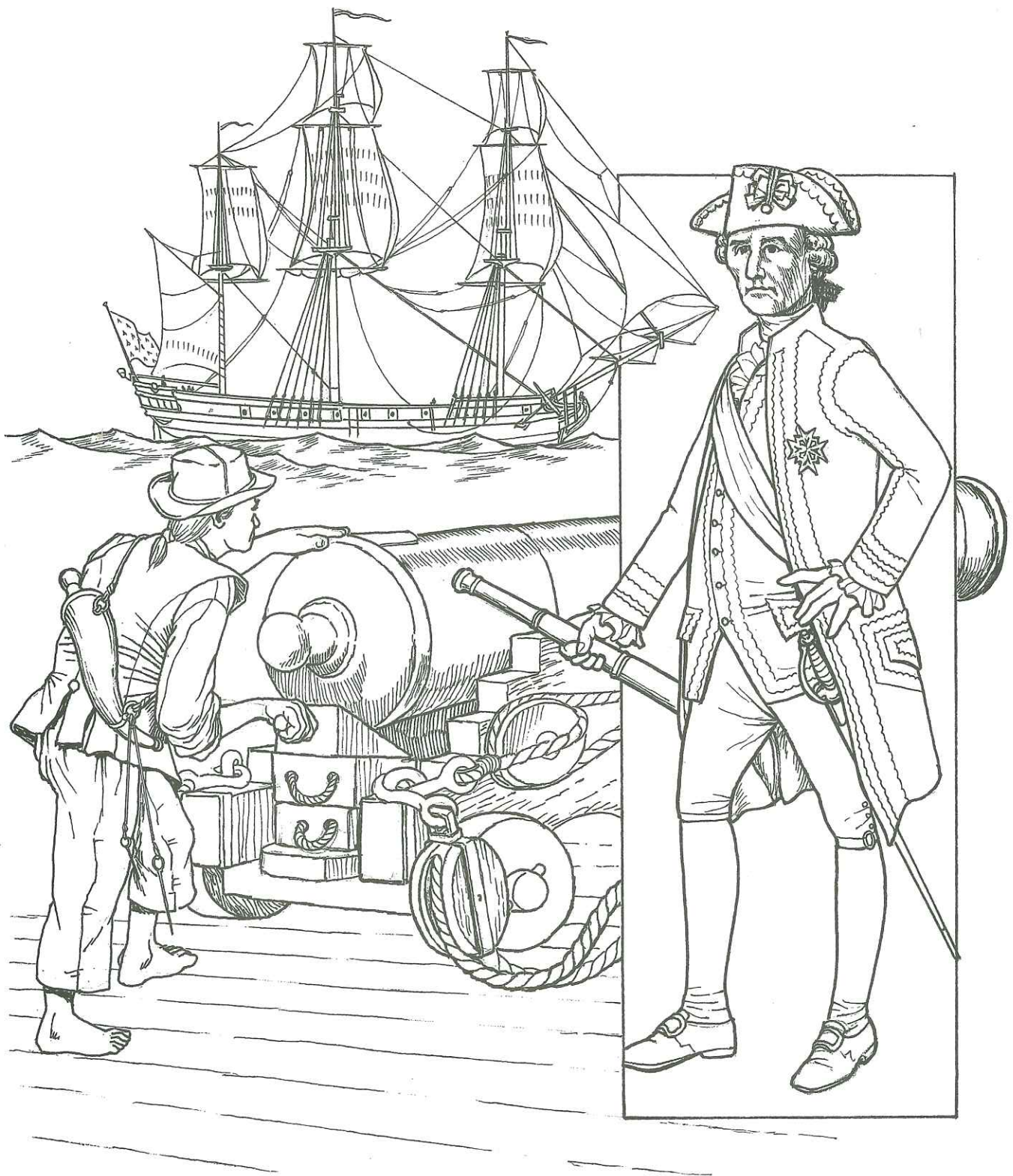
Casimir Pulaski (1747–1779). A distinguished soldier in his native country of Poland, Casimir Pulaski fled to France to avoid the Prussian invasion, and there met Benjamin Franklin, who recommended him to George Washington. Pulaski arrived in the colonies in 1777 and

served under Washington before being appointed a general and chief of cavalry by Congress. He fought in key battles at Brandywine, Germantown, and Charleston before being mortally wounded in 1779 at the siege of Savannah.



Baron von Steuben (1730–1794). Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben was a retired captain in the Prussian army when he was recommended to Washington by Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane, who were in France at the time. Steuben began his colonial military career as a training officer, rigorously molding the inexperienced

troops at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777. He wrote the definitive training manual for the army, then was elevated to the rank of major general, with the role as the army's Inspector General. On the field, he held a combat command in Virginia and led a division in the Battle of Yorktown.



Comte de Grasse (1722–1788). François-Joseph-Paul, comte de Grasse was a French naval officer who led a squadron of ships westward at the outbreak of French involvement in the Revolutionary War. He engaged the British in naval battle in the West Indies, but was summoned to Virginia to aid the Patriots in the decisive

Battle of Yorktown. Though attacked by the British upon his arrival at Chesapeake Bay, de Grasse fought the offensive and kept Cornwallis's garrison from retreating through that route. His sailors then joined the battle on land, which ultimately led to Cornwallis's surrender.