***Characters—Suggested Pre-Visit Activity***

*Have one student from each table come up and take a* **character card** *from hat/bucket and return to their table. Have each student read their card for the group. The cards will read as follows:*

“My name is Alexander. I write letters for General Washington. Sometimes I ride my horse to deliver messages for the general.”

“My name is Hannah. I cook for General Washington. I get paid for my work. My husband also cooks for the general, but he is enslaved and not paid.”

“My name in Timothy. My mother let General Washington stay in our house for the winter.”

“My name is John. I lived in a log hut across the street from the Ford Mansion. I helped guard the headquarters. I was wounded in a battle in June 1780.”

*After each student reads their card, ask the class to vote by raising hands,*

“Is this person an officer, a servant,a civilian, or a soldier?”

 *Then based on what the card said, tell each group/table that they now represent that group. That is whatever card the student pulls determines what group everyone at that table will represent.*

*After each student has read their card, provide more information about that character and the role their group played.*

**Alexander Hamilton** was one of General Washington’s five aides-de-camp. Their job was to write all of Washington’s letters. Did Washington have a phone or email to communicate? The only way he could talk to anyone was by means of a handwritten letter written by the aides. In a battle, the aides would carry Washington’s messages to different officers.

**Hannah Till** was an enslaved woman who was rented by the headquarters to serve as a cook. In 1778 she bought her freedom with money she earned as a cook. Her husband Issac was also a cook and enslaved. Male slaves cost more than female slaves. Issac also bought his freedom but not until after they left the Ford Mansion.

**Timothy Ford** was the son of Mrs. Theodosia Ford. By law, Mrs. Ford did not have to let General Washington use her house, but she agreed to share her home. Timothy, his mother (Mrs. Ford), his two brothers and one sister shared the house with Washington’s military family. When the British marched towards Morristown in June 1780, Timothy went with Washington’s guards and fought at the battle of Connecticut Farms. Timothy was wounded but recovered.

**John Slocum** was a soldier in Washington’s Headquarters guards. John was from Rhode Island and joined the Headquarters Guards in 1778. These guards protected General Washington and his papers. The guards lived in log huts across the road from the Ford Mansion. John and the guards fought at the battle of Connecticut Farms on June 7, 1780. John was shot in his left knee and his leg was amputated. After he recovered, he continued to serve in the army in the Corps of Invalids until 1782 when he was discharged and loaned a public horse to ride home to Rhode Island. He married in 1783 and collected a pension until his death in 1828.