



Impact Statement

Yoon Pristera, Grade 7

Choose What is Right, 2026

Acrylic on canvas, 16 x 20 inches

Lakeside Middle School, Seattle, WA

Unsung Hero: Sarah Bradlee Fulton

It was another normal morning at my school: loud hallways, long classes, but right as second period was over, I nearly ran to my favorite class, social studies. We were learning about the American Revolution and its causes. The teacher was going through a slide deck and soon, he got to the Boston Tea Party. Just as he finished speaking, I raised my hand and asked, "Have you ever heard of Sarah Bradlee Fulton?"

Sarah Bradlee Fulton, Dressed in plain and modest clothing. She was just another humble woman and no one noticed. When societies rules forced women to be silent, she came forward and answered with her innovative ideas and actions. She might have been just another woman in the 13 Colonies, but she had a sparkle in her eye, hope, and courage.

She stood for the people and Colonies. She stood up for everything she loves. She chose what was right.

Nothing was going to stop her.

She held the brightest torch and lit a path for everyone to follow her. And somewhere deep in the layers of history, written in the books of the American Revolution, her John Hancock is there.

It was a sunny day, the day I walked through an antique fair. I knew, among all of these booths and items, one was going to stand out. Just then, a small rectangular table caught my eye. As I ran my fingers over the smooth wood, I was struck by its simple yet beautiful craftsmanship. "When was it built? What is it made of?" I was full of questions. The antique dealer spotted my strong interest in the table and asked, "Do you know what this is?" Then he began to tell its story.

The antique dealer explained how the table was a Queen Anne-style Boston tea table from the colonial period. He pointed at the rounded feet of the table and told me that this unique curved shape was called a cabriole leg. He showed me how the pieces of wood were carefully joined together without nails. Then he said, "This is the type of table people used to drink tea on, the tea you heard about from the Boston Tea Party." The Boston Tea Party. I've heard a lot about it, how it was one of the biggest triggering events for the American Revolution but I didn't know everything about it. This intriguing tea table piqued my interest in the Tea party. I imagined people gathered around a table like that one, drinking tea while the conversation flowed.

“What did they talk about? What did the people sound like? I’m sure there must have been some good gossip, and there had to be complaints about the British”, I thought. Could simple conversations at a table like this spark the ideas of independence? Could they have helped lead the Boston Tea Party and the Revolution? This table holds many secrets and stories deep inside it.

As I learned more about this time period and its stories, I became especially interested in Sarah Bradlee Fulton. She was a major member of the Daughters of Liberty, a group of innovative women who supported the Revolution by boycotting British goods. I was amazed by how much their thoughts and ideas are seen in the revolution. These women believed that even small actions at home could have a domino effect on the community and eventually become part of a much larger movement. These ideas were both symbolic and impactful.

Sarah Bradlee Fulton didn’t just stop there. The fire in her eyes weren’t to be dimmed until she had reached her goal: Independence. She helped organize the Boston Tea Party which made history and sparked the ideas for other acts of protest such as the battles of Lexington and Concord. After that, she continued to project her bravery by caring for those wounded in battle, delivering important messages while crossing enemy lines, and taking part in protests against the British. She knew what she believed in, and she inspired others to act together and fight for it.

In my painting, I depicted her as an ordinary woman of her time, dressed in a typical indoor bonnet and an outfit inspired by portraits of Jane Austen, one of my favorite authors and another strong, inspirational woman of that time. I wanted to show that from the outside, Sarah Bradlee Fulton may have seemed ordinary and modest, like many other women of that era. But inside, she was full of motivation, determination, and a fire that will never go out. I chose the Boston Tea Party as the background because her vision brought many people together to act as one and collaborate to broadcast their strong, direct message of protest.

Sarah Bradlee Fulton did not just have ideas around a tea table, she helped turn those ideas and conversations into action and motivated others to join her. The scene shows her painting the faces of the Boston Tea Party participants, helping disguise them as the Native Mohawk tribe before they threw tea into the Boston Harbor. Through this moment, I wanted to emphasize her creativity, courage, and dedication. I want to show that anyone can help make history, whether the act is big, small, individual, or with a group. Sarah Bradlee Fulton didn’t just act for recognition. She did it because she knew her people and her causes for acting were worth fighting for. Every person matters in a mission, and the most important thing you can do is to choose to do what is right.