



Impact Statement

Natasha Bandil, Grade 10

Waves of Defiance, 2026

Watercolor on paper, 11 x 15 inches

Homestead High School, Cupertino, CA

Unsung Hero: Sarah Bradlee Fulton

Sarah Bradlee Fulton is the Unsung Hero that I chose because she played an important but often overlooked role in the American Revolution. She is remembered as the “Mother of the Boston Tea Party” and was a member of the Daughters of Liberty, a group of women who supported the patriot cause. Historical accounts credit her with helping to prepare the men involved in the Boston Tea Party by disguising them before the protest and hiding evidence afterward. Along with that, she later served the Revolutionary cause by nursing wounded soldiers after the Battle of Bunker Hill and carrying a dangerous message through enemy lines to George Washington. Although her name is not as widely known as many male figures from this time, her courage and patriotism made her a powerful force in American history.

Sarah Bradlee Fulton’s impact was significant because she contributed to events that led to major turning points in the independence movement. The Boston Tea Party took place on December 16, 1773, when colonists boarded British ships in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 chests of tea into the water in protest of British taxation and control. That act of resistance intensified tensions between Britain and the colonies and became one of the events that pushed the colonies closer to revolution. Fulton’s role matters because she helped make that protest possible while remaining behind the scenes, showing that women were also active participants in shaping American freedom. Her contributions extended beyond that one night. By aiding wounded soldiers and risking her safety to deliver messages during the war, she showed that patriotism was not limited to the battlefield. Her impact proves that the American Revolution was supported not only by famous leaders, but also by brave individuals whose work was quieter, yet essential.

When I created my artwork, I wanted to present Fulton as strong, determined, and impossible to ignore in the picture. I chose to make her face and body the central focus of the composition so that many would immediately recognize her power and presence. Her raised fist and firm expression are meant to project courage, determination, and resistance. I included the words “We the People” to connect her actions to the larger ideals of liberty, unity, and self-government that emerged from the Revolution. The American flag strengthens that feeling of nationalism and symbolizes the freedom that people like Fulton helped make possible. In the background, I illustrated the Boston Tea Party to highlight her active role in this historic moment and to place her directly within the scene that helped change history. I used watercolor to bring softness and movement to the piece, especially in the flag and water, while still creating a rich color and

depth in Fulton's face and clothing. That balance allowed me to combine emotion with historical storytelling and create an image that feels both patriotic and personal.

The impact of my artwork is meant to be both historical and inspiring. I wanted this piece to remind people that women weren't absent from major moments in history, even when they're often left out of textbooks and popular memory. By placing Sarah Bradlee Fulton front and center, I hope to give her the recognition she deserves and encourage others to think more deeply about the hidden figures behind important events. My artwork also promotes the idea that courage is not always loud or celebrated in its own time. Sometimes, the people who change history do so through support, sacrifice, and action behind the scenes. Through this piece, I want viewers to see Sarah not just as a helper in the background, but as a patriot whose strength helped shape the birth of a nation.