

Audio of DVD Production:

“George Washington’s HAYM SALOMON, Financier of the American Revolution”

Presented by Laus Deo Productions®

**Writer and Producer: Dr. Catherine Millard,
© 2008. All rights reserved for all countries.**

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

These words from the Declaration of Independence summarize the commitment of the founding fathers in establishing a new nation, the United States of America. The names of these founders are known to most Americans – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Witherspoon, Robert Morris, and many others.

But what about Haym Salomon? Not many are aware of the sacrifices made by this Jewish patriot, who played a major role in helping to finance the Revolutionary War. His business, monetary and international skills saved the nation from financial collapse in dire times. This new immigrant, who had experienced the battle for liberty in his native Poland, arrived just as the Revolution was breaking out, and immediately, wholeheartedly embraced the cause.

Early Life in Poland

Haym Salomon was born in Lissa, Poland, in 1740 to Jewish parents of Portuguese descent. His ancestors had been driven out of their homeland several centuries earlier when Portugal, following the example of other European nations, issued an edict expelling the Jews. After some time, his ancestors settled in Poland.

Details of Haym Salomon’s early life are few. In a letter to his parents, he spoke of the hardships he had experienced due to his lack of formal education, and encouraged learning for extended family members. He offered his assistance for any who might wish to study Hebrew.

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

“We don’t know that much about Salomon’s early years, but if he grew up in a typical Jewish household in Poland in the 1700’s, he would have studied the Bible, developed an analytical mind, and would have been able to associate business and financial acumen in addition to his regular studies.”

One thing that is apparent about the young Haym is that he was adventuresome – for he spent most of his 20's travelling throughout Europe, where he gained invaluable practical lessons in life, and developed skills in commerce, finances and trading. In addition, he developed his gift for languages, mastering French, Dutch, English, German and other European languages. He spent much time in Holland.

In his early 30's, he returned to Poland, where political unrest was fomenting with Russia. There he became friends with several young leaders devoted to preserving Polish freedom. One was Casimir Pulaski.

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

“Poland had a system in which kings were elected to their position by the nobility, and while it sounds more democratic, it also allowed more foreign intrigue. The last king of Poland was elected due to the influence and probably intimidation of the Russians under Catherine the Great, Czarina. So what happened after he was elected and the Russians became more powerful in Poland? A group of Polish nobles decided they had to save the country. And they organized something that was allowed under the Polish Constitution, a so-called confederation which was basically an insurrection against the king and against the Russian occupiers.

And one of the families that led the insurrection was the Pulaski family. Casimir Pulaski was a military leader of the Bar Confederation.”

When a plot to force Poland's weak king to stand for liberty failed, the young Pulaski, still in his 20's, had to flee for his life. Stirred when he heard of the struggle across the Atlantic for the colonists to gain independence from England, he travelled to France where he met Benjamin Franklin, and was soon on his way to take part in the American Revolution.

Another young Polish military leader who would fight in the Revolutionary War was Thaddeus Kosciusko, who was studying in France when Poland experienced the first of three partitions of her land, her territory seized by neighboring countries – Prussia, Russia and Austria. By the third partition of 1795, nothing was left of Poland; it no longer existed – except in the hearts of her countrymen.

Like Pulaski, Kosciusko found his way to America where he joined Washington's army in 1776.

Haym Salomon likewise left Poland around the same time. He had utilized his skills in finances to lend support to the freedom fighters, and his activities for Polish freedom necessitated his departure.

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

“I believe that Haym Salomon found himself in America, and became interested in the cause of liberty because as chief financial supporter of the Bar Confederation, once that was defeated, he had to go into exile. He was also aware that the Germans, the Russians and the Austrians could reach him anywhere in Europe, so in order to save his life and also to save his reputation, he decided to come to the colonies. Here he could make a new beginning which is one of the important things about the United States. It does allow ones from various backgrounds to come to the United States and make something new of themselves. I think he found that a very interesting proposition, that he could come here and make a new start.”

Amazingly, all three Polish young men were destined to become heroes of the American Revolution. Pulaski would give his life in the Battle of Savannah in 1779. Kosciusko would use his engineering talents to oversee the building of fortifications at West Point and Saratoga, and after the war return to fight for Poland. Haym Salomon was imprisoned twice due to his zeal for the Revolution. Due to very poor prison conditions, his health broke; but before his untimely death, he gave significantly of his wealth and skills in raising funds to finance the war.

Arrival in America

After leaving Poland, Haym Salomon travelled to England and set sail for America, arriving in New York around 1772. Historic accounts describe him as a man of slight stature with a quiet demeanor.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

“Haym Salomon is my great, great, great grandfather. Therefore I am his great, great, great grandson. My father was very proud of his unique heritage. My father was orphaned when he was about 11, so he had no father, brothers or sisters. So he was very interested in his unusual Jewish background, going back over 300 years. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, as am I. Well, to explain his motivations in supporting the American Revolution, we can only speculate because I don't know of any place where he stated it clearly. But he was an immigrant from Poland who was born in Lissa, Poland, in about 1740. He came to the colonies about 1770. He would have been about 30 years old. There was a lot of political turmoil in Poland. People fighting for freedom in Poland...When he got there he was penniless. He had to build up a brokerage commission from nothing.”

Before long, he established himself as a successful businessman and financial broker in New York City, which had a population of about 14,000. The political climate was tense, due to a series of laws passed by the mother country subjecting the colonies to various taxes without representation.

In 1774 the First Continental Congress met in Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia to discuss their grievances and seek God's guidance for the difficult task before them, as shown by this painting of the First Prayer in Congress by T.H. Matteson, depicted in Christ Church, Philadelphia, church of the founding fathers during the American Revolution.

In April, 1775, the first battle of the Revolution was fought when "shots heard around the world" were fired in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.

In May, the Second Continental Congress met, and in June, George Washington was named Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

In June, 1776, the Continental Congress resolved to separate from England and Thomas Jefferson was appointed to draft the Declaration of Independence, which was adopted on July 4th, 1776.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

"At the time there were an estimated 2,500 Jews in the colonies, and they had settled primarily in seaport cities such as New York, Savannah, Newport, Charleston and Boston."

The first Jewish congregation in the colonies had been founded in New York City in the 1600's. Haym Salomon became a member of the synagogue, called Shearith Israel, whose Rabbi was Gershom Mendes Seixas. Most of the Jewish colonists were enthusiastic and loyal supporters of the war effort.

On September 15, 1776, New York City fell to the British, and many patriots left the city. Shearith Israel synagogue was closed until after the war, but Haym Salomon decided to remain in the city.

Five days after the British occupation began, a mysterious fire destroyed about one-fourth of the city, which included areas where the British had intended to house their troops.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

"He met someone, Alexander McDougall, who was a very strong patriot and member of the Sons of Liberty. It's most likely that Haym Salomon became a member of the Sons of Liberty. When the British occupied New York, the Sons of Liberty planned a big fire and they burned down about one-fourth of New York City. Haym Salomon was caught and accused of being a part of that plot. Whether he was, we don't know. He proved himself to be useful to the Germans because he spoke perfect German."

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

"The conditions of the prisoners that the British took were very, very bad. Now you have to remember that the English were looking upon these people as traitors – traitors against

the king, traitors against their own country. So they are not due the treatment of – let's say – belligerents. The British kept prisoners on prison ships where the conditions were very, very poor. Just think about being on a ship and absorbing all that moisture through the wood. It's going to cause people to be in very serious conditions. The interesting thing is that it's counter-opposed to how Washington acted. He said that those prisoners should be handled much more graciously because for the Germans, he was hoping that they could desert and come over to the American side. For the British, he was hoping that if they were released or exchanged, they would be able to go back to the British Army and tell about the good treatment they had received from the American colonists, and that would strengthen the pro-American party that did exist in England. There were many Englishmen who thought the colonists were justified in their revolution, and good treatment of prisoners would empower that.”

Although Haym Salomon was not among those sent to one of the prison ships, nevertheless the conditions of a makeshift, over-crowded prison caused him to contract a severe cough, which later became tuberculosis. He was transferred to another prison, the dreaded Prevoſt.

Haym Salomon's language skills, particularly in German, made him useful to the British since most of the German Hessian guards did not speak English. Assigned to the commissary, he had greater freedom, which he used to assist fellow American and French prisoners, even helping some to escape. He also used his influence to convince some of the Hessian officers to defect to the American side.

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

“In prison, Haym Salomon probably met some German prison guards because the British did use Hessian mercenaries. Since Salomon spoke many languages, and German being a chief language of Europe, I am sure that he was able to talk to his keepers and try to convince them of the righteousness of the American cause. In fact, that's what got him into prison. The British authorities wanted to use him as a translator for the German troops and all the time he was encouraging the Germans to desert. That was the main cause that he was locked up for.”

Eventually he was released from prison. In 1777, at the age of 37, he married 15-year-old Rachel Franks, the daughter of a prominent American Jewish family. Her brother was Colonel Isaac Franks, a distinguished Revolutionary War officer, and hero. Another brother was a judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

“So he was released only to be captured later and sentenced to be hanged. And as you probably know, on the morning that he was sentenced to be hanged, he escaped from the Prevoſt prison. We do know that he escaped to Philadelphia.”

Salomon's escape from prison on the very day that he was to be hanged took place in August 1778. He made his way to Philadelphia, which had been liberated on June 18 after being occupied by the British for six months. Haym's arrival marked not only a turning point in his life, but also in the manner in which he would contribute his financial skills for the new nation at a time of great desperation.

Valley Forge and Significant Events

1778 was also a turning point for General Washington. For six months – from December 1777 to June 1778 – he and his army had faced severe hardships in Valley Forge, where they spent their winter encampment. Located about 20 miles north-west of the city, Valley Forge experienced an unusually harsh winter that year. Washington's original Marquee, in which he worked and slept, is preserved for posterity. Rough log huts, similar to those now at Valley Forge, were built by the soldiers, but that winter, over 2,000 of Washington's army died from disease, malnutrition and exposure.

The Marquis de Lafayette, a young general and friend of George Washington, was with him at Valley Forge. He wrote of the "ill-clothed and ill-fed army" there:

"The unfortunate soldiers were in want of everything. They had neither coats, hats, shirts, nor shoes; their feet and legs froze till they became black, and it was often necessary to amputate them. From want of money, they could neither obtain provisions nor any means of transport: the colonels were often reduced to two rations, and sometimes even to one. The army frequently remained whole days without provisions, and the patient endurance of both soldiers and officers was a miracle which each moment served to renew. But the sight of the misery prevented new engagements: it was almost impossible to levy recruits; it was easy to desert into the interior of the country. The sacred fire of liberty was not extinguished, it is true, and the majority of the citizens detested British tyranny..."

In the midst of many trials, Washington found his strength in Yeshua HaMachia – Jesus Christ his Redeemer. His adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis, wrote of one such instances as related by an individual who happened upon Washington in prayer:

"...Mr. Potts, the Quaker, related that one day when the Americans were encamped at Valley Forge, he strolled up the creek and when not far from his dam, heard a solemn voice. He walked quietly in the direction of it, and saw Washington's horse tied to a sapling. In the thicket nearby was the beloved chief upon his knees in prayer, his cheeks suffused with tears. Like Moses at the bush, Isaac felt that he was upon holy ground, and withdrew unobserved. He was much agitated, and on entering the room where his wife was, he burst into tears. On her inquiring the cause, he informed her of what he had seen and added, "If there is anyone on this earth whom the Lord will listen to, it is George Washington; and I feel a presentiment that under such a commander there can be no doubt of our eventually establishing our independence, and that God...hath willed it so."

From that time on at Valley Forge, events began to occur which would enable the colonists to ultimately win the war, changing the course of history: Baron von Steuben, who had served as an officer in the Prussian army, arrived in America. He had been recommended by Benjamin Franklin, whom he met in Paris. Washington assigned him to Valley Forge where he served as Inspector General of the army. His military experience and knowledge were invaluable in training the rag-tag Continental Army. Through discipline and drills, he brought the soldiers to a level comparable with professional armies in Europe. This training was essential for the skill and confidence of the soldiers.

It was also at Valley Forge, that the good news reached Washington of the French Alliance having been signed on February 7, 1778. The French openly sided with the American colonists, declaring war on Great Britain. Ships, armies and supplies flooded in. The war could not have been won without the help of the French.

Upon learning of this Alliance, the British government ordered its soldiers in Philadelphia to abandon the city and return to New York. As the British army with its 18,000 men departed, patriots and businessmen who had escaped from the city, returned. The Continental Congress, then assembling in York, Pennsylvania, reconvened in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia was the capital of the new nation and with a population of 30,000, was the largest city in North America. It also had a large Jewish community. Within two weeks of his arrival in Philadelphia, he wrote to the Continental Congress explaining his efforts for the Revolution, including his imprisonment and escape leaving behind him a wife and a one-month-old son. He included a plea for assistance to a fellow prisoner. He also asked for employment. Later his family would join him in Philadelphia, but all his assets were lost in New York.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

“There is a petition he made giving an account of his escape, the fact that he had a wife and a son. The Continental Congress was broke and did not have any jobs, so he never got employment, and so he went on his own. For the second time, he started from nothing and built up his brokerage business.”

Although he did not find work with the government, Haym Salomon soon developed a very prosperous brokerage business in Philadelphia. He had an office on Front Street near the river. A brilliant financier, he was also skilled in the use of advertising. He used his wealth for the cause of the American Revolution.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

“His basic business was a broker of merchandise. I think there’s a newspaper advertisement in both English and French that gives a list of the items he sold from incoming ships to Philadelphia like cotton, oil, clothing. These were things that he could buy from the ship and then sell to merchants in Philadelphia.

At the beginning of 1781, the financial condition of the Continental government was in a disastrous state. The cost of providing for an army was great, but the funds available were often non-existent. The Continental Congress did not have the power of taxation, and had to rely on the individual states to make provisions.”

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

“The financial state of the American colonies was reflected also in the fact that Americans were not united in the thought of revolution. I think we have to realize that about one-third of the colonists were supporting the revolution, one-third of the colonists were loyal to England, and one third were neutral, waiting for whatever side would win. This also went with financial support. Probably even more importantly, is that the ones who tended to be loyalists were the richer ones. So I think this led to a much direr financial situation for the American colonists and required the loans from foreign investors or foreign creditors in order to support the revolution in the early days. As I mentioned earlier, once the Americans showed that they could at least win the battles, then the French and the Dutch came out openly in support of them and gave military and also financial assistance. But those early days were very, very important.”

A reputable historian wrote:

“...he was a dealer of bills of exchange on France and Holland. For the most part the money advanced by Louis XVI and the proceeds of the loans negotiated in Holland passed through his hands. He was entrusted with the negotiation of all the war subsidies of France and Holland on his own personal integrity, which were sold to the resident merchants in America without any loss, at a credit of two and three months, for which he received the small commission of one-fourth of one percent. Several European financial houses did business through him.”

Robert Morris, a businessman and friend to George Washington, proposed establishment of a national bank to help finance the war against Britain. The Continental Congress approved and appointed Morris to serve as Superintendent of Finance in February, 1781. Haym Salomon worked closely with Robert Morris, and was a major depositor in Morris' Bank of North America. Morris relied greatly on the business skills of Haym Salomon.

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

“In Philadelphia in the 1700's, Haym Salomon as a broker had to obtain the trust of the people who needed the money, that he would be able to obtain the loans, but also he needed to have the trust of those people, the creditors who were giving the money that eventually these things would be repaid. I doubt that Morris had the contacts in Europe to be able to secure loans from European sources. So I think the role of Haym Salomon in this period is very pivotal.

The character of Haym Salomon is probably his most important aspect. We know, based on some writings, that his word was good, could be trusted, and that the usual forms of protection – sealed documents and signed documents – were not necessary. Haym Salomon, probably because of his word and also his connections, was able to keep the revolution going up until the time that the other governments in Europe – France, Holland, Spain – recognized the United States as a belligerent power and gave open support. I think we have to realize that for a long time none of the governments in Europe, even though they were maybe enemies or potential rivals of England, did not want to openly challenge England by supporting the Americans. So a lot of the funds that did support the early revolutionary war effort was done by private persons. Haym Salomon had to give his word as his bond that these debts, these loans, would be repaid.”

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

“We weren’t a nation yet. Each state had its own currency, Massachusetts dollars, Virginia dollars. So if a government such as France wanted to transfer funds here to pay for supplies for its troops or to pay the troops, that French currency had to be translated into colonial currency, so that’s really what he did. And to do that, people had to have absolute faith in you, that you are trustworthy and that what you say is true. And that you aren’t charging too great an interest for doing this. And he always charged minimal interest.”

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

“I believe that we tend to overlook the roles of Robert Morris and Haym Salomon in supporting General Washington. We talk about the period of the Revolutionary War, so obviously soldiers are very important, but who is going to feed the soldiers, arm the soldiers, and pay the soldiers, if not financial assistance? I think it is very important that we remember that it was not only the soldiers who won, but also those who helped pay the soldiers and that kept the American Continental Army in the field.”

As Superintendent of Finance, Robert Morris maintained a Diary which included frequent references – over 75 – to Haym Salomon:

“I sent for Mr. Haym Salomon several times this day to assist me in raising money.”

“I sent for Salomon and desired him to try every way he could devise to raise money, and then went in quest of it myself.”

“Salomon, the broker, came and I urged him to leave no stone unturned to find out money and means by which I can obtain it.”

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

“The solid evidence that we have is the Journal of Robert Morris. Robert Morris was the chief fund-raiser for George Washington and the Continental Congress. We have to

remember there was no nation. There were no taxes. Morris worked as an expeditor of loans from France, from Holland, and from Spain. We know that in Robert Morris' Journal, 'I sent for Haym Salomon,' we need x amount of money and he was able to get it."

In addition to the large sums of money raised for the government, Salomon also contributed his personal finances to delegates of Congress and military officers, who were desperate for funds in order to continue to give their services to the cause.

James Madison, in a letter to Edmund Randolph, dated September 30, 1782, expressed his gratitude for Haym Salomon:

"The kindness of our little friend in Front Street near the Coffee House, is a fund that will preserve me from extremities, but I never resort to it without great mortification, as he obstinately rejects all recompense... To a necessitous delegate he gratuitously spares out of his private stock."

Henry Wheaton is quoted as saying:

"Judge Wilson, so distinguished for his labors in the Convention that framed the Federal Constitution, would have retired from public service had he not been sustained by the timely aid of Haym Salomon, as delicately as it was generously administered."

Another historic account of Salomon's gracious generosity is here recounted:

"When Salomon was called on to advance the entire pay for the ensuing year to Jones, Randolph and Madison as members of the Revolutionary Congress, they had in writing allotted that Madison should get fifty pounds less than the other two, but Salomon, seeing in young Madison, then only twenty-nine years old, those great talents for which he became distinguished in after years, presented him, from his own private purse, the fifty pounds, thus equalizing the pay of the whole delegation."

This historian points out that:

"James Madison, twice President of the United States, the most learned and patriotic member of the Revolutionary Congress, paid this tribute to Salomon's devotion and bounty: 'When any member was in need, all that was necessary was to call upon Salomon.' "

Salomon also gave generously to individuals from foreign nations that were sympathetic to the American Revolution. For example, he supported the Ambassador from Spain for two years up until the time of his death. Although he endorsed a great portion of the bills of exchange for the amount of loans and subsidies our government obtained in Europe, of which he negotiated the entire sums and the execution of which duty required a great deal of his valuable time from 1781 to 1783, still there was only charged a fractional percentage to the United States. He never caused the loss to the government one cent of

the many millions of his negotiations, either by his own management or from the credit he gave to others on the sale he made of those immense sums of foreign drafts on account of the United States.

Active in the Synagogue

Haym Salomon was an active member of the historic Jewish congregation, Mikveh Israel, which today meets in this modern building on Fourth Street in historic Philadelphia. Salomon himself contributed one-fourth of the cost for the congregation's first building. Mikveh Israel means "the Hope of Israel." Members of this congregation fought and died for the Revolution, therefore the nick-name of the congregation became "the Synagogue of the Revolution."

An Untimely Death

In 1785, Haym Salomon had plans to return to New York City and re-establish a business there. He had advertised it in a newspaper on January 1, 1785. But within days he became seriously ill and died on January 5, 1785. Only 45 years old, he left behind his wife Rachel, who was pregnant, and their three small children.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

"He died a very poor man. He was destitute. And he left a wife and several children. The wife eventually remarried. The son, Haym M. Salomon, spent his lifetime trying to recuperate some of the funds he claimed that Haym Salomon had given to his new government. But it is interesting that many of the men who made great sacrifices in the American Revolution died as broken men, as compared to modern wars, where a lot of people benefitted from."

The United States Senate Report of June 24, 1864 decreed that Haym Salomon gave over \$600,000.00 to the United States during the Revolutionary War. But he died penniless. None of the debt owed to him was ever repaid to his descendants. Although the issue was brought before the United States Congress numerous times, and although Congress repeatedly issued reports acknowledging the debt – no action was taken.

For the United States Bicentennial, the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in 1975 recognizing Haym Salomon. It is unusual in that it is printed on both sides of the stamp.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

"And it says, 'Haym Salomon, contributor of the cause.' Then on the back it says, 'Financial hero, businessman and broker, Haym Salomon was responsible for raising most of the money needed to finance the American Revolution, and later to save the new nation from collapse.' "

In the same year, Israel issued a stamp honoring U.S. President Harry Truman, who was the first Head of State to recognize Israel as a new nation in 1948. The stamp bears the Scripture, "Praise befits the upright" – from Psalm 33:1 – under Truman's portrait.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

... "To summarize Haym Salomon's character traits, I would say bravery. He came to a new land as did other people, and twice had to start from nothing to start a new life for himself and his family. I would say perseverance. He was able to keep at it to accomplish both to earn a living for his family, and to raise funds for his country. I would say honesty. There was no way he could function exchanging foreign European money for dollars unless people completely trusted him. And finally, I would say idealism. Coming to a new country and working for its independence required a great deal of idealism."

Chicago Tribute

Interview with Dr. Joseph Andrews:

... "The major monument honoring Haym Salomon is in a city that didn't exist when he lived...and it is in Chicago. And it's a very interesting story. When Hitler was going across Europe, there arose a coalition in Chicago. Chicago has the second biggest population of people of Polish descent after Warsaw. This coalition raised money and built a statue which is still in Chicago. George Washington is in the center. Haym Salomon is to the right, and Robert Morris is to the left, and it's called a triumvirate of patriots. The irony is that this statue was going to be dedicated on the Bill of Rights Day in 1941. That's December 15, exactly one week after Pearl Harbor. So if you go to Wacker and Wabash in Chicago, you will still see this statue which is symbolism for the times, the '30's and the '40's that Jews and Christians could get along and work together. This was to be a beacon against Hitler and his ideas.

There's another monument in West Hollywood, a statue of Haym Salomon. That has been moved 2 or 3 times as the Jewish population of Los Angeles changes its locale. There was Congress who voted to have a statue of Haym Salomon in Washington, but that was never funded, so there is none. There was also supposed to be a Haym Salomon University, and that is what is now Brandeis University outside of Boston. Except for the postage stamp, that is the sum total of what the government has contributed to the memory in honor of Haym Salomon."

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

"I believe that the significance of the monument of Washington, Morris and Salomon in Chicago is again the importance of finance and monetary support for the war effort of the American colonies. Soldiers and courage are important, but without the supplies, courage is nothing. So I think the importance of getting the finances and making sure the Continental Army is able to stay in the field is important for the General's point of view,

or his responsibility, but also for those people who are securing the funds to buy the supplies to keep the soldiers in the field.

...Lorado Taft is probably one of the premier artist-sculptors in the United States. This is one of his more important pieces in Chicago. It was done on the eve of America's entry into World War II. However, also, Lorado Taft is known for other works of art in Chicago, probably the most important is by the University of Chicago, 'The March of Time,' that he did in the 1930's...I think the fact that Taft, such an important sculptor, was commissioned to do this piece, speaks of the importance that the organizers of the statue saw in getting a very important artist to do this very important statue."

Interview with Historian Jans Lorys:

"I think that the timing of the statue, right before the outbreak of World War II, shows us the importance of what would have to be done. I'm sure two or three large contributors would have paid for the statue, but I think the organizers were more interested in getting all Americans or all Chicagoans involved in raising funds for the statue so they could feel it was their statue. For the upcoming World War II and for the effort of everybody, not only of the soldiers, but people buying war bonds, raising victory gardens that we're all-in-this-together spirit. This fostered that prior to the outbreak of World War II.

It's a little bit interesting that even though the statue deals with financiers, it is not located in Chicago's financial district. It is located in the intersection of two very important streets. Also, the site is very nice because you've got the Chicago River and all of downtown serving as a background for the statue."

Conclusion

Haym Salomon, though his name is not widely recognized, is a true hero of American history. This Jewish patriot gave his fortune and his financial skill for the American cause. Had it not been for him, the American Revolution might not have been won. God sovereignly prepared this man through a life of unique circumstances and placed him where he needed to be, at just the right time to make a difference. May Haym Salomon's life, character and sacrifice be widely proclaimed, and may he be honored and memorialized as a selfless Jewish hero of the American Revolution. He gave all for liberty.

Finis.