

# Historical Characters

## **Kaya, 1764**

Kaya (KY-yah) is a young Nez Perce girl. Her books feature stories about leadership, compassion, courage, and friendship. Kaya is the only Native American Historical doll.

## **Felicity Merriman, 1774**

Felicity Merriman is an auburn haired, horse-loving colonial girl in Williamsburg, Virginia who is caught between Patriot and Loyalist family and friends at the onset of the American Revolution.

## **Elizabeth Cole**

Elizabeth Cole is Felicity's best friend, despite her Loyalist family leanings during the American Revolution.

## **Josefina Montoya, 1824**

Josefina Montoya is a young Mexican girl living in New Mexico with her extended family. She and her family must adapt following the death of their mother and the introduction of their mother's sister Tía Dolores to the family circle.

## **Kirsten Larson, 1854**

Kirsten Larson is a Swedish immigrant who settles in the Minnesota Territory with her extended family. She faces the hardships, challenges, and adaptations necessary to adjust to life in America such as learning to speak English.

## **Addy Walker, 1864**

Addy Walker was the fifth doll added to the Historical line and remains the company's only African-American character. Her character is a fugitive slave who escapes with her mother from a plantation in South Carolina to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania during the American Civil War. Addy's stories explore themes of freedom, familial love, prejudice and racism.

## **Samantha Parkington, 1904**

Samantha is an only child growing up during the Edwardian period (although American Girl designated her as Victorian). Orphaned at age five and raised by her wealthy Victorian-era grandmother in fictional Mount Bedford, New York, Samantha befriends a poor servant girl named Nellie O'Malley. Eventually Samantha, Nellie and Nellie's young sisters are adopted by Samantha's uncle and aunt.

## **Nellie O'Malley**

Nellie O'Malley, Samantha's best friend, is an Irish immigrant who works for Samantha's neighbors and is befriended by Samantha. She personifies the working-class immigrant experience of the time and teaches Samantha about the conditions faced by children who are part of the work force. Her mean uncle Mike abandoned her and her sisters on the street. Nellie and her sisters are orphaned and later adopted by Samantha's relatives.

## **Rebecca Rubin, 1914**

Rebecca Rubin, American Girl's tenth historical character, debuted on May 31, 2009. She is a nine-year-old Jewish girl of Russian descent whose maternal grandparents and parents immigrated to the Lower East Side of New York City. Rebecca is fascinated by the then-budding film industry and aspires to become an actress despite her family's disapproval.

## **Kit Kittredge, 1934**

Kit Kittredge faces the hard times of the early years of the Great Depression in Cincinnati, Ohio, as her family struggles to adjust to the realities of the economy after her father's job loss and disappearance, causing Kit to spend much of the book seeking him.

## **Ruthie Smithens**

Ruthie, Kit's "best friend," adores fairy tales and idolizes movie stars. An only child from an affluent family, she is generous and often tries to help Kit but sometimes wounds her friend's pride instead. Her accompanying book, "Really Truly Ruthie" by author Valerie Tripp, is set in late December 1932 and revolves around Ruthie's attempts to help the Kittredge family save their home from foreclosure.

## **Molly McIntire, 1944**

Molly McIntire is a young girl living in Jefferson, Illinois during the latter years of World War II. Her father is stationed in England as a doctor caring for wounded soldiers, and she must cope with the changes that the war has brought.

## **Emily Bennett**

Emily Bennett, Molly's English friend is an English girl who is sent to America by her family to protect her from the intensity of the English battlefield during World War II.

## **Julie Albright, 1974**

Julie Albright is a young girl growing up in San Francisco, California in 1974-75. Focusing on various changes and societal upheavals in American society during that time period, the America's Bicentennial celebration is also emphasized. Julie was released

September 10, 2007 and is the first character portrayed from a divorced family by American Girl.

## **Ivy Ling**

Ivy Ling, Julie's "best friend," is a Chinese American girl living in San Francisco. The Ivy doll debuted with Julie and was the first "Best Friend" doll to be released at the same time as the main character. Ivy is the only Asian American Historical character.