

Dicey Langston Springfield

Heroine, Spy, Teenager, Patriot Champion

Let's play a game called "Would You Rather?" Here are your choices, pick the one you would rather do. I would rather...

1. Shield someone from being shot using my body.
2. Cross a chest deep, swollen river on foot at night.
3. Ride a horse on a rocky path while being chased by my enemies.
4. Refuse to give information to the enemy even while being threatened with death.

Well which one did you pick? None of them, they are all horrible! I am not sure what young Dicey Langston would have picked. All of these are awful, not something we even want to pretend! In reality, she did ***all of them*** to protect her family and others during the American Revolution, all while advancing the Patriot cause.

Laodicea Langston "*Dicey*" was born in South Carolina on May 14, 1766. Her father and brothers sided with the Patriots during the American Revolution. The Patriots wanted freedom from British rule and the ability to self-govern. Dicey was just as passionate as the men in her family, but she was not able to be a soldier. So, what could she do? She became a spy!

People did not expect a small, brown-haired teenager to be passing along information from their conversations, but she did and greatly benefited the Patriot cause. One night after hearing of an attack that would happen to her brothers' camp, she walked in the dark, crossing an engorged river. She was swept downstream and had to recover lying soaked on the river bank. Once her strength returned she continued on her path, informed her brothers and then repeated the trip back home. She made it home in time to cook breakfast and no one, not even her father, knew of her trip. That trip saved her brother's life, along with the lives of the other soldiers.

Because of her spying, her father was attacked by the Scots. They were fighting as part of the British forces. Dicey threw her body in front of her father and protected him from being shot. The men did not want to shot a young girl so she and her father lived. Later, she was stopped on a path by Tories and held at gun point. They demanded information on the Patriots. Dicey refused and managed to escape on her horse at top speed. She raced across rocky paths until she reached safety.



On January 9, 1783, at age 16, Dicey Langston married Thomas Springfield. Thomas was also a Patriot. Seventeen of Dicey's twenty two children survived childhood. Dicey passed down her love of liberty to her children and encouraged them to fight and (if able) to vote. Dicey Langston Springfield died on May 23, 1837, in Greenville County, SC.

Obituary of Laodicea "Dicey" Langston"

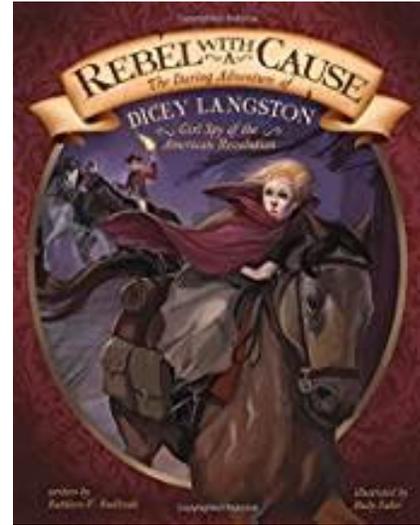
Dicey died on May 23, 1837. Her obituary read:

"Died on Tuesday, the 23rd, Mrs. Laodicea Springfield, aged 71 years, wife of Thomas Springfield. The deceased was the daughter of Solomon Langston of Revolutionary memory, whose family perhaps suffered more from the ruthless ravages of the Tories and Indians than almost any other, and the subject of this remark took an active part in the struggle and performed many daring deeds on behalf of her suffering country and friends. She was the mother of 22 children and has left about 140 grand and great grand children. She was a kind and affectionate wife, mother, and neighbor, and has left a large circle of acquaintances to deplore her loss."

A historical marker dedicated to Dicey is located at 827A Tigerville Rd, Travelers Rest, S.C., 29690.

ACTIVITY:

Choose 15-20 Revolutionary War heroes. Make hero cards with one real act of bravery that they did during the war. Then add two or more fake facts. Now, ask your friends and family to guess the true act of heroism. Some people like Dicey did several things, so you could even make more than one card for some heroes. Make sure to mark the true fact on the card so you can remember it. You can even go a step further and create a game to play. Make characters and a points system for when people guess the correct act of bravery. Post your game on our Facebook page.



SOURCES:

<https://revolutionary-war.net/dicey-langston/>

<http://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2009/04/dicey-langston-springfield.html>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7493556/laodicea-dicey-springfield>

<https://www.dicey-langston.com/>

<http://travelersrestthere.com/2017/05/27/travelers-rest-american-frontier-story-dicey-langston-springfield/>

- Look up Dicey's children:
<https://www.ancestry.com/genealogy/records/laodicea-dicey-langston-springfield-24-2cnx981>