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Benjamin Flower

Scott Stephenson: You're now standing in front of this large blue case. And I want you to look for a portrait of a man pointing downwards. This is Benjamin Flower, an officer in the Continental Army. See if you can figure out from the items that are arrayed around him what his role in the army was. He's pointing to a distant building, and you can see a little white cupola rising above the brick buildings in the background. This is the Pennsylvania State House, or Independence Hall as we know it. Now, Benjamin Flower's portrait was painted by two brothers, James and Charles Willson Peale, who were remembered as great artists of the Revolutionary era. To find out the surprising story of these two brothers during the winter of 1776, the times that tried men's souls, step into the next small circular Gallery.

(Note: The next space has an audio-visual installation, recreating the meeting of the Peale brothers in 1776.)