The American Revolution is an idea, not just a movement that established the nation’s independence. It does not belong exclusively to a particular time in history or any one group of Americans. The Forten family lived and breathed the American Revolution. Although only James Forten personally experienced the Revolutionary War, his wife and descendants worked tirelessly to advance the Revolution’s principles: the belief that all people have the right to liberty, equality, and a role in their own governance.

There is much more to learn about James Forten and his remarkable family. Within blocks of the Museum, right here in Old City Philadelphia, you can explore historic sites and see buildings that Forten walked by every day. During and after this exhibition, the Museum will be highlighting books, speakers, resources for teachers and students, and ways you can research the Fortens yourself. There is still more to discover about this family of Revolutionaries.

Nearby, for example, is a remarkable Forten family Bible. It has been in the possession of six generations of the family, and this is the first time it has ever been displayed in public. Take a moment to examine it more closely.

Objects like this — and the larger story of the Forten family — remind us that the American Revolution is ongoing. What will you do to keep its spirit alive?