Laurent Clerc (1785-1869)
Louis Laurent Marie Clerc
Pioneering educator

Quote:
“...why there are among the human kind white, black, red, and yellow men. The Deaf and Dumb are everywhere, in Asia, in Africa, as well as in Europe and America...I think our deafness proceeds from an act of Providence, I would say, from the will of God...We therefore cannot but thank God for having made us Deaf and Dumb...” (1818).

[Engraving from Silent Worker (1902) 14 (18), 124]

Born: 26 December 1785
La Balme, France

Died: 18 July 1869 (83 years old)
Hartford, Conn.
Spring Grove Cemetery

Family of origin:
Father (Joseph Francis Clerc) was a notary public and mayor of the town
Mother (Elizabeth Cady)

Involvement/Contributions to the Deaf Community:
Attended and taught at Deaf School in Paris
Co-Established the first permanent public Deaf School in the United States
Celebrated as the first Deaf teacher in the United States
Wrote articles for Deaf press

Schooling:
1797: entered Institution Nationale des Sourds-Muets à Paris (INJS)
Master of Arts: Trinity College, Hartford
Professional Experiences:
1806: appointed as teacher at the Nationale des Sourds-Muets
1817: with T.H. Gallaudet established the American School for the Deaf and was a teacher and retired in 1858
1821-1822: Acting Principal of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf
Prepared and tutored sign language to teachers/administrators for work with Deaf students

Honors (too numerous to list all, some examples):
1850: Deaf alumni and community members organize a tribute to Laurent Clerc (and Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet) at Hartford, Conn.
Busts of Clerc at ASD and Gallaudet University
Many Deaf organizations are named in his honor such as: Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center at Gallaudet University (Kendall Demonstration School and Model Secondary School for the Deaf), Laurent Clerc Cultural Fund (Gallaudet Alumni Association), and Association Laurent Clerc (La Balme, France)

Personal information:
1819: Married Eliza Crocker Boardman
Four children survived to adulthood:
   Daughter Elizabeth Victoria Clerc (Beers) became an instructor at ASD
   Son Rev. Francis Joseph Clerc became "a missionary to Deaf people"

List of original documents/links:

References and books/articles/links about Laurent Clerc:


“Facts in relation to Deaf Mutes and their Education.” (1902) Silent Worker, 14(8), 124-6.


Other information/documents/images:

[below image from: www.findagrave.com]