



Laurent Clerc (1785-1869)

- A **deaf French teacher** and **graduate** of the **Institut National des Jeunes Sourds** in Paris.
- Taught by **Abbé Sicard and Jean Massieu**, early leaders in deaf education.
- Traveled to the U.S. in **1816** with Thomas Gallaudet to co-found ASD.
- Became the **first deaf teacher in America**, training future deaf educators.
- His instruction blended **French Sign Language (LSF)** with U.S. regional signs, influencing the creation of **ASL**
- Advocated for **deaf rights and education**, inspiring the establishment of more deaf schools.