

The Legacy of Louis Braille

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Louis Braille was born on January 4, 1809, in Coupvray, France. At the age of three, he accidentally blinded himself in one eye with a stitching awl from his father's workshop. By the time he was five, he had completely lost his vision in both eyes. Despite this tragedy, he excelled in his education.

In 1824, at just 15 years old, Louis developed a system of tactile code that would change the world for the visually impaired. Inspired by "night writing," a military code invented by Charles Barbier, Louis simplified the concept into a six-dot cell system. This allowed for 63 possible combinations, covering letters, numbers, and punctuation.

Why Braille Matters Today Today, Braille remains a crucial tool for literacy and independence. While technology like screen readers and audiobooks has advanced, the ability to read and write Braille provides a direct connection to language and formatting that audio cannot replace.

"Live without seeing, but be what you are." — Louis Braille