

# An American History Handbook

*The people and events that shaped  
America's freedom*

*Selected and organized by*  
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The 1700's









Fireworks over the Lincoln Memorial celebrating Independence Day on July Fourth



## Contents

Tour of the U.S. Capitol	6
Tour of the White House	14
Three branches of government	26
How a bill becomes law	27
Colonization of America	28
Pre-Revolutionary War	31
The War of Independence	34
The Constitutional Convention	46
Ratification of the Constitution	52
The U.S Constitution	55
The Bill of Rights	57
Washington's Mount Vernon	58
George Washington	66
The first U.S. Presidency	73
John Adams	79
The Capitol in 1800	91



The story of  
America's History  
and the people who sacrificed their lives  
for freedom

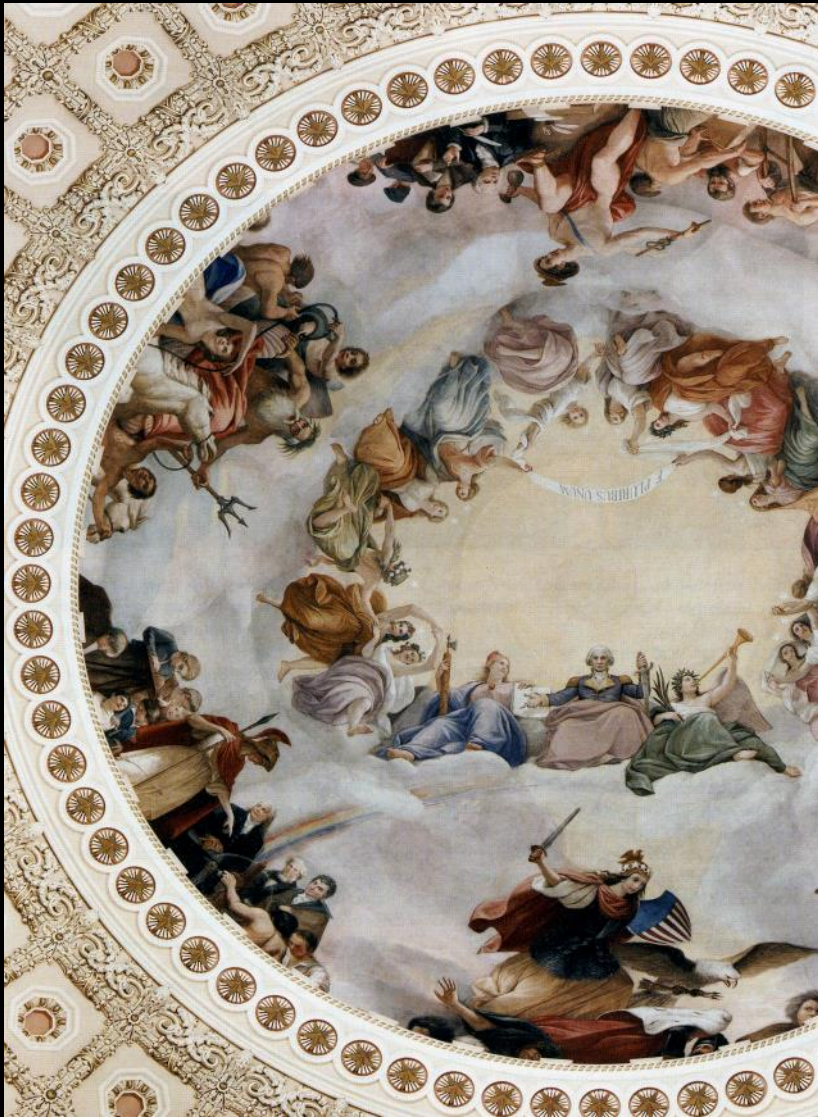






The United States Capitol. The original Capitol (center) opened in 1800. The two wings on each end with columns were added in the 1850's to house the expanding Senate and House of Representatives. The larger dome was constructed during the Civil War (1860-1865).



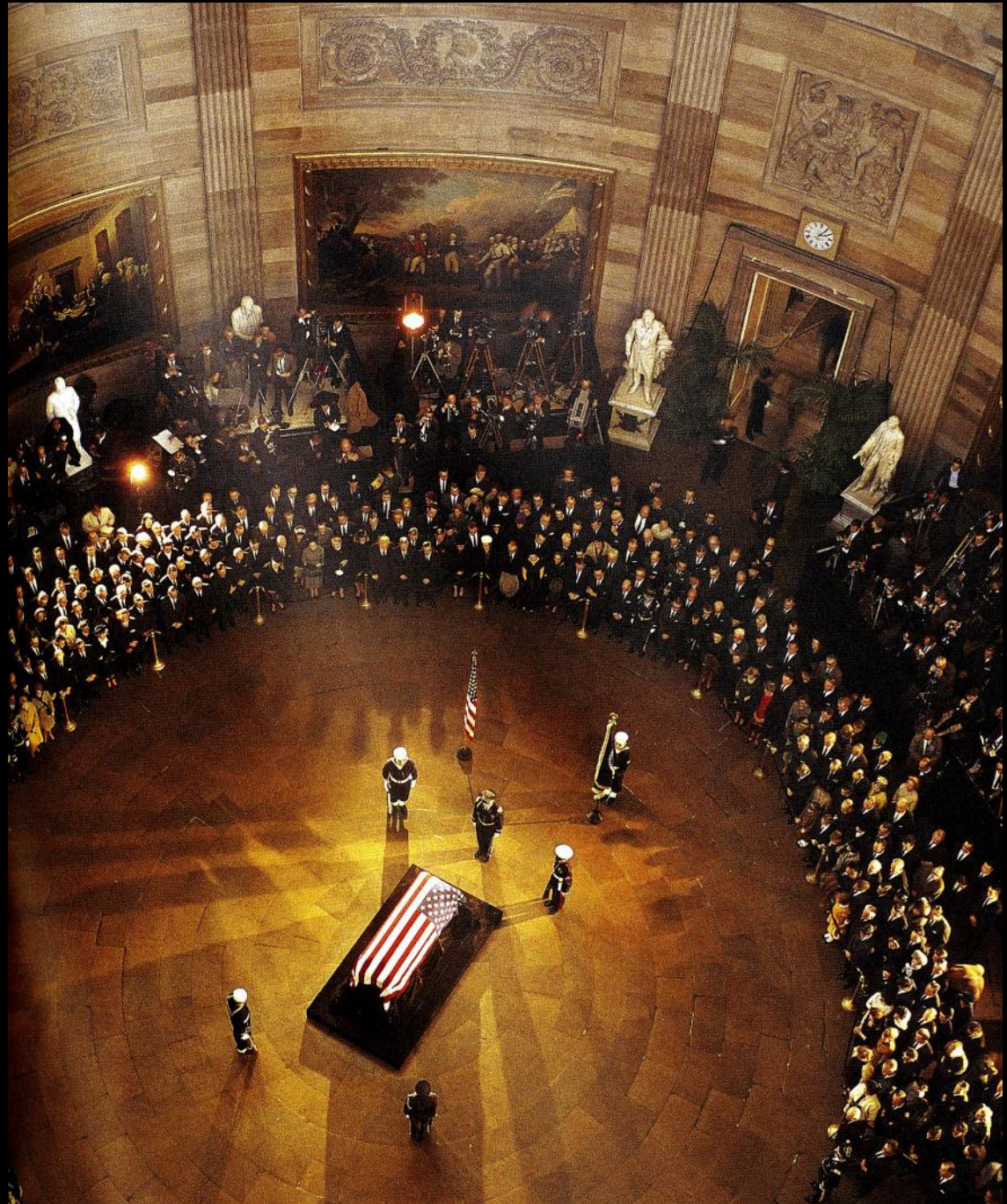


The dome's fresco in the rotunda. The 4,664 square foot fresco was finished in eleven months in 1965 by artist Constantino Brumidi. The "Epotheosis of Washington" represents the thirteen original states and the Union. George Washington sits between Liberty/Authority and Victory/Frame.



President John F. Kennedy lies in state in the Capitol's rotunda after his assassination in 1963.

Right—The heart of the Capitol is the huge circular rotunda nearly 100 feet across and 180 feet high. The rotunda holds the buildings historic art displays and sculptures. Four of the immense oil paintings depict the days of discovery of America and its colonization. The other four paintings are linked to the American Revolution.





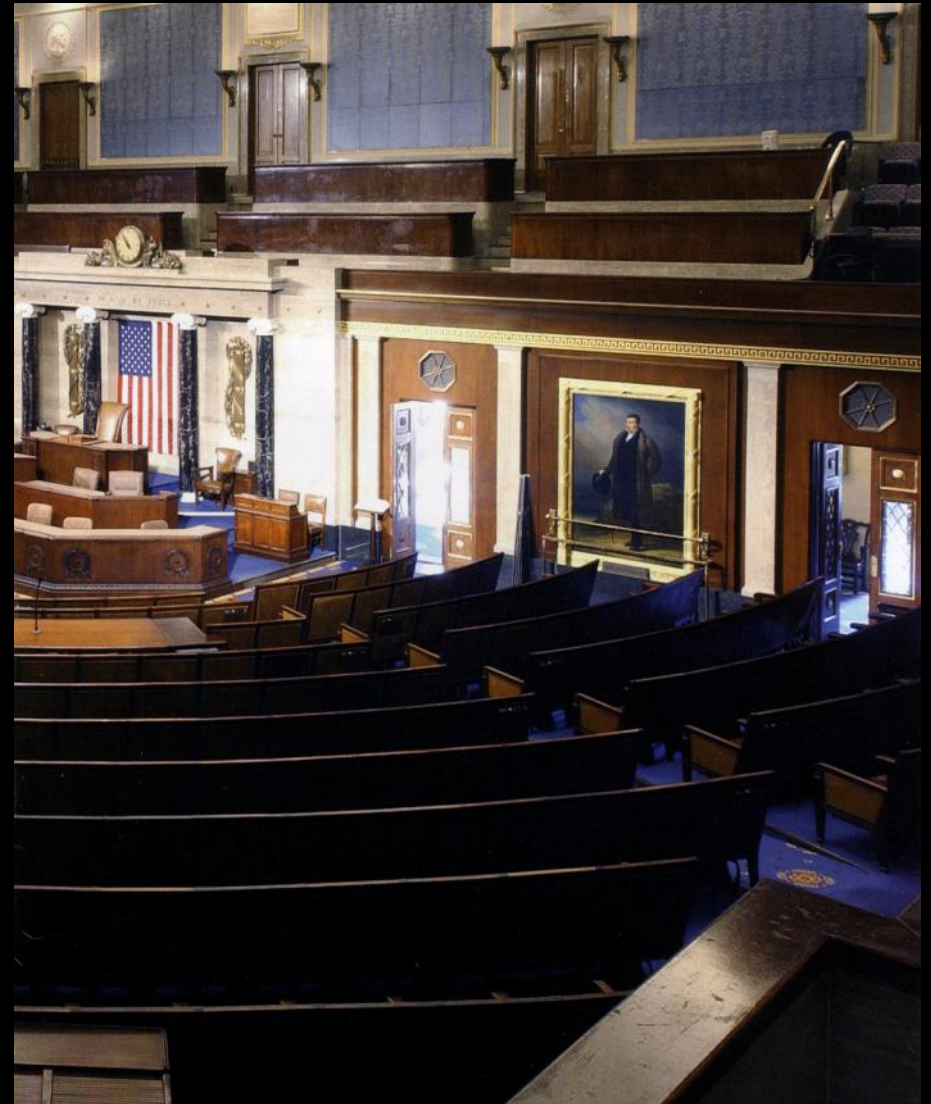
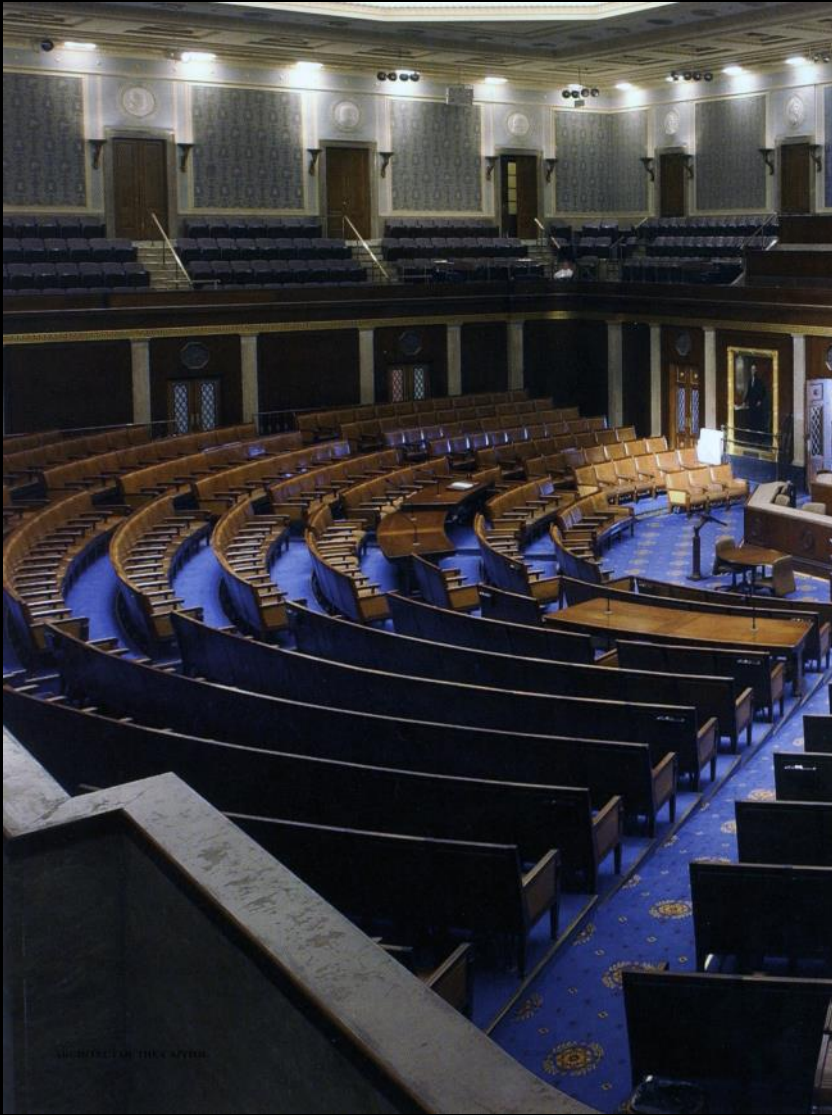






The new Senate chamber was completed on January 4, 1859 when the Senate first met here. Forty-eight of the desks are from 1819. The busts surrounding the gallery are of several past vice-presidents.





The House of Representatives is one of the largest legislative halls in the world. The Congress held its first meeting in the new chambers on December, 16, 1857. As the House membership grew, the rows of seats replaced desks. The paintings on either side of the speaker's rostrum is of George Washington and Lafayette.



The President's Room is one of the most ornate chambers in the capitol. Starting in 1860, the president would come here to sign bills into law. Brumidi painted the entire room including the portraits of Washington's first cabinet, Christopher Columbus, and Benjamin Franklin.



The ornate Senate Appropriations Committee hearing room is decorated in the Pompeian style by Constantino Brumidi







The bronze Statue of Freedom reigning atop the Capitol's dome is 19.5 feet tall and weighs 7.5 ton. Sculptor Thomas Crawford modeled the plaster cast in Rome. The statue was hoisted atop the Capitol's dome in December, 1863.





The White House  
has been home to  
every president  
since John Adams





The East Room is the ceremonial room of the White House. It is the home's largest room measuring 85 feet long by 40 feet wide. The East Room was completed in 1829 for Andrew Jackson's presidency. For many years the room was open to the public to attend holiday celebrations. The chandeliers and ornate wall and ceiling details are eighteenth century French and English designs from a 1902 renovation by Theodore Roosevelt. The portrait of George Washington, purchased by Congress in 1800, was saved by First Lady Dolly Madison during the torching of the White House by the British in 1814. President Lincoln's body lay in state in the center of the room in 1865.





The Green Room is furnished in the late Federal style of the early 1800's. Thomas Jefferson is known to have used the room for dining. The room was decorated in green during the James Monroe Presidency.







The elegant oval shaped Blue Room was furnished by James Monroe in 1817.; fifty-five pieces of gilded furniture seen in the room today were purchased in Paris. The portrait of Thomas Jefferson (left) is from 1800.









The Red Room (left) was first decorated in red in 1845 during James Polk's presidency. The rooms furnishings are influenced by the English Regency and French Empire styles of the early 1800's. John Adams used it as a breakfast room, Madison and Jefferson as a drawing room, and Lincoln as an evening reading room.

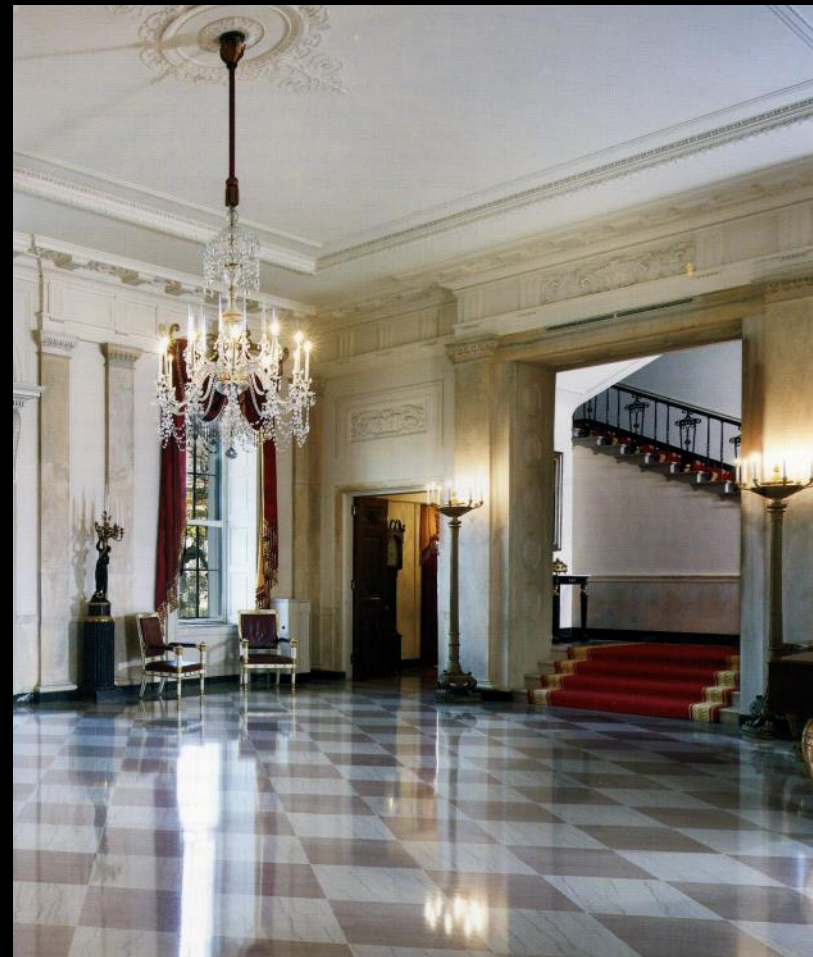
The State Dining Room (right) is the setting for state dinners. The rooms oak paneling was installed by Theodore Roosevelt to suggest the Georgian architecture of the early 1800's. The 13 foot gilded bronze centerpiece on the dining table was made in Paris in 1813. The portrait of Abraham Lincoln was painted in 1869 by George Healy.







The Entrance Hall is where guests of state are greeted for state dinners and state affairs. The president will enter descending the grand staircase while the Marine Band plays "Hail to the Chief." The floor and columns are of Tennessee and Georgian marble.





## The Family Quarters



(left) The Queens Room is the principal guest suite in the family quarters; it has served seven reigning queens. The poster bed belonged to Andrew Jackson.

(right) Lincoln's office is now named the Lincoln Bedroom. The bed was purchased by Mary Todd Lincoln.





(right page) The sitting room and the dining room in the family quarters.

(left page) Today's treaty room was restored to resemble President Grant's Cabinet Room. The Victorian furnishings include Grant's cabinet table. The cross hall runs the length of the house in the family quarters. Furnishings are from the late 1700's and early 1800's.









(left) The cabinet room seats 22 members of the president's cabinet.

(right) The oval office was completed in 1909 for President Taft. The desk is made of timbers from the British ship Resolute—presented to President Hayes in 1880 by Queen Victoria.

## The West Wing







Supreme Court  
Building



# The Three Branches of our Government

**The legislative Branch** - The legislative branch is made up of the two houses of congress - the Senate and the House of Representatives. The most important duty of the legislative branch (or congress) is to write, discuss, and vote on new laws.

There are two senators from each state, who are elected by the citizens of each state; they serve a six year term. The Vice President is the head of the senate but does not vote unless there is a tie vote. The Senate also approves nominations made by the president to his cabinet, the supreme court, federal courts, and other posts. The Senate must ratify all treaties by a two-thirds vote.

The number of representatives from each state in the House of Representatives is determined by the population of the state. The larger the population of a state, the more representation in congress. To compare the House and the Senate, the House gives voting representation based on the number of citizens where the Senate gives equal voting representation to each state. The idea is to balance voting power in the senate between the smaller and larger states, while representing the voting population in the House of Representatives. The representatives serve a two year term. The Speaker of the House, elected by the representatives, is the head of the House. Both parties (Democrats and Republicans) in the Senate and the House of Representatives elect a leader. The leader of the party in control is called the majority leader. The minority party leader is called the minority leader.

**The Executive Branch** - The President is the head of the executive branch. The President is elected by the entire country and serves a four year term. The President carries out laws passed by the legislative branch. He appoints or removes cabinet members and officials. He negotiates treaties, is the chief commander of the armed forces, and acts as head of state in national affairs. The executive branch also includes the Vice President and other officials such as cabinet members. The cabinet is made up of the head of the 15 various departments of the government. The 15 government departments include: The secretary of State (foreign affairs), Secretary of Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Education, Energy, and Veterans' affairs.

**The Judicial Branch** - The Judicial branch oversees the court system of the U.S. Through court cases, the judicial branch explains the meaning of the constitution and laws passed by congress. Unlike the criminal court, the Supreme Court rules whether something is constitutional or unconstitutional.

On the Supreme Court there are nine justices, or judges: eight associate judges and one chief justice. The judges are nominated by the President and approved by the Senate. They have no term limits. The Supreme court's decisions are final, they cannot be overruled by any other court in the United States.



## The Steps in Making a Bill a Law

**Introducing a Bill** - Any member of Congress can introduce new legislation. The person who introduces the bill is the sponsor. Any member of the same body (House or Senate) Can become a co-sponsor of the bill by adding their name to the legislation. Every new bill is assigned a number beginning with HR or S referencing a House or Senate bill. The bill is then referred to a committee or subcommittee with jurisdiction over the issue of the legislation.

**Committee Action** - The chairman of the committee determines whether there will be a hearing on the bill and whether there will be a "mark up." A mark-up is when members of the committee or sub-committee offer amendments to make changes to the bill. After amendments are adopted or rejected by the full committee, the chairman must move to vote on the bill to move it out of committee and on to congress.

**Committee Report** - The committee's chairman's staff prepares reports of the bill's intent, the legislative history in committee, the impact on existing laws, and the position of the majority of the members of the committee. The members of the minority may file dissenting views.

**Floor Debate and Votes** - The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate determines if and when a bill will come before the full body of congress for debate, amendment, and passage. In the House, a Representative may offer an amendment to a bill only if he has permission from the rules committee. A Senator can offer an amendment at any time. A majority vote is required for an amendment and final passage.

**Referral to the Other Chamber** - When the House or Senate pass a bill it is referred to the other chamber for passage. This chamber may approve the bill as received, reject it, ignore it, or amend it before passing it.

**Conference on a Bill** - If only minor changes are made to a bill by the other chamber, the legislation goes back to the original chamber for a confirming vote. If the bill incurs significant changes from the other chamber, a conference committee is appointed to reconcile the differences between the two chambers versions into a single bill. If the members of the committee cannot reach an agreement the bill dies. If an agreement is reached, a conference report is prepared describing the new bill. Both the House and the Senate must approve the conference report. If either chamber rejects the conference report, the bill dies.

**Action by the President** - After the conference report is approved by both the House and the Senate, the final bill is sent to the President. If the President approves the bill, he signs it into law. If the President does not take action on the bill for ten days while congress is in session, the bill automatically becomes law. If the President opposes the bill he can veto it. If the President takes no action after Congress has adjourned its second session, it is a "pocket veto" and the bill dies.



## The Beginning of America

The story of the making of America actually begins in England in the sixteenth century. By the middle of the fifteen - hundreds, there were 11 million sheep throughout England, outnumbering humans four to one; they grazed everywhere. Almost everyone in England, including the crown, was involved with, benefited from, or was affected by England's dominant industry – manufacturing wool cloth. The famous English wool was popular throughout Europe and across the Ottoman empire, which stretched from the Mediterranean to the Caspian Sea. However, during this time England was on the cusp of a great crisis: the wool cloth trade was faltering, the English presence in Antwerp, the greatest trading hub in the world, was threatened, the crown was mired in debt, people were homeless and unemployed, towns were ravaged, and disease raged. Sir Thomas More, in his translation of the book *Utopia*, was the first Englishman to envision – in print at least – the enormous potential that the new world held for remaking society. By 1500, China accounted for 25 percent of the world's output of goods and services; by contrast, England accounted for just 1 percent. Through the sixteenth century, a tangled web of trade routes connected Cathay in the Far East to Europe, stretching five thousand miles across oceans, mountains, and deserts.

It was not until the economic and social crisis of the mid-fifteen-hundreds that England realized they must search beyond Europe for new markets. As a result, the world's first joint stock company structure was formed by merchant investors for the purpose of searching for a shorter trade route to Far East by sailing west. This trade route, believed to cross thru the Northern land mass of the America's, became known as the Northwest passage. In the last half of the fifteen-hundreds, several English trans-Atlantic sailing voyages in search of the Northwest passage, as well as attempts to colonize new land for gold, silver, and trade, all failed. When hopes of finding a Northwest passage to the Far East were abandoned, new thinking pressed the value of colonizing for the ownership of land, employment, valuable commodities, and providing an answer to the social problems of removing Catholics from a Protestant England. In fact, Richard Hakluyt, England's foremost authority on America and its greatest cheerleader for colonization, authored a publication in 1588 named *principal Navigations*, which accounted for 68 English voyages across the Atlantic prior to the first permanent colony at Jamestown in 1607. The publication included the details about the English captain, Francis Drake, who circumnavigated the world in 1580, being the first to do so since Magellan's fleet returned to Spain in 1522. Drake brought many gifts back to Queen Elizabeth, of which one included the secret knowledge of the western coast of North America; no one realized the vastness of the North American continent until that moment. The publication also told about the voyage financed by Walter Raleigh and the Queen, which weighed anchor from Plymouth, England in 1585 for the outer banks of North Carolina, where 107 settlers were left to establish a settlement. Unfortunately, an undeclared war with Spain halted all colonization efforts and the settlers were abandoned in America. However as soon as the war with Spain was won in 1587, new dreams of expansion in the New World were rekindled.

In 1600, the East India Trade Company was incorporated into a joint stock-holding company with a record 213- shareholders. In 1601, five ships with five hundred men and supplies for twenty months, set sail for the East Indies. In 1602, Gosnold commanded a single ship with thirty-two men to bring back the first detailed account of the northern coast of America, from North Carolina up to the harbors of Maine. Gosnold was the first Englishman to reach these shore, but hardly the first European. The Indians appeared to greet him in a small sailing craft, clearly not a native vessel. They were dressed in European attire and utilized large amounts of iron and copper for cooking utensils; they could even speak some English. The Englishman did not realize how extensive the Indian-European trading network was at the time, but they soon discovered the Indians had a sophisticated trading economy in furs, timber, and exotic commodities with the French. As they sailed the coast of America they continued to engage Indians and learned about a variety of tobacco more pleasant than available in England. Gosnold's voyage sparked new interest in North America, and before long another voyage was dispatched. Unfortunately, the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603 overshadowed additional ventures to America.



Gosnold was followed by a young man named George Waymouth who secured an audience with the new King James I and declared his intentions to explore the new world. Waymouth was successful attracting investors with the focus of colonizing America to refuge Catholics, who were facing tighter restrictions by King James, and to develop plantations for the purpose of fishing outposts; the fishing trade was reliable and demand was steady. Waymouth sailed out of Dartmouth the last day of March, 1605 with a single ship and twenty-eight men. He lingered in Maine and learned a great deal about the people and geography of the New World.

On April 10, 1606, James Popham successfully proposed a new charter to King James I, known as the Virginia Charter. The charter provided investors of the newly founded Plymouth Company the authority to inhabit, plant, and create a colony in the territory defined as America from 34 degrees north – South Carolina's location today – to 45 degrees north – where Maine is today. In other words, between the norther limits of New Spain and the southern limits of New France. Two ships set sail in May, 1607 and selected a plantation site on what is today the Kennebec River, not far inland from the Atlantic. The surviving plan shows an elaborate, enclosed compound of several buildings, but the colonists suffered from the biting cold from the first winter. Ultimately a decision was made to abandon the settlement and return to England; there would be no financial gain for the investors.

The newly founded London Company, managed by Sir Thomas Smythe, and better resourced and managed than the Plymouth Company, set sail with three ships and 144 men on December 20, 1606. They reached the coastal headland at the entrance to what today is Chesapeake Bay, Virginia in late April, 1607. They preceded upriver to a place they deemed fit to erect a city which they named James Towne after King James I. The first ships to resupply the colonists arrived January 2, 1608 with supplies and 120 more men. Expecting to find a vibrant colony, instead they found a settlement on the brink of collapse. The colony had suffered an onslaught of dysentery; so many had fell sick and died that those that lived were barely able to bury the dead. Even though the new colony was on the brink of failure, Smythe's encouraging printed promotions throughout London, offering the opportunity of land, commodities, furs, and accommodating Indian traders, continued to encourage investment in the shares of the London Company. Sufficient investors were secured to fund a second supply mission planned for August, 1608 with seventy more colonists. In previous years, such setbacks had doomed colonial projects but this time Sir Thomas Smythe and his investors realized it would take time to establish a thriving enterprise. A new corporation was formed, with the support of the king, called the Virginia Company. The investors formed a new, dynamic campaign to attract new investors by appealing to national pride, religious convictions to convert Indians, and lower prices for a share of stock. With new funding, a nine- vessel fleet with 600 settlers, including 100 women, left Falmouth in June, 1609; unfortunately, only 400 settlers made the crossing safely. The fifth resupply ships left London with another 150 colonists on April, 1610 and a sixth resupply fleet landed with yet another 300 settlers on March, 1611; the arriving colonists found a diminished colony of about sixty survivors. During the previous winter of 1610-11, the Indians laid the town to siege to starve the colonists. More than 400 died of starvation leaving the remaining colonists hopeless and prepared to return to England. By 1616 there began to be glimpses of hope when 2,500 pounds of tobacco were imported by England from Virginia. The following year imports jumped to 18,839 pounds; and it spiked to 49,839 pounds the year after that. To seize this positive trade opportunity, Smythe embarked on a new plan which promoted distributing land to private individuals and groups. As individual plantations took root, the House of Burgesses was formed for handling local issues. Remarkably, the House of Burgesses was the first freely elected parliament of a self-governing people in the Western World.

In the fall of 1619, two Englishman approached the Virginia Company of London to seek a patent that would allow their congregation to establish a plantation in America. They were acting on behalf of a group of reformist English Protestants, so called Separatists, that would become to be known as the Pilgrims. Whereas Puritans sought reforms from within the church, the Separatists felt they had no choice but to detach themselves completely from the corrupt church. Finally, on November 11, 1620, all of the planning had come to



fruition as the ship sailed and was brought to anchor in what today is known as Provincetown, Massachusetts. Although the Pilgrims survived in their little town of Plymouth, the colony was never particularly prosperous. In fact, it took until 1648 for the Pilgrims to pay off their debt to the Virginia Company. By then, the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and its capitol city of Boston, completely overshadowed the little community of Plymouth.

The following are the major events in the early periods of the new American English colony:

In 1634 Maryland is founded as a Catholic colony promoting religious tolerance. Rhode Island is founded by Roger Williams in 1636 and the constitution of Rhode Island is written declaring it to be a democratic colony supporting separation of church and state in 1647.

Sadly, in 1650 slavery is legalized in the American colonies. In reaction to the toleration of slavery in America, in 1652 Rhode Island passes the first law in America making slavery illegal.

In 1660 the Navigation act is passed by British Parliament to control Commerce in America. In 1682, France claims the lower Mississippi River valley, named Louisiana, when Robert Caveleir and Sieur de LaSalle explore the region.

The Virginia government moves from Jamestown to Williamsburg in 1699 when the Jamestown statehouse burns.

At the turn of the century in 1700, the population of the colonies has grown to 250,900. In 1704 the first regular newspaper is published in Boston, Massachusetts and the first theater opens in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1716.

Freedom of the press is first recognized in New York in 1735 when Publisher John Zenger is acquitted after being imprisoned for libeling the British government.

In 1741 twenty-six slaves are hung and burned and seventy-one are deported after a slave uprising in New York.

Benjamin Franklin invents the lightning rod in 1752 after proving lightning is electricity. He was the publisher of 26 volumes of *Poor Richards Almanac* from 1732 to 1758.

The French and Indian war begins in 1754 between France and England when French forces occupy Fort Duquesne in today's Pittsburgh area.

In 1761 James Otis, a Boston lawyer and patriot, opposed the notorious Writs of Assistance, which placed no limits on British soldiers to search homes for smuggled goods. Otis lost the case but his arguments were the foundation for the fourth amendment prohibiting arbitrary search and seizure.

In 1762 France cedes Louisiana to Spain and in 1763 the French and Indian War ends with a peace treaty that cedes Canada and the American Midwest to England, which tightens Great Britain's control of America.



## Events leading up to the American War of Independence

The events leading up to The American Revolution developed from political tensions framed around the British parliament limiting the purchase of western lands, imposing direct taxes on colonial trade, posting British troops within Boston and other colonial cities, all while limiting the colonists right to govern themselves. The colonists strongly asserted it illegal for Britain to govern America without representation by the colonists in Parliament. Leading American political rebels Samuel Adams and John Hancock from Massachusetts and Patrick Henry from Virginia rallied the American patriots against Britain's attempt to usurp the colonies freedoms. Britain had recently acquired additional land in North America by winning the French and Indian War, creating new financial needs. Burdened with considerable debt from the war, the British government was adamant the American colonies contribute to the reduction of their debt. Lord North, recently appointed the new Chancellor by King George II, possessed a stern attitude about imposing American loyalty to England. The tensions between the colonists and Britain escalated in steps; increased taxes and regulations by Parliament led to increased protests by the American patriots, leading to harsher controls by Parliament. Unending government regulation gradually escalated into mob violence and colonist mistrust of the future intentions of the British government regarding the colonies freedoms. The following are the events leading up to the American Revolution:

1764 - With the end of the seven-year French and Indian war, Britain needs to raise money from the colonists to reduce war debts and pay for maintaining British soldiers in America. The result is the Sugar Act placing a tax on various commodities such as lumber, food, and rum.

**James Otis** publishes a pamphlet, *Rights of the Colonies Asserted and Proved*, arguing that Britain has no right to tax the colonies without representation in Parliament.

1765 - The Stamp Act is introduced to tax the colonies on newspapers, legal documents, and licenses. Patrick Henry in Virginia and Samuel Adams in Massachusetts led political protests against the Stamp Act.

1766 - Representatives from nine colonies meet in New York city and adopt a declaration of rights against taxation without representation in Parliament. Merchants in New York and Boston boycott English products to protest the Stamp Act, worsening the British recession.

1767 - Parliament repeals the Stamp Act and passes the Townshend Act, placing taxes on products the colonies are required to purchase from Britain - products such as paint, paper, lead, and tea. New courts are established to try smugglers without a jury trial. The patriots fear larger taxes, more troops, and less legislative power will follow.



- 1767 - Bostonians pass the Nonimportation Agreement, boycotting luxury products from Britain. The colonists adopt a policy of self-reliance.
- 1768 - King George II appoints Lord North as chancellor. Lord North possesses a harsh attitude toward the colonists and responds with stationing British troops in Boston to disband the Sons of Liberty, deny town meetings, disband protests and mobs, and enforce taxes.
- 1769 - Tensions between the colonies and Parliament escalate. British troops stationed in the colonies are disruptive to daily life, increasing tensions between citizens and soldiers. The King applies pressure to arrest, try, and hang the leaders of the Sons of Liberty.
- 1769 - The Massachusetts House unanimously passes a resolution refusing to pay any tax unless its own legislature generates the tax law.
- 1770 - The Boston Massacre - Boston mobs are frequently protesting the presence of British troops as angry encounters are increasing daily between the citizen and British soldier. Inevitably the angry Boston mobs clashed with the soldiers, leading to British redcoats firing into a crowd of angry citizens. The Boston Massacre killed 5 Boston citizens; 12,000 angry citizens attended their funerals.
- 1770 - All of the taxes from the Townshend Act are repealed except for the tax on tea.
- 1770 - John Adams is hired to defend British soldiers charged with murder during the Boston Massacre. All are acquitted except for two who were charged with manslaughter.
- 1770 - The colonies are growing. The population from New England to Georgia is 2,148,100 people
- 1772 - The British customs cutter *Gaspee*, patrolling the Narragansett Bay off Rhode Island for smuggled goods, is burned by the rebel colonists. The King asked for the death penalty for the captured raiders.
- 1773 - The East India company is granted financial relief by Parliament to help solve their near bankrupt financial situation. Lord North's solution allowed the East India company to ship tea directly to America, bypassing all middleman traders. Eliminating the middleman lowered prices to the colonies while increasing control over collecting taxes on tea, reducing Britain's debt. At the time, 90 percent of the tea being consumed by the American colonists was smuggled and free from any taxation. Consequently, the colonists protested the British tax on tea as well as Parliament's decision to allow a single company to control the tea trade. The Sons of Liberty radical leaders also feared the lower prices would entice the average colonist to accept the tea taxes, ending the boycott on tea. Led by Samuel Adams, 5,000 Boston citizens attended a town meeting to vote unanimously to not unload the tea, requesting the ships instead to return to England. The defiant British governor of Boston would not allow the ships to leave port until the tea was unloaded. The colonists responded by dumping 342 chests of tea into the Boston harbor. King George II and Lord North responded by appointing Britain's General Gage in New York as the new Governor in Boston and sending 4,000 British soldiers to Boston to overawe the population of 17,000.
- 1774 - A series of legislation, called the Intolerable Acts, was passed by Parliament to force the Americans into submission.



The new acts included the quartering act, requiring colonists to let British soldiers enter their homes; this offense later led to the third amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Intolerable Acts also curtailed the right to self-rule, instead establishing the crown to appoint councilors to the Massachusetts house of representatives. Parliament also changed the colonies constitution. Boston was required to build barracks inside the town to house the British soldiers. And a bill called the Port Act was passed which halted all ships from entering Boston Harbor, destroying Boston as a great port and political center.

1774 - A violent reaction throughout the colonies to the new British legislation led to the first Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Twelve of the thirteen colonies were represented; the newest colony, Georgia, was absent. Of the fifty-six delegates present, five were from Massachusetts, including both Samuel Adams and John Adams, and seven from Virginia, including George Washington, Patrick Henry, Peyton Randolph, Henry Lee, and Edmund Pendleton. The young Thomas Jefferson was eighth in the voting and did not attend. Peyton Randolph was elected president. The congress met for seven weeks, demanding the repeal of all British legislation imposed upon the colonies since 1763, including all of the Intolerable acts. Until their demands were met, the congress agreed to halt all imports and exports of British products, refused to pay any British taxes, and began to prepare a military to resist British soldiers. It is important to note the Continental Congress was not demanding independence from England at this time. The petitions from the Continental Congress were ignored by the British government.

1775 - **Patrick Henry**, a planter, lawyer, and representative to the Virginia House of Burgesses, delivered his famous speech three weeks before the battles of Lexington and Concord. The following are quotes from his speech advocating to prepare a military force to defend the colony of Virginia in case of war: " Ask why British armies have come to your shores. Has Great Britain any enemy in this quarter of the world to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us; they can be meant for no other. And what have we to oppose them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. If the colonists wish to be free, they must fight. I repeat, sir, we must fight! The war is inevitable. And let it come! I repeat, sir. Let it come! Gentleman may cry peace, peace - but there is no peace. I know not what course others may take, but for me, give me liberty - or give me death."

1775 - General Gage, also the acting Governor of Massachusetts, decided to send soldiers to Concord to capture Samuel Adams and John Hancock as well as seize an arms cache in Concord. Gage, assuming no resistance from the colonists, committed only 600 soldiers to the mission. At the time, the colonists in each town had a prepared defense of farmers, called Minute Men, who would grab their muskets at a moment's notice upon hearing the ringing of church bells. Patriot Paul Revere intentionally stayed in Boston to learn of Gage's plans so he could alert the surrounding towns of any military advance. It was determined Gage would have to march his soldiers by one of two routes. It was decided either one or two lanterns hung in the Christ's Church steeple would communicate which route the British were taking. Once the two lanterns were up in the steeple, indicating the soldiers chose the route to cross the river, Paul Revere rode to Lexington to warn Adams and Hancock. Courageously maneuvering past British patrols on the route to Lexington, Revere notified the captain of the Minute Men, as well as Adams and Hancock, the British were coming. Revere, plus two other riders, then attempted to ride on to Concord to warn their Minute Men, however only one rider made it without being captured by the British. Paul Revere was later released that evening by the British.





## The American War of Independence 1775-1781

George Washington, commander of the Continental army and King George III of Great Britain





# The Shot Heard Around the World

## The War of Independence begins in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, April 19, 1775

At 5 A.M. seventy-seven Minute Men formed a line on the commons green in Lexington. The men were ordered to stand fast but not fire. Once the men stood fast to show their force to the British, the colonists captain ordered them to disband. As the Minute Men were walking off the green the British soldiers were ordered to surround them but not to fire. As the colonists fled from the green, the British soldiers shot eight Minute Men in the back and proceeded to march off to Concord.

As the British approached Concord at 8 A.M., two hundred and fifty Minute Men met the British on the road leading into town and turned to escort them. As they approached the town, the Minute Men fled for the surrounding hills where they organized additional Minute Men streaming in from their farms. Seventy-five British soldiers were sent to secure the North bridge nearby while other soldiers destroyed the armaments in town. Unknowingly to the British approaching the North bridge were four hundred Minute Men hidden behind a nearby hill. As the British began to destroy the bridge, the Concord commander ordered them to stop the destruction. Somehow a British musket was fired, setting off a volley from other British muskets. The Americans never imagined more than a British show of force, certainly not the firing of weapons. The Americans returned fire forcing the British to flee for town. As the British commander nervously waited for expected reinforcements, farmers from every nearby town were rushing to join the Minute Men, who were surrounding the town. At noon, a nervous British commander ordered his soldiers to start marching back to Lexington.

As the British were marching to Lexington, Minute Men, and their new reserves, were waiting for them hidden behind barns, trees, and stone fences. The marching British soldiers did not know how to react to the snipers killing them at will. The eighteen hundred British reserves arrived in time to meet the British soldiers fleeing into Lexington. The Minute Men continued their sniping as the British marched out of Lexington. The British retaliated by burning homes and killing defenseless homeowners. Eighty-eight Americans were killed and wounded compared to two hundred and forty -seven British killed and wounded.

**On May 10, 1775** the Second Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia. Many of the delegates were favoring reconciliation with Britain, however John Adams proposed a comprehensive military plan. The plan included to seize British officials, declare independence, offer to negotiate peace terms, appoint a commanding general for the army in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and seek an alliance with France and Spain if the British continue to fight. Adams also suggested each colony begin setting up its own government. The delegates moved slowly but they did elect George Washington as commander of the American Continental Army.

**On June, 1775** the battle of Bunker Hill began. Three major generals - Clinton, Howe, and Burgoyne, arrived in Boston to shore up General Gage's command. Fortuitously, a patriot visiting Boston hears of the planned attack on the American military in Cambridge and alerts the American Army. The Americans, commanded by Colonel Prescott, move quickly to dig in, fortify, and secure Breed's and Bunker Hills surrounding Boston. General Gage ignores the advice of the three major generals and pursues his own plan of attack with 2,000 soldiers. The Americans were ready with 900 men on Breeds Hill and 1,500 men on Bunkers Hill. The British attacked several times only to be sprayed with a hail of lead, pushing the British into full retreat back down the hill. After several attempts to take the hill, the Americans ran out of gun powder and were forced to scatter for their lives. Even though the Americans failed to hold the two hills, it was a major defeat for the British losing over 1,100 men.



In July, 1775 George Washington headed from Philadelphia to Cambridge, Massachusetts to forge 16,000 men into an army.

**Background information:** At The time of the revolution, Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Charleston, and Williamsburg were the largest cities with populations of 15,000, 20,000, 12,000, 17,000, and 13,000 respectively. The colonies were mostly populated by small farmers except for the tidewater areas in Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia, which were devoted to growing tobacco. Up to fifty percent of the southern colonies population were comprised of African slaves.

The British army had its problems. Since the French and Indian war, Parliament had reduced the number of soldiers in America, who were mostly in Boston at the outbreak of the revolution. Recruiting was always a problem, especially to get soldiers to go to America. There was no formal training available for officers and, as a result, many were very incapable. The British army in America was relatively small and very poorly trained. There was not a well-organized supply system so artillery and other supplies were limited. At the time, an infantry soldier was armed with a musket and a bayonet. A well-trained soldier, in dry conditions, could load his musket with powder, a lead ball, and cartridge paper 2 or 3 times in a minute; soldiers were typically given 24 firing rounds. A pervasive problem was recruitment. The British soldier lived on the road, taking everything with him on his back. As a result, desertions were high and it was difficult to replace casualties. Another problem was communications from Britain, which took up to one month to get across the Atlantic. Not only were communications slow, but there was a large misunderstanding by Parliament and the British citizen of the percentage of the American population who were discontent with England's policies toward the colonies.

When the war began, the 13 colonies did not have a professional army. Instead, each colony sponsored a local militia of lightly armed and poorly trained militiamen. Their units served for only a month at a time and were reluctant to travel far from home. Consequently, the colonial militia were only available to assist in local skirmishes.

The problems Washington faced in building a permanent army were formidable. First was the wide held belief the small colonial militia could win the war without a professional army. Second, men were reluctant to serve outside of their local militia. Third, the men that did enlist were only willing to do so for very short periods of time - possibly six months. Fourth, the army was very poorly supplied. Fifth, the Continental Congress had no taxing power or other means to raise money to fund the war. The army relied upon donations from the colonies, which were not a reliable source of funds. As a result, Washington could only offer the men six dollars of new American currency a month. A single civilian would require nine times that amount to live simply. Even though all thirteen colonies had pledged to raise men for a permanent army, in December of 1775, Washington could only recruit 10,000 men to replace the army which was disbanding to go home for the winter.

The new British Secretary of State for the American colonies, Lord George Germain, was in control of most British strategy from London. The British plan consisted of three theaters of war. The first campaign was to fight in Canada to repulse the American invasion. The second was to reinforce the Boston troops with a larger army and capture New York. The third force was to be sent to the south to join with the American loyalists to secure the southern colonies. Many historians have estimated 40 to 45 percent of the colonists supported the rebellion, 15-20 percent remained loyal to the English crown, while the rest remained neutral. Fascinating, approximately 50,000 loyalists fought for the British. The well-educated colonial landowners, who had the most to lose financially, were the rebel politicians who lead the revolution. But in order for the revolution to move forward, the support of the majority of the colonists was needed.



The American revolution was also an international war. France secretly provided supplies, ammunition, and guns to the colonists starting in early 1776 after Thomas Jefferson encouraged a French alliance. Spain and the Dutch also provided the American army with military supplies. Britain signed treaties with various German states, which supplied about 30,000 soldiers to fight in America. Actually, the Germans made up about one third of the British army. Early in the war, the French were worried about committing to the American rebels for fear they might give up and rejoin the mother country. But after learning of American military success in late 1777, the French signed a Treaty of Alliance in 1778 negotiated by Benjamin Franklin. Spain enters the war aiding America in 1779, and the Dutch in 1780, both French allies. Britain's military was severely stretched with military campaigns in North America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia. The French involvement in the war proved decisive for the Americans, while ruining the French economy with massive debt. The French spent 1.3 billion livres (or about 56 million pounds). The British spent 80 million pounds. The Americans spent 37 million at the national level and 114 million by the states, mostly funded by loans from France and the Netherlands.

At the peak of the war the Americans had 35,000 soldiers in the Continental Army, 44,000 in the colonial militia, 5,000 sailors, and 12,000 French soldiers. The British had 56,000 soldiers, 171,000 sailors, 30,000 Germans, 50,000 Loyalists, and 13,000 Indian natives. The war cost up to 50,000 American casualties. 8,000 of these deaths were in battle, while the remaining were from disease, starvation, freezing from exposure, or prisoners of war rotting on British prison ships. The British casualties were estimated at 20,000 plus about another 20,000 sailors, who mostly died of scurvy. A small box epidemic swept across North America between 1775 and 1782 killing more than 130,000 people. It is believed Washington's best decision was to have his troops inoculated against smallpox.

### **Major battles and events of the American War of Independence.**

**September, 1775, the battle of Quebec.** Washington sent General Schuyler with 1,700 soldiers and Benedict Arnold with 1,100 soldiers to push Britain out of Quebec, hoping the Canadian French would fight for America. The dominant Catholic French were at odds with Britain's Church of England. The British prevailed in spite of heroic efforts by Benedict Arnold.

**January, 1776, Thomas Paine** publishes his pamphlet "Common Sense." Encouraged by Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine became an outspoken advocate for independence from Britain. The pamphlet quickly sold over 500,000 copies. Paine's *Common Sense* pamphlet touted the right of America to create a democratic and free nation. *Common Sense* played an important role in winning public support for declaring independence and raising support for Washington's army. Paine believed, in the eyes of European powers, the patriots were no more than rebels without a declaration of independence. Ask yourself, what foreign power is going to come to the aid of a rebellion? The following is an example of the argument that was winning the hearts of American readers: "O ye that love mankind! Ye that dare oppose, not only the tyranny, but the tyrant, stand forth! Every spot of the old world is overrun with oppression. Freedom has been hunted round the globe. O! receive the fugitive and prepare in time an asylum for mankind."

**March, 1776, The British flee Boston.** Once Washington arrived in Cambridge in July of 1775, one of his first objectives was to strengthen the Continental army to maintain troops in a circle around Boston, laying siege to the city. Washington had an estimated 16,000 soldiers holding 12,000 British soldiers in Boston. Fearing for the lives of his army, General Howe abruptly boarded his troops onto ships in the spring to leave Boston to the Americans.

**June, 1776, the Continental Congress** discusses the most important question America had ever faced. On April 12, North Carolina declared itself independent. In May, the Virginia representatives instructed their delegates to vote for independence at the

Philadelphia convention. Six colonies instructed their delegates to vote against independence. Richard Henry Lee, from Virginia, launched a three part resolution for the Continental Congress to consider in June. Lee proposed that the United Colonies ought to dissolve all political connections and allegiance to the British crown, form foreign alliances, and prepare a plan of federal confederation for the colonies. The conservative delegates had no problem with moving forward on the latter two proposals but questioned why declare independence when a union does not yet exist. The conservatives put the vote off on declaring independence for three weeks, but the proponents of declaring independence won a vote to establish three separate committees to work on each proposal, including a committee to work on a draft for declaring independence. The five delegates elected to the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence were from left to right in the photo—John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. John Adams lobbied for the young Thomas Jefferson to be a member of the committee and appointed him to write the draft. On the first of July the delegates continued to debate the resolution to declare independence. John Adams went through his arguments again in favor of independence. On July 1 a vote was taken—nine of the thirteen colonies voted for independence. The congress decided to take a final vote the next day. When a dispatch arrived from General Washington reporting British troops preparing to attack New York, the remaining states swung in favor of declaring independence with New York being the only exception. On July 4, the delegates approved Thomas Jefferson's draft with a few alterations. On July 8, the Declaration of Independence was read to the citizens outside the Philadelphia State House. On July 9, New York adopted the Declaration.

## America declares its independence from Great Britain





## In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

The following are excerpts from the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government"

"But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient suffering of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having, in direct object, the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. "

As proof, Thomas Jefferson continued to list more than two dozen example of charges of common grievances by the colonies.

He ended the declaration of Independence by pledging the lives of the Continental Congress delegates with their signature to the following words: " And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

55 delegates pledged their lives by signing the Declaration of Independence.

**July 3, 1776** - Nine thousand British soldiers were ferried from their ships to Staten Island. Earlier some thirty-two thousand British soldiers and hundreds of transport ships arrived in New York harbor. In the spring, George Washington had marched 28,000 men (19,000 ready for combat) down from Boston. General Howe, Lieutenant Clinton and Cornwallis were all engaged in the battle to take New York. General Howe decided to dig-in and not attack until late August. Washington decided to split his forces between Manhattan and Brooklyn Heights on Long Island.

**August 26, 1776** - The British troops routed the Americans on Long Island, who retreated to a bluff in Brooklyn Heights. The mile wide East River created a barricade to their rear. Ten thousand weary American soldiers were trapped and doomed. Washington kept the camp fires burning and visible troops in front positions as he quietly moved his entire army across the East River to safety during the night. Fifteen hundred Americans were lost in combat.

**September 15, 1776** - Washington, who knew he could not hold New York, decided to make one last stand on Manhattan Island to secure the town of New York. He sent Nathan Hale to spy on the British to gather information while he set up three defensive positions with five, six, and nine-thousand men in each position. Again the Americans were routed, this time with cannon fire from the ships. Nathan Hale was captured behind enemy lines and hung as a spy. Before his death he spoke the immortal words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

**December 3, 1776** - Several battles took place starting October 15, each time pauses ordered by Howe allowed Washington and his army time to escape defeat. On November 16, Cornwallis captured 2,850 Americans at Fort Mifflin. Cornwallis pushed Washington southwest through New Jersey all the way to Trenton on December 3. Again, backed up to the river, Washington spared his dwindling army of 5,000 from disaster by collecting boats along the Delaware river and escaped by crossing the river to safety in Pennsylvania. General Lee was still commanding 7,000 American soldiers, who were camped east of the Hudson River in New York but were to many days away to help Washington. The American soldiers were badly clothed, poorly fed, and exposed to extreme weather conditions. Many without shoes slaughtered cattle to wrap their feet in the hides. There was only one person who could save the American army, and that was General Howe. With Philadelphia in his grasp, Howe decided to retreat to New York for the winter. He left three regiments of German soldiers to hold Trenton.

**December 25, 1776** - Washington needed a victory. The men were depressed, and most of the men's enlistments were expiring in 6 days. To lift morale, Washington assembled three regiments, planning a surprise attack of Trenton from three different directions; the three regiments contained 2,400, 1,800, and 600 men each. On a cold, windy, and sleeting night with ice floating in the river, forty-eight hundred poorly clothed men crossed the Delaware River during the middle of the night; the entire crossing took nine hours. The daring surprise attack of Trenton was a complete success with the capture of 1,000 German soldiers.

**January 3, 1777** - The British and German soldiers ceded the town of Trenton to the Americans and retreated northeast to Princeton, New Jersey. With most of his army ready to go home, Washington borrowed money to pay soldiers an extra \$10.00 to re-enlist for an extra six weeks. Washington also had possibly two to four thousand men in the Pennsylvania Militia to utilize, plus the twelve hundred who re-enlisted. Washington was considering risking 5,000 poorly trained men against 8,000 professional British and German soldiers in Princeton. Rather than retreat, Washington planned to go on the offensive and attack the British. Because of the loss at Trenton, Howe ordered Cornwallis to return to Princeton and march against Washington the next day; Cornwallis ordered his men to kill any American who surrendered. As the Americans approached the British began to fire. When the Americans scattered, the British pursued and stabbed them to death. Washington heroically rode in front of the running soldiers and cried out for them to hold their ground. As the British attacked, the Americans held firm, fired, and turned the British back. The Americans ultimately turned the British into full



retreat and an American victory. Washington now considered marching upon the British in Brunswick, but his men were too exhausted. Upon hearing of the two British defeats, Lord Germain in London decided the only way to end the war in America was to make the Americans feel the horror of war. He said, "they must experience personal loss and suffering." On the other hand, the soon to be allied European countries were impressed the Americans could successfully combat the British.

**June 14, 1777** - Britain's master plan was to send Burgoyne down from Ticonderoga, Quebec to hold Albany in New York while Howe kept Washington tied up in Philadelphia. General Gates was determined to stop the British on their march to Albany and hence installed seven thousand men in a fortification on a bluff named Bemis heights near Saratoga. By the time the British army marched down near Saratoga, snipers had reduced the size of the British army by killing 800 men. The continental Congress adopts the stars and stripes as the national flag.

**September 19, 1777** - Gates decided to attack the British as they marched into a fifteen-acre clearing on Freeman's farm. The British initially scattered the Americans however the Americans regrouped and held their ground for several hours of fighting. The British lost one-third of their forces.

**September 26, 1777** - While Gates had Burgoyne's British army held down in Freeman's clearing in New York, Howe in Pennsylvania received the reinforcements he had been waiting for all year. In an attempt to defend Philadelphia, Washington split his defenses into two armies, but met the same results as in New York. Washington again eluded Cornwallis with an orderly retreat. On September 26 Howe rode into Philadelphia with little opposition and raised the British flag over Independence Hall.

**October 7, 1777** - Burgoyne sent out 1,500 men on a reconnaissance mission around Freeman's farm to locate the Americans line. Completely exposed, the Americans attacked from three different directions, outnumbering the British six to one. The Americans held their position, trapping the British against the Hudson River. During the night, Burgoyne left 300 wounded soldiers and slipped his remaining troops away to a raised position above Saratoga.

**October 14, 1777** - The British dug-in and waited to be attacked; Burgoyne soldiers were exhausted and had limited rations. By October 14, the British army was completely surrounded and out of food; with no options, Burgoyne requested surrender terms. It was a huge victory for the Americans with General Gates Northern army capturing seven generals, three hundred officers, 3,379 British soldiers, 2,412 German soldiers, and 1,429 men killed and wounded.

**November 15, 1777** - The Articles of Confederation, drafted by the Continental Congress, take effect. It serves as the first constitution, creating a perpetual union between the states while each state remained sovereign.

**December 19, 1777** - After failing in the battles of Germantown north of Philadelphia, Washington marches his 11,000- man army into Valley Forge for winter encampment. Without permanent shelter, the men were still living in tents on Christmas day. Some men did not have pants or shirts and survived wrapped in a blanket; many had no shoes and walked in the snow barefoot; feet and legs froze, turned black and were amputated. There was no meat so the men survived on damp masses of flour baked on hot stones they called fire cakes. During the winter the young Lafayette arrived from France to serve as Washington's aide. The young Alexander Hamilton was also serving as Washington's aide at this time as well. In February, Friedrich von Steuben of the Prussian army arrived to train the half-clad Americans with rusty muskets how to fight like experienced and disciplined soldiers. Steuben trained the Americans how to fire a musket efficiently in fifteen motions; he also established fighting companies that would offer more flexibility than the British; to fight disease he taught personal hygiene; he taught the officers leadership skills and wrote the American Army's first training manual.

**February 6, 1778** - As the British Parliament voted 199 to 28 to continue the war against the colonists, Benjamin Franklin worked out the details of a pact with France; now France recognized America as a new nation and agreed to a formal alliance. Both countries agreed that neither would lay down arms until America's independence was won.

**Spring, 1778** - William Howe is replaced as the British commander in America by Sir Henry Clinton. Clinton's orders are to evacuate Philadelphia and return to New York. With France entering the war on the side of the Americans, Britain's priority becomes protecting its shipping and trade along the eastern coastline. Britain also sends commissioners to America empowered to offer every concession the Americans demand except Independence. That same spring, John Adams arrives in France as the American Commissioner to France.

**June 18, 1778** - British troops begin evacuating Philadelphia. Washington immediately set a plan in motion to attack the rear of Clinton's troops as he moved them and fifteen hundred supply wagons to New York. Washington ordered General Lee to lead an attack on Clinton from the rear while he lead the support team. On June 28 Lee, with five thousand men, attempted to encircle two thousand British soldiers at **Monmouth Court House**. Clinton surprisingly returns with four thousand more British troops, sending Lee's men into a confused retreat; as Washington approaches, everyone was on the run. Washington rode to the front and firmly molded the soldiers back into a fighting force, converting panic into enthusiasm. With Washington in control, the Americans attacked again inflicting twelve hundred casualties to the British and three hundred to the Americans. With the British army now outnumbered by four thousand men, Washington hoped to attack again however the men were exhausted after fighting all day in one-hundred-degree heat. Clinton silently escaped with his troops during the night for Middleton to catch ships transporting them safely to New York. Following the battle, General Lee was court-martialed for disobeying orders and conducting a shameful retreat.

**December, 1778** - Washington's army camped during the winter in White Plains New York waiting for Clinton to attack, not knowing the British strategy was shifting to the southern states. On December 28, Savannah Georgia is lost to the British.

**By 1779** it was clear that the focus of the war for the British moved away from America and on to the struggle against France. The British restricted operations to two geographical areas during 1779. Their objective was to restore civil government in both New York and Georgia, while calling on Loyalists to rise up against the rebels. Washington felt his army without French support, which was slow in coming, was too weak to attack Britain in New York. Britain's Clinton also stalled advancing while waiting for reinforcements, which did not arrive until late in the year. With knowledge of France entering the war, the British turned their strategy to the southern colonies where they hoped to recruit a large number of loyalists. But the years of British neglect while the war centered in the north gave the Americans time to organize in the south. The southern strategy also was intending to keep the royal navy closer to the Caribbean, where Britain could defend their economic possessions from the French and Spanish.

**Winter, 1779-80** - Washington took his army to winter in a mountainous area of New York called Jockey Hollow. In January a storm brought snow six inches deep, ending their food supply; for a week the men ate birch bark and boiled old shoes. To maintain order men were whipped and consequently desertions ran high. In the spring two Connecticut regiments broke into open mutiny when their rations were reduced to bread and water.

**May 12, 1780** - On December 26, 1779, 7,600 troops under General Clinton set sail from New York for their primary target in the south - Charleston, South Carolina. The American commander, Benjamin Lincoln, was under pressure to save Charleston. He based his defensive strategy on the hope of reinforcements arriving soon. The British arrived on February 11, and advanced steadily until April 13 when the **siege of Charleston** began with relentless artillery bombardment. By May 9 the British were so close the bombardment set the homes ablaze. The Americans surrendered May 12, allowing the British to capture 5,700 soldiers



and 1,000 sailors from the Continental army plus 800 local militia. This was the largest loss of Americans of any battle, not including the 45 percent of American prisoners who died during captivity. The victory of Charleston gave Britain control of the largest city and shipping port in the south. Clinton assigned General Cornwallis to destroy any remaining American military in the south.

**August 16, 1780** - Congress appointed General Gates to be the new American commander in the south. Gates marched 3,000 troops to **Camden**, North Carolina, where a munitions depot for the British was located and poorly defended. The North Carolina and Virginia militia joined Gates, swelling his troop count to 7,000. When Cornwallis learned of Gates advance he rushed to Camden with 2,000 troops. The British forces were better equipped, possessed more extensive artillery, and included a cavalry. Upon learning of the arrival of British troops and the disappearance of 4,000 of his own men, Gates decided to form a defensive position and stand and fight. The Americans quickly began a full retreat without getting a shot off. 800 Americans were left dead or wounded and 1,000 more taken prisoner.

**October 7, 1780** - For a moment British control spread across South Carolina. The difficult task facing Cornwallis was the bitter fighting battles breaking out between the loyalists and the rebels. Cornwallis, anxious to spread his control over North Carolina, sent Colonel Ferguson and his loyalists troops to lay the rebels land to waste. As he marched toward Charlotte, Ferguson received very little loyalist support and could not reach Cornwallis for support before being attacked. Ferguson and his men attempted to find cover on the top of Kings Mountain but were put down by a barrage of fire. The rebels killed and wounded over 300 while capturing 600 at the **battle of Kings Mountain**. Cornwallis was forced to abandon his plans to control North Carolina.

**September, 1780** - General Benedict Arnold, relentless in battle and a dedicated patriot to the American cause, found himself in debt with a second wife and another child. He also harbored resentment for not receiving the credit he thought he deserved for his military accomplishments. As a result, when he was approached by British Major Andre to give up West Point to the British, which was strategically located on the Hudson River, Arnold abandoned the American cause. For compensation, Arnold agreed to accept money and a rank of General in the British army. To Arnolds dismay, Andre was captured carrying incriminating documents forcing Arnold to desert his family and escape to the protection of the British; Andre was hung as a spy by Washington and West Point was immediately reinforced by the Americans.

**October, 1780** - Nathanael Greene was appointed by Washington as the new commander of the southern armies.

**January 17, 1781** - Greene sent Daniel Morgan into western South Carolina to attack British post 96 to find supplies for the Continental army. Cornwallis sent Colonel Tarleton with about 1,000 British soldiers to stop him and caught up with Morgan at Cowpens. Morgan, with 600 Continental soldiers and experienced Virginia militia, was prepared for the British attack. The American's fought a strategically brilliant **battle at Cowpens**, killing many and taking the balance of the British unit prisoners, except for Tarleton and 40 men who escaped.

**March 15, 1781** - The two armies marched for several weeks, pursuing each other and attempting to build their armies. While Cornwallis was discovering it was becoming difficult to recruit loyalists, Greene was only getting stronger, gathering massive numbers of Virginia and North Carolina rebels to the militia. As Green moved back into North Carolina, he had close to 4,500 men, compared to Cornwallis with under 2,000. The **battle of Guilford Court House** was strategically won by the British, forcing the Americans into retreat. However Cornwallis suffered more by losing a quarter of his army. Cornwallis, unable to solicit support from loyalists to fight, and unable to control the Carolina's, decided to move his dwindling army of 1,200 to Virginia where there was still a large British army. He also hoped Clinton could be persuaded to send reinforcements from New York to support a major war in Virginia.

**APRIL 25, 1781** - Cornwallis's army went on destroying and burning the south even though Camden and Fort Ninety-Six were the only two strongholds held in the Carolinas by the British. When Greene arrived in Camden he found the British defenses too strong to attack. Rather than attack, Greene decided to set up camp on Hobkirk's Hill and hope to coax the British out of their fortifications into an attack upon the Americans; the strategy worked, and on April 25 the British attacked. The **battle of Hobkirk's Hill** was a British victory, but at the loss of 25 percent of their 1,000- man force. By May, both North and South Carolina were abandoned by the British.

**October 19, 1781 - British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia** - As their southern campaign was failing in the spring of 1781, the British found themselves in control of just three coastal towns - New York, Charleston, and Savannah. Every strategic decision for Washington in 1781 depended upon what support the French would provide. The French General Rochambeau was in command of 5,000 troops in Newport, Rhode Island. In May, a British patrol intercepted a letter Washington had written to Lafayette and brought it to Clinton in New York; the letter outlined the plans for a joint French and American attack on New York. The Americans and their allies enjoyed an advantage for the first time in the war with French naval capabilities along the Atlantic coast being superior to the British. In July, the French army from Newport joined the Americans in an encampment outside New York City. While Clinton was concerned about a combined French and American assault on New York, he was advised by the Navy they did not have adequate anchorage near New York. Hence, Clinton ordered Cornwallis to fortify a naval base in Chesapeake Bay and build defenses for his 6,000 men in Yorktown. Cornwallis requested reinforcements from New York, but Clinton was reluctant to send men for fear of an attack against New York. In mid-August Washington received news Admiral De Grasses was on his way to the Chesapeake Bay rather than New York with thirty French ships and 3,200 soldiers. Upon learning about the destination of the French navy, combined with the formidable British defenses and manpower in New York, Washington decided his best opportunity was against Cornwallis in Yorktown.

Washington's concern was if Clinton moved his troops by sea to reinforce Cornwallis, they would get there before he could march his men to Yorktown. To hold the British in New York, Washington came up with a ruse to reinforce Clinton's belief of an imminent attack on New York. On August 19, Washington moved troops into New Jersey to appear to be preparing for an attack on New York. Men suspected of spying were allowed to see secret reports, and engineers laid down the outlines of a major camp in New Jersey for Clinton to see; Washington told his own troops nothing. In Late August, Washington and Rochambeau began their March south to rendezvous with the French navy as well as Greene and Lafayette marching up from the south. Clinton still believed the Americans were preparing to strike New York, and expected no opposition in Chesapeake Bay. While Washington was marching his army south, the French navy came together in Battle with the British fleet on September 5 off the Virginia Cape. The British sustained 300 casualties and were forced from the area, leaving Cornwallis isolated by sea. Not knowing Washington was marching south, Cornwallis decided to stay in Yorktown. When Washington's army arrived in mid-September, Cornwallis found his 9,000 troops surrounded by 19,000 American and French soldiers, plus the French navy in the bay. It was the first time in the war the Americans had the advantage in both troops, firepower, and controlled the sea.

On September 29, the Americans and allies moved into position surrounding Cornwallis. Clinton, now aware of the ensuing battle, assured Cornwallis reinforcements were on the way. By October 9 the Americans siege trenches were close enough to the British position where cannon fire could commence. Washington fired the first shot of a constant bombardment from both land and sea that would continue at the rate of 3,500 rounds per day for nearly two weeks. After a failed attempt to escape by Cornwallis, the British surrendered on October 17 and the surrender agreement was signed on the 19th. The Americans marched 8,000 British soldiers into captivity. Clinton's reinforcements were still five days away.



**November 30, 1782 - A preliminary draft of the peace agreement is signed** - While substantial British forces remained in America, both George II and Lord Germain wanted to continue fighting; but the mood of the British country and parliament was lost. On February 27, 1782, Parliament voted to end the war; shortly thereafter Lord North resigned. Meanwhile, Shelburne came to power in England and was determined to give America everything they wanted in exchange for a trade agreement. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and John Jay were granted the power to negotiate the peace treaty for America. Franklin drafted an eight point treaty outlining the American demands. A formal peace treaty was finally signed with Britain on November 30, 1782. The treaty acknowledged American independence, the western boundary being the Mississippi River, control of the North West area south of the Great Lakes, as well as fishing rights off Newfoundland. Franklin, Adams, and Jay signed the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783 to formally end the war. On November 25, 1783, the last British soldiers were evacuated from New York. Washington, who collected no pay for his commission, submitted his expenses of 1,972 pounds to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. On December 23, 1783, Washington read his farewell remarks to the congress and retired his military commission.

The Americans gained more from the revolution than was ever expected. The French were the main losers of the war. The French entered the war hoping to gain a vital trading partner with America and make gains in the Caribbean against England - neither happened. Instead the cost of the war helped bankrupt France and contributed to the French revolution in 1787.

### **Subsequent major events**

**Late, 1783** - Noah Webster publishes the Webster Dictionary, standardizing spelling and pronunciation in the United States.

**March 1, 1784** - Rhode Island's Emancipation Act declares all children born after this date free and a gradual abolishment of slavery.

**July 6, 1785** - The United States adopts a decimal coinage system with the dollar as the monetary unit.

**1786** - John Fitch invents the steam boat, launching it on the Delaware River with six paddle wheels powered by a steam engine.

**January 25, 1787** - Shay's Rebellion - Six hundred debt ridden farmers revolt against their creditors and high Massachusetts taxes.

## **A fractured, deteriorating country**

A serious crisis existed that threatened our new and fragile nation in the years leading up to the constitutional convention. The federal governing body was powerless to govern under the Articles of Confederation. The federal system was authorized to wage war, borrow money, and execute peace treaties, but had no real power or authority to govern. The shortcomings were many. For example, the federal system had no power to tax; it could only requisition money from the states, and the states often refused or failed to provide the sums requested. The federal system was not authorized to make laws, govern trade, unify currency, or create a federal banking system. America was not one unified country, but rather thirteen individual ones. The Articles of Confederation declared, "each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and to support those rights, each state had drafted its own constitution and structured its own government.

The result was the American experiment in freedom was on a path of self-destruction. The federal treasury was empty, so consequently debts to foreign governments and to its own citizens could not be paid. There was no enforcement of law and order; civil revolts were taking place in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Virginia. Because economic relationships between the states were based on competition and exploitation, state governments rushed to enact tariffs and trade barriers; with duties to pay at every state border, inter-state commerce was a quagmire. In addition, each state insisted on issuing its own currency, creating ever-

fluctuating exchange rates and chaos.

The Articles were drafted, not for the purpose of governing a country, but to reflect the desire of the revolutionary leaders to prevent the rise of a new tyranny. Aware of their inability to govern, attendance at the congressional sessions by the fall of 1785 was embarrassingly low. The Shay Rebellion in January, 1787, propelled the state governments to appoint delegates to meet in Philadelphia in May to tackle the escalating chaos; however, the purpose of the convention was vague. Many of the delegates attending assumed the purpose was to revise the existing Articles of Confederation. Politicians suspicious of the convention's purpose, like Patrick Henry, who feared the creation of a more powerful federal government, declined to attend. Several delegates, like Madison and Hamilton, were eager to re-design a new, more powerful federal government with a new constitution. But establishing a more powerful, centralized government would provoke strong emotions considering the revolution was just fought to gain independence from such a government.

## The Constitutional Convention

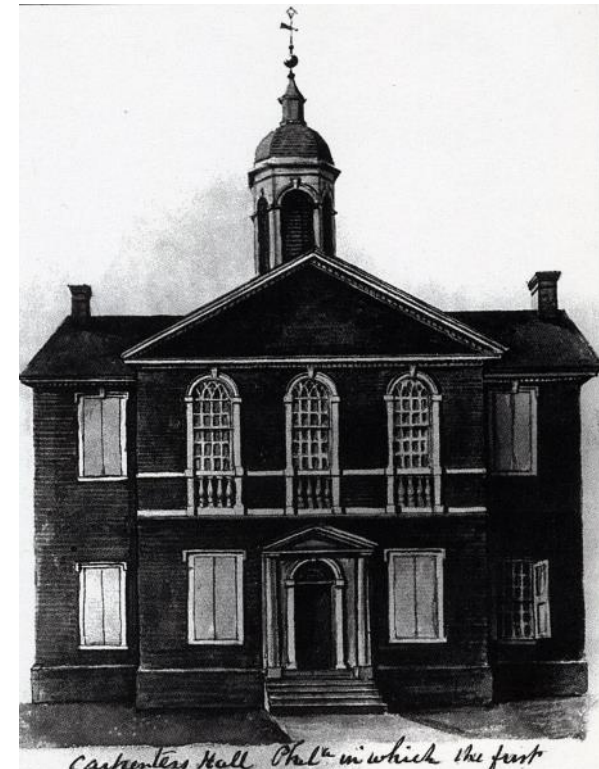
May 25 to September 17, 1787



The Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Independence Hall—East Room



## Independence Hall, Philadelphia, 1787



### The delegates of the Constitutional Convention

Fifty-five delegates from 12 of the 13 states would ultimately participate in the constitutional convention; Rhode Island refused to participate. Many of those who did attend doubted the convention could achieve anything at all or how long any achievements would last. Of course, men opposed to a stronger federal government stayed home, while those with nationalist intentions volunteered their time to attend the convention. It is interesting to note these delegates were not elected by the people, but rather appointed by their state legislatures.

There were approximately 12 delegates who were extremely vocal in shaping the final draft of the constitution. Prominent founders like Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were abroad, Jefferson as Minister to France and John Adams to Britain. Benjamin Franklin was present but quiet, lending his experience to soothe disagreements and aid compromise. George Washington was also present but quiet, however, his presence was paramount to endorsing and adding authenticity to the convention's actions and decisions.

More than half of the delegates were trained as lawyers and most were landowners with substantial holdings; half of the delegates owned slaves. George Washington and Gouverneur Morris were among the wealthiest men in the country. Almost all of the delegates had taken part in the Revolution and been members of the Continental Congress. The following 12 men were the movers and shakers who brought forth ideas and hammered out compromises to ultimately create our constitution, which has served as the bedrock to the United States survival for over 200 years.

**Gouverneur Morris**, Pennsylvania, 1752-1816 - Morris held a seat in New York's Revolutionary congress (1775-77) while helping to draft the first constitution of the state. He was elected to the Continental Congress (1778-79). He drafted instructions to Franklin which provided a basis for the peace treaty to end the war. He emerged as the leading speaker at the Constitutional Convention, speaking 173 times. Morris was a strong advocate for a national government and penned the final draft of the constitution.

**James Wilson**, Pennsylvania, 1741-1798 - Wilson was elected to the Continental Congress (1775), the Pennsylvania Congress (1785-87), and reached the apex of his career at the Constitutional Convention, where his influence was second only to James Madison. Wilson's grasp of political theory was essential to solving convention disagreements and problems.

**James Madison**, Virginia, 1751-1836 - Madison sat in the Virginia House of Delegates (1776-77 and again 1784-86), framed the Virginia constitution, and represented Virginia in the Continental Congress (1780-83 and 1786-88). Madison wrote extensively about the deficiencies of the Articles of Confederation and was instrumental in the convening of the Constitutional Convention. He was a preeminent figure at the convention, speaking over 150 times. His Virginia Plan ultimately served as the basis for the Constitution. He was a key part in advocating the need for a stronger central government.

**George Mason**, Virginia, 1725-1792 - Mason was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1759 and was active in Virginia politics until 1780. He framed Virginia's Declaration of Rights in 1776, which became the basis for the federal Bill of Rights. Mason was one of the five most frequent speakers at the Constitutional Convention. He refused to sign the final document, citing the absence of a Bill of Rights.

**Edmund Randolph**, Virginia, 1753-1813 - Randolph was elected to the Continental Congress (1779) and became Governor of Virginia in 1786. He presented the Virginia Plan for creating a new government at the Constitutional Convention. Randolph was a proponent for both Federalist and antifederalist views. He refused to sign the Constitution due to uneasiness about a one person executive. He did work toward winning his states approval of the Constitution.

**Charles Cotesworth Pinckney**, South Carolina, 1746-1825- Pinckney sat in the provincial state congress (1775) as well as state legislature and senate seats during the war. He pursued a full-time military career during the Revolution, rising in rank to Colonel; he was captured and held prisoner from 1780 to 1782. Pinckney was one of the leaders at the Constitutional Convention, supporting a strong national government.

**Charles Pinckney**, South Carolina, 1757-1824 - Pinckney became a lieutenant during the war, was captured, and held prisoner until June, 1781. He was elected to the Continental Congress (1777-78, 1784-87) and served in the state legislature as well. He spoke often and ranked among the leaders at the Constitutional Convention.

**John Rutledge**, South Carolina, 1739-1800 - Rutledge was elected to the first and second Continental Congress (1774-75). He became president in the state legislature (1776-78) and took part in writing the state constitution. He also served as state Governor (1779-82). During the war, while serving as governor, he was forced to flee the state and suffered heavy personal losses.



Rutledge was elected to the Continental Congress again (1782-83) and was one of the most influential delegates at the Constitutional Convention.

**Oliver Ellsworth**, Connecticut, 1745-1807 - Ellsworth served as a representative in the Continental Congress (1777-83). He took an active role at the Constitutional Convention, being most known for the "Great Compromise" to work out representation in the legislative branch. Ellsworth left the convention early and did not sign, but worked to promote ratification in his state.

**Roger Sherman**, Connecticut, 1723-1793 - Sherman was elected to the Continental Congress (1774-89 and 1783-84). He was a committee member to drafting the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation. Even though Sherman was insolvent due to wartime losses, he represented his state at the Constitutional Convention. He helped draft the New Jersey Plan and was influential in the Great Compromise of legislative representation between the small and large states.

**Elbridge Gerry**, Massachusetts, 1744-1814 - Gerry was elected to the Continental Congress (1776 and 1783-85). In 1786 he took a seat in the state legislature. He was one of the most vocal delegates at the Constitutional Convention. Gerry was chairman of the committee that produced the Great Compromise. He refused to sign the Constitution because it lacked a Bill of Rights, however he did lead a drive in his state to ratify the Constitution.

**Rufus King**, Massachusetts, 1755-1827 - King was a member of the state legislature (1783-85) and the Continental Congress (1784-86). As a delegate to the Constitutional Convention he was the most capable orator. He came to the convention unconvinced major changes were needed to the Articles of Confederation but eventually aligned with Madison in becoming a leading figure in supporting a new, strong federal government.

## **The Debates Involved in Drafting the Constitution**

The delegates each brought their own fears and states regional interests to the convention, which brought rise to many disputes. After much pain and sacrifice to gain independence from England, an understandable fear among the delegates was yielding too much power to the executive. The most disputed topic was how to apportion the legislative branch pitting small state interests against the larger states interests. Slavery was another feverishly contested subject. Were slave's property or individuals to be included in the population totals for determining legislative representation? Many delegates questioned, what is the purpose of the federal government, to represent the individual citizen interests or the states?

The first matter of business unanimously elected George Washington as president of the Convention. The first challenging topic to be debated was the purpose of the Convention - to amend the existing Articles or establish a completely new federal government. Many of the attending delegates were guarded about not giving up state power to a stronger federal government. Many delegates questioned if they even had the legal authority to do anything other than amend the original Articles. The key choice facing the Convention was simply, do we want a nation or a confederation of states. The champions of a confederation had already chosen to boycott the Convention. The attending delegates did have a consensus on one major point: A new more effective federal government was essential to the survival of the nation.

Regarding the design of the proposed government, there was majority agreement on Madison's Virginia Plan. Several additional plans were presented including the New Jersey Plan and Charles Pinckney's Plan, both intending to expand the power of the Confederation by amending the current articles. There was also Hamilton's plan, which proposed a bicameral legislature with a much stronger executive more similar to Britain.

The Virginia Plan contained similarities to Britain's government of the 1700's. Madison's Plan proposed a bicameral legislature (with a lower house of representatives and an upper house of senators) very similar to Britain's Parliament and House of Lords. However, the House of Lords was comprised of nobility with government positions determined by heredity, whereas the American legislature would need to equitably represent the people and the states. Madison's plan also contained an executive and judicial akin to Britain's government, however there were decisions required as to how to diffuse the kingly power in the British example and separate the corruption through patronage that linked the king, judicial, and House of Lords. The Convention delegates feared any potential for concentration of power and were prone to devise a system to obstruct any temptation to tyranny.

Once the majority of the delegates aligned behind the Virginia Plan, the balance of the Convention was devoted to modifying that plan. There was contentious and fierce debate among the delegates about how to represent the people and the states fairly in the two legislative branches, keep the executive branch weak to curtail tyranny, and separate the power of the three branches to protect freedom.

The first major issue was the apportionment of representation of the two legislative houses and how the members should be appointed. Delegates from the larger states favored apportionment to determine the number of representatives by population within each state. But because this proposal favored controlling representation in the legislature by the larger states, a bitter division formed between the large and small states. The smaller states favored an equal number of representatives for each state to balance the power between the states equally. Ultimately a compromise was presented where the number of representatives in each state in the lower house would be apportioned based on each state's population, while the number of representatives in the upper house would be equal for each state regardless of population.

Apportionment of representatives based on a state's population presented a heated debate pitting the northern states against the slave holding southern states. The northern states feared counting slaves to determine representation by population would place a concentration of power in the southern states. The south feared not counting slaves would place too much power in the representation of the northern states. A compromise was reached to count slaves as three-fifths a person to determine state populations for the purpose of determining each state's apportionment of representation in the lower house.

There was an early consensus for electing members to the lower house by popular vote of the people. However the selection process for the upper house of senators was much more contentious. The following three proposals were intensely debated: It was proposed members of the upper house be elected by the lower house of the federal government. Another proposal was to have the state legislature conduct the selection process. And the third proposal called for an election by popular vote of the people. The delegates ultimately agreed to have senators elected to the upper house by their state legislature, maintaining the same selection process as the delegates to the Confederation Congress.

Additional debates about the legislature centered around term limits, minimum age requirements for elected members, legislative powers, a veto process, and an impeachment procedure. Proposals for term limits ranged from one to three years for the lower house and one to nine years for the upper house.

Every aspect of the executive branch was debated fervently to limit any possibility of corruption or tyranny. The delegates could not agree on whether the executive branch should be comprised of one person or a panel of three to limit power. A panel of three representing different regions of the country was also believed to serve regional interests more effectively.

Another disputed issue was the selection process of the president. There were four proposals under consideration: A popular



election by eligible voters, a selection by the federal legislature, a selection by the state legislatures, or a popular vote by eligible voters to choose electors who would select the president. As fears were expressed concerning each election process, the delegates ultimately compromised on a popular election through state electors. The electors were chosen according to each state's own directions.

The length of the executive's term also sharply divided the delegates. Proposals debated ranged from three to seven-year terms with the right to seek re-election to a six or seven-year term without the option to re-elect. Concerns leaned toward limiting bribery or corruption by the executive to gain another term.

Limiting executive power was always at the forefront of the delegates' minds. Delegates favored a council of individuals to serve as watch dogs and advisors. Others thought the executive should serve without pay to remove financial motivations to continue in power. There was discussion of the executive sharing veto power over the legislative with the judicial. When discussing what powers should the executive execute, there was agreement on commanding the armed forces, making treaties, and appointing judges and ambassadors.

After almost four months of debate, the final draft of the constitution was ready for the delegates' signature and state ratification. Of the original 55 delegates, 39 ended up signing the constitution. Thirteen left before the signing ceremony. Randolph, Mason, and Gerry refused to sign because a Bill of Rights was not included. Many delegates felt the final draft contained too many structural objections and were calling for state conventions to propose amendments to consider in a second constitutional convention.



### Benjamin Franklin's conclusion speech at the Constitutional Convention

When the delegates met on September 17th to sign the document, Benjamin Franklin stood ready with a prepared speech to rally the delegates to support ratification of the present Constitution in their home states. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was one of America's most respected statesmen. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was a printer, publisher of *Poor Richard's Almanack*, and inventor of the lightning rod, bifocals, and the Franklin stove. He served as the American Minister to France during the Revolutionary War and helped negotiate the peace treaty with Great Britain in 1781. His support of the Constitution was critical for state ratification. The following are highlights of his famous speech to rally the delegates to support the present Constitution: "I confess that there are several parts of this constitution which I do not at present approve, but I am sure I shall never approve them; For having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged by better information on fuller consideration, to change opinions even on important subjects, which I once thought right, but found to be otherwise. It is therefore that the older I grow, the more apt I am to doubt my own judgement, and to pay

more respect to the judgement of others. Most men indeed as well as most sects in Religion, think themselves in possession of all truth, and that wherever others differ from them it is so far error. In these sentiments, sir, I agree to this constitution with all its faults, if they are such. Why? First, any form of government may be a blessing to the people if well administered, and I doubt too whether any other convention we can obtain may be able to make a better constitution. For when you assemble a number of men, all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests, and their selfish views. From such an Assembly can a perfect production be expected? It therefore astonishes me, sir, to find this system approaching so near to perfection as it does.... Thus I consent, Sir, to this Constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure, that it is not the best."

## Ratifying the Constitution

The Constitutional Convention adopted the proposal that nine of the thirteen states must approve the Constitution for ratification. Once the Continental Congress accepted the report from the Constitutional Convention, state legislatures were expected to call for the election of delegates to attend state ratifying conventions. By October the process was already in motion in several states.

As soon as Congress sent the Constitution to the states, powerful and influential men began to organize opposition. Rhode Island voted not to hold a ratifying convention at all. Lansing, Yates, Governor Clinton, and other influential New Yorkers were working diligently to defeat the Constitution. Governor Randolph, Mason, Lee, and Patrick Henry of Virginia were drawing up a list of amendments for a second Constitutional Convention to consider. Without the support of New York and Virginia, the two largest and most powerful states, any new government was doomed for failure.

Even though opposition was formidable, the supporters of the Constitution had several advantages. For example, ratification rights were taken away from the Continental Congress and the state legislatures, both of whom were going to be unwilling to relinquish power to the new federal government, the anti-federalists had no alternative plan to offer, and the much-respected George Washington, and assumed first president, expressed his support for ratification. In addition, some of the nation's most brilliant writers of the day including John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison took advantage of the century's media and published 85 essays, known as the *Federalists Papers*, explaining the virtues of the Constitution.

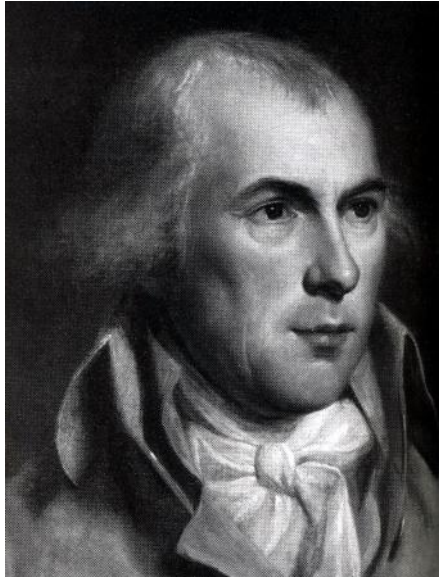
The three authors of the essays agreed education was the best strategy to win the minds of the ratification electorates. The essays varied from 800 words to 2,000 words each. The first 14 essays debated the argument for a strong union versus a confederation of states. Essays 15-22 portrayed the defects of the present Confederation. Essays 23-36 presented arguments supporting the powers of the new federal government as expressed in the Constitution. Essays 37-51 expounded upon the republican principals of the Constitution. Essays 52-66, 67-77, and 78-83, described the structure and workings of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the new government respectively.

The constitutional supporters biggest fear was the call for conditional amendments and a second constitutional convention. A second convention would only facilitate further delays and empower the opposition against a stronger union. Patrick Henry, a five term governor and the most popular political figure in Virginia, zealously supported disunion by Virginia. Meanwhile, stoic George Washington began voicing the new party mantra, "The proposed Constitution will admit amendments during the first sessions of Congress." Governor Randolph of Virginia reversed his stance in favor of ratification and campaigned, "ratify first and then amend."

Late in 1787 Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey approved. Georgia and Connecticut approved by wide margins in January 1788. Massachusetts ratified in a close vote, followed by Maryland, South Carolina, and New Hampshire (57-47) in June. Virginia endorsed by a vote of 89-79 and adopted proposed amendments for congress, which included a Bill of Rights. New York,

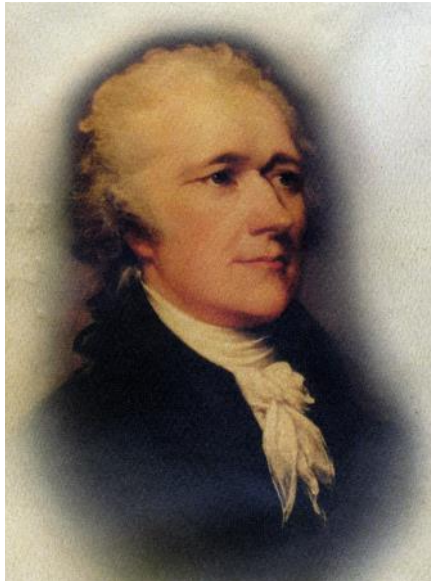


fearful of isolation, relentlessly bent by a vote of 30-27. In August North Carolina voted against ratification. It would take until November of 1789 before they formally joined the union. Rhode Island ultimately ratified the Constitution in March of 1790.



## Authors of the Federalist Papers

**James Madison** (pictured above) and Alexander Hamilton were the chief authors of the 85 Federalists Papers written to educate the delegates throughout the country about the Constitution. The Federalist Papers are still today considered the most important writing to help explain the politics and wording of the Constitution. These two men, more so than any others, masterminded the ratification in the two largest states, Virginia and New York. Both states had organized formidable opposition against the Constitution.



**Alexander Hamilton** (1755-1804) was born an illegitimate child in the British West Indies. At the age of eleven he began working for a trading company on the island of St. Croix. At 17, he was sponsored by a mentor (due to his creative writing ability) to attend Kings College in New York. He left college in 1776 without graduating, and by 1777 achieved a rank of lieutenant colonel in the Continental Army. He ultimately became a trusted assistant to Washington during the Revolutionary War, drafting many of his letters and reports. In 1780 he married the daughter of Phillip Schuyler, one of New York's most distinguished families. In 1782 he became a lawyer and continued to work for a stronger central government. He was elected to represent New York in the Continental Congress in 1782-83. As a delegate to the Annapolis Convention in 1786, he drafted the resolution calling for a Constitutional Convention and was elected a representative for New York at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Hamilton wrote 51 of the 85 Federalist Papers; there is no doubt his efforts were instrumental in obtaining constitutional ratification in New York. He was the first Secretary of Treasury in the Washington administration; as Secretary of Treasury he attacked the debt problem from the war, established public credit, installed an efficient tax system, and created the first federal central bank. As the primary counsel to Washington's administration, he was consulted on a wide range of foreign and domestic problems.



## Archives of the United States in Washington DC

View the original Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, and Bill of Rights





## The Constitution of the United States

Article 1. Section 1. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives. Section 2. The House of representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States. No person shall be a representative who has not attained the age of 25 and been seven years a citizen. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included in the union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each state shall have at Least one Representative. The House of Representatives shall have the sole Power of Impeachment..... Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be comprised of two Senators from each state, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote. No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and be nine years a citizen. The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all Impeachments.....

Section 4. The Times, Places, and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof;..... Section 5. Each house shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns, and Qualifications of its own members, .... Section 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. ....Section 7. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills. Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it becomes law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, .....Section 8. The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; .....To borrow Money on the credit of the United States; .... To coin Money, ....To establish Post Offices and post roads; ....To define and punish Piracies and felonies committed on the high Seas; ...To declare War, ....To raise and support armies,....To provide and maintain a Navy; ....To provide and call forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;....Section 9. The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, ....Section 10. No state shall enter into any treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; .... No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, ..... No state shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, ....

Article 2. Section 1. The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold the Office during the Term of four Years, .....Each State shall appoint a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress:.....The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballots for two Persons.....The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President...if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose by Ballot one of them for President; .....No Persons except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of the President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.....The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected,....Section 2. The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and the Militia of the several States, .....

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, ..... Section 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, .....he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; ....Section 4. The President shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article 3. Section 1. The Judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.....Section 2. The Judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, .....Section 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses ....

Article 4. Section 1. Full faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. ....Section 2. The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States. ....Section 3. New States may be admitted to the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; ....Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a Republic Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive against domestic Violence.

Article 5. The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislature of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, .....

Article 6. All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation. ....

Article 7. The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the same.



# Congress of the United States

Begun and held at the City of New York on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred eighty-nine.

The **Bill of Rights** were the first 10 amendments to the original Constitution as ratified by the states. The amendments were the result of several states request for amendments as well as New York and Virginia's ratification of the Constitution contingent upon adding additional amendments. The amendments were passed by the House by a vote of 37-14 on September 24, 1789. The Senate approved the next day. The following is a review of those first ten amendments known as the Bill of Rights:

**Amendment 1.** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

**Amendment 2.** A well- regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

**Amendment 3.** No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war.....

**Amendment 4.** The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, .....

**Amendment 5.** No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, .....nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

**Amendment 6.** In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, .....to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

**Amendment 7.** In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars. the right of a trial by jury shall be preserved, .....

**Amendment 8.** Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

**Amendment 9.** The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

**Amendment 10.** The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.



George Washington's  
Mount Vernon









# The History of Mount Vernon

George Washington's great-grandfather was granted land from English royalty when he migrated from England to Virginia in 1657. George's father, Augustine, was an ambitious man who acquired more land, slaves, built mills, and grew tobacco. When Gus died in 1743, he owned several thousand acres throughout Virginia and Maryland. The oldest son, Lawrence, inherited the working plantation and home (built in 1735) that he renamed Mount Vernon. George, one of seven living children, inherited the Strother farm and half of the Deep Run farm at the age of eleven. George became the leasing heir to the Mount Vernon Plantation in 1754 after the death of his brother Lawrence and all four of his children in 1752. In 1761, upon Lawrence's wife's death, George inherited Mount Vernon outright. It appears Lawrence razed the original home and rebuilt a one and one-half story structure before he died in 1752.

In January, 1759 George was married to Martha Custis, a widow who brought to the marriage a considerable fortune of 18,000 acres and over one hundred slaves. With the land George inherited from his father and brother, his new wife's land holdings, plus the land he was granted for his military service to England, Washington became one of the more wealthy landowners in Virginia. In 1757-59 a second story was added on top of the original home at Mount Vernon to make room for his to-be new wife and her two children. In April, 1759, retired from his military position, Washington returned to Mount Vernon with his new family. He would become an industrious planter for the next 17 years (until the Revolutionary war beckoned his service in 1776), restoring Mount Vernon and his additional farms to prosperity.

Always anxious to learn the latest scientific horticultural practices and willing to experiment, Washington would introduce many new crops, fruits, and livestock to his farms. In his diary he talks about experiments with compost to increase the yield of tobacco, corn, and wheat; he also grew turnips, peas, and potatoes. He was one of the first farmers to experiment with crop diversification and plan his crops according to future market demand. He began grafting cherry, plum, June Pear, peach, and apple trees; he also experimented with animal breeding and sheepshearing; his livestock included sheep, pigs, cattle, and horses; he also caught substantial amounts of herring and shad in the Potomac River. He operated profitable distilleries which produced cider and brandy; and he entered the milling business and operated a first-class flour mill on his property. His plantations were also one of the first to establish spinning and weaving, producing domestic goods. In the spring it was common to see him out plowing and seeding rye grass, oats, and barley right along with the slaves.

The design for the buildings and grounds around the mansion are entirely George Washington's designs. He planned an area of five hundred acres around the mansion to be a gracious and elegant gentleman's country seat, thereby placing all of the crops, livestock, and large barns outside of the mansions grounds. Between 1773-77 the south extension to Mount Vernon was added housing the study, the north extension was added for the formal dining room, and the grand front piazza was begun. The last additions were completed in 1787. The main floor included the grand central passage to meet guests, two family parlors, the large dining room, a smaller daily dining room, a guest bedroom, and George's study. The second floor housed five bedrooms including the master bedroom, while the third floor accommodated six additional smaller bedrooms.

The Revolution War years proved costly to the family as the farms fell into mis-management and disrepair. Washington was able to eventually restore his fortune from generous land grants from Congress for his military service. Over 45 years, Washington expanded the plantation to 8,000 acres, including 400 slaves. Because Washington maintained a lifelong diary and he and his heirs preserved his papers and letters, Mount Vernon is the best documented historical home to survive from this period of American history.



The “Passage” or central hall was used to greet and entertain guests. This is the oldest part of the house dating from 1752.



The large formal dining room was added in 1776.





The “little parlor” was for music and dancing. The harpsichord was imported in 1793 for his granddaughter, Nelly.



The west parlor was a favorite gathering spot for the family.







The daily dining room (added in 1775) is closest to the kitchen—housed in a separate building.



Washington's study was added in 1775. The desk chair was used during his presidency.

The storehouse housed hundreds of items used by the carpenters, cobblers, hunters, and slaves.



The family kitchen is located in a separate building connected to the home by a colonnade.







Coach House



Spinning House



Wash Room

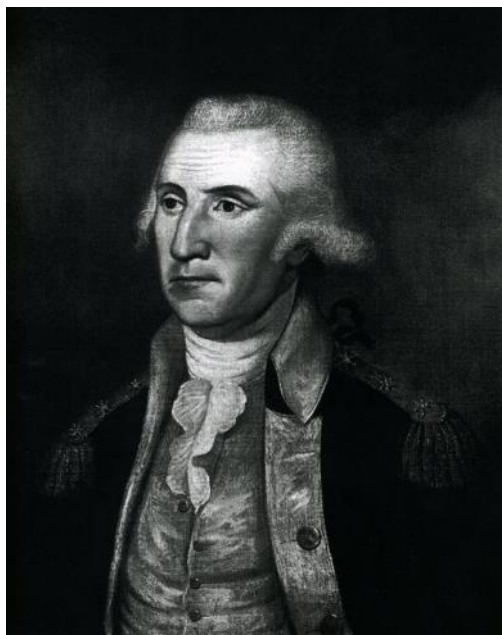


Slave's Cabin



Right - One of seven portraits by Charles Peale. Washington at age 40 in 1772.

Below - The artist, Edward Savage, is portraying General Washington, Mrs. Washington, and their two grandchildren by Martha's son, Parke Curtis. The Washington's are reviewing plans for the new capitol in 1796.



A John Trumbull painting of Washington in 1780.





## The Life of George Washington (1732 - 1799)

George was born the oldest of six children to Mary Ball and Augustine (Gus) Washington. Gus previously had three children with his first wife, Jane Butler, who died in 1729; Lawrence was the oldest of Jane's children.

George was home schooled, studying reading, spelling, English grammar, arithmetic, surveying, accounting, penmanship, history, literature, and geography with the local church sexton and later a schoolmaster. As an exercise he copied out the Italian rules of civility on his own. By his early teens he had sufficiently mastered growing tobacco, raising livestock, and surveying.

George was eleven when his father Gus died in 1743, leaving George a ward of his half-brother Lawrence. Lawrence married Anne Fairfax, the daughter of Colonel William Fairfax, patriarch of a well to do English family. Lawrence provided George with a quality upbringing while his wife schooled him in the finer aspects of colonial culture. Unfortunately, George was deprived of any advanced education due to his father's early death, however he did study military history with his brother Lawrence. George was a strong and powerful young man as well as a superb horseman. He attained well defined social graces, was an excellent dancer, and was welcomed everywhere for his charm and humor.

Lawrence's father-in-law was the cousin of Lord Fairfax VI, who owned eighty-one hundred square miles of land grants, comprising all of what is now West Virginia. Upon the council's decision to honor the land grants, George undertook extensive courses in surveying in June of 1745 as it would be a skill that would be much needed by Lord Fairfax. At the age of sixteen, employed as an intern surveyor by Lord Fairfax, George took his first trip west into the wilderness over the Blue Ridge Mountains. Once George was a licensed surveyor, his fees from Lord Fairfax equaled twenty-two Spanish dollars. At the time land in the Shenandoah Valley could be bought for less than one dollar an acre. By the time George was eighteen in 1750, he purchased fifteen hundred acres of farmland and added another fifteen hundred acres in 1751.

Good fortune changed for Lawrence who, along with his four infant children, were stricken with tuberculosis. In 1751 George accompanied Lawrence to Barbados, where the hot, humid climate was favorable for pulmonary disorders; this trip would be the only time George left the continent. Lawrence came home to Virginia to die on July 26, 1752.

### Frontier Military Officer ( 1752-1758)

On November 6, 1752, Washington was appointed a major by the Governor of Virginia for the southern militia of Virginia. With a handful of untrained Virginian militia, Major Washington and his troops were the entire force of the British empire opposing the well-established French control in the Ohio Valley wilderness of western Pennsylvania. In June 1754, Dinwiddie, the British governor of Virginia, appointed Washington a full colonel and commander of the Virginia regiment. It was here in the wilderness of the Ohio Valley Washington learned how to fight like the Indians - sniper style - that would prove so valuable against the British in the Revolutionary War. Washington suffered two sobering defeats during this period: The first at Fort Duquesne in June of 1754 against 900 French and Indians where he was forced to surrender. The second, another attack on Fort Duquesne during the summer of 1755 under Major General Braddock, who had just arrived with British troops. While attempting to lead, Washington was suffering from a severe attack of tuberculosis.

In August of 1755, at the age of 23, Colonel Washington was made commander-in-chief of the Virginia Regiment. He was sent to the Cumberland frontier to build and inspect British forts, protect frontier farmers from Indians, and patrol over 400 miles of French - British border with troops he was responsible to recruit and train. It was a frustrating assignment which lasted four years through 1758; Washington experienced difficulty recruiting soldiers, disciplining them, obtaining sufficient supplies, as well as re-

ceiving poor support from the British. Under surprise attacks in the forest, the British were routed by the Indians and French, losing 977 men killed and wounded to less than 50 French casualties. During the battle, Washington bravely reorganized the disoriented British troops when Braddock was mortally shot. Fortunately, the Indians stopped to scalp the wounded and dead rather than pursuing and killing the retreating British survivors; the Indians would proceed to burn twelve of the British prisoners at the stake. Washington survived four bullet holes through his coat and two horses shot out from under him. Despite the defeat, Washington was credited with saving the broken British army. During this time, Washington was able to achieve the passage of disciplinary military laws, which included five hundred lashes for physical quarreling, one hundred lashes for being drunk, and the use of profane language twenty-five strokes. The death penalty was approved for desertion, mutiny, or cowardice by an officer. A draft was initiated but exemption could be obtained for ten pounds.

During the latter part of 1757, and periodically throughout 1758, Washington was again ill with the longest and most serious illness of his life. He was close to death, treated with the barbarous practice of the times - bleeding (draining blood from the body), confined to strict bed rest, and a diet of jellies, tea, and wine. It was sometime during March of 1758 he met the wealthy widow Martha Custis. In July he won his first Virginia political seat in the House of Burgess with 78 percent of the vote. While falling in and out of illness, Washington completed his military career with an overwhelming victory of Fort Duquesne held by the French. He resigned his military commission at the end of the year.

### The Farmer and Politician (1759-1775)

In January 1759, he and Martha Custis were married at her White House residence. George was dressed in a blue velvet suit he had specially shipped from London, while Martha wore an elegant gown of deep yellow brocade with a richly laced neck and sleeves. Martha's two young children, Jacky and Patsy, were dressed in the apparel of British aristocrats. At the age of 27, a series of events transformed the young Washington from a young officer to one of the most prosperous planters in Virginia. With his inheritance through marriage, Washington was now in control of one of Virginia's largest and most profitable estates. Then on March 14, 1761, the widow of George's half-brother, Lawrence, died leaving George full ownership of Mount Vernon. The sudden windfalls of wealth gave Washington new social standing and the financial freedom to pursue civic duties.

For the next seventeen years, from his retirement in the Virginia militia until the start of the Revolutionary War, Washington devoted himself to his family, farming, politics, and other civic duties.

Washington was an indulging father to Martha's two children. Patsy was a pretty girl with dark hair, who was very fond of music. Washington purchased her a spinet and an early form of the harpsichord, while Jacky studied the flute and violin; he also hired a dancing master for both children. Jack was to be a persistent problem as Washington thought him to be lazy, obstinate, and indulged by his mother; he shared few of Washington's ambitious traits. For the sake of marital peace, Washington was reluctant to apply discipline to the boy. In 1773 Washington entered Jack in Kings College. Patsy, suffering with epilepsy from the age of twelve, died in July of 1773. Later that same year, Jack left college to marry Nelly Calvert.

Washington was legendary for his punctuality as well as his appreciation for the value of time. He used to like to say, "System in all things is the soul of life." Like many successful individuals, Washington benefited from the regularity of his daily routine. Rising before sunrise, he would spend a few hours in his library before breakfast reading, handling correspondence, and in private prayer. Once dressed, he would inspect his stables and horses before a breakfast of corn cakes, honey, and tea. After breakfast he would mount his horse to ride approximately twenty miles each day to examine his five farms. He was a conscientious boss, personally supervising the overseers and often removing his coat to labor alongside the slaves. He returned to Mount Vernon at 2:45 P.M. to



wash, dress, and powder his hair for dinner. A dinner of fish from the Potomac was served at precisely three o'clock with all the trimmings and three to four glasses of wine. Washington would retire to his library after dinner, which was followed by a light supper. Before going to bed at nine o'clock, he would often read newspapers or sermons to his family, or play a game of cards or backgammon. Washington was diligent at maintaining records, daily logs, note taking, and his personal diary; everything was perfectly sorted, classified, and slotted in his compartmentalized books.

In an age that glorified horse racing and hunting as gentleman pursuits, Washington was known as one of the best and most graceful figures that could be seen on a horse; he preferred to break and train his own horses. A passionate hunter, he was fond of fox hunting with his special breed of hounds, as well as hunting deer, ducks, quail, and pheasant.

George and Martha entertained an unending parade of guests at Mount Vernon. During the seven year period before the Revolutionary War, they fed, and usually housed, two thousand guests. Washington was a self-trained gentleman of the polite social drawing room. He would say, "Be courteous to all but intimate with few...and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth." Colonial social life also revolved around fancy balls where Washington enjoyed dancing with the ladies. Another chief social activity of Washington's was the theater. When in Williamsburg they would attend concerts, puppet shows, and plays of Shakespeare, comedy, and drama.

To maintain their lavish life style of English gentry, all goods were ordered from London. He ordered breeches of black silk and crimson velvet for himself as well as wine and furnishings. Martha ordered silk stockings, white satin shoes, gold shoe buckles, beaver hats, purple kid gloves, fine perfumes, and pearls for her hair. One reason wealthy planters submitted to their London agents was because luxury goods were not manufactured in the colonies and easy credit was available. Like many of the wealthy planters in Virginia, within two years Washington was land rich and cash poor. He spent his lifetime scrounging for money and lecturing younger relatives about the dangers of debt.

Social life for the elite in the eighteenth century was a constant round of parties, dancing, card playing, drinking, horse races, and cockfights. Washington, on the other hand, was very moralistic about the vices of drinking, gambling, smoking, and profanity. He was a devoted attendant at church who kneeled with the bible for daily devotions. However, politically he shuttered at the thought of exploiting religion for partisan purposes or showing favoritism for any particular denomination. He believed in the need for good works through charitable giving and was an anonymous contributor to hundreds of individuals, churches, and other charities.

Farming became a lifelong interest for Washington. Being an inexperienced planter in the early years, Washington was determined to produce a high quality tobacco. He soon learned that tobacco produced several soil problems and the prices, determined by London, fluctuated unpredictably. What eventually made Washington a successful farmer was his decision to abandon tobacco. With a zeal to succeed, he set out to be what was rare in the colonies, a man who studied the latest in British agricultural sciences. In 1765 he experimented with over sixty different crops, turning eventually to wheat as his main cash crop. Being a creative businessman, Mount Vernon evolved into a large, economic village between 1765 and 1772. He supplemented the farming income with a gristmill, weaving operations, a distillery, and a fishery that exported over one million herrings per year. At the same time, he contracted with European indentured servants to teach his slaves their skilled trades; Washington ultimately owned such a large staff of artisan tradesman he hired them out for a profit. For the balance of his life, Washington invested as much time, study, and capital as circumstances allowed into his farms. Washington's inheritance in 1773 from Patsy's death bolstered his fortune, enabling him to discharge his large debt; without any debt, Washington was financially free to participate in the Revolutionary War. The added financial windfall also made it possible to double the size of the mansion.

In eighteenth century Virginia, farming was a natural match with slavery. No other aspect of his life would be so troubling as his status as a major slave owner. Washington, Jefferson, and Madison all acknowledged the immorality of slavery, but were baffled as to how to abolish it without financial ruin. Motivated by both human sympathy as well as profit, Washington treated his slaves better than many planters of the era. Although slave marriage was not sanctioned, Washington refused to break up slave families. During the summertime, slaves worked up to sixteen hours a day, six days a week. Each slave received one quart of Indian corn meal every day and twenty salted herring every month. They received a new woolen jacket, a pair of breeches, two shirts, a pair of stockings, and a pair of shoes every year; some slaves were also given an outfit for Sunday. The household servants dressed in scarlet coats with white waistcoats. Both the household servants and skilled artisans all resided near the mansion where they were afforded better living conditions than the field hands. Unexpectedly, most of the field hands were woman. Washington worked with his overseers to obtain the expected production from all of his slave labor. He insisted that the overseers track the slave's productivity closely during working hours. Washington was so fond of systems and efficiency he would conduct time and motion studies for routine tasks. He wanted his overseers to be strict, not cruel. He believed that whipping slaves was counterproductive and disallowed such brutality without his written permission.

By 1775, Washington had grown into a veteran politician with sixteen years- experience in the Virginia House of Burgess. Washington did not take a leading role politically in the colonial resistance against the British until they passed the Townshend Acts in 1767, placing duties on many imported goods. In his early years as a representative to Virginia's House of Burgess, Washington was a minor, taciturn political participant. However in 1769, he emerged a major politician with a new sense of leadership, introducing a resolution to the Virginia House of Burgesses to boycott all British imported goods. In 1774, Washington reacted to Britain's Boston Port Bill (Britain's restrictive response to the Boston Tea Party) by writing twenty- four resolutions protesting what the colonists saw as the corruption of Britain's constitution. These resolutions became known as the Fairfax Resolves and escalated Washington to a significant political leader.

By mid-1774, Washington had no qualms about openly expressing militant action. What motivated Washington, a wealthy farmer and businessman, to risk his fortune, family, and life on this highly speculative rebellion against Britain? First, he had become dismayed by the power of the royal governor of Virginia to dismantle the House of Burgesses, severing the colonies rights to independent government. Second, Washington was enraged by the taxes imposed by Britain without any colonial voice. Third, craving to accumulate land in the west, Washington was shocked by Britain's Quebec act restricting western land accumulation by Virginians.

On August 5, 1774, Washington's life was forever changed when he was elected one of the seven delegates to represent Virginia in Philadelphia at the First Continental Congress. After the battles of Concord and Lexington in April of 1775, Washington was again a delegate at the Second Continental Congress which met in the following month of May. As delegates arrived they were greeted by a welcoming party of five hundred citizens six miles outside of town, a patriotic band, a rifle company, and parades. As a political delegate, the quiet Washington found himself surrounded by polished political orators, most lawyers by trade who knew how to articulate themselves on every subject. But it slowly became clear to everyone that Washington's experience and calm sound judgment could inspire confidence, unifying the delegates. After all, Washington was the only delegate who had military leadership experience, had travelled to all thirteen colonies, and had experienced the western frontier. Patrick Henry wrote, " Colonel Washington, who has no pretensions to eloquence, is a man of more solid judgment and information than any man on the floor."

To solve the political concerns of both the North and South, the Virginian Washington was the perfect compromise when the delegates struggled to select the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. The following words were used by the delegates to de-



scribe Washington as they unanimously elected him to command the War of Independence: superior presence, better judgment, more political cunning, the perfect temperament, responsible, inspired trust, confident, conciliatory by nature, a complete gentleman, sensible, virtuous, amiable, brave, modest, wealthy, discreet, steady, and calm. Washington accepted his nomination with the following opening to his acceptance speech: " Tho' I am truly sensible of the high Honor done me in this Appointment, yet I feel great distress from a consciousness that my abilities and Military experience may not equal to the extensive and important Trust. However, as the Congress desires, I will enter upon this momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their Service for the Support of the glorious cause."

## Commander in Chief of the War of Independence (1775-1783)

To demonstrate his republican motives, Washington excepted no pay for his military services, invested \$8,000 of his own currency into the war effort during its bleakest days, and was not reimbursed for his out of pocket expenses for eight years. In preparation, he asked Edmund Pendleton to draft a new will for him; he asked his step-son, Jack, to move into Mount Vernon with his wife Nelly to watch over Martha. He gave the faithful Lund an increase in wages to manage the estate in his absence, which deteriorated financially during the war years, regardless of Lund's efforts. Rightfully so, Washington's greatest fear was the abduction of Martha by the British.

No one could have foreseen the scope of problems which would be thrust upon Washington in the years ahead. He faced jealous and sometimes treacherous generals, a congress with few defined powers, an unimaginable diplomacy challenge in handling thirteen independent sovereign state governments, and a war effort against armies and navies from the most sophisticated country in the world.

Washington was amazed that many of the state militia's elected their own officers, choosing farmers and storekeepers. It perturbed him that these officers fraternized and ate meals only with their own men. Washington believed that the British style of military hierarchy and discipline would produce the most efficient army. Throughout the war, Washington used every means within his power to break down state distinctions and bias in an attempt to unite the men under a national Continental Army. While attempting to unify the men under one republican cause, he strived to differentiate the officers from the soldiers. Lacking uniforms for his army, Washington ordered field officers to wear various colored cockades in their hats to distinguish the upper echelons of the army.

The challenges in the early years were overwhelming. The following is a partial list: forty percent of the population was against independence from England, inept generals, no money, a shortage of field engineers, inordinately slow communications, no uniforms or shoes, scarcity of gun powder, no tents, no supply organization, paymaster, or medical director. At one point during the war Washington had spears provided to the soldiers due to a shortage of muskets; the camps sanitary conditions were vile with open latrines and no running water. Washington forbid fishing in the ponds and insisted on cleanliness and order; having experienced firsthand how small pox epidemics can obliterate armies, Washington's most enlightened decision of the entire war was to have his troops inoculated for smallpox and immediately had anyone showing signs of the disease quarantined.

As winter approached, shelter, fire wood, food, and warm clothing was required but the pay master did not have a single dollar. Even more troublesome, enlistments expired every six months and the majority desired to go home, leaving Washington with 5,000 men when he needed in excess of 20,000. The debilitating effect of short term enlistments almost crushed the patriots cause early in the war. As soon as Washington had whipped raw recruits into fighting shape, their enlistments were expiring making it impossible to develop a well-trained permanent army. Because he urgently needed soldiers, and fearing black soldiers would defect to the British for promised freedom, Washington opened the way for 5,000 black soldiers to serve in the Continental

Army.

The poor condition of his army forced Washington into secrecy and evasion as he could not reveal his armies' severe deficiencies for fear of alerting the enemy to his weaknesses. Regardless, Washington demanded high standards of conduct from his troops. To maintain discipline and order, he drafted regulations to discipline intolerable behavior such as profanity, quarreling, drunkenness, deserting, cowardly actions, and treason. Punishment would range anywhere from twenty-five lashes to death by hanging. And unfortunately, Washington did experience the disappointment of trusted officers and aides turning against him as spies and traitors.

Washington provided the much-needed leadership for the dire situation the patriots found themselves. He would search outside the ranks of professional soldiers for talented, young generals. Knowing he had an inferior army, Washington was forced to develop a strategy of survival. He once lectured Marquis de Lafayette, "No rational person will condemn you for not fighting with the odds against you and while so much is depending upon it, but all will censure a rash step if it is not attended with success." The customary strategy would develop into a war of attrition, with the major emphasis on preserving the Continental Army and stalling until it was a suitable condition to fight. As a military leader, it was not uncommon to find Washington risking his life riding within the midst of a perilous battle, rallying his soldiers to fight.

Hatching failed plans to kidnap British generals, Washington knew that kidnapping and assassination attempts on himself were a real possibility. As a result, he forged a group of handpicked men to guard him. Always being the perfectionist about his appearance, he decked the guards out in blue and buff uniforms with round hats sprouting blue and white feathers.

Needing a release from the overwhelming responsibility and battlefield pressures, Washington needed occasional distractions as a sedative. He found ways to escape by daydreaming about Mount Vernon or visiting with Martha during her winter visits. During the eight years he was away from Mount Vernon, Washington penned hundreds of letters to Lund containing detailed instructions about planting of crops, acquiring land, the countermoves of lawsuits, or renovations taking place on the mansion. He found a psychological calm daydreaming about the future and his return to Mount Vernon. Since Washington could not abandon his army during the winter encampment, Martha agreed to come to him. She piled into her buggy with several slave servants every fall to make the uncomfortable trip to Washington's winter camp. She spent each winter of the war with him, staying anywhere from three to eight months, but always leaving before the spring fighting commenced. Martha's willingness to join him every winter was of immeasurable value to him.

On July 6, 1776, John Hancock sent Washington a copy of the Declaration of Independence and asked him to read it to his army. On July 8, Washington held a broadside of the Declaration and ordered his troops to gather on the common to hear it read aloud. The Declaration made Washington's treason official and reminded him of the unspeakable punishment the British government handed down for a capital crime against the crown. Washington knew he had passed the point of no return and in the event of defeat, he would be hung as one of the chief culprits. Washington now had his sights set convincingly on independence; his vision was steadfast until the end of the war.



## First President of the United States

After retiring his military commission in 1783, Washington looked forward to retiring to his beloved Mount Vernon and managing his farms. By March of 1787, political minds were focusing on the Continental Congress session in May to restructure the existing Continental Congress. Washington, vacillating over his decision to attend, would alternate his thinking from passionate concern for saving the union to reasons why he couldn't attend. He began to shift his thinking toward attending when congress approved a convention for the sole purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation. Washington was elected president of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, allowing him the comfort of a non-speaking role. Yet Washington was never neutral as he passionately believed the country needed a strong central government. His support was pivotal in helping the federalist delegates gain support and approval to replace the Continental Congress with a new Constitution, and a new, more powerful central government.

Once the Constitution was ratified by the states, Washington could not evade the question of whether he would serve as president. He was torn over his decision by an unacknowledged ambition and sincere concern about the survival of the new country on the one hand, and self-doubt about his qualifications on the other hand. Regardless, Washington knew the Constitution would be incomplete without an effective government. In February of 1789, Washington was elected unanimously by all 69 electors to be the first president of the United States. John Adams collected the second most votes with 39. As Washington prepared to leave Mount Vernon for the Inauguration in New York, most would be surprised to know he was forced to sell 32,373 acres of land in the Ohio country to reduce delinquent debt.

At the time of the inauguration in New York, it was the second largest city (behind Philadelphia) with a population of thirty thousand. On April 30, 1789, the day of the inauguration, the entire city was a scene of triumphant rejoicing. Dressed in a double-breasted brown suit made in America, a committee of Congress escorted him through the streets, lined with cheering citizens, to the federal hall on Wall and Broad street where congress awaited his entry. Upon arriving, Washington went out onto the balcony for all of the citizens in attendance to witness the first President of the United States swearing in ceremony. After taking the oath of office, Washington returned to the congressional chamber to deliver his brief inaugural address. Following the address, Washington, with congress and invited guests, led a procession through the streets to St. Paul's Chapel for a prayer service. Following the prayer service, his secretaries escorted him to watch a two-hour fireworks display. Due to Martha's absence, the inaugural ball was deferred until May.

Some distance from federal hall, the Washington's residence was located on 3 Cherry street. The house was decorated with the best of furnishings in every room, papered walls, the richest Turkey and Wilton carpets, and the greatest quantity of china ever seen. The three story house, with seven fireplaces, was crowded with the Washington family, twenty servants, and his three secretaries. Being required to pay for his own rent, entertaining, travel, as well as his servants and secretaries out of his \$25,000 salary, Washington would have to personally fund a portion of his public service.

Washington would routinely take a two-hour horse-back ride every morning for exercise, and often be seen taking carriage rides with Martha, or walking the streets in the afternoons to make himself visible to the ordinary citizen. He also encountered citizens at St. Paul's chapel every Sunday. Sunday afternoons were devoted to writing to his managers about Mount Vernon matters, and Sunday evenings to reading sermons or bible passages aloud. To handle the hordes of people wishing to see him, Washington decided to hold levees every Tuesday afternoon for gentleman from three to four p.m. Never shaking hands, Washington chatted

with each visitor very briefly, demonstrating his preference not to socialize. He and Martha decided to entertain female visitors every Friday evening from seven to ten with a service of tea, coffee, ice cream, and lemonade. Every other Thursday the Washington's held an official dinner at four p.m. for a geographically diverse list of legislators and special guests.

Washington was never a warm, social, folksy personality but rather a man who felt most comfortable being quiet; he seldom delivered praise to subordinates. He was persistent about setting a good example of conduct, but regardless was forever being accused by the press of trying to establish a monarchy. He was one to solicit opinions from others he felt wiser and delay decisions, allowing time for better judgment to prevail over his temper. Those he most often sought advice from included Adams, Madison, Hamilton, Jay, and Robert Livingston. Washington came close to expiring twice while in office. In June of 1789 he underwent life threatening surgery for a fast growing tumor on his left thigh. In 1790 he came close to death again while stricken with pneumonia. Those closest to him noticed a prematurely aging man, shuffling and bent over, and suffering from deteriorated hearing.

Being the first president of a new government. Washington was operating in uncharted waters; every decision he made forged the ill-defined executive branch as well as involving him in the thicket of constitutional clarification. The earnest Washington tried to adhere to the letter of the Constitution, and worked diligently to build a harmonious relationship with congress while attempting not to trespass on their legislative rights.

#### Events of 1789

The first order of business to establish a working and effective central government was to generate revenue to pay for its obligations. On July 4th the president signed the first revenue act, focusing on tariff duties. The new government was formless; a federal judiciary had to be created as well as cabinet posts for a variety of new government departments. The senate confirmed all of Washington's federal judiciary appointments during September to enable the judiciary system to be operational by October. Washington designated Hamilton to head the Treasury department and his confident Knox to head the War department. John Jay was nominated for the first Chief Justice position. Thomas Jefferson was named Secretary of State, Edmund Randolph as attorney general, and Samuel Osgood as Postmaster general. Forty-five officers were named for commissions in the army and port collectors were established in the Treasury department. Washington successfully surrounded himself with some of the most capable and intelligent people in the country. By October the United States government was in full operation and for the first-time revenue was being forwarded from the ports to the government. The government expenses in 1789 were as follows: The President - \$25,000, the Vice President - \$5,000, twenty federal judges - \$69,700, House and Senate salaries - \$183,100, Treasury department salaries - \$28,000, Department of State - \$5,950, officers and enlisted men in the army - \$160,887. Revenues exceeded expenditures in the first year.

Madison's Bill of Rights was approved by Congress and ratified by the states with Washington's endorsement. Madison asked Washington for a show of support and received an all-important letter from him which was imperative to gain congressional approval. In the letter, Washington stated the Bill of Rights was needed to shore up support for the Constitution and quiet the fears of well-meaning men. After the Bill of Rights was formally adopted by the states, both North Carolina and Rhode Island entered the Union.



To gather public opinion, as well as solidify the union by permitting citizens to see him, Washington decided to visit every state in the union. He broke his travels into five tours over multiple years, with the first trip starting in New York and continuing through Boston and sixty additional cities and villages throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Before leaving the capitol for New York, he proclaimed November 26th the first Thanksgiving and declared that "Almighty God" should be thanked for the abundant blessings bestowed on the American people.

#### Events of 1790

On January 9, Washington delivered the first State of the Union address, laying out one of the most comprehensive programs the legislature has ever received: assumption of state debts, establishing a permanent national capital as well as a national bank, provide for the payment of the national debt with new taxes, negotiate treaties with the Indians, revise the defense system, establish naturalization laws, uniform money, weights, and measures, create a patent office, develop interstate roads, higher education, a census system, and a better postal system. In March Congress commissioned the first U.S. census which when completed showed a population of 3,929,214; the most populated state was Virginia with 691,737 people.

Hamilton issued a startling report to Congress that the federal government had fallen woefully in arrears in paying its enormous war debts - \$54 million in national and \$25 million in states obligations. Hamilton urged congress to have the federal government assume the responsibility for the states debts, since the debt had been raised to finance a national war. Hamilton concluded such an act would transfer state loyalty to the new federal government and promote binding the country together. He also submitted the need for increased taxes to gradually pay off existing debt, and the establishment of a thriving securities market to provide investment capital for growth. Not unexpected, both Jefferson and Madison were ardently opposed to strengthening the federal governments financial power.

Since the permanent location for the federal government would exert far-reaching financial and political influence, the choice of venue for the capital was distraught with controversy. New York and Philadelphia emerged as obvious locations in the north. Jefferson, Madison, and most agrarian southern planters preferred the capitol to be remote from the larger northern cities and northern manufacturing base. Washington and other Virginians favored a more central location in the middle of the union along the Potomac River. A compromise was reached in July where the northern New England states would get the federal assumption of state debt and Hamilton's more aggressive financial policies while the south would get the capital permanently located on the Potomac River. Philadelphia would get the capitol temporarily for ten years until the permanent capitol was completed in 1800.

#### Events of 1791

Philadelphia became the temporary capital in 1791. At the time Philadelphia was the unions largest city boasting a population of 45,000, overshadowing New York and Boston. On March 2, Washington instructed Pierre-Charles L'Enfant, an artist engineer,

to lay out plans for the public buildings in the new federal city along the Potomac River. Meanwhile, Alexander Hamilton proposed to congress the need to charter the first central bank in America. Capitalized at \$10 million, the bank of the United States would blend public and private ownership with the government taking a 20 percent stake and private investors the remaining 80 percent. The institution would lend money to the government, issue notes that could serve as national currency, and act as a depository for tax payments. The legislation passed the house by a wide margin but sharply divided the North and South. Attorney General Randolph, Madison, and Jefferson all advised Washington to veto the new bank bill. After listening to all of the constitutional debates, the president signed the bank bill into law; the entire public issue of the bank stock of the United States sold out in a single day.

Indian raids were fierce against American traffic of trade on the Ohio and Wabash Rivers. In response, Washington instructed Knox to assemble a militia to destroy Indian crops and villages to prod the Indian tribes into peace negotiations. Following orders, Knox assembled a militia of 1,400 men to be led into the northern frontier by St Clair. Shortly thereafter the mortified president learned of St Clair's overwhelming defeat near present day Fort Wayne where 900 of the 1,400 soldiers were lost in battle; the survivors abandoned their guns and fled for the Ohio River. In reaction to the severity of the Indian problem, congress approved the first United States army totaling 4,500 officers and men at an annual cost of \$650,000. The creation of an army heightened the fears associated with a standing federal army in America, and exacerbated the growing political divisions in Washington's administration.

On March 20, the president left Philadelphia in his carriage, and a train of servants, for a tour of the southern states. The 1,700 mile tour would take him through Georgia, North and South Carolina and Virginia. He would return on June 13 to Mount Vernon eight days earlier than planned and expediently used the extra time to look over his farms before returning to Philadelphia.

In Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Samuel Slater developed the first 72 spindle spinning frame powered by water. Slater not only developed the first mill in America to be powered by water as well as utilize division of labor, but became the innovator behind the foundation for a huge business - the American textile industry.

Congress passes a resolution to establish the U.S. Mint, which is created one year later when the Coinage Act is passed.

Vermont is added as the fourteenth state on March 14th.

John Fitch patents the steamboat in the United States on August 26th.

#### Events of 1792

In 1792 America's economy was developing rapidly. Government revenues increased by more than enough to cover the additional military expenditures and payments on the national debt. Hamilton estimated the years tax receipts would be \$4.3 million.

Although Washington had planned to retire at the end of his first term, he was being held hostage to serve his country. On May 25th, Washington revealed to Madison of his political intentions to retire and asked for his opinion. The president was complaining of memory lapses, poor vision, and growing deafness - all socially confining. He deplored the attacks by the press against his political decisions, and expressed his feelings of inadequacy and dispensability regarding the future success of the country. Jefferson, Madison, Randolph, and Hamilton all felt it was essential for Washington to serve another four years to prevent the country from breaking apart along north-south sectional lines and to thwart a move by others within the government to monarchy. All three expressed to Washington in private conversations his need to remain in office another four years to give the country the continued confidence in leadership and character required to secure the country from danger. As with all major decisions, Washington pondered long and hard whether to remain in office.



The United States Post Office department is established.

In October George Washington laid the cornerstone for the U.S. Executive Mansion (called the White House after 1818).

Deciding to run for a second term, Washington received all 132 electoral votes for president. John Adams, receiving the second most votes with seventy-seven, became Vice President for a second term as well.

#### Events of 1793

Washington's second term, dominated by the French Revolution, created a period of domestic turmoil in American politics. On January 12, the former King Louis XVI, who had helped win American independence, was beheaded before a crowd of 20,000 rebellious French citizens. On February 1, France declared war on Great Britain and Holland. The most decisive topic was whether the United States should support France's revolution for Independence or assist Great Britain. The Jeffersonian Republicans attached their loyalties to France and their ideals for Independence. The federalists, led by Washington, Hamilton, and Adams, took the economic view of the strategic need for further developing relations with England. Economically, the new union depended upon custom duties from Britain as a principal source of revenue and could scarcely afford to antagonize its major trading partner. Lacking any navy or army, Washington wrote his cabinet that the United States should observe "strict neutrality." The country became far more divided politically over the war in Europe than during the American Revolution. Ten thousand people would take to the streets in Philadelphia, day after day, protesting to declare war in favor of the French revolution. Even though the press was hostile towards Washington's position toward France, on April 22 Washington signed the Proclamation of Neutrality regarding the French Revolutionary War.

During the summer, the British government directed the Royal Navy to seize the cargo from neutral ships carrying foodstuffs destined for French ports; this legislation resulted in British warships stopping 250 American ships and confiscating its cargo. As a result of these aggressive actions, Washington felt it necessary to send a special convoy to London to avert war, maintain trade, seek retribution for confiscated goods, and settle lingering disputes from the American Revolution. The man Washington chose for the all-important London negotiations was Jay.

In September, Washington was present for the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone for the U.S. Capitol. Ironically, by 1795, three hundred slaves were used for labor to reduce budgetary restrictions to complete the capitol by the year 1800.

#### Events of 1794

Washington and other founders had hoped America would be spared the disparaging actions and decisiveness of political parties; and Washington feared parties could fracture the fragile republic. Yet the very first factions arose from Jefferson's extreme opposition to Hamilton's aggressive Federalist ambitions and his mounting influence within the government. These intellectual elites, who operated through publishing letters under pseudo names, ultimately solidified into two parties: The Hamiltonian party, or Federalists, took an aggressive view of federal power over the states and favored a strong executive branch; the Federalists advocated banks and manufacturing as well as agriculture and included a large number of northerners opposed to slavery. The Jeffersonians, called Republicans, suggested they alone could save the constitution from the monarchist ambitions of the Federalists. They believed in limited federal power, a dominant congress, state's rights, and an agrarian country free of the corrupting power of banks, financial speculation, federal debt, and manufacturing. Even though most elite Republicans were slave holders, they credited the wisdom of the common people to govern.

Washington hoped the Indians would abandon traditional hunting and gathering, and instead imitate the civilization of white settlers by farming and ranching, thus allowing white settlers and Indians to coexist. On the other hand, Washington believed in dealing harshly

with any tribes who waged war against white settlers. On August 20, Anthony Wayne's expedition broke the back of Indian power in the Northwestern frontier and ended British influence with the tribes.

The main crisis occupying Washington's time in 1794 was an uprising by the citizens of western Pennsylvania against the tax on Whiskey. The uprising was known as the "Whiskey Rebellion." The tax was a result of Hamilton's plan to raise tax receipts to fund the two million dollar federal deficit in 1794. In response to the uprising and failure to pay taxes, Washington issued a proclamation calling up the militia and warned the western insurgents to retire peaceably. Refusing to comply with the law, Washington himself led the largest display of military strength, until the Civil War, to western Pennsylvania. As anticipated, the uprising withered. Washington viewed the actions as a test of the constitution, while the Republicans believed the actions illustrated government power over the people, rather than for the people.

On November 19, Jay's Treaty was signed with Great Britain. The treaty contained many constructive features. For example, England agreed to evacuate their forts in the Great Lakes area of the Midwest; the treaty opened the British West Indies to American trade ships; Britain agreed to compensate America for confiscated freight at sea; America agreed to pay its debts to England; and most important, it renewed friendly relations between the two countries, curtailing the path toward war.

Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin in 1794, which exploded both the production of cotton and the import of slaves. From 1791 to 1801, American output of cotton increased from 4,000 bales to 100,000 bales. The cotton gin increased labor productivity 50-fold, encouraging millions of acres to be planted with cotton. The cotton gin was a simple hand - cranked revolving drum cylinder with hooks to pluck the cotton fiber from the seeds. A gin powered by a horse or waterpower could out-produce more than 50 hand pickers. Whitney successfully filed a patent, signed by George Washington in 1793, but ended up penniless attempting to enforce patent infringements in the courts.

#### Events of 1795

The Treaty of Madrid won the right for Americans to use the Mississippi River freely and trade in the port of New Orleans. The treaty also gave the United States a defined western border, including portions of present day Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

The Treaty of Glenville, a peace treaty between the United States and all of the war chiefs of the hostile Indian tribes North West of the Ohio River, was signed.

#### Events of 1796

Tennessee is admitted to the union as the sixteenth state.

Nothing required George Washington to leave office after two terms, but he had always planned to step down once the constitution had a firm foundation; he set the precedent for a peaceful transition of power. In his September 19 farewell address, he urged Americans to set aside decisive party disputes and political partisanship. In foreign relations, he cautioned about becoming entangled in the rivalries of Europe.

The United States Electoral College met to elect Federalist John Adams as the second president of the United States. Adams received 71 electoral votes to Jefferson's 68, who became Vice President.





## The Life Of John Adams (1735-1826)

The earliest known portraits of John Adams and his wife Abigail from 1766. Abigail was John Adams most trusted political advisor. She supported her husband's patriotic loyalties through many years of separation while he was serving in Philadelphia and Europe. The number of surviving letters between them number in the thousands. Their personal letters, combined with John Adams diary and personal papers, are a national treasure of American history.

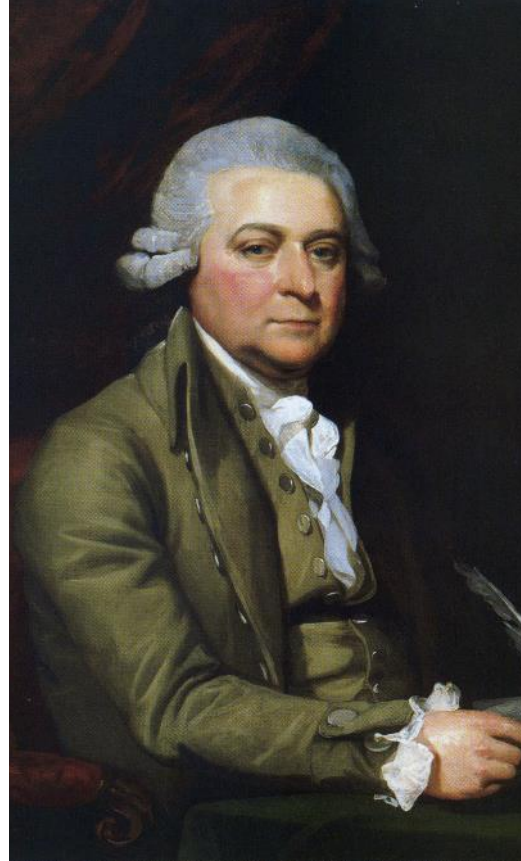


John Adams was born in the salt box styled home on the right and later built the larger home (left), adjacent to his parents, where he raised his family. He was buried on the family farm amongst the head stones marking graves of four previous generations of the Adams family.

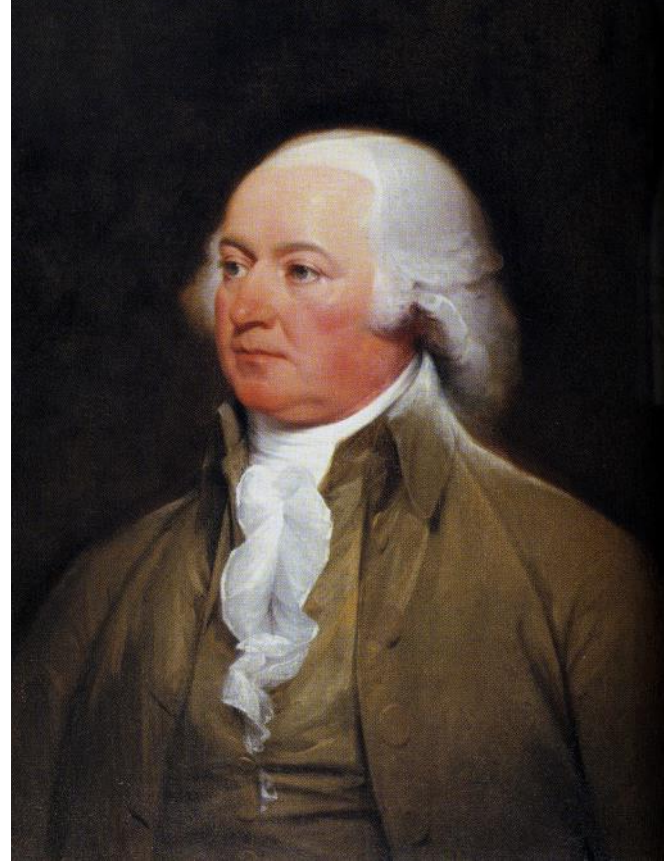




A portrait of John Adams done while he was in London in 1783. In court dress of brown velvet, he is pointing to a map of America on the table.



The Adams portrait was done by American painter Mather Brown when Adams was in London in the year 1785.



John Adams was fifty-seven when John Trumbull painted the Vice President of the United States in 1793.



John Adams, the oldest of three boys, was born in Braintree (what is now Quincy), Massachusetts. His father (1691-1761) was a fifth generation descendent of Henry Adams, who immigrated from England to the Massachusetts Bay colony in 1638. John Adams father continued his descendant's Puritan religious traditions (dissenters from the church of England), farmed, and served on the local militia. At the time of Adams childhood, Braintree was a small village of farmsteads containing perhaps 2,000 people. Their simple five room home was furnished with six wooden chairs, a table, several beds, a bible, and three silver spoons. John was taught to read at home and learned his lessons from the "New England primer" with a handful of children in the neighbor's kitchen. At the age of fifteen he was pronounced fit for college and was admitted to Harvard on a partial scholarship.

At Harvard, consisting of a faculty of seven and one hundred students, Adams excelled in mathematics and the sciences. He became a voracious reader of Roman heroes in Latin as well as Plato and Thucydides in Greek. He was also drawn to English poets such as Shakespeare. Adams, at five feet seven, about middle size, was an awkward dancer and poor at cards. It would ultimately be in the courtroom where he would excel showcasing his brilliant mind and proficient oratory skills. After a short stint as a schoolmaster in 1755, he found his mind attracted more and more to history and politics. By the summer of 1756, Adams had decided to pursue a legal career and proceeded to sign a two-year contract to study under attorney James Putnam, a leading lawyer in Worcester. Upon being admitted to the bar in 1758, at the age of 24, Adams returned to Braintree to pursue his legal career.

His marriage to Abigail would prove to be the best decision of his life. He first met Abigail during the summer of 1759 when she was a fifteen year old girl. In October of 1764, at the age of twenty nine, he married the twenty year old Abigail and moved to Braintree. Shortly after being married, Adams rose to political prominence with his anonymous articles in the Boston Gazette and a speech before the Massachusetts governor and council opposing the British Stamp Act in 1765. He pronounced the Stamp act an invalid tax on the ground Massachusetts, being without representation in parliament, had not assented to it. In 1770, Adams again rose to prominence when he was asked to defend eight British soldiers who fired into a rebellious Boston crowd, killing five civilians in what became known as the Boston Massacre. Adams, fearing his defense of the soldiers would damage his reputation as a patriot, received a verdict acquitting six of the soldiers and obtained reduced sentences for the two soldiers convicted of murder. The trial resulted in the following famous Adams quote: " It is more important that innocence be protected than it is that guilt be punished, for guilt and crimes are so frequent in this world that they cannot all be punished. But if innocence itself is brought to the bar condemned, perhaps to die, then the citizens will say, " Whether I do good or whether I do evil is immaterial, for innocence itself is no protection."

## As a delegate in the Continental Congress

In 1774 Adams was chosen by the Massachusetts legislature as one of the five delegates to the first Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He served again in the second Continental Congress from 1775 to 1777. Adams was one of the leading delegates of the entire Congress, exerting substantial influence. In May of 1775, in possibly his most important contribution to the new union, Adams nominated and adamantly supported George Washington to be elected Commander-in-Chief of the new Continental Army. In February of 1776, he had drafted the following goals for Congress to achieve: Form an alliance with France and Spain, establish a government in every colony, build powder mills in every colony for gunpowder, and declare independence from Britain. To Adams, declaring and winning independence from Great Britain was the only path to liberty for America. In late February word arrived from the English Parliament that all trade with the colonies was prohibited, and any American patriot who would not make an unconditional submission would be hung as a traitor. In addition, it was being reported a vast British armada was crossing the Atlantic, and the King was hiring German mercenaries to fight in America. Knowing the time was right to act, Adams would play a leading role in persuading many reluctant delegates to

declare independence from Britain. While many of the anti-independence delegates clung to the hope of reconciliation with England, Adams was ostracized for several weeks for his unyielding position toward England. At the same time, the pamphlet, *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine, was sweeping the country, raising thoughts of a call to arms for independence; the public clamor for a declaration of independence was never stronger.

Adams joined in the floor debate every day, speaking more often and with greater force than any other delegate for independence. When Adams spoke, his words never separated independence from the need for war. The following are words from the most powerful and important speech of Adams' life, spoken before the delegates vote for or against declaring independence: "The object is great which we have in view, and we must expect a great expense of blood to obtain it. But we must remember that a free constitution of civil government cannot be purchased at too dear a rate, as there is nothing on this side of Jerusalem of equal importance to mankind. This event of the most stupendous magnitude, measures in which the lives and liberties of millions, born and unborn, are most essentially interested, are now before us. We are in the very midst of revolution, the most complete, unexpected, and remarkable of any in the history of the world."

When the preliminary vote was taken four colonies unexpectedly held back. That evening word reached Philadelphia of the sighting of one hundred British ships off New York, the first of a fleet of four hundred. The next day, July 2, 1776, two Philadelphia delegates voluntarily absented themselves, allowing Pennsylvania to swing behind the vote for independence. New York chose to abstain, while South Carolina joined the other colonies in a unanimous vote for independence. It was John Adams, more than anyone, who had made it happen.

A board of five congressional delegates were elected to the war committee, who fell the burden of virtually running the war. The five committee members were Adams, who headed the department, Harrison, Rutledge, Sherman, and Wilson. It was the board's responsibility to prepare reports on all decisions requiring the approval of congress. Typical war decisions requiring congressional approval could be as varied as deciding how much gun powder to ship to Williamsburg, where to move British prisoners, the promotions and appointments of officers, or assigning commissioners to audit the accounts of an army division. There were never-ending complications of dealing with the various colonial currencies of differing value, worries over rampant inflation, and the fate of the new unsecured continental money. Adams shared with Jefferson the duties on the Committee of Spies, which also included the task of drafting the Articles of War - regulations and rules of discipline for the new army. Adams also opposed the current practice of short-term enlistments and sought solutions to build a permanent army.

While laboring on the Board of War from six in the morning while into the evening hours, Adams was thick in discussion and debate over developing the Articles of Confederation for the creation of a permanent union. In the end, the approved articles of confederation for the Continental Congress had no real power, being limited to managing the war and negotiating with foreign countries. They had no power to raise revenues through taxation or pass laws which could be enforced. Their best efforts were to pass resolutions which the states simply ignored.

But with all his busyness and long hours, Adams grew gloomy over the prospects of defeat in New York. It appeared as if "all of London was afloat" in the harbor of New York. England had landed 32,000 fully equipped and highly trained professional soldiers, more than the entire population of the largest city - Philadelphia. It was to be the largest and most costly British overseas deployment up to that time. Adams recorded the following in his daily journal, "May heaven grant us victory, if we deserve it, if not, patience, humility, and persistence under defeat."



Adams continued to serve with unflinching devotion in the Continental Congress and on the Board of War through most of 1777. Adams was sickened by reports of atrocities committed by British mercenaries from Germany. He was exasperated by the constant squabbles of American officers scrambling for rank and increased pay. He was worried about Abigail who was reporting rampant inflation and shortages of every necessity, making day to day existence impossible. Money was becoming useless, farm help of any kind impossible to find, and necessities such as bread, salt, sugar, meat, and cotton was becoming very dear. Adding to their personal ordeal, Abigail wrote to John informing him that their baby girl had been stillborn; the personal sacrifice for the both of them continued. After fourteen years of marriage, only half that time had been spent living together.

On September 26, 1777, Congress departed Philadelphia with all possible speed as the British marched in to occupy the city. Congress resettled in a small town to the west to finish its business before the delegates began to head for home; Adams reached Braintree by horseback in late November. As he reflected on the past, he had intentions to decline the next election for the congress. The family was living on past savings which were very modest and depleted, paper money was depreciating, the children were growing up without a father or care for their education, and the pay for his time in congress was not equal to a common laborer on a farm. However, Adams never walked away from work that needed doing in Congress. Rush would say of Adams, "Every member of Congress in 1776 acknowledged him to be the first man in the house." Jefferson was to remember Adams as "our colossus on the floor." Adams made the Declaration of Independence happen when it did. Had it come later, the course of events could have gone very differently.

## As an American Ambassador to Europe

On November 27, 1777, Congress named Adams commissioner to France to work with Franklin in negotiating a French alliance. Lovell, a new Massachusetts representative, said of Adams, "all in Congress who understand the importance of the negotiations with France were counting on Adams acceptance. We want one man of inflexible integrity on the all-important mission." The thought of Adams braving the dangers of the Atlantic in winter horrified Abigail; no one crossed the Atlantic in winter if it could be avoided. But at the age of forty-two, with an overriding sense of duty to serve, his staunch commitment to the patriotic cause of independence, Adams embarked on a 3,000 mile voyage across the North Atlantic in February. With his ten year old son John Quincy, he was risking his life and that of his small son to the violence of the Atlantic, as well as capture by the British at sea. Adams was ill suited for his new commission; knowing nothing of European politics or diplomacy, unable to speak French, never negotiated with a foreign Minister or been in the presence of a Queen or King, and never set foot in a city larger than 30,000 people. Nevertheless, he and his son boarded the new one hundred and fourteen-foot, 24-gun, 514-ton frigate *Boston* with all possible secrecy to protect Adams from certain capture by the British cruisers surrounding New England. The seven week voyage would carry 36 passengers, mostly French officers returning from American military service, and 136 officers and crew. The voyage would begin with a two day futile chase by three British ships. They would soon have to endure a violent storm for several days that struck in the dark; the tumbling sea was like vast mountains of water breaking on the ship, threatening to bury them all. No one could stay upon their legs, and every one and everything was soaking wet; a terrifying bolt of lightning hit the main mast, splitting it above and below the deck; twenty of the crew were injured by lightning bolts and one killed with a hole burned into the top of his head. Adams would confess in his diary a regret for bringing along his son. As the ship was approaching France, a heavily armed merchant British ship approached; the *Boston* fired and the British *Martha* returned fire. When the *Boston* swung broadside, revealing its formidable array of cannons, the *Martha* surrendered its crew and cargo valued at 70,000 pounds. Upon arriving safely in France, Adams was to learn that the American-French alliance had already been signed, one of the most fateful agreements in history.

Adam's soon discovered Franklin had the confidence of the French court as did no other American. As time passed, Adam's appreciation of the importance of France to America's future only increased, yet he saw his role diminished and of little value. With nothing to do of a diplomatic nature, he took charge of administrative duties that had been neglected and mismanaged under Franklin. In January of 1779, Adams pressed the French Court, with Franklin's endorsement, to flood American waters with a French naval fleet. Adam's insisted nothing would bring the war to a conclusion more effectively than securing naval superiority. Adam's would eventually get his wish when the war was finally won with the help of French naval power over two years later.

Upon his return to Braintree on August 2, 1779, Adam's was chosen as a delegate to the state constitutional convention in Massachusetts - whereupon he was selected to draft the state's new constitution. The constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would become the oldest functioning written constitution in the world.

In October came word that he had been unanimously selected by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia to return to France to negotiate treaties of peace and commerce with Great Britain. On October 30th he celebrated his forty fourth birthday and on November 15, he was under way aboard the *Sensible* with his sons John Quincy and nine-year old Charles. Two weeks out to sea, with 350 people on board, a very violent gale began to blow for one week. By the time the storm passed, the ship was leaking so badly two pumps had to be manned day and night by the passengers. The captain, reporting the ship may sink if hit by another storm made the choice to make way for the nearest friendly port, in this case Spain. Faced with the prospect of being detained in Spain for weeks while the ship was being repaired, Adams chose to proceed on a 1,000- mile trek over the Pyrenees mountains by foot with his two young boys. Traveling through rocky and treacherous mountains, subjected to winter snow, fog, and rain, they arrived in Paris February 9, 1780.

Upon arriving in Paris, the French Foreign Minister, Vergennes, instructed Adams to keep the purpose of his commission unknown to Britain. Adams was well aware France was an absolute monarchy, draining their treasury in the ambitions of self-interest to weaken Britain, separate the United States from them, and gain all future commerce with America. By late July, Vergennes had enough of Adams and curtailed all communications with him, preferring to only deal with Franklin. So without congressional authority, Adams departed Paris for Holland to see if something could be arranged to make America less dependent upon France. The Dutch had been growing wealthy smuggling arms into America before the French. One hundred years earlier, Holland was the greatest trading nation, shipbuilder, and map maker in the world; Amsterdam was the busiest and richest port in the world. Adams hoped some Dutch money may be available through a loan to the United States.

Back in Philadelphia during the summer of 1781, Congress decided the appointed foreign commissioners in Europe were to do nothing in the negotiations for peace without the knowledge and approval of Vergennes, the minister of their generous ally, the King of France. While Adams was still in Holland in 1781, he became ill for six weeks in September, lying near death at a home on a canal; the doctors labeled the illness a nervous fever, however his symptoms suggest he quite possibly had fallen victim to malaria, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, or typhus, transmitted by lice.

By the end of November, the sensational news arrived in Europe that, on October 19, 1781, the British General Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown, Virginia to the Americans and French forces. Adams did not see Yorktown as the end to the struggle, however. He did not believe there could be freedom in America until every British soldier was removed from every port in the United States. Certain that the Dutch would now give the United States recognition as an independent country worthy of their trade, Adams preceded to establish the first American embassy anywhere in the world. On June 11, 1782, Adam's negotiated with a syndicate of three Amsterdam banks a loan of 2 million dollars at 5 percent interest; it was money desperately needed and a foundation for American credit in Europe.



In late September, John Jay dispatched an urgent note to Adams to come to Paris as soon as possible as the British were ready to negotiate on matters of peace. Upon arriving in Paris, Adams was informed of the instructions by Congress to abide by the guidance of the French ministry when negotiating with Britain. Adams was outraged saying, America did not fight a war for independence to be told what to do by the French. From their first meeting, Adams and Jay found they were like minded on most items. After acknowledgement of America's independence, the fundamental questions to be dealt with were the boundaries of the United States, the navigational rights on the Mississippi River, debts to Britain, the interests of British Loyalist in America, compensation for confiscated slaves, removal of all British troops, and American fishing rights on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. In the end, Britain gave the United States everything they asked for, including extending the western boundary to the Mississippi River, doubling the size of the United States. Acting in direct violation of the American French alliance, Adams, Jay, and Franklin signed a separate peace treaty with the British without French knowledge. The treaty of Paris, as the peace agreement was called, was signed November 30, 1782.

Adams requested Abigail to sail for Paris at once to join him during his new commission appointed by Congress - to negotiate a commercial treaty with Britain. Abigail arrived in July, 1784, which was her first venture outside of Braintree, Massachusetts. Jefferson also made his first crossing of the Atlantic to join Adams and Franklin in Paris. The issues before them were commercial treaties with the nations of Europe. The new United States desperately needed European commercial markets for American manufacturing surpluses. Ultimately, the only commercial treaty to be negotiated would be with Prussia.

In 1785, Jefferson was appointed to replace Franklin as minister to France and Adams was named minister to the court of St. James in London. Adams date to be in the presence of the King with a private audience was set for June first. Fortunately, Adams and the king shared many of the same interests. Like Adams, his majesty was happiest when talking crops and inspecting his farms at Windsor. The King was also an early riser and loved to read in his private library, one of the treasures of England. On a private tour arranged for Adams of Buckingham Palace, he was able to see the Kings library. The King was also deeply religious, like Adams, and sincerely patriotic.

Most in England, as well as most in Europe, thought the democratic experiment in America had little chance for success. The challenge for Adams was to address all of the holdover issues that had not been fulfilled by Britain in the Treaty of Paris, as well as to open up British ports to American ships. With the American economy in shambles, and paper money nearly worthless, the United States was desperate for trade. The British, however, saw no urgency in fulfilling any agreement with a weak America. By May of 1786, with still no commercial trade agreements with Britain or France, Adams was called upon again by congress to secure another desperately needed Dutch loan for the United States.

A copy of the new United States Constitution, completed during the summer of 1787, was received by Adams in London sometime that fall. In December, Adams reported to Jefferson his recall back to the United States had finally been approved. Adams would jubilantly reach Boston on June 17, 1788 after having served his country for the last ten years in Europe. As his ship tied up at dock side, thousands of people were gathering and cheering, church bells were ringing, and throngs of people lined his route.

## Vice President and President of the United States

Adams spirits were high as he plunged himself into the farmers life, inspecting his crops, pastures, and livestock. As talk circulated about the new American administration, Adams remained quiet. In keeping with the unwritten rule of the time, any display of ambition for a political office would be inappropriate. Because Washington, a Virginian, was certain to become president, it was

widely accepted that the vice presidency should go to a Northerner and Adams was the undisputed leading choice. At the age of fifty-three, John Adams, a farmer's son, had been chosen to serve as Vice President of the new United States. When the elector's votes were tallied in February 1789, Washington was chosen to be President unanimously with 69 votes, while Adams had 34 votes. It was April 13 when Adams was escorted by cavalry to New York through roads lined with cheering citizens.

As a result of the Paris Peace Treaty, the land area of the United States in 1789 had doubled in size; the population had doubled since 1776 as well from 2 million to 4 million people. Philadelphia was still the largest city with a population of 40,000 while New York's population boasted 18,000; Virginia was the richest and most populous state, and therefore carried the most political influence. In the entire country there were only three banks; there was no standard American coinage or currency; money was scarce and wages were very low. The country had no army and the navy was nonexistent. The majority of Americans worked on farms, two-thirds inhabiting the Atlantic coast from Maine to Spanish Florida. The most western town was Pittsburgh with 500 inhabitants and the land area west of the Appalachian Mountains was mostly inhabited by roughly 100,000 American Indians.

There were numerous threats to the fragile new union. Throughout the north and south, the new constitution had been ardently opposed as a threat to state's rights and individual liberties. The most potentially decisive threat was the issue of slavery. The slave population had swelled to 700,000 people who had no freedom whatever; there were still slaves in every state in 1789 except Massachusetts. Due to so many divisive issues, dissolution remained the greatest single threat to the success of the American experiment. There is no doubt the fate of the union depended upon the success of the federal government raising above the state governments.

The Vice President's salary was set at \$5,000, a figure that would not support the life style required of the office; and not being wealthy, worries over money troubled Adams exceedingly. While acting as Vice President through two four year terms, while Washington was President, Adams had little contact with the President, and no influence. As president of the Senate, Adams cast a record 31 tie-breaking votes but complained to his wife Abigail about his two terms as Vice President by saying, "My country has in its wisdom contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived."

The presidential election of 1796 was the very first election under a party system. Adams and Thomas Pickney, the Governor of South Carolina, were running for the Federalist party. Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr of New York were running on the Republican ticket. Adams was expected to dominate the votes in the New England states, while Thomas Jefferson was expected to win in the Southern states. Adams won the election by a narrow margin of 71 electoral votes to 68 for Jefferson, who became Vice President.

Adam's inauguration as second President of the United States took place in the House Chamber of Congress in Philadelphia on March 4, 1797. Resolved to keep the ceremony understated, Adams rode in a simple carriage drawn by two horses to Congress hall from his hotel. In his inauguration address, Adams expressed his attachment to a free republican government; he spoke of his respect for state's rights and to his belief in expanding the education and freedoms of every individual. He described the threats to the nation as, "the pestilence of foreign influence." He applauded American agriculture and manufacturing, and pledged himself to a spirit of equity and humanity toward the American Indian. The inauguration ended with a scene never before witnessed in any other country. The three men, more than any others, who had made the Revolution a success, all appeared on the same platform to witness a peaceful transfer of power - Washington as the outgoing President, Adams as the incoming President, and Jefferson as the incoming Vice President. It was the last time the three men would ever appear together.

As President, Adams not only continued with Washington's cabinet, but also with all of his major programs. Adam's continued to



strengthen the federal government, in particular by expanding the army and navy. His economic programs were a continuation of Hamilton and his policies. Adam's term as President was punctuated by the intense dispute over foreign policy, in particular his desire to remain neutral in the expanding conflict in Europe between France and Britain. There was strong public sentiment to support France, which hurt Adams' popularity. In 1798, a Quasi-War broke out with France when French ships assaulted American shipping interests. Again, bucking popular public opinion and the urging by his cabinet to declare war against France, Adams stubbornly chose not to fight. A peace agreement with France was ultimately reached in 1800. His decisions to not pursue war with France hurt his popularity and played an important role in his election defeat for a second term. In 1815 Adams wrote, "I desire no other inscription over my grave stone than: Here lies John Adams, who took upon himself the responsibility of peace with France in the year 1800."

#### Events of 1787

The government of France chose to interpret the Jay Treaty as an American - British alliance. As a result, the French Directory refused to receive the American minister, General Charles Pinckney of South Carolina. The French reacted by seizing American ships in the Caribbean by decrees issued from Paris. Adams faced an all-out war with France, who had launched undeclared war on American ships everywhere. The French had taken more than 300 American ships by the spring of 1798.

With Adams' leadership, the United States begins to build a navy by launching three ships, including the Constitution (old iron side), a 44-gun Frigate.

#### Events of 1798

In Europe French armies had been sweeping across Italy and Austria as the young General Napoleon Bonaparte appeared invincible. The United States began to prepare for war with France with a bill calling for a provisional army of 10,000. Congress voided all treaties with France in July as eighty-four French ships were captured by the U.S. Navy. Adams found his popularity soaring from a patriotic wave sweeping the country even though he refused to declare war on France.

In July the infamous Alien and Sedition Act was passed as a war measure. The law must be viewed within the context of the time - which was rampant fear of the French enemy within. The act called for a change in qualifying for citizenship from five years residence to fourteen years. Of greater consequence, the Seditions Act made any "false, scandalous, and malicious writing" against the United States government, congress, or the President, a crime punishable by fine and imprisonment.

To support the cost of the undeclared war, Congress approved the first direct tax on the people - a tax on land.

#### Events of 1799

At the age of 67, George Washington died at Mount Vernon from a heavy cold - streptococcus infection. The state funeral took place in the nation's capitol the day after Christmas .

A law was passed to abolish slavery in the state of New York; the law was approved to take effect twenty eight years later in 1827.

## Events of 1800

The U.S. government moves from Philadelphia to its new home along the Potomac River. John Adams becomes the first president to reside in the new Presidents mansion (White House) in Washington DC and addresses the first session of Congress in the new U.S Capitol building.

The United States Library of Congress is founded.

A peace treaty with France was signed October 3, 1800

In the presidential election, Adams lost reelection narrowly to Jefferson by 65 to 73 electoral votes. Adams and Pinckney were Federalist candidates while Jefferson and Aaron Burr were representing the Republican party. Jefferson owed his victory to the inflated electoral votes from the south, which counted slaves as a three-fifths vote, and to the politicking by Aaron Burr to swing his home state of New York from Federalist to Republican.

Following his 1800 defeat for the presidency, Adams retired to a life of farming at his home in Quincy, Massachusetts. In early 1812, Adams resumed a writing relationship with his old friend Jefferson; their correspondence lasted the rest of their lives, consisting of 158 letters. The Adam's papers are a national treasure, consisting of family papers from 1639 to 1889, and including more than 1,000 letters written between Abigail and John. Adam's son Charles died an alcoholic in 1800; his daughter Abigail (Nabby) died of breast cancer in 1813; his wife Abigail died of typhoid in 1818. His son, John Quincy, was President of the United States when John Adams died on July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Adam's last words were, "Jefferson survives me." Jefferson, however, had died a few hours earlier in the day.



## The Adam's home in Quincy, Massachusetts



This home was purchased by John Adams in 1787 while he was serving as minister to the court in London. The home, built in 1730, was purchased for 600 pounds and included 75 acres of farmland. Just a short walk from his birth place in Braintree, it was a step up from the cramped, low-ceilinged, saltbox house they had lived in since their marriage. Abigail and John expanded the home in 1799-1800 while he was president.



John Adams had specified in his will that his 12,000 volume library of priceless letters, journals, and books were to go to his son John Quincy. In 1870 his grandson Charles built a separate stone structure next to the home to store the priceless collection.





The Adams master bedroom. The poster bed came from Holland, after John's diplomatic service in the 1780's. Abigail died here in 1818 from Typhus; John died in this bed as well from old age in 1826.



The upstairs library is where Adams spent much of the last 25 years of his life. The bookish Adams often rose at five and began the day reading. He purchased the desk in 1783 in Paris. The clock on the mantel belonged to his grandfather.



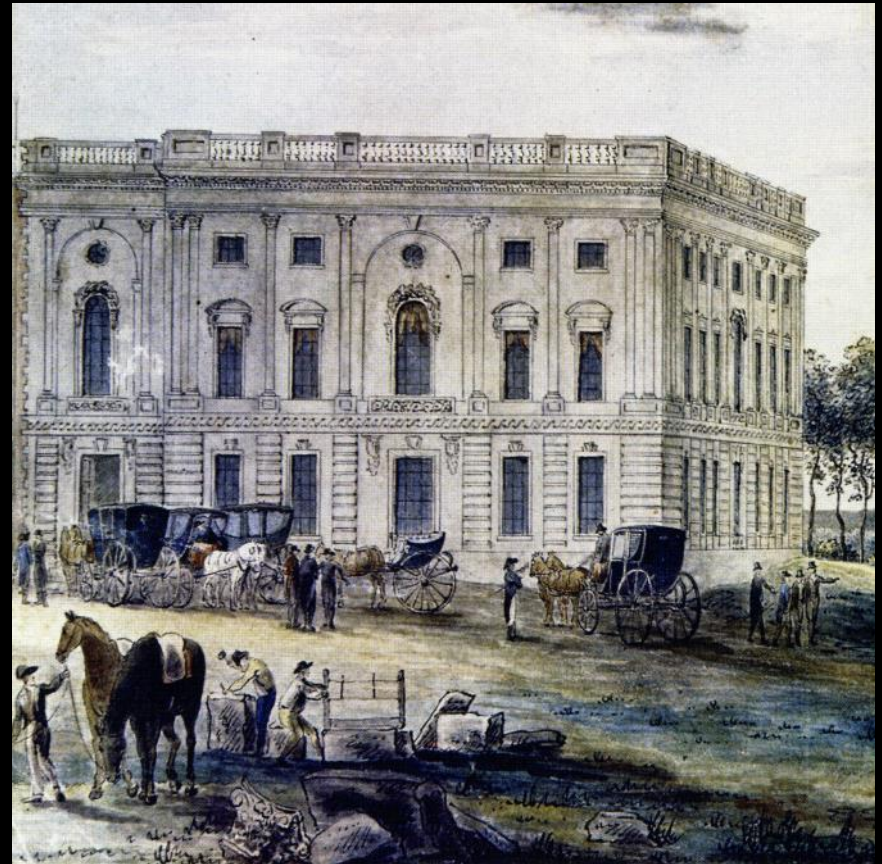
## The nations new capitol

William Thorton, a physician, painter, and inventor, turned amateur architect to win the competition to design the U.,S. Capitol. When the plan arrived after the deadline, its simplicity captivated the eyes of everyone, including Thomas Jefferson. The winner received \$500 and a city lot. President Washington laid the cornerstone for the capitol on September 18, 1793. The photo (right) is a watercolor of the first wing completed in 1800; upon completion it served the Senate, House, Supreme Court, and Library of Congress. President Adams addressed the very first joint sessions in the Senate Chambers on November, 22, 1800.

President Jefferson appointed a new architect, Benjamin Latrobe, to be in charge of completing the Capitol. The design of the Capitol (pictured next page) was completed in 1810. The 32 member Senate occupied the original wing on the right, while the 7 member Supreme Court moved to the ground floor of the same wing. In 1807, the 106 man House moved into their new wing to the left of the colonnaded central portico. Jefferson in particular, admired Latrobe's finished design of the house chamber with its carvings, classical columns, and visitors gallery. The colonnaded central portico was the last to be completed in 1810.

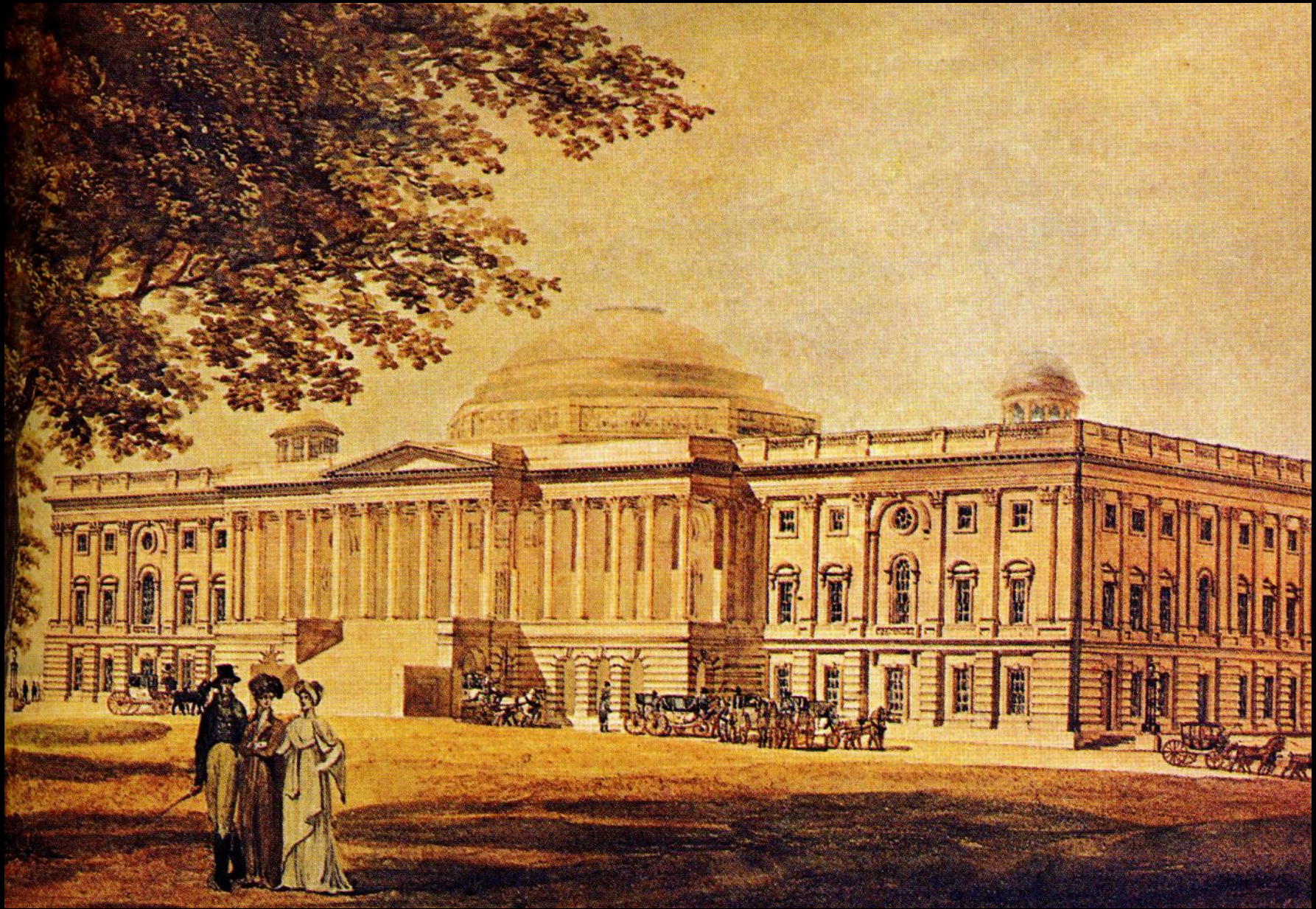
It was in these chambers that Congress approved the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, and voted on funding the Lewis and Clark expedition. After long and bitter debates, they declared war on England in 1812. The British burnt the Capitol in 1814, displacing Congress until renovations were completed in December, 1819.

As new states continued to join the union, populations soared, and Congress grew to 62 Senators and 233 Representatives by 1850. In August of 1850, Congress appropriated \$100,000 to begin construction to expand the Capitol.



The right wing of the U.S. Capitol  
completed in 1800





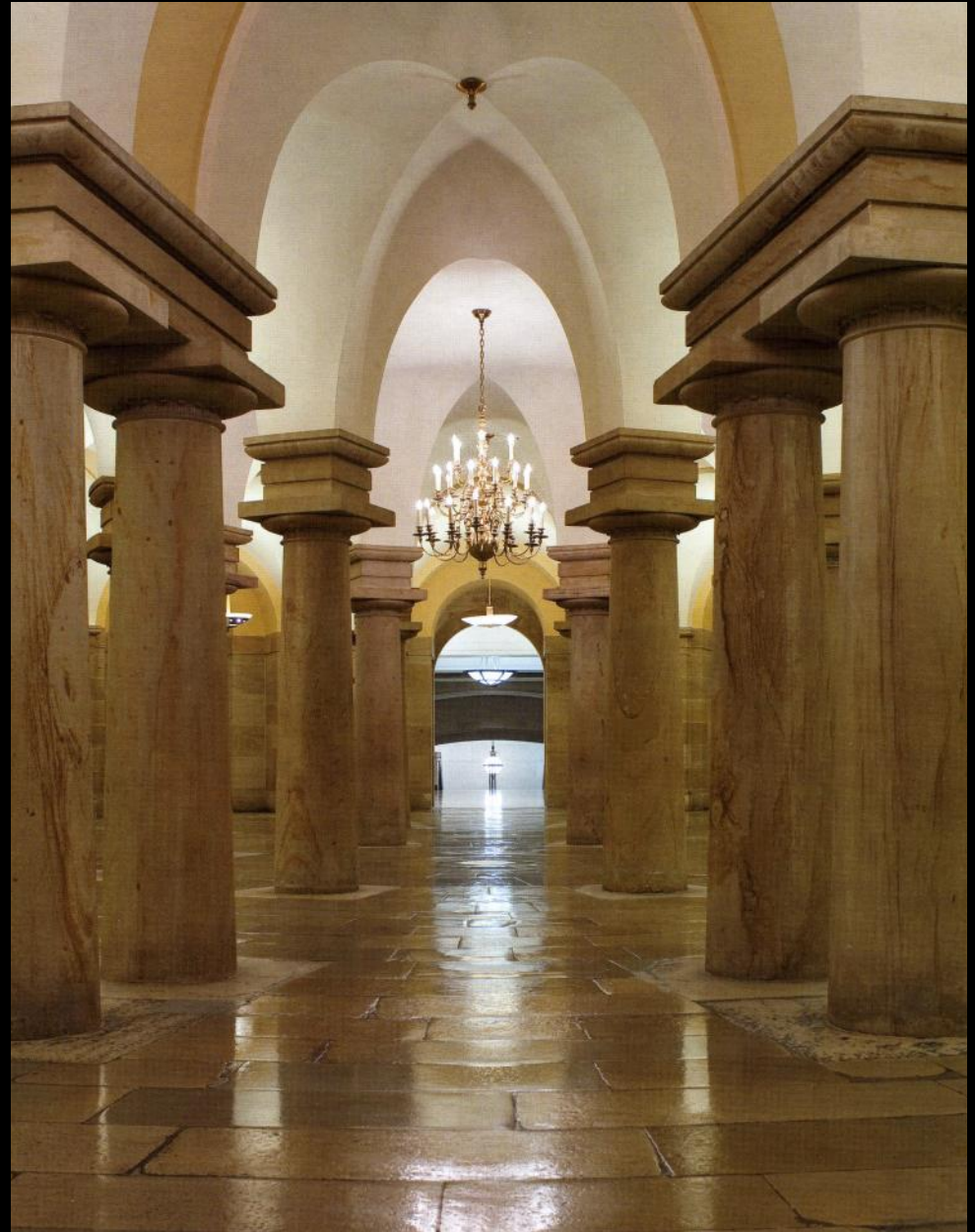
The completed U.S. Capitol in 1810





### The Capitol's Rotunda

Pictured are the Capitol's 16 column rotunda and dome, built from Virginia sandstone. The dome's motif is tobacco flowers and leaves, indicating its economic importance to the new American nation.





The original House Chambers (below) from 1800 until 1857. With the exception of the statues and desks., the hall looks as it did in 1857. Presidents Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, and Fillmore were all inaugurated here. Senate Chambers pictured to right.









The Vice President's desk in the Senate Chamber until 1859.

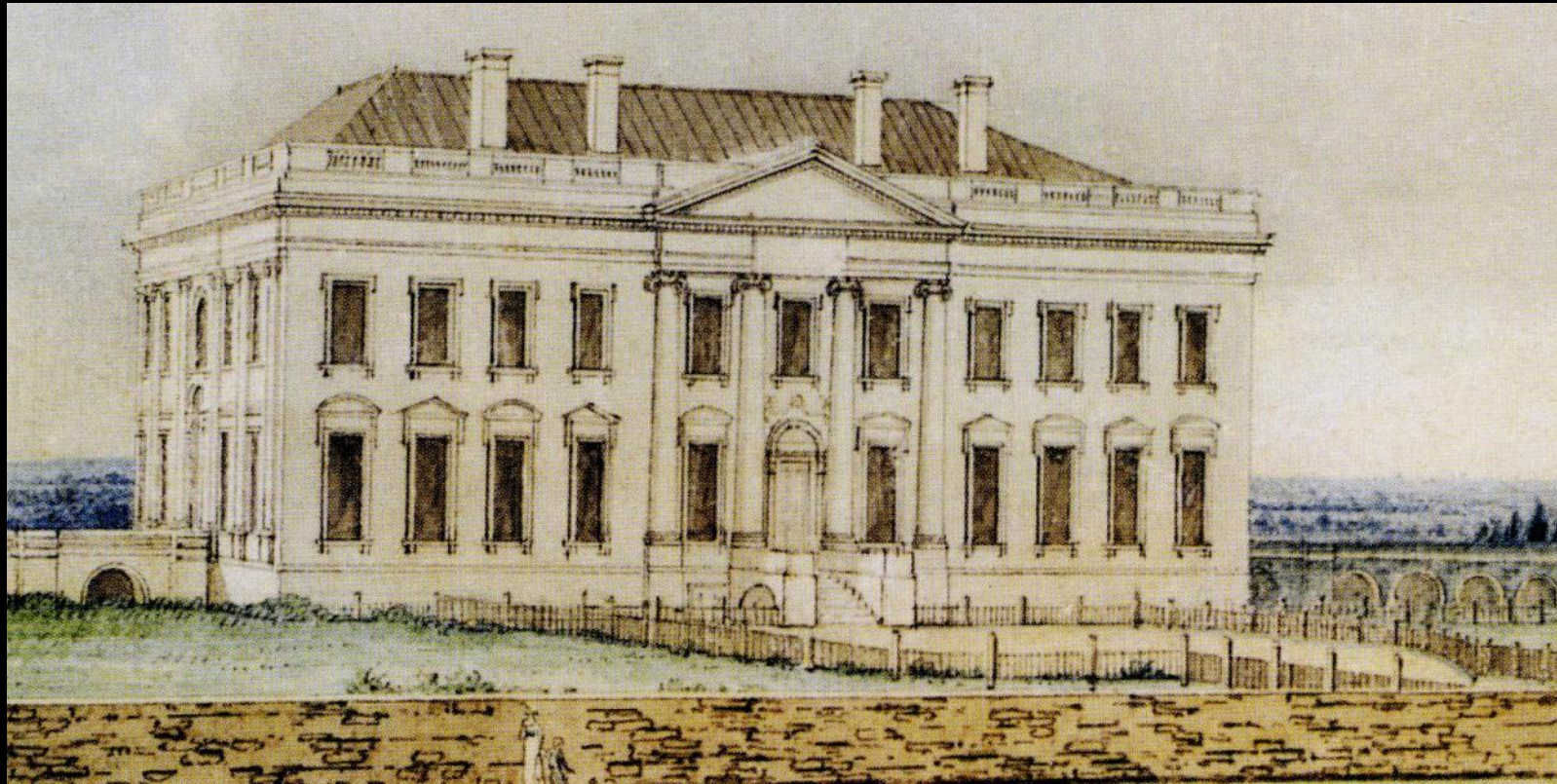




The old Supreme Court Chamber contains many original furnishings. The pumpkin shell ceiling, rebuilt after the Capitol was burned by the British in 1814, supports the old Senate Chamber above.







**Water color of the White House in 1806.** The White house grounds was originally 85 acres; the thought was for the Presidents House to be self-sufficient with its own orchard, pastures, cow barn, pig pens, chicken yard, and stables. Before the avenue was extended through the park in 1822, it served the community for market days and horse races. The city plan by Pierre Charles L'Enfant included an east-west axes and a north-south axes anchored by the Capitol, White House, and several monuments. L'Enfant wanted an equestrian statue of Washington to climax the intersection of the two axes. The original President's House planned by L'Enfant was to be five times larger than the home that was actually built and designed by James Hoban in 1792. Familiar with L'Enfant's plan, Washington determined the location for the smaller residence and personally drove the stakes for the location of the home, thereby preserving L'Enfant's axes. John Adams was the first president to occupy the White House in 1800, then called the Presidents House. Based upon Thomas Jefferson's drawings, the east and west wings to the home were added from 1805-1808. The wings were added as a means of keeping many of the functions of the home—dairy, stables, laundry, smokehouse, root cellar, and so forth—out of sight.



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