

Adams

National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior



FAMILIES IN THE REVOLUTION: PATRIOTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Dear Teacher,

The Birthplaces at the Adams National Historical Park commemorate the first father-son presidents, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, and provide us with a unique setting where history seems to come to life. Our student-driven curriculum actively engages students in their own exciting and enriching learning process. This program will instill in students the realization that sacrifice, cooperation, and determination are necessary attributes for seeking justice and liberty, as evidenced by the Adams family.

The American Revolution was one of the most daring popular movements in modern history. The colonists were challenging one of the most powerful nations in the world. Americans were facing what appeared to be insurmountable odds. While the story of the Revolution's battles, political debates, and confrontations are much studied, the impact of the war on individual families is sometimes overlooked. This program will examine the effects of war and military occupation on American patriot families. Two families, the Adamses and the Reveres, were committed to the revolutionary cause and their contributions took hardy tolls upon their family lives. John Adams and Paul Revere had such profound influence on the movement for American independence because they had families who shared their beliefs and who would, despite great personal risk, unselfishly give them advice, moral support, and love throughout the struggle. In 1774, John Adams acknowledged such a partnership when he wrote to his wife Abigail from the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, "I must entreat you, my dear Partner in all the joys and sorrows, Prosperity and Adversity of my Life, to take part with me in the Struggle."

Patriots in the Countryside: The Adamses is an interactive program conducted at the John Adams and John Quincy Adams Birthplaces where students portray refugees fleeing the hostilities in Boston for the safety that the countryside provided at the Adams family farm. Through this experience, participants of the program will come to understand and appreciate how the American Revolution affected patriots of both sexes, of all ages, and of all occupations.

ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Pre-Visit Activities



Students will receive an urgent communication advising them that British troops have occupied Boston (teacher should read this communication to students just prior to their departure for Quincy). This communication will advise the students who are ardent patriots, that they must flee their homes in the occupied town for the comparative safety of the countryside. Students will also receive a vacancy announcement informing them that fellow patriots in the countryside will open their homes to city dwellers seeking asylum from the fighting in Boston. Once they reach their destination (the farmhouses of John and Abigail Adams in the North Precinct of Braintree, now Quincy), the new "refugees" will assume their roles. Students may prepare for their roles ahead of time by learning more about Colonial occupations. Students may assume a particular occupation before arriving at the site or they may be assigned a role upon arrival at the site. Before starting out on their journey, students should prepare a list of at least ten items that they might pack and take with them.

On-Site Activities



Colonial Life and Occupations

Students will explore some of the day-to-day activities performed by colonial children and adults living in the countryside during the Revolutionary War. Students will experience colonial life and occupations first hand. Roleplaying refugees from Boston, students will arrive at the farm of John and Abigail Adams in the town of Braintree (now Quincy). Upon arrival, students will be met by Dame Belcher (portrayed by a Park Ranger) and seek permission to "move in" to one of the Adams' farmhouses. Dame Belcher assures the refugees that Mrs. Adams will do her best to accommodate all patriot families somewhere on the farm. The most suitable spot to house them is John Adams' Birthplace located right next door to John and Abigail's home but now occupied by an unreasonable man named Hayden (portrayed by a Park Ranger). The Adamses have asked Hayden to share their second home with refugees from Boston, but so far he has refused to allow anyone to live in the empty rooms. Dame Belcher instructs the refugees to approach Hayden, convince him of the importance of their occupations, and offer their services in exchange for refuge. Hayden may allow the refugees to tour the house and describe their occupational skills. As they examine the rooms in the house, students should be on the lookout for items related to their own occupations as they are introduced to the technology of the

BOYS IN COLONIAL TIMES

Back in colonial times, it was not unusual for very young boys to cut down trees, tend the crops and care for the animals. By about the age of ten, boys were taught to shoot guns, so that they could go hunting with their fathers for game to feed the family. At sixteen years of age, a boy was considered a man. Many of the young boys whose fathers owned a business, worked alongside of their fathers. Some of the businesses during colonial times were carriage and wagon shops, where they made new wagons and restored old ones, and a blacksmith, where they made shoes for horses, nails and wheels. There were also tin-smiths who made pots, pans, dishes and cups. By starting to work at a very young age, the boys learned their fathers' trade and were able to take over the business when they were old enough.



GIRLS IN COLONIAL TIMES

Girls in colonial times were kept very busy also. If they lived on a farm, they often worked in the fields with their brothers. They also helped with many of the household chores. All of the meals were prepared in a fireplace. This took a long time. There were also candles that had to be made. This was done by melting animal fat and other ingredients in big kettles. Then they had to dip the wicks in and out of the mixture until the candle was the size they wanted. Girls also helped their mothers to spin the wool that they had gathered, so that they could make their own clothes. They wore very simple clothes. The colors were browns and rusty reds, dyes from the bark, roots and leaves of various plants and trees.

The small amount of time that boys and girls had left after their chores was mostly spent at school and church. The schools had only one room, where boys and girls of all ages studied together. Growing up during colonial times meant a lot of hard work, but there were also a lot of happy times. Boys and girls found ways to make up games, share stories, tell riddles and have fun while they worked.

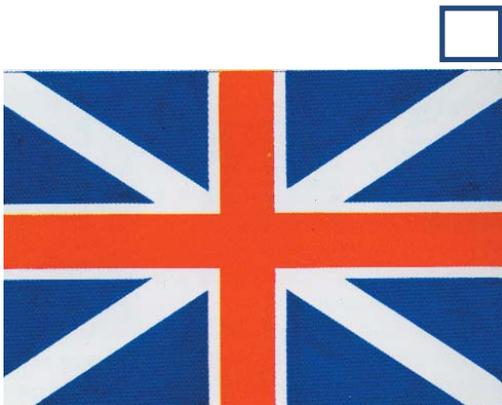


How Our Flag Grew Up!

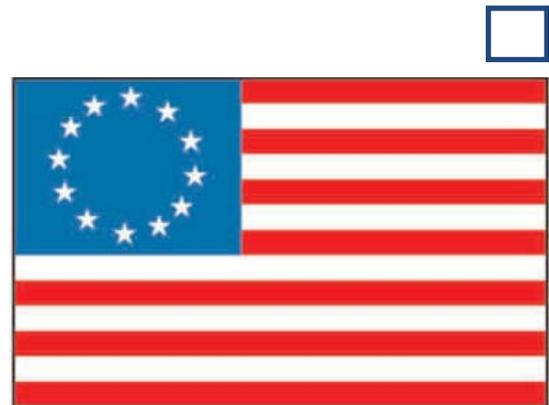


Our flag has changed a lot since colonial times. When people first arrived from Europe many felt the British flag was their flag. In 1775, when the United States decided to fight for their freedom from Britain, many felt they should make a new flag. At first Americans could not decide on what that flag should look like. They agreed on 13 stripes to stand for the 13 colonies, but at first many felt they should also include the British flag. Once it seemed to most that America would be free of Britain they agreed on a design that featured thirteen stars and thirteen stripes to stand for the 13 colonies. Ever since as the United States has grown a new star has been added for each new state so that today we have 50 stars!

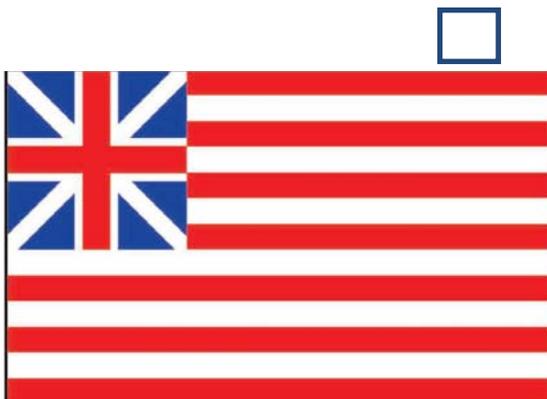
All of these flags at one time Americans called their flag. Can you put the flags in the right order from the very first to our flag today? Put a number from 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 in the box above each flag.



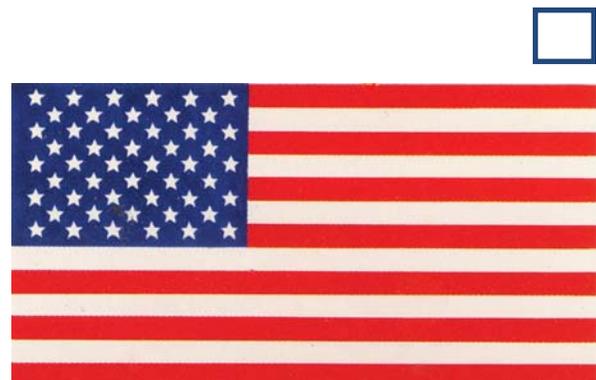
British Flag
1607-1775



Betsy Ross Flag
1777



Grand Union Flag
1775-1777



United States Flag
Today

Pre-Visit Materials



Role cards for colonial occupations

Apothecary	Hatter
Baker	Law Clerk
Basket-maker	Pewterer
Blacksmith	Plumber
Bookbinder	Post Rider
Butcher	Potter
Carpenter	Printer
Chandler	Sawyer
Chimney Sweep	Shipwright
Clockmaker	Shopkeeper
Cooper	Silversmith
Cordwainer	Spinner
Currier	Stonemason
Cutler	Tailor
Dockworker	Town Watchman
Doctor	Wheelwright
Farrier	Wife
Glassblower	Wig Maker

-  Role cards for Dame Belcher, Mr. Hayden, Captain Crunch: These characters will be portrayed by Park Rangers.
-  An urgent communication to Boston Patriots announcing "vacancy" at the John and Abigail Adams farm in Braintree.
-  The Patriot Militia: A Manual of Arms
-  Lyrics to Patriot Marching Tune "Yankee Doodle"
-  Words to Know
-  People to Know

Apothecary

The Apothecary, or druggist, sells drugs used in medicines, and prepares from them, different compounds, according to the prescriptions given by doctors. Before this, doctors usually prepared their own medicines. Pretty soon doctors got used to letting apothecaries prepare medicines for them and so they let the apothecary do this part of their job.

Position:

You are suspected of stockpiling medicines for the Patriots in the event of a battle between the British soldiers in Boston and the local militia.

Family:

You are a widow/widower with one son who you are training in your apothecary shop. Your son is suspected of overcharging the British soldiers for medicines they buy at your shop. You hope you can find a **REMEDY** to get rid of the Redcoats!



Baker

The baker makes bread, rolls, biscuits and other baked goods for residents of the great town of Boston. The baker's life is very hard; most baking must be done at night, starting about 11 o'clock in the evening, in order to have fresh bread ready for customers in the morning.

Position:

You are suspected of stockpiling bread for refugees and the British believe that you are smuggling musket balls in your yeast rolls to the Patriots in Boston.

Family:

Because of your difficult schedule, you have decided not to marry and you have no children. You hope to make a lot of DOUGH in the countryside until you can return to Boston.



Basketmaker

The basket-maker crafts wicker baskets in a variety of shapes and sizes. The baskets are beautiful and useful and may be found in homes and shops where they are used to store and transport various things.

Position:

You are suspected of concealing weapons in the baskets you sell to Patriot families in Boston. The British believe you have smuggled muskets to the Sons of Liberty. The Redcoats are preparing to raid your basket shop and search through your baskets for contraband.

Family:

You are married and have two daughters who work in your shop weaving baskets. You are afraid your daughters will be arrested if weapons are found in your shop. In your spare time you love to dance and are planning a **BASKET BALL** to boost the sagging spirits of the Patriots in the countryside.



Blacksmith

The Blacksmith crafts many useful articles from iron - everything from nails and the iron bands on barrels to hammers and door latches.

Position:

You are a member of the local militia and a supporter of the Sons of Liberty. You participate in demonstrations against the British. You are suspected of furnishing the Patriots with iron for their muskets.

Family:

You are married and have a grown-up son. Your son has been seen at demonstrations against the British and you are worried that the British will think he is a traitor. You hope to FORGE a new life for your family in the countryside.



Bookbinder

The Bookbinder takes printed sheets of paper from the Printer and stitches the paper together to make a book. After stitching the pages together, the Bookbinder carefully places the sewn book between two stiff boards and clamps it. Then the bookbinder glues fine leather to the covers and spine of the book and decorates (called tooling) the leather.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for binding books that criticized the British. They have threatened to destroy your shop so you have decided to close your shop and flee from Boston.

Family:

You are not married but have two cats who live in your shop. You are afraid that if the British burn your shop your cats will be harmed. You are leaving Boston because you have learned that Redcoats are on their way to BOOK you!



Butcher

The Butcher buys cows, chickens, and pigs to slaughter and sell as meat to the citizens of Boston. The Butcher is skilled at cutting the meat into steaks and chops and burgers.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for refusing to sell your best cuts of meat to the British soldiers. They have threatened to destroy your shop, so you have decided to close your shop and flee Boston.

Family:

You are a widower and have two grown sons in the local militia. You have a big STEAK in the Patriot cause. You are afraid that your sons will be suspected of helping you sell your best meat to the Patriots.



Carpenter

The carpenter cuts, fashions, and joins timber for house-building. The carpenter hews the beams and rafters of the house and builds the doors, sashes, and joists. The carpenter also makes many useful articles for the house including furniture, cupboards, and cabinets.

Position:

The British suspect that the Sons of Liberty meet in the rooms above your shop. You have learned that the Redcoats are planning to search your shop and seize your property.

Family:

You are a free black. You live with your brother, who is also free, above your woodworking shop in Boston. You HOPE



Chandler

The Chandler makes fine candles from beeswax and bayberry wax and less expensive candles were made from animal fat, called tallow, or from whale oil. The Chandler boils the fats and oils and then ladles them into soap and candle molds of different shapes and sizes.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for refusing to sell your candles to British soldiers in your shop. The British also suspect you of making the candles that lit the steeple of the Old North Church on the night of Paul Revere's Ride. You are afraid the British will punish you in some way so you have decided to close your shop and flee Boston.

Family:

You are an elderly I with no wife and no children. You live with your one of your best Friends Joey who wants to be an actor. Everyone in Boston says no one holds a candle to you as a chandler!



Chimney Sweep

The Chimney Sweep cleans out the chimney stacks of the houses and shops of Boston using brooms and poles. The work is dangerous and dirty. The Chimney Sweep was often a small boy or man who could fit into the narrow chimney passages.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for being suspected of eavesdropping on the British soldiers as they plan their military operations. They have threatened to put you and your son in prison so you have decided to flee Boston.

Family:

You are a widower. You clean the chimneys of Boston with your only son and you are worried for his safety. You hope to find a new home in the countryside that will SOOT your family.



Clockmaker

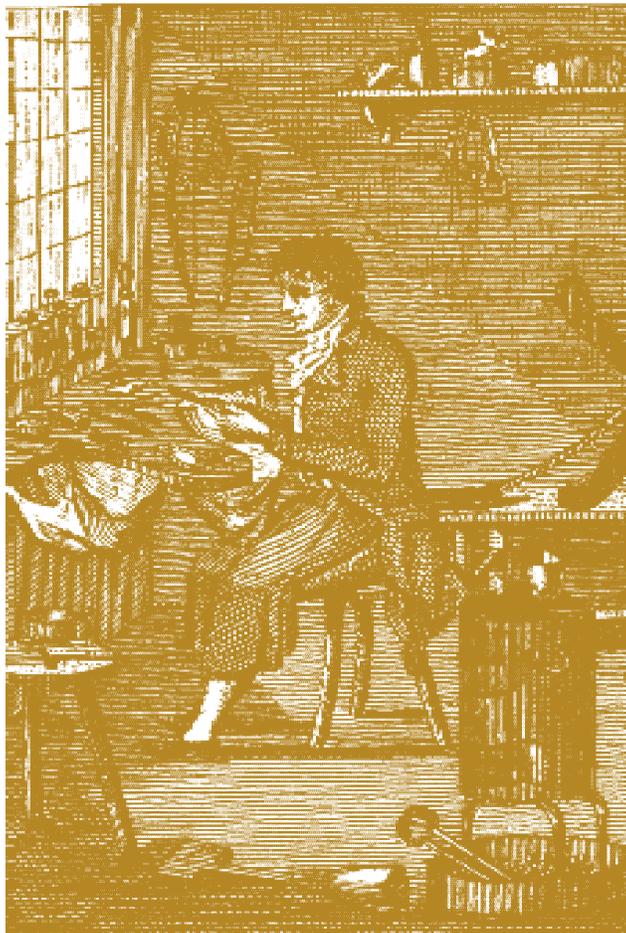
The Clockmaker is a skilled craftsman who makes clocks and watches of all sizes and all degrees of quality. The Clockmaker uses fine tools to build the springs, gears, pulleys and pendulums that when combined, enables clocks and watches to keep time. Often the Clockmaker works with Carpenters who build wooden cases for the clocks.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for refusing to repair the watches and clocks of the British soldiers. They have threatened to destroy your shop so you have decided to close your shop and flee Boston.

Family:

You are single. You recently moved to Boston from Germany and you are a great supporter of the Patriots in Boston. The Redcoats really TICK you off!



Cooper

The cooper makes barrels, casks, and tubs for holding water and other liquids. The cooper buys the iron bands that encircle the barrels from the blacksmith.

Position:

You are in a barrel of trouble because you are suspected of helping the blacksmith supply the Sons of Liberty with casks of ale for their secret meetings above the carpenter's shop.

Family:

You have a young spouse and three small children and you are afraid for their safety in Boston.



Cordwainer

The Cordwainer makes boots and shoes of leather fastened with brass buckles or laces.

Position:

You rent a shop from the currier who supplies you with leather to fashion boots and shoes. You are not popular with the British because you refuse to sell British boots in your shop.

Family:

The British soldiers **BOOTED** you out of Boston. You support your widowed mother and your unmarried sister and are afraid for their safety in Boston.



Currier

The currier prepares skins, or hides, for use by cordwainers, coachmakers, and saddlemakers. There are many steps in the currying of hides including soaking, shaving, and softening.

Position:

You are working with the cordwainer to provide boots and shoes for the Colonial Militia.

Family:

You are single. You love to draw pictures with your best friend Ives.



Cutler

The Cutler shapes hot metal just as a blacksmith does with hammer, forge, and anvil. The Cutler specializes in cutlery and knives, including hunting knives, paring knives, and swords.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for making swords and bayonets for the Patriot Militia. You are a member of The Sons of Liberty. The British soldiers have threatened to destroy your shop so you have decided to close your shop and flee Boston.

Family:

You are not married but have an old dog who refuses to learn new tricks. Everyone comes to you for advice because you are so SHARP!



Dockworker

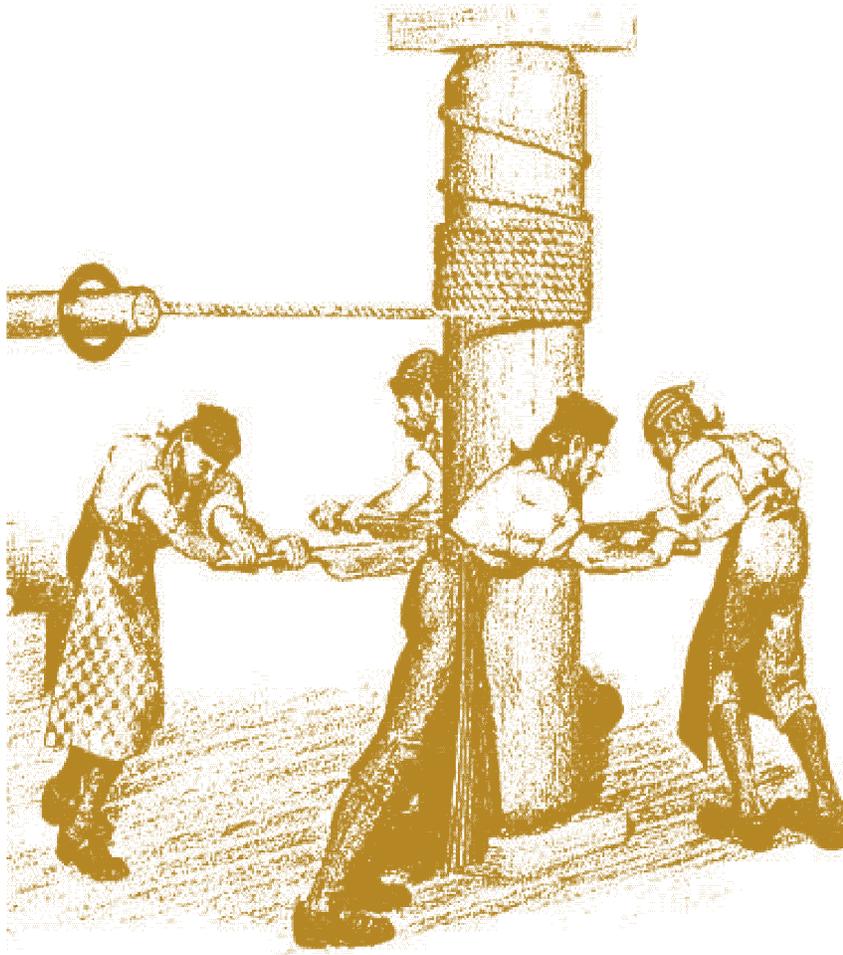
The dockworker loads and unloads ships that sail into Boston Harbor. The dockworker has great strength and stamina, for the dockworker's days are long and hard.

Position:

Sometimes you have not been hired to unload ships because off-duty British soldiers have been hired instead. You have been in several fights with British soldiers because of this.

Family:

You are not married yet because you fear that the British will take your job or DOCK your pay and you will be unable to support a family.



Doctor

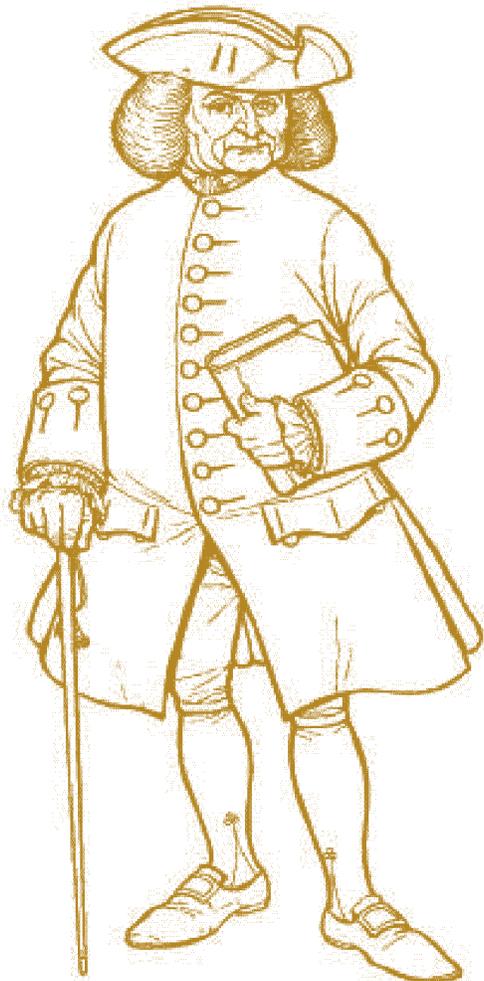
The Doctor takes care of sick people, prescribes medicine and performs surgery. The Doctor is usually very educated and respected by the townspeople.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for tending to the wounds of Patriot soldiers. You also have allowed The Sons of Liberty to meet in your house in Boston.

Family:

You are married and have two daughters and want to bring your family to the country for their safety. You have lost your PATIENTS with the Redcoats!



Farrier

The farrier makes horseshoes from iron. After making the horseshoe the farrier skillfully fits the shoe on the hooves of horses and oxen. The farrier also takes care of all kinds of farm animals serving as a veterinarian.

Position:

You have refused to make shoes for the horses of British soldiers, greatly hampering their military maneuvers in the town of Boston. You are afraid that the British will blame you if their horses are lame.

Family:

You have many children who depend on you for support. You are very STABLE. You long for the day you can once again HORSE around with your Children.



Glassblower

The Glassblower puts flint and sand into an iron furnace to make glass. The glassblower takes a glob of hot glass from the iron pot by dipping his blowing tube into it. He blows into the cool end of the tube and inflates the glass into a bubble and shapes it into bottles, jars, and pitchers.

Position:

You are a member of The Sons of Liberty. You are unpopular with the British for picking fights with off-duty British soldiers. The British soldiers have threatened to destroy your shop so you have decided to close your shop and flee Boston.

Family:

You are a married man and have many children who throw broken glass at the British soldiers. You are afraid that your family will be SHATTERED that they have to leave Boston!



Hatter

The hatter makes hats of beaver fur that has been boiled, shaped, and turned into felt.

Position:

The British tax commissioners have been bothering you because you have not been collecting and submitting taxes on the hats that you make for your Patriot customers.

Family:

You own your own hat shop in the town of Boston. Your spouse helps you cut and sew the hats. Everyone in Boston thinks you are TOPS!



Law Clerk

The Law Clerk helps lawyers to prepare law cases for trial.

Position:

You have been working with the Sons of Liberty and often attend their meetings. Recently, you have been writing anonymous letters to the newspapers criticizing the British. The British have just learned your identity.

Family:

You are newly married and you are afraid for the safety of your new spouse. You have moved to the countryside on a TRIAL basis!



Pewterer

The pewterer molds plates, spoons, and dinnerware from pewter.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for refusing to hire off-duty British soldiers in your shop. The British also suspect you of making bullets for the militia. They have threatened to destroy your shop so you have decided to close your shop and flee Boston.

Family:

You are married and have two children and an elderly mother. You hope to MOLD a better future for your family in the countryside.



Plumber

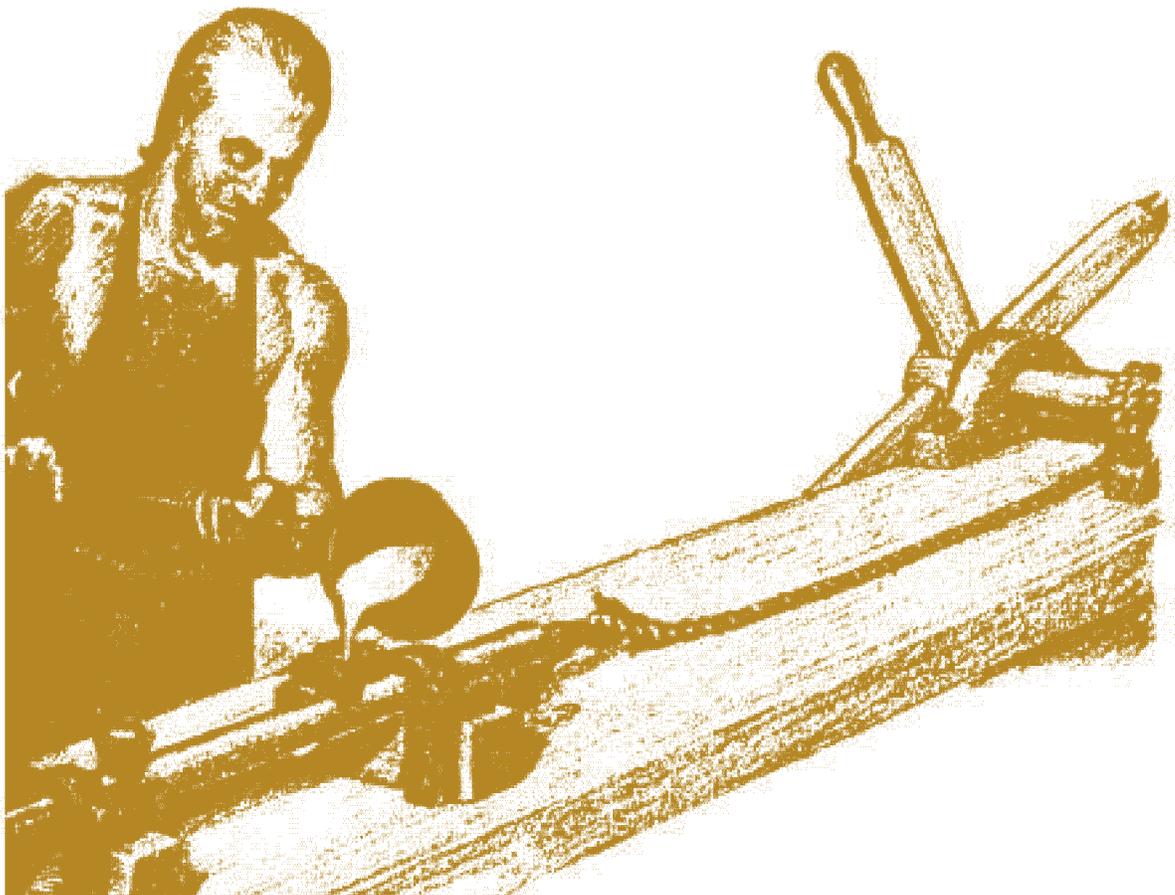
The Plumber castes lead and makes big kettles to hold water, and lead pipes of all sorts and sizes. The Plumber melts lead and pours the molten lead into a mold to make the pipes.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for making lead pipes used by Boston bullies to beat up off-duty British soldiers. The British soldiers have a warrant out for your arrest, so you have decided to flee Boston.

Family:

You are not married and you have been living in a rooming house in Boston. The British have been watching your room and waiting to arrest you. Not being able to work has put a big DRAIN on your pocket book!



Post Rider

The Post Rider carries mail between towns and villages on horseback. The Post Rider rides long distances through dangerous territories in all kinds of weather to make sure that letters reach their destination.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British because they suspect that you are telling the Patriots the contents of top secret messages. In addition, they believe that you are carrying letters from John Adams to Abigail Adams in Braintree. The British soldiers are hunting you down.

Family:

You have a young wife, a new baby, and a horse named Ed. You hope the King will get the MESSAGE to remove his soldiers from Boston!



Potter

The potter fashions a variety of useful articles from clay including bowls of all sizes and jugs for the storage of cider and rum.

Position:

You have been supplying jugs of hard cider to the colonial militia.

Family:

You are married and have many children that you must protect. You refuse to be **BOWLED** over by the Redcoats!



Printer

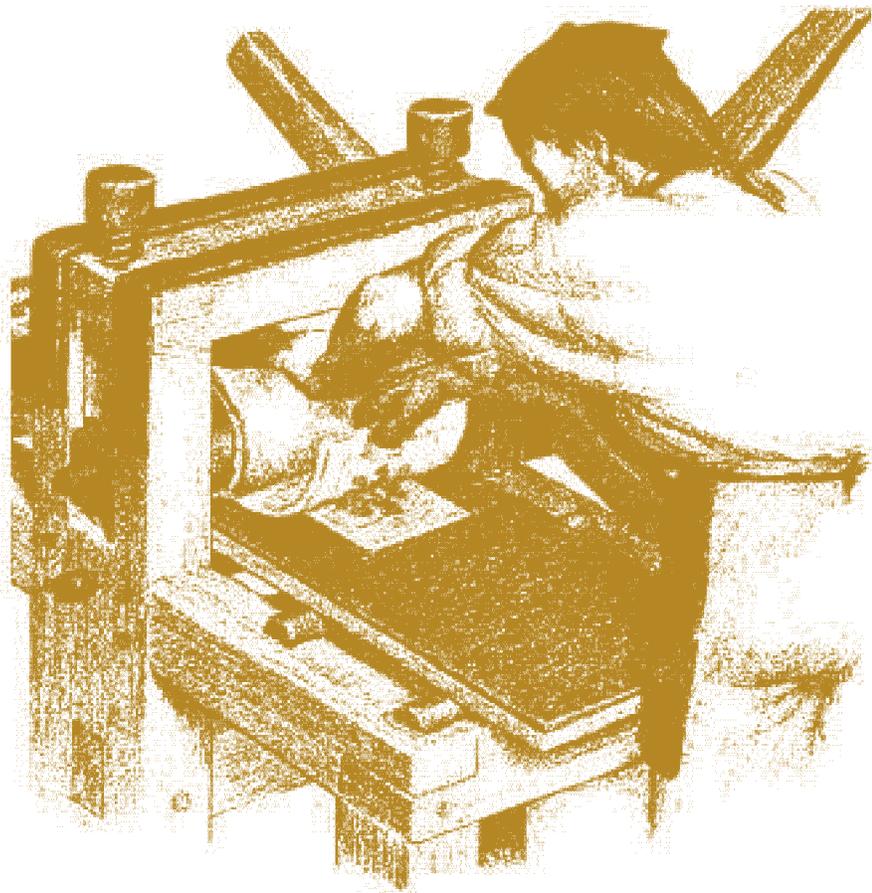
The printer prints books, newspapers, legal forms, and business papers. The printer is also the editor of the local newspaper and often writes articles that reflect the printer's own political opinion.

Position:

You are very unpopular with the British for printing newspaper articles criticizing the British soldiers and officers. Your shop is often searched by the British guards.

Family:

You are single. You hope the army will PRESS you into service for the Patriot cause!



Sawyer

The sawyer cuts and splits the trunks of trees into beams and planks with wedges and saws of tempered steel for use by the carpenter in the construction of houses, the shipwright in the construction of ships, and the cooper in the construction of barrels. The sawyer works in a saw-mill that is propelled by wind and water.

Position:

You have been supplying the city's carpenters, shipwrights, and coopers with inexpensive beams and planks to help support construction of Patriot homes, ships, and barrels. The Redcoats have forced you out of your house!

Family:

You are single and live with your brother, Tom, who owns the saw-mill where you work. Since being forced from your home you have been LUMBERING around in the countryside.



Shipwright

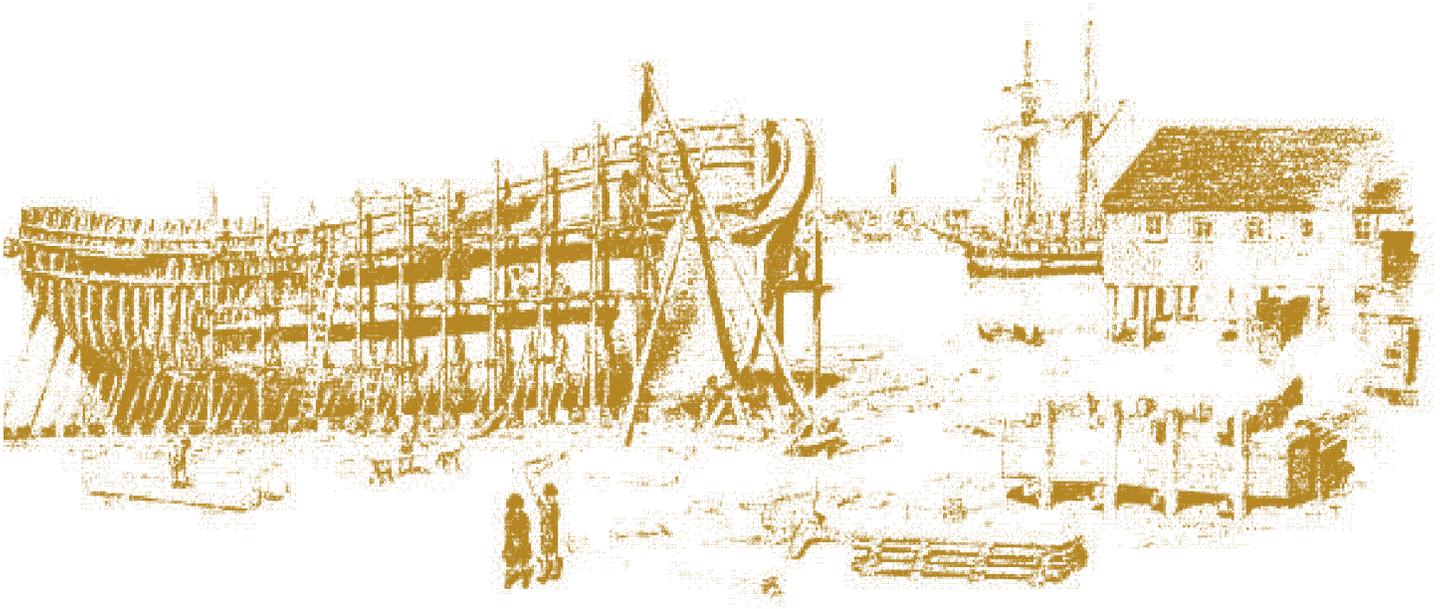
The shipwright uses planks and beams to build the great wooden ships that ply the seas in search of exotic spices, teas, and silks.

Position:

You have refused to build new ships for the British Navy.

Family:

Because of your actions, you must find asylum in the countryside. Your family is loyal to the King of England; they will remain behind at your home near the docks in Boston. You are eager to learn if Captain Crunch knows the whereabouts of your best friend General Dynamics.



Shopkeeper

The shopkeeper buys goods from sea captains and local craftsmen and resells them in his/her own shop.

Position:

The British soldiers have threatened to burn your store because you refuse to sell British goods.

Family:

You are married and have a large family that lives in the rooms over your shop and you are afraid they will be harmed if the British set fire to your shop. You are SHOPPING around for a safer place for them to live.



Silversmith

The Silversmith melts silver ore and hammers it on an anvil into various items like teapots, coffee pots and pitchers. The Silversmith is both an artist and a craftsman and decorates these things with fine engraving and stamping. Silversmiths were also known to use their skills to mint counterfeit coins.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British for minting illegal coins to give to Patriots so they can pay their taxes. You are a member of The Sons of Liberty and a friend of Patriot Silversmith, Paul Revere. The British soldiers have found out about your illegal coins and plan to destroy your shop so you have decided to flee Boston.

Family:

You are married to the daughter of a wealthy Tory citizen. She has decided to remain at her family's mansion in Cambridge on Tory Row. You hope that this family problem won't TARNISH your reputation as a true Patriot!



Spinner

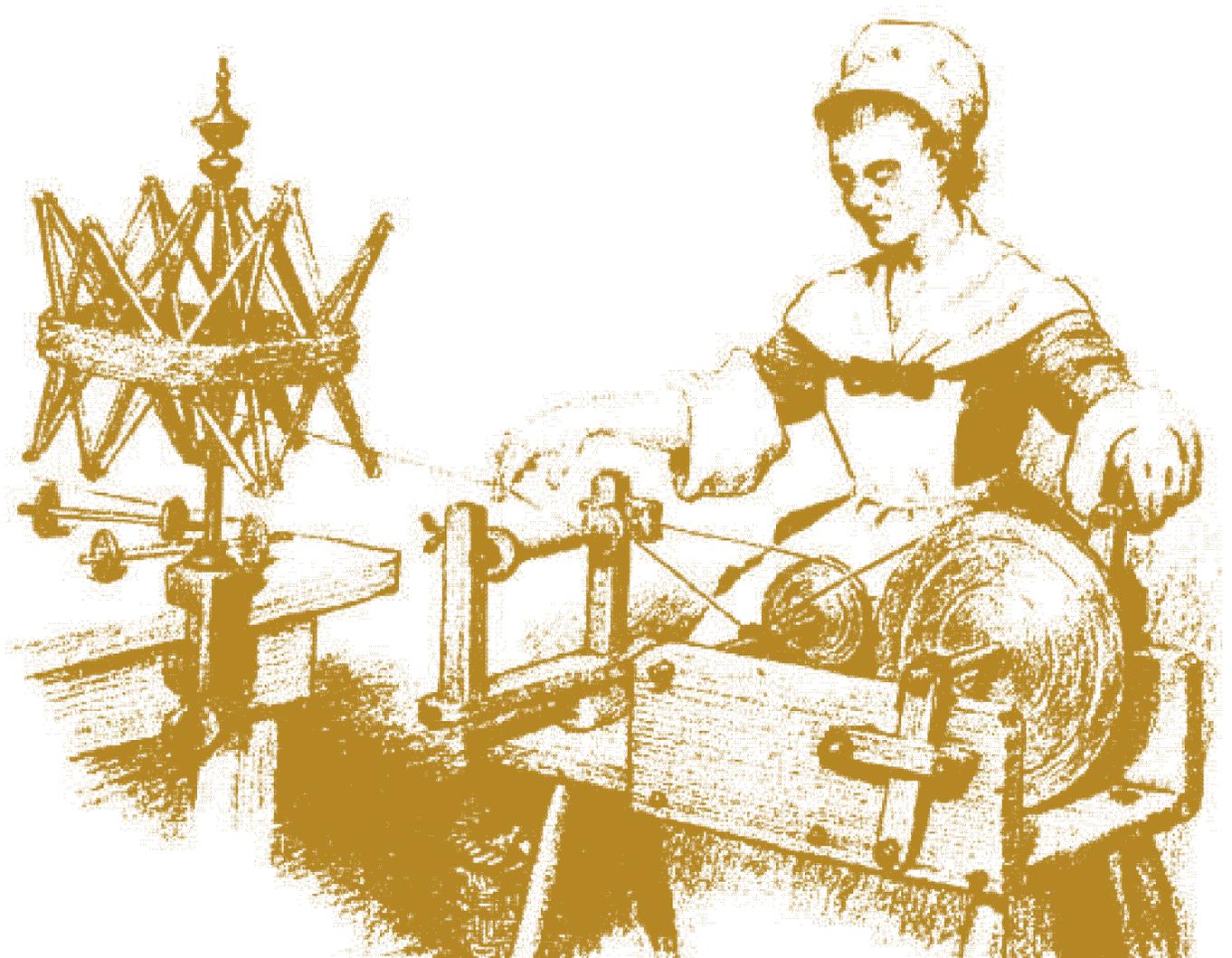
The spinner uses a "spinning wheel" to spin wool and flax into warm blankets and articles of clothing.

Position:

You have been making warm blankets and breeches for the Patriot soldiers. The British have threatened to remove the spinning wheels from your home.

Family:

Your many daughters help you to spin the wool and flax and you are afraid for their safety as well as your own. You're hoping that your bad luck will TURN soon!



Stonemason

The stonemason hews the stones and constructs the walls that form the boundaries of fields and farms to protect the farmer's crops and animals. In the past, you built stone fortifications at the request of the British army.

Position:

You have refused to build any more British fortifications.

Family:

You have three strong sons who help you cut the great stones and build the walls and forts and the British have threatened to harm them. You no longer take your safety for **GRANITE!**



Tailor

The Tailor is skilled at stitching breeches, coats, cloaks and riding hoods. Unlike seamstresses who make homemade clothing, the Tailor sews custom made clothing for wealthy Bostonians and British Officers.

Position:

(DON'T TELL YOUR CLASSMATES YOU ARE A TORY SPY!!!)

Everyone thinks of you as a loyal Patriot who refuses to make uniforms for British Officers and wealthy Tories. However, you are really popular with the British soldiers because you are using your Patriot connections to tell them the plans of The Sons of Liberty. You have come out to the country to find out more information about the Patriot refugees and the Adamses so that you can tell the British soldiers. You are keeping a secret journal about all of the other refugees to give to the Redcoats!!!

Family

You are secretly in love with the daughter of a British Officer. You have found that the Patriot cause doesn't SUIT you!



Town Watchman

The Town Watchman is responsible for the safety and security of the town. Because there is not yet a police or fire department in Boston, the Town Watchman keeps an eye out for fires or disturbances. The Town Watchman alerts the town where there's a problem by ringing a bell. People who volunteer to help in such cases are instructed to meet in a central place to find out where the problem is.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British because you are using your position as Town Watchman to gather information regarding the British troops to tell The Sons of Liberty. You have come out to the country hot on the trail of a Tory Spy. The Spy has been posing as a Patriot to gather information for the British. Be alert for clues regarding the true identity of the Tory Spy. You might want to tell the other refugees if you find out who the spy is.

Family:

You are unmarried but live with your elderly mother on the outskirts of town. You are on the LOOK-OUT for a safer place for her to stay in the countryside.



Wheelwright

The Wheelwright uses wood and steel to craft wheels of different sizes for coaches and wagons. The Wheelwright bends wood into a circle and then builds spokes to keep the wheel's shape and make it strong. Sometimes the Wheelwright works with the blacksmith to make an iron rim for the outside of the wheel.

Position:

You are unpopular with the British because you have been building wheels for Patriot wagons and canons. You have come out to the country to help the Militia and other Patriots defend themselves against the British.

Family:

You are not married but have three brothers who help you build wheels for the Patriots. You are very important. Everyone says you are one of the biggest WHEELS in Boston!



Wife

Colonial women perform most of the difficult household chores - preparing the meals in large open hearths and making soap, candles, and clothing. Women also tutor the children of colonial families since the schools are closed in uncertain times. During the Revolutionary War, many men will leave their families and homes to fight for freedom, and Colonial women will support their families and run their farms.

Position:

You are a great Patriot and work hard in your home to weave cloth for the uniforms of the Colonial Militia and to melt pewter to make musketballs for their weapons.

Family:

Your husband and sons are in the Colonial Militia and are preparing to leave for military drills in the countryside so you have decided to leave Boston with them. She is **MARRIED** to the Patriot Cause!



Wig Maker

The wig maker makes and cares for the wigs of his customers who are usually wealthy gentlemen but also may be members of the working class in Boston. The wig maker is also the barber in town. The wig maker's apprentice, usually a young boy called a "shaver" shaves the faces and the heads of the wig maker's customers.

Position:

You have refused to make wigs for the wealthy Tory gentlemen in Boston.

Family:

You are unmarried and live with your sister. Your sister's sons are members of The Sons of Liberty and have informed you that the British are planning a raid on your wig shop. You have left Boston until things get less HAIRY!



Dame Belcher***

Dame Belcher was John Adams' first teacher. She ran a school for the boys and girls of Braintree in her house near the Adams' farm. She taught the children to read, write, add and subtract. John was Dame Belcher's favorite student and helped her with errands in addition to studying hard. Dame Belcher takes care of the Adams home when the family is away. She often babysits for her neighbors. You will never find her far away from her pet cat Felix. Dame Belcher is concerned about rumors that the British will march to Braintree. She is putting together a basket of provisions for Abigail and her children in case they receive a letter from John telling them to flee to the woods.

Position:

Dame Belcher agrees with John and Abigail Adams that America should be independent. Dame Belcher loves to help people especially those in need.

Family:

A Cat named Felix.

***Played by Park Ranger



Captain John Crunch***

Braintree Militia

Captain John Crunch is the leader of the local Militia. He is in charge of whipping the people of Braintree into shape and preparing them to defend themselves against a possible attack by the British Army. Abigail Adams has melted down many pewter items to give the Captain and his men to make into musket balls for their guns. The militia is camping on Abigail's farm where the Captain drills the soldiers day and night. The soldiers are happy to be at Abigail's because she gives them all kinds of food, unlike the Captain who only feeds them cereal. The Captain feels he needs more soldiers and is eager to enlist refugees from Boston into his ranks.

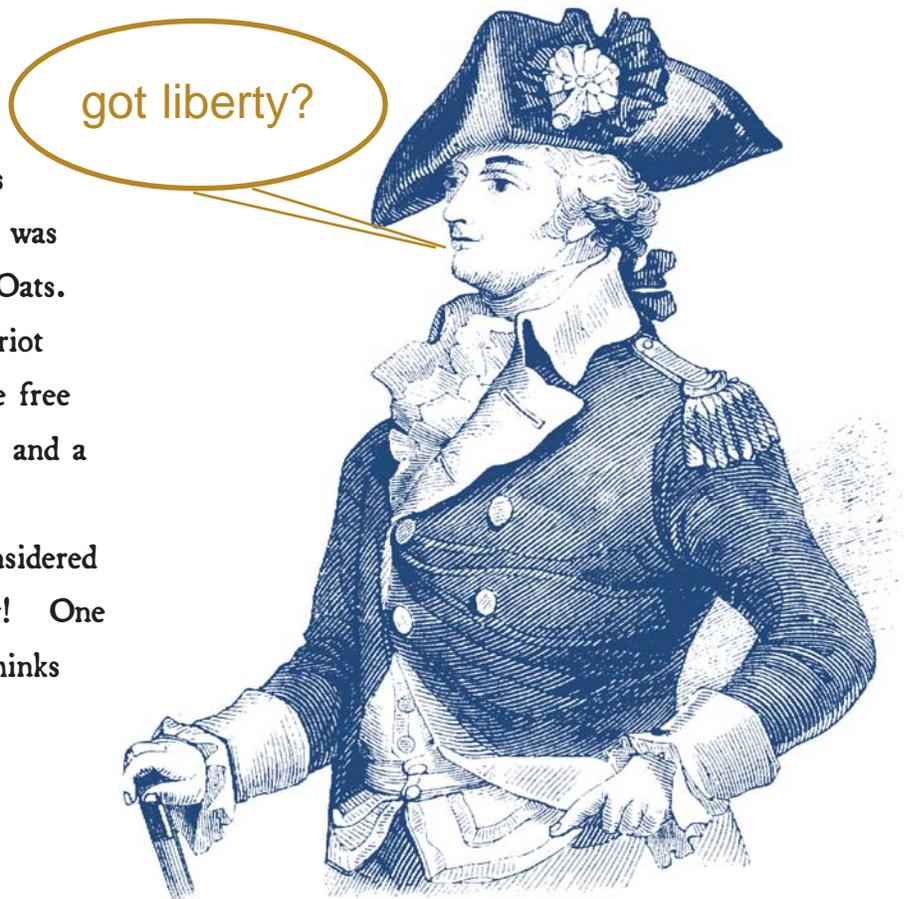
Position

The Captain supports independence and often quotes the great Patriot Patrick Henry by saying: "Give me Liberty or give me Death!"

Family

Orphaned as a boy when his parents had a terrible spill, Captain Crunch was raised by his neighbors the Quaker Oats. He has dedicated himself to the Patriot cause and wants all Americans to be free and enjoy a tasty breakfast. Toney, and a real Tiger, the Captain is loved and respected by his soldiers. He is considered by all a sweet guy, but a little flaky! One of his greatest qualities is that he thinks outside the BOX!

*** Played
by Park Ranger



Mr. Hayden***

Mr. Hayden is a cranky old man who rents the John Adams Birthplace home from the Adams family. Mr. Hayden has two sons who have volunteered to serve in the local Militia and now he lives alone at the Adams farm. Abigail Adams politely asked Mr. Hayden many times to allow refugees from Boston to stay in the empty rooms inside the home, but he refuses to allow anyone to move in. Hayden, a simple farmer from the country, does not trust the city folk from Boston but he misses his sons greatly and is tempted by people offering him much needed help in exchange for room and board. But in the end, Mr. Hayden refuses to accommodate anyone!

Position

Is more concerned with himself than either favoring independence or supporting the King.

Family:

Two sons who are in the Colonial Militia.

***Played by a Park Ranger



Vacancy for Patriots!!!



Farm of John and Abigail Adams at the Foot of Penn's Hill

Farm on Old Coast Road, 11 miles south of Boston in the North Precinct of Olde Braintree at the foot of Penn's Hill, with two homes set on over 100 acres of land. Cordwaining Shop, Law Office and library with many law books, large kitchens, well with clean fresh water. Farm animals to take care of; hard labor to do such as carrying heavy objects.

Shown by Appointment



Yankee Doodle!



Yankee Doodle went to town,
A-ridin' on a pony.
Stuck a feather in his cap
And called it Macaroni.

Chorus:

Yankee Doodle, keep it up
Yankee Doodle Dandy,
Mind the music and the step
And with the girls be handy.

Father and I went down to camp,
Along with Captain Gooding,
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as hasty pudding.

Chorus

And there we saw a thousand men,
As rich as Squire David;
And what they wasted every day,
I wish it could be sav`ed.

Chorus

And there was Captain Washington
Upon a slapping stallion,
A-giving orders to his men;
I guess there was a million.

Chorus

And there I saw a little keg,
Its head was made of leather;
They knocked upon it with two sticks
To call the men together.

Chorus

And there I saw a swamping gun,
As big as a log of maple,
Upon a mighty little cart,
A load for father's cattle.

Chorus

And every time they fired it off
It took a horn of powder,
It made a noise like father's gun,
Only a nation louder.

Chorus

I can't tell you half I saw,
They kept up such a smother,
So I took my hat off, made a bow
And scampered home to mother.

Chorus

(To tune of Chorus)

Yankee Doodle is the tune
Americans delight in.

'Twill do to whistle, sing or play
And just the thing for fightin'.

Words to Know



Asylum	Place that provides protection and safety
Blacklist	A list of people to be watched or punished.
Continental Congress	The group of lawmakers that governed the country before the United States was formed.
Contraband	Things the British forbid the Patriots to have without paying a tax to the King for them.
Drill	Practice by soldiers, marching and using muskets.
Husbandry	The act of growing crops and raising farm animals.
Justice	Fair treatment or punishment following the law.
Lobsterbacks, Redcoats	Insulting nicknames for British soldiers based on their bright red uniforms.
Militia	A military unit that is not part of a regular army and may be called together in an emergency.
Musket	A colonial weapon similar to a rifle. Fires one shot at a time and needs to be reloaded after each shot.
Muster	A gathering of soldiers for drill or inspection
Patriot	One who loves, supports and defends one's country.
Refugee	A person who is forced to flee their home due to harsh and cruel treatment.

People to Know



Abigail Adams: Wife of John Adams, second First Lady of the United States, famous letter writer, mother of sixth United States President John Quincy Adams. Takes care of farm while John Adams serves his nation and writes letters to him of events around Boston.

Abigail (Nabby) Adams: Daughter of John and Abigail Adams, older sister of John Quincy Adams, loves to read and write letters.

Charles Adams: Younger brother of John Quincy Adams and Nabby, Charles likes to have letters read to him, especially those from his father.

John Adams: Husband of Abigail Adams and the second President of the United States, Delegate to Continental Congress, Diplomat during American Revolution.

John Quincy Adams: Son of John and Abigail Adams and sixth president of the United States, as oldest son he has to accept responsibility for helping his mother take care of the farm while his father is away.

Thomas Boylston Adams: Youngest child of John and Abigail Adams, likes to play with his older brothers and sister.



ABIGAIL ADAMS

1744-1818



Abigail Adams brought more intellect and ability to the position of United States First Lady than any other woman. President Harry Truman once noted that Abigail Adams "would have been a better President than her husband." Yet, she lived in an era when women were not supposed to have, or express, their opinions about government or the exciting events of the times.

Abigail Adams struggled her whole life with the limitations that society placed upon her dreams. Despite these hardships, Abigail found a way to use her talents to serve her nation by assisting and advising her husband, President John Adams, and teaching and guiding her son, President John Quincy Adams. No woman in history can share Abigail's distinction of being both the wife

of one President and the mother of another. Throughout her 74 year life, this American heroine was an invaluable contributor to the founding and strengthening of the United States.

Abigail Smith (Adams) was born on November 11, 1744, in Weymouth, Massachusetts. She was the second child born to Elizabeth Quincy Smith and the Reverend William Smith. Her father was Pastor of Weymouth's North Parish Congregational Church and one of the best educated and most prosperous citizens of the community. As a religious man, he taught Abigail to respect God and to help others in any way she could. Abigail's mother, Elizabeth Smith, spent much of her time visiting sick and bringing food, clothing and firewood to needy families. From the time she was a young woman, Abigail accompanied her mother on these visits and put into practice the lessons her father taught her about helping those who were less fortunate.

New England schools of the time usually admitted only boys, and girls were instructed at home. Few people believed that woman needed much learning. Such limitations did not satisfy Abigail, and she began to educate herself by reading the books in her father's library. She read all about different subjects and was probably one of the most well-read woman in eighteenth century America. However, Abigail regretted that she did not have the opportunity to pursue a formal education that was reserved only for men.

Abigail learned a great deal during her frequent stays with her grandfather, Colonel John Quincy, who was one of the most important citizens in the colony of Massachusetts. He served in several positions throughout his career, including being a colonel in the militia, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. Colonel Quincy's sense of public service and active concern for the community helped to shape young Abigail's values and provided her with a sense of public duty. He and his guests made the future first lady aware of the importance of freedom and America's aspirations to control their own destiny.

As a woman of the 1700's, Abigail could understand her nation's thirst for independence, because she longed for it herself. The future first lady knew that her life would be decided by her choice of a husband. Abigail wanted a husband who was her intellectual equal and one who would appreciate her accomplishments. It was not long before Abigail met such a man, John Adams, a young lawyer from nearby Braintree. During their two year courtship the young couple spent long periods apart and relied upon writing letters to keep in touch. On October 25, 1764, Abigail's father presided over the wedding of his daughter to John Adams. The young couple moved into the house John had inherited from his father in Braintree (Today a part of the National Park Service, Adams National Historic Site) and began their life together.

John and Abigail's marriage was successful from the outset. Abigail proved to be exceptionally capable of managing the family's finances and the household. Meanwhile, John's career took a dramatic turn for the better. He began to ride the court circuit (traveling from one district to another). John's frequent absences from home and family were prelude to more painful separations in the years ahead. However, the young couple were willing to endure personal hardships for the good of the family and nation.

On July 11, 1767 in the Adamses' little farmhouse, Abigail gave birth to John Quincy Adams. In the spring of the following year, John Adams moved his family to Boston, because his work was located there. The Adamses became a part of a social circle that included such patriots as John's cousin, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, James Otis and Joseph Warren. But, there was little time for socializing because dramatic events in Boston were overshadowing all other concerns. Abigail's loyalty to her husband was tested by one such event, the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770. At the risk of his own popularity, and career, John Adams chose to defend eight British soldiers and their captain, accused of murdering five Americans.

Although John was an ardent patriot and favored independence, he felt the soldiers had acted properly

and had been provoked into firing by an unruly mob. Also, he felt it was important to prove to the world that the colonists were not under mob rule: lacking direction and principles and that all men were entitled to due process of law. Most Americans, driven by emotion, were angry with Adams for defending the hated "redcoats," but throughout the ordeal Abigail supported her husband's decision. In the end, Adams was proven correct and all nine of the men were acquitted of the murder charges. Despite diffusing of this crisis, far greater ones were destined to be part of the course of events in the colonies.

In 1774, John went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as a delegate to the First Continental Congress where America made its first legislative moves towards forming its own government independent of Great Britain. Abigail remained in Braintree to manage the farm and educate their children. Again, letter writing was the only way the Adamases could communicate with each other. Now, their correspondence took on even greater meaning, for Abigail reported to her husband about the British and American military confrontations around Boston. Abigail was aware of the importance of these events, and took her son John Quincy to the top of Penn's Hill near their farm to witness the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.

Not all American's shared the Adamases' vision of an independent nation. To those that wavered, Abigail argued, "A people may let a king fall, yet still remain a people: but if a king lets his people slip from him, he is no longer a king. And this is most certainly our case, why not proclaim to the world in decisive terms, your own independence?" John agreed with his wife and in June of 1776 was appointed to a committee of five men to prepare a Declaration of Independence for Great Britain. Yet Abigail's vision of independence was broader than that the delegates for she believed all people, and both sexes, should be granted equal rights. In her letters to John she wrote, "I wish most sincerely that there was not a slave in the province. It always seemed to me to fight ourselves for what we are robbing the Negroes (African-Americans) of, who have as good a right to freedom as we have." Later Abigail added John and his fellow delegates should "remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than you ancestors" when they enact new law codes. She was certainly justified for asking such rights, for women such as Abigail, by tending the fields and doing other jobs, made possible the U.S. military victory. Despite Abigail's best efforts to include all people in America's new system of government, her views were far too progressive for the delegates of the Continental Congress. While they did adopt the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, the document failed to guarantee the rights of blacks or women.

John soon was appointed President of the Board of War, and turned to Abigail for advice on carrying

out his job. She was the one person he could turn to for advice and support in politics and government. Throughout his career, Adams had few confidants, so Abigail advised her husband and John valued her judgement so much that he wrote his wife, "I want to hear you think or see your thoughts."

In 1778, John Adams was sent to France on a special mission to negotiate an alliance with France. John Adams was in Europe from 1778 to 1787 except for a 3 month rest at home during which time he drafted the Massachusetts Constitution. Now separated from her husband by the Atlantic Ocean, Abigail continued to keep their farm running, paid their bills and served as teacher to their children. She particularly labored to develop the great abilities of her son, John Quincy, who had joined his father in Europe. In one letter to her son, she inspired him to use his superior abilities to confront the challenges before him: "These are times in which a genius would wish to live...great necessities call out great virtues."

In 1784, with independence and peace secured from Great Britain, Abigail sailed to Europe to join her husband and son. Abigail spent four years in France and England while her husband served as United States Minister to Great Britain. As wife of a diplomat, she met and entertained many important people in Paris and London. While never at home in these unfamiliar settings, Abigail did her best to like the people and cities of both countries. Nevertheless, Abigail was pleased when the time came to return to Braintree in 1788.

The next year, John Adams was elected first Vice President of the United States. During the course of the next twelve years as John Adams served two terms as Vice President (1789-1797) and one term as President (1797-1801), he and Abigail moved back and forth between the new home they bought in Braintree (the "Old House") and the successive political capital of the United States: New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Throughout these years, Abigail frequently made use of her writing abilities in the defense of John Adams and his policies. Time began to take its toll on Abigail, she had constant recurring bouts of rheumatism which forced her to frequently retreat to the peace of Braintree in order to recover. After 8 years of apprenticeship as vice-president, in 1799, John Adams was elected to succeed George Washington as President of the United States. While John and Abigail could be proud to reach this esteemed position, they had little time to enjoy their success, for the United States was in very dangerous condition when Adams took office. Party lines were forming. John Adams' faced dissent in his cabinet and the Vice President, Thomas Jefferson, was head of the opposition party. John Realized the problems he faced and wrote to his wife, who was in Quincy recovering from a rheumatic bout, that "I never wanted your advice and assistance more in my life." Abigail rushed to her husband's side and maintained a grueling schedule to perform all her duties as

First Lady. She entertained guests and visited many people in support of her husband. The First Lady had a limited budget to carry out her duties, but she compensated for this with her attentiveness and charm.

Meanwhile, Great Britain was at war with France and, popular opinion held that America should jump into aid Great Britain. The President felt that war would weaken the United States and decided upon the unpopular course of neutrality. During this time many of Adams' opponents used the press to criticize his policies. Abigail was often referred to as "Mrs. President" for it was widely believed that the President's decisions were influenced by his wife. In reality Abigail disagreed with her husband's stand of neutrality, but people believed she was influencing his policies and this weakened John Adams politically.

In 1798, with John Adams' approval, Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Acts which were aimed at restricting foreign influence over the U.S. and weakening the opposition press. Abigail supported these measures, because she felt they were necessary to stop the press from undermining her husband. The acts proved very unpopular and Thomas Jefferson and James Madison led the protest against them. Adams courageous yet unpopular stand on this matter led to his failure at being reelected in 1800, but he was forever proud that he prevented war.

In March of 1801, John and Abigail returned to retire Quincy. During her last years Mrs. Adams occupied herself with improving her home and entertaining the many children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews that would visit. In the company of those she loved Abigail was content with her domestic chores, visits to friends and ceaseless writing. Abigail focused much attention on the advancement of her son John Quincy's career. The proud mother watched as John Quincy Adams distinguished himself as U.S. Senator, Minister to Russia and Secretary of State. Throughout this time, Abigail constantly advised her son and worked behind the scenes to protect him from the hardships associated with a life of public service. In October of 1818 Abigail contracted typhoid fever. Surrounded by family members she died on October 28. John Adams and his wife had shared 54 years of happiness and companionship, and the Second President was so moved by Abigail's death that he said "I wish I could lay down beside her and die too."

Today, nearly two centuries after Abigail's death her legacy survives in the letters she wrote which chronicled this important period of history. The memory of Abigail Adams is still present at the Adams National Historic Site which serves as an invaluable resource for witnessing this woman's contributions to the improvement of her family and nation through public service.

JOHN ADAMS

1735-1826



John Adams was the oldest of the three sons born to Deacon John Adams and Susanna Boylston. His father served as a moderator at town meetings and inspired John to take an interest in community affairs. His mother belonged to the Boylston family, one of the most famous in Massachusetts. After finishing elementary schools, John Adams attended Harvard College and graduated in 1755. After graduation, the future United States President briefly taught school in Worcester, Massachusetts. There he was influenced by attorney, James Putnam, to pursue a career in law. John studied law under Putnam and then returned to Braintree to be presented to the Bar.

John Adams was kept busy trying to establish himself as a lawyer, but often had time to socialize. He grew more and more fond of Parson William Smith's daughter, Abigail, and became a frequent visitor to their home in nearby Weymouth, Massachusetts. Abigail was intelligent and spent much of her free time reading the books in her father's large library. The future First Lady also learned much from guests she met while staying with her grandfather Colonel John Quincy, who was one of the most famous citizens in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Abigail's intelligence, strong social skills and strength of character made her ideally suited for lifelong partnership through marriage to a man with the desire of a career in public service. John was eager to pursue his relationship with Abigail Smith but, realized the responsibility of marriage. Therefore, Adams set out to organize and improve the cottage and farmland that he inherited upon the death of his father in May of 1761. In October of 1764, with this work completed, John married Abigail and together they moved into the small farmhouse that three years later became the birthplace of their son, John Quincy Adams, the Sixth President of the United States.

John Adams' law career rose from a small practice carried out from his Braintree farmhouse to a well established firm with clients as wealthy and famous as John Hancock. Throughout this rise John traveled the court circuit and often was away from home for extended periods, a condition which forced John and Abigail to become skilled letter writers. Eventually, Adams gained fame and became one of Boston's most sought after attorneys. John built his reputation on fairness and therefore agreed to

defend the British Officers accused of murder resulting from the Boston Massacre.

Although John Adams could defend British soldiers on points of law, he was a strong critic of Great Britain's policies. In June of 1774, Adams was elected as a delegate from Massachusetts to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Here, representatives from the American Colonies met to discuss their opposition to England's Colonial Government. John was an active participant at this meeting and the next one called, the Second Continental Congress. While at these sessions Adams proposed George Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, and helped his friend, Thomas Jefferson, to draft the Declaration of Independence. In addition, John Adams laid the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy by drafting the "Model Treaty of 1776."

In 1777, Adams briefly retired from public service because he had been away so long from his family in Braintree. This retirement had just started when John received word that the Continental Congress appointed him as a Commissioner to negotiate for Peace with Great Britain. The assignment meant Adams had to travel to Europe and forced the Adams family to again separate for their nation's well being. At Abigail's urging, John Adams took his oldest son, John Quincy Adams, on his mission to France in order to give the boy international experience and provide for a second generation of leadership in U.S. foreign relations. During John's absence Abigail managed the farm, supervised the schooling of their children and kept her husband informed of all the events taking place at home.

Upon arrival in Paris, Adams discovered that Benjamin Franklin had already negotiated a treaty with France, but he had to stay in Europe doing many diplomatic assignments for the United States. With this job completed and no chance of peace with England in the future, Adams returned to America in time to be elected as Braintree's delegate to the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention. Although assisted by his cousin Samuel Adams and James Bowdoin, John was the framer of the Massachusetts Constitution. The Massachusetts Constitution is the oldest surviving written constitution in the world. Shortly after this success, Congress ordered Adams to return to Paris to serve as first commissioner of the delegation to negotiate Treaties. This time, John Quincy, and his brother Charles, accompanied their father on the long voyage across the Atlantic.

During the course of the rest of the Revolutionary War, the future President worked hard with other foreign countries. In 1782, Adams' efforts were rewarded when Holland formally recognized, signed a Treaty, and agreed to loan the United States five million Dutch Guilders. Within a year of his success in the Netherlands, John Adams took part in his crowning achievement as a diplomat when he negotiated and signed the Treaty of Paris, which secured recognition of the United States' independence

from Great Britain.

After the war Adams remained in Europe until 1788, strengthening U.S. foreign relations by securing more loans from Holland, concluding more treaties with several European nations and serving as the first United States Minister to Great Britain. John took advantage of the opportunity that peace provided to reunite his family. Abigail and daughter Nabby sailed to Europe in 1784 and brought happiness to the remainder of John Adams' diplomatic time in Europe.

In 1788, convinced that they could do more for their nation at home than away, John and Abigail left England to return to their beloved Braintree. Weary of being away from home, they eagerly considered settling in the Vassall-Borland house (now the "Old House," Adams National Historic Site) which they asked one of their relatives to purchase for them while they were away in England. The house was spacious and warm with a beautiful garden and rich green fields for John to pursue his love of farming. Adams' contributions to the building of the nation made him a popular choice for the office of Vice-President in the election of 1788. After eight years of loyal and important service as the nation's first Vice-President John Adams was elected to succeed George Washington and became the second President of the United States. The nation's first peaceful transfer of power succeeded as the world looked on.

John Adams' term of office was one of the most difficult in U.S. History. The trouble that was happening in Europe following the French Revolution threatened to spill across the Atlantic and separate America. Some in the United States felt that the U.S. should come to the aid of America's former ally, France, in their war with England. Other Americans felt that the French had gone too far in their revolution and that we no longer owed support to that nation. The French Government was impatient for U.S. support and tried to convince the United States to see things their way through a show of force. The French Navy began attacking American ships at sea and when John Adams sent U.S. diplomats to try and solve French-American differences, the French Government refused to talk until the Americans paid them a bribe, an episode which would later be known as the XYZ Affair. Following this embarrassing event most Americans felt the U.S. should go to war with France to restore national honor. While many officials used the people's anger for their own political gain, John Adams' honesty and integrity led him to put nation before party. Adams avoided war by building up the American Navy to protect U.S. ships at sea. During his presidency John Adams founded the Department of the Navy and the U.S.S. Constitution, and several other ships, were launched.

While this maritime defense helped prevent further French attacks Adams signed into law a series of measures to restore peace and preserve the Union. These laws, which came to be known as the Alien

and Sedition Acts, were pushed through Congress by the Federalist Party in order to tighten control over immigrants and those who criticized the government. While Adams played no part in the formation of these acts, nor took steps to enforce them, he was held responsible for these unpopular measures in the public mind.

The Year 1800 was bittersweet for John Adams. The Convention of Montefontaine, signed in October, ended hostilities between France and the United States and Adams considered the positive end of this crisis as his greatest accomplishment as President. In November, John and Abigail Adams became the first occupants of the Executive Mansion in Washington D.C. (later to be known as the White House). Meanwhile, their son, John Quincy Adams, was distinguishing himself abroad as U.S. Minister to Prussia. Eleven months of relative joy was soon overshadowed by a December that brought sadness and grief to the Adams family when they suffered the death of their second son, Charles and John's loss to Thomas Jefferson in the Presidential Election of 1800.

Adams truly believed that the Republican Party's victory in 1800 meant trouble for the United States. He felt the Union the Founding Fathers had worked so hard to establish, would quickly be dissolved by those politicians who sought to give more power to the individual states. John respected the will of the people but, left a check on the Republican Party's ability to act too quickly. During the four months between Election Day and Jefferson's inauguration on March 4, 1801, the Federalist majority in the old Congress passed a new Judiciary Act, which increased the number of judges in the federal courts by 16. President Adams appointed Federalists to these positions, working until late in the evening of his last day in office signing the commissions of the new judges. The most significant appointment made by Adams was that of John Marshall of Virginia as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In giving more than 500 opinions in 34 years of service, from 1801 to 1835, Marshall helped to mold the political and economic structure of the new nation.

Thomas Jefferson, the President-Elect, considered Adams' "Midnight Appointments" as the actions of a sore loser. The once close friendship between these two patriots had decayed to the point that Adams did not feel comfortable attending his successor's inauguration. As John returned home on March 4, 1801 he may have regretted the disagreement between him and his friend, but he believed that he had done what was in the best interest of the United States. Adams also looked forward to returning to his beloved estate in Quincy, which he had named Peacefield, and pursuing his love of farming.

Adams also took pleasure in making use of the rooms that had just been added to the "Old House" as

the home was later called. Downstairs, there was a large room to entertain the constant flow of guests that called upon the Adamses. While upstairs, there was a comfortable study where John spent many hours reading and writing. John Adams also enjoyed retirement because he could spend more time with his family. The former President especially appreciated having such a close and supportive family when his beloved Abigail died in 1818. Abigail had been more than a wife to John, she had been his partner, his advisor and his "Dearest Friend." Adams' grief was tempered by the constant love, joy and pride that his family brought him in his remaining years.

One of the most satisfying accomplishments of John Adams' final years was becoming friends again with Thomas Jefferson. In 1811, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a mutual friend of Jefferson and Adams, wrote to the former Presidents and suggested that they should start writing letters to each other. Time had allowed their arguments to end and they began writing letters to each other. In this correspondence these two men, who represented the American Revolution, put forth their different visions of America's future. The monumental role these two men played in the creation of a nation was symbolized by the coincidence of their deaths on the fourth of July 1826, the 50th anniversary of American Independence. While both men could be proud of the contributions they made to the founding and the development of the United States, Adams could be doubly pleased that his son, John Quincy Adams, as the sixth President of the U. S. was continuing the family's dedication to public service in the nation's highest office.



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"Starting A Nation" Cobblestone, September 1984, Vol. 5, No.9

Cobblestone (The Boston Massacre), March 1980, Vol. 1, No.3



Logistics



The Adams National Historical Park museum educators will be counting on teachers and chaperones to help ensure a safe and rewarding experience for students in the People and Places programs.

Chaperones We ask that there be one adult for every ten students in the group.

Restrooms Restrooms are located only at the Visitor Center in Quincy Center.

Bus Parking Bus parking is available directly in front of the Visitor Center.

Food & Drink Are not allowed inside the historic structures or on the grounds.

Dress Students should dress in comfortable clothes appropriate for the weather. Some People and Places program activities will take place outdoors.

Accessibility Advance notification of any special needs or physical limitations is appreciated.

Questions? Please feel free to call the Adams National Historical Park at any time. You may reach the School Program Coordinator at (617) 770-1175.

Families in the Revolution: Patriots in the Countryside

*A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell where his influence stops.*

~ Henry Adams ~

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