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Abigail Adams was born in Massachusetts in 1744. She was the wife of John Adams and mother to John Quincy Adams, both of whom served as President. During their 54 years of marriage, John and Abigail Adams spent much of the time apart as he traveled as a circuit judge and a statesman. They wrote letters to one another during these absences that have become a source of information about the American Revolution and early American history. In her most famous letter to her husband, she asked him to “Remember the Ladies.” She pressed him to give women equal status with men when forming the new government. Abigail Adams is also known to have advocated for public education for girls.

John Adams was born in Massachusetts in 1735. He was a Harvard lawyer who defended the British soldiers after the Boston Massacre. He served as a delegate to both Continental Congresses and was on the committee to write the Declaration of Independence. He was the first Vice President and the second President of the United States. During his Presidency, he tried to maintain neutrality with England and France, even though the French attempted a bribe during the XYZ Affair. He is criticized for signing the Alien and Sedition Acts which many said violated civil liberties. Adams was defeated by Jefferson in 1800 when he ran for a second term. Before he left office, he appointed John Marshall Chief Justice. In the final days of his Presidency, he appointed Federalists to fill several new judgeships in what is called “the midnight appointments.” It was one of these appointments that led to the famous case Marbury v Madison. He died on July 4, 1826.
Samuel Adams was born in Massachusetts in 1722. He spent a great deal of time resisting British rule. In 1765 he was elected to the Massachusetts Assembly. He was a member of the First Continental Congress and an outspoken patriot who was well known for his oratory skills and as a passionate advocate of independence from Britain. Adams was a member of the Sons of Liberty and secretly helped organize the Boston Tea Party. Cousin to John Adams, he helped organize the committees of correspondence to help bring unity to the colonies. He retired from Congress in 1781 and returned to Massachusetts to become a leading member of that state’s convention to form a constitution. In 1789 he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the state. Adams was later elected and re-elected Governor of Massachusetts annually until 1797 when he retired for health reasons. He died on October 2, 1803.

John Quincy Adams was the sixth President of the United States and the first President whose father was also President. A Harvard graduate, Adams was fluent in several languages. At 26, Adams was appointed Minister to the Netherlands and Russia. As a diplomat he helped negotiate the Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819. As a result the U.S. bought Florida from Spain. Prior to his presidency, he served as a U.S. Senator and U.S. Secretary of State, and helped formulate the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. In the 1824 election, he ran against Andrew Jackson who claimed that Adams’ victory represented a “corrupt bargain.” He ran for reelection in the 1828 but lost to Jackson. He is the only President to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives after his presidency. In 1841, he served as counsel to the slaves on board the Amistad and argued their case before of the U.S. Supreme Court, where he defended their right to be free.
Susan B. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820, in Massachusetts. Anthony’s family was very active in the reform movements of the day. They worked in the abolitionist movement and the temperance (fight against alcohol) movement. Anthony dedicated her life to the women’s suffrage movement. Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she founded the National American Women Suffrage Association and the American Equal Rights Association. In 1868 Anthony and Stanton established The Revolution to lobby for women’s rights. Anthony toured the country making speeches on suffrage. She was arrested, convicted and fined for voting in New York. Anthony tried to turn her trial and conviction into political gains for the women’s suffrage movement. The 19th Amendment is often called the “Susan B. Anthony Amendment” in honor of her dedication to women’s suffrage.

James Armistead was enlisted as a patriotic spy who worked as a “double-agent” on behalf of the United States. Pretending to be a runaway slave, Armistead was able to infiltrate the British defenses and acquire countless important British war secrets which helped turn the tide of the Revolution in favor of the Americans. Marquis de Lafayette helped him by writing a letter of recommendation for his freedom, which was granted in 1787. In gratitude, Armistead adopted Lafayette’s surname and lived as a farmer in Virginia until his death in 1830.
In 1770, Crispus Attucks, an African American former slave was the first of five unarmed American civilians to be shot and killed by British soldiers in a riot known as the Boston Massacre. Attucks was credited as the leader and instigator of the heroic upheaval against the British army. The events of that fateful day eventually culminated in the fight for ultimate freedom in the American Revolution. A “Crispus Attucks Day” was inaugurated by African American abolitionists in 1858. In 1888 the Crispus Attucks Monument was built on Boston Common. In honor of the African American patriots of the Revolution, such as Crispus Attucks, the Black Patriots Coin Law was enacted in 1996. His death has forever linked his name with the cause of freedom.

Crispus Attucks
(1723-1770)

John James Audubon was a member of the Hudson River School. He was a naturalist specializing in painting the birds of America. As a young man, he travelled down the Ohio River to western Kentucky and set up a dry goods store. He was somewhat successful in business until hard times and he was jailed for bankruptcy. He decided to continue his hobby of drawing birds as he floated down the Mississippi River. Through his observation of birds and nature, he became a conservationist. He illustrated a collection of 435 life size prints of America birds. Today the Audubon Society, founded by George Bird Grinnell, continues John James Audubon’s spirit of protecting birds and their habitats. John James Audubon’s illustrations and life story help to describe the spirit of young America.

John James Audubon
(1785-1851)
William Blackstone was a British jurist (attorney) in the eighteenth century. As a philosopher he taught that man is created by God and granted fundamental rights by God. He is famous for his multi-volume work, *Classic Commentaries on the Laws of England*. Educated at Oxford, he provided a complete overview of English law. His work influenced the Founding Fathers of the U.S. such as James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. More copies of his work were sold in America than in England. It was a basic textbook for America’s early lawyers.

Philip Bazaar was a Chilean immigrant and a resident of Massachusetts. He was a member of the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. As a seaman on the USS Santiago de Cuba, he participated in the assault on Fort Fisher, a Confederate fort. He and five other seamen, carried dispatches during the battle. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1865 for his bravery.
John C. Calhoun was born in South Carolina in 1782. He was a U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator from South Carolina. He was Secretary of War under President James Monroe, Secretary of State under John Tyler, and Vice President of the United States under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. After resigning the Vice Presidency, he continued to advocate states’ rights and the doctrine of nullification. Nullification was the practice of individual states overriding federal legislation they deemed unconstitutional. He published his opinions against the Tariff of Abominations in the *South Carolina Exposition* in 1832. Calhoun died on March 31, 1850, convinced that his beloved South might have to one day withdraw from the Union he had served so long.

William Carney was born a slave in Virginia. His father escaped from slavery with the help of the Underground Railroad and earned enough money to buy his family’s freedom. William Carney enlisted in the all African American 54th Massachusetts regiment during the Civil War, which was led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. William Carney was quoted in the *Liberator* as saying “Previous to the formation of colored troops, I had a strong inclination to prepare myself for the ministry; but when the country called for all persons, I could best serve my God by serving my country and my oppressed brothers.” He fought bravely at the Battle of Fort Wagner outside Charleston, South Carolina and earned a promotion to sergeant. He was shot four times and survived. He is the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.
As a founding father of the United States of America, Wentworth Cheswell was a beloved and respected patriot. Grandson to the first African American land owner in New Hampshire. Cheswell’s life revolved around freedom, justice and the betterment of American citizens. At an early age, Cheswell became an influential town leader, judge, historian, schoolmaster, archeologist and soldier in the American Revolution. After his studies at Dummer Academy, he became a schoolteacher and was then elected town messenger for the regional Committee of Safety, one of the many groups established in Colonial America to monitor events pertaining to public welfare. As an enlisted man, he served under Colonel John Langdon in the Company of Light Horse Volunteers at the Saratoga campaign. Cheswell and his wife had 13 children. He was very active in public life in New Hampshire.

Henry Clay was born in Virginia in 1777. Known as a War Hawk, he was a U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative from Kentucky. He also served as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams. Some historians believe he was involved in the “Corrupt Bargain” that allowed John Quincy Adams to become President. Clay advocated for the American System (a high protective tariff to fund internal improvements). He is known as the “Great Compromiser.” He was involved in the passage of the Missouri Compromise of 1820 which maintained the balance between free and slave states in the Union; and the Compromise of 1850 which allowed California to become a free state, restricted the slave trade in D.C. and created a stricter Fugitive Slave Clause. Clay ran for the Presidency of the United States three times, but was never elected.
Jefferson Davis was born on June 3, 1808 in Kentucky. He was a West Point graduate, fought in the Mexican American War, and was the U.S. Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. Davis served as a Democratic U.S. Senator from Mississippi. He had expected to be given a military command when the Confederacy was formed in 1861, but he was chosen President of the Confederacy instead, which stunned and saddened him. In his inaugural address as President of the Confederate States of America, he argued that separation from the Union was a “necessity, not a choice.” After the Civil War, Jefferson Davis was imprisoned for two years awaiting trial for treason, but he was never tried. He was however stripped of his eligibility to run for public office.

Baron Charles de Montesquieu was a famous French nobleman who lived from 1689 to 1755. His ideas about government and law were recorded in several books. The most influential of these was *The Spirit of the Laws* written in 1748. In this work, he proposed separating government into three branches so that power would not be concentrated in the hands of one person or one group of people. His ideas inspired James Madison and were echoed in *Federalist 47* in which Madison defended the division of power detailed in Articles I, II, and III of the new U.S. Constitution. Madison went on in *Federalist 51* to defend the checks and balances system as a way to further define the powers of the three branches.
Frederick Douglass was a leader of the abolitionist movement in the decades prior to the Civil War. He was born a slave in Maryland and eventually escaped to the North. He founded an antislavery newspaper called the *North Star*, which he published for 13 years. He participated in the first women’s rights convention at Seneca Falls in 1848 and wrote three autobiographies. Douglass also served as an advisor to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and helped recruit African Americans into the Union army. After the war, he held several public offices and campaigned for full civil rights for African Americans and women’s suffrage.

Marquis de Lafayette was a French officer who came to help the Americans fight the Revolution against Great Britain. When he learned of the struggle of the Americans in their endeavor to secure independence, he resolved to come to the colonies to aid them in their efforts. He was given the rank of major general, since he represented the highest rank of French nobility. He developed a friendship with George Washington which lasted as long as Washington lived. His influence helped to secure support from France for the patriots’ cause. Lafayette was also able to obtain troops and supplies from France. He was the first foreigner to be granted honorary United States citizenship. When he died on May 20, 1834 at the age of seventy-six, the United States government sent American soil to his gravesite.
Benjamin Franklin was an inventor, writer, printer, diplomat, scientist, humorist, and statesman. He was born in Boston in 1706. In 1733 he started publishing *Poor Richard’s Almanack*. What distinguished Franklin’s almanac were his witty sayings and lively writing. During the French and Indian War, Franklin advocated colonial unity with his Albany Plan which encouraged the colonists to “Join or Die.” He was a delegate to the both Continental Congresses and a member of the committee to write the Declaration of Independence. Franklin was the U.S. Ambassador to France and helped to negotiate the Treaty of Paris that ended the American Revolution. The French loved Franklin, and he was very popular in that country. Later, he was the oldest delegate to the Constitutional Convention at the age of 81. He became a member of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society before he died.

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During the American Revolution, England was not only at odds with the colonists, but also with European superpower Spain. In 1776, Bernardo de Gálvez, a descendant of ancient Spanish nobility, became the acting Governor of the Louisiana Territory. Due to the “bad blood” between his home country of Spain and England, Gálvez naturally sided with the Americans throughout the war. He was instrumental in buying Spanish weapons, gunpowder, clothing and many other vital supplies that were essential to the colonial army. Galveston, Texas is named in his honor.
King George III was born on June 4, 1738. He became heir to the throne on the death of his father in 1751 and succeeded his grandfather George II in 1760. During his reign, there were many conflicts involving his kingdom. After the French and Indian War, the British Parliament angered the American colonists by taxing them to pay for military protection. In 1776 the American colonists declared their independence and listed their grievances against the king. The Treaty of Paris of 1783 ended the Revolutionary War and confirmed the independence of the United States. After 1784, George III largely retired from an active role in government. He suffered a nervous breakdown in 1789. After he was declared insane in 1810, his son was appointed to rule for him.

Ulysses S. Grant was born in 1822. Grant was educated at West Point Academy where he graduated in the middle of his class. He fought in the Mexican War where he served under General Zachary Taylor. President Lincoln appointed him General of the Union Army during the Civil War, and he won the first major Union victories of the war. On April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Grant. Grant wrote out the terms of surrender in such a way as to prevent treason trials. He became the 18th President of the United States in 1868. As President, he presided over the government similar to the way he ran the Army. He brought part of his Army staff to the White House, and his presidency was plagued by corruption.
Alexander Hamilton was born in the West Indies in 1755. He was the Aide-De-Camp (personal assistant) to George Washington during the American Revolution. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 from New York. As a proponent of a strong central government, he was one of the authors of *The Federalist Papers* (essays that promoted the ratification of the Constitution). Hamilton was the first Secretary of the Treasury under President George Washington, where he worked to pay off the country’s war debts through his financial plan which included the assumption of state debts and creation of a national bank. He was the founder of the Federalist Party which is considered the first political party. On July 11, 1804 he fought a duel with Aaron Burr who was angry over Hamilton’s support of Jefferson in the presidential election of 1800. Hamilton was shot by Burr and died the next day.

Patrick Henry was born in Virginia in 1736. A symbol of America’s struggle for liberty and self-government, he was a lawyer, patriot, orator, and willing participant in virtually every aspect of the founding of America. He served as the first and sixth post-colonial Governor of Virginia from 1776 to 1779. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. During the American Revolution, he famously said “Give me liberty or give me death.” He was a delegate to the First Continental Congress from Virginia. He did not attend the Constitutional Convention in 1787 because he “smelled a rat” and later fought against ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Henry feared the strong central government the Constitution created as well as the fact it did not contain a Bill of Rights.
Thomas Hooker
(1586-1647)

Born in England in 1586, Thomas Hooker was raised in an ultra-conservative period in English history. After receiving degrees at Cambridge University, Thomas Hooker became a preacher whose sermons clashed with the established Church of England. He was eventually forced to leave England. He lived in Massachusetts and later founded the colony of Connecticut where he established a highly successful church in what is now Hartford, Connecticut. He aided in the adoption of the *Fundamental Orders of Connecticut* in 1639. Believing in the principle of equality for all mankind, Hooker is sometimes called “the father of American democracy.” Hooker advanced a more democratic view, favoring the vote for all men, regardless of any religious or property qualifications.

Andrew Jackson
(1767-1845)

Andrew Jackson was born in the Carolinas in 1767. He became a war hero during the War of 1812 by defeating the British at the Battle of New Orleans. As an Indian fighter, he gained national fame and was elected President as a Democrat. Jackson’s nickname was “Old Hickory,” and his presidency became known as the “Era of the Common Man.” As President, he promoted the “spoils system” (giving political supporters government jobs). He vetoed the law creating the National Bank and caused an economic crisis by distributing money to state banks. He clashed with John C. Calhoun over the tariff issue during the Nullification Crisis. Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act into law, and despite the Supreme Court decision in *Worcester vs. Georgia*, was responsible for the removal of Native Americans to the west on the “Trail of Tears.”
Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was one of the most famous figures in American Civil War history. He was a strong-willed, naturally gifted military leader. He graduated from West Point, served in the U.S. Army, and fought in the Mexican War and the Civil War. Perhaps best known for his courageous ability to face an opposing army like a “stone wall” without backing down, Jackson was a veteran of many Civil War battles and skirmishes. He was revered by the Confederate armies of the South, not only for his years of dedicated military service but also for his repeated displays of bravery and valor. Jackson died in May, 1863 as a result of complications from wounds received at Chancellorsville and pneumonia. When Stonewall died, Robert E. Lee said, “I have lost my right arm.” He was buried at Lexington, Virginia.

Thomas Jefferson was born in Virginia in 1743. As a Virginia planter, he was also a delegate to the House of Burgesses and to the First and Second Continental Congress. He was selected to draft the Declaration of Independence and is considered the author of the Declaration of Independence. Next he was a U.S. Minister to France. Jefferson was the first Secretary of State under George Washington and Vice-President under John Adams. Leader of the Democratic - Republican Party, in 1801 he became the third President of the United States. As President, he was responsible for the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and the Embargo Act of 1807. Jefferson sent the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804 to explore the new territory purchased from France, which produced a wealth of scientific and geographical knowledge. He died on July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
John Paul Jones was born in 1747 in Scotland. After being accused of a crime he fled to America. In 1776 with his ship the *Bonhomme Richard*, he defeated the British warship *Serapis*, which raised American spirits. Jones’ success against the best navy in the world angered the British and inspired the Americans. Jones’ famous words during this battle were “I have not yet begun to fight!” which became a slogan for the U.S. Navy. Some consider him the “Father of the U.S. Navy.”

Robert E. Lee was born in Virginia in 1807. He was a Virginia planter. He graduated from West Point Academy where he ranked second in a class of forty-six, and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the engineers. He rejected Abraham Lincoln’s offer to command the Union Army at the start of the Civil War. He instead seceded with his home state of Virginia and became the commander of the Confederate Army. His surrender to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox ended the Civil War. After the war, Lee returned to Richmond. During the last five years of his life, he served as President of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. Lee was indicted for treason but was never brought to trial. Lee fell ill on September 28, 1870, in Lexington and died a few weeks later on October 12. Lee has been compared to General George Washington in terms of the respect which he earned from his soldiers, his region, and the nation.
Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, on a Kentucky farm. He married Mary Todd, and they had four boys, with only one of them living to maturity. In 1858 Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglas for U.S. Senator from Illinois. He lost the election, but in debating Douglas, gained a national reputation that won him the Republican nomination for President in 1860. As President of the United States during the Civil War, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared freedom for slaves within the Confederacy. He also delivered the famous Gettysburg Address dedicating the Soldier’s National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theater by an actor named John Wilkes Booth.

In the 17th century John Locke was an early English philosopher who lived during the time of the Glorious Revolution. He was a natural rights philosopher who believed in the protection of individual rights including life, liberty and property. He was a social contract theorist who believed that the people create government. If that government does not protect the people’s rights, then Locke argued the people have a right to revolt. His two most famous books were *The First and Second Treatises on Civil Government*. His works inspired Thomas Jefferson who authored the Declaration of Independence.
James Madison was born in Virginia in 1751. Madison was a delegate to the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention, and is widely considered the “Father of the Constitution” for his many contributions to the basic structure of our government. He used Montesquieu’s idea for separation of powers but also added a system of checks and balances to assure no one branch was too powerful. He authored the Virginia Plan which proposed representation in the legislative branch based on population, but was willing to compromise by creating a bicameral legislature. He supported ratification of the new U.S. Constitution and wrote over a third of the *Federalist Papers*, promoting its ratification. He helped frame the Bill of Rights, and then became Secretary of State under Thomas Jefferson. He was the fourth President of the United States. During his presidency, the United States fought Great Britain in the War of 1812.

John Marshall was born the first of 15 children in Virginia’s backcountry. He had little formal schooling and received most of his education from his parents and a minister who lived with the family for one year. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by John Adams in 1801. In his 34 year tenure as Chief Justice, John Marshall participated in deciding more than 1,000 cases and wrote opinions in 519 of them himself. His most famous cases include *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, and *Marbury v. Madison*, in which the court established its power of judicial review. He is widely credited with establishing and defining the authority of the highest court and the powers of the three branches of government.
George Mason was born in Virginia in 1725. He was a member of the Virginia Legislature and wrote the *Virginia Declaration of Rights* which greatly influenced Thomas Jefferson when he wrote the *Declaration of Independence* and James Madison when he wrote the U.S. Bill of Rights. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 but did not sign the Constitution. He became an Anti-Federalist and worked against ratification of the U.S. Constitution. He believed in basic American liberties such as freedom of the press, religious tolerance and the right to a trial by jury. Mason also saw as an evil that could eventually “poison” the country, even though he owned slaves himself. He favored abolition of the slave trade, but not complete abolition of slavery at this time.

Born in Virginia in 1758, Monroe was the 5th President of the United States. He attended the College of William and Mary, fought in the Continental Army, was a lawyer, and a politician. Monroe joined the Anti-Federalists in Virginia and opposed ratification of the new U.S. Constitution. He was an advocate of Jefferson’s policies and was elected a U.S. Senator from Virginia. Monroe helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase. During the War of 1812 he served as Secretary of War and Secretary of State under President Madison. His presidency was called the “Era of Good Feelings.” He is known for the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 which provided that the Western Hemisphere should be free from future European colonization and that the U.S. should be neutral in European wars. This was the basis of American foreign policy for many years.
Thomas Paine was born in England in 1737. He traveled to the American colonies and became involved in the patriots’ cause. He authored the pamphlet *Common Sense* which encouraged the colonies to break with England and become independent. He was a soldier in the Continental Army and wrote the pamphlet *The Crisis* to encourage Continental soldiers to continue to fight. In the pamphlet, he penned his famous line, "These are the times that try men's souls." After the American Revolution, Paine returned to England in 1787, and in 1791 he published *The Rights of Man* which opposed the idea of monarchy and defended the French Revolution. To escape being tried for treason, he fled to Paris where he wrote *The Age of Reason*. In 1802 he returned to America, only to find himself outcast and poverty-stricken in his final years.

William Penn was born in 1644 in London, England. He obtained a land grant in North America from King Charles II in 1681. He was a Quaker and established a colony in America called Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania was a haven for Quakers and welcomed people of diverse backgrounds to the colony. He insisted that women deserved equal rights with men. He implemented democratic principles through his *Frames of Government*. Penn gave Pennsylvania a written constitution which limited the power of government, provided a humane penal code, and guaranteed many fundamental liberties. His most famous works include *No Cross, No Crown* and *Innocency with Her Open Face*, which was written while he was in prison for his religious views (1668-70).
Haym Salomon was a Polish-born Jewish immigrant who played an important role in financing the American Revolution. He became a patriot and joined the New York Sons of Liberty. He was a member of the American espionage ring and helped convince many Hessians to desert the British military. He was arrested as a spy by the British but escaped before he could be hung. Salomon became a financial broker in Philadelphia. He went on to help finance the Continental Congress, using his own personal money to finance the patriot cause. Known as the “American Financier,” Salomon died penniless in 1785.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a leader in the women’s rights movement. Stanton was born in New York, and unlike most women of her era, she was formally educated. She planned and organized the first women’s rights movement in the United States. Stanton organized the Seneca Falls Convention for Women’s Rights in Seneca Falls, New York and wrote the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions which was modeled after the Declaration of Independence. Stanton died in 1902 and did not live to see women’s suffrage in the United States. She is regarded as one of the true major forces in the drive towards equal rights for women in the United States.
Henry David Thoreau was born in 1817 in Concord, Massachusetts. Heavily influenced by Ralph Waldo Emerson, he was a transcendentalist author who wrote many books and poems. His most famous book is called *Walden*. In this book he set forth his ideas about how an individual should live to be attuned to his own nature as well as to nature itself. He is known for his civil disobedience when he was jailed for not paying taxes to support the Mexican War. Thoreau's most famous essay was *Civil Disobedience* published in 1849, in which he called for passive resistance to unjust laws. Thoreau died of tuberculosis on May 6, 1862, at the age of 44. He is buried on Authors' Ridge in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts.

Mercy Otis Warren was an American patriot. She was a writer who authored plays, poems and essays supporting the idea of independence. Her writings convinced many in Massachusetts to become Patriots. Sister to James Otis, Mercy was a very outspoken woman for her time. She was also a close friend of Abigail Adams. After the American Revolution, she expressed her disappointment and concerns regarding the newly written U.S. Constitution. She became an Anti-Federalist and opposed the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. She strongly believed in independence, liberty, and in the power of the written word. Warren died in 1814.
George Washington was born in Virginia in 1732. He was a Virginia planter and a delegate to the House of Burgesses. Washington fought during the French and Indian War and was a delegate to the Continental Congress. He was chosen Commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Later, he became the President of the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention in 1787 and the First President of the United States. During his presidency, his foreign policy was to remain neutral, and he warned the country against European entanglement and political parties in his Farewell Address. George Washington is referred to as the “Father of our Country.”

Daniel Webster was born in New Hampshire in 1782. He was Governor, U.S. House of Representative, and U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. He was a leader of the Federalist Party and opposed the War of 1812. He left the U.S. House of Representatives to practice law. He argued major constitutional cases before the Supreme Court including *Dartmoth College v. Woodward*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, and *McCulloch v. Maryland*. He believed in federal sovereignty (power) over state sovereignty and was well known for the Webster-Hayne Debate (1830) in Congress, where he said “Liberty and Union now and forever, one and inseparable.”