



## Adams Family

Samuel Adams and John Adams were second cousins. Abigail Adams was John Adams' third cousin. John Quincy Adams was the son of John and Abigail.

Samuel Adams' description in history goes from heroic "Father of the Revolution" to zealot and propagandist directing mobs to a complex man who greatly influenced the American Revolution.

Adams was a powerful figure in the opposition to British authority in the colonies. He denounced the Sugar Act, being one of the first of the colonials to cry out against taxation without representation.

He played an important part in instigating the Stamp Act riots in Boston that were directed against the new requirement to pay taxes on all legal and commercial documents, newspapers, and college diplomas.

His influence was soon second only to James Otis, the lawyer and politician who gained prominence by his resistance to the revenue acts.

Elizabeth Checkley Adams was the first wife of Samuel Adams.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Wells Adams, was Samuel's 2nd wife.

John Adams became identified with the patriot cause; a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses, he led in the movement for independence.

Despite his hostility toward the British government, in 1770 Adams agreed to defend the British soldiers who had fired on a Boston crowd in what became known as the Boston Massacre.

His insistence on upholding the legal rights of the soldiers, who in fact had been provoked, made him temporarily unpopular but also marked him as one of the most principled radicals in the growing movement for American independence. He had a penchant for doing the right thing.

Adams was elected America's first vice president and later became president.

Abigail Smith Adams (wife of John) was the first woman to serve as Second Lady of United States and the second woman to serve as First Lady.

In the spring of 1776, John Adams was serving in the Continental Congress; on March 31, 1776, Abigail writes to him,

"I long to hear that you have declared an independency ... I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors."

She was also the mother of the sixth President, John Quincy Adams.

John Quincy Adams played the leading part in the acquisition of Florida. The Monroe Doctrine rightly bears the name of the president who in 1823 assumed the responsibility for its promulgation, but its formulation was the work of John Quincy Adams more than of any other single man.

Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams married John Quincy Adams.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

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