

## The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Abigail Adams**  
(1744-1818)

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.

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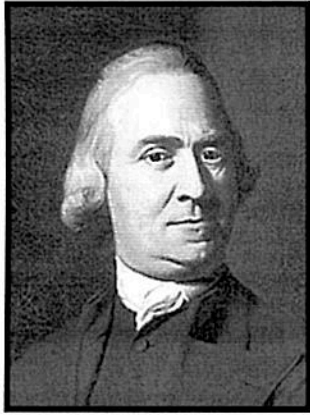
**John Adams**  
(1735-1826)

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.

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**Samuel Adams**

(1722-1803)

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.

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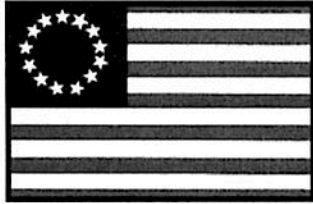
**James  
Armistead**

(1748-1830)

In the Revolutionary War, one of General George Washington's most effective weapons against the British was an African American slave named James Armistead. 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.

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**Crispus  
Attucks**  
(1723-1770)

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.

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**Wentworth  
Cheswell**  
(1746-1817)

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.

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**Benjamin  
Franklin**  
(1706-1790)

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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**Bernardo de  
Gálvez**  
(1746-1786)

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.

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**King George  
III**  
(1738-1820)

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.

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**Marquis de  
Lafayette**  
(1757-1834)

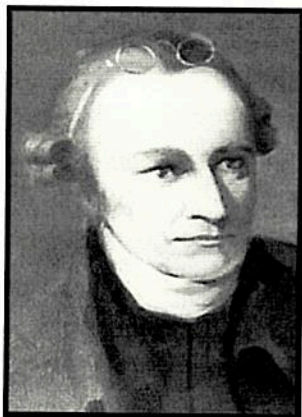
Marquis de Lafayette was a French officer who came to help the Americans fight the Revolution against Great Britain. When he learned of the struggle of the Americans in their endeavor to secure independence, he resolved to come to the colonies to aid them in their efforts. He was given the rank of major 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.

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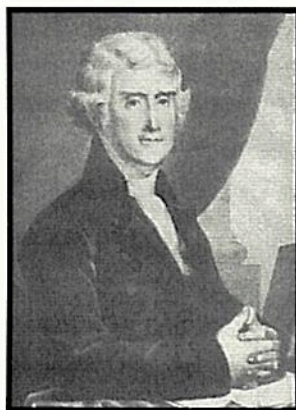
**Patrick Henry**  
(1736-1799)

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.

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**Thomas Jefferson**  
(1743-1826)

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.

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**Thomas Paine**  
(1737-1809)

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.

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**John Paul  
Jones**  
(1747-1792)

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."



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### Haym Salomon

(1740-1785)

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.

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### Mercy Otis

### Warren

(1728-1814)

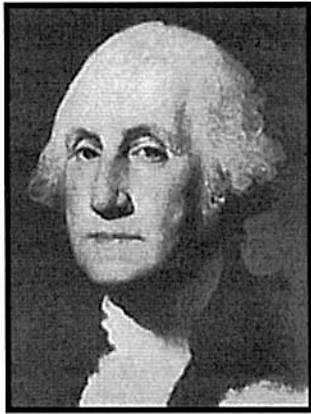
Mercy Otis Warren was an American patriot. She was a writer who authored plays, poems and essays supporting the idea of independence. Her writings convinced many in Massachusetts to become Patriots. Sister to James Otis, Mercy was a very outspoken woman for her time. She was also a close friend of Abigail 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.

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**George  
Washington**  
(1732-1799)

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.”