

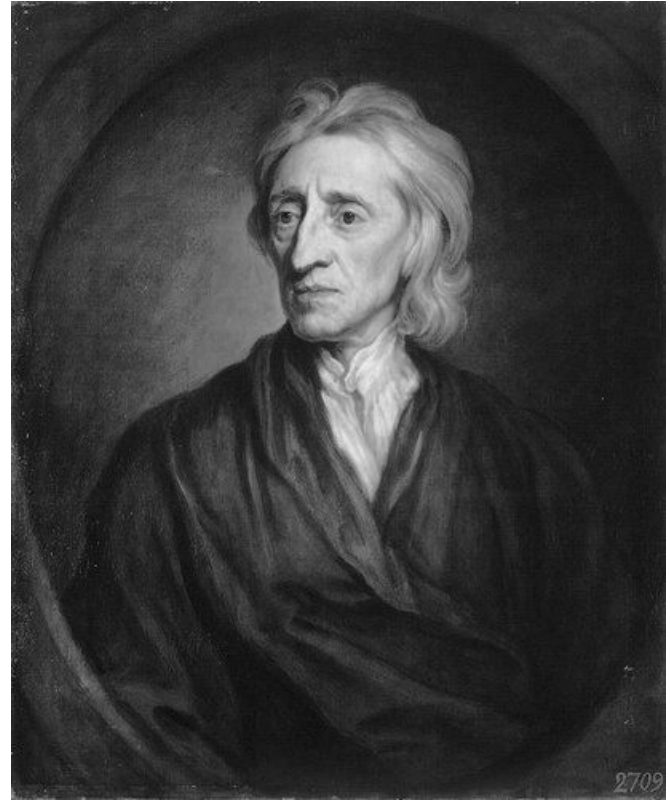
John Adams

He was a representative to the First and Second Continental Congresses. He led the debate which ratified (approved) the Declaration of Independence, served as ambassador to England.



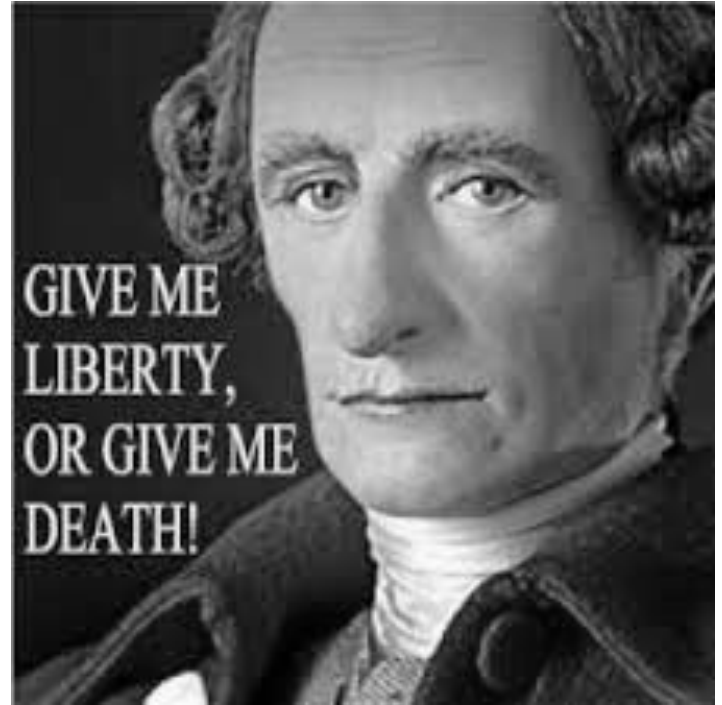
John Locke

Locke's writings on the nature of government influenced the founding fathers of the United States. Believed all people should have natural rights which outlined the fundamental rights all humans should enjoy: life, liberty, and property. His most significant work was his *Second Treatise of Government* (1690) in which he rejected the divine right of kings to rule, and argued for constitutional government to limit the power of the monarch thus preserving the natural rights of citizens.



Patrick Henry

Born in Virginia, Patrick Henry taught himself law and developed a promising career. He entered the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1765, and quickly influenced the colonial resistance to British taxation without representation. He was a member of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774. In March 1775, in an impassioned speech to the Virginia House of Burgesses, he stated: "...but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"



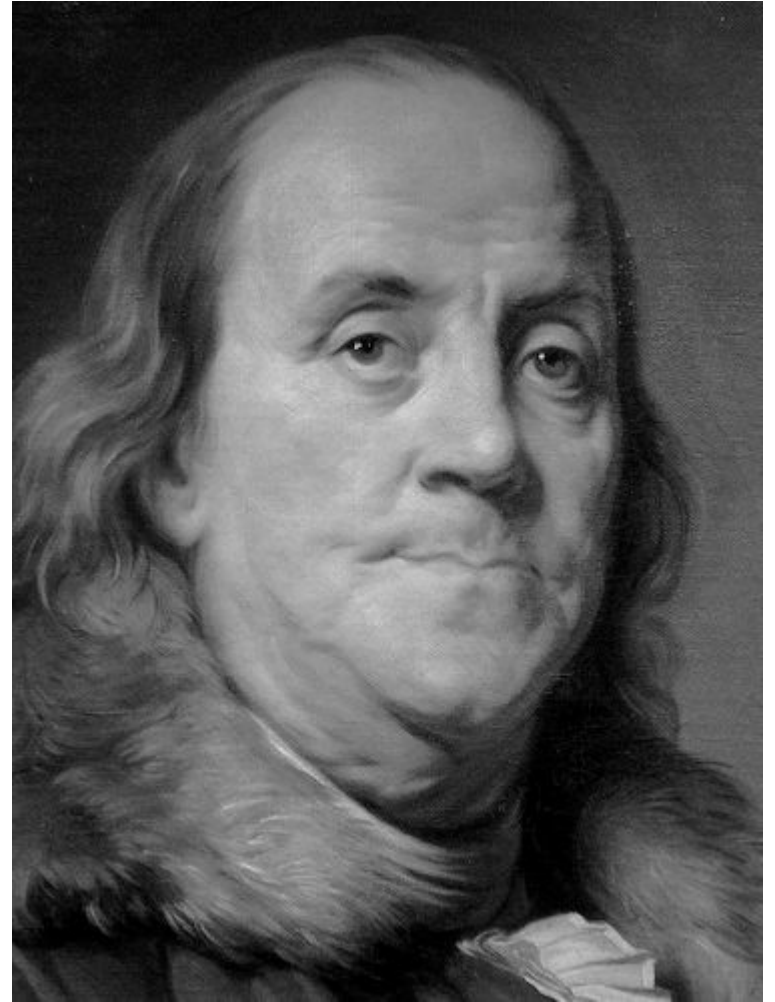
Abigail Adams

Wife of the second President of the United States, Abigail is an example of one kind of life lived by women in colonial, Revolutionary and early post-Revolutionary America. She is known for the stance she took for women's rights in letters to her husband.



Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin became a well-known printer in Philadelphia and an active leader in the city. He was a member of the committee which wrote the Declaration of Independence but spent most of the period of the American Revolution in France. He negotiated the alliance with France and then the Treaty of Paris which ended the war.



Bernardo de Galvez

Before Spain officially declared support for the rebelling colonies of Britain, Galvez was assisting the revolution. He corresponded directly with Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and Charles Henry Lee and sealed off the port of New Orleans so that British ships could not utilize the Mississippi River. He also welcomed any American patriots at his ports and river. The river, under French and Spanish administration, served as a constant source of money, ammunition and weapons to the American forces.



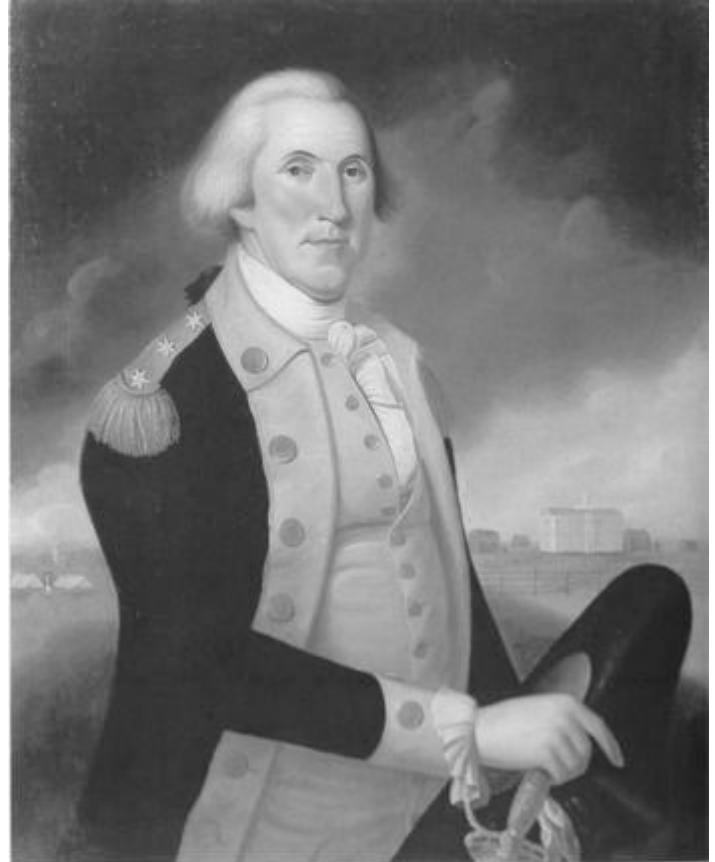
Crispus Attucks

Crispus Attucks is remembered as the first American to die in the colonists' fight for freedom from Britain. He was an escaped slave of African and Native American descent, but not much else is known about him. He was part of an angry mob that surrounded eight British soldiers on 5 March 1770 outside the Boston customs house. The soldiers fired on the crowd and he was killed, along with four others. The shootings were quickly dubbed the "Boston Massacre"



George Washington

General of the Continental Army during the Revolution, led America to victory at the Battle of Yorktown.



Haym Solomon

He was a Polish-born Jewish immigrant to America who played an important role in financing the Revolution. When the war began, he was operating as a financial broker in New York City and used much of his own wealth to purchase supplies for the Patriots.



James Armistead

Armistead was an African American spy during the American Revolution. He was stationed as a spy, acting as a slave in Lord Cornwallis' camp. He relayed much information about the British plans for troop deployment and about their arms. His intelligence reports were instrumental in helping to defeat the British at the surrender at Yorktown.



John Paul Jones

John Paul Jones is considered the founder of the U.S. Navy. In 1779 he commanded the Bonhomme Richard and engaged the British vessel the Serapis in battle. When the Serapis captain asked him if he was prepared to surrender, He replied, "I have not yet begun to fight." True to his word, he and crew defeated the British, an event which marked the high point of his career.



King George III

He became King of England in 1760, determined to re-assert the constitutional power of the monarchy. The American Revolution concerned him and his followers because they feared that the loss of one group of colonies would lead to the loss of others and the eventual decline of the empire. To prevent this, the Crown maintained an aggressive policy against colonial resistance. He struggled to enforce royal authority throughout his reign.



Marquis de Lafayette

Lafayette was a French aristocrat who played a leading role in two revolutions in France and in the American Revolution. Lafayette's assistance proved crucial in the Battle of Yorktown.



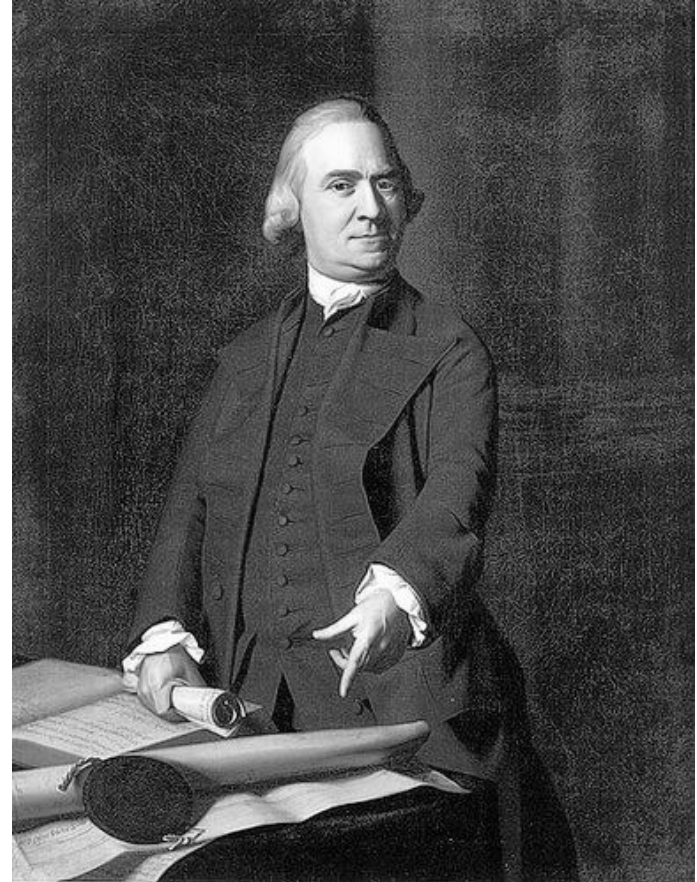
Mercy Otis Warren

She became a Patriot writer and first woman historian of the American Revolution. She wrote plays, poems and lots of other writings that supported independence. She used her writing to display her ideas. Her ideas and writings convinced many people in Massachusetts to become Patriots.



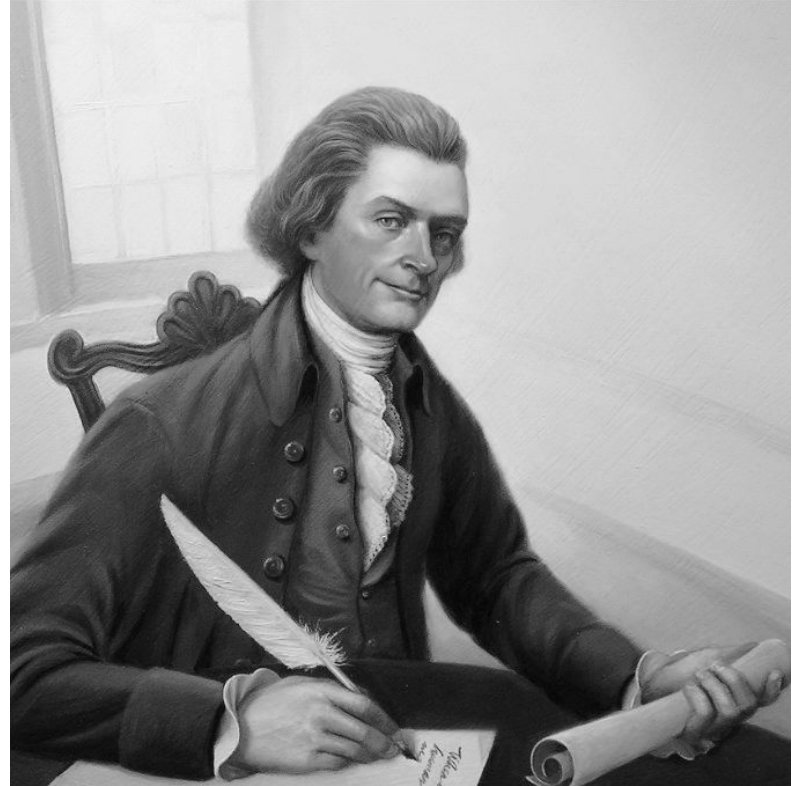
Sam Adams

Opposed British taxation in the colonies and believed that the colonial government was capable of self-rule without intrusion by the British monarchy. He played a role in many of the events which contributed to the Revolution including organized opposition to the Stamp Act, protests waged by the Sons of Liberty, and the Boston Massacre.



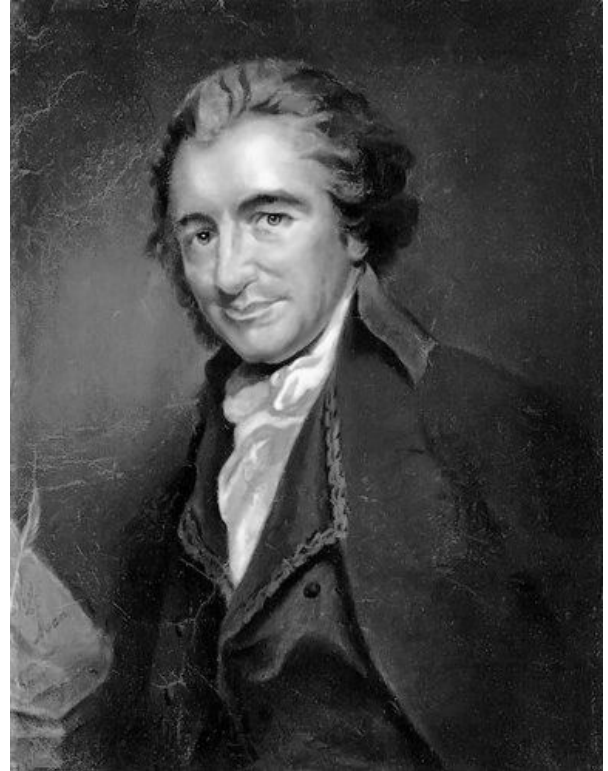
Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was a founding father and principal author of the Declaration of Independence which rationalized the break with Britain. He became an early and effective leader in the American Revolution. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and in 1776 he was a member of the committee which wrote the Declaration of Independence.



Thomas Paine

In January 1776 Paine wrote *Common Sense*, a pamphlet which attacked the British government, supported independence, and outlined a new form of government. He became the leading propagandist of the American Revolution, publishing his *Crisis* papers.



Wentworth Cheswell

In addition to his civic service, Wentworth Cheswell was also a patriot leader. In fact, the town selected him as the messenger for the Committee of Safety - the spy network of the American Revolution that carried intelligence and messages back and forth between strategic operational centers. Serving in that position, he undertook the same task as Paul Revere, making an all-night ride to warn citizens of imminent British invasion. (The British are coming!)



Paul Revere

He joined the Freemasons and befriended other activists such as James Otis and Dr. Joseph Warren. As his confidence in his leadership abilities grew, so did his responsibilities. As tensions between the colonies and the British deepened, Revere was tapped to spy on British soldiers and report on their movement. But it was his ride on April 18, 1775, that etched his name into history, especially after it was commemorated later by the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. At 10 that night Revere rode to Lexington to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams of the approaching British. He also took part in the Boston Tea party with the Sons of Liberty.

