



Alexander Hamilton

Born: January 11th, 1753 Charlestown, Nevis

Died: July 11th, 1804 Weehawken, New Jersey

Residence: Nevis, Saint Croix, New York (Manhattan & Harlem)

Brief Biography: Alexander Hamilton was born on the island of Saint Croix in 1753 (though he always incorrectly claimed the year was 1755) to his Scottish father, James Hamilton, and French mother, Rachel Fawcett. At the time, Fawcett was married to another man but soon divorced and married Hamilton. This marriage was also short lived and found young Alexander in the sole care of his mother. From an early age, Hamilton cognitively excelled at reading, writing and his job as a store clerk, he was only 10 years old at the time. His mother and respective family on Saint Croix sent him to New York to attend school where he eventually received an education from Kings College. In 1775 however, Hamilton preemptively left schooling to pursue a military career where he eventually showed prowess as a captain in the New York Artillery Company. During the Revolutionary War years, Hamilton was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, served as a military secretary and became an advisor to George Washington. Hamilton married in 1780 and following the war became a prominent Federalist, arguing for the ratification of the United States Constitution. He would go on to play a pivotal role in future Constitutional Conventions, particularly in New York. In 1795 he focused on the practice of law. Following a history of argumentative disputes with Aaron Burr, who by 1804 was Vice President, Hamilton and Burr engaged in a duel during which Hamilton was mortally wounded. He would only survive one day following the Burr encounter before succumbing to his wounds.

Major Accomplishments:

- Declared Washington's aide-de-camp (confidential assistant) in the spring of 1777
- Member of Congress from 1782-1783
- Attendee of the 1787 Constitutional Convention in New York at which he lead the Federalist position and rallied a winning ratification vote of 30 to 27

References:

"Dutchess County Courthouse, Poughkeepsie, NY." *All Things Hamilton*. The Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society, 2014. Web. 24 Feb.

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"Major General Alexander Hamilton." *Ushistory.org*. Independence Hall Association, 2011. Web. 24 Feb. 2016.<http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/served/hamilton.html>

by Jackson Rockefeller