

Photo # NH 54790-A-KN James K. Paulding, Secretary of the Navy, 1838-1841

James K. Paulding



*A diverse writer in
a time of diversity
and nationalism*

<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/images/h54000/h54790k.jpg>

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Thesis

James K. Paulding was one of the first widely influential American authors because he had a profound impact on his time due to the strong nationalistic tone of his writing.



Biography of an American Writer and Politician

- Born August 22, 1778 in Nine Partners in Dutchess County, NY
- Youngest son of William Paulding, a member of the NY committee of safety commissary-general of the state troops
- His mother was Catherine Ogden of New Jersey
- "There was little sunshine in my youth. For some time after the war there were very few schools in our part of the country, the nearest school house was upward of 2 miles from our residence. At this country school which was a log hut I received my education which first and last cost about \$15-certainly quite as much as it was worth."
- At 18 years old he went to NYC and formed a good relationship with the Irving brothers.
- In January 1807 he began "The Salmagundi Papers"
- 1814 he published "The United States and England"

- President Madison appointed Paulding secretary to the board of navy commissioners
- Navy Agent in NYC from 1825-1837
- Secretary of the Navy in the Cabinet for President Van Buren 1837-1841
- Much of his literary work consisted of political journalism
- Paulding wrote numerous essays, poems, tales, short stories, novels, narratives, and plays
- His father influenced his writing because he inherited strong anti-British sentiments from him
- He was one of the first distinctive American Writers
- Some characteristics as a prose writer were realistically descriptive, elegant and pure
- Presidents such as Madison, Monroe, Jackson, and Polk found him very influential

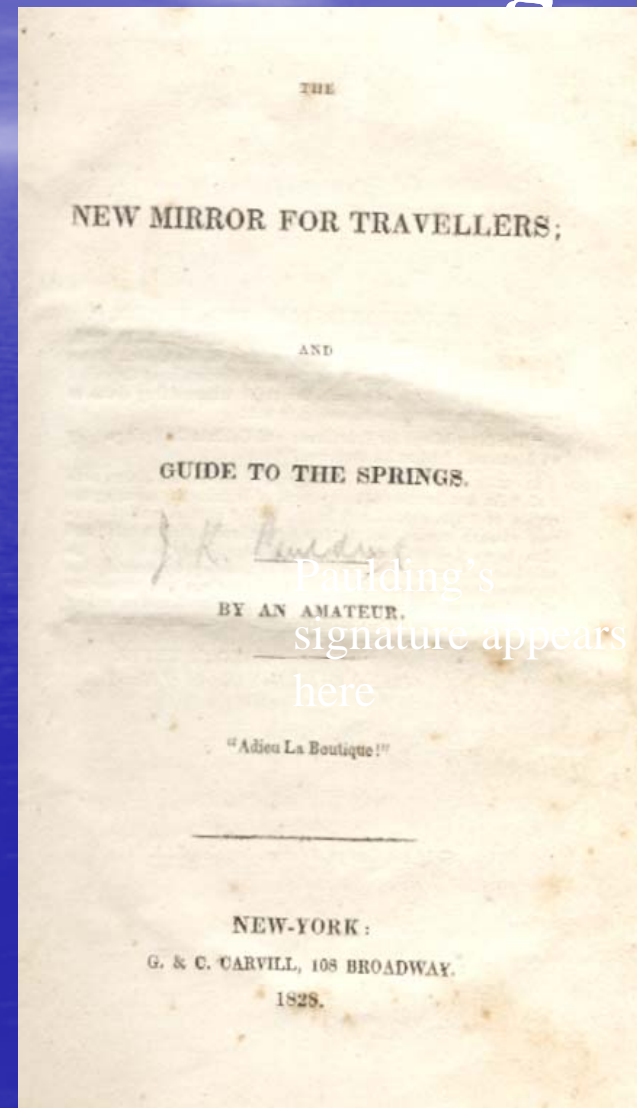


- His writings were in support of the nation during the War of 1812
- These writings established him as the foremost spokesman for literary and nationalism in the United States
- He loved to write but in literature he pursued a lifelong purpose of defending his country and his deeply held beliefs
- He was a spirited controversialist and an advocate for the America he envisioned
- James Kirke Paulding was “not an ordinary man rather he embodied the bright example of unsullied integrity and honor”
- He died in Hyde Park on April 6, 1860



The Works of James K Paulding

James K Paulding was a prominent Satirist and novelist. His writings often took on an anti British Tone as he was strongly opposed to the British having any type of Rule in the America's. Aside from his novels and satirical literature, Paulding is also known for his numerous published letters to close personal friend Washington Irving.



Selected Works of James

Paulding

- Salmagundi Papers----- 1807
- The United States and England-----1814
- (political pamphlet that immediately preceded his hiring as secretary of the Navy)
- A Sketch of Old England by a New England Man-----1822
- A Life of Washington-----1835
- America's Comedies-----1847
- One of the few remaining Paulding works that is commonly referred to is the rhyme "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, if Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, how many pickled peppers did Peter Piper pick?"

Paulding's Influences

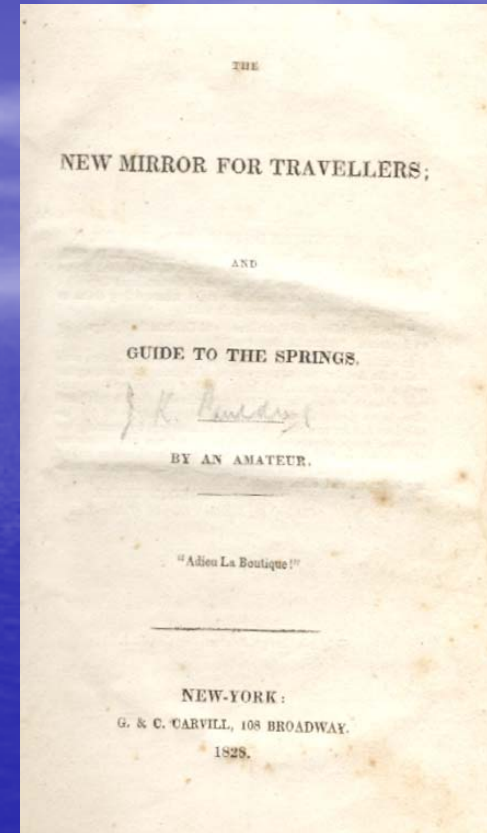
- His works were greatly affected by the fact that Paulding lived much of his life in the Hudson River Valley.
- He was influenced by the Catskill Legends.



Paulding enjoyed writing about New York City and wrote *The New Mirror for Travellers*, describing to tourists and travelers how to spend their time while visiting, especially on Broadway.



Broadway



The New Mirror for Travellers

Conclusion

James Paulding, although largely forgotten in modern times, was widely influential during his era as a member of the Knickerbocker school of writing and a resident of the Hudson River Valley.

Lesson Plan

Objectives:

- Students will study the life and works of James K. Paulding.
- Students will visit where Paulding was born in Dutchess County and understand how the Hudson Valley influenced his writings.

Procedure:

1. Students will look at two works of Paulding's and relate the theme of them to his life and experiences. For example, *The Backwoodsman* describes a rugged life in the Hudson River Valley, where he grew up, as well as *The New Mirror*, which was like a tour guide of the Hudson and New York City area. Then, the class will get to be authors by writing their own poems about the Hudson River, focusing on its scenery.

2. The class will visit Nine Partners in Dutchess County where Paulding was born. From this historical area the students will be able to see where Paulding lived and later died. They will discuss the works that Paulding wrote about the Hudson, as well as the articles he wrote with friend Washington Irving.

Lesson Plan

Evaluation:

Students will fill out a timeline of the major events in Paulding's life including his birth, death, first and last works published as well as significant other works that reflect the Hudson, and his time as Secretary to the Navy. Then they will share their poems with the rest of the class.

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