



**John and Abigail Adams.** Active in colonial politics in his native Massachusetts, John Adams (1735–1826) was an early advocate of American independence. With a background in law, he served in both Continental Congresses, helped compose the Declaration of Independence, and collaborated on terms of peace with Great Britain to end the Revolutionary War. Adams was the first Vice

President of the United States, and its second president. His wife, Abigail (1744–1818), was a prolific correspondent whose letters to her husband offer insight into life in the colonial era, both as a woman and as a Patriot. Their son, John Quincy Adams, became the sixth president of the United States.