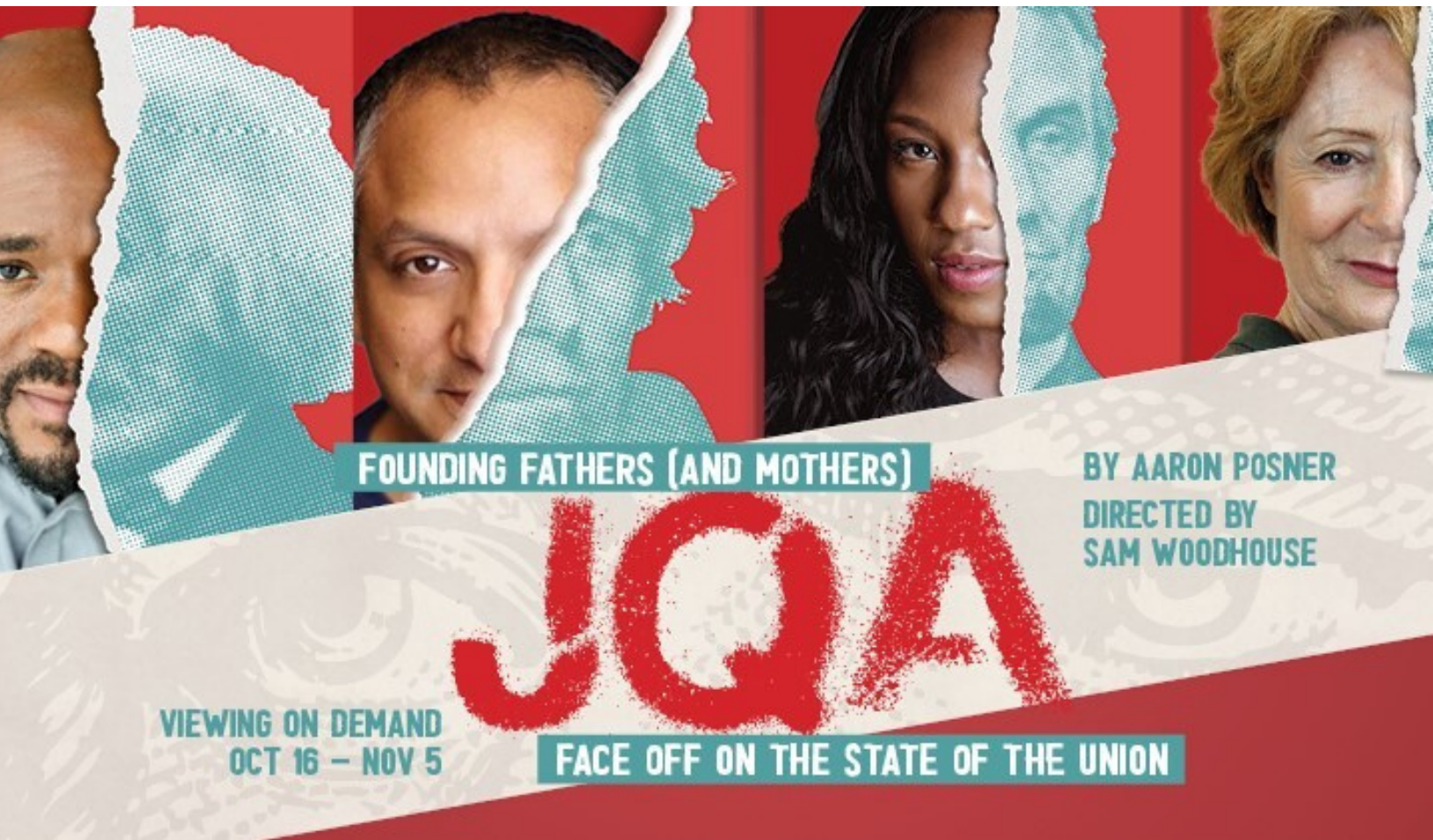




The Curious REPort

An inside look at JQA



Why We're Excited,
Interesting Tidbits,
Thought-Provoking Articles
and More!

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This In-Depth Guide was prepared by Joel Castellaw with additional contributions by Nicole Cantalupo, Kimberly King, and Laura Taylor and edited by Literary Manager Danielle Ward.

Show art by Studio Conover. Layout and design by Sherisa Oie.

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WHAT WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT...

Looking back in order to inform the future.

Right now, our country is plagued by a health emergency and a human rights crisis. As we lead up to the 2020 election, the question JQA asks—of how politicians and the government as a whole do good and do better—is vital.

We are thrilled to be able to offer our art to you at this time. This is a new experiment for us. Given the option of theater online or no theater at all, Sam Woodhouse chose to explore the digital options. We followed strict health protocols with repeated testing of all involved. We shifted our early rehearsals online. We shifted from how to block for audiences in seats to how to block for the cameras. There were so many new things, so many obstacles, but also so much passion to share THIS play RIGHT now as we enter the voting season.

Some of the reasons we selected this play for our season include: the thought provoking conversations around our country's creation; the reminder that our founders were just regular human beings like you and me; and the distinctive casting requirement of having actors of various ages, genders, and races play JQA and the other founding fathers and mothers of our country. It offered a larger context of the true diversity that makes America what it is.

We are also delighted to be working so closely with the playwright. We have long admired Aaron Posner's work, but this is the first play of his we have produced. He is an award-winning playwright, director, teacher, and former artistic director of two LORT theatres. His Helen Hayes award-winning play, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, was one of the ten most produced plays in the country in 2015. Other plays include *Life Sucks* and *No Sisters* (both re-inventions of Chekhov), *District Merchants* (inspired by *The Merchant of Venice*), *Who Am I This Time? & Other Conundrums of Love* (adapted from Kurt Vonnegut), *The Chosen, My Name Is Asher Lev* (adapted from Chaim Potok), *Sometimes a Great Notion* (adapted from Ken Kesey), and several more.

We commissioned Aaron to write a short companion piece for this play in the summer. Because our social and political climate has shifted so much this year, he used that opportunity to write a scene that, while still working within the framework of history, offered a response to those shifts. We all loved it so much, it ended up being added into the play instead of used as an additional engagement piece.

JQA is an American story as told by four incredible actors. I can't wait to watch the final filmed product with you. I plan to look for the metaphorical light and darkness that comes into play through the lighting, the timelessness that the costumes evoke while still suggesting a passage of history, and the juxtaposition of the deconstructed flag with the various formal meetings rooms and various music styles.

This is a true labor of love, from us to you.

We hope you enjoy.

INTERESTING TIDBITS

Did you know...



"The Washington Family, an iconic American painting that depicts George and Martha Washington with the grandchildren whom they raised as their own" by Edward Savage. Public Domain.

John Quincy Adams longed to become a poet. He wrote Romantic verses in his diaries while he traveled, or when he engaged in solitude, or even during long congressional sessions. As he wrote on October 16, 1816: "Could I have chosen my own Genius and Condition I should have made myself a great Poet. As it is, I have wasted much of my life in writing verses; spell-bound in the circle of mediocrity." Much as he loved writing poetry, he apparently didn't judge himself as very skilled at it! Nonetheless, he continued writing verses throughout his life, and he often composed impromptu poems when asked for his autograph.

Though he is often called the Father of Our Country, George Washington had no biological children of his own. When he married the widow Martha Custis, however, he became a father figure to her two children, Patsy and Jacky. Patsy was an epileptic, and Jacky was a rabble-rouser; both died before the end of the Revolutionary War. Jacky had married and fathered two children before his death, and George and Martha Washington adopted and raised these grandchildren, who were nicknamed Nelly and Wash.

Over the years, Washington would serve as a father figure to a rotating cast of extended family members who came to stay at Mount Vernon, and even spent a year with the son of the Marquis de Lafayette under his care. Even though he had no children of his own, Washington clearly relished the role of father figure—wherever he might find it!



"Portrait of John Quincy at 29" by John Singleton Copley derived from Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Public Domain.

INTERESTING TIDBITS

Did you know...



"Photo of Harriet Tubman that has served as the model for the proposed redesign of the \$20 bill" Unknown photographer. Public Domain.

"Statuary in Rochester, NY, depicting a conversation between Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass"

Photo by Daveynin from

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/daveynin/48806477857>



In 2012, an idea was born to try to replace at least one of the men on American paper currency with a woman. The idea evolved, and the group Women on the 20s launched a campaign to lobby then-President Obama and the Treasury Department to replace Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill with abolitionist Harriet Tubman. They had chosen the \$20 bill, as well as 2020 as the target year to roll out the new currency, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which was the culmination of the fight for women's voting rights. The \$20 bill was also chosen because the group felt that there were two good reasons that Jackson shouldn't be on our currency – the shameful legacy of the Trail of Tears, in which Jackson had been instrumental, and the fact that Jackson himself opposed paper currency. The Women on the 20s campaign appeared to meet with success in 2016, with the U.S. Treasury Department announcing that the redesign of the \$20 bill with Tubman replacing Jackson was going forward. But in April of 2019, the Treasury Department announced that the redesign had not been completed, and that it would be 2029 before the new bill would be in circulation. For now, Jackson's face remains on the bill.

In the 19th century, Rochester, New York, was a point of departure for many formerly enslaved people fleeing to Canada. In 2018, 200 volunteers in Rochester worked with the Re-Energizing the Legacy of Frederick Douglass Committee to commemorate Douglass's abolitionist activism with the creation of 13 statues of Douglass and his contemporaries in 6½ months. Throughout the city, the statues serve to punctuate what should be a constant commitment to social justice. These statues call on us to remain active, to engage in protest, and to continue talking about policies that need changing.

INTERESTING TIDBITS

Did you know...



The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill, photo of 1786 painting by John Trumbull. Public Domain from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Death_of_General_Warren_at_the_Battle_of_Bunker%27s_Hill.jpg.

During the Revolutionary War, Abigail Adams witnessed the Battle of Bunker Hill, where over 100 Americans were killed, including Joseph Warren, a general and the Adams's family doctor. She wrote to her husband, "Our dear friend ... fell gloriously for his country—saying better to die honorably in the field than ignominiously in the gallows." Furious, but determined to assist in the rebellion, Abigail melted her precious pewter spoons to supply musket balls for the troops. She also sheltered numerous patriot troops and Boston refugees at her Braintree home.

The Adams's historic family homes have been preserved and are maintained today as the Adams National Historical Park by the National Parks Service. The buildings in the park include the house that John Adams was born in, the house that John Quincy was born in, the larger home that the family occupied as its primary residence for many years, the gardens that Abigail created, and a library that was built to house the family books and papers after John Quincy Adams died. Members of the Adams family and their descendants lived on the property from 1720 to 1927. If you're ever in or near Quincy, Massachusetts, be sure to include this historic site on your itinerary!



"The Old House at Peacefield, the primary Adams family residence throughout John Quincy Adams's life." Photo by Daderot from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old_House,_Quincy,_Massachusetts.JPG.

10 Thought-Provoking Ideas

#1 JQA's Diary: The Original Social Media

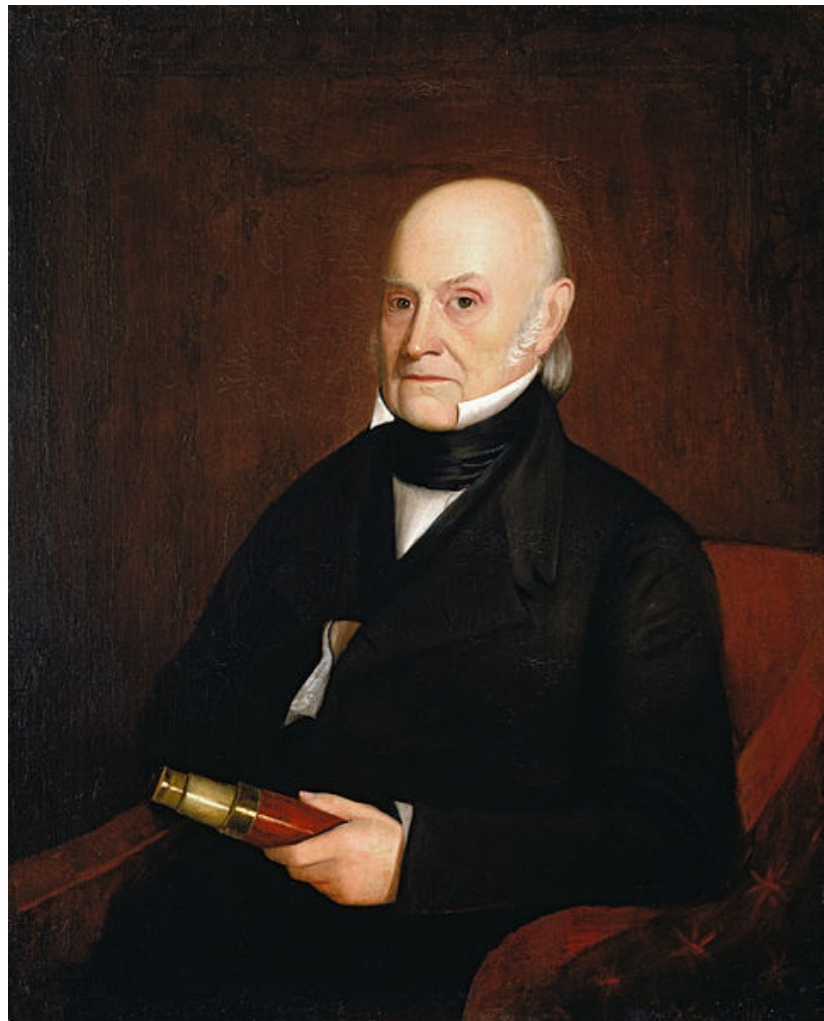
By Joel Castellaw

John Quincy Adams was many things—the son of a U.S. President, a diplomat under President George Washington, a U.S. Secretary of State, the sixth U.S. President, a member of the House of Representatives, a husband, and a father. He was also an avid diarist.

In 1779, he began keeping a diary at age twelve and continued until shortly before his death in 1848. The initial impetus for keeping the diary is recorded in this note: “My Pappa enjoins it upon me to keep a journal, or a diary, of the Events that happen to me, and of objects that I See, and of Characters that I converse with from day, to day.” Some entries run for pages. Sometimes Adams seems to have put the diary down for stretches at a time. Other times he caught up by using very short summary entries. In the end, his diaries spanned 51 volumes, adding to more than 14,000 pages.

He recorded his thoughts about important figures such as King George III and Alexis de Tocqueville, ruminated on his relationships with family members such as his father John and his mother Abigail, chronicled major events in his life, such as the 1824 and 1828 U.S. Presidential elections, and explored topics as varied as anti-slavery, the Monroe Doctrine, and science and nature.

The diaries are noteworthy as a record of Adams's views on many of the weighty matters that dominated 19th Century America. Adams's anti-slavery views, which were instilled in him by his father John and his mother Abigail, are apparent in many diary entries, especially those that deal with the 1841 Amistad case. This was a case in which Adams defended 53 captive Africans who had rebelled aboard a slave ship against a charge of mutiny before the U.S. Supreme Court.



Portrait of John Quincy Adams by William Hudson, Jr.
Public Domain from
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Hudson,_Jr._-Portrait_of_John_Quincy_Adams_\(1844\)_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Hudson,_Jr._-Portrait_of_John_Quincy_Adams_(1844)_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)

In the aftermath of the trial, Adams wrote: “What can I, upon the verge of my seventy-fourth birthday, with a shaking hand, a darkening eye, a drowsy brain, and with all my faculties, dropping from me, one by one, as the teeth are dropping from my head, what can I do for the cause of God and Man? for the progress of human emancipation? for the suppression of the African Slave-trade?” Adams wrote in his diary on March 29, 1841. “Yet my conscience presses me on—let me but died upon the breach.”

The diaries are held by the Massachusetts Historical Society and a full digital collection of all 51 volumes is available. Only a fraction of the entries have been transcribed, but Adams's hand is generally legible, and searching the diaries can be quite the Internet rabbit-hole. As part of their social media efforts to draw attention to the diaries, the Massachusetts Historical Society tweets a line each day, with entries that correspond to the current date from 200 years ago. You can access them @JQAdams_MHS

And it's fitting that Adams's diaries would appear today in social media, because according to Lee Humphreys, a communications and media researcher at Cornell University, diaries are the original social media. Most of us today think of diaries as private, but in Adams's day people would gather to read each other's diaries as a way of sharing their lives with each other. Diaries served as chronicles of important events, such as weddings, births, and deaths. Because they were shared, they were also used as a means of maintaining and strengthening relationships. Fast forward to today and our own use of social media, and we can see that many of us maintain our accounts for the same reasons that people in Adams's day kept diaries.

And there's another parallel between Adams's diaries and the social media of today, of course. Adams was the most prolific Presidential diarist, and our sitting President today is sometimes referred to as the Twitter-in-Chief. Donald Trump uses social media – the modern-day diary – to share ruminations, to proclaim policy, to antagonize his opponents, and to rally his faithful. There is no doubt but that there will be an archive of his Presidential tweets at least as comprehensive and well-maintained as John Quincy Adams's diaries. For good or ill, it's all part of posterity.

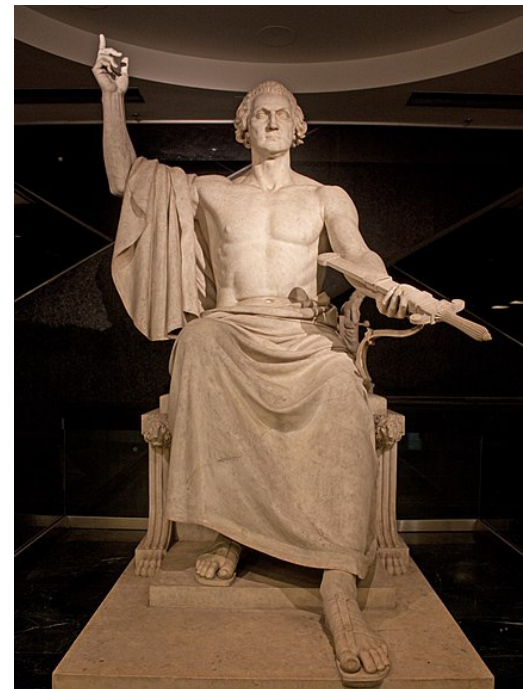
Explore JQA's diary:
www.masshist.org/jqadiaries

#2 Presidential Myths and Legends

By Joel Castellaw

Of all the Founding Fathers, George Washington unquestionably shines brightest in the minds of us Americans. He is lauded as THE Father of our Country, the general who won the Revolutionary War, the first President of the nation, and a man who selflessly stepped aside after two terms in office to establish a precedent of limited service that remained unbroken until Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 20th century. As the brightest star in the pantheon of American Presidents, Washington is the most mythologized.

Horatio Greenough's monumental statue of George Washington, depicting Washington in the manner of a Classical god. Public Domain from Wikipedia user Wknight94 at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:George_Washington_Greenough_statue.jpg



Here are a few prominent George Washington myths, courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the private non-profit that maintains Washington's Mount Vernon estate.

Did a young George Washington chop down a cherry tree, then admit to the deed when interrogated by his father, using the legendary line, "I can't tell a lie, Pa"?

No. This story was a complete fabrication, invented by Mason Locke Weems as part of the 1806 publication of the fifth edition of Weems's biography, *The Life of Washington*.

Were George Washington's dentures made of wood?

No, they were not. Some were his own extracted teeth, some were fabricated from ivory, some were metal, and some may have been cow or horse teeth. One of Washington's account books notes the purchase of nine teeth from "Negroes" for 122 shillings, indicating that some of the teeth used in his dentures came from slaves. As noted on the Mount Vernon website, "while Washington paid these enslaved people for their teeth it does not mean they had a real option to refuse his request."

Was Washington a pot head?

George Washington's crops included industrial hemp, which contains less than 0.3% THC and has no psychoactive properties. It is the hemp that is used in making rope, fibers, and textiles. But don't try to smoke it! You'll probably just end up with a headache.

Washington wasn't the only President who has been the subject of popular myth-making. Howard Taft, who weighed 340 pounds, is rumored to have gotten stuck in a bathtub in the White House. But the truth is that he had an oversized tub installed precisely so that it would accommodate his hefty girth. Abraham Lincoln is believed by many to have ended slavery with the Emancipation Proclamation, but that document only freed slaves in the states that had seceded during the Civil War, and not in border states or territories. Teddy Roosevelt is supposed to have ridden a bull moose across a lake, but it never happened. A doctored, pre-Photoshop image of Roosevelt on a bull moose was created by a photography firm during the 1912 Presidential race.

Sometimes the myths surrounding Presidents have been constructed by the Presidents themselves or by those close to them, in order to hide aspects of their lives they didn't want the public to know. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy were both disabled and both went to great lengths to keep their conditions hidden from the



Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial photo by Sarah Stierch nonedited and used under a Creative Commons license from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sarahvain/41155912912>

Explore more Washington myths:
www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/facts/myths/

American people and to project images of health and vitality. Many who were close to Ronald Reagan, including members of his own family, say that they observed evidence of his cognitive decline from Alzheimer's disease as early as the third year of Reagan's first term, yet the administration continued to project an image of Reagan as robust and astute.

Whether our Presidential myths are examples of the idealization of our Presidents, light-hearted yarns, or attempts to keep the public in the dark, we need to ask ourselves: are we well-served by mythologizing our Presidents? Would we be better served by seeing them as fully human – by allowing them to be human? Moreover, as we engage in a re-examination of our nation's history and the dark legacy of slavery and racial injustice, there must be acknowledgment that ten of the first twelve U.S. Presidents were slave-holders (John Adams and John Quincy Adams are the two exceptions). In this context, isn't it time to drop the myths of the past to help us move forward together, with clarity and honesty?



Public Domain. Additional source and credit info from the National Archives: Ronald Reagan Library.(C6289-25)Michael Evans, February 8, 1982"President Reagan speaking at a rally for Senator Durenberger"1998 print from the original color negative.

#3 Founding Mothers, First Ladies and Political Feminists:

The Women Who Have Shaped, Inspired and Challenged the Nation

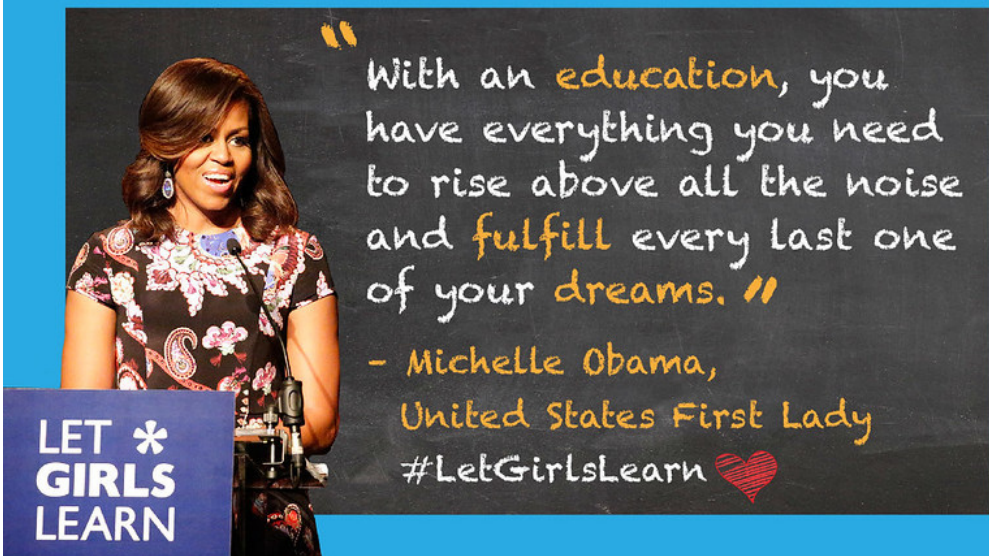
By Nicole Cantalupo

Abigail Adams, like Barbara Bush, was both a wife and a mother to a president. Abigail and her husband, John, were actually the first couple to live in the White House. There, Abigail fulfilled formal hosting duties in the new capital of the young country. She was a strong advocate of women's rights and encouraged her husband and other members of the Continental Congress to "remember the ladies" as they laid plans for a new American government.



Portrait of Abigail Adams by Benjamin Blyth. Public Domain .

Like Abigail Adams, First Lady Michelle Obama has also been a vocal advocate for women's rights, and believes in the need for access to education for girls and young women across the globe. As First Lady, she created Let Girls Learn, a U.S. government initiative aimed at helping adolescent girls attain a quality education that empowers them to reach their full potential. News reports that Michelle Obama leaves a legacy not only as "a fierce defender of her husband's policies, but as a champion for a healthier nation and access to educational opportunity."



Michelle Obama speaking about 'Let Girls Learn.' Infographic by Infographic: Ricci Coughlan/DFID. Photo credit to UK Department for International Development from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/14214150@N02/18240592304>.

Martha Washington was the first FLOTUS, though the term "First Lady" was not coined until after her death. During the war she visited the starving, frozen soldiers in Valley Forge, helped nurse them, and provided food and warm socks. Incredibly loyal to her husband, Martha had a difficult time contending with his political enemies. A little over a year after George's death, a visitor to Mount Vernon wrote that Mrs. Washington had some "pointed, and sometimes very sarcastic" things to say about the administration of Thomas Jefferson, whom she detested, because of "the abuse he has

offered to General Washington, while living, and to his memory since his decease."

Often noted as the most influential First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt served under the title for more than 12 years during the Great Depression and World War II. Scholars note that she played a very active role in advising her husband. Eleanor was also the very first first lady to hold her own press conferences. After Franklin Roosevelt's death, Eleanor remained in the spotlight, and even served as chair of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.



Martha Washington From [http://www.lib.utexas.edu], in the public domain {{PD-art}} Category:U.S. history images en:Image:Martha Washington.jpg Category:First Lady of the United States

Eleanor Roosevelt. Public domain from <http://loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3c08091/>.



Phillis Wheatley by an unidentified artist. Public Domain from Google Cultural Institute.

At the age of seven, Phillis Wheatley was kidnapped from her home in West Africa and brought to Massachusetts by a slave ship in 1761. She was taught how to read and write by the Wheatley family and grew up to be the first published African American poet. She was a strong supporter of American Independence

and wrote poems in honor of General Washington. In 1776, after sending the future president one of her poems, she was invited to meet Washington in Cambridge.

Another influential poet is Audre Lorde, a self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet." Lorde dedicated her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia. Her contributions to feminist theory, critical race studies, and queer theory intertwine her personal experiences with broader political aims. Lorde articulated early on the intersections of race, class, and gender in canonical essays such as "The Master's Tools Will Not Dismantle the Master's House."

Mary Katharine Goddard was one of America's first female publishers, printing scoops from Revolutionary War battles. She continued to publish after her offices were twice raided and her life was threatened. Goddard even went as far as printing her full name at the bottom of all the copies of the Declaration of Independence. It was the first copy young America would see that included the original signers' names!

Similarly, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the youngest congresswoman to be elected to office, is also making sure she leaves her mark on the nation with the work she is doing in the House of Representatives. In her speech at the Women's March in 2019, she stated that "Justice is not a concept we read about in a book. Justice is about the water we drink. Justice is about the air we breathe. Justice is about how easy it is to vote. Justice is about how much ladies get paid. Justice is about making sure that being polite is not the same thing as being quiet. In fact, oftentimes the most righteous thing you can do is shake the table."



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez at the Women's March on NYC 2019. Photo by Dmitri Rodriguez from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/98346767@N04/46115223655>.

Explore More on the Founding Mothers:

www.womenshistory.org/articles/mythbusting-founding-mothers

Further Reading:

Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation by Cokie Roberts

#4 Louisa Adams: A Remarkable First Lady

By Laura Taylor

Louisa Adams was the first-and, prior to Melania Trump, the only-foreign born First Lady. Louisa was born in 1775 in England, but spent a portion of her early childhood in France, following her family's move there in 1777. Her first fluent language ended up becoming French, though she later relearned English. In 1783, her family returned to England where her father began working for the U.S. consul. In 1795, she met John Quincy Adams, who was working in England as a diplomat. Two years later, Louisa and John wed. They went on to have 4 children together, three sons and a daughter.

Louisa was instrumental in securing John's eventual victory in the 1824 Presidential election, acting as an "unofficial campaign manager," and using her position in high society to rally support for his campaign. However, following his win, she noticed that he began to ignore and withdraw from her.

She grew to despise her role as First Lady, due to her love of privacy and the increasingly large spotlight put on her, and at one point she referred to the White House as a "prison." In addition to this, her life was plagued with several tragedies, including several miscarriages and the loss of three of her four children. All of this took its toll on her and Louisa in turn withdrew from the public eye. She ceased entertaining for fellow high society members and isolated herself as much as possible. Though, during John's doomed re-election campaign, she once again gave her full support and efforts to help.

When she reemerged into society, Louisa found herself the subject of an increasing



Louisa Adams, wife of US President John Q. Adams by Gilbert Stuart. Public Domain. From Wikipedia Commons.

number of publicity attacks purporting that she was "Un-American" due to having been born in a foreign country.

Interestingly, we still see this sort of criticism based on the idea of "American-ness" taking place today. However, nowadays this concept is often linked with race, such as when assumptions are made that individuals are not "American" due to their skin color, regardless of what facts are known regarding their birthplace or residence. However, it is important to note that while Louisa Adams came under fire for having been foreign born, Melania Trump has not been subject to the same level of criticism, nor has her birthplace seemed to negatively influence her husband's reelection campaign in any way.

John Quincy Adams eventually lost his campaign for reelection in 1828, but was

elected into Congress in 1830, just two years later. During this time, Louisa and John Quincy both became champions of two vital social justice movements: abolition and women's rights.

In 1836, a law was passed by the House of Representatives that prohibited the consideration of petitions against slavery. Both Louisa and John worked to oppose this, and while Louisa, as a woman, did not play an official role, she worked tirelessly behind the scenes to personally sort through antislavery petitions being sent to Congress. The couple also became friends with the Grimké Sisters, two notable white advocates of the abolition of slavery and women's rights. During this

time, John began to agree with the women's rights movement as well, and stated his support in a speech to Congress.

Ultimately, Louisa ended up outliving her husband by four years, passing away in 1852. Then President Millard Fillmore attended her funeral, and Congress adjourned—a previously unprecedented move—in her honor. While Louisa had felt limited in her potential roles as a woman, she played vital roles in various important pieces of American history, including the election of her husband as President, and the reversal of the anti-abolition petition laws that had been passed.

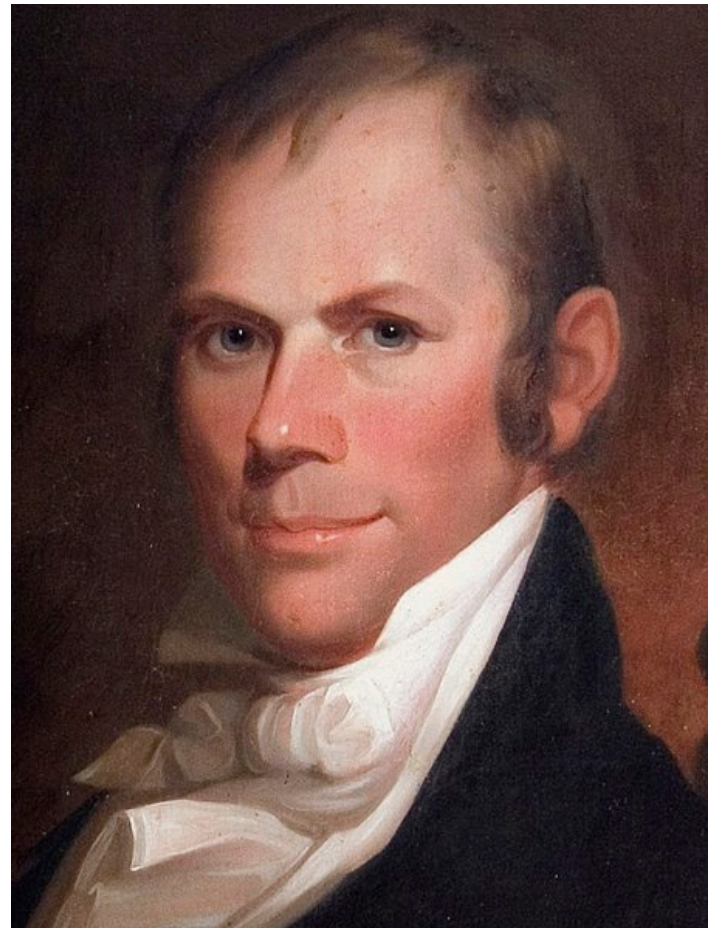
#5 The Great Compromiser, Henry Clay

By Joel Castellaw

Scene 5 of JQA, entitled, "Do It! Compromise!," imagines a dialog between John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay in the early days of JQA's term as President. Clay was the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and had been a candidate in the 1824 Presidential race that brought Adams to the White House. It was a bitterly disputed election in which no candidate won a majority in the Electoral College.

Following the rules of the Constitution, the next step in settling the election was a vote in the House of Representatives, where Clay threw his support behind Adams in order to prevent Andrew Jackson, who had won the popular vote, from ascending to the Presidency. Adams appointed Clay his Secretary of State and some wondered whether this had been some kind of "corrupt bargain" between the two men.

These circumstances notwithstanding, Clay



Henry Clay 1818 portrait by Matthew Harris Jouett.

Public Domain from

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Henry_Clay_close_up_crop.jpg

was a major figure in American politics and government in the first half of the 19th century. He was the leader of the Whig Party, and ran for President five times. He was the longest-serving Speaker of the House in the 19th Century, serving for a total of eight years. He also served in the U.S. Senate. He is referred to as the Great Compromiser for his instrumental role in crafting three important compromises: Missouri Compromise of 1820, the Tariff Compromise of 1833, and the Compromise of 1850. Each of these compromises was related in some way to maintaining the balance of power between free states and slave states.

Clay himself owned about 60 slaves, but he also called slavery, "this great evil...the darkest spot in the map of our country." A pragmatist, he believed that outright abolition of slavery would be disruptive and extreme, preferring to see slavery erode through gradual emancipation, and his compromises tried to serve this purpose.

Perhaps some of Henry Clay's 19th century compromises look unprincipled in hindsight. Looking back, we may see his position as weak and morally bankrupt. It might make us question whether compromise has ever served the United States well. However, the positive impact of many of the compromises of the last fifty years or so illustrate the value of having our political leaders work together across their differences, including party lines.

Here are a few more significant compromises that might help us assess the value of compromise in America's history:

- The Great Compromise of 1787: When the U.S. Constitution was being written, there was conflict over how each state should be represented in Congress, with smaller states fearing the dominance of larger states. The Great Compromise established the two chambers of Congress, with representation based on population in the House of Representatives, and each state having the equal representation of two senators in the U.S. Senate.
- The 1964 Civil Rights Act: The culmination of over a decade of protests, activism, and demonstrations, this Act was intended to complete the unfinished business of dismantling the long legacy of slavery by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race in public accommodations and federally funded programs. Championed by Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson, it was bitterly opposed in the Senate by Southern Democrats, who launched a filibuster when the Act came to the Senate floor. Democratic majority leader Mike Mansfield reached across the aisle to his Republican counterpart, Everett Dirksen, to make the bill more acceptable to Republicans as a joint force. Dirksen went on to deliver a powerful speech from the Senate floor, calling on Republicans to end the debate and bring the Civil Rights Act to a vote: 27 were inspired to join the northern Democrats, and as a result, the filibuster ended and the bill passed nine days later.
- Social Security Reform in 1983: By the early 1980s, the Social Security Program, a legacy of FDR's New Deal, was in danger of running into deficits. Republican President Ronald Reagan convened a commission to recommend solutions. In the Senate, Republican Bob Dole and Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan worked together as the leaders of a group focused on turning the commission's recommendations into legislation, successfully pulling the Social Security Program back from the brink.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990: Inspired by the Civil Rights movement, disability activists began fighting for federal protection against discrimination in the 1970s and bipartisan action ultimately led to passage of this Act.

- American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012: President Obama wanted to see the Bush-era tax cuts that had benefitted the middle class extended when they were set to expire in 2012. Emerging from the Great Recession and mindful of the large deficits that had resulted from the government's efforts to soften the blow of that recession, Obama wanted to let the tax cuts on upper-income earners expire. Republicans opposed this, preferring to make all of the Bush tax cuts permanent. The two sides worked out a compromise, keeping some of the tax benefits that top income-earners enjoyed, but allowing others to expire.

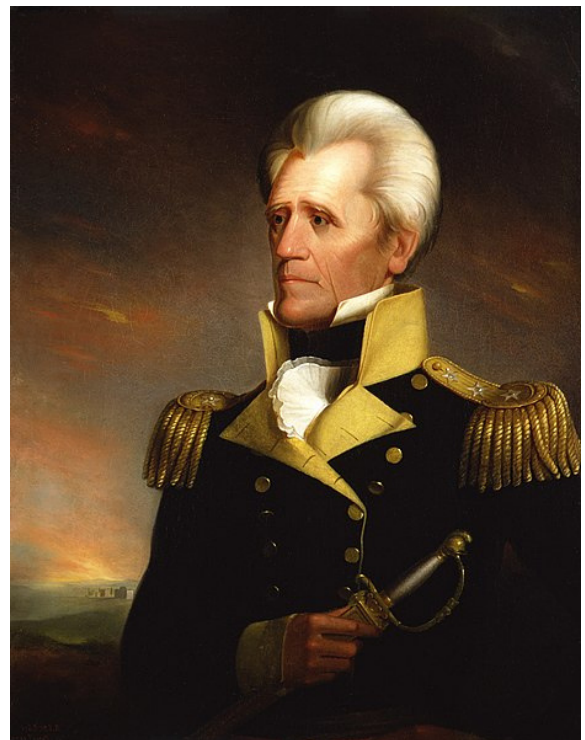
Read More About Significant Bipartisan Compromises:

<https://bipartisanpolicy.org/history-of-bipartisanship/>

#6 Andrew Jackson, Donald Trump's Favorite President

By Joel Castellaw

Andrew Jackson is Donald Trump's favorite American president (besides himself, perhaps). Advisors to the president have made overt comparisons between the two men. When Trump won the 2016 election, Rudy Giuliani told MSNBC's Chris Matthews, "This is like Andrew Jackson's victory. This is the people beating the establishment." Trump's admiration of Jackson is well established. Just days after his inauguration, he replaced a painting of American flags next to the Presidential desk in the Oval Office with a portrait of Jackson. In March of his first year in office, Trump made a stop at the Hermitage, Jackson's historic home in Tennessee, to lay a wreath at Jackson's tomb. And the Trump administration has stalled the Obama-era plan to replace Jackson on the \$20 bill with abolitionist Harriet Tubman.



Portrait of Andrew Jackson by Ralph Eleazor Whiteside Earl. Smithsonian American Art Museum. {{PD-Art}} Public Domain.

There are several parallels between the two presidents. Both were rabble-rousers, especially in their youth. A neighbor of Jackson's described him as "roaring," "rollicking," and "mischievous." In *The Art of the Deal*,

Trump admits that he spent his youth “creating mischief.” Before he was president, Trump starred on *Celebrity Apprentice*, while Jackson was one of America’s very first celebrities, owing to a series of spectacular military victories. As journalist Steve Inskeep put it, “His [Jackson’s] reality show was the War of 1812.” Jackson cultivated an image for himself as a populist who had an affinity for the common man, and Trump does the same. Trump’s combative verbal style and propensity for insults echoes Jackson’s own rhetorical style—Jackson once threatened to cut off the ears of his political enemies. The 1828 election in which Jackson defeated John Quincy Adams for the presidency is cited by many as one of the dirtiest campaigns in our nation’s history and it is frequently referred to as a “nasty” campaign. Trump infamously called his opponent, Hillary Clinton, “such a nasty woman,” in the final moments of their first presidential debate.

Another parallel that some have noted between Trump and Jackson is the perception of these men as holding racist views. Whether or not one personally believes Donald Trump to be racist, it’s clear that many people see him that way. Half of Americans polled in July of this year answered “yes” when asked if they thought that Donald Trump is a racist and another 13 percent said they were “not sure.” This finding is consistent with polls from the previous years of the Trump presidency. The view that Trump is racist seems to have coalesced around the time of the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white supremacists and neo-Nazis violently clashed with



President Donald Trump lays a wreath, Wednesday, March 15, 2017, during a ceremony at Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage in Hermitage, Tennessee. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead). Public Domain.

counter-demonstrators, leaving 30 injured and one dead. Heather Heyer was killed when a self-identified white supremacist deliberately rammed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters. Trump responded to the violence in Charlottesville by saying that there were “very fine people on both sides.”

Racism is referred to by some as America’s original sin. It is certainly embedded in our original U.S. Constitution and ten out of the first twelve U.S. Presidents owned slaves, including Jackson, who held about 200 slaves. He brought some of his slaves to the White House from his Tennessee plantation to work as domestics. Jackson also oversaw a number of improvements to the White House—including the building of the North Portico and the addition of running water to the house—that almost certainly made use of slave labor. Jackson didn’t flinch at the brutality that underpinned the institution of slavery. When an enslaved man ran away from Jackson’s plantation, he offered a reward for the man’s capture and return, including “ten dollars extra, for every hundred lashes any person will give him, to the amount

of three hundred,” which would almost certainly have killed the runaway man.

The ideology of racism served not only as the basis for the institution of slavery, but also the basis for the systemic abuse of Indigenous peoples. On this, Jackson can be seen as one of the worst offenders of all American presidents. Among the wars that made Jackson a celebrity in his day were the so-called “Indian Wars of 1812-1821.” In one of the most infamous—the Battle of Tallushatchee—Jackson ordered General John Coffee and his troops to attack a Creek town. Coffee and his men completely destroyed the town, killing all 186 inhabitants, including women and children. During his presidency, Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which was intended to force all Indigenous tribes in the United States to relocate from areas such as Alabama all the way to the territories west of the Mississippi River. The forced migrations that ensued have come to be known as the Trail of Tears. Approximately 60,000 people were forced to march thousands of miles with little food or support and many died on the trek. In 1836, the final year of Jackson’s presidency, the last of the Creek people were forced to march from Alabama to present-day Oklahoma. Of the 15,000 people who began the trek, 3,500 perished along the way. Jackson had committed an act that we would call ethnic cleansing today. Jackson said the following regarding Native people: “Established in the midst of a superior race, they must disappear.”

Donald Trump has his own challenging history with Native Americans. In the 1990s, Trump fought to overturn the federal law that allows gaming on tribal lands, seeing Indian gaming as competition for his own interests in casinos. During the 2016 presidential campaign, he derisively nicknamed Elizabeth Warren “Pocahontas” – a moniker viewed by many Native people as a slur. In 2017, Trump reduced the size of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah by 85 percent, eliminating protections for land considered sacred by Hopi, Navajo, Ute, and Zuni tribal groups. And when he held a news conference with Navajo code talkers (Native American veterans of World War II who were instrumental in winning the war) at the White House in November of 2017, he posed for pictures with them in the Oval Office directly in front of the portrait of Andrew Jackson, so that Jackson’s visage loomed over the participants. Was this an intentional slight? Who knows? But the Native community sure noticed. Gyasi Ross, an author from Washington state and member of the Blackfeet Nation tribe, said he considered the portrait’s prominence during the news conference to be an intentional slight. “It’s an incredibly distasteful wink in front of people who have sacrificed so much,” he said. “Donald Trump is not a stupid man. He understands visuals and optics: His background is in television. So all of that stuff, I believe, is very deliberate.”

**Read About the Native Americans Who Tried to Use Diplomacy to
Protect Native Interests in Jackson's Day:**

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-chokees-vs-andrew-jackson-277394/>

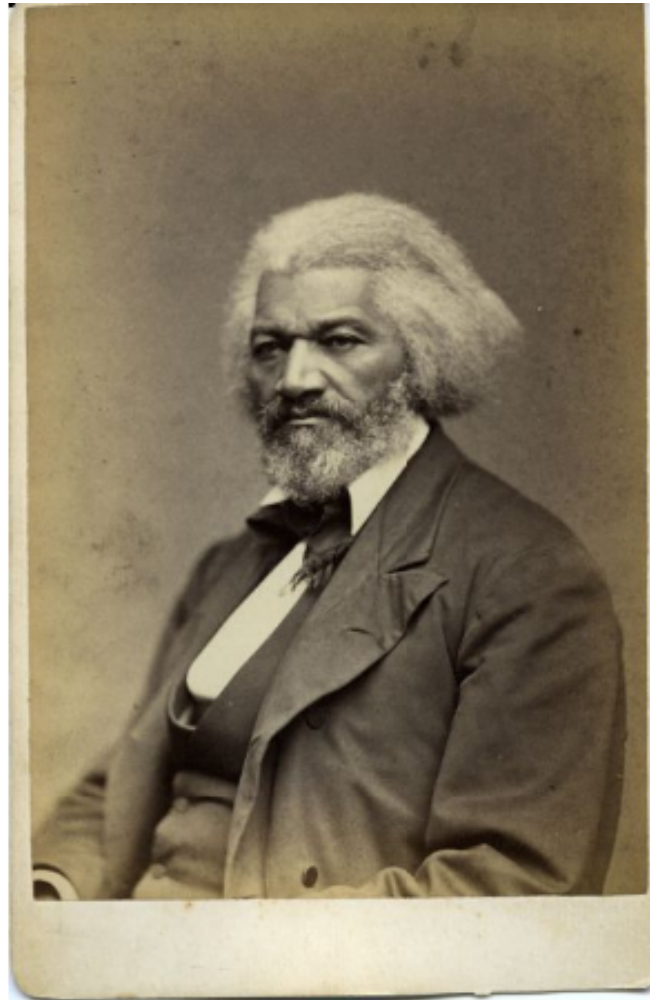
#7 What Do You Think of When Think of Frederick Douglass?

By Kimberly King

When you think of the great 19th century abolitionist Frederick Douglass, do you envision the iconic portrait of a firm-jawed Black statesman, natural salt-and-pepper crown brushed back to reveal that steadfast glare? That urgent, imploring, dark-eyed stare that incriminates anyone unlucky enough to be caught in the path of his tractor beams? Is that what you see? Rightfully so, if you do. The face of social or political activism has rarely ever been a gentle and tolerant visage; not easy to face, to ignore, or forget. A person who dedicates their life to social change—writing about it, speaking out about it, challenging the power that would stop it—cannot be cut from frail cloth.

As an infant, Douglass was sold away from his mother to the same plantation owner who owned his maternal grandparents, thus allowing his mother to visit him at night, after the toil of her day, and sing him to sleep. But that arrangement ended when he was sold away again at the age of six. Six years old, alone, no one to hold his hand, sing lullaby songs, or comfort him after a full day of forced labor. That's some tough cloth. With it, Douglass wove himself a personality that would not suffer injustice.

When he was about 16 (Douglass never knew his actual birthday, but remembered his mother calling him "Little Valentine," so he chose February 14), he was sold to Edward Covey, who had painstakingly cultivated a reputation as a "slave breaker." Covey's incessant,



Frederick Douglass circa 1879.
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/558770>. Public Domain {{PD-US}}

brutal beatings left Douglass covered in unhealed stripes from Covey's whip. When Douglass decided he'd had enough of it, he confronted Covey mid-beating, took him on hand-to-hand, and beat him down. That day, Douglass extinguished Covey's cruelty and ignited in Douglass a desire to be in control of his own self.

In his 1845 book, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, he explained the feelings: "The battle with Mr. Covey was the turning-point in my career as a slave. It rekindled the few expiring embers of freedom, and revived within me a sense of my own manhood. It recalled the departed self-confidence, and inspired me again with a

determination to be free...I did not hesitate to let it be known of me, that the white man who expected to succeed in whipping, must also succeed in killing me." (There has never been a more appropriate moment for a "snap!" than that!).

And so, on September 3, 1838, after a couple of unsuccessful tries, Frederick escaped to Massachusetts to begin his free life as an outspoken abolitionist. He called September 3rd "the day his free life began." It was a solid date for Frederick to mark as his own; to mark his birth into the society of free people.

With his wife Anna, a free Black woman, Douglass sought to make his experience of freedom one that all the enslaved would enjoy. He went on to build a legacy of social activism as one of the most well-known and influential people of African descent in 19th century America.

Douglass began his abolitionist-themed newspaper, *The North Star* in 1846. The slogan of *The North Star* was, "Right is of no Sex—Truth is of no Color—God is the Father of us all, and all we are Brethren," highlighting Douglass's feelings about sexism, racism, and religion. God is real, he's our daddy, and he does not care for -isms! Frederick Douglass espoused the fight for Civil Rights ubiquitously, as evidenced by his early support of a woman's right to vote. Even as racism infiltrated the fight for suffrage, Douglass persevered, and fought alongside women. He believed voting was a natural right and suffrage was crucial to America's development into a just Republic.

Douglass was a master orator. One of his most famous speeches was given on July 5, 1852: "What to a slave is the Fourth of July?" In this speech, Douglass articulated clearly what is still true about the hypocrisy embedded in the American celebration of Independence Day. He was

humble, but he was clear. He did not mince words:

"The fact is, ladies and gentlemen, the distance between this platform and the slave plantation, from which I escaped, is considerable—and the difficulties to be overcome in getting from the latter to the former, are by no means slight. That I am here today is, to me, a matter of astonishment as well as of gratitude. You will not, therefore, be surprised, if in what I have to say I evince no elaborate preparation, nor grace my speech with any high sounding exordium. ...What, am I to argue that it is wrong to make men brutes, to rob them of their liberty, to work them without wages, to keep them ignorant of their relations to their fellow men, to beat them with sticks, to flay their flesh with the lash, to load their limbs with irons, to hunt them with dogs, to sell them at auction, to sunder their families, to knock out their teeth, to burn their flesh, to starve them into obedience and submission to their masters? Must I argue that a system thus marked with blood, and stained with pollution, is wrong?"

The injustice of slavery was clear to Frederick Douglass 1852, and we can see the echoes of his sentiments in the words of others to this day.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Where Do We Go From Here?" 1967: "The contemporary tendency in our society is to base our distribution on scarcity, which has vanished, and to compress our abundance into the overfed mouths of the middle and upper classes until

they gag with superfluity. If democracy is to have breadth of meaning, it is necessary to adjust this inequity. It is not only moral, but it is also intelligent. We are wasting and degrading human life by clinging to archaic thinking."

Greta Thunberg, calling out the hypocritical pabulum by at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit: "How dare you! You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe."

John Lewis, in a piece he wrote to be published posthumously, on the day of his funeral: "When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence,

aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide."

How wondrous will it be, the day the activist can trade in the rough cloth of their being for some fine linen or silk?

Watch Descendants of Frederick Douglass Read One of His Speeches:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBe5qbnkqoM

View Images and Read Transcripts of an Issue of *The North Star*:
<https://transcription.si.edu/project/14480>

#8 "Do Right" - The Mexican-American War and Our Border Today

By Joel Castellaw

Scene 9, "Do Right. - 1847," is the only scene in the play that carries a specific date: December 22nd, 1847. The scene imagines an encounter between John Quincy Adams, who is now 80-years-old and serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, and a junior House member from Illinois, one Abraham Lincoln. In the imagined encounter that the scene depicts, JQA praises a speech that Lincoln had given on the House

floor earlier in the day, though the specific substance of that speech isn't mentioned in the play's text.

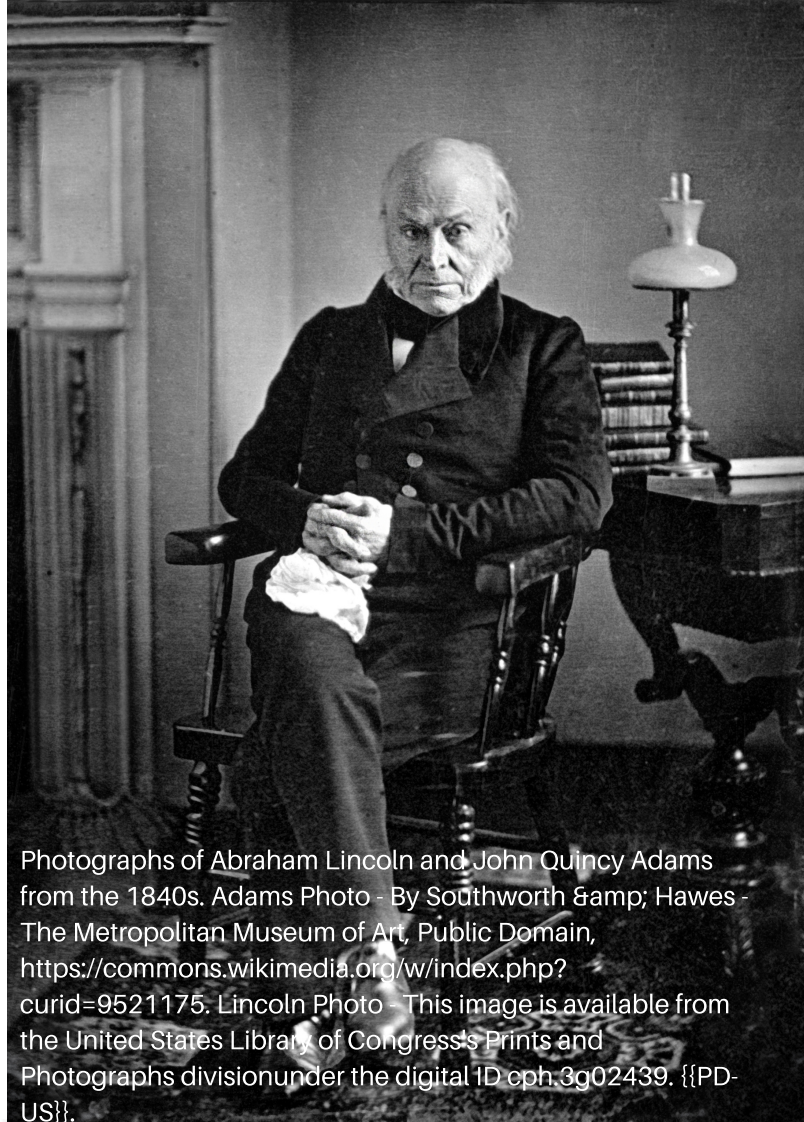
So, what issue did Lincoln speak to when he addressed the House on December 22nd, 1847? The historical record is clear. It was on this date that Lincoln delivered what has come to be referred to as the Spot Resolutions, a series of demands related to the Mexican-American War, which had been raging for over a year.

The background of the Mexican-American War is complex, but a significant factor in the start of the war

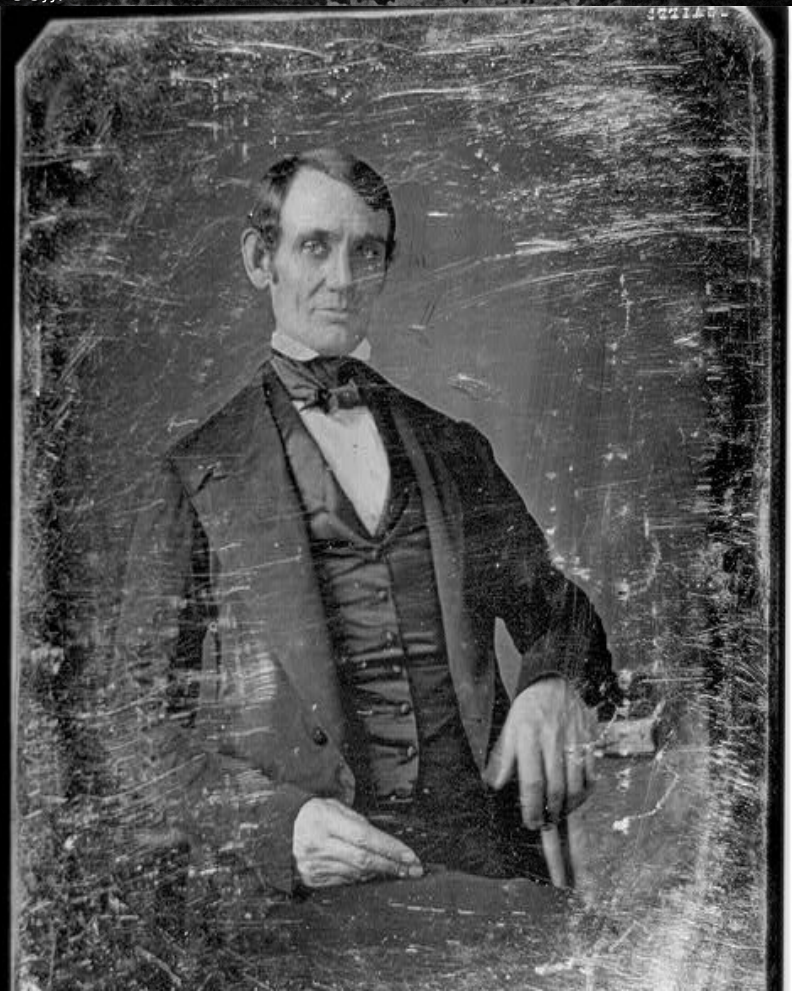
was a border dispute. When President James Polk asked Congress for a declaration of war against Mexico on May 11th of 1846, one of Polk's stated reasons for going to war was a claim that "Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon America's soil." A skirmish had taken place between Mexican and U.S. troops on April 25th, 1846, in which Mexican troops moved across the Rio Grande and attacked an American mounted patrol, killing five and wounding eleven. A significant problem with the claim however, was that President Polk and his political faction had essentially moved the position of the U.S.-Mexico border 150 miles to the south.

Since 1819, the U.S. had recognized the Nueces River, 150 miles north of the Rio Grande, as the boundary between the U.S. and what was then New Spain. The 1819 treaty that established this boundary was the Adams-Onís Treaty, named for the two diplomats who negotiated it: Spanish Envoy Don Luis de Onís and then-U.S. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams. When Mexico declared its independence from Spain in 1821, the boundary of the Nueces River continued to be recognized by the United States. By 1846, however, the U.S. commitment to the border established by the Adams-Onís Treaty had begun to erode.

On January 13, 1846, General Zachary Taylor moved more than 3,500 troops across the Nueces River and ordered them to head south for the Rio Grande—a move that was carried out on order from President Polk. From the point of view of the Mexican government, the U.S. had invaded Mexico in an aggressive action and the bloodshed of April 25th, 1846, just north of the Rio Grande but far south of the Nueces River, occurred on Mexican soil, in defense of Mexico's territory.



Photographs of Abraham Lincoln and John Quincy Adams from the 1840s. Adams Photo - By Southworth & Hawes - The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9521175>. Lincoln Photo - This image is available from the United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division under the digital ID cph.3g02439. {{PD-US}}.





<http://www.dean.usma.edu/history/web03/atlases/mexican%20war/mexican%20war%20index.htm> == Licensing == {{PD-USGov}}
Category:Mexican-American War

As the war dragged on, Lincoln's Spot Resolution speech of December, 1847, demanded that the question be answered: "whether the particular spot of soil on which the blood of our citizens was shed, was, or was not, our own soil?" Congress chose not to take up the question and the speech only resulted in Lincoln being given the derisive nickname of "spotty Lincoln" for a time. Looking back at the speech today, however, we see a question that could not be more consequential. Was the premise for the Mexican-American War valid? And, if it wasn't valid, how does that complicate our view of the outcome of that war today?

The Mexican-American War ended in 1848 with the ratification of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, a treaty in which Mexico lost 55% of its land mass to the United States, including all or part of present-day Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah. If the persuasive premise for the declaration of war in 1846 rested on a false claim about whose territory had been invaded and upon whose soil blood had been shed just north of the Rio Grande in April of 1846, could we conclude that a significant portion of today's United States rests on land effectively stolen from Mexico? Whose land is this? (And let's acknowledge

here that we aren't even taking into account the Indigenous people who are the original inhabitants of this land.)

The U.S.-Mexico border remains fraught to this day. From the day he announced his initial bid for the U.S. Presidency, Donald Trump made derisive claims about Mexicans crossing into the U.S. and those attacks became a central theme of his 2016 campaign. Once in office, he made clear his anti-immigrant agenda through travel bans, family separations, attacks on DACA, and, above all, his agenda to build a "big, beautiful wall" on the U.S.-Mexico border to separate the two countries.

Yet, we're neighbors. The U.S. and Mexico have an interdependent trade relationship that in 2019 saw over 6.5 million freight trucks and nearly 2 million rail containers cross the border carrying goods between the two countries. At the San Ysidro port of entry, the fourth-busiest land border crossing in the world, an average of

70,000 northbound vehicles and 20,000 northbound pedestrians crossed the border every day in 2018. Many of the people crossing the border legally every day come for work at their regular jobs. Many come to shop. Many are part of family systems with family members who live on both sides of the border. Some are U.S. citizens who live in Tijuana, but work in San Diego or its suburbs. All of which begs the question: what is a border, anyway? Who benefits from the willful forgetting of the history of how the Southwest came to be part of the United States? And how can we "do right" by all of this?

Read About the Treaty Guadalupe

Hidalgo from a Chicano Perspective:

<https://siglodelucha.wordpress.com/2014/03/17/the-treaty-of-guadalupe-hidalgo-and-the-future-of-the-chicanomexicano-people/>

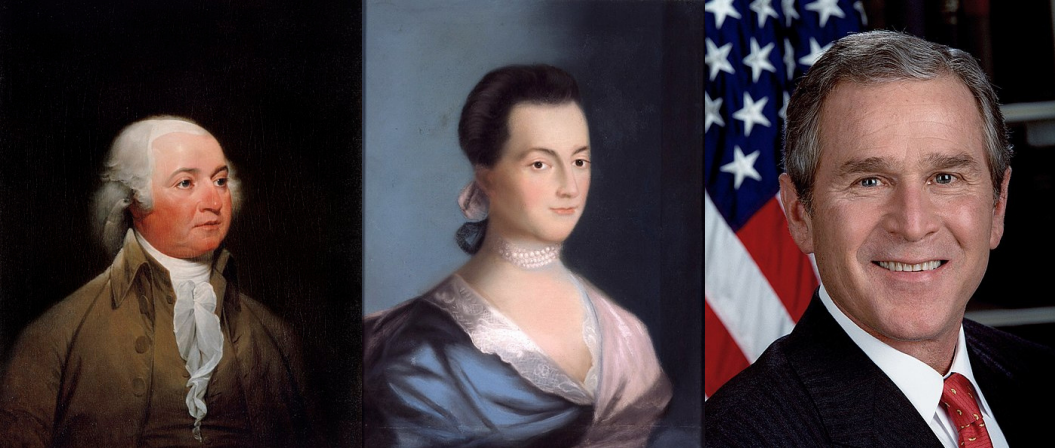
#9 Fathers, Mothers, and Sons: Presidential Dynasties

By Joel Castellaw

What do John Quincy Adams and George W. Bush have in common? These two men are the only U.S. Presidents whose fathers had also served in the Presidency. The parallels between the two men, and between the Adams and Bush families, don't end there, however.

The elder John Adams and the senior George H.W. Bush were both born in Massachusetts. They both served as

Vice President for eight years under highly popular Presidents who were viewed as paternal figures by the nation — Adams serving under George Washington and Bush serving under Ronald Reagan. Adams and Bush were both elected to the Presidency during their respective second terms as Vice President, and both served only one term as President, with Adams defeated by Thomas Jefferson and Bush defeated by Bill Clinton. In each case, the successor President served two terms and eclipsed their predecessor in popularity and perceived effectiveness in office. Both Adams and Bush were long-lived, surviving into their nineties.



Official Presidential portrait of John Adams}} [Source =<http://www.whitehousereseach.org/assetbank-whha/action/viewHome> [Author =John Trumbull [Date =about 1792-1793 - {{PD-US-expired}}]

Portrait of Abigail Adams by Gilbert Stuart from the National Gallery of Art Collection. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Abigail_Adams_by_Gilbert_Stuart.jpg {{PD-US-expired}}

Official White House photo of George W. Bush by Eric Draper. As a work of the U.S. federal government, this photo is in the public domain. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:GeorgeWBush.jpg>

Abigail Adams, wife of John and mother of John Quincy and First Lady Barbara Bush also have much in common. Abigail Adams was a rock of emotional and intellectual support for John Adams while he worked with other Founders during the American Revolution to forge a new nation. Barbara Bush served a similar role in the life of George H.W. Bush while he fought in World War II. Abigail Adams was an avid diarist and advocate for education, especially women's education. Barbara Bush took on literacy education as her major concern while serving as First Lady. Both women lived long lives, but nonetheless preceded their husbands in death.

And what of the additional parallels between the sons, John Quincy and George W.? Both came from New England families. Both were educated at Harvard. Both were born into privilege. But perhaps the most striking similarity, other than being the sons of former Presidents, is the disputed elections in which each was ultimately elevated to the Presidency. Bush's opponent was Al Gore and Adams's opponent was Andrew Jackson. Both Gore and Jackson were former U.S. Senators from the state of Tennessee. Both Adams and Bush lost the popular vote to their opponent and the initial vote was followed in each case by weeks of election turmoil. In the Adams-Jackson race, neither candidate captured a majority in the Electoral College. This threw the election to the U.S. House of Representatives, where House Speaker Henry Clay, who had also

been a candidate in the Presidential election, threw his support behind Adams, ensuring that Adams would prevail. In the Bush-Gore race, there was a recount of disputed votes in Florida, where Bush held a margin of less than 1000 votes out of millions cast. The U.S. Supreme Court intervened, halting the recount and effectively handing the Presidency to Bush, who prevailed in the Electoral College thanks to being declared the winner in Florida. Jackson's supporters in the 1820s and Gore's supporters in the early 2000s cried foul, convinced in both cases that the election had been stolen from the winner of the popular vote.

But the parallels end there. John Quincy Adams was dogged by the circumstances of his election throughout his single term as President. Jackson ran against Adams again four years later and beat him soundly—winning both the popular vote and the Electoral College vote this time. George W. Bush managed to put the controversial circumstances of his own electoral victory behind him, shooting to popularity in the aftermath of 9/11. Gore chose not to run again in 2004, and Bush was re-elected – besting not only John Quincy Adams, but also his own father, George H.W. Bush, to serve as a two-term President.

#10 US History as Seen on Broadway

By Joel Castellaw

Playwrights, musical theater composers, librettists, and their creative partners are always looking for inspiration for their work. One time-tested source of inspiration is history. Shakespeare wrote ten plays based on British history and at least five of his tragedies are derived from classical history. Shakespeare took a lot of license with historical events in these plays and many scholars suggest that Shakespeare wasn't so much interested in depicting history as he was in using history to comment on the politics of his own time.

History can be a lens through which we look back in time in order to get a clearer view of what's happening today. This is certainly what Aaron Posner is up to in *JQA*. This perspective also characterizes many of the other notable plays and musicals that have focused on historical U.S. figures and events. Some were hits, some were misses, but all of them have endeavored to use history to help us see something about ourselves as Americans.

The Tony Award winning musical, *1776*, tells the story of John Adams and his efforts to convince other Founding Fathers to sign the Declaration of Independence. Premiering in 1969, a time of great turmoil in American life, it endeavored to make audience members simply feel good about America's founding ideals.

The lesser-known *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, from 1976, was the last Broadway project that famed composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein

wrote. Alan Jay Lerner wrote the book. Bernstein and Lerner set out to tell the story of the first 100 years of the White House. The central characters are the Presidents and their First Ladies, as well as several generations of a dynasty of White House servants, all of whom were black. It was savaged by critics for taking a stark view of race relations in America. It closed after one week and has never had a significant revival.

Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins* originated Off-Broadway in 1990 and won a Tony Award as a revival on Broadway in 2004. The show is a series of vignettes about assassins and would-be assassins of U.S. Presidents and it is tinged with irony. In a review of a 2017 Off-Broadway revival, New York Times critic Jesse Green called it "the most shocking mainstream musical ever written."

Peter Morgan's 2007 play *Frost/Nixon* uses the 1977 television interviews of disgraced President Richard Nixon by British Journalist David Frost to explore Nixon's dark psyche. Frank Langella won a Tony for Best Actor playing Nixon and was later nominated for an Oscar for the film version of the play. Part of

Lin-Manuel Miranda is Hamilton! Photo by Steve Jurvetson used under a Creative Commons license. No edits made.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jurvetson/25945250053/>



the function of the play is to help us to never forget what can happen when a man becomes corrupted by power.

2010 offered the controversial *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, a musical which chronicles Jackson's life and legacy, including the legacy of imperialism and Jackson's inhumane treatment of Native Americans. The musical critiques the past so that we all might ponder the impact of this troubling legacy on the present.

Robert Schenkkan's 2014 play, *All the Way*, focuses on President Lyndon Johnson and the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, depicting the scorched-earth politics that Johnson was renowned for. The playwright described it as a play about "the morality of politics and power. Where do you draw the line in terms of intentions and action? How much leeway does a good intention give you to violate the law?" A film version of the

play is available on HBO with Bryan Cranston in the lead. Cranston won a Tony Award for best actor in the Broadway production.

And, of course, there is Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton: An American Musical*, the biggest Broadway sensation in recent memory. Rousing, thrilling, highly theatrical, and deeply moving, the musical uses a hip-hop score and color-conscious casting to invite all of today's Americans to see ourselves in the stories of our Founding Fathers and Mothers.

JQA is the latest in a line of theatrical works that invite us to look to history in order to reimagine the present. Aaron Posner's casting requirements asked for actors of differing races and ages to play *JQA* throughout his lifetime as well as many other instrumental leaders from our country's origin. We hope you enjoy it!

A Storyboard rendering used for planning filming for San Diego REP's production of *JQA*



SCENE 9 – DO RIGHT - 1847

Timeline of John Quincy Adams' Life



19 Oct. 1735 – Birth of John Adams

22 Nov. 1744 – Birth of Abigail Smith

25 Oct. 1764 – John and Abigail marry

11 July 1767 – Birth of John Quincy Adams

June-July, 1776 – John Adams works with Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin to draft the Declaration of Independence

1787 – John Quincy Adams graduates from Harvard

1789 – John Adams is elected the first Vice President of the United States

26 July 1797 – John Quincy Adams marries Louisa Catherine Johnson

1802 – John Quincy Adams is elected to the U.S. Senate

1803 – The Louisiana Purchase nearly doubles the size of the U.S.

1808 – John Quincy Adams is appointed Minister to Russia


1812-1814 – The War of 1812, an armed conflict between the U.S. and Great Britain

1814 – John Quincy Adams serves as the chief U.S. negotiator on the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812

1817 – John Quincy Adams is appointed Secretary of State

28 Oct. 1818 – Abigail dies

1819 – John Quincy Adams works with President Monroe on the Treaty of 1819, which secured Florida and other parts of New Spain for the U.S.



1820 - The Missouri Compromise is passed, with the intention of maintaining a balance of power between slave states and free states

1823 - President James Monroe articulates the Monroe doctrine to Congress, proclaiming the Americas off-limits to further European colonization

1824 - John Quincy Adams is elected President of the United States

4 July 1826 - John Adams dies. Thomas Jefferson also dies the same day.

1828 - John Quincy Adams loses the Presidency to Andrew Jackson

1829 - John Quincy and Louisa's oldest son, George, dies of complications from alcoholism.

1830 - Andrew Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act, setting the stage for the Trail of Tears

1831 - John Quincy Adams is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving Plymouth, MA

1834 - John Quincy and Louisa's second son, John, dies in a fall from a steamboat.

1836 - Texas declares its independence from Mexico

1841 - John Quincy Adams defends African captives from a charge of munity before the U.S. Supreme Court in the Amistad case

1845 - The U.S. annexes Texas; Frederick Douglass's Narrative is published

1846 - The U.S. declares war on Mexico

2 Feb. 1848 - The Mexican-American War ends with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

21-23 Feb. 1848 - John Quincy Adams suffers a stroke on the House floor, and dies two days later

1850 – The Compromise of 1850, is passed as a set of five bills intended to maintain the balance of power between free states and slave states

15 May 1852 – Louisa Adams dies

1860 – Abraham Lincoln is elected President

12-13 April 1861 – The Battle of Ft. Sumter launches the Civil War

9 April 1865 – Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, marking the beginning of the end of the Civil War

18 Dec. 1865 – The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, establishing that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."



John Quincy Adams during his final hours of life after his collapse in the Capitol. Drawing in pencil by Arthur Joseph Stansbury, digitally restored. 1848.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Quincy_Adams#/media/File:John_Quincy_Adams_drawing2.jpg

Food for Thought Questions

1. Which of the Founders depicted in this play causes you to reflect on our current American politics and the issues we are facing and what are some of those reflections?
2. How have your parents' dreams for you shaped, influenced, or collided with the dreams you have had for yourself?
3. What do you see as the role of compromise in American life?
4. What is a cause or issue impacting American life today that you would fight and sacrifice for? Why? How far are you willing to go?
5. How can you "Do good, and be good?" What impact can you have through those actions?



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