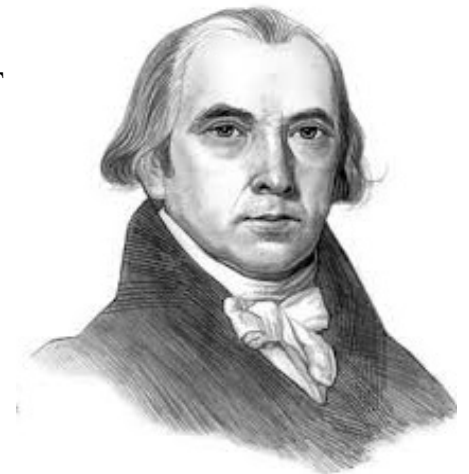


**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN** 1706-1790; all 4 founding documents signed; 5 fluent languages; 1752 Philadelphia Kite experiment; 1753 Deputy Postmaster General; 1757 - 1<sup>st</sup> 5 year period in England securing colonial rights; 1764 - 2<sup>nd</sup> (was unsuccessful) 11 years; 1775 return to America as Lexington shots fired beginning Revolutionary War; 1776 - sent to France for treaty made in 1778; in France 1782 18M livres loans secured for war; 1781 began peace treaty efforts culminating Sep 3, 1783 Peace Treaty ending Rev War, the “greatest achievement in the history of American diplomacy”; 1785 returned home and became President PA state (governor); age 81, 1787 constitutional convention oldest participant; final plea to end slavery 1790; peaceful death, April 7.

**JAMES MADISON** 1751-1836; Oldest son VA planter “Montpelier”; Excellent education; 1769 Princeton education began under John Witherspoon; Greek Latin & Hebrew (for OT clarity); Frail health from all of studies; Ministry attempt exchanged for Law profession; rejected at state militia due to health: Revolutionary War; 1776 delegate VA constitution, still under 30; endorsed strong central government; state’s navigational rights on Mississippi River proponent; Fishing rights dispute settled between Maryland and Virginia, (1786 Annapolis Convention); died 1836



**EDMOND RANDOLPH** 1753-1813; Father & Grandfather were king’s attorneys; Educated College of William & Mary; 1775 traveled to England due to loyalty to England; Aug - Oct 1775 aide-de-camp to General Washington; 1776 - VA Convention member; offered VA “Randolph Plan” though not his own; 1776-1786 1<sup>st</sup> Attorney General of VA; Large practice for General Washington; Continental Congress both 1779 & 1780-82; 1787-88 Governor of VA; Constitutional Convention 1787; Proponent of strong centralized & 3 executive branch type of Government; opposed importation of slaves; balked to sign Constitution due to no Bill of Rights; 1787 attack published on the Constitution; declined reelection as governor

VA 1788; 1788-1794 House of Delegates for codification of the law; 1789 Washington appoints at first U.S. Attorney General.



## ALEXANDER HAMILTON 1757-1804

Born Nevis Island, British West Indies, renown paternal and maternal families. Father James Hamilton a Scottish merchant of St. Christopher.

James' father was Alexander Hamilton of Grange Lanarkshire; mother was a French Huguenot, Rachael Faucette, from a first unhappy marriage, whose husband divorced in 1750. The couple's remarriage was forbidden by the court, but they had Alexander and James before she died in 1768. He was left to maternal relatives after misfortunes ruined his father's business and while

Alexander was 12, he became resident in the countinghouse of Nicholas Cruger. Cruger soon left Alexander in charge of his business while himself abroad, and historical documents esteem Alex with "astonishing poise and maturity of mind and self-conscious ambition." p. 142.

Before 1722, when friends provided schooling in New York, he had little formal education opportunities, but developed self-disciplined education producing an excellence that included fluency in French. After 2 years preparation for college in Elizabethtown, Alex entered King's College (Columbia Univ. now) only to be interrupted with the American Independence War. A visit to Boston confirmed his life long commitment to the colonist's causes, and he first organized an artillery company to fight the British. Becoming Captain of the same, he was found by Nathaniel Greene and Washington for his proficiency and bravery in a campaign 1776. He entered Washington's army as lieutenant-colonel in March, 1777, ambitious for military glory – something he never lost, even though Washington completely trusted his abilities and character. He was reprimanded by Washington for abandoning his staff position which was due to becoming "impatient of detention" when assigned a "position of unpleasant dependence" by his evaluation. Never-the-less he was found with a field position at the Battle of Yorktown where he led a column of soldiers in a final assault "on the British works." p. 143. In 1780, his marriage linked him to a distinguished family in New York through Elizabeth Schyler (General Phillip Schyler, her father)

Political skills began surfacing in the late 1770s and he soon understood and communicated the importance of centralizing the government powers. After a year of service to congress in 1779-80 of unsuccessful political aspirations, he practiced Law until he saw his chance in the call for the Anapolis Convention of 1786. Being a delegate from New York, he brought support to Madison for the 1787 Convention with his Federalist views. The balance of New York was anti-Federalist, and after they withdrew from the convention, he alone signed for New York on that famous document. His work, *The Federalist*, looms as highly influential in the formation of the U.S. Constitution, and principles of Law.

**Today: 1. Benjamin Franklin 2. James Madison, 3. Edmund Randolph, 4. Alexander Hamilton, TBD: 5. Gouverneur Morris, 6. Robert Morris, 7. George Mason, 8. George Wythe, 9. James Wilson, 10. John Dickinson, 11. Roger Sherman, 12. John Rutledge, 13. Charles Pinckney, 14. Charles Coatsworth Pinckney**

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