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American History

4 November, 2024

Report on Samuel Adams

Samuel Adams was born to Samuel Adams, Sr. and Mary Adams in Boston, Massachusetts, on September 16, 1722 (Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica). His parents were from prominent families, allowing Adams to grow up in a good household (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). He attended Harvard and graduated in 1740 (Britannica). His father was into politics, and he helped shape Samuel's political views and future. The family regularly attended church at the South Meeting House (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). His religious upbringing also shaped his political views as well. "For Adams, liberty and politics worked hand in glove" (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). He believed citizens had the right to freedom as long as they played a part in the government.

After school, Adams tried but failed at many different jobs. His main passion was politics. He married the preacher's daughter, Elizabeth Checkly, and they had six children (Britannica). She died giving birth in 1757 (Britannica). Adams was sad, so to get over her death, he focused on politics. His first position in politics was as a tax collector, although he was too nice and only sometimes collected the taxes he was supposed to (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary).* Adams was a big critic of the Sugar Act and voiced his concerns, stating, "For if our Trade may be taxed, why not our lands? Why not the produce of our Lands and everything we possess" (qt. Adams). He married a second time to Elizabeth Wells and she helped raise his kids while he was away doing politics (Brittanica).

After he was against the Stamp Act, Adams rose to be an elected official with a powerful voice as he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). Adam's main job against the British was using his writing skills. He wrote letters, essays, and newspaper articles against the King, Parliament, and the arrival of British troops in Boston (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). He mainly wrote under a fake name so the British would not know it was him. After the Boston massacre, he was able to argue for the troops to leave Boston (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). It was a big victory for Boston at the time.

Next came the Tea Act. Things had been pretty calm until the Tea Act was passed. The Boston Sons of Liberty destroyed 342 trunks of tea (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). Although there is no evidence that Adams was actually there, he did write about how happy he was that it had occurred. The King was not happy and passed lots of laws against Massachusetts and sent troops there. Adams was elected as a Massachusetts representative for the first Continental Congress and again for the second Continental Congress (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). Samuel Adams attended the Second Continental Congress with John Adams, John Hancock, and Robert Paine, and they stayed in the town of Lexington when the British troops were headed that way (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). Paul Revere and William Dawes were sent to alert the men that the British were coming, and they left just in time (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). At this point in his life, Adams believed that the only way they could survive was by complete independence from the King (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). So this is what he fought for until it happened. On July 4, 1776, Adams voted for the Declaration of Independence.

There is little known about Adam's role after the Declaration of Independence was signed. He helped write the constitution for Massachusetts and continued on the second Continental Congress (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). His main interest then turned to state politics. He was Lieutenant Governor for John Hancock and was elected three times as Governor himself (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*). Samuel Adams died at the age of 81 (Britannica). Years after his death, Thomas Jefferson wrote about Samuel Adams. He said, "I can say that he was truly a great man, wise in council, fertile in resources, immovable in his purposes" (*Samuel Adams: Boston’s Revolutionary*).

Works Cited

Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Samuel Adams: American Politician." Britannica, 28 Sept. 2024, www.britannica.com. Accessed 30 Oct. 2024.

“Samuel Adams: Boston’s Radical Revolutionary.” *National Park Service*, 9 Jan. 2024, www.nps.gov. Accessed 30 Oct. 2024.

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