

John Trumbull

# Introduction

- ▶ born 06.06.1756, died 10.11.1843
- ▶ Revolutionary War veteran
- ▶ artist of the early independence period
- ▶ *The Painter of the Revolution*
- ▶ President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences



Figure 1: The Capture of the Hessians at Trenton - John Trumbull, 1786-1828

# Life

- ▶ born in Connecticut, father was Governor of Connecticut
- ▶ descendant of early Puritan settlers
- ▶ lost an eye in an accident, went to Harvard College
- ▶ soldier in the war, sketched battle lines at Boston
- ▶ poor, in 1780 he turned to art
- ▶ went to London and learned from Benjamin West – paints small pictures of the war
- ▶ returned to the US in 1782, back to London in 1784 to continue his studies
- ▶ got one of his picture accepted for display at the Royal Academy
- ▶ went to Paris in 1786, starts working on “*Declaration of Independence*”
- ▶ he travelled and painted all the signers to add to the larger painting



Figure 2: Declaration of Independence - John Trumbull, 1818

- ▶ he fell on hard times before selling 88 works to Yale University
- ▶ continued to paint American personalities including George Washington, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton
- ▶ 1791 was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- ▶ 1816-1836 served as the president of the AAAS, where he did not get along with the students
- ▶ they left and founded the National Academy of Design, AAAS closed in 1839
- ▶ interred at Yale, his birthplace is a National Historic Landmark, his painting of Alexander Hamilton's face is on the \$10 bill
- ▶ Source: Wikipedia - John Trumbull



Figure 3: Self-portrait - John Trumbull, 1802

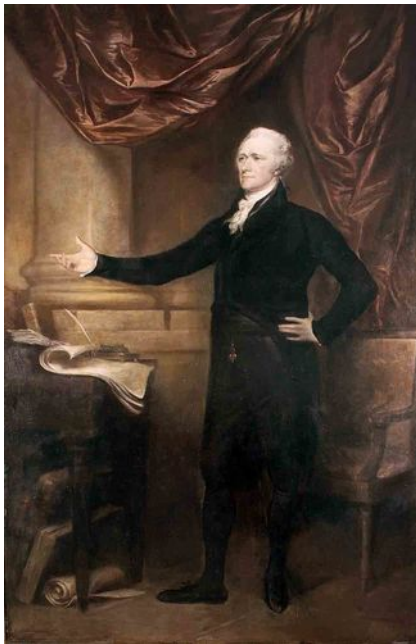


Figure 4: Alexander Hamilton - John Trumbull, 1805



# Sources

- ▶ *click to go to source*
- ▶ Declaration of Independence
- ▶ Alexander Hamilton
- ▶ Capture of the Hessians at Trenton
- ▶ Self-portrait