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ABOUT THIS PERSON

**Son of John Adams, sixth US president, 1825-29; catalyst behind Monroe Doctrine, 1823.**

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born July 11, 1767 in Braintree, Massachusetts, United States. Died February 23, 1848 in Washington, District of Columbia, United States.

FURTHER READINGS:

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John Quincy Adams

Date: June 8, 2011

From: Almanac of Famous People
Publisher: Gale

Lexile Measure: 830L

ABOUT THIS PERSON
Born: July 11, 1767 in Braintree, Massachusetts, United States
Died: February 23, 1848 in Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Nationality: American
Occupation: President (Government)
Other Names: Old Man Eloquent

Son of John Adams, sixth US president, 1825-29; catalyst behind Monroe Doctrine, 1823.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:
Born July 11, 1767 in Braintree, Massachusetts, United States. Died February 23, 1848 in Washington, District of Columbia, United States.
John Adams

Born: October 30, 1735 in Braintree, Massachusetts, United States
Died: July 4, 1826 in Quincy, Massachusetts, United States
Nationality: American
Occupation: President (Government)

JOHN ADAMS became the second president of the United States when he took the oath of office in the packed House of Representatives on 4 March 1797. As he described this moving scene to his wife, there was "a dry eye but Washington's" at the sight of the sun setting full armed, and another rising. "There was a combination of history and politics. The nation had ensured respect for the newly created federal government."

Early Life

Born on 19 October 1735, Adams was sixty-one when he took office. He had behind him thirty years of distinguished public service. His father, a respected farmer and artisan of Braintree, Massachusetts, had pointed him toward Harvard College and a career in the Congregational ministry. He took his degree in 1755, but by then theological uncertainty had turned him toward a secular vocation. He taught school briefly, then read law, and was admitted to the bar in 1768. Within a dozen years he became the colony's preeminent and busiest lawyer.

In defending such clients as John Hancock and other merchants accused of smuggling and sailors charged with rioting against press gangs of the Royal Navy, he was drawn into the local resistance movement. The Stamp Act of 1765 provoked him to argue in speech and in print against this parliamentary statute, which he termed an unconstitutional violation of colonial liberty. In 1770 he masterfully defended the British soldiers accused of murder in the Boston Massacre. He secured their acquittal while protecting the town's reputation against the charge that the soldiers had been unprovokedly heraused. He held a number of offices and served a term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. In retaliation for Adams' opposition to royal government, the governor twice vetoed his election to the Massachusetts Council. His law practice ended in 1774 when the colony and the developing nation began to demand all of his talents and energy.

In 1764 Adams had married Abigail Smith of neighboring Weymouth, Massachusetts, who was to make a major contribution to his public career. Without intending school, she had mastered the literature of the day and developed a remarkably perceptive intellect and an unquenchable spirit. As John Adams became absorbed in politics and diplomacy, he increasingly left to her the responsibility of raising their four surviving children and managing the family's finances. At first impatient with the limitations of the private sphere to which women were confined, she in time accepted her husband's successes as her own and gladly took her place as his confidante and defender. There was a marriage of equals as far as the roles society assigned...
Biography in Context

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John Quincy Adams

Date: June 8, 2011

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FURTHER READINGS:
- Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-1989. The Continental Congress, September 5, 1774 to October 21, 1788 and the Congress of the United States from the first through

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