



John Adams

2nd President

Born: Oct. 30, 1735

Birthplace: Quincy, MA

Died: July 4, 1826

Burial Site: Quincy, MA

Spouse: Abigail Smith

Occupation: Lawyer, diplomat

Political Party: Federalist

Term: 1797-1801

Vice President: Thomas Jefferson

John Adams, a prosperous farmer's son, was one of the early patriots who was President George Washington's vice-president for both of his terms.

Adams was born in Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1735. A Harvard-educated lawyer, he became identified with the patriot cause. Adams was a delegate to the First and Second Constitutional Congress.

He signed the Declaration of Independence and during the Revolutionary War served as a diplomat in France and Holland. He helped negotiate the treaty of peace which gave this country its independence. From 1785 to 1788, he was minister to the Court of St. James.

Elected vice-president with Washington in 1789 and 1792, he was the choice of the Federalist party to succeed the first president. Thomas Jefferson, an advocate of democracy, opposed him and was named vice-president when Adams became president. At that time, the law gave the offices to the first and second choices of the Electoral College.

He got Congress to appropriate money to complete three new frigates, to build additional ships and provide for a provisional army.

Near the end of Adams's term, the capital was moved to the new city of Washington and he became the first president to occupy the White House.