

James Madison

4th President

Born: March 16, 1751

Birthplace: Port Conway, VA

Died: June 28, 1836

Burial Site: Montpelier, VA

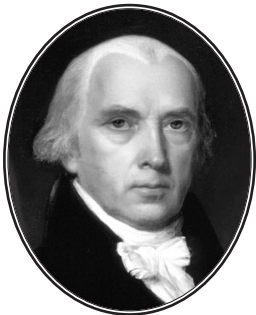
Spouse: Dorothea Payne Todd

Occupation: Planter, lawyer

Political Party: Democratic-Republican

Term: 1809-1817

Vice President: George Clinton, Elbridge Gerry



James Madison, this country's fourth president, was one of the youngest of the Revolutionary patriots. He was author of the "Virginian Plan," which proposed a government of three departments--legislative, executive and judicial--and furnished the bases for the Constitution of the United States as finally adopted.

Born in 1751, Madison was brought up in Orange Co., VA, and attended Princeton University.

Elected to the first Congress, he defended and interpreted the Constitution throughout George Washington's administration. He helped write the Bill of Rights.

Out of his leadership, in opposition to Hamilton's financial proposals, came the development of the Republican or Jeffersonian Party.

Madison was elected president in 1808 and was re-elected in 1812. He took office in the midst of controversies with England, caused by that nation's blockades of France and the impressment of sailors from American ships when they were of British descent. This, and the British failure to recognize the United States' naturalization laws, caused Madison to declare war on Britain. The conflict was to become known as The War of 1812.

During this administration Madison had seen Louisiana and Indiana become states.