

# Who Was Abigail Adams

## Who Was Abigail Adams?

Abigail Adams was a strong woman far ahead of her time. She urged her husband, President John Adams, to "remember the ladies" and despite having no formal education herself, she later advocated for equal education in public schools for both boys and girls. She was also the first First Lady to live in the White House! This biography tells the story of Abigail Adams and her role in America's Revolutionary War period.

## Abigail Adams

Winner of the Bancroft Prize The New York Times Book Review, Editor's Choice American Heritage, Best of 2009 In this vivid new biography of Abigail Adams, the most illustrious woman of the founding era, Bancroft Award-winning historian Woody Holton offers a sweeping reinterpretation of Adams's life story and of women's roles in the creation of the republic. Using previously overlooked documents from numerous archives, Abigail Adams shows that the wife of the second president of the United States was far more charismatic and influential than historians have realized. One of the finest writers of her age, Adams passionately campaigned for women's education, denounced sex discrimination, and matched wits not only with her brilliant husband, John, but with Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. When male Patriots ignored her famous appeal to "Remember the Ladies," she accomplished her own personal declaration of independence: Defying centuries of legislation that assigned married women's property to their husbands, she amassed a fortune in her own name. Adams's life story encapsulates the history of the founding era, for she defined herself in relation to the people she loved or hated (she was never neutral), a cast of characters that included her mother and sisters; Benjamin Franklin and James Lovell, her husband's bawdy congressional colleagues; Phoebe Abdee, her father's former slave; her financially naïve husband; and her son John Quincy. At once epic and intimate, Abigail Adams, sheds light on a complicated, fascinating woman, one of the most beloved figures of American history.

## Dearest Friend

The lively, authoritative, New York Times bestselling biography of Abigail Adams.

## Abigail Adams

Abigail Adams was an extraordinary woman who witnessed the gathering storm of the American Revolution and saw the battle of Bunker Hill from a hilltop near her home. Through her letters to friends and family, Abigail Adams lives in history--and now in this award-winning biography by Natalie Bober. Black & white illustrations .

## Remember the Ladies

Chronicles the life and achievements of the nation's second First Lady and advocate for women's rights.

## Abigail Adams

"[Abigail Adams] is a pleasure to read, and Levin's rich documentation makes this the most complete biography we have on this remarkable First Lady." —Betty Boyd Caroli, author of *First Ladies Wife* of one president and mother of another, Abigail Adams was an extraordinary woman living at an extraordinary time

in American history. A tireless letter writer and diarist, her penetrating and often caustic impressions of most of the major persons of her day—including Ben Franklin, George and Martha Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and King George III, among others—provide one of the best first-hand accounts of the American Revolution. This biography, researched and written over a fourteen-year period, is a fascinating portrait of a brilliant woman at the center of the founding of the American republic. “After 200 years, thanks to Ms. Levin, Abigail Adams can speak her mind to what will surely be a large audience.” —The New York Times “Abigail Adams has much to say to us about her world; Phyllis Lee Levin has helped her convey this in a compelling book and has produced a close and believable portrait of the woman within.” —The Washington Post “Full of wonderful, immediate dailiness, the biography . . . [presents] an altogether personal account of the events presaging and following the American Revolution, perceived by a woman with the ability to record and interpret her era for posterity with uncommon verve and wisdom.” —Los Angeles Times “A biography that reads much like a diary . . . Levin’s touching book presents interesting insights into the life of revolutionary America.” —UPI

## **Familiar Letters of John Adams and His Wife Abigail Adams, During the Revolution**

With vivid, folk-art style paintings and a simple, lively text, Alexandra Wallner tells the story of Abigail Adam's life. Born on November 11, 1744, Abigail was curious about the world from a young age. Though as a girl she could not go to school, she learned in her father's library, and reading and writing became important to her. As a teenager she met the young lawyer John Adams. They began to correspond, and later they were married. While John pursued a political career, Abigail assisted him in it, raised their large family, and efficiently ran their farm. Along with her husband, she ardently supported the American Revolution. She also believed that a country fighting for independence should not permit slavery, and that women should have the same rights as men. Abigail Adams felt her most important role was as wife and mother, but she was never silent about her opinions.

### **Abigail Adams**

The story of the Adamses as lovers, domestic partners, and patriots comes to life in this collection of their intimate correspondence.

## **The Book of Abigail and John**

A biography of the wife of President John Adams detailing her personal life, and social and historical developments.

### **Abigail Adams**

Using simple language that beginning readers can understand, this lively, inspiring, and believable biography looks at the childhood of Abigail Adams. Illustrated throughout.

### **Abigail Adams**

Includes 430 letters—many published for the first time—to John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Mercy Otis Warren, James and Dolley Madison, and Martha Washington, among many others. Abigail Adams was an unusually accomplished letter writer. Spirited and insightful, her correspondence offers a unique vantage on historical events in which her family played so prominent a role, while bringing vividly to life the everyday experience of American women in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Here are 430 letters—more than a hundred published for the first time—to John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Mercy Otis Warren, James and Dolley Madison, and Martha Washington, among many others. Including her famous call to “Remember the Ladies,” letters from the 1760s and 1770s offer an

unrivalled portrait of the American Revolution on the home front. Travel to Europe in the 1780s opens a grand new field for her talents as social commentator and political advisor while her roles as vice presidential and presidential wife place her at the very heart of the nation's founding. Also included are a chronology of Adams's life, detailed notes, and extensively researched family trees. This volume is published simultaneously with *John Adams: Writings from the New Nation 1784–1826*, the third and final volume in the Library of America John Adams edition. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

## **Abigail Adams: Letters (LOA #275)**

In this inspiring tribute, award-winning author Barb Rosenstock and New York Times bestselling artist Elizabeth Baddeley tell the true story of one of America's greatest founding mothers: Abigail Adams. Everyone knew Abigail was different. Instead of keeping quiet, she blurted out questions. Instead of settling down with a wealthy minister, she married a poor country lawyer named John Adams. Instead of running from the Revolutionary War, she managed a farm and fed hungry soldiers. Instead of leaving the governing to men, she insisted they "Remember the Ladies." Instead of fearing Europe's kings and queens, she boldly crossed the sea to represent her new country. And when John became President of the United States, Abigail became First Lady, and a powerful advisor. Leave it to Abigail—an extraordinary woman who surprised the world.

## **Leave It to Abigail!**

Annotation Here, at last, is the biography that Abigail Adams has long deserved—one that puts her, rather than her husband, at its center, and which interprets her life in light of both its eighteenth-century context and recent feminist scholarship. Gelles brings new insights to familiar topics like the Adams marriage and Abigail's wartime role; explains more fully than previous scholars such incidents as the failed courtship of Royall Tyler and Abigail Junior; and examines with sensitivity hitherto little-known episodes like that of Abigail's epistolary flirtation with James Lovell during the Revolution or Abigail Junior's mastectomy in 1811. In short, this is a remarkable achievement, far surpassing all earlier attempts to capture the essence of the woman who was one of early America's greatest letter-writers. Mary Beth Norton Edith Gelles has written a deeply interesting book about Abigail Adams. ... she is careful to reconstruct the eighteenth-century environment of Abigail Adams. De. Gelles is a careful historian of eighteenth-century America and a thoughtful biographer. She has given us a fresh examination of Abigail Adams which will stimulate in helpful ways additional research and discussion. Robert Middlekauff In this important and fascinating biography, Edith Gelles not only restores Abigail Adams to her rightful place at the center of her own story, she challenges the creaky conventions of traditional male-defined biography. Portia breaks ranks with the biographers twice by refusing to treat Abigail Adams as a reflection of her husband and by refusing to force her life's story into an artificially linear narrative. In this masterful work, Edith Gelles reconceptualizes and revolutionizes the very notion of biography by capturing experience as it truly unfolds in so many women's lives as a collage of overlapping and circular impressions and feelings, rather than a relentless climb up a ladder of public ambition. Susan Faludi The best biography of Abigail Adams in print. By keeping the spotlight on Mrs. Adams and sensitively evaluating her in eighteenth-century terms, Edith Gelles provides the most rounded portrait yet of this important woman. Patricia U. Bonomi Edith B. Gelles uses the revolutionary years as the backdrop of this sensitive study, and the political events as the drama in which the players act out well-defined roles. ... [Gelles'] story of relationships, networks, and power in the context of Abigail's eighteenth-century world is truly a superb accomplishment. American Historical Review Adams's strength, courage, and wit ... emerge more fully than they have in any previous work. ... [Gelles] has succeeded in providing a well-rounded portrait of a remarkable figure. Choice Portia ... Is a refreshing change of pace. ... [Edith Gelles] is affectionate yet scholarly, determined to present Adams as a strong character

who was very much a woman of her time, not merely a liberated precursor to feminism or the little wife behind the great man. San Francisco Chronicle Portia, The first woman-centered biography of Abigail Adams, details the issues, events, and relationships that informed Adamss life. The portrait that emerges also describes women like her during the Revolutionary era. Much of Abigail Adamss independent reputation derives from the letters that she wrote for over a half-century. Personal and eloquent, they provide unusual access to her private life and capture the social conventions, politics, and people of her age. The letters describe her domestic sphererelationships with her sisters, her daughter and sons, and friends such as Thomas Jefferson. Her marriage to John Adams is considered in the context of the patria.

## **Letters of Mrs. Adams**

Presents a biography of Abigail Adams (1744-1818), wife of the second president of the United States, John Adams, and mother of the sixth, John Quincy Adams. This work tells not only of her extraordinary life but of the major political and social developments of the time. Adams's life is one of the most documented of the first ladies: she is remembered for the many letters she wrote to her husband while he stayed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the Continental Congresses. John frequently sought the advice of Abigail on many matters, and their letters are filled with intellectual discussions on government and politics. The letters serve as eyewitness accounts of the American Revolutionary Warhome front.

## **Portia**

This biography of the wife of James Adams showcases a unique woman who was guided by three loves: her love for learning, her love for family, and her love for her country. Full color.

## **Abigail Adams, an American Woman**

In this rich and engrossing account, John and Abigail Adams come to life against the backdrop of the Republic's tenuous early years. Drawing on over 1,200 letters exchanged between the couple, Ellis tells a story both personal and panoramic. We learn about the many years Abigail and John spent apart as John's political career sent him first to Philadelphia, then to Paris and Amsterdam; their relationship with their children; and Abigail's role as John's closest and most valued advisor. Exquisitely researched and beautifully written, First Family is both a revealing portrait of a marriage and a unique study of America's early years.

## **Abigail Adams**

Examines the life of the woman who is sometimes referred to as America's first feminist. From her youth in Massachusetts to her active role as advisor to John Adams, Abigail Adams showed future first ladies how much of an influence a woman could have on the government of the United States.

## **First Family**

For readers of the historical works of Robert K. Massie, David McCulough, and Alison Weir comes the first biography on the life of Abigail Adams and her sisters. "Never sisters loved each other better than we."—Abigail Adams in a letter to her sister Mary, June 1776 Much has been written about the enduring marriage of President John Adams and his wife, Abigail. But few know of the equally strong bond Abigail shared with her sisters, Mary Cranch and Elizabeth Shaw Peabody, accomplished women in their own right. Now acclaimed biographer Diane Jacobs reveals their moving story, which unfolds against the stunning backdrop of America in its transformative colonial years. Abigail, Mary, and Elizabeth Smith grew up in Weymouth, Massachusetts, the close-knit daughters of a minister and his wife. When the sisters moved away from one another, they relied on near-constant letters—from what John Adams called their "elegant pen"—to buoy them through pregnancies, illnesses, grief, political upheaval, and, for Abigail, life in the White House.

Infusing her writing with rich historical perspective and detail, Jacobs offers fascinating insight into these progressive women's lives: oldest sister Mary, who became de facto mayor of her small village; youngest sister Betsy, an aspiring writer who, along with her husband, founded the second coeducational school in the United States; and middle child Abigail, who years before becoming First Lady ran the family farm while her husband served in the Continental Congress, first in Philadelphia, and was then sent to France and England, where she joined him at last. This engaging narrative traces the sisters' lives from their childhood sibling rivalries to their eyewitness roles during the American Revolution and their adulthood as outspoken wives and mothers. They were women ahead of their time who believed in intellectual and educational equality between the sexes. Drawing from newly discovered correspondence, never-before-published diaries, and archival research, *Dear Abigail* is a fascinating front-row seat to history—and to the lives of three exceptional women who were influential during a time when our nation's democracy was just taking hold. Advance praise for *Dear Abigail* “In a beautifully wrought narrative, Diane Jacobs has brought the high-spirited, hyperarticulate Smith sisters, and the early years of the American republic, to rich, luminous life. . . . A stunning, sensitive work of history.”—Stacy Schiff, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Cleopatra* “Jacobs is a superb storyteller. In this sweeping narrative about family and friendship during the American Revolution, Abigail Adams emerges as one of the great political heroines of the eighteenth century. I fell in love with her all over again.”—Amanda Foreman, New York Times bestselling author of *A World on Fire* “Beauty, brains, and breeding—Elizabeth, Abigail, and Mary had them all. This absorbing history shows how these close-knit and well-educated daughters of colonial America become women of influence in the newly begotten United States. Jacobs's feel for the period is confident; so is her appreciation of the nuances of character.”—Daniel Mark Epstein, author of *The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage*

## Letters

Reveals how the European travels of John and Abigail Adams helped define what it meant to be an American. From 1778 to 1788, the Founding Father and later President John Adams lived in Europe as a diplomat. Joined by his wife, Abigail, in 1784, the two shared rich encounters with famous heads of the European royal courts, including the ill-fated King Louis XVI and Queen Marie-Antoinette, and the staid British Monarchs King George III and Queen Charlotte. In this engaging narrative, *A View from Abroad* takes us on the first full exploration of the Adams's lives abroad. Jeanne E. Abrams reveals how the journeys of John and Abigail Adams not only changed the course of their intellectual, political, and cultural development—transforming the couple from provincials to sophisticated world travelers—but most importantly served to strengthen their loyalty to America. Abrams shines a new light on how the Adamses and their American contemporaries set about supplanting their British origins with a new American identity. They and their fellow Americans grappled with how to reorder their society as the new nation took its place in the international transatlantic world. After just a short time abroad, Abigail maintained that, “My Heart and Soul is more American than ever. We are a family by ourselves.” The Adamses' quest to define what it means to be an American, and the answers they discovered in their time abroad, still resonate with us to this day.

## Abigail Adams

In this book, Edith B. Gelles asserts that Abigail Adams' vivid, insightful letters are “the best account that exists from the pre to the post-Revolutionary period in America of a woman's life and world.” Adams' spontaneous, witty letters serve dual purposes for the modern reader: it provides an intriguing first hand account of pivotal historical events and it shows how these events from the Boston Tea Party to the War of 1812 entered the private sphere. Included in the book is a chronology, notes and reference section and a selected bibliography. This book will be a must for all scholars of American literature, history and politics seeking to understand this literary figure.

## Dear Abigail

Introduction: first ladies of the republic: Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Dolley Madison, and the

forging of an American role -- Martha Washington: the road to the first ladyship -- Abigail and John Adams: the long apprenticeship to the White House -- Abigail Adams: the second first lady -- Dolley Madison: the first lady as \"queen of America\"--Conclusion: the first ladyship launched

## **A View from Abroad**

Abigail Adams was the equal of her husband, President John Adams, in many ways. She had strong views about women's rights and slavery, and she let him know exactly how she felt. Her strength and wisdom left a lasting mark on the fledgling U.S.

## **Abigail Adams and Her Times**

Prof. Woody Holton (NBA-finalist for Unruly Americans) reveals that American icon Abigail Adams was far wiser and wilier than previously known.

## **Abigail Adams**

A photo-illustrated chronicle of the life of Abigail Adams, the wife of the second president of the United States.

## **First Ladies of the Republic**

The second in the Time Twisters chapter book series. When Abigail Adams decides there's more to life than doing chores in the White House, she escapes to become a Caribbean pirate. Can siblings Abby and Doc fix history before things get too mixed up? Illustrations.

## **Abigail Adams**

America's rise from revolutionary colonies to a world power is often treated as inevitable. But Charles N. Edel's provocative biography of John Q. Adams argues that he served as the central architect of a grand strategy whose ideas and policies made him a critical link between the founding generation and the Civil War-era nation of Lincoln.

## **Congressional Record**

Cokie Roberts's number one New York Times bestseller, *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters*, examined the nature of women's roles throughout history and led USA Today to praise her as a \"custodian of time-honored values.\" Her second bestseller, *From This Day Forward*, written with her husband, Steve Roberts, described American marriages throughout history, including the romance of John and Abigail Adams. Now Roberts returns with *Founding Mothers*, an intimate and illuminating look at the fervently patriotic and passionate women whose tireless pursuits on behalf of their families -- and their country -- proved just as crucial to the forging of a new nation as the rebellion that established it. While much has been written about the men who signed the Declaration of Independence, battled the British, and framed the Constitution, the wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters they left behind have been little noticed by history. Roberts brings us the women who fought the Revolution as valiantly as the men, often defending their very doorsteps. While the men went off to war or to Congress, the women managed their businesses, raised their children, provided them with political advice, and made it possible for the men to do what they did. The behind-the-scenes influence of these women -- and their sometimes very public activities -- was intelligent and pervasive. Drawing upon personal correspondence, private journals, and even favored recipes, Roberts reveals the often surprising stories of these fascinating women, bringing to life the everyday trials and extraordinary triumphs of individuals like Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Deborah Read Franklin, Eliza Pinckney, Catherine

Littlefield Green, Esther DeBerdt Reed, and Martha Washington -- proving that without our exemplary women, the new country might never have survived. Social history at its best, *Founding Mothers* unveils the drive, determination, creative insight, and passion of the other patriots, the women who raised our nation. Roberts proves beyond a doubt that like every generation of American women that has followed, the founding mothers used the unique gifts of their gender -- courage, pluck, sadness, joy, energy, grace, sensitivity, and humor -- to do what women do best, put one foot in front of the other in remarkable circumstances and carry on.

## Abigail Adams

"When Adeline ignores her mother's warning and declares she will never brush her hair again, her curls transform into something quite extraordinary"--P. [4] of cover.

## Those who Love

Many of the political issues we struggle with today have their roots in the US Constitution. Husband-and-wife team Cynthia and Sanford Levinson take readers back to the creation of this historic document and discuss how contemporary problems were first introduced—then they offer possible solutions. Think Electoral College, gerrymandering, even the Senate. Many of us take these features in our system for granted. But they came about through haggling in an overheated room in 1787, and we're still experiencing the ramifications. Each chapter in this timely and thoughtful exploration of the Constitution's creation begins with a story—all but one of them true—that connects directly back to a section of the document that forms the basis of our society and government. From the award-winning team, Cynthia Levinson, children's book author, and Sanford Levinson, constitutional law scholar, *Fault Lines in the Constitution* will encourage exploration and discussion from young and old readers alike.

## Time For Kids: Abigail Adams

A biography of the woman who was the wife of the second president of the United States and the mother of the sixth president.

## Abigail Adams, Pirate of the Caribbean

Nation Builder

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