

"Alexander Hamilton- His Life and Time" was presented on July 25. Alexander came from a very humble beginning, he was born in Charlestown, Nevis in the West Indies. At the time of his birth, his mother Rachel Faucet, a half French Huguenot and half British, whose father was a French Huguenot physician, was married to Jahaan Michael Lavien. Hamilton's father was James Hamilton a Scotsman trader was son of Laird Alexander Hamilton of Ayrshire, Scotland. James Hamilton left the family when Alexander was young to spare his mother from charge of bigamy after finding out that her first husband intended to file divorce. Alexander's mother contracted yellow fever and died from it at 38, leaving Alexander and his brother James, Jr. at a young age.

Alexander was given a home by Nevis merchant Thomas Stevens. Alexander worked as a clerk at Cruger and Beekman an export-import firm. He was a very capable trader at a young age and his knowledge of trade and commerce was superb. His keen understanding and evaluation of commodities like flour, butter, coffee, etc was astounding. Hamilton proved capable enough as a trader to be left in charge of the firm for five months in 1771 while the owner was at sea. Local merchants put their resources together and raised funds to send Hamilton to New York to further his studies. He enrolled in King's College (later Columbia University) and took wide range of subjects including mathematics, metaphysics, philosophy, Greek, Latin and poetry. He was involved early on with campus politics dealing with the relationship of the colonies to the British Empire. He was very sympathetic to the cause of liberty and independence. At the very first engagement of the American troops at Lexington and Concord, he joined the New York volunteer militia company called Corsicans and later remained as the Hearts of Oak. He was named captain of the New York Provincial Company of Artillery.

He fought in the battle of White Plains and in the battle of Trenton, he kept the Hessians pinned in the Trenton Barracks. In the battle of Princeton, he led the Continental Army in a successful charge against the British forces. He was promoted to the rank of Lt. Col and was appointed Aide-de-Camp of General Washington at age 20. He drafted letters to Senators, State Governors, and powerful generals of the Continental Army. He issued orders on behalf of General Washington and dealt with other matters like diplomacy and negotiations with senior officers of the Continental Army. Not satisfied to finish his military career as Aide-de-Camp, he asked Washington to give him a field command. He was given a command of three battalions and along with Lafayette led the attack on Redoubt 9 and 10, the British fortifications on Yorktown. These actions forced the British surrender of an entire army at Yorktown, Virginia, marking the de facto end of the revolution, and the surrender of General Cornwallis to General Washington.

He resigned from the army in 1782, took the Bar, passed it and practiced law in New York. He was appointed to Congress as representative from New York. In 1786 Annapolis Convention, he proposed a resolution adopted by the Continental Congress to call for a National Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia the following year. The US Constitution was adopted in 1787 and ratified on June 21, 1788. He wrote, the majority of the Federalist Papers and played a significant role in the ratification of the US Constitution. He founded the Federalist Party and was appointed the first Secretary of the Treasury. He successfully advocated the payments of the public debts and establishment of the United States National Bank, the precursor of the Federal Reserve Bank. He was the Architect of the American Financial System, founded the Bank of New York, creator of the US Coast Card, US Mint and New York Post as well. He was an eloquent speaker and prolific writer. The National Archives has 7620 documents written by Hamilton in his lifetime. July 11, 1804- the "most famous pistol duel" in American history, Hamilton and Burr faced each other in Weehawken, New Jersey. Hamilton died of the wound sustained the following day.

If George Washington is the father of America, James Madison, the father of the Constitution, could Alexander Hamilton be the father of the American Government.

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