



Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia

GUIDE to the Portraits in the Second Bank of the United States

You've been studying about daily life in Philadelphia in the 18th century: the people, the way they lived, and the work they did. As you learned in this program, portraits are a primary source that historians use to learn more about people from the past. Use this guide to help you locate some portraits that are linked with the people you've been studying and researching during this education program. **To find portraits and images of the people in this GUIDE, proceed to the entrance of the Second Bank and use the Gallery map entitled *Visit Their World*.** A few rules to remember while you are in the museum:

- Look, but do not touch the paintings or exhibits.
- Carry your bags by your side so they do not accidentally hit a painting or exhibit.
- Do not eat, drink or chew gum in the museum.
- Walk inside the building and keep your voice down. If you have any questions, ask a ranger.



Title: George Washington

Artist: Rembrandt Peale, 1848

Where to find this painting in the gallery: Gallery #6—*Philadelphia Faces*

Background: In June of 1775, George Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. He lived in Philadelphia from 1790 to 1797 as the first President of the U.S.

Think about it. Why was Washington considered such a great leader? Do you think that a great military leader can automatically make a great President? Are there portraits of people in other rooms who were considered great leaders? If so, how many of them became Presidents?

There are four other images of Washington in the Second Bank. To find them:

Visit Gallery #9—*The Resource Room*. Use the computer database to help you find the locations of the other images.

Did you know? During the Revolutionary War, Washington rode at least two different horses, though there may have been others. His favorite horse, especially in time of action, was Nelson. The other horse was named Blue Skin since he was a light bluish gray, and looked almost white in color.

Title: James Forten

Artist: Unidentified, 1805-20. Courtesy of Historical Society of PA, Leon Gardiner Collection

Where to find this painting in the gallery: Gallery # 1—*A Vibrant City* (under the portrait of Robert Morris).

Background: James Forten became a wealthy sailmaker, respected leader, and ardent abolitionist.

Think about it. While serving aboard a privateer ship, Forten (a free black) was captured by the British and spent 7 months as a prisoner of war. During the war, some enslaved blacks fought with the Americans while many others fought with the British. Why? Was it easy for enslaved blacks to “choose sides” during the American Revolution?

Did you know? Forten was a successful sailmaker, who employed over 40 people in his shop. He was also an abolitionist, who contributed a great deal of money to the movement to end slavery in the U.S.



Title: Dolley Payne Todd (Mrs. James) Madison

Artist: James Sharples, Sr., from life, 1796-7

Where to find this painting in the gallery: Gallery #7—*The Future of the Republic*

Background: Dolley combined a genteel disposition with steely resolve while serving as the First Lady for her second husband, President James Madison. Before marrying Madison, Dolley lived in a house on the corner of 4th and Walnut Streets that has been restored by the National Park Service.

Think about it. Can you imagine how brave Dolley was during the British burning of Washington D.C. in the War of 1812? She refused to leave the burning Executive Mansion until some prized possessions were saved from being destroyed, including a famous portrait of George Washington. What was she risking in staying until the last possible moment? Do you think it was good idea?

Did you know? Dolley's first husband (John Todd, Jr.) and one of her two sons (William Temple Todd) died on the same day in 1793. This was during a horrific yellow fever epidemic which took the lives of over 4,000 people in Philadelphia.

Title: William White

Artist: Charles Willson Peale, from life, 1788

Where to find this painting in the gallery: Gallery #1—*A Vibrant City* (far right hand corner)

Background: Bishop William White served as a community leader in numerous efforts to aid the poor and to provide education. He founded the Episcopal Academy and the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, both still active today.

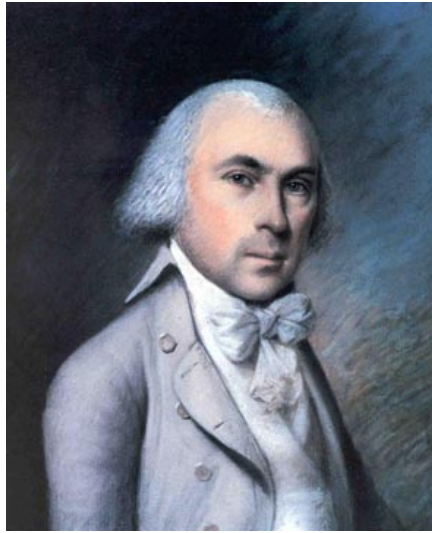
Think about it. White was the only Episcopal cleric in Pennsylvania to side with the Continental Congress (serving as its chaplain) during the American Revolution. Most remained loyal to the British. Was this an easy decision to make? What would be the consequences if the Bishop was captured by the enemy?

Did you know? Bishop White lived at the same residence for nearly 50 years, and died at the age of 88. The Bishop was four years older than Ben Franklin when he died!





Title: Joseph Brant/Thayendanegea
Artist: Charles Willson Peale, from life, 1797
Location: Gallery #1—*A Vibrant City* (right-hand side toward wall)
Think about it: The artist painted this portrait the same year Thayendanegea toured Peale’s museum on Independence Square. Do you think the portrait shows the fear and respect that Thayendanegea commanded?



Title: James Madison
Artist: James Sharples, Sr., from life, 1796-7
Location: Gallery #7—*The Future of the Republic*
Think about it: Madison’s political career in the new nation’s government began in Philadelphia. Some people referred to him as “the great little Madison.” How and why did he get this reputation?



Title: Absalom Jones
Artist: Raphaele Peale, 1810
 Courtesy of the Delaware Art Museum.
Location: Gallery #4—*Peale’s Museum* (far left-hand side)
Did you know? Jones was one of the founders of the Free African Society and the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia.



Title: Benjamin Franklin
Artist: David Rent Etter after Charles Wilson Peale after David Martin, 1835
Location: Gallery # 1—*A Vibrant City*
Did you know? Franklin loved to read, yet had only two years of formal schooling.



Title: Martha Dandridge Custis (Mrs. George) Washington
Artist: Charles Willson Peale, from life, 1795
Location: Gallery #1—*A Vibrant City*
Think about it: The First Lady had the task of overseeing a house with over 30 people living there. Was this an easy job? Why or why not? Explain.



Title: Thomas Harrison White
Artist: Benjamin Trott, from a miniature, c.1800-20
Location: Gallery #4—*Peale’s Museum*
Think about it: Do you think it was easy being the son of William White, who was a church leader and chaplain of the U.S. Senate? His father was also a friend of mayors, governors and presidents.



Title: John Adams
Artist: Charles Willson Peale, from life, 1791-4
Location: Gallery #1—*A Vibrant City* (far left-hand side)
Think about it: Adams spent years of his life in public service. Often, he was away from his dear wife Abigail. Do you think this was an easy decision on Adams’ part? Why or why not?



Independence Park Institute

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