

Colonial Heroes: Samuel Adams (1722-1803)

Samuel Adams discovered his disappointment with the British Empire very early in life. At the time, many of the colonies in North America were ruled by the Empire, but not everybody was happy about it. As a teenager, Adams saw his father lose a lot of money as a result of Britain's interference. That early encounter would spark an entire lifetime of dissatisfaction with British rule in Adams.

As an adult, Adams specifically opposed Britain's high tax rates and the presence of British troops in the colonies. In 1768, Adams wrote a letter that encouraged the colonists to publicly oppose British rule. The letter, not surprisingly, earned him a lot of attention, both positive and negative. When the Second Continental Congress gathered to write the Declaration of Independence, Adams was among those who signed it, instigating what would later become known as the American Revolution.

Without brave and bold heroes like Samuel Adams, the Thirteen Colonies might never have become the United States of America.

Why would Adams and other early revolutionaries be against the presence of British troops in the colonies?

What sort of reactions do you think Adams's 1768 letter received?

If you had been at the Second Continental Congress, would you have signed the Declaration of Independence? Why or why not?

