



Samuel Adams: Father of the American Revolution

Mark Puls

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Winner of the 2007 Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award!

Samuel Adams is perhaps the most unheralded and overshadowed of the founding fathers, yet without him there would have been no American Revolution. A genius at devising civil protests and political maneuvers that became a trademark of American politics, Adams astutely forced Britain into coercive military measures that ultimately led to the irreversible split in the empire. His remarkable political career addresses all the major issues concerning America's decision to become a nation -- from the notion of taxation without representation to the Declaration of Independence. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams all acknowledged that they built our nation on Samuel Adams' foundations. Now, in this riveting biography, his story is finally told and his crucial place in American history is fully recognized.

Samuel Adams: Father of the American Revolution Details

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From Reader Review Samuel Adams: Father of the American Revolution for online ebook

Jared Nolen says

I was incredibly disappointed in Mark Puls' work. Having read excellent review of this book I was expecting something far better.

It is a tedious read. I found myself struggling to slog through a book on a subject I adore. It was so frustrating I stopped reading halfway through. Beyond that I learned a lot about Samuel Adams, his life, times and influence. He is an amazing man (community organizer maybe?) who is often overshadowed by those who impacted the Revolution directly.

Zak says

This book changed the way I think because I thought that before I read it I thought that the founding fathers did not know each other before they were founding fathers. Now I know better. Another thing I learned that changed the way I think is that I learned that the civil war was not started because King George was irrational but because of a simple misunderstanding. I recommend this to ages 10+.

Ivy says

5 stars

This book was very interesting. It was enjoyable to learn about Sam Adams and how he impacted America's independence. Also enjoyed seeing the other Founding Father's and important people as well.

Can't wait to read more biographies!!!!

Steven says

Excellent!!!

Josh says

Great stuff about Sam Adams who didn't really get his due because he didn't leave behind a trove of his papers/strategies etc... Great reading about his strategies in defying the British on the Stamp Act, his committee-of-correspondence networks, influence as a writer...

Tom Dunn says

A very well written book about one of our nations founders of liberty. Called the "Father of the American Revolution" his life was dedicated to the principal of freedom and equality for all men regardless of their status in life. To him all men were created equal and that government derives its power from the people. I have learned much about Samuel Adams which was nothing like he was potrayed as in the Sons of Liberty series on television. If you want a realistic view of Samual Adams I highly recommend that you read this book.

Jay Schutt says

It is difficult for me to rate this book. I want to give it five stars for the contributions Adams made to the cause for American liberty, but how exciting can a biography of an eighteenth century patriot be. So four stars it is.

If there was to be a Mount Rushmore for the American Revolution, Samuel Adams would certainly be on it right along side of George Washington and anyone else you would want to be on it. He was the one who got the American colonies to start thinking about breaking away from Great Britain. With his behind the scenes letter writing, newspaper articles, oration and suggestion of pacifist resistance to King George III's rule he was the spark plug that helped form a new nation. And he did this without the want for recognition or personal gain.

Truly an unsung hero of America. This is a must read if you want to know the man who was the "Father of the American Revolution".

Chmbrs says

Amazing man! A patient, persevering patriot. This book gave me hope because I learned that there were just as many morons in his time as there are now and we just need quiet, tireless leaders like Sam with real convictions and morals to work behind the scenes to right the ship. It's too bad that most Americans only know him for his beer since that was definitely NOT something that he was good at. Without him, we'd still be British subjects. He has made his way onto my hero list (right below George and very close)!

Steven Peterson says

Mark Puls' Samuel Adams: Father of the American Revolution is a quick read. It provides a useful sketch of one of the Revolution's major figures--Samuel Adams.

The book takes a chronological perspective, beginning with Adams' childhood and the experiences with his father, a well regarded local businessman (including owning a malt shop) and community leader (becoming a deacon in his church and a member of the legislature).

The story continues with his education and efforts to make a life for himself. He was not overly ambitious

for economic success and, after his father's death, essentially saw the family brewery go bankrupt. Nonetheless, he hustled and was able to make ends meet, although times were often tough for him and his family.

Early on, Sam Adams became discontented with aspects of the Massachusetts colony's relationship with England, the King, and Parliament. He was one of the leading agitators in the 1760s and 1770s. He was developer of several innovations, such as the Committees of Correspondence throughout the colonies, a mechanism to enhance communication across boundaries. He was involved in many of the key activities leading to the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War, including urging a Continental Congress, fighting against English taxes, seeking the naming of George Washington as the general officer to lead the colonial forces in the siege of Boston. The biography continues with his role in development of the first constitution of the United States, the Articles of Confederation, as well as his part in the ratification of the Constitution itself.

This is a serviceable biography. However, it does have a couple problematic aspects. For one, the author tries to "get inside his head," making assumptions about what Adams was actually thinking. Biographies that minimize this tend to flow more smoothly, without imposing authorial assumptions onto the historical figure. For another, the biography has little critical cast on Adams. He is essentially treated so positively that one wonders if he had any peculiarities or annoying habits or made important errors. It is clear that some distrusted him mightily from other volumes; however, this does not really get discussed in any detail in this volume (although his falling out with John Hancock is addressed). The book also glosses over some important events, such as his complete turnaround on the Constitution. It portrays him as opposed to the document in the Massachusetts ratifying convention, only to turn around and support it. The author provides little discussion to explain this volte face.

In the final analysis, though, this is a useful biography of one of the colonial leaders who worked hard to move the colonies toward independence.

Renn Daniels says

What you find in Samuel Adams is the guts and grit it took to move a nation to independence. It took special men to forge this nation, but it was one man that sparked the burning desire to be free in the colonies, that was Samuel Adams. Great read.

Emmy says

I had never realized how involved Samuel Adams was in the start of the US. It's frustrating that few history books recognize him as one of our founding fathers when he was practically the one who started the Revolution armed with his pen. Why isn't Samuel Adams on the front of the hundred dollar bill when most of his adult life was devoted to making America a country of its own separate from England? I can only guess that he isn't as well known because he never cared to be famous or powerful.

Though the writing is nothing original I found this book very informative and enjoyed it. I suggest it to anyone who would like to know more than our school textbooks tell us about the start of our country.

Al Lock says

Father of the American Revolution and American Liberty. Most people only know the name Samuel Adams as a brand of beer, but the Samuel Adams of the revolution was not much of a brewery. He was a proponent of freedom, liberty and Independence. Long before Patrick Henry said "give me liberty or give me death", before Thomas Jefferson wrote that immortal first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, before Thomas Paine wrote Common Sense - Samuel Adams was writing about the rights of man, educating Americans on the ideas of John Locke and others of the enlightenment. Samuel Adams needs to be remembered and this book is a great place to start.

Joseph Serwach says

If King George III had a writer as skilled as Samuel Adams on his side we might have learned that the 13 American colonies were only being asked to pay for a mere third of the costs of providing troops to protect them from foreign invasion and administer their lands, that every bit of those taxes would be spent in America for American colonists

We might have learned that these tiny taxes were a fraction of the money spent to win the French-Indian War and make America part of the greatest empire since the Roman Empire.

Instead we have memorized arguments that Samuel Adams made more than a full decade BEFORE the American Revolution when most Americans and British subjects weren't paying much attention: that taxation without representation is wrong, that taxes slow and threaten economic growth (he made that argument 13 years BEFORE Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations).

"Put and keep the enemy in the wrong," Adams argued.

In 1764, Samuel Adams was working with British business people, trying to influence their views on the first proposed taxes on colonists. In 1765, more than a decade before the Declaration of Independence, he wrote how men were "unalienably entitled to those essential rights in common with all men: and that no law or society can, consistent with the law of God, and nature, divest them of those rights."

Adams also developed the first boycotts a full century before Charles C. Boycott popularized the idea in Ireland in the 1880s. He formed political clubs where his ideas were discussed and spread 250 years before social media. His critics derided these clubs as "caulkers' clubs" and from that phrase, the term "caucus" evolved to describe political meetings.

Adams framed the debate, changing the narrative from discussions of the Sugar Act, a small tax to making it a civil rights matter. He wrote of revolution and freedom from Great Britain long before the other, younger Founding Fathers. He basically invented public relations and political activism and showed how to move the needle to change the public agenda.

His younger cousin, President John Adams, wrote "Without the character of Samuel Adams, the true history of the American Revolution can never be written. For fifty years his pen, his tongue, his activity, were constantly exerted for his country without fee or reward. During that time he was almost an incessant writer."

Heith says

Mark Puls's biographical sketch of the Patriarch of the American Revolution is a worthwhile read, not a

particularly difficult read, and takes any student of history on a manageable journey through Adams' efforts to spur the American revolution and jolt the American populace out of complacency when necessary. As far as it goes, it is worth your time.

As a student of English, however, I cannot help but echo the concerns of many other reviewers who came before me: Puls's biography is riddled with typos. Sometimes words are obviously switched, which is odd, some are missing the last letter ("know" where it should be "known"), and in one case, a reference to "June 31," which doesn't exist at all. Should it be June 30, or should it be July 31? We've no way of finding out.

One has to assume the history behind the book is accurate, but given the clerical errors we have found, one worries a little about those we haven't found that have possibly misled us on the historical front.

David Longo says

Plain and simple, this book stinks. "Samuel Adams" is dry and contains an unforgivable amount of typos. In fact, the author's last name, Puls, is a bit odd. I figured it was Pulls or Pulse, yet was another typo. Maybe it is. I guess I won't ever find out because I'll never take a chance on another book by him. Let the masters like Thomas Fleming, David McCollough, Ron Chernow and Joseph Ellis cover the American Revolution and its heroes.
