

Chapter 68 -- We The People In 1820: An Overview



Dates:
1820

Sections:

- Passing Of The Founding Fathers
- America Continues To Evolve As A Nation

Time: 1820

Passing Of The Founding Fathers



“Old Abe:” an American Eagle

Between 1775 and 1820 most of America’s founding fathers have died. Ben Franklin is gone at 84 years old in 1790, followed soon by George Mason and Roger Sherman; James Wilson in 1798; Patrick Henry and George Washington in 1799; the southerners, Rutledge and Lowndes, in 1800; Sam Adams in 1803; Alexander Hamilton, felled in the duel with Burr in 1804; the scholar, George Wythe, and soldier, Henry Knox in 1806; John Dickinson in 1808; Thomas Paine in 1809; Gouverneur Morris in 1816; and Paul Revere in 1818.

With them, the life and death struggles of the Revolutionary War begin to fade from the nation’s consciousness. What remains is the government they created in Philadelphia in 1787 and the Union.

Founding Fathers Who Are Dead By 1820

1775-1799	Death	At Age
Peyton Randolph	Oct 22, 1775	54
Cesar Rodney	June 29, 1784	55
Charles DeWitt	August 27, 1787	60
Ethan Allen	Feb 12, 1789	51
Ben Franklin	April 17, 1790	84
George Mason	Oct 7, 1792	66
Roger Sherman	July 23, 1793	72
John Hancock	Oct 8, 1793	56
Richard Henry Lee	June 19, 1794	62
Nathaniel Gorham	June 11, 1796	58
Mad Anthony Wayne	Dec 15, 1796	51
James Wilson	Aug 21, 1798	55
Patrick Henry	June 6, 1799	63
George Washington	Dec 14, 1799	67
1800-1819		
John Rutledge	July 18, 1800	60
Rawlins Lowndes	Aug 24, 1800	79
Benedict Arnold	June 14, 1801	60
Samuel Adams	Oct 2, 1803	81
Alexander Hamilton	July 12, 1804	47
Phillip Schuyler	Nov 18, 1804	70
Robert Morris	May 8, 1806	72
George Wythe	June 8, 1806	80
William Patterson	Sept 9, 1806	60
Henry Knox	Oct 25, 1806	56
Oliver Ellsworth	Nov 26, 1807	62
John Dickinson	Feb 14, 1808	75
Thomas Paine	June 8, 1809	72
George Clinton	April 20, 1812	72
Benjamin Rush	April 19, 1813	67
Elbridge Gerry	Nov 23, 1814	70
Gouvernor Morris	Nov 6, 1816	64
Paul Revere	May 10, 1818	83

Fortunately several founders live on to insure America's collective memory and fidelity to its core principles. Included here are three men who have served as Presidents, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, and a fourth, James Monroe, who fought in the Revolutionary War, and is in office in 1820.

Founders Who Live On Past 1820

1820+	Deaths	At Age
Charles Pinckney	Oct 29, 1824	67
CC Pinckney	Aug 16, 1825	79
William Eustis	Feb 6, 1825	71
John Adams	July 4, 1826	90
Thomas Jefferson	July 4, 1826	83
Luther Martin	July 8, 1826	78
Rufus King	April 29, 1827	72
John Jay	May 17, 1829	83
James Monroe	July 4, 1831	73
John Randolph	May 24, 1833	59
William Johnson	Aug 4, 1834	62
Nathaniel Dane	Feb 15, 1835	82
John Marshall	July 6, 1835	79
James Madison	June 28, 1836	85
Aaron Burr	Sept 14, 1836	80

Time: 1812-1823

America Continues To Evolve As A Nation

Phase 1:	Phase 2:	Phase 3:	Phase 4:
Founding A New Nation →	Establishing A Government →	Guaranteeing Its Security →	Expanding The Borders
(1775 – 1786)	(1787-1811)	(1812-1823)	(1824-1849)

America in 1820 is in a third phase along its path to becoming a global military and economic power, capable of rivaling the old European dynasties in Britain, France, Spain and Russia.

In the 1775 to 1786 timeframe it breaks free from its bonds with Britain tracing back to 1607 at Jamestown.

Between 1787 and 1811 it defines a Constitution, proves that it can govern itself as a democratic republic, and begins to admit new states west of the Appalachian corridor into the Union.

The Napoleonic Wars complicate international relationships and commerce, and the 1814 sack of Washington offers a stark reminder of the need for a standing army and an upgraded navy. But the Treaty of Ghent and Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo reduce the existential threats by 1815.

Still America's borders are occupied by foreign powers: Britain to the north in Canada, Spain to the south in Mexico and the vast lands west of the Louisiana cession, Russia eyeing Alaska and Oregon, many southern hemisphere countries remaining under European control. Along with his Secretary of State, JQ Adams, Monroe will devote his presidency to signaling the world that America intends to make the New World off limits to future colonial adventures.

Meanwhile, the homeland itself, now comprising 24 states from the east coast to the Mississippi, is undergoing remarkable transformations.

The population is booming. Infrastructure upgrades are supporting economic growth and melding new states into the Union. Profound changes in everyday lifestyles are under way. Cities now dot the landscape, providing concentrated markets where capitalism can thrive. They are connected first by natural rivers, but soon enough by overland roads and canals, capable of transporting people and goods. A host of new ways to make a living complement traditional farming. Small businesses and primitive factories appear. Working for wages becomes commonplace, along with jobs based on thinking rather than manual labor.

America's first super-rich tycoons appear, entrepreneurs and capitalists in the North, plantation owners in the South. They represent "the American dream," the notion of unlimited upward mobility for all who work hard and follow the rules. All, that is, if one is a white man. For the nation's black population, little has changed. Theirs remains a life of servitude and hopelessness.