
PEOPLE TO KNOW

BIOGRAPHIES FOR CHAPTER FOUR

As you read, consider three things:

1. *Who were these people: lawyers, adventurers, generals, priests, monarchs, business people, etc.*
2. *Why are these people important?*
3. *How did they affect others?*

Alexander Hamilton

Alexander Hamilton (1755/57-1804) served as George Washington's chief secretary during the Revolutionary War. After the war, Hamilton opened a law office in New York City.

In 1787, Hamilton attended the Constitutional Convention and wrote several essays to convince Americans to support the new Constitution. These essays became part of the *Federalist Papers*.

President Washington appointed Hamilton to become Secretary of the Treasury in 1789. Hamilton started a national bank to support business and pay the government debts. Later, political differences with Thomas Jefferson and James Madison led Hamilton to create the Federalist Party—one of the first political parties in America.

Roger Sherman

Roger Sherman (1721-1793) was born in Newton, Massachusetts, and worked as a shoe cobbler for his father before becoming a lawyer in 1754.

At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, he offered the Connecticut Compromise or Great Compromise. This allowed the population of each state to determine the number of representatives in the House, thus favoring large states. Each state received two representatives in the Senate, thus favoring the small states.

When the free and slave states argued over whether slaves should be counted in the population, Sherman and James Wilson presented the Three-fifths Compromise. Five slaves would count as three white people for the purpose of counting the population of each state to determine the number of representatives each state received in the House.

James Madison

James Madison (1751-1836) was born in Virginia and became one of the great thinkers of his time.

Madison determined that the nation needed a new government. At the Constitutional Convention, he presented the Virginia Plan to replace the Articles of Confederation. With some changes, the Virginia Plan became the model for the Constitution of the United States. Madison wrote several essays—part of the *Federalist Papers*—supporting the Constitution.

To guarantee the support of some states, Madison agreed to write a Bill of Rights, made up of ten amendments, guaranteeing the rights of United States citizens. Madison is often called the Father of the Constitution.