

11.5 Lord Dunmore: Loyalist Governor of Virginia

John Murray, known as Lord Dunmore, was one of the fiercest Loyalist leaders. “Lord Dunmore” was his British title as the head of an important family in Britain. In 1771, King George III named Dunmore royal governor of the colony of Virginia.

Dunmore was a proud and rich man. He dressed in fancy clothes that showed off his wealth and importance. He was stubborn, strict, and bad-tempered. And he was very loyal to Britain.

It was Britain, Dunmore said, that created the colonies and continued to protect them. For these reasons Britain had a right to rule the colonies and to make them pay taxes on British goods.

Dunmore also argued that independence was a mistake because Britain knew what was best for the colonies. And he strongly believed that the colonists had a duty to obey British laws. The colonies, he said, were part of Britain. Colonists who would fight against the king were **traitors**.

As governor, Dunmore thought that being tough would frighten the colonists into accepting British rule. Instead, his firm actions only angered many people in Virginia. Worried for his safety, Dunmore moved his family onto a British warship in June 1775. Then he collected a number of boats and began attacking Patriots’ homes and plantations along the James River. He even promised to free any slaves who fought with him against the Patriots. At least 800 African Americans answered his call.

In the end, Dunmore’s actions only made the Patriots more popular. Because of Dunmore, many Neutralists began to think that independence might be worth fighting for after all.



John Murray, known as Lord Dunmore, was a fierce Loyalist leader. He launched a naval attack against the homes of Patriots along the James River in Virginia in 1775.

traitor: a person guilty of acting against his or her own country



Benjamin Franklin was one of the most respected Patriots in America. At first he tried to reach agreements with Britain, but, by 1775, he fully supported independence.



11.6 Benjamin Franklin: The Thoughtful Patriot

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most respected Patriots in America. Franklin was not in favor of independence right away. Instead, he hoped that Britain would start to treat the colonies more fairly. But when that didn't happen, Franklin sided firmly with the Patriots.

Franklin had many talents. He was a successful writer, printer, inventor, and scientist. As a citizen of Philadelphia, he helped to establish a library, a hospital, and a college.

Although he was an important man in the colonies, Franklin often dressed in plain suits. He sometimes wore spectacles. He was known to wear two caps over his gray hair to keep warm in winter.

People liked and admired Franklin. He was knowledgeable, funny, and wise. He had a talent for staying calm when other people

were angry. He was especially good at helping people to understand one another's ideas during arguments.

From 1757 to 1775, Franklin used his talents as the colonies' representative to the British government in England. Patiently, he tried to persuade Britain to stop making laws that the colonists thought were unfair. He did succeed in helping to get the government to repeal (cancel) the Stamp Act. But Britain continued to pass unfair laws. So, Franklin returned home and became a Patriot leader.

Franklin favored independence for several reasons. He thought that Britain would continue to make unfair laws. He also believed that the colonists should no longer trust England. Finally, Franklin believed that the colonists had the ability to govern themselves. By 1775, he was ready to help them prove that he was right.

11.7 Mercy Otis Warren: Patriot with a Pen

Mercy Otis Warren was a Patriot writer from Massachusetts. She wrote plays and poems supporting independence. She also held lively meetings in her home where Patriots discussed their ideas. Her husband James attended the meetings as well.

Warren was thin and dark-haired. She spoke in a low, firm voice. Her favorite color was blue, and she liked to wear blue dresses and bonnets with lace trimming.

Even as a girl, Warren loved reading, writing, and discussing politics. After she married James, they began reading the newspaper together. They became upset by Britain's harsh treatment of the colonies. They felt that taxes were too high and that workers were paid too little. Warren also believed that women should have the right to vote and to be elected to positions in government.

In her writing and discussions, Warren made several arguments in favor of independence. She said that Britain's laws and taxes were unfair. Families in the colonies had a hard time earning enough money to pay for expensive British goods. She also said that Britain was too far away to understand the colonists' needs and daily lives. For this reason, the colonies would be better off with their own government. And she disliked the fact that Britain did not allow women to take part in politics. She believed that women would have more rights if the colonies were independent.

Warren used her writing talent to express her ideas. Two of her plays cleverly attacked the Loyalists. Her writings helped to encourage many people in Massachusetts to become Patriots.



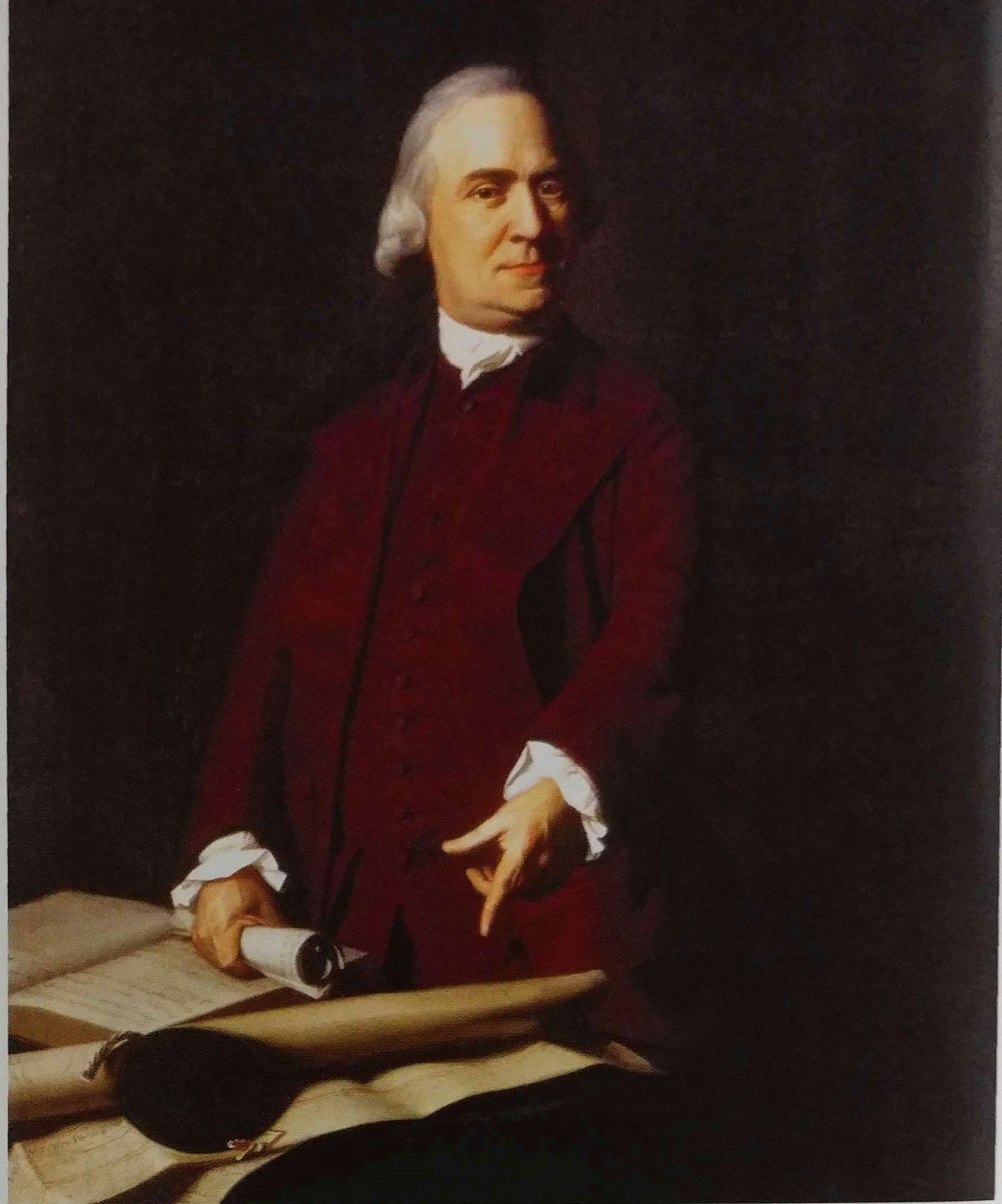
Mercy Otis Warren was a Patriot writer from Massachusetts. She wrote plays and poems supporting independence.



Bequest of Winslow Warren, Courtesy, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Samuel Adams was one of the leading Patriots in Massachusetts. In 1765, he organized the Sons of Liberty. The Sons actively encouraged colonists to disobey British laws.



Deposited by the City of Boston Courtesy, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

11.8 Samuel Adams: True Patriot

Samuel Adams was one of the leading Patriots in Massachusetts. Adams believed that the British were terrible, unfair rulers. He called on the colonies to break away from Britain and to fight for their independence.

Adams was always interested in politics. As a college student at Harvard University in Massachusetts, he wrote a paper on people's right to fight against unfair government. Other local Patriots saw him as a leader, and by the mid 1760s he was a full-time politician.

Adams spoke in a low, careful voice, often rubbing his chin in thought. Like many other men at that time, he wore a powdered white wig over his brown hair. He believed so much in fighting for independence that he wore a military coat and hat every day. He only took them off when he went to bed!

Adams argued for independence in newspaper articles, speeches, and town meetings. He believed that colonists couldn't afford to pay such high taxes on British goods. He also said it was unfair that the king chose governors for the

colonies. The colonists, he argued, should be able to elect their own governors. In addition, Adams believed that the colonists should have the power to change unfair laws. If Britain refused to give them this power, then they should become an independent country.

In 1765, Adams helped to organize a group of Patriots called the *Sons of Liberty*. The Sons encouraged colonists to disobey laws like the Stamp Act. In 1773, Adams and the Sons led the Boston Tea Party to protest British taxes on tea. Before long, Samuel Adams was working day and night to help the colonies win their independence.

11.9 Chapter Summary

In this chapter, you read about six important colonists who had different ideas about independence. You used a T-chart to identify these six colonists as either Loyalists or Patriots.

Loyalists argued that the colonies should remain loyal to Britain and the king. Many kinds of people became Loyalists. Some, like Thomas Hutchinson and Lord

Dunmore, were royal governors who believed in Britain's right to make and enforce laws for the colonies. Some, like Jonathan Boucher, were religious leaders who believed that the colonists had a duty to obey the king. Some were rich landowners who were afraid of losing their property.

Patriots wanted the colonies to become independent. Some, like Benjamin Franklin, became Patriots only after giving up hope that Britain would change its actions toward the colonies. Others, like Mercy Otis Warren and Samuel Adams, started out by angrily protesting against British laws and taxes. Before long, Patriots such as these were openly calling for independence.

In 1775, many colonists were not ready to take such a bold step. How did most colonists become convinced to support independence? Read on to find out.



The Sons of Liberty raising a Liberty Pole in 1776.