

## Selected Bibliography



The Book of Abigail and John: Selected Letters of the Adams Family 1762-1784, ed. by L.H. Butterfield, Marc Friedlaender and Mary-Jo Kline

A Nation Rising: Untold Tales of Flawed Founders, Fallen Heroes, and Forgotten Fighters from America's Untold History, Kenneth C. Davis.

Founding Mothers: Women of America in the Revolutionary Era, Linda Grant De Pauw

First Family, Joseph J. Ellis

Passionate Sage: The Character and Legacy of John Adams, Joseph J. Ellis

Abigail & John: Portrait of a Marriage, Edith B. Geddes

Portia: The World of Abigail Adams, Edith B. Geddes

Woman's Life in Colonial Days, Carl Holliday

My Dearest Friend: Letters of Abigail and John Adams, ed. By Margaret A. Hogan and C. James Taylor

Abigail Adams, Woody Holton

The Founders on the Founders: Word Portraits from the American Revolutionary Era, Ed. By John P. Kaminski

John Adams, David McCullough

1776, David McCullough

Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation, Cokie Roberts

Those Who Love, Irving Stone

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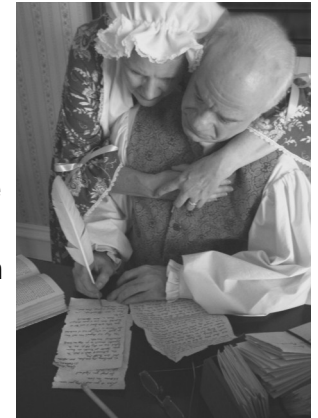
**GEM THEATRICS**

Study Guide

## *My Dearest Friend*

by Mary G. Kron

*My Dearest Friend*, chronicles the true story of the lives of John and Abigail Adams. Using the letters and diaries of the Adams' family, and retaining 90% of the original language, Kron has created a touching flash back of the high points of their life together through the American Revolution and beyond. History comes to life and is put into a fresh perspective as seen through the eyes of this most modern of historical couples.



Mary G. Kron comes to playwriting from over 30 years' experience in the theater as a performer, director and instructor. She earned her BFA in Directing/Acting from Central Michigan University. In addition to GEM Theatrics, Mary's scripts have been commissioned by the Grand Haven Library's Historical Society, MomsBloom, and Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. Her plays have been produced by High Schools and Community Theaters around the country.

*My Dearest Friend* is produced by special arrangement with Dramagon

Playwriting and Theatrical Services. [www.dramagon.com](http://www.dramagon.com)

## Time Line and Important Dates

John Adams 10/30/1735—7/4/1826

Abigail Adams 11/22/1744—10/28/1818

John undergoes small pox inoculation April—May 1764

John and Abigail married on October 25, 1764

Abigail Adams 2nd (Nabby) 7/14/1765—8/14/1813 (1st child)

John Quincy Adams 7/11/1767—2/23/1848 (2nd child)

Susanna Adams 12/28/1768—2/4/1770 (3rd child)

Charles Adams 5/29/1770—11/30/1800 (4th child)

Boston Massacre Trial October—November 1770

Thomas Boylston Adams 9/15/1772—1832 (5th child)

Battles of Lexington and Concord April 19, 1775

Battle of Bunker Hill June 17, 1775

Dysentery epidemic late summer and fall 1775

Abigail and the four children undergo small pox inoculation in Boston, July 1776, while John is in Philadelphia drafting and debating the Declaration of Independence.

Elizabeth Adams 7/11/1777 stillborn (6th child)

John and John Quincy sail to France to join Franklin February 1778– August 1779.

John drafts Massachusetts state constitution which is adopted in June 1780.

John in France, Netherlands and Great Britain February 1780-1784.

John signs the Definitive Treaty of Peace with Great Britain 9/3/1783.

Abigail joins John in France and then England with Nabby July 1784 –June 1788.

John elected vice president, under George Washington, April 1789.

Second term as vice president, under Washington, 1793.

John elected second President of the United States 2/8/1797.

John defeated for re-election by Thomas Jefferson 2/11/1801.

## Facts and Founders

*Colossus*—specifically a statue of the Greek Titan Helios considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, called the Colossus of Rhodes, thought to have been 30 meters high. Anything huge or out-sized.

*Debauched* – displaying the effect of excessive indulgence in sensual pleasure; corrupted.

*Diana*—the pen name Abigail used when young; after the Roman Goddess of the Moon.

*Dissipation* – a wasting by misuse; a dissolute way of living; especially excessive drinking of alcohol; intemperance.

*Benjamin Franklin*—1/17/1706—4/17/1790. A member of the Second Continental Congress, helped to draft and sign the Declaration of Independence. Became Ambassador to France in 1776, signing the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Also a delegate and signer of the Constitution.

*Ginger-pated bean pole*—referring to Thomas Jefferson, a tall (6'2" or more) red head, while John Adams at barely 5'9" and balding, was rather chubby.

*Alexander Hamilton*—1/11/1755—7/12/1804, Secretary of the Treasury under George Washington. Leader of the Federalist Party; tried to control John as President. Killed in a duel with Aaron Burr.

*John Hancock*—1/12/1737—10/8/1793. An orphan, adopted by his wealthy uncle; attended Harvard. President of the Second Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration.

*Thomas Jefferson*—4/13/1743—7/4/1826. Main author of the Declaration and signer. Secretary of State from 1790-93 under Washington. Leader of the Anti-Federalist Party; opposed many of John's actions as President. Third President of the U. S., 1801-1809.

*Lysander*—John's pen name as a young man; after the Spartan war hero.

*Palpable* – readily or plainly seen, heard or perceived; capable of being touched or felt.

*Portia*—the pen name Abigail used in middle age. As portrayed in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, she is the patient and long-suffering wife of Brutus, the Roman politician.

*Physiognomy* - the art of determining character or personal characteristics from the features of the face or the form of the body.

*Dr. Benjamin Rush* –1/4/1746 –4/19/1813. Delegate from Pennsylvania to Second Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration. Most famous as the man who helped reconcile Jefferson and Adams by encouraging them to write to each other after both had retired from public life.

*General George Washington*—2/22/1732—12/14/1799. Commander in Chief of the Colonial armies during the Revolution, 1775-1783. First President of the U.S., 1789-1797.

The book from which Abigail quotes regarding education for women was from the *Second Volume of Letters Writ by a Turkish Spy Who Lived Five and Forty Years Undiscovered at Paris*. This book, originally written in Arabic (1642-1682), was translated into Italian, and thence into English and published in London in 1753. (*referred to in the full-length version of the show*)