

Ansleigh Camper
2ND Place

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Robert Morris, A Forgotten Founder

Robert Morris was born on January 20th, 1734, in Liverpool, England. When he was two, his mother died. He was raised by his father and his grandmother. He had seven siblings. When he was a teen, his family moved to America. In America, he very quickly became a successful merchant. He enjoyed the financial part of the merchant trade, at which he was amazing at. At age 35, Robert married Mary White, who together raised seven children. Because he was a merchant, Morris was greatly affected by the stamp act. The Stamp Act is an act that made people pay taxes to Britain on such things as paper, legal documents, and playing cards. During the war, the colonies were not self-dependent. They still needed certain supplies like guns and gunpowder for the war effort. The colonies looked to Robert Morris, as he was one of the wealthiest men who also was a merchant, which meant he had access to the ports. Morris worked in secret to get supplies to the colonies. Without Robert Morris, the colonies would not have been able to get the supplies they needed to win the war. He also lent \$10,000 in 1776(\$341,146 today) to the army to get other necessary supplies to the army.

During the war, Morris preferred not to go to meetings and give his opinions in person. Instead, he had some influential friends of his including Alexander

Hamilton, George Washington, and Gouverneur Morris, voice his ideas while they were at a meeting.

After the revolution, George Washington became president. On becoming president, Washington offered Morris the position of Secretary of Treasury for the government. He politely refused the privilege, which instead went to Alexander Hamilton. Robert instead desired to go into congress, where he was made one of Pennsylvania's original senators.

Robert also started the first bank in the US. Morris' bank idea had to be put through congress. When it was approved he was instantly appointed secretary of the treasury. The bank's name was The Bank of North America. His original idea for the bank was to be a government depository for their funds. The government took out many loans from the bank, without thinking they would have to return the money to the bank. This happened so many times that the bank could not continue to be a government bank. The bank did a wonderful job as a citizens bank, though. The bank has changed its name many times, but today it is known as Wells Fargo!

Robert hated slavery, and fought very hard to end it. He helped fugitive slaves escape and provided escaped slaves with food and other provisions. He also let the towns and villages know when slave catchers and kidnappers were in the area. He was a constant member at the Anglican church, for his entire life. When

#1 MS

they founded the US built on God, it just seemed perfect to him.

Now, why is he not well remembered today? There is a reason for that, though not necessarily a very good one. Robert Morris was “forgotten” because of multiple reasons, such as Morris’ Folly. Morris’ Folly was meant to be the most extraordinary house in Philadelphia. Robert bought a large property to build this mansion on. Robert had to sell all of his other properties (one of which George Washington bought) to come up with 60,000 (\$1,909,596 today) to pay for the house. The house was never completed, because Robert Morris went into a debtors' prison, because of the house’s cost. Because of that mistake people believe that the citizens of that time desired to forget about Robert Morris. Morris also died in relative poverty. He died at age 72.

After all the information above, it is very obvious that Robert Morris is an amazing and vital part of our revolution. RIP Robert Morris.

1 MS

Grievance Letter to Robert Morris' Family

May, 12th 1806

Dear Mrs. Robert Morris,

I was so sorry to hear about the recent passing of Robert Morris, a founder of our wonderful country. Your husband sacrificed so much for the United States of America. He was an outstanding senator, while he served. To think that he signed the Declaration, Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. Robert lived a wonderful 72 years, and helped our country a lot. Thank you for the sacrifices your family went through for the United States of America. Your husband was an amazing man, and he represented Pennsylvania incredibly well. This republic should be very thankful for him. He is an important part of this country's history. He shall be dearly missed,

My Sincerest Condolences -

A Friend

1 MS

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1 MS

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