

# Dolley Madison: First Lady, Our People

Dolley Madison was one of the most fascinating and influential first ladies in American history. Born into a Quaker family in 1768, she witnessed firsthand the birth of the United States and played a pivotal role in shaping its early history.

Madison's husband, James Madison, was the fourth president of the United States. During his presidency, Dolley Madison became a beloved figure, known for her charm, wit, and intelligence. She was also a fierce advocate for her husband's policies and a tireless supporter of the American people.



## **Dolley Madison: First Lady (Our People)** by Dave McGrail

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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In 1814, the British invaded Washington, D.C., and burned the White House. Dolley Madison refused to leave the White House until she had saved the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and other important documents. Her actions earned her the title of "Savior of the Nation."

After her husband's presidency, Dolley Madison continued to be an active participant in American society. She was a founding member of the

American Colonization Society, which advocated for the return of free blacks to Africa. She also helped to establish the Washington National Monument.

Dolley Madison died in 1849 at the age of 81. She is buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Her legacy continues to inspire Americans today.

## **Early Life and Education**

Dolley Payne Todd Madison was born on May 20, 1768, in New Garden, North Carolina. Her parents were Quaker farmers, and she was raised in a strict religious environment. Madison received a basic education at home, but she was also a voracious reader and a talented musician.

In 1790, Madison married John Todd, a lawyer and politician. The couple had two sons, John Payne Todd and William Temple Todd. However, tragedy struck in 1793 when John Todd died of yellow fever. Madison was devastated by her husband's death, but she eventually found solace in her work and her children.

## **Marriage to James Madison**

In 1794, Madison met James Madison, a young congressman from Virginia. The two were married in 1794, and they had a long and happy marriage. Madison was a supportive and loving wife, and she became a valuable asset to her husband's political career.

In 1801, James Madison was elected president of the United States. Dolley Madison became the first lady, and she quickly became one of the most popular and influential women in the country.

## **First Lady of the United States**

As first lady, Dolley Madison was a gracious and charming hostess. She opened the White House to the public, and she hosted lavish parties that were attended by some of the most prominent people in the country.

Madison was also a tireless advocate for her husband's policies, and she played a key role in shaping his presidency.

In 1812, the United States declared war on Great Britain. Madison was a staunch supporter of the war effort, and she helped to organize relief efforts for American soldiers and their families.

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## **Later Life and Legacy**

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Dolley Madison was one of the most fascinating and influential first ladies in American history. She was a strong and independent woman who played a

pivotal role in shaping the early history of the United States. Her legacy continues to inspire Americans today.



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