

## Brief Chronology of the Life of James Madison, 1751-1836

From an article in an Orange County Historical Society *Newsletter* which was provided courtesy of the James Madison Museum:

- “1751 Born March 16 at Port Conway in King George County, Virginia at the home of his maternal grandmother.
- 1769-1772 Attended the College of New Jersey (now Princeton).
- 1775 Made Colonel in the Orange County Militia.
- 1776 Elected Delegate to the Virginia Convention and the General Assembly.
- 1780 Served as one of Virginia’s Delegates to the Continental Congress.
- 1783 Engagement to Kitty Floyd ends.
- 1787 Serves as one of Virginia Delegates to the Constitutional Convention, where he plays a major role earning himself the title ‘Father of the Constitution.’
- 1787-1788 Shepherds the Constitution through the ratification process and contributes to *The Federalist Papers*.
- 1788 Constitution Ratified.
- 1789 Elected to the House of Representatives, sponsors Bill of Rights, and works with Thomas Jefferson to form the Democratic-Republican Party.
- 1794 Marries Dolley Payne Todd, September 15 (no children from this marriage).
- 1801 Death of his father, James Madison, Sr.; as eldest son inherits Montpelier, maintains separate quarters for his mother.
- 1801-1809 Serves as Thomas Jefferson’s Secretary of State.
- 1809 Inaugurated fourth President of the United States.
- 1812 Delivers war message to Congress (War of 1812).
- 1813 Begins second term as President.
- 1814 British burn Washington [D.C.].

- 1817 Retires from the Presidency to Montpelier.
- 1826 Succeeds Jefferson as Rector of the University of Virginia.
- 1829 Serves as Delegate to Virginia's second constitutional convention; only member present from the first convention in 1776.
- 1836 Dies June 28 at Montpelier."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Author unknown. "Brief Chronology of the Life of James Madison, 1751-1836." *Orange County Historical Society, Inc. Newsletter*, Volume 32, Number 2 (March/April 2001), 3.