

## ***JOHN ADAMS AND THOMAS JEFFERSON.....IN RETROSPECT***

***Adams was the eldest son of a middling farmer in Braintree, Massachusetts, near Boston who moonlighted in the winter as a shoemaker to make ends meet. Jefferson was the eldest son of a wealthy Virginia planter who owned thousands of acres and more than a hundred slaves and sat in the colonial legislature. Adams was raised in a strict Calvinist household where he was taught the virtue of subordinating the individual will to the greater good of the community and to respect authority figures. Jefferson was raised in the Anglican Church but never suggested that it was important to him in his formative years***

***Both were sent to school early on. Adams lived at home and attended a prep school nearby; Jefferson was sent away to school...leading to Harvard/ Adams and William and Mary/Jefferson. Both became lawyers.***

***When London's new colonial policies triggered an American protest, Adams first played a minor role but purloined letters written by the Massachusetts Governor Hutchinson were printed and noted curtailing American liberties, which sparked more protest already festering. Voices of Sam Adams and Patrick Henry were already being heard. Jefferson had won his father's seat in the Virginia House of Burgesses but spent more time building his mansion at Monticello.***

***In the Continental Congress, Adams became a leader, an orator, tough in argument, a break from England, but not revolution; Jefferson, trenchant of mind with words and ideas became the one by acclimation to compose the Declaration of Independence.....the die was cast.....***

***SCENE: We walk in and take seats and give impression we are talking, visiting.....as the narrator lays the groundwork above.***

***BACKGROUND: Adams and Jefferson were quite close for approximately 15 yrs. to include the two terms of Washington (Adams VP and Jefferson for a time as Sec of State). In 1796 Washington did not wish to run again, and Adams won the electoral vote for President and Jefferson became VP.....they began to have different views: something like the Federalist and Republicanism prevailed and the monarchical impressions of the former seem to be at issue with the latter.....Real break in 1800 when Adams-Pinckney finished behind Jefferson-Burr who tied***

*with the electoral votes. Years between drew them further apart until Adams broke the ice and wrote Jefferson in 1810 and this began a long series of correspondence (150 or so exchanges) until their death on the 4th of July, 1826....Adams at 90 and Jefferson at 83*

*Both Adams and Jefferson revered Washington and served as envoys to France at different times. A close relationship between America and France (aid by Lafayette) during our revolution; France and GB often in opposition. Adams also served as envoy to GB and Holland. Jefferson much influenced by the French Revolution and the common man rising to the fore over monarchies.*

*Electors for each state: 1796: 16 states. Each had two votes based on population: Adams 71/Jeff 68 Pinckney 59/Burr 30 and others 48 ...3/5 rule for blacks (women and blacks could not vote). Hamilton...a power behind the throne...along with Madison....need for a constitution/strong exec.*

#### *A FINAL WORD*

*On reflection of those days of revolution...the great triumvirate of Washington, Adams and Jefferson.....Washington was its sword, Adams its tongue who had shepherded independence into being and Jefferson its pen who had written the cherished national creed.....and perhaps God had something to do with the last day of Adams and Jefferson's life.....1826 on the 4th of July.....*

*ADAMS – JEFFERSON called Jefferson the only person he could associate with with perfect freedom and reserve....profound in his vision and accurate in judgment.....believed Adams possessed attributes for extraordinary statesmanship honesty, perseverance against all odds, intelligence like monarchy but not king resented this strong exec, prevent anarchy as was happening in France.....less govt, better*

*France believed Adams was started opposition beholden to GB in cong: Feds vs Republicans Supported Alien/Sedition supported opposition act put Callender in jail as VP but carefully who wrote venomously*

*God/religion strong - Separation of church and state. Believe in Feds opted to support Jeff Hamilton did not in opposition to Burr (they want*

*Adams but tied in electoral votes)-one better than Burr state Delaware (Bayard) a scoundrel. 1800 finished Hamilton and Burr, challenged and killed Hamilton in 1804. Not a revolution in 1800, a revolution of ideas changed vote*