



## Guidelines for *Forged by Fire* Character Biographies

Every character in this play has a corresponding biography page.  
Have students complete the Character Journal to make sure they understand their characters' positions in the play and within the historic context of the War of 1812.

Some biographies contain important vocabulary to understand as well.

If a student is playing a "double character", they will have 2 biographies to review.

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Character Journal

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Character \_\_\_\_\_

**Who are You?**

Write three things you learned about your character:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Write three **adjectives** that describe your character:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

An **adjective** is a word that describes a person, place, or thing. For example:  
Karen is a **nice** person!  
Bob is **strong**.

How do you think your character feels about the **War of 1812** and the ongoing conflict with the British?

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## YOU ARE...DOLLEY MADISON

### The First Lady

You are the First Lady of the United States. You are married to James Madison, the President of the United States. James Madison is your second husband. Your first husband and youngest son both died of yellow fever. Your other son Payne Todd was adopted by James Madison and treated as his son.

You were born into a very large family and you were very close to your extended family. In fact, your younger sister Anna Cutts, her husband Richard Cutts, and their three children lived with you for a short time in the White House when your husband became president.

You are a very likeable lady and a generous hostess. The parties that you throw, known as **drawing rooms**, are extremely popular. They are even nicknamed “squeezes” because of all of the guests who must crowd into the White House to attend! You are also known for your taste in fashion and decorating. Your famous headpiece is the turban. Polly, your pet parrot, is often seen sitting on your shoulder.

On the night the British burn the White House, you refuse to leave until “the large picture of Gen. Washington [is] . . . unscrewed from the wall.” You tell Paul Jennings, John Sioussat, and Thomas Magraw, to rescue the famous Gilbert Stuart portrait of President Washington along with silver, some velvet curtains, Cabinet papers, books, and Polly the parrot.

### Dolley Madison



White House Historical Association

#### Facts

- President Madison’s wife
- Liked to host parties called “drawing rooms”
- Known for her fashion and skills as a hostess
- Instructed White House servants to rescue the George Washington portrait before the British burned the White House

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Dolley Madison supported her husband’s efforts during the war. From her letters we know that she was often worried about the fate of the nation and the safety of the citizens of Washington, D.C.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.

## YOU ARE...JAMES MADISON

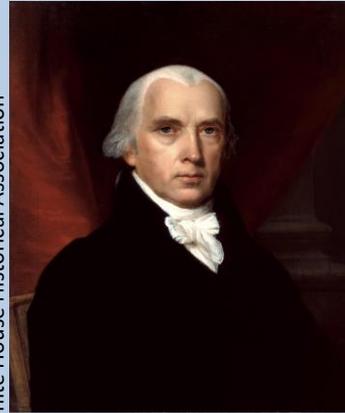
The President of the United States

You are the fourth President of the United States and a main author of the Constitution. Before your election as president, you served as Secretary of State to President Thomas Jefferson. You are married to Dolley Madison and your adopted son is Payne Todd. You are short in height and, unlike your outgoing wife Dolley, you are known for being soft-spoken.

You asked Congress to declare war on Great Britain because the British had been interfering with American trade and **impressing** American sailors to serve on their ships. You believe that these actions are harmful to American freedom and the success of the nation.

When our play begins, the War of 1812 is not going well for your presidency. Great Britain's navy is much larger than the United States' navy. You are worried that Washington, D.C. is in danger of being invaded by British troops. Politicians from a rival political party and your **Cabinet** members are constantly arguing about the causes and necessities of fighting this war. You must accept great responsibility as president during the war.

### James Madison



White House Historical Association

#### Facts

- President of the United States from 1809-1817
- One of the authors of the Constitution
- Faced great responsibility as president during the War of 1812
- Owned a plantation called Montpelier in Virginia

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

James Madison asked Congress to declare war because the British were impressing American sailors and merchants. He was concerned about the military and worried about the safety of the city of Washington.

The **Democratic-Republican Party** and the **Federalist Party** were the first two American political parties. The Democratic-Republican Party favored stronger state governments and American agriculture, while the Federalist Party favored a stronger national government and American industry.

**Impressment** means forcing people into military or government service against their will.

The **Cabinet** is a group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisors to the president.

## YOU ARE... PAUL JENNINGS

Narrator, Enslaved Manservant in the Madison Household

You were born enslaved on James Madison's Virginia plantation, Montpelier. After working many years as a footman you became Madison's personal manservant.

You are only a teenager when you come to work in James and Dolley Madison's White House. On the night the British burn the White House in 1814, you, John Sioussat, and Thomas Magraw help save the famous portrait of George Washington. The portrait you helped rescue now hangs in the East Room of the White House.

You will remain enslaved until the 1840s. You are eventually able to buy your own freedom and you become an **abolitionist**. You continue to have a relationship with the Madison family and you become an important member of the free black community in Washington. Later you will write a book about your memories of the Madison family and life in the White House.

In our play, you are the narrator. You tell us what is happening in the White House during the War of 1812.

### Paul Jennings



Sylvia Jennings Alexander

#### Facts

- Born enslaved on James Madison's plantation, Montpelier, but eventually bought his freedom and became an abolitionist
- Helped rescue the George Washington portrait before the British burned the White House
- Wrote a book about his experience as an enslaved manservant to the Madison family

#### Further Reading

Paul Jennings wrote a memoir called *A Colored Man's Reminiscences of James Madison*. It was the first memoir written about the White House.

An **abolitionist** is someone who wants to end slavery.

## YOU ARE... JOHN ARMSTRONG

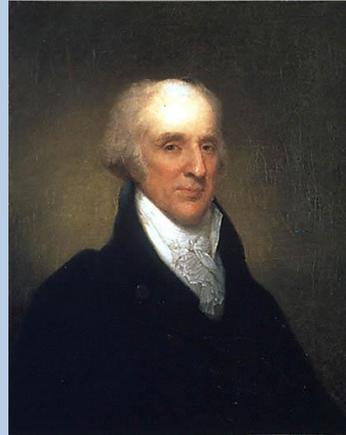
Secretary of War

You are the Secretary of War in President Madison's **Cabinet**. As Secretary of War you are responsible for the Army during the War of 1812. When the war began you served in the military as a Brigadier General. James Madison appointed you to his Cabinet in 1813.

You are not well liked among your peers—especially by Secretary of State James Monroe—and you are often distrusted. You stick to your beliefs, even if other Cabinet members disagree with you.

In our play, you are attending President Madison's War Council meeting at to discuss military strategy. You argue that British forces do not pose a threat to the city. You believe they will go to Baltimore instead. Unfortunately, you are wrong about the British and after the **Battle of Bladensburg**, British troops invade Washington and burn the White House. Because of your disastrous command, you are forced to resign from your Cabinet position in 1814.

### John Armstrong



Philadelphia Museum of Art

#### Facts

- Secretary of War
- Responsible for the United States Army
- Distrusted by his peers
- Was blamed for the American defeat at the Battle of Bladensburg

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Although Armstrong supported the war, he misjudged the threat that the British army posed to the nation's capital. The British invaded the city and burned the White House.

The **Cabinet** is a group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisors to the president.

The defeat of the American forces at the **Battle of Bladensburg** in Maryland led to the British attack on Washington and the burning of the White House.

## YOU ARE... JAMES MONROE

Secretary of State

You are the Secretary of State in President Madison's **Cabinet**. As the Secretary of State you are responsible for foreign policy, or maintaining friendly relationships between the United States and other countries.

You were born to a slave-owning family on a Virginia plantation. You later attended the College of William and Mary.

You are a very successful politician and served as Minister to Great Britain for President Thomas Jefferson and as Minister to France for President George Washington. When you became Secretary of State you were popular and respected. You work hard in support of President Madison. You worked with the **War Hawks** and developed a strong professional relationship with Speaker of the House, Henry Clay.

In our play you are unhappy with General Armstrong and his command of U.S. troops. You are concerned that the British may attack the nation's capital. You convince President Madison to place General William Winder in charge of the troops along the Potomac. On the night the White House burns you help evacuate the city and rescue important political documents. In 1817 you will become the fifth President of the United States.

The **Cabinet** is a group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisors to the president.

**War Hawks** were members of the Democratic-Republican Party who strongly supported the war against the British.

### James Monroe

White House Historical Association



#### Facts

- Secretary of State
- Responsible for foreign policy
- Successful politician
- Did not trust General Armstrong's command of U.S. troops
- Fifth President of the United States

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

James Monroe was a War Hawk who supported the war. He supported President Madison and his administration. He

## YOU ARE... HENRY CLAY

Speaker of the House, Democratic-Republican Congressman from Kentucky

You are a **Democratic-Republican** congressman and the **Speaker of the House** during the Madison presidency. You were born in Virginia, raised in Kentucky, and practiced law before entering politics in 1803.

In the years leading up to the War of 1812, you became convinced that military action against Great Britain was necessary. You dislike the British for hurting the American economy and for encouraging the Native Americans to act against settlers on the frontier.

As a **War Hawk** and Speaker of the House, you use your political connections to gain support for the war while blocking war critics like John Randolph. Although you do not always agree with President Madison's policies (you have said that he is "unfit for the storm of war"), you are skilled at getting people appointed to positions that will best help the war effort and the president.

In 1814 you are a part of a group of delegates sent to Europe to negotiate an end to the War of 1812. The other members are John Quincy Adams, James Bayard, Albert Gallatin, and Jonathan Russell. Later, from 1827 to 1829, you will live in Decatur House when you serve as Secretary of State for sixth President John Quincy Adams.

### Henry Clay



Westmoreland Museum of Art

#### Facts

- Speaker of the House
- Member of the Democratic-Republican Party
- Used political connections to gain support for war
- Went to Europe to negotiate peace

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Henry Clay was a War Hawk who supported the war. He disliked the British for hurting the American economy and for taking sides with Native Americans on the frontier.

The **Speaker of the House** is the highest-ranking member of the House of Representatives.

The **Democratic-Republican Party** and the **Federalist Party** were the first two American political parties. The Democratic-Republican Party favored stronger state governments and American agriculture, while the Federalist Party favored a stronger national government and American industry.

**War Hawks** were members of the Democratic-Republican Party who strongly supported the war against the British.

## YOU ARE... JOHN C. CALHOUN

Democratic-Republican Congressman from South Carolina

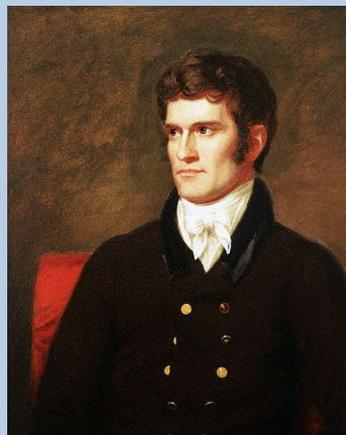
You are a congressman from South Carolina and an outspoken member of the **War Hawks**. You attended Yale, became a lawyer, and were elected to the House of Representatives.

You are often praised for your intelligence and your public speaking abilities—you can be very persuasive!

Along with fellow War Hawks Henry Clay and James Monroe, you lead the effort within Congress to gain support for the War of 1812 and to strengthen the U.S. Army. As a **Democratic-Republican**, you argue that the United States must fight Britain in order to protect the nation's right to free trade. To accomplish this, the nation must also support a strong military. But you are also respectful of the **Federalists** who disagree with you. You try to bring the two parties together.

You will later serve as vice president for fifth President James Monroe and as Secretary of State for tenth President John Tyler. You will also be known for your pro-slavery views leading up to the Civil War.

### John C. Calhoun



National Portrait Gallery

#### Facts

- Congressman from South Carolina
- Member of the Democratic-Republican Party
- Persuasive public speaker who was skilled at seeing both sides of a debate
- One of the few Congressmen who can calmly discuss politics with John Randolph

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

John C. Calhoun was a War Hawk and supported the War of 1812. He wanted a strong U.S. military.

**War Hawks** were members of the Democratic Republican Party who strongly supported the war against the British.

The **Democratic-Republican Party** and the **Federalist Party** were the first two American political parties. The Democratic-Republican Party favored stronger state governments and American agriculture, while the Federalist Party favored a stronger national government and American industry.

## YOU ARE... JOHN RANDOLPH

Democratic Republican Congressman from Virginia

You are a congressman and a **Democratic-Republican**. Also commonly referred to as “John Randolph of Roanoke,” you were born into a large slave-holding family in Virginia. You were educated at the College of New Jersey (later called Princeton) and the College of William and Mary. You spend most of your adult life as a member of the House of Representatives.

Although you are a member of the Democratic-Republican Party, you do not support the War of 1812. You are not in favor of the United States getting involved in issues with foreign countries. You are older than many of the youthful, excited **War Hawks** and value the nation’s relationship with Great Britain.

You are known for your violent temper. Quick to challenge those who do not agree with you, you often find yourself in dangerous situations including fights and duels. You are an outspoken critic of President Madison and have been known to make impolite remarks about Dolley Madison.

The War of 1812 is not good for your political career. Your opposition to the war causes you to lose an election to the House of Representatives in 1812. You are reelected in 1814 but the war ends soon afterward. Later, you are elected as a U.S. senator. After that, you will serve as the U.S. Minister to Russia.

### John Randolph



National Portrait Gallery

#### Facts

- Virginia congressman
- Member of the Democratic-Republican Party
- Outspoken critic of President Madison
- Had a temper that often got him into trouble

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

John Randolph was an outspoken critic of President Madison and did not support the war. His criticisms often got him into trouble with other members of Congress.

**War Hawks** were members of the Democratic-Republican Party who strongly supported the war against the British.

The **Democratic-Republican Party** and the **Federalist Party** were the first two American political parties. The Democratic-Republican Party favored stronger state governments and American agriculture, while the Federalist Party favored a stronger national government and American industry.



## YOU ARE... JOHN SIOUSSAT

White House Doorkeeper

You are the White House doorkeeper during James Madison's presidency. Most of the White House staff reports to you. Your daily responsibilities include making household purchases, keeping accounts, and supervising White House events. You often assign duties to Paul Jennings and other members of the White House staff, both free and enslaved.

You were born in Paris, but you moved to the United States in 1804. Upon your arrival in Washington you worked for the Ambassador from England, Anthony Merry. You are known to many people as "French John." You have a close relationship with Dolley Madison that will last long after the Madisons leave the White House.

### John Sioussat



#### Facts

- Doorkeeper in the Madison White House
- Born in Paris
- Nicknamed "French John"
- Helped Dolley Madison rescue the George Washington portrait from the White House before it was burned by the British

In our play you help save the George Washington portrait. The painting you helped rescue now hangs in the East Room of the White House.

On the night the White House burns in 1814, you bring Dolley Madison's pet parrot Polley to the French Minister Louis Sérurier for safekeeping. The bird was known to squawk certain French words!

Later, you will leave the White House staff and take a job at the local branch of the Bank of the United States.

## YOU ARE...SUKEY (pronounced “Soo-key”)

Enslaved Servant in Madison Household

You are an enslaved servant in the Madison household and work as Dolley Madison’s personal maid. Along with Paul Jennings, you move with the Madisons from their Virginia plantation, Montpelier, to the White House. Your formal name is Susan.

As Mrs. Madison’s maid, you are responsible for helping her dress and get ready for the day. Your relationship with Mrs. Madison has its ups and downs—her letters reveal that she was often cross with you, although she did admit that your service was important to her.

You are the mother of five children: Ben, George, Sarah, William, and Ellen. Although Paul Jennings will eventually gain his freedom, you will not be so lucky. You and your children will be given to Dolley Madison’s niece.

On the day the British invade Washington in 1814, you are watching out the window when you see James Smith ride to the White House on horseback warning the citizens of the city to “clear out!” Later that night, you flee the White House in a carriage with Charles Carroll, Dolley Madison, Anna Cutts, and Richard Cutts. You go with Mrs. Madison to Carroll’s home **Belle Vue** and then on to Virginia.

### Sukey

*We do not have a portrait of Sukey from the War of 1812. This is how a modern artist imagined Sukey:*



Montpelier Foundation

#### Facts

- Sukey is a nickname for Susan
- Dolley Madison’s personal enslaved maid at the White House
- Mother of five
- Had a complicated relationship with Dolley Madison
- Fled the White House with Dolley, Anna Cutts, Richard Cutts, and Charles Carroll on the night the British burned Washington

Dolley Madison escaped to Carroll’s mansion home **Belle Vue** when she fled the White House in 1814. It is now a museum called Dumbarton House.

## YOU ARE...ANNA CUTTS

Dolley Madison's Younger Sister, Wife of Richard Cutts

You are Dolley Madison's younger sister. Since she is eleven years older than you, she often treats you like a daughter. At the beginning of the Madison presidency you stayed at the White House with your husband, Richard Cutts (a congressman), and your three sons. Although you moved to your own home later on, you still attended White House events throughout the Madison presidency.

Dolley Madison often invites you to her **drawing rooms**. She considers you and other young ladies as her political and social allies because you help her lessen the tension between rival politicians and military figures.

On the night the White House burns in 1814, you flee Washington in a carriage with Dolley Madison, Charles Carroll, Sukey, and your husband, Richard Cutts.

### Anna Cutts



#### Facts

- Dolley Madison's younger sister
- Married to Richard Cutts, a congressman
- Lived with Madisons in the White House

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Anna was very close with her sister Dolley Madison. She and her husband Richard supported the Madisons throughout the war.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.

## YOU ARE...MARGARET BAYARD SMITH

Author, Wife of Samuel Harrison Smith

You are the wife of Samuel Harrison Smith, the owner of the Washington newspaper *The National Intelligencer*.

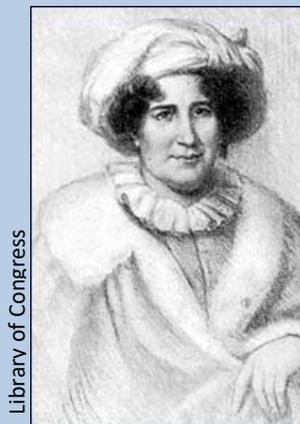
From a prominent family, you are often invited to social events in Washington and the surrounding areas. President Thomas Jefferson and President James Madison are close friends of yours. You visit them at the White House and at their Virginia plantations.

Dolley Madison often invites you to her **drawing rooms** held at the White House. She considers you her political and social ally because you help her lessen the tension between rival politicians and military figures.

You are also a writer who keeps a detailed diary and writes novels and biographies. After your death, your grandson discovered your diary and published it as a book titled *The First Forty Years of Washington Society*.

Your descriptions of famous historical figures—including James and Dolley Madison—and your observations on important events offer a great deal of information about social life in Washington during the War of 1812.

### Margaret Bayard Smith



Library of Congress

#### Facts

- Wife of the owner of a Washington newspaper
- Close friend of the Madisons
- Kept a diary about social life in Washington

#### Further Reading

*The First Forty Years of Washington Society* is a collection of the family letters written by Margaret Bayard Smith that offers stories of life in Washington City during the War of 1812.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.

## YOU ARE... RICHARD RUSH

Attorney General of the United States

You are the Attorney General of the United States and a member of President Madison's **Cabinet**. As the Attorney General you are responsible for law enforcement in the United States. You are also the highest-ranking lawyer in the nation. When President Madison appointed you to this position you were the youngest person in American history to hold this job.

You are from a prominent family in Philadelphia; your father was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. You went to college at the College of New Jersey (later called Princeton) and became a lawyer. You are also an important politician and public speaker throughout your life, serving both President Madison and President John Quincy Adams.

You are one of President Madison's closest friends and advisors during the War of 1812. As a **War Hawk** you support going to war against Great Britain. When Madison decided to ask Congress to declare war, you wrote articles for the newspaper *The National Intelligencer* supporting this decision.

You are present at the War Council meeting and understand Madison's fears that "the capital [could be] the object of a speedy attack." On the night the British attack Washington in 1814, you stay by President Madison's side and accompany him to Virginia.

### Richard Rush

Smithsonian American Art Museum



#### Facts

- Attorney General
- Well-known politician, lawyer, and public speaker
- Member of President Madison's Cabinet
- Close friend and advisor to the president

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Richard Rush was a War Hawk who supported the War of 1812. He was a close friend of President Madison and publically supported his wartime decisions.

The **Cabinet** is a group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisors to the president.

**War Hawks** were members of the Democratic-Republican Party who strongly supported the war against the British.

## YOU ARE... GEORGE CAMPBELL

Secretary of the Treasury

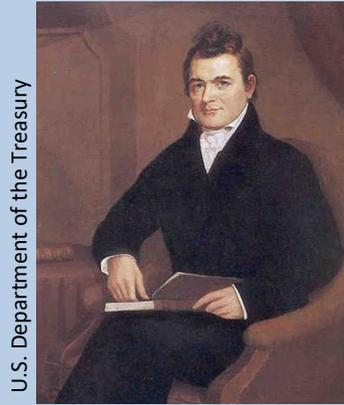
You are the Secretary of Treasury in President Madison's **Cabinet**. As the Secretary of the Treasury, your duties include managing finances (money and funds) for the United States. You are also in charge of manufacturing currency (money).

You were born in Scotland but moved to the United States at a young age. You attended the College of New Jersey (later called Princeton) and became a lawyer. You also served as a member of the Senate and House of Representatives at various times throughout your life.

As a **War Hawk** you support the United States' involvement in war against Great Britain, but the money necessary to wage war is hard to come by. As Secretary of the Treasury, you believe something must be done to help lessen the cost of war.

In our play you are present at the War Council meeting. You are concerned that if the British invade Washington, American finances will suffer. You will resign in October of 1814 after serving only eight months in office. You will leave disappointed and in bad health.

### George Campbell



#### Facts

- Secretary of the Treasury
- Must figure out a way to raise money for the War of 1812
- Resigned after 8 months in office

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

George Campbell was a War Hawk who supported the War of 1812. He faced many financial challenges as Secretary of the Treasury.

The **Cabinet** is a group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisors to the president.

**War Hawks** were members of the Democratic-Republican Party who strongly supported the war against the British.

## YOU ARE... WILLIAM JONES

Secretary of the Navy

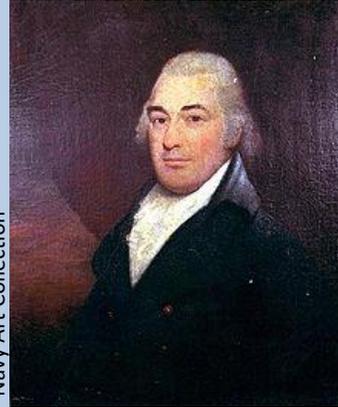
You are the Secretary of the Navy and a member of President Madison's **Cabinet**. As Secretary of the Navy you are responsible for organizing and managing the United States Navy.

You were born in Philadelphia and fought in the American Revolution. Following that war you worked for a ship captain and later moved to Charleston, South Carolina where you were a successful merchant.

President Madison made you the Secretary of the Navy in 1813. You helped boost national pride in the Navy and its victories at sea. In addition to those duties, you also briefly filled in as Secretary of the Treasury.

In our play you attend the War Council meeting. You are Secretary of the Navy during a time when the reputation of the United States Navy is beginning to grow.

### William Jones



#### Facts

- Secretary of the Navy
- Responsible for organizing and equipping the U.S. Navy
- Experienced merchant in Charleston

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

William Jones was an experienced seaman when he accepted his post as Secretary of the Navy. He supported the war and the growth of the U.S. Navy.

The **Cabinet** is a group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisors to the president.

## YOU ARE... CHARLES CARROLL

Businessman, Member of Washington Society

You are a successful businessman and member of Washington society. The Madisons consider you a close friend.

You were born into a prominent Catholic family in Maryland; your cousin, also named Charles Carroll, signed the Declaration of Independence. Your social status, rather than military experience, allowed you to gain an officer's rank in the Maryland militia. You were best known for your skills in business (you ran a paper mill) and for your role as one of the founders of the city of Rochester, New York.

In our play, you help take Dolley Madison, Anna Cutts, Richard Cutts, and Sukey to your Georgetown home, **Belle Vue**, on the night the British invade Washington. As Mrs. Madison rushes to remove precious items from the White House, you become impatient because you know that the British are quickly approaching. Mrs. Madison wrote of your assistance on the night the White House burned stating, "Our kind friend has come to quicken my departure."

### Charles Carroll



Dumbarton House

#### Facts

- Successful businessman and member of Washington society
- Close friend to President and Mrs. Madison
- Helped Dolley Madison escape to his home in Georgetown on the night the British burn the White House

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

As a close friend of the Madisons, Charles Carroll supported the war.

Dolley Madison escaped to Carroll's mansion home **Belle Vue** when she fled the White House in 1814. It is now a museum called Dumbarton House.



## YOU ARE... JAMES SMITH

President Madison's Messenger

You are a free black man who is sent by President Madison to warn the citizens of Washington that the British are on their way to burn the city.

In his memoir, Paul Jennings wrote of your ride into Washington remarking that you arrived on horseback and yelled for everyone to "clear out!" The American troops had been defeated at the **Battle of Bladensburg**, General Armstrong had ordered a retreat, and the British were on their way to the nation's capital.

In our play, your warning allows Dolley Madison, Paul Jennings, Sukey, John Sioussat, Thomas Magraw, and others enough time to rescue the silver, curtains, Cabinet papers, and the George Washington portrait from the White House.

### James Smith

Draw a picture of James Smith here:

#### Facts

- Free black man
- President Madison's messenger
- Warned the citizens of Washington about the British invasion

The defeat of the American forces at the **Battle of Bladensburg** in Maryland led to the British attack on Washington and the burning of the White House and other public buildings.

#### Where's my picture?

We do not have a picture of James Smith. Since photography had not yet been invented, the only images we have of people from the War of 1812 are paintings or sketches that have survived for about 200 years. There may have been a picture of your character at one time, but it has yet to be discovered.

Imagine what your character might have looked like and draw him in the space above.

## YOU ARE... JACOB BARKER

New York Merchant and Banker

You are a merchant and banker from New York and a strong supporter of President Madison.

You were born in Massachusetts and moved to New York at a young age. You acquired a large fortune as a ship owner. Your business requires that you spend time in Washington, where you meet President and Mrs. Madison. You like Dolley Madison so much that you named a boat, *The Lady Madison*, after her.

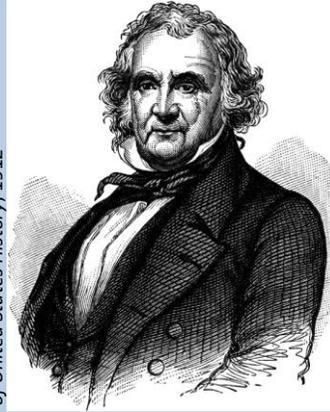
Known for your patriotism, you spared no expense when it came to helping your country. You provided the government with money to continue fighting the War of 1812, and you even offered to personally blow up the U.S. Capitol rather than see it fall to the British troops! (This did not happen, however. The British invaded Washington and burned the White House, Capitol, and other buildings.) Even when you faced personal financial troubles, you did not hesitate in your helping your country.

On the night the White House burns you follow Dolley Madison's orders to save the George Washington portrait. You, along with fellow New York merchant Robert Depeyster, load the portrait and other valuables onto a cart and take them to safekeeping at a farmhouse in **Georgetown**. After the war you will return the portrait to the White House. Your decision to help save this portrait will be one of your proudest moments.

**Georgetown** is a neighborhood in Washington, D.C.

### Jacob Barker

From Benson Lossing Harper's *Encyclopedia of United States History*, 1912



#### Facts

- Merchant and banker from New York
- Very patriotic
- Took the George Washington portrait to safekeeping

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Jacob Barker was a very patriotic supporter of President Madison. He was proud of his role in rescuing the George Washington portrait.



## YOU ARE... SAMUEL TAGGART

Federalist Congressman from  
Massachusetts

You are a **Federalist** congressman from Massachusetts. You were born in New Hampshire and graduated from Dartmouth College. You later moved to Massachusetts where you pursued a career as a Presbyterian minister. You were elected to Congress in 1802 and you hoped to use your political position to take away the power of the **Democratic-Republicans**.

In our play you are extremely critical of President Madison and do not support the War of 1812. As a member of the Federalist Party, you believe that the war is hurtful to U.S. trade and relations with the British. You even argue that the reason the American public supports the war is because they feel threatened by the outspoken **War Hawks**. You worry that the war will push the nation deeper into financial troubles.

### Samuel Taggart

Draw a picture of Samuel Taggart here:

#### Facts

- Federalist congressman from Massachusetts
- Critical of President Madison

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Samuel Taggart was a Federalist who was extremely critical of President Madison. He did not support

The **Federalist Party** and the **Democratic-Republican Party** were the first two American political parties. The Federalist Party favored a stronger national government and American industry, while the Democratic-Republican Party favored stronger state governments and American agriculture.

**War Hawks** were members of the Democratic-Republican Party who strongly supported the war against the British.

#### Where's my picture?

We do not have a picture of Samuel Taggart. Since photography had not yet been invented, the only images we have of people from the War of 1812 are paintings or sketches that have survived for about 200 years. There may have been a picture of your character at one time, but it has yet to be discovered.

Imagine what your character might have looked like and draw him in the space above.

## YOU ARE... JOHN PETER VAN NESS

Major General of the militia of the District of Columbia, Husband of Marcia Burns Van Ness

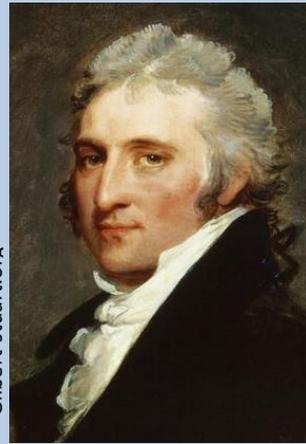
You are a successful banker and the Major General of the D.C. Militia. You were born in New York but moved to Washington when you were elected to Congress in 1801. It was then that you met your wife, Marcia Burns Van Ness.

During Thomas Jefferson's presidency you were appointed as Brigadier General of Washington, President Madison promoted you to Major General. Later in life, you will have a prominent career as mayor of Washington, DC.

In our play you speak with President Madison about the current state of the war. You congratulate the President on his reelection and offer him support for the war effort.

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1814 you resign your commission to the militia of the District of Columbia because you believe the War Department is ignoring your advice concerning the defense of Washington.

### John Peter Van Ness



Gilbert-stuart.org

#### Facts

- Major General of the militia of the District of Columbia
- Married to Marcia Burns Van Ness
- Later became mayor of Washington, D.C.

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

John Van Ness supported the War of 1812 and he served as the Major General of the militia of the District of Columbia. He disagreed with Secretary of War John Armstrong about the level of defenses needed for Washington City.

## YOU ARE... MARCIA BURNS VAN NESS

Wife of John Peter Van Ness, Friend of Mrs. Madison

You are a prominent member of Washington society and the wife of Major General John Peter Van Ness. You were born into the Burns family, who were best known for selling land to the United States government to create the city of Washington in the 1790s. The money your family earned from the sale of land made them very wealthy.

Members of Washington society consider you to be a great beauty, often calling you the “belle of the city,” and praising your manners and taste. Dolley Madison often invites you and your husband to her **drawing rooms**. She considers you and other young ladies as her political and social allies because you help her lessen the tension between rival politicians and military figures.

In our play you chat with Margaret Bayard Smith and Sarah Seaton about the recent naval victories during the war.

### Marcia Burns Van Ness



From *Famous American Belles of the Nineteenth Century*, 1901

#### Facts

- Well known in Washington society
- From a prominent family
- Wife of John Peter Van Ness
- Often attended Dolley Madison’s drawing rooms

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Marcia Van Ness was a close friend and ally of Dolley Madison. She supported the President and First Lady throughout the War of 1812.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.

## YOU ARE... MARIA MAYO

### Newcomer to Washington

You are a young woman, recently arrived in the nation's capital from Richmond, Virginia. You are the daughter of a former mayor of Richmond, and are from one of the state's wealthiest families.

Dolley Madison invites you to her **drawing rooms** as one of her "multitude of beauties;" young ladies who hope to be introduced to Washington society. She considers you and other young ladies as her political and social allies because you help her lessen the tension between rival politicians and military figures.

In our play you are new to the city of Washington and are curious about current events in the nation's capital. You chat with other young ladies about city gossip. You have come to the White House to see and be seen.

Later in life you will meet and marry General Winfield Scott, who was an Army colonel during the War of 1812 and later a famous general in the Mexican-American War. You will move to New Jersey where you raise seven children.

### Maria Mayo



#### Facts

- Well known in Richmond society
- Newcomer to Washington
- One of Mrs. Madison's "multitude of beauties"
- Marries General Winfield Scott

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Maria Mayo was one of Dolley Madison's supporters who would attend drawing rooms and help lessen tension between rival politicians.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.

## YOU ARE... WILLIAM SEATON

Editor of the newspaper *The National Intelligencer*, Husband of Sarah Seaton

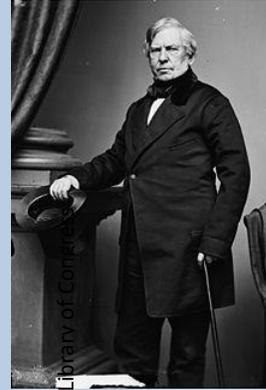
You are a journalist and the editor of the Washington newspaper *The National Intelligencer*. You are married to Sarah Seaton.

You were born in King William County, Virginia, and went to school in Richmond. When you were eighteen years old, you became an assistant editor for a Richmond newspaper. Next, you edited the *Petersburg Republican* and owned the *North Carolina Gazette*.

In 1812 you moved to Washington with your wife to join the staff of *The National Intelligencer*. Along with your business partner, Joseph Gales, you are in charge of selecting the stories and headlines that will be featured in the paper. The President and Mrs. Madison rely on your support in the press.

In our play you attend one of Mrs. Madison's **drawing rooms** and you speak with President Madison about stories that have been featured in your paper.

### William Seaton



#### Facts

- Editor of the newspaper *The National Intelligencer*
- Married to Sarah Seaton
- Ran stories in the newspaper to support the President and Mrs. Madison

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

William Seaton supported President Madison's decision to enter the War of 1812. He often chose to run stories in his newspaper that were favorable to the President, Dolley Madison, and the United States military.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.



## YOU ARE... SARAH SEATON

Wife of William Seaton, Friend of Mrs. Madison

You are the wife of William Seaton, the editor of the Washington newspaper, *The National Intelligencer*. Your brother introduced you to William because they are business partners.

You recently moved with your husband from North Carolina to Washington. Although you are excited to be part of Washington society, you are also fearful of a British attack on the nation's capital. You worry that it would make the United States the "laughing stock to every other in the world."

In our play, Dolley Madison values your attendance at her **drawing rooms** because of your close connection to the press. She knows that you have great influence over your husband and the articles about the president and first lady that he prints in the newspaper. She considers you and other young ladies as her political and social allies because you help her lessen the tension between rival politicians and military figures. You are quite the gossip and have a good sense of humor. You often write letters describing social events in Washington.

### Sarah Seaton

Draw a picture of Sarah Seaton here:

#### Facts

- Wife of William Seaton, the editor of a newspaper
- Close friends with Dolley Madison
- Liked to gossip

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Sarah and her husband were close friends of the Madisons. They supported the president and his decisions during the War of 1812.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.

#### Where's my picture?

We do not have a picture of Sarah Seaton. Since photography had not yet been invented, the only images we have of people from the War of 1812 are paintings or sketches that have survived for about 200 years. There may have been a picture of your character at one time, but it has yet to be discovered.

Imagine what your character might have looked like and draw her in the space above.

## YOU ARE... EDWARD COLES

Personal Secretary to James Madison, Dolley Madison's Cousin

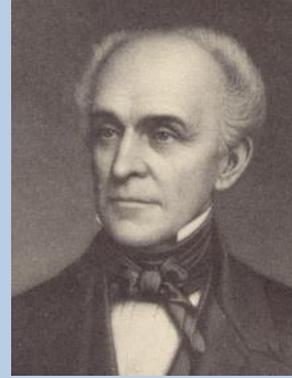
You are James Madison's personal secretary and help him keep track of his daily correspondence and affairs. You are also Dolley Madison's cousin. (The President and Mrs. Madison often helped their extended family find government work). Your sister is Sarah Coles. You were born in Virginia and educated at Hampton-Sydney College and the College of William and Mary.

In our play, you attend one of Dolley Madison's **drawing rooms** and speak with President Madison about his worries regarding the War of 1812. You discuss the many important victories of the U.S. Navy.

You are also an important figure in the antislavery movement and in 1819 you will free all of your slaves. Later, you will also serve as Governor of Illinois.

### Edward Coles

From Sketch of Edward Coles, Second Governor of Illinois, 1882



#### Facts

- Personal secretary to President Madison
- Dolley Madison's cousin
- Opposed slavery

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Edward Coles supported President Madison's decisions during the War of 1812.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.

## YOU ARE... JOSIAH QUINCY

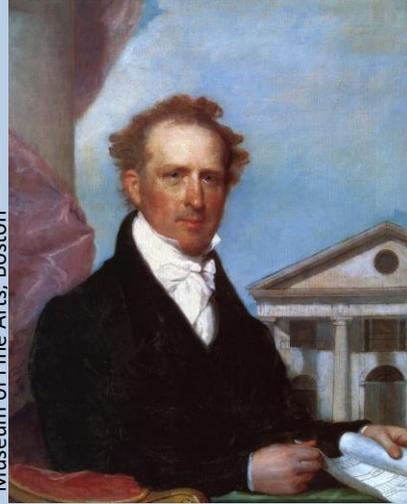
Federalist Congressman from Massachusetts

You are a **Federalist** and a member of the House of Representatives. You were born in Boston and were educated at Harvard University. You worked as a lawyer before entering politics.

In our play you are extremely critical of President Madison and do not support the War of 1812. As a member of the **Federalist Party** you believe that the war is hurtful to U.S. trade and relations with the British. You even argue that the reason the American public supports the war is because they feel threatened by the outspoken **War Hawks**.

Later, life you will serve as a state senator, Mayor of Boston, and President of Harvard University.

### Josiah Quincy



Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

#### Facts

- Federalist congressman from Massachusetts
- Worked as a lawyer before entering politics
- Critical of President Madison

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

As a Federalist, Josiah Quincy did not support the War of 1812. He believed that the war was hurtful to trade and the nation's relationship with Great Britain.

The **Federalist Party** and the **Democratic-Republican Party** were the first two American political parties. The Federalist Party favored a stronger national government and American industry, while the Democratic-Republican Party favored stronger state governments and American agriculture.

**War Hawks** were members of the Democratic-Republican Party who strongly supported the war against the British.

## YOU ARE... CAPTAIN ISAAC HULL

Naval Captain, Commander of the USS *Constitution*

You are a naval captain during the War of 1812 on the USS *Constitution*. You were born in Connecticut and are the son of a Revolutionary War naval hero.

In our play, you have recently defeated the British ship the HMS *Guerrière* (“Gary-air”). The British were unable to sink your ship, the USS *Constitution*, earning it the nickname “Old Ironsides.” This victory has made news across the country. The citizens of Washington have recently held a ball in your honor. You excitedly retell the story at Dolley Madison’s **drawing room**.

You will be greatly remembered for your service to the US Navy. In the future, the Navy will name five ships in your honor. Your ship “Old Ironsides” still exists today! The ship is over 200 years old.

### Captain Isaac Hull



#### Facts

- Commander of the USS *Constitution*, “Old Ironsides”
- Famous across the nation for naval victories
- A ball was held in Washington to celebrate his defeat of the *Guerrière* (“Gary-air”).

#### Thoughts about the War of 1812

Captain Hull was a successful naval commander in the War of 1812. His ship the USS *Constitution* defeated the British ship the *Guerrière* (“Gary-air”). The *Constitution* earned the nickname “Old Ironsides” because the British were unable to sink it.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.



## YOU ARE... AN EXTRA LADY

Friend of Mrs. Madison

You are a resident of Washington, D.C. who often attends Mrs. Madison's weekly drawing room receptions and who has decided to visit the White House today.

Mrs. Madison invites you to her **drawing rooms** as one of her "multitude of beauties," young ladies who hope to be introduced to Washington society. She considers you and other young ladies as her political and social allies because you help her lessen the tension between rival politicians and military figures.

Create a character for yourself and imagine the things you might do at the White House.

### Extra Lady



Write about yourself.

Create your own character.

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.

## YOU ARE... AN EXTRA CONGRESSMAN

Member of the United States government

You are a congressman who often attends Mrs. Madison's Wednesday night **drawing rooms**. You have decided to visit the White House today.

Mrs. Madison's drawing rooms provide an opportunity to talk with other congressmen and politicians. They are also a great place to hear the latest news about the war against the British.

Create a character for yourself and imagine the things you might do at the White House.

Decide:

- Which state are you from?
- Do you support the war or are you against it?

Dolley Madison liked to host parties known as **drawing rooms** where all guests, regardless of political party or beliefs, could come and enjoy the White House.

### Extra Congressman



Write about yourself.

Create your own character.