

## **10. Grant narrowly missed Lincoln's assassination**

Grant had been invited to go to Ford theater with President Lincoln but he and his wife Julia decided to travel to New Jersey to visit their children instead. Had he attended, he may have been a target as well.

## **9. Both of Grant's parents witnessed his presidency**

It may not seem like a big deal today, but Ulysses Grant was the first president to have both his parents living as he entered office.

## **8. Grant couldn't stand the sight of blood**

Although he witnessed some of the bloodiest battles in history, Grant could not stand the sight of blood. Rare steak nauseated him and he was known to cook his meat to the point of charring.

## **7. Grant graduated from West Point**

Grant was one of only three presidents to graduate from a military academy. He graduated from West Point in 1843.

## **6. Grant was a cigar lover**

Grant used around seven to ten cigars a day, although many of them he did not smoke, chewing on them instead. After a reporter wrote that Grant liked cigars, people began to send them to him as gifts. He received over 20,000, which may have contributed to his throat cancer.

## **5. Grant made a deal with Mark Twain**

After his presidency, Grant lost all his savings to a shady investment partner, leaving his family with nearly nothing. At the time, presidents were not given pensions and Grant had already forfeited his military pension when he became president. Mark Twain offered Grant a generous deal to write his memoirs and while terminally ill with cancer, Grant finished just days before his death. The memoirs sold over 300,000 copies and earned his family over \$450,000. In 1958, Congress passed legislation establishing a pension for presidents.

## **4. Grant's Tomb is record setting**

The body of Ulysses S. Grant lies in Riverside Park in New York City. He is buried beside his wife in Grant's Tomb, the largest mausoleum in North America.

## **3. Ulysses S. Grant is not his real name**

President Grant's real name was Hiram Ulysses Grant. At the age of 17, he secured a nomination to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point through his Congressman, Thomas Hamer. Apparently confused with Grant's mother's maiden name of Simpson, Hamer mistakenly nominated him as Ulysses S. Grant. The academy would not accept any name other than what was on the nomination form so Grant adopted the new name as his own. Contrary to what some may believe, the S. does not stand for anything at all.

## **2. Grant was a compassionate man**

When Grant accepted the surrender of Confederate forces by his rival Robert E. Lee in April 1865, he generously allowed Confederate soldiers to retain their weapons and horses and return to their homes.

Grant's wife's family were slave owners and Grant himself owned a slave named William Jones, given to him by his father-in-law. At a time when Grant could have badly used the money from selling Jones, he signed a document that freed him instead.

## **1. Grant liked life in the fast lane**

As president, Grant was arrested by a police officer who failed to recognize him. He was fined \$5 for speeding in his horse and buggy and had to go back to the White House on foot.

A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing.

[Alexander Hamilton](#)

A promise must never be broken.

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**A well adjusted person is one who makes the same mistake twice without getting nervous.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**Constitutions should consist only of general provisions; the reason is that they must necessarily be permanent, and that they cannot calculate for the possible change of things.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**Even to observe neutrality you must have a strong government.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**Here, sir, the people govern; here they act by their immediate representatives.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**I never expect to see a perfect work from an imperfect man.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**I think the first duty of society is justice.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men the great difficulty lies in this: You must first enable the government to control the governed, and in the next place, oblige it to control itself.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**In politics, as in religion, it is equally absurd to aim at making proselytes by fire and sword. Heresies in either can rarely be cured by persecution.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**In the general course of human nature, A power over a man's subsistence amounts to a power over his will.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**In the main it will be found that a power over a man's support (salary) is a power over his will.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**In the usual progress of things, the necessities of a nation in every stage of its existence will be found at least equal to its resources.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**It is the advertiser who provides the paper for the subscriber. It is not to be disputed, that the publisher of a newspaper in this country, without a very exhaustive advertising support, would receive less reward for his labor than the humblest mechanic.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**It's not tyranny we desire; it's a just, limited, federal government.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**Learn to think continentally.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**Man is a reasoning rather than a reasonable animal.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**Men often oppose a thing merely because they have had no agency in planning it, or because it may have been planned by those whom they dislike.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**Nobody expects to trust his body overmuch after the age of fifty.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**Power over a man's subsistence is power over his will.**

**[Alexander Hamilton](#)**

**Fun Facts about Alexander Hamilton**

- Alexander's portrait appears on the ten-dollar bill. He is one of only two non-presidents to have his face on American currency. The other is Benjamin Franklin, who appears on the one-hundred-dollar bill.
- Alexander established one of the first two political parties in America, the Federalist Party.
- Alexander Hamilton was one of only seven foreign-born signers of the Constitution. There were 39 signers altogether.
- Alexander's face, along with 77 others, is carved into the "Million Dollar Staircase," a famous staircase located in the New York State Capitol.
- Hamilton College, named after Alexander Hamilton, is the third oldest college in New York State. Today the Alexander Hamilton Scholarship Fund helps young people from Nevis Island, the island on which Alexander was born, attend this college.
- *The New York Evening Post*, founded in 1801 by Alexander, is the oldest continually running newspaper in America.

Alexander Hamilton was born in Charlestown, which was the capital of Nevis in the British West Indies. He was born out of wedlock. His mother was Rachel Faucett Lavien of part French Huguenot descent, while his father, James A. Hamilton, was the fourth son of Alexander Hamilton of Grange, Ayrshire, a Scottish laird. He was born on January 11 in 1757. His mother had been separated from Johann Michael Lavien of St. Croix, in which she was in an unhappy marriage. She left her husband and first son in St. Kitts in 1750, and then she met James. Together they moved to her birthplace of Nevis since she had inherited property from her father there. There the couple had two children, James Jr. and Alexander, but because Rachel and James were not married, the Church of England would not allow him to be a member or obtain his education at the church school, so he received tutoring and classes in a Jewish school. He also read Greek and Roman classics.

James ended up abandoning Rachel and their two sons, so Rachel supported her family by keeping a small store. On February 19, 1768, she

died from a severe fever. The boys were left orphaned. Hamilton became a clerk at a local import-export firm. He and his brother were adopted for a brief period of time by his cousin, Peter Lytton, but Peter Lytton committed suicide. James and Alexander were then split up, as James was apprenticed with a local carpenter, and Alexander was adopted by a merchant named Thomas Stephens. There were some talk that Stevens may have been the biological father of Hamilton, as Edward Stevens, son of Thomas Stevens, and Alexander Hamilton looked very much alike and shared common interests.

Alexander Hamilton became the first United States Secretary of the Treasury. He was also a political philosopher, economist, and a Founding Father of the United States. He served as Chief of Staff to George Washington while the American Revolution was occurring. He was also one of the first Constitutional lawyers. He coauthored the Federalist Papers.

Hamilton was raised in the Caribbean. He went to King's College in New York, which is now called Columbia University. After the Revolutionary War in which Hamilton was chief advisor to George Washington, he was elected to the Continental Congress. He resigned from that position in order to practice law and found the Bank of New York. He signed the U.S. Constitution and served in the New York Legislature. Under President Washington, Hamilton was the Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton believed in a strong federal government and proposed the powers of the Constitution to fund the debt of the country, assume the debts by the states, and create a Bank of the United States that was government owned. To pay for all of this, he proposed a tariff on imports as well as a whiskey tax.

His beliefs were strongly opposed by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. The Federalist Party and the Democratic-Republican Party of Jefferson were not in agreement regarding the national bank, foreign trade policies, and the Jay Treaty. During this time, Hamilton was blackmailed by a man with whom Hamilton had had an affair with his wife. Hamilton confessed to the affair and resigned as the Secretary of the Treasury in 1795. he then went back to New York to practice law.

In the 1800 elections, Hamilton opposed Federalist John Adams, and this really hurt Adams in the elections.

Hamilton was involved in a duel on July 11, 1804 with Vice President Aaron Burr. Burr's shot hit him in the lower abdomen right above his right hip. Damage was done to his internal organs, especially his liver and diaphragm and then became stuck in his first or second lumbar vertebra. He was mortally wounded, but he was ferried back to New York. He had visits with his friends and family before he died. He passed away on the following afternoon, July 12, 1804.

Hamilton left behind his wife, Elizabeth (Betsy or Eliza). They had eight children. His wife lived for fifty years following his death. She was a very religious woman and spent much of her life helping both orphans and widows. She co-founded the first private orphanage in New York, called the New York Orphan Asylum Society. Even though he had at least one affair, they were very close. They had two children named Philip, and the first was killed in 1801 from a duel. Their other children were Angelica, Alexander, James Alexander, John Church, William Stephen, and Eliza.

By the time of the Civil War, Hamilton's portrait started to be on U.S. currency. This included the two dollar, five dollar, ten dollar, and 50 dollar bills. It is currently on the ten dollar bill. Alexander Hamilton will be remembered for his work as the Secretary of the Treasury. His work has had powerful effects on the United States government, and will continue to do so. His home in Manhattan is now the Hamilton Grange National Memorial, and it has a statue of him at the entrance. It has since been moved to a park that was a part of the Hamilton estate. Additionally, Hamilton has been honored with many towns and streets being named after him.