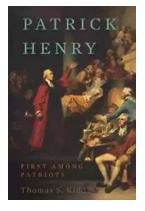
# **Patrick Henry: First Among Patriots**

Patrick Henry was a passionate American attorney, planter, and politician who played a pivotal role in the American Revolution. His famous words, "Give me liberty or give me death!" still resonate with people today. This article explores the life and legacy of Patrick Henry, an inspiring figure in American history.

### Early Life and Education

Patrick Henry was born on May 29, 1736, in Studley, Virginia. He was the second of nine children in a family of Scottish descent. Despite his father's wish for him to become a farmer, Patrick showed little interest in agriculture and mainly focused on his education.

Henry attended local schools but left formal education at the age of 15 to help his father manage their family farm. During this time, he developed an interest in law by reading extensively on the subject.



## **Patrick Henry: First Among Patriots**

by Thomas S Kidd(Kindle Edition)

🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 4.5 out of 5	
Language	: English
File size	: 977 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 322 pages



### **Entry into Law and Politics**

At the age of 24, Patrick Henry married Sarah Shelton, and shortly after, he pursued his passion for law. He self-studied and passed the bar exam in 1760 without formal legal training. Henry's eloquence in court quickly gained him a reputation as a formidable attorney. His persuasive speaking style would later become the hallmark of his political career.

In 1765, Henry entered politics, serving as a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. As tension between the American colonies and Great Britain increased, he became a leading voice for colonial rights and freedoms.

#### Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!

On March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry delivered his most famous speech at the Virginia Convention in Richmond. In this powerful speech, he argued for the necessity of armed resistance against the British crown. His closing words, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" ignited the revolutionary spirit and became an iconic call to action.

#### **Revolutionary Contributions**

Patrick Henry's powerful words and revolutionary spirit inspired many to join the fight for independence from British rule. He was elected as a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses and actively participated in shaping the path towards independence.

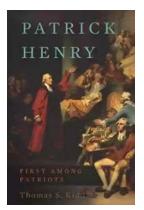
Henry's role in the Revolutionary War extended beyond his political contributions. He served as a militia officer and played a crucial part in defending Virginia against British forces. His dedication and leadership earned him the respect and admiration of his fellow patriots.

#### Later Life and Legacy

After the war, Patrick Henry continued his political career, serving as the Governor of Virginia from 1776 to 1779 and again from 1784 to 1786. His steadfast support for individual liberties and limited government influenced the drafting of the United States Constitution and the creation of the Bill of Rights.

Patrick Henry's legacy as a champion of liberty and a skilled orator endures to this day. His speeches and writings continue to inspire generations of Americans, reminding them of the importance of fighting for freedom and standing up against oppression.

Patrick Henry's unwavering commitment to liberty, his influential speeches, and his active involvement in the American Revolution make him a revered patriot. His famous words captured the spirit of the time and continue to resonate with people around the world. Patrick Henry's legacy as one of America's first patriots will forever be cherished and celebrated.



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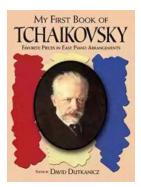
Most Americans know Patrick Henry as a fiery speaker whose pronouncement "Give me liberty or give me death!" rallied American defiance to the British Crown. But Henry's skills as an orator -- sharpened in the small towns and courtrooms of colonial Virginia -- are only one part of his vast, but largely forgotten, legacy. As historian Thomas S. Kidd shows, Henry cherished a vision of America as a virtuous republic with a clearly circumscribed central government. These ideals brought him into bitter conflict with other Founders and were crystallized in his vociferous opposition to the U.S. Constitution.

In Patrick Henry, Kidd pulls back the curtain on one of our most radical, passionate Founders, showing that until we understand Henry himself, we will neglect many of the Revolution's animating values.



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