

## Home Page

**Welcome to American National Biography Online**

An exploration of American history through the lives of the men & women who shaped the nation.

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**Biography of the Day**  
 Heintzelman, Samuel Peter (30 Sept. 1805-1 May 1880), *Union Army Officers*, (973) words  
 soldier, was born in Manheim, Pennsylvania, the son of Peter Heintzelman and Ann Elizabeth Grubb. Appointed to the U.S. Military Academy in 1822, he graduated in the class of 1826. He was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry and ...  
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**What's New**  
**April 2016 Update:** Our latest update adds 51 new lives to the ANB, including diplomat and historian [George Kennan](#), singer [Whitney Houston](#), poet and activist [Adrienne Rich](#), economist [Milton Friedman](#), and many more...  
**Connect:** Follow the new American History Twitter Feed ([@OUPAmHistory](#)) from Oxford University Press for the latest news, anniversaries, and historical trivia across Oxford's publishing—keep an eye out for links to ANB!  
**News:** General Editor Susan Ware reflects on the [notable figures from the April 2016 update](#), including a wealth of new biographies on accomplished men and women.

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## Logo



## URL

<http://anb.org/login.html?url=%2Farticles%2Fhome.html&ip=112.133.231.175&nocookie=0>

## Subject

United States-Biography-Dictionaries

## Accessibility

On Subscription basis

## Language

English

***Publisher***

Published by Oxford University Press under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies.

***Brief History***

The American National Biography was published in 24 volumes in 1999. The American National Biography won instant acclaim as the new authority in American biographies. The publication of the online edition makes the ANB even more useful as a dynamic source of information -- updated semi-annually, with new entries and revisions of previously published entries to enhance their accuracy and currency.

***Scope and Coverage***

The landmark American National Biography offers portraits of more than 19,000 men and women from all eras and walks of life whose lives have shaped the nation. The ANB Online features over 2,800 illustrations, more than 80,000 hyperlinked cross-references, links to select web sites, and powerful search and browse capabilities. This online biographical reference tool presents biographies over 18,700 including the 17,435 original biographies from the print edition

***Kind of Information***

The format of articles in the *American National Biography* is based on chronology. A given article traces a person's life through the sequence of significant events as they occurred from birth to death. Childhood and education are, as a rule, briefly discussed at the outset; then the course of the subject's career is mapped out, with the emphasis on the key achievements and the essential details of private life.



John F. Kennedy  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress  
(LC-USZ282-117124 DLC)

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald (29 May 1917-22 Nov. 1963), thirty-fifth president of the United States, was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, the son of [Joseph P. Kennedy](#), a millionaire businessman and public official, and [Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy](#), daughter of Boston mayor [John F. Fitzgerald](#). John Kennedy's education stressed preparation for advancement of a Catholic in an Anglo-Saxon, generally anti-Catholic society. He entered Harvard College in 1936. Kennedy, known to his friends and family as Jack, was an indifferent student at first but became more interested in his studies following a European summer vacation after his freshman year. A longer stay in Europe in 1939 led to his senior honors paper, "Appeasement in Munich," which was published the following year as *Why England Slept*. Kennedy graduated from Harvard *cum laude* in 1940.

Kennedy enlisted in the U.S. Navy in September 1941. In 1943 a PT boat under his command in the South Pacific was sunk during a night attack by a Japanese destroyer. Kennedy and ten other survivors spent three days afloat in the ocean, during which Kennedy towed a wounded sailor for miles, gripping his life jacket in his teeth while swimming.

After his brother Joseph was killed in the war, Kennedy took on the responsibility of pursuing his family's political ambitions. In 1946 he won a hard-fought Democratic primary election in the Eleventh Congressional District of Massachusetts, a Democratic stronghold. He was easily elected in November and reelected in 1948 and 1950.

Kennedy's congressional record was undistinguished. He suffered from an assortment of physical difficulties, the most severe of which was diagnosed in 1947 as Addison's disease, an illness caused by an adrenal gland malfunction that weakens the body's immune system. His illnesses were partly responsible for his inattention to legislative duties, but his belief that public awareness of his condition would damage his prospects led him to conceal them. Congressional colleagues saw Kennedy's casual style as that of a playboy, the frivolous son of a rich man.

## Special Features

- ❖ The quick search box is available at the top right of the screen of this site.

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- ❖ Custom search box is there to refine or widen the search.

Search Full Text: "Panama Canal" ?

- ❖ In addition to the main text of the article, there are links in the left hand pane that guide the reader to related material: 1: where available, cross-references take the user to other subjects in the ANB Online while links to the online version of the Oxford Companion to United States History take the user to articles that will set the biography in a broader historical context.

**Article Sections**

- [The Stamp Act Crisis \(1765\)](#)
- [The Boston Massacre Trial](#)
- [Adams's Commitment to Independence](#)
- [Bibliography](#)
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**Cross-References in the ANB**

- [Gilbert Stuart](#)
- [Jeremiah Gridley](#)
- [John Hancock](#)
- [Thomas Hutchinson](#)
- [Samuel Adams](#)
- [Josiah Quincy](#)
- [Daniel Leonard](#)
- [Francis Bernard](#)
- [Jonathan Sewall](#)
- [George Washington](#)
- [Benjamin Rush](#)
- [Thomas Paine](#)

- ❖ Descriptive bibliographies are attached with each article, which may include mention of primary sources, the most useful published biographies, articles or monographs about specific aspects of the person's career, and obituaries.
- ❖ There is also an option of "Print Article" and "Email Article" attached with each article for printing articles and for sending the articles through mail.

***Arrangement Pattern*** Biographies are arranged alphabetically according to year of update. Recently included biographies are freely available in "What's New" option.

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## Teacher's Guide

ANB Online is a valuable resource that can be actively incorporated into classroom lessons. To assist teachers in fully utilizing ANB Online, we have prepared a Teacher's Guide to Using ANB Online. Developed with the participation of librarians and teachers, the Teacher's Guide offers six lessons that highlight the importance and value of studying biography as an end in itself and as a starting point for doing further research into the lives of those who shaped the American experience.

Click to view the complete ANB Teacher's Guide or select one of the individual lessons below. All files are in Adobe PDF  format. [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) is required to view PDF documents:



- [A Teacher's Guide to Using ANB Online \(complete guide\)](#) [4.6mb]
  - [How to Read a Biographical Essay](#) [40kb]
  - [An Introductory Lesson: Thomas Jefferson](#) [1mb]
  - [Using the Image to Learn More about the Subject: Abigail Adams](#) [1mb]
  - [Using Biography with Primary Sources: Plessy v. Ferguson](#) [1.2mb]
  - [Using Cross-references to Do Collective Biography: The Cuban Missile Crisis](#) [1.6mb]
  - [A Research Lesson: Frederick Douglass](#) [1.3mb]

### Remarks

It covers biography of notable persons of America with detail bibliography, cross references etc.

### Comparable Tools

- Dictionary of Irish Biography (<http://dib.cambridge.org/>)
- Australian Dictionary of Biography (<http://adb.anu.edu.au/>)
- Dictionary of Canadian Biography (<http://www.biographi.ca/en/index.php>)

### Date of Access

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