

## Mary Hunt Palmer

Mary Hunt Palmer, found in the book "Liberty's Children", was born in April 1775. She was only six weeks old when she was carried to a new town for safe keeping during the invasion of Lexington and Concord. Her father fought in the battles and her mother prepared food for the survivors.

Her family knew some very important people. Some of their dear family friends were John and Abigail Adams. Her family doctor, Dr. Joseph Warren, was the man who sent Paul Revere on his famous ride on April 18, 1775 when Mary was only three months old.

Soon after Mary's first birthday in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was released. After that she grew up with soldiers all around her. When she was three, Benjamin Franklin negotiated an alliance between France & America.

When the war was going on, many people left their homes to go somewhere safer. Due to the moves, there were many abandoned homes. As a child, Mary and her siblings and friends loved to play all kinds of games in these houses. That's what they would do for fun.

Her Aunt Sally got so sick of the children misbehaving, so when they did she threatened them that the "regulars" were coming to get them. One day they were playing and saw some soldiers coming. They thought they were the "regulars" their aunt had sent after them. Terrified, they ran home. Their Aunt finally told them it was just some French soldiers.

In 1782, when she was seven, a treaty was reached with Britain. Her dad was overjoyed that there was peace and the fighting was over. Mary later married and had 11 children. She always loved to tell her stories about how she lived through the Civil War and the birth of an American nation.

One of my favorite ways to teach mini biographies like Mrs. Palmer's is to do a Bio cube. Read, Write, Think's website has a link to an interactive bio cube. The website is: <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/cube-30057.html> . My students have loved doing these in the past. First it asks your name as the one filling out the cube and the name of the person you are writing about. After that the cube automatically fills in the person's name that you are writing about on each side of the cube. The cube asks them to type in some basic events in the person's life. One side of the cube asks what were some of the major events that happened in the person's life. Another side of the cube asks about personality traits the person had which could lead to some inferring. The last side asks about why this person is important. The top asks what challenges this person overcame. The bottom asks the student to provide a quote from this person.

Another way I have taught short biographies in the past was to have each child research a different person that all were within a certain time period. Then after researching and answering certain questions about them, they dress up as the person and share the information about the person, although they do it all in first person. The kids have fun using accents, dressing up, and doing a quick 2 minute autobiography about these people they have learned so much about.

Primary Resource Documents:

[http://records.ancestry.com/mary\\_hunt\\_palmer\\_records.ashx?pid=7026994](http://records.ancestry.com/mary_hunt_palmer_records.ashx?pid=7026994)

Works Cited:

Cohn, Scotti. *Liberty's Children*. Guilford: Twodot, 2004. Pgs. 25-36