

THOMAS PAINE

1737-1809

Born in Thetford, Norfolk, England. Radical writer. Five years formal education in grammar school. Apprenticed to father as staymaker. Excise tax collector. Arrives in Philadelphia with letter of introduction from Benjamin Franklin, November 1774. Edits *Pennsylvania Magazine*. Publishes *Common Sense*, January 1776. Army, 1776, aide to General Nathanael Greene. Writes sixteen numbers "The American Crisis," 1776-83. Secretary to Committee for Foreign Affairs (forced to resign), 1777-79. Clerk, Pennsylvania Assembly, 1779-80. Travels to France with John Laurens to raise funds from French government, 1781. Writes for Congress and Army, 1782. Elected to American Philosophical Society, 1785. Publishes *Dissertation on Government*, 1786. Defends Bank of North America, 1786. Sails for Europe with design for iron bridge, 1787. Publishes *Rights of Man* (2 vols.), 1791, 1792. Elected to French National Convention, 1792. Opposes execution of Louis XVI and imprisoned, 1793-94. Publishes *Age of Reason* (2 vols.), 1794, 1795. Publishes letter attacking Washington, 1797. Publishes *Agrarian Justice*, 1797. Returns to U.S., 1802. Unofficial adviser to President Thomas Jefferson.