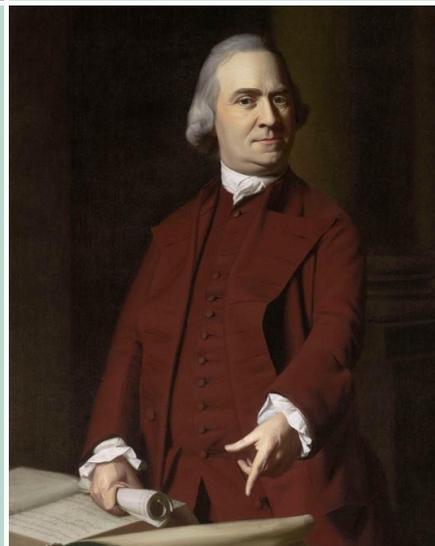




**JOHN ADAMS AND
SAMUEL ADAMS
VISIT FAIRFIELD IN
SEPTEMBER 1775.**



September 8 – John Adams and Samuel Adams in Fairfield

(Originally posted on social media on September 8, 2025)

Between September 7 and 8 in 1775, John Adams and Samuel Adams passed through Fairfield on their way to join the next session of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. John Adams had just met with General George Washington in Boston, which was still under siege by British forces. It was Adams who had nominated Washington to lead the Continental Army earlier that year in June 1775. After beginning their travels together in Woodstock, CT, John Adams and Samuel Adams crossed the Housatonic River via the Stratford ferry and stopped in Stratfield to purchase oats. Once they arrived in Fairfield, they stopped at Penfield's tavern (known as Sun Tavern today), where they likely stayed overnight.

Trained as a lawyer, John Adams rose to prominence for his widespread opposition to the Stamp Act in 1765. The Stamp Act increased tension between the American colonies and the British Crown, imposing a direct tax on the colonies and requiring that many printed materials in the colonies be produced on stamped paper from London. During the American Revolution, he served as a delegate from Massachusetts in the Continental Congress. From organizing the Committee of Five to draft the Declaration of Independence to equipping and managing the needs of the Continental Army, Adams was deeply involved in the fight for American independence. John Adams would visit Fairfield several more times during and after the American Revolution. He also returned to lodge at Penfield's while he was Vice President of the United States.

Samuel Adams, second cousin of John Adams, was born in Boston. After failed business ventures, he started working at his father's malthouse. He would become an important figure in the American Revolution, founding the Sons of Liberty to advocate for colonists' rights, helping to draft the Articles of Confederation, and later becoming the Governor of Massachusetts.

Images: *John Adams*, c. 1800, Gilbert Stuart, Gift of Mrs. Robert Homans. Courtesy of National Gallery of Art (*top left*); Portrait of Samuel Adams, c. 1772. Courtesy of Museum of Fine Arts Boston (*bottom right*).