

## **BENJAMIN RUSH**

### **1745-1813**

Born near Philadelphia; educated College of New Jersey (Princeton); received medical degree, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Began medical practice in Philadelphia, 1769. Member Continental Congress, 1776-77; signed Declaration of Independence. Appointed surgeon general, Middle Department, 1777; member Republican Society, 1779; helped found Dickinson College at Carlisle, 1782. Delegate Pennsylvania Convention, voted to ratify U.S. Constitution, 1787; wrote many newspaper essays supporting ratification of Constitution; campaigned for revision of Pennsylvania constitution. Member Pennsylvania Democratic Society, 1794. Treasurer of United States Mint, 1797-1813. Supported movement for prison reform, educational reform, female education, temperance, and abolition of slavery. Coordinated rapprochement between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, 1812.