

New Series!

# First Ladies of America



**D**olley Madison was the fourth presidential wife to serve alongside a man elected to our country's highest office. When she died in 1849, it is said President Zachary Taylor eulogized her, saying "she will never be forgotten, because she was truly our First Lady for a half-century." His remark was the first time the title "First Lady" was uttered, and it became the title that all future presidents' wives would inherit.

**I**n celebration of Women's History Month, our newspaper will publish a series on the First Ladies of America. Readers will learn about these important hostesses, advisors and social reformers of the White House.

*First Ladies of America is a Newspaper In Education series brought to you by this newspaper and the Missouri Press Association*

**First Ladies of America**

By the 18th century, the role of the First Lady had become an important one. Dolley Madison was the first to be called "First Lady" and she set the standard for the position. She was a social reformer and a hostess who helped to bring the White House into the public eye. She was also a strong supporter of her husband's policies and she was instrumental in the preservation of the White House during the War of 1812.

**Dolley Payne Todd Madison**  
 Born May 26, 1768 in Guilford County, North Carolina  
 Education: Home  
 Marriage: 1792 to James Madison, 1794 to James Madison  
 Children: John Payne Todd (1792-1852), William Spring Todd (1792)  
 Died July 12, 1849 in Washington, D.C.

