

Abstract

This is an examination of James Madison, the Fourth President of the United States, the Father of the Constitution, and the Author of the Bill of Rights. However, this is not just another political study on this founding father. It is groundbreaking academic research of Madison as an early American entrepreneur. Since his business ventures have not been extensively focused upon, this thesis will begin to fill that gap in the scholarly interpretation of his life. From this analysis, it will be discovered that his business activities occupied a great deal of his time and interests, even while he was a politician. He was a conscientious entrepreneur who made significant advances in agriculture and just as any business owner, Madison experienced many economic ups and downs, which affected his financial stability. This thesis will examine his efforts as a plantation owner and farmer. It will investigate the establishment and development of Madison's land assets in the Piedmont region of Virginia. It will explore the workforce that he employed and the structure, which they labored under. It will consider the crops he cultivated in his production and the impact factors he had to struggle against. It will be discovered that James Madison was much more than just a politician, but also an entrepreneur.