Benjamin Rush M.D.  
1746-1813

- College of New Jersey (Princeton University) and University of Edinburgh
- Taught by Thomas Sydenham and Hermann Boerhaave
- The Father of American Psychiatry
- Medical Inquires and Observations of the Mind: published 1812
- Theory: Brain diseases are due to congestion of the brain
- Rx
  - Blood letting
  - Dr. Rush Bilious pills-laxative with 50% mercury
    - “Thunderclappers” — used by Lewis and Clark
- Surgeon general continental army
  - Military hygiene
Benjamin Rush M.D.
Non-medical Fame

• Leader in the American Enlightenment
• Delegate to Continental Congress
• Signed Declaration of Independence
• Opposed slavery and death penalty
• Pro woman’s education
• Consulted with Thomas Paine on Common Sense