

# Getting Started

**Q**uick! Name the three best-known Americans during the Revolutionary War-era. We'll get the list started for you. The first two people are George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. And number three is? Does Dr. Benjamin Rush sound familiar? If not, get ready to meet this interesting but less well-known Founding Father.

Rush was among the many great thinkers who participated in the founding of the nation. He lived in Philadelphia. Philadelphia was the fastest-growing city in the Colonies. It was where many of the meetings in which decisions about the future of the country took place. Rush participated in some of those

nation-forming organizations and conventions. Those experiences introduced him to other Americans who were ready to fight for freedom from British tyranny. Strong friendships grew during that dangerous time. Men kept in touch when they scattered back to their respective colonies. It was an age when letter-writing was the only way to communicate across great distances. Rush was a *prolific* writer of letters.

Rush became most famous for his medical career. He was an educated professional doctor when formally trained doctors were rare. He also taught the next generation of professional doctors. He championed related fields, such as public health and health care for the poor. And

Prolific means marked by great productivity.

