

Chapter 1 : Garden of Praise: Noah Webster Biography

Noah Webster Jr. (October 16, - May 28,) was an American lexicographer, textbook pioneer, English-language spelling reformer, political writer, editor, and prolific author. He has been called the "Father of American Scholarship and Education".

Webster was instrumental in giving American English a dignity and vitality of its own. Both his speller and dictionary reflected his principle that spelling, grammar, and usage should be based upon the living, spoken language rather than on artificial rules. He also made useful contributions as a teacher, grammarian, journalist, essayist, lecturer, and lobbyist. Webster entered Yale in , interrupted his studies to serve briefly in the American Revolution , and was graduated in . He taught school, did clerical work, and studied law, being admitted to the bar in . While teaching in Goshen, New York, in , Webster became dissatisfied with texts for children that ignored the American culture , and he began his lifelong efforts to promote a distinctively American education. A grammar and a reader completed the Institute. The reader consisted mainly of American selections chosen to promote democratic ideals and responsible moral and political conduct. The absence of a federal copyright law until and discrepancies among the state laws left the author of a popular book open to piracy unless he exerted strenuous efforts. This publication combined literary criticism with essays on education, government, agriculture, and a variety of other subjects. After his marriage in , Webster practiced law in Hartford until , when he founded in New York a pro-Federalist daily newspaper, *The American Minerva*, and a semi-weekly paper, *The Herald*, which was made up of reprinted selections from the daily. He sold both papers in . Webster wrote on many subjects: Constitution , economics, medicine, physical science , and language. He noted the living language as he traveled but with varying degrees of approbation , according to the degree of correspondence between what he heard and what he himself used. His early enthusiasm for spelling reform abated in his later works, but he is largely responsible for the differences that exist today between British and U. Although he was himself assailed for including slang and jargon in his dictionary, Webster was extremely touchy about the common taboo words. Webster moved in to New Haven, where he was elected to the Common Council and remained active in local politics for the rest of his life. He was a founder of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Massachusetts legislature, and a participant in founding Amherst Academy and Amherst College. He started work on the American Dictionary in , acquiring at least a nodding acquaintance with about 20 languages and traveling in France and England in 1795 in search of materials unavailable to him in the United States. His attempts to find plausible etymologies, however, were not supported by investigation of the actual state of linguistic knowledge. The first edition of *An American Dictionary of the English Language* was published in two volumes in , when Webster was 70 years old. It comprised 2, copies in the U. The dictionary contained about 70, entries and between 30, and 40, definitions that had not appeared in any earlier dictionary. The American Dictionary was relatively unprofitable, and the revision was not successful. Webster died in and was buried in a cemetery adjacent to the Yale campus. A controversialist in his youth—quick to defend his literary efforts and to demolish his critics—and a conservative in religion and in politics in his later years, he was the last lexicographer of the English language to be remembered for his personality and as a public figure as well as for his work.

Chapter 2 : Noah Webster - Wikipedia

Synopsis. Noah Webster was born on October 16, 1759, in West Hartford, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale University in 1782. He studied law and taught in New York where he recognized a need for.

Request access to this collection. Portions of this collection have been digitized and are available online. The Noah Webster papers consist of correspondence, writings by Webster on various topics, diaries, and miscellaneous papers. Correspondence, , and diaries, , relate to his career as lawyer, educator, editor of newspapers, Federalist agitator, lexicographer, and etymologist. Included are his writings on banking, the history of political parties, federalism, and suffrage. Also, papers concerning his American Dictionary of the English Language, Amherst College, epidemics, etymology, legislation in Connecticut, amendments to the U. Constitution, and other matters. He is best known for the more comprehensive American Dictionary of the English Language, finished in and published in Webster must be counted among the founding fathers of the United States. With these and other literary and scientific efforts, Webster stimulated the educational programs of the early American republic. He is also remembered for his participation in the fight for an American copyright law, which he personally promoted in the thirteen original states, resulting in its incorporation in the Federal constitution. He entered Yale College in , and, after serving in the militia raised to oppose Burgoyne, graduated in He then pursued the study of the law in the intervals of school-teaching and, in , was admitted to the bar. The profits from this publication, at less than a cent per copy, helped support Webster during the later stage of his career during which he compiled the American Dictionary. Webster resided in Philadelphia and served as superintendent of the Episcopal Academy through November of The daily paper entitled the Minerva was begun in November of , and was later accompanied by a semi-weekly paper entitled the Herald. From to , Webster lived in New Haven, CT, pursued philological studies, and, in , began the preparation of his American Dictionary of the English Language first edition, , 2 vol. From to , he resided at Amherst, MA, and played an instrumental role in the establishment of Amherst College. In he returned to New Haven, and, with the exception of a visit to Europe from June to June , remained there until his death on May 28, , his 85th year. Scope and arrangement The Noah Webster Papers include accounts, correspondence, diaries, and manuscript writings. The diary, many of the letters, and some miscellaneous writings were published by Emily Ellsworth Fowler Ford in Notes on the Life of Noah Webster , New York to which reference should be made for a further description of the Webster manuscripts. The Noah Webster papers are arranged in five series: God and the American people. Through his correspondence one gains a sense of his involvement with political and religious concerns. Notable correspondents listed in chronological order include: These letters appear on the last reel of the microfilm. As the collection was heavily used by the Fords, their notations and transcriptions can be found on documents within the correspondence series. Writings The writings of Noah Webster are divided by topic and arranged alphabetically within each topic. The series includes manuscript drafts of writings on assorted topics including etymology and orthography, legislative matters, and politics and history. He asks for contributions from individuals and learned societies to continue his work. He spent ten years in this comparison of radical words, and arranged them in classes under their primary letters. Legislative writings include drafts and propositions to the Connecticut and Massachusetts legislatures. The miscellaneous writings cover a wide range of topics, including scientific research. Writings on politics and history include unpublished manuscripts on governance. Subject files The subject files are made of correspondence, accounts, legal papers, printed material, and other documents arranged by topics of interest to Webster, including his American Dictionary and Speller, Amherst College, copyright law, Webster family genealogy, and pestilent disease. Source of acquisition Gift of J.

Chapter 3 : Noah Webster Writings and Biography

Noah Webster, American lexicographer (one who compiles a dictionary), remembered now almost solely as the compiler of a continuously successful dictionary, was for half a century among the more influential and most active literary men in the United States.

New Haven, Connecticut American lexicographer Noah Webster, American lexicographer one who compiles a dictionary, remembered now almost solely as the compiler of a continuously successful dictionary, was for half a century among the more influential and most active literary men in the United States. The fourth son of five children of Noah and Mercy Steele Webster, young Noah showed exceptional scholarly talents as a child, and his father sacrificed much in order that his son would gain the best education available. In 1782, at age sixteen, Webster entered Yale College, sharing literary ambitions with his classmate Joel Barlow and tutor Timothy Dwight. His college years were interrupted by terms of military service. After his graduation in 1786, Noah began studying law, but because his father could no longer support him, he took a job as a schoolmaster in Hartford, Litchfield, and Sharon, all in Connecticut. Meanwhile, he read widely and studied law. He was admitted to the bar an association for lawyers and received his master of arts degree in 1790. Dissatisfied with the British-made textbooks available for teaching, he determined to produce his own. He had, he said, "too much pride to stand indebted to Great Britain for books to learn our children. National Archives and Records Administration. Language, Part I Known for generations simply as The Blue-back Speller, it was in use for more than a century and sold over seventy million copies. Part II of the Grammatical Institute, a grammar, reprinted often under various titles, appeared in 1783. Part III, a reader, in the original edition included sections from yet-unpublished poetry by Dwight and Barlow. Webster toured the United States from Maine to Georgia selling his textbooks, convinced that "America must be as independent in literature as she is in politics, as famous for arts as for arms, " but that to accomplish this she must protect by copyright the legal right of artistic work the literary products of her countrymen. He pleaded so effectively that uniform copyright laws were passed early in most of the states, and it was largely through his continuing effort that Congress in 1790 passed a bill which ensured protection to writers. On his travels he also peddled sold from door to door his Sketches of American Policy, a vigorous plea on behalf of the Federalists, a then-popular political party that believed in a strong central government. In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he paused briefly to teach school and see new editions of his Institute through the press, he published his politically effective An Examination into the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution In New York City, Webster established the American Magazine in 1788, which he hoped might become a national periodical magazine distributed regularly. In it he pled for American intellectual independence, education for women, and the support of Federalist ideas. Though it survived for only twelve monthly issues, it is remembered as one of the most lively, bravely adventuresome of early American periodicals. As he set forth his ideas in Dissertations on the English Language, theatre should be spelled theater; machine, masheen; plough, plow; draught, draft. For a time he put forward claims for such reform in his readers and spellers and in his Collection of Essays and Fugitiv [sic] Writings, which encouraged "reezoning," "yung" persons, "reeding," and a "zeel" for "lerning"; but he was too careful a Yankee to allow odd behavior to stand in the way of profit. In The Prompter he quietly lectured his countrymen in corrective essays written plainly, in a simple and to-the-point style. Tiring of the controversy open to dispute brought on by his forthright expression of Federalist opinion, he retired to New Haven, Connecticut, to write A Brief History of Epidemic and Pestilential Diseases and to put together a volume of Miscellaneous Papers The dictionaries From this time on, Webster gave most of his attention to preparing more schoolbooks, including A Philosophical and Practical Grammar of the English Language In range this last surpassed went beyond any dictionary of its time. Tall, redheaded, lanky, humorless, he was the butt of many cruel criticisms in his time. Noah Webster died in New Haven on May 23, 1843. For More Information Micklethwait, David. Noah Webster and the American Dictionary. The Long Journey of Noah Webster. University of Pennsylvania Press, University Press of America, The Life and Times of an American Patriot. Comment about this article, ask questions, or add new information about this topic:

Chapter 4 : Noah Webster Biography - Facts, Childhood, Wiki, Family Life & Achievements

Noah Webster produced his Spelling Book, in , as a precursor to the first edition () of his American Dictionary of the English Language. The 20th century produced many zealous reformers. The 20th century produced many zealous reformers.

He lived during the time of George Washington. He attended law school for a while, then he went home and found his family needed help. He took a job teaching school to earn money to support them. The school was in a shack and as the teacher, he had to do everything. He had to clean and repair the building as well as teach. But he wanted to set a good example for his students, so he did every task cheerfully. He was a good teacher. Later when he was a schoolmaster in Hartford, he lived with a judge who had a large library. He became a lawyer, but what he really wanted to do was to teach others. He decided to write a spelling book and a grammar book. More than million copies of the spelling book were sold. It became known as the Blue-backed Speller. He rode by horseback and in stagecoaches from town to town in the original 13 states showing people his books. He called them "American books for American children". He would get important people to say good things about his books, then he would show these letters to schools and give them sample copies of the books. The schools usually ordered hundreds of the books for their students. He had observed that the people in America spoke many languages and they could not understand each other. They would get into fights because of these misunderstandings. He made a dictionary for the people. He changed some of the spellings of words. He changed words such as "musick" to "music", "centre" to "center", and "plough" to "plow". He changed the way people pronounced "tion". The word "salvation" had been pronounced "sal VA she un" and he said it was alright to say "sal VA shun". He wanted to know where the words first started and how we came to be using them. He looked in libraries in England, France and the United States. He did all the work himself. When the dictionary was finished, it had 70, English words in it. It has sold more copies than any English book except the Bible. Later the Merriam family bought the right to publish the dictionary and it became known as the Merriam - Webster dictionary. Webster in addition to creating a dictionary helped to create an American nation. This biography by Patsy Stevens, a retired teacher, was written in

Chapter 5 : Noah Webster Biography, Life, Interesting Facts

Noah Webster Biography, Life, Interesting Facts Noah Webster was born in Connecticut (West Hartford) on October 16, He came from a colonial family - with his father doing farming and weaving, and his mother engaged in household endeavors.

In it, he popularized features which would become a hallmark of American English spelling center rather than centre, honor rather than honour, program rather than programme, etc. Webster was a proponent of English spelling reform for reasons both philological and nationalistic. He was very influential in popularizing certain spellings in America, but he did not originate them. First edition [edit] Title page of the first edition of the American Dictionary of the English Language featuring an engraving of Webster Extract from the Orthography section of the first edition, which popularized the American standard spellings of -er 6 ; -or 7 ; dropped -e 8 ; -or 10 ; -se 11 ; doubling consonants with suffix 15 In , at the age of 70, Noah Webster published his American Dictionary of the English Language in two quarto volumes containing 70, entries, [5] as against the 58, of any previous dictionary. At first the set sold poorly. Its title page does not claim the status of second edition, merely noting that this new edition was the "first edition in octavo" in contrast to the quarto format of the first edition of Again in two volumes, the title page proclaimed that the Dictionary contained "the whole vocabulary of the quarto, with corrections, improvements and several thousand additional words: Hamlen of New Haven, Connecticut , prepared the printing of the second edition. Adams of Amherst, Massachusetts. This firm bound and published a small number of copies in "the same edition that Emily Dickinson used as a tool for her poetic composition. Culturally conservative Federalists denounced the work as radical"too inclusive in its lexicon and even bordering on vulgar. One biographer said, "The dictionary was no mere reference book to her; she read it as a priest his breviary " over and over, page by page, with utter absorption. He shows the ways in which American poetry has inherited Webster and drawn upon his lexicography in order to reinvent it. Austin explicates key definitions from both the Compendious and American dictionaries and brings into its discourse a range of concerns including the politics of American English, the question of national identity and culture in the early moments of American independence, and the poetics of citation and of definition. Although it was more successful financially than the original edition and was reprinted many times, Noah Webster was critical of it. Sanderson in Elizabethtown, N. Goodrich , a professor at Yale College , to oversee revisions. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. It was sometimes referred to as the Webster"Mahm edition, because it featured revisions by Dr. Later printings included additional material: The printing revision? This dictionary carries the Preface by Noah Porter with postscripts of and It was held to be superior to every other dictionary and taken as the leading authority on the meaning of words, not only in America and England, but also throughout the Far East. It contained about , entries. In the Collegiate Dictionary also was introduced see below. Vastly expanded, it covered more than , entries, and double the number of illustrations. A new format feature, the divided page, was designed to save space by including a section of words below the line at the bottom of each page: Notable improvement was made in the treatment and number of discriminated synonyms , comparisons of subtle shades of meaning. This edition was reprinted in Being in the public domain and having been scanned and OCRd , this edition has had substantial influence on Wiktionary. Some versions added a page supplement called A Reference History of the World, which provided chronologies "from earliest times to the present". The editors claimed more than , entries, more than any other dictionary at that time, but that number included many proper names and newly added lists of undefined " combination words ". Multiple definitions of words are listed in chronological order, with the oldest, and often obsolete, usages listed first. For example, the first definition of starve includes dying of exposure to the elements as well as from lack of food. Numerous gold coins from various important countries were included, including American eagles, at a time when it had recently become illegal for Americans to own them, and when most other countries had withdrawn gold from active circulation as well. Early printings of this dictionary contained the famous dord. For example, in the case of Miller Brewing Co. Although it was an

unprecedented masterwork of scholarship, it was met with considerable criticism for its descriptive rather than prescriptive approach. Revisions and updates[edit] Since the publication of the Third, Merriam-Webster has reprinted the main text of the dictionary with only minor corrections. To add new words, they created an Addenda Section in , included in the front matter, which was expanded in , , , , and . However, the rate of additions was much slower than it had been throughout the previous hundred years. A CD-ROM version of the complete text, with thousands of additional new words and definitions from the "addenda", was published by Merriam-Webster in , and is often packaged with the print edition. Planning for a Fourth edition of the Unabridged began with a memo from Merriam-Webster president William Llewellyn, but was repeatedly deferred in favour of updates to the more lucrative Collegiate. Work on a full revision finally began in . In January the Third New International website service was rebranded as the Unabridged with the first "Release" of 4, new and revised entries added to the site. There were two further "Releases" in . The revised website is not branded as the "Fourth edition" and it is unlikely that a print version will ever be produced, because demand is declining and its increased size would make it unwieldy and expensive. Some proper names were returned to the word list, including names of Knights of the Round Table. The most notable change was the inclusion of the date of the first known citation of each word, to document its entry into the English language. The eleventh edition published in includes more than , definitions, and more than , entries. This dictionary is preferred as a source "for general matters of spelling" by the influential The Chicago Manual of Style , which is followed by many book publishers and magazines in the United States. The Chicago Manual states that it "normally opts for" the first spelling listed. The first edition of the abridged Primary School dictionary was prepared by Noah Webster in and later revised by William G. Webster and William A. Below is a list of years of publication of the Collegiate dictionaries.

Chapter 6 : Noah Webster's Story " Noah Webster House

Noah Webster was born in Connecticut. He was a descendant of John Webster, who had been the state governor in the mid's. He lived during the time of George Washington.

Our great military heroes and statesmen we remember. Even our writers if they write novels. But an author of a speller? Noah Webster belongs in the American Hall of Fame. Webster was sometimes pompous, often just plain pig-headed and stubborn; he grew increasingly conservative in both politics and religion. He was a complex man, with both virtues and vices. But one virtue he had above all others: The name Webster, English in origin, means female weaver. There is a lot of confusion between Noah and Daniel Webster, but there was no relationship between them. Daniel Webster is best known as a lawyer, a member of Congress, a secretary of state, and perhaps the greatest orator of the first half of the nineteenth century. Noah Webster was in the sixth generation of his family in America. He held many posts in the local government and married Mercy Steele in 1782. Noah and Mercy Webster had five children: Mercy, Abraham, Jerusha, Noah and Charles. Longevity was common in this family. The five children lived until the ages of 70, 80, 70, 85 and 55, an average life span of 72 years. It was part of a farm of about 90 acres. The lean-to addition was added in and in the nineteenth century, a series of ells were built. An ell used to be where the changing exhibit gallery is now. They held it through the nineteenth century. In 1850 they sold it to the Tilletsons, and they sold it to the Hamiltons in 1860. The Hamiltons were the last ones to live in the house. Fred, who was a member of the Noah Webster Board of Trustees, remembers looking out back and being able to see right to Ridgewood Road. Only pasture lay between this house and that road. The Hamiltons gave the house to the town in 1870, and at that point the house literally began to die, and continued to deteriorate until the Noah Webster Foundation formed in 1920 and began restoring the house. This is a modest four-room center chimney house that Webster lived in, two above and two below. In 1800 eight people lived in the house. This included Noah, Sr. Family meant a lot to people of that period, and they lived very close together. He probably began school at the age of seven, which was typical. This schooling would continue as long as the father would permit it. For most common people, boys were expected to work full-time on the farm at the age of about 10 or 12. When Noah reached the age of 14, in 1786, we have the first recorded evidence of his scholarly potential. In the eighteenth century the best educated man in a community would be the Congregational minister, who had usually gone to Yale or Harvard. He frequently used his knowledge to train boys who might aspire to attend college. Perkins went to what is now Princeton. Webster requested that the pastor help him in preparing for entrance to Yale. He was taken to books; he loved to read and exhibited this throughout the rest of his life. Noah was the only one in his family who went beyond a grammar school education. After two years of tutoring by Perkins, at the age of 16, Noah went off to Yale. Sixteen was the typical college entrance age at that time. Noah started college at an exciting time in 1788. The Boston Tea Party had just occurred, the Coercive Acts had been passed and it was clear that we were headed toward a war. Before he was well into his first classes, the shots heard round the world had been fired at Lexington. He was sent up to Boston to take command, and as he passed through New Haven, Webster got his first glimpse of Washington. Webster later boasted that the Yale students serenaded the Commander in Chief, and Noah played the flute. Noah Webster did not see active duty during the war. The one chance he had was the Battle of Saratoga in 1781. General Burgoyne was surrounded by American troops; the call went to New England that he was trapped, and that New England should send all of the men that they could. Webster, his two brothers and his father set out for Saratoga to join that battle, but as they were approaching, they got the word that Burgoyne had been taken and that the Americans had captured about 5,000 redcoats. Webster graduated from Yale in 1790 and decided to take up the law. This was a very controversial time in his life. According to his diary, he went to his father to ask for financial assistance, and his father, in effect, turned him down. His diary offers a running account of his romance with Becca in the spring of 1790. They had a normal two year courtship and were married in 1792. Romantic letters from Noah to Rebecca, attesting to their loving relationship, are part of the historical collections at the Noah Webster House, as well as the Webster ring. The center of this ring contains hair, believed to be that of Noah and Rebecca. On the back an inscription reads: In those days most potential

lawyers did not go to law school. Webster did this with Ellsworth. In 1783, he taught in the West Division and lived in this house. During that winter, we get the first glimpse of the Noah Webster to be. Elementary education was in a deplorable state. The one room school house was a very poor system of education. Most teachers were discouraged by the situation and so was Webster, but unlike most others, he sat down and wrote an essay. Throughout his life, whenever he saw something that he felt needed correction, he wrote something about it in the form of an essay. He saw this as a challenge. Webster felt that Americans should have their own text books, and that they should not rely on English textbooks. He also felt that Americans should have copyright laws to protect authors. He believed that Americans should have their own dictionary. Most educators believed that children did not need to understand what they were reading, so teaching was done using recitation and memorization. Most spellers used in America were from England and taught English pronunciations, geography and historical facts. Now that America had won its political independence, it now needed to win its cultural independence. Noah thought that Americans needed their own speller that would teach American ways and instill a sense of pride in the new nation. He scoffed at English textbooks which did not contain words that were purely American or American geography. A Grammatical Institute of the English Language. In the book Noah implemented changes that helped to improve the teaching of pronunciation, spelling and reading. As a result, our country is most homogeneous in terms of spelling and pronunciation. He would ask each to introduce him to someone else, thereby getting introduced to all the important people of that time. He used this huge list to influence the publisher to take on his project. Throughout its history, between 50,000 and 100,000 copies were sold though Noah never made much money on it. The speller was the number one used school book in America until the end of the 19th century when it was gradually replaced by the McGuffey reader. The Dictionary Noah realized that England and the new United States had different forms of government, institutions, customs and laws. Because of this, he believed that they needed different vocabularies. He also knew that science and technology were developing rapidly, and new words were being introduced just as quickly. So, he spent over 25 years researching words and their origins and writing the first American dictionary. This dictionary helped Americans to feel pride in their new country, and enabled everyone across the new nation to have a standard vocabulary. In 1828 he published his intentions of writing a dictionary. He published a shortened, concise but comprehensive, version in 1828. The final version was finished in 1828 and published in 1828. It contained 70,000 words. It is no exaggeration to say that it was immediately accepted as the greatest dictionary of the English language on both sides of the Atlantic. Webster had an absolute genius for defining words. Dining with President Andrew Jackson in the White House When he was ready to publish the book, he found that there were no federal copyright laws. Any one could make copies, and he would get no income from it. This was because the Federation Government that existed then did not have the power to pass a copyright law. Therefore, if he wanted protection of his books, Webster would have to go to every state and get every state legislature to grant him a copyright. In 1802 our congress passed the first federal copyright law, which granted 14 years of protection. Webster continued to work for better copyright legislation for the rest of his life.

Chapter 7 : Noah Webster Books - Biography and List of Works - Author of 'Webster's Collegiate Dictionary'

Noah Webster's forbearers migrated to America in the seventeenth century. The name Webster, English in origin, means female weaver. There is a lot of confusion between Noah and Daniel Webster, but there was no relationship between them.

Noah Webster Quotes Noah Webster , American lexicographer, remembered now almost solely as the compiler of a continuously successful dictionary, was for half a century among the more influential and most active literary men in the United States. Noah Webster was born on Oct. In he entered Yale, sharing literary ambitions with his classmate Joel Barlow and tutor Timothy Dwight. His college years were interrupted by terms of military service. After his graduation in , he taught school in Hartford, Litchfield, and Sharon, read widely, and studied law. He was admitted to the bar and received his master of arts degree in Dissatisfied with the British-made textbooks available for teaching, he determined to produce his own. He had, he said, "too much pride to stand indebted to Great Britain for books to learn our children. Known for generations simply as The Blue-back Speller, it was in use for more than a century and sold over 70 million copies. Part II of the Grammatical Institute, a grammar, reprinted often under various titles, appeared in Part III, a reader, in the original edition included excerpts from yet-unpublished poetry by Dwight and Barlow. Though the reader had shorter life and more vigorous competition than other parts of the Institute, it set a patriotic and moralistic pattern followed by rival books, some of which were thought to attract attention because more religiously orientated. Copyright Reform Webster toured the United States from Maine to Georgia selling his textbooks, convinced that "America must be as independent in literature as she is in politics, as famous for arts as for arms, " but that to accomplish this she must protect by copyright the literary products of her countrymen. He pleaded so effectively that uniform copyright laws were early passed in most of the states, and it was largely through his continuing effort that Congress in passed a bill which ensured protection to writers. On his travels he also peddled his Sketches of American Policy , a vigorous Federalist plea. In Philadelphia, where he paused briefly to teach school and see new editions of his Institute through the press, he published his politically effective An Examination into the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution In New York, Webster established the American Magazine , which he hoped might become a national periodical. In it he pled for American intellectual independence, education for women, and adherence to Federalist ideas. Though it survived for only 12 monthly issues, it is remembered as one of the most lively, bravely adventuresome of early American periodicals. As he set forth his ideas in Dissertations on the English Language , theatre should be spelled theater; crumb, crumb; machine, masheen; plough, plow; draught, draft. For a time he put forward claims for such reform in his readers and spellers and in his Collection of Essays and Fugitiv Writings , which encouraged "reezoning, " "yung" persons, "reeding, " and a "zeel" for "lerning"; but he was too canny a Yankee always to allow eccentricity to stand in the way of profit. In The Prompter he quietly lectured his countrymen in corrective essays written plainly, in simple aphoristic style. Tiring of the partisan controversy brought on by his forthright expression of Federalist opinion, he retired to New Haven to write A Brief History of Epidemic and Pestilential Diseases and to put together a volume of Miscellaneous Papers The Dictionaries From this time on, Webster gave most of his attention to preparing more schoolbooks, including A Philosophical and Practical Grammar of the English Language In range this last surpassed any dictionary of its time. Tall, redheaded, lanky, humorless, he was the butt of many cruel criticisms in his time. He died in New Haven on May 23, Biographies include Emily E. Pioneer of Learning ; and Harry R. Schoolmaster to America See also Robert K. Encyclopedia of World Biography. Copyright The Gale Group, Inc.

Chapter 8 : Webster's Dictionary - Wikipedia

Noah Webster, Writings and Biography Noah Webster, L.L.D. Brief Biography, from the The Noah Webster House, Museum of West Hartford History. Noah Webster was born on October 16, , in the West Division of Hartford.

WEBSTER, NOAH – The first person to write a dictionary of American English and permanently alter the spelling of American English, Noah Webster through his spelling book taught millions of American children to read for the first half-century of the republic and millions more to spell for the following half-century. After graduating, he taught at Connecticut district schools before studying for the bar. The dismal conditions of these schools, combined with his patriotism and a search for self-identity, inspired him to compose three schoolbooks that, he believed, would unify the new nation through speaking and writing a common language. Previously, almost all American schoolbooks had been reprints of imported British ones. Webster then left on an eighteen-month tour south to promote his books and register them for state copyright, in the absence of national copyright legislation. He began editing periodicals in New York: In he retreated from politics and periodicals to New Haven and helped open a private school there. After publishing a commercially unsuccessful history of epidemics, Webster began writing schoolbooks with renewed vigor, issuing the first three volumes of *Elements of Useful Knowledge* – He had obtained national copyright protection for his speller in , when the first national copyright law was passed, a law that granted protection for fourteen-year periods. However, the income from his speller, for which he negotiated a penny a copy in the date of his first copyright renewal , could not support his large family, and in he moved to Amherst, Massachusetts, to economize. He was instrumental there in founding Amherst Academy, now Amherst College. In Webster sold the entire rights to the *American Spelling Book* for its third copyright period, to , to Hudson and Company of Hartford, Connecticut, in order to work solely on his major dictionary. In , with his son William to aid him, he voyaged to Europe to complete it. From then until his death in Webster issued several other schoolbooks and a bowdlerized edition of the Bible. The latter was the fruit of a conversion experience to fundamentalist Christianity in He used the principle of uniformity to justify his alterations, arguing that words that were alike, such as nouns and their derivatives, should be spelled alike. He therefore transformed words such as honour to honor compare honorific , musick to music compare musical –the latter a change now adopted by the British–defence to defense compare defensive and centre to center. This last alteration actually violated his own principle–compare central –but brought centre and congruent words into conformity with numerous other words ending -er. Webster also respelled many anomalous British spellings, writing gaol as jail, and plough as plow. However, these had evoked so much ridicule that he soon abandoned them. His ability to introduce his major classes of spelling reform into his spellers and dictionaries was crucial to their success, as they became imprinted on the minds of each new generation. Indeed, the word Webster is still virtually synonymous with dictionary. Although Webster issued a small stopgap dictionary, his *Compendious Dictionary*, in , his masterpiece was his *An American Dictionary of the English Language* of , a two-volume work of more than 70, entries and the first truly American dictionary. In it, Webster eliminated words that were not useful to Americans, such as words associated with coats of arms, and included those unique to the United States , like squash and skunk. Webster was not equally successful in all aspects of his dictionary. By modern standards, his etymologies are flawed. His conversion to fundamentalist Christianity had led him to believe in one original language as the progenitor of all the rest, and his etymologies were compromised by his efforts to fit all words into this framework. On the other hand, he brought a new approach to definitions, which were more accurate, comprehensive, and logically organized than in any previous dictionary. His orthography has become standard American orthography. His indication of pronunciations by the use of diacritical marks was also innovative; lexicographers still use similar markings in the early twenty-first century. His spellers enjoyed vastly greater popularity than any other of his works. His original speller, the first part of the *Institute* , sold out its first edition of 5, copies within a few months. By more than a million copies of its revision, the *American Spelling Book* of , had been printed, most of them in Hartford and Boston. Between and , the third copyright period, an estimated 3 million copies were printed. Over all its editions, a conservative estimate puts

the total sales of the speller at 70 million. The underlying assumption of all spelling books was that "reading" defined as oral, not silent, reading was a matter of pronouncing words, spelled aloud syllable by syllable, and that once a word was pronounced correctly, comprehension would follow. He introduced a system of numerical superscripts to indicate vowel pronunciation and altered the syllabification of words to their present format si-ster now became sis-ter. In his final revision, the Elementary of , Webster replaced the superscripts with diacritical marks very similar to those he had used in his American Dictionary a year earlierâ€”another innovation. Other Works A fourth contribution to education by Webster was to originate works that others would improve upon. He had a very large view of American education: The latter would appear in some editions by The "First" American Author Webster was innovative in a fifth arena: He saw as a young man that there was money to be made from a schoolbook and sought protection for his first spelling book even before it was in print and before any state had yet passed laws protecting intellectual property. Webster has become known as the "father of copyright," and indeed he remained active in promoting copyright protection throughout his life. He might with more justice be termed the "father of royalties," as he was one of the first to exact payment from his publishers according to the number of books they printed or that he licensed to them. He was the first, but certainly not the last, American author to involve himself deeply in the publishing and promotional aspects of his books. His activities prefigure almost all aspects of modern publishing. His first concern, particularly for part one of the Institute and later for the Elementary Spelling Book, was with the quality of the printed product. He monitored every printer himself, first across New England and then in the middle and southern states. He fussed over every internal detail of the product in an effort to make all his editions uniform across publishers: He revised and corrected each edition unceasingly. His second concern was with promotion. No aspect of it escaped him. As was common practice at the time, he sought recommendations. Both Benjamin Franklin and George Washington turned him down. He went on promotional tours, as he did for the Institute in He was originally his own best agent, and used paid agents only late in his life. Above all, Webster kept an eye out for competitors and did not hesitate to launch stinging attacks, often in newspapers, on his rivals. In much of this, for better or worse, he foreshadowed modern practice. Reformers deplored the long lists of syllabified words that children had to encounter before they met sustained reading passages. By the late s the success of the new-style readers, those like the Eclectic series originally authored by William Holmes McGuffey , were rendering spelling books obsolete as reading instructional texts. By , according to Appleton and Company of New York, the firm was printing the speller at the rate of a million and one-half copies per year. For the blue-back speller still had an educational role to play: It lived on for the rest of the century as a spelling instructional text and as the favorite arbiter at spelling bees in and out of school. The Long Journey of Noah Webster. University of Pennsylvania Press. The Autobiographies of Noah Webster: From the Letters and Essays, Memoir, and Diary. University of South Carolina Press. Skeel, Emily Ellsworth Ford. A Bibliography of the Writings of Noah Webster , ed. New York Public Library and Arno. The Letters of Noah Webster. Webster, Noah, to Samuel L. Mitchell, June 29, An American Dictionary of the English Language â€¢, 2 vols. Jennifer Monaghan Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

Chapter 9 : How the Webster's Dictionary Came To Be: The Story of Noah Webster

Noah Webster was born October 16, 1757, in New Hartford, Connecticut, to Noah Sr., and Mercy Steele Webster. Webster's father was a busy man. Webster's father was a busy man.

He came from a colonial family - with his father doing farming and weaving, and his mother engaged in household endeavors. Webster grew up at a time when few people went to college, but he loved learning that his parents sent him to college. Webster was passionate about how people used grammar and spelling that led him to publish a spelling book. He became a textbook pioneer, political writer prolific author and editor. Noah Webster was probably the first person to publish a dictionary in American English. He died in 1843, May 28. **Early Life** Noah Webster, Jr. He was brought up during a time when few people were enrolled in college. He and his two brothers helped his father at the farm while his two sisters helped with the house chores. However, Noah loved learning and was passionate about books which made his parents take him to Yale, the only college in Connecticut. In 1773, at the age of 16, Noah left for New Haven where he graduated in 1775. Therefore, Noah became a teacher in Glastonbury and Hartford to earn a living. Luckily enough his efforts enabled him to study law. **Career Life** It was during the revolutionary war that Noah Webster was inspired to change the conditions of the schools in his country. He considered them as being dismal and of poor value since many children flocked in one class with no desks and poor books. The fact that these American children were at the hands of untrained teachers inspired him to write schoolbooks. Noah thought to himself that the children should learn from American books and not British. He also sought for registration with the state copyright. **Personal Life And Achievements** Noah Webster married Rebecca Greenleaf in 1782 with whom she had eight children and several grandchildren. He lived in New Haven with his family before moving to Massachusetts where he contributed in founding the Amherst College. In 1783, Webster started to work on definitions as he defined the words Americans used differently to make people in America spell and speak the same way. This second edition defined over 65,000 words which ended its publication in 1789. **Legacy And Death** Noah Webster is celebrated for his many achievements that cut across the American state. From fighting for the American language to improving the condition of schools, the nature of learning and unifying the American people in speaking one language. He wrote textbooks, magazines and fought for copyright laws and the abolition of slavery. To date, Webster remains the American hero.