

American observer

## **Alexander Hamilton**

**1712-1756**

Scots were often at the forefront of the shaping of Britain's vast American colonies.

Alexander Hamilton, known as Sandy, was among the many who sailed west for a new life.

While training as a physician at the University of Edinburgh he co-founded the student group, which eventually became the Royal Medical Society of Scotland.

In 1738 he left and settled in Annapolis, where he became known for a travel diary – published in 1948 as *Gentleman's Progress: the Itinerarium of Dr. Alexander Hamilton* – which provides many insights into colonial life.

Sandy was keen to see what he cherished about Scotland take root in his new homeland and set up the Tuesday Club whose members, like those of similar societies in Edinburgh, produced works of poetry, music and satire.

As a keen observer of American life he wrote essays about its people and its politics.

Marriage to Margaret Dulany, teenage daughter of one of Maryland's richest residents, when he was in his mid-thirties, brought Sandy sufficient dowry to buy 1,000 acres of land.

Despite the enthusiasm with which he became involved with colonial society, a rich correspondence with family and old associates shows that his links with Scotland were never broken.

- Read the Oxford DNB biography here: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/dnb/65017.html>