Benjamin Rush lived from January 1746 until April 1813. He is most notably mentioned throughout history as the man who reconciled the friendship of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Rush can also be noted by the many virtues he had accomplished throughout his life. Rush lived and worked in the city of Philadelphia in Byberry Township. He was an accomplished physician who was one of the first in the country to use a form of inoculation and his book on the yellow fever brought him international recognition. His affinity for medicine had caused him to become a professor at the College of Philadelphia, now the University of Pennsylvania. Benjamin Rush was active throughout the American Revolution as a member of the Sons of Liberty. He was a founding father of the United States as a signatory of the Declaration of Independence. Rush was a prominent political figure and acted as the surgeon general throughout the American Revolution. Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* had a heavy influence on the political and revolutionary thought of Rush. He also acted as a prominent abolitionist throughout his lifetime.

There are many aspects of Benjamin Rush’s life that could relate to the theme of this year’s National History Day. One could focus on his part in the Revolution, his work in medicine, or his political ideals of abolitionism.
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