

Chapter 2: Hurricane

- Hamilton (14 yrs old) was now working in the Import/export business with Beekman and Cruger. Cruger came from a distinguished Manhattan family. And though they were classified as Anglophiles Nicholas Cruger ended up supporting the rebel colonists and having great respect for George Washington. Working as a clerk taught him about money and business at a very young age/formative years.
- Meanwhile, Hamilton's doppelganger "brother" Edward was in New York studying at King's College. In a letter Hamilton wrote to him he expressed his enormous desire to escape from the Caribbean. He wrote so eloquently for a 14 year old. "I'm not philosopher, you see, and may justly said to build castles in the air." It is in this letter where he says he would gladly risk his life for such an opportunity and professes: **"I shall conclude by saying I wish there was a war"**
- Hamilton was also at this time witness to the inhumane and horrific realities of the slave trade. And it was a major component to Cruger's business. This no doubt left a lasting impression on him as he was a fervent abolitionist later on.
- In 1770 The Royal Danish American Gazette launched and Hamilton saw it as an opportunity to be able to be published. He started writing poetry and in a letter to the editor asked if there would be room for his works to be showcased. He signs his letter **"your obedient servant"**. The two poems which follow are extremely contrasting in their tone. The first is romantic and talks of marital bliss. The next opens with the line "Cecelia's an artful little slut"
- The next year he publishes two more poems but he had now transformed into a religious poet. Likely due to the entrance of Presbyterian Minister, Hugh Knox, into his life.
- Knox studied at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton). The president of which was Aaron Burr Sr.
- Hamilton was likely so fond of Knox because he was rather tolerant and liberally minded for a minister. He supported American independence, opposed slavery and most importantly believed illegitimate children should be baptized and that members of the clergy should take them in rather than shun them.
- August 31, 1772 - a dreadful and devastating hurricane strikes the island. In addition, Nevis also was hit by an earthquake that afternoon and was possibly also devastated by a tidal wave up to 15 feet high
- The horror and destruction prompted Hamilton to write a letter to his father James Hamilton detailing what had happened. Upon seeing the letter, Knox persuaded him to publish it in the Gazette.

- The letter got so much attention. The governor sought out who the author was and local businessmen started a fund to send him to America to get educated with Knox being the chief sponsor.
- Aunt: Ann - he remained forever in debt to her as she was also a key benefactor of his voyage. On the eve of his duel with Burr said to Eliza that Ann is the person he is most indebted to and has not adequately repaid her.