

AMERICA THE GREATEST®

America is the greatest nation in the world because she has allowed her citizens the opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness." Citizens such as
ELI WHITNEY.

Born: December 8, 1765 (Sagittarius)
Westboro, Massachusetts

Died: January 8, 1825.

Father: Eli Whitney,
farmer.

Mother: Elizabeth (Jay) Whitney.

Education: Yale College, 1789-1792.

Accomplishment: Inventor of the cotton gin and
factory concept.



ELI WHITNEY

Eli Whitney, who grew up in rural Massachusetts, helped his father on the farm, and loved to tinker in his father's workshop. After graduation from Yale, Eli went to work for Mrs. Nathaniel Green (the widow of General Nathaniel Green), on her Savannah, Georgia plantation, and also began to study law. At the age of 27, after only 10 days tinkering with the problem of how to separate fiber from seed in green seed cotton, Whitney invented the cotton gin. The invention made cotton king in the South, and gave young America a major export crop. Unfortunately, it also established black slavery in the South, since cheap labor was needed to grow and process the cotton.

Whitney's second major contribution was the factory concept. In the early 1800's guns were handcrafted by master gunsmiths; each gun could take weeks or months to manufacture, and parts were not interchangeable. Whitney conceived and built the first factory for the manufacture of muskets in Whitneyville, Connecticut, in 1798. In this factory, he developed the concept of how to utilize unskilled labor to tend machines which produce standardized interchangeable parts for assembly into a finished standardized product. Thus, he laid the groundwork for the Industrial Revolution.

A nation is as great as the sum total of the greatness of its individuals. America offers her people more opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness" than any other nation on earth. I challenge you to develop yours!

Today we honor ELI WHITNEY. Tomorrow could we honor you?

Dr. Michael R. Loss.

DR. MICHAEL R. LOSS

President, America the Greatest®, Inc.