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# Washington Irving (1783-1859)

(US man of letters, b. New York city, wealthy middle class, Revolutionary family background; youngest of 11 children; wrote after brothers William and Peter; law career; traveller in upper NY and Canada; journalist at Peter's *Morning Chronicle* and *Corrector*; satirical sketches of NY society, left legal profession, travelled in Europe 1804-6, pursued lit. career in NY, Federalist ideology, celebrated author; fiancée Matilda Hoffman died (and Irving never married); political involvement during the War, then took charge of Liverpool family business, went bankrupt; wrote for a living, met Scott, Byron, Moore, travelled in Paris, in Germany, loved Emily Foster in Paris, lived in England, France, courted Mary Shelley; diplomat in Madrid, travels in Spain; diplomat again in London, and back to Sunnyside, NY, after 17 years; tour on the Western frontier; political connections, returned as ambassador to Spain, retired to Sunnyside, turned historian, celebrated as classic)

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