

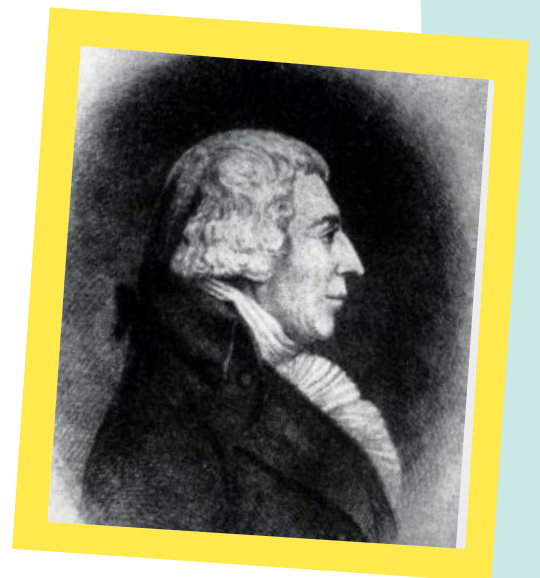


Signers of the CONSTITUTION (PART 2)

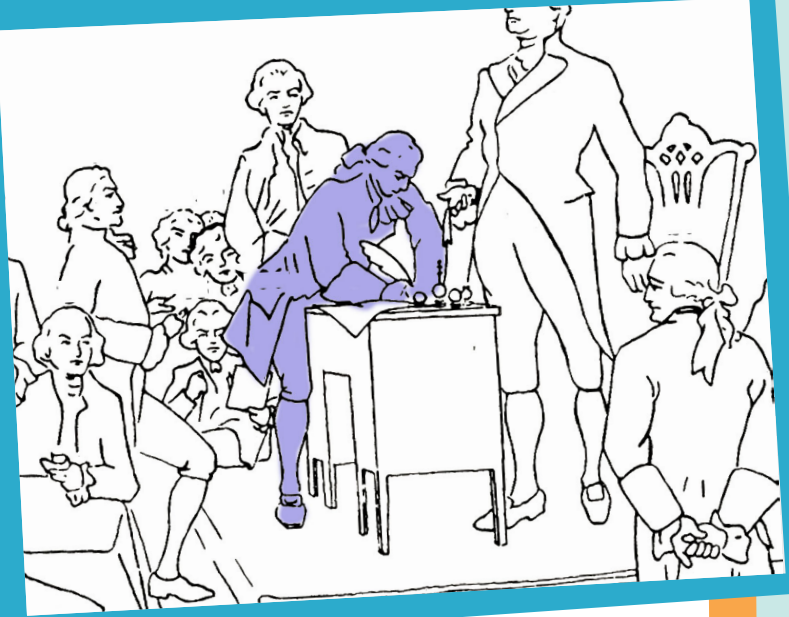
Richard Dobbs Spaight (1758-1802)

Born in New Bern, Spaight was a leading Federalist. Federalists promoted a stronger national government and wanted the passage of the U.S. Constitution. He was governor of North Carolina from 1792 to 1795.

Spaight was orphaned at nine. He received his primary education in Ireland and graduated from the University of Glasgow.



Spaight had a long and distinguished political career. After serving as a military aide during the Revolution, Spaight served in the House of Commons (1779-1783, 1785, 1787, and 1792). During his 1785 term, he served as speaker. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1783 and 1785. He also represented North Carolina during the Constitutional Convention. He served three terms as governor of the Old North State. At this time, governors served one-year terms.



Spaight has been considered one of North Carolina's Founding Fathers. He signed the U.S. Constitution. During the ratification debates, he argued in Hillsborough for the Constitution's ratification.

While Spaight was governor of North Carolina (1792-1795), the New Bern native worried about growing divisions between the young United States and France. He worked to avoid war. Yet, he strengthened the state's coastal defenses. During his terms, North Carolina settled its financial disputes with the national government. The state also settled its border dispute with South Carolina, and it dealt with threats from the Cherokee in the west.

Soon, Spaight questioned Federalists' broad interpretations and application of constitutional law. While serving as a U.S. representative from 1798 to 1801, Spaight switched political parties.

Although a sickly person for much of his life, Spaight died a premature death after a duel with John Stanly in 1802. It was this duel that prompted North Carolina to outlaw the practice.

1. What did Federalists believe?

2. From what town was William Spaight?

3. How many terms/years was Spaight governor?

4. Did Spaight sign the U.S. Constitution?

5. Why did Spaight change political parties?



**Richard Dobbs
Spaight**

Instructions: Cut out the three sections as one piece. Then, fill out the information. Accordion fold the piece with the signer's portrait on top.

