

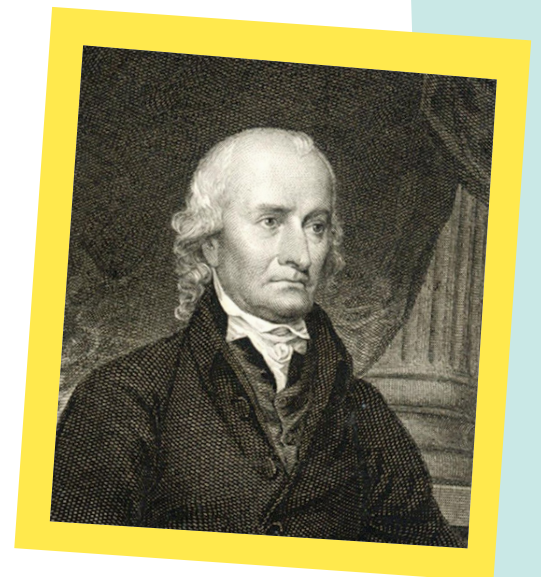


Signers of the CONSTITUTION (PART 3)

Hugh Williamson (1735-1819)

Born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, Hugh Williamson was a physician and a person with many intellectual interests. He served as one of North Carolina's delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Williamson was a leading founder in Revolutionary America.

Williamson was very talented. He studied mathematics at the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania). He later taught Latin and English to high school students. He graduated in May 1757 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics.



Williamson later studied theology and medicine. Earning a master's degree in 1760, he taught at the college while pursuing doctoral studies. In 1772, he finally earned an M.D. from Utrecht University in Holland.

In 1768, within months of his arrival in Philadelphia, he was accepted into the American Philosophical Society. Williamson wrote on various scientific subjects. He even wrote about the changing climate

in the 1700s. He soon became a respected scholar in America, Britain, and Holland.



Williamson happened to be in Boston when the Tea Party occurred. In an open letter to Lord Mansfield, the longtime chief justice of the King's Bench, Williamson explained the grievances of the colonies. It was called *The Plea of the Colonies on the Charges Brought Against Them by Lord Mansfield, and Others, in a Letter to His Lordship*. It became a well-known pamphlet of the American Revolution.

The British occupation of Philadelphia drove Williamson out of the city. He briefly lived in Charleston, South Carolina. He eventually moved to Edenton, North Carolina. Governor Richard Caswell named Williamson the state's surgeon general.

In 1782, Edenton elected Williamson to the General Assembly. Within months, he joined the Continental Congress. There, he completed three terms. He returned to Edenton and again was elected to the General Assembly.

In 1787, Williamson was named a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. He was one of the most active delegates in Philadelphia. He served on five committees. He gave seventy speeches. He had a particularly strong interest in economic questions. He suggested that U.S. Senators serve a six-year term stipulated in the Constitution. He also influenced the impeachment process procedures by suggesting the president be tried by the Senate and not the U.S. Supreme Court.

Williamson supported the new Constitution. He was a Federalist. He attended the Fayetteville Convention of 1789. After North Carolina ratified the Constitution, Williamson was elected to the United States House of Representatives from North Carolina.

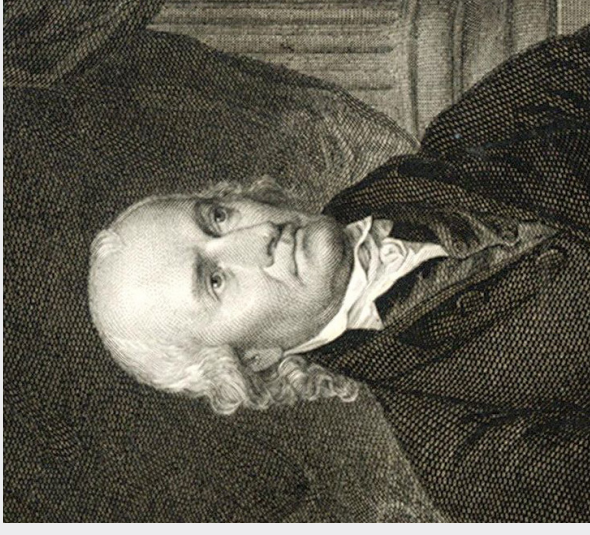
After retirement, he moved to New York. There, he wrote many articles and books. He passed away in 1819.

11. Where was Hugh Williamson born? How is that different than the other two signers of the U.S. Constitution?

2. What subjects did Williamson study during his lifetime?

3. How did he contribute to the U.S. Constitution?

4. What do you think was his greatest accomplishment?



**Hugh
Williamson**

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.

