

CAESAR RODNEY



STATE - Delaware

AGE - 47 (Born: 10/7/1728)

HOME - Dover, Delaware

EDUCATION - Local Schools

FAMILY - Never Married, No Children

JOBS BEFORE CONGRESS - Lawyer, Judge, Sheriff, Militia Captain, Legislator

WHAT HE IS LIKE - Patriot, Tough, Good Horse Rider, Man of the Hour

WHERE TO FIND HIM IN PHILADELPHIA - Resting in his room from his ride!

BEFORE THE CONGRESS Caesar Rodney grew up in Delaware where his father owned an 800 acre plantation. Despite a lack of formal schooling, Caesar used his great abilities to have a successful career in serving the public. He worked as a sheriff, captain in the militia, judge, and a legislator. Caesar was a great Patriot and was one of the leaders in Delaware of the opposition to the British.

AT THE CONGRESS Although Caesar was a delegate at the Congress from 1774 on, he was often away in Delaware helping the colony's government and militia. The day before the Continental Congress had to vote one way or another for or against independence, Rodney received an urgent message from Thomas McKean, his friend and fellow delegate from Delaware. The message told Rodney that the other delegate from Delaware, George Read, had voted against independence and only Caesar's vote would break the tie. Caesar rode his horse all night through a terrible storm to cast the deciding vote for independence.

DATE OF DEATH 6/29/1784, (55 Years Old)

CAESAR RODNEY

CONGRESSIONAL INSTRUCTIONS: You like Thomas Jefferson's Draft of the Declaration of Independence. However, when delegates object to the passage in the Declaration that talks badly of the British People and others object to the passage that is critical of slavery, you agree to take the two passages out of Jefferson's Draft of the Declaration.

FINAL VOTING: *****Important*****(When the final vote begins you slip quietly to the back of the room near the door. When it comes time for Delaware to vote at the last minute as your name is called, you rush into the Assembly Room exhausted from a long ride on your horse).

When the final vote is called to accept the Declaration of Independence you stand and say: *I am tired, but I would travel anywhere, anytime and through any weather to answer the call of my country! I, Caesar Rodney of Delaware, vote AYE for the Declaration of Independence.*

Caesar Rodney