

STEPHEN HOPKINS



STATE - Rhode Island

AGE - 69 (Born: 3/7/1707)

HOME - Providence, Rhode Island

EDUCATION - Self-Taught

FAMILY - 2 Marriages, 7 Children

JOBS BEFORE CONGRESS - Farmer, Surveyor, Businessman

WHAT HE IS LIKE - Kind, Smart, Loves Science

WHERE TO FIND HIM IN PHILADELPHIA - Talking about Science with Ben Franklin

BEFORE THE CONGRESS Stephen Hopkins grew up in Rhode Island and entered politics early on. He was Governor of Rhode Island ten times. In addition he set up a library like his friend Ben Franklin with whom he shared an interest in science and education. Stephen strongly opposed slavery and wrote one of the earliest antislavery laws in the United States. He wrote an important document supporting independence and became known as one of the great Patriot leaders.

AT THE CONGRESS Stephen Hopkins was elected to the Continental Congress in 1774. An old man when he signed the Declaration of Independence, his hand was shaking and he said "My hand trembles, but my heart does not!"

DATE OF DEATH 4/13/1785, (78 Years Old)

STEPHEN HOPKINS

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: When the final vote is called to accept the Declaration of Independence you stand and say: *I, Stephen Hopkins of Rhode Island, vote aye for the Declaration of Independence.* After signing the document you say: my hand trembles but my heart does not!

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Stephen Hopkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line across the top of the letters.