

THOMAS NELSON, JR.



STATE - Virginia

AGE - 37 (Born: 12/26/1738)

HOME - Yorktown, Virginia

EDUCATION - Hackney School, Cambridge University

FAMILY - 1 Marriage, 13 Children

JOBS BEFORE CONGRESS - Merchant, Planter

WHAT HE IS LIKE - Wealthy, Slave Owner, Outspoken, Lively, Patriot

WHERE TO FIND HIM IN PHILADELPHIA - Talking with Benjamin Franklin

BEFORE THE CONGRESS Thomas Nelson, Jr. grew up in Virginia. He started his education at home but later completed it in England. When he returned to Virginia, he helped his father manage the family's plantation. He became a judge and then later a legislator. He was one of the most active of the Virginia Patriots.

AT THE CONGRESS Thomas Nelson was sent to the Continental Congress in 1776. While still a delegate in Congress, he traveled to a convention in Williamsburg and won approval from the Virginia Legislature of a bill that called for national independence. Nelson returned to Philadelphia and presented the bill to Richard Henry Lee, who rewrote it and presented it to the Continental Congress on June 7, 1776.

DATE OF DEATH 1/4/1789, (50 Years Old)

THOMAS NELSON

CONGRESSIONAL INSTRUCTIONS: You like Thomas Jefferson's Draft of the Declaration of Independence. However, you object to the passage that is critical of slavery because you own slaves. You will agree to accept the Declaration of Independence only if Congress takes the passage out.

FINAL VOTING: After the passages are taken out and the final vote is called to accept the Declaration of Independence you stand and say: *I, Thomas Nelson, Jr. of Virginia, vote aye for the Declaration of Independence.*

Tho Nelson Jr.