

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SIGNERS AFTER THEY SIGNED?

SAMUEL ADAMS -

As a man of many talents, you are one of the authors of the Massachusetts Constitution in 1779, and a delegate to the Convention in 1780, a state senator, Lt. Governor, and Governor from 1793 to 1797. In 1803, you die at the age of 81. You are happy America attained its independence for you were one of two men that the British would not have pardoned if the Colonies had surrendered! The other was John Hancock.

JOSIAH BARTLETT -

You return to New Hampshire where you are a delegate to the New Hampshire Constitutional Convention and Governor of New Hampshire from 1790 to 1794. You die in 1795 at the age of 65. The town of Bartlett, New Hampshire is named for you.

CARTER BRAXTON -

You returned to Virginia where you serve in the Virginia Legislature. Using your wealth you help to supply the troops during the war and lose your fortune as a result of the war and due to some bad business decisions. You die of a stroke in 1797 at the age of 61.

CHARLES CARROLL -

You are considered to be the wealthiest man in America. You help to write the Maryland Constitution in 1776 and later serve as one of the first senators from Maryland. In 1832, at the age of 95 you pass away. You are the last signer to die.

SAMUEL CHASE -

Serving as a judge in Maryland you are appointed by George Washington to the U.S. Supreme Court serving in that office from 1796 until your death in 1811 at the age of 70. While serving on that court you were impeached by the House for speaking out against President Jefferson's policies but were found not guilty by the senate allowing you to retain your seat. Following that verdict it was decided that a judge could not be removed for political reasons.

ABRAHAM CLARK -

During the War your property is destroyed and your son captured by the British. The British tell you that if you renounce the cause of American independence, your son would be freed. You refuse! After the war you serve in the Congress and are one of the main designers of U.S. coins. You die at the age of 68 in 1794.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SIGNERS...

GEORGE CLYMER -

You travel to Fort Pitt in Pennsylvania and make the first treaty between the Indians and the Continental Congress in 1777. In 1787 you sign the U.S. Constitution and are a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania helping to keep it open during a time of financial difficulty in 1797. You die in 1813 at the age of 73.

WILLIAM ELLERY -

Your home in Newport is destroyed by the British.. Until your retirement in 1785 from the Congress you fight to end slavery. Dying in your home in 1820 at the age of 92 you are one of the oldest living members of Congress.

WILLIAM FLOYD -

You are elected to the first U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 1789-1791. In 1801, you are a delegate to the New York Constitutional Convention. You retire and head west, dying in the wilderness of western New York in 1821.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN -

You travel to France to help raise money to finance the war. In 1787 you help to create and then signed the U.S. Constitution. You serve as the Governor of Pennsylvania. After the age of 70, you decide you don't want to continue to age so you start to subtract a year instead of adding one on your birthday. You died in 1790 at the age of 84 (or were you 56?)

ELBRIDGE GERRY -

In 1786, you marry at the age of 41! You serve in the Congress from 1789 to 1793. During your campaign for Governor of Massachusetts you redraw voting districts to assist you in your bid. The term "gerrymandering" is created from this event. You are elected and serve as Governor from 1810 to 1812. You serve as Vice President to 5th president James Monroe from 1812 until your death in 1814 at the age of 70.

BUTTON GWINNET -

You leave the Congress in 1777 and die that same year at the age of 42. As Speaker of the Georgia Legislature you help write the Georgia Constitution and later served as Georgia's Governor. Your death was the result of a dual with Lachlan McIntosh who had insulted you in front of the Georgia Legislature. You were the challenger and were killed. McIntosh survived his wounds.

LYMAN HALL -

You become the Governor of Georgia and help found the University of Georgia. Your home is destroyed by the British in 1778. You died at your new plantation in 1790 at the age of 66.

JOHN HANCOCK -

You serve as a member of Congress until 1780 and as Governor of Massachusetts for 11 years. In 1788, you are the chairman of the Massachusetts Constitutional Committee voting to ratify the U.S. Constitution. You suffer from gout for many years and die in 1793 at the age of 56.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SIGNERS...

BENJAMIN HARRISON -

You leave the Congress in 1777 and serve as Governor of Virginia from 1781 to 1784. Your son is the 9th President, William Henry Harrison and your great-grandson the 23rd President Benjamin Harrison. You die in 1791 at the age of 65.

JOHN HART -

On your way home to New Jersey in 1776, the British consider you a prime target and you are forced to hide in the woods near your house for days. Your wife has urged you to hide and take the children to relatives. When you return home your house was in ruins, your wife dead and you are never reunited with your children. You die in 1779 at the age of 68 as a result of exposure to the elements during your days of hiding.

JOSEPH HEWES -

Due to illness you leave the Congress in 1779 and died within two weeks at the age of 49. Overwork is reported to be the cause of your death.

THOMAS HEYWARD, JR -

While fighting against the British in South Carolina you are wounded and later captured at the Battle of Charleston and held prisoner in Florida. After your release you serve as a judge in South Carolina. You die in 1809 at the age of 62.

WILLIAM HOOPER -

In 1779 you returned to North Carolina to find your home destroyed by the British. Your health began to fail partially due to contracting malaria yet you served in the North Carolina Legislature as your health continued to deteriorate, dying in 1790 at the age of 48.

Stephen Hopkins -

One month after the signing of the Declaration you return to Rhode Island. You serve in the Rhode Island Legislature. Retiring from the legislature in 1780 you died in 1785 at the age of 78.

FRANCIS HOPKINSON -

You are named by the Continental Congress as Head of the Navy Board. As an artist you designed the seal for the state of New Jersey and take credit for the design of the first Stars and Stripes. You serve as a Federal judge from 1789 until 1791. You die in 1791 at the age of 53.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON -

From 1779 to 1781 you are the President of the Continental Congress. You serve as Governor of Connecticut from 1786 until your death in 1796 at the age of 64.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SIGNERS...

THOMAS JEFFERSON -

You serve in many, capacities including Governor of Virginia, Minister to France, Secretary of State to George Washington, Vice President to second President John Adams and third President from 1801 to 1809. You found the University of Virginia. Your library is the basis for the Library of Congress. On July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence you die at your home, Monticello at the age of 83. John Adams died later that same day. It is your last request that your tomb stone reflect the things that you had given the people, not the things that the people had given to you. It is for this reason that your epitaph reads:

Here was buried Thomas Jefferson
Author of the Declaration of American Independence
Of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom
And father of the University of Virginia

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE -

In 1777, when your brother Richard Henry Lee doesn't receive enough votes to remain in the Continental Congress you resign in protest which results in him being reinstated. Both of you retire from the Congress in 1779. You serve for a brief time in the Virginia Legislature. At the Constitutional Convention you disagree with your brother and vote to ratify the Constitution in 1788. You retire from public life and die in 1797 at the age of 62.

RICHARD HENRY LEE -

In 1777, you do not receive enough votes to remain in the Congress but are reinstated to the Virginia delegation where you remained until 1779. Returning to the Congress you serve as President from 1784-1785 and as one of the first U.S. Senators from 1789 until your death in 1792 at the age of 62.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON -

In 1777, you return home to New York. You helped establish a new constitution for New York. Even though you are in very poor health when you are asked by your state to return to the Continental Congress, you travel to Philadelphia knowing that you will never see your home and family again. You serve in the Continental Congress until your death in 1778 at the age of 62. You do not live to see America win its independence from Great Britain!

FRANCIS LEWIS -

While you are in Philadelphia at the Continental Congress you lose everything you hold dear to the British. Your wife is taken prisoner for months, dying shortly after her release and your daughter marries a British officer and moves to England. You retire from the Congress in 1781 and return to New York. You live your last years without your family, your home or your fortune and die in 1802 at the age of 89.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SIGNERS...

THOMAS LYNCH, JR. -

In 1776 you leave the Congress and head home to South Carolina. In 1779 you and your wife set sail on an ocean voyage but never return. The ship is lost at sea. You were 30 years old.

THOMAS MCKEAN -

You hold many offices after leaving the Congress, serving as Governor of two states, Delaware in 1777 and Pennsylvania from 1799 to 1808. Returning to the Congress in 1781 you are President of the Congress. You die in 1817 at the age of 83 leaving 34 grandchildren.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON -

You serve at the Battle of Charleston where you are taken prisoner by the British and held in Florida. After your release you work to restore your property that had been destroyed by the British. You died on New Years Day 1787 at the age of 44.

LEWIS MORRIS -

You serve in the New York State Senate from 1777-1790. Attending the New York Constitutional Convention, you help the Constitution to pass by a slim margin in 1788. You die in 1798 at the age of 71 at your home Morrisania after spending many years rebuilding it after the destruction by the British.

ROBERT MORRIS -

As a financier you start the Bank of North America in Philadelphia, the first successful bank in America. From that bank and your own pocket you obtain supplies for the war and even pay soldiers' wages! You spend more than a million dollars of your own money! At the time of your death in 1806 at the age of 72, you had served more than 3 years in debtors' prison as a result of losing your wealth due to bad land deals. You die in poverty, proud of your contributions to the cause.

JOHN MORTON -

Ill with tuberculosis you die in 1777, at the age of 53 less than one year after signing the Declaration of Independence. You are one of the first of the signers to sign the document and to give your life for the cause!

THOMAS NELSON, JR. -

At the age of 38 you suffer a stroke while serving in the Congress. Returning home to Virginia your health improves, you serve in the Virginia Legislature and later as Governor. As General Nelson you serve in the Virginia militia at the Battle of Yorktown where you fired on your own home which was being occupied by the British. Using your own money you supplied your troops. You die in 1789 at the age of 50.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SIGNERS...

WILLIAM PACA -

From 1762 - 1785 you serve as Governor of Maryland. The Bill of Rights included in the U.S. Constitution contains many of your ideas including Freedom of Religion and Freedom of the Press. As one of the wealthiest men in America you used your own fortune to supply troops during the war. You die at your home, Wye Hall Plantation (considered the finest mansion in the United States), in 1799 at the age of 58.

ROBERT TREAT PAINE -

You are re-elected to the Congress but decide to return to Massachusetts instead, serving both at the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention and as the first Attorney General of Massachusetts. Fellow delegate John Hancock appoints you to be a judge on the Supreme Court and you serve in that position for 14 years, until you lose your hearing. In 1780 you establish the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. You die in 1814 at the age of 83.

JOHN PENN -

In 1778 as a result of a disagreement you have with fellow delegate Henry Laurens, he challenges you to fight a duel! Wisely, you are able to make peace with your colleague and avoid injury or death. In 1780, you leave Congress to serve on the North Carolina Board of War until it was abolished in 1781. After the war you serve as a lawyer in private practice. You die in 1788 at the age of 48.

GEORGE READ -

You leave the Continental Congress to serve as Governor of Delaware after Governor McKimley was captured by the British. On the trip to Delaware you and your family are stopped by the British but you conceal your identity and are allowed to pass. If the British knew your true identity you would have been imprisoned. You serve as Governor until 1778. You attend the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, leading Delaware to become the first state to ratify the document. You become one of the first Senators and later Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court. In 1798 you die at the age of 64.

CAESAR RODNEY -

In spite of poor health you serve in the Army for a short time and recruit others to fight for the Continental Army. Like fellow delegate George Read you serve as Governor of Delaware (1778 to 1781). After a long battle with cancer, you die in 1784 at the age of 55. Your heroic ride in 1776 to help pass the Resolution for Independence is used in 1999 as Delaware's design for a United States quarter.



GEORGE ROSS -

In 1777, you resign from the Congress due to illness (severe gout). In 1779, after serving 2 years as a judge in Pennsylvania you die at the age of 49.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SIGNERS...

BENJAMIN RUSH -

In 1777 you are appointed to be Surgeon General to the Continental Congress but resign in anger due to the horrible conditions. Returning to Philadelphia you serve at the Constitutional Convention from 1789-1790. Your medical career includes teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, on the staff of The Pennsylvania Hospital, first President of the Philadelphia Medical Society, and founder of the first free medical clinic in the country the Philadelphia Dispensary. You establish two colleges - Dickinson College and Franklin & Marshall College named for your fellow delegates (John Dickinson and Benjamin Franklin) and are active in many, many movements including antislavery and prison reform. You serve as Treasurer of the U.S. Mint from 1797 until your death at the age of 67 in 1813.

EDWARD RUTLEDGE -

Returning to South Carolina you serve in the state legislature but leave in 1779 to serve as a Captain in the militia. During the Siege of Charleston you are captured and imprisoned by the British in Florida. After your release you serve as Governor of South Carolina from 1798 -1800. Your death occurs within one month of the death of George Washington. Most people believe your death in 1800 has been caused by the sad news of the death of Washington. You are 50 years old at the time of your death.

ROGER SHERMAN -

Returning to Connecticut you serve as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 where you introduce the Connecticut Compromise, allowing states with larger populations to have more delegates in the House but all states to have an equal number of Senators. This had been a point of deadlock for the Convention. You go on to serve in both the House and Senate until your death at the age of 72 in 1793.

JAMES SMITH -

Returning to Pennsylvania in 1778 you serve in the Pennsylvania legislature. You serve as a judge and are in private practice until your death in 1806 at the age of 87, making you the oldest practicing lawyer in Pennsylvania.

RICHARD STOCKTON -

The Continental Congress appoints you to visit the army in New York where you are appalled by the conditions of the troops and you supply them by using your own money. Returning to New Jersey you find that the Continental Army in retreat and the British in control. You hide with your wife and children but are found, arrested, and jailed in New Jersey and in New York. In 1777, you are released. Now in failing health you attempted to return home but find it has been burned by the British. You die at the age of 53, in 1781 two years before the end of the war. Your house Morven is restored in the 1950s and serves as the official residence of the Governor of New Jersey until 1981.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SIGNERS...

THOMAS STONE -

During your time in the Congress you serve on the committee that creates the Articles of Confederation. This document helps the nation to be governed until the U.S. Constitution is ratified in 1787. Because of the poor health of your wife you do not attend the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia although you are elected to be a delegate. In that same year you die at the age of 44, 4 months after your wife.

GEORGE TAYLOR -

In 1777, you are sent by Congress to Western Pennsylvania to make peace with the Indians. In poor health you return and retire from the Continental Congress. You die in 1781, at the age of 64, two years before the end of the war.

MATTHEW THORNTON -

After the Congress you return to New Hampshire where you serve as a judge and in the Legislature. From your farm you write articles for several newspapers. You die in 1803 at the age of 89 years old. Thornton, New Hampshire is named for you.

GEORGE WALTON -

As Colonel in the Georgia militia you are wounded and captured in Savannah in 1778 and held as a prisoner in Florida until 1779. After your release you serve as Governor of Georgia, Chief Justice in the Georgia Supreme Court and as a Georgia State Senator. You die in 1804 at the age of 63.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE -

You become a General in the Continental Army and fight in New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. You live to see the end of the war, and die in 1785 at the age of 80 of a heart condition.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS -

In January 1788 you serve as a Connecticut delegate to the Constitutional Convention, you ignore your orders and vote in favor of the Constitution. You die 35 years to the day that you sign the Declaration, August 2, 1811 at the age of 80.

JAMES WILSON -

At the convention in Philadelphia in 1787 you help to write the Constitution insisting that the government should serve the people. George Washington appoints you as one of the first justices on the Supreme Court in 1789. As a result of bad business decisions, you spend time in debtors' prison and die impoverished in 1798 at the age of 55.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SIGNERS...

JOHN WITHERSPOON -

In 1782 you retire from the Continental Congress. Meanwhile your home in New Jersey was destroyed by the British, and it takes many years to rebuild it and your hometown of Princeton. Your son James is killed at the Battle of Germantown. As a member of the New Jersey delegation you help to ratify the Constitution in 1787. At the age of 68 you lose your vision and die 3 years later in 1794.

OLIVER WOLCOTT -

You serve in the Continental Army as a General and are put in charge of the Connecticut troops. At the Battle of Saratoga, N.Y. you help defeat the British in 1777. Late in your life you serve as Governor of Connecticut from 1796 until your death in 1797 at the age of 71. Your son Oliver Wolcott Jr., is appointed as Secretary to the Treasury from 1795 to 1800.

GEORGE WYTHE -

In 1779, you are appointed to the first Chair of Law at the College of William and Mary. Both Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe (third and fifth presidents) were your students. At the Virginia Constitutional Convention in Richmond you persuade some of your former students to join you in approving the Constitution. You oppose slavery. After your wife dies you free the only two slaves that your family has left and begin to treat them like they are your family.

Having no children of your own you name your great nephew as an heir in your will. Unfortunately your nephew has a gambling problem and he starts to steal money from you. Needing more money to support his gambling and fearing that you may name your former slaves in your will; your nephew poisons all three of you! Only your housekeeper survives. The great-nephew is charged with murder, but a black woman is not allowed to testify against a white man and the charges are dropped. You die at the age of 80 in the year 1806. Your home still stands in Williamsburg, Virginia.

