

# WILLIAM ELLERY



**STATE** - Rhode Island

**AGE** - 48 (Born: 12/22/1727)

**HOME** - Newport, Rhode Island

**EDUCATION** - Harvard College

**FAMILY** - 2 Marriages, 16 Children

**JOBS BEFORE CONGRESS** - Lawyer

**WHAT HE IS LIKE** - Patriotic, Wealthy, Busy, Scholar

**WHERE TO FIND HIM IN PHILADELPHIA** - In the Library

**BEFORE THE CONGRESS** William Ellery grew up in Newport, Rhode Island and tried several professions before deciding to become a lawyer. He supported the Independence Movement early on and worked on several Revolutionary committees. Rhode Island sent him as a delegate to the Continental Congress in May of 1776.

**AT THE CONGRESS** He bravely supported the Declaration even though he thought that all of the delegates were signing their own death warrants. He stood behind the table where the delegates signed the Declaration of Independence to see their expressions as they signed.

**DATE OF DEATH** 2/15/1820, (92 Years Old)

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**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, William Ellery of Rhode Island, vote aye for the Declaration of Independence.*

**AT THE SIGNING:** During the signing of the Declaration of Independence you stand next to John Hancock and watch the delegates sign. When John Adams asks you what you are doing, you say: *I am watching these men sign their death warrants!!*

*William Ellery*