

## The Annapolis Convention Sept 1786

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Intro ends with... rather than amend the Articles of Confederation

<http://www.cusdi.org/annapolis.htm> Asserts that Congress called the Constitutional Convention on Feb 21, 1787

<https://dlc.dcccd.edu/usgov1-3/the-constitutional-convention-of-1787> Asserts that the Constitutional Convention was called only to amend articles of Confederation.

[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution\\_founding\\_fathers.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_founding_fathers.html) The Continental Congress resolution and the names of the delegates of the several states.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annapolis\\_Convention\\_\(1786\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annapolis_Convention_(1786)) The final report of the Annapolis Convention asked for support for a broader convention; set the date and place of the convention; expressed the hope that more states would be represented and that their delegates or deputies would be authorized to examine areas broader than simply commercial trade.

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/curriculum-unit/constitutional-convention-1787> interestingly -- Even before the Convention was authorized to convene, the road to reform was paved with resistance, especially from those who believed that the Articles of Confederation were in little or no need of amendment.

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/road-constitutional-convention#sect-thelesson> Lesson 1

Intro In February of 1787, Congress authorized a convention, to be held in Philadelphia in May of that year, for the purpose of recommending changes to the Articles of Confederation. In what has come to be known as the Constitutional Convention of 1787, all of the states—with the exception of Rhode Island—sent delegates to debate how to amend the Articles of Confederation in order to alleviate several problems experienced by the United States after the War for Independence. Although the Convention eventually decided to scrap the Articles altogether, and recommend instead the adoption of an entirely new plan of government, all of the delegates were initially united by one belief—that something must be done in order to correct the "errors" of the American political system in the 1780s.

This lesson will focus on the various problems under the Articles of Confederation between 1783 and 1786 that led to the call for the 1787 Convention. By examining documents of Congress, the state governments, and prominent American founders—both public and private—

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<sup>1</sup> <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/annapolis-convention-resolution/>

students will better understand why many Americans agreed that the Articles should be revised and amended. Students will also see why some prominent American founders, more than others, believed that the United States faced a serious crisis, and that drastic changes, rather than minor amendments, to the Articles were necessary.

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/road-constitutional-convention#sect-background>

The Annapolis Convention Sept 14, 1786<sup>2</sup>

...

A discussion of these defects of the Articles took place among delegates from five states - Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York - at Annapolis, Maryland in September of 1786. The delegates to the [Annapolis Convention](#) issued a report to their respective states, noting that "there are important defects in the system of the Federal Government," and recommending that Congress authorize a convention in the following May for the purpose of addressing these defects. On February 21, 1787, Congress passed a [resolution](#) authorizing "a Convention of delegates who shall have been appointed by the several states be held at Philadelphia for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and reporting to Congress and the several legislatures such alterations and provisions therein as shall...render the federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government & the preservation of the Union." Even as the states began to commission delegates to the Philadelphia Convention, however, different opinions formed about what the delegates should try to accomplish there. All of the delegates agreed that the Articles of Confederation should be amended, but many disagreed over how drastic the changes should be. The differences between the two groups over the purpose of the Convention would eventually lead to deadlock during the first two months of the Convention.

For more background information on the road to the 1787 Convention, see "[Introduction to the Constitutional Convention](#)" at [TeachingAmericanHistory.org](#). This website also provides a very good overview of how the states selected their delegates, and detailed accounts of the views and personal background of each of the delegates. The National Archives' "[Charters of Freedom](#)" website also offers an account of the events leading to the 1787 Convention, and includes a page of [questions and answers](#) pertaining to the Constitutional Convention. Digital History also provides a series of background pages on what is known as "[The Critical Period](#)" from 1783-1787, including Shays' Rebellion, the Newburgh Conspiracy, and the difficulties with getting the states to comply with Congressional requisitions for funds.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress\\_of\\_the\\_Confederation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_the_Confederation) "There were enough problems to bear further discussion and deliberation that the Convention called for a wider meeting to recommend changes and meet the next year in the late Spring of 1787 in [Philadelphia](#). The Confederation Congress itself endorsed the Call and issued one on its own further inviting the states to send delegates."

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<sup>2</sup> <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/annapolis-convention-resolution/>

## Notes & Sources

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/convention/delegates/bigpicture/> The delegates formative experiences

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/virginia-general-assembly-commissioning-delegates-to-the-philadelphia-convention/>

Annapolis Convention

**1786**

Meeting at the suggestion of James Madison in Annapolis, Maryland beginning on September 11, 1786, the Annapolis Convention was held to discuss some issues of interstate trade. Attendance was low, with only 12 delegates total representing just five states (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia). On September 14, Alexander Hamilton introduced the following resolution, calling for the convening of a special convention to amend the weak Articles of Confederation for a number of serious defects. The convention adopted the resolution unanimously, but because of the few representatives in attendance, their authority was limited. Nevertheless, the Annapolis Convention Resolution initiated an upswell of reform, leading ultimately to the meeting of just such a convention beginning in July 1787. Now known as the Constitutional Convention, that body decided to create an entirely new form of government around a new constitution, drafting the U.S. Constitution toward that end, rather than amend the Articles of Confederation.

### **Annapolis Convention Report**

Proceedings of the Commissioners to Remedy Defects of the Federal Government, Annapolis in the State of Maryland. September 14, 1786.

To the Honorable, The Legislatures of Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York—assembled at Annapolis, humbly beg leave to report.

That, pursuant to their several appointments, they met, at Annapolis in the State of Maryland on the eleventh day of September Instant, and having proceeded to a Communication of their Powers; they found that the States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, had, in substance, and nearly in the same terms, authorized their respective Commissions “to meet such other Commissioners as were, or might be, appointed by the other States in the Union, at such time and place as should be agreed upon by the said Commissions to take into consideration the trade and commerce of the United States, to consider how far a uniform system in their commercial intercourse and regulations might be necessary to their common interest and permanent harmony, and to report to the several States such an Act, relative to this great object, as when unanimously by them would enable the United States in Congress assembled effectually to proved for the same.”

That the State of New Jersey had enlarged the object of their appointment, empowering their Commissioners, “to consider how far a uniform system in their commercial regulations and other important matters, mighty be necessary to the common interest and permanent harmony

of the several States,” and to report such an Act on the subject, as when ratified by them, “would enable the United States in Congress assembled, effectually to provide for the exigencies of the Union.”

That appointments of Commissioners have also been made by the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and North Carolina, none of whom, however, have attended; but that no information has been received by your Commissioners, of any appointment having been made by the States of Connecticut, Maryland, South Carolina or Georgia.

That the express terms of the powers of your Commissioners supposing a deputation from all the States, and having for object the Trade and Commerce of the United States, Your Commissioners did not conceive it advisable to proceed on the business of their mission, under the Circumstances of so partial and defective a representation.

Deeply impressed, however, with the magnitude and importance of the object confided to them on this occasion, your Commissioners cannot forbear to indulge an expression of their earnest and unanimous wish, that speedy measures be taken, to effect a general meeting, of the States, in a future Convention, for the same, and such other purposes, as the situation of public affairs may be found to require.

If in expressing this wish, or in intimating any other sentiment, your Commissioners should seem to exceed the strict bounds of their appointment, they entertain a full confidence, that a conduct, dictated by an anxiety for the welfare of the United States, will not fail to receive an indulgent construction.

In this persuasion, your Commissioners submit an opinion, that the Idea of extending the powers of their Deputies, to other objects, than those of Commerce, which has been adopted by the State of New Jersey, was an improvement on the original plan, and will deserve to be incorporated into that of a future Convention; they are the more naturally led to this conclusion, as in the course of their reflections on the subject, they have been induced to think, that the power of regulating trade is of such comprehensive extent, and will enter so far into the general System of the federal government, that to give it efficacy, and to obviate questions and doubts concerning its precise nature and limits, may require a correspondent adjustment of other parts of the Federal System.

That there are important defects in the system of the Federal Government is acknowledged by the Acts of all those States, which have concurred in the present Meeting; That the defects, upon a closer examination, may be found greater and more numerous, than even these acts imply, is

at least so far probably, from the embarrassments which characterize the present State of our national affairs, foreign and domestic, as may reasonably be supposed to merit a deliberate and candid discussion, in some mode, which will unite the Sentiments and Councils of all the States. In the choice of the mode, your Commissioners are of opinion, that a Convention of Deputies from the different States, for the special and sole purpose of entering into this investigation, and digesting a plan for supplying such defects as may be discovered to exist, will be entitled to a preference from considerations, which will occur without being particularized.

Your Commissioners decline an enumeration of those national circumstances on which their opinion respecting the propriety of a future Convention, with more enlarged powers, is founded; as it would be a useless intrusion of facts and observations, most of which have been frequently the subject of public discussion, and none of which can have escaped the penetration of those to whom they would in this instance be addressed. They are, however, of a nature so serious, as, in the view of your Commissioners, to render the situation of the United States delicate and critical, calling for an exertion of the untied virtue and wisdom of all the members of the Confederacy.

Under this impression, Your Commissioners, with the most respectful deference, beg leave to suggest their unanimous conviction that it may essentially tend to advance the interests of the union if the States, by whom they have been respectively delegated, would themselves concur, and use their endeavors to procure the concurrence of the other States, in the appointment of Commissioners, to meet at Philadelphia on the second Monday in May next, to take into consideration the situation of the United States, to devise such further provisions as shall appear to them necessary to render the constitution of the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies of the Union; and to report such an Act for that purpose to the United States in Congress assembled, as when agreed to, by them, and afterwards confirmed by the Legislatures of every State, will effectually provide for the same.

Though your Commissioners could not with propriety address these observations and sentiments to any but the States they have the honor to represent, they have nevertheless concluded from motives of respect, to transmit copies of the Report to the United States in Congress assembled, and to the executives of the other States.”<sup>3</sup>

“Administrative History Note:

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<sup>3</sup> <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/annapolis-convention-resolution/>

Commissioners representing the States of Virginia and Maryland met at George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, in March 1785 to resolve mutual problems pertaining to navigation of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. They also drafted an agreement recommending to their respective legislatures uniform commercial regulations and imposts, and annual conferences on common commercial problems. On January 21, 1786, the Virginia legislature invited all the states to discuss commercial problems at a convention to be held in Annapolis, Maryland. Nine states accepted the invitation, but only delegates from New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Virginia attended the meeting. The meeting, which lasted from September 11-14, led to a proposal to go beyond consideration of commercial problems and discuss a way to "devise such further provisions as shall appear . . . necessary to render the constitution of the . . . Government adequate to the exigencies of the Union," at a convention of all the states in Philadelphia in May 1787.

Five states had already named delegates to the proposed convention when the Continental Congress cautiously endorsed the proposal of the Annapolis Convention on February 21, 1787. Congress resolved that "it is expedient that . . . a convention of delegates who shall have been appointed by the several States be held . . . for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and reporting to Congress and the several legislatures such alterations and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress and confirmed by the States render the federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government and the preservation of the Union." The Philadelphia Convention did not begin until May 25, nearly two weeks after it was scheduled to start, because a quorum of seven states was not present until then. (The State of Rhode Island sent no delegates to the Convention.) George Washington was elected President of the Convention and William Jackson, who had served as Assistant Secretary of War, was named its secretary. . . ."<sup>4</sup>

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## Dates & Actions Responding to Annapolis Convention

### The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3]

#### CREDENTIALS

[Arranged according to the date of legislative action, -- Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Delaware, Georgia, New York, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland.]

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Farrand's Records				
Item	State	Date of Legislative Action	Credentials	Report Direction

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<sup>4</sup> <http://research.archives.gov/organization/1107030>

9	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	17861016	<p>... to a <b>Convention</b> proposed to be held... <b>Commissioners</b> who assembled at Annapolis on the fourteenth day of September last ... have represented the necessity of extending the revision of the federal System to all it's defects and have recommended that Deputies for that purpose be appointed by the several Legislatures to meet in <b>Convention</b> ...</p> <p>Commission issued 17861204</p>	<p>Call by-passes Congress (a provision which was preferable to a discussion of the subject in Congress where it might be too much interrupted by the ordinary business before them and where it would besides be deprived of the valuable Counsels of sundry Individuals who are disqualified by the Constitution or Laws of particular States or restrained by peculiar circumstances from a Seat in that Assembly ...)</p>
8	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	17861123	<p>for the purpose of taking into Consideration the state of the Union, as to trade and other important objects, and of devising such other Provisions as shall appear to be necessary to render the Constitution of the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies thereof.</p>	
2	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	17861230	<p>devising, deliberating on, and discussing, all such alterations and further Provisions, as may be necessary to render the federal Constitution fully adequate to the exigencies of the Union</p>	<p>... reporting such Act or Acts for that purpose to the United States in Congress Assembled, as when agreed to by them and duly confirmed by the several States, will effectually provide</p>

				for the same.
5	<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	178701xx	... for the purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution.  Commission issued 17870224	
6	<a href="#">New Hampshire</a>	17870117	to join with them in devising & discussing all such alterations & further provisions as to render the federal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union & in reporting such an Act to the United States in Congress, as when agreed to by them, & duly confirmed by the several States, will effectually provide for the same,	
4	<a href="#">Delaware</a>	17870203	Whereas the General Assembly of this State are fully convinced of the Necessity of revising the Federal Constitution, and adding thereto such further Provisions, as may render the same more adequate to the Exigencies of the Union;	
3	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	17870210	to join with them in devising and discussing all such Alterations and farther Provisions as may be necessary to render the Federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of the Union, and in reporting such an Act for that purpose to the United States in Congress Assembled as when agreed to by them, and duty confirmed by the several States, will effectually provide for the same.	
	<a href="#">Congress</a>	17870221	"that in the opinion of Congress it is expedient that on the second Monday in May next a <b>Convention</b> of Delegates who shall have been appointed by the several States to be held at <b>Philadelphia</b> for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and reporting to Congress and the several Legislatures, such alterations and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the States render the federal	

			Constitution adequate to the exigencies of government and the preservation of the Union."	
12	<a href="#">New York</a>	17870228	for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation, and reporting to Congress, and to the several Legislatures, such alterations and provisions therein, as shall, when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the several States, render the federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government, and the preservation of the Union.	Note 7 asserts that the New York resolution was influenced by the Resolution of Congress.  Congress resolution passed Feb 21, 1787. Was it transmitted to New York in 7 days? <sup>5,6,7</sup> Both were meeting in New York City so it is likely that the New York Legislature was aware of Congress's resolution.
7	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	17870308	... as may be thought necessary to render the Foederal Constitution entirely adequate to the actual Situation and future good Government of the confederated States, ...  Commission dated 17870410	
1	<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	17870310	Congress Resolution	

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.usahistory.info/colonial/newspapers.html> "Not until 1766 was there a regular line of stagecoaches between [New York](#) and Philadelphia. The journey was then made in three days; but ten years later a new stage, called the "flying machine," was started, and it made the trip in two days.

<sup>6</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress\\_of\\_the\\_Confederation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_the_Confederation) "Congress of the Confederation...[met in] in New York City, New York (January 11, 1785 to Autumn 1788)."

<sup>7</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9th\\_New\\_York\\_State\\_Legislature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9th_New_York_State_Legislature) "The **9th New York State Legislature**, consisting of the [New York State Senate](#) and the [New York State Assembly](#), met from January 12 to May 5, 1786, during the ninth year of [George Clinton's](#) [governorship](#), at the Old Royal Exchange in [New York City](#)."

10	<a href="#">Connecticut</a>	178705xx  2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of May 1787 i.e. 17870510	Act of Congress 17870221	
11	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	17870526	for the purpose of revising the Foederal System, and to join with them in considering such Alterations and further Provisions as may be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union	reporting such an Act for that purpose to the United States in Congress Assembled as when agreed to by them, and duly confirmed by the several States will effectually provide for the same
13	<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	declined	Letter form Gentlemen of Rhode Island	

## Commissions

### Virginia General Assembly Commissioning Delegates to the Philadelphia Convention

**December 01, 1786**

An Act for appointing Deputies from this Commonwealth to a Convention proposed to be held in the City of Philadelphia in May next for the purpose of revising the federal Constitution.

Whereas the Commissioners who assembled at Annapolis on the fourteenth day of September last for the purpose of devising and reporting the means of enabling Congress to provide effectually for the Commercial Interests of the United States have represented the necessity of extending the revision of the foederal System to all it's defects and have recommended that Deputies for that purpose be appointed by the several Legislatures to meet in Convention in the City of Philadelphia on the second day of May next a provision which was preferable to a

discussion of the subject in Congress where it might be too much interrupted by the ordinary business before them and where it would besides be deprived of the valuable Counsels of sundry Individuals who are disqualified by the Constitution or Laws of particular States or restrained by peculiar circumstances from a Seat in that Assembly: And Whereas the General Assembly of this Commonwealth taking into view the actual situation of the Confederacy as well as reflecting on the alarming representations made from time to time by the United States in Congress particularly in their Act of the fifteenth day of February last can no longer doubt that the Crisis is arrived at which the good People of America are to decide the solemn question whether they will by wise and magnanimous Efforts reap the just fruits of that Independence which they have so gloriously acquired and of that Union which they have cemented with so much of their common Blood, or whether by giving way to unmanly Jealousies and Prejudices or to partial and transitory Interests they will renounce the auspicious blessings prepared for them by the Revolution, and furnish to its Enemies an eventual Triumph over those by whose virtue and valor it has been accomplished: And Whereas the same noble and extended policy and the same fraternal and affectionate Sentiments which originally determined the Citizens of this Commonwealth to unite with their Bretheren of the other States in establishing a Foederal Government cannot but be Felt with equal force now as motives to lay aside every inferior consideration and to concur in such farther concessions and Provisions as may be necessary to secure the great Objects for which that Government was instituted and to render the *United States* as happy in peace as they have been glorious in War Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia that seven Commissioners be appointed by joint Ballot of both Houses of Assembly who or any three of them are hereby authorized as Deputies from this Commonwealth to meet such Deputies as may be appointed and authorized by other States to assemble in Convention at Philadelphia as above recommended and to join with them in devising and discussing all such Alterations and farther Provisions as may be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union and in reporting such an Act for that purpose to the United States in Congress as when agreed to by them and duly confirmed by the several States will effectually provide for the same. And be it further enacted that in case of the death of any of the said Deputies or of their declining their appointments the Executive are hereby authorized to supply such Vacancies. And the Governor is requested to transmit forthwith a Copy of this Act to the United States in Congress and to the Executives of each of the States in the Union.

[A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875](#)

[Farrand's Records](#) --CREDENTIALS

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## MASSACHUSETTS

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?hlaw:2:./temp/~ammem\\_MI8w::@@@mdb=mcc,nfor,aap,bbpix,cowellbib,calbkbib,consvrbib,bdsbib,gmd,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,nawbib,mgw,musdibib,hlaw,papr,lhbumbib,rbpebib,lbcoll,alad,aaodysey,dcm,raelbib,runyon,lomaxbib,mtj,gottlieb,aep,coolbib,fpnas,relpet,amss,mff,afc911bib,mjm,mnwp,rbcmillerbib,molden,ww2map,mfdipbib,afcnyebib,klpmap,rbaapcbib,mal,ncpm,lhbprbib,flwpabib,psbib,pin,cola,curt,mharendt,lhbcbbib,mesnib,lstbib,fawbib,berl,fmuever,cic,afcppearl,awh,awhbib,sgp,lhbtnbib,afcesnbib,spaldingbib,sgproto,scsmbib](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?hlaw:2:./temp/~ammem_MI8w::@@@mdb=mcc,nfor,aap,bbpix,cowellbib,calbkbib,consvrbib,bdsbib,gmd,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,nawbib,mgw,musdibib,hlaw,papr,lhbumbib,rbpebib,lbcoll,alad,aaodysey,dcm,raelbib,runyon,lomaxbib,mtj,gottlieb,aep,coolbib,fpnas,relpet,amss,mff,afc911bib,mjm,mnwp,rbcmillerbib,molden,ww2map,mfdipbib,afcnyebib,klpmap,rbaapcbib,mal,ncpm,lhbprbib,flwpabib,psbib,pin,cola,curt,mharendt,lhbcbbib,mesnib,lstbib,fawbib,berl,fmuever,cic,afcppearl,awh,awhbib,sgp,lhbtnbib,afcesnbib,spaldingbib,sgproto,scsmbib)

### The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3] MASSACHUSETTS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(Seal Appendt.) By His Excellency James Bowdoin Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To the Honorable Francis Dana, Elbridge Gerry, Nathaniel Gorham, Rufus King and Caleb Strong Esquires. Greeting.

Whereas Congress did on the twenty first day of February Ao Di **1787**, Resolve "that in the opinion of Congress it is expedient that on the second Monday in May next a **Convention** of Delegates who shall have been appointed by the several States to be held at **Philadelphia** for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and reporting to Congress and the several Legislatures, such alterations and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the States render the federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of government and the preservation of the Union." And Whereas the General Court have constituted and appointed you their Delegates to attend and represent this Commonwealth in the said proposed **Convention**; and have by a Resolution of theirs of the tenth of March last, requested me to **Commission** you for that purpose.

Now therefore Know Ye, that in pursuance of the resolutions aforesaid, I do by these presents, **commission** you the said Francis Dana, Elbridge Gerry Nathaniel Gorham, Rufus King & Caleb Strong Esquires or any three of you to meet such Delegates as may be appointed by the other or any of the other States in the Union to meet in **Convention** at **Philadelphia** at the time and for the purposes aforesaid.

In Testimony whereof I have caused the Public Seal of the Commonwealth aforesaid to be hereunto affixed.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston the Ninth day of

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April Ao Dom. **1787** and in the Eleventh Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

James Bowdoin.

By His Excellency's Command

John Avery Junr., Secretary

## PENNSYLVANIA

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?hlaw:9:./temp/~ammem\\_MI8w::@@@mdb=mcc,nfor,aap,bbpix,cowellbib,calkbib,consvrbib,bdsbib,gmd,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,nawbib,mgw,musdibib,hlaw,papr,lhbumbib,rpebib,lbcoll,alad,aaodyssey,dcm,raelbib,runyon,lomaxbib,mtj,gottlieb,aep,coolbib,fpnas,relpet,amss,mff,afc911bib,mjm,mnwp,rbcmillerbib,molden,ww2map,mfdipbib,afcnycbib,klpmap,rbaapcbib,mal,nepm,lhbprbib,flwpabib,psbib,pin,cola,curt,mharendt,lhbcbbib,mesnbib,llstbib,fawbib,berl,fmuever,cic,afcppearl,awh,awhbib,sgp,lhbtabib,afcesnbib,spaldingbib,sgproto,scsmbib](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?hlaw:9:./temp/~ammem_MI8w::@@@mdb=mcc,nfor,aap,bbpix,cowellbib,calbkbib,consvrbib,bdsbib,gmd,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,nawbib,mgw,musdibib,hlaw,papr,lhbumbib,rpebib,lbcoll,alad,aaodyssey,dcm,raelbib,runyon,lomaxbib,mtj,gottlieb,aep,coolbib,fpnas,relpet,amss,mff,afc911bib,mjm,mnwp,rbcmillerbib,molden,ww2map,mfdipbib,afcnycbib,klpmap,rbaapcbib,mal,nepm,lhbprbib,flwpabib,psbib,pin,cola,curt,mharendt,lhbcbbib,mesnbib,llstbib,fawbib,berl,fmuever,cic,afcppearl,awh,awhbib,sgp,lhbtabib,afcesnbib,spaldingbib,sgproto,scsmbib)

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### The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3] PENNSYLVANIA

Pensylvania

An Act appointing Deputies to the **Convention** intended to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** for the purpose of revising the foederal Constitution.

Section 1st Whereas the General Assembly of this Commonwealth taking into their serious Consideration the Representations heretofore made to the Legislatures of the several States in the Union by the United States in Congress Assembled, and also weighing the difficulties under

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which the Confederated States now labour, are fully convinced of the necessity of revising the federal Constitution for the purpose of making such Alterations and amendments as the exigencies of our Public Affairs require. And Whereas the Legislature of the State of Virginia have already passed an Act of that Commonwealth empowering certain **Commissioners** to meet at the City of **Philadelphia** in May next, a **Convention** of **Commissioners** or Deputies from the different States; And the Legislature of this State are fully sensible of the important advantages which may be derived to the United States, and every of them from co-operating with the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the other States of the Confederation in the said Design.

Section 2nd Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the Authority of the same, That Thomas Mifflin, Robert Morris, George Clymer, Jared Ingersoll, Thomas Fitzsimmons, James Wilson and Gouverneur Morris Esquires, are hereby appointed Deputies from this State to meet in the **Convention** of the Deputies of the respective States of North America to be held at the City of **Philadelphia** on the second day of the Month of May next; And the said Thomas Mifflin, Robert Morris, George Clymer, Jared Ingersoll, Thomas Fitzsimmons, James Wilson and Gouverneur Morris Esquires, or any four of them, are hereby constituted and appointed Deputies from this State, with Powers to meet such Deputies as may be appointed and authorized by the other States, to assemble in the said **Convention** at the City aforesaid, and to join with them in devising, deliberating on, and discussing, all such alterations and further Provisions, as may be necessary to

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render the foederal Constitution fully adequate to the exigencies of the Union, and in reporting such Act or Acts for that purpose to the United States in Congress Assembled, as when agreed to by them and duly confirmed by the several States, will effectually provide for the same.

Section 3d And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any of the sd Deputies hereby nominated, shall happen to die, or to resign his or their said Appointment or Appointments, the Supreme Executive Council shall be and hereby are empowered and required, to nominate and appoint other Person or Persons in lieu of him or them so deceased, or who has or have so resigned, which Person or Persons, from and after such Nomination and Appointment, shall be and hereby are declared to be vested with the same Powers respectively, as any of the Deputies Nominated and Appointed by this Act, is vested with by the same: Provided Always; that the Council are not hereby authorised, nor shall they make any such Nomination or Appointment, except in Vacation and during the Recess of the General Assembly of this State.

Signed by Order of the House

Seal of the Laws of Pennsylvania

Thomas Mifflin Speaker

Enacted into a Law at **Philadelphia** on Saturday December the thirtieth in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty six.

Peter Zachary Lloyd  
Clerk of the General Assembly.

I Mathew Irwin Esquire Master of the Rolls for the State of Pensylvania Do Certify the Preceding Writing to be a true Copy (or Exemplification) of a certain Act of Assembly lodged in my Office.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand  
(Seal)and Seal of Office the 15 May A.D. **1787**.

Mathw. Irwine  
M. R.

(Seal)A Supplement to the Act entitled "An Act appointing Deputies to the **Convention** intended to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** for the purpose of revising the Federal Constitution.

Section 1st Whereas by the Act to which this Act is a Supplement, certain Persons were appointed as Deputies from this State to sit in the said **Convention**: And Whereas it is the desire of the General

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Assembly that His Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esquire, President of this State should also sit in the said **Convention** as a Deputy from this State -- therefore

Section 2d Be it enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pensylvania, in General Assembly met, and by the Authority of the same, that His Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esquire, be, and he is hereby, appointed and authorised to sit in the said **Convention** as a Deputy from this State in addition to the Persons heretofore appointed; And that he be, and he hereby is invested with like Powers and authorities as are invested in the said Deputies or any of them.

Signed by Order of the House  
Thomas Mifflin Speaker.

Enacted into a Law at **Philadelphia** on Wednesday the twenty eighth day of March, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & eighty seven.

Peter Zachary Lloyd  
Clerk of the General Assembly.

I Mathew Irwine Esquire, Master of the Rolls for the State of Pennsylvania Do Certify the above to be a true Copy (or Exemplification) of a Supplement to a certain Act of Assembly which Supplement is lodged in my Office

(Seal)In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal of Office the 15 May Ao D.  
**1787.**

Mathw Irwine  
M.R.

## GEORGIA

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## The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3] GEORGIA

Georgia

By the Honorable George Mathews Esquire, Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over the said State aforesaid.

To all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting.

Know Ye that John Milton Esquire, who hath Certified the annexed Copy of an Ordinance intituled "An Ordinance for" the appointment of Deputies from this State for the purpose "of revising the Foelig;deral Constitution" -- is Secretary of the said State in whose Office the

Archives of the same are deposited. Therefore all due faith, Credit and Authority are and ought to be had and given the same.

In Testomony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the said State to be put and affixed at Augusta, this Twenty fourth day of April in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty seven and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Eleventh.

Geo: (Seal) Mathews

By his Honor's Command

J. Milton Secy

An Ordinance for the appointment of Deputies from this State for the purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution.

Be it Ordained by the Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met and by the Authority of the same, that William Few, Abraham Baldwin, Williams Pierce, George Walton William Houstoun and Nathaniel Pendleton Esquires, Be, and they are hereby appointed **Commissioners**

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who, or any two or more of them are hereby authorized as Deputies from this State to meet such deputies as may be appointed and authorized by other States to assemble in **Convention at Philadelphia** and to join with them in devising and discussing all such Alterations and farther Provisions as may be necessary to render the Federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of the Union, and in reporting such an Act for that purpose to the United States in Congress Assembled as when agreed to by them, and duty confirmed by the several States, will effectually provide for the same. In case of the death of any of the said Deputies, or of their declining their appointments, the Executive are hereby authorized to supply such Vacancies.

By Order of the House

(signed) Wm Gibbons Speaker.

Augusta the 10 February **1787**.

Georgia.

Secretary's Office

The above is a true Copy from the Original Ordinance deposited in my Office.

Augusta 24 April 1787

J: Milton Secy.

The State of Georgia by the grace of God, free, Sovereign and Independent.

To the Honorable William Pierce Esquire.

Whereas you the said William Pierce, are in and by an Ordinance of the General Assembly of our said State Nominated and Appointed a Deputy to represent the same in a **Convention** of the United States to be assembled at **Philadelphia**, for the Purposes of devising and discussing all such Alterations and farther Provisions as may be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union.

You are therefore hereby **Commissioned** to proceed on the duties required of you in virtue of the said Ordinance

Witness our trusty and well beloved George Mathews Esquire, our Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief, under his hand and our Great Seal at Augusta this Seventeenth day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Eleventh.

Geo: Mathews (Seal.)

By His Honor's Command.

J. Milton. Secy.

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The State of Georgia by the grace of God free, Sovereign and Independent.

To the Honorable William Few Esquire.

Whereas you the said William Few, are in and by an Ordinance of the General Assembly of our said State Nominated and appointed a Deputy to represent the same in a **Convention** of the United States to be assembled at **Philadelphia**, for the Purposes of devising and discussing all such Alterations and farther Provisions as may be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union.

You are therefore hereby **Commissioned** to proceed on the duties required of you in virtue of the said Ordinance.

Witness our trusty and well-beloved George Mathews Esquire our Captain-General, Governor and Commander in Chief, under his hand and our Great Seal at Augusta, this seventeenth day of April in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty Seven, and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Eleventh.

Geo: (Seal.) Mathews.

By His Honor's Command

J. Milton Secy

The State of Georgia by the grace of God, free, Sovereign and Independent.

To the Honorable William Houstoun Esquire

Whereas you the said William Houstoun, are in and by an Ordinance of the General Assembly of our said State nominated and appointed a Deputy to represent the same in a **Convention** of the United States to be assembled at **Philadelphia**, for the purposes of devising and discussing all such Alterations and farther Provisions as may be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union.

You are therefore hereby **Commissioned** to proceed on the Duties required of you in virtue of the said Ordinance.

Witness our trusty and well-beloved George Mathews Esquire, our Captain-General, Governor and Commander in Chief, under his hand and our Great Seal at Augusta, this seventeenth day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven, and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Eleventh.

Geo: (Seal.) Mathews

By his Honor's Command

J. Milton Secy

## DELAWARE

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**The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3]**  
**DELAWARE**

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Delaware

His Excellency Thomas Collins, Esquire, President, Captain General, and Commander in Chief of the Delaware State; To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting. Know Ye, that among the Laws of the said State, passed by the General Assembly of the same, on the third day of February, (Seal) in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven, it is thus inrolled.

In the Eleventh Year of the Independence of the Delaware State

An Act appointing Deputies from this State to the **Convention** proposed to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** for the Purpose of revising the Federal Constitution.

Whereas the General Assembly of this State are fully convinced of the Necessity of revising the Federal Constitution, and adding thereto such further Provisions, as may render the same more adequate to the Exigencies of the Union; And Whereas the Legislature of Virginia have already passed an Act of that Commonwealth, appointing and authorizing certain **Commissioners** to meet, at the City of **Philadelphia**, in May next, a **Convention** of **Commissioners** or Deputies from the different States: And this State being willing and desirous of co-operating with the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the other States in the Confederation, in so useful a design.

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of Delaware, that George Read, Gunning Bedford, John Dickinson, Robert Bassett and Jacob Broom, Esquires, are hereby appointed Deputies from this State to meet in the **Convention** of the Deputies of other States, to be held at the City of **Philadelphia** on the Second day of May next: And the said George Read, Gunning Bedford, John Dickinson, Richard Bassett and Jacob Broom, Esquires, or any three of them, are hereby constituted and appointed Deputies from this State, with Powers to meet such Deputies as may be appointed and authorized by the other States to assemble in the said **Convention** at the City aforesaid, and to join with them in devising, deliberating on, and discussing, such Alterations and further Provisions as may be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution

adequate to the Exigencies of the Union; and in reporting such Act or Acts for that purpose to the United States in Congress Assembled, as when agreed to by them, and duly confirmed by the several States, may effectually provide for the same: So always and Provided, that such Alterations or further Provisions, or any of them, do not extend to that part of the Fifth Article of the Confederation of the said States, finally

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ratified on the first day of March, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and eighty one, which declares that "In determining Questions "in the United States in Congress Assembled each State shall Mr. Dayton (the Speaker) commenced his observations with declaring that he should not have risen on this occasion, if no allusion had been made to the proceedings in the Federal **Convention** which framed the Constitution of the United States, or if the representation which was given of what passed in that body, had been a perfectly correct and candid one. He expressed his surprise at what had fallen from the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Baldwin) relatively to that part of the Constitution, which had been selected as the text of opposition to the bill under consideration, viz: The migration "have one Vote."<sup>6</sup>

[Note : a George Read to John Dickinson.<sup>a</sup>

[Note a: a W. T. Read, Life and Correspondence of George Read, pp. 438--439.]

New Castle, January 17th, **1787**.

Dear Sir, -- Finding that Virginia hath again taken the lead in the proposed **convention** at **Philadelphia** in May, as recommended in our report when at Annapolis, as by an act of their Assembly, passed the 22d of November last, and inserted in Dunlap's paper of the 15th of last month, it occurred to me, as a prudent measure on the part of our State, that its Legislature should, in the act of appointment, so far restrain the powers of the **commissioners**, whom they shall name on this service, as that they may not extend to any alteration in that part of the fifth article of the present Confederation, which gives each State one vote in determining questions in Congress, and the latter part of the thirteenth article, as to future alterations, -- that is, that such clause shall be preserved or inserted, for the like purpose, in any revision that shall be made and agreed to in the proposed **convention**. I conceive our existence as a State will depend upon our preserving such rights, for I consider the acts of Congress hitherto, as to the ungranted lands in most of the larger States, as sacrificing the just claims of the smaller and bounded States to a proportional share therein, for the purpose of discharging the national debt incurred during the war; and such is my jealousy of most of the larger States, that I would trust nothing to their candor, generosity, or ideas of public justice in behalf of this State, from what has heretofore happened, and which, I presume, hath not escaped your notice. But as I am generally distrustful of my own judgment, and particularly in public matters of consequence, I wish your consideration of the prudence or propriety of the Legislature's adopting such a measure, and more particularly for that I do suppose you will be one of its **commissioners**. Persuaded I am, from what I have seen occasionally in the public prints and heard in private conversations, that the voice of the States will be one of the subjects of revision, and in a meeting where there will be so great an interested majority, I suspect the argument or oratory of the smaller State **commissioners** will avail little. In such circumstances I conceive it will relieve the **commissioners** of the State from disagreeable argumentation, as well as prevent the downfall of the State, which

## Notes & Sources

would at once become a cypher in the union, and have no chance of an accession of district, or even citizens; for, as we presently stand, our quota is increased upon us, in the requisition of this year, more than thirteen-eightieths since 1775, without any other reason that I can suggest than a promptness in the Legislature of this State to comply with all the Congress requisitions from time to time. This increase alone, without addition, would in the course of a few years banish many of its citizens and impoverish the remainder; therefore, clear I am that every guard that can be devised for this State's protection against future encroachment should be preserved or made. I wish your opinion on the subject as soon as convenient.]

And be it enacted, that in Case any of the said Deputies hereby nominated, shall happen to die, or to resign his or their Appointment, the President or Commander in Chief with the Advice of the Privy Council, in the Recess of the General Assembly, is hereby authorized to supply such Vacancies

Passed at Dover, February 3d. **1787**. Signed by Order of the House of Assembly  
John Cook, Speaker

Signed by Order of the Council  
Geo Craghead, Speaker.

All and singular which Premises by the Tenor of these Presents, I have caused to be Exemplified. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my Name, and caused the Great-Seal of the said State to be affixed to these Presents, at New Castle the Second day of April in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty seven, and in the Eleventh Year of the Independence of the United States of America

Thos Collins

Attest  
Ja Booth Secy.

## NORTH CAROLINA

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**The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3]  
NORTH CAROLINA**

The State of North Carolina

To the Honorable Alexander Martin Esquire, Greeting.

Whereas our General Assembly, in their late session holden at Fayette-ville, by adjournment, in the Month of January last, did by joint ballot of the Senate and House of Commons, elect Richard Caswell, Alexander Martin, William Richardson Davie, Richard Dobbs Spaight, and Willie Jones, Esquires, Deputies to attend a **Convention** of Delegates from the several United States of America, proposed to be held at the City of **Philadelphia** in May next for the purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution.

We do therefore by these Presents, nominate, Commissionate and appoint you the said Alexander Martin, one of the Deputies for and in our behalf to meet with our other Deputies at **Philadelphia** on the first day of May next and with them or any two of them to

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confer with such Deputies as may have been or shall be appointed by the other States, for the purpose aforesaid: To hold, exercise and enjoy the appointment aforesaid, with all Powers, Authorities and Emoluments to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining,<sup>4</sup> You conforming, in every instance, to the Act of our said Assembly under which you are appointed.

[Note 4: 4 "The Assembly have directed the same allowance to be made the Deputies as is granted to the Delegates to Congress to be paid by the Governor's Warrant on the Collectors of Imports out of the monies now due for Goods Imported." (Governor Caswell to each Delegate, January 7, **1787**, North Carolina State Records, XX, 600.)]

Witness Richard Caswell Esquire, our Governor, Captain-General and Commander in Chief, under his Hand and our Great Seal at Kinston the 24th day of February in the XI Year of our Independence

Ricd (Seal) Caswell.

Ao Di **1787**.

By His Excellency's

Command.

Winston Caswell P. Secy

The State of North-Carolina

To the Honorable William Richardson Davie Esquire Greeting.

Whereas our General Assembly in their late session holden at Fayette-ville, by adjournment, in the Month of January last, did by joint-ballot of the Senate and House of Commons, elect Richard Caswell, Alexander Martin, William Richardson Davie, Richard Dobbs Spaight & Willie Jones Esquires, Deputies to attend a **Convention** of Delegates from the several United States of America proposed to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** in May next for the purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution.

We do therefore, by these Presents, nominate Commissionate and appoint you the said William Richardson Davie one of the Deputies for and in our behalf to meet with our other Deputies at **Philadelphia** on the first day of May next and with them or any two of them to confer with such Deputies as may have been or shall be appointed by the other States for the Purposes aforesaid To hold, exercise and enjoy the said appointment with all Powers authorities and emoluments to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining, You conforming, in every instance, to the Act of our said Assembly under which you are appointed.

Witness Richard Caswell Esquire, our Governor, General and Commander in Chief under his Hand and our

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Captain-Great Seal at Kinston the 24th day of February in the XI. Year of our Independence, Anno. Dom. **1787**:

Rd (Seal.) Caswell

By His Excellency's Command

Winston Caswell P. Secy.

The State of North-carolina

To the Honorable Richard Dobbs Spaight Esquire, Greeting.

Whereas our General Assembly in their late session holden at Fayette-ville, by adjournment, in the month of January last, did elect you the said Richard Dobbs Spaight with Richard Caswell, Alexander Martin, William Richardson Davie, and Willie Jones Esquires, Deputies to attend a

**Convention** of Delegates from the several United States of America proposed to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** in May next, for the purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution.

We do therefore by these Presents nominate, Commissionate and appoint you the said Richard Dobbs Spaight one of the Deputies for and in behalf of us to meet with our other Deputies at **Philadelphia** on the first day of May next and with them or any two of them to confer with such Deputies as may have been or shall be appointed by the other States for the purpose aforesaid. To hold, exercise and enjoy the said Appointment with all Powers, Authorities and Emoluments to the same incident and belonging or in any wise appertaining. You conforming in every instance, to the Act of our said Assembly under which you are appointed.

Witness Richard Caswell Esquire, our Governor General and Commander in Chief under his Hand and our Captain-Great Seal at Kinston the 14th day of April in the XIth Year of our Independence Anno. Dom. **1787**.

Rd. (Seal) Caswell.

By His Excellency's Command

Winston Caswell P. Secy

State of North-Carolina

His Excellency Richard Caswell Esquire Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the State aforesaid.

To all to whom these Presents shall come

Greeting.

Whereas by an Act of the General Assembly of the said State passed the sixth day of January last, entitled "An Act for appointing Deputies from this State, to a **Convention** proposed to be held

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in the City of **Philadelphia** in May next, for the purpose of Revising the Foederal Constitution" among other things it is Enacted "That five **Commissioners** be appointed by joint-ballot of both Houses of Assembly who, or any three of them, are hereby authorized as Deputies from this State to meet at **Philadelphia** on the first day of May next, then and there to meet and confer with such Deputies as may be appointed by the other States for similar purposes, and with them to discuss and decide upon the most effectual means to remove the defects of our Foederal Union, and to procure the enlarged Purposes which it was intended to effect, and that they report such an Act to the General Assembly of this State as when agreed to by them, will effectually

provide for the same." And it is by the said Act, further Enacted, "That in case of the death or resignation of any of the Deputies or of their declining their Appointments, His Excellency the Governor for the Time being, is hereby authorized to supply such Vacancies." And Whereas, in consequence of the said Act, Richard Caswell, Alexander Martin, William Richardson Davie, Richard Dobbs Spaight and Willie Jones Esquires, were by joint-ballot of the two Houses of Assembly, elected Deputies for the purposes aforesaid: And Whereas the said Richard Caswell hath resigned his said Appointment as one of the Deputies aforesaid.

Now Know Ye that I have appointed and by these Presents do appoint the Honorable Williams Blount Esquire, one of the Deputies to represent this State in the **Convention** aforesaid, in the room and stead of the aforesaid Richard Caswell, hereby giving and granting to the said Williams Blount the same Powers, Privileges and Emoluments which the said Richard Caswell would have been vested with or entitled to, had he continued in the Appointment aforesaid.

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State, at Kinston, the 23d day of April Anno Dom **1787**. And in the Eleventh Year of American Independence.

Rid. (Seal) Caswell.

By His Excellency's Command

Winston Caswell P. Secy

State of North-Carolina

His Excellency Richard Caswell Esquire, Governor, Captain-General and Commander in Chief, in and over the State aforesaid.

To all to whom these Presents shall come

Greeting.

Whereas by an Act of the General Assembly of the said State,

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passed the sixth day of January last, entitled "An Act for appointing Deputies from this State, to a **Convention** proposed to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** in May next for the purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution" among other things it is enacted "That five **Commissioners** be appointed by joint-ballot of both Houses of Assembly, who, or any three of whom, are hereby authorized as Deputies from this State, to meet at **Philadelphia** on the first day of May next, then and there to meet and confer with such Deputies as may be appointed by the other States for similar purposes and with them to discuss and decide upon the most effectual means to remove the defects of our Foederal Union, and to procure the enlarged purposes, which it was intended to

effect, and that they report such an Act to the General Assembly of this State, as when agreed to by them, will effectually provide for the same." And it is by the said Act, further enacted "That in case of the death or resignation of any of the Deputies, or their declining their Appointments His Excellency the Governor for the Time being is hereby authorized to supply such Vacancies."

And Whereas in consequence of the said Act Richard Caswell, Alexander Martin, William Richardson Davie, Richard Dobbs Spaight and Willie Jones Esquires, were by joint-ballot of ye two Houses of Assembly elected Deputies for the purposes aforesaid. And Whereas the said Willie Jones hath declined his Appointment as one of the Deputies aforesaid

Now know Ye that I have appointed and by these Presents do appoint the Honorable Hugh Williamson Esquire, one of the Deputies to represent this State in the **Convention** aforesaid in the room and stead of the aforesaid Willie Jones, hereby giving and granting to the said Hugh Williamson the same Powers, Privileges and emoluments which the said Willie Jones would have been vested with and entitled to had he acted under the Appointment aforesaid.

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State at Kinston the third day of April Anno Dom. **1787**. and in the Eleventh Year of American Independence

Rid (Seal) Caswell.

By His Excellency's Command

Dallam Caswell Pro  
Secretary

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

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[Farrand's Records](#) --NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3]  
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

State of New Hampshire

In the House of Representatives

Jany 17th 1787 --

Resolved, that any two of the Delegates of this State to the Congress of the United States, be & hereby are appointed and authorized

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as Deputies from this State, to meet such Deputies as may be appointed & authorized by other States in the Union, to assemble in **Convention** at **Philadelphia** on the second day of May next, and to join with them in devising & discussing all such alterations & further provisions as to render the federal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union & in reporting such an Act to the United States in Congress, as when agreed to by them, & duly confirmed by the several States, will effectually provide for the same, But in case of the Death of any of said Deputies, or their declining their Appointments, the Executive is hereby authorized to supply such vacancies, and the President is requested to transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolve to the United States in Congress and to the Executive of each of the States in the Union. --

Sent up for Concurrence

John Langdon Speaker

In Senate the same day read & concurred with this Amendment that the said Delegates shall proceed to join the **Convention** aforesaid, in case Congress shall signify to them, that they approve of the **Convention**, as advantageous to the Union and not an infringement of the Powers granted to Congress by the Confederation.

Jno Sullivan President

In the House of Representatives the same day read & concurred

John Langdon Speaker

A true Copy

Attest Joseph Pearson Secy

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State of New Hampshire<sup>5</sup>

[Note 5: 5 No action was taken under the previous resolution, and a further act became necessary.

"The representations of this State, even at that late day, were secured only by urgent efforts from abroad and extraordinary efforts at home. The finances of the State were in a deplorable condition and it is impossible to realize at the present time what the undertaking was to provide cash for any considerable public enterprise. It was currently reported in the newspapers of the day that the expenses of Mr. Gillman and himself were defrayed out of Mr. Langdon's private purse." New Hampshire State Papers, XX, 842, citing 2 New Hampshire Historical Society Proceedings, 28.]

In the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven.

An Act for appointing Deputies from this State to the **Convention**, proposed to be holden in the City of **Philadelphia** in May **1787** for the purpose of revising the federal Constitution

Whereas in the formation of the federal Compact, which frames the bond of Union of the American States, it was not possible in

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the infant state of our Republic to devise a system which in the course of time and experience, would not manifest imperfections that it would be necessary to reform.

And Whereas the limited powers, which by the Articles of Confederation, are vested in the Congress of the United States, have been found far inadequate, to the enlarged purposes which they were intended to produce. And Whereas Congress hath, by repeated and most urgent representations, endeavoured to awaken this, and other States of the Union, to a sense of the truly critical and alarming situation in which they may inevitably be involved, unless timely measures be taken to enlarge the powers of Congress, that they may be thereby enabled to avert the dangers which threaten our existence as a free and independent People. And Whereas this State hath been ever desirous to act upon the liberal system of the general good of the United States, without circumscribing its views, to the narrow and selfish objects of partial convenience; and has been at all times ready to make every concession to the safety and happiness of the whole, which justice and sound policy could vindicate.

Be it therefore enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened that John Langdon, John Pickering, Nicholas Gilman & Benjamin West Esquires be and hereby are appointed **Commissioners**, they or any two of them, are hereby authorized, and empowered, as Deputies from this State to meet at **Philadelphia** said **Convention** or any other place, to which the **Convention** may be adjourned, for the purposes aforesaid, there to confer with such Deputies, as are, or may be appointed by the other States for similar purposes; and with them to discuss and decide upon the most effectual means to remedy the defects of our federal Union; and to procure, and secure, the enlarged purposes which it was intended to effect, and to report such an Act, to the United States in Congress, as when agreed to by them, and duly confirmed by the several States, will effectually provide for the same.

Notes & Sources

State of New Hampshire

In the House of Representatives June 27th **1787**.

The foregoing Bill having been read a third time, Voted that it pass to be enacted.

Sent up for Concurrence

John Sparhawk Speaker

In Senate, the same day -- This Bill having been read a third time, -- Voted that the same be enacted.

Jno Sullivan President.

Copy Examined

Pr Joseph Pearson Secy. (Seal appendt.)

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

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**Farrand's Records --SOUTH CAROLINA**

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**The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3]  
SOUTH CAROLINA**

State of South Carolina.

By His Excellency Thomas Pinckney Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State aforesaid.

To the Honorable John Rutledge Esquire

Greeting.

By Virtue of the Power and Authority in me vested by the Legislature of this State in their Act passed the eighth day of March last I do hereby **Commission** You the said John Rutledge as one of the Deputies appointed from this State to meet such Deputies or **Commissioners** as may be appointed and authorized by other of the United States to assemble in **Convention** at the City of **Philadelphia** in the Month of May next, or as soon thereafter as may be, and to join with such Deputies or **Commissioners** (they being duly authorized and empowered) in devising and discussing all such Alterations, Clauses, Articles and Provisions, as may be thought necessary to render the Foederal Constitution entirely adequate to the actual Situation and future good Government of the confederated States, and that you together with the said Deputies or **Commissioners** or a Majority of them who shall be present (provided the State be not represented by less than two) do join in reporting such an Act, to the United States in Congress Assembled as when approved and agreed to by them, and duly ratified and confirmed by the several States will effectually provide for the Exigencies of the Union.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State in the City of Charleston, this tenth day of April in the Year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and eighty seven and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America the Eleventh.

Thomas (Seal.) Pinckney.

By his Excellency's Command

Peter Freneau Secretary

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State of South Carolina

By His Excellency Thomas Pinckney Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State aforesaid.

To the Honorable Charles Pinckney Esquire.

Greeting.

By Virtue of the Power and Authority in me vested by the Legislature of this State in their Act passed the eighth day of March last, I do hereby **Commission** you the said Charles Pinckney, as

one of the Deputies appointed from this State to meet such Deputies or **Commissioners** as may be appointed and authorized by other of the United States to assemble in **Convention** at the City of **Philadelphia** in the Month of May next, or as soon thereafter as may be, and to join with such Deputies or **Commissioners** (they being duly authorized and empowered) in devising and discussing all such Alterations, Clauses, Articles and Provisions, as may be thought necessary to render the Foederal Constitution entirely adequate to the actual Situation and future good Government of the confederated States, and that you together with the said Deputies or **Commissioners** or a Majority of them who shall be present (provided the State be not represented by less than two) do join in reporting such an Act, to the United States in Congress Assembled as when approved and agreed to by them and duly ratified and confirmed by the several States will effectually provide for the Exigencies of the Union.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State in the City of Charleston this Tenth day of April in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty Seven and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America the Eleventh.

Thomas (Seal.) Pinckney

By His Excellency's Command

Peter Freneau Secretary.

State of South-Carolina.

By His Excellency Thomas Pinckney Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State aforesaid.

To the Honorable Charles Cotesworth Pinckney Esquire,

Greeting.

By Virtue of the Power and Authority in me vested by the Legislature of this State in their Act passed the eighth day of March last, I do hereby **Commission** you the said Charles Cotesworth Pinckney as one of the Deputies appointed from this State to meet such Deputies or **Commissioners** as may be appointed and authorized by other

of the United States to assemble in **Convention** at the City of **Philadelphia** in the Month of May next or as soon thereafter as may be, and to join with such Deputies or **Commissioners** (they being duly authorized and empowered) in devising and discussing all such Alterations, Clauses, Articles and Provisions as may be thought necessary to render the Foederal Constitution entirely adequate to the actual Situation and future good Government of the Confederated States, and that you together with the said Deputies or **Commissioners**, or a Majority of them, who shall be

present (provided the State be not represented by less than two) do join in reporting such an Act to the United States in Congress Assembled as when approved and agreed to by them and duly ratified and confirmed by the several States will effectually provide for the Exigencies of the Union.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State in the City of Charleston this tenth day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America the Eleventh.

Thomas (Seal.) Pinckney.

By His Excellency's Command

Peter Freneau Secretary.

State of South Carolina

By His Excellency Thomas Pinckney Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State aforesaid.

To the Honorable Pierce Butler Esquire

Greeting.

By Virtue of the Power and authority in me vested by the Legislature of this State in their Act passed the eighth day of March last, I do hereby **Commission** you the said Pierce Butler, as one of the Deputies appointed from this State to meet such Deputies or **Commissioners** as may be appointed and authorized by other of the United States to assemble in **Convention** at the City of **Philadelphia** in the Month of May next, or as soon thereafter as may be and to join with with such Deputies or **Commissioners** (they being duly authorised and empowered) in devising and discussing, all such Alterations, Clauses, Articles and Provisions as may be thought necessary to render the Foederal Constitution entirely adequate to the actual Situation and future good government of the confederated States, and that you together with the said Deputies or **Commissioners** or a Majority of them who shall be present (provided the State be not represented by less than two) do join in reporting such an Act, to the United States in Congress Assembled as when

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approved and agreed to by them and duly ratified and confirmed by the several States will effectually provide for the Exigencies of the Union.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State in the City of Charleston this Tenth day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven, and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America the Eleventh.

Thomas (Seal.) Pinckney.

By His Excellency's Command

Peter Freneau Secretary.

## NEW JERSEY

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## The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3] NEW JERSEY

The State Of New Jersey.

(Seal)To the Honorable David Brearly, William Churchill Houston, William Patterson and John Neilson Esquires. Greeting.

The Council and Assembly reposing especial trust and confidence in your integrity, prudence and ability, have at a joint meeting appointed you the said David Brearley, William Churchill Houston, William Patterson and John Neilson Esquires, or any three of you, **Commissioners** to meet such **Commissioners**, as have been or may be appointed by the other States in the Union, at the City of **Philadelphia** in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on the second Monday in May next for the purpose of taking into Consideration the state of the Union, as to trade and other

important objects, and of devising such other Provisions as shall appear to be necessary to render the Constitution of the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies thereof.

In testimony whereof the Great Seal of the State is hereunto affixed. Witness William Livingston Esquire, Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of New Jersey and Territories thereunto belonging Chancellor and Ordinary in the same, at Trenton the Twenty third day of November in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty six and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Eleventh.

Wil: Livingston.

By His Excellency's Command  
Bowes Reed Secy.

The State Of New Jersey.

(Seal)To His Excellency William Livingston and the Honorable Abraham Clark Esquires  
Greeting.

The Council and Assembly reposing especial trust and Confidence in your integrity, prudence and ability have at a joint Meeting

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appointed You the said William Livingston and Abraham Clark Esquires, in conjunction with the Honorable David Brearley, William Churchill Houston & William Patterson Esquires, or any three of you, **Commissioners** to meet such **Commissioners** as have been appointed by the other States in the Union at the City of **Philadelphia** in the Commonwealth of Pensylvania on the second Monday of this present month for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the Union as to trade and other important Objects, and of devising such other Provisions as shall appear to be necessary to render the Constitution of the federal Government adequate to the exigencies thereof.

In Testimony whereof the Great Seal of the State is hereunto affixed. Witness William Livingston Esquire, Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of New Jersey and Territories thereunto belonging Chancellor and Ordinary in the same at Burlington the Eighteenth day of May in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Eleventh.

Wil: Livingston

By His Excellency's Command

Bowes Reed Secy.

The State Of New Jersey.

To the Honorable Jonathan Dayton Esquire

The Council and Assembly reposing especial trust and confidence in your integrity, prudence and ability have at a joint Meeting appointed You the said Jonathan Dayton Esquire, in conjunction with His Excellency William Livingston, the Honorable David Brearley, William Churchill Houston, William Patterson and Abraham Clark Esquires, or any three of you, **Commissioners** to meet such **Commissioners** as have been appointed by the other States in the Union at the City of **Philadelphia** in the Commonwealth of Pensylvania, for the purposes of taking into consideration the state of the Union as to trade and other important objects, and of devising such other Provision as shall appear to be necessary to render the Constitution of the federal Government adequate to the exigencies thereof.

In Testimony whereof the Great Seal of the State is hereunto affixed: -- Witness Robert Lettis Hooper Esquire, Vice-President, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of New Jersey and Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor and Ordinary in the same at Burlington the fifth

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day of June in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Eleventh.

Robt L. Hooper.

By his Honor's Command

Bowes Reed Secy.

## VIRGINIA

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### The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3] VIRGINIA

#### Virginia

General Assembly begun and held at the Public Buildings in the City of Richmond on Monday the sixteenth day of October in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty six

An Act for appointing Deputies from this Commonwealth to a **Convention** proposed to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** in May next for the purpose of revising the federal Constitution.

Whereas the **Commissioners** who assembled at Annapolis on the fourteenth day of September last for the purpose of devising and reporting the means of enabling Congress to provide effectually for the Commercial Interests of the United States have represented the necessity of extending the revision of the foederal System to all it's defects and have recommended that Deputies for that purpose be appointed by the several Legislatures to meet in **Convention** in

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the City of **Philadelphia** on the second day of May next a provision which was preferable to a discussion of the subject in Congress where it might be too much interrupted by the ordinary business before them and where it would besides be deprived of the valuable Counsels of sundry Individuals who are disqualified by the Constitution or Laws of particular States or restrained by peculiar circumstances from a Seat in that Assembly: And Whereas the General Assembly of this Commonwealth taking into view the actual situation of the Confederacy as well as reflecting on the alarming representations made from time to time by the United States in Congress particularly in their Act of the fifteenth day of February last can no longer doubt that the Crisis is arrived at which the good People of America are to decide the solemn question whether they will by wise and magnanimous Efforts reap the just fruits of that Independence which they have so gloriously acquired and of that Union which they have cemented with so much of their common Blood, or whether by giving way to unmanly Jealousies and Prejudices or to partial and transitory Interests they will renounce the auspicious blessings prepared for them by the Revolution, and furnish to its Enemies an eventual Triumph over those by whose virtue and valor it has been accomplished: And Whereas the same noble and extended policy and the same fraternal and affectionate Sentiments which originally determined the Citizens of this Commonwealth to unite with their Bretheren of the other States in establishing a Foederal

Government cannot but be Felt with equal force now as motives to lay aside every inferior consideration and to concur in such farther concessions and Provisions as may be necessary to secure the great Objects for which that Government was instituted and to render the United States as happy in peace as they have been glorious in War Be It Therefore Enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia that seven **Commissioners** be appointed by joint Ballot of both Houses of Assembly who or any three of them are hereby authorized as Deputies from this Commonwealth to meet such Deputies as may be appointed and authorized by other States to assemble in **Convention at Philadelphia** as above recommended and to join with them in devising and discussing all such Alterations and farther Provisions as may be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union and in reporting such an Act for that purpose to the United States in Congress as when agreed to by them and duly confirmed by the several States will effectually provide for the same. And Be It Further Enacted that in case of the death of any of the said Deputies or of their declining their appointments the Executive are hereby authorized to supply such

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Vacancies. And the Governor is requested to transmit forthwith a Copy of this Act to the United States in Congress and to the Executives of each of the States in the Union.

John Jones Speaker of the Senate

Signed Joseph Prentis, Speaker of the House of Delegates.

A true Copy from the Inrollment

John Beckley Clk House Dels.

In the House of Delegates

Monday the 4th of December 1786.

The House according to the Order of the Day proceeded by joint Ballot with the Senate to the appointment of Seven Deputies from this Commonwealth to a **Convention** proposed to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** in May next for the purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution, and the Members having prepared Tickets with the names of the Persons to be appointed, and deposited the same in the Ballot-boxes, Mr. Corbin, Mr. Matthews, Mr. David Stuart, Mr. George Nicholas, Mr. Richard Lee, Mr. Wills, Mr. Thomas Smith, Mr. Goodall and Mr. Turberville were nominated a Committee to meet a Committee from the Senate in the Conference-Chamber and jointly with them to examine the Ballot-boxes and report to the House on whom the Majority of Votes should fall. The Committee then withdrew and after some time returned into the House and reported that the Committee had, according to order, met a Committee from the Senate in the Conference-Chamber, and jointly with them examined the

Notes & Sources

Ballot-boxes and found a majority of Votes in favor of George Washington, Patrick Henry, Edmund Randolph, John Blair, James Madison, George Mason and George Wythe Esquires.

Extract from the Journal,  
John Beckley Clk House Dels.

Attest John Beckley  
Clk. H. Dels.

In the House of Senators

Monday the 4th of December 1786.

The Senate according to the Order of the Day proceeded by joint ballot with the House of Delegates to the Appointment of Seven Deputies from this Commonwealth to a **Convention** proposed to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** in May next for the purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution, and the Members having prepared Tickets with the names of the Persons to be appointed, and deposited

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the same in the Ballot-boxes, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Nelson and Mr Lee were nominated a Committee to meet a Committee from the House of Delegates in the Conference-Chamber and jointly with them to examine the Ballot-boxes and report to the House on whom the Majority of Votes should fall. The Committee then withdrew and after some time returned into the House and reported that the Committee had, according to order, met a Committee from the House of Delegates in the Conference-Chamber, and jointly with them examined the Ballot-boxes and found a Majority of Votes in favor of George Washington, Patrick Henry, Edmund Randolph, John Blair, James Madison George Mason and George Wythe Esquires.

Extract from the Journal

John Beckley Clk. H. Ds.

Attest,  
H. Brook Clk S.

Virginia to Wit

I do Certify and make known, to all whom it (Seal)may Concern, that John Beckley Esquire, is Clerk of the House of Delegates for this Commonwealth, and the proper Officer for attesting the proceedings of the General Assembly of the said Commonwealth, And that full Faith and Credit ought to be given to all things attested by the said John Beckley Esquire, by Virtue of his Office aforesaid.

Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and under the Seal thereof, at Richmond this fourth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven.

Edm: Randolph.

Virginia to Wit

(Seal)I do hereby Certify, that Patrick Henry, Esquire, one of the seven **Commissioners** appointed by joint ballot of both Houses of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, authorized as a Deputy therefrom, to meet such Deputies as might be appointed and authorized by other States to assemble in **Philadelphia** and to join with them in devising and discussing all such Alterations and further provisions, as might be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of the Union; and in reporting such an Act for that purpose to the United States in Congress, as when agreed to by them and duly confirmed by the several States, might effectually provide for the same, did, decline his appointment aforesaid; and thereupon in pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly of the said Commonwealth intituled "An Act for appointing Deputies from this Commonwealth to a **convention**

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proposed to be held in the City of **Philadelphia** in May next, for the purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution" I do hereby with the advice of the Council of State, supply the said Vacancy by nominating James McClurg, Esquire, a Deputy for the Purposes aforesaid.

Given under my Hand as Governor of the said Commonwealth and under the Seal thereof this second day of May in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty seven.

Edm: Randolph

Change search term to “delegates 1787”

## CONNECTICUT

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## [Farrand's Records](#) --CONNECTICUT

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### The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3] CONNECTICUT

State of Connecticut.

(Seal.) At a General Assembly of the State of Connecticut in America, holden at Hartford on the second

Thursday of May, Anno Domini **1787**.

An Act for appointing **Delegates** to meet in a Convention of the States to be held at the City of Philadelphia on the second Monday of May instant.

Whereas the Congress of the United States by their Act of the twenty first of February **1787** have recommended that on the second Monday of May instant, a Convention of **Delegates**, who shall have been appointed by the several States, be held at Philadelphia for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court Assembled and by the Authority of the same.

That the Honorable William Samuel Johnson, Roger Sherman, and Oliver Ellsworth Esquires, be and they hereby are appointed **Delegates** to attend the said Convention, and are requested to proceed to the City of Philadelphia for that purpose without delay; And the said **Delegates**, and in case of sickness or accident, such one or more of them as shall actually attend the said Convention, is and are hereby authorized and empowered to Represent this State therein, and to confer with such **Delegates** appointed by the several States, for the purposes mentioned in the said Act of Congress that may be present and duly empowered to act in said Convention, and to discuss upon such Alterations and Provisions agreeable to the general principles of Republican Government as they shall think proper to render the federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government and, the preservation of the Union; And they are further directed, pursuant to the said Act of Congress to report such alterations and provisions as may be agreed to by a majority of the United States represented in Convention is the Congress of the United States, and to the General Assembly of this State.

A true Copy of Record  
Examd  
By George Wyllys Secy.

## MARYLAND

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### The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3] MARYLAND

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Maryland.

An Act for the Appointment of, and conferring Powers in Deputies from this State to the foederal Convention.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Honorable James McHenry, Daniel of Saint Thomas Jenifer, Daniel Carroll, John Francis Mercer and Luther Martin Esquires, be appointed and authorised on behalf of this State, to meet such Deputies as may be appointed and authorised by any other of the United States to assemble in Convention at Philadelphia for the purpose of revising the Foederal System, and to join with them in considering such Alterations and further Provisions as may be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union and in reporting such an Act for that purpose to the United States in Congress Assembled as when agreed to by them, and duly confirmed by the several States will effectually provide for the same, and the said Deputies or such of them as shall attend the said Convention shall have full Power to represent this State for the Purposes aforesaid, and the said Deputies are hereby directed to report the Proceedings of the said Convention, and any Act agreed to therein, to the next session of the General Assembly of this State.

By the Senate May 26. 1787.<sup>1</sup>

## Notes & Sources

[Note 1: 1 The **delegates** had been previously elected by the legislature, April 23--May 22, "The assembly had voted to pay the **delegates** as **delegates** in congress were paid." (Steiner, Life and Correspondence of James McHenry, 98 note 1.)]

Read and Assented to  
By Order J. Dorsey Clk.

True Copy from the Original  
J. Dorsey Clk. Senate.

By the House of **Delegates**  
May 26d **1787**.

Read and Assented to  
By Order Wm Harwood Clk.

True Copy from the Original  
Wm Harwood Clk Ho Del.

W. Smallwood.

## NEW YORK

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[Farrand's Records](#) --NEW YORK<sup>Z</sup>

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The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 [Farrand's Records, Volume 3]  
NEW YORK<sup>Z</sup>

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## CONGRESS

[Note 7: 7 Before New York took action, Congress formally authorized the convention in Philadelphia. As subsequent credentials were to some extent influenced by the Resolution of Congress, it seems best to insert it here, although it is given in Appendix A, I.

By

The United States in Congress Assembled  
February 21st **1787**.

Whereas there is provision in the Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, for making alterations therein, by the assent of a Congress of the United States, and of the legislatures of the several States; and whereas experience hath evinced, that there are defects in the present confederation, as a mean to remedy which, several of the States, and particularly the State of New-York, by express instructions to their **Delegates** in Congress, have suggested a Convention for the purposes expressed in the following Resolution; and such Convention appearing to be the most probable means of establishing in these States a firm national Government.

Resolved, That in the opinion of Congress, it is expedient, that on the second Monday in May next, a Convention of **Delegates**, who shall have been appointed by the several States, be held at Philadelphia, for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation, and reporting to Congress and the several Legislatures, such alterations and provisions therein, as shall, when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the States, render the federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government, and the preservation of the Union.]

New-York.

By His Excellency George Clinton Esquire Governor of the State of New York General and Commander (Seal) in Chief of all the Militia and Admiral of the Navy of the same.

To all to whom these Presents shall come

It is by these Presents certified that John McKesson who has subscribed the annexed Copies of Resolutions is Clerk of the Assembly of this State.

In Testimony whereof I have caused the Privy Seal of the said State to be hereunto affixed this Ninth day of May in the Eleventh Year of the Independence of the said State.

Geo: Clinton.

State of New York

In Assembly February 28th **1787**.

A Copy of a Resolution of the honorable the Senate, delivered by Mr Williams, was read, and is in the Words following, vizt.

Resolved, if the honorable the Assembly concur herein, that three **Delegates** be appointed on the part of this State, to meet such **Delegates** as may be appointed on the part of the other States respectively, on the second Monday in may next, at Philadelphia, for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation, and reporting to Congress, and to the several Legislatures, such

alterations and Provisions therein, as shall, when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the several States, render the federal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of Government, and the preservation of the Union; and that in case of such concurrence, the two Houses of the Legislature, will, on Tuesday next, proceed to nominate and appoint the said **Delegates**, in like manner as is directed by the Constitution of this State, for nominating and appointing **Delegates** to Congress.

Resolved, that this House do concur with the honorable the Senate, in the said Resolution.

In Assembly March 6th **1787**.

Resolved, that the Honorable Robert Yates Esquire, and Alexander Hamilton and John Lansing, Junior Esquires, be, and they are hereby nominated by this House, **Delegates** on the part of this State, to meet such **Delegates** as may be appointed on the part of the other States respectively, on the second Monday in May next, at Philadelphia, pursuant to concurrent Resolutions of both Houses of the Legislature, on the 28th Ultimo.

Resolved, that this House will meet the Honorable the Senate, immediately, at such place as they shall appoint, to compare the Lists of Persons nominated by the Senate and Assembly respectively, as **Delegates** on the part of this State, to meet such **Delegates** as may be appointed on the part of the other States respectively, on the second Monday in May next, at Philadelphia, pursuant to concurrent Resolutions, of both Houses of the Legislature, on the 28t Ultimo.

Ordered That Mr. N. Smith deliver a Copy of the last preceding Resolution, to the Honorable the Senate.

A Copy of a Resolution of the Honorable the Senate, was delivered by Mr. Vanderbilt, that the Senate will immediately meet this House in the Assembly Chamber, to compare the Lists of Persons nominated by the Senate and Assembly respectively, as **Delegates**, pursuant to the Resolutions before mentioned.

The Honorable the Senate accordingly attended in the Assembly Chamber, to compare the Lists of Persons nominated for **Delegates**, as above mentioned.

The list of Persons nominated by the Honorable the Senate, were the Honorable Robert Yates Esquire, and John Lansing Junior, and Alexander Hamilton Esquires; and on comparing the Lists of the Persons nominated by the Senate and Assembly respectively, it appeared that the same Persons were nominated in both Lists. Thereupon, Resolved that the Honorable Robert Yates, John Lansing Junior and Alexander Hamilton Esquires, be, and they are hereby declared duly nominated and appointed **Delegates**, on the part of

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this State, to meet such **Delegates** as may be appointed on the part of the other States respectively, on the second Monday in May next, at Philadelphia, for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation, and reporting to Congress, and to the several Legislatures, such alterations and provisions therein, as shall, when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the several States, render the federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government, and the preservation of the Union.

True Extracts from the Journals of the Assembly

John McKesson Clk.

## Rhode Island

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[Farrand's Records](#) --VII. Several Gentlemen of Rhode Island to The Chairman of the General Convention.<sup>3</sup>

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[The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 \[Farrand's Records, Volume 3\]](#)  
[VII. Several Gentlemen of Rhode Island to The Chairman of the General Convention.](#)<sup>3</sup>

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[Note 3: 3 Documentary History of the Constitution, I, 275--276. See also XLV and CII below.]

Providence May 11, **1787**.

Gentlemen

Since the Legislature of this State have finally declined sending Delegates to Meet you in Convention for the purposes mentioned in the Resolve of Congress of the 21St February 1787. the Merchants

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Tradesmen and others of this place, deeply affected with the evils of the present unhappy times, have thought proper to Communicate in writing their approbation of your Meeting, And their regret that it will fall short of a Compleat Representation of the Federal Union.--

The failure of this State was Owing to the Nonconcurrence of the Upper House of Assembly with a Vote passed in the Lower House, for appointing Delegates to attend the said Convention, at thier Session holden at Newport on the first Wednesday of the present Month.--

It is the general Opinion here and we believe of the well informed throughout this State, that full power for the Regulation of the Commerce of the United States, both Foreign & Domestick ought to be vested in the National Council.

And that Effectual Arrangements should also be made for giving Operation to the present powers of Congress in thier Requisitions upon the States for National purposes.--

As the Object of this Letter is chiefly to prevent any impressions unfavorable to the Commercial Interest of this State, from taking place in our Sister States from the Circumstance of our being unrepresented in the present National Convention, we shall not presume to enter into any detail of the objects we hope your deliberations will embrace and provide for being convinced they will be such as have a tendency to strengthen the Union, promote Commerce, increase the power & Establish the Credit of the United States.

The result of your deliberations tending to these desireable purposes we still hope may finally be Approved and Adopted by this State, for which we pledge our Influence and best exertions.--

In behalf of the Merchants, Tradesmen &c

We have the Honour to be with perfect Consideration & Respect

Your most Obedient &  
Most Humble Servant's

**comtee**

- John Brown
- Thos Lloyd Halsey
- Jos. Nightingale
- Levi Hall

## Notes & Sources

- Philip Allen
- Paul Allen
- Jabez Bowen
- Nichos Brown
- John Jenckes,
- Welcome Arnold
- William Russell
- Jeremiah Olmy,
- William Barton

The Honble the Chairman of the General Convention

Philadelphia

[Endorsed:] No 5. Letter from several Gentlemen of **Rhode**

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**Island** addressed to the honorable the Chairman of the General Convention signed in behalf of the Merchants, Tradesmen &ca

dated Providence May 11, **1787**.

read on Monday May 28. **1787**.-- Ordered to lye on the table for farther consideration

<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdstatehouse/html/philadelphia.html> Five Delegates to ...

Letter from G. Washington to Madison Nov, 5,1786 excerpt.

Interpreting the Constitution