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Connecticut Oliver Ellsworth

At forty-two, Connecticut delegate Oliver Ellsworth had a solid reputation as a shrewd, able, well-educated lawyer, a fine debater, and an eloquent speaker. His thick brows and broad forehead gave him a dramatic appearance, but his notorious stinginess gave him a reputation as a poor social companion. He built a prosperous law practice in his native Connecticut, earning him an appointment as state attorney for Hartford County in 1776. That same year he was chosen to serve in the Continental Congress. At the Constitutional Convention, Ellsworth was a powerful voice during the debate on the Great Compromise. Like several other delegates, Ellsworth left the convention early and did not sign the final draft of the Constitution. Nevertheless, he played an active role in seeing the Constitution ratified in his home state, writing the influential Letters of a Landholder in support of the new government. In the spring of 1788, he was named chief justice of the Supreme Court. In 1789, he served as a commissioner to France. When he returned to America, he retired from politics, settling in his hometown of Windsor.

William Samuel Johnson

Sixty years old when he served as a delegate to the Philadelphia convention, Johnson had already amassed an impressive number of academic degrees. Later he would receive honorary degrees from Oxford University. He took up a career in law after leaving Harvard and was an immediate success. As tensions increased, Johnson attempted to remain neutral and to work for a peaceful settlement of differences. He served in the Confederation Congress and played a major role at the Philadelphia convention as an advocate of the Connecticut Compromise. With Ellsworth, he was appointed to the first Senate by Connecticut. He abandoned politics in 1790 to devote his considerable energies to the presidency of Columbia College.

Roger Sherman

Tall and awkward, Sherman provided a striking contrast to the suave Dr. There he purchased a store, learned surveying, and won appointment to a number of local offices. With no formal education, Sherman managed nevertheless to pass the bar in 1772 and establish a reputation as a distinguished jurist and political leader. His skills in political debate and his shrewdness in political negotiations were well-known by the time he came to the Philadelphia convention. Despite his constant political duties before the Revolution, Sherman was able to publish an essay on monetary theory and a series of almanacs containing his own astronomical observations and his own poetry. In 1776, Sherman gave up his legal practice and returned to shopkeeping. He did not give up politics, however. He served in the Continental Congress and was on the committees that drafted both the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. Although his finances were failing, Sherman agreed to take time away from his business interests to serve at the Philadelphia convention. He was one of the prime spokesmen for the interests of the smaller states and played a critical role in creating the Connecticut Compromise. A solid supporter of the Constitution, Roger Sherman served in the first House of Representatives and later in the Senate. He remained a Federalist throughout his life. The delegate biographies are excerpted with the generous permission of Carol Berkin, author of *A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution* Harcourt. Sign up for our email newsletter Sign Up.

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Chapter 2 : ELLSWORTH, Oliver - Biographical Information

*Connecticut's Young Man of the Revolution: Oliver Ellsworth (Connecticut Bicentennial Series) [Ronald John Lettieri] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

He had taken up medicine under the tutelage of his well-respected physician father. He had provided his services to the soldiers during the war. And his home in Plainfield, Conn. It would ultimately render him a pariah, labeled a quack. But not before it underwrote a prominent medical institute in London named for him, gave rise to a school of medical thought called Perkinism and made him rich. In his mind, at least, he may have never made the jump. He began working on the idea of his signature invention – the Perkins Metallic Tractors – when pondering the way human flesh responded to metal. He sensed there was some chemical or physiological response when a scalpel or other metal touched flesh. When extracting a bad tooth, he noted that patients sometimes experienced a temporary relief of pain when he touched an inflamed gum with a metal instrument. Unfortunately, he put two and two together and got the answer five. Metallic Tractors by James Gillray, Perkins began experimenting with different metals to determine if one worked better than another in relieving pain before he settled on a final design. Today if you think of a metallic tractor, a farm vehicle comes to mind. But Perkins Metallic Tractors were two small metal rods with a point on one end – one was made of brass and the other iron. Even better, for the patient, Perkins Metallic Tractors could be used by laymen as well as physicians. In , Perkins decided his Tractors were finished, and he received a patent on them. His next step was marketing. While Perkins was convinced his Tractors worked on gout, rheumatism, and a variety of painful afflictions, he also invited other physicians to test the devices for themselves. George Washington bought a set Perkins Metallic Tractors for his personal use. The ministers of the city recommended them, and the hospital welcomed him with open arms. The effect of the Tractors seemed remarkable. The success of the Metallic Tractors nearly overwhelmed Perkins as customers from high society and low sought out his cure. Word of the miraculous powers of the Metallic Tractors soon spread to England and to Denmark, where they caused a mania. Perkins had no shortage of partners. A man in Virginia gave up his plantation and invested everything in Metallic Tractors. Cases were reported of people selling their horse or carriage to buy a Metallic Tractor. People soon began using the Perkins Metallic Tractors on their animals – with great success, they felt. Hidden among the testimonials was the occasional sly wink. By Benjamin Douglas Perkins, A. Benjamin often updated his pamphlets, adding testimonials from physicians, lords, ladies and other prominent members of society who used and benefited from the Tractors. Meanwhile, at home in the United States, Elisha Perkins turned his attention to a more serious affliction: The disease was rampant in American cities in and , and Elisha was convinced better use of antiseptics could stop it. He offered to treat anyone suffering from yellow fever. He was quickly overwhelmed with patients and caught the disease himself. Elisha died in at age 59, but the mania for his Perkins Metallic Tractors was anything but dead. The Establishment Strikes Back From the start, the Metallic Tractors were not welcomed by all members of the medical establishment. Many physicians concluded that the devices were pure quackery. Plus, the fact that patients could use them to treat themselves, rather than hiring a doctor for each treatment, put them out of favor with many physicians. In , the Connecticut Medical Society expelled Perkins. It was an unproven science. And the marketing of the devices, over time, grew more flamboyant, with Perkins claiming the metal that made up the devices was an exotic, specialized formula of his own design. New strategies for marketing were employed. A minister or doctor might receive a set of Perkins Metallic Tractors unordered by mail. The package included a simple request that if the recipient found them useful, he should make payment. Benjamin Perkins, now residing in London, recruited some of the leading names of the city. Vitus dance and lockjaw. As Perkinism and its followers grew in number, so did its critics. English physicians conducted tests on the devices treating some patients with metallic tractors and others with wooden ones. Both were equally effective, especially if the treatment were delivered along with some ceremony and flair. In , the English poet Lord Byron published a satirical critique of modern society,

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English Bards and Scotch Reviewers , in which he held up the Tractors for ridicule: Thus saith the Preacher: What varied wonders tempt us as they pass! The Cow-pox, Tractors, Galvanism, and Gas, In turns appear, to make the vulgar stare, Till the swoln bubble burstsâ€”and all is air! London artist James Gillray, in , made a painting skewering the followers of Perkinism. It shows an old, rotund man undergoing treatment. The causes of his illness, the painting suggests, are his bad habits that are set out on the table before him in the form of pipe, alcohol and food. An advertisement he has been reading notes: Red noses, curly toes, windy bowels, broken legs, Hump Backs. They appeared in print as well as etched on other items, such as snuff boxes. Defenders of Perkinism were just as outspoken. A group of doctors presented evidence to the he Royal College of Physicians supporting the devices. Thomas Green Fessenden of Walpole, N. Eventually, however, the furor over the devices gradually faded, along with their popularity, but not before Benjamin Perkins made for himself a considerable amount of money. A Question of Motives Oliver Wendell Holmes in his Medical Essays, , noted that early in his career he occasionally encountered people still using the Tractors, but their use had largely died out. Holmes analyzed the history of the devices and declared that he could not find proof of whether Elisha Perkins and his son were charlatans or simply misinformed. But he had a strong opinion on the question: As to the motives of the inventor and vender of the Tractors, the facts must be allowed to speak for themselves.

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Chapter 3 : History of Connecticut's Contribution to the Federal Constitution " The Crucial Decade :

Get this from a library! Connecticut's young man of the Revolution, Oliver Ellsworth. [Ronald John Lettieri].

Oliver Ellsworth, born April 29, 1781, Windsor, Conn. He was the third chief justice of the United States. After pursuing theological and legal studies, he was admitted to the bar in Hartford, which he represented in the Connecticut General Assembly. This bargain is a keystone of the U. To secure Southern support for the Constitution, Ellsworth supported free international trade in slaves. He also vigorously defended the Constitution at the Connecticut ratifying convention. He reported the first Senate rules and suggested a plan for printing the journals, shaped the conference report on the Bill of Rights, framed the measure of admission for North Carolina, helped devise the government of the territory south of the Ohio River, and drafted the first bill regulating the consular service. He was chairman of the committee to establish the federal court system and the chief author of the Federal Judiciary Act of 1789, the principal basis ever since of the U. George Washington appointed him chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, after John Rutledge had failed to receive Senate confirmation and William Cushing, the senior associate justice, had declined. His most controversial opinion was *United States v. Isaac Williams*, which applied in the United States the common-law rule that a citizen may not expatriate himself without the consent of his government. Davie as commissioner to France to negotiate a new treaty. In October Ellsworth persuaded Napoleon to accept a compromise convention that provided for freedom of commerce between the two nations and in effect concluded the undeclared war between the United States and France. From France he sent his resignation as chief justice. Until his death in 1807, he lived in Windsor, Conn. Kennedy Legacy Ellsworth lacked the intellectual brilliance of some of his contemporaries, but, in the arena of practical politics, none of the founders was superior to—and perhaps none even equaled—him in the pragmatic art of effectively wielding power in legislative assemblies. In particular, Ellsworth had an extraordinary ability to fashion workable compromises. He had a clear, sophisticated, and detailed political philosophy and psychology, but he was not a member of the secular Enlightenment. Instead, he was a strict Calvinist who claimed that, as a young man, he had personally experienced his election by God for salvation. His entire personal and public life was ordered by a rigorous Calvinism founded upon a belief in absolute predestination. In the political realm, he enthusiastically embraced compromise as long as he was convinced of the overall righteousness of a particular project. Like all Connecticut Calvinists, Ellsworth firmly opposed slavery on religious grounds. By the time of his mission to France in 1793, he had reluctantly concluded that the federal government was unworkable. Ellsworth resigned from the national government and returned to Connecticut, where he was an active participant in state politics for the rest of his life.

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Each colony wanted to assure its influence in the federal government. Many of the smaller states were concerned that, if size was to become a deciding factor, they would lose all influence. At the same time, large states, which were not intensively settled, did not want to be eclipsed if population determined the number of federal representatives. The Connecticut Compromise completely settled the issues about representation in the new Congress. The Congress would be bi-cameral. In the Senate, all states would be represented equally. In the House of Representatives, states would be represented according to the size of their populations. This compromise is still part of the United States Constitution. As early as , Connecticut representatives kept on developing the Fundamental Orders. The Fundamental Orders represent the framework for the first formal government written by a representative body in Connecticut. On January 14, , the Fundamental Orders were adopted in Connecticut. In the House of Representatives they would be represented according to the size of their populations. Connecticut becomes the fifth state to ratify the Constitution and to become a state in the United States of America. Connecticut builds the first State House in America after the ratification of the Federal Constitution. Image Provided by [http:](http://) Ellsworth had a strong reputation as a shrewd, well educated lawyer. By the end of his career, Ellsworth become one of the first U. With no formal education, Sherman stood able to pass the bar exam and went on to establish a cunning reputation as a distinguished political leader. He expanded his credentials by serving in both the first and second Continental Congress and sat on the committees that drafted both the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. At the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention, Sherman acted as the main spokesmen for the interests of smaller states, including Connecticut. Sherman played a critical role in created the Connecticut Compromise alongside Oliver Ellsworth. The General Assembly consisted of two houses, the Council and the Assembly. The Council, the more powerful of the two houses, consisted of the ex officio governor and lieutenant governor and a stable number of twelve elected assistants. It provided a model for the Senate. The Council varied in number up to members, with each town sending either one or two representatives. It provided a model for the House of Representatives. Their experiences with the Council and the Assembly allowed Ellsworth, Johnson, and Sherman to envision the bicameral Congress and to craft the representative pattern of the Connecticut Compromise. Arguments about territorial size versus population threatened to destroy the fragile union between the newly independent colonies. Timeline of Connecticut History. Connecticut State History Timeline. Inventing the American Constitution, Oct Barry, Kevin, Nov

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Chapter 5 : Oliver Ellsworth Facts

Connecticut's young man of the Revolution, Oliver Ellsworth by Ronald John Lettieri. Published by American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Connecticut in Hartford.

He also served as a senator in the newly formed Congress. Ellsworth is primarily remembered for his contribution to the formation of the Constitution and for drafting the Judiciary Act of 1789, which provided for a strong federal judiciary system and created the U.S. Supreme Court. When Ellsworth reached his teens, he was sent to a boarding school run by Minister Joseph Bellamy. In 1779, at the age of 17, Ellsworth entered Yale University. However, due to some disciplinary problems, he left Yale at the end of his sophomore year at the request of his parents and enrolled in the College of New Jersey, later known as Princeton University. It was a time of stirring patriotism and loud debates, and young Ellsworth was caught up in the excitement. Ellsworth returned to Windsor after graduating in 1781 to pursue his theological studies with another leading minister, John Smalley. A year later he abandoned the ministry to pursue his growing interest in the law. He passed the bar in 1783 at the age of 16. The following year he married sixteen-year-old Abigail Wolcott, the daughter of a wealthy and influential Connecticut family from East Windsor. According to history records, he collected a total of three pounds in legal fees during the first three years of his law practice. To supplement his income, he worked as a farmer and woodcutter. When his presence was required at court in Hartford, Ellsworth, too poor to own a horse, walked the twenty-mile round trip. Considered an honest and reputable man, and no doubt helped by connections developed through his marriage, Ellsworth was elected as a representative of the Connecticut General Assembly in 1784. The Continental Congress Relinquishing his seat in the Connecticut General Assembly in 1788, Ellsworth moved to Hartford where his reputation and business grew rapidly. By the late 1780s, he had over one thousand cases on his list, of which he provided successful representation in the large majority. During the days of the American Revolution, Ellsworth held numerous, progressively more important, offices. In 1780 he was appointed to the Connecticut Committee of the Pay Table, a commission of five that was responsible for overseeing state expenditures related to the war with England. In 1781 he began to serve as a member of the Council of Safety, an important body that acted with the governor in the practical control of all military actions. In 1782 he was selected to represent Connecticut as a member of the Continental Congress, a position he held for six years. A now accomplished and well-respected lawyer, Ellsworth was soon appointed to numerous committees created by the Continental Congress, including the Board of Treasury, which addressed issues regarding international treaties, and the Committee of Appeals, a body that dealt with marine affairs by hearing appeals from the Admiralty courts of various states. The Committee of Appeals was an important step toward the formation of the Supreme Court because it was the first time a federal court was convened. However, its effectiveness and judicial authority were soon tested by the noted case of *Gideon Olmstead and the British vessel Active*. The matter involved the acquisition of the British ship. A group of men from Connecticut overpowered the British captain and his crew as they sailed toward New York. As the Connecticut men approached the coastline, the captain of another vessel commandeered the ship and, upon entering the harbor in Philadelphia, claimed the ship and its cargo. The men from Connecticut took the captain, who was from Pennsylvania, to court, insisting that the ship belonged to them. Subsequently a Pennsylvania court ruled in favor of the captain, allotting him three-quarters of the value and giving the Connecticut men one-quarter. He appeared to have been a hardworking, diligent, and respected member, serving on several important committees. Retiring from the Congress in 1788, Ellsworth returned to Hartford and his private legal practice. Declining an appointment as Commissioner of the Treasury offered by the Continental Congress in 1789, the following year he accepted his first judicial appointment as a member of the newly formed Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors. Johnson to represent Connecticut as delegates to the Constitutional Convention. The formation of the Constitution was a particularly difficult and controversial process. First drafted in 1776, the Articles of Confederation were not adopted until 1781. In its original form, it created a

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strong federal system of government, a proposal that met with much resistance from the individual states who wished to maintain independence. Subsequently the draft that was finally adopted had been so revised that it called for almost no national government, including no president, cabinet, or federal judiciary system. Congress had no authority by which to collect funds other than voluntary gifts from states or individuals. The fact that Congress was allowed to declare war but had no power to supply forces was proof of the ineffectiveness of the ratified draft. The Constitutional Congress convened in hopes of revising the Constitution. Ellsworth came to the Constitutional Convention as a moderate Federalist. Although he firmly believed in the rights of states to govern themselves, he had come to the conclusion that an effective federal government was a necessity. Sensitive to the desires of the states, he argued for a national government that represented state and federal interests. It is unclear to what extent Ellsworth influenced the outcome of the Convention. However, the Connecticut delegation was responsible for offering the governmental model known as the "Connecticut compromise" that created a bicameral legislature, in which the small states would have equal representation in the Senate and the House of Representatives would be filled according to state population. Whether he was the originator of this compromise is not known, but he was clearly a strong proponent of the newly written constitution. Ellsworth was also the one to suggest replacing the phrase "national government" with "government of the United States. Ellsworth as Senator Upon ratification of the new constitution, Ellsworth was elected as one of the two senators to represent Connecticut in Congress. Once again a member of numerous committees, Ellsworth used his organizational abilities to structure the U. Army and the U. Post Office and organize the census. He also reported the first set of Senate rules and drafted the measure that admitted Rhode Island and North Carolina into the United States. Commissioned with the task of interpreting the U. When John Jay, the first U. Subsequently, Washington offered the position to William Cushing, a senior associate judge, who declined the appointment. On March 4, , Washington selected Ellsworth, who took over the responsibilities of the second chief justice of the U. Supreme Court four days later. During his short service of three and a half years as chief justice, Ellsworth did not tender a large number of opinions. Those he did write are marked by common sense and do not demonstrate the work of a noteworthy judge. A great lawyer and advocate, Ellsworth proved to be an adequate, but not exceptional, jurist. He did convince his associates to adopt a system of offering per curiam decisions, which provided for a majority and minority opinion to be written rather than each justice writing a personal opinion. Tensions were running high with France, with whom the United States was engaged in an undeclared war in the Caribbean. Adams hoped to prevent the outbreak of declared war by sending Ellsworth to negotiate with Napoleon. The decision to send Ellsworth was controversial, as many felt very hostile toward France at the time. Ellsworth accepted the commission without enthusiasm, deeming it necessary to prevent greater evils. Dreading the expedition, he postponed his trip for over six months, not departing for France until November 3, Harsh weather drove the ship off course, and Ellsworth did not reach Paris until March 2, an entire four months later. Ellsworth, whose health suffered from the hardships of the journey, negotiated with Napoleon for eight months, concluding in October The treaty did not meet the expectations or instructions of the U. Still feeling poorly, he spent the winter in England in a futile attempt to recover his health. He finally returned to the United States in March and retired to his home in Windsor. He died at his home in Windsor on November 26, Garraty and Mark C. Oxford University Press, Boyum, and Jerry N. Clark, Gale Research, Encyclopedia of American Biography. Second edition, Edited by John A. Garraty and Jerome L. Oxford Companion to American History. Johnson, Oxford University Press, The Supreme Court A to Z: A Ready Reference Encyclopedia. Periodicals Scholastic Update, November 30, American Council of Learned Societies, Encyclopedia of World Biography. Copyright The Gale Group, Inc.

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Chapter 6 : Connecticut - National Constitution Center

Connecticut's young man of the Revolution, Oliver Ellsworth by Ronald John Lettieri, , *American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Connecticut* edition, in English.

Oliver Ellsworth Oliver Ellsworth was the second chief justice of the U. He also served as a senator in the newly formed Congress. Ellsworth is primarily remembered for his contribution to the formation of the Constitution and for drafting the Judiciary Act of 1789, which provided for a strong federal judiciary system and created the U.S. Supreme Court. When Ellsworth reached his teens, he was sent to a boarding school run by Minister Joseph Bellamy. In 1779, at the age of 17, Ellsworth entered Yale University. However, due to some disciplinary problems, he left Yale at the end of his sophomore year at the request of his parents and enrolled in the College of New Jersey, later known as Princeton University. It was a time of stirring patriotism and loud debates, and young Ellsworth was caught up in the excitement. Ellsworth returned to Windsor after graduating in 1781 to pursue his theological studies with another leading minister, John Smalley. A year later he abandoned the ministry to pursue his growing interest in the law. He passed the bar in 1782 at the age of 20. The following year he married sixteen-year-old Abigail Wolcott, the daughter of a wealthy and influential Connecticut family from East Windsor. According to history records, he collected a total of three pounds in legal fees during the first three years of his law practice. To supplement his income, he worked as a farmer and woodcutter. When his presence was required at court in Hartford, Ellsworth, too poor to own a horse, walked the twenty-mile round trip. Considered an honest and reputable man, and no doubt helped by connections developed through his marriage, Ellsworth was elected as a representative of the Connecticut General Assembly in 1783. The Continental Congress Relinquishing his seat in the Connecticut General Assembly in 1784, Ellsworth moved to Hartford where his reputation and business grew rapidly. By the late 1780s, he had over one thousand cases on his list, of which he provided successful representation in the large majority. During the days of the American Revolution, Ellsworth held numerous, progressively more important, offices. In 1781 he was appointed to the Connecticut Committee of the Pay Table, a commission of five that was responsible for overseeing state expenditures related to the war with England. In 1782 he began to serve as a member of the Council of Safety, an important body that acted with the governor in the practical control of all military actions. In 1783 he was selected to represent Connecticut as a member of the Continental Congress, a position he held for six years. A now accomplished and well-respected lawyer, Ellsworth was soon appointed to numerous committees created by the Continental Congress, including the Board of Treasury, which addressed issues regarding international treaties, and the Committee of Appeals, a body that dealt with marine affairs by hearing appeals from the Admiralty courts of various states. The Committee of Appeals was an important step toward the formation of the Supreme Court because it was the first time a federal court was convened. However, its effectiveness and judicial authority were soon tested by the noted case of Gideon Olmstead and the British vessel *Active*. The matter involved the acquisition of the British ship. A group of men from Connecticut overpowered the British captain and his crew as they sailed toward New York. As the Connecticut men approached the coastline, the captain of another vessel commandeered the ship and, upon entering the harbor in Philadelphia, claimed the ship and its cargo. The men from Connecticut took the captain, who was from Pennsylvania, to court, insisting that the ship belonged to them. Subsequently a Pennsylvania court ruled in favor of the captain, allotting him three-quarters of the value and giving the Connecticut men one-quarter. He appeared to have been a hardworking, diligent, and respected member, serving on several important committees. Retiring from the Congress in 1789, Ellsworth returned to Hartford and his private legal practice. Declining an appointment as Commissioner of the Treasury offered by the Continental Congress in 1789, the following year he accepted his first judicial appointment as a member of the newly formed Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors. Johnson to represent Connecticut as delegates to the Constitutional Convention. The formation of the Constitution was a particularly difficult and controversial process. First drafted in 1776, the Articles of Confederation were not adopted until 1781. In its original

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Chapter 7 : ELLSWORTH, Oliver () Bibliography

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Chapter 8 : ELLSWORTH, Oliver | US House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives

Oliver Ellsworth () Oliver Ellsworth was an attorney, lawmaker, and diplomat involved in some of the most celebrated achievements of the colonial period.

Chapter 9 : List of National Historic Landmarks in Connecticut - Wikipedia

Oliver Ellsworth served as one of Connecticut's first senators, holding that office from to In the spring of , he was named chief justice of the Supreme Court. In and , he served as a commissioner to France.