



Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

George Read

1733 - 1798

Delaware Delegate to
the Philadelphia Convention

Occupation: Lawyer and landowner

Education: A law degree graduate from Alison's Academy in New London, Pennsylvania

Political Accomplishments: Served in Delaware's Colonial Assembly between 1770 and 1775. Between 1774 and 1777 he represented Delaware in the Continental Congress and with the capture of President John McKinley by the British in 1777, he became Acting Governor. In 1776, Mr. Read signed the Declaration of Independence, assisted with the writing of Delaware's first state constitution, was elected to the Legislative Council and served as Speaker. In 1787, the Delaware General Assembly selected Mr. Read to serve as one of the state's delegates at the federal convention where he participated in discussions supporting interests of small states and served on several committees. In 1788, Delaware's General Assembly selected George Read to serve as one of Delaware's first two U.S. Senators, a position from which he resigned in order to become Chief Justice of Delaware.

References:

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Bushman, Claudia L., Harold B. Hancock, and Elizabeth Moyne Homsey. *Proceedings of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State 1781 - 1792 and the Constitutional Convention of 1792*. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1988.

Madison, James. *Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1987.