



Timeline

Delawareans Attend the Annapolis Convention



Delaware Prepares for the Federal Convention:

- 1787** February 3 On Saturday morning, the Delaware General Assembly enacted legislative enabling the Assembly to appoint “deputies from [Delaware] to the Convention...to be held in...Philadelphia, for the purpose of revising the federal constitution...” Both the House of Assembly and the Council presented nominations and by joint ballot elected five delegates: George Read; Gunning Bedford, Jr.; John Dickinson; Richard Bassett; and Jacob Broom.
- February 5 The House of Assembly proposed that each delegate receive an allowance of “forty shillings for everyday he shall attend...or any committee thereof; and also the same sum per day for travelling...” and forwarded their resolution to the Council.
- February 6 The Council approved funding for the delegates as proposed on February 5, 1787.

Source:

Bushman, Claudia L., et al., eds. The Proceedings of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State 1781-1792 and of the Constitutional Convention of 1792. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1987, 436-440, 442.

Notation:

The delegates selected to represent Delaware at the federal convention in Philadelphia in 1787 were the same individuals the General Assembly chose to attend the Annapolis Convention September 11-14, 1786. Though Jacob Broom and Gunning Bedford, Jr., did not attend the Annapolis meeting, the others participated.

Commissioners representing Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia attended the meeting in Annapolis and selected John Dickinson as chairman. Unable to resolve problems regarding commerce and realizing that the Articles of Confederation needed to be re-examined, attendees recommended that Congress conduct a convention in Philadelphia in the spring of 1787 in hopes of resolving a variety of issues.

References:

Bushman, Claudia L., et al., eds. The Proceedings of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State 1781-1792 and of the Constitutional Convention of 1792. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1987.

Munroe, John A., Federalist Delaware 1775 – 1815. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1954.