



## Timeline

### Delawareans Attend the Philadelphia Convention



#### Delawareans Help Write the Constitution:

- 1787** May 14 Date scheduled for the beginning of the Convention authorized to revise the Articles of Confederation. However, since deputies representing the seven states required to “do business” had not arrived, the Convention was postponed for twelve days.
- May 25 (Friday) Date the Convention actually began. Twenty-nine delegates representing nine states including Delaware’s Richard Bassett, Jacob Broom, and George Read attended this first session. Delegates unanimously elected General George Washington, a delegate from Virginia, as the *President* of the convention and Major William Jackson as *Secretary* of the convention. Representatives appointed a committee of George Wythe, Alexander Hamilton, and Charles Pinckney (delegates from Virginia, New York, and South Carolina respectively) to serve on a committee charged with the responsibility of designing rules and procedures for the Convention. Convention delegates were informed that Delaware was “prohibited from changing the article in the Confederation [Articles of Confederation] establishing an equality of votes among the States.” This protected the interest of Delaware as a small state and established a level of equality between large and small states.
- May 28 (Monday) Delaware’s Gunning Bedford, Jr., arrived at the Convention. Delegates reviewed and discussed proposed rules of procedures. They also determined that fellow delegates would elect by ballot, members to serve on committees. They elected Delawareans to serve on several committees. John Dickinson served on four committees, George Read on two committees, and Gunning Bedford, Jr., on one committee. As committee members, these Delawareans proposed a variety of ideas dealing with the slave trade, regulation of militia, state debts, commerce, and congressional representation.
- May 29 (Tuesday) Delaware’s John Dickinson arrived at the Convention. Delegates reviewed additional rules requiring delegates to obtain a leave in order to be absent from sessions. They also decided that each session would be held in secret and “that nothing spoken in the House be printed, or otherwise published or communicated without leave [approval].”

Source:

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