

*Wisdom, Vision  
and  
Diplomacy*

*Speakers*  
of the  
*House*  
of the  
COMMONWEALTH of  
*Pennsylvania*



*A biographical history of the Speakers of the  
Provincial Assembly and the House of Representatives*

1682–2020





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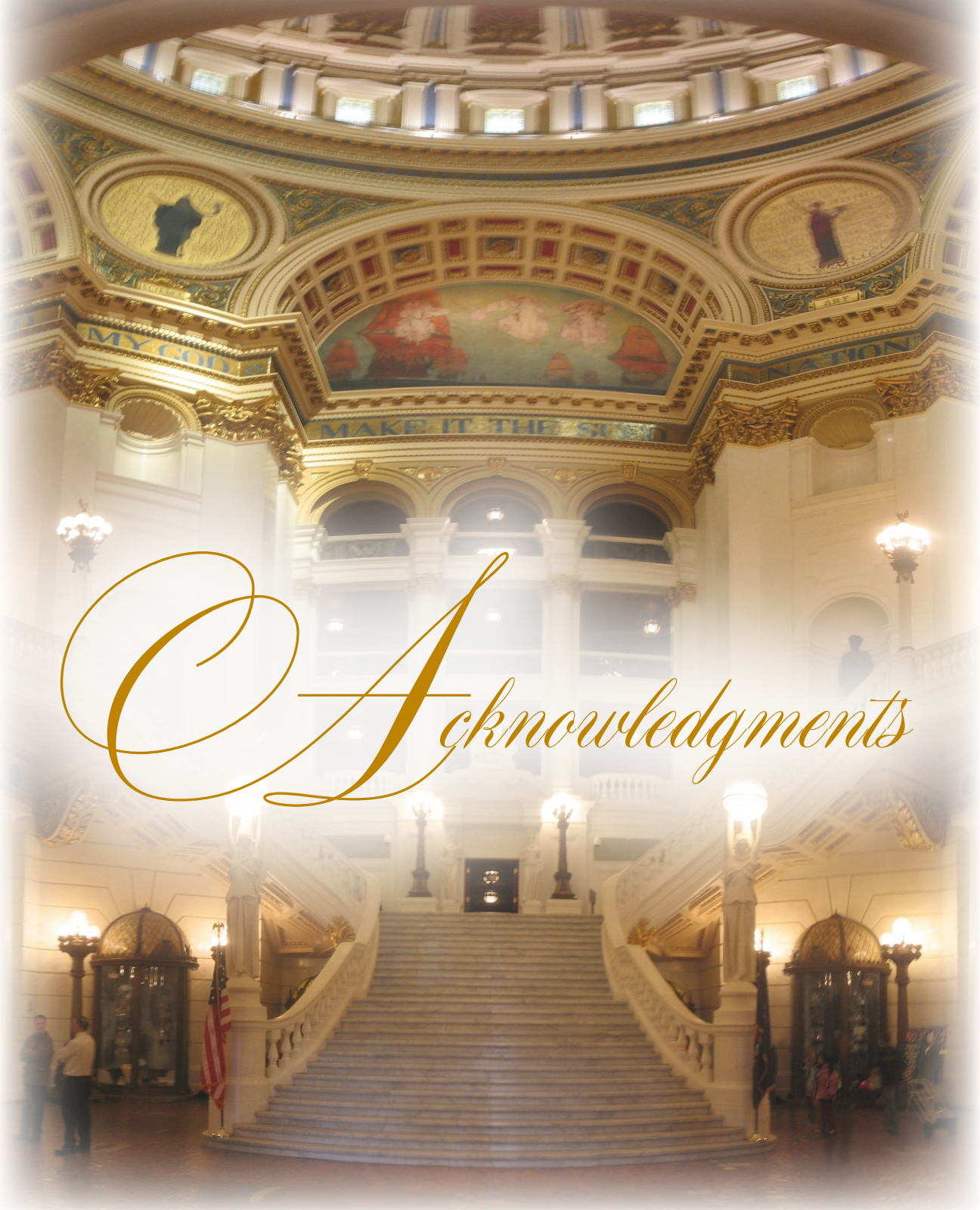
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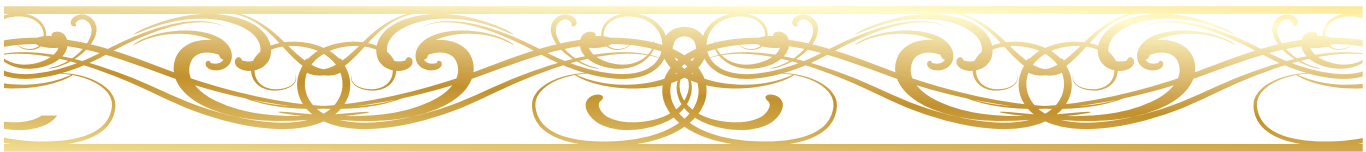
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*Acknowledgments*



This is the fourth edition of a project which began in the summer of 1995 when the Speaker's Director of Special Projects, Jeanne Hearn Schmedlin, mobilized a group of interns to begin writing biographies of past Speakers of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The first edition of this book was published in 2004, and an updated and expanded version was printed in 2008.

Seeing the need to review and update the book, House Archivist Heidi Mays again looked to the Speaker's interns who began the lengthy revision process in 2011, with the aim of revising the publication with uniform style. As such, each biography now includes the Speaker's education, career pursuits, elected positions, leadership positions, legislative issues endeavored during the speakership, post-speakership activity and personal information.

We are extremely grateful to several college students who served semester-long internships in the Office of the Speaker through the State System of Higher Education's Harrisburg Internship Semester. These students researched, wrote, and fact-checked much of the history of the 140 Speakers featured in this publication. These interns include Shawne Howze (Mansfield University), George Specht (Bloomsburg University), Tatiana Toro (Kutztown University), Brenton Davies (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), Brian Gallie (West Chester University), Dan Rothschild (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), Amber Somershoe (Bloomsburg University), Jenna McCarthy (Lock Haven University), and Nicole Fidler (Indiana University of Pennsylvania).

We would like to extend special recognition to George Specht, who developed the standardized process and template that was used to rework each biography and created a separate electronic file for each Speaker. He also fact-checked and revised 65 biographies during his internship.

With the support and encouragement of Speaker Sam Smith and Speaker Mike Turzai, the interns worked on the biographies in chronological phases, relying on the guidance of the staff of the House Archives which included Archivist Heidi Mays, Heather Deppen, Jennifer Ott, Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan, and Drew Greenwald. Each of these staff members devoted many years toward researching, writing, editing, and placing this publication online for many to view. The leadership of House Archives staff is deeply appreciated.

We also wish to thank the Chief Clerk of the House, Dave Reddecliff, for his support of this project and Clancy Myer, House Parliamentarian, for his insights and guidance on various sections of the book. Visual Media Designer, Kellie McCollum, of the House Republican Communications Department, did an outstanding job laying out the publication.

Research was completed using the collections of the House Archives, the PA State Library, *The Pennsylvania Manual*, House of Representatives Legislative Directories, Legislative Journals, newspaper articles, and reliable Internet sources.





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## A Message from Speaker Mike Turzai

It is my honor and pleasure to present the fourth edition of “Speakers of the House of Representatives.” We hope you will enjoy learning about the individuals who have presided over this body for the past 337 years.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives predates the United States Congress by more than a century and is the nation’s first independent legislative body. Since its creation in 1682, the House has been led by at least 139 different Speakers. The Speaker of the House is the oldest statewide elected position in Pennsylvania and the only House leadership office mandated by the state Constitution.

The Speaker of the Pennsylvania House must be a duly elected member of the body. The Speaker of the House is, by law, the third in line to succeed the Governor, after the Lieutenant Governor and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

The first meeting of what was then known as the Provincial Assembly convened on December 4, 1682. While the election of the Speaker is not identified in the minutes, Nicholas More and Thomas Wynne potentially filled the role. More than 80 years later, the state’s best-known Speaker, Benjamin Franklin, was elected to the post.

A few historical notes may be of interest as you read the biographies. The political affiliations for Speakers during the colonial era of Pennsylvania’s history can be characterized by both religious affiliations and their attitudes toward the Proprietorship. Quakers, as well as several other Christian populations including Anglicans, Presbyterians, and Lutherans, served in the Assembly alongside one another.

Pennsylvania’s assembly was often at odds over the amount of power the Proprietor, William Penn, should have in the colony’s government. In this book, affiliations for pre-Revolutionary War Assembly members will note both their religious affiliation (if applicable), as well as their stance on Proprietorship during their time as Speaker.

Since Britain did not adopt the Gregorian Calendar until 1752, early records from colonial Pennsylvania before 1752 that refer to the “first month” actually refer to March, not January. In this book, the authors have accounted for this fact and made every effort to accurately reflect dates in the Gregorian calendar.

We hope you enjoy the book. If you have any historical questions, please feel free to contact the House Archives Office at 717-783-3866 or [www.house.state.pa.us/bmc/archives](http://www.house.state.pa.us/bmc/archives).

Sincerely,

*Mike Turzai*

Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives



# Alphabetical list of Speakers of the Provincial Assembly and the House of Representatives 1682 –2020

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>County Served</b>
Alter, George E. ....	1913-1914. ....	Allegheny County
Ambler, Charles A. ....	1915-1916. ....	Montgomery County
Anderson, Samuel. ....	1832-1833. ....	Delaware County
Andrews, Hiram G. ....	1955-1956. ....	Cambria County
Andrews, Hiram G. ....	1959-1962. ....	Cambria County
Baldwin, Richard J. ....	1917-1918. ....	Delaware County
Bayard, John B. ....	1777. ....	Philadelphia County
Bayard, John B. ....	1778-1780. ....	Philadelphia County
Bayard, John B. ....	1784-1785. ....	Philadelphia County
Biddle, Edward. ....	1774-1775. ....	Berks County
Biles, Jr., William ....	1724-1725. ....	Bucks County
Bingham, William ....	1790-1792. ....	Philadelphia City
Bluett, Thomas. ....	1925-1927. ....	Philadelphia County
Blunston, John. ....	1697. ....	Chester County
Blunston, John. ....	1699-1700. ....	Chester County
Boileau, Nathaniel B. ....	1808. ....	Montgomery County
Boyer, Henry K. ....	1887-1890. ....	Philadelphia County
Boyer, Henry K. ....	1897-1898. ....	Philadelphia County
Cessna, John. ....	1851. ....	Bedford and Cambria Counties
Cessna, John. ....	1863. ....	Bedford County
Chase, Ezra B. ....	1854. ....	Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties
Clark, John. ....	1869. ....	Philadelphia County
Clark, William. ....	1692. ....	Sussex County (Delaware)
Cook, Arthur. ....	1689-1690. ....	Bucks County
Cooper, James. ....	1847. ....	Adams County
Cox, John F. ....	1909-1911. ....	Allegheny County
Crabb, William A. ....	1841. ....	Philadelphia County
Cuter, Bryan. ....	2020. ....	Lancaster County
Davidson, William. ....	1817-1818. ....	Fayette County
Davis, Elisha W. ....	1861. ....	Mercer and Venango Counties
Davis, Elisha W. ....	1868. ....	Philadelphia County
Dewart, Lewis. ....	1836-1838. ....	Northumberland County
DeWeese, H. William. ....	1993-1994. ....	Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties
Dickinson, Jonathan. ....	1718-1719. ....	Philadelphia County
Elliott, William. ....	1872-1873. ....	Philadelphia County
Engle, James. ....	1808-1810. ....	Philadelphia County
Evans, Cadwalader. ....	1798-1799. ....	Montgomery County
Farr, John R. ....	1899-1900. ....	Lackawanna County
Faunce, John E. ....	1883-1884. ....	Philadelphia County
Findley, James. ....	1833. ....	Westmoreland County
Fineman, Herbert. ....	1969-1972. ....	Philadelphia County
Fineman, Herbert. ....	1975-1977. ....	Philadelphia County
Fiss, Ira T. ....	1943-1946. ....	Snyder County
Fox, Joseph. ....	1764-1766. ....	Philadelphia County
Fox, Joseph. ....	1769. ....	Philadelphia County
Franklin, Benjamin. ....	1764. ....	Philadelphia City
Furman, Roy E. ....	1936-1938. ....	Greene County

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>County Served</b>
Galloway, Joseph. ....	1766-1769. ....	Philadelphia County
Galloway, Joseph. ....	1769-1774. ....	Philadelphia County (1769); Bucks County (1770-1774)
Getz, James L. ....	1857. ....	Berks County
Gilmore, John. ....	1820-1821. ....	Allegheny and Butler Counties
Glass, John P. ....	1867. ....	Allegheny County
Goodnough, C. Jay. ....	1923-1924. ....	Cameron County
Goodnough, C. Jay. ....	1931-1932. ....	Cameron County
Graham, James L. ....	1885-1886. ....	Allegheny County
Gray, George. ....	1783-1784. ....	Philadelphia County
Growden, Joseph. ....	1690-1691. ....	Bucks County
Growden, Joseph. ....	1693-1694. ....	Bucks County
Growden, Joseph. ....	1700-1702. ....	Bucks County
Growden, Joseph. ....	1705-1706. ....	Bucks County
Growden, Joseph. ....	1713-1714. ....	Bucks County
Growden, Joseph. ....	1715-1716. ....	Bucks County
Growden, Joseph. ....	1722-1723. ....	Bucks County
Hamilton, Andrew. ....	1729-1733. ....	Bucks County
Hamilton, Andrew. ....	1734-1739. ....	Bucks County
Hamilton, Robert K. ....	1965-1966. ....	Beaver County
Helm, W. Stuart. ....	1957-1958. ....	Armstrong County
Helm, W. Stuart. ....	1963-1964. ....	Armstrong County
Hess, Aaron B. ....	1929-1930. ....	Lancaster County
Hewit, Benjamin L. ....	1881-1882. ....	Blair County
Hill, Rees P. ....	1815-1817. ....	Greene County
Hill, Rees P. ....	1818-1819. ....	Greene County
Hill, Richard. ....	1710-1712. ....	Philadelphia County
Hill, Richard. ....	1716-1717. ....	Philadelphia County
Holgate, Jacob. ....	1814-1815. ....	Philadelphia County
Hopkins, William. ....	1838-1840. ....	Washington County
Irvis, K. Leroy. ....	1977-1978. ....	Allegheny County
Irvis, K. Leroy. ....	1983-1988. ....	Allegheny County
Jacobs, John. ....	1776-1777. ....	Chester County
Johnson, Henry C. ....	1864. ....	Crawford and Warren Counties
Kelley, James R. ....	1866. ....	Beaver and Washington Counties
Kilroy, Elmer. ....	1941-1942. ....	Philadelphia County
Kinsey, John. ....	1739-1745. ....	Philadelphia County
Kinsey, John. ....	1746-1750. ....	Philadelphia County
Langhorne, Jeremiah. ....	1721-1722. ....	Bucks County
Langhorne, Jeremiah. ....	1733-1734. ....	Bucks County
Laporte, John. ....	1831-1832. ....	Bradford and Tioga Counties
Latimer, George. ....	1793-1798. ....	Philadelphia County
Lawrence, Joseph. ....	1819-1820. ....	Washington County
Lawrence, Joseph. ....	1821-1824. ....	Washington County
Lawrence, William C. A. ....	1859-1860. ....	Dauphin County





## Alphabetical list continued

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>County Served</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>County Served</b>
Lee, Kenneth B. ....	1967-1968. ....	Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties	Ryan, Matthew J. ....	1981-1982. ....	Delaware County
Lee, Kenneth B. ....	1973-1974. ....	Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties	Ryan, Matthew J. ....	1995-2003. ....	Delaware County
Leech, Thomas ....	1758. ....	Philadelphia County	Sarig, Wilson G. ....	1935-1936. ....	Berks County
Lichtenwalter, Franklin H. ....	1947. ....	Lehigh County	Schell, William P. ....	1853. ....	Bedford, Cambria, and Fulton Counties
Lloyd, David ....	1694-1695. ....	Chester County	Seltzer, H. Jack ....	1979-1980. ....	Lebanon County
Lloyd, David ....	1703-1705. ....	Philadelphia County	Shippen, Edward ....	1695-1696. ....	Philadelphia County
Lloyd, David ....	1706-1710. ....	Philadelphia County	Shreve, Milton W. ....	1911-1912. ....	Erie County
Lloyd, David ....	1714-1715. ....	Chester County	Simcock, John ....	1696-1697. ....	Chester County
Lloyd, David ....	1723-1724. ....	Chester County	Smith, Charles C. ....	1953-1954. ....	Philadelphia County
Lloyd, David ....	1725-1729. ....	Chester County	Smith, Frederick. ....	1829-1831. ....	Franklin County
Long, Henry M. ....	1879-1880. ....	Allegheny County	Smith, Robert. ....	1813-1814. ....	Franklin County
Longaker, A. Brower ....	1858. ....	Montgomery County	Smith, Samuel H. ....	2011-2014. ....	Armstrong, Clearfield, Indiana, and Jefferson Counties
Manderino, James J. ....	1989. ....	Westmoreland County	Snowden, James Ross. ....	1842. ....	Clarion and Venango Counties
Marshall, William T. ....	1901-1902. ....	Allegheny County	Snowden, James Ross. ....	1844. ....	Clarion and Venango Counties
McCall, Keith R. ....	2009-2010. ....	Carbon, Luzerne, and Monroe Counties	Snyder, Simon ....	1803-1805. ....	Northumberland County
McCalmont, John S. ....	1850. ....	Clarion, Jefferson, and Venango Counties	Snyder, Simon ....	1806-1808. ....	Northumberland County
McClain, Francis B. ....	1907-1908. ....	Lancaster County	Sorg, Herbert P. ....	1947-1952. ....	Elk County
McClure, James H. ....	1927-1928. ....	Allegheny County	Spangler, Robert S. ....	1919-1921. ....	York County
McCormick, Henry H. ....	1874. ....	Allegheny County	St. Clair, John ....	1814. ....	Fayette County
McLene, James ....	1777-1778. ....	Cumberland County	Strang, Butler B. ....	1870. ....	Potter and Tioga Counties
Middleswarth, Ner ....	1827-1829. ....	Union County	Strong, Henry K. ....	1855. ....	Philadelphia County
Middleswarth, Ner ....	1835-1836. ....	Union County	Sutherland, Joel B. ....	1824-1825. ....	Philadelphia County
Mifflin, Thomas ....	1785-1788. ....	Philadelphia County	Talbot, Grover C. ....	1933-1934. ....	Delaware County
More, Nicholas ....	1684-1685. ....	Philadelphia County	Thompson, Caleb. ....	1891-1894. ....	Warren County
Morton, John ....	1775-1776. ....	Chester County	Thompson, James ....	1834-1835. ....	Venango and Warren Counties
Muhlenberg, Frederick Augustus Conrad ....	1780-1783. ....	Philadelphia County	Tod, John ....	1811-1813. ....	Bedford County
Myer, Elijah Reed ....	1877-1878. ....	Bradford County	Trent, William ....	1717-1718. ....	Philadelphia City
Norris, Isaac, I. ....	1712-1713. ....	Philadelphia County	Trent, William. ....	1719-1720. ....	Philadelphia County
Norris, Isaac, I. ....	1720-1721. ....	Philadelphia County	Turner, Ellwood Jackson ...	1939-1940. ....	Delaware County
Norris, Isaac, II ....	1750-1757. ....	Philadelphia County	Turzai, Mike ....	2015-2020. ....	Allegheny County
Norris, Isaac, II ....	1758-1764. ....	Philadelphia County	Walton, Henry F. ....	1895-1896. ....	Philadelphia County
O'Brien, Dennis M. ....	2007-2008. ....	Philadelphia County	Walton, Henry F. ....	1903-1906. ....	Philadelphia County
O'Donnell, Robert W. ....	1990-1992. ....	Philadelphia County	Weaver, Isaac, Jr. ....	1799-1803. ....	Greene County
Olmstead, Arthur G. ....	1865. ....	Potter and Tioga Counties	Webb, James H. ....	1871. ....	Bradford and Sullivan Counties
Packer, William F. ....	1848-1849. ....	Clinton and Lycoming Counties	Weber, John ....	1810-1811. ....	Montgomery County
Patterson, Findley ....	1845-1846. ....	Armstrong County	Whitaker, Samuel A. ....	1921-1922. ....	Chester County
Patterson, Samuel Findley .	1875-1876. ....	Allegheny County	White, John ....	1685-1689. ....	Philadelphia County
Patterson, William ....	1833-1834. ....	Washington County	Wright, Hendrick B. ....	1843. ....	Luzerne and Wyoming Counties
Pemberton, Phineas ....	1698-1699. ....	Bucks County	Wright, John. ....	1745-1746. ....	Lancaster County
Perzel, John M. ....	2003-2006. ....	Philadelphia County	Wright, Richardson L. ....	1856. ....	Philadelphia County
Peters, Richard, II. ....	1788-1790. ....	Philadelphia County	Wynkoop, Gerardus, II. ....	1792-1793. ....	Bucks County
Porter, Charles ....	1805-1806. ....	Fayette County	Wynne, Thomas. ....	1683-1864. ....	Philadelphia County
Rhey, John S. ....	1852. ....	Armstrong, Clarion, and Jefferson Counties			
Ritner, Joseph. ....	1825-1827. ....	Washington County			
Rowe, John. ....	1862. ....	Franklin and Fulton Counties			



# Chronological list of Speakers of the Provincial Assembly and the House of Representatives 1682 –2020

<b>Term</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>County Served</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>County Served</b>
1683-1864	Wynne, Thomas	Philadelphia County	1774-1775	Biddle, Edward	Berks County
1684-1685	More, Nicholas	Philadelphia County	1775-1776	Morton, John	Chester County
1685-1689	White, John	Philadelphia County	1776-1777	Jacobs, John	Chester County
1689-1690	Cook, Arthur	Bucks County	1777	Bayard, John B.	Philadelphia County
1690-1691	Growden, Joseph	Bucks County	1777-1778	McLene, James	Cumberland County
1692	Clark, William	Sussex County (Delaware)	1778-1780	Bayard, John B.	Philadelphia County
1693-1694	Growden, Joseph	Bucks County	1780-1783	Muhlenberg, Frederick Augustus Conrad	Philadelphia County
1694-1695	Lloyd, David	Chester County	1783-1784	Gray, George	Philadelphia County
1695-1696	Shippen, Edward	Philadelphia County	1784-1785	Bayard, John B.	Philadelphia County
1696-1697	Simcock, John	Chester County	1785-1788	Mifflin, Thomas	Philadelphia County
1697	Blunston, John	Chester County	1788-1790	Peters, Richard, II	Philadelphia County
1698-1699	Pemberton, Phineas	Bucks County	1790-1792	Bingham, William	Philadelphia City
1699-1700	Blunston, John	Chester County	1792-1793	Wynkoop, Gerardus, II	Bucks County
1700-1702	Growden, Joseph	Bucks County	1793-1798	Latimer, George	Philadelphia County
1703-1705	Lloyd, David	Philadelphia County	1798-1799	Evans, Cadwalader	Montgomery County
1705-1706	Growden, Joseph	Bucks County	1799-1803	Weaver, Isaac, Jr.	Greene County
1706-1710	Lloyd, David	Philadelphia County	1803-1805	Snyder, Simon	Northumberland County
1710-1712	Hill, Richard	Philadelphia County	1805-1806	Porter, Charles	Fayette County
1712-1713	Norris, Isaac, I	Philadelphia County	1806-1808	Snyder, Simon	Northumberland County
1713-1714	Growden, Joseph	Bucks County	1808	Boileau, Nathaniel B.	Montgomery County
1714-1715	Lloyd, David	Chester County	1808-1810	Engle, James	Philadelphia County
1715-1716	Growden, Joseph	Bucks County	1810-1811	Weber, John	Montgomery County
1716-1717	Hill, Richard	Philadelphia County	1811-1813	Tod, John	Bedford County
1717-1718	Trent, William	Philadelphia City	1813-1814	Smith, Robert	Franklin County
1718-1719	Dickinson, Jonathan	Philadelphia County	1814	St. Clair, John	Fayette County
1719-1720	Trent, William	Philadelphia County	1814-1815	Holgate, Jacob	Philadelphia County
1720-1721	Norris, Isaac, I	Philadelphia County	1815-1817	Hill, Rees P.	Greene County
1721-1722	Langhorne, Jeremiah	Bucks County	1817-1818	Davidson, William	Fayette County
1722-1723	Growden, Joseph	Bucks County	1818-1819	Hill, Rees P.	Greene County
1723-1724	Lloyd, David	Chester County	1819-1820	Lawrence, Joseph	Washington County
1724-1725	Biles, Jr., William	Bucks County	1820-1821	Gilmore, John	Allegheny and Butler Counties
1725-1729	Lloyd, David	Chester County	1821-1824	Lawrence, Joseph	Washington County
1729-1733	Hamilton, Andrew	Bucks County	1824-1825	Sutherland, Joel B.	Philadelphia County
1733-1734	Langhorne, Jeremiah	Bucks County	1825-1827	Ritner, Joseph	Washington County
1734-1739	Hamilton, Andrew	Bucks County	1827-1829	Middleswarth, Ner	Union County
1739-1745	Kinsey, John	Philadelphia County	1829-1831	Smith, Frederick	Franklin County
1745-1746	Wright, John	Lancaster County	1831-1832	Laporte, John	Bradford and Tioga Counties
1746-1750	Kinsey, John	Philadelphia County	1832-1833	Anderson, Samuel	Delaware County
1750-1757	Norris, Isaac, II	Philadelphia County	1833	Findley, James	Westmoreland County
1758	Leech, Thomas	Philadelphia County	1833-1834	Patterson, William	Washington County
1758-1764	Norris, Isaac, II	Philadelphia County	1834-1835	Thompson, James	Venango and Warren Counties
1764	Franklin, Benjamin	Philadelphia City	1835-1836	Middleswarth, Ner	Union County
1764-1766	Fox, Joseph	Philadelphia County	1836-1838	Dewart, Lewis	Northumberland County
1766-1769	Galloway, Joseph	Philadelphia County	1838-1840	Hopkins, William	Washington County
1769	Fox, Joseph	Philadelphia County	1841	Crabb, William A.	Philadelphia County
1769-1774	Galloway, Joseph	Philadelphia County (1769); Bucks County (1770-1774)	1842	Snowden, James Ross	Clarion and Venango Counties



## Chronological list continued

<b>Term</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>County Served</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>County Served</b>
1843	Wright, Hendrick B.	Luzerne and Wyoming Counties	1917-1918	Baldwin, Richard J.	Delaware County
1844	Snowden, James Ross.	Clarion and Venango Counties	1919-1921	Spangler, Robert S.	York County
1845-1846	Patterson, Findley	Armstrong County	1921-1922	Whitaker, Samuel A.	Chester County
1847	Cooper, James	Adams County	1923-1924	Goodnough, C. Jay	Cameron County
1848-1849	Packer, William F.	Clinton and Lycoming Counties	1925-1927	Bluett, Thomas	Philadelphia County
1850	McCalmont, John S.	Clarion, Jefferson, and Venango Counties	1927-1928	McClure, James H.	Allegheny County
1851	Cessna, John	Bedford and Cambria Counties	1929-1930	Hess, Aaron B.	Lancaster County
1852	Rhey, John S.	Armstrong, Clarion, and Jefferson Counties	1931-1932	Goodnough, C. Jay	Cameron County
1853	Schell, William P.	Bedford, Cambria, and Fulton Counties	1933-1934	Talbot, Grover C.	Delaware County
1854	Chase, Ezra B.	Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties	1935-1936	Sarig, Wilson G.	Berks County
1855	Strong, Henry K.	Philadelphia County	1936-1938	Furman, Roy E.	Greene County
1856	Wright, Richardson L.	Philadelphia County	1939-1940	Turner, Elwood Jackson	Delaware County
1857	Getz, James L.	Berks County	1941-1942	Kilroy, Elmer	Philadelphia County
1858	Longaker, A. Brower	Montgomery County	1943-1946	Fiss, Ira T.	Snyder County
1859-1860	Lawrence, William C. A.	Dauphin County	1947	Lichtenwalter, Franklin H.	Lehigh County
1861	Davis, Elisha W.	Mercer and Venango Counties	1947-1952	Sorg, Herbert P.	Elk County
1862	Rowe, John	Franklin and Fulton Counties	1953-1954	Smith, Charles C.	Philadelphia County
1863	Cessna, John	Bedford County	1955-1956	Andrews, Hiram G.	Cambria County
1864	Johnson, Henry C.	Crawford and Warren Counties	1957-1958	Helm, W. Stuart	Armstrong County
1865	Olmstead, Arthur G.	Potter and Tioga Counties	1959-1962	Andrews, Hiram G.	Cambria County
1866	Kelley, James R.	Beaver and Washington Counties	1963-1964	Helm, W. Stuart	Armstrong County
1867	Glass, John P.	Allegheny County	1965-1966	Hamilton, Robert K.	Beaver County
1868	Davis, Elisha W.	Philadelphia County	1967-1968	Lee, Kenneth B.	Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties
1869	Clark, John	Philadelphia County	1969-1972	Fineman, Herbert	Philadelphia County
1870	Strang, Butler B.	Potter and Tioga Counties	1973-1974	Lee, Kenneth B.	Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties
1871	Webb, James H.	Bradford and Sullivan Counties	1975-1977	Fineman, Herbert	Philadelphia County
1872-1873	Elliott, William	Philadelphia County	1977-1978	Irvis, K. Leroy	Allegheny County
1874	McCormick, Henry H.	Allegheny County	1979-1980	Seltzer, H. Jack	Lebanon County
1875-1876	Patterson, Samuel Findley	Allegheny County	1981-1982	Ryan, Matthew J.	Delaware County
1877-1878	Myer, Elijah Reed	Bradford County	1983-1988	Irvis, K. Leroy	Allegheny County
1879-1880	Long, Henry M.	Allegheny County	1989	Manderino, James J.	Westmoreland County
1881-1882	Hewit, Benjamin L.	Blair County	1990-1992	O'Donnell, Robert W.	Philadelphia County
1883-1884	Faunce, John E.	Philadelphia County	1993-1994	DeWeese, H. William	Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties
1885-1886	Graham, James L.	Allegheny County	1995-2003	Ryan, Matthew J.	Delaware County
1887-1890	Boyer, Henry K.	Philadelphia County	2003-2006	Perzel, John M.	Philadelphia County
1891-1894	Thompson, Caleb	Warren County	2007-2008	O'Brien, Dennis M.	Philadelphia County
1895-1896	Walton, Henry F.	Philadelphia County	2009-2010	McCall, Keith R.	Carbon, Luzerne, and Monroe Counties
1897-1898	Boyer, Henry K.	Philadelphia County	2011-2014	Smith, Samuel H.	Armstrong, Clearfield, Indiana, and Jefferson Counties
1899-1900	Farr, John R.	Lackawanna County	2015-2020	Turzai, Mike	Allegheny County
1901-1902	Marshall, William T.	Allegheny County	2020-present	Cutler, Bryan	Lancaster County
1903-1906	Walton, Henry F.	Philadelphia County			
1907-1908	McClain, Francis B.	Lancaster County			
1909-1911	Cox, John F.	Allegheny County			
1911-1912	Shreve, Milton W.	Erie County			
1913-1914	Alter, George E.	Allegheny County			
1915-1916	Ambler, Charles A.	Montgomery County			



# Speakers of the Provincial Assembly and the House of Representatives by County 1682 –2020

## **Adams County**

Cooper, James ..... 1847

## **Allegheny County**

Alter, George E. .... 1913-1914

Cox, John F. .... 1909-1911

Glass, John P. .... 1867

Graham, James L. .... 1885-1886

Irviss, K. Leroy ..... 1977-1978

Irviss, K. Leroy ..... 1983-1988

Long, Henry M. .... 1879-1880

Marshall, William T. .... 1901-1902

McClure, James H. .... 1927-1928

McCormick, Henry H. .... 1874

Patterson, Samuel Findley .... 1875-1876

Turzaj, Mike ..... 2015-2020

## **Allegheny and Butler Counties**

Gilmore, John. .... 1820-1821

## **Armstrong County**

Helm, W. Stuart ..... 1957-1958

Helm, W. Stuart ..... 1963-1964

Patterson, Findley ..... 1845-1846

## **Armstrong, Clarion, and Jefferson Counties**

Rhey, John S. .... 1852

## **Armstrong, Clearfield, Indiana, and Jefferson Counties**

Smith, Samuel H. .... 2011-2014

## **Beaver County**

Hamilton, Robert K. .... 1965-1966

## **Beaver and Washington Counties**

Kelley, James R. .... 1866

## **Bedford County**

Cessna, John. .... 1863

Tod, John ..... 1811-1813

## **Bedford and Cambria Counties**

Cessna, John. .... 1851

## **Bedford, Cambria, and Fulton Counties**

Schell, William P. .... 1853

## **Berks County**

Biddle, Edward. .... 1774-1775

Getz, James L. .... 1857

Sarig, Wilson G. .... 1935-1936

## **Blair County**

Hewitt, Benjamin L. .... 1881-1882

## **Bradford County**

Myer, Elijah Reed. .... 1877-1878

## **Bradford and Sullivan Counties**

Webb, James H. .... 1871

## **Bradford and Tioga Counties**

Laporte, John. .... 1831-1832

## **Bucks County**

Biles, Jr., William ..... 1724-1725

Cook, Arthur. .... 1689-1690

Fineman, Herbert ..... 1770-1774

Growden, Joseph. .... 1690-1691

Growden, Joseph. .... 1693-1694

Growden, Joseph. .... 1700-1702

Growden, Joseph. .... 1705-1706

Growden, Joseph. .... 1713-1714

Growden, Joseph. .... 1715-1716

Growden, Joseph. .... 1722-1723

Hamilton, Andrew. .... 1729-1733

Hamilton, Andrew. .... 1734-1739

Langhorne, Jeremiah ..... 1721-1722

Langhorne, Jeremiah ..... 1733-1734

Pemberton, Phineas ..... 1698-1699

Wynkoop, Gerardus, II. .... 1792-1793

## **Cambria County**

Andrews, Hiram G. .... 1955-1956

Andrews, Hiram G. .... 1959-1962

## **Cameron County**

Goodnough, C. Jay ..... 1923-1924

Goodnough, C. Jay ..... 1931-1932

## **Carbon, Luzerne, and Monroe Counties**

McCall, Keith R. .... 2009-2010

## **Chester County**

Blunston, John. .... 1697

Blunston, John. .... 1699-1700

Jacobs, John ..... 1776-1777

Lloyd, David ..... 1694-1695

Lloyd, David ..... 1714-1715

Lloyd, David ..... 1723-1724

Lloyd, David ..... 1725-1729

Morton, John ..... 1775-1776

Simcock, John ..... 1696-1697

Whitaker, Samuel A. .... 1921-1922

## **Clarion and Venango Counties**

Snowden, James Ross. .... 1842

Snowden, James Ross. .... 1844

## **Clarion, Jefferson, and Venango Counties**

McCalmont, John S. .... 1850

## **Clinton and Lycoming Counties**

Packer, William F. .... 1848-1849

## **Crawford and Warren Counties**

Johnson, Henry C. .... 1864

## **Cumberland County**

McLene, James ..... 1777-1778

## **Dauphin County**

Lawrence, William C. A. .... 1859-1860

## **Delaware County**

Anderson, Samuel ..... 1832-1833

Baldwin, Richard J. .... 1917-1918

Ryan, Matthew J. .... 1981-1982

Ryan, Matthew J. .... 1995-2003

Talbot, Grover C. .... 1933-1934

Turner, Ellwood Jackson ..... 1939-1940

## **Elk County**

Sorg, Herbert P. .... 1947-1952

## **Erie County**

Shreve, Milton W. .... 1911-1912

## **Fayette County**

Davidson, William ..... 1817-1818

Porter, Charles ..... 1805-1806

St. Clair, John ..... 1814

## **Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties**

DeWeese, H. William ..... 1993-1994

## **Franklin County**

Smith, Frederick ..... 1829-1831

Smith, Robert ..... 1813-1814

## **Franklin and Fulton Counties**

Rowe, John. .... 1862

## **Greene County**

Furman, Roy E. .... 1936-1938

Hill, Rees P. .... 1815-1817

Hill, Rees P. .... 1818-1819

Weaver, Isaac, Jr. .... 1799-1803

## **Lackawanna County**

Farr, John R. .... 1899-1900

## **Lancaster County**

Cutler, Bryan. .... 2020-present

Hess, Aaron B. .... 1929-1930

McClain, Francis B. .... 1907-1908

Wright, John. .... 1745-1746

## **Lebanon County**

Seltzer, H. Jack ..... 1979-1980

## **Lehigh County**

Lichtenwalter, Franklin H. .... 1947

## **Luzerne and Wyoming Counties**

Wright, Hendrick B. .... 1843

## **Mercer and Venango Counties**

Davis, Elisha W. .... 1861

## **Montgomery County**

Ambler, Charles A. .... 1915-1916

Boileau, Nathaniel B. .... 1808

Evans, Cadwalader. .... 1798-1799

Longaker, A. Brower ..... 1858

Weber, John ..... 1810-1811

## **Northumberland County**

Dewart, Lewis ..... 1836-1838





## County list continued

Snyder, Simon ..... 1803-1805  
Snyder, Simon ..... 1806-1808  
**Philadelphia City**  
Bingham, William ..... 1790-1792  
Franklin, Benjamin ..... 1764  
Trent, William ..... 1717-1718  
**Philadelphia County**  
Bayard, John B. .... 1777  
Bayard, John B. .... 1778-1780  
Bayard, John B. .... 1784-1785  
Bluett, Thomas ..... 1925-1927  
Boyer, Henry K. .... 1887-1890  
Boyer, Henry K. .... 1897-1898  
Clark, John ..... 1869  
Crabb, William A. .... 1841  
Davis, Elisha W. .... 1868  
Dickinson, Jonathan ..... 1718-1719  
Elliott, William ..... 1872-1873  
Engle, James ..... 1808-1810  
Faunce, John E. .... 1883-1884  
Fineman, Herbert ..... 1969-1972  
Fineman, Herbert ..... 1975-1977  
Fox, Joseph ..... 1764-1766  
Fox, Joseph ..... 1769  
Galloway, Joseph ..... 1766-1769  
Galloway, Joseph ..... 1769-1774  
Gray, George ..... 1783-1784  
Hill, Richard ..... 1710-1712  
Hill, Richard ..... 1716-1717  
Holgate, Jacob ..... 1814-1815  
Kilroy, Elmer ..... 1941-1942  
Kinsey, John ..... 1739-1745  
Kinsey, John ..... 1746-1750  
Latimer, George ..... 1793-1798  
Leech, Thomas ..... 1758  
Lloyd, David ..... 1703-1705  
Lloyd, David ..... 1706-1710  
Mifflin, Thomas ..... 1785-1788  
More, Nicholas ..... 1684-1685  
Muhlenberg, Frederick  
    Augustus Conrad ..... 1780-1783  
Norris, Isaac, I. .... 1712-1713  
Norris, Isaac, I. .... 1720-1721  
Norris, Isaac, II ..... 1750-1757  
Norris, Isaac, II ..... 1758-1764  
O'Brien, Dennis M. .... 2007-2008  
O'Donnell, Robert W. .... 1990-1992  
Perzel, John M. .... 2003-2006  
Peters, Richard, II ..... 1788-1790  
Shippen, Edward ..... 1695-1696  
Smith, Charles C. .... 1953-1954  
Strong, Henry K. .... 1855  
Sutherland, Joel B. .... 1824-1825  
Trent, William ..... 1719-1720

Walton, Henry F. .... 1895-1896  
Walton, Henry F. .... 1903-1906  
White, John ..... 1685-1689  
Wright, Richardson L. .... 1856  
Wynne, Thomas ..... 1683-1864  
**Potter and Tioga Counties**  
Olmstead, Arthur G. .... 1865  
Strang, Butler B. .... 1870  
**Snyder County**  
Fiss, Ira T. .... 1943-1946  
**Sullivan, Susquehanna, and  
Wayne Counties**  
Lee, Kenneth B. .... 1967-1968  
Lee, Kenneth B. .... 1973-1974  
**Sullivan, Susquehanna, and  
Wyoming Counties**  
Chase, Ezra B. .... 1854  
**Sussex County (Delaware)**  
Clark, William ..... 1692  
**Union County**  
Middleswarth, Ner ..... 1827-1829  
Middleswarth, Ner ..... 1835-1836  
**Venango and Warren Counties**  
Thompson, James ..... 1834-1835  
**Warren County**  
Thompson, Caleb ..... 1891-1894  
**Washington County**  
Hopkins, William ..... 1838-1840  
Lawrence, Joseph ..... 1819-1820  
Lawrence, Joseph ..... 1821-1824  
Patterson, William ..... 1833-1834  
Ritner, Joseph ..... 1825-1827  
**Westmoreland County**  
Findley, James ..... 1833  
Manderino, James J. .... 1989  
**York County**  
Spangler, Robert S. .... 1919-1921





# Duties of the Speaker of the House

The Speaker is the presiding officer and the administrative head of the House. His duties include presiding over legislative sessions, preserving order and decorum during each voting session and deciding all questions of order. The Speaker ensures all rules and regulations for voting and parliamentary procedures are followed.

In addition, the Speaker oversees the committee process by appointing the chairmen and vice chairmen of each standing committee and refers all bills to these committees for consideration.

The Speaker votes on bills and may also sponsor legislation. On occasion he may turn the gavel over to a Speaker Pro Tempore (temporary Speaker) in order to occupy a desk on the House floor and participate in debate.

The Speaker is, by law, the third in line to succeed the Governor, after the Lieutenant Governor and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.



# Speaker of the House Facts

## **First Speaker of the House:**

The minutes of the first Assembly meeting in 1682 do not name who presided as Speaker. Thomas Wynne was elected Speaker for the second session of the Assembly that convened in 1683.

## **Total number of Speakers:**

One hundred and thirty nine Speakers of the Pennsylvania House can be identified. In addition to the vague minutes of the first Session, the minutes of 1691 have been lost or destroyed.

## **Longest serving Speaker of the House:**

Isaac Norris II was elected Speaker for 15 one-year Sessions (1750-1757, 1758-1764)







### Shortest tenure as Speaker:

James Findley was elected Speaker of the House on December 3, 1833 and resigned the position just days later when he was appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth. He assumed that position on December 17, 1833.

### County with the most Speakers:

Forty-two Philadelphia County Representatives have served as Speaker.

### Speakers who served as Governor:

Thomas Mifflin (1790-1799), Simon Snyder (1808-1817), Joseph Ritner (1835-1839), and William F. Packer (1858-1861) all served as Pennsylvania's Governor.

### Youngest known Speaker elected:

Ezra B. Chase, William C.A. Lawrence, and James R. Kelley were all just 26 years old when they were elected Speaker. Chase was officially the youngest — being elected Speaker just 8 days after his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Oldest known Speaker elected:

Hiram G. Andrews was elected Speaker at the age of 79.

### Speaker of the Pennsylvania House and Speaker of United States House of Representatives:

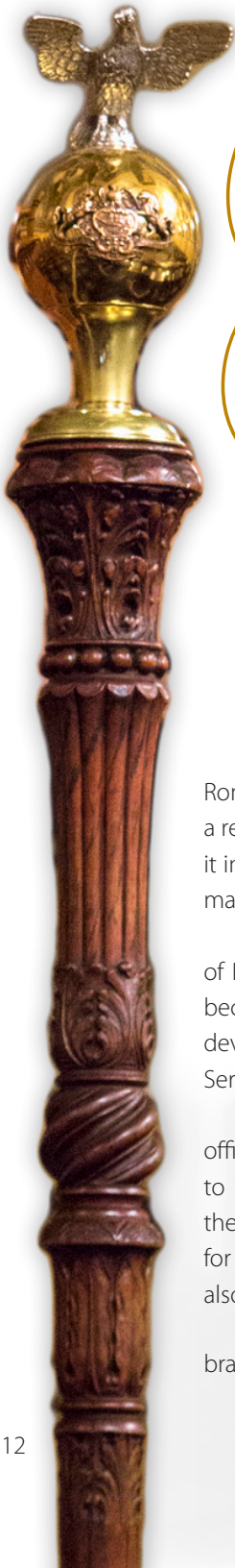
Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg has the distinction of being elected both Speaker of the Pennsylvania General Assembly (1780-1783), as well as Speaker of the First Federal Congress on April 1, 1789.

### Number of Speakers to die in office:

Five: John Kinsey (May 11, 1750), William C.A. Lawrence (April 21, 1860), John Cessna (December 13, 1893), James J. Manderino (December 26, 1989), and Matthew J. Ryan (March 29, 2003).

### Speaker when electronic voting machines were installed on House Floor:

Hiram G. Andrews was Speaker when electronic voting machines were installed for the 1961 Session.



# Symbols of Office



## The Mace

The mace is the Speaker's symbol of authority. Its history dates back to early Roman times. Then, it consisted of a bundle of birch or elm rods bound together by a red thong with an ax blade protruding from the top of the bundle. Officers carried it in advance of magistrates and emperors to show authority. In medieval times, the mace became an offensive weapon made of iron or steel.

Purely ceremonial maces were first used in the 12th century during the reigns of Philip of France and Richard I of England as symbols of dignity. Later, the mace became the symbol of England's House of Commons from which a similar usage developed in America. In England it was carried by a royal bodyguard called a Sergeant-at-Arms.

Today, the mace is carried by the Mace Bearer, who escorts the Speaker from his office to the House Chamber to open each session day. It remains on a pedestal to the right of the Speaker's desk until adjournment. In addition to symbolizing the preservation of peace and order, the mace demonstrates the Legislature's respect for its own heritage and law. It symbolizes the guarantee that those who govern are also governed.

The mace is 46 inches long and made of solid mahogany topped by a polished brass sphere engraved on each side with the coat of arms of the Commonwealth.



## The Rostrum

The Rostrum is the elevated space in the House Chamber facing the Members. It is reserved for the Speaker as he leads the House in its work. On the Rostrum, located "center stage," sits a desk with a microphone, the Speaker's Chair, and several chairs for the Mace Bearer, Parliamentarian and others designated by the Speaker. The chief clerk, assistant clerks and reporters sit two steps below the Rostrum, facing the Members. The pages are seated in a row on the House floor in front of the Rostrum, also facing the Members.

## The Gavel

Speakers tap wooden gavels to keep order in the House.

## Speaker's Chair

The Speaker's chair was designed in 1906 by the Capitol's architect, Joseph M. Huston. It is made of ornately carved wood with gold-leaf ornaments and a gold-tooled leather seat and back.

The throne-style chair, which sits on the Rostrum behind the Speaker's desk, is made of pollard oak and originally was covered in Spanish leather upholstery tooled in ornate patterns. A single anthemion, a flat decoration of floral or leaf forms used in relief sculpture, crowns the chair. In its center, a carved keystone is featured.

Busts of lion heads adorn the arms, Corinthian columns are sculpted on both sides of the back of the chair, and its two front legs feature large clawed feet.

The chair was removed from the Chamber in the 1950s and sent to state surplus. A foresighted employee at surplus, who realized the chair's historic value, placed the chair in The State Museum of Pennsylvania's storage area. During the 75th anniversary of the Capitol's dedication in 1981, the chair was returned to the House Chamber. In the spring of 1989, the chair was restored.





*Biographical*  
*Histories*  
of  
*Speakers*





2020-Present



*Bryan D. Cutler*

Born: April 2, 1975 in Peach Bottom,  
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Member of the House: 100th Legislative District, Lancaster County, 2007-present.  
Affiliation: Republican.

Bryan D. Cutler was born April 2, 1975 in Peach Bottom, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Solanco High School in 1993, and earned a certificate of radiologic technology from Lancaster General School of Radiology in 1995. In 2001, Cutler earned a B.S. in healthcare administration from Lebanon Valley College. Cutler continued his studies and received a J.D. from the Widener Law School in 2006. Cutler and his wife Jennifer (nee Phipps) have three children: Cheyanne, Caleb, and Drew.

Following his studies, Cutler worked as an x-ray technologist, and eventually served as the manager of the Support Services at Lancaster General Hospital. After completing his law degree, he became a member of the Lancaster Bar Association and began practicing law with the firm of Nikolaus & Hohenadel.

Cutler was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2006 to represent the 100th Legislative District in Lancaster County. While in office, Cutler has worked on welfare reform efforts to reduce fraud and abuse as well as issues relating to health care. Cutler was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 164 of 2012 which provided for fraud detection and prevention mechanisms for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). He also prime-sponsored the legislation that led to Act 60 of 2013 which eliminated redundancies in hospital accreditation procedures.

Cutler served on the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee from 2007 to 2010. He also served on the Joint State Government Commission from 2015 to 2018.

Cutler was elected Majority Whip for the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 sessions. For the 2019-2020 session Cutler was elected Majority Leader. Cutler was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on June 22, 2020 following Speaker Mike Turzai's resignation.







2015-2020

*Mike Turzai*

Born: August 2, 1959, Sewickley, Allegheny County, PA.  
Member of the House: 28th Legislative District, representing part  
of Allegheny County, 2001-2020.  
Affiliation: Republican.

Michael C. Turzai was raised in Moon Township, Pennsylvania. He received his Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Notre Dame in 1981 and received his law degree from Duke University in 1987. He lives with his wife Lidia and their 3 sons, Andrew, Stephen, and Matthew in Marshall Township, Allegheny County.

On June 26, 2001, Turzai won a special election to represent the 28th Legislative District, located in the northern suburbs of Allegheny County. He was elected Chair of the Republican Policy Committee in the 2007-2008 legislative session. From 2009-2010 he was the Republican Whip and served 2 consecutive terms as Republican Majority Leader, from 2011-2014. On January 6, 2015 Turzai was unanimously elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Turzai was known for his commitment to privatize wine and spirit sales in Pennsylvania. Throughout his time in office, Turzai introduced numerous pieces of legislation regarding the matter. In 2016, he introduced House Bill 1690, which focused on convenience for the consumer to purchase alcohol, with provisions for wine sales in grocery stores, an auction of expired liquor licenses, and direct wine shipments to Pennsylvania homes. The bill was signed into law by Governor Wolf on June 8, 2016 and became Act 39 of 2016.

Turzai led efforts to enact lawsuit abuse and workers' compensation reform, eliminate the capital stock and franchise tax, and reform corporate taxes and commercial banking. He promoted jobs in energy and manufacturing and was instrumental in enacting a tax credit that attracted a petrochemical facility to a brown field in Beaver County, which employed 6,500 skilled tradespersons on the largest construction site in North America at the time.

Turzai was a vocal advocate for reducing debt, Turzai assisted in the passage of House Bill 493, which became Act 77 of 2013. Known as the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Projects (RACP) bill, this legislation sought to reduce the Commonwealth's debt by amending the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act. This cut the amount of debt the state could legally incur from \$4.05 billion to \$3.45 billion. Turzai was also instrumental in the enactment of two additional laws. Act 45 of 2017 reduced the RACP debt ceiling by an additional \$300 million to \$3.15 billion. Act 43 of 2019 requires the state to pay off debt more responsibly by paying principal for new state debt to be repaid in equal amounts over the term of the bond.



An advocate for expanding parental choice and helping children receive a quality education, Turzai teamed with the state's business community to develop and implement a \$55 million Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit that allows children who attend under performing public schools to attend schools of their choice. He was also the leading champion of increasing the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) from \$50 million in 2010-11, with \$38 million going to K-12 scholarships, to \$185 million in 2019-20, with \$135 million going to K-12 scholarships. Turzai also supported brick-and-mortar charter schools and offered an amendment to the school code in 2014 that requires the Philadelphia School District to render decisions on new charter applications at least one per year, resulting in 13,000 new charter seats over a 5-year period.

Turzai also stood for the dignity of the unborn. He was instrumental in the passage of Act 122 of 2011, which requires abortion facilities to comply with regulations on ambulatory surgical facilities and both announced and unannounced inspections, and Act 13 of 2013, which prohibits coverage for abortion services in qualified health plans offered through a state-based or federally facilitated health insurance exchange.

Turzai resigned from the House on June 15, 2020. Following his resignation, he accepted a position as general counsel for Essential Utilities, Inc.







2011-2014

*Samuel H. Smith*

Born: August 10, 1955, Punxsutawney, Jefferson County, PA.

Member of the House: 66th Legislative District, representing all of Jefferson County and parts of Armstrong, Clearfield and Indiana Counties, 1987-2014.

Affiliation: Republican.

A life-long resident of Punxsutawney, Sam Smith graduated from Punxsutawney High School in 1973 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in advertising from The Pennsylvania State University in 1978. Following his graduation, he worked in the construction industry, as well as in sales. In November of 1986, he succeeded his father, L. Eugene "Snuffy" Smith, who represented the 66th Legislative District from 1963-1986. Smith is married to Donna Bruder Smith and the couple have two grown children, Alex and Zach, and two grandchildren.

Smith was re-elected to the House in November of 1988 and served 12 more consecutive terms. In 2000, he was elected to House leadership and served as the Majority Whip until 2003. Following the death of Speaker Matthew J. Ryan, he was elected Majority Leader on April 15, 2003, and held this position until 2006. From 2006-2010 he served as the Minority Leader. On January 4, 2011, Smith was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was re-elected Speaker in 2013 and retired from the House in 2014. He is the only Speaker to date to have been born and raised in Jefferson County.

As a legislator, Smith was a tireless advocate for rural Pennsylvanians. He fought against the negative impact of the statewide building code, against the tolling of Interstate 80 and developed laws to clean up streams and enhance mine remediation. In 1999 Smith authored legislation creating the Growing Greener Program (Act 68 of 1999), which provided state funding to municipalities to restore streams, improve local water and sewer services, and reclaim abandoned mines.

An advocate of quality education, Smith also drafted legislation creating Accountability Block Grants (Act 48 of 2003), which are made available to each school district in the Commonwealth to fund educational programs. He was a strong supporter of the Educational Income Tax Credit and Vocational Equipment grants.

During his term as a legislator, Smith served on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Council of Trustees and the Punxsutawney College Trust. Following his retirement, Smith served as Chair of the IUP Council of Trustees, as a member of Temple University's Board of Trustees and on the Board of the State System of Higher Education.

During his time as Speaker, Smith oversaw legislation which made House Members'



expenditures more transparent, reformed the state's welfare system, secured historic levels of funding for transportation, changed the state's tort system to control lawsuit abuse, created the Castle Doctrine law and provided a framework to manage the discovery of natural gas in Pennsylvania.



2009-2010



*Keith R. McCall*

**Born:** December 16, 1959, Coaldale, Carbon County, PA.

**Member of the House:** 122nd Legislative District, representing all of Carbon County and parts of Luzerne and Monroe Counties, 1983-2010.

**Affiliation:** Democrat.

Keith McCall graduated in 1977 from Marian Catholic High School and attended the Pennsylvania State University from 1977-1978 and Harrisburg Area Community College from 1979-1981. He married the former Betty Wehr and together they have two children, Courtney and Keith II. McCall began his career in public service as a field auditor with the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in November of 1982, succeeding his father, Representative Thomas J. McCall, who passed away on December 24, 1981. McCall was re-elected to the House for 13 more successive terms.

In 1991 McCall authored legislation that would allow local taxing authorities to relieve people who were serving in the Persian Gulf area of the local tax filing deadlines, which would become Act 2. During the same term, McCall authored a bill which provided for the implementation and administration of an enhanced vehicle emission inspection and created an Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Fund, or Act 166 of 1992. McCall later authored legislation, which would become Act 3 of 1994, which provided for the creation of a transportation authority in each metropolitan area to help expand the mass transportation infrastructure in the state.

McCall served as chairman of the Consumer Affairs Committee from 1999-2001 and then served as the chairman of the House Transportation Committee from June 2001-2006. He was elected Majority Whip for the 2007-2008 session.

McCall was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on January 6, 2009, making him the first Speaker from Carbon County. As Speaker, McCall cosponsored legislation which established a joint legislative, executive, and judicial commission on juvenile justice, or Act 32 of 2009. During his speakership, McCall oversaw the passage of the Housing Finance Agency Law, or Act 105 of 2010. This law provided for the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Program and the Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund. He also presided over Special Session No. 1 regarding transportation system funding.

Following his retirement from the House, McCall was appointed to a 2-year term as a Commissioner on the Gaming Control Board, in February of 2011, and is currently serving his third term as Commissioner.





2007-2008

*Dennis M. O'Brien*

Born: June 22, 1952, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.  
Member of the House: 179th Legislative District, representing part of  
Philadelphia County, 1977-1980 and 1983-December 31, 2011.  
Affiliation: Republican.

Dennis O'Brien graduated from Archbishop Ryan High School in 1970 and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in labor relations in 1983 from La Salle University. O'Brien married the former Bernadette Benson, with whom he has 3 sons: Dennis, Jr., Brendan and Joseph.

O'Brien first won his state House seat in 1977 but left the House after serving 2 terms to run for a seat in the United States Congress. He was re-elected to the House in 1983 and represented Philadelphia County until he resigned on December 31, 2011, after being elected to Philadelphia City Council.

Throughout his career, O'Brien was the prime sponsor of 19 bills that were signed into law. O'Brien authored several bills that reformed judicial and criminal procedure. In 1995 O'Brien authored a bill to establish a State DNA Data Base, which became Act 14 of 1995. O'Brien proposed this bill during Special Session No. 1 in 1995-1996.

O'Brien held the following Committee chairmanships: Military and Veterans Affairs, 1993-1994; Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 1995-1996; Health and Human Services, 1997-2001; Consumer Affairs, 2002; and Judiciary, 2003-2006. O'Brien was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on January 2, 2007. After his tenure as Speaker, he assumed the chairmanship of the Children and Youth Committee, 2009-2011.

O'Brien was elected Speaker despite being a member from the minority party. One of his first acts as Speaker was to create the Speaker's Commission on Legislative Reform, or House Resolution 108 of 2007. It was a bipartisan commission tasked with reviewing and making recommendations about the rules and operations of the House of Representatives. While Speaker, O'Brien presided over the passage of updates to the Right-to-Know Law, which became Act 3 of 2008, which allowed the general public greater access to public records. O'Brien also presided over the passage of the Clean Indoor Air Act, or Act 27 of 2008, which regulated smoking in the Commonwealth. In response to the passage of Act 71 of 2004 and the creation of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, the House added the Gaming Oversight Committee as a standing committee for the 2007-2008 session. O'Brien presided over a Special Session No. 1 regarding energy policy in Pennsylvania.

In the community, O'Brien is on the Archbishop Ryan High School Alumni Governing Board, the Archbishop Ryan High School President's Advisory Board, and on the Advisory Board of the



University of Pennsylvania's Field Center for Children's Policy. O'Brien is an advocate for autism spectrum disorder, and he also sits on the board of directors for the American Liver Foundation and the Maritime Charter School.







2003-2006

*John M. Perzel*

(Elected following the death of Matthew J. Ryan)

Born: January 7, 1950, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: 179th Legislative District, representing part of Philadelphia County, 1979-2010.

Affiliation: Republican.

John Perzel graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1969 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business from Troy State University in Alabama in 1975. After college, he returned to Philadelphia and became a maitre d' at Pavo's Restaurant in Somerton. Perzel married the former Sheryl Stokes, and they have 4 children: Andrew, David, John Jr., and Samuel. In November of 1978, Perzel was elected to represent the 179th Legislative District and was re-elected for 15 more successive terms.

During his career as a legislator, Perzel was the prime sponsor of four bills which were signed into law: Act 231 in 1982, Act 115 in 2001, Act 34 in 2002, and Act 158 in 2004. Perzel was the prime sponsor of the 2002 Congressional redistricting legislation, or Act 34. This legislation had to reduce the number of Congressional seats by 2, following the 2000 Census.

Perzel was elected to the following leadership positions: Republican Policy chairman, 1989-1991; Republican Whip, 1993-1994; and Republican Leader, 1995-2003. Perzel was sworn in as the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on April 15, 2003, following the death of Matthew J. Ryan. Perzel served as the chairman of the Urban Affairs Committee in 2009-2010 before leaving the House.

While Speaker, he presided over the passage of the creation of the slots casino industry in Pennsylvania, which was Act 71 of 2004. He also convened Special Session No. 1 of 2005, which dealt with the issue of property tax relief. During his Speakership, the 2006 Healthy Farms and Healthy Schools Act, or Act 184 of 2006, which developed a grant program to help educate young children and their caregivers about healthy eating habits, was signed into law.

Perzel supported the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition, and in the spring of 2004, he and his wife Sheryl served as the honorary committee chairmen of the coalition's "67 Women, 67 Counties: Facing Breast Cancer in Pennsylvania" traveling photo exhibit at Nazareth Hospital in Philadelphia.





1993-1994

*H. William DeWeese*

Born: April 18, 1950, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.  
Member of the House: 50th Legislative District, representing all of  
Greene County and parts of Fayette and Washington Counties,  
May 10, 1976-April 24, 2012.  
Affiliation: Democrat.

The son of a small-town Dodge dealer and a homemaker, H. William DeWeese graduated from Waynesburg High School in 1968. He attended Wake Forest University, was elected student body president, and graduated in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

DeWeese joined the United States Marine Corps after college. He served from 1972-1975 and rose to the rank of first lieutenant. DeWeese was first sworn in as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives representing the 50th Legislative District on May 10, 1976, following the resignation of Donald Davis, and was re-elected to serve 18 more consecutive terms.

DeWeese was the prime sponsor of legislation which designated part of the grounds of the State Capitol as "Soldiers' Grove." The bill, which became Act 75 of 1987, designated war memorials in honor of veterans from all major American conflicts. In 1992 DeWeese was the prime sponsor of legislation that required health insurance companies in the Commonwealth to cover child immunization costs, also known as Act 35.

DeWeese was appointed chairman of the Judiciary Committee from 1987-1988, was elected to the leadership position of Democratic Whip in 1989, and was elevated to Democratic Leader on January 23, 1990, due to the death of Speaker James Manderino on December 26, 1989. DeWeese also served as Democratic Leader from 1995-2008, and Democratic Whip in 2009, until his resignation from that position on December 15, 2009.

DeWeese took the oath of Speaker of the House of Representatives on January 5, 1993. Among the policies he advocated for were tax and judicial reform, the advancement of civil rights, and the development of a state economic plan to unite business and labor, and support the interests of rural Pennsylvania, the environment, and the arts. Two environmental bills cosponsored by DeWeese during his Speakership include Act 1 and Act 50 of 1993. Act 1 designated April 22, every year, as Earth Day in the Commonwealth. Act 50 provided for the establishment, operation, and administration of the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund. As Speaker, DeWeese created the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee and conducted three economic summits to bring Pennsylvania's business and labor leaders together in search of economic progress. During his Speakership, Act 48 of 1994 was passed that reduced the corporate net income tax and provided businesses additional tax relief measures.



DeWeese is a lifetime member of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association, and a member of the George C. Marshall Foundation and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.





1990-1992

# Robert W. O'Donnell

(Elected following the death of James J. Manderino)

Born: September 25, 1943, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: 198th Legislative District, representing part of Philadelphia County, June 10, 1974-December 31, 1993.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Robert O'Donnell attended LaSalle College before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Temple University in 1966 and a Juris Doctor degree from the Temple University School of Law in 1969. He also received a certificate from the Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands in 1969. He became a practicing attorney specializing in public finance. O'Donnell won a special election to the House of Representatives on May 21, 1974, and was sworn in on June 10, 1974. O'Donnell was re-elected to the House for 10 more consecutive terms.

As a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, O'Donnell was the prime sponsor of eight bills which were signed into law. O'Donnell's legislative achievements include enacting a stronger ethics law, the Philadelphia Convention Center Authority Act, establishment of an authority to restore financial stability to Philadelphia (Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority), and the development of a college tuition savings plan. He worked 301 calendar days to enact a nationally recognized automobile insurance reform package, which became Act 6 of 1990.

He was elected to the following leadership positions: Democratic Caucus Chairman, 1981-1982; Democratic Whip, 1983-1986; and Democratic Leader, 1989. O'Donnell was elected the 132nd Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on January 23, 1990, following Speaker James Manderino's death. He was elected Speaker again on January 1, 1991. During the 1993 term, he returned to the rank-and-file membership and served as a member of the following committees: Federal State Relations, Professional Licensure, and Urban Affairs. He resigned from the House on December 31, 1993, to focus on his campaign for Pennsylvania Governor in 1994.

As Speaker, O'Donnell cosponsored legislation to enhance publicly owned treatment works to enforce industrial pretreatment standards for industrial waste discharges, which became Act 9 of 1992. During his tenure as Speaker, he served on the Executive Board of the National Conference of State Legislatures and as chairman of its Legislative Organization and Management Committee.

O'Donnell was a past commissioner of the Chesapeake Bay Commission. He has served as a member for the Public Employees Retirement Study Commission, the Mayor's Tax Budget and Advisory Committee, the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force, and the Philadelphia Port Corporation Board of Directors. O'Donnell also served as a senior fellow with the Commonwealth Foundation's Center for Educational Excellence.



O'Donnell remains a practicing attorney, is an instructor in state and government law at Drexel University School of Law, and resides in Chestnut Hill with his wife, Dr. Donna Gentile O'Donnell. They have 2 sons.





1989

# James J. Manderino

Born: May 6, 1932, Monessen, Westmoreland County, PA.  
Died: December 26, 1989, Monessen, Westmoreland County, PA.  
Member of the House: 58th Legislative District, representing part of  
Westmoreland County, 1967-December 26, 1989.  
Affiliation: Democrat.

James Manderino graduated from Monessen High School in 1950 and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Vincent College in Latrobe in 1954. While a student at St. Vincent College, he was elected class president, president of the student council, and a member of the Debate Society. He graduated with a Bachelor in Laws degree in 1956 from the University of Michigan Law School. He returned to Monessen to practice law with his brother, Louis, who later became dean of the Duquesne University Law School in Pittsburgh in 1968. In November 1966, Manderino was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and was re-elected for 11 more successive terms.

During his career, Manderino was the prime sponsor of 26 bills that were signed into law. In 1984 Manderino was the prime sponsor of legislation which became Act 111, which provided for loans and loan guarantees to small business incubators.

He was elected Democratic Whip in 1975 and held that position until May 25, 1977. He was elected Democratic Leader on May 25, 1977. He served as Democratic Whip from 1979-1982 and Democratic Leader from 1983-1988. Manderino was elected and sworn in as Speaker on January 3, 1989.

As Speaker, Manderino presided over Act 27 of 1989, which recognized the Pennsylvania College of Technology as an affiliate of the Pennsylvania State University. In October of 1989, his skillful moderating of the televised debate of a controversial abortion bill, known as Act 64, won him widespread plaudits for his fairness and fortitude. He also is remembered for being the driving force behind nationally recognized job development programs called PennPRIDE.

Manderino married Constance Myers in 1955. They were the parents of 5 children: Anthony, Kathy, James, Thomas, and Alan. His daughter Kathy, an attorney, represented the 194th Legislative District, serving parts of Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties, from 1993-2010. James J. Manderino died at his home on December 26, 1989. He is interred at Grandview Cemetery in Monessen, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.







1981-1982, 1995-2003

*Matthew J. Ryan*

Born: April 27, 1932, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: March 29, 2003, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Delaware County, 1963-1966, and the 168th

Legislative District, representing part of Delaware County, 1967-March 29, 2003.

Affiliation: Republican.

Matthew Ryan graduated from St. Joseph's Preparatory School in 1950 and from Villanova University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business in 1954. He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1954 and served as a first lieutenant until 1956. Ryan graduated from Villanova University School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1959. After graduating, Ryan practiced law in Media, Delaware County, and taught Business Law at Villanova University. In November of 1962, Ryan was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and was re-elected for 20 more successive terms.

Ryan was well known as an advocate for welfare reform and tax relief. He sponsored legislation, Act 34 of 1979, which exempted the proceeds obtained by estates of Vietnam conflict veterans for the Inheritance and Estate Tax Act of 1961. In 1983, Ryan was the prime sponsor of a bill that reformed income tax, Act 29 of 1983, or the Public Utility Realty Tax Act, and changed taxes from 5 cents to 6 percent for cigarettes.

During his House tenure, he served 33 years in various leadership positions. He was elected Republican Policy chairman for 1971-1972, Republican Whip from 1973-1978, and Republican Leader in 1979-1980 and again from 1983-1994. On January 6, 1981, Ryan was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1981-1982 session. He was elected to the Office of the Speaker 5 more times from 1995-2003.

He was well known for his support of the restoration and preservation of the State Capitol Building. As Speaker, Ryan cosponsored the legislation, which became Act 327 of 1982, which restored much of the State Capitol Building. To complete this as a bipartisan effort, Ryan worked with former Speaker K. Leroy Irvis. The two former Speakers have buildings named after them; the Capitol Annex is the Matthew J. Ryan Office Building, and the South Office Building is the K. Leroy Irvis Office Building. The State Capitol Building is now completely restored to its 1906 appearance.

Ryan was Speaker for 3 different Special Sessions of the House: Special Session No. 1 in 1995-1996 regarding crime; Special Session No. 2 in 1995-1996 regarding the blizzard of 1996, and Special Session No. 1 in 2001-2002 regarding property tax. In 2001, Ryan was the prime sponsor of House Resolution 362 and co-sponsor of House Resolution 291, two simple resolutions in the House to express condolences and support to those affected by the terrorist attacks on



September 11, 2001.

On March 29, 2003, Ryan passed away while in office. He is interred at Calvary Cemetery in West Conshohocken, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He was the first elected official to lie in state since President Abraham Lincoln in 1865. Today, a number of organizations named programs or buildings in his honor. The Matthew J. Ryan Center for the Study of Free Institutions and the Public Good is a program in the Political Science Department at Villanova University, Ryan's alma mater. The Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine is also named after the former Speaker, the first time a building on the University of Pennsylvania's campus has been named for a state politician since Benjamin Franklin.

Ryan was married to Delaware County Common Pleas Judge Patricia H. Jenkins. He and his first wife, Mary Jane Mullray Ryan, had 5 children and 12 grandchildren.





1979-1980

*H. Jack Seltzer*

Born: August 12, 1922, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: February 28, 2011, Scottsdale, Maricopa County, AZ.

Member of the House: Lebanon County, 1957-1966, and the 101st Legislative District, representing part of Lebanon County, 1968-1980.

Affiliation: Republican.

H. Jack Seltzer graduated from Mercersburg Academy in 1941. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942 and served as a first-class petty officer in the Pacific theater during World War II until 1946. Seltzer met his wife, the former Geneva Shepherd, when he was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, and in November of 1945 they were married. Together they had 4 children: Michael, Craig, Pamela and Patricia. After the war, Seltzer bought the family's business, Seltzer's Lebanon Bologna Company, from his father's estate. The business is still in operation by the Seltzer family. Seltzer was a member of the Palmyra Borough Council for 7 years, 5 of those years as its president. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in November of 1956 and was re-elected for 11 successive terms thereafter.

Throughout his career in the legislature, Seltzer was the prime sponsor of nine bills that were signed into law. One of these bills, which became Act 106 of 1976, authorized the Department of General Services to transfer a portion of Fort Indiantown Gap to the United States of America.

Seltzer was the Republican Appropriations chairman from 1967-1976, serving as the Majority chairman during the 1967-1968 and 1973-1974 sessions. Seltzer was elected the Republican Leader on December 14, 1977, after Robert Butera resigned from the position to run for Governor. On January 2, 1979, Seltzer was elected Speaker of the House for the 1979-1980 session.

In March of 1979, Pennsylvania had to deal with the Three Mile Island nuclear crisis. As Speaker, Seltzer cosponsored House Resolution 48, which gave him the authority to appoint a select committee to examine matters related to the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island. Soon after, Seltzer oversaw the passage of Act 49 of 1979, which allowed for environmental radiation surveillance and emergency radiation response capabilities for the Department of Environmental Resources. In 1980, Seltzer was the prime sponsor of a bill, which became Act 40, which provided for the use of the South Office Building by the General Assembly. This building is currently known as the K. Leroy Irvis Office Building.

H. Jack Seltzer died on February 28, 2011 in Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona. He is interred at Gravel Hill Cemetery in Palmyra, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.





1977-1978, 1983-1988

*K. Leroy Irvis*

(Elected to replace Herbert Fineman following his resignation)

Born: December 27, 1919, Saugerties, Ulster County, NY.

Died: March 16, 2006, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Allegheny County, 1st District, 1959-1964,  
7th District, 1965-1966, and the 19th Legislative District, representing  
part of Allegheny County, 1967-1988.

Affiliation: Democrat.

At the age of 15, Kirkland Leroy Irvis graduated from Albany High School. He graduated summa cum laude in 1938 from New York State College for Teachers (now the State University of New York at Albany) with a Bachelor of Arts in history and English, and a Master of Arts in education in 1939 from the same university. He then taught high school and became a Civilian Attaché to the War Department, where he taught aircraft riveting during World War II. Irvis was also a reporter for the Pittsburgh Courier and held the job of secretary of public relations for the Urban League of Pittsburgh. In 1954 he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Law School with a Bachelor of Laws degree. He worked in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, first as a law clerk in 1955, and then was promoted to Assistant District Attorney in 1957. Irvis was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in November of 1958 and was re-elected for 14 more successive terms.

During his service, he sponsored more than 875 bills concerning education, civil rights, human services, health, mental illness, governmental administration, and prison and housing reform. Irvis was the prime sponsor of a bill, which became Act 176 of 1972, which formally associated Lincoln University as a state-related institution in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Irvis was also the prime sponsor and cosponsor of many civil rights bills in Pennsylvania, including Acts 189, 190, 191, 284, and 291 of 1967.

Irvis was elected into leadership as the Democratic Caucus Chairman from 1963-1966, the Democratic Whip from 1967-1968 and 1973-1974, and the Democratic Leader from 1969-1972 and 1975-May 23, 1977. Irvis was elected Speaker of the House on May 23, 1977, to replace Herbert Fineman, who resigned from the House. He was re-elected Speaker again in 1983 and served in that position until he retired in 1988. In all, Irvis was Speaker for almost 8 years and held a leadership position for 26 years.

Irvis was the first African-American to serve as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. "You have elected not a black man to be Speaker of the House of Representatives, but, more importantly, you have elected a man who happens to be black, and that is the



direction that this country must continue to go," he told the House membership on May 23, 1977.

In September of 1987, Irvis presided over a special joint session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly held at Independence Hall in Philadelphia to commemorate the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The next year, Irvis was chosen to serve as the Credentials chairman for the 1988 Democratic National Convention. In his farewell remarks made on the House floor on November 29, 1988, Irvis praised our form of government as "the most remarkable invention of mankind."

Today, the University of Pittsburgh has a reading room named after K. Leroy Irvis in the Hillman Library. Irvis was also an author and a sculptor. Before he retired as Speaker, Temple University published 58 of his poems in a volume entitled, *This Land of Fire*. A few pieces of his sculptures can be found in the lobby of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation building in Pittsburgh.

Irvis was married to the former Katharyne Jones, who died in 1958. Fifteen years later, he married the former Cathryn L. Edwards, with whom he had 2 children, Reginald and Sherri.

K. Leroy Irvis died on March 16, 2006 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.







1969-1972, 1975-1977

## Herbert Fineman

Born: July 4, 1920, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: August 18, 2016, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 27th District, 1955-1964 and 4th District, 1965-1966 and the 194th Legislative District, representing part of Philadelphia County, 1967-May 23, 1977.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Herbert Fineman attended public schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He graduated as valedictorian in 1938 from Overbrook High School in Philadelphia. Fineman graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in commerce from Temple University in 1942 and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Temple University School of Law in 1945. Upon graduation, Fineman established a private law practice and was an attorney his entire life. Fineman married Frances Brownstein on February 20, 1944, who died in June of 2016. They had two children, Jan and Jon, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In 1968 Fineman received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. In November of 1954, he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1955-1956 session. He was re-elected for 11 more successive terms.

During Special Session No. 1 of 1964, Fineman was the prime sponsor of legislation which became Act 6, to reform eminent domain in Pennsylvania. In 1968 Fineman was the cosponsor of House Resolution 207, which initiated the modernization of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. This resolution allowed for a commission to be appointed to recommend changes to the legislature. Fineman wanted the legislature to stand as an equal branch of government, "capable of responding to the needs of Pennsylvania for social, economic, and political progress." Also in 1968, Fineman was the cosponsor of the first Minimum Wage Law in Pennsylvania, or Act 5, which required employers to pay \$2.65 for each hour of work.

Fineman served as the Democratic Whip in 1965-1966 and as the Democratic Leader for two sessions: 1967-1968 and 1973-1974. Fineman was elected the first Jewish Speaker of the House from 1969-1972. He was re-elected Speaker from 1975-1977. He would later resign from the House on May 23, 1977.

As Speaker, Fineman was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971. One significant change to the tax code was Act 2 of 1971, which was the addition of a personal income tax. Fineman was Speaker for two Special Sessions of the House in 1972: Special Session No. 1, regarding flood relief for victims of the 1972 flood and Special Session No. 2, regarding voter registration for flood victims. On May 19, 1976, Fineman presided



over the special legislative session commemorating the bicentennial observance at Independence Mall. One of his last legislative actions was in November of 1976, with the adoption of House Resolution 301, establishing the Legislative Office of Research Liaison, a nonpartisan research agency for the House.

In the community, Fineman was a member of the Philadelphia County Pennsylvania Appellate Courts, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the American Jewish Congress, the Lawyers' Club of Philadelphia, Justice Lodge of B'nai B'rith, and the Circus Saints and Sinners Club of America. Fineman was a board member for Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. He served as the president of the National Conference of State Legislative Leaders in 1973-1974. In 1974 the National Conference of State Legislative Leaders met with the National Legislative Conference and the National Society of State Legislators to form the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Herbert Fineman died on August 18, 2016 in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Haym Solomon Memorial Park in Frazer, Chester County, Pennsylvania.





1967-1968, 1973-1974

# Kenneth B. Lee

Born: January 23, 1922, Nauvoo, Tioga County, PA.

Died: December 23, 2010, Williamsport, Lycoming County, PA.

Member of the House: Sullivan County, 1957-1966, and the 111th Legislative District, representing all of Sullivan and Wayne Counties and part of Susquehanna County, 1967-1974.

Affiliation: Republican.

Kenneth B. Lee graduated from Elkland Township Vocational High School in 1940. From 1942-1947, Lee served in the United States Air Force as a B-24 pilot. During World War II, he was stationed in Italy. Lee graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education from Mansfield State University in 1948 and with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1950 from Dickinson Law School. Lee was elected the Sullivan County District Attorney from 1954-1956. In November of 1956, Lee was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1957-1958 session. He was re-elected for eight more successive terms.

Lee worked with Representative Willard “Chick” Agnew in 1961 to change the Republican Caucus to require a secret ballot for leadership positions. Lee credits this change as a major factor in his election to Republican Leader, which eventually led to his election as Speaker. In 1965 Lee was the cosponsor of legislation, which became Act 85, which required court-martial board members to vote secretly and give the accused a copy of testimony. Lee was also a member of the Commission for Legislative Modernization, which moved the legislature from part-time to full-time.

For 10 of his 18 years in the House, Lee was elected to the leadership positions of Republican Leader and Speaker of the House. He was elected Republican Leader in November of 1963-1966 and 1971-1972. In the 1967-1968 session, Lee was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Of the House’s 20th-century Speakers, Lee was the only one from Sullivan County. In the 1969-1970 session, he was the chairman of the Republican Policy Committee. Lee was elected Speaker again for the 1973-1974 session.

While serving as Speaker, Lee was selected to be a delegate to the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1968. He served on the Structure and Organization Committee and the Administration and Finance Committee during the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention. Lee helped establish the nation’s first Legislative Data Processing Center, with Act 365 of 1968. He was also a cosponsor of the Legislative Code of Ethics, Act 154 of 1968, which created the House Ethics Committee.

Lee retired from the legislature in 1974 to run for Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor. Following his loss for Lieutenant Governor, Lee continued his practice of law in Sullivan County. He was a



board member for a number of organizations, including the First National Bank of Dushore, Dushore Lions Club, and the Kettle Creek Fish and Game Club. He also served on the Boards of Trustees of Mansfield University, the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, and the Muncy Valley Hospital.

Lee was married to the former Marjorie Cole, with whom he shared five children: Susanne, Laura, Scott, Cole, and Kenneth E. Lee, and eight grandchildren. Kenneth E. Lee also served the 111th Legislative District representing parts of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties for the years 1989-1993.

Kenneth B. Lee died on December 23, 2010 in Williamsport, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Eagles Mere Cemetery in Eagles Mere, Sullivan County, Pennsylvania.





1965-1966

## Robert K. Hamilton

Born: September 3, 1905, Roswell, Chaves County, NM.

Died: November 10, 1986, Ambridge, Beaver County, PA.

Member of the House: Beaver County, 1941-1946, 1949-1968 and the 1  
6th Legislative District representing Beaver County, 1969-1972.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Robert Kennedy Hamilton graduated in 1924 from Peabody High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Hamilton then graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science in 1928 from Pennsylvania State College (now, the Pennsylvania State University). He also received a Bachelor of Laws degree and a Juris Doctor from Duquesne University Law School. Hamilton served as a second lieutenant of the ROTC Infantry from 1928-1930. In addition to practicing law, Hamilton was a farmer and an insurance agent and broker. Hamilton married the former Jean R. Hunt on May 16, 1945 and they had 2 sons, James and William.

In November of 1940, Hamilton was elected to the House of Representatives to serve Beaver County for the 1941-1942 session. He was re-elected for 14 other terms, missing the 1947-1948 session.

In the 1955 session, Hamilton was a cosponsor of Act 222, which was to prohibit certain practices of discrimination because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, or national origin. This legislation created the Pennsylvania Fair Employment Practice Commission. Hamilton cosponsored a bill that amended the State Employees' Retirement Code of 1959 to redefine multiple services and the computation of benefits for members with multiple services, and to provide for 2 new classes of membership, which became Act 518 of 1963. As a member of the House, Hamilton became president of the National Society of State Legislators from 1970-1971. Today this organization is known as the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Hamilton was the chairman of the Insurance Committee from 1955-1958 and 1961-1962. He was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on January 5, 1965, for the 1965-1966 session. Hamilton served as the Republican Policy Chairman in 1967-1968 and as the chairman for the Ways and Means Committee for his last 4 years in the legislature, from 1969-1972.

As Speaker, Hamilton cosponsored legislation, which became Act 355 of 1965, which granted Temple University the distinction of a state-related university. He also cosponsored legislation relating to public health, which redefined industrial waste to include acid mine damage and increased penalties for discharge of industrial waste into the water of the Commonwealth. This legislation became Act 194 of 1965. Hamilton presided over the last House session with 209 members. During the next session, the House changed to 203 members, where it still remains today.





In the community, Hamilton was a member of Ambridge Lodge No. 701 and was a Past Master in 1949. He was also a member of the Syria Shrine, the Golden Triangle York Rite College, and the Coraopolis Royal Arch Chapter No. 300. Hamilton served on the Pennsylvania State University Advisory Board and the Red Cross Advisory Board. He was a Pennsylvania State University Distinguished Alumni recipient of 1966.

Robert K. Hamilton died on November 10, 1986 in Ambridge, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Sylvania Hills Memorial Park Mausoleum in Daugherty Township, Beaver County, Pennsylvania.





1957-1958, 1963-1964

*W. Stuart Helm*

Born: April 8, 1908, Cowansville, Armstrong County, PA.

Died: March 2, 1986, Columbus, Franklin County, OH.

Member of the House: Armstrong County, 1941-1964.

Affiliation: Republican.

William Stuart Helm graduated from Kittanning High School and attended both the Pennsylvania State College (now the Pennsylvania State University) and Duquesne University. Helm was elected to the Kittanning Borough School Board in 1937 and served 18 years. He worked for the Sun Oil Company. W. Stuart Helm married the former Geraldine Rearick and was the father of 2 daughters. In November 1940, Helm was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to serve Armstrong County for the 1941-1942 session. He was re-elected for 11 more successive terms.

Helm was the prime sponsor of many pieces of legislation that impacted the Public School Code. In 1943 he was the prime sponsor of a bill, which became Act 127 of 1943, which made wartime emergency provisions for substitute teachers. He was later the prime sponsor of legislation that provided funding for half-day school sessions and required the issuance of high school certificates, Act 184 of 1953.

In 1956 Helm was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1957-1958 session. Helm served as the first chairman of the Republican House Policy Committee from 1959-1962. Helm was elected Speaker again for the 1963-1964 session.

As Speaker, Helm oversaw the passage of legislation, Act 300 of 1957, that prescribed penalties for giving false information to telephone operators. In the same session, Helm oversaw legislation that allowed World War II veterans an extension for veteran compensation applications, which became Act 315.

Helm was the president of the National Legislative Conference in 1963. When he left the House in 1964, Helm served as special assistant to Governor William W. Scranton from January 1, 1965 to June 23, 1965. On June 23, 1965, Stuart Helm was sworn in as Secretary of the Commonwealth. He served in this position until 1967. Helm retired from public service in 1972.

W. Stuart Helm died on March 2, 1986 in Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. He is interred at Lawn Haven Burial Estates in Worthington, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.





1955-1956, 1959-1962

# Hiram G. Andrews

Born: September 12, 1876, Troy Grove, LaSalle County, IL.

Died: March 30, 1968, Johnstown, Cambria County, PA.

Member of the House: Cambria County, 1933-1936, 1939-1940, and 1945-1962.

Affiliation: Independent Citizens Party, Democrat.

Hiram Gilbert Andrews was a news reporter for the Cambria Freeman and the Johnstown Democrat until 1907 when he was appointed to the telegraph desk in the office of the Philadelphia North American. Andrews became the editorial director of the Johnstown Democrat from 1928-1941. Andrews married the former Mary M. Maher on October 22, 1912.

In November of 1932, Andrews was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1933-1934 session, of which he was the only member of the Independent Citizens Party. He was elected as a Democrat in 1934, 1938, 1944 and then for 8 more successive terms following 1944.

In 1935 Andrews was the prime sponsor of legislation, which became Acts 288, 289, and 290, which required county, city, and borough districts to have records open for inspection. Andrews cosponsored legislation in 1945 which changed the definition of a "qualified elector" to include people in active military service. This bill, Act 12 of 1945, allowed for people in active military duty at the end of World War II to be considered as a qualified elector for public offices.

Andrews was the Democratic Floor Leader from 1945-1954. He was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1955-1956 session. In 1957 Andrews served as the Democratic Whip until December 31, 1957, and was elected Democratic Floor Leader in 1958 for the second half of the session. He was re-elected Speaker of the House from 1959-1962.

As Speaker, Andrews was the prime sponsor of legislation, Act 421 of 1955, to approve, ratify, and enact the Great Lakes Basin Compact. One goal of this compact was to "promote the orderly, integrated, and comprehensive development, use, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin." Congress and 7 other states would ratify the compact. In 1959 Andrews was Speaker during the creation of the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Center in Johnstown, which became Act 55.

In the community, Andrews was a member of the General State Authority, the Highway and Bridge Authority, and the School Authority. Eleven years after his death, the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Center was renamed the Hiram G. Andrews Center, Act 32 of 1979. Several of his letters, newspaper clippings, miscellaneous books, pamphlets, and family photographs are part of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's manuscript collection found in the State Archives.

Hiram G. Andrews died on March 30, 1968 in Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Grandview Cemetery in Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania.





1953-1954

*Charles C. Smith*

Born: October 8, 1908, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: December 22, 1970, Wynnewood, Montgomery County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 15th District, October 4, 1943-1956.

Affiliation: Republican.

Charles Smith attended public grade schools and graduated in 1927 from Northeast High School in Philadelphia. After high school, he was a partner in the fuel firm of Smith and Boyd. He married the former Mary E. Brown in 1933 and they had 2 daughters and a son. Smith was elected to represent Philadelphia County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on September 14, 1943 a special election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Edwin A. Lee. He was sworn in on October 4, 1943. Smith was re-elected for 6 more successive terms.

Smith was elected to the leadership position of Republican Whip from 1949-1950. He was elected Republican Leader in 1951-1952 and in 1955-1956. Smith became Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on January 6, 1953. As Speaker, Smith was a leading proponent of a 1 percent sales tax, a tax to help cover the revenue necessary to continue funding the school budget. There were 2 different bills that contained the tax. First House Bill 908, which became Act 85 of 1953, taxed the use and storage of tangible personal property at 1 percent. The other tax bill, House Bill 909, which became Act 86 of 1953, taxed retail sales of tangible personal property within the Commonwealth. These bills became the first imposed use tax for Pennsylvania.

In 1951 Smith was the prime sponsor of legislation for the observance of the 175th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, which became Act 8A of 1951. This legislation created a commission to cooperate with like commissions of the government of the United States and Philadelphia in preparing ceremonies for the occasion. Smith was also a cosponsor of legislation that prohibited discriminatory practices of employers, employment agencies, labor organizations and others. The Pennsylvania Fair Employment Practice Commission was created from this legislation, which became Act 22 of 1955.

After leaving the House, Smith was elected Pennsylvania Auditor General from 1957-1960. On May 7, 1957, upon his inauguration as Auditor General, Smith became a member of the Board of Finance and Revenue, the State Board of Public Assistance, the State Council of Civil Defense, the Delaware River Port Authority, and the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission. In 1960 Smith lost a race for Pennsylvania State Treasurer and retired from public service.

Charles C. Smith died on December 22, 1970 in Wynnewood, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Westminster Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.





1947-1952

# Herbert P. Sorg

(Elected to replace Franklin H. Lichtenwalter following his resignation)

Born: December 19, 1911, St. Marys, Elk County, PA.

Died: March 11, 1979, Mt. Lebanon, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Elk County, 1941-1952.

Affiliation: Republican.

Herbert Peter Sorg, known to his friends as "Hub," graduated in 1927 from St. Marys Parochial School, Central High Class. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree from Duquesne University School of Law in 1935. Following his education, he worked in a private law practice from 1935-1955. Before his election to the House of Representatives, he was the assistant to the president of Keystone Carbon Company. Sorg married the former June Storer on January 1, 1940. They had 4 daughters and one son: Suzanna, Karen, June, Vivian, and H. Peter Sorg, Jr. In November of 1940, Sorg was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to serve Elk County. He was re-elected to 5 more successive terms.

Sorg was the prime sponsor of 9 bills that were signed into law. One of the bills provided for vocational rehabilitation for disabled individuals by the State Board of Vocational Education. Act 345 of 1945 also put regulation in place to prevent the misuse of vocational rehabilitation records and lists. In 1947 Sorg was the prime sponsor of legislation, which would become Act 54 of 1947, which would ratify the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require term limits for the President of the United States. The amendment was ratified in 1951, to become the 22nd Amendment to the United States Constitution.

In leadership, Sorg was elected the Republican Whip from 1945-1946. He was then elected as the Republican Leader in 1947. On October 15, 1947, Franklin Lichtenwalter resigned as the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House, and Sorg became the Acting Speaker upon Lichtenwalter's resignation, making him Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was elected Speaker for the following 2 sessions, from 1949-1952.

As Speaker, Sorg oversaw the passage of the Public School Code of 1949, or Act 14 of 1949. This bill passed the House unanimously and made significant revisions to the rules for the public school system and to private and parochial schools. In 1951 Sorg was the Speaker during the Landlord-Tenant Act, which became Act 20. This legislation regulated the rights, obligations, and liabilities of landlords and tenants.

Sorg was nominated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on May 20, 1955, for the position of Judge of the United States District Court in the Western District of Pennsylvania. He was confirmed





by the Senate on July 29, 1955, and received commission on August 1, 1955. Sorg served in this position from 1955-1976. During the steel strike of 1959, Sorg issued an injunction for the Taft-Hartley Act to require steelworkers to go back to work. The decision was appealed all the way to Supreme Court, in the case of *Steelworkers v. United States*. From 1975-1976 he served as the chief judge. As a judge, he assumed senior status on December 20, 1976.

Herbert P. Sorg died on March 11, 1979 in Mount Lebanon, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at St. Mary's Cemetery in St. Mary's, Elk County, Pennsylvania.



1947



## Franklin H. Lichtenwaller

Born: March 28, 1910, Palmerton, Carbon County, PA.

Died: March 4, 1973, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA.

Member of the House: Lehigh County, 2nd District, 1939-October 14, 1947.

Affiliation: Republican.

Franklin Herbert Lichtenwaller attended the public schools of Palmerton, Pennsylvania, and Upper Saucon Township in the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Allentown High School in 1929. Lichtenwaller married the former Marguerite M. Stoneback on August 31, 1931. By 1933 he was engaged in the general insurance business, which he remained in for his entire life. At the age of 25, Lichtenwaller was elected Justice of the Peace in Upper Saucon Township. In November of 1938, Lichtenwaller was elected to represent Lehigh County, 2nd District, for the 1939-1940 session. He was re-elected to 4 more successive terms.

In 1943 Lichtenwaller was the prime sponsor of a bill which granted the Governor of Pennsylvania the ability to suspend or modify laws either in whole or in part under certain circumstances, which became Act 198 of 1943. Lichtenwaller was the prime sponsor of 2 pieces of legislation that aided in redevelopment efforts. Act 383 of 1945, known as the Redevelopment Cooperation Law, allowed the State to aid in redevelopment projects to eliminate blighted areas. Act 385 of 1945, known as the Urban Development Law, also established rules and plans to help in development and created Redevelopment Authorities.

Lichtenwaller was elected as the Republican Leader from 1943-1946. On January 7, 1947, Lichtenwaller was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The 1947 legislative session was the first full session of the Legislature after the end of World War II. Lichtenwaller became the first Speaker to hold the position after the war. Lichtenwaller was Speaker when the rules of the House were amended to reduce the number of Standing Committees through consolidation, from 41 to 32. As Speaker, Lichtenwaller was the prime sponsor of one piece of legislation that became law: Act 476 of 1947 regulated and defined certain installment sales of motor vehicles and the loan process related to the sale of the vehicles.

On September 9, 1947, following the death of Congressman Charles Gerlach, Lichtenwaller was elected in a special election to serve in the 80th Congress. Lichtenwaller was reelected to the 81st Congress and served until January 3, 1951. Lichtenwaller worked as the vice president and managing director of the Pennsylvania Electric Association from 1951 until his death on March 4, 1973 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Saint Paul's Blue Church Cemetery in Coopersburg, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.





1943-1946

*Ira T. Fiss*

**Born: November 7, 1888, Shamokin Dam, Snyder County, PA.**

**Died: June 18, 1955, Danville, Montour County, PA.**

**Member of the House: Snyder County, 1937-1948.**

**Affiliation: Republican.**

Ira T. Fiss was educated in the public schools of Monroe Township. In 1907 Fiss was a preparatory student at Susquehanna University and attended Bucknell University. He then entered the contracting business with his father, R. C. Fiss. Together they built the first stretch of State Road in Snyder County through Shamokin Dam. Fiss was married to the former Anna Hottenstein on December 14, 1916 by his father, the Justice of the Peace. Fiss became the first chief burgess of Shamokin Dam in August of 1927, when it was incorporated into a borough, and was re-elected for one more term. In November of 1936, Fiss was elected to the Pennsylvania House to represent Snyder County for the 1937-1938 session. He was reelected to 5 more consecutive times.

Fiss was appointed the Majority Appropriations chairman for the 1939-1940 term and the Minority Appropriations chairman for the 1941-1942 term. On January 5, 1943, Fiss was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Fiss became the only Speaker from Snyder County for the 20th Century. He remained in that position from 1943-1946. After his terms as Speaker, Fiss served in the legislature for one more term before retiring.

Fiss was the prime sponsor of 8 bills that were signed into law. Many of the bills dealt with the Department of Highway and the highway system. Act 482 of 1947 allowed certain employees of the Department of Highways to be defined as a "State employee" within the State Employees Retirement Law.

Fiss was Speaker during a majority of the United States involvement in World War II. Due to the war, most of the legislative session was spent on the war effort. As Speaker, he became a member of a number of committees relating to the war, such as: The State Council of Defense, the Public Building Authority, the State Governors Commission, and the State Authority. On May 8, 1945, the day after his last session day as Speaker of the House, Germany's act of military surrender was ratified in Berlin.

Locally, Fiss was a member of the State Grange and the Masonic Lodge and Consistory. He served as the state president for Patriotic Order Sons of America from 1945-1946. Fiss was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Shamokin Dam, and served as the superintendent of the Sunday School from 1904-1945.

Ira T. Fiss died on June 18, 1955 in Danville, Montour County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at West Side Cemetery in Shamokin Dam, Snyder County, Pennsylvania.





1941-1942

# Elmer Kilroy

Born: August 4, 1895, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: November 5, 1961, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 24th District, 1935-1942.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Elmer John Kilroy was educated in public schools in Philadelphia. After graduating from LaSalle College, Kilroy served overseas during World War I with the United States Marines' North Bombing Air Squadron, from 1916-1917. After his discharge from the Marine Corps, Kilroy played semi-professional baseball for 10 years, became a salesman in the construction business, and helped his father run Kilroy's Bar. The bar was across the street from Shibe Park, later known as Connie Mack Stadium. His father, Matt Kilroy, was a Major League pitcher, who still holds the record for most strikeouts in a season, 513 in 1886. He also holds the record for the most wins in a season by a left-handed pitcher, 46 in 1887.

Elmer Kilroy was involved in politics and in 1923 was elected as a ward committeeman, a position he held for over 20 years. He married the former Beatrice Cecilia Higgins in 1925. In November of 1934 Kilroy was elected to serve as the Representative for Philadelphia County, 24th District. He was re-elected to the House for 3 more successive terms.

Kilroy was the prime sponsor of 10 pieces of legislation that were signed into law; 5 of these Acts were appropriation bills. Each legislative term, Kilroy was the prime sponsor of appropriations for Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, located in East Falls, Philadelphia County. These were: Act 67A of 1935, Act 49A of 1937, Act 55A of 1939, and Act 47A of 1941. Kilroy was the prime sponsor of legislation which became Act 153 of 1937, which allowed the state to take over streets in cities of the first class and improve, construct, resurface, and maintain them.

In the 1937-1938 session, Kilroy was the chairman of the Highways Committee. On January 7, 1941, Kilroy became Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The day Kilroy was elected Speaker, Connie Mack, former baseball player, manager, and owner of the Philadelphia Athletics, spoke to the General Assembly as Kilroy's friend. Kilroy would later introduce, and saw to the passage of, House Joint Resolution 73 of 1941, to designate May 17th as "Connie Mack Day" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As Speaker, Kilroy was the prime sponsor of legislation which became Act 86 of 1941, to further regulate weigh masters licensing and scales used for vehicles throughout the state. Kilroy was Speaker during the passage of Act 323 of 1941, legislation that created the Pennsylvania Board of Parole. In 1942 Kilroy chose not run for re-election to the Pennsylvania House, but instead to run for Lieutenant Governor.

In 1942 Elmer Kilroy was elected by a 3-to-1 margin as the Democratic Candidate for Lieutenant



Governor in the primary. However, he was defeated in the general election by John Cromwell Bell, Jr., a future Governor of Pennsylvania. Kilroy would not return to state politics after his bid for Lieutenant Governor.

Elmer Kilroy died on November 5, 1961 in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Cheltenham, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.





1939-1940

# Ellwood J. Turner

**Born:** August 9, 1886, Allegheny City (Pittsburgh), Allegheny County, PA.

**Died:** March 1, 1948, Chester, Delaware County, PA.

**Member of the House:** Delaware County, 2nd District, 1925-1942 and November 2, 1943-March 1, 1948.

**Affiliation:** Republican.

Ellwood Jackson Turner graduated from Chester High School in 1904. He attended Swarthmore College for 1 year, and then transferred to the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1908 with a Bachelor of Laws degree. In 1909 he was admitted to practice law in Philadelphia County. Turner married the former Elizabeth Addis Downing on November 9, 1911, and they had five children: Elizabeth, William, Frederick, Anne, and Ellwood Jackson, Jr. Turner moved to the city of Chester, Delaware County, in 1912 to open his own law practice in the Cambridge Trust Building, and later moved to the Crozer Building. During World War I he served as a sergeant in Company G, First Pennsylvania Reserve Militia.

In 1919 Turner was elected the governor of the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Club. In 1924 he served as the vice-president of Kiwanis International. Professionally, Turner was president of the Ridley Park Realty Company and president of the A.H. Downing & Company Real Estate and Insurance Company. He was first elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1924 to represent Delaware County, and re-elected to serve 11 more successive terms.

Turner was the prime sponsor of legislation that established the Pennsylvania Aeronautics Commission in the Department of Internal Affairs, known as Act 250 of 1927. He would later sponsor a bill, which became Act 316 of 1929, which regulated aeronautics in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and imposed the duties of the regulation upon the State Aeronautics Commission.

Turner served 4 terms before being elected to a leadership position. He was elected as the Republican Leader from 1933-1938, and again in 1941-1942. On January 3, 1939, Turner became Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He would serve as Speaker from 1939-1940.

Turner was the first Speaker to use the current Speaker's Office, Room 139, on the first floor of the Main Capitol. As Speaker, Turner served as the chairman of the Joint State Government Commission from 1939-1942. In 1940 he also was the chairman of the Board of Managers of the Council of State Governments. During his time as Speaker, he was not a prime sponsor of any legislation. Retiring from the House, Turner unsuccessfully ran for Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor in 1942, only to return on November 2, 1943, winning a special election to fill the vacancy of





Thomas Wood Linn, a Representative who was elected but never sworn in due to military service.

In 1938 Turner served as the chairman of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, which would aid him in crafting Act 123 of 1945, which promoted interstate cooperation for the conservation and protection of water resources in the Delaware River Basin. Ellwood J. Turner would continue to serve in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives until his death on March 1, 1948. He is interred at West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.





1936-1938

# Roy E. Furman

(Elected following the death of Wilson G. Sarig)  
Born: April 16, 1901, Davistown, Greene County, PA.  
Died: May 18, 1977, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA.  
Member of the House: Greene County, 1933-1940.  
Affiliation: Democrat.

Roy Evans Furman graduated in 1918 from Mt. Morris High School in Greene County, Pennsylvania. He graduated in 1922 with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Waynesburg College. In 1924 he started a construction business in Waynesburg. Furman was elected as a member of the Pennsylvania State Democratic Committee and served from 1928-1932. Furman married the former Helen Ross, with whom he had a daughter, Mary F. (Berryman). He later remarried the former Mary Keeley in 1942 and they had one son, Roy E. II. In November of 1932 Furman was elected as a Representative from Greene County, and was re-elected for 3 more successive terms.

Furman was the prime sponsor of 6 bills that were signed into law, all in the 1935-1936 legislative session. Much of Furman's legislative focus during the session pertained to updating Pennsylvania's highway system and Vehicle Code. Furman's legislation, which became Act 233, made an appropriation allocating additional funding to the maintenance, construction, and reconstruction of roads and highways in second-class townships of Pennsylvania. Act 301 changed and added new routes that were classified as state highways, and Act 355 regulated registrations and licenses for motor vehicles and created penalties and procedures for addressing violators. Furman also wrote legislation that successfully worked to extend the period of redemption for those who owe delinquent property taxes to 5 years, which became Act 415.

In 1935 Furman was selected as the chairman of the Highways Committee. In the same year, Furman was chosen as acting chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, as well as Democratic Leader while Representative Frank W. Ruth suffered an illness. The following year, in March of 1936, Speaker Wilson G. Sarig passed away. On May 4, 1936, during the first extraordinary session of 1936, Roy Furman was elected to replace Sarig as the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. At the age of 35, Furman was one of the youngest persons to hold that position in Pennsylvania.

On December 1, 1936, a second extraordinary session was called by the Governor to provide relief for those struggling with poverty in the midst of the Great Depression. For this extraordinary session, the Members-elect who won in the November general election were sworn into office in December. Furman was again elected as the Speaker, allowing him to be elected Speaker for 2 separate legislative sessions in 1936.



During the second extraordinary session of 1936, Furman oversaw the passage of Acts 1 and 2, which established an unemployment compensation system in Pennsylvania to match Federal funding. Furman oversaw the creation of Act 459 of 1937, which established the Joint State Government Commission. The goal of this commission was to serve as a nonpartisan, bicameral research and policy development agency of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. Additionally, Furman and Democratic leadership championed and passed Act 211 of 1937, which created the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. In 1940 Furman retired from the legislature and returned to his construction business.

After his retirement from the legislature, Furman remained involved in government and politics, serving as Greene County's Democratic Chairman for 10 years. On November 2, 1954, Furman was elected as the Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth and served with Governor George M. Leader. He served in that position from 1955-1959. In 1958 he ran for Governor but lost in the Democratic primary election to David Lawrence, who later became Governor. In 1959 Governor Lawrence appointed Furman to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, where he served until 1963. Furman then served as a member of the Pennsylvania Highway Commission and later as a member the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission (STC).

Furman's commitment to the betterment of Pennsylvania's roads and highway system was commemorated when Act 127 of 1975 designated Pennsylvania Route 21 in Fayette and Greene Counties as the "Roy E. Furman Highway."

Roy E. Furman died May 18, 1977 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Greene County Memorial Park in Waynesburg, Greene County, Pennsylvania.





1935-1936

*Wilson G. Sarig*

Born: March 7, 1874, Lenhartsville, Berks County, PA.

Died: March 14, 1936, Temple Borough, Berks County, PA.

Member of the House: Berks County, 2nd District, 1915-1920 and 4th District, 1923-1928 and 1931-March 14, 1936.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Wilson Sarig graduated in 1894 from Keystone State Normal School (now, Kutztown University). He taught in the public schools of Temple from 1891 through 1936. Sarig married the former Jennie Unterkofler and they had 2 daughters, Mae E. (Ardes) and Stella I. (Patterson).

Sarig became involved in politics and was elected as a delegate to the Berks County Convention in 1895 from the borough of Lenhartsville. From 1900-1915, Sarig was elected the Justice of the Peace for Muhlenberg Township. In November of 1914, Sarig was elected to serve as a Representative from Berks County's 2nd District for the sessions 1915-1916, and was reelected from 1917-1920. Sarig ran for the State Senate in 1920, but was defeated by James E. Norton. Due to the 1920 Census, the 2nd District was reapportioned and became the 4th District. Sarig was re-elected and represented the 4th District from 1923-1928. He was defeated in the 1928 general election by Republican candidate Clifford Landis, and then was re-elected to the House and served from 1931-1936.

In 1917 Sarig was the prime sponsor of legislation that became Act 232A, which appropriated funding to purchase Indian relics for the Pennsylvania State Museums. In 1923 he was the prime sponsor of legislation that provided for a system of employment and compensation for inmates of county jails and prisons, or Act 172. Blue laws prohibiting Sunday sports were still in effect when Sarig was the Democratic Leader, so in 1933 he helped pass a bill which became Act 49, which would allow local communities to decide whether or not to prohibit baseball and other outdoor sports on Sunday.

Sarig served as the Democratic Leader from 1931-1934. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Speakership in the 1917-1918, 1923-1924, and 1927-1928 legislative sessions. When he returned to legislative service in 1931, he was nominated again as a candidate for Speaker, and again in 1933. On January 1, 1935, Sarig became Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the first Democrat-elected Speaker in the 20th century.

During his tenure as Speaker, Sarig oversaw legislation to create the General State Authority. This bill, which became Act 190 of 1935, created an independent body in order to circumvent constitutional restrictions on the state's borrowing capacity. That same year, Sarig also oversaw legislation which became Act 211, which allowed electors to decide whether their local community



could allow motion pictures to run on Sunday.

On March 14, 1936, at the age of 61, Sarig passed away in Berks County, Pennsylvania, following an extended illness. He is interred at Laureldale Cemetery in Tuckerton, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Following his death, the Wilson G. Sarig Elementary School was built in Temple, Pennsylvania. The school would remain there until it was sold in 1989. Wilson's daughter, Mae, established the Wilson G. Sarig Scholarship at Kutztown University. This scholarship provides a full-time student with tuition assistance.





1933-1934

*Grover C. Talbot*

Born: April 23, 1885, East Coventry Township, Chester County, PA.

Died: December 21, 1935, Drexel Hill, Delaware County, PA.

Member of the House: Delaware County, 2nd District, 1925-1934.

Affiliation: Republican.

Grover Cleveland Talbot graduated from the Philadelphia public schools. Following high school graduation, Talbot worked in his father's business, the Henry Talbot Coal Company. Talbot worked as a lumberman in North Carolina for a short time, where he married the former Elizabeth Riddich. They had 2 daughters, Elizabeth R. (Southmayd) and Ellen J. (Frost).

Upon moving back to Pennsylvania, Talbot became the director of the Tincum Bank of Essington in 1914. Locally, he was elected as Norwood's Registry Assessor in 1917 and to the Norwood Borough Council in 1918. Talbot enlisted in the Pennsylvania Reserve Militia and served as first sergeant for Company G from 1918-1919, during World War I. Talbot was elected Burgess of Norwood in 1921. In November of 1924, Talbot was elected to the Pennsylvania House to serve the 2nd District of Delaware County for the 1925-1926 Session. He was re-elected to 4 more successive terms.

In 1927 Talbot was the prime sponsor of legislation, which became Act 406, to protect registration and names of institutions including: military and veteran organizations, labor unions, historical societies, among many others. Talbot was a legislator during the Great Depression. He authored 2 bills known as the Talbot Acts. The first Talbot Act appropriated \$10 million in aid for unemployment assistance. It became law, as Act 7E, on December 28, 1931, without Governor Pinchot's signature, and therefore, its constitutionality was questioned. On April 7, 1932, the Supreme Court declared it to be constitutional. This ruling set a precedent and determined the state's constitutional right to appropriate funds for relief of the unemployed. Since the law's funding was inadequate, 1 year later in the second special session, summer of 1932, Talbot introduced the second Talbot Act, Act 52, which provided an additional \$12 million in aid. As a consequence of the second Talbot Act, a third piece of legislation, the Hagmaier Sales Tax Bill, or Act 53 of 1932, was enacted in order to levy a 1 percent sales tax for 6 months on all retail sales except farm products. This 6-month tax was necessary to fund the \$12 million in the second Talbot Act in order for the State Emergency Relief Board to distribute relief money.

Talbot was selected as chairman of the Centennial Affairs Committee in 1929. On January 3, 1933, Talbot was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He would serve in this position for the 1933-1934 Session.

In the worst part of the Great Depression, Talbot presided over a legislature that dealt with a





historically high unemployment rate of 37.1 percent. To deal with this problem, Talbot was the prime sponsor of 2 pieces of legislation that would double unemployment funding with appropriations to the State Emergency Relief Board, Acts 1A and 3A of 1933. In one of his last legislative acts at the rostrum, Talbot oversaw legislation, which would become Acts 1 through 8 of 1934, to transfer \$23 million of special funds to unemployment relief.

Talbot did not seek another term as a Representative in 1935. Instead, he ran for the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor and was defeated by Harry B. Scott, the Senate President Pro Tempore. In 1935, he was named the president of the Pennsylvania Retail Coal Dealers Association. On December 21, 1935, Grover C. Talbot died in an automobile accident in Drexel Hill, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Darby, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.





1929-1930

# Aaron B. Hess

Born: May 31, 1871, Safe Harbor, Lancaster County, PA.

Died: August 4, 1933, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA.

Member of the House: Lancaster County, 1st District, 1911-1922 and 1925-1930.

Affiliation: Republican.

Aaron B. Hess was educated in the Pequea Township public schools in Lancaster County. Hess began teaching in the Pequea Township public schools in 1888 at the age of 17 and remained there until 1897. He received his teaching certificate from Millersville State Teacher's College in 1892 while he was employed as a teacher. Hess married Fannie H. Hess and they had 3 children: H. Lloyd, Aaron Elwood, and Kathryn M. (Hess) Moore. Hess was elected general manager of the Lancaster Chemical Company in 1898. In 1899 he began his career in the leaf tobacco business by starting the A. B. Hess Cigar Company, Inc. From 1911-1913, Hess was elected the president of the National Cigar Leaf Tobacco Association. Hess moved to the city of Lancaster in 1908, and in November 1910 he was elected to the Pennsylvania House to represent Lancaster County for the 1911-1912 session. He was re-elected to 8 other terms from 1913-1922 and 1925-1930.

Hess was the prime sponsor of legislation to create the nonpartisan Legislative Reference Bureau for the Pennsylvania General Assembly, which became Act 47 of 1921. Hess was the Republican Leader for the passage of what would become Act 368 of 1921, the first State tax on gasoline. Hess did not seek re-election to the House in 1923, but he returned for the session of 1925-1926. One of the major developments occurring throughout the state and the country at the time was the construction of public highways due to the increased use of automobiles. In 1925 Hess was the leading supporter of legislation, which became Act 22 of 1925, to compel county commissioners to apply for funding in order to construct highways. In 1927 Hess was the prime sponsor of Act 192, which authorized the Secretary of Highways to name, number, or combine state highways to best accommodate the public. Also in 1927, he authored legislation that became Act 415, which regulated professional engineering for the first time.

Hess was selected as chairman of the Manufacturing Committee from 1919-1922. Hess was the Republican Leader from 1921-1922 and 1927-1928. From 1925-1928, Hess was selected as the chairman of the Public Roads Committee. On January 1, 1929, Hess was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1929-1930 session.

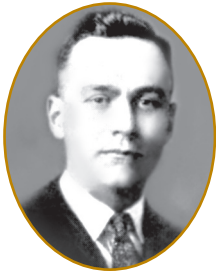
As Speaker, Hess was the prime sponsor of legislation that became Act 569 of 1929, to provide compensation to teachers willing to leave retirement to fill a teaching demand. Hess also oversaw legislation that would change the names of State Normal Schools to State Teachers' Colleges, or Act 309 of 1929. Hess was Speaker during the Wall Street Crash of 1929, the most devastating



stock market crash in the history of the United States. This would signal the beginning of the Great Depression.

Following his departure from the House in 1930, Hess continued to manage his cigar company. He would also go on to oversee a chemical firm and a waterworks company. Aaron B. Hess passed away on August 4, 1933, following complications from an appendectomy. He is interred at Greenwood Cemetery in the city of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.





1927-1928

# James H. McClure

(Elected to replace Thomas Bluett following his resignation)

Born: June 27, 1886, McKeesport, Allegheny County, PA.

Died: February 17, 1941, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Allegheny County, 10th District, 1923-1934.

Affiliation: Republican.

James Haines McClure was educated in the public schools in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. He graduated in 1909 from Gettysburg College, where he studied law and science. In 1911 he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Pennsylvania. McClure was admitted to the Bar of Allegheny County in 1912 and worked for the law firm of McGrady, McClure, Nickolas and Hirshfield of Pittsburgh. McClure married the former Mary Walton during this time and they had 2 children, James H. and William H. For 18 years McClure served as the solicitor for both Glassport Borough and Glassport School Board. In November of 1922, McClure was elected to serve the 10th District of Allegheny County for the 1923-1924 session. He was re-elected for 5 more successive terms.

McClure was the prime sponsor of what became known as the Borough Code of 1927, Act 336, to revise, amend, and consolidate the law relating to boroughs. This bill addressed issues relating to borough limits, the election of borough officers, the creation and alteration of boroughs, and other such matters. In 1933 McClure was the prime sponsor of legislation, which became Act 104, to tax nonintoxicating alcoholic beverages. A nonalcoholic beverage was determined to be anything with alcohol content but less than 0.5 percent alcohol by volume. During the Extraordinary Session of 1933, McClure helped pass the Liquor Control Bill, which became Act 4 of 1933, which established the liquor store system. Because the 21st Amendment was ratified that same year—officially ending Prohibition—both pieces of legislation were of special significance at the time.

McClure was selected as the chairman of the Judiciary General Committee for the 1925-1926 session. In the fall of 1927, McClure was elected the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He obtained this position after Speaker Thomas Bluett resigned upon his selection as a Philadelphia Municipal Court judge. Although McClure lost his position as Speaker to Aaron Hess in 1929, he would return to serve as chairman of the Judiciary General Committee from 1929-1934.

There is no legislative record for the time McClure was Speaker since House sessions concluded in April 15, 1927, when Thomas Bluett resigned. During his time as Acting Speaker, McClure appointed members of the House to special committees. In 1928, for example, he appointed a



committee of the House to attend the funeral of former Governor William Sproul.

Outside of the legislature, McClure served as an assistant county solicitor for Allegheny County from 1932-1936. McClure was the Republican nominee for the 44th Senatorial District in 1934, but lost in the general election to George Rankin, Jr. In November of 1936, McClure lost a Congressional race for the 31st District to James Quinn. He continued to work in his law practice until October of 1940, when he began work in the office of Allegheny County District Attorney Andrew Par.

James H. McClure died on February 17, 1941 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Versailles Cemetery in McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





1925-1927

# Thomas Bluett

Born: October 7, 1879, Birmingham, England.

Died: March 4, 1958, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 25th District, 1921-1927.

Affiliation: Republican.

Thomas Bluett attended Bayard Taylor and Thomas Potter public schools. He attended Temple University and graduated from the law department in 1904. Bluett was admitted to the Philadelphia Bar on March 6, 1905, and worked in a local practice. On June 5, 1905, Bluett married the former Phoebe Edel and together they had 4 children: William E., Jane C., Thomas T., and Robert S. After the death of his first wife, Bluett married the former Eva Roach in 1932 and they had 1 daughter, Mary E.

In 1917 Bluett served as assistant solicitor to the city of Philadelphia. From 1918-1919, he was elected to the Philadelphia Common Council and represented the 43rd Ward. In November of 1920 Bluett was elected to represent the 25th District of Philadelphia for the 1921-1922 legislative session. He was elected to 3 more successive terms and served until 1927.

Bluett was the prime sponsor of many pieces of legislation dealing with real estate and tax law. For example, Bluett was the prime sponsor the Personal Property Taxes, First and Second Class Cities Act, or Act 421 of 1923. This act allowed cities of these classes to collect taxes that were lawfully imposed and assessed on personal property.

On January 6, 1925, Bluett was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1925-1926 session. During this session, Bluett oversaw legislation, which became Act 346 of 1925, which allowed the Department of Forests and Waters to purchase suitable land to designate as State forests. Beginning in 1995, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources took over the role this legislation gave to the Department of Forests and Waters.

Bluett was re-elected as Speaker for the 1927-1928 session, however, he resigned from the House in the fall of 1927 after being elected judge in the Philadelphia Municipal Court. As Speaker in 1927, Bluett helped enact legislation that required building code to follow fire protection and evacuation guidelines. This was known as the Fire and Panic Act, or Act 299 of 1927.

Bluett served as a judge to the Philadelphia Municipal Court for a 10-year term beginning January 1, 1928. He was re-elected to that position in 1937. In 1941 Bluett was elected as a judge of the Common Pleas Court No. 4 of Philadelphia County for a 10-year term, from 1942-1951. In 1952 Bluett returned to practice as a private attorney.

Thomas Bluett died on March 4, 1958 in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Forest Hills Memorial Park, Huntingdon Valley, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.







1923-1924, 1931-1932

*C. Jay Goodnough*

Born: July 15, 1867, Whitesville, Allegany County, NY.

Died: July 21, 1938, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, OH.

Member of the House: Cameron County, 1915-1932.

Affiliation: Republican.

C. Jay Goodnough was educated in the common schools of Whitesville, New York. He was an independent merchant until the age of 30. From 1885-1907 he served as the prothonotary, register and recorder, and clerk of courts in Cameron County. In 1897 Goodnough joined the mining department of the Emporium Mining Company. He was appointed the secretary-treasurer of the Mining Company in 1912 and served in that position until 1918. He then became president of the Emporium Iron Company in 1918 and continued until 1926. In 1928 Goodnough became president of the Emporium Trust Company and retained that position until the time of his death. Goodnough married the former Florence Olmsted on December 12, 1899, and in November of 1914 he was elected to represent Cameron County for the 1915-1916 session. He served for 7 more successive terms.

Goodnough was a member of the legislature when national Prohibition took effect in January 1920. He was the prime sponsor of what became Act 194 of 1921, which gave the State Forest Commission the ability to sell or exchange portions of state forest land. This power was transferred in 1995 to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Goodnough was also the prime sponsor of Act 152, which was known as the Paint, Putty, and Naval Stores law of 1925. The purpose of this law was to prevent people or companies from selling paint, putty, turpentine, or rosin that attempted to deceive buyers of their composition.

Goodnough was appointed chairman of the Iron and Coal Committee from 1915-1918, chairman of the Forestry Committee from 1919-1920, and chairman of the Insurance Committee from 1921-1922. On January 2, 1923, Goodnough was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1923-1924 session. From 1925-1926 he was the Majority Leader, and from 1927-1928 he served as chairman of the Manufactures Committee. During the 1929-1930 session, he was the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. On January 3, 1931, he was again elected as the Speaker of the House for the 1931-1932 session.

During his first tenure as Speaker, the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution was ratified, on August 18, 1920, prohibiting any citizen to be denied the right to vote based solely on gender. As a result, women were elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the first time in history. Eight women were elected in November 1922 and were sworn in the day Goodnough became Speaker. On February 28, 1923, under Speaker Goodnough, Representative



Alice M. Bentley was the first woman to preside as Speaker Pro Tempore. Goodnough oversaw legislation, which became Act 131 of 1931, which created a "Greater Pennsylvania Council" to act as an advisory and planning body. In his second term as Speaker, two state symbols were designated: the Hemlock was adopted as the State Tree, by Act 233 of 1931, and the Ruffed Grouse was adopted as the State Bird, by Act 234 of 1931.

In late 1931, Governor Pinchot appointed Goodnough to the Public Service Commission. Goodnough became the chairman of the Commission in 1932, and continued to serve in that position until 1937, when Governor Earle abolished the Commission.

C. Jay Goodnough died on July 21, 1938 in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. He is interred at Whitesville Rural Cemetery, Independence, Allegany County, New York.





1921-1922

# Samuel A. Whitaker

(Elected following Spangler's ousting)

Born: February 15, 1876, Phoenixville, Chester County, PA.

Died: January 2, 1923, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA.

Member of the House: Chester County, 2nd District 1913-1918 and 1921-1922.

Affiliation: Republican.

Samuel Adams Whitaker was educated in the public schools of Chester County. Whitaker attended the University of Pennsylvania and received a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1896 and a Doctorate of Laws in 1899. After graduation, Whitaker started practicing law with J. Whitaker Thompson and Morris Dallett in Chester and Philadelphia Counties.

In November of 1912, Whitaker was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives representing Chester County for the 1913-1914 session, and was re-elected for the 1915-1916 and 1917-1918 sessions. Whitaker was nominated for the 1919-1920 session, but withdrew from the ticket in order to serve in the military overseas. Whitaker was ranked first sergeant from prior service in the Pennsylvania National Guard, from 1898-1905. Whitaker re-enlisted and assumed command as captain of Battery C, First Field Artillery, of the Pennsylvania National Guard while on deployment at the Mexican border from July 5, 1916, to November 30, 1916. He was called into service again on July 15, 1917, and served as captain of Battery C, 107 Field Artillery, 28th Division, in France and Belgium. After his service in World War I, he was re-elected to the House for the 1921-1922 and 1923-1924 sessions.

Whitaker was the primary supporter of legislation that became Act 17A of 1917, to appropriate money to the National Guard for supplies, training, and salary. This legislation was passed soon after the entry of the United States into World War I. Whitaker also sponsored a bill that resulted in Act 247 of 1921, which would authorize counties, cities, boroughs, towns, and townships to acquire lands and to transfer such lands to the Commonwealth for the use of the National Guard. In 1921 he was the key sponsor of legislation, which would become Act 419, which regulated fire insurance companies and expanded the number of policies that they offered.

Whitaker was chosen to serve as the chairman of the following committees: the Military Committee from 1913-1914, the Judiciary Special Committee from 1915-1916, the Manufactures Committee from 1917-1918, and the Corporations Committee in 1921. In April of 1921, the Republican members of the House held a "rump session", a term referring to a supplementary period at the end of a term held to address unresolved legislation. During this session, Whitaker was elected Speaker to replace Robert Spangler, who had been ousted by a divided House. On April 26, 1921, Whitaker became Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



Because Spangler was ousted at the conclusion of the 1921-1922 session, Whitaker presided as the Speaker for 3 session days: April 26, 27, and 28 of 1921. During this short period he created a new Rules Committee that helped pass a general appropriations bill and discharged a number of bills relating to reapportionment from the Rules Committee. On April 28, 1921, the general appropriations bill, Act 42A, was finally signed into law and the “rump session” was pronounced over.

On November 7, 1922, Whitaker was elected to represent Chester County for the 1923 session. However, prior to being sworn in on January 2, 1923, he died of heart failure in the Penn-Harris Hotel in Harrisburg. He is interred at Morris Cemetery, Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania.





1919-1921

# Robert S. Spangler

(Unseated on April 26, 1921)

Born: May 10, 1882, York, York County, PA.

Died: February 22, 1961, Spring Garden Township, York County, PA.

Member of the House: York County, 1st District, 1913-1924 and 1929-1932.

Affiliation: Republican.

Robert Spangler was educated in the public schools of York County and at the York Collegiate Institute. He studied one year of law at University of Virginia, and then returned to York to study law as a clerk in his father's law office. Upon completing his clerkship, he was admitted to the York County Bar on August 29, 1905, and began to practice law with his father, Edwin C. Spangler. After his father's death in 1907, he joined the firm of Walter Hays, N. Sargent Ross and H. C. Breneman. In November of 1912, Spangler was elected to serve York County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1913-1914 session, and was re-elected to 7 subsequent terms, from 1915-1924 and 1929-1932.

During his first term, Spangler was appointed chairman of the Retrenchment and Reform Committee. In the 1915-1916 session, he was the chairman of the Legislative Apportionment Committee, and in 1917-1918 he was the chairman of the Public Roads Committee.

Spangler was the prime sponsor of legislation, which became Act 13 of 1923, to allow county commissioners to create plans for public buildings prior to entering into a contract. He also sponsored a bill, which became Act 228 of 1929, which regulated loans by building and loan associations. In 1931 he introduced a bill, which became Act 336, which prohibited the use of counterfeit coins in automatic machines. Spangler also led reapportionment efforts after the 1930 census, serving as Chairman of the Congressional Apportionment Committee in 1931-1932, and was the prime sponsor of legislation that reshaped the congressional districts, known as Act 361 of 1931.

On January 7, 1919, Spangler was elected as the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1919-1920 session. Spangler was the first Speaker elected from York County. As Speaker, he oversaw the passage of Act 179 of 1919, which reorganized the State Police. This legislation created a Bureau of Fire Protection, which transferred the State Fire Marshall's duties to the State Police. In the same year, Spangler witnessed Act 34 of 1919 become law, which established a Bureau of Municipalities in the Department of Internal Affairs.

At the start of the 1921 session, Spangler was re-elected as Speaker but was then unseated in an infamous "rump session" of the House on April 26, 1921. Due to split factions in the Republican caucus, Samuel A. Whitaker was nominated by the House to replace Spangler immediately. After losing his Speakership, he was re-elected to the House for the 1923-1924 session, but chose not



to run again in the 1924 election. In 1928 Spangler campaigned for re-election to the House and was chosen to represent York County for the 1929-1930 session. During this time, Spangler was selected as chairman of the Judiciary Local Committee. He was re-elected in 1930 and was chosen to serve as the chairman of the Congressional Apportionment Committee for the 1931-1932 session, in which capacity he led the reapportionment process following the 1930 United States Census.

Robert S. Spangler returned to practice law in York County until shortly before his death on February 22, 1961 in Spring Garden Township, York County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Prospect Hill Cemetery in the city of York, York County, Pennsylvania.







1917-1918

# Richard J. Baldwin

Born: March 1, 1853, East Bradford Township, Chester County, PA.

Died: June 15, 1944, Elwyn, Delaware County, PA.

Member of the House: Delaware County, 2nd District, 1895-1900  
and 1911-1918.

Affiliation: Republican.

Richard Jacobs Baldwin was educated in the public schools of Chester County as well as in Maplewood and Eaton Academies. He spent his early life on a farm and practiced carpentry until the age of 23. Baldwin married the former Sarah Worrall Temple. They had 6 children: Mary Griffith, Thomas B. Temple, Helen Brinton, John Erskine, Florence Edith (Passmore), and Richard Lindley. In 1878 Baldwin moved to Chadds Ford, Delaware County, where he operated a general store. He went on to serve as postmaster of Chadds Ford from 1889-1893. In November of 1894, Baldwin was elected to represent the 2nd District of Delaware County for the 1895-1896 session. He was re-elected to the House for 6 more terms from 1897-1900 and 1911-1918.

Throughout his time in the House, Baldwin was successful in getting a number of pieces of legislation into law. In 1913 he was the prime sponsor of Act 340, which allowed certain prisoners to be released on probation if they had completed at least a third of their sentence. Also enacted in 1913 from a bill he sponsored was Act 13, which provided for a comptroller in counties having more than 100 thousand inhabitants. In 1915 his legislation would become Act 122, which prohibited any city, county, or municipality from imposing license tax upon insurance companies. In the same year, he sponsored Act 203, which allowed county commissioners to erect monuments to soldiers and sailors of wars.

Baldwin was selected as chairman of the Forestry Committee in 1897 and assumed the position again in 1899. He withdrew from the ticket for the session of 1900-1901 and served as recorder of deeds in Delaware County from 1902-1907. He owned an insurance business and continued to work in that profession until he returned to serve in the House of Representatives in 1911. Baldwin was appointed chairman of the Insurance Committee from 1915-1916. On January 2, 1917, Baldwin was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Baldwin presided as Speaker during World War I. In the 2-year period he served, state revenues soared by almost 50 percent, while spending was cut for the first time since 1895 by \$5 million. Also during his tenure as Speaker, the first state Farm Show was staged in January of 1917.

After presiding as Speaker for the 1917-1918 session, Baldwin was nominated to succeed Governor Sproul as State Senator. He won the election in 1918 decidedly, and presided over the 9th Senatorial District from 1919-1920. After his term as Senator, Baldwin established his own insurance company. He presided over the company until his death.

Richard Baldwin died on June 16, 1944 at his home in Elwyn, Chester County, Pennsylvania



after being ill for several weeks. He is interred at Bradford Cemetery, Marshallton, Chester County, Pennsylvania.





1915-1916

# Charles A. Ambler

Born: January 5, 1874, Jenkintown Borough,  
Montgomery County, PA.

Died: August 29, 1940, Abington, Montgomery County, PA.

Member of the House: Montgomery County, 1st District, 1903-1910  
and 1913-1916.

Affiliation: Republican.

Charles A. Ambler graduated from the public schools of Abington as valedictorian of his class in 1892. Upon graduation, he assisted his father in the meat business and on the family farm until 1894. That same year he purchased a general store in Abington Township and began his own grocery business. Ambler was appointed postmaster of Abington from 1897-1902. In 1899 he was elected a member of the county Republican committee. In 1902 he purchased a second grocery store in Wyncote and expanded that business. Ambler married the former Annie Dubree Hunter in 1902, and together they had 5 children: C. Merrill, Dorothy D., Bertha H., Helen R., and Wayne H. Ambler was elected to the Pennsylvania House to represent the 1st District of Montgomery County in 1902 and was re-elected in 1904, 1906, and 1908. He returned to the House in 1912 and continued to serve as Representative until 1916.

As State Representative, Ambler created several pieces of legislation related to public roads and highways, a popular subject at the commencement of the 20th Century. In 1913 he was the primary sponsor of a bill which became Act 762, which would authorize township commissioners in townships of the first class to establish sidewalks along principal streets. During that same year, he created legislation which became Act 94, which would authorize townships of the first class to provide for fire protection. Ambler also introduced legislation that would authorize any borough to collect a license tax on hacks, carriages, and motor vehicles that were operated for pay, which became Act 287 of 1913.

Ambler was elected as chairman of the Manufactures Committee in 1907. The following term, in 1909, he was selected as chairman of the Public Roads Committee. In the election of 1910, Ambler was defeated by Democratic candidate David Fitzgerald. He was re-elected in 1912 to serve in the 1913-1914 session. On January 5, 1915, Ambler was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

As Speaker, Ambler continued to sponsor legislation related to roads and highways, as well as legislation that promoted suburban expansion. In 1915 he introduced House Bill 1509, or Act 322, which would repeal an established suburban metropolitan district area within a 25 mile radius of a city of the first class.



In 1916, after his final term in the House, Ambler unsuccessfully ran for state Auditor General. On September 10, 1917, Ambler was appointed State Insurance Commissioner following the resignation of former Commissioner J. Denny O'Neill. He served as Commissioner until March 11, 1919. Ambler ran for the State Senate in 1918. He was defeated with a platform based on his support of Prohibition. For the remainder of his life, Ambler served as advisor to the Ambler-Davis Company, a general contracting firm he co-founded in 1907. Ambler had served as president of the company during his service as State Representative. Charles Ambler died on August 29, 1940, at his home in Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Hatboro Cemetery, Hatboro, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.





1913-1914

*George E. Alter*

Born: May 8, 1868, Springdale Borough, Allegheny County, PA.

Died: August 18, 1940, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Allegheny County, 12th District, 1909-1914.

Affiliation: Republican.

George Elias Alter was educated in the public schools of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. After completing grade school, Alter studied shorthand and typing at night school and became a stenographer and law student in the office of a Pittsburgh attorney. He was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar in 1893 and was appointed as auditor of Springdale Township, his first public office. Alter was elected and appointed president of the Springdale Borough Council in 1905 and served in that position until 1908. Alter was married to the former Diana Swanton, with whom he had 4 children: Kathleen E. (Elder), Frances E., George E., and David S. Alter practiced law in Pittsburgh at the firm of McKee, Mitchell & Alter and continued to do so even upon his election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. In November of 1908, Alter was elected to the Pennsylvania House to represent the 12th District of Allegheny County. He was re-elected to serve 2 more consecutive terms.

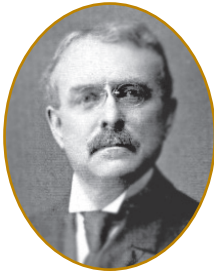
Alter was the prime sponsor of 4 pieces of legislation that were enacted in 1909: House Bill 116, which became Act 48, authorized boroughs to acquire real estate; House Bill 22, which became Act 59, created a sinking fund commission; House Bill 4, which became Act 47, required that the last will of any decedent be offered for probate within 3 years from the date of death; and finally, he was the prime sponsor of House Bill 84, which became Act 34, which outlined the protection of minor children.

On January 7, 1913, Alter was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. During his time as the Speaker, Alter presided over the ratification of the 17th Amendment of the United States Constitution, which would allow for the direct election of Senators. Also during his Speakership, Act 63 was passed, which created Pennsylvania's first hunting licensing program.

Alter served as a delegate to the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1920. On December 14, 1920, Alter was appointed State Attorney General by Governor Sproul to fill a vacancy left by William I. Schaffer. When his term expired, he ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Pennsylvania in 1922 against Gifford Pinchot. From 1924-1925, he served as president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and in 1928 he became chairman of the membership committee of the American Law Institute. In 1933 he was elected to the executive council of the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh.

George E. Alter died August 18, 1940 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Homewood Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





1911-1912

*Milton W. Shreve*

(Appointed following the death of John F. Cox)

Born: May 3, 1858, Chapmanville, Venango County, PA.

Died: December 23, 1939, Erie, Erie County, PA.

Member of the House: Erie County, 1st District, 1907-1912.

Affiliation: Republican.

The son of a Baptist minister, Milton William Shreve was raised in Venango County, Pennsylvania. He received his preparatory education at Edinboro State Normal School (now Edinboro University), which he attended from 1875-1879. Later he attended Allegheny College for 2 years and the University of Lewisburg (now Bucknell University) for 2 years, graduating in 1884 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Shreve studied law and was certified by the Erie County Bar and permitted to practice in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court, among other federal courts. Shreve married the former Mary Hill and they had 2 children, Lyman C. and Martha F. (Hubley).

In 1899 Shreve was elected District Attorney of Erie County, and in 1900 he was elected the chairman of the Erie County Republican Committee. He was a member of the Erie County Chamber of Commerce Board of Trade and served as a director of the People's Bank of Erie. In November of 1906 Milton Shreve was elected to represent the 1st District of Erie County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was re-elected to 2 subsequent terms and served from 1907-1912.

While in office, one of Shreve's legislative successes was the passage of Act 162 of 1909, which called for further regulation of the practice of medicine within the Commonwealth through requiring applicants for medical licenses to provide proof of their education. Shreve made further legislative attempts to ensure those needing medical attention got adequate care through the introduction of multiple bills calling for appropriations to medical facilities.

During his service in the House, Shreve served as a member of the Appropriations Committee and became chairman of the Committee of Mines and Mining in 1909. The following term, in 1911, he was named as chairman of the Judiciary General Committee. That same year, then-Speaker John F. Cox passed away suddenly on November 6, 1911. As a result of Cox's passing, Shreve was appointed Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives through the operation of the Act of Assembly, which placed the duties of the Speakership on the chairman of the Judiciary General Committee. During his time as the Acting Speaker, the Pennsylvania Legislature never actually convened for an official session day; however, Shreve served as Acting Speaker for the remainder of the 1911-1912 session.



While serving in the House, Shreve was able to gain enough popularity and support to make a successful run for a seat in the United States Congress. He won his election bid in November of 1912 and represented the 28th Congressional District of Pennsylvania for the 63rd Congressional session. He was re-elected for 7 consecutive terms, serving a total of 16 years of as a Congressman. After an unsuccessful re-election to the 73rd United States Congress, Shreve returned to Erie to practice law.

Milton W. Shreve died on December 23, 1939, in the city of Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Erie Cemetery, Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania.







1909-1911

*John F. Cox*

Born: October 6, 1852, Mifflin Township, Allegheny County, PA.  
Died: November 6, 1911, Homestead, Allegheny County, PA.  
Member of the House: Allegheny County, 6th District, 1885-1888,  
1909-November 6, 1911.  
Affiliation: Republican.

John Freemont Cox was raised on his father's Pennsylvania farm and attended Westminster College. In 1875 he graduated from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, studying law. He married the former Elvira V. Ackard and together, they had 2 children, Robert P. and Anna L. (Dittman). Cox worked as a schoolteacher in Homestead, Pennsylvania, for 3 years before continuing his law studies at the office of Major W.C. Moreland and John H. Kerr of Pittsburgh. Cox was elected the Burgess of Homestead and held that position for 2 years. He was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar in January of 1880 and engaged in the practice of law for the remainder of his life. In November of 1884, Cox was elected to the 6th District of Allegheny County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was re-elected the following term, 1887-1888, and following a 20-year gap, returned to serve in the House for 2 additional terms, 1909-1910 and 1911-1912.

Cox was a member of the Judiciary Committee and of the General Election Committee. He was appointed chairman of the Retrenchments and Reform Committee during the 1887-1888 term. He withdrew his nomination to the House in 1888 with the intent of running for District Attorney of Allegheny County; however, he retired from the election early on. Later he considered running for Governor, but instead turned his attention once again to the State House. Cox was re-elected to the House in November of 1908, and on January 5, 1909, he was elected the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

While Speaker, Cox oversaw several significant legislative measures. Act 143 of 1909 created the Legislative Reference Bureau. Another success of the 1909-1910 session was Act 210 of 1909, one of the state's first laws regulating child labor in the mining industry. The law prohibited minors under the age of 14 from working in mines, and limited the number of hours, to 58 in a week, that a minor between the ages of 14-16 could work. The law also required employers to verify the age of workers and the minors working would have to obtain a certificate from their local school district before they were authorized to work in the mines. Also enacted in 1909 was Act 174, which regulated the use of automobiles in the state. It required owners to have their car registered with the state and it mandated that vehicle operators obtain a driver's license. The law also set the state speed limit at 24 miles per hour on rural roads and 12 miles per hour in towns and cities.

As Speaker, Cox welcomed the first African-American to the House of Representatives, Harry



W. Bass. Representative Bass, a Republican from Philadelphia, served 2 consecutive terms in the House. Also during his time as Speaker, in 1909, the House increased from 204 to 207 members for a period of 16 years. Cox was again elected to the Speakership for the 1911-1912 session, but he was unable to serve for most of this time due to declining health.

John F. Cox died on November 6, 1911, from renal failure at his home in Homestead, Allegheny County. He is interred at Homestead Cemetery, Munhall, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.



1907-1908



# Francis B. McClain

Born: April 14, 1864, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA.

Died: October 11, 1925, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA.

Member of the House: Lancaster County, 1st District, 1895-March 18, 1910.

Affiliation: Republican.

Francis Bernard McClain was educated in the parochial schools of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Lancaster High School in 1881. McClain married the former Ellen Bernadine O'Neill on February 14, 1888. They had 1 child who died in infancy.

Starting in 1884, McClain became involved in the livestock business, a profession he continued to be engaged in through the remainder of his life. Frank McClain worked as a cattle dealer and later became co-founder of the Lancaster Livestock Exchange. He became the first president of that company shortly after. In November of 1894, McClain was elected to represent the 1st District of Lancaster County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was re-elected to 7 more consecutive terms.

During his time as a legislator, McClain worked to improve the lives of his constituents in Lancaster County. Much of the legislation he sponsored appropriated money to hospitals and homeless shelters in Lancaster. He was the sponsor of legislation, which became Act 473 of 1901, which funded a homeless shelter in his district. McClain also sponsored legislation that would become Act 145 of 1903 that gave more rights to foreign corporations to purchase real estate in Pennsylvania. He also created legislation which became Act 469 of 1907 that helped fund the Lancaster General Hospital.

McClain served as chairman of the Municipal Corporations Committee from 1899-1900. In 1901 he was selected chairman of the Corporations Committee and served as its chair until 1906. During his time as Representative, he also served on the Ways and Means Committee and the Railroads Committee. On January 1, 1907, McClain was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives by a vote of 157 to 50, beating challenger, Representative John M. Flynn.

During McClain's service as Speaker of the House, Pennsylvania experienced the "Panic of 1907." This financial crisis hit Pennsylvania hard, and the legislature created new laws to help fill its coffers and prevent future crises. It was during this time that Pennsylvania enacted Act 512 of 1907, the state's first law that allowed for a company's capital stock to be taxed. In order to prevent future bank collapses triggered by consumers rushing to withdraw their money, Act 150 of 1907 was enacted which would require banks to maintain a cash reserve that was enough to cover at least 15 percent of all deposits.

McClain was elected mayor of Lancaster city on February 15, 1910. Resigning from the House



as majority leader on March 18, 1910, McClain was sworn in as mayor on April 4, 1910, and served until he resigned on January 6, 1915. In May of 1914, he became the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor. On November 3, 1914, he won the election and was sworn in as the 11th Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania on January 20, 1915, and served through January 21, 1919, under Governor Martin Grove Brumbaugh. In 1919 McClain became executive director and treasurer of the newly formed State Welfare Commission. In 1919 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by Villanova College.

Socially, McClain was the director of the Lancaster Charity Society, a member of the Lancaster Historical Society, and president of the Philadelphia Terrapin Club for over 20 years. McClain is remembered for the joy he took in enriching the lives of orphaned and disadvantaged children through his work as a trustee of the Home for Friendless Children where he played Santa Clause during the holidays.

Frank B. McClain died at his home in Lancaster on October 11, 1925, at the age of 61. His death was attributed to deteriorating health following a stroke he suffered a year prior. He is interred at Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, the city of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.





1901-1902

# William T. Marshall

Born: February 13, 1858, Allegheny City,  
Allegheny County, PA.

Died: October 22, 1944, Butler, Butler County, PA.

Member of the House: Allegheny County, 2nd District, 1889-1902.

Affiliation: Republican.

William Thomas Marshall was educated in the public schools of Allegheny County. He attended the Western University of Pennsylvania (now University of Pittsburgh). Marshall engaged in the retail grocery business in Allegheny city. In his early twenties, Marshall studied law in the office of the Honorable Thomas M. Bayne. Marshall was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar in 1880. From 1881-1885, Marshall was a deputy collector of customs at the Port of Pittsburgh. Marshall was hired in 1885 to work for the People's Natural Gas Company. Marshall married the former Elizabeth Hunter and together they had 4 children: Thomas B., Virginia, William T., and H.K. Boyer.

In 1887 Marshall was a delegate to the Republican State Convention. He was also the building chairman of the Allegheny County Hospital. In 1888 Marshall became the first person to represent the 2nd District of Allegheny County in the House and was re-elected for 6 more consecutive terms. Marshall served as chairman of the Appropriations Committee in 1893-1894, and was re-elected as chairman for 3 more consecutive terms.

Marshall was elected Speaker of the House in 1901. His election is noteworthy, as it occurred through the coordinating efforts of Matthew Quay, a powerful Republican Congressional leader, who is credited with assisting in securing 5 Democrat votes for Marshall and in breaking the tie which the first ballot for Speaker resulted in, by convincing Representative Samuel H. Rothrock to not cast a vote in the second ballot. As a result, Marshall was elected to the Speakership, defeating fellow Representative William H. Koontz, of Somerset County, 100 votes to 99.

As Speaker, Marshall signed into law Act 228 of 1901, which enacted a law preventing local municipalities from collecting taxes on religious and public property. It also created tax exemptions for public charity organizations and nonprofit cemeteries. He also signed Act 541 of 1901 into law, which appropriated money in the budget for the installation, management, and payment of utility fees of electric lighting and electric heating in public buildings.

William Thomas Marshall died on October 22, 1944 in the city of Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Evans City Cemetery in Evans City, Butler County, Pennsylvania.





1899-1900

*John R. Farr*

Born: July 18, 1857, Scranton, Lackawanna County, PA.

Died: December 11, 1933, Scranton, Lackawanna County, PA.

Member of the House: Lackawanna County, 1st District, 1891-1900.

Affiliation: Republican.

John Richard Farr was educated in the public schools of Scranton, the School of the Lackawanna in Scranton, and in 1882 graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. After completing an apprenticeship in typesetting, he attended Lafayette College. Farr married the former Justine Levy in 1884 and together they had 5 children: Hilda, Helen, Robert, Elizabeth and Maharin. Farr pursued a career in journalism and worked as a newsboy, a printer, and a publisher. He later became city editor of the Scranton Republican. He then became editor and proprietor of the Scranton newspaper, the Courier-Progress. Farr served for 4 years on the Scranton School Board, including 1-year as secretary and 2 years as assistant secretary. In November of 1890 Farr was elected to represent the 1st District of Lackawanna County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was re-elected for 4 more consecutive terms.

As Representative, Farr made great contributions to the improvement of education in the Commonwealth. Among the legislation he authored and sponsored was Act 51, which passed in 1893, which called for free textbooks for all schoolchildren. He also authored a bill, which became Act 53 of 1895, which would require mandatory education for all children in the Commonwealth. Another piece of legislation he sponsored ultimately resulted in the labor law that established the traditional 8-hour workday, or Act 379 of 1897. Farr sponsored legislation that would make insulting the American flag punishable by law, which became Act 27 of 1897, and due to his insistence, this measure was finally adopted by the Pennsylvania State Government. The United States Congress was inspired by Farr's legislation, and adopted a bill similar to his (USC Title 18 Part I, Ch. 33 § 700).

During his first term as Representative, Farr served on the Education Committee. He was elected its chairman for the sessions of 1893-1894 and 1895-1896. On January 3, 1899, John Farr was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

During the first year of his Speakership, Pennsylvania passed legislation, which became Act 41 of 1899, which gave women more rights against her husband in court cases. It was during this time when voters began to demand better working conditions within the state. These calls for action lead the Pennsylvania Legislature to enact new legislation which would give more protection to workers. One bill that was introduced proposed increased protections for engineers who worked around steam engines, which became Act 50 of 1899. Another bill authored during



this time, which became Act 58, improved the safety standards for coal miners. The House also drafted new legislation that would improve conditions for workers in the clothing, cigarette, and cigar industries, which became Act 64 of 1899.

After retiring from the House, Farr unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 1908. However, in the following election of 1910, he was elected to the 62nd Congress on the Republican ticket. Farr was re-elected to 3 succeeding terms and served from March 4, 1911 to March 3, 1919. Farr returned to Congressional service in 1921 after successfully contesting the election of his Democratic opponent during the election of 1920. Upon the completion of his final term in Congress, Farr engaged in the real estate business in his hometown. On December 11, 1933, while taking a walk on the streets of Scranton, John Farr suffered a heart attack. He passed away later that day at a nearby hospital. He is interred at Shady Lane Cemetery, Chinchilla, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.







1895-1896, 1903-1906

*Henry F. Walton*

Born: October 2, 1858, Stroudsburg, Monroe County, PA.

Died: May 3, 1921, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia, 27th District, 1891-1896,  
and 23rd District, 1903-1906.

Affiliation: Republican.

Henry Foster Walton was educated in the public schools of Philadelphia. Upon the completion of his studies, he was admitted to the law firm of the Hon. Wayne MacVeagh and George Tucker Blispham, Esq., and was appointed assistant librarian of their law library. In 1876 he was formally registered as a law student at that firm, and on October 4, 1879, he was admitted to the Philadelphia County Bar. Walton married the former Eleanor "Ella" G. Norman in 1882, and together they had 7 children: Dorothy M. (Middleton), Natalie E. (Aller), Mercedes R. (Zoller), Henry F., John M., Alexander Robb and Elise N. (Adams), who married State Representative and Senator James Lee Adams of Allegheny County.

Walton was selected as assistant city solicitor of Philadelphia in April of 1884 and retained that appointment until he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1890. In 1891 Walton served his first term as Representative of the 27th District of Philadelphia County. He was re-elected to 4 additional terms, from 1893-1896 and 1903-1906.

The Philadelphia delegation pressed Walton to serve as Speaker in 1893. On the day of the Republican caucus, however, he withdrew as candidate for the office and placed his nomination for Caleb C. Thompson of Warren County, who was elected Speaker for that term. Walton was appointed chairman of the Committee on Judiciary General for the 1893-1894 session. On January 2, 1895, Walton was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the term of 1895-1896. After the completion of his first term as Speaker, he withdrew from the ticket and served as solicitor to the sheriff of Philadelphia County, a position from which he resigned in 1902. That same year, he was re-elected to the State House; upon his return, he received the unanimous nomination by his party to the Speakership. On January 3, 1903, Walton was again elected Speaker of House and served as Speaker from 1903-1906.

As Speaker during the 1895-1896 session, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture was established by Act 8 of 1895. The department was charged with regulating agriculture practices in the state, publishing information that would be useful to the agriculture industry, and promoting Pennsylvania agricultural products. The General Assembly also appropriated funds, or Act 475 of 1875, to erect the statue of Major General John F. Hartranft, which stands today outside of the Matthew J. Ryan Building. During his term as Speaker in 1903, the Compulsory Education Act



was passed for students from age 8-13 years of age.

Walton also served as Speaker during the completion of the Huston Capitol building in Harrisburg. On October 4, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated the present Capitol building and pronounced it "the handsomest building" he had ever seen.

In 1908 Walton was selected chairman of the Republican State Convention. Walton was later appointed prothonotary of the Common Pleas and Municipal Courts of Philadelphia. He was also president of the Board of Trustees of the Fairview Insane Hospital in Wayne County, and also a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Henry F. Walton died on May 3, 1921 in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at All Saints Episcopal Church Cemetery, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





1891-1894

# Caleb C. Thompson

Born: May 28, 1846, Pine Grove Township, Warren County, PA.

Died: March 5, 1909, Warren, Warren County, PA.

Member of the House: Warren County, 1888-1894.

Affiliation: Republican.

Caleb Thompson was educated in the common schools of Pine Grove Township, Warren County. He later attended the Edinboro Normal School (now Edinboro University) in Erie, Pennsylvania; the Jamestown Union School at Jamestown, New York; and the Collegiate Institute at Edinboro. Thompson labored on a farm and worked as a schoolteacher until 1869, when he began to study law at the firm of Brown & Stone in Warren County. He was admitted to the Warren County Bar on May 3, 1871, and practiced law at a small firm in Tidioute, Warren County. Elected in February of 1878, Thompson served one term as burgess of Tidioute. In November of that same year, he was elected District Attorney of Warren County, a position he held until 1880. He was elected burgess of Warren Borough in 1885. Thompson was married to the former Elizabeth Arnett, who died on January 28, 1894. They had 2 children together, Susan A. (Baker) and Louis Arnett Thompson. Thompson was later remarried to the former Aroline Hutchinson Arnett.

In November of 1888, Thompson was elected to represent Warren County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was elected to 2 more successive terms. During his first term, Thompson was selected chairman of the Printing Committee. He sponsored what would become Act 111 of 1889, which was one of the first bills that restricted the sale of tobacco products to children under the age of 16. He also introduced legislation that became Act 98 of 1889, which appropriated \$6,000 to a shelter for the homeless in Pittsburgh.

On January 6, 1891, Thompson was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and re-elected as Speaker for the 1893-1894 session.

Thompson's tenure as Speaker took place during one of the country's worst depressions. The Panic of 1893 was marked by the collapse of railroad overbuilding, which resulted in a series of bank failures. Pennsylvania was heavily affected by the economic crisis, and citizens demanded that those responsible for generating the crisis be held accountable. Out of the financial crisis, the legislature passed Act 190 of 1889, which created the Department of Banking to supervise and investigate banks' financial health. While Speaker, the legislature passed Concurrent Resolution 3 in 1891, which created a select committee to investigate the bank failures and recommend legislation to prevent future bank collapses.

In 1897, after his service in the House of Representatives, Thompson was appointed the first officer of Warren Commandery No. 63, Knights Templar, a society organized in the county in



May of 1885. Later he also served as district Deputy Grand Master of the Masons for Pennsylvania. For the remainder of his life, Thompson continued to practice law in the city of Warren. On March 5, 1909, at the age of 62, Thompson suffered heart failure en route to his law office and passed away. He is interred at Oakland Cemetery in the city of Warren, Warren County, Pennsylvania.





1887-1890, 1897-1898

*Henry K. Boyer*

Born: February 19, 1850, Evansburg, Montgomery County, PA.

Died: February 17, 1934, Red Hill Borough, Montgomery County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia, 7th District, 1883-1890, 1893-1894,  
and 1897-January 17, 1898.

Affiliation: Republican.

Henry Boyer was educated in the public schools of Montgomery County. He went on to attend Freeland Seminary (now Ursinus College), and in 1866, at the age of 16, he completed his studies and became a public school teacher in Montgomery County. In 1868 he received a grammar school teachers certificate and became principal of the grammar school in Camden, New Jersey. Boyer lived in New Jersey until 1871, when he registered as a law student at the firm of Benjamin Harris Brewster, former Attorney General of the United States, in Philadelphia. In 1873 he was admitted to the bar of Philadelphia County, where he began his law career. In November of 1882 he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He served as State Representative for the 7th District of Philadelphia County for 6 terms, 1883-1890, 1893-1894, and 1897-1898.

During his service as a Representative, Boyer sponsored Act 37 of 1885, which created of a State Board of Health, which was necessary to oversee the practice of health and sanitation within the state. During his term as Speaker, Pennsylvania enacted Act 27 of 1887, which established Arbor Day, encouraging citizens to plant trees and shrubs on public lands. Also, a new law regulating pharmacies within the state was passed, Act 134 of 1887, in order to ensure that safe and unadulterated medicine would be sold.

In 1885 Boyer was selected chairman of the Municipal Corporations Committee. On January 4, 1887, Boyer was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was re-elected to the Speakership the following term, 1889-1890, after receiving a unanimous vote of the House. In 1889 Boyer was elected to the office of State Treasurer and served in that position from May of 1890 until his retirement in May of 1892. He was re-elected to the State House in 1892, and upon his return, he became chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for the term of 1893-1894. In 1896 Boyer was re-elected to the House, and on January 5, 1897, was elected Speaker for the third time.

During his third tenure as Speaker, the Capitol burned down, on February 2, 1897. The Capitol, with an estimated value of \$1 million, was insured for just \$200,000. The day after the fire, the legislature reconvened in the nearby federal courthouse. A week later, the House and Senate reconvened at Grace Methodist Episcopal Church (now Grace United Methodist Church) on State Street, directly across from the charred remains of the Capitol.



On January 17, 1898, during a non-session year, Boyer resigned from the House after being appointed Superintendent of the United States Mint in Philadelphia. He served as Superintendent until 1902, when he retired from that position and from politics entirely. Boyer dedicated the remainder of his life to making real estate investments. Henry K. Boyer died on February 17, 1934 in Red Hill, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, at the age of 83.





1885-1886

# James L. Graham

Born: November 17, 1817, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Died: June 20, 1895, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Allegheny County, 1st District, 1883-1892.

Affiliation: Republican.

James Leonard Graham received his education at the old Allegheny Seminary and graduated in 1838. Graham married the former Mary Margaret Stubbs. They had 8 children: Harrison, Crossen, Frances, John S., Dale B., George R., William H., and Ella (Stephenson). Graham was elected school director of the Allegheny City schools and served in that capacity for over 20 years. Graham was the president of the Allegheny Savings Bank for 15 years. He also served as the county poor director for 9 years and one term as member of the Allegheny City Council before being elected sheriff of Allegheny County in 1857. He also studied law and was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar in 1857. Graham was elected to the State Senate in 1862 and served from 1863-1874. During the term of 1868, he was elected Speaker of the Senate. He presided over the State Republican Convention held in Philadelphia in 1869.

On November of 1882, Graham was elected to represent the 1st District of Allegheny County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was re-elected to 4 more consecutive terms. Prior to taking on the role of Speaker, Graham served on the Constitutional Reform, Ways and Means, and Federal Relations Committees. Graham was appointed chairman of the Ways and Means Committee from 1887-1892.

On January 6, 1885, Graham was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. As Speaker, Graham presided over a House with 143 freshmen out of 201 total members. During Graham's tenure as Speaker, the legislature passed Act 233 of 1885, which prohibited women and boys under the age of 14 from working inside or outside of coal mines. The House also proposed legislation, which became Act 162 of 1885, which exempted manufacturers from having to pay state taxes.

Continuing to practice law throughout his legislative career in the city of Pittsburgh, Graham died at his home on June 20, 1895, at the age of 77. He is interred at Union Dale Cemetery in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.







1883-1884

# John E. Faunce

Born: October 29, 1840, Millersburg, Dauphin County, PA.

Died: July 24, 1917, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 17th District, 1875-1888.

Affiliation: Democrat.

John Egner Faunce, son of Dauphin County sheriff Samuel Faunce, was a graduate of Dickinson Seminary (now Lycoming College) in Williamsport. He entered the law department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1863. During the Civil War, he temporarily withdrew from the University to enlist in the United States Army as a private. In the summer of 1863, he served in Comley's Independent Company of the Pennsylvania Cavalry during the invasion of Pennsylvania. After the war ended, Faunce received a Bachelor of Laws on July 3, 1865, and was admitted to the Philadelphia County Bar on November 11, 1865. Faunce married the former Sarah Pearson Hatfield, and together they had 2 daughters, Elizabeth Hatfield and Edna Hatfield.

Faunce was elected a delegate of the National Democratic Convention of 1868 and was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1874. In January of 1875 Faunce commenced his service in the State House as Representatives for the 17th District of Philadelphia County. He served a total of 14 consecutive years from 1875-1888.

Faunce served as chairman of the Federal Relations Committee for the 1875 and 1876 terms. In 1877 he was nominated by his party for the Speakership, although he lost in the election due to a Republican majority in the House. During the Democratic Convention of 1878, he was nominated for Lieutenant Governor, but shortly after the second ballot his name was withdrawn. On January 2, 1883, John Faunce was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Throughout his tenure in the House, Faunce worked to make it easier for companies to invest in Pennsylvania. He sponsored a bill, which became Act 112 of 1887, which would give corporations from other states more freedom to purchase property within Pennsylvania. They would be allowed to purchase real estate in which they could conduct their business.

During his Speakership, Pennsylvania passed a law, Act 29 of 1883, creating a free "evening" school for children who would be unable to attend normal public school. This was to allow for children who were working during the day to still receive an education. Pennsylvania also created a law, Act 43 of 1883, which would require building owners to supply ropes that could be used as fire escapes.

Faunce presided as Speaker over the longest session that was held between the Civil War and World War I. The session lasted for a total of 156 days, plus an additional 113 days for a special session held to rewrite the budget for the state. It was also during this time that telephones



were first installed in the Capitol.

After his service in the Pennsylvania House, Faunce retired and lived in Philadelphia and Atlantic City, New Jersey. John Faunce died on July 24, 1917, in Philadelphia after a prolonged illness. He is interred at Laurel Hill Cemetery in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





1881-1882

# Benjamin L. Hewit

Born: June 4, 1833, Petersburg, Huntingdon County, PA.  
Died: March 10, 1894, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.  
Member of the General Assembly: Blair County, 1871-1872,  
1879-1882, 1893-March 10, 1894.  
Affiliation: Republican.

Benjamin Lightner Hewit was educated in the public schools of Blair County as well as in Tuscarora and Hollidaysburg Academies. In 1851 he entered Princeton College, where he earned a high rank in scholarship. Upon his graduation from the college in 1854, he began to study law under the tutorship of the Honorable S. S. Blair of Hollidaysburg. Hewit was admitted to the Blair County bar in October of 1856, and was elected District Attorney of Blair County in 1857. Hewit married the former Lilly Davis, and together they had 2 sons, Oliver H. and Henry D. After his first wife passed away in 1873, Hewit married the former Mary W. Smith.

Hewit was re-elected District Attorney of Blair County in 1860, and resigned from the position in 1862 to enlist as a private in Company A, Independent Battalion, in 1863. Hewit served as a field paymaster and was honorably discharged in September of 1865 with the rank of major of the Cavalry. After the war, Hewit continued to practice law in Hollidaysburg. In November of 1870, Hewit was elected to represent Blair County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was elected for a total of 5 terms: 1871, 1872, 1879-1880, 1881-1882 and 1893-1894.

In 1871 Hewit was elected chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. The following term, in 1872, he served as chairman of the House Committee on the Revision of the Civil Code. He was appointed to the State Fish Commission by Governor John F. Hartranft in 1873. Hewit continued to serve as a Fish Commissioner until 1884. Upon his return to the State House in 1879, he was chosen chairman of the General Judiciary Committee. On January 4, 1881, Hewit was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

As Speaker during 1881-1882 session, the House created legislation that became Act 49 of 1881, which would make it illegal to add poisonous materials to alcoholic beverages. Also during this session, the House passed legislation which became Act 83 of 1881, which prohibited the distinction of race or color in public schools.

Benjamin L. Hewit passed away while serving as a member of the House, on March 10, 1894. He is interred at Hollidaysburg Presbyterian Cemetery in Hollidaysburg, Blair County, Pennsylvania.



1879-1880

# Henry M. Long

Born: October 28, 1836, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Died: December 24, 1909, Edgeworth, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Allegheny County, 1st District, 1875-1880.

Affiliation: Republican.

Henry Martyn Long was educated in the public schools of Pittsburgh. He completed his studies at West Chester Academy and attended classes at West Virginia University. In 1856 he traveled west and spent several years steam-boating. He married the former Emily A. Brackbill of Niles, Michigan, in 1858, at Prescott, Wisconsin, and had 3 daughters: S. Louise, Etta (Stevens), and Jessie (Graham). He returned to Allegheny County in 1861 and pursued careers in merchandising, oil producing, and refining. Long was a corporal in Company G, 15th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Emergency Militia, during the Civil War, in September of 1862. In 1870 Long became one of the editors and proprietors of the Pittsburgh Gazette. During that time, he was elected to the Allegheny City Council, serving as president in 1874. He resigned from that position upon his election to the State House in November of 1874. Long was elected to represent the 1st District of Allegheny County for 5 terms, from 1875-1880.

Long was selected chairman of the Appropriations Committee for the terms of 1877 and 1878. Most notably In January of 1877, Long sponsored House Bill 243, which aimed to provide for the education and maintenance of orphans of deceased soldiers and sailors. It was quickly passed and signed by the Speaker in March of 1877.

On January 7, 1879, Long was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. During his tenure as Speaker, the House passed a new factory safety law, Act 132 of 1879, which required fire escapes to be built in case of emergencies. The state also gave water companies the right to occupy land in order to build water supplying stations for cities and townships, which became Act 193 of 1879.

After retiring from the House, Long was involved in an iron and steel manufacturing business, the Keystone Rolling Mills, and he was a member of the Williams, Long & McDowell Firm. After 1881, Long was actively dealing in stocks and bonds. He was a charter member of the Pittsburgh Stock Exchange and was its president for 3 years. Long was also president of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society.

Henry M. Long died on December 24, 1909 in Edgeworth, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Sewickley Cemetery, Sewickley, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





1877-1878

# *Elijah Reed Myer*

Born: July 25, 1818, Wysox Township, Bradford County, PA.

Died: May 18, 1911, Canton Township, Bradford County, PA.

Member of the House: Bradford County 1873-1874 and 1877-1878.

Affiliation: Republican.

Elijah Reed Myer was born and raised in Bradford County, Pennsylvania. He was educated in the common schools of Bradford County, and later became engaged in milling and farming. Myer was married to the former Mary Frances Cochrane in 1847, and they had 6 children: Thomas Evans, Elizabeth Foster, Erskine Reed, Mollie White, Charles Malcom, and John Jefferson, who died in childhood.

Myer was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate and served from 1857-1859. On July 27, 1861, he was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as Surveyor of Customs for the United States at the Port of Philadelphia and served through 1867.

In November of 1872, Myer was elected to represent Bradford County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, for which he served from 1873-1874 and again from 1877-1878. During his first term in office, Myer had several committee assignments including Ways and Means, Counties and Townships, Corporations, Banks, and Manufacturers. Myer was selected as the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for his second term in 1874.

On January 2, 1877, Myer was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. During the 1877 and 1878 sessions when Myer was Speaker, the legislature created a new law that would prevent the sale of altered or tainted milk in Pennsylvania, through Act 143 of 1878. Another significant event that occurred under Myer's leadership as Speaker was the legislature's creation of Pennsylvania's 67th and last county, Lackawanna, after Act 21 of 1878 put forth a process in which new counties could be created.

Elijah Reed Myer died on May 18, 1911, in Canton Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania at the age of 92. He is interred at Wysox Cemetery in Bradford County, Pennsylvania.



1875-1876

# Samuel Findley Patterson

**Born:** February 7, 1842, West Middletown, Washington County, PA.

**Died:** November 25, 1912, Independence Township, Washington County, PA.

**Member of the House:** Allegheny County, 4th District, 1875-1876.

**Affiliation:** Democrat.

Samuel Findley Patterson was educated in the common schools of Washington County. He went on to attend Ewald College in Allegheny County, where he pursued a career as a schoolteacher. Upon the completion of his studies, Patterson became a teacher at the West Point School in Cross Creek Township, Washington County. He went on to become principal of the Lawrenceville Schools in the city of Pittsburgh, and in 1874 he became principal of a private school, later named the Patterson Institute, also located in Pittsburgh. Patterson was married to Virginia Patterson, and together they had 4 children: William, Virginia, Samuel, and Lysander. Patterson was the son of William Patterson, who served as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1845 and 1846, and the grandson of General Thomas Patterson, who served in the United States Congress from 1816-1824.

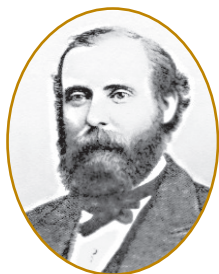
In November of 1874, Patterson was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 4th District of Allegheny County. On January 5, 1875, at the commencement of his first and only term in office, Patterson was elected Speaker of the House. The 1875-1876 session was one of the least active legislative sessions in Pennsylvania history. The General Assembly only passed 78 acts that term. One of the bills that the House passed, which became Act 55 of 1875, required practitioners of medicine to possess a diploma from a medical school. In 1876 the state passed another medical regulation bill, which became Act 27 of 1876, requiring dentists to receive adequate education.

Patterson was the first Speaker to preside over a 2-year term and over the newly enlarged House. These changes were enacted after the ratification of the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1874. Patterson was known as the "Centennial Speaker" because he presided during the national centennial celebration of 1876 at Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. His tenure proved to be difficult, as the Commonwealth faced great economic trials. In an effort to improve revenue shortages, Patterson named a House Select Committee in order to investigate state finances, and created the Appropriations Committee in 1875.

After his service in the House of Representatives, Patterson moved to West Middletown Township in Washington County. He passed away at the age of 70 in Independence Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania on November 25, 1912. He is interred at Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.



1874



*Henry H. McCormick*

Born: November 24, 1840, Stewartsville,  
Westmoreland County, PA.

Died: April 19, 1885, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, 1st District, 1873-1874.

Affiliation: Republican.

Henry H. McCormick received his early education at the public schools of Westmoreland County. He attended the Irwin Academy before completing his studies at the New Derry Normal School. In 1862, at the age of 22, he enlisted as a 1st sergeant in Company F of the 22nd Pennsylvania Emergency Militia. In 1863 McCormick was enlisted as a corporal in Company C of the 54th Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia. In 1864 he exited the military as a 2nd lieutenant from Company L of the 6th Regiment, Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, 212th Pennsylvania Volunteers. After his service in the Civil War, McCormick went on to study law and was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar on March 3, 1866. He practiced law before being elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in November of 1872. He represented the 1st District of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County from 1873-1874.

In 1873 McCormick was appointed to the Congressional Apportionment Committee. Once he arrived in Harrisburg, McCormick immediately began efforts to improve his home district and the city of Pittsburgh. This is apparent in Act 229 of 1873, when McCormick amended the act to incorporate and enlarge the city of Pittsburgh, as well as in Act 775 of 1873, which authorized the city of Pittsburgh to borrow money and issue bonds.

On January 6, 1874, he became Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. McCormick was the last Speaker to preside over the House of Representatives before the changes in the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1874 doubled the size of the House from 100 to 200 Representatives and extended members' terms from 1 to 2 years.

Upon the completion of his tenure as Speaker, McCormick returned to Allegheny County to continue practicing law. He married the former Martha Sharon of Cadiz, Ohio, in 1875. On June 29th, 1876, McCormick was appointed as the United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania and served until July 5, 1882, when his successor was appointed. McCormick passed away in Pittsburgh on April 19, 1885, at the age of 44, and is interred at the Cadiz Union Cemetery in Harrison County, Ohio.







1872-1873

# William Elliot

Born: March 2, 1816, Ireland.

Died: October 29, 1880, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 4th District, 1870-1873.

Affiliation: Republican.

William Elliot emigrated from Ireland with his parents in 1820. After settling in Philadelphia, he attended Goodfellow's Private School. In 1832, at the age of 16, he received an apprenticeship with Edwin Greble, who owned the largest marble-cutting establishment in Philadelphia. He rose to the position of foreman, and then in 1846 he created his own business. William Elliot married the former Mary Gilkey in 1844 and the couple had 6 children: Catherine, Elizabeth, Sarah, Emily, William, and Ida.

Elliot was appointed prison inspector of Philadelphia by Mayor Charles Gilpin in 1852 and served in that position until 1854. In 1860 he was elected as a delegate for the Republican Party's Convention in Chicago, which nominated President Abraham Lincoln. In 1866 Elliot was elected to the Common Council in the City of Philadelphia. In 1869 he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 4th District and served for a total of 4 terms, from 1870-1873.

Although he did not introduce much legislation during his tenure, one of Elliot's most significant bills incorporated the trustees of the Fire Association of Philadelphia through Act 497 of 1871. In 1871 Elliot was elected as chairman of the Committee on Railroads.

On January 2, 1872, Elliott was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. During his first term as Speaker, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Agriculture was created with Act 46. The duty of this office was to collect and classify statistics pertaining to the mineral, manufacturing, agriculture, and commercial production in the Commonwealth.

On January 7, 1873, Elliot was re-elected as Speaker of the House for another session. During his second tenure as Speaker, the "Panic of 1873" occurred. The national economic downturn included the New York Stock Exchange closing for 10 days, foreclosures and bank failures, factory closings, and masses of destitute people. In an effort to address the economic depression which would last a decade, the Pennsylvania legislature created the State Insurance Department through Act 3 on April 4, 1873.

Upon the completion of his tenure as Speaker in 1873, Elliot was elected sheriff of Philadelphia County and served one term in that position. In 1878 he was elected as a Pennsylvania State Senator for the 6th District, a position he held until his death.



Elliot passed away at his home in Philadelphia on October 29, 1880. He is interred at Laurel Hill Cemetery in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1871

# James H. Webb

Born: December 4, 1820, Tioga, Tioga County, NY.

Died: February 21, 1896, Towanda, Bradford County, PA.

Member of the House: Bradford and Sullivan Counties, 1867-1871 and 1874.

Affiliation: Republican.

James H. Webb was educated in the public schools of Bradford County. Webb served as clerk of the orphans' court, register of wills, and recorder of deeds of Bradford County from 1854-1860. James H. Webb was married to the former Sally Chamberlain. They had 4 sons: George, Charles G., Edwin R., and William H. After the death of his first wife in 1879, Webb married the former Mary Munson, and together they adopted a daughter, Margaret.

Webb was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in November of 1866 to represent Bradford and Sullivan Counties. He was re-elected to 5 more subsequent terms, from 1868-1871 and again in 1874.

During his first term in 1867, Webb served as a member of the Vice and Immorality Committee and the Agriculture Committee. From 1868-1870, Webb served on the Local Judiciary Committee and on the Ways and Means Committee. On January 3, 1871, Webb was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Throughout his tenure as a State Representative, Webb introduced many pieces of legislation. One of his bills, House Bill 95 of 1867, aimed to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors on election days. Another piece of legislation that he introduced, House Bill 413 of 1869, required the Pennsylvania and New York Canal and Railroad Company to erect bridges over their canal, as well as to create and maintain sewers near their railroad and canal.

During his tenure as Speaker in 1871, African-Americans were permitted to vote for the first time since the Constitution of 1838 denied them that right. Also in 1871, the House and Senate presented a Joint Resolution that would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to create the position of a State Treasurer.

After a brief absence from the House, Webb returned in 1874 and was elected chairman of the Committee on Counties and Townships. Once his service in the House had concluded, Webb returned to Bradford County and was elected again as clerk of the orphans' court, register of wills, and recorder of deeds of the county in 1881. In 1883 he began to study law, and in 1885 Webb formally retired from politics upon his admission to the Bradford County Bar at the age of 65. He dedicated the remainder of his life to the practice of law. James H. Webb passed away at the age of 75 on February 21, 1896, at his home in Towanda, due to creeping paralysis. He is interred at Union Cemetery in East Smithfield, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.





1870

# Butler B. Strang

Born: March 16, 1829, Greenwood Township,  
Steuben County, NY.

Died: May 10, 1884, Westfield Township, Tioga County, PA.

Member of the House: Potter and Tioga Counties,  
1861-1862 and 1868-1871.

Affiliation: Republican.

Butler B. Strang was born in Steuben County, New York, and moved with his family to Tioga County at the age of 11 and resided there the rest of his life. His father, Rev. Francis Strang, opened a general mercantile store in Westfield Township in 1840, in which Butler also worked. Strang married the former Betsy C. Douglass in 1848, and the couple had 2 children, Francis and Benjamin. After studying law with attorney A. J. Monroe, Strang was admitted to the Tioga County Bar in 1852 and was elected as the District Attorney of Tioga County in 1856. In addition to his time as a District Attorney, he was also the first elected burgess of Westfield Borough.

In 1860 Strang was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent Tioga County and served 2 terms from 1861-1862. After a hiatus, he was again elected in 1867 and served 4 more terms from 1868-1871. Strang served on the Ways and Means Committee during the 1869 session, and later as chairman in 1871. He also served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee in 1869, and remained on the committee for the 1871 session. Additionally, Strang was a member of the Federal Relations Committee in the 1869 session.

In January of 1870, Strang was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. One of the most pertinent legislative efforts overseen by Strang in his year as Speaker was Act 1 of 1870, which provided comprehensive guidelines for mine safety in the Commonwealth. This law was one of the first of its kind in the nation, served as a model for other states to use, and predated Federal mine safety laws by more than 20 years.

Following his House service, Strang was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate, serving from 1872-1876. Strang served as Speaker of the Pennsylvania Senate for the 1873-1874 and 1875-1876 sessions. While in this position, Strang oversaw the passage of revisions to the Pennsylvania Constitution after the 1873 Constitutional Convention. Strang was the last individual to hold the title of Speaker of the Senate, as it was changed to the current title of Senate President Pro Tempore following his service. Furthermore, he was one of only a few individuals who ever served as Speaker of both chambers of Pennsylvania's General Assembly.

Following a few years of private law practice after his service in the House and Senate, Strang was appointed as a United States marshal for the Dakota Territory in January of 1882,



but resigned later in the year due to declining health. Strang died on May 10, 1884, and is interred at Potter Brook Cemetery in Tioga County, Pennsylvania.





1869

# John Clark

Born: November 30, 1822, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: May 30, 1872, Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 1868-1869.

Affiliation: Republican.

John Clark was born into an Irish-American family and became a contractor after finishing his common school education. Before working on some well-known projects such as the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Hudson River Railroad, the Croton Waterworks in New York City, and Boston Waterworks, Clark worked in construction with his father on public projects. Clark also served on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange and the Philadelphia Common Council. While working on an early project for the Welland Canal in Canada, John Clark married the former Elizabeth M. Stephenson from Ontario, Canada. The couple had one son, George Stephenson Clark, who himself was a member of the Pennsylvania House representing Philadelphia from 1881-1884.

With the start of the Civil War in 1861, Clark volunteered with a company of volunteers raised from the Holmesburg area, and was unanimously elected captain. The company was incorporated in the 3rd Regiment as Company E, Pennsylvania Reserves (32nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry). Clark was eventually promoted to lieutenant colonel on July 10, 1862, and commanded his regiment at Antietam, where he was wounded. Later in 1862 Clark was detached from his regiment and received orders from the War Department to assist in the constructing of military railroads. He continued with service in that capacity until the end of his military service.

Clark was elected to represent the 17th District of Philadelphia on October 8, 1867, and was re-elected the following year. As a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Clark served on various committees including the Ways and Means, Mining and Manufacturing, and Railroad Committees.

On January 5, 1869, Clark was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, defeating fellow Philadelphian Samuel Josephs. The House was busy during Clark's tenure as Speaker, passing more than 1,300 bills that eventually became laws. In addition to state laws, Joint Resolution 4 was passed by the legislature to ratify the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution on March 26, 1869. The 15th Amendment prohibited federal and state governments from denying citizens the right to vote based on "race, color or previous condition of servitude," and formally became part of the Constitution on March 30, 1870.

Just 3 years after serving as the Speaker of the House, John Clark died at the age of 49 on May 30, 1872. He is interred in Emmanuel Churchyard in Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1867

# John P. Glass

Born: 1821, PA.

Died: March 15, 1868, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Allegheny County, 1864-1867.

Affiliation: Republican.

John P. Glass was born in 1821 in Pennsylvania, and built his early career in Allegheny County. He and his wife, Emma, had 3 children: William B., Robert A., and Clara E. (Morrow). Glass managed the Pittsburgh Post Office. He engaged in the growing telegraph business, and employed a young Andrew Carnegie as a messenger. During the Civil War, Glass was a captain, and eventually promoted to colonel, of the 74th Infantry, 5th Regiment of the Excelsior Brigade from Allegheny County.

During his time in the House, Glass introduced legislation to aid the war effort, and was invested in providing appropriately for the soldiers and veterans of the conflict. Glass was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on January 1, 1867 for the 1867 session. Glass's election as Speaker was at first contentious, as Republican Party boss Matthew Quay was also a candidate for the position. The race proved complicated, with members of the Pennsylvania House Representatives expected by party officials to base their votes for Speaker off of candidate endorsements for the United States Senate race. Glass had the endorsement of Simon Cameron and his supporters, eminent United States Senator and former Secretary of War, for the Speakership, while Representative Quay was aligned with Governor Curtin, who had aspirations of taking a seat in the United States Senate for himself after finishing his time as Governor. Ultimately, Quay withdrew prior to the vote, leaving Glass to win the Speakership over Democrat A.D. Markley in a vote of 61 to 37.

Glass oversaw several prominent legislative initiatives during his tenure as Speaker in 1867. Through Joint Resolution 1, the House ratified the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted citizenship rights to all native-born and naturalized Americans, including recently freed slaves. Act 1079 was passed, which incorporated Vulcan Iron Works, a prominent corporation that built mining equipment and locomotives located in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County. Additionally, Act 482 created a system for medical schools to acquire bodies of the deceased for study which would have otherwise had to have been buried at public expense.

Toward the end of his service in the House, John P. Glass became ill, and he died at the age of 47, on March 15, 1868. He is interred at the Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





1866

# James R. Kelley

Born: March 1, 1839, County Antrim, Ireland.

Died: August 9, 1871, Washington, Washington County, PA.

Member of the House: Washington County, 1864; Beaver  
and Washington Counties, 1865-1866.

Affiliation: Union Republican.

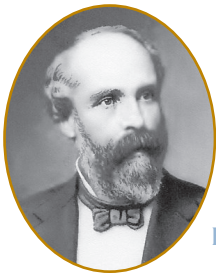
James Robinson Kelley was born in Ireland and migrated to Pennsylvania as a child in 1849. He attended Haysville Academy in Ohio. In 1861 Kelley enlisted as a private in Company H of the 31st Ohio Volunteers. In 1862 he married the former Jane Hunter and the couple had 4 children. He left military service due to illness in 1863, and continued to serve the Union cause as a writer and columnist in Pennsylvania newspapers. It was through his journalistic endeavors that Kelley gained a political following and was elected to the Pennsylvania House to represent Washington County for the 1864 session, followed by re-election to represent both Washington and Beaver Counties for the 1865 and 1866 sessions.

Kelley was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1866 session on January 4, 1866. While Kelley was Speaker, the legislature commissioned the famed painting *The Battle of Gettysburg*, by Peter Frederick Rothermel, commemorating the Civil War battle. Costing \$25,000, the painting, which measures 16 x 32 feet, is now displayed at the State Museum of Pennsylvania. Also during Kelley's time as Speaker, the precursor to the modern Fish and Boat Commission was established with Act 336. The act called for the creation of a position of a commissioner to ensure the protection of the Susquehanna River as a habitat for fish and their spawn, as well as set forth penalties for companies or individuals that obstructed passageways and dams.

Upon leaving the Pennsylvania House, Kelley operated his personal farm and co-owned and edited the *Washington Reporter*. Kelley also maintained his interest in state politics, serving as a delegate to the Republican State Conventions of 1869 and 1871.

Kelley died on August 9, 1871, at his home in the city of Washington, Pennsylvania, at just 32 years old. He is interred at Upper Buffalo Presbyterian Church in the city of Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania.





1865

# Arthur G. Olmsted

**Born:** September 30, 1827, Masonville, Delaware County, NY.  
**Died:** September 18, 1914, Ulysses, Potter County, PA.  
**Member of the House:** Potter and Tioga Counties, 1863-1865.  
**Affiliation:** Republican, Union.

Arthur George Olmsted was born in Masonville, New York, and his family relocated to Pennsylvania when he was a child. According to local histories, he spent his younger years farming and studying intermittently. In 1860 he married the former Ellen Ross and the couple had 2 children, Ellen "Nellie" DuBois and Robert.

Olmsted studied law in the office of John S. Mann, Esq., in Potter County, entering the bar there on January 12, 1850, and building a successful career as a lawyer. Olmsted was elected District Attorney for Potter County and served from 1851-1854. Olmsted was a gifted orator, delivering lectures at the courthouse in Potter County, and later using those skills as a proponent of the temperance and anti-slavery movements.

Olmsted was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Republican in 1862. In 1865 he was elected Speaker of the House, beating Democratic challenger George A. Quigley by a vote of 60 to 36. During his time as Speaker, Act 37 was passed which created a pension plan providing a monthly payment to disabled veterans of the Civil War. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery, was approved by the Pennsylvania Legislature during this session, resulting in the amendment's ratification on December 6, 1865.

Additionally, during Olmsted's tenure as Speaker, President Abraham Lincoln's coffin was laid in state at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the Hills Capitol from the evening of April 21 to the morning of April 22, 1865. The coffin was placed in the center of the Hall of the House of Representatives, with the head raised on an incline towards the Speaker's desk, allowing mourners to follow processions on either side of the coffin. The Hills Capitol was later destroyed after an 1897 fire.

Olmsted was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in 1868, serving from 1869-1871. Olmsted filled an unexpired term as a judge in Bucks and Montgomery County from 1871-1872, but declined to seek election to retain the position. Olmsted closed his state legislative career with the confidence of the Republican Party, who nominated him for Lieutenant Governor in 1874, though the campaign was unsuccessful. In 1882 Olmsted was back on the bench, this time as a judge on the Fourth Judicial District composed of Potter, Tioga, McKean, and Cameron Counties. In 1883 Olmsted was appointed president judge of the Forty-Eighth Judicial District (covering McKean and Potter Counties). He left the bench 1902, by that time being president judge of the Fifty-Fifth Judicial



District, which covered Potter County.

Throughout his legislative and judicial careers, Olmsted was also engaged in numerous business enterprises including making real estate investments, being a director of the Coudersport and Port Allegheny Railroad Company, working for the Citizens Water Company, engaging in the natural gas business, and being president of a condensed milk company. After his retirement, he focused on local affairs in Coudersport, donating his time and money to the improvement of the fire department and public library there.

Olmsted died on September 18, 1914, and is interred at Eulalia Cemetery in Coudersport, Potter County, Pennsylvania.



1864

# Henry C. Johnson

Born: March 29, 1826, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Died: June 3, 1892, Meadville, Crawford County, PA.

Member of the House: Crawford and Warren Counties, 1863-1864, 1870.

Affiliation: Republican, Union.

Henry C. Johnson was born circa 1826 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Johnson entered the newspaper business, working for the Crawford County Democratic Republican and became editor and publisher of the periodical in 1844. He held that position until February 22, 1845, when the previous editor resumed control. Johnson married the former Mary Magill on January 14, 1845, and the couple had a number of children, including Harry C., Lizzie, Catherine (Kittie), and Emma.

Johnson passed the bar and practiced law in Crawford County. He relocated to the newly established territory of New Mexico, serving as Attorney General in 1852. A few years later, upon his return to Pennsylvania, he was elected District Attorney for Crawford County from 1856-1859.

During the Civil War, Johnson briefly served as captain of the Meadville Volunteers, a company of 95 soldiers that was raised in the weeks following the attack on Fort Sumter in 1861. Johnson had hoped his company could join Colonel John McLane's 83rd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, but shortly after finding out that McLane's unit had all the men it needed, Johnson resigned his command to Captain Samuel Bernard Dick.

Johnson was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House for the 1863 session. The following year, in just his second term, he was elected Speaker of the House. That same year, 1864, Johnson was a member of the Republican Convention to renominate Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency. While Speaker, Johnson oversaw the passage of Act 871 of 1864, known as the Soldiers Vote Act, which allowed men on active military duty to vote in elections in the Commonwealth. Another Civil War-related measure during Johnson's time as Speaker was Act 99 of 1864, which incorporated Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg for the burial of Union soldiers who died or fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. Additionally, Joint Resolution No. 6 of 1864, which allocated funds and authorized the purchase of real estate on Harrisburg's Front Street for the purpose of an executive mansion for the Governor, was passed.

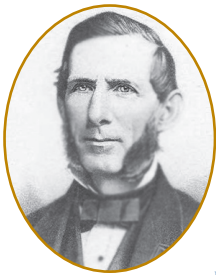
After Johnson left the Pennsylvania House for the first time, he acted as a Presidential elector in 1868, electing Ulysses S. Grant as the 18th President of the United States. Johnson was re-elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1870 session.

On April 7, 1874, President Grant appointed Johnson Commissioner of Customs. He received 2 subsequent reappointments from President Rutherford B. Hayes and President Chester A. Arthur, keeping the position from 1874-1885.



Henry C. Johnson died on June 3, 1892. He is interred at Greendale Cemetery in Meadville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania.





1862

## John Rowe

**Born:** October 4, 1814, Greencastle, Franklin County, PA.  
**Died:** December 27, 1880, Greencastle, Franklin County, PA.  
**Member of the House:** Franklin County, 1853-1854; Franklin and Fulton Counties, 1862.  
**Affiliation:** Democrat, Union Democrat, Republican.

John Rowe was born, raised, and educated in his hometown of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, where he began his career as a merchant. Rowe also became a Justice of the Peace at just 25 years old. He married the former Elizabeth Prather in 1836, and the couple had 8 children: David Watson, Anna Mary (Snivley), Martha Ellen (Fletcher), John Gilmore, Elizabeth Prather (Stover), Florence Sarah, Henry Prather, and Isabella Watson (Brewer).

Rowe ran an unsuccessful campaign as a Democrat for a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the 1844 general election. In 1852 he successfully campaigned to represent Franklin County as a Democrat in the House, which he did for the 1853 and 1854 sessions. In 1856 he was successfully nominated by the delegates of the Democratic State Convention for the position of Surveyor General, a position that he held for 3 years.

Rowe returned to the legislature during the Civil War as a Union Democrat for the 1862 session, and was elected Speaker on January 7, 1862. Rowe's election as Speaker was somewhat controversial, as his party allegiance was somewhat ambiguous. The House in 1862 was comprised of members aligning themselves with Democrat, Republican, Union Democrat, and Union Republican caucuses. In a deal struck between Union Democrats, Union Republicans, and Republicans, John Rowe was able to secure the Speakership, much to the chagrin of House Democrats who rejected a deal supporting Rowe that would have gained them some leadership positions.

During his Speakership, several legislative measures that addressed issues related to the Civil War were enacted. Act 512 made provisions for the sustenance, clothing, transportation, and organization of troops in the Commonwealth, and Act 478 addressed payment of pensions to widows and children of deceased soldiers.

As Rowe's career progressed, he distanced himself from his original political associations, eventually leaving the Democrats and joining the Republican Party. In 1872 Rowe campaigned unsuccessfully for a seat in the United States Congress. In February of 1880, Rowe served as delegate to the state Republican Convention. John Rowe died later that year, on December 27, and is interred at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Greencastle, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.





1861, 1868

# Elisha W. Davis

Born: September 8, 1827, Slippery Rock, Butler County, PA.

Died: February 13, 1887, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Mercer and Venango Counties, 1860-1861,  
Philadelphia County, 1866-1870, 1879-1880.

Affiliation: Republican.

Elisha W. Davis was born and grew up in Butler County, moving to Venango County as a teenager. He spent a brief period as a schoolteacher there, and married the former Josephine Morrow on January 20, 1848, and they had a number of children, including James M., Cynthia J., Emma A. (Oakford), Amanda E. (Einstein), Jennie C. (Studebaker), and Charles Sumner. Davis studied law in the office of Myers & Kinnear, joining the bar in Venango County in 1857. Soon after he became involved in the iron manufacturing business, purchasing and assisting in the operation of Rockland Forge. Davis specialized in corporate law representing the coal and oil industries.

Davis first became involved in politics with the liberal Republicans, and was known as an abolitionist during the antebellum era. He was first elected to the House to represent Mercer and Venango Counties for the 1860 session and re-elected in 1861. He was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on January 7, 1861. During his time as Speaker, President Abraham Lincoln addressed a Joint Session of the Pennsylvania Legislature on February 22, 1861, less than 2 months before the beginning of the Civil War. Davis left his position in the House upon his enlistment in the Union Army. He was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel in the 121st Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers on September 1, 1862, and served until he was discharged by special orders on April 20, 1863.

Following his military service, Davis re-entered state politics in Philadelphia, and was elected to represent that county from 1866-1870. Davis was re-elected as Speaker again on January 10, 1868. During his second time as Speaker, Davis oversaw the passage of Joint Resolution 12 of 1868, which praised the actions of Congress in passing a resolution for the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. Davis then pursued election to the Pennsylvania State Senate successfully, and served on behalf of Philadelphia County from 1872-1876. In his final 2 years as a state Senator, he acted as President Pro Tempore of that body.

Following his time in Pennsylvania state government, Davis pursued opportunities in the state of Colorado. Building upon expertise he gained as a corporate lawyer for the coal and oil business in Pennsylvania, he spent some time legally representing silver mining companies in Leadville, Colorado. His local successes led to his election to represent Saguache, and later Lake Counties, in the Colorado House of Representatives in 1883 and 1884, acting both years as Speaker of



that Assembly. In 1883 Davis received a federal appointment to act as agent with the Nintah and Ute Indians in the Uintah Agency, a position which he held for a few years until returning to Philadelphia.

Elisha Davis died on February 13, 1887, in Philadelphia. He is interred at Greenwood Cemetery in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.







1859-1860

## William C. A. Lawrence

Born: May 18, 1832, Washington County, PA.

Died: April 21, 1860, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA.

Member of the House: Dauphin County, 1858-April 21, 1860.

Affiliation: Republican, Democrat.

William Caldwell Anderson Lawrence was born May 18, 1832, and was raised in Washington County. Lawrence attended Washington College (now Washington and Jefferson College) and graduated in 1850. He was admitted to the Dauphin County Bar on August 31, 1853, and later became a partner at the law office of John Crain Kunkel, who was a former member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1844, 1845, and 1850). Lawrence came from a family with a legacy in state politics, his father Joseph Lawrence having served in the House from 1818-1824 and 1834-1836, including 4 terms as Speaker (1820, 1822-1824). His brother, Samuel M. Lawrence, also served in the House in 1861.

Lawrence was elected as a Democrat to represent Dauphin County in the Pennsylvania House for the 1858 term and was re-elected as a Republican to serve the following 2 terms. Between January 3 and January 5 of 1859, the House held caucuses and selected leadership in what was described as a "prolonged contest" by the Raftsmen's Journal, with Lawrence emerging as Speaker of the House. Lawrence was one of the youngest Speakers of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives when he was elected at the age of 26. He was re-elected Speaker on January 3, 1860, with 65 votes over H. Dunlap's 35 votes, with Dunlap changing his vote in favor of Lawrence following Lawrence's vote for Dunlap.

As Speaker, Lawrence oversaw the reorganization of the House's standing committees in 1860, including the creation of a combined Agriculture and Manufactures Committee, a combined Roads, Bridges, and Canals Committee, separate General Judiciary and Local Judiciary Committees, separate Railroads and City Passenger Railroads Committees, and the elimination of the Divorce, Lands, Local Appropriations, and Militia System Committees. In 1860, Act 598 established Cameron County from lands previously part of Clinton, Elk, McKean, and Potter Counties. Lawrence is also remembered for blocking an 1860 legislative petition to the House advocating for women's rights by assigning the motion to a committee of one member, effectively ending the motion's progress.

Also during his time as Speaker, Lawrence, a Harrisburg resident, was active in civic affairs specific to the city. He successfully advocated for the city to gain a charter, which it did with Act 190 of 1860. Lawrence had previously helped establish firefighting organizations in the city, including serving as president of the Mt. Vernon Company, which saw to the construction of Harrisburg's first hook and ladder fire apparatus being built in 1858.



William C. A. Lawrence died while in office on April 21, 1860, in Harrisburg. He is interred in Harrisburg Cemetery, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.



1858



# *A. Brower Longaker*

Born: April 21, 1828, Lower Providence Township,  
Montgomery County, PA.

Died: June 16, 1913, Norristown, Montgomery County, PA.  
Member of the House: Montgomery County, 1855-1858.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Abraham Brower Longaker, son of former Representative Henry Longaker, was born on April 21, 1828. Longaker was born with a twin sister, Elizabeth, who passed away shortly after birth. He was named after his maternal uncle, the Hon. Abraham Brower, who served in the Pennsylvania Senate from 1841-1843. As a child, he attended the Washington Hall Academy. He attended Franklin College (now Franklin & Marshall College) in 1847, before transferring to Union College in Schenectady, New York, and graduated from that institution in 1850. Upon completing his education, he became a public school teacher in Philadelphia from 1850-1852. Longaker's career plans changed, leading him to attend law school at the State and National Law School of New York State, where he graduated from in 1853. Longaker married Mary More Slingluff on December 8, 1859, and the couple had 3 children: Leila Kurtz, Rosalie, and Norris Slingluff.

Longaker practiced law in Northampton County before relocating to his home county of Montgomery, where he was admitted to the bar on September 28, 1853. He quickly entered the political arena as a delegate to the Democratic State Convention in 1855. That same year, he began his tenure as a Representative in the Pennsylvania House, serving 3 terms before his election as Speaker of the House on January 5, 1858. As Speaker, he oversaw Act 455 of 1858, which authorized the sale of state-owned canals to privately owned railroad companies. Also under Longaker's Speakership, the House adopted a new rule requiring members to cast their vote when their name was called, instead of waiting and recording their votes after the rest of the members had voted.

During the Civil War, Longaker briefly volunteered as part of the Independent Volunteer Cavalry of Pennsylvania, mustering in as a sergeant on September 13, 1862. He was discharged on September 27, 1862. He reenlisted on July 2, 1863, in Company H, 41st Regiment of the Pennsylvania Emergency Militia, entering as a private, and was elected quartermaster of the regiment on July 5. When the regiment was organized into brigades, he acted as commissary of the brigade. He mustered out on August 4, 1863.

Following his tenure in the House, Longaker remained involved in public service. He was elected as the recording secretary of the Pennsylvania State Agriculture Society in 1861, and was re-elected annually until 1869. In 1860 he was appointed inspector, and later secretary, of the State



Prison Board, serving 3 years. He was a director of the Bank of Montgomery County in 1863, and was president of the bank from 1864-1868. In February of 1867, he was appointed by President Andrew Johnson as Collector of Revenue for the Sixth District of Pennsylvania. In October of 1868, Longaker was elected as president judge of the Third Judicial District of Pennsylvania (covering Northampton and Lehigh Counties). He held this position until 1878, when he resigned to return to his private law practice in Allentown.

Abraham Brower Longaker died on June 16, 1913. He is interred at Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.





1857

# James L. Getz

Born: September 14, 1821, Reading, Berks County, PA.

Died: December 25, 1891, Reading, Berks County, PA.

Member of the House: Berks County, 1856-1857.

Affiliation: Democrat.

James Lawrence Getz was born September 14, 1821, in Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania. In 1840, at the age of just 19, James Lawrence Getz co-founded the Reading Gazette with Jacob Knabb. He purchased the Jefferson Democrat and merged the 2 publications to form the Reading Gazette and Democrat, a paper of which he was the sole proprietor. In addition to his journalistic efforts, Getz studied law in the office of William Strong, a Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice. He was admitted to the bar on August 6, 1846, but never formally practiced law, choosing instead to continue in the newspaper business. He assumed the role of editor of the Reading Gazette and Democrat in 1846. He continued editing and publishing the Reading Gazette and Democrat until 1868. Getz married Anna Umstead Morgan in October of 1847, and the couple had two children, George H. and Sarah (Sadie) M.

Getz was elected to represent Berks County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat for the 1856 and 1857 sessions. In his first term, he served as chairman of the Committee on Education and secretary for the Committee of Ways and Means. Getz was elected Speaker on January 6, 1857. During his Speakership, the Pennsylvania State Normal School system, for the training of teachers, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education were established with Act 619. Additionally, the legislature amended the state Constitution, establishing new ratios for members of the Assembly, with a maximum of 33 Senators and 100 Representatives.

In 1866 Getz returned to politics and was elected to the 40th United States Congress as a Democrat. He was re-elected to serve in the 41st and 42nd Congresses, serving from 1867-1873. During his time in Congressional office, he opposed the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. Following his tenure in Congress, Getz returned to journalism, editing the Spirit of Berks and contributing to other publications in Reading. Following the death of Reading's city controller in 1887, Getz was elected by the Reading council to finish the term, and was formally re-elected to continue to serve in that position in 1889. He held the position until his death.

James L. Getz died on December 25, 1891. He is interred at Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania.





1856

# Richardson L. Wright

Born: August 30, 1820, Province of Ulster, Ireland.

Died: September 10, 1904,

Frankford, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 1853-1856.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Richardson L. Wright was born in Northern Ireland and immigrated as a child with his family to New Brunswick, Canada, and later to Philadelphia. He was educated at the Locust Street School and Mount Vernon School. Wright completed an apprenticeship as a tailor and worked as a salesman at William Jackson and Company cloth merchants in Philadelphia. In 1846 he married the former Eleanor Elizabeth Roberts, and the couple had 5 children: Richardson, Jr., Mary, George Shoemaker, Eleanor A., and the Reverend Robert Erskine. He continued to be involved in the mercantile business as well as mechanical pursuits, and also studied law. Wright did not pursue law, but instead began his political career with election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1852.

Wright represented Philadelphia County as a Democrat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1853-1856. He was elected Speaker in the final year of his tenure on January 1, 1856, by a vote of 63 to 30, against challenger Robert McCombs. During Wright's Speakership, Pennsylvania was associated with several events linked to national politics regarding that year's Presidential race. Pennsylvania's native son, James Buchanan, secured the Democratic Party's nomination, and Wright, along with other Democrats in both chambers of the Pennsylvania Assembly, made a movement to endorse Mr. Buchanan on the eve of the legislature's adjournment in May of 1856. Additionally, in June of 1856, Philadelphia hosted the first National Convention of the modern Republican Party, formed in 1854. The delegates nominated John C. Fremont, who unsuccessfully challenged James Buchanan in the Presidential race.

In 1856 Wright himself ran a successful campaign to move from the House to the Pennsylvania State Senate while serving as Speaker. Wright was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in the 1856 general election, serving from 1857-1859. After his term in the Senate, he was nominated to serve as Auditor General, an election he lost. In 1867 President Andrew Johnson appointed Wright as the United States Assessor for the 5th District of Pennsylvania. He spent many more years in public service on the Board of Port Wardens in Philadelphia, and also served on the state Board of Education for nearly 33 years after his initial election to the board in 1872.

Wright died on September 10, 1904, and is interred at All Saint's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Torresdale, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1855

# Henry K. Strong

Born: March 2, 1798, Pittsfield, Berkshire County, MA.

Died: November 21, 1860, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 1853-1855, 1859-November 21, 1860.

Affiliation: Whig, People's Party.

Henry King Strong was born and raised in Massachusetts. He graduated from Union College in 1821 and later worked as a teacher at the Pittsfield Academy in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. On July 1, 1827, Strong married the former Eliza Glazier in Connecticut, and they had 4 children: Henry K., James M., Eliza G. (Jones), and Martha F. (Stringer).

Prior to his political service, Strong was an accomplished author, publisher, and editor. In 1823 he published a historical drama, *The Fall of Iturbide; or Mexico Delivered*, about the Mexican War of Independence. Strong also founded and edited the Pittsfield Argus newspaper from 1827 until being succeeded by Samuel W. Bush in 1828. He relocated to Philadelphia thereafter, where he practiced law for several years. Strong resumed his journalistic endeavors and took over the *Intelligencer*, a Whig newspaper in Harrisburg, which he operated and edited from 1832-1837. Throughout Strong's work as an author and publisher, he was credited with works including mining and finance reports to the state legislature, geological studies, and historical monographs. From 1842-1845 he was the State Librarian of Pennsylvania. Strong also engaged in coal mining operations and was president of the Washington Insurance Company. Strong was admitted to the Dauphin County bar on April 29, 1845.

Strong was elected as a Whig to represent Philadelphia County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1852, serving from 1853-1855. He was re-elected to the House as a member of the People's Party in 1859. Strong was elected Speaker of the House on January 2, 1855. During his Speakership, the legislature made its first appropriation to the Farmers' High School, which later became the Pennsylvania State University, with Act 50 of 1855. Act 55 of 1855, which created a law preventing the sale of liquor on Sundays, and Act 239 of 1855, which further restricted the sale of alcohol at restaurants, hotels, and other places of entertainment were both enacted during his Speakership. Additionally, during the 1855 session, Act 530 established an annual salary of \$500 for members. Additional reimbursement for things such as travel expenses was also laid out. This was a change from a pay system previously used by the legislature in which members were compensated daily for attendance in the House.

During Strong's final term as a Member of the House, he was a staunch supporter of a proposed Free Banking Law, an issue that had been debated for several sessions in the House. Strong spoke at length on the House floor encouraging fellow Members to support the creation of a system



securing the public against loss from insolvent banks, or banks that could not pay their debts. He argued that the Law would increase foreign investments in Pennsylvania industries and eliminate a monopoly held by wealthy bank operators that prohibited those without vast fortunes from also issuing notes. House Members agreed, and Act 376 of 1860 was enacted.

Henry King Strong died on November 21, 1860, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Woodlands Cemetery in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





1854

# Ezra B. Chase

Born: December 25, 1827, West Windsor, Broome County, NY.

Died: February 15, 1864, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, PA.

Member of the House: Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties, 1853-1854.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Ezra B. Chase was born December 25, 1827, in New York, and relocated to Harford, Pennsylvania, at a young age, where he attended the Harford Academy. He studied law in the office of F.B. Streeter in Montrose, Pennsylvania, and joined the Susquehanna County Bar on August 19, 1850. There he also became involved in journalism, purchasing the Montrose Democrat in 1851 with his cousin, Simeon B. Chase. They operated the paper for 5 years before selling it in 1856. He also purchased and edited Herald of the Union during this time. Chase married the former Amelia C. Shafer on October 20, 1852, and they had 3 children: Elizabeth (Lilly) Sylvia (Hunt), Amelia (Stalford), and Embley Shafer Chase.

Chase served 2 terms as a Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, in 1853 and 1854. At just 26 years old, on January 3, 1854, Chase was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. While Chase was Speaker, Act 610 of 1854 called for regulation of the common schools system in the Commonwealth. Some of the many measures the act called for were requiring teachers to track attendance and lessons to submit to the district's board of directors; specifying which subjects needed to be taught in schools, including arithmetic, writing, reading, and geography; and putting forth the qualifications teachers needed to be hired and continue their employment.

Following his legislative service, Chase published a book in 1860 titled, Teachings of Patriots and Statesmen; or, the "Founders of the Republic" on Slavery. In 1861 Chase was elected Luzerne County District Attorney, a position he held until his death.

Ezra B. Chase died on February 15, 1864, due to complications of tuberculosis. He is interred at Hollenback Cemetery in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.



1853



# William P. Schell

Born: February 18, 1822, Schellsburg, Bedford County, PA.

Died: November 15, 1908, Bedford, Bedford County, PA.

Member of the House: Bedford, Fulton, and Cambria Counties,  
1852-1853 and 1877-1878.

Affiliation: Democrat.

William Peter Schell was born February 18, 1822, in Schellsburg, Pennsylvania, a town his grandfather, John Schell, founded. Schell's father, Peter Schell, represented Bedford County in the Pennsylvania House from 1820-1823. William Schell attended Marshall College (which later merged with Franklin College to become Franklin & Marshall College in 1853), and studied law. He was admitted to the Bedford County Bar on October 8, 1845. On January 13, 1851, he became the first person admitted to the Fulton County Bar and became District Attorney of that county the same year. He married the former Margaretta T. Reamer, and the couple had several children, including Harry W., Ettie T., Frank R., Nancy (Nannie) Reamer, Oswald H., and William P., Jr.

Schell was elected to the House in 1852, and represented Bedford, Fulton, and Cambria Counties as a Democrat from 1852-1853. On January 4, 1853, Wright was elected Speaker of the House for the 1853 session. During his Speakership, Act 141 established a permanent office of State Printer. The House initiated publication of the debates held on the floor of the House in addition to the House Journals that were already published. These volumes came to be known as the Legislative Record and the Legislative Journal.

Schell served in the Pennsylvania Senate from 1858-1860, and returned to House service from 1877-1878. According to the 1878 House Journal, Schell resigned from the House effective May 3, 1878. Schell was elected Pennsylvania Auditor General in 1877, a position which he held from 1878-1880.

In addition to political office, Schell was president of the Clarion River Oil Companies. In 1907 a book written by Schell, titled *The Annals of Bedford County, Pennsylvania: Consisting of Condensed Sketches of the Most Important Events which Occurred During the Century from January 1750-1850*, was published.

William P. Schell died on November 15, 1908. He is interred at Bedford Cemetery in the city of Bedford, Bedford County, Pennsylvania.





1852

*John S. Rhey*

**Born:** December 22, 1818, Ebensburg, Cambria County, PA.

**Died:** June 29, 1891, Allegheny City (now Pittsburgh), Allegheny County, PA.

**Member of the House:** Armstrong, Clarion, and Jefferson Counties,  
1850-52; Cambria County, 1887-1890.

**Affiliation:** Democrat.

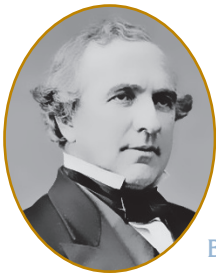
John S. Rhey was born on December 22, 1818, and raised in Ebensburg, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. At the age of 16 he left home to attend Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, from 1834-1837. Rhey also attended Jefferson College in 1837 (which became Washington and Jefferson College in 1865). In 1839 he entered Judge Reed's Law School in Carlisle (which later became Dickinson School of Law). Rhey became a practicing attorney, being admitted to the Cambria County Bar in 1841. In 1842 he was appointed District Attorney of Armstrong County and held that position for 5 years. Rhey moved to Kittanning, the county seat of Armstrong, after receiving the appointment, and resided there until 1853 when he returned to his home county of Cambria. Rhey married the former Ann McFeely, and they had 4 children: Susan (Stewart), John M., Margaret, and Anna.

Rhey was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent Armstrong County for the 1850 session, during which time the legislative districts covering the counties in the western region were reapportioned. He was re-elected for the 1851 and 1852 sessions as a Representative from the new district that included Armstrong, Clarion, and Jefferson Counties. Rhey was elected Speaker of the House on January 5, 1852. During his term as Speaker, Act 132 was enacted which incorporated an academy of music that was to be built in Philadelphia and laid out a stock option plan to raise funds to build the venue.

Following his initial tenure in the House, Rhey returned to practicing law and became the political editor of the Cambria Freeman newspaper, a position he held for 35 years. He was re-elected to the House to represent his home county of Cambria in 1886, and again in 1888.

John S. Rhey died on June 29, 1891, in Allegheny City, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He is interred in St. Mary's Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





1851, 1863

# John Cessna

Born: June 29, 1821, Colerain Township, Bedford County, PA.

Died: December 13, 1893, Bedford, Bedford County, PA.

Member of the House: Bedford County, 1850, 1862-1863, and  
1893-December 13, 1893; Bedford and Cambria Counties, 1851.

Affiliation: Democrat, Republican.

John Cessna was born June 29, 1821, in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. As a youth, he attended Hall's Military Academy in Bedford County. He graduated from Marshall College in 1842 (which later merged with Franklin College to become Franklin & Marshall College in 1853), and taught Latin there for a year after completing his studies. In 1848 he served as a member of the Revenue Board of Pennsylvania. After studying law in the office of Bedford attorney Samuel Barclay, Cessna was admitted to the bar on June 25, 1845, and built a legal practice in Bedford. He married the former Ellen Jane Shaffer on September 24, 1844, and the couple had 7 children: Daniel, Caroline (Carrie) Gerhart, Marion, Harry, Mary Etta Doty, and 2 children who died in childhood. Cessna became a member of the Board of Trustees of Franklin & Marshall College in 1865, when United States President James Buchanan stepped down from the role of board president, and Cessna remained on the board until his death.

Cessna was elected to the Pennsylvania House as a Democrat, serving from 1850-1851. Cessna was elected Speaker of the House on January 7, 1851. During this session, Act 99 was established which created an appropriation that allowed for gas lighting to be introduced into public buildings, an advancement that permitted longer working hours. Cessna was later re-elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1862 and 1863 sessions. He was again elected Speaker on January 6, 1863. In the midst of the conflict of the infamous Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, Cessna's political leanings shifted toward the Republican Party and in support of President Abraham Lincoln. This change in political affiliation would last for the remainder of his political career.

Cessna's reputation as an attorney and legislator led to his selection to act as a delegate to numerous national political conventions. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1856 and 1860. In 1865 he was chair of the Republican State Convention, and was a delegate to the National Republican Conventions in 1868, 1876, and 1880.

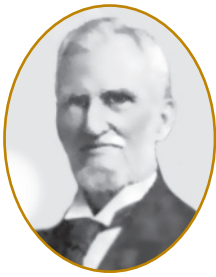
Cessna was elected to the 41st United States Congress as a Republican, serving from 1869-1871. Following an unsuccessful run for re-election in 1870, he was re-elected to the 43rd Congress, serving from 1873-1875. Cessna frequently acted as Speaker Pro Tempore while in Congress. Most notably, Cessna held the position during debate over the passage of the 14th Amendment,



which granted civil rights to former slaves. Cessna was involved with the temperance cause in the state and national organizations. In 1875 he served as Assistant Attorney General under President Ulysses S. Grant, and was continuously active in the Republican Party long after his legislative service.

Cessna returned to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for one final term in 1893, after having a nearly 30-year hiatus from the House. Cessna died while in office on December 13, 1893, and is interred at Bedford Cemetery in the city of Bedford, Bedford County, Pennsylvania.





1850

## John S. McCalmont

Born: April 28, 1822, Franklin, Venango County, PA.

Died: December 2, 1906, Washington, DC.

Member of the House: Jefferson, Clarion, and Venango Counties, 1849-1850.

Affiliation: Democrat.

John Swayze McCalmont was raised in Venango County and attended a Latin school at a young age. He later attended Allegheny College in Crawford County, and trained as a printer in the offices of his hometown newspaper, the Franklin Intelligencer from 1834-1835. McCalmont embarked on a military career, graduating from West Point Academy in 1842, receiving the appointment of second lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment of Infantry on July 1, 1842. On October 10, 1842, he was promoted to the 8th United States Infantry. He resigned his commission on July 1, 1843, in order to pursue the study of law. McCalmont was admitted to the Venango County Bar on November 25, 1844, and in 1845 was appointed Deputy Attorney General in Clarion, McKean, and Elk Counties. In 1846 he married the former Elizabeth P. Stehley and the couple had a number of children, including Alexander, Mary S., Edward Stehley, Elizabeth Connelly (Freer), William Alfred, James, Kate (Waller), and Maria Haldeman (Bryan).

McCalmont was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1848. He was elected Speaker of the House on January 1, 1850, over Representative A.K. Cornyn by a vote of 58 to 39. During McCalmont's tenure as Speaker, the Office of District Attorney was created through Act 385. During the 1850 session, 2 new counties were created in Pennsylvania by Act 228, which allocated lands from Beaver and Mercer Counties to establish Lawrence County, and Act 387, which created Montour County from lands that were previously part of Columbia County.

In May of 1853, McCalmont was appointed by Governor William Bigler as president judge of the 18th Judicial District, which was comprised of Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, Mercer, and Venango Counties. McCalmont was so well-regarded that McCalmont Township in Jefferson County was named for him during his time as president judge there. He resigned his office in 1861 to serve in the Civil War, leading the 10th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps as a colonel. During his military service, he led his regiment during the Battle of Dranesville on December 20, 1861, which was ultimately a Union victory. McCalmont was highly praised by General Edward Ord for his actions during the battle. Due to declining health, McCalmont resigned his command May 9, 1862.

After leaving the Union Army, McCalmont then returned to practicing law until April 1, 1885, when President Grover Cleveland appointed him Commissioner of Customs, a position he held



until he resigned in March of 1889. The rest of his career was spent in the practice of law in Washington, DC, where he had relocated earlier to fulfill his federal customs duties.

In addition to his legislative and judicial careers, McCalmont was an active member of a number of fraternal and historical organizations. He was a member of the Loyal Legion, the Grand Army of the Republic, and served on the executive committee of the United States Historical Society.

John S. McCalmont died in Washington, DC on December 2, 1906. He is interred at Franklin Cemetery in Franklin, Venango County, Pennsylvania.





1848-1849

# William F. Packer

Born: April 2, 1807, Howard Township, Centre County, PA.

Died: September 27, 1870, Williamsport, Lycoming County, PA.

Member of the House: Lycoming, Clinton, and Potter Counties, 1848-1849.

Affiliation: Democrat.

William Fisher Packer was born in Howard Township, Centre County. He became involved in newspaper work from a young age after the death of his father when he was only 7. He worked at the Sunbury Public Inquirer and Bellefonte Patriot as a printer's apprentice, and later at the Pennsylvania Intelligencer as a journeyman. He later owned and edited the Lycoming Gazette and Keystone Gazette. Packer studied law in Williamsport, but never formally practiced. In 1829 he married the former Mary Wycoff Vanderbilt and the couple had 10 children: Elizabeth R., Howard, William Vanderbilt, James, Mary (Clarke), Sarah Bye (Allis), Albert, Boyd Cummings, Ellen B. (Eeles), and Annie (Woodward).

Packer's interest in politics grew during his days as a newspaper editor, through which time he had successfully campaigned for the election of Governor David R. Porter. From 1832-1835, Packer was the superintendent of the West Branch Division of the Pennsylvania Canal. He was later appointed state Canal Commissioner, a position he held from 1839-1842, after which he was appointed state Auditor General, and served from 1842-1845.

Packer campaigned for a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the 1846 general election. He was reported to have lost the election by just 12 votes to competitor Benjamin F. Pauling, who went on to serve for the entire subsequent session. In a most unusual circumstance, a later examination of the votes in Porter Township, Clinton County, saw that 49 votes for Packer had been recorded, when in reality the tallies showed he actually had 69 votes. This margin of just 20 votes meant that Packer had been elected by 8 votes over his challenger instead of losing by 12 as was initially believed.

Undaunted, Packer again ran for a seat in the House and was elected to the Pennsylvania House as Representative and as Speaker for the 1848 and 1849 sessions. While Packer was Speaker, the first significant legislation regarding women's rights in Pennsylvania was enacted as part of an omnibus bill resulting in Act 372 of 1848. This legislation ensured that all property owned by a single woman would remain hers after marriage, that she could acquire additional property in her own name while married, and that said property could not be sold without her consent to pay her spouse's debts.

From 1850-1852, Packer served Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, and Sullivan Counties as a Pennsylvania State Senator. Packer later served as Governor of the Commonwealth from

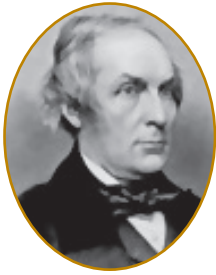




January 19, 1858 to January 15, 1861. While Packer was Governor, his administration saw to the privatization of the state canal system with Act 445 of 1858, calling for the sale of the canals to private railroad companies, and Act 8 of 1859, which abolished the offices of Canal Commissioner and State Engineer. Though once a friend of James Buchanan, Governor Packer opposed President Buchanan on the issue of the expansion of slavery into western territories, a sign of growing splits within the Democratic Party. Packer supported calling for a National Convention to address the impending dissolution of the Union in hopes that a compromise could be made and war avoided. Following his term as Governor, Packer retired to Williamsport.

William F. Packer died in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on September 27, 1870. He is interred at Williamsport Cemetery in Williamsport, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.





1847

# James Cooper

Born: May 8, 1810, Frederick County, MD.

Died: March 28, 1863, Columbus, Franklin County, OH.

Member of the House: Adams County, 1844, 1845, 1847, and 1849.

Affiliation: Whig.

James Cooper was born in Frederick County, Maryland, and later moved to Pennsylvania to pursue his education. He graduated from Washington College (now Washington and Jefferson College) in 1832, and then studied law with the renowned Adams County lawyer and United States Congressman, Thaddeus Stevens. Cooper began practicing law in Gettysburg after being admitted to the bar in 1834. Cooper was elected as a Whig to the 26th and 27th United States Congresses (1839-1843), and served as chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs during the latter term. Cooper is one of the few Representatives to serve in Congress prior to serving in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Cooper was elected as a Whig to represent Adams County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1844, 1845, 1847, and 1849 sessions. He was elected Speaker for the 1847 session. While Speaker, Act 159 was passed, which forbade the holding of southern slaves in Pennsylvania jails and prison, as well as criminalized any effort to kidnap persons with the intent of selling or forcing them into slavery outside of Pennsylvania. Additionally, Act 365 of 1847 provided for the creation of Sullivan County from land previously considered part of Lycoming County.

Following his term as Speaker, Cooper was appointed Pennsylvania Attorney General by Governor William F. Johnston, a position he held from July 31, 1848 to December 30, 1848. He then briefly returned to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1849 session. However, after being elected to the United States Senate as a Whig on January 10, 1849, Cooper, took office in Washington, DC, on March 4, 1849, and served as a Senator until March 3, 1855. After his retirement from the United States Senate, he moved to Frederick, Maryland, and opened a law office.

When the Civil War broke out, Cooper was authorized by President Abraham Lincoln to recruit a brigade for his home state of Maryland, becoming brigadier general in 1861. He went on to serve in West Virginia and Ohio, where he was appointed commandant at Camp Chase, located near Columbus, Ohio. James Cooper died of pneumonia at Camp Chase on March 28, 1863, and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery in the city of Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland.



1845-1846

# Findley Patterson

Born: May 16, 1808, Cross Creek Township, Washington County, PA.

Died: February 12, 1880, Washington County, PA.

Member of the House: Armstrong County, 1845-1846, 1879-February 12, 1880.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Findley Patterson was born May 16, 1808, in Cross Creek Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania. His father, Thomas Patterson, was a United States Congressman (1817-1825). Trained as a surveyor and engineer, Patterson worked in his family business of flour manufacturing before his election as commissioner of Armstrong County in 1837. He married the former Martha J. Bingham on October 28, 1829, and the couple had 8 children: Esther Ann, Elizabeth (Ferguson), Mary (Vance), Thomas, Hugh Bingham, Rosannah (Riddle), Martha Jane, and Margaret (Hartford).

In 1839 Patterson was elected as Democrat to the Pennsylvania Senate to represent Armstrong, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, and Indiana Counties, serving from 1839-1841. Patterson successfully ran for election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1844. Following in the legacy of his older brother, William Patterson, who was Speaker of the House from 1834-1835, Findley Patterson was elected Speaker of the House on January 7, 1845. He was re-elected Speaker for the following session on January 6, 1846. Patterson oversaw the legislature's creation of the state's first public mental hospital with Act 288 of 1845, largely in response to the efforts of social activist Dorothea Dix. Dix's report "praying for the passage of a law making provision for the establishment of an asylum" was presented to the House by Representative James Burnside of Centre and Clearfield Counties on February 3, 1845.<sup>1</sup> Also under Patterson's leadership, the House debated, and ultimately voted in favor of, the establishment of the Pennsylvania Railroad with Act 262 of 1846.

Following his first term in the House of Representatives, Patterson was appointed state revenue commissioner in 1843. In 1857 he was appointed receiver of the Western Land Office by President James Buchanan and moved to LeCompton, Kansas, to serve in the position. Patterson served in the position for 4 years, and in 1861 returned to his home state. He worked as a land surveyor upon his return, and was re-elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1878 for the 1879-1880 session.

In addition to the numerous positions both elected and appointed, throughout his life, Patterson also served as a delegate to the state Democratic Convention 6 times and was a public school director for 18 years.

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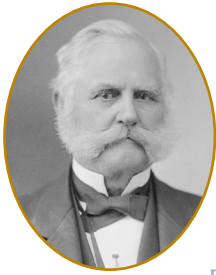
<sup>1</sup> Pennsylvania Legislative Journal for the House of Representatives – 1845, Volume I, 157.



Findley Patterson died while in office on February 12, 1880. He is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery in Burgettstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania.



1843



# Hendrick B. Wright

Born: April 24, 1808, Plymouth, Luzerne County, PA.

Died: September 2, 1881, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, PA.

Member of the House: Luzerne and Wyoming Counties, 1841-1843.

Affiliation: Democrat, Greenback.

Hendrick Bradley Wright was born on April 24, 1808, in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. In 1829 he entered Dickinson College, but left in 1831 before graduating. He returned to Wilkes-Barre and began studying law with John N. Conyngham. He was admitted to the Luzerne County bar on November 8, 1831. Wright began his law career in Wilkes-Barre, and was appointed Luzerne County District Attorney in 1834. In June of 1835 Wright was elected and commissioned colonel of the Wyoming Volunteer Regiment of the 2nd Brigade, 8th Division of the Pennsylvania Militia. He held this position until 1842. Wright was a member of the town council of Wilkes-Barre in 1837 and 1840, and from May of 1838 to May of 1839 he was the burgess of the borough. Wright married the former Mary Ann Bradley Robinson in 1835, and the couple had 10 children. Their first children were twins, Charles Robinson and Ellen Hendrick, both of whom died in 1836 before their first birthday. The couple had 8 more children: Joseph, Anna Augusta, Mary Elizabeth (Hawley), Ellen Hendrick (Graeme), Caroline Griffin, Hendrick Bradley, George Riddle, and Charles Robinson.

Wright was elected to the Pennsylvania House as a Democrat in 1840 and served in 3 consecutive sessions from 1841-1843. In his first term in office, he served on the Judiciary Committee and advocated for prison reform, speaking in favor of the abolition of the solitary confinement of prisoners as well as opposing the imprisonment of debtors. Wright was elected Speaker of the House on January 3, 1843. During his Speakership, Act 150 of 1843 was passed, which incorporated Elk County, and Act 41 of 1843 was passed, which established Carbon County.

Wright was a frequent delegate to National Conventions for the Democratic Party, serving in 1844, 1848, 1852, 1856, 1860, 1868, and 1876. After an unsuccessful campaign for a seat in the Thirty-second United States Congress, Wright was elected to the Thirty-third Congress, serving from 1853-1855. He was later re-elected to the Thirty-seventh Congress to fill a vacancy caused by the death of George W. Scranton, serving from July 4, 1861, to March 3, 1863. After an interlude in which Wright returned to his legal practice, he was yet again re-elected to the United States Congress. Wright served from 1877-1881, being a representative of the Greenback Party as opposed to the Democratic Party in the latter session. During the Forty-fifth Congress, from 1877-1878, he served as chair of the Committee on Manufactures.

During his career, especially later in life, Wright was a supporter of labor concerns, even authoring a book on the subject in 1871, *A Practical Treatise on Labor*.



Hendrick Bradley Wright died on September 2, 1881. He is interred at Hollenback Cemetery in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.





1842, 1844

# James Ross Snowden

Born: December 9, 1809, Chester, Delaware County, PA.

Died: March 21, 1878, Hulmeville, Bucks County, PA.

Member of the House: Clarion, Jefferson, and Venango Counties,  
1838-1839, 1840, 1842, 1844.

Affiliation: Democrat.

James Ross Snowden was born on December 9, 1809, in Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Dr. Nathaniel R. Snowden, one of the individuals credited with establishing the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Snowden studied at Dickinson College, where his father had been a professor. Snowden continued his education throughout his life, earning a master of arts from Jefferson College in 1845, and an honorary doctor of law degree from Washington and Jefferson College in 1875. After college he studied law and was admitted to the Venango County bar in 1828. He established a law practice, and later received the appointment of deputy attorney general of Venango County. On September 13, 1848, Snowden married the former Susan Engle Patterson, and the couple had a number of children, including: Sara Patterson (Mitchell), Louise Hortense, Frank Patterson, Gertrude, Charles Gustine, Llewellyn Randolph, Mary Thompson (Stansfield), James Ross, and Robert Patterson.

Snowden was first elected to the Pennsylvania House in 1838, and was re-elected for the 1840, 1842, and 1844 sessions. On January 4, 1842, Snowden was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. He was re-elected to the position on January 2, 1844. During Snowden's first term as Speaker, Act 79 established Wyoming County. Additionally, while Snowden was Speaker, he signed legislation regarding state debts, regulating and incorporating insurance companies, adjusting election districts, and making appropriations for the education of the poor in the Commonwealth.

While serving in the House, Snowden also was elected colonel of a volunteer regiment, and in 1845 presided at the State Military Convention. Following his service in the House, Snowden was elected State Treasurer, an office which he held from 1845-1846. President James K. Polk appointed Snowden Treasurer of the United States Mint, and he served from 1847-1850. Snowden was appointed solicitor of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in 1850, but he later resigned to accept President Franklin Pierce's appointment as director of the United States Mint, a position he held from 1853-1861. In 1861, he was appointed prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

During the Civil War, Snowden served as lieutenant colonel of the Philadelphia First Regiment of Home Guards. The regiment offered their services, but was not called to active duty during the war.



Snowden was a prolific writer and authored several books on numismatics, the study of coins, paper currency, and medals. Some of his well-known publications include: *Description of Ancient and Modern Coins in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States*; *A Description of the Medals of Washington: Of National and Miscellaneous Medals and of Other Objects of Interest in the Museum of the Mint*; and, *The Coins of the Bible, and Its Money Terms*.

In 1873 Snowden returned to Philadelphia to resume his law practice. James Ross Snowden died on March 21, 1878. He is interred at Laurel Hill Cemetery in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





1841

# William A. Crabb

Born: c. 1812, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: November 9, 1861,

Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 1837-1842.

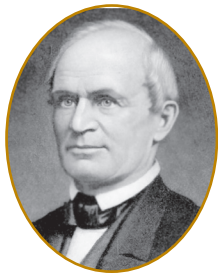
Affiliation: Whig.

William A. Crabb was elected as a Whig to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to serve in the 1837-1838 session. He was re-elected several times, serving continually until 1842. On January 5, 1841, he was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. Crabb's election as Speaker occurred after 2 early votes which put Ner Middleswarth against Richard Brodhead, and then Ner Middleswarth against Robert Flenniken, which resulted in ties. A third ballot resulted in Crabb having a majority over Middleswarth by a vote of 53 to 44. While Speaker, Crabb oversaw the passage of Act 117 of 1841, better known as the "Relief Bill," which authorized a \$3.1 million loan to pay interest on public debt and was designed to prevent the failure of banks and increase state tax revenue. The bill was controversial at the time and initially vetoed by Governor David R. Porter' however, the House and Senate overrode the veto by a two-thirds vote in each chamber to approve the bill.

Crabb was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 1842, and was re-elected for 6 consecutive sessions from 1843-1856. While Crabb was in the Senate, the first noteworthy legislation regarding women's rights in Pennsylvania was enacted as part of Act 372 of 1848. This legislation safeguarded that the property owned by a single woman would remain hers after marriage, that she could acquire additional property while married, and that her property could not be sold without her consent to pay her spouse's debts. In 1852 Crabb advocated for the repeal of the sixth section of the "Anti-Kidnapping Act" of 1847, which made it illegal to use local jails to detain suspected fugitive slaves.

Little is known about William A. Crabb's life. He married the former Sarah F. Todd and had one daughter, Mary A. (Walton). Crabb died on November 9, 1861, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Woodlands Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Crabb was previously interred at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia from November of 1861 to June 10, 1891.





1838-1840

# William Hopkins

Born: September 17, 1804, West Pike Run Township,  
Washington County, PA.

Died: March 5, 1873, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Washington County, 1834-1835, 1836-1840, 1862, 1863.

Affiliation: Democrat.

William Hopkins was born September 17, 1804, in Washington County, Pennsylvania. On January 1, 1824, Hopkins married the former Rachel Herron, and the couple had 3 children: Andrew, Catherine M., and Hon. James H. In 1827 he was a gubernatorial appointee to the office of justice of the peace for Pike Run Township, and in 1834 was commissioned as justice of the peace for East Bethlehem Township, both in Washington County. He was elected auditor of Washington County in 1831. Hopkins engaged in the tannery business from 1832-1838.

Hopkins was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1834, serving in the 1834-1835, 1836-1837, 1837-1838, 1838-1839, and 1840 sessions. Hopkins was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on December 4, 1838, only to resign and be re-elected to the position on December 27, 1838. The cause of this unusual circumstance was a political controversy that verged on violent confrontation known as the Buckshot War. The conflict arose after Democratic and Whig factions in the state legislature clashed over control of the government. A number of contested seats, which were eventually settled, led Hopkins to resign so newly seated members could cast their vote for Speaker. During his Speakership, Hopkins signed legislation to build a waterworks for the city of Harrisburg with Act 86 of 1839. Also during the 1838-1839 session, 10 female seminaries were incorporated. Hopkins was re-elected Speaker on January 7, 1840.

Following his years of service in the House, Hopkins was appointed Commissioner of the Cumberland Road in 1840, holding that office until May of 1842. He served as Secretary of the State Land Office from May 10, 1842, until the position was abolished on April 17, 1843. In 1852 he was elected Canal Commissioner for the state, serving in that office for 3 years.

Hopkins was re-elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1861, serving from 1862-1863, when he was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate, in which he served from 1864-1866.

During the Civil War, Company K of the Eighth Reserve Regiment, also known as the 37th Regiment of Pennsylvania, of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, which recruited in Washington County, was occasionally referred to as "Hopkins' Infantry" after Hopkins was offered its command. He ultimately declined the position due to his health; however, he was credited with promoting their interests even though he did not join them in battle.



His career of public service ended in 1872 with his attendance at the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention. Hopkins was in attendance at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia until he obtained a leave of absence to return home. Upon his arrival in Pittsburgh via train, he became ill and was taken to Union Depot Hotel and received medical attention. He was diagnosed with pneumonia.

William Hopkins died on March 5, 1873, in the Union Depot Hotel in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Washington Cemetery in Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania.



1836-1838

# Lewis Dewart

Born: November 14, 1780, Sunbury, Northumberland County, PA.

Died: April 26, 1852, Sunbury, Northumberland County, PA.

Member of the House: Northumberland County, 1816-1821, 1834-1838.

Affiliation: Federalist, Democrat.

Lewis Dewart was born on November 14, 1780, in Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. Dewart started his career assisting in his father's store in Sunbury. He was the postmaster of Sunbury in 1806, serving until 1816. He also engaged in coal operations as well as worked on the organization of the Danville and Pottsville Railroad during the 1820s, serving as a director for several years. Dewart married the former Elizabeth Liggett, and they had 1 child, William Lewis Dewart, who followed in his father's political footsteps through his election to the 35th United States Congress.

Dewart was elected as a Federalist to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in November of 1816, serving from the 1816-1817 session through the 1820-1821 session. Dewart was then elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania State Senate, representing Northumberland and Union Counties, in a December 1822 special election to fill the seat of Senator Andrew Albright, who died in office on November 26, 1822. Dewart took his seat in the Senate on January 15, 1823, and served until 1826. In 1830 Lewis Dewart was elected to the Twenty-second United States Congress as a Jacksonian Democrat, serving from March 4, 1831, to March 3, 1833.

In 1834 Dewart was re-elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat, and served through the 1837-1838 session. On December 6, 1836, Dewart was chosen Speaker of the Pennsylvania House, and was reelected Speaker on December 5, 1837. While Dewart was Speaker, the House passed Resolution 19 of 1838, which called for the State Library to be open on all session days of the Legislature and Supreme Court, as well as called for set regular hours for the rest of the year. The resolution also appropriated funds for the purchase of law books to be kept in the library.

After leaving the House, Dewart was elected chief burgess of Sunbury in 1839. He also served as a member of the Sunbury School Board. He was treasurer of the board in 1836, and is credited as one of the "fathers of the Sunbury school system from 1834 to 1837." Dewart had an unsuccessful campaign for the Democratic nomination for Pennsylvania Governor in 1840.

Lewis Dewart died on April 26, 1852, in Sunbury, Pennsylvania. He is interred at the Sunbury Cemetery, Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania.



1834-1835

# James Thompson

Born: October 1, 1806, Middlesex Township, Butler County, PA.

Died: January 28, 1874, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Venango and Warren Counties, 1832-1835; Erie County, 1855. Affiliation: Democrat.

James Thompson was born on October 1, 1806, in Butler County, Pennsylvania. He studied the printing trade as a young man before studying law in the office of Thomas Blair. Thompson was admitted to the bar in 1829, and practiced law in Erie. Thompson was married to the former Mary Parker Snowden, sister to Speaker of the House James Ross Snowden, and the couple had 6 children: Sarah Gustine (Robb), James Ross, Snowden, Samuel Gustine, Clara, and William Eldred.

Thompson was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat in November of 1832 to serve in the 1832-1833 session. He was re-elected to serve in the 1833-1834 and 1834-1835 sessions. Thompson was elected Speaker on December 2, 1834. During his Speakership, the Allegheny Portage Railroad, the first railway to circumvent the Allegheny Mountains and connect branches of the Pennsylvania Canal, officially opened. Act 34 of 1835 made a provision for the use of horses and other draft animals in the transportation of people and materials on the incline rail system used by the Allegheny Portage Railroad.

Thompson was a delegate to the state Constitutional Convention in 1837, and served as presiding judge of the Sixth Judicial District Court from 1838-1844. Thompson was elected to represent Pennsylvania in the Twenty-ninth Thirtieth, and Thirty-first United States Congresses, from 1845-1851. He served as chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary in his final term. In 1836 Thompson was part of the Electoral College for the election of Martin Van Buren as President.

Thompson was re-elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1855 session, this time representing Erie County.

Thompson was appointed as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, an office he held from 1857-1866. In 1867 he rose to the position of chief justice of the Supreme Court. He retired from the Supreme Court in 1872, returning to private legal practice.

James Thompson died on January 28, 1874, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is interred at the Woodlands Cemetery in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1833-1834

# William Patterson

(Elected after the resignation of James Findley)

Born: September 25, 1796, Cross Creek Township, Washington County, PA.

Died: May 3, 1879, Cross Creek Township, Washington County, PA.

Member of the House: Washington County, 1828-1832, 1833-1834.

Affiliation: Democrat.

William Patterson was born into the Findley-Patterson family in Washington County, Pennsylvania, which produced 10 members who served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 4 of whom served as Speakers, all between the late 18th and mid-19th centuries. His father, Thomas Patterson, in addition to serving in the United States Congress, managed a fulling mill. William Patterson was engaged in this enterprise in his youth, as well as with other agricultural management duties for the family. Patterson was a known supporter of education. He advocated for a public school system, and was a primary financier of the construction of a school built near his home in Washington County. On April 29, 1819, Patterson married the former Margaret Lyle, and the couple had 10 children: Lysander, Mary (Gault), James, Robert, Aaron Lyle, Caroline (Lee), William, Margaret (Smith), Thomas A., and Samuel Findley. Samuel Findley Patterson was also a Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1875-1876.

William Patterson was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat for the 1828-1829 session. He was re-elected for the 1829-1830, 1830-1831, 1831-1832, and 1833-1834 sessions of the House. On December 17, 1833, Patterson was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House after James Findley resigned. During his Speakership, Patterson oversaw the passage of Act 102 of 1834. Better known as the Free Public Schools Law, the groundbreaking legislation was famously championed by United States Congressman Thaddeus Stevens.

William Patterson retired from public service in 1859. He died on May 3, 1879 in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and is interred at Cross Creek Cemetery, Cross Creek Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania.



1833

# James Findley

Born: 1801, Mercersburg, Franklin County, PA.

Died: 1843, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA.

Member of the House: Westmoreland County, 1831-1833.

Affiliation: Democrat.

James Findley was born in 1801 in Mercersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He was the son of former Governor and United States Senator William Findley. Findley moved with his family to Harrisburg in 1813 and resided there until he left in 1820 to attend the College of New Jersey (renamed Princeton University in 1896). Leaving before graduating, Findley returned to Harrisburg and studied law in the office of Francis R. Shunk. Shunk was married to Findley's sister, Jane, and served as Governor of Pennsylvania from 1845-1848. Findley began to practice law in York, Pennsylvania, until relocating to Greensburg, Westmorland County. He passed the bar in Westmorland County on August 23, 1824. Findley was also admitted to the Allegheny County Bar on January 15, 1827.

Findley was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat for the 1831-1832 session. He was re-elected to the 1832-1833 and 1833-1834 sessions. Findley was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on December 3, 1833. However, just days following his election as Speaker, the then-Secretary of the Commonwealth, Samuel McKean, resigned to take a seat in the United States Senate. Findley was appointed as his successor, and resigned the Speakership to take up his new post, which he served from December 17, 1833, until December 15, 1835.

Following his state service, Findley relocated to Pittsburgh and continued to practice law, forming a partnership with his brother-in-law, Francis R. Shunk. He was solicitor for the city of Pittsburgh from 1837-1839. His death was announced to the court on June 23, 1843.

James Findley died in 1843 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He is interred in the Harrisburg Cemetery, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.



1832-1833

# Samuel Anderson

Born: 1773, New Jersey.

Died: January 17, 1850, Media, Delaware County, PA.

Member of the House: Delaware County, 1815-1818, 1822-1823,  
1825-1826, 1829-1835.

Affiliation: Federalist, Democrat, Republican.

Dr. Samuel Anderson was born in 1773 in New Jersey to Rev. James Anderson, a prominent Presbyterian minister. Anderson studied medicine, becoming a doctor in 1796. President John Adams appointed him to the post of assistant surgeon in the United States Navy in 1799, and he was promoted to surgeon in 1800. Anderson practiced medicine at sea with the Navy in the West Indies during a Yellow Fever epidemic, until illness led him to resign his position in 1801. He returned to Pennsylvania and built a medical practice. Leading up to the War of 1812, Anderson became active again in military efforts, organizing a group known as the Mifflin Guards for regional defense. On September 10, 1814, he became a commissioned captain for the Pennsylvania Militia, and on August 3, 1821, was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the One Hundredth Regiment, Second Brigade. Anderson married Sarah Richards in 1802, and the couple 6 children including, James and J. Richards.

Anderson was first elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Federalist for the 1815-1816 session, representing Delaware County. He was re-elected to the 1816-1817, 1817-1818, 1822-1823, and 1825-1826 sessions. During his initial terms in the House, Anderson served in other political and military positions as well. He was the sheriff of Delaware County from 1819-1823. He also briefly resumed his active duty in the Navy, serving as a naval special physician in 1823 in the West India Squadron, and in 1824 on the U.S. Ships Hornet and Decoy. Anderson was elected to the Twentieth United States Congress, serving from March 4, 1827 to March 3, 1829.

Anderson was re-elected to the Pennsylvania House for the 1829-1830 session as a Democrat. He was re-elected for the 1831-1832, 1832-1833, 1833-1834, and 1834-1835 sessions as a Republican. On December 4, 1832, Anderson was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. During his Speakership, Anderson signed important bills regarding road construction, as well as canal and railroad incorporation and regulation.

Following his legislative service for the state, Anderson was a customs inspector at Tinicum Island in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, from 1840-1845, and was elected burgess of Chester in 1846. On April 14, 1846, he was commissioned a justice of the peace for Chester, Delaware County, and held that position until his death.

Samuel Anderson died on January 17, 1850, in Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He is





interred at Middletown Presbyterian Cemetery in Media, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.



1831-1832

# John Laporte

**Born: November 4, 1798, Asylum, Bradford County, PA.**

**Died: August 22, 1862, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.**

**Member of the House: Bradford and Tioga Counties, 1828-1832.**

**Affiliation: Democrat.**

John Laporte was born to a family of wealthy French refugees who settled Azilum (now Asylum) in Bradford County in the late 18th century, fleeing the anti-aristocratic revolution in France. On February 28, 1822, Laporte married the former Matilda Chamberlain, and the couple had 3 children: Bartholomew, Elizabeth Charlotte (Welles), and Samuel McKean. After Matilda's death, John Laporte married the former Eliza Bendle on November 28, 1840, and the couple had one daughter, Matilda Jane (Glover). Laporte's son Bartholomew was also a member of the Pennsylvania House representing Bradford County, serving in 1855, 1856, and 1863.

Laporte began his career in public service as auditor of Bradford County from 1827-1828. Laporte was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat in the fall of 1828. Laporte was elected Speaker of the House on December 5, 1831. During his time as Speaker, significant legislation relating to the development of Pennsylvania canal works and Pennsylvania banking was passed.

After leaving the Pennsylvania House, Laporte was elected to the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth United States Congresses, serving from March 4, 1833 to March 3, 1837. Following his service at the federal level, he was selected as associate judge of Bradford County, in which capacity he served from 1837-1845. Laporte transitioned from an active political career, during which he had promoted the establishment of a state canal system, to more direct involvement in the creation of the North Branch Canal. This experience led to the position of surveyor general of Pennsylvania, from 1845-1851. Laporte, the county seat of Sullivan County, was named for him in 1850. At the end of his life, Laporte was active in banking in Towanda from 1850-1862.

John Laporte died on August 22, 1862. He is interred at the Laporte family cemetery in Asylum, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.



1829-1831

# Frederick Smith

Born: February 6, 1796, Colerain Township, Bedford County, PA.

Died: May 3, 1861, Chambersburg, Franklin County, PA.

Member of the House: Franklin County, 1823-1827, 1829-1831.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Frederick Smith was born on February 6, 1796, in Colerain Township, Bedford County. Smith received an education at Washington College (Chestertown, Maryland), and later studied law. He was admitted to the Franklin County bar in April of 1818. By 1824, Smith was appointed the District Attorney of Franklin County. Frederick Smith married the former Catherine Smith circa 1827, and they had a number of children, including Maria (Burns), Julia Ellen (Suesserott), Emma, J. Frederick, Annie, Mollie, Catherine, and Amelia (or Millie) C. (Heyser). After his first wife's death, Smith married the former Catherine Miller, and the couple had one daughter, also named Catherine.

Smith was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1823-1824 session. He was re-elected for 3 more consecutive terms. After a 2-year hiatus, Smith was re-elected to the House for 2 more terms, from 1829-1831. On November 3, 1829, Smith was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. He was re-elected Speaker for the following session on December 7, 1830. During Smith's tenure as Speaker, Act 41 of 1831 called for the tax-exempt status of the soon-to-be constructed Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

After his tenure in the House, Smith returned to his law practice in Franklin County and became involved with local temperance efforts and education advancements. In 1838 Smith was part of a committee at a convention of delegates from Franklin County Temperance Societies. He later became involved with Sons of Temperance's Evening Star Division in Chambersburg in 1845, advocating for abstaining from buying, selling, or drinking alcohol. Smith was also involved with several educational institutions, including serving as treasurer of the Pennsylvania College (now Gettysburg College) from 1844-1856, and superintendent of the Sabbath School in Cumberland County from July 13, 1832-February 3, 1856. He was elected as a school director on September 19, 1834, for the newly created Chambersburg School District after the establishment of a free schools system in the Commonwealth earlier in 1834.

In January of 1850 Smith purchased the Valley Sentinel, a Franklin County newspaper, and appointed his son, Alfred H. Smith, as editor. The newspaper was sold the following year when his son relocated to Philadelphia.

Frederick Smith died on May 3, 1861, in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. He is interred in the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.





1827-1829, 1835-1836

## *Ner Middleswarth*

Born: December 12, 1783, New Jersey.

Died: June 2, 1865, Beavertown Borough, Snyder County, PA.

Member of the House: Union County, 1815-1817, 1818-1820, 1821-1822, 1824-1826, 1827-1831, 1834-1836; Juniata, Mifflin, and Union Counties, 1841.

Affiliation: Democrat, Anti-Mason, Whig.

Ner Middleswarth spent part of his childhood in New Jersey, and received little formal education. He moved with his family to Northumberland County (now Beaver Township in Snyder County) when he was young. Middleswarth married the former Christina Schwartzkop in 1805 and had 12 children: John, Mary (Howell), Moses, Abner, Aaron, Abraham, Merib (Feese), Elizabeth (Eliza) (Feese), Jacob, Martha (Smith), Sarah (Klose), and Matilda (Riegel). During the War of 1812, Middleswarth served as part of the 9th Division, 1st Brigade in the detached volunteer corps in 1812. In 1814 he was captain of the Union Rifle Volunteers of Union County, under the Pennsylvania Volunteer Army.

Middleswarth was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat for the 1815-1816 session. He was re-elected numerous times throughout the next two decades; however, his party affiliation changed to the Anti-Mason Party in 1829. He was elected as a Whig during his last term as a Representative in 1841.

On December 4, 1827, Middleswarth was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was re-elected Speaker on December 2, 1828, and was again to a third and final term as Speaker on December 1, 1835. In addition to numerous acts pertaining to the incorporation, construction, and administration of roads, railways, and canals, as Speaker, Middleswarth signed Act 70 of 1836 calling for a convention to amend the state Constitution. The Pennsylvania Convention was held in 1837.

In 1844 Middleswarth was an unsuccessful candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania at the Democratic Anti-Masonic and Whig State Convention. In 1847 he was president of the state Democratic Whig Convention. Middleswarth was elected as a Whig to the Pennsylvania State Senate, serving 1 year in 1848. Also in 1848, he unsuccessfully campaigned for a position as State Canal Commissioner. Middleswarth was elected to the 33rd United States Congress, serving from March 4, 1853, to March 3, 1855. His final public service position was as associate judge of Snyder County for a single 5-year term beginning in 1858.

Throughout his lifelong career in politics, Middleswarth also was involved in many business and real estate endeavors. He operated grist, saw, and paper mills, as well as a distillery. He was also a principal stockholder and president of Snyder County's Beaver Furnace Company.

Ner Middleswarth died on June 2, 1865, in Beavertown Borough, Snyder County, Pennsylvania.



He is interred at the Beavertown Cemetery in Beavertown Borough, Snyder County, Pennsylvania.





1825-1827

## Joseph Ritner

**Born:** March 25, 1780, Alsace Township, Berks County, PA.

**Died:** October 16, 1869, Carlisle, Cumberland County, PA.

**Member of the House:** Washington County, 1821-1827.

**Affiliation:** Democrat.

Joseph Ritner was born March 25, 1780, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. He had little formal education, learning from tutors and his older siblings rather than attending school himself. He worked as a laborer on farms across the state, as well as a weaver, a trade his father practiced, in winter months. On May 26, 1801, he married the former Susannah Alter, and the couple had 9 children: Joseph, Abraham, Henry, Michael, Jacob, Susan (Kreichbaum), Emma, Margaret (Alter), and Peter. Ritner pursued farming in the southwestern part of the state, largely on lands in Allegheny and Washington Counties, where he relocated after his marriage. He joined the Pennsylvania Volunteer's as a private in the War of 1812, serving under Captain Benjamin Anderson, from October 2, 1812 to April 2, 1813. In the spring of 1819, Ritner was elected local supervisor of the roads and introduced the use of plows to mend roads in Buffalo Township, Washington County. He served again in this position the following year.

Ritner was elected to serve in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat for the 1821-1822 session. He was re-elected for the next 5 consecutive sessions, serving in total from 1821-1827. Ritner was elected Speaker of the House on December 6, 1825. He was unanimously re-elected Speaker for the following session on December 5, 1826. As Speaker, Ritner signed Act 50 of 1826, better known as the Personal Liberty Law, which made it illegal to forcibly transport individuals across state lines. The law aimed primarily at protecting the rights of free African-Americans who were vulnerable to kidnapping for sale into slavery. Ritner also signed Act 95 of 1827, which called for a significant expansion of the Pennsylvania Canal System.

Ritner later became affiliated with the Anti-Mason Party, which was led by Thaddeus Stevens and based on a platform of opposition to the perceived dominance of secret society members in state government. Following his tenure in the House, Ritner was chosen that party's gubernatorial candidate in 1829 and 1832, but he was not elected until a successful campaign in 1834. Ritner served one term as Governor, from 1835-1839, during which time he spoke openly against slavery and anti-education movements in the state legislature. Ultimately, the legacy of his governorship was the preservation of the Free Public School Law of 1835 through supplements passed by the legislature ensuring areas throughout the state implemented the new law. This law was objected to by many politicians, but greatly increased Pennsylvania children's access to education. Ritner also supported state regulation of banking, signing an extension of the charter for Philadelphia's



Second Bank of the United States with Act 135 of 1836.

Following his tenure as Governor, Ritner was appointed by President Zachary Taylor to the position of director of the United States Mint in 1848, but he never formally held the position due to Taylor's untimely death. Toward the end of his career, Ritner's allegiances shifted to the Republican Party, and though he served as a delegate at the first Republican National Convention in 1856, he soon left politics to focus on promotion of local education initiatives and his Cumberland County farm.

Joseph Ritner died on October 15, 1869, in Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Mount Rock Methodist Churchyard in Mount Rock, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.





1824-1825

# Joel B. Sutherland

Born: February 26, 1792, Clonmel, Gloucester County, NJ.

Died: November 15, 1861, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 1813-1816, 1821-1825.

Affiliation: Republican, Democrat.

Joel Barlow Sutherland was born on February 26, 1792, in Gloucester County, New Jersey. Sutherland trained as a doctor and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1812 with a qualifying thesis on "galvanism in the solution of the urinary calculi." After completing medical school, he joined the Junior Artillerists of Philadelphia as assistant surgeon in the War of 1812, eventually ranking as a lieutenant colonel commandant. Shortly thereafter, Sutherland became the physician at the port of Philadelphia's quarantine hospital, the Lazaretto. Sutherland married the former Mary Read on April 23, 1815, and the couple had a number of children including Charles, Thomas W., Mary, and Caroline (Mallet-Prevost). The couple also had 3 daughters that died in childhood: Lydia Ann, Mary Jane, and Anna.

Sutherland was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Republican to serve in the 1813-1814 and 1814-1815 sessions. He was re-elected for the 1815-1816 session, though his party affiliation had shifted to Democrat.

After his initial years of House service, Sutherland sought a career change. He studied law, and was admitted to the Philadelphia bar on March 30, 1819.

Sutherland was re-elected to the Pennsylvania House as a Democrat for the 1821-1822 session, and then re-elected for the next 3 consecutive sessions. Sutherland was elected Speaker of the House on December 7, 1824. During his Speakership, Sutherland signed Act 53 of 1825, a law which rechartered the Bank of North America, as well as Act 15 of 1825, which incorporated the Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company.

Sutherland was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate as a Democrat, serving from 1825 to 1827. As a Senator, Sutherland supported legislation that led to the founding of Thomas Jefferson University, then Jefferson Medical College, and he later served on the school's board of trustees. Sutherland was elected to the Twentieth United States Congress, and the 4 subsequent congresses, as a Jacksonian Democrat. During the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Congresses he served as chairman of the Committee on Commerce. In 1836 he shifted his political alliance to the Whig party, and was ultimately unsuccessful in being re-elected to serve his district in the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Congresses. In between time spent in Washington, DC, for his congressional service, Sutherland was associate judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas from 1833-1834.

In addition to his political service, Sutherland was interested in the rules of governing bodies,





and authored several manuals regarding legislative practice at the state and federal levels. In 1827 he published *A Manual of Legislative Practice and Order of Business in Deliberative Bodies* at the end of his term as a Senator. In 1841 he published *A Congressional Manual: or Outline of the Order of Business in the House of Representatives of the United States*, and a revised *Manual of Legislative Practice* was published in 1852.

Joel Barlow Sutherland died on November 15, 1861, in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is interred at the Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1820-1821

*John Gilmore*

Born: February 18, 1780, Somerset County, PA.

Died: May 11, 1845, Butler, Butler County, PA.

Member of the House: Allegheny and Butler Counties, 1816-1817,  
1818-1821, 1822-1823.

Affiliation: Federalist.

John Gilmore was born in Somerset County and raised in Washington County. He studied law under David Bradford, and was admitted to the bar in Washington County in August of 1801. He briefly relocated to Pittsburgh and was admitted to the bar there on September 28, 1801. Gilmore again relocated and was appointed to serve as a deputy attorney for Butler County in 1803. In 1803 he married the former Eleanor (Elena) Spence Anderson, and the couple had 5 children: Samuel A., John, Frank, Anna Lena (Ferrero), and Alfred. His son Samuel served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the 1836-1837 session. Another son, Alfred, served in the United States Congress from 1849-1852.

Gilmore was elected to serve in the 1816-1817 session of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Federalist. He was re-elected to serve in 3 sessions between 1818 and 1821, as well as the 1822-1823 session. Gilmore was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on December 6, 1820. During Gilmore's Speakership, the Pennsylvania Capitol, designed by architect Stephen Hills, was under construction, and was completed in December of 1821. As Speaker, Gilmore signed Act 148 of 1821, which was legislation that called for imposing taxes on "foreign merchandise" imported into the Commonwealth.

Gilmore served in the Twenty-first and Twenty-second United States Congresses as a Jacksonian Democrat, serving from March 4, 1829 to March 3, 1833. He was president of the Pennsylvania Canal Convention in 1835. The legislature of Pennsylvania elected Gilmore to serve as State Treasurer in 1841, a position he held for one year.

John Gilmore died on May 11, 1845, in Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at the North Side Cemetery in the city of Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania.



1819-1820, 1821-1824

# Joseph Lawrence

Born: 1786, Hunterstown, Adams County, PA.

Died: April 17, 1842, Washington, DC.

Member of the House: Washington County, 1818-1824, 1834-1836.

Affiliations: Democrat, Anti-Mason.

Joseph Lawrence was born near Hunterstown, Adams County, Pennsylvania in 1786. He was involved in agricultural pursuits, maintaining an interest in farming throughout his life. In 1814 Lawrence married the former Rebecca Van Eman and had 4 children: Joseph, George Van Eman, Sarah Moffitt (Moore), and Samuel. Following Rebecca's death on January 11, 1822, Lawrence married the former Maria Bucher on September 4, 1823. Lawrence and Maria had 5 children together: John Jacob, James Kennedy, William Caldwell (Anderson), Samuel Moffitt, and Susan Mary (Sanford). Lawrence's son, George Van Eman Lawrence, served in the Pennsylvania House in 1844, 1847, 1858, 1859, 1893-1896, and the Pennsylvania Senate from 1849-1851, 1861-1863, and 1876-1882. George V.E. Lawrence also served in Congress from 1865-1869 and 1883-1885. His son William C.A. Lawrence was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1858-1860, serving as Speaker from 1859-1860. Another son, Samuel M. Lawrence, was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1861 session.

Joseph Lawrence was elected as a Democrat to represent Washington County in the 1818-1819 session. He was re-elected to 5 consecutive sessions thereafter. On December 7, 1819, he was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was re-elected Speaker for 3 subsequent sessions on December 4, 1821, December 5, 1822, and on December 2, 1823. During his Speakership, Lawrence oversaw the passage of Act 116 of 1824, which incorporated the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania for the promotion of the mechanic arts.

After his initial years of service in the Pennsylvania House, Lawrence continued to work in Pennsylvania's state government. He served as president of the Pennsylvania Canal Convention in 1825, and was elected State Treasurer in 1835.

Lawrence later served in the Pennsylvania House on the platform of the Anti-Masonic/Opposition for the 1834-1835 and 1835-1836 sessions. Prior to this, he was elected to Congress as a member of the Adams party to serve in the 19th and 20th United States Congresses, serving from March 4, 1825, to March 3, 1829. He was re-elected as a Whig to serve in the Twenty-seventh United States Congress, serving from March 4, 1841, until his death on April 17, 1842. During his final year in Congress, Lawrence was chair of the Committee on Roads and Canals.

Lawrence died while in office on April 17, 1842, in Washington DC. He is interred in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC. Upon his death, then-United States Senator and



eventual United States President James Buchanan delivered his eulogy.



1817-1818

# William Davidson

Born: February 14, 1783, Carlisle, Cumberland County, PA.

Died: March 2, 1867, Connellsville, Fayette County, PA.

Member of the House: Fayette County, 1814-1815, 1816-1818.

Affiliation: Democrat.

William Davidson was born on February 14, 1783, in Carlisle, Cumberland County. He worked as a surveyor, farmer, and merchandiser in Cumberland County. He was involved in the business of iron-working, serving for a time as manager of the Laurel Ironworks and as iron-master at Finley Furnace & Iron Works (also referred to as Breakneck Furnace) in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Davidson served under General Hull in the War of 1812, and was taken as a prisoner of war on August 16, 1812, at the surrender of General Hull during the Battle of Detroit. At the conclusion of his military service, he married widow Sarah Rogers Blackstone, on December 19, 1813. The couple had 5 children: Thomas R., William H., John R., Col. Daniel Rogers, and Sarah (Norton).

Davidson was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat to serve in the 1814-1815 session. He was re-elected to serve in the 1816-1817 and 1817-1818 session. While in the House, he served alongside then-Representative, and eventual, President James Buchanan. Davidson was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on December 2, 1817. As Speaker, Davidson signed a law authorizing appropriations to veterans and veterans' widows with Act 117 of 1816. He also signed Act 30 of 1818, which established a Health Office aimed at securing the city and Port of Philadelphia from the introduction of pestilential and contagious diseases. This was a significant undertaking in an era of evolving public health techniques and quarantine precautions for maritime trade.

William Davidson died on March 2, 1867, in Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Hill Grove Cemetery in Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.



1815-1817, 1818-1819

*Rees P. Hill*

**Born: April 15, 1776, Virginia.**

**Died: November 24, 1852, Winchester, Frederick County, VA.**

**Member of the House: Greene County, 1810-1813, 1814-1819.**

**Affiliation: Republican, Democrat-Republican, Democrat.**

Rees Hill was born into a large family in Virginia, one of 12 children, but conducted most of his business in Pennsylvania. Hill became a well-known Waynesburg merchant, rising to local prominence. He married the former Nancy Heaton in 1797, and they had 11 children: Elizabeth (Hawkins), Isaac, Daniel, Bowen, Hannah, Priscilla, Mary (Rosenberry), Heaton, Rees, Amy, and Naomi (Rowland). Following Nancy's death, Hill married widow Louise Beatty Abbott, with whom he had one child, Louisa Showalter (Fellows).

Rees Hill was first elected to the legislature for the 1810-1811 session to represent Greene County as a Republican. He was re-elected for the 1811-1812 session as a Republican and the 1812-1813 session as a Democrat-Republican. Interrupting his tenure in the House, Hill served as a colonel in the War of 1812. He led the 147th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Militia, which served between May of 1813 and November of 1813. The Regiment was initially stationed at Erie and helped guard the naval facility located there, before serving in Ohio and Michigan. In October of 1818, Hill was appointed an aide-de-camp to Governor William Findlay.

Hill was re-elected to the House for the 1814-1815 session as a Democrat-Republican and was re-elected in 1815 and 1816. In 1817 Hill was re-elected as a Democrat and served 2 more consecutive sessions as a Democrat, until retiring from the House in 1820. Hill was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on December 5, 1815. He was re-elected Speaker for 2 more sessions on December 3, 1816 and on December 1, 1818. During Hill's time as Speaker, Act 32 of 1819, which banned the imprisonment of women for debts they owed, was enacted.

Hill was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania Senate and served from 1820-1824.

Following Hill's political and public service, he returned to Virginia to manage the combined estates of his father and uncles who lived in Frederick County, Virginia.

Rees Hill died November 24, 1852, in Frederick County, Virginia. He is buried in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia.



1814-1815

# Jacob Holgate

Born: June 10, 1767, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: September 19, 1832, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 1801-1806, 1810-1813,  
1814-1816, 1821-1824.

Affiliation: Democratic-Republican.

Jacob Holgate was born on June 10, 1767, in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia. Holgate was engaged in the milling industry, purchasing a gristmill with William Hicks in an area known as Mill's Hollow in what is today Luzerne County. On October 9, 1791, Holgate married the former Elizabeth Scheitz in Philadelphia. The couple had a number of children including, a daughter and sons, Henry, James, and Rueben.

Holgate was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democratic-Republican for the 1801-1802 session, serving Philadelphia County. He was re-elected 11 times throughout his political career. Holgate was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on December 6, 1814. Under his Speakership, the legislature chartered the Schuylkill Navigation Company with Act 62, which completed an extensive series of canals and dams between 1815 and 1825.

In 1810 Holgate held the position of director of the Philadelphia National Bank. In 1824 Holgate was appointed to the state's newly created Internal Improvements Commission to explore the possibility of a Harrisburg to Pittsburgh canal route. He and several other delegates offered public addresses on the subject of waterway improvements at a canal convention held in Harrisburg in 1825, which were published.

In 1828 Holgate served as a Presidential elector for Andrew Jackson.

Jacob Holgate died on September 19, 1832, in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. He is interred in St. Michael's Lutheran Churchyard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



1814

# John St. Clair

(Elected to replace Robert Smith following his resignation)

Born: Unknown.

Died: Unknown:

Member of the House: Fayette County, 1811-1814.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Many details about John St. Clair's early life are not known. In the first decade of the nineteenth century, he was a language and mathematics teacher at the Union Academy in Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He was also an operator of the Fairfield Furnace, a successful iron forge in Fayette County.

St. Clair was elected as a Democrat to represent Fayette County for the 1811- 1812 session. During his first term in office, Pennsylvania's seat of government was officially relocated to Harrisburg in 1812, though at this time, a formal government building had not yet been constructed for use by the General Assembly. The House and Senate met in the original Dauphin County Courthouse, which is no longer standing. St. Clair was re-elected for the 1813-1814 session. St. Clair became Speaker of the Pennsylvania House after Robert Smith resigned on February 14, 1814. During St. Clair's Speakership, the House dealt with much legislation relating to the War of 1812, which continued until early 1815. Act 98 of 1814, also known as the Omnibus Bank Act, established dozens of new banks outside of the city of Philadelphia. Additionally, Pike County was created with Act 119 of 1814.

St. Clair left the House following his term as Speaker, and was appointed Fayette County prothonotary on April 6, 1818. He was reappointed to the position on February 12, 1821. St. Clair returned to the legislature to serve as a Pennsylvania State Senator from 1822-1826, representing Fayette County again as a Democrat.

John St. Clair's death and burial location are unknown.





1813-1814

# Robert Smith

Born: 1766, Mercersburg, Franklin County, PA.

Died: April 21, 1849, Franklin County, PA.

Member of the House: Franklin County, 1807-1809, 1811-1814,  
1815-1816, 1823-1824.

Affiliation: Republican, Democratic-Republican, Democrat.

Robert Smith was born in 1766 in Mercersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. On November 16, 1790, he married the former Elizabeth Irwin, and the couple had 3 children: Jane (Dean), William, and Sarah (Findlay).

Smith began his career in public service as Franklin County auditor, between 1805 and 1807.

Smith was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat for the 1807-1808 session. He was re-elected to serve the House for several subsequent sessions: 1808-1809, 1811-1814, and 1815-1816. Smith was elected Speaker of the House on December 7, 1813. However, he soon resigned the position, on February 14, 1814. In 1819 Smith was elected to serve Franklin County in the Pennsylvania State Senate. He served in the Senate until 1823, when he was re-elected to the House for the 1823-1824 session. Smith was also elected as an associate judge for the Franklin County Court from 1836-1843.

Robert Smith died on April 21, 1849, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Church Hill Graveyard in Mercersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.





1811-1813

*John Tod*

Born: 1779, Hartford, Hartford County, CT.  
Died: March 27, 1830, Bedford, Bedford County, PA.  
Member of the House: Bedford County, 1808-1813.  
Affiliation: Democrat.

John Tod was born in 1799 in Hartford County, Connecticut. He attended Yale College and was admitted to the Hartford County, Connecticut, bar in 1800. He relocated to Maryland briefly where he taught at Charlotte Hall School in Aquasco, Maryland. Tod soon moved again, this time to Bedford County, Pennsylvania. He was admitted to the Bedford County bar in August of 1802 and later was admitted to the Somerset County bar on May 9, 1805. Tod established a law practice in city of Bedford. From 1806-1807, Tod worked as a clerk for the commissioners of Bedford County. Tod married the former Mary Read Hanna in 1810, and the couple had 5 children: Julia Ann (Briggs), Rachel (Gilmore), Isabella (Kerr), Mary, and Henrietta.

Tod was elected to represent Bedford County as a Democratic-Republican for the 1808-1809 session. He was re-elected for 4 more consecutive sessions, serving until 1813. On December 3, 1811, he was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. Tod was re-elected Speaker on December 1, 1812. As Speaker, Tod oversaw the passage of Act 52 of 1812, which created Lebanon County.

After his House Service, Tod was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate from 1813-1817. He was elected Speaker of the Senate on December 6, 1814, and again on December 5, 1815. He resigned his seat in the Senate on December 20, 1816, due to taking a leave of absence to attend to private business. Tod was elected to the Seventeenth and Eighteenth United States Congresses, and served from March 4, 1821 until 1824, when he resigned. During his time in Congress, he served as chairman on the Committee on Manufactures. On June, 8 1824, Tod was appointed to presiding judge for the Sixteenth Judicial District of the Court of Common Pleas. He served in that position until his May 25, 1827, appointment as associate judge of the State Supreme Court. Tod held the position until his death.

John Tod died on March 27, 1830 in Bedford, Pennsylvania. He is interred at the Bedford Cemetery in the city of Bedford, Bedford County, Pennsylvania.



1810-1811

*John Weber*

(Elected to replace James Engle following his resignation)

Born: October 8, 1768, Montgomery County, PA.

Died: August 24, 1815, Skippack, Montgomery County, PA.

Member of the House: Montgomery County, 1806-1811.

Affiliation: Democratic-Republican.

John Weber was born on October 8, 1768, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania to a Pennsylvania German family. He built a number of successful mills in Pennsylvania, including ones located on the Wissahickon Creek, one in Collegeville, and another near Evansburg, all within Montgomery County. Weber married the former Elizabeth Reiff, and the couple had 5 children: George, Christian, Joseph, Mary (Bean), and John. His brother, Jesse Weber, also served in the House in 1844, representing Montgomery County.

Weber was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1806-1807 session as a Democratic-Republican. He was reelected for 4 more consecutive sessions, serving through 1811. Weber was elected Speaker of the House on January 30, 1810, after the resignation of James Engle. He was re-elected Speaker for the following session on December 4, 1810. During Weber's Speakership, Act 30 of 1810 created Bradford County, and Act 54 of 1811 created Schuylkill County.

John Weber died on August 24, 1815, in Skippack, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He is interred in Wentz United Church of Christ Cemetery in Worchester, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.



1808-1810

# James Engle

(Elected to replace Nathaniel Boileau following his resignation)

Born: 1757, Germantown, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: January 5, 1821, Germantown, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 1801-1810.

Affiliation: Democratic-Republican.

James Engle was born in 1757 in Germantown, Pennsylvania. During the Revolutionary War, he served as a sergeant for the Second Pennsylvania Battalion in 1776, and later that year he was commissioned as an ensign. In 1777 he was promoted to second lieutenant for the Third Pennsylvania Battalion. Prior to beginning a career in politics, Engle worked as a lawyer. Around the turn of the century, he served as one of Philadelphia's Guardians of the Poor. On May 5, 1785, Engle married the widowed Margaret Marshall (nee Adam), and the couple had 2 daughters; Susan Engle (Negus) and Sarah Ann Engle (Patterson).

Engle was elected as a Democratic-Republican for the 1801-1802 session. He was re-elected for 8 more consecutive sessions. Engle was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on December 21, 1808, after the resignation of Nathaniel Boileau. Engle was re-elected Speaker on December 5, 1809. During his Speakership, Engle oversaw the passage of Act 28 of 1809, which called for numerous changes to the structure of the state's court system, as well as Act 100 of 1809, which established an academy in the Borough of Harrisburg. Engle resigned his Speakership on January 30, 1810, citing "the consequences of indisposition." John Weber of Montgomery County was elected to replace Engle.

James Engle died on January 5, 1821, in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. His burial location is unknown.



1808

# Nathaniel B. Boileau

Born: 1763, Hatboro, Montgomery County, PA.

Died: March 16, 1850, Montgomery County, PA.

Member of the House: Montgomery County, 1797-1802, 1803-1805, 1806-1809.

Affiliation: Democratic-Republican.

Nathaniel Britton Boileau (alternatively spelled Brittan Billew) was raised in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Boileau attended Princeton University, graduating with an A.B. in 1789 and an A.M. in 1795. As a student, he took an interest in navigation, and assisted the inventor John Fitch with construction of an early model of one of the first steamboats. He began farming in Bucks County after his graduation, and entered politics shortly thereafter. Boileau was engaged to the former Charlotte Leech, daughter of former Speaker Thomas Leech, but she passed away prior to their nuptials. He later married her sister, Hester Leech, in 1795. The couple had one child, Thomas Leech, who practiced law in Philadelphia. After Hester's death in 1797, he married another sister, Ann Leech. The couple had no children.

Boileau was first elected as a Democratic-Republican to the Pennsylvania House for the 1797-1798 session. He was re-elected to serve in 9 more sessions. On Tuesday, December 6, 1808, Boileau was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. During his brief tenure as Speaker, he was engaged in legislative efforts to clarify legal distinctions between English and state laws. On December 20, 1808, Boileau was appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth, also referred to as Secretary of State, by Governor Simon Snyder, a position he held for 9 years. Boileau resigned the Speakership on December 21, 1808.

From 1803-1806, Boileau was involved with the Montgomery County Volunteer Militia as paymaster. In the War of 1812, Boileau served as Aide-de-Camp with the rank of lieutenant-colonel under Governor Snyder. He used his private resources to aid the American Militia, leveraging his property to provide supplies to the troops nearby. Boileau then served as acting Adjutant-General from May of 1816 to January of 1817. In 1817 he was favored as a candidate for the Democratic-Republican ticket for Governor, but the campaign was unsuccessful. After this loss, which Boileau contested under the grounds that he believed corrupt influences had led to the nomination of William Findlay over himself, Boileau stepped back from public service for many years. He became involved in anti-Masonic efforts from 1829-1834, serving as an elector of William Wirt for the Anti-Masonic Presidential ticket in 1832. He was appointed as Montgomery County's Register of Wills in January of 1836, an office he held for 3 years until his retirement to his nearby farm.

Boileau and his family are noted for their participation in assisting fugitives fleeing southern plantations at their property in Hatboro, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.



Nathaniel Boileau died on March 16, 1850, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Abington Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.



1805-1806

# Charles Porter

Born: c. 1765.

Died: c. 1848. Member of the House: Fayette County, 1801-1806 and 1807-1808.

Affiliation: Democratic-Republican, Constitutionalist.

The details surrounding the early life of Charles Porter are unknown. He married the former Jane Baird, and the couple had a number of children including John, James, Margaret McFadden, Leah David, Anne Armstrong, Mary French, and Charles.

Charles Porter was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representative as a Democratic-Republican for the 1801-1802 session. He was re-elected for 4 consecutive sessions from 1802-1806, as well as for the 1807-1808 session after a year hiatus. In 1804 legislation creating the Union and Cumberland Turnpike Road Company, naming Porter as one of its commissioners, was passed. Porter was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House on December 3, 1805. For the 1805-1806 session, Porter's party affiliation was with the Constitutionals, which were comprised of Federalists and Quids — the latter of which he was noted as being associated with for the 1807-1808 session.

Following the session ending in 1806, he was unsuccessful in his campaign for re-election to the House as a Federalist. He campaigned for a seat in the United States Congress in 1820 as a Federalist, but was also unsuccessful. In 1828 he served as an associate judge in Fayette County. Porter served as a trustee and member of the board of directors for Union Academy in Uniontown.

The death date and burial location of Charles Porter are unknown.





1803-1805, 1806-1808

# Simon Snyder

(Elected to replace Isaac Weaver, Jr., following his resignation)

Born: November 5, 1759, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA.

Died: November 9, 1819, Selinsgrove, Union County (now Snyder County), PA.

Member of the House: Northumberland County, 1797-1804, 1806-1808.

Affiliation: Democratic-Republican.

Simon Snyder was born to a Pennsylvania German family in Lancaster County and was educated as a Quaker. He served an apprenticeship as a tanner and currier while a young man, and eventually moved to Selinsgrove, where he ran a store and operated a grist mill. It was there that he made his first foray into politics when he was elected as a justice of the peace in Penn Township in 1784. He held the position for 12 years. Snyder was elected in 1789 to serve as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in 1789-1790. Snyder married the former Elizabeth Michael in 1790, and the couple had 2 children, Amelia (Jenks) and John. His son John served in the 27th United States Congress. Following his first wife's death in 1794, he married the former Catherine Antes, and the couple had 5 children together: Henry W., George A., Philip F., and Antes. Another child, also named Antes, died in childhood. In 1814 he married the former Mary Slough Scott, with whom he spent the final years of his life.

Snyder was elected to the Pennsylvania House to represent Northumberland County for the 1797-1798 session. He was re-elected for 6 more consecutive sessions. In 1805 Snyder challenged Governor Thomas McKean, but was unsuccessful at defeating the incumbent. After a 2-year hiatus, Snyder was again re-elected to the Pennsylvania House for the 1806-1807 and 1807-1808 sessions. After the resignation of Isaac Weaver, Jr., on March 1, 1803, Snyder was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. On December 6, 1803, Snyder was re-elected for a full term as Speaker for the 1803-1804 session. He was reelected Speaker on December 4, 1804, for the 1804-1805 session, on December 2, 1806, for the 1806-1807 session, as well as on December 1, 1807, for the 1807-1808 session. During his Speakership, Cambria County was created with Act 16 of 1807. On January 14, 1808, in his capacity as Speaker, Snyder wrote a letter to Thomas Jefferson pledging the allegiance of the Commonwealth's Representatives to the nation in the struggle against Great Britain.

Snyder was elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1808 and re-elected in 1811 and 1814, serving until 1817. In 1812 Snyder signed Act 29 of 1810, which called for the official state capital to be moved from Lancaster to Harrisburg. Throughout his governorship, Snyder wrestled with issues of state versus Federal sovereignty, a controversial issue in early 19th century American politics. He was also responsible for directing the state's mobilization during the War of 1812.





Following his time as Governor, Snyder was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in 1817. He remained in that office until his death.

Simon Snyder died on November 9, 1819, in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. He is interred in the Old Lutheran Cemetery in Selinsgrove, Snyder County, Pennsylvania. In 1855 the legislature incorporated and named Snyder County in honor of him.



1799-1803

# Isaac Weaver, Jr.

**Born:** March 1, 1756, Providence, Chester County, PA.

**Died:** May 22, 1830, Waynesburg, Greene County, PA.

**Member of the House:** Greene County, 1797-1803.

**Affiliation:** Democratic-Republican.

Isaac Weaver, Jr., was born into a Quaker family in Chester County, before moving to study in Philadelphia. He became a schoolteacher, and served in the Chester County militia under Captain Jonathan Vernon during the Revolutionary War. He married the former Abigail Price, and the couple had 11 children: Ann, Rachel (Heaton), William, Joshua, Isaac, Harmon, Elizabeth (Heaton), Price, Sarah (Heaton), Nancy (Heaton), and David. Following Abigail's death in 1813, Weaver married Rachel Husband.

Weaver was elected as a Democratic-Republican to represent Greene County for the 1797-1798 session. He was re-elected for 5 more consecutive sessions, serving through 1803. Weaver was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on December 4, 1799. He was re-elected for 3 consecutive years thereafter, on November 5, 1800, December 1, 1801, and December 7, 1802. As Speaker, Weaver oversaw the passage of Act 33 of 1802, which overhauled the offices of justices of the peace in Pennsylvania, calling for justices to live in the district they were appointed to and regulating where their offices could operate. Weaver resigned the Speakership on March 1, 1803, and Simon Snyder was elected to take the position.

From 1803-1807, Weaver served as Treasurer for the Commonwealth. In 1808 he was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate, serving until 1820. Weaver was elected Speaker of the Senate for the 1817-1818, 1818-1819, and 1819-1820 terms.

During his career in public affairs, Weaver was a correspondent of President Thomas Jefferson's, and advised against his retirement in 1807.

Isaac Weaver, Jr., died on May 22, 1830. He is interred at Jefferson Cemetery, Jefferson, Greene County, Pennsylvania, following re-internment from the family cemetery on his farm near Castile Run, also in Greene County.





1798-1799

# Cadwalader Evans

Born: December 25, 1762, Gwynedd, Montgomery County, PA.

Died: October 26, 1841, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the House: Montgomery County, 1790-1799, 1802-1803, 1805-1806;  
Philadelphia City, 1814-1815, 1829-1830. Affiliation: Federalist.

Cadwalader Evans was born on December 25, 1762, in Montgomery County. Evans trained as a surveyor and was responsible for the surveying of much of western Pennsylvania. In 1807 Evans married the former Harriet Verena Musser and the couple had 9 children: Julianna Doddrige, Margaret Eleanor, John Glendour, Rowland Edanis, Edmund, William Elbert, Cadwalader, Manlius Glendour, and Harriet Verena Ogden.

Evans was elected to represent Montgomery County as a Federalist to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1790-1791 session. He was re-elected for 8 more consecutive sessions, as well as re-elected to the House for the 1802-1803 and 1805-1806 sessions. Evans was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on December 5, 1798. During his Speakership, the House began to meet in the Lancaster County Courthouse.

In 1811 Evans was appointed by the legislature to act as a member of a five-person commission tasked with making the Schuylkill River more traversable, namely by erecting a permanent bridge. The following year, Evans became the first president of the Schuylkill Navigation Company, known for its construction of the Schuylkill Canal, which was completed in 1825 and facilitated the much-needed transport of coal. In 1830, due to advancing age, he resigned the presidency. From 1816-1821 and from 1823 until his death, he was a shareholder in the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, an eminent private lending library in the city.

After relocation to Philadelphia, Evans was re-elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, serving Philadelphia City, for the 1814-1815 and 1829-1830 sessions.

Cadwalader Evans died on October 26, 1841. He is interred at Laurel Hill Cemetery in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1793-1798

# George Latimer

Born: July 8, 1750, Newport, New Castle County, DE.  
Died: June 12, 1825, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.  
Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 1792-1798.  
Affiliation: Federalist.

George Latimer was born in Delaware on July 8, 1750, where his father operated flour mills. The Latimer family supported the Revolution and George Latimer served as a lieutenant colonel in the war in Col. Samuel Patterson's Delaware Battalion. Following the Revolutionary War, Latimer lived in Philadelphia and maintained a successful flour mercantile business in the city and acted also as president of the Union Fire Insurance Company. On April 5, 1786, Latimer was appointed one of five Commissioners on Navigation of the Susquehanna to investigate possible improvements for use and traversal of the Susquehanna River. The following year, he was selected to serve as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. He also served as collector for the Port of Philadelphia from 1799-1802. On February 20, 1771, he married the former Margaret Cathcart, and the couple had 5 children: Elizabeth, Margaret, Robert Cathcart, Sarah, and James.

Latimer was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Federalist for the 1792-1793 session. He was re-elected for 5 more consecutive sessions. On December 4, 1793, he was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. He was re-elected on December 4, 1794; December 2, 1795; December 7, 1796; and December 6, 1797. During his Speakership, Lycoming and Greene Counties were established. As a legislator, he also supported fire safety measures for the city of Philadelphia, and during his tenure, legislation was passed requiring householders to maintain buckets for rapid fire extinguishment.

During the War of 1812, Latimer served on the Philadelphia Committee of Defense.

George Latimer died on June 12, 1825. He is interred at Third Presbyterian Burial Ground in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1792-1793

# Gerardus Wynkoop II

Born: September 30, 1732, Northampton Township, Bucks County, PA.

Died: June 28, 1812, Northampton Township, Bucks County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Bucks County, 1774-1775.

Member of the General Assembly: 1778-1782, 1786-1789.

Member of the House, 1790-1794, 1799-1800.

Affiliation: Constitutionalist, Republican, Federalist.

Gerardus Wynkoop II was born in 1732 in Northampton Township, Bucks County. Wynkoop served as a first lieutenant in the Northampton Company in the Revolutionary War. Wynkoop II was married to the former Elizabeth Bennet on December 7, 1758, and the couple had 8 children: David, Gerrit (Garret), Isaac, Matthew, Cornelius, Lucretia, John, Elizabeth Rose, Susannah Wylie, and William. His son, David Wynkoop, served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1814-1820.

Wynkoop II was elected to represent Bucks County in the Colonial Assembly for the 1774 and 1775 sessions. After the Revolution, he was re-elected as a Constitutionalist to the General Assembly for the 1778-1779 session. Wynkoop II was re-elected for a number of sessions from 1778-1782, 1786-1794, and 1799-1800. During this time, he participated in the call for a state Constitutional Convention in 1789 in order to alter the Constitution of Pennsylvania. He remained in the Assembly after the 1790 Constitutional Convention, at which time the legislature became bicameral. In addition to his service in the Assembly, on September 20, 1792, Wynkoop II chaired a meeting at which Presidential electors and congressional seats were selected.

Wynkoop II was elected Speaker of the House on December 4, 1792.<sup>1</sup> His Speakership coincided with the most memorable of all public health disasters to impact the city of Philadelphia: the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793. During the epidemic, the city of Philadelphia was evacuated, and the legislature focused on the disaster for several subsequent sessions through the enactment of stricter public health laws.

Gerardus Wynkoop II died on June 18, 1812, at his home in Northampton Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His is interred at the Low Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery in Richboro, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

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<sup>1</sup> On December 21, 1786, Mifflin resigned his position as Speaker due to illness. He resumed the Speakership on December 26, 1787, after his recovery. During his convalescence, Gerardus Wynkoop II was elected and served as Speaker. While the House went through a formal resignation and election process of a new Speaker during this time, Wynkoop's temporary service is believed to be a precursor to the contemporary practice of assigning a Speaker pro tempore when the elected Speaker is unable to preside over session.





1790-1792

# William Bingham

**Born:** March 8, 1752, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

**Died:** February 7, 1804, Bath, Somerset, England.

**Member of the House:** Philadelphia City, 1790-1792.

**Affiliation:** Federalist.

William Bingham was born on March 8, 1752, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated with an A.B. in 1768 and an A.M. in 1771 from the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania). Following his formal studies, Bingham served as an apprentice under Philadelphia merchant Thomas Warton. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, he served the British as Consul in St. Pierre, Martinique, from 1770-1776. However, he transferred his loyalties to the colonists, and in 1775 he became the Secretary of the Committee of Secret Correspondence of the Second Continental Congress. Bingham served the Continental Congress as a propagandist, spied on British movements, and facilitated the smuggling of weapons to the Revolutionaries back in the Colonies. He remained in Martinique until 1780, amassing a large fortune from intercepted British cargo. Later that year he married the former Anne Willing, and the couple had 3 children: William, Ann Baring, and Maria Matilda Baring.

Upon return to Pennsylvania, Bingham used his increased wealth to found and direct the first bank in the United States, the Pennsylvania Bank. He also invested extensively in land in the states of Maine and New York, as well as Pennsylvania. Binghamton, in Broome County, New York, is named in honor of him. From 1786-1788 Bingham served as a representative in the Continental Congress. He supported territorial expansion and acted as president of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Company in 1791. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society and a patron of the arts, possibly most famously of Gilbert Stuart, portraitist of George Washington.

Bingham was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Federalist for the 1790-1791 and 1791-1792 terms. Bingham was elected Speaker of the House on December 8, 1790. He was the first Speaker of the House after the 1790 Constitutional Convention created a bicameral legislature, where both the House and Senate comprised the General Assembly. He was re-elected Speaker on December 7, 1791.

Bingham was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in 1794. He served as Speaker of the Pennsylvania Senate from 1794-1795. He was elected to represent Pennsylvania in the United States Senate, and served from March 4, 1795, to March 3, 1801. Bingham served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate during the Fourth Congress. He did not seek re-election to Congress at the close of the 1801 session in order to tend to his private business interests. In 1801 he relocated to Bath, Somerset, England, to live with his daughter.



William Bingham died on February 7, 1804, in Bath, England. He is interred at Bath Abbey in Bath, Somerset, England.





1788-1790

## Richard Peters II

Born: June 22, 1744, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: August 28, 1828, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the General Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1787-1790.

Affiliation: Republican.

Richard Peters II was born and raised on his family's estate, known as Belmont, on land that is now Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. His uncle and namesake, the eminent Philadelphian and Rev. Dr. Richard Peters I ministered at Christ Church and St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia. Richard Peters II studied at the Academy of Philadelphia and graduated from the College of Philadelphia (now University of Pennsylvania) in 1761. He earned a master of arts degree in 1765, and much later in life, was awarded an honorary doctorate in law from the university in 1827. Peters II was also a trustee of the University from 1788-1790. Upon completion of his studies, he began his career as a lawyer and was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia in 1763. In his private life, he maintained an experimental interest in agriculture and farmed land at Fairmount Park. He was also responsible for founding and acting as first president of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society. Peters II was married to the former Sarah Robinson, and together the couple had 6 children: Ralph, Richard, Maria Wilhelmina, Thomas, Sarah Robinson, and another son named Thomas as well.

As a Republican, and later a Federalist, Peters II supported the Revolution. He became active in the military when he took the position of register of the admiralty from 1771-1776. Also in 1771, he was part of the Continental Army. His military service was recognized with promotion by Congress to the Continental Board of War from 1776-1781, on which he served as secretary. Peters II was a delegate in the Second Continental Congress from 1782-1783.

Peters II was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1787-1788 session. He was re-elected for 2 more consecutive sessions. On November 1, 1788, Peters II was elected Speaker of the General Assembly. Peters II was unanimously re-elected Speaker on December 2, 1789, making him the last Speaker of the unicameral General Assembly. After the death of Benjamin Franklin in April of 1790, Speaker Peters was part of the funeral procession from Franklin's home to his burial location at Christ Church.

After the 1790 Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, Pennsylvania's Assembly transitioned from a unicameral to a bicameral legislature. Peters II was elected to the newly created Pennsylvania Senate to represent Philadelphia city, as well as Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, from 1790-1791. He was elected as the Senate's first Speaker in 1790. Peters was re-elected to the Senate for the 1791-1792 session. Peters II resigned his Senate seat on January 31, 1792, to fulfill an appointment by George Washington as United States district judge for the district of Pennsylvania,

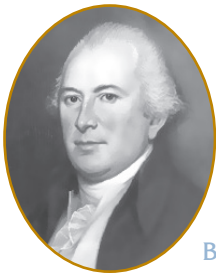




a position he held until his death.

Richard Peters II died on August 28, 1828. He is interred at St. Peter's Episcopal Churchyard in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





1785-1786, 1787-1788

# Thomas Mifflin

Born: January 10, 1744, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: January 20, 1800, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia City, 1774-1775.

Member of the General Assembly: Philadelphia City, 1778-1779;

Berks County: 1780-1781; Philadelphia County: 1785-1788.

Member of the House: Philadelphia County, 1799-January 20, 1800.

Affiliation: Republican, Democrat-Republican.

Thomas Mifflin was born and raised in the city of Philadelphia into a prominent, wealthy Quaker family. In 1760 he graduated from the College of Philadelphia (now University of Pennsylvania). He went on to work for William Coleman, an eminent Philadelphia merchant. He then established a successful mercantile career for himself. On March 4, 1765, Mifflin married his cousin, the former Sarah Moore.

Mifflin was elected to represent Philadelphia City in the Colonial Assembly from 1774-1775. In 1775 he requested that his election be voided which was approved on November 24, 1775, and his seat was filled by David Rittenhouse.

In 1774 Mifflin was elected to serve in the First Continental Congress. There he worked on drafting the Continental Association, an effort to boycott English goods, which was adopted by Congress. Mifflin returned to serve in the Second Continental Congress in 1775.

Mifflin left the Second Continental Congress in June of 1775 after the creation of the Continental Army. He was chosen by General George Washington to serve as an aide-de-camp on July 4, 1775, but he was quickly promoted to Quartermaster General in the Continental Army on August 14, 1775. Mifflin was again promoted, this time to Major General, on February 19, 1776. Mifflin remained active in the military until his resignation in 1779. In 1782 Mifflin was elected to the Confederation Congress, in which he served until 1784. From November of 1783 to June of 1784, Mifflin served as president of the Congress.

Mifflin was re-elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly for the 1778-1779 session to represent Philadelphia City. He was re-elected for the following session; this time, however, to represent Berks County. After a brief hiatus, Mifflin was re-elected, this time to represent Philadelphia County, for the 1785-1786 session. He was re-elected for 2 more consecutive terms. On October 27, 1785, Mifflin was elected Speaker of the Assembly. He was re-elected Speaker on October 26, 1786. Mifflin was re-elected for a third term as Speaker on October 24, 1787.<sup>1</sup> During his time as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House, Mifflin served as a Commonwealth representative at the United States Constitutional Convention in 1787. On November 25, 1789, he was elected



president of the Constitutional Convention for Pennsylvania.

Mifflin was elected president of the Supreme Executive Council for the Commonwealth in 1788. He held this title until the 1790 Constitution altered the name of the office to “Governor” of the Commonwealth. In 1790 Mifflin was re-elected, this time with the new title and distinction of being the first Governor of Pennsylvania. Mifflin was re-elected Governor in 1793 and in 1796. As Governor, he was considered responsible for diminishing Pennsylvania’s debt after the Revolutionary War, instigating public works development, and laying the groundwork for a modern penal code in the Commonwealth. Mifflin also oversaw increased political regulation, especially of banking and of political parties.

Following his time as Governor, Mifflin was elected one more time to serve Philadelphia County as a member of the House of Representatives for the 1799-1800 session; however, he died before the end of the term.

During his lifetime, on September 19, 1789, Mifflin County was named in his honor, created out of parts of Cumberland and Northumberland Counties.

Thomas Mifflin died on January 20, 1800 in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

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1 On December 21, 1786, Mifflin resigned his position as Speaker due to illness. He resumed the Speakership on December 26, 1787, after his recovery. During his convalescence, Gerardus Wynkoop II was elected and served as Speaker. While the Assembly went through a formal resignation and election process of a new Speaker during this time, Wynkoop’s temporary service is believed to be a precursor to the contemporary practice of assigning a Speaker Pro Tempore when the elected Speaker is unable to preside over session.



1783-1784

# George Gray

Born: October 26, 1725, Germantown, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: January 22, 1800, Blockley Township (now the city of Philadelphia),

Philadelphia County, PA. Member of the Colonial Assembly:

Philadelphia County, 1772-1776.

Member of the General Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1780-1784.

Affiliation: Republican.

George Gray was born into a prominent Philadelphia Quaker family, though he was not an active Friend himself. Gray owned and operated Gray's Ferry, providing passage across the Schuylkill River, for which the area is now named. Gray became involved with public affairs at a young age, and beginning in 1748 he became a lieutenant in Company Nine of the Associators, a volunteer militia. On November 25, 1752, he was married to the former Martha Ibbetson, and the couple had 13 children: Elizabeth Coultas (Leiper), George, Robert, James Coultas, Mary, Margaret (Knowles), William, Martha (Thomas), Rebecca, Sarah, Ann, as well as 2 daughters also named Elizabeth that died in childhood.

In 1772 Gray formally began his political career with his election to the Colonial Assembly, on which he served through its transition to becoming the State Assembly in 1776. Gray was elected to the newly independent General Assembly, but absented himself and the seat was filled in a special election. He became standard bearer of the Associators, of which he had long been affiliated, in 1776. He later acted as a delegate in the military convention to select brigadier generals for Pennsylvania's Associated Battalions.

After stepping down from service in the General Assembly, Gray was appointed by the Governor to the Committee of Safety, and in March of 1777, the Executive Council appointed him as chair of the Board of War. In that capacity, he was present at the Battle of Brandywine. He also authored the texts referred to as the "Treason Resolutions."

Gray was re-elected to the General Assembly for the 1780-1781 session. He was re-elected for 3 more consecutive sessions. On October 30, 1783, Gray was elected Speaker of the Assembly. During his Speakership, the Assembly sought proposals for the creation of a town to be situated on the east bank of the Susquehanna River. This call was answered by John Harris' donation of 4 acres to the Commonwealth, creating what is now Harrisburg.

Gray was active in Philadelphia political, civic, intellectual, and education affairs. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society; a correspondent of Benjamin Franklin, John Dickinson, and Benjamin Rush; and a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania from 1783-1784. In 1787 he was a delegate for the ratification of the federal Constitution. In 1789 he was a delegate to

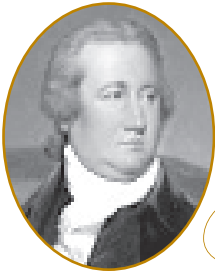


Pennsylvania's Constitutional Convention.

George Gray died on January 22, 1800, in Blockley Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. His burial location is unknown.



1780-1783



# Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg

**Born:** January 1, 1750, Trappe, Philadelphia County (now Montgomery County), PA.

**Died:** June 5, 1801, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA.

**Member of the General Assembly:** Philadelphia County, 1780-1783.

**Affiliation:** Republican.

Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg was born January 1, 1750, in Trappe, Pennsylvania, to Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, a well-known Pennsylvania German minister in the Lutheran Church, as well as a direct descendant of diplomat and Native American interpreter Conrad Weiser. He attended the University of Halle in Germany, and remained abroad from 1763-1770. He became ordained in the Lutheran Church, and upon return to Pennsylvania, he married the former Catherine Schaeffer on October 15, 1771. The couple had 7 children who lived to adulthood, including, Maria Heister, William Henry, Elizabeth Irwin, Margareth Sperry, P. David, and Catharine Shaeff.

Muhlenberg and his wife established themselves near Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania, where he ministered to several Lutheran congregations in the region until 1774, when he accepted a position in New York City. They quickly returned to Pennsylvania for the safety of their growing family, however, as Revolutionary tensions escalated.

Muhlenberg began his career in politics with an unsought nomination to the Continental Congress in 1779, representing a strong base among the Pennsylvania German population. Muhlenberg was elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly as a Republican for the 1780-1781 term, and was re-elected for the 2 following sessions. On November 3, 1780, he was elected Speaker of the Assembly. He was re-elected Speaker on November 9, 1781, and again on November 1, 1782.

After leaving his Assembly service, Muhlenberg advocated revising the Pennsylvania Constitution and United States Articles of Confederation, and presided over the 1787 Pennsylvania ratifying convention, at which the Federal Constitution was approved. In 1789 he was elected as a Pro-Administration candidate to represent Pennsylvania in the First United States Congress. He also has the distinction of becoming the first Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. Muhlenberg was re-elected to the Second and Third Congresses as an Anti-Administration candidate, as well as to the Fourth Congress as a Republican. He served as Speaker a second time for the Third Congress.



During his fourth term in Congress, while serving as the chair of the Committee of the Whole, a committee that is comprised of the entire House for the purpose of considering complex or controversial legislation, he was instrumental in the passage of the Jay Treaty. The treaty, which was designed to address the lingering economic and political conflicts from the Revolutionary War, was controversial within Congress, and Muhlenberg's support ultimately was seen as a betrayal by many Republicans. Muhlenberg's brother-in-law, Bernard Schaeffer, a loyal Republican, was particularly upset and went so far as to stab Muhlenberg on May 4, 1796. Muhlenberg survived the incident, but his political career in Congress never recovered.

In conjunction with his activities at the national level, Muhlenberg maintained connections with local politics and business in his home county of Montgomery, serving as a justice of the peace from March 19, 1784, to January 14, 1789, and maintaining a general store in Trappe. Also in 1784, he was the first president judge of the Montgomery County Court, the Registrar of Wills, and Recorder of Deeds for the newly created county, which was formed from part of Philadelphia County. Muhlenberg's later political positions included president of the Council of Censors of Pennsylvania, and from 1800-1801, receiver general for the Pennsylvania Land Office. The latter role prompted his relocation to the city of Lancaster, then the capital of the Commonwealth.

Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg died on June 4, 1801, in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He is interred at the Woodward Hill Cemetery in Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.



1777-1778

# James McLene

**Born:** October 14, 1730, New London, Chester County, PA.

**Died:** March 13, 1806, Antrim Township, Franklin County, PA.

**Member of the Assembly:** Cumberland County, 1776-1778; Franklin County, 1790-1791, 1793-1794.

**Affiliation:** Constitutionalist, Democratic-Republican.

James McLene (McLane/M'Clean/M. Lane) was born on October 14, 1730, in New London, Pennsylvania. He was educated under the Reverend Francis Alison and relocated to Cumberland County when he was 23 years old. On July 5, 1753, McLene married the former Christina Brown, and the couple had a number of children including Daniel, Thomas Brown, Mary (Smith), James, John, Lazarus Brown, and E. McFerran (McPheron).

McLene began his political career as a member of the Provincial Conference held at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia beginning on June 18, 1776. The following month, on July 15, he served as a delegate at the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1776. McLene was elected as a Constitutionalist to represent Cumberland County for the 1776-1777 session of Pennsylvania's newly independent Assembly. During his first term he was part of the Military Committee as well as assigned the task of conferring with delegates from Maryland and Virginia regarding boundary lines. McLene was re-elected the following session, and on November 20, 1777, he was elected Speaker of the General Assembly. He resigned the Speakership on February 20, 1778, when John Bayard returned from his engagement in the war effort.

On November 6, 1778, McLene was appointed to the Supreme Executive Council and served for 2 years. He was a delegate at the Continental Congress in 1779 and 1780. On November 10, 1783, McLene was elected to the Council of Censors. From February 2, 1783, to October 23, 1787, and from 1787-1789, McLene served as Councilor of the newly created Franklin County. He also served as a member of the 1790 Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention.

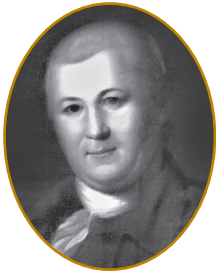
McLene was re-elected to Pennsylvania's General Assembly as a Democratic-Republican for the 1790-1791 session, this time representing Franklin County. He was re-elected for the 1793-1794 session.

Following his Assembly service, he was commissioned a justice of the peace on March 18, 1800, for Franklin County.

James McLene died on March 13, 1806, in Antrim Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Brown Mill Presbyterian Cemetery in Kauffman, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.







1777, 1778-1780, 1784-1785

# John B. Bayard

(Elected to replace John Jacobs following his resignation)

Born: August 11, 1738, Bohemia Manor, Cecil County, MD.

Died: January 7, 1807, New Brunswick, Middlesex County, NJ.

Member of the General Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1776-1780, 1784-1785.

Affiliation: Federalist.

John Bubenheim Bayard was born on August 11, 1738, in Cecil County, Maryland, to a wealthy landholding family of French Huguenot descent. After his father's death, Bayard inherited the family estate, of which he transferred half to his brother. Upon his 18th birthday in 1756, he and his brother moved to Philadelphia, where Bayard began work as a merchant in the counting house of John Rhea. Bayard entered the import business for himself, starting the firm of Hodge & Bayard. In 1759 Bayard married his first wife, the former Margaret Hodge, and before she died in 1780, the couple had a number of children, including James Ashton, Andrew, John Murray, Samuel, Jane (Kirkpatrick), Dr. Nicholas Serl, Margaret (Smith), and Anna (Boyd). Bayard remarried twice afterwards, to the former Mary Hodgson in 1781 until her death in 1785, and to the former Johanna White in 1787.

By the 1770s Bayard was actively involved in civic affairs, first as a member of the Provincial Congress that met in July 1774, and later that year as a member of the General Congress, held in Philadelphia. He was an active patriot, joining the Sons of Liberty and denouncing attempts by Great Britain to impose taxes upon the Colonies. His firm began supplying arms to the Continental Congress in 1776, and he served in the Revolutionary War as a colonel in the Second Regiment of the Philadelphia Volunteers, seeing action in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Princeton.

Bayard was elected to the General Assembly for the 1776 session. He was elected Speaker of the Assembly on March 17, 1777, after the resignation of John Jacobs. On February 20, 1778, November 6, 1778, and November 2, 1779, he was re-elected to the Speakership. He was elected Speaker one last time on November 3, 1784. Much of Bayard's time as Speaker occurred during the Revolutionary War, and the Assembly dealt mostly with payment of war debts and the raising of funds for the Continental Congress; however, 2 particular events stand out as noteworthy: in March of 1778 the Assembly debated and ratified the Articles of Confederation, the nation's first attempt at creating a Federal Government, and later that year, Bayard signed an order urging the Continental Congress to do in all in their power to secure the release of Pennsylvania's prisoners of war.

In 1788 John Bayard retired from active business in Philadelphia and sold his Bohemia Manor home in Cecil County, Maryland, to relatives. He then relocated to New Brunswick, New Jersey where he was elected mayor in 1790. Afterwards, he was appointed as a judge on the Court of



Common Pleas, and served as a trustee of the College of New Jersey and of the First Presbyterian Church in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

John Bayard died January 7, 1807, in his New Brunswick home. He is interred at First Presbyterian Churchyard in New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey.



1776-1777

# John Jacobs

Born: August 3, 1722, Bebber's Township, Philadelphia County  
(now Montgomery County), PA.

Died: May 1780.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Chester County, 1762-1776.

Member of the General Assembly: Chester County, 1776-1777.

Affiliation: Quaker.

John Jacobs was born on August 3, 1722, likely in Bebber's Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania into a family of Quaker farmers. He was trained as a blacksmith, but ultimately made a living as a farmer in Chester County. He married the former Elizabeth Harvard in 1753, and the couple had 4 children together: Benjamin, Sarah, John, and Hannah. Although Jacobs was a Quaker, he was relatively inactive in Quaker meetings.

In 1762 Jacobs was elected to his first of 15 consecutive terms in the Colonial Assembly. Early in his career as an Assembly member, his poor attendance frequently led to him receiving few committee assignments; however, he was involved in committees that addressed financial issues in the Commonwealth. Bills he helped to draft include a 1762 bill to allow the printing of paper money, a 1766 bill that attempted to prevent servants from running away from their masters, and a 1769 bill to grant relief to insolvent debtors.

Jacobs served on several committees during the 1770s that dealt with Pennsylvania's role in the American Revolution, including one that drafted a letter that was sent to the other Colonial Assemblies calling for the First Continental Congress. In December of 1774, Jacobs served on a committee to draft instructions to Pennsylvania's delegates that were sent to the Second Continental Congress which began in 1775. In 1775 he served on a committee to determine the progress of arms and ammunition procurement for the Commonwealth. In 1776 Jacobs served on the committee which drafted and recommended Pennsylvania's First Constitution, which was adopted and stayed in effect until 1790.

On November 28, 1776, Jacobs was chosen to be Speaker of the Assembly, giving him the distinction of being the first Speaker elected in an independent Pennsylvania. His year as Speaker was marked by the start of the Revolutionary War, and the Assembly struggled to reach a quorum for much of his term. Notably, in February of 1777, Jacobs accepted, and had recorded into the minutes, a copy of the Declaration of Independence, which was transmitted to the Assembly by the Continental Congress. Because of his support for defensive measures for Pennsylvania, the Quakers formally disowned him in 1777. On March 17, 1777, Jacobs resigned the Speakership because he was too ill to attend to business. Jacobs was an unsuccessful candidate for re-election

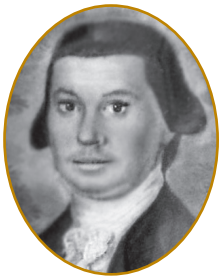


to the Assembly in 1778 and 1779.

In addition to his service in the Assembly, Jacobs was a delegate for Chester County to the 1776 Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention.

John Jacobs died in May of 1780. His burial location is unknown.





1775-1776

*John Morton*

Born: 1725, Ridley Township, Chester County  
(now Delaware County), PA.

Died: April 1, 1777, Ridley Township, Chester County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Chester County, 1755-1766, 1769-1775.

Affiliation: Patriot.

John Morton was a descendant of the early Finnish settlers of the Delaware Valley and was born in 1725 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Morton married the former Ann Justis in 1749, and the couple had 9 children: Sketchley, Jacob, Mary, Sarah, John, Lydia, Ann, Elizabeth, and Aaron.

Morton was first elected to the Colonial Assembly for the 1755-1756 session, taking his seat on June 29, 1756. He was re-elected for 18 more terms. Morton was considered a very active member in the Assembly. During his 19 terms, he helped to write 72 bills, of which 50 became law. He was often charged with writing messages to the Governor, one of which discussed the large number of soldiers quartered in Lancaster homes. He served on numerous committees, such as the Committee of Correspondence, and Committee of Grievances.

Morton was unanimously voted Speaker on October 16, 1775. While Speaker, Morton oversaw the Assembly's drafting of instructions for the delegates representing Pennsylvania at the Second Continental Congress. The instructions for the delegates claimed the repressive measures taken by the British Parliament against the colonists called for armed resistance, but stopped short of endorsing independence from Great Britain.

In addition to Morton's service in the Assembly, he also held a number of other political offices in Pennsylvania during his career. In Chester County, he served as justice of the peace from 1757-1764, road commissioner in 1762, and sheriff in the years 1766-1769. Representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, he served as provincial commissioner in the year 1762 and from 1771-1774, delegate for the Stamp Act Congress in 1765, and associate justice for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court from 1774-1776.

Morton's public service went beyond just serving in the Commonwealth. He was one of nine men who signed the Declaration of Independence on behalf of Pennsylvania. Morton represented Pennsylvania in the First Continental Congress in 1774, and again at the Second Continental Congress in 1775-1776, where he helped frame the Articles of Confederation. He also served as a commissioner for the proposed Indian Trade Congress in 1770.

John Morton died on April 1, 1777, on his plantation in Chester County, Pennsylvania. He is interred at St. Paul's Anglican Church Cemetery in the city of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.



1774-1775

# Edward Biddle

Born: 1738, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: September 2, 1779, Baltimore, Baltimore County, MD.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Berks County, 1767-1775.

Member of the General Assembly: Berks County, 1778-September 2, 1779.

Affiliation: Anglican, Patriot.

Edward Biddle was born in 1738 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Biddle enlisted in the Provincial Army at age 16 as an ensign. During his military career, he was promoted to lieutenant of the First Battalion of the Pennsylvania Forces on February 1, 1759, and then to captain of a company in the Second Battalion on April 24, 1760. After his service in the military, he began practicing law and settled in Reading, Berks County, around 1760. In 1761 Biddle wed the former Elizabeth Ross, and the couple had 2 children, Abigail and Catherine. His marriage to Ross helped him build connections to prominent political figures in the colony.

Biddle held numerous important public offices during his lifetime. He was first elected to the Colonial Assembly in 1767 and served 10 nonconsecutive terms. During Biddle's time in the Assembly, he was actively involved in drafting legislation. He drafted the legislation to remove settlers from land that had not yet been purchased from Native Americans, and lobbied against taxation without representation from Britain by drafting petitions to King George III. Biddle was elected Speaker on October 14, 1774. While Speaker, Biddle served on 7 committees including the Committee of Correspondence, which communicated with other colonial legislatures on pertinent issues of the day.

In addition to his service in the Assembly, Biddle served as a delegate to the First Continental Congress in 1774 and to the Second Continental Congress in 1775 and 1778. He was also a delegate at the Provincial Convention in the years 1774 and 1775. In Berks County, he served on the Committee of Correspondence from 1774-1775, as well as the Committee of Observation and Inspection from 1774-1776. The General Assembly appointed Biddle to serve in Congress in 1778, but he had to decline the position due to his rapidly declining health.

Edward Biddle died on September 2, 1779, while visiting his daughter in Baltimore, Maryland. He is interred in St. Paul's churchyard in the city of Baltimore.





1766-1769, 1769-1774

## Joseph Galloway

**Born:** December, 1730, West River, Anne Arundel County, MD.

**Died:** August 29, 1803, Watford, Hertfordshire, England.

**Member of the Colonial Assembly:** Philadelphia County, 1756- 1763,  
1765-1769; Bucks County: 1770-1774.

**Affiliation:** Quaker, Anti-Proprietary.

Joseph Galloway was born in West River, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in December of 1730. He apprenticed with attorney and Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly Speaker John Kinsey, and by 1749 he was actively practicing law in Philadelphia. In 1753 he married the former Grace Growdon, and the couple had 4 children together; however, only their daughter Elizabeth lived passed infancy. The Growdon family was wealthy, and upon his father-in-law's passing in 1770, Galloway and his wife received a substantial inheritance.

In 1756 Galloway was elected to his first of 18 terms in the Colonial Assembly. Galloway was an active member of the Legislature, and before becoming Speaker, he drafted 46 bills which became law. In his early years in the Assembly, he worked on a number of defense-related measures, including a bill to institute military discipline in the Provincial Army, a bill to allow the Governor greater control over Pennsylvania's troop movements, and a bill to send money to the King in order to raise troops in order to defend Pennsylvania's borders. In 1764 Galloway had partnered with Benjamin Franklin to petition the King of England to suspend the Penn family proprietorship to establish Pennsylvania as a royal colony. Franklin and Galloway's hardline anti-proprietorship stance led to their electoral defeat for the 1764 term.

Galloway narrowly won election for the 1765 term in the Assembly, and in 1766 was not only re-elected, but was also elected Speaker of the Assembly on October 14, 1766. He was re-elected Speaker on October 14, 1767 and October 14, 1768. During Galloway's time as Speaker he communicated regularly with Franklin about ending the Penn family proprietorship in Pennsylvania. Franklin was serving as Assistant Provincial Agent in London at the time, and his service in London led him to change his mind and believe in the cause of independence for the colony, while Galloway remained loyal to the crown. Galloway resigned the Speakership due to ill health, on May 22 1769, but was re-elected Speaker on October 14 of the same year and continued to serve in that capacity until 1774. Speaker Galloway was chosen by the Assembly to represent Pennsylvania at the First Continental Congress in 1774 and used the opportunity to press against calls for independence for Pennsylvania.

Galloway was returned to the Assembly for the 1774 term but refused the Speakership due to his declining health. His desire for royal control of Pennsylvania was rejected by the Continental



Congress, and his resignation as a delegate was accepted by the Assembly on May 12, 1775. Galloway retired from public service in 1775, citing his poor health, but returned to the political sphere during the American Revolution by supplying information and intelligence to the British Army. On December 4, 1777, he was appointed Superintendent General of Philadelphia, which was then occupied by the British, by British General Sir William Howe. Galloway and his daughter sailed to England in 1779 and never returned to America.

Joseph Galloway died in exile on August 29, 1803, in Watford, Hertfordshire, England. His burial location is unknown.





1764-1766, 1769

# Joseph Fox

Born: c. 1709, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: December 10, 1779, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: City of Philadelphia, 1750-1751;  
Philadelphia County, 1753-1771.

Affiliation: Quaker, Anti-Proprietary.

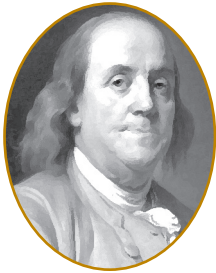
Joseph Fox was likely born in late 1709 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was apprentice to a carpenter named James Portues, who left Fox with a large inheritance upon his death. Fox took possession and used that inheritance to become involved in real estate investments, from which he derived a great deal of his wealth. In 1746 Fox married the former Elizabeth Mickle, and together the couple had 13 children, 6 of whom lived to adulthood: Thomasine Mickle (Roberts), Hannah, Joseph Mickle, George, Samuel Mickle, and Elizabeth Hill (Norris).

Fox won election to the Colonial Assembly in 1750 as a representative of the city of Philadelphia, but lost re-election at the end of his first term in office. He returned to the Assembly in 1753, this time to represent the County of Philadelphia, a position he would hold until 1771. Fox was actively involved in promoting the defense of Pennsylvania during the French and Indian War by supporting bills to provide funds and armaments for the defense of Pennsylvania. He was appointed to a commission to handle the distribution of war funds, which led to the Quakers formally disowning him in 1756. Fox was part of the delegation that negotiated peace terms with Native Americans in 1756, 1757, 1758, 1761, 1762, and 1763.

In the early 1760s Fox aligned himself with Benjamin Franklin, who at the time was seeking to have the Penn proprietorship replaced in favor of a direct Royal government. The change to a Royal Colony would have put Pennsylvania under the direct rule of the British monarch. Fox was unanimously elected Speaker of the Assembly on October 24, 1764, after Isaac Norris II resigned the position. Fox was re-elected Speaker on October 14, 1765, but began to distance himself from the avid supporters of Royal government. He became steadfastly opposed to the controversial Stamp Act, which taxed paper documents and other paper goods in the Colonies. He was re-elected to the Assembly for the 1766 term, but was succeeded as Speaker by avid loyalist Joseph Gall way. Fox returned to the Speaker's chair on May 22, 1769, when Galloway briefly resigned due to ill health. Laws enacted during Fox's Speakership include an infrastructure investment law, a law to provide relief for debtors, and a law regarding overcrowding on immigration ships. He lost re-election to the Assembly in 1772.

Joseph Fox died on December 10, 1779, in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is interred at the Friends Arch Street Meeting House Burial Ground in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





1764

# Benjamin Franklin

(Elected to replace Isaac Norris II following his resignation)

Born: c. 1706, Boston, Suffolk County, MA.

Died: April 17, 1790, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia City, 1750-1764,  
1773-1774, 1775-1776.

Affiliation: Anti-Proprietary.

In addition to being a revered scientist, inventor, author, diplomat, and Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin also made significant contributions to Pennsylvania during both the Colonial Assembly and throughout the Revolutionary War. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Franklin arrived in Philadelphia when he was just 17 and began working as a printer. While still in his teens, Franklin traveled to London and continued to work in print shops. By 1728 Franklin had returned to Philadelphia and was running a print shop that published government pamphlets and books. In 1730 Franklin became the official printer of Pennsylvania, and the following year he helped to found the Library Company in Philadelphia, a subscription library which was the first of its kind in America. Franklin's prominence grew as his work on the publications the Pennsylvania Gazette and Poor Richard's Almanac gained popularity.

In September of 1730 Franklin entered into a common-law marriage with Deborah Reed, and together the couple raised 3 children: Francis, Sarah, and Franklin's illegitimate son, William Franklin, who went on to become the state of New Jersey's Royal Governor in 1763.

Franklin held numerous political positions throughout his service to colonial America. He was the Deputy Postmaster General of North America from 1753 until 1774, when he was fired for his pro-Revolutionary actions. In 1775 he was appointed Postmaster General of the United Colonies by the Continental Congress, and became the first Postmaster General of the United States in 1776. Franklin served as an agent to Great Britain for numerous states, including Pennsylvania, from 1752-1762, and again from 1764-1775. Franklin also served as Commissioner of the United States to both Canada and France in 1776.

In Pennsylvania's colonial government, he served as the Clerk of the General Assembly from 1736-1750. In 1751-1763, 1773, and 1775, Franklin was an elected member of the Colonial Assembly, representing Philadelphia City. After Franklin's initial election to represent the city of Philadelphia in 1750, he emerged as one of the leaders of the Assembly. He drafted 14 of the 45 bills that became law within those 7 terms, including revised regulations for the weight and price of bread. From 1757-1763 Franklin represented the Assembly in London during meetings with Thomas Penn, which caused him to become increasingly dissatisfied with



Pennsylvania's proprietorship.

On May 26, 1764, Franklin was unanimously elected Speaker of the Assembly, and immediately signed a petition to the King of England for a change in government from a proprietorship to a royal charter. However, later that year, popular support for remaining a proprietorship caused the Quaker Party to suffer defeats, including Franklin, who lost his seat in the Assembly.

After his loss, Franklin traveled to England on November 7, 1764, in order to petition the King's ministers for a royal charter in Pennsylvania. While in England, Franklin became involved in advocating for the repeal of the Stamp Act, which taxed printed materials in the Colonies. His efforts were eventually successful, and the act was repealed in 1766. By the time he returned to America nearly 10 years later, Franklin was no longer a supporter of establishing a royal government in Pennsylvania and was instead supportive of independence from Great Britain.

Benjamin Franklin reinstated himself into public life in Philadelphia upon his return to America, and although he was re-elected to the Colonial Assembly in October of 1775, he resigned from the position in February of 1776 to concentrate as a delegate of the Second Continental Congress. Franklin was known to be an active member of the Congress, and served on committees that aided in the procuring of materials and funds for the defense of the colonies. Franklin was also part of the committee that was tasked with drafting the Declaration of Independence, alongside Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. As the unanimously appointed president of the Constitutional Convention, Franklin's influence over the proceedings can be seen in the proposed plan of a confederation of states and a unicameral legislature.

In 1776 Franklin became the Commissioner to France and worked to procure France's support and aid for the colonies during the Revolutionary War. While abroad, Franklin was instrumental in the diplomatic efforts leading to the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War. After nearly a decade in France, Franklin returned to Philadelphia after resigning from the position of Commissioner on May 2, 1785.

Quickly resuming his political efforts in America upon his return in 1785, Franklin became a delegate to the 1787 national Constitutional Convention. Delegates to the convention struggled to reach an agreement on how representation in the Federal government should be organized. Although a known supporter of unicameralism, Franklin suggested a bicameral legislature in which one branch's composition would be based on population (the House), and the other branch would give each state equal representation (Senate).

In 1788 Benjamin Franklin officially retired from public office, and upon his death in 1790, the United States House of Representatives went into a month-long period of official mourning. The French National Assembly declared a 3-day mourning period.

Of note, Franklin County, created in 1784 out of part of Cumberland County, was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin.

Benjamin Franklin died April 17, 1790, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is interred at Christ Church Burial Ground in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1758

# Thomas Leech

(Elected to replace Isaac Norris II following his resignation)

Born: c. 1685, Cheltenham Township, Philadelphia County  
(now Montgomery County), PA.

Died: March 31, 1762, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1730-1747, 1755-1761;  
Philadelphia City, 1748-1749.

Affiliation: Quaker, Anti-Proprietary.

Thomas Leech was born in Philadelphia County circa 1685. His father, Tobias (Toby) Leech, served in the Assembly in 1719. Thomas Leech worked as a merchant, and was part owner of three ships during his life. He was one of the founding trustees of the College of Philadelphia, now known as the University of Pennsylvania. Leech married the widowed Ann Stacy Moore in 1722, and the couple had 3 children: Hester, John, and Thomas. After the death of his first wife, he married the former Mary Rivers and the couple had one child, William.

Before being elected to the Assembly as a Representative, Leech served as the clerk of the Assembly from 1723-1728. He was elected to the Colonial Assembly as a Representative of Philadelphia County for the 1730 session. He was re-elected for 26 more nonconsecutive terms in the Assembly, in which he represented Philadelphia County or Philadelphia City. Beginning with his first term and lasting until 1743, Leech served on the Committee of Accounts. He also served on the Committee of Correspondence for 17 terms. Throughout his time in office, Leech drafted numerous pieces of legislation that became law, including ones pertaining to keeping roads and highways maintained and collecting duties owed on liquor and sugar.

Leech was elected Speaker of the Assembly on January 2, 1758, when Isaac Norris II was taken ill. While Speaker, Leech signed a March 1758 address to the Deputy Governor, William Denny, saying that the Assembly had agreed to raise and equip men for an expedition against Fort Duquesne.

In addition to Leech's time in the Assembly, he held many other important offices during his political career. He was the superintendent of the State House from 1740-1762. He was trustee of the General Loan Office from 1744-1762 (except for a brief break between May 1749 and February 1750) and served as the treasurer of Philadelphia County from 1727-1762.

Thomas Leech died while serving in the Assembly on March 31, 1762. He is interred at Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





1750-1757, 1758-1764

## Isaac Norris II

Born: October 23, 1701, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: July 13, 1766, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1735-1736,  
1737-1738, 1739-1765.

Affiliation: Quaker, Pro-Proprietary.

Isaac Norris II was born on October 23, 1701, in the city of Philadelphia to Speaker Isaac Norris and his wife Mary Lloyd. He received his education from private tutors before entering into his father's mercantile business. Norris spent most of the 1720s involved in running the family business and began a career of public service when he was elected to the Philadelphia Common Council in 1727. He served as a councilman until 1730, when he was elected as alderman, a position in which he served until 1742. Upon his father's passing in 1735, Norris II inherited a great deal of his father's sizable estate and was elected to fill his father's seat in the Colonial Assembly. In 1739 he married fellow Quaker, Sarah Logan, and the couple had 4 children together, however only 2 survived to adulthood, Mary Dickinson and Sarah. His wife, Sarah, died during childbirth in 1744 and Norris II did not remarry.

Norris II enjoyed a long career in public service, serving 29 terms in the Colonial Assembly. On October 15, 1750, he was elected Speaker of the Assembly, a position he held for 15 subsequent sessions, with only a brief gap due to illness in 1757. Throughout the 1740s, he became actively involved in the debate around the defense of Pennsylvania and often disagreed with Speaker John Kinsey's anti-defense policies. Kinsey, a pacifist and fellow Quaker, served as Speaker for much of the 1740s and became Norris' chief political competitor. Throughout the 1740s, Norris II began to break with the Quakers over the issue of defense and had left the faith altogether by 1750. During this time, Norris II was involved with Native American diplomacy on behalf of the Colony and became caught up in an ongoing dispute with Kinsey over a bill to allow the Governor power to appoint trustees to the General Loan Office.

Kinsey died in 1750, and Norris II succeeded him as Speaker of the Assembly. Norris II presided over an Assembly that actively supported defense with appropriations to the British Crown during the French and Indian War and he fought for a bill, which passed in 1758, to tax Penn's proprietary estates. He also took a great personal interest in the commissioning of a bell to hang in the state-house; the bell is now known as the Liberty Bell. He personally chose the inscription for the bell from Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof." Later in his career, as the Colonial Assembly began to move towards approving a petition to ask for royal government in 1764, a move that Norris II strongly opposed, he resigned the Speakership. The



Assembly then elected Benjamin Franklin, a strong supporter of the concept of royal government, to the Speakership.

Isaac Norris II died in Philadelphia on July 13, 1766. He is interred at Friends Arch Street Meeting House Burial Ground in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1745-1746

*John Wright*

Born: April 15, 1667, Warrington, Lancashire, England.

Died: October 1, 1749, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Chester County, 1718-1719, 1725-1726;

Lancaster County, 1729-1731, 1733-1735, 1737-October, 1, 1749.

Affiliation: Quaker.

John Wright was born April 15, 1667, in Lancashire, England, to Quaker parents. Wright worked as a bodicemaker and was extremely active in the Quaker faith in England. Wright's active involvement in his Meeting had caused his financial affairs to suffer due to his lack of attention. Despite being nearly 47 years old, in 1714 he made the decision to immigrate to America in hopes of new economic opportunities, and he settled in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Wright married the former Patience Gibson in 1692, and the couple had 8 children: Susanna, Patience, John, Elizabeth, James, Patience, John, and James.

Wright was Chester County justice of the peace from 1717-1729 and a president judge from 1722-1729, serving until Lancaster County was created out of land from Chester County in 1729. Wright and other prominent members of the colony signed a successful petition to request its establishment. His home now located in the newly formed Lancaster County, Wright was duly appointed president justice (judge of the courts) of Lancaster County in 1729 and served in that capacity until 1741, when Gov. George Thomas refused to grant him another commission after a conflict over Governor Thomas' war policy. Wright simultaneously served as justice of the peace in Lancaster County from 1729-1741. In addition to these offices, Wright was also charged with managing boundary lines of the new county relating to settlement and neighboring Native American populations and settlers from Maryland. He served as a General Loan Office trustee for the Pennsylvania colonial government from 1731-1749. Wright also operated a ferry across the Susquehanna River, after receiving a license to do so in December of 1733, and successfully petitioned for a road to be constructed from Lancaster to the ferry. The town of Wrightsville in York County is named after him.

Wright was elected to the Colonial Assembly to represent Chester County for the 1718 session, and during this session he served on 2 committees to oversee public accounts. He was re-elected to serve in the 1725 and 1726 sessions. During the 1725 session, Wright worked on legislation to create £10,000 in paper currency to replace notes that were torn or defaced, and in 1726 he participated in drafting a bill to revamp the court system.

Wright represented Lancaster County in the Assembly in 1729, 1730, 1732-1734, and 1737-1748. During this time, Wright worked on a dozen bills that became law, 2 of which he introduced. The bills he introduced which were enacted pertained to restricting the purchase of land from Native



Americans without direction from the proprietors and securing a loan for Lancaster County to build a courthouse and prison. He also was actively engaged in addressing numerous important issues of the time through his committee work, including border disputes with Maryland and the war between England and Spain, commonly known as the War of Jenkins' Ear (1739-1748).

Wright was elected Speaker for the 1745 session after Israel Pemberton declined the Speakership; however, due to his health and advanced age, Wright was unable to attend sessions. The minutes of the Assembly on January 6, 1746, note that Wright was in poor health, and John Kinsey was selected to resume the Speakership.

Despite his increasingly poor health, John Wright remained a member in the Colonial Assembly until his death on October 1, 1749. He is interred at Mount Bethel Cemetery in Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.





1739-1745, 1746-1750

*John Kinsey*

Born: 1693, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Died: May 11, 1750, Burlington, Burlington County, NJ.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1730-May 11, 1750.

Affiliation: Quaker, Pro-Proprietary.

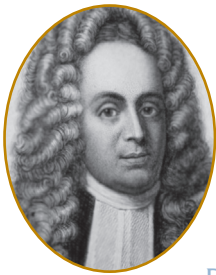
John Kinsey was born to Quaker parents in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1693. Kinsey married the former Mary Kearney in 1725 and together they had 7 children: Sarah, John (d. 1731), John, James, Charles, Elizabeth, and David. Kinsey studied and practiced law in New Jersey, where he was elected from 1727-1733 to the New Jersey Assembly, a royal colony whose Assembly only met at the summons of the Royal Governor. He was elected as Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly in 1730 and remained in that position through 1733, despite having moved to Philadelphia in 1730 and becoming politically active in Pennsylvania politics. An active and devout Quaker, Kinsey served in various leadership roles within the Society of Friends.

Kinsey first took a seat in the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly on January 19, 1731, as a replacement for David Potts, and served for 19 subsequent terms. He rose in prominence in the Assembly during the 1730s for his work on border disputes with Maryland and for his work in establishing the General Loan Office for the Commonwealth, in which he was named as a trustee. In the 1738-1739 session, Kinsey was influential in the enactment of a currency bill. On October 15, 1739, Kinsey was elected Speaker of the Assembly, a position he would hold for the next 11 terms, except for a brief interruption in 1745 when Israel Pemberton was elected but soon after resigned. He was known for his staunch anti-defense positions and became the leader of the Quaker faction of lawmakers within the Assembly. Kinsey also served as a diplomatic ambassador in negotiations with multiple Native American tribes during the 1740s, along with fellow Assembly members Isaac Norris and Thomas Lawrence.

Concurrently during his House Service, Kinsey served as Pennsylvania Attorney General from 1738-1741, chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court from 1743-1750, and as a trustee of Pennsylvania's General Loan Office from 1738-1750. Kinsey was also consistently in leadership roles within the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends, allowing him to have both political and religious power in the colony. He is one of the few men who served in legislative, financial, and clerical leadership positions in the Commonwealth.

John Kinsey died suddenly on May 11, 1750, in Burlington, New Jersey while arguing a legal case. His burial location is unconfirmed.





1729-1733, 1734-1739

# Andrew Hamilton

Born: 1676, Scotland.

Died: August 4, 1741, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Bucks County, 1727-1739.

Affiliation: Pro-Proprietary.

The records concerning Andrew Hamilton's birth in Scotland are unclear, but he is believed to have been born in or around 1676. Hamilton immigrated to Virginia in October of 1700 as an indentured servant. He was possibly indentured to Isaac Foxcroft of Virginia, who was a wealthy landowner and local official. Isaac Foxcroft died in 1702 and his widow passed away in 1704. Her will named Hamilton as the sole executor of her estate and left a large part of her wealth to him. Hamilton married the former Anne Brown in 1707, and the couple had 3 children together: Margaret, James, and Andrew.

Hamilton undertook the study of law and by 1703 had begun practicing in Virginia. As his reputation as a lawyer grew, so did his law practice. In 1707 he purchased land in Maryland and began practicing law there as well. Hamilton and his family moved to Philadelphia in 1715, where he continued his law practice. He was named Pennsylvania's Attorney General in 1717, and served until 1724. He was appointed in February of 1721 to the Provincial Council, where he attended meetings until 1723 (though he never formally resigned or was dismissed from the council, leaving him to be questioned as late as 1738 about his lack of attendance). Hamilton was appointed as recorder of the city of Philadelphia in 1727, and served through 1741. He was also a trustee of Pennsylvania's General Loan Office from 1730-1738.

In October of 1727, Hamilton was elected to the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly, where he served until 1739. In his first 2 terms in the Assembly, Hamilton was influential in helping to craft a bill to permit the printing of paper money in the Commonwealth and legislation pertaining to immigration. On October 14, 1729, Hamilton was elected Speaker of the Assembly. He was re-elected Speaker 8 more times over the next 9 years. Notable bills enacted during his first term as Speaker include a bill designed to prevent secret marriages, an excise tax on spirits, and a bill to provide relief for insolvent debtors. Later in Hamilton's Speakership he was involved in a famous legal case where he defended John Peter Zenger in the Supreme Court of New York from the charge of libel and won. He was also involved in legal disputes regarding the borders of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Hamilton's health began to decline in the late 1730s and he chose not to stand for re-election to the Assembly in 1740. Hamilton died on August 4, 1741, in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Christ Church Burial Ground, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1724-1725

# William Biles, Jr.

**Born:** January 12, 1672, Dorchester, Dorset County, England.

**Died:** 1739.

**Member of the Colonial Assembly:** Bucks County, 1710-1711,  
1718-1725, 1732, 1734-1737.

**Affiliation:** Quaker, Pro-Proprietary.

William Biles, Jr., was born on January 12, 1672, in Dorchester, England. At the age of 7, he immigrated with his family to America. His father, William Biles, Sr., was a member of the Provincial Council, the Colonial Assembly, and a Quaker minister. Biles was trained as a cooper, but after his father's death, he inherited a sizable estate and became active in real estate trading. In 1696 Biles married fellow Quaker, Sarah Langhorne, and together the couple had 9 children: Thomas, William, Charles, Langhorne, Ann, Grace, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Hannah. In June of 1702, Biles was elected to the post of Bucks County Sheriff.

Biles was elected to the Colonial Assembly to represent Bucks County for the 1710 and 1711 sessions. He did not seek re-election to the Assembly again until 1718, after which he served 7 consecutive terms. In the early 1720s, Biles was instrumental in crafting a number of bills meant to spur economic growth in the colony, including a bill to lower the county levy tax, a bill to ease the burden of debt on insolvent debtors, and a bill to print the colony's first paper money. Biles was elected Speaker of the Assembly on October 14, 1724. During his tenure as Speaker, the Assembly enacted 7 laws, mostly dealing with economic measures such as trade and taxation. Even though William Keith, the Governor of Pennsylvania, was involved with a dispute with Hannah Penn over the proprietorship of Pennsylvania the 1720s, Biles attempted to keep the Assembly out of the dispute as much as possible.

After a break from his service in the Assembly, Biles was re-elected to serve in 1732 and again from 1734-1737. During this time, he and Speaker Andrew Hamilton clashed on several issues regarding the legitimacy of the Penn proprietorship, and Hamilton gave Biles zero assignments during his last term in the House. William Biles, Jr., retired from the Assembly after the 1737 term, and he served as justice of the peace and president justice for Bucks County until his death in 1739.

While the exact date of Biles' death is not known, he passed away sometime in 1739. The location of his interment is also unknown.



1721-1722, 1733-1734

# Jeremiah Langhorne

Born: February 15, 1673, Hilton, Westmorland, England.

Died: October 11, 1742, Bucks County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Bucks County, 1697-1698, 1700, 1702-1706,  
1710-1712, 1713-1714, 1715-1741.

Affiliation: Quaker, Pro-Proprietary.

Jeremiah Langhorne was born on February 15, 1673, in Westmoreland, England. He came to Pennsylvania with his family at the age of 13. His father, Thomas Langhorne, served in the Colonial Assembly in 1687. His family had close ties with William Penn. They settled in Middletown Township in Bucks County.

Langhorne was first elected to the Colonial Assembly for the 1697 session and he served 33 more nonconsecutive terms in that body. During his time in the Assembly, Langhorne was often part of committees that drafted important addresses, including ones to Deputy Governor Patrick Gordon, members of the Penn family, as well as King George II of England. On October 14, 1721, Langhorne was elected Speaker of the Assembly. During this session, the Assembly often debated strategies to increase trade. On October 15, 1733, Langhorne was re-elected for a second term as Speaker. During his second term as Speaker, Langhorne oversaw the passage of legislation that regulated the collection of debts, as well as a measure to prevent the export of poor quality bread and flour.

In addition to his service in the Colonial Assembly, Langhorne held numerous public offices during his career. For the colony of Pennsylvania he served as: General Loan Office trustee from 1723-1738, justice of the Supreme Court from 1726-1736 and 1737-1739, acting chief justice of the Supreme Court from 1736-1737, chief justice of the Supreme Court from 1739-1742, and justice of the Court of Oyer and Terminer from 1728-1732 and 1736-1738. Langhorne also held numerous positions at the county level. In Bucks County he served as both prothonotary and clerk of the quarter sessions from 1702-1742, as well as justice of the peace from 1707-1708, 1711-1712, 1715-1720, and 1722-1728. He also served as tax commissioner, county commissioner, and treasurer for Bucks County.

Jeremiah Langhorne died on October 11, 1742, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His burial location is unknown.



1718-1719

# Jonathan Dickinson

Born: 1663, Port Royal, Jamaica.

Died: June 16, 1722, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1710-1711, 1716-1717, 1718-1720; City of Philadelphia, 1717-1718, 1720-1721.

Affiliation: Quaker, Pro-Proprietary.

Jonathan Dickinson was born in Jamaica in 1663 to a British Navy Captain. He grew up on the island and worked on his father's sugar plantations and Port Royal store. Dickinson married the former Mary Gale in 1685, and the couple had 6 children: Jonathan, Joseph, John, Mary, Hannah, and Isaac. In August of 1696, Dickinson, his family, and 11 enslaved persons embarked on their way to Philadelphia after an earthquake devastated Jamaica. The ship on which they traveled was wrecked off the coast of Florida before they reached their destination, and they were held captive by the local people. It took a year for the family to successfully navigate a path to Philadelphia. Dickinson published a journal which chronicled his experiences during the ordeal.

Shortly after arrival to Philadelphia, Dickinson's political career began when he served as clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1698, as well as clerk of the Philadelphia County Court from 1698-1699. Over the next several years Dickinson made several trips between Philadelphia and Jamaica, sometimes remaining on the island for years at a time to attend to his business interests.

Dickinson was elected to represent Philadelphia County in the Colonial Assembly for the 1710 session, and was re-elected for the 1716, 1718, and 1719 sessions. In 1717 and 1720 he was elected to represent the city of Philadelphia in the Assembly. While in the Assembly, Dickinson was assigned to amend proposed legislation and served on the Committee of Accounts. On October 14, 1718, Dickinson was elected Speaker of the Assembly. As Speaker, Dickinson lead the Assembly as issues over Pennsylvania's proprietorship were addressed after the death of William Penn.

In addition to his service in the Assembly, Dickinson held a number of other political positions. He was an alderman for the city of Philadelphia from 1711-1712, 1713-1717, and 1719-1720. Dickinson was a member of the Provincial Council from 1711-1720, as well as justice of the Supreme Court from 1711-1712. He was the mayor of Philadelphia from 1712-1713 and 1717-1719.

Jonathan Dickinson died on June 16, 1722, in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. His burial location is unknown.



1717-1718, 1719-1720

# William Trent

Born: 1666, South Leith, Midlothian, Scotland.

Died: December 25, 1784, New Jersey.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1710-1711, 1716-1717,  
1719-1720; Philadelphia City, 1717-1718.

Affiliation: Anglican.

William Trent was born in the year 1666 in Midlothian, Scotland, where he was baptized on October 28, 1666. Following in his father's footsteps, Trent became involved in the mercantile trading business. By 1693 Trent had immigrated to Pennsylvania. After moving to Pennsylvania, he continued his mercantile business and expanded it into real estate investment. Trent married the former Mary Burge, and together the couple had 4 children: James, John, Maurice, and Mary. After the death of his first wife in 1708, Trent married his second wife, the former Mary Coddington, in 1710, and together the couple had 2 children, Thomas and William.

Trent was asked to serve on the Provincial Council in 1704. He accepted the offer and served on the council until 1721. He also served as a justice of the Supreme Court in the years 1704, 1706, 1715, 1718, and 1720. Trent was elected to the Colonial Assembly in 1710, 1716, 1717, 1719, and 1720. In the Assembly, Trent worked on a number of bills including a bill to Petition the Queen for permission to import salt into Pennsylvania, a bill to amend supply regulations, and a bill to raise money for the Queen to use for military purposes.

Trent was often involved in the debate as to whether Quakers should swear an oath or be allowed to use an affirmation. The Quakers opposition to oaths was based on a plain reading of Matthew 5:33-37, in which Jesus said, "swear not at all...But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." (KJV) So the practice of swearing an oath would effectively ban Quakers from accessing some of the most basic institutions of government. Trent, an Anglican, initially was critical of the affirmation laws passed by the Assembly and the Quakers reluctance to engage in military for the defense of the colony; however, in just a few years, when British laws requiring an oath would have prohibited Quakers from testifying at trials, Trent, along with other prominent Anglicans, expressed support for the affirmation due to the impracticality of attempting to govern Pennsylvania without Quakers.

Trent was elected Speaker of the Assembly on October 17, 1717, and was again elected Speaker for the 1719 term on October 14, 1719. During his first term as Speaker, the Assembly passed 16 laws — the most notable of which were acts that imposed taxes on imports. During his second term as Speaker, in the 1719 session, the Assembly's legislative agenda was extremely light, and there were no bills enacted into law; however, the House did petition Governor William Keith to establish a Court of Chancery. The Governor agreed to do so and made himself the



presiding Chancellor.

Relocating to New Jersey in late 1721, Trent served in a number of political positions including justice of the peace, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, member of the New Jersey Assembly, Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly, and chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

William Trent died on December 25, 1724, in New Jersey. His burial location is unknown.



1712-1713, 1720-1721

# Isaac Norris I

Born: July 26, 1671, Southwark, Surrey, England.

Died: June 4, 1735, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1699-1702, 1703-1704,  
1705-1706, 1711-1713, 1716-1717, 1720-1721, 1734-June 4, 1735;

City of Philadelphia: 1710-1711, 1713-1714, 1715-1716, 1718-1720.

Affiliation: Quaker, Pro-Proprietary.

Isaac Norris was born July 26, 1671, in St. Olave's Parish, Southwark, Surrey, England to a Quaker family. Norris' family immigrated to Port Royal, Jamaica, in 1678. Norris first came to Philadelphia in May of 1692, and upon returning to Jamaica later in 1692, he discovered his father and sister had perished in an earthquake; his brother passed away shortly after Norris returned to Jamaica. He returned to Philadelphia by 1693 and began a career as a trading merchant, and the following year married the former Mary Lloyd. The couple had 14 children together: Mary, Hannah, Sarah, Joseph, Rachael, Isaac, Elizabeth, Deborah, Thomas, John, Prudence, Charles, Margaret, and Samuel. His son Isaac Norris II served as Speaker of the Colonial Assembly from 1750-1757, and 1758-1765.

Norris was first elected to the Colonial Assembly from Philadelphia County in 1699 and served 16 more nonconsecutive terms, representing both Philadelphia County and city until his death in 1735. He was known for his strong support of William Penn's proprietorship, thus aligning himself with Penn's political allies. Norris also played an active role in securing Penn's proprietary rights from the claims of debt-holders by traveling to England from 1706-1708 to personally resolve the matter. Upon his return to Pennsylvania in 1708, Norris was promptly elected as an alderman for the City of Philadelphia and returned to the Assembly in 1711. He was elected Speaker of the Assembly on October 14, 1712. During Norris' first Speakership, the Assembly enacted 2 important laws: first, the Assembly imposed an excise tax on alcoholic drinks in order to raise funds to finance the colonial government; and second, the Assembly levied a measure to establish orphan courts within the Commonwealth.

During Norris' service in the 1718 Assembly, William Penn passed away and confusion reigned over the inheritance of Penn's proprietary rights for the Commonwealth. Penn's son, William Penn, Jr., claimed inheritance to the proprietorship, but the Assembly declined to publish his written commissions to various administrative posts, for the Assembly was unsure of whether his claim was valid. Norris, named as a trustee of Pennsylvania in William Penn, Sr.'s will, played an active role in selling Penn's assets to satisfy outstanding debts.

Norris was again elected Speaker on October 14, 1720, and the Assembly enacted several laws including a revival of the excise tax on alcohol, and a ban on killing deer out of season. The 1720s





were defined by Norris' attempts to resolve proprietary rights in Pennsylvania.

Norris' health declined rapidly after his last election in 1734. Isaac Norris died on June 4, 1735, as a member of the Assembly in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Friends Arch Street Meeting House Burial Ground in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1710-1712, 1716-1717

# Richard Hill

Born: c. 1667, Anne Arundel County, MD.

Died: September 4, 1729, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1705-1706, 1712-1713,  
1716-1717, 1718-1721; Philadelphia City, 1710-1711, 1713-1716.

Affiliation: Quaker.

Richard Hill, born in Maryland circa 1667, began his career as a ship captain and merchant. Following in the path of his father, Hill acquired numerous landholdings, eventually becoming one of the most prominent landowners of the time, owning properties throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland. A follower of the Quaker faith, Hill and the widowed Hannah Lloyd Delavall announced their intent to marry at the August 30, 1700, Philadelphia Quaker Monthly Meeting. Hill subsequently married Hannah Lloyd, daughter of Thomas Lloyd, a former Lieutenant Governor of Provincial Pennsylvania, and the couple had 3 children: Richard, Hannah, and Elizabeth. Through Hill's marriage, he became brother-in-law to fellow Speaker of the Pennsylvania House Isaac Norris, as Norris was married to Hannah Lloyd's sister, Mary.

Richard Hill spent most of his life in public service, holding a variety of offices, often simultaneously. Hill's public service career started when he was appointed to the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania by Governor John Evans, an office which he held from 1704-1729 and was president of in 1717 and 1721. He was a justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1711, 1717-1718, 1720, 1722, 1726-1727, and 1729. From 1711-1720, 1722-1723, and 1725-1729, Hill was the commissioner of property for the Commonwealth. He served as the Philadelphia County tax commissioner in 1711, 1713, and 1715. He acted as master in the Court of Chancery in 1720 and 1727. In 1715, 1717-1720, 1722, and 1724-1725, Hill was a justice of the peace. Hill served as mayor of Philadelphia for 4 terms from 1709-1710 and from 1714-1717.

Hill served as a member of the Colonial Assembly representing Philadelphia County in 1705, 1712, 1716, 1718, 1719, and 1720. He also served in the Assembly as a representative for the city of Philadelphia in 1710, 1711, 1713, 1714, and 1715. Hill was very active in creating and passing legislation during his time in the Assembly. He served on numerous committees, including ones to revise laws repealed by England, inspect public accounts, and draft addresses to the Governor pertaining to defense and to the Queen regarding acquiring sanctioning of the colony's laws. Hill drafted new bills to appoint the courts as tax collectors, and drafted a bill to elect Assemblymen for both the city and county of Philadelphia, instead of appointing them as had previously been done.

On October 14, 1710, Hill was elected Speaker of the Assembly. He was re-elected on October 15, 1711, and October 14, 1716. In his first 2 years as Speaker, Hill oversaw a total of 27 laws passed



by the Assembly that included measures to levy new taxes and reestablish courts. Hill was active on multiple committees and presented numerous bills to the Governor during this time. During Hill's third session as Speaker, controversy arose when Governor Charles Gookin refused to let Hill and other Quakers take the Pennsylvania affirmation to qualify for their seats in the Assembly. Gookin even went so far as to question Hill's loyalty to the Crown. The Assembly ultimately went against Gookin, and Hill and the other members took their place in the legislature. Hill maintained a somewhat minimal role in the Assembly's proceedings during the session, however, maintaining the minutes and only participating in the committee of accounts.

After leaving the Assembly, Hill focused on matters in the Provincial Council. He worked on pertinent issues of the day including the boundary dispute with Maryland, addressing concerns over clashes with the region's Native American populations, and maintaining the council's advisory role in the legislative process.

After the death of his first wife, Hill married Mary Stanbury in 1728.

Richard Hill died on September 4, 1729, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is interred at Friends Arch Street Meeting House Burial Ground in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



1698-1699

# Phineas Pemberton

**Born:** January 31, 1650, Wigan Parish, Lancashire, England.

**Died:** March 1, 1702.

**Member of the Colonial Assembly:** Bucks County, 1689-1690,  
1694-1695, 1698-1699, 1700-1701.

**Affiliation:** Quaker, Pro-Proprietary.

Phineas Pemberton was born January 31, 1650, in Lancashire, England. At the age of 15, Pemberton was an apprentice to a shopkeeper. He faced religious persecution and was imprisoned twice in 1670. He had his belongings seized by the royal government in 1679 and 1680. He married the former Phoebe Harrison in 1677 and the couple had 9 children together: Ann (d. 1682), Ann (b. 1682), Abigail Jenkins, Joseph, Israel, Samuel, Phoebe, Priscilla, and Phineas Jenkins. After the death of his first wife, Pemberton remarried to Alice Hodgson in 1699.

In September 1682, Pemberton, his family, his father, servants, and the family of James Harrison, left for the Colonies. By the spring of 1683, he and his family were settled in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. In 1683 Pemberton was appointed as clerk of the Bucks County Court, a post he held until 1693 (as well as from 1695-1701), and as Bucks County's register of wills, a post he held until 1693.

Pemberton was first elected to the Provincial Council in 1685, where he served on 3 committees, 2 of which drafted economics legislation. The third committee was responsible for the consideration of amendments recommended by the Assembly. During that year's legislative session, the Assembly advocated for the Continuation Bill, which included provisions allowing the Assembly to repeal legislation, and Pemberton was supportive of resolutions that criticized the Assembly's initiative. He was re-elected to the Council and served in 1695, 1697, 1699, and 1700-1701.

Pemberton was elected to the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly in 1689, which he utilized as a vehicle of opposition against Governor John Blackwell. Despite Pemberton's previous criticism of the Assembly's fight for autonomy, he helped the Assembly establish their rights. In 1694 Pemberton was re-elected to the Assembly, and during this legislative session, he was at the forefront of establishing privileges for the Assembly. By serving on 7 committees, Pemberton sought to pass laws allowing the House to adjourn at their own discretion, as well as curtail the powers of the justices on the Provincial Council. On May 10, 1698, Pemberton was unanimously elected Speaker of the Assembly. During this year, the colony faced accusations regarding illegal trading and cooperating with pirates. The Act for Preventing Frauds and Regulating Abuses in Trade was passed by the House and signed by the Governor to fight the charges. Pemberton also sponsored and signed the address to King William III in regard to the charges and accusations.

During the Assembly of 1700, Pemberton played a large role in two significant issues at the



time: property legislation and a new Constitution. Due to a vacancy, Pemberton was appointed to the Provincial Council in October of 1700, where he supported the Charter of Privileges, which increased the powers of the Assembly.

Phineas Pemberton died on March 1, 1702, in Pennsylvania. He is interred at Pennsbury Manor Cemetery in Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.



1697, 1699-1700

*John Blunston*

Born: 1644, England.

Died: August 22, 1723.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Chester County, 1683-1688,  
1695-1697, 1699-1701.

Affiliation: Quaker.

John Blunston was born in England in 1644 and immigrated to Pennsylvania in October of 1682. He was involved in real estate, agriculture, and goods trading. An early Quaker settler, Blunston was a close associate of William Penn and an active political figure in early Pennsylvania. Blunston married the former Elinor Branton in 1669, and the couple had 4 children together: Sarah, Katherine, Rebecca, and Martha. He remarried to the former Sarah Bickerstaff in 1682, and the couple had 3 children together: John, Samuel, and Joseph. After Bickerstaff's death, he married Margaret Stedman, and the couple had one child together, Joseph.

Blunston and his family settled in Chester County and he first served in the Colonial Assembly from 1683-1688. In this early stage of provincial government, Blunston became a strong proponent for the rights of the Assembly. In 1685 Blunston was appointed to a committee that argued against the Provincial Council's practice of enacting laws without legislative approval. In the same year, Blunston led the Assembly in their attempt to impeach Chief Justice Nicholas More. Blunston returned to the Assembly for the 1695 term. During his second period of service in the Assembly, he was elected Speaker of the Assembly on May 10, 1697. He was re-elected Speaker on May 10, 1699, and again on May 10, 1700. During this time he was instrumental in drafting a new frame of government for the Province. He retired from the Assembly after the 1701 term.

In addition to Blunston's service in the Assembly, he served as a Provincial Councilor starting in 1700 and ending in 1723. He served as justice of the peace for Chester County from 1684-1693 and again from 1695-1703. He was also actively involved with Darby Quaker Meeting House in Chester County (now Delaware County), and was one of the Quakers who fought to cease the slave trade amongst Friends. He represented the Chester Quarterly Meeting at the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends 17 times between 1688 and 1715.

John Blunston died on August 22, 1723, in Pennsylvania. He is interred at Darby Friends Cemetery, Darby, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.



1696-1697

# John Simcock

Born: 1630, Cheshire, England.

Died: March 27, 1703.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Chester County, 1682-1683,  
1693-1694, 1696-1697.

Affiliation: Quaker.

John Simcock was born in 1630, probably in Cheshire, England. A friend and political ally of William Penn, Simcock was an early Quaker settler of Pennsylvania and established himself near Chester. Simcock was involved in real estate and he came to own nearly 10,000 acres of land in Chester County (now Delaware County). He and his wife, Elizabeth, were married in England and together they had 6 children: Elizabeth, Mary, Lydia, Hannah, John, and Jacob.

Simcock served in the first Assembly in 1682 and was re-elected again in 1693 and 1696. During his service in the first session of the Colonial Assembly, Simcock was appointed to the Committee of Foresight, which developed bills which would come before the Assembly. On October 26, 1696, Simcock was elected Speaker of the Assembly. Simcock served as Speaker during a time of constitutional ambiguity in the Province. William Penn had been absent from the province for over 10 years, and the Governor, William Markham, presented the Assembly with a new frame of government, meant to supersede Penn's frame of 1683. Simcock and the Assembly approved Markham's Frame, although there were questions around its legitimacy since it lacked Penn's approval. It was not until Penn returned to the Province in 1699 that the controversy surrounding Markham's Frame was finally resolved.

Simcock spent the greater part of his political career serving on the Provincial Council, serving in 1683-1685, 1686-1688, 1689-1691, 1693, 1697, and 1698. During his time in the Provincial Council, Simcock was involved in negotiating land purchases with Native American tribes and in mediating border disputes with Maryland. Simcock retired from public life after 1700.

John Simcock died on March 27, 1703. His burial location is unknown.





1695-1696

# Edward Shippen

**Born:** March 6, 1640, Methley Parish, Yorkshire, England.

**Died:** October 3, 1712, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA.

**Member of the Colonial Assembly:** Philadelphia County, 1695-1696,  
1700-1701; Philadelphia City, 1705-1706.

**Affiliation:** Quaker, Pro-Proprietorship.

Edward Shippen was born March 6, 1640, in Yorkshire, England. Born to Anglican parents, he worked as a merchant in Yorkshire. In 1668 Shippen moved to Boston, Massachusetts. He continued to work as a merchant, becoming a dealer of used furniture and clothing in addition to acquiring several properties in the city. In 1671 he married the former Elisabeth Lybrand, and the couple had 8 children: Frances, Edward (d. 1674), William, Elizabeth, Edward, Joseph, Mary and Anne. In Boston, Shippen, who had converted to Quakerism after his marriage, was persecuted for his new faith. He received fines for nonattendance of church and for opening his shop on a public fast day. He was publicly whipped for his beliefs at least twice. Following his wife Elisabeth's death, Shippen married the widowed Rebecca Howard Richardson in 1689, and the couple had one child together, Elizabeth. Shippen relocated to the more Quaker-friendly city of Philadelphia with his family. He acquired thousands of acres of land in Pennsylvania. These properties, combined with his wealth, lent him power in the colony which led to him acquiring numerous roles within the government.

Shippen was elected to represent Philadelphia County for the Colonial Assembly for the 1695 session, and on September 9, 1695, was elected Speaker of the Assembly. During his term as Speaker, no legislation was enacted after a dispute over a new Constitution brought the session to an early end. He was re-elected to the Assembly for the 1700 and 1705 terms.

In addition to his service in the Assembly, Shippen also held numerous important offices during his political career in Philadelphia. Shippen served on the Provincial Council from 1696-1712, and during that time, Shippen often served as a go-between with William Penn and the Assembly. He served as president of the Council and acting Governor in 1701, 1703-1704, and 1712. While on the Council, he was a member of a joint legislative committee focusing on the debts of the colony, as well as part of a committee formed to address piracy and illegal trade.

He served as Provincial Court judge in 1695, 1699, and from 1701-1703. In Philadelphia County he served as justice of the peace in 1695, and again from 1697-1712. Shippen was appointed by William Penn as the second mayor of Philadelphia on October 25, 1701 (he was the first to be appointed after the city's October 1701 charter), and was elected to a second term thereafter. He also served as the city of Philadelphia's alderman from 1703-1712 and as treasurer from 1705-1712.

Shippen worked closely with William Penn throughout his public service, and the two men





held similar views of proprietary government. Penn appointed Shippen one of the executors, trustees, and overseers of his will, and Penn and his family even resided at Shippen's home for a time.

In 1705 Shippen's second wife Rebecca died. The following year, he married Esther Wilcox, and the couple had 2 children, John and William.

Edward Shippen died on October 3, 1712, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He is interred at St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery in the city of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.





1694-1695, 1703-1705, 1706-1710,  
1714-1715, 1723-1724, 1725-1729

*David Lloyd*

**Born:** 1656, Manafon, Montgomeryshire, Wales.

**Died:** April 6, 1731, Chester, Chester County (now Delaware County), PA.

**Member of the Colonial Assembly:** Chester County, 1693-1695, 1712-1719,  
1723-1724, 1725-1729; Philadelphia County, 1702-1705, 1706-1710,  
1711-1712; Philadelphia City, 1705-1706.

**Affiliation:** Quaker.

David Lloyd was born in 1656 in Montgomeryshire, Wales. Lloyd studied law in England under George Jeffreys, who later became Lord Chancellor of England. Lloyd served as legal counsel to William Penn for issues surrounding Penn's proprietorship of Pennsylvania, and Penn gave Lloyd a commission to be Attorney General of Pennsylvania. Lloyd relocated to Pennsylvania and held the office of Attorney General from 1686-1688, 1691, and from 1695-1700. Lloyd was briefly married to his first wife, Sarah, before marrying the former Grace Growden, daughter of former Speaker of the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly Joseph Growden, in 1697. The couple had one son, Thomas.

In addition to his service as Attorney General, Lloyd also served in the Colonial Assembly. He was first elected to the Assembly to represent Chester County for the 1693 session, and he was re-elected a total of 22 more times, either representing Chester County, Philadelphia County, or the city of Philadelphia. Lloyd drafted numerous pieces of legislation during his time in the Assembly, including a bill to regulate the courts which, when enacted, benefited county justices and expanded their jurisdiction. He also worked on a joint committee that drafted the Charter of Privileges in 1701.

Lloyd was elected Speaker of the Assembly on April 2, 1694. Lloyd was re-elected Speaker 13 more times during his lengthy career in the Assembly. During his time as Speaker, Lloyd published an important set of rules that provided for swift and orderly debate in the House, as well as afforded the Speaker the power to control debates. Despite his early relationship with Penn, Lloyd eventually became adversarial towards the proprietorship and advocated for more power to be in the hands of the elected members in the Assembly.

In addition to serving as Attorney General and a member of the Assembly, Lloyd concurrently held numerous offices both in the colonial government as well as at the county and city levels. He served as clerk of the Provincial Council in 1686 and 1691, as well as clerk of the Provincial Court in 1689 and 1691. He was clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1689 and register general in 1697. Lloyd later served as the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from 1717-1731 and justice of the Court of Oyer and Terminer in 1728. He was the clerk of the peace for Philadelphia



County in 1686, 1689, 1699, 1700, 1701, and 1702, and the deputy register of the County from 1687-1689. He was the city of Philadelphia's clerk in 1691, and recorder and justice of the peace from 1704-1708. He was also commissioner of Chester County in the years 1715, 1718, and 1722.

Thomas Lloyd died on April 6, 1731, in the city of Chester, Pennsylvania. He is interred at St. Paul's Burying Ground in the city of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.



1692

# William Clark

Born: c. 1630s.

Died: June 1705.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Sussex County (now in the state of Delaware), 1682-1683, 1692, 1701.

Affiliation: Quaker, Delaware State Interests.

William Clark (also spelled Clarke) was a merchant from Dublin, Ireland. Although his exact birth date, birthplace, and date of arrival to the Colonies are unknown, he is known to have arrived by January 1680. The name of Clark's first wife is also unknown, but records indicate that his first wife died by 1680. Before her death, they had a daughter named Elizabeth. In 1680 he married the former Honor Huling, and the couple had a son named William.

In 1682 Clark was elected to the first Colonial Assembly, where he was one of the Assemblymen who signed the December 1682 petition for the Act of the Union, which annexed the counties of Sussex, Kent, and New Castle into Pennsylvania (the counties separated from Pennsylvania in 1701 to form Delaware). He was appointed to the Committee for Elections and Privileges, which was responsible for drafting provincial legislation. Clark was re-elected to the Assembly in 1692, and on May 10, 1692, was elected Speaker of the Assembly. Clark served just 1 session as Speaker. He was again elected to the Assembly in 1701, representing Sussex County, where he significantly impacted the session by chairing important committees that dealt with the Charter of Property and alcohol distribution.

During the interim years between his Assembly service, Clark was elected to the Provincial Council. In 1683 he was elected to a 3-year term to represent Sussex County. During his first term on the Council, he helped draft 7 bills and the Frame of Government. Clark continued to serve on the Provincial Council from 1686-1691, and served as president in 1686. Clark resumed his service on the Provincial Council after being appointed by Royal Governor Benjamin Fletcher in 1693. While on the 1693 Council, he sat on various joint committees where he amended legislation, including several bills pertaining to tobacco. In 1695 Clark was appointed to several committees whose objective was to review supply and defense bills, as well as the new Frame of Government. In 1699 he chaired joint committees that dealt with illegal trade and piracy. He continued to serve on the Provincial Council until 1701, when he was re-elected to the Colonial Assembly.

In addition to his service in the Assembly and on the Provincial Council, Clark held numerous other political positions, often simultaneously with those offices. He served as commissioner for Pennsylvania and the Lower Counties (counties now in the state of Delaware) in 1683, and as chief surveyor for Kent and Sussex Counties in 1683-1687, 1691, and 1693. Similarly, he served as



the justice of the peace for Sussex County, a position he held for 25 years, from 1680-1705. He also served as the customs officer in 1684 and as the justice of Oyer and Terminer Court in 1685 and 1692. In 1692 Clark was commissioned to be customs collector, a post he held until 1697. In 1683 he also served as a tax assessor, a job he also performed in 1703. From 1703-1705, Clark served as treasurer of Sussex. Clark died sometime in June of 1705. His burial location is unknown.





1690-1691, 1693-1694,  
1700-1702, 1705-1706, 1713-1714,  
1715-1716, 1722-1723

*Joseph Growdon*

Born: February 17, 1652, St. Austell Parish, Cornwall, England.

Died: November 1730, Bensalem, Bucks County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1684-1685;  
Bucks County, 1686-1687, 1690-1691, 1693-1694, 1700-1706, 1713-1714,  
1715-1716, 1717-1718, and 1722-1723.

Affiliation: Quaker, Pro-Proprietary.

Joseph Growdon (also spelled Grouden/Growden) was born in Cornwall, England, on February 17, 1652. A practicing Quaker, Growdon, along with his wife and father, was arrested and fined for attending the funeral of a fellow Quaker in 1682. Purchasing over 5,000 acres of land in Bucks County from William Penn, Growdon arrived in America in January of 1684, and worked as a pewterer and merchant. Growdon married Elizabeth in 1672, and the couple had 4 children: Grace (Lloyd) – wife of Speaker David Lloyd – Jennifer, Elizabeth, and Lawrence. Elizabeth died in 1699, and in 1706 the widowed Growdon married the former Ann Jones and the couple had 2 children, Hannah and Joseph.

Growdon was first elected into the Assembly in 1684 to represent Philadelphia County. He was re-elected for the 1685 session. Between 1686 and 1722, Growdon was re-elected 13 more times to the Assembly representing Bucks County. During this time, Growdon and his Quaker colleagues opposed the intrusion of the Provincial Council. In his first term, Growdon chaired the Committee of Elections and another committee whose goal was to repeal a previously enacted law regarding provincial grand juries. On May 10, 1690, Growdon was elected Speaker of the Assembly. As Speaker, he oversaw the enacting of 13 bills, one of which was the Continuation Act, which repealed some existing laws and affirmed that other laws previously passed stood. As Speaker, in 1693 he oversaw the reenactment of 76 previously passed laws and the passage of 31 new laws. Growdon was again elected Speaker for the second Assembly session of 1700. Growdon oversaw the passage of 104 laws, including a measure to tax imported liquor. Growdon was elected Speaker several more times during his lengthy career.

Growdon also served as a member of the Provincial Council. In March of 1687, Growdon was elected to a 3-year term on the council, though his win was narrow due to prominent Bucks County Quakers supporting Thomas Langhorne instead. In March of 1688, Growdon successfully cultivated support for a ban on the importation of rum. Growdon argued that local manufacturers should be encouraged to produce the product, while former Governor William Markham argued



that the proprietor needed the income from the import duty on rum. Similar to many other Quaker politicians, Growdon did not support the appointment of John Blackwell for Governor in 1688. Growdon's attendance at council meetings decreased during this time, and Council clashed several times over various issues.

Despite the conflicts on the Provincial Council, Growdon was elected to another 3-year term in the Provincial Council in 1691. However, he was terminated in April of 1693 when the 1683 charter was abolished by royal Governor Robert Fletcher, who appointed a new council. The provincial government was eventually restored, and in 1695, 1697, and 1698, he returned to the council. Growdon chaired important committees during this time, one of which drafted declarations against illegal trading and pirates. He drafted letters to King William III defending the Colony from accusations of supporting illegal trade and piracy. Growdon's last year of service on the council was in 1700, during which his time he was a part of committees that studied the 1683 and 1696 Frames of Government for revision.

In addition to his service on the Provincial Council and in the Colonial Assembly, Growdon served in several other political positions throughout his career. He was appointed to the Provincial Court from 1690-1691, 1693, 1698, 1701, and 1705-1706. Growdon also served as chief justice of the Provincial Court in 1707, 1709, and from 1711-1715.

Joseph Growdon died in November of 1730. Growdon is likely buried in his family plot with his father, Lawrence Growdon, in the Friends Burying Ground by the Neshaminy Meeting House in Langhorne, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.



1689-1690

# Arthur Cook

Born: c. 1636, Stepney Parish, England.

Died: October 2, 1699, Bucks County, PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Bucks County, 1689-1690.

Affiliation: Quaker, Anti-Proprietorship.

Arthur Cook (also spelled Cooke) was born circa 1636 in England. Cook worked as a currier and merchant. He was a founding member of the Meeting for Sufferings, a Quaker organization that documented and resisted religious persecution, and worked to raise funds to assist Friends who were victims of such actions. Cook himself had spent time in Newgate Prison in England for a perceived religious crime. In 1661 Cook married Elizabeth, and the couple had 2 sons, Edward and Richard. In 1665 Elizabeth passed away. In 1666 Cook married the former Margaret Yoakley, and the couple had several children: Arthur, John, Sarah (d. 1669), Sarah (b. 1670), Susanna, Thomas, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Priscilla.

Cook left England and initially settled in Rhode Island. He served 2 terms in the Rhode Island Assembly, in 1681-1682 and 1683-1684. Cook relocated to Pennsylvania by 1685. His reputation as a Quaker minister and merchant led to his first political appointments in Pennsylvania. He was appointed as a justice of the peace in Bucks County, serving in the years 1686-1688 and 1690-1692, and as a Provincial Court justice, serving in the years 1686-1688, 1690-1691, and 1693. Cook assumed the role of chief justice in 1686 and 1690. Cook was elected to the Provincial Council and served in the years 1686-1688 and 1690-1692. He also served as Commissioner of State in 1688.

Cook was elected to his one and only term in the Colonial Assembly for the 1689 session, and on May 10, was elected Speaker of the Assembly. In Cook's term as Speaker, he did not oversee the enactment of any laws. He did, however, mobilize antiproprietary sentiment amongst the members. He was highly opposed to Governor John Blackwell. After his brief service in the Assembly, Cook continued his work in his numerous political positions, and took on new ones as Commissioner of Property in 1694 and justice of the peace of Philadelphia County in 1690, 1692, and 1695.

Arthur Cook died on October 2, 1699, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His burial location is unknown.





1685-1689

*John White*

Born: unknown.

Died: September 27, 1693.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: New Castle County (now in the state of Delaware), 1684-1690; Philadelphia County, 1691-September 27, 1693.

Affiliation: Anti-Proprietary.

The records surrounding John White's birth and immigration to America are unknown, but his name first appears in New Castle County land records in 1676. White began practicing law and entered into public service shortly after he arrived in New Castle County (now the state of Delaware). He married Mary, and together the couple had 4 children: Samuel, James, Mary, and Grace.

White's political career began when he was elected as an Assemblyman in 1682 from Burlington County, New Jersey, in its Colonial Assembly. He also served as the custom officer for Burlington in 1682 and its sheriff from 1682-1683, before shifting to become involved in Pennsylvania's Provincial Government.

White served as the clerk of the New Castle County Court starting in 1683, a position he would hold until 1689, and again in 1690. He was first elected to the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly for the 1684-1685 session. On, May 11, 1685, White was chosen by the Assembly to serve as Speaker. He was re-elected on May 10, 1686, May 10, 1687, and for a final term on May 10, 1688. His time as Speaker was marked by a struggle between the Assembly and the Provincial Council over control of the lawmaking power in the province. Penn's original Frame of Government granted power to the General Assembly to "assent" to proposed laws originating from the council, not to create laws in its own right. White was an outspoken leader of the rights of the Assembly, leading to clashes with the council over proposed amendments of bills and the Assembly's rights under Penn's Frame of Government.

In addition to his service in the Assembly, White held numerous other political offices. He was justice of the peace for New Castle County in 1683, King's Attorney for Chester County in 1690, Philadelphia County sheriff in 1692, and the deputy clerk of the Philadelphia County Court from 1692-1693. White also served as Attorney General for Pennsylvania in 1683 and 1685.

John White died on September 27, 1693. His burial location is unknown.



1684-1685

# Nicholas More

Born: c. 1638, England.

Died: May 1687, Philadelphia County (now Montgomery County), PA.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1682-1683, 1684-1685.

Affiliation: Anglican, Pro-Proprietary.

Nicholas More was born in England circa 1638. While in England he trained as a physician. In 1670 he married the former Mary Hedge, the daughter of a wealthy Quaker, and the couple had 5 children: Mary, Samuel, Nicholas, Sarah, and Rebecca. Despite his wife's religious affiliation, More remained an Anglican throughout his life.

After purchasing 10,000 acres of land from William Penn, More traveled to Pennsylvania and arrived in October of 1682. From 1682 to April of 1684 he served as the first president of the Free Society of Traders, an organization Penn formed to promote economic development in the colony. More quickly became an important figure in Pennsylvania politics upon his arrival.

More was a part of the first Colonial Assembly that convened on December 4, 1682, to ratify Penn's Frame of Government. More was chosen twice during the first Assembly session as the chair to lead discussions when the Assembly formed a Committee of the Whole (a committee comprised of all the members of the Assembly to discuss important legislation or issues). More or Thomas Wynne are identified as likely candidates to have been elected the first Speaker of the Assembly, although no Speaker is identified in the minutes. He also served on the Committee of Foresight, where he drafted legislation and chaired the Committee for Elections and Privileges.

More was re-elected for the 1684 session, and on May 10, 1684, was elected Speaker of the Assembly. More returned for a final term in the Assembly in 1685. While not elected Speaker, on the opening day of the session he was selected to chair a Committee of the Whole for a debate regarding the Frame of Government. However, on the fifth day of session, a complaint was filed against More demanding his impeachment from the Assembly due to his alleged dictatorial behavior as Chief Justice of the Provincial Court, on which he served from 1684-1685. Some of the complaints against him included badgering witnesses and jurors, refusal to hear a case, and giving a felony decision in a civil case. More was forced to withdraw from the Assembly while they voted on the impeachment. Eventually More was called back to the Assembly to answer impeachment charges, though he refused on the procedural grounds that he must be voted back into the Assembly before returning. He was ultimately expelled, thus ending his career in the Assembly.

Despite the charges of impeachment and his conflict with many of his Quaker peers, Penn appointed him as deputy governor on a five-member board in February of 1687. The board did not take office until February of 1688, during which time More had passed away.



1683-1684

# Thomas Wynne

Born: July 27, 1627, Caerwys, Flintshire, Wales.

Died: March 16, 1692.

Member of the Colonial Assembly: Philadelphia County, 1682-1683;  
Sussex County, 1688-1689.

Affiliation: Quaker, Pro-Proprietary.

Thomas Wynne was born on July 27, 1627, in Caerwys, Flintshire, Wales into a farming family. Wynne married the former Martha Buttall in 1655 until her death in 1670, and the couple had 6 children together: Mary, Rebecca, Sydney, Hannah, Tabitha, and Jonathan. In 1676 he married his second wife, the former Elizabeth Rowden Chorley. Wynne was raised as an Anglican, but around the time of his first marriage, he converted to Quakerism. Wynne began to preach around his home in Flintshire, and served 6 years of imprisonment for his religious agitation. In 1682 Wynne and his family immigrated to Pennsylvania and settled in Philadelphia.

Wynne immediately became involved in provincial politics, and in 1682 served in the first Colonial Assembly. Wynne and Nicholas More are identified as possible candidates to have been elected the first Speaker of the House, although no Speaker is identified in the minutes. Wynne was elected Speaker on March 12, 1683 for the second meeting of the Assembly. During his Speakership, Wynne was involved in establishing the rules of parliamentary procedure and rewriting William Penn's original Frame of Government. In 1688 he was elected to another term in the Assembly, this time from Sussex County. During this term in the Assembly, Wynne was involved in the debate over whether the Assembly should attempt to print paper money.

In addition to Wynne's service in the Assembly, he served as a Provincial Court judge from 1690-1692, Attorney General of Philadelphia in 1683, justice of the peace for Philadelphia in 1684, and Sussex County justice of the peace from 1687-1691. Wynne was one of the first Quaker emigres to Pennsylvania and remained active in his faith. He was involved with the Philadelphia Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, and he was one of the Quakers involved in securing funding and overseeing the construction of the first Quaker Meetinghouse in Philadelphia.

Thomas Wynne died on March 16, 1692. He is interred at Friends Arch Street Meeting House in the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.



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