

Gunning Bedford, Jr.

Delaware (small state)

Personal Background

You were born to a prominent family in Philadelphia in 1747. You graduated from the College of New Jersey and studied law in Philadelphia. After becoming a lawyer, you moved to Delaware. During the Revolutionary War, you served in the Continental Army. Later, you were active in both state and national politics. You served in the state legislature, on the state council, and in the Continental Congress. In 1784, you became attorney general of Delaware.

A forceful and hot-tempered man, you are a very active member of the Constitutional Convention. You speak out strongly for the rights of small states. You warn that they might have to seek foreign alliances if the convention fails to honor their interests.

Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

Issue 1: You strongly believe all states must have an equal vote in the national legislature. You think the legislature should have one house, but are willing to compromise on this.

Issue 2: You believe that slaves should be counted only for determining a state's representation in the national legislature.

Issue 3: You believe that the national executive should be elected directly by the people.

Sign the Constitution? Yes.