

James McHenry

Maryland (medium state)

Personal Background

You were born in Ireland in 1753. After coming to America in 1771, you started an import business in Maryland. You continued your schooling and studied medicine for two years. During the Revolutionary War, you served as a surgeon and were captured by the British. After being freed, you rejoined the Continental Army and became secretary to General Washington. You began to devote yourself to politics. During the 1780s, you have been elected to both the Maryland Senate and the Continental Congress.

Quiet and sensible, you keep a private journal during the Constitutional Convention that will prove to be useful to historians in future years.

Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

Issue 1: You believe that all states must have an equal vote in the national legislature. You think that the legislature should have one house.

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

Issue 3: You believe that the executive should be chosen by electors appointed by state legislatures.

Sign the Constitution? Yes.