

William Samuel Johnson

Connecticut (medium state)

Personal Background

You were born in Connecticut in 1727. Your father was a well-known clergyman and college president. You are well educated and graduated from Yale. Without formal training in law, you became a prosperous lawyer. Before the Revolution, you served in the Connecticut militia and in both houses of the colonial assembly. In the early 1770s, you became a judge of Connecticut's highest court. When the Revolution broke out, you found it hard to choose sides. At first you worked to end the dispute with Britain peacefully, and you refused to participate in the First Continental Congress. After the war, however, you became a popular and respected delegate in the Continental Congress.

You are cautious and dislike controversy.

Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

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

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

Issue 3: You believe the national executive should be elected by the state legislatures.

Sign the Constitution? Yes.