The following sketches outline the political careers of the principal Connecticut leaders. When known, their political positions are indicated (1) in state politics prior to 1787; (2) on the Constitution in 1787; (3) in national politics after 1787. In several cases the terms are too limiting. Thus Roger Sherman supported both “agrarian” and “mercantile” measures before and during 1787, depending upon the issues. William Williams, Joseph Hopkins, Eliphalet Dyer, and Erastus Wolcott opposed the Constitution, but voted for it in the state Convention and hence were both “Antifederalist” and “Federalist” in 1787 (marked with asterisks in this gazetteer). Richard Law was a “Federalist” after 1789. Yet, in 1801 the Democratic-Republicans nominated him for governor, and, when he declined the nomination, they did not name another candidate to replace him.

**Dyer, Eliphalet (1721–1807)**
Agrarian/Antifederalist*/?

**Edwards, Pierpont (1750–1826)**
? /Federalist/Federalist; Democratic-Republican

**Ellsworth, Oliver (1745–1807)**
Mercantile/Federalist/Federalist

Gale, Benjamin (1715–1790)
Agrarian/Antifederalist/


Griswold, Matthew (1714–1799)
Mercantile/Federalist/?


Hillhouse, William (1728–1816)
Agrarian/Antifederalist/?


Hopkins, Joseph (1730–1801)
Agrarian/Antifederalist*?/?

HUMPHREYS, DAVID (1752–1818)
Mercantile/Federalist/Federalist

HUNTINGTON, SAMUEL (1731–1796)
Mercantile/Federalist/Federalist

JOHNSON, WILLIAM SAMUEL (1727–1819)
Mercantile/Federalist/Federalist

LAW, RICHARD (1733–1806)
Mercantile/Federalist/Federalist; Democratic-Republican?

MITCHELL, STEPHEN MIX (1743–1835)
Mercantile?/Federalist/Federalist


PARSONS, SAMUEL HOLDEN (1737–1789)
Mercantile/Federalist/


PERKINS, Enoch (1760–1828)
Mercantile?/Federalist/Federalist


SHERMAN, ROGER (1721–1793)
Mercantile/Federalist/Federalist

Born Newton, Mass.; cordwainer, shopkeeper, lawyer. Moved to New Milford, Conn., 1743. Surveyor for New Haven County, 1745–52. New Milford town offices (grand

STRONG, JEDIDIAH (1738–1802)
Mercantile/Federalist/


TRUMBULL, JONATHAN, JR. (1740–1809)
Mercantile/Federalist/Federalist


WADSWORTH, JAMES (1730–1817)
Agrarian/Antifederalist/Democratic-Republican?


WADSWORTH, JEREMIAH (1743–1804)
Mercantile/Federalist/Federalist


WILLIAMS, WILLIAM (1731–1811)
Agrarian/Antifederalist*/?


WOLCOTT, ERASTUS (1721–1793)
Agrarian/Antifederalist*/?

WOLCOTT, OLIVER, SR. (1726–1797)
Mercantile/Federalist/Federalist


Original source: Ratification by the States, Volume III: Delaware, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut