

## **JOHN JAY**

### **1745-1829**

Born New York City. Graduated King's College (Columbia), 1764. Studied law with Benjamin Kissam in New York City; admitted to bar, 1768. Secretary of royal commission to fix boundary between N.Y. and N.J., 1773. Married Sarah Livingston, daughter of William Livingston, 1774. Member, N.Y. committee of correspondence, 1774. Delegate to Continental and Confederation congresses, 1774-76 (but absent and did not sign Declaration of Independence), 1778-79 (president), 1784. Member, Provincial Convention, 1775; Third and Fourth Provincial congresses, 1776-77, where he favored agreeing to Declaration of Independence and played major role in drafting and adoption of state constitution of 1777. Member, First Council of Safety, 1777. First chief justice, N.Y. Supreme Court, 1777-79. Appointed minister plenipotentiary to Spain, 1779. Joint commissioner for negotiating peace with Great Britain, 1782-83. Returned to U.S., July 1784. Confederation Secretary for Foreign Affairs, 1784-90. President, N.Y. Society for the Manumission of Slaves, 1785-90. Co-author, "Publius": *The Federalist*, 1787-88; author, *An Address to the People of the State of New-York*, under signature of "A Citizen of New-York," 1788. Injured in "Doctor's Riot" in New York City, April 1788. Member, New York Convention, 1788; voted to ratify Constitution. Chief Justice, U.S., 1789-95. Unsuccessful Federalist candidate for governor, 1792. As special envoy to Great Britain, negotiated Jay Treaty, 1794. Returned to U.S., 1795. Governor, 1795-1801. Declined appointment as Chief Justice of U.S., Dec. 1800. Retired from public life to estate in Bedford, Westchester County, 1801.