Biographical Gazetteer

Six of the eight men listed below were “conservatives” in state politics on such issues as paper money during the 1780s. Only Clark and Dayton supported such “radical” proposals. All eight men supported ratification of the Constitution, although Clark believed that it needed to be amended. Three of the men—Boudinot, Dayton, and Paterson—were Federalists during the 1790s. The other five men—Houston, Brearley, Livingston, Stevens, and Clark—had died by 1794.

BOUDINOT, ELIAS (1740–1821)

BREARLEY, DAVID (1745–1790)

CLARK, ABRAHAM (1726–1794)

DAYTON, JONATHAN (1760–1824)
Member U.S. House of Representatives, 1791–99 (speaker, 1795–99). Brigadier general
nolle prosequi entered in 1807.

HOUSTON, WILLIAM CHURCHILL (1746–1788)
Born South Carolina. Raised in North Carolina. College of New Jersey (Princeton) B.A.
1768 (tutor and professor of mathematics and philosophy, 1768–83; librarian, 1770–83;
Somerset delegate to Assembly, 1777–79. Member council of safety, 1778. Delegate to
Congress, 1779–81, 1784, 1785. Member federal court which issued “Trenton Decree,”
1782. Admitted to New Jersey bar and settled in Trenton, 1781. Clerk Supreme Court,
1781–88. Receiver of Continental taxes for New Jersey, 1782–85. Delegate to Annapolis
Convention, 1786. Delegate to Constitutional Convention, 1787.

LIVINGSTON, WILLIAM (1723–1790)
Born Albany, N.Y. Fifth child of Philip Livingston, the second Lord of Livingston Manor.
Yale B.A. 1741. Studied law with James Alexander and William Smith, Sr. in New York
City. Admitted to New York bar, 1748. Opposed royal charter for and Anglican control of
King’s College (Columbia), 1751–53. With William Smith, Jr., published digest of New
York laws, 1752, 1762. Member New York commission to settle boundary with
Admitted to New Jersey bar, 1755. Member “New York Triumvirate” (with William
Smith, Jr. and John Morin Scott) and a leader of Livingston faction. Livingston Manor
deleagte to New York Assembly, 1758–60. Author of “The Sentinel” essays, 1765.
Opposed establishment of Anglican episcopacy in America, 1767–69. Member New York
commission to settle boundary with New Jersey, 1768. Moved to Elizabethtown, N.J.,
1772. Member Essex County committee of correspondence, 1774. Delegate to Congress,
1774–76. Militia brigadier general, 1775–76. Governor, 1776–90. Author of “Primitive
Whig” essays opposing state paper money, 1786. Delegate to Constitutional
Convention, signed Constitution, 1787. Member of Philadelphia Society for the
Promotion of Agriculture.

PATERSON, WILLIAM (1745–1806)
College of New Jersey (Princeton) B.A. 1763, M.A. 1766. Studied law with Richard
Stockton. Admitted to New Jersey bar, 1769. Delegate to first and third provincial
congresses, 1775, 1776 (assistant secretary, secretary). Officer Somerset County
minutemen, 1777. Member council of safety, 1777. Somerset member of Council, 1776–
77. Attorney general, 1776–83. Elected delegate to Congress, 1780, but declined. Moved
to New Brunswick, 1783. Delegate to Constitutional Convention, 1787 (introduced “New
justice U.S. Supreme Court, 1793–1806.

STEVEN, JOHN, SR. (1716–1792)
Born New York City. Raised in Perth Amboy, N.J. Member colonial Assembly. Member Governor’s Council, 1762–76. Member and vice president of Council, 1776–82. Delegate to Congress, 1784. President state Convention, voted to ratify, 1787.

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