

A real Federalist, Providence United States Chronicle, 27 March 1788

Mr. WHEELER, A Scurrilous Piece, aimed at the government of this State, having appeared in a Connecticut Paper, under the signature of a *Landholder*; and having no doubt that the concealed as well as the open and avowed enemies of the State, will be anxious to have it reprinted here—and will request you to publish it: If that should be the case, I expect (from the impartiality which you have always professed) that these few Lines will follow that publication.—The *Landholder* is a public defaulter²—in his hands are large sums of public money, unaccounted for—and which the new Constitution will secure in his pocket—and all his venom pointed at this State, is in consequence of our appearing so decidedly against this system of government, so happily framed to cover the villanies of those harpies, who during the late war rioted upon the spoils of the distressed inhabitants of this devoted country;—but, Sir, fortunately for us, there are still patriots left,—who like a constellation will clear the mists, too long suffered to blind the eyes of the honest yeomanry of our country, and who are now exhibiting their talents for that purpose.—The names of *Richard Henry Lee, Elbridge Gerry, George Clinton, Luther Martin*,³ &c. &c. will long be revered by their admiring countrymen, for the noble stand they make against the new Constitution.

Providence, March 26, 1788.

Published in Volume XXIV of *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution, Rhode Island*, Vol. 1, edited by John P. Kaminski, Charles H. Schoenleber, Gaspare J. Saladino, Richard Leffler, Jonathan M. Reid, Margaret R. Flamingo, Patrick T. Conley, Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2011.