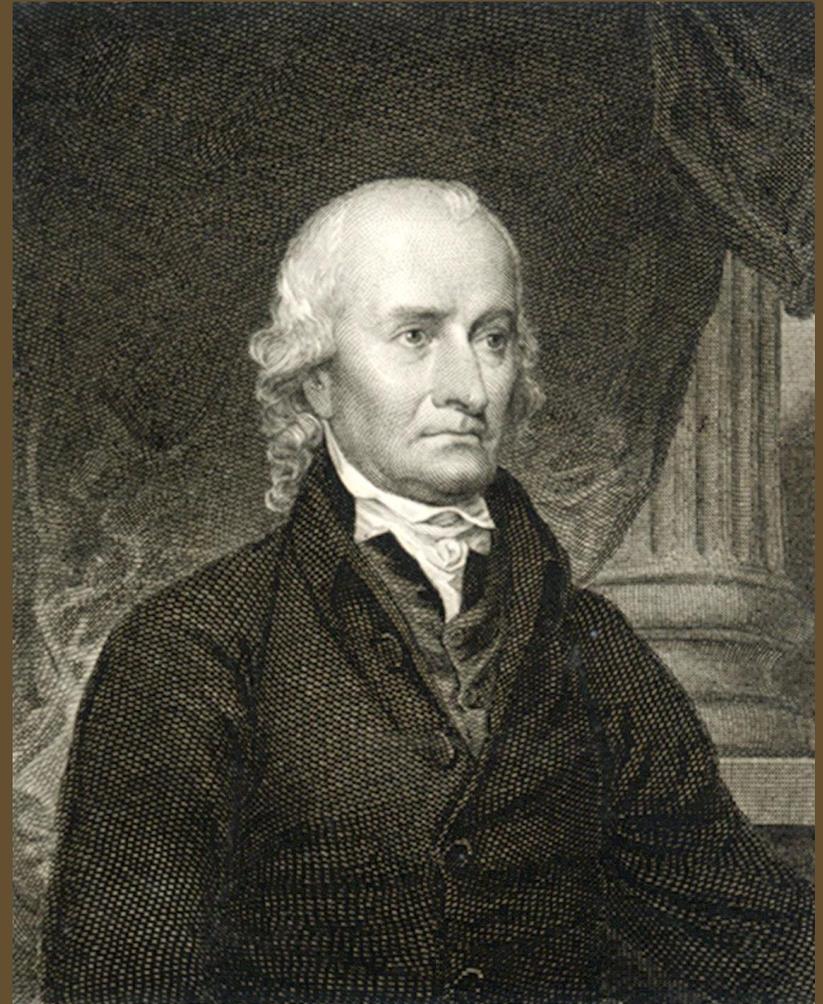
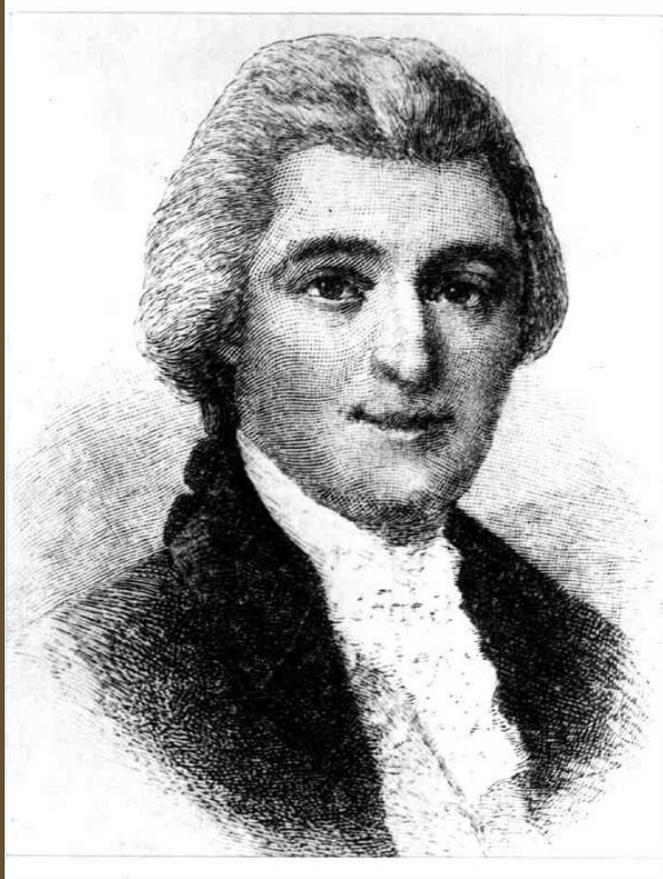


Hugh Williamson

Patriot, Physician,
Statesman and
Renaissance Man





- Birth: December 5, 1735, in West Nottingham Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania
- Death: May 22, 1819, New York City, New York
- Internment: Apthorpe Tomb, Trinity Churchyard, New York City

In the Beginning.....

- Eldest son of a clothier
- Due to fragile health, he was sent away to preparatory schools in New London Crossroads, DE and Newark, DE.
- In 1757, he entered the first class of the College of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania) and graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics.
- Moved to Connecticut and became a licensed Presbyterian minister but abandoned this career due to factional disputes among the local clergy and ill health
- In 1760, he completed a master's degree and joined the faculty of his alma mater as a professor of mathematics.

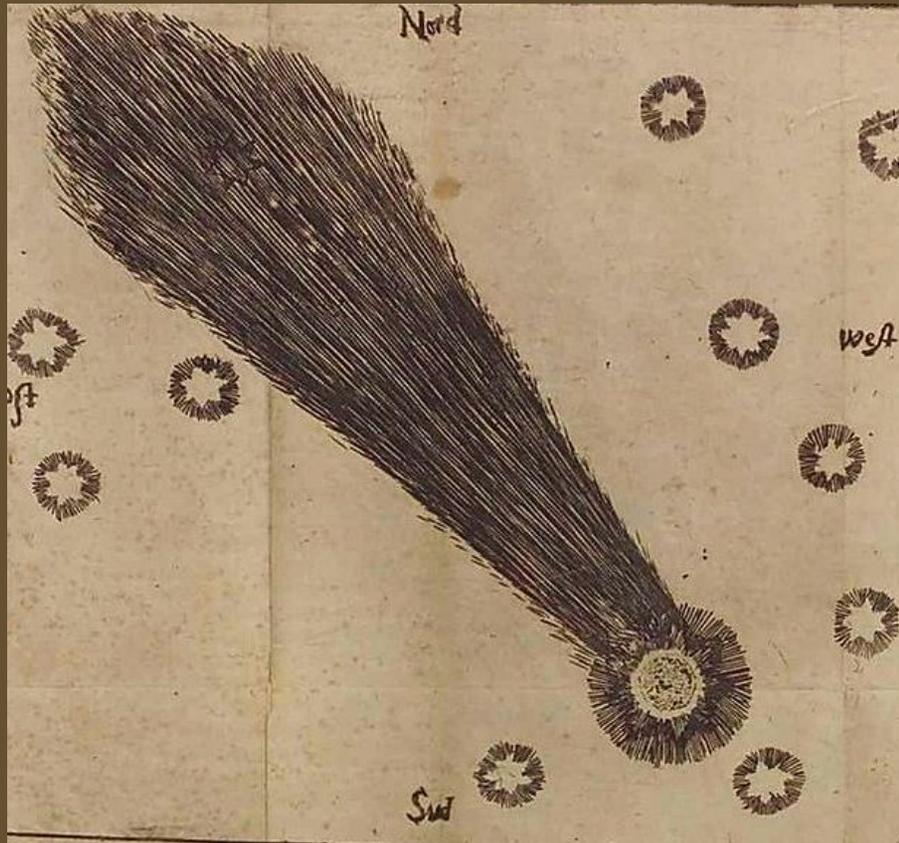
Studying the Physic

In 1764, Williamson left for Europe to study medicine under such dignitaries as Alexander Munroe, William Cullen and John Hunter, a Scottish surgeon regarded as one of the most distinguished scientists and surgeons of his day



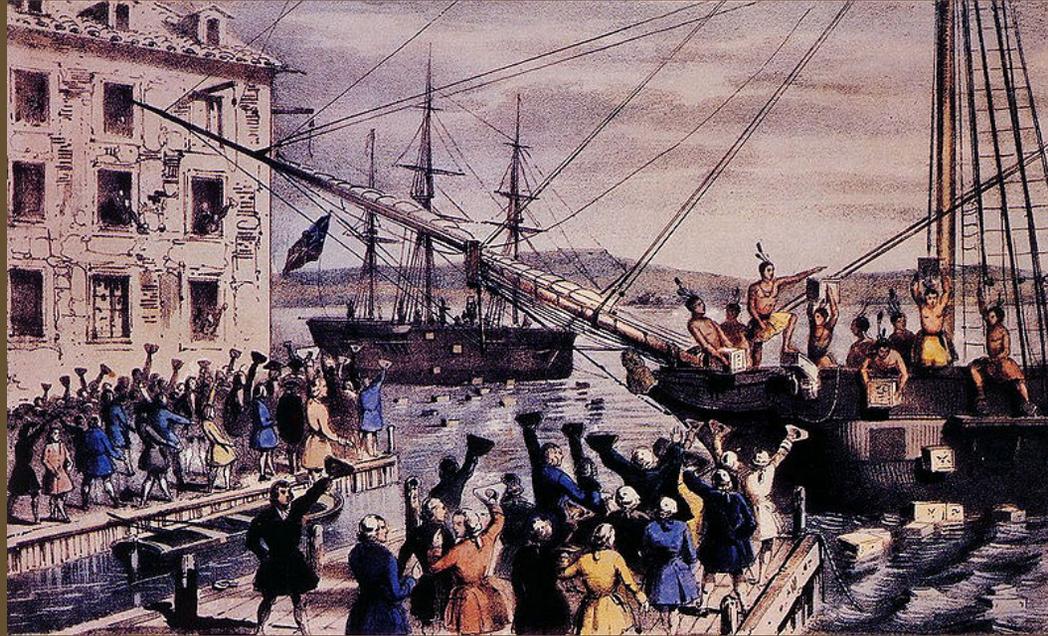
In 1768, Williamson obtained his medical degree from the prestigious Utrecht University in the Netherlands and returned to Philadelphia to practice the brutal craft.

A Renaissance Man



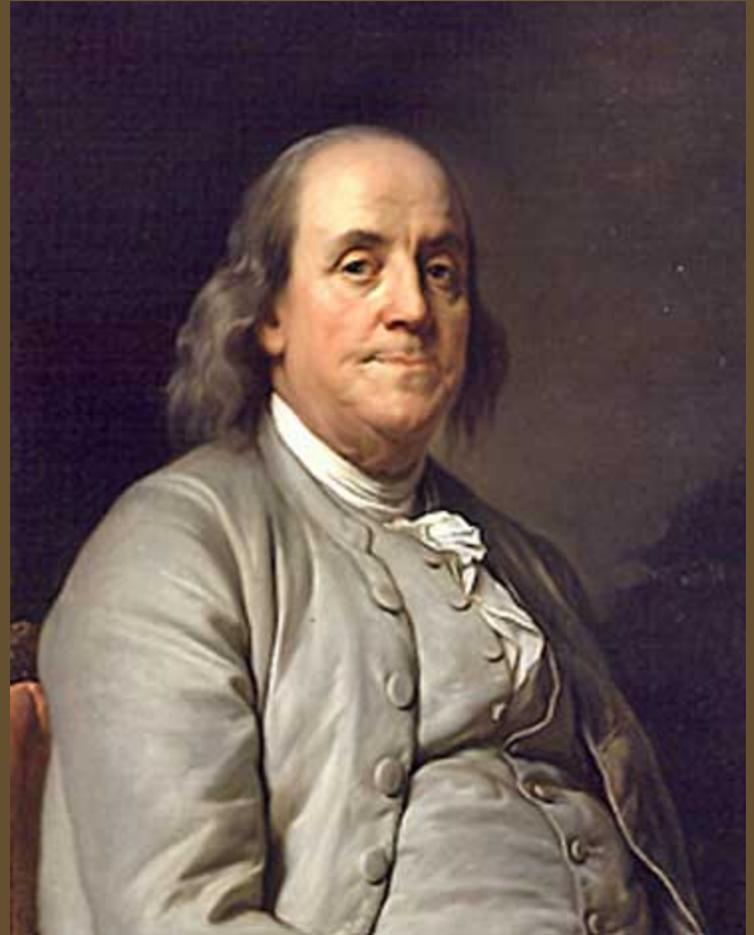
- Upon returning to Philadelphia, he continued to pursue scientific interests.
- In 1768, He joined the American Philosophical Society (founded by Benjamin Franklin).
- In 1769, he served on a commission that observed the transits of Venus and Mercury and wrote “An Essay on Comets”, both of which helped earn him a doctorate of laws from the University of Leyden.

Politics and Patriotism



On a trip to England, Williamson stopped en route at Boston where he witnessed the Boston Tea Party. On reaching London, he was questioned by the Privy Council on the rebellious act and on colonial affairs.

While in London, he solidified a relationship with Benjamin Franklin and found himself appealing for support from English citizens



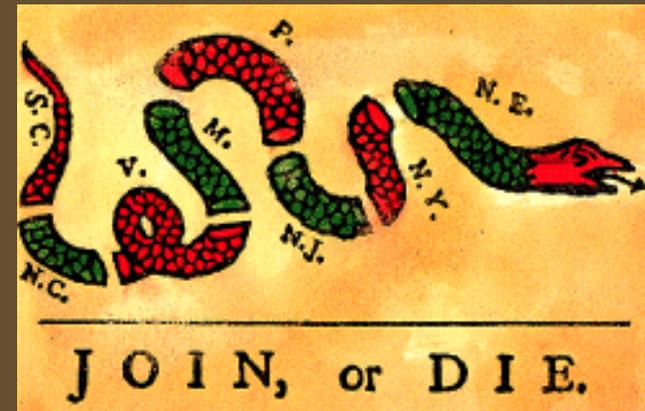


He continued on to the Netherlands where under the guise of a scientist, he organized pamphlets and other papers championing the Colonies' cause.

Upon hearing of the colonies' declaration of independence, Williamson rushed home, narrowly escaping the British blockade.



With the partnership firmly established, Williamson made Edenton his base of operations. He soon thereafter established a successful medical practice, serving the region's planters and merchants.



After finding no openings with the Continental Army's Medical Department, he formed a partnership with his younger brother to import medicines and other scarce items from the West Indies.



Revolutionary Service

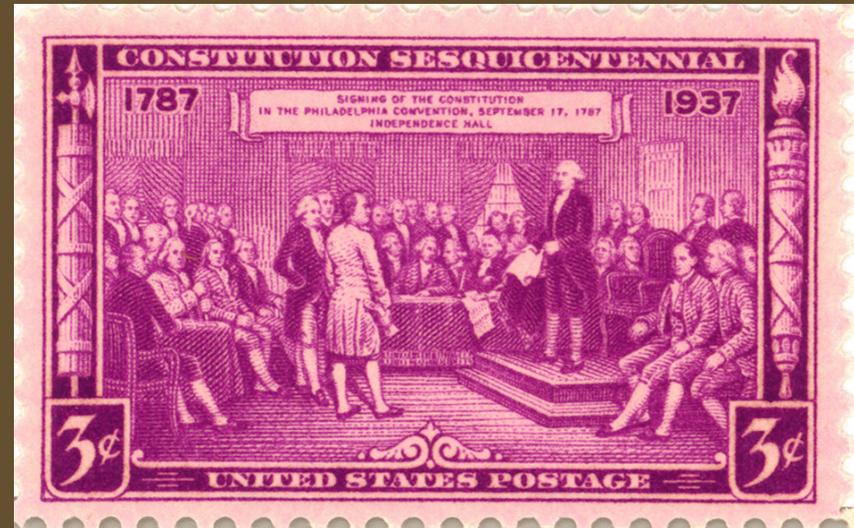




- Appointed Surgeon-General of the North Carolina from 1779 to 1782 by Gov. Richard Caswell.
- Present for the American defeat at Battle of Camden. Spent two months behind enemy lines caring for the American wounded. He thwarted a smallpox epidemic after convincing the British officers to agree to his method of combating the disease.
- In the fall of 1780, Williamson served with Brig. Gen. Issac Gregory whose forces were charged in limiting British activity in eastern NC. Due to Williamson's innovations in preventive medicine, he was able to keep the force virtually disease-free during the six months they were based in the Dismal Swamp.

Statesman

- Member of House of Commons in 1782
- Member of Continental Congress from 1782 to 1785 and again from 1787 to 1788.
- NC delegate to the federal Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia serving on 5 committees and making over 70 speeches.
- After the US Constitution was ratified by NC, he served two terms in Congress.



Influencing the Constitution

- Electoral College
- Impeachment
- Veto power and 2/3rd majority of the legislative branch to override
- Calculation of populace to determine representation in the House (Slaves, Census)
- Asserted that the Constitution was “the supreme law of the land” during deliberations
- Represented North Carolina on the “Committee on Postponed Affairs” which settled all issues not resolved

Supporting Ratification

- Delivered a speech titled “Remarks on the New Plan of Government” in three installments published February 25-27, 1788. The speech is part of the Federalist Papers for June 12, 1788.
- After ratification initially failed, Williamson encouraged the new Congress to add the Bill of Rights to the Constitution which would ensure eventual ratification of the Constitution by North Carolina.
- Representing *Tyrrell County* at the Fayetteville Convention, Williamson crafted the resolution that once passed, adopted the Constitution.

Later Endeavors



- Served as an original trustee of the University of North Carolina where he was the board's secretary and served on numerous committees.
- Published various items on everything from History of North Carolina, reptiles, lightning rods and the relationship between climate and disease.
- Advised on the Erie Canal's construction as well as the Dismal Swamp Canal project
- After moving to New York in the 1790's, he was named a trustee of New York's College of Physicians and Surgeons and was a founder of New York's Literary and Philosophical Society.



- In January 1789, he married Maria Apthorpe, daughter of Hon. Charles Ward Apthorpe.
- He died on May 22, 1819 in New York City is buried in the Apthorpe Tomb, Trinity Churchyard.

