

## Debating at the Convention

### **Proposals for How States Will Be Represented in the New Government**

#### **Proposal A**

The number of representatives a state sends to Congress will depend on the size of the state's population.

#### **Proposal B**

Each state will have an equal number of representatives in Congress, regardless of the state's size.

#### **Proposal C**

The number of representatives a state sends to Congress will depend partially on the wealth of the citizens of the state.

### **Procedure for Discussing the Proposals**

Follow these steps to discuss how states should be represented in the new government.

**Step 1:** One state delegation nominates one of the proposals above.

**Step 2:** The nomination is seconded by another state.

**Step 3:** The nomination is discussed and debated for three to five minutes.

**Step 4:** The nominated proposal is voted upon. To pass, the nomination must be approved by a majority of the states. A majority means that a proposal receives more than half of the votes.

**Step 5:** If the proposal does not pass, repeat the process with a new nomination.

## Role Cards for Constitutional Convention Delegates

**John Langdon**

New Hampshire (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** You were an early supporter of the American Revolution. You represented your state in the Continental Congress and fought in the war. Since that time, you have held important political positions in your state, including speaker of the New Hampshire assembly and governor of New Hampshire. You are optimistic, cheerful, and an active speaker in the debates at the Constitutional Convention.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You believe that all states should have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The larger states could “gang up” on the smaller states.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Nicolas Gilman**

New Hampshire (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** Growing up in New Hampshire, you attended local schools and worked in your father’s general store. During the war for independence, you became a captain in the Continental army and served through the war. After the war, your main interest became politics. You were a delegate in the Continental Congress from 1786 to 1788. Because you are one of the more inexperienced delegates, you pay careful attention to the discussions during the Constitutional Convention.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You believe that all states should have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The larger states could “gang up” on the smaller states.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Elbridge Gerry**

Massachusetts (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** You were born to a wealthy family and joined the family merchant and shipping business after graduating from Harvard College. You served in the colonial legislature and became one of the first Patriots. In 1776, you became a delegate to the Continental Congress. You are known for being somewhat nervous and very serious, without much of a sense of humor.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population. You think Congress should have two houses. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** A strong national government is best, but we must make sure the rights of the people are protected. The American people must have a direct connection to their government.

**Sign the Constitution?** No. You believe that the new government is worse than the old one. You want a bill of rights and other changes to better protect people's rights and liberties.

**Rufus King**

Massachusetts (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** You grew up the son of a farmer and merchant. After attending Harvard College, you served briefly in the war for independence and then became a lawyer. You are very active in politics, serving as a member of the Massachusetts legislature and the Continental Congress. You are known as a brilliant speaker and an opponent of slavery. When you first arrived at the convention, you did not want to see the Articles of Confederation greatly altered.

**Views** You agree with Proposal C. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on how much property their citizens have. You think Congress should have two houses. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The American people should have a direct connection to their government. You become very frustrated with the small states' unwillingness to give up their proposal. You take the position that if the small states won't budge on the issue of representation, then neither will you.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Roger Sherman**

Connecticut (medium state)

**Personal Background** You grew up on a farm and learned the shoemaking trade as a young man. Even though you were not trained in law, you became a lawyer and a judge and eventually a leader in your community. You served in the Continental Congress, where you were appointed to the committees that drafted the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. You are a respected leader who is known for your careful reasoning and skill in debate as well as your willingness to compromise.

**Views** You agree with Proposals A and B. You want to combine them into one proposal to create a Congress with two houses. In the lower house, states would be represented by population. In the upper house, each state would have equal representation. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** You will present your compromise proposal (see “Views” above) during the debate, but not at first. You realize you do not have enough support for your proposal at the beginning of the convention. So you wait until the convention is deadlocked (and must compromise) and then nominate your proposal.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Oliver Ellsworth**

Connecticut (medium state)

**Personal Background and Character** After graduating from the College of New Jersey, you became a successful lawyer. You are an active participant at the Constitutional Convention. You proposed that official documents refer to the government as the “United States.” Your proposal was accepted by the convention. Tall and dignified, you sometimes show a sharp temper.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You believe that all states should have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house, but you are willing to compromise on this. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The larger states could “gang up” on the smaller states. The few must be protected from destruction by the many.

**Sign the Constitution?** No. You leave the convention before the signing, but you will support ratification.

**Alexander Hamilton**

New York (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** You were born in the British West Indies. As a youth, you showed great intelligence and talent. After your mother died, people on your island raised money to send you to school in New York. During the American Revolution, you wrote several pamphlets to support the Patriot cause. When war broke out, you became an army officer and quickly rose to become an assistant to General George Washington. After the war, you became a lawyer, were elected to the Continental Congress, and later served in the state legislature. You are charming, passionate, and ambitious. You are a leading supporter of creating a strong central government.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population. You think Congress should have two houses. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The American people should have a direct connection to their government. Choosing representatives in this way will ensure that more voices will be represented in the government, not just one voice from each state. Your fellow delegates from New York have a different opinion and you constantly disagree with them.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Robert Yates**

New York (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** As a young man, you studied law in New York City and then became a lawyer in Albany, New York. During the American Revolution, you helped draft the first constitution for the state of New York. You served on New York's state supreme court, where some people criticized you for your fair treatment of Loyalists. Many people think you are arrogant and snobbish.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You believe that all states must have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** If Congress becomes too strong, it may abuse states' rights. The convention is simply supposed to improve the Articles of Confederation. You do not believe that the convention has the authority to create a new government. You constantly disagree with your fellow delegate, Alexander Hamilton.

**Sign the Constitution?** No. You leave the convention when it becomes clear that it will form a powerful new national government instead of simply revising the Articles of Confederation.

**William Paterson**

New Jersey (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** When you were two years old, your family moved from Ireland to New Jersey, where your father became a prosperous merchant. After graduating from the College of New Jersey, you studied law. You were a lawyer by the time the American Revolution began. You were a leading Patriot during the war. In 1776, you became New Jersey's attorney general. You are known to be hardworking, serious, and formal.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You firmly believe that all states must have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** If Congress becomes too strong, it may abuse states' rights. A strong national government is important, but if too much power is given to Congress, small states could be swallowed up by the larger states. Small states could lose their voice in government.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**David Brearley**

New Jersey (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** You were born in New Jersey and come from an old English family. You chose law as a career. A strong supporter of the American Revolution, you were arrested by the British for treason and freed by a group of Patriots. You served as an officer during the war. In 1779, you were elected chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. As a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, you faithfully attend the sessions.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You firmly believe that all states must have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The larger states could "gang up" on the smaller states. You are frustrated during the debate. You sarcastically announce to the delegates that maybe the states should be thrown out and the country should be cut up into 13 equal pieces.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Benjamin Franklin**

Pennsylvania (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** You are one of the most respected men in the United States. You have achieved fame as a scientist, inventor, diplomat, and politician. Your accomplishments include helping draft the Declaration of Independence. As a representative to France, you helped convince the French government to support the American Revolution. Despite your age and poor health, you faithfully attend sessions of the convention. You arrived willing to support any proposal that would create a more effective government. Your wisdom, humor, and calming influence help the delegates resolve bitter disagreements.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** Delegates must not argue with each other, but remain calm and keep their tempers. Letting the convention fall apart will only please the nation's enemies. Delegates must work hard to create a strong, unified government.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes. On the last day of the convention, you rise and ask every delegate to sign the Constitution in a show of unity. You confess that you do not agree with every part of it. But you believe it is as close to perfect as possible and that this new government will surprise the nation's enemies, who have been waiting for the new nation to fail.

**Gouverneur Morris**

Pennsylvania (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** You were well educated as a youth and eventually became a lawyer. When the American Revolution began, many of your friends were Loyalists. Although you worried about mob rule, you sided with the Patriots. You helped write New York's state constitution and later served in the state legislature and Continental Congress. You moved to Pennsylvania in 1779, where you now practice law. A colorful and forceful speaker, you are one of the most active speakers at the Constitutional Convention.

**Views** You agree with Proposals A, B, and C. You think Congress should have two houses. In the first house, all states should have an equal vote. In the second house, representation should be based on the amount of property and wealth a state has, as well as the size of its population. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The wealthy should have their own house in Congress so that they will not try to control the other parts of the government.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**James Wilson**

Pennsylvania (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** As a young man, you studied law and became involved in the American Revolution by writing a popular pamphlet on the British Parliament. You were one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. During the war, you were a cautious Patriot who associated with the wealthy and powerful. You even defended the interests of Loyalists. You have been elected to Congress twice. You are respected for your honesty and are very influential at the Constitutional Convention, where you are one of the most active speakers.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You strongly believe that states must be represented in Congress on the basis of their populations. You think Congress should have two houses. (Note: You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** Why should a smaller state, with fewer people, have more power than a larger state? If the small states will not agree on this plan, then Pennsylvania—and you are sure others—will not agree on any plan.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**John Dickinson**

Delaware (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** You grew up in a prosperous family and became a well-known lawyer. When the American Revolution began, you looked for peaceful ways to resolve the conflict. At the Second Continental Congress, you refused to sign the Declaration of Independence. You served as president of the Delaware Supreme Executive Council and as president of Pennsylvania. You are Delaware's delegate to the Constitutional Convention. You are a nervous and cautious man.

**Views** You agree with Proposals B and C. You propose that Congress should have two houses. In the first house, all states should have an equal vote. In the second house, representation should be based on the amount of taxes a state pays to the national government. (Note: You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** You are willing to compromise. You are in favor of a stronger central government, but refuse to vote for Proposal A only. Small states must have an equal voice in the national government.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.



**Gunning Bedford Jr.**

Delaware (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** You grew up in a prominent family and were educated to become a lawyer. During the war for independence, you served in the Continental army. Later you served in the state legislature, on the state council, and in the Continental Congress. In 1784, you became attorney general of Delaware. Forceful and hot-tempered, you are a very active member of the Constitutional Convention.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You strongly believe that all states must have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house, but are willing to compromise on this point. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** If the national government becomes too strong, it may abuse states' rights. After listening to the arguments of delegates from larger states, you become angry and say, "They insist they will never hurt or injure the [smaller] states. I do not, gentlemen, trust you!" If the national government does not protect the smaller states, then the smaller states might have to make partnerships with foreign countries.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Luther Martin**

Maryland (medium state)

**Personal Background and Character** After graduating from college in New Jersey, you moved to Maryland, where you taught school and studied law. An early supporter of independence, you became attorney general of Maryland and often brought charges against Loyalists. You fought with the Baltimore Light Dragoons during the war for independence. Your law practice became one of the largest and most successful in the country. At the Constitutional Convention, you are an emotional speaker for states' rights and often speak for hours at a time.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You believe that all states must have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** If the national government becomes too strong, it may abuse states' rights. The best kind of government gives power to state governments, not directly to the people. Personal interests are being put ahead of the common good at this convention.

**Sign the Constitution?** No. You walk out of the convention because you believe that the Constitution gives Congress too much power compared to the states and that the system of representation in Congress is unfair.

**James McHenry**

Maryland (medium state)

**Personal Background and Character** You came from Ireland to America as a young man, started a business, and studied medicine in school. During the war for independence, you served as a surgeon and were captured by the British. After your release, you served as secretary to General Washington. After the war, you were elected to both the Maryland Senate and the Continental Congress. Quiet and sensible, you keep a private journal during the Constitutional Convention that will prove to be useful to historians in future years.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You believe that all states must have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** A stronger government is necessary, but the larger states could “gang up” on the smaller states.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**James Madison**

Virginia (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** As a youth, you received an excellent education from private tutors and in private schools. After college, you became a Patriot and were active in politics. You helped draft Virginia’s constitution, served in the House of Delegates, and represented Virginia in the Continental Congress. You wrote numerous articles about the problems with the Articles of Confederation, and you were one of the main voices to call for the Constitutional Convention. Although you are not a great speaker, you speak dozens of times at the convention. At the convention, you work tirelessly for a strong central government. You are the single most influential delegate. Your detailed journal is the best record of the convention.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You strongly believe that states should be represented in Congress on the basis of their population. You think Congress should have two houses. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The American people should have a direct connection to their government. Choosing representatives in this way will ensure that more voices will be represented in the government, not just one voice from each state.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**George Mason**

Virginia (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** At the age of ten, you went to live with your uncle after your father died. Your education was shaped by your uncle's huge library, one-third of which concerned the law. Later you became one of the richest planters in Virginia and an important figure in your community. You served as a judge and in Virginia's House of Burgesses and helped to form a new government in Virginia during the American Revolution. At the Constitutional Convention, you speak frequently. Your approach is cool, reasonable, and free from personal attacks.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population. You think Congress should have two houses. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** A strong national government is necessary, but individual rights must be protected. It is important to make sure the government is truly representing the people.

**Sign the Constitution?** No. You want the Constitution to include a bill of rights, and you fear that the new government either will become a monarchy or be controlled by the wealthy few.

**Hugh Williamson**

North Carolina (medium state)

**Personal Background and Character** You are a man of many talents, especially in science and medicine. Benjamin Franklin, a fellow scientist, is one of your best friends. Before the war, you wrote a pamphlet encouraging English support of the colonies' complaints against Great Britain. Later, you were elected to the state legislature and the Continental Congress. You are a hard worker at the Constitutional Convention and an enthusiastic and skilled public speaker during the debates.

**Views** You agree with Proposals A and C. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population and wealth. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** Even though North Carolina is smaller than other states, there is good reason to support Proposal A. There is a lot of unsettled land in the western part of the state and one day, when more settlers arrive, it will have a larger population. If we support Proposal A now, someday North Carolina will have more power in the government.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**William Blount**

North Carolina (medium state)

**Personal Background and Character** You received a good education as a youth. During the war for independence, you joined the North Carolina militia as a paymaster. After the war, you became active in politics and served in the North Carolina legislature and as a delegate to the Continental Congress. You are absent from the Constitutional Convention for more than a month while you attend the Continental Congress. As the convention goes on, you are cautious in your support of the Constitution. A fellow delegate describes you as “plain, honest, and sincere.”

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** Even though North Carolina is smaller than other states, there is good reason to support Proposal A. There is a lot of unsettled land in the western part of the state and one day, when more settlers arrive, it will have a larger population. If we support Proposal A now, someday North Carolina will have more power in the government.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**John Rutledge**

South Carolina (medium state)

**Personal Background and Character** You studied law in London and then returned to South Carolina, where you practiced law. A moderate Patriot, you tried to avoid a complete break with Great Britain in the years leading up to the American Revolution. You have served in the state legislature, the Continental Congress, as governor, and as a judge. At the Constitutional Convention, you speak often and effectively, arguing for the interests of southern states. Always courteous, you are careful not to offend others.

**Views** You agree with Proposals A and C. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their wealth and population. You think Congress should have two houses. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** Even though South Carolina is a smaller state, there is good reason to support Proposal A. There is a lot of unsettled land in the western part of the state and one day, when more settlers arrive, it will have a larger population. If we support Proposal A now, someday South Carolina will have more power in the government.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Charles Cotesworth Pinckney**

South Carolina (medium state)

**Personal Background and Character** You graduated from Oxford University in England and then studied law and science. After returning to South Carolina, you practiced law and soon joined the Patriot cause and helped plan a temporary new government for South Carolina. During the war for independence, you rose to the rank of colonel and also served in the state legislature. You spent nearly two years as a prisoner of the British. You are a leading participant at the Constitutional Convention, speaking out for a powerful national government.

**Views** You agree with Proposals A and B. You believe that Congress should have two houses. In the lower house, states should be represented based on their population. In the upper house, each state should have one vote. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** Even though South Carolina is a smaller state, there is good reason to support Proposal A. There is a lot of unsettled land in the western part of the state and one day, when more settlers arrive, it will have a larger population. If we support Proposal A now, someday South Carolina will have more power in the government.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Abraham Baldwin**

Georgia (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** You grew up in Connecticut. Your father, a blacksmith, went into debt to educate you and his other children. Later, you graduated from Yale University and became a minister. During the war for independence, you served as a chaplain in the Continental army. Then you studied law and moved to Georgia, where you became a lawyer, served in the state assembly, and represented Georgia in the Continental Congress. Other delegates find you likeable and reasonable.

**Views** You agree with Proposal C. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their property and wealth, but you are open to the argument that all states should have an equal vote. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** Representation in the Senate based on the amount of property owned is the best proposal. It is better, however, to compromise so that this convention is able to stay together.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**William Few**

Georgia (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** You grew up in a poor family and received little schooling. One of your brothers was hanged as a result of a fight between frontier settlers and the royal governor, and the family farm was destroyed. Later, you became a lawyer. When the war for independence began, you were an enthusiastic Patriot and served as a lieutenant colonel in the Continental army. After the war, you served in the state assembly and the Continental Congress. You miss a good part of the Constitutional Convention while you are busy in Congress. You are one of the only “self-made” men at the convention.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** Even though Georgia is a small state, there is good reason to support Proposal A. There is a lot of unsettled land in the western part of the state and one day, when more settlers arrive, it will have a larger population. If we support Proposal A now, someday Georgia will have more power in the government.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**John Lansing Jr.**

New York (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** You own a law practice and a large estate, both of which have made you quite wealthy. As a politician, you have served several terms in the New York assembly and are currently the mayor of Albany. You are suspicious that this convention may go beyond simply improving the Articles of Confederation and might try to create a more powerful central government, which could reduce New York’s power.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You believe that all states must have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** If Congress becomes too strong, it may abuse states’ rights. The convention is simply supposed to improve the Articles of Confederation. You do not believe that the convention has the authority to create a new government. You constantly disagree with your fellow delegate, Alexander Hamilton.

**Sign the Constitution?** No. You quit the convention when it becomes clear that it will form a powerful new national government instead of simply revising the Articles of Confederation.

**Nathaniel Gorham**

Massachusetts (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** You received little formal education as a youth and worked as an apprentice to a merchant before starting your own business. During the war for independence, British troops destroyed much of your property, but you regained your wealth by raiding shipping as a privateer. You have served in the state legislature, the Continental Congress, and the Governor's Council. You are now a judge. You attend every session of the Constitutional Convention. You are easygoing and friendly and often speak out in debates.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population. You think Congress should have two houses. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** You would rather see the convention fall apart before compromising with the smaller states.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Edmund Randolph**

Virginia (large state)

**Personal Background and Character** You were educated as a lawyer. When the American Revolution began, your father, a Loyalist, moved to England. You then lived with your uncle, Peyton Randolph, an important figure in Virginia politics. You became an aide to General Washington. At age 23, you helped Virginia adopt its first state constitution. Continuing your political career, you served as mayor of Williamsburg, as Virginia's attorney general, as a delegate to the Continental Congress, and as governor of Virginia.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population. You think Congress should have two houses. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** Although you favor lessening the power of the states and strengthening the national government, you worry about Congress becoming too powerful.

**Sign the Constitution?** No. You are opposed to a one-person executive, which you fear could lead to a monarchy.

**William Samuel Johnson**

Connecticut (medium state)

**Personal Background and Character** You are well educated and graduated from Yale University. With no formal training in law, you became a prosperous lawyer and later a judge of Connecticut's highest court. When the American Revolution began, you found it hard to choose sides. At first, you worked to end the dispute with Great Britain peacefully, and you refused to participate in the First Continental Congress. After the war, however, you became a popular and respected delegate in the Continental Congress. You are cautious and dislike controversy.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You believe all states should have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house, but you are willing to compromise on this. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The larger states could "gang up" on the smaller states.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Jonathan Dayton**

New Jersey (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** You received a good education and graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1776. You immediately joined the Continental army, where you became a captain by the age of 19 and were imprisoned for a time by the British. After the war, you returned home, studied law, established a law practice, and served in the state assembly. At the Constitutional Convention, you faithfully attend sessions and take part in debates. You are seen as honest, but are sometimes quick-tempered.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You firmly believe that all states must have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The larger states could "gang up" on the smaller states. You believe that scare tactics suggesting that the convention will fail if the small states do not change their position will not work.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.



**George Read**

Delaware (small state)

**Personal Background and Character** You became a lawyer and, in 1765, began a career in the colonial legislature that lasted more than a decade. As a delegate to the Continental Congress, you supported colonial rights, but you were the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to vote against independence. You served on the state legislative council and presided over the Delaware constitutional convention. After a narrow escape from the British during the war, you served as president of Delaware and are now a judge. At the Constitutional Convention, you attend sessions faithfully and defend the rights of small states.

**Views** You agree with Proposal B. You strongly believe that all states must have an equal vote in Congress. You think Congress should have one house. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

**Points to Raise During the Convention** The larger states could “gang up” on the smaller states.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

**Daniel Carroll**

Maryland (medium state)

**Personal Background and Character** You were born to a wealthy Catholic family and went to school in Europe. After returning to America, you were a reluctant supporter of the American Revolution. As a wealthy planter, you took little part in public life until 1781, when you were elected to the Continental Congress, where you signed the Articles of Confederation. You have served in the Maryland Senate and you are a good friend of George Washington. You faithfully attend sessions of the Constitutional Convention and give about 20 speeches during the debates.

**Views** You agree with Proposal A. You believe that states should be represented in Congress based on their population. You think Congress should have two houses. (**Note:** You will receive 10 extra credit points if the proposal you support at the convention is chosen.)

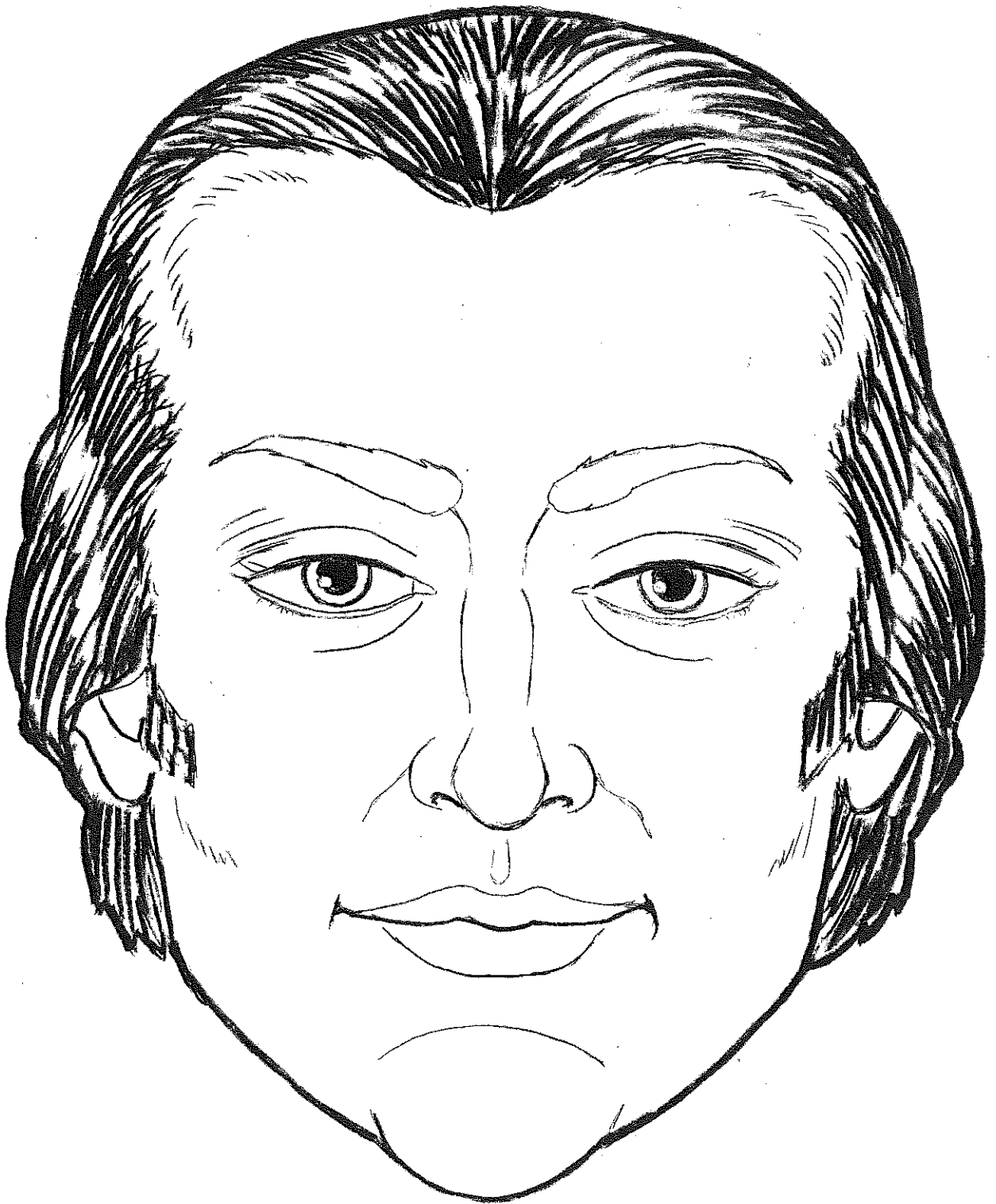
**Points to Raise During the Convention** The American people should have a direct connection to their government. Choosing representatives in this way will ensure that more voices will be represented in the government, not just one voice from each state.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.

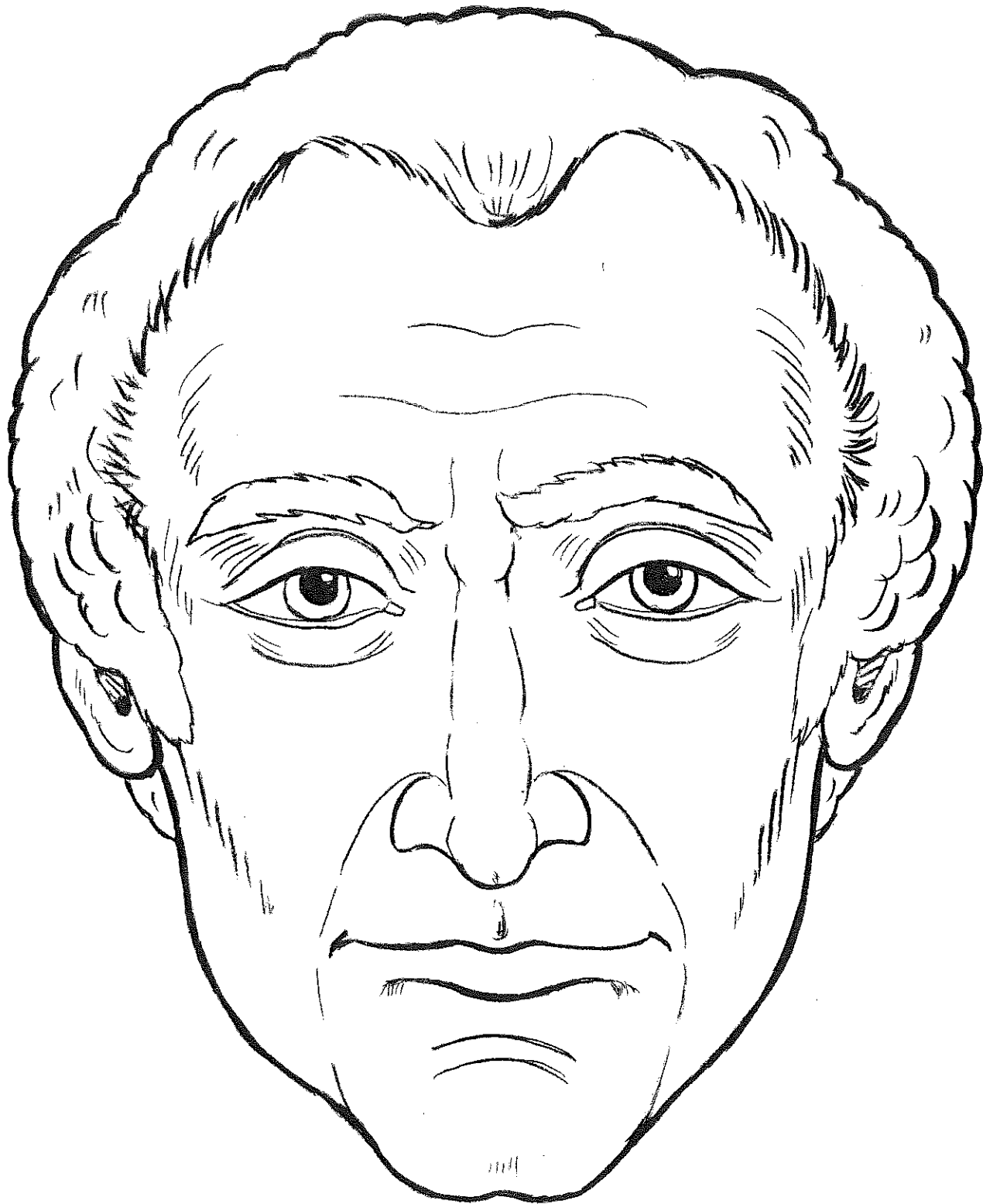
## Delegate Masks



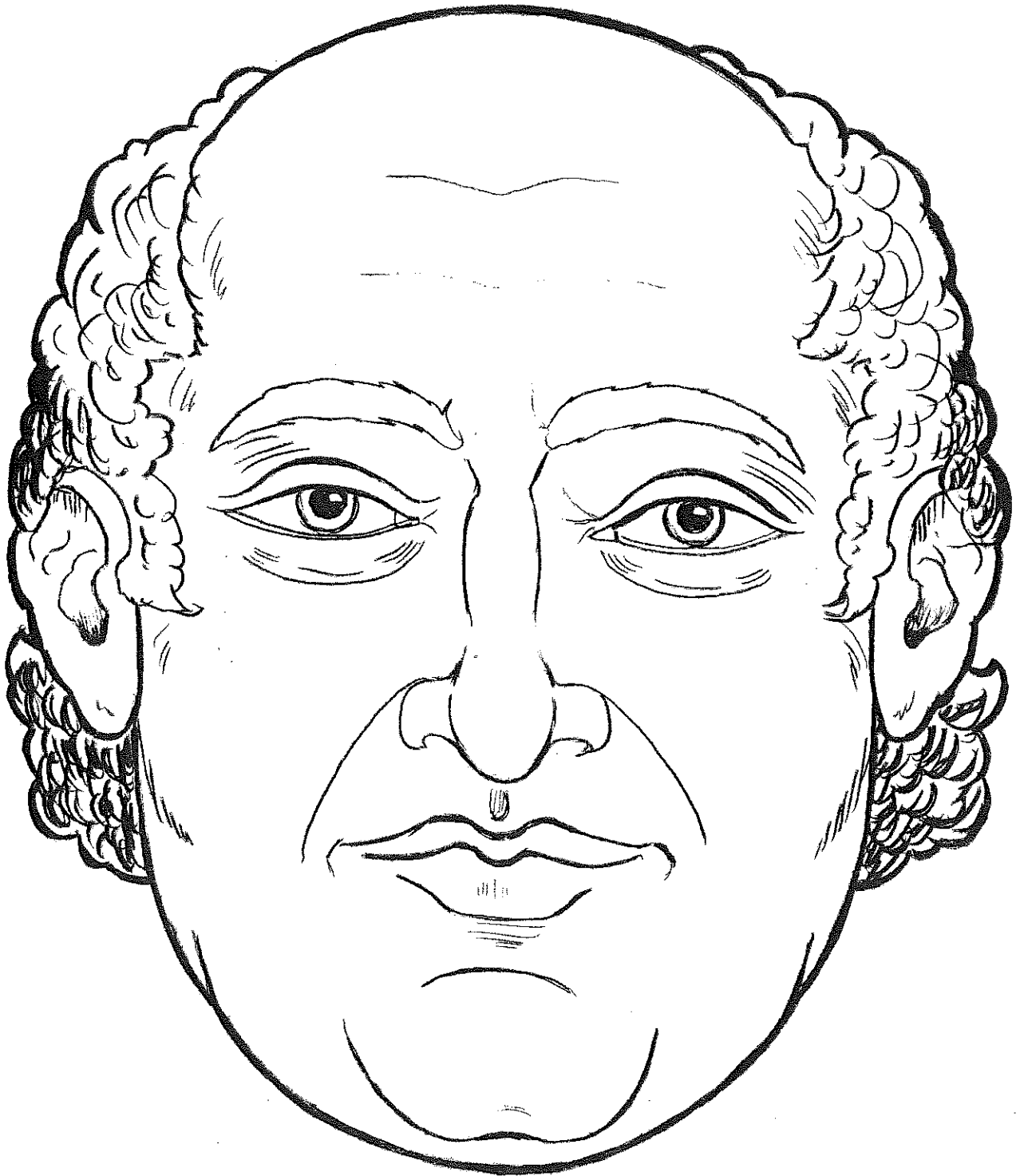
**John Langdon**



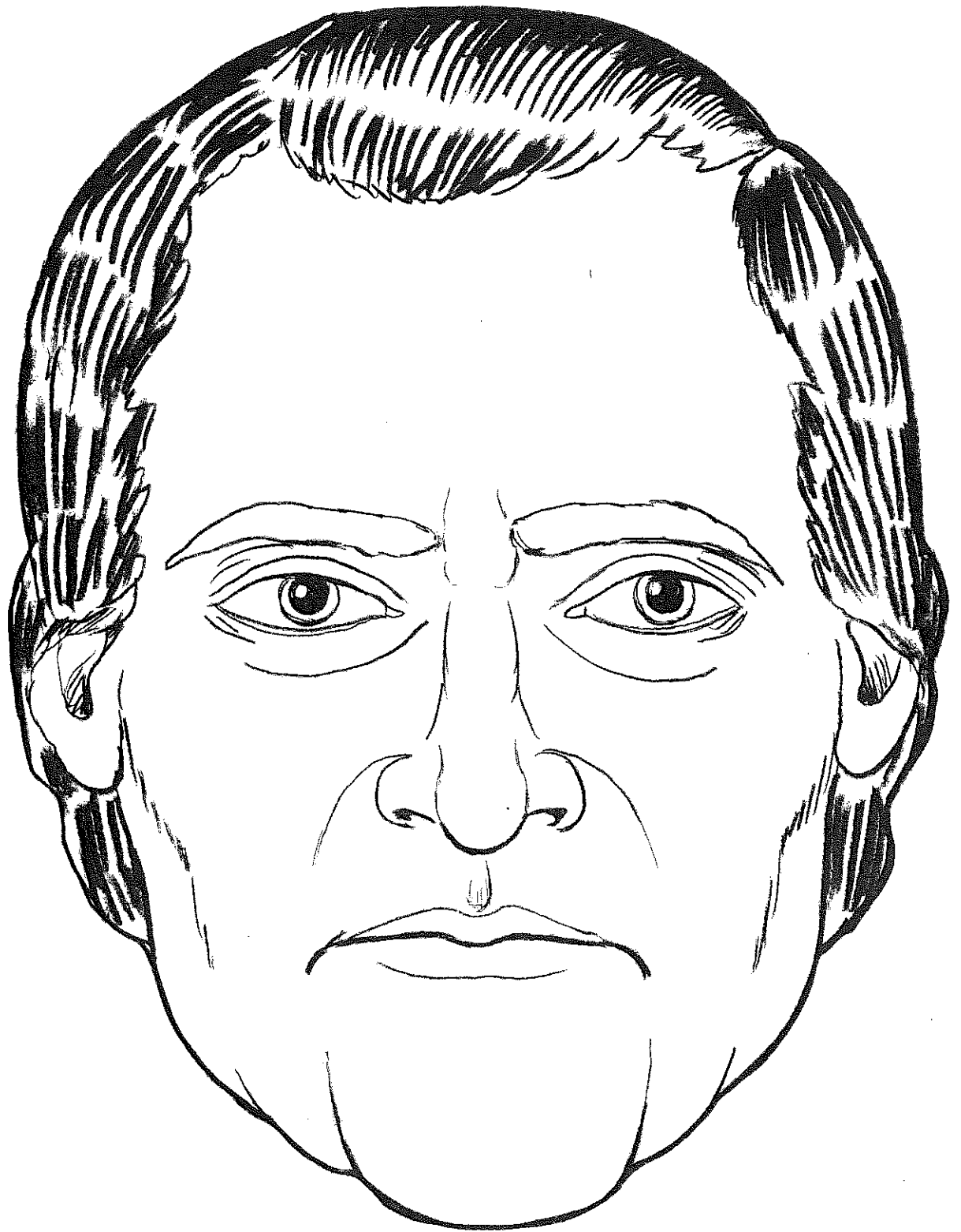
Nicolas Gilman



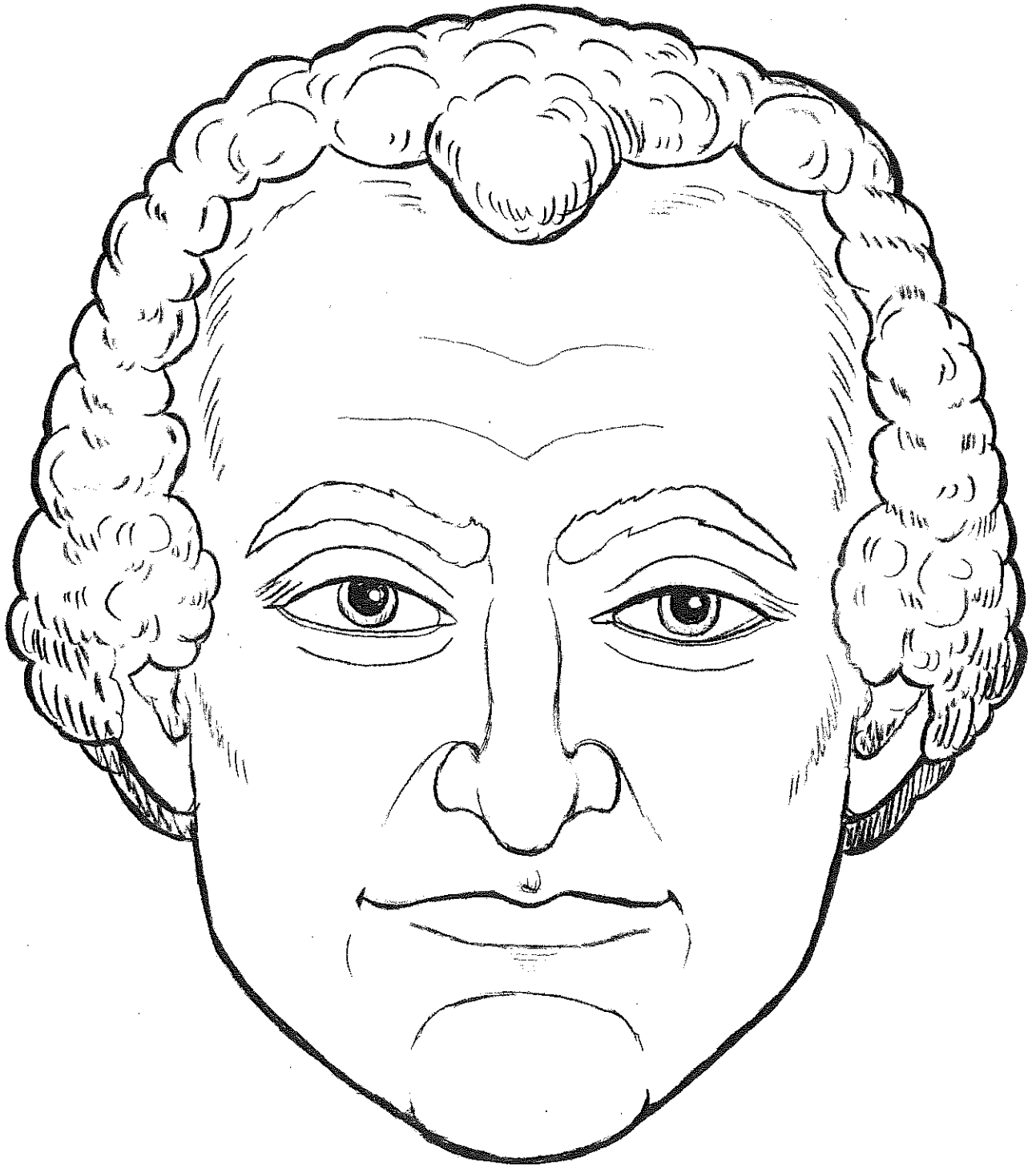
**Elbridge Gerry**



Rufus King



**Roger Sherman**

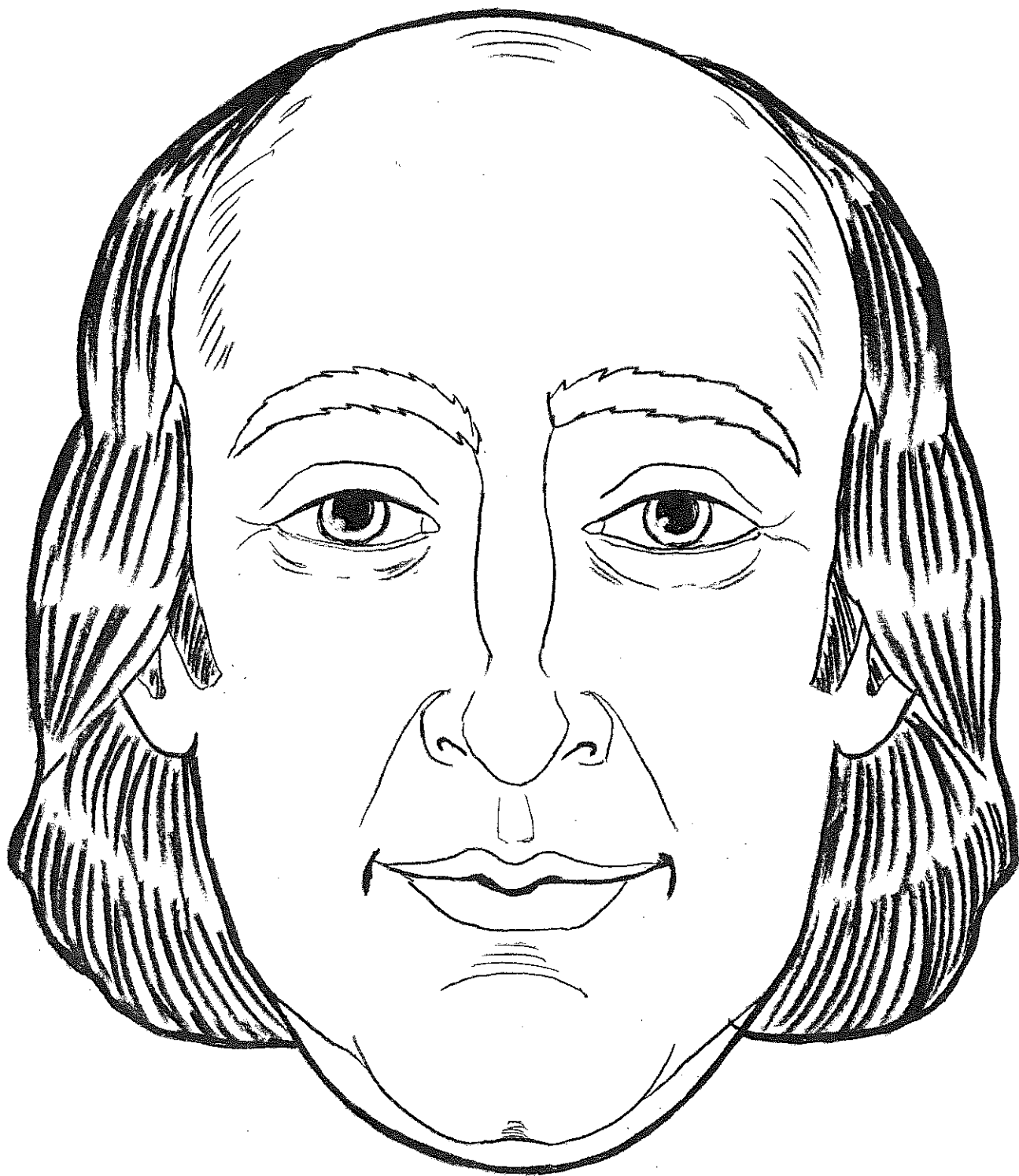


**Oliver Ellsworth**

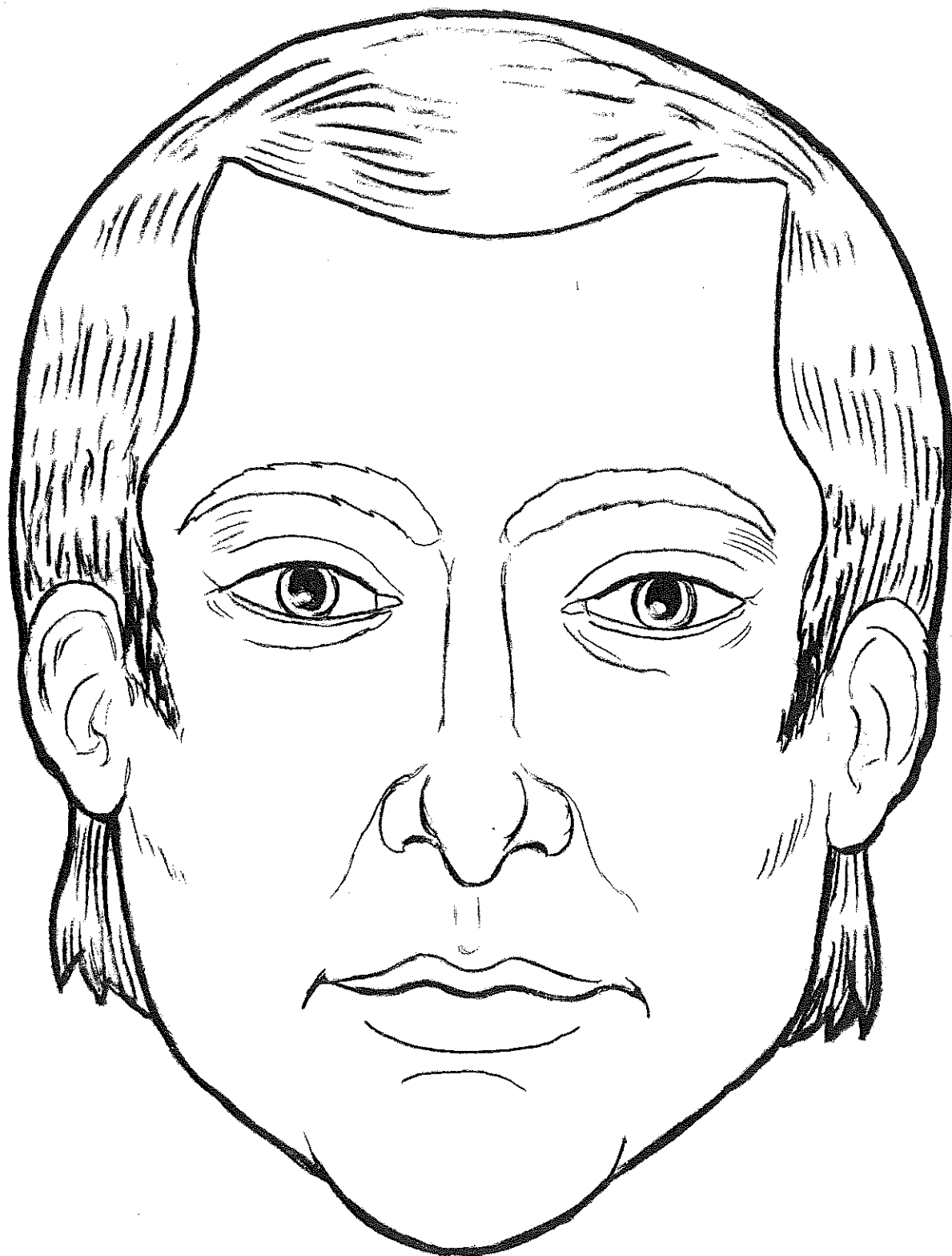


Alexander Hamilton

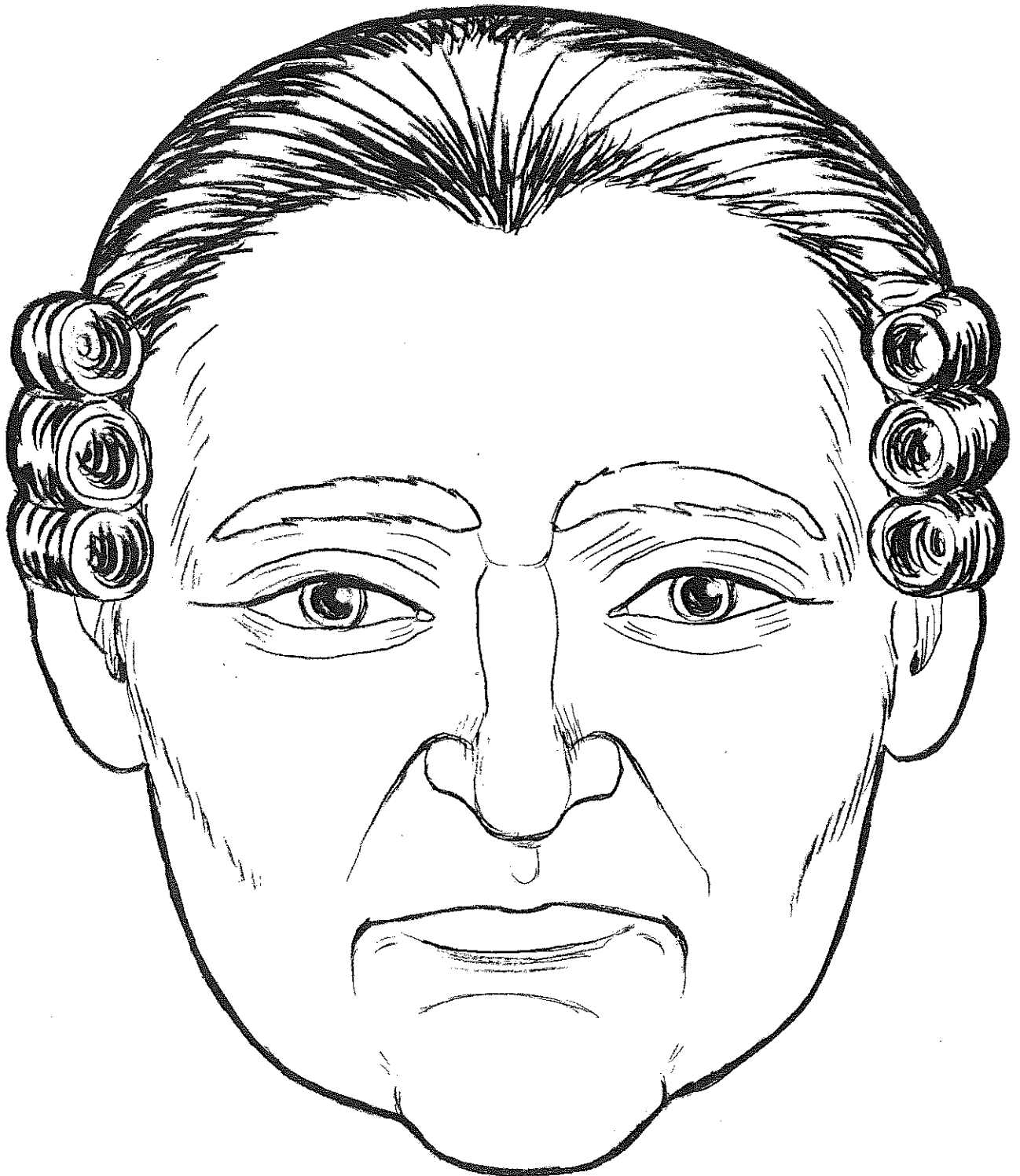




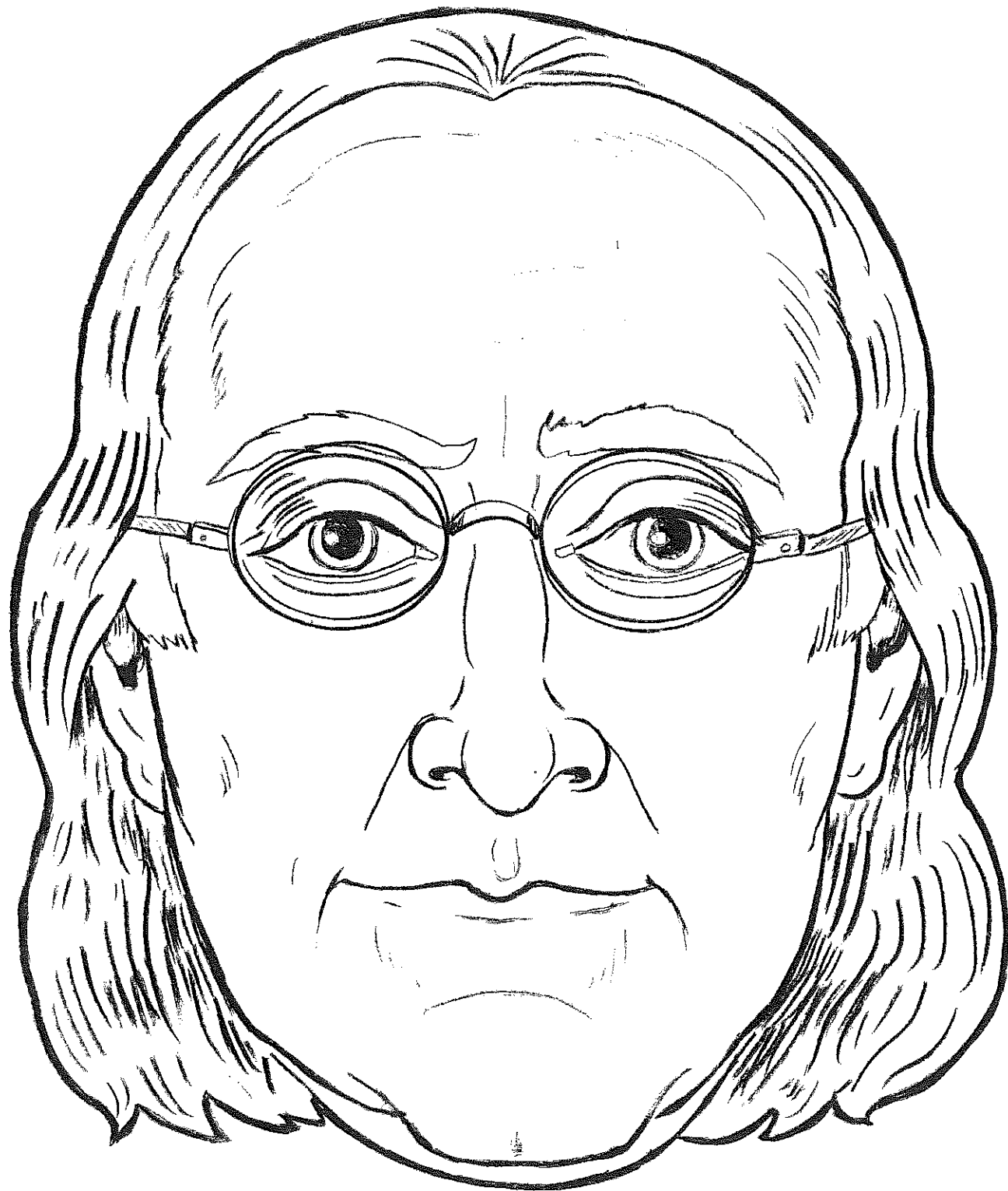
Robert Yates



**William Paterson**



David Brearley



**Benjamin Franklin**



Gouverneur Morris



**James Wilson**

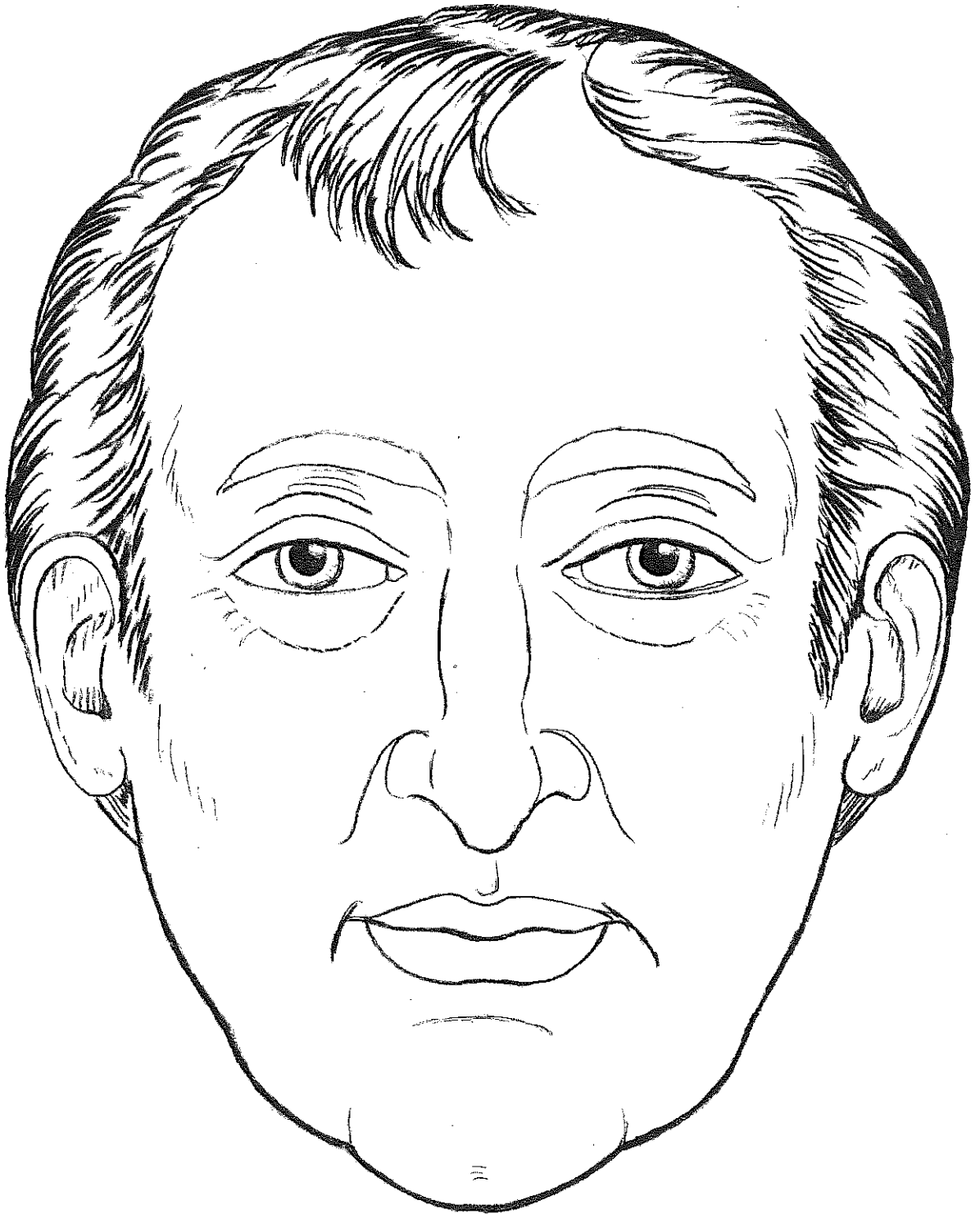


**John Dickinson**



**Gunning Bedford Jr.**

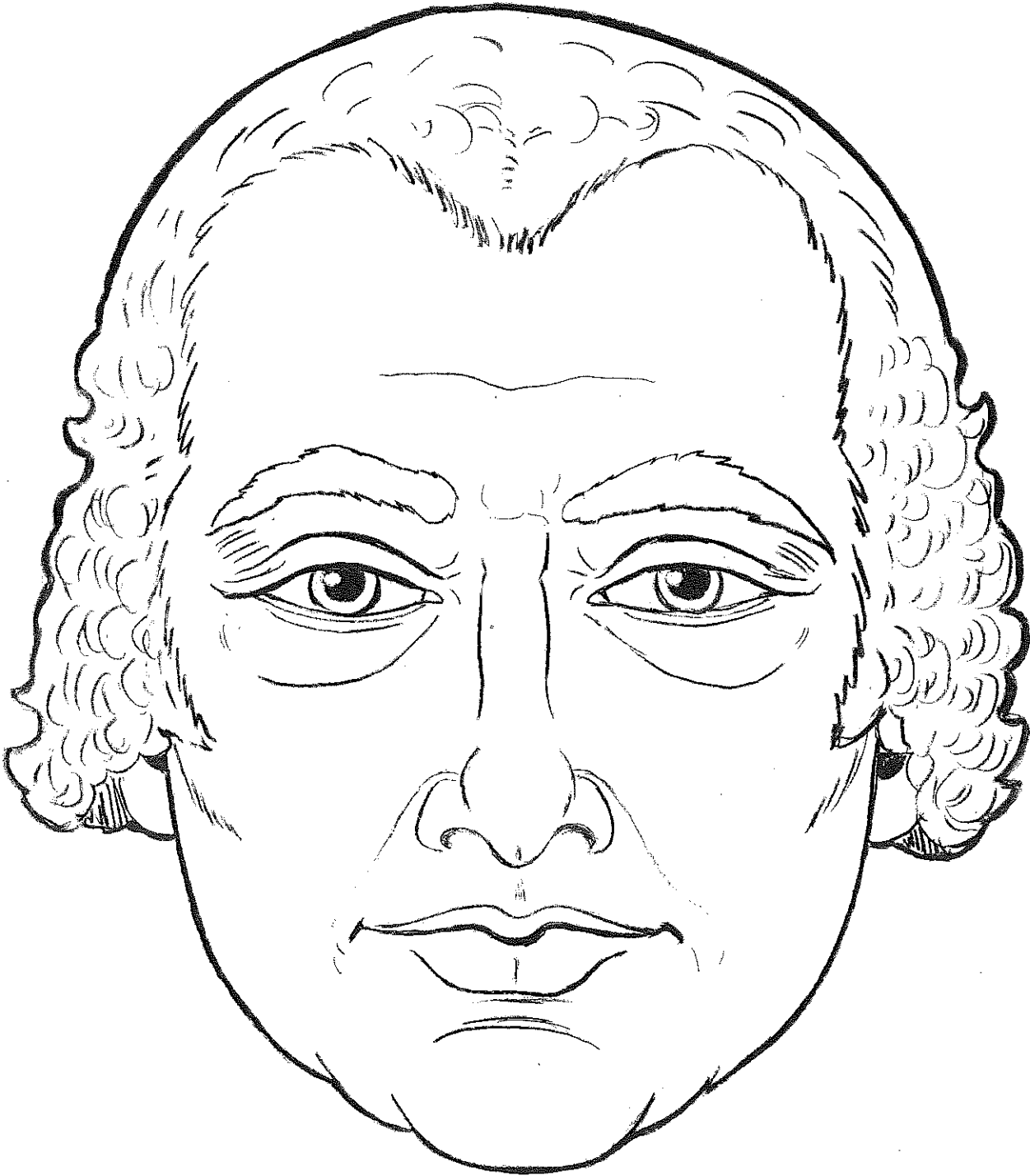




Luther Martin



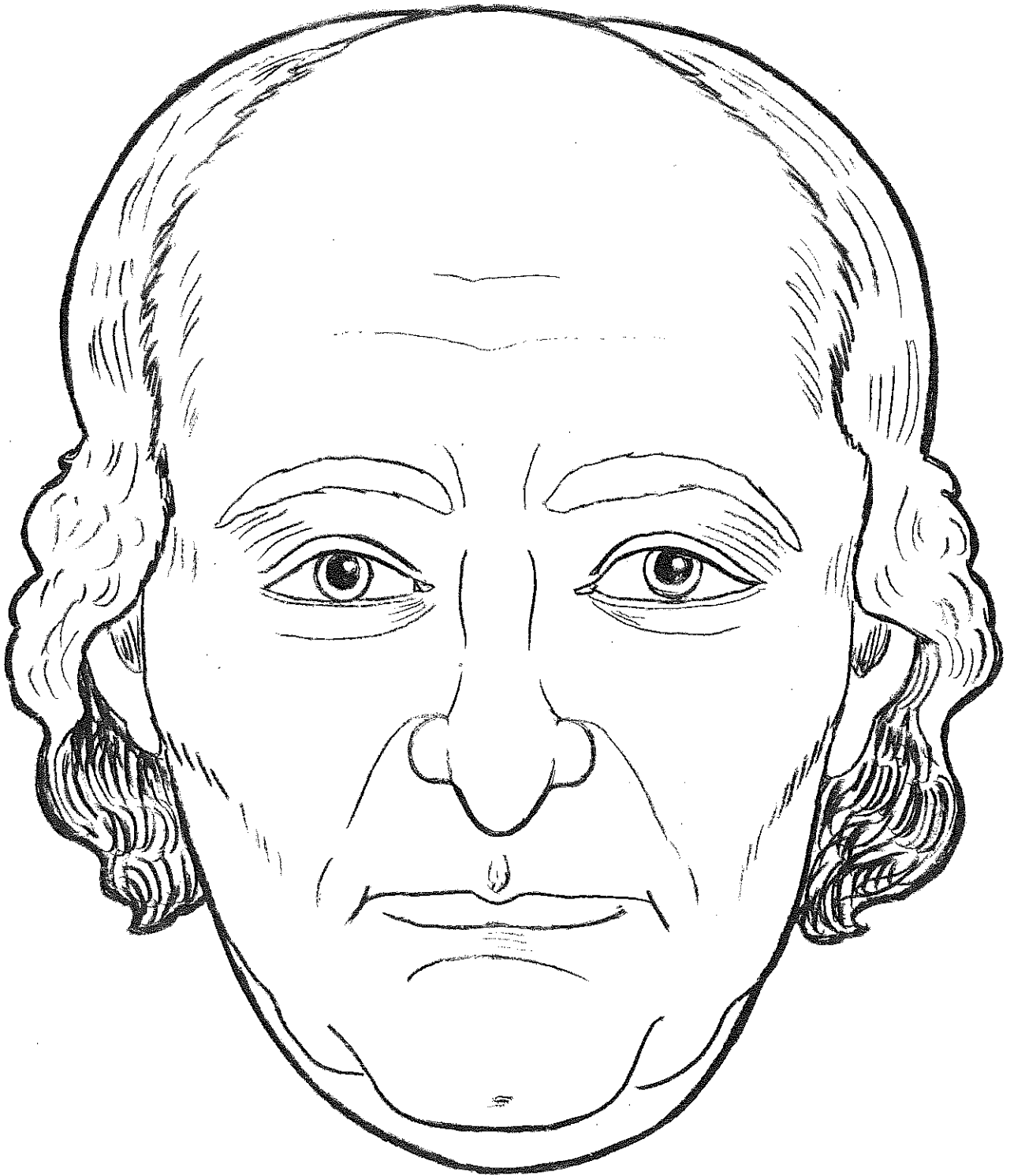
**James McHenry**



**James Madison**



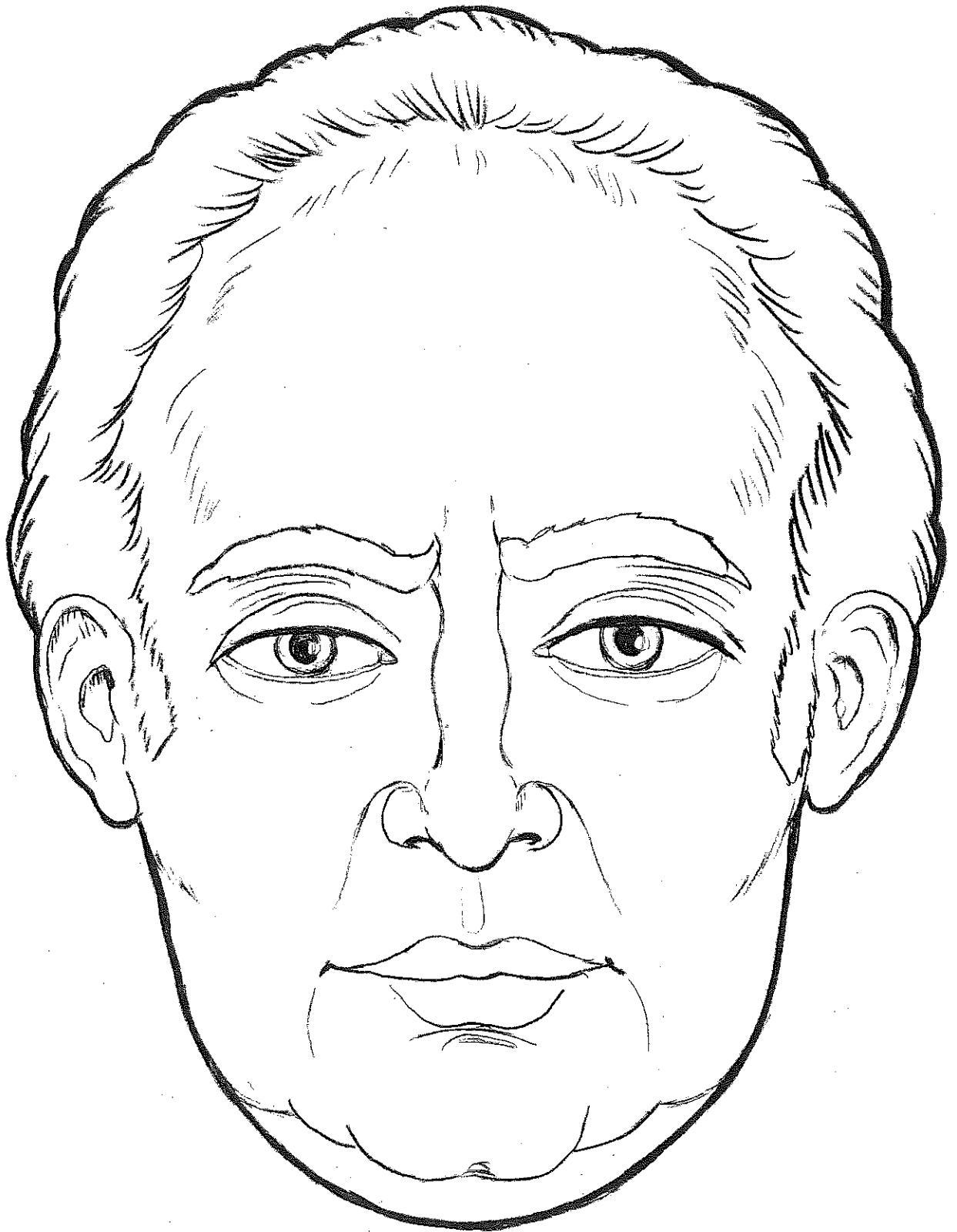
George Mason



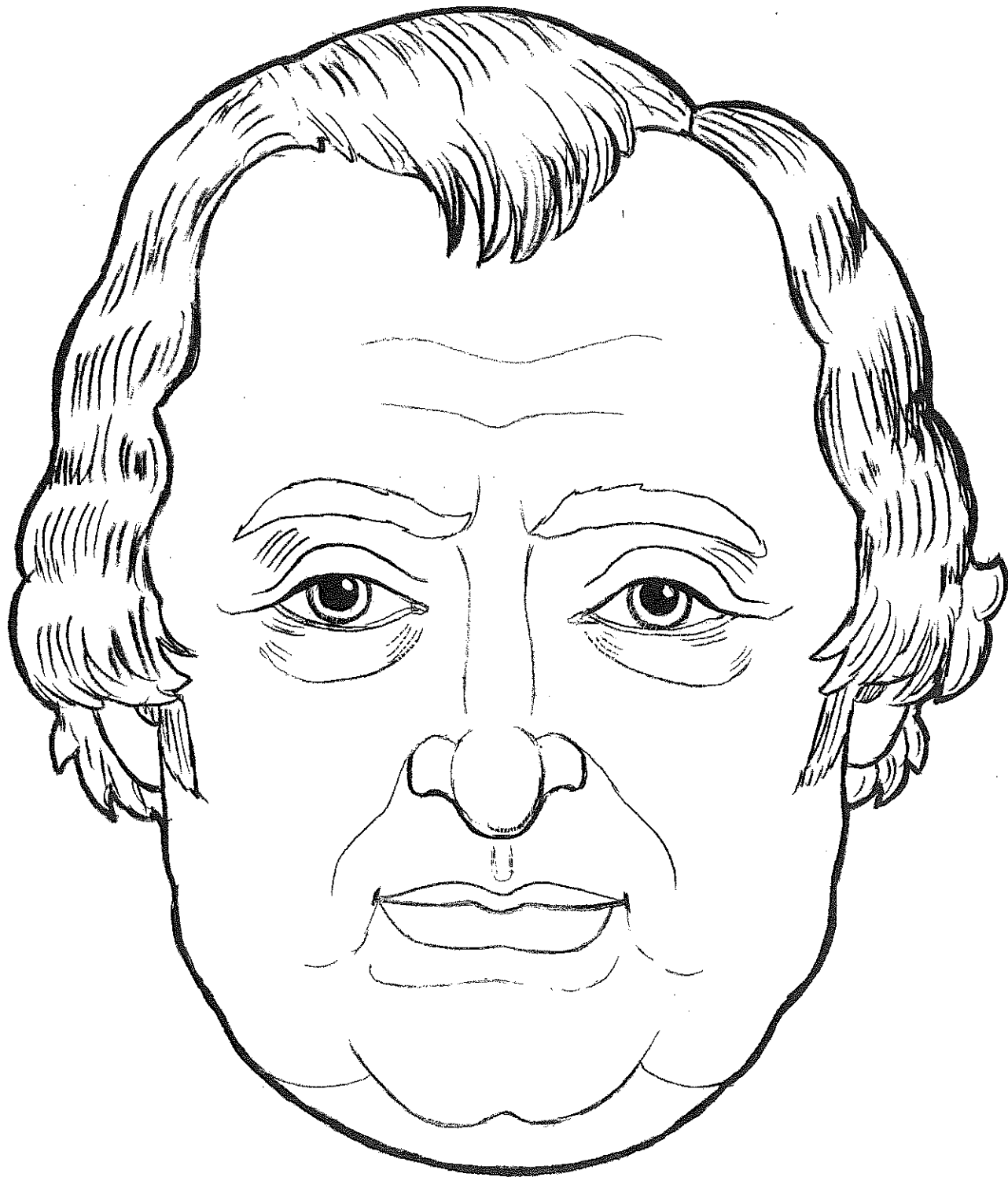
**Hugh Williamson**



**William Blount**

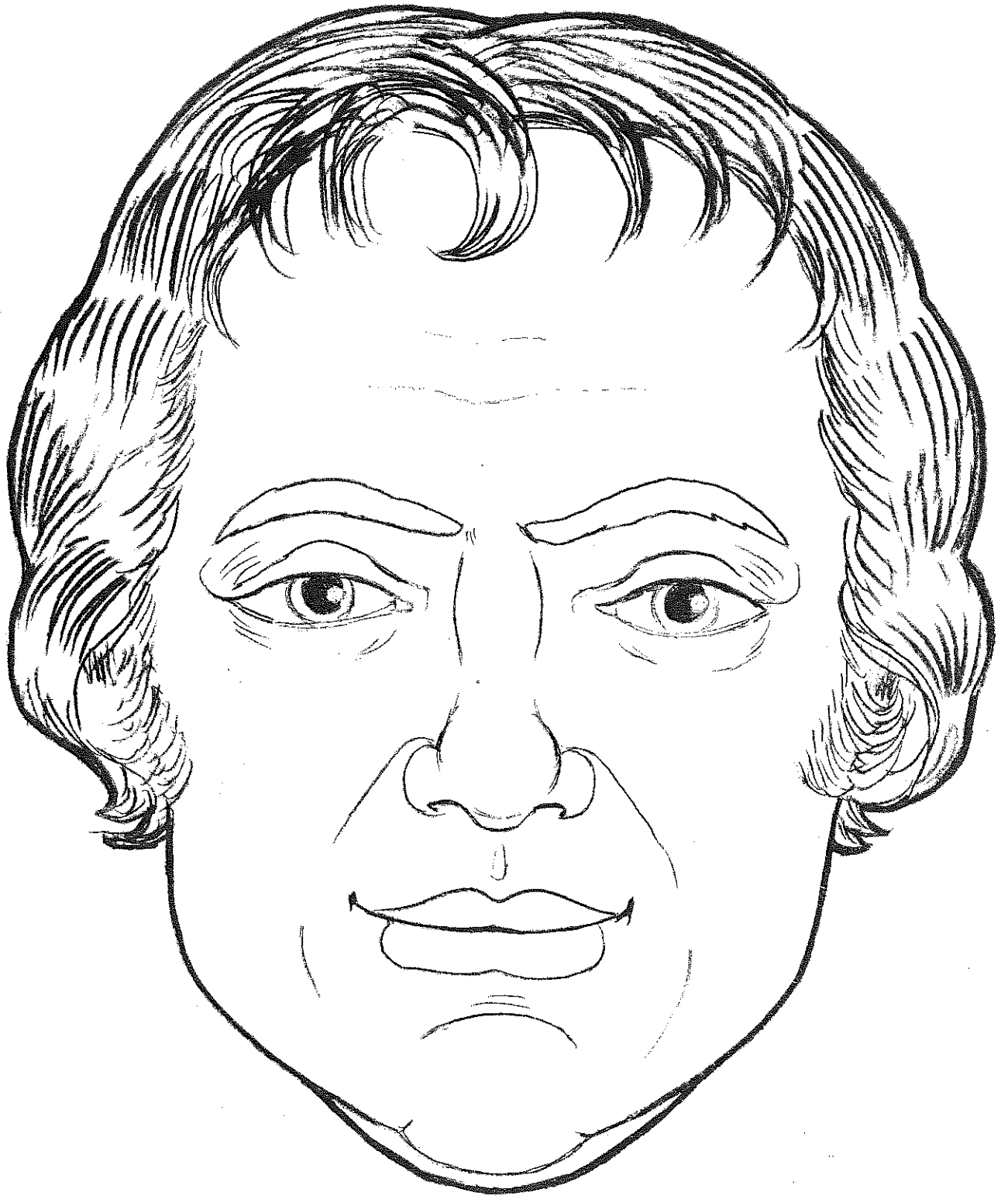


**John Rutledge**



**Charles Cotesworth Pinckney**

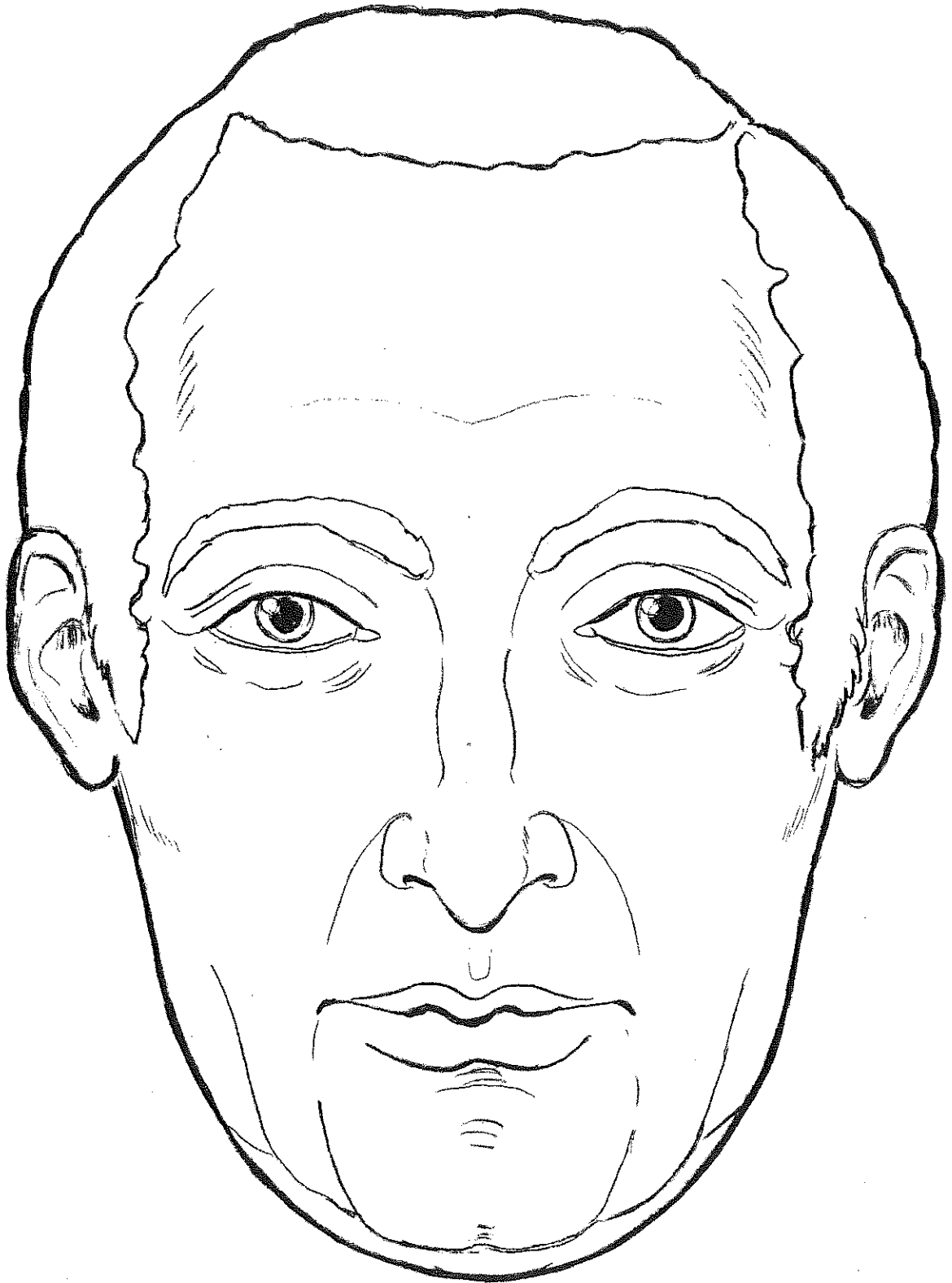




**Abraham Baldwin**



**William Few**



**John Lansing Jr.**



**Nathaniel Gorham**



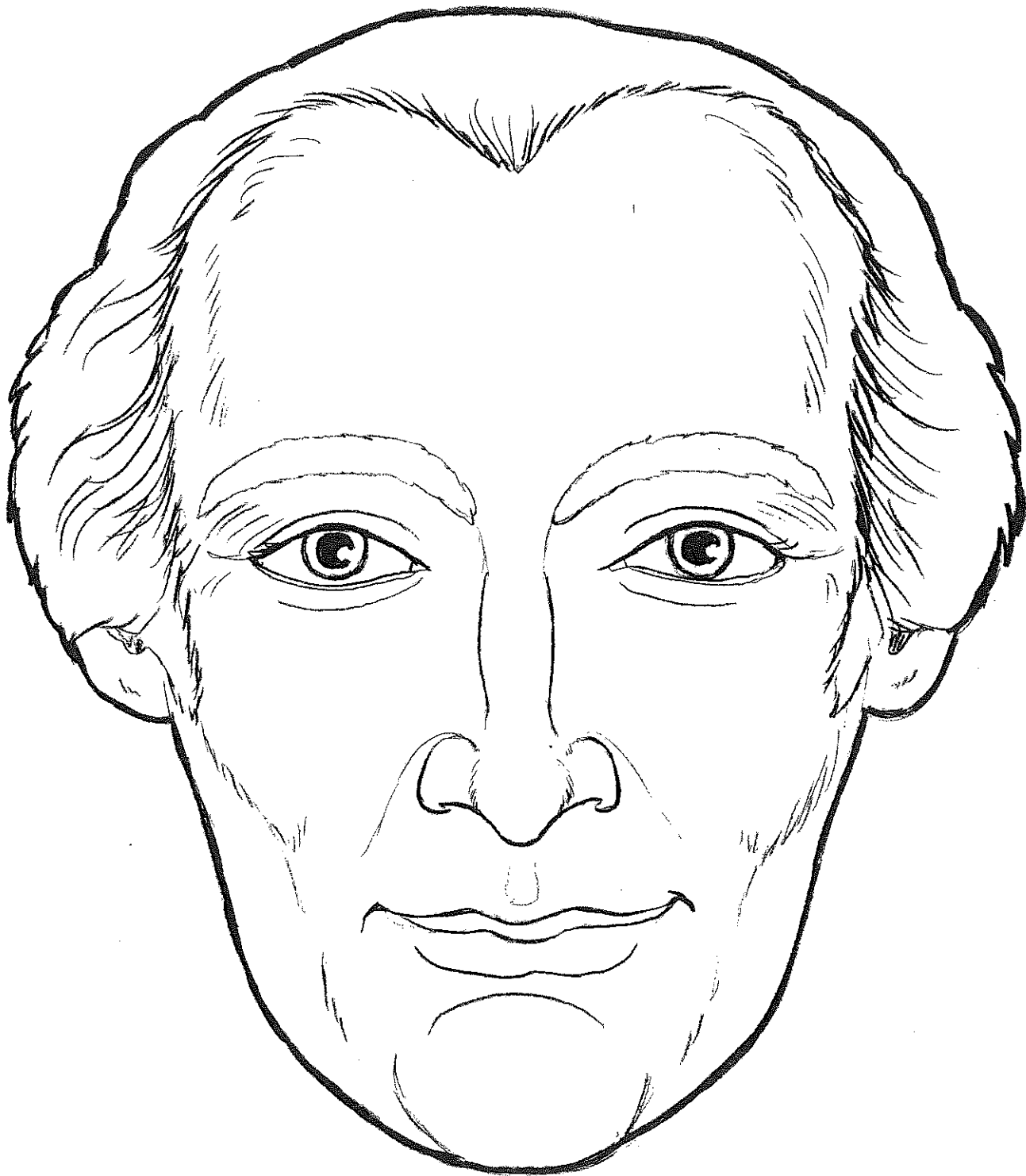
Edmund Randolph



**William Samuel Johnson**



**Jonathan Dayton**



**George Read**





Daniel Carroll

Facsimile of the Constitution

*Done* in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty three and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth *in witness* whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

Delaware

Geo. Read  
Gunning Bedford jun  
John Dickinson  
Richard Bassett  
Jaco. Broom  
James M. Hewey

Maryland

Dan of S. Thos. Senifor  
Dan<sup>l</sup> Carroll

Virginia

John Blair -  
James Madison Jr.

North Carolina

Wm. Blount  
Rich<sup>d</sup>. Dobbs Spaight.  
A. Williamson

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth <sup>in witness whereof</sup> We have hereunto subscribed our Names.

South Carolina { J. Rutledge  
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney  
Charles Pinckney  
Pierce Butler

Georgia { William Few  
Abner Baldwin

New Hampshire { John Langdon  
Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts { Nathaniel Gorham  
Rufus King

Done in Convention by the unanimous Consent of the States present the thirteenth  
Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty nine and  
of the Independence of the United States of America the Fifth ~~July~~ <sup>September</sup> whereby  
We have hereunto subscribed our Names.

Connecticut { W: Sam<sup>l</sup> Johnson  
New York { Roger Sherman  
Alexander Hamilton

New Jersey { W: Livingston  
David Brearley  
Jm Paterson  
Jonas Dayton

Pennsylvania { B Franklin  
Thomas Mifflin  
Rob Morris  
Geo. Clymer  
Tho. Fitzsimons  
Jard Ingersoll  
James Wilson  
Gouv Morris