An Assembly of Demigods

Hugh Williamson

George Partridge to Elbridge Gerry, Trenton, November 24, 1784

Who will be President [of Congress] a few Days will probably determine. For my own part I don't know who is thought of. Mr. W——n (noted for his Bravery) probably thinks of himself, but he is generally singular in his opinion.

William Pierce: Sketches of Members of the Constitutional Convention

Mr. Williamson is a Gentleman of education and talents. He enters freely into public debate from his close attention to most subjects, but he is no Orator. There is a great degree of good humour and pleasantry in his character; and in his manners there is a strong trait of the Gentleman. He is about 48 years of age.

Samuel A. Otis to George Thatcher, New York, May 18, 1788

There is a Doctor Williamson arrived [in Congress] who seems to have got with him from No. Carolina a quantum of self consequence. . . . I find it is the general opinion that the New wheel [i.e., the Constitution] will revolve—N. Carolina, our pompous brother Williamson thinks there will be no fear of. . . .

Otto's Biographies, Fall 1788

Physician and former professor of astronomy—bizarre to an excess, loves to harangue but speaks with sense. It is difficult to know his character well; it is even possible that he might not have any, but his lengthy service has given him much influence in Congress.