

ELBRIDGE GERRY

1744-1814

Born Marblehead. Graduated from Harvard College, 1762. Entered family's mercantile business. Member, colonial House of Representatives, 1772-74, three provincial congresses, 1774-75, and Committee of Supplies of Provincial Congress, 1775. Delegate to Congress, 1776-80, 1783-85 (elected 1780-81 but refused to serve); signed Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation; member and often president congressional Treasury Board, 1776-79. Member, state House of Representatives, 1776-77, 1780-81, 1786-87. Moved to Cambridge, 1786. Elected commissioner to Annapolis Convention but resigned, 1786. Delegate to Constitutional Convention, 1787. Refused to sign Constitution. U.S. Representative, 1789-93; and Federalist presidential elector, 1796. Along with Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and John Marshall appointed by President John Adams envoy to treat with France, 1797 (XYZ Affair). Unsuccessful Republican candidate for governor, 1800-1803. Republican presidential elector, 1804. Governor, 1810-12 (defeated for reelection). Vice President of U.S., 1813 until death.