

PATRICK HENRY

1736-1799

Born “Studley,” Hanover Co. Farmer and storekeeper until 1760, when admitted to Virginia bar. Represented Louisa Co., 1765-68, and Hanover Co., 1769-76, in House of Burgesses; Hanover Co. in revolutionary conventions, 1774-76; Henry Co., 1780-84, and Prince Edward Co., 1787-91, in House of Delegates. Delegate to Congress, 1774-75. Commander, Virginia forces, 1775-76. Governor, 1776-79, 1784-86 (did not seek reelection in 1786). Declined appointment to the Constitutional Convention, 1787. Led opposition to the Constitution in Virginia. Represented Prince Edward Co. in state Convention, voted against ratification, 1788. Retired from public life, 1791. Moved to “Red Hill,” Charlotte Co., in 1796. Declined appointments as U.S. Senator, 1794, U.S. Secretary of State, 1795, and Chief Justice of U.S., 1796. Elected Charlotte Co. delegate to the House of Delegates in 1799, but died before taking seat.