

Thomas McKean
Second President of the United States
in Congress Assembled
July 10, 1781 to November 5, 1781



McKean, Thomas, Document signed as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, .1p., 5" 13", oblong, edge wear. March 31, 1798 legal document:

We command you, that the body of John Montgomery in our prison, under your custody, as it is said, detained by whatsoever name the said John Montgomery may be charged in the same, under safe and secure conduct, together with the day and cause of Court to be held at Philadelphia for the said State, the first Monday of September next, then and there to do and receive whatsoever our same Justices shall consider in that behalf. And you then there this writ. Witness the honorable Thomas McKean, Esquire, Doctor of Laws, Chief Justice of the said Supreme Court, at Philadelphia... "

Thomas McKean succeeded Samuel Huntington as President of the United States in Congress assembled on July 10th, 1781. Like President Huntington he was also a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

McKEAN, Thomas, a Delegate from Delaware; born in New London, Chester County, Pa., March 19, 1734; was privately taught; engaged as clerk to the prothonotary of the court of common pleas for two years; deputy prothonotary and register for the probate of wills for New Castle County, studying law at the same time; was admitted to the bar in 1755 and commenced practice in New Castle, Del.; appointed deputy attorney general for Sussex County in 1756 and served until 1758 when he resigned; went to England and resumed the study of law at the Middle Temple in London; member of the Delaware House of Assembly 1762-1775 and served as speaker in 1772; appointed one of the three trustees of the loan office for New Castle County in 1764 and served until 1776; member of the Stamp-Act Congress in 1765; appointed by the Governor sole notary for the lower counties of Delaware July 10, 1765; in the same year received the commission of a justice of the peace, of the court of common pleas and quarter sessions, and of the orphans' court for New Castle County; appointed collector of the port of New Castle in 1771; Member of the Continental Congress and US in Congress Assembled, 1774-1776, 1778-1782 and served as President of US in 1781; a signer of the Declaration of Independence; member of the state house of representatives in 1776 and 1777 and served as speaker in the latter year; president of the state of Delaware in 1777; chief justice of Pennsylvania 1777-1799; served in the Revolutionary War; member of the convention of Pennsylvania which ratified the Constitution of the United States December 12, 1787; delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1789; Governor of Pennsylvania 1799-1808; died in Philadelphia, Pa., June 24, 1817; interment in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

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