

Constitution, U.S., North Carolina Signers of ^[1]

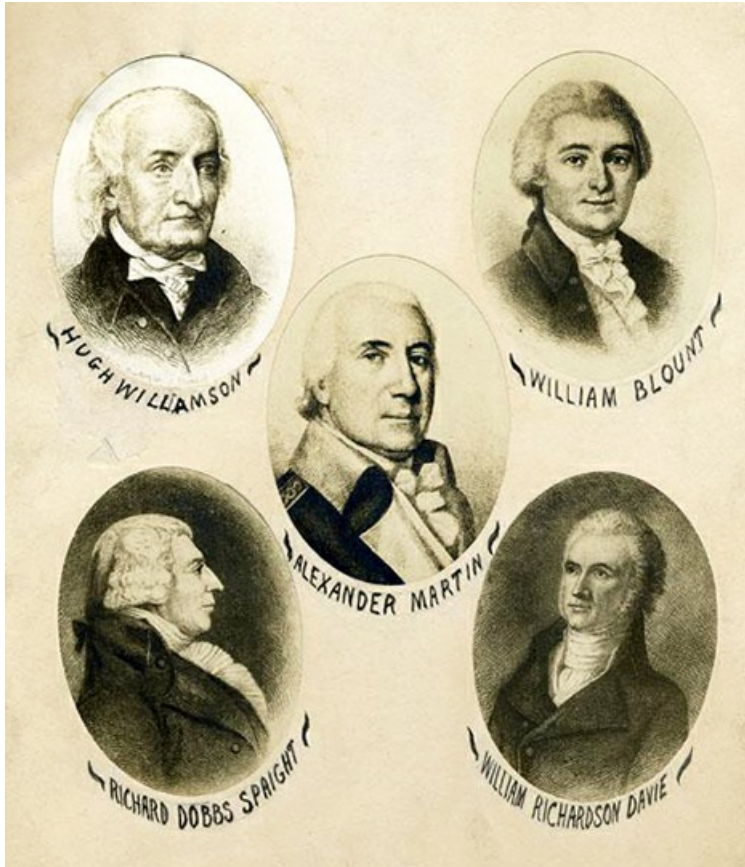
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Constitution, U.S., North Carolina Signers of

by [William S. Powell](#) ^[2], 2006

See also: [Representatives to the Constitutional Convention](#) ^[3]



Portraits of the North Carolina delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Image from the North Carolina Museum of History.

^[4]The U.S. Constitution, completed on 17 Sept. 1787, was signed on behalf of North Carolina by William Blount, a native of [Bertie County](#) ^[5]; [Richard Dobbs Spaight](#) ^[6], a native of New Bern; and [Hugh Williamson](#) ^[7], a native of Pennsylvania. The North Carolina legislature of 1786-87 without enthusiasm had approved the call for a revision of the Articles of Confederation. On 6 Jan. 1787, the final day of the session, it chose Governor [Richard Caswell](#) ^[8], [William R. Davie](#) ^[9], [Willie Jones](#) ^[10], Alexander Martin, and Spaight to be its delegates to the [Constitutional Convention](#) ^[3], scheduled to meet in Philadelphia. Jones opposed the idea of a central government any stronger than that provided by the Articles of Confederation and declined the appointment. Caswell was not well and did not attend, but he named Williamson on 14 March and Blount on 24 April to fill the two vacancies.

With the exception of Martin, each of these men was strongly [Federalist](#) ^[11] and favored a more powerful national government. Williamson proved to be the most active member of the North Carolina delegates, speaking frequently and serving on several committees. Williamson and Spaight were present from the time they reached Philadelphia until the convention adjourned, but Davie and Martin left early and did not sign the Constitution. Blount was present at the end but had been absent much of the time because he was also a member of the [Continental Congress](#) ^[12], then in session in New York City.

Additional Resources: (accessed November 14, 2012).

"Hugh Williamson North Carolina." *Signers of the Constitution: historic places commemorating the signing of the Constitution*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service. 1976.
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/constitution/bio38.htm ^[13]

"William Blount North Carolina" *Signers of the Constitution: historic places commemorating the signing of the Constitution* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service. 1976.
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/constitution/bio5.htm ^[14]

"Richard Dobbs Spaight, Sr. North Carolina" *Signers of the Constitution: historic places commemorating the signing of the Constitution*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service. 1976.
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/constitution/bio36.htm ^[15]

"The Founding Fathers: North Carolina." *The Charters of Freedom. America's Founding Fathers: Delegates to the Constitutional Convention.* The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_founding_fathers_north_carolina.html ^[16]

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"Photograph, Accession #: [H.19XX.318.126](#) ^[4]." 1890-1915. North Carolina Museum of History.

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