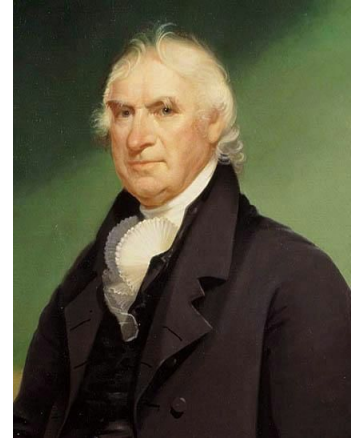


# George Clinton

**Born:** July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1739

**Died:** April, 20<sup>th</sup> 1812

**Residences:** Little Britain, New York City, Albany, Washington D.C.



Clinton was born in a small town near the Hudson River to a close family of Irish heritage. His father was a politically active man, having served on New York's colonial assembly, something that resonated very well within his son George. At 18, Clinton began his military career by joining the militia and participating in the French and Indian War. Following the war's end, Clinton travelled to New York City where he took up studying law, later returning to the Hudson Valley to establish his own practice. By 1768 he was elected to the Colonial Assembly which was the beginning of his future in politics, a future he would share with Cornelia Tappen whom he married in 1770. Clinton rose to be elected to the Second Continental Congress in 1775 and was an avid supporter of the Declaration of Independence. He served in the Revolutionary War as a general and was tasked with fortifying the Hudson River Valley to prevent the British from advancing North within New York. During these years, Clinton was elected Governor of the state and held the office for six terms in a row up until 1795 (he served once again in 1801 until 1804). Clinton was an antifederalist and when the Constitutional Convention of 1787 came to Poughkeepsie, he as governor was one of the leading voices against the signing of the Constitution. Towards the end of his life, Clinton served as Thomas Jefferson's vice-president becoming the first to do so based the legitimate standards of election granted by the 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment. A final first came for Clinton in 1812 when he died, becoming the first vice president to do so while in office.

## Major Accomplishments:

- As vice president, he cast a tie-breaking vote to restructure the federal banks
- Constructed and charged with the defense of Forts Clinton and Montgomery during the Revolutionary War by George Washington
- Served as Governor of New York for more than 20 years

## References:

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By Jackson Ruckerfeller

