

William Jay

Abolitionist and Peacekeeper

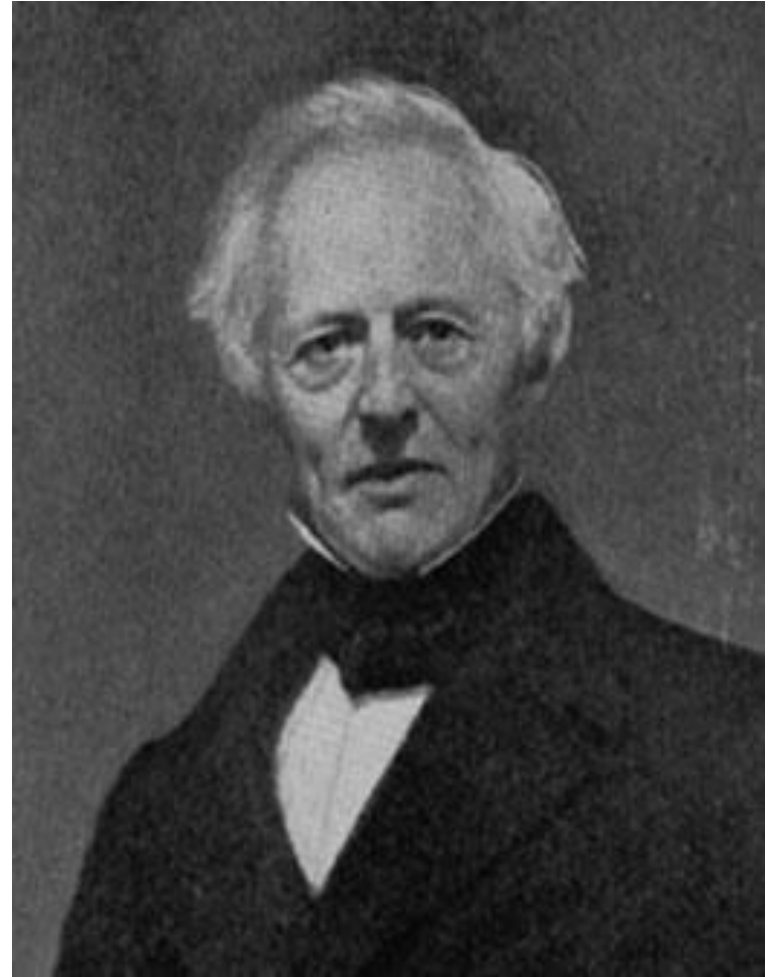


Paper written by: Marcus R. Cimino

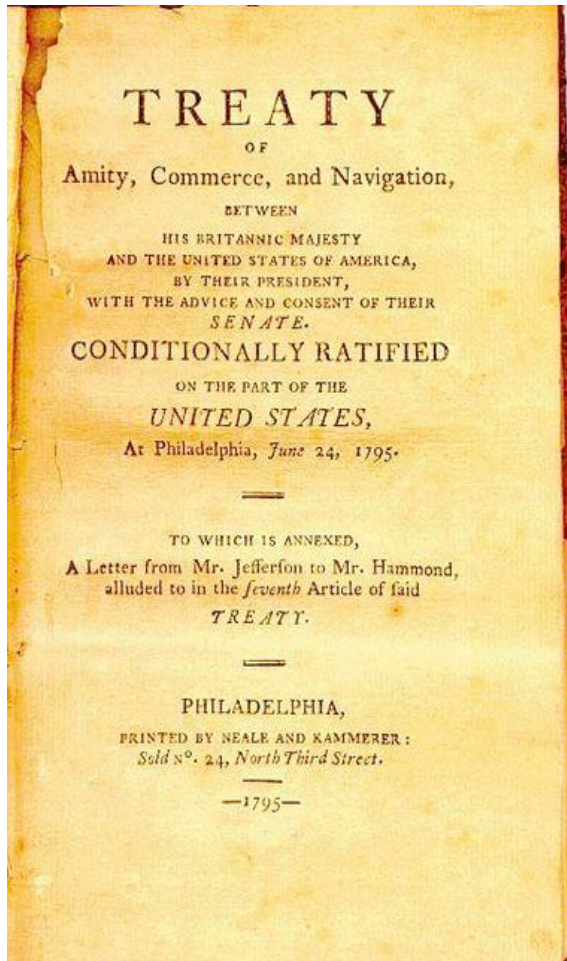
PowerPoint by: Kaitlyn Walsh

Early Life

- Born in 1789
- Father was John Jay, New York's Governor.
- His childhood was absent of his father
 - John Jay was the United State's first Chief Justice and later was trying to put *Jay's Treaty* into effect in England
- William was raised by his mother until the age of thirteen,
 - The same time that his father became the Governor of New York.



Jay's Treaty

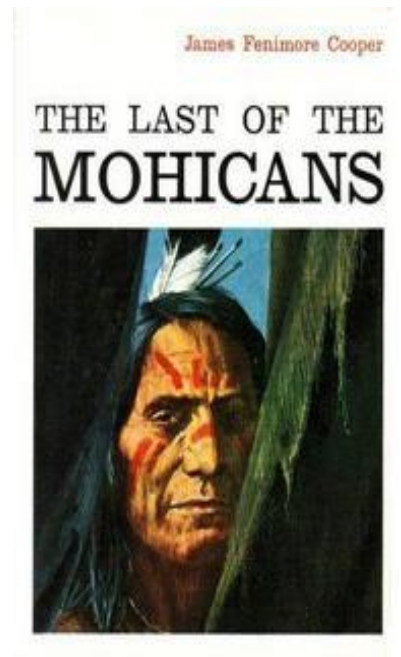
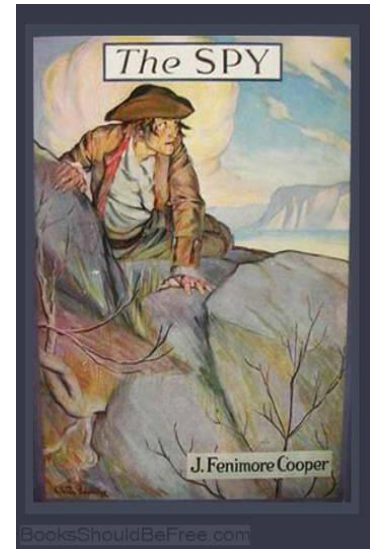


- 1795
- Statesman John Jay called for a special envoy to England to negotiate the disagreements between the United States and the British at the end of the American War for Independence
- On November 19, 1794 Jay's Treaty was signed, avoiding any further threat of war.
 - Eliminated British control in the western posts within two years
 - Provided America with limited trade in the West Indies

<http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/milestones/jaytreaty/>

Early Schooling

- Jay attended a small parish boarding school in Albany run by Reverend Thomas Ellison
 - Here, Jay became friends with James Fenimore Cooper, an author during the early 1800s, famous for both his works *The Last of the Mohicans* and *The Spy*.



College

- It was family tradition to attend Columbia University, however, he choose Yale University
- William was burdened with terrible eyesight
 - Through adversity, William graduated from Yale in 1808
 - Enrolled in law school in Albany, another family tradition
 - Eyesight would cause further problems in schools and Jay decided to leave college



Adversity

- Though needing to leave law school, Jay looked to devote his life to others.
 - “I will hasten home, and bidding adieu to pursuits from which my childhood I had anticipated pleasure and honor, devote myself to others... The affairs of this life are ordered by Providence... In the course of which I am about to travel, I may find as much solid pleasure as in the one which I myself had chosen.”



New Commitments

- William Jay committed himself to the Bedford Farm.
 - Made it more successful
 - New ability to meet the demands of New York City consumers
 - Ability to sell family dairy products
 - Cheese, eggs, and milk.
- Farming became a new hobby of his, but law was still his true dream.



William Jay: The Lawyer



- With new motivation, Jay decided to commit himself to others through law.
 - “I have devoted myself to the law, to protect the weak from the power of the strong. To shield the poor from the oppression of the rich, is the part for which I am preparing myself. God grant that I may not labor in vain.”
- With new civic duties, Jay was appointed to Westchester County Judge in 1818.

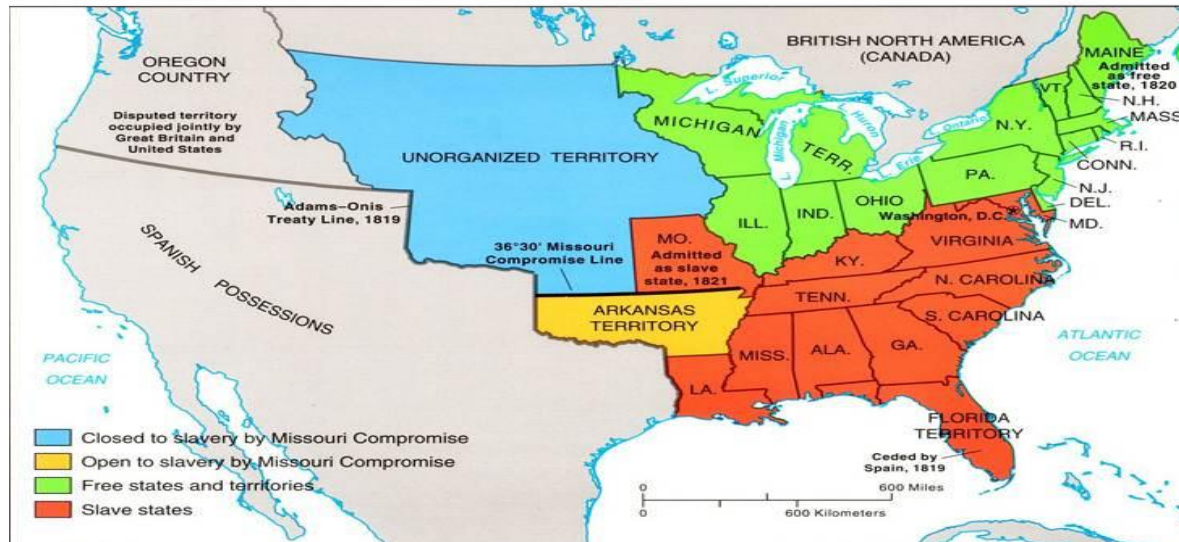
Abolitionist Efforts

- In parallel to his appointment as Judge, Jay fought to abolish slavery.
 - Abolitionist efforts were not common for men during his time.
- Jay had a love for freedom and equality, in addition to his love for God.
- Firmly believed that the institution of slavery was not just cruelty inflicted by masters, but also complete destruction of human rights.



Further Pursuit

- As a abolitionist, Jay became an excellent writer, using his skill for the cause
 - Missouri Compromise 1820
 - Pro-slavery west of the Mississippi River
 - Jay believed allowing slavery west of this point would make it impossible to exterminate, and will continue to extend further west.



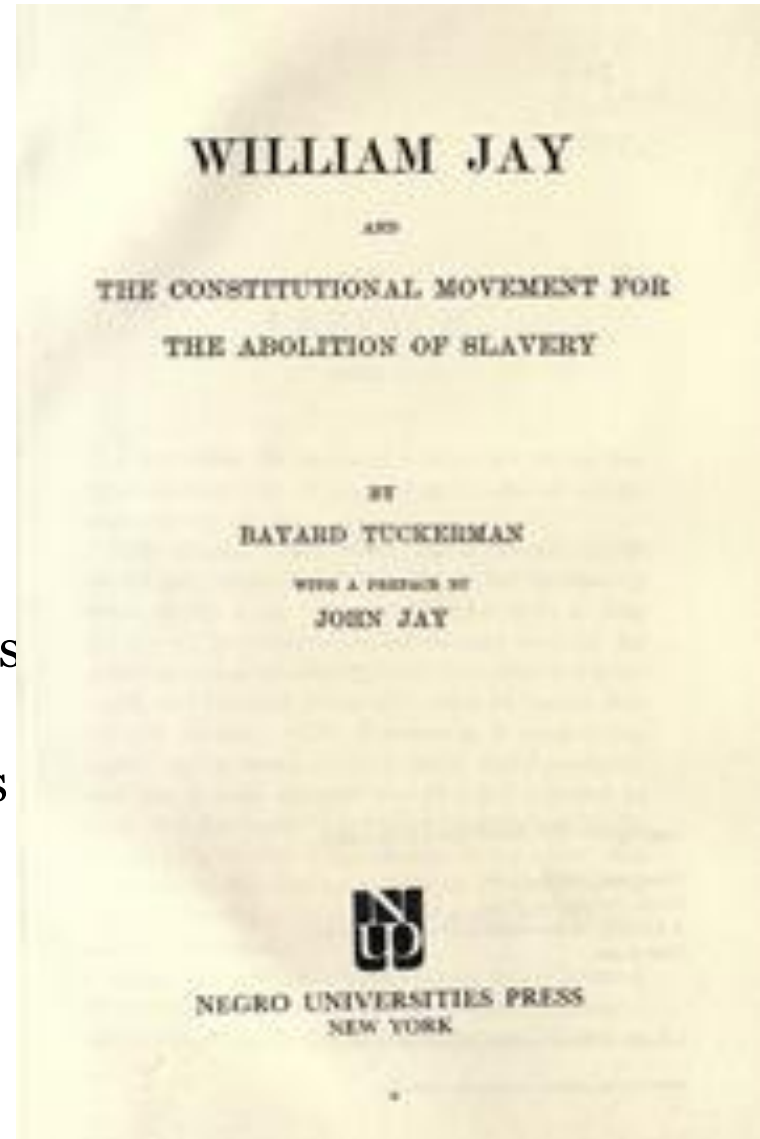
William Jay: The Writer

- Contributed to the *Emancipator* in 1819
 - Dedicated to rid the United States of slavery
 - President Andrew Johnson stopped any ant-slavery publications to the Senate and House.
 - Jay urged him to reverse the policy.
- Other works...
 - 1835: Inquiry into the Character and tendency of the American colonization and America Anti-Slavery Societies
 - 1839: A View of the Action of the Federal Government in Behalf of Slavery and The Coalition of the free People of Color in the United States

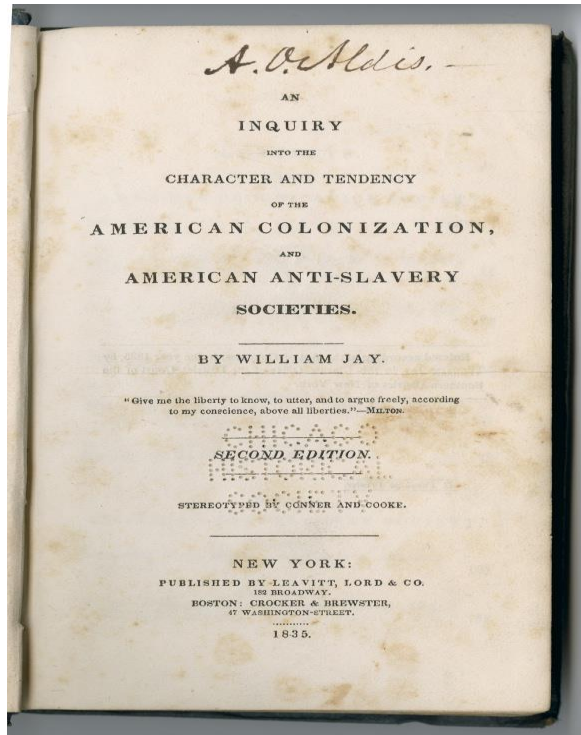


His Legacy

- Jay looked to eliminate slavery from the United States, and was praised as a hero by many.
 - Relieved of his position of Judge in Westchester County in 1843 because he was looked at as too much of a moral idealist.
 - He looked to have his children follow in his footsteps
 - Treat people fairly regardless of prejudices in society



His Legacy



- He “made the wisest and best use of life, and will be recognized as a shining example to the human race. The cause of emancipation in the U.S. has lost one of its ablest and most effective advocates.”
- Incredible influence in both the Hudson River Valley, New York, and the United States as a whole.

Further Investigation

- Reference Paper:
http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/library/pdfs/william_Jay_abolitionist.pdf
- William Jay Overview:
<http://www.yourdictionary.com/william-jay>