

*“John Dickinson: A Great Worthy of the Revolution”*

**Summary of Dickinson’s Political Activities**

- October 1759 – after practicing law for a little more than a year, Dickinson is elected to the Delaware Assembly as a Kent County representative. (Dickinson age 27)
- October 1760 – re-elected and chosen speaker of the Assembly.
- May 1762 – elected to fill in a vacant seat in Pennsylvania Assembly in a special election.
- October 1764 – re-elected to Pennsylvania Assembly.
- September 1765 – chairs committee to write instructions for Pennsylvania representatives to the Stamp Act Congress. (Dickinson age 33)
- October 1765 – serves as representative to Stamp Act Congress.
- December 1765 – writes and publishes pamphlet *“The Late Regulations respecting the British Colonies considered.”*
- December 1767 – writes and publishes series of letters in newspapers titled *“Letters From A Pennsylvania Farmer to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies.”* (Dickinson age 35)
- October 1770 – elected to Pennsylvania Assembly.
- June 1774 – appointed Chairman of the Philadelphia Committee of Correspondence.
- October 1774 – elected to Pennsylvania Assembly; serves as delegate to First Continental Congress; writes *“An Address to the Inhabitants of Quebec.”*
- May 1775 – elected representative to Second Continental Congress.
- June 1775 – appointed Chairman of Committee Safety and Defense for Pennsylvania.
- July 1775 – writes the *“Olive Branch Petition.”*, and collaborates with Thomas Jefferson to write *“Declaration on the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms.”*
- June 1776 – chairs committee to write the Articles of Confederation. Dickinson abstains from the final vote for Independence.

- June 1776 – dismissed as a delegate from Congress (he was currently leading his militia into New Jersey).
- November 1776 – declines elected seat in both Pennsylvania and Delaware Assemblies.
- January 1777 – the Delaware Assembly appoints Dickinson as delegate to Congress; he declines.
- April 1779 – accepts appointment to Congress from Delaware.
- November 1780 – selected to Delaware Assembly. (Dickinson age 48)
- November 1781 – elected to Pennsylvania’s Supreme Executive Council, then elected President of Pennsylvania.
- September 1786 – leads Delaware delegation to Annapolis Convention, is selected Chairman of convention.
- May 1787 – delegate to Constitutional Convention.
- 1788 – writes the first of seven letters signed “*Fabius*.”
- December 1792 – elected to the Delaware Assembly.
- March 1793 – resigns his senatorial seat. This signals the end of his political career.
- February 1808 – dies at the age of 75.

#### Resources:

1. Chronological Summary of Dickinson Activities 1753 – 1808 Mary Ames Booker, Research Intern, Delaware State Museums, 1986.
2. Milton Flower, John Dickinson: Conservative Revolutionary, (Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1983.)
3. Florence Doughty Schull, John Dickinson Sounds the Alarm, (Philadelphia, Pa.: Auerbach Publishers, 1972.)