

Summit Historical Minute

Signers of the Constitution from Union County, New Jersey

Presented by Council President McTernan

September 5, 2017 Council Meeting

Signers – Jonathan Dayton. Born in Elizabeth. Went to College of NJ – later Princeton. Enrolled in Continental Army immediately. Signed Constitution. Became speaker of the House, then a senator. Fell in with Burr to create new state from Spanish southwest, indicted for treason, but never prosecuted. Remained popular in NJ and hosted Lafayette in 1824. Dayton OH named after him – he owned the land!

David Brearly – also graduated from College of NJ. Was arrested prior to 1776 by the British for high treason, but freed by patriots. Colonel in State militia and helped draft the state constitution. Supported the NJ plan – one vote for each state in the legislature. Washington appointed him a judge which he served as until his death.

William Livingston – attended Yale after growing up on the frontier in NY, even spending a year as a missionary amongst the Mohawk Indians. He also lived in Elizabeth, on the Liberty Estate. Commanded NJ militia as a brigadier general. First Governor of NJ.

William Paterson, born in Ireland. Attended College of NJ. Worked for Richard Stockton, who signed Declaration of Independence, and whose decedents live in Summit today. Served in the legislature and was attorney general of NJ during Revolutionary War. His NJ plan, was also called the Paterson plan after his authorship. He went on to be Governor of NJ, a senator and later a supreme court judge.