

Justice Thomas Willing

1731-1821

Term

1767-1776 (years taken from Lawmaking and Legislators in Pennsylvania)

Education

Inner Temple, London, October 5, 1748-1749

Professional Experience

- Worked in a countinghouse with his father, Charles, 1749-1754
- Admitted to the Philadelphia bar, about 1754
- Partnership with Robert Morris, Willing, Morris and Company, 1754-December 1790 (later becoming Willing, Morris and Inglis and then Willing, Morris, and Swanwick)
- Assistant Secretary, Pennsylvania Delegation, Albany Congress, 1754
- Lieutenant, Dock Ward, Associators, City of Philadelphia, 1755-1756
- Member, Common Council of City of Philadelphia, 1755-1759
- Alderman, City of Philadelphia, 1759-1768
- Commissioner, Indian Trade, 1758-1763
- Ship-of-War Commissioner, 1758-1759
- Justice of the Peace, Philadelphia County, 1761-1767
- Judge, Orphans' Court of Philadelphia, June 6, 1761
- Pier Commissioner, 1762-1766
- Manager, Lottery to Raise Funds to Build Lighthouse at Cape Henlopen, 1763
- Elected Mayor of Philadelphia, October 1763-October 1764
- First signatory of the Nonimportation Resolutions Against the Stamp Act, 1765
- Member, Provincial Assembly, 1764-1765
- Commissioner, Maryland-Pennsylvania Boundary Dispute, 1765-1768
- Governor Penn appointed Willing, Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, September 14, 1767, April 29, 1774
- Justice of the Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, Pennsylvania, April 29, 1774-July 1776
- President, Provincial Convention, July 15-22, 1774
- Member, Philadelphia Committee of Correspondence, 1774
- Member, Committee of Correspondence and Committee of Safety, 1775
- Member, Second Continental Congress, May 6, 1775-July 20, 1776 (voted against independence on July 1, 1776)
- Member, U.S., Secret Committee of Trade, September -December 13, 1775
- President, Bank of North America, 1781-resigned November 8, 1791, effective January 1792
- President George Washington appointed Willing, Commissioner to Sell Subscriptions to the Bank of the United States, 1791
- President, First Bank of the United States, October 21, 1791-November 10, 1807
- Willing and Francis Partnership, 1794-April 1807

Memberships and Associations

- Trustee, Academy and Charitable School of the Province of Pennsylvania (now University of Pennsylvania), July 8, 1760-1791; Treasurer, 1766-1768
- American Philosophical Society, January 10, 1768
- Founder and Trustee, Episcopal Academy, 1784
- Charter Member, Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, 1785
- Manager, Contributors for the Relief and Employment of the Poor in the City of Philadelphia, May 1788

Publications

- Thomas Willing Balch, *Willing Letters and Papers; Edited with and Biographical Essay of Thomas Willing of Philadelphia (1731-1821)* (1922)

Sources

Robert E. Wright and Laurie M. Wolfe, *Lawmaking and Legislators in Pennsylvania: A Biographical Dictionary Volume Three 1757-1777* 1427 (2005); John Hill Martin, *Martin's Bench and Bar of Philadelphia* 12-19, 237, 324 (1883); G. S. Rowe, *Embattled Bench* 107, 121 (1994); Thomas Willing Balch, *Willing Letters and Papers; Edited with an Biographical Essay of Thomas Willing of Philadelphia (1731-1821)* (1922); Thomas Willing Balch, *Thomas Willing of Philadelphia (1731-1821)*, 46 *Pa. Mag. Hist. & Biog.* 1 (1922); William Weisberger, *Willing, Thomas*, *American National Biography Online*; Burton Alva Konkle, *Thomas Willing and the First American Financial System* (1937); Eugene R. Slaski, "Thomas Willing: A Study in Moderation, 1774-1778," 100 *Pa. Mag. Hist. & Biog.* 491 (1976).