

Justice Hugh Henry Brackenridge
1748-1816

Term

December 18, 1799-June 26, 1816

Education

- College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), A.B., 1771; studied Theology, 1771-1773; M.A., 1774
- Studied law under Samuel Chase in Maryland

Professional Experience

- Teacher, Gunpowder Falls, Maryland
- Headmaster, Somerset Academy, Somerset County, Maryland, 1772
- Chaplain, American Revolutionary War
- Licensed to preach, Presbytery of Philadelphia, 1777
- Started the United States Magazine, Philadelphia, 1778
- Admitted to the Philadelphia bar, December 1780
- Private Practice, Pittsburgh, 1781-December 1799
- Established Pittsburgh Gazette, first newspaper in Pittsburgh, 1786
- Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 1787
- Established the Pittsburgh Academy (now University of Pittsburgh), 1787
- Governor Thomas McKean appointed Brackenridge, Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, December 18, 1799
- Judge, Pennsylvania High Court of Errors and Appeals, December 18, 1799-1806
- Died in Office, June 26, 1816

Publications

- Brackenridge and Philip Freneau, *Father Bombo's Pilgrimage to Mecca* (1770)
- *The Rising Glory of America* (1772) (poem)
- *Divine Revelation*, 1774 (poem)
- *The Battle of Bunker Hill* (1776)
- *Death of General Montgomery at the Siege of Quebec* (1777)
- *Six Political Discourses Founded on the Scripture* (1777)
- *Eulogium of the Brave Men Who Have Fallen in the Contest with Great-Britain* (1779)
- *Indian Atrocities* (1783)
- *Modern Chivalry* (1792)
- *Political Miscellany* (1793)
- *Incidents of the Insurrection in the Western Parts of Pennsylvania* (1795)
- *Narrative of a Late Expedition Against the Indians* (1798)
- *Standard of Liberty, an Occasional Paper* (1802)
- *Gazette Publications* (1806)
- *Spirit of Public Journals* (1806)
- *Considerations on the Jurisprudence of the State Of Pennsylvania* (1808)
- *An Epistle to Walter Scott* (1811)
- *Law Miscellanies* (1814; reprint 2001)
- *Modern Chivalry* (1815; reprinted in 1819, 1825, 1846, 1851, 1853, 1955, 1857, 1860, 1926, 1937, 1962, 2000)
- *On the Population and Tumuli of the Aborigines of North America* (1818)
- *Hugh Henry Brackenridge Reader, 1770-1815* (Daniel Marder, ed. 1970)



Sources

1 Binney iii; 2 Sergeant & Rawle iii; David Brown, 1 The Forum 396 (1856); John Hill Martin, Martin's Bench and Bar 23, 65, 202, 203, 251 (1883); G. S. Rowe, Embattled Bench 188, 190-191, 202, 226, 232, 254, 255, 260-62, 265-67, 274, 286, 288 (1994); James O'Toole, Hugh Henry Brackenridge—Founding Father; Pittsburgh Post Gazette (June 2, 2000), available <https://old.post-gazette.com/regionstate/20000102brackenridge1.asp>; Hugh Henry Brackenridge, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Henry_Brackenridge; Biographical Notice of H. H. Brackenridge, Late Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Southern Literary Messenger 151 (1842), at Historic Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh University Libraries, <https://historicpittsburgh.org/islandora/object/pitt%3A31735051650368/viewer#page/1/mode/2up>; Charles Heartman, A Bibliography of the Writings of Hugh Henry Brackenridge Prior to 1825 (1917), at Historic Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh University Libraries, <https://historicpittsburgh.org/islandora/object/pitt%3A31735056288230>.