

Chief Justice William Tilghman
1756-1827

Term

Chief Justice, February 26, 1806-1827 (1 Binney iii), but March 1, 1806 (3 Papers of the Governors 2230)

Education

- College of Philadelphia (now University of Pennsylvania), A.B., 1772; M.A., 1775(?)
- Read law under Chief Justice Benjamin Chew, 1772-1776

Professional Experience

- Admitted to Maryland bar, 1783; Philadelphia bar, September 1, 1784
- Private Practice, Talbot County, Maryland, 1783-1788
- Member, House of Delegates, Maryland, 1788-1790
- Elector, George Washington, President of the United States, 1789
- State Senator, Maryland, 1791-1793
- Private Practice, Philadelphia, 1794-1801, 1802-1805
- President John Adams nominated Tilghman, Chief Justice, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, February 26, 1801; confirmed by Senate, March 2, 1801; received commission, March 3, 1801; service ended on July 1, 1802, on abolition of court.
- Governor Thomas McKean appointed Tilghman, President Judge, 1st Judicial District (Philadelphia, Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery Counties), July 31, 1805-February 26, 1806
- Judge, Pennsylvania High Court of Errors and Appeals, July 31, 1805-1806
- Governor Thomas McKean appointed Tilghman, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, commissioned March 1, 1806
- Died in Office, April 29, 1827

Honors & Awards

- Honorary LL.D. degree, University of Pennsylvania, 1807; Harvard University, 1814

Members and Associations

- American Antiquarian Society
- Vice-President, Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, 1814
- American Philosophical Society: Chair, Committee of History, the Moral Sciences, and General Literature, 1815; Vice President, January 1816-1824; President 1824-April 1827
- President, Society for the Encouragement of American Manufacturers
- Academy of Natural Sciences
- Academy of Fine Arts
- Board of Trustees of University of Pennsylvania
- First President, Philadelphia Athenaeum
- First President, Law Academy of Philadelphia, 1821-1827

Publications

- A Brief Statement of the Origin and Progress of the Connecticut Intrusion in the State of Pennsylvania (1803)
- Pennsylvania. Supreme Court. The Report of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Made in Pursuance of a Resolution of the Legislature of the Said Commonwealth : Passed in the Session 1807-8: Reported to the Senate and House of w(1808); reprinted in 3 Binney's Reports 595.
- Report of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, of the English Statutes Which Are in Force in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: and of Those of the Said Statutes Which, in Their Opinion, Ought to be Incorporated into the Statute Law of the Said Commonwealth (1809)
- Bache, Richard. The Case of Alien Enemies, Considered and Decided upon a Writ of Habeas Corpus, Allowed on the Petition of Charles Lockington, an Alien Enemy, by the Hon. William

Tilghman, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the 22d Day of November, 1813. Reported by Richard Bache (1813)

- An Eulogium in Commemoration of Doctor Caspar Wistar, Late President of the American Philosophical Society Held at Philadelphia for Promoting Useful Knowledge. Delivered Before the Society, Pursuant to Their Appointment, in the German Lutheran Church in Fourth Street, in the City of Philadelphia, on the 11th Day of March, 1818 (1818)
- An Address Delivered Before the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture: at its Anniversary Meeting, January 18, 1820 (1820)
- Pennsylvania Society for the Encouragement of American Manufactures. Memorial of the Pennsylvania Society for the Encouragement of American Manufactures: March 15, 1824; Read, and Referred to the Committee of the Whole House to Which Is Committed the Bill to Amend the Several Acts for Imposing Duties on Imports (1824)
- Pennsylvania Society for the Promotion of Manufactures and the Mechanic Arts. Observations on the Report of the Committee of Ways and Means: Made at Washington, 12th March, 1828 (1828)

Sources

Pennsylvania Archives, Ninth Series, 3 Papers of the Governors 2230; 1 Binney iii; Horace Binney, Eulogium, 16 Sergeant & Rawle's Reports 456 (1827); David Brown, 1 The Forum 379 (1856); Horace Binney, An Eulogium upon the Hon. William Tilghman, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania (1827; reprinted in 1 Am. L. Mag. 1 (1843)); John Hill Martin, Martin's Bench and Bar of Philadelphia 22-24, 318 (1883); G. S. Rowe, Embattled Bench 72, 142, 268, 276, 277, 278, 282, 283, 284, 286, 289, 338 (1994); William Tilghman, Federal Judicial Center, <https://www.fjc.gov/history/judges/tilghman-william>; Peter Stephen Du Ponceau, Eulogium in Commemoration the Honourable William Tilghman, LL.D. Delivered before the Society on Thursday October 11, 1827 (1827); Charles Bradford, Tilghman, William (1756-1827), Bloomsbury Enc. of the Am. Enlightenment, Credo Reference, https://search-credoreference-com.pitt.idm.oclc.org/content/entry/bloome/tilghman_william_1756_1827/0; Horace Stern, William Tilghman, 2 Great Lawyers 145 (William Draper Lewis, ed. 1907); John Golder, Life of the Honorable William Tilghman, Late Chief Justice of Pennsylvania (1829); University of Pennsylvania. Biographical Catalogue of the Matriculates of the College....1749-1893 18 (1894).