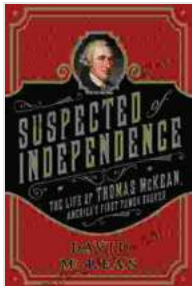


The Life of Thomas McKean: America's First Power Broker



Suspected of Independence: The Life of Thomas McKean, America's First Power Broker by Lee Eggstein

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 13174 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 322 pages



Unveiling the Untold Story of a Revolutionary Leader



A Humble Beginning

Thomas McKean was born on March 19, 1734, in New London, Pennsylvania. His father, William McKean, was a farmer and blacksmith of Irish descent. His mother, Letitia Finney, was a devout Quaker. Thomas was the eldest of five children.

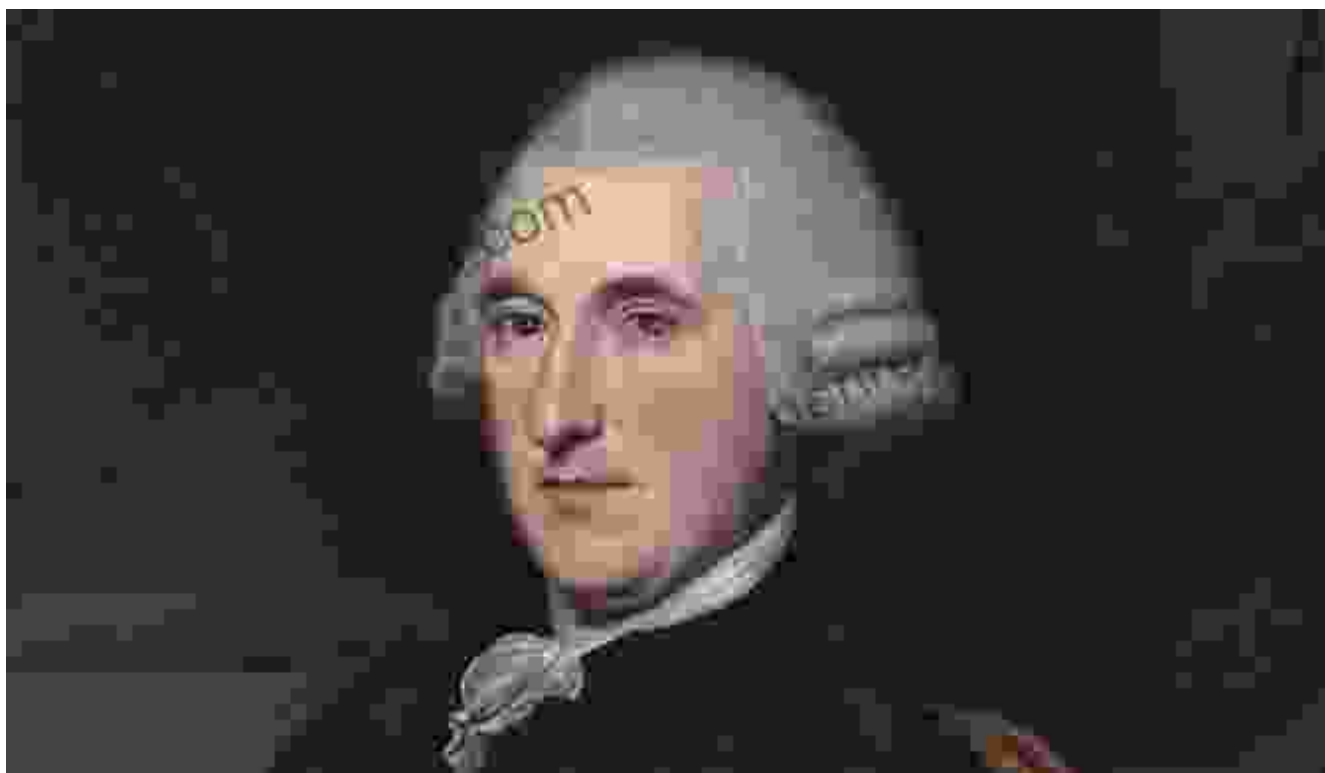
From a young age, McKean displayed a sharp intellect and a strong thirst for knowledge. He attended New London Academy and later studied law under David Finney, his uncle.



A Rising Star in Politics

In 1762, McKean passed the bar exam and established a successful law practice in Newcastle, Delaware. He quickly became involved in local politics and served as a member of the Delaware House of Assembly from 1765 to 1776.

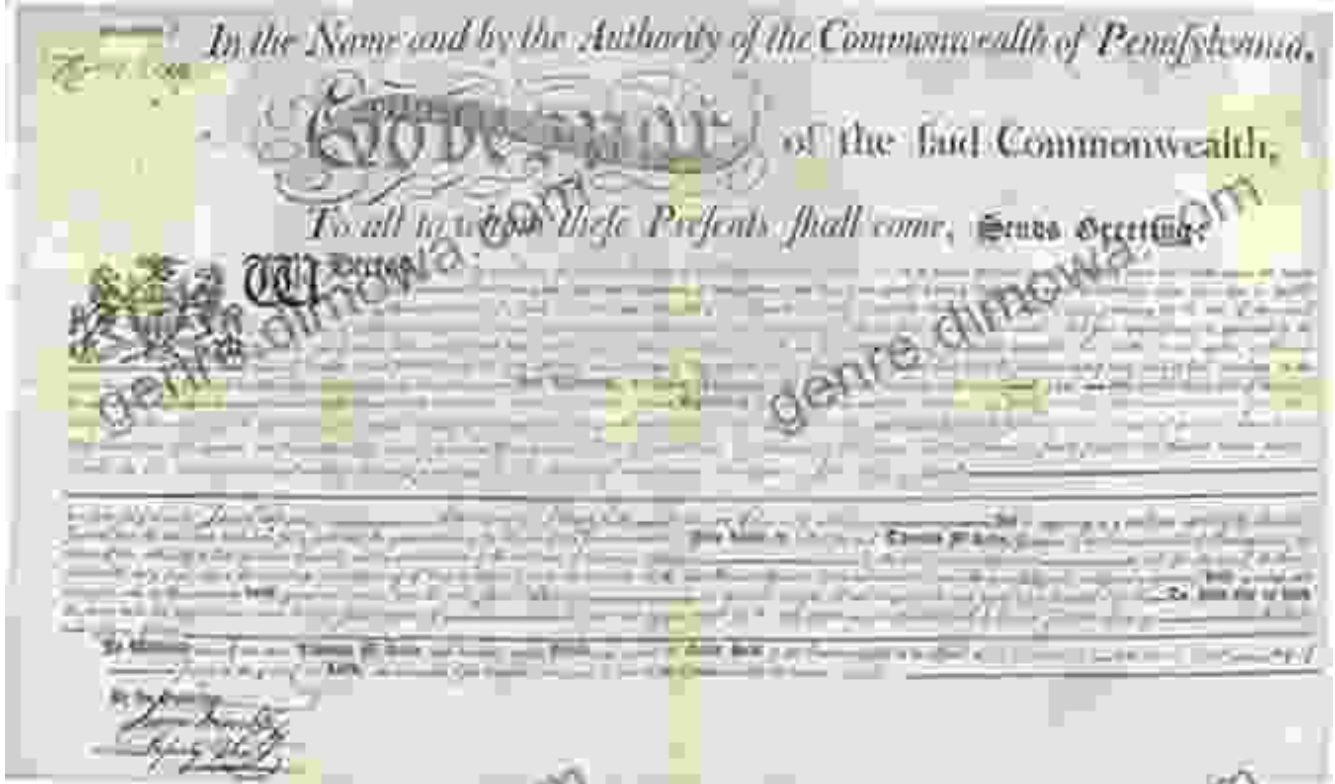
McKean was a fierce advocate for American independence. He wrote pamphlets and gave speeches that denounced British tyranny. In 1774, he was elected to the Continental Congress, where he served on the Committee of Safety, a body tasked with coordinating the American resistance to British rule.



A Signer of the Declaration of Independence

In 1776, McKean was appointed to the committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence. He was one of the first to sign the document, thereby pledging his life and fortune to the cause of American independence.

McKean's signature appears on the second line of the Declaration of Independence, next to the signatures of John Hancock and Samuel Adams.



A Powerhouse in the Articles of Confederation

After the Declaration of Independence, McKean served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention. He played a key role in drafting the Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States.

Under the Articles of Confederation, McKean served as President of Delaware from 1777 to 1778 and from 1781 to 1783. He also served as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania from 1784 to 1799.

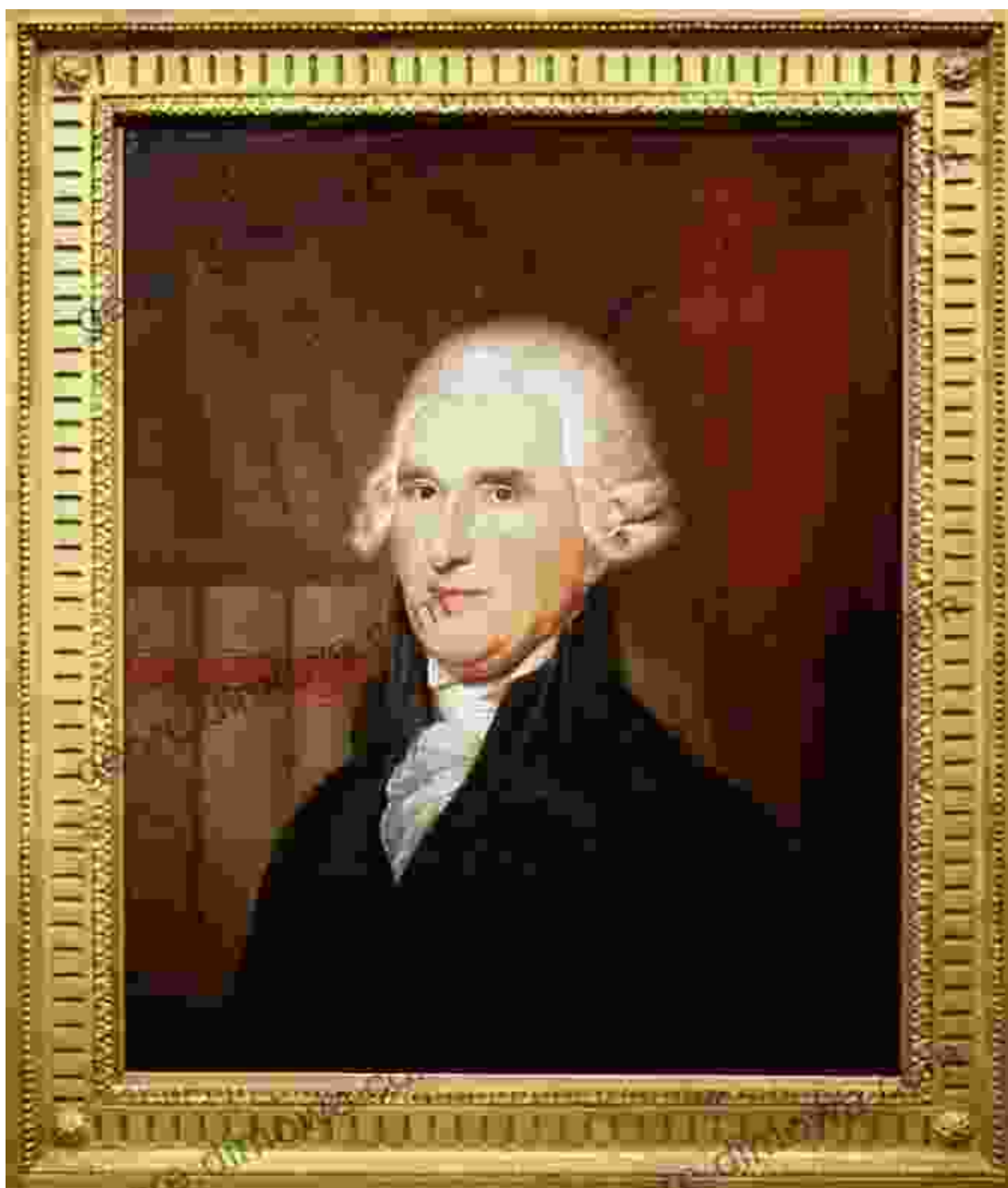


A Pioneer of American Law

McKean was a brilliant legal mind and a leading figure in American jurisprudence. As Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, he established important precedents and laid the foundation for American common law.

McKean was also a strong advocate for religious freedom and the separation of church and state. He authored the Pennsylvania Constitution

of 1790, which guaranteed these fundamental rights.



A Pivotal Figure in American History

Thomas McKean was a man of immense talent, determination, and unwavering patriotism. He played a pivotal role in shaping the American Revolution, drafting the Declaration of Independence, and establishing the new nation's legal and political framework.

McKean's legacy continues to inspire Americans today. His contributions to American history are a testament to his exceptional character and his unwavering commitment to the principles of liberty, justice, and self-governance.



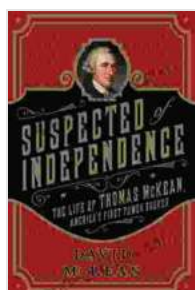
Timeline of Thomas McKean's Life

- **1734:** Born in New London, Pennsylvania
- **1762:** Passes the bar exam and establishes a law practice

- **1765-1776:** Serves as a member of the Delaware House of Assembly
- **1774:** Elected to the Continental Congress
- **1776:** Signs the Declaration of Independence
- **1777-1778 and 1781-1783:** Serves as President of Delaware
- **1784-1799:** Serves as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania
- **1817:** Dies in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

References:

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- Kammen, Michael. *A Machine That Would Go of Itself: The Constitution in American Culture*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.
- McGuire, Roberta. *Thomas McKean: Delaware's Forgotten Signer*. University of Delaware Press, 2008.

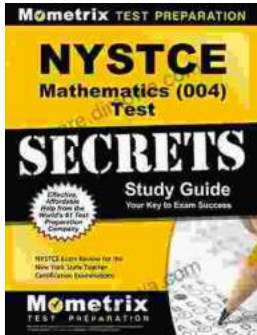


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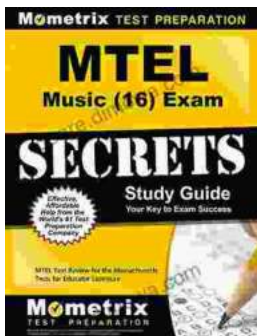
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