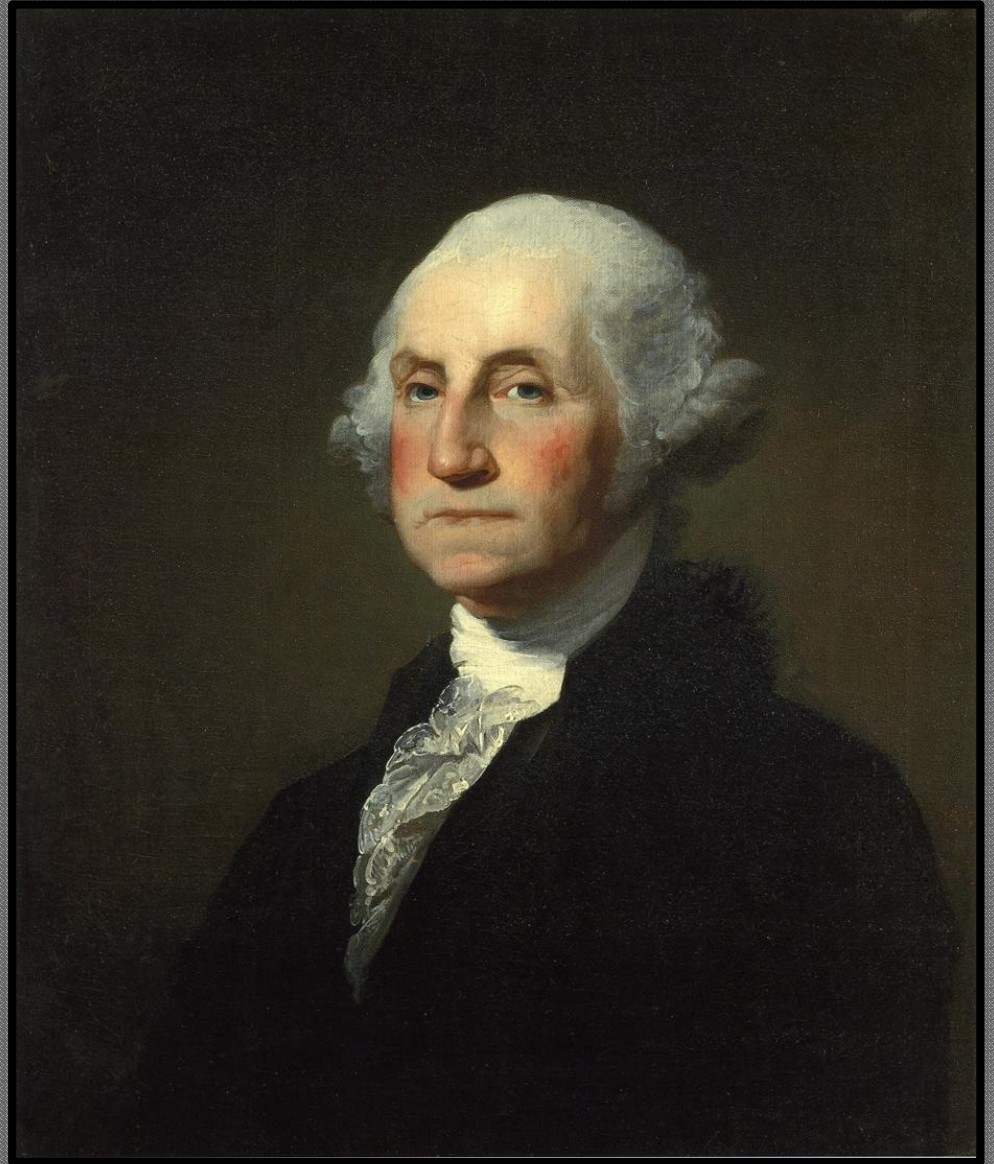


# Not Working

- It soon became apparent that the Articles had to be revised because the national government was just too weak.
- The states argued over borders and trade, and Congress had no power to stop them.
- Foreign governments did not know if they were dealing with 1 country or 13 different ones.
- The country's economy worsened.

George Washington called the Articles of Confederation “a half-starved, limping government”.





# A New Constitution

# Change

- The founders realized that the Articles of Confederation were too weak to effectively govern the country and had to be revised.
- In May 1787, delegates from all 13 states met in Philadelphia with the intent to change the Articles.





Independence Hall,  
Philadelphia

# Convention

- The members ended up discarding the Articles and writing a completely new document.
- This meeting became known as the Constitutional Convention.



# Constitutional Convention 1787

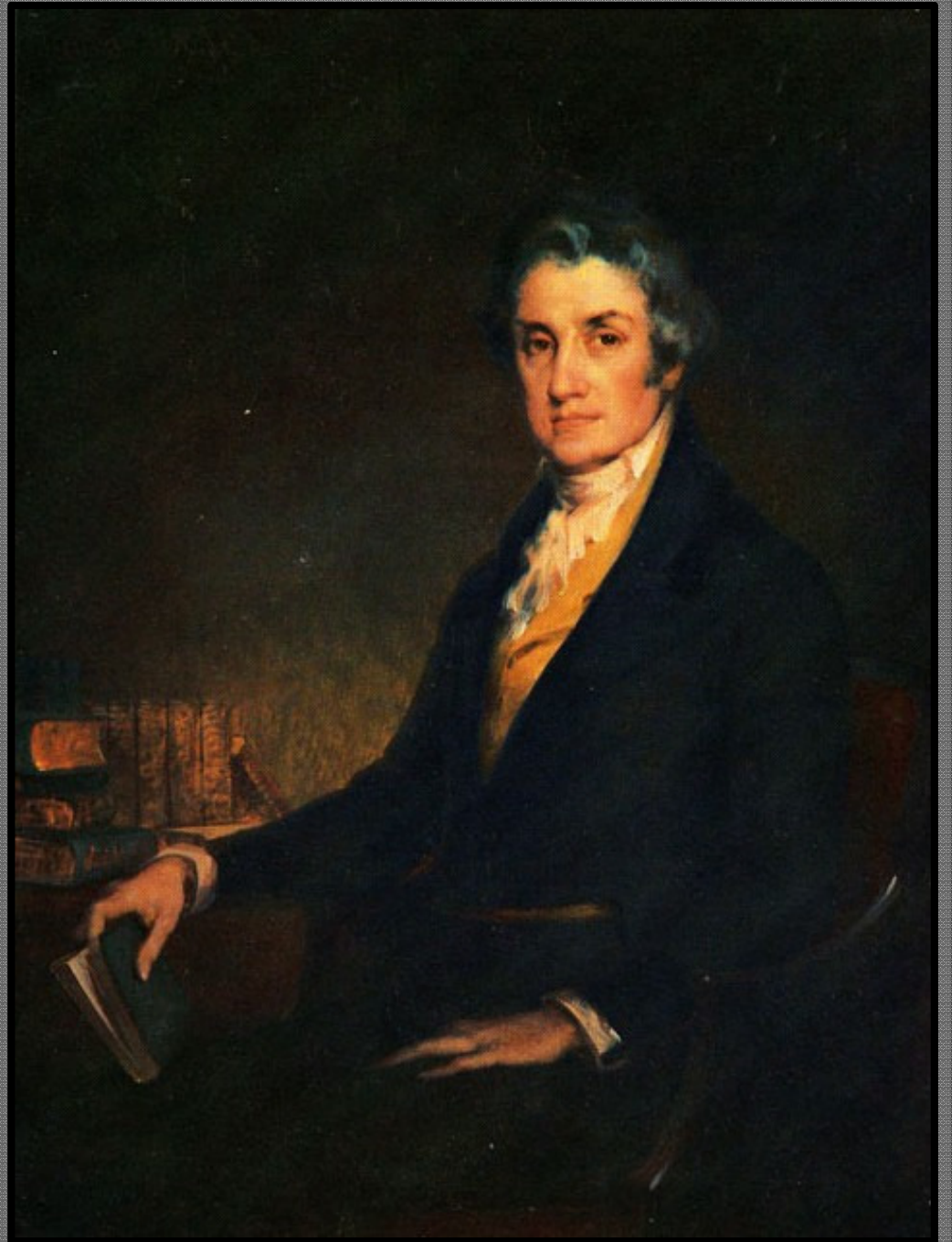


# Georgia

- Georgia selected six delegates to the Constitutional Convention.
- Two delegates did not attend, and two others left early.
- Abraham Baldwin and William Few signed the U.S. Constitution as members of the Georgia delegation.



# Abraham Baldwin



# Representation

- During the Constitutional Convention, Baldwin was involved in debates over the issue of states' representation in Congress.
- Small states were concerned that they would be outvoted by large states.

# Representation

- When he realized that small states might withdraw from the convention, Baldwin changed his vote to side with the smaller states.
- His vote forced a tie and the issue was sent to a committee for further review.



# Compromise

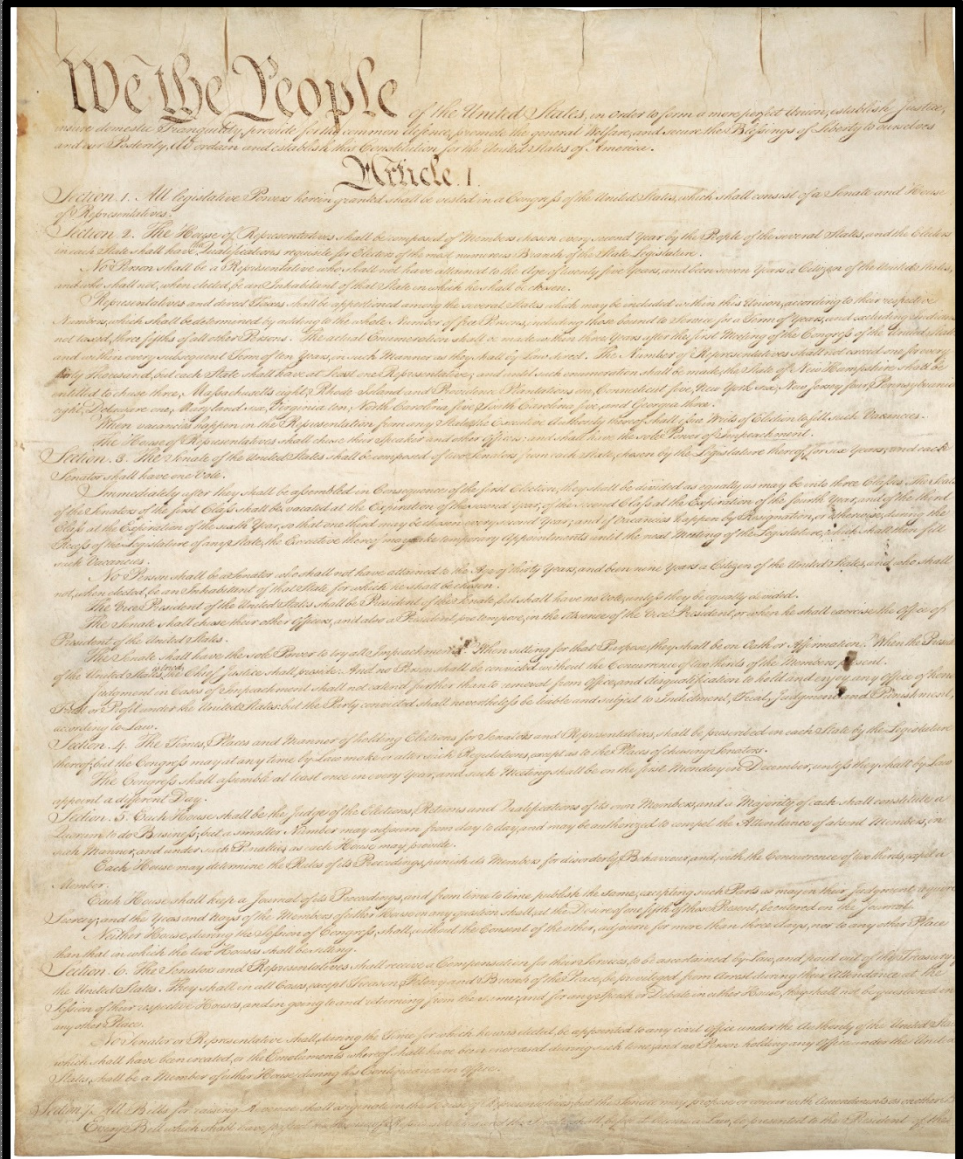
- Baldwin helped develop the Great Compromise to solve the representation dilemma.
- This created a bicameral legislature where each state had two members in the Senate, but representation in the House of Representatives was based on the state's population.
- The compromise pulled the convention out of a complete standstill.



# Constitution

- After the delegates' debate was settled, the new constitution was signed on September 17, 1787.
- The U.S. Constitution is the written plan that establishes the framework for America's government.





Page 1 of the Original Copy of the U.S. Constitution

# Constitution

- The U.S. Constitution describes how the country's government is organized and how power is divided.
- It describes what the government may or may not do.
- The U.S. Constitution also establishes America's government as a democracy and limits the power of the government.

# Democracy

- As a democracy, the people hold the power of the government because they can vote.
- Citizens vote to decide issues and choose representatives.
- The basic rights of America's citizens are protected by the U.S. Constitution.



# William Few

- By 1787, most Georgians supported a strong central government.
- Georgia's other delegate to the convention, William Few, represented Georgians well by voting in favor of the national government during critical times at the convention.
- He worked diligently to make sure that the Constitution was ratified.

William Few



# Georgia

- On January 2, 1788, Georgia was the 4<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
- Many Georgians favored a strong national government that could protect them from American Indians and the Spanish in Florida.
- Georgians in coastal regions also hoped that a strong central government would improve trade regulations.