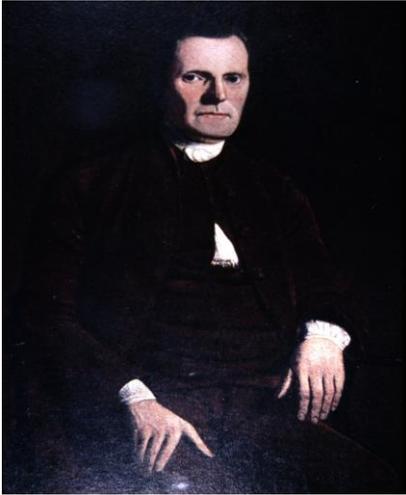


## Roger Sherman (1721-1793)



### Key Designation:

- ◆ Key Signer of all 4 major documents: The Articles of Association (1774), The Declaration of Independence (1776), The Articles of Confederation (1777), and the Constitution (1787).
- ◆ Father of the Bi-cameral Legislature: The House based on population, and the Senate based on statehood alone. Came to be known as the “Connecticut Compromise.”
- ◆ A Writer of the First Amendment.

### Key Background Information:

- ◆ Converted and baptized at an early age as a Congregationalist
- ◆ A self-educated man, Sherman was tutored by a well-educated parish minister who made available his outstanding library.
- ◆ Sherman had strong math skills and excelled at surveying and astronomical charts
- ◆ Passed the Massachusetts bar exam through self-study, eventually becoming one of the most respected men in his native Massachusetts, ending up on the Superior Court of the state.

### Key Ideas:

- ◆ The right to hold office should be extended to anyone of any Christian denomination.
- ◆ Proposed to President Washington the celebration of Thanksgiving, which was passed.
- ◆ One of the more openly Christian of the Founding Fathers, speaking not just of divine providence but also of the substitutionary atonement of Christ.
- ◆ Active as a deacon, clerk and treasurer for his Congregationalist church. He was asked to pen a creed for the congregation, which he did very well.

## **Key Works**

- ◆ 1788-*The White Haven Congregational Church Creed*: A very orthodox creed, that follows closely with the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. "I believe that God having elected some for mankind to eternal life, did send his own Son to become man, die in the room and stead of sinners and thus to lay a foundation for the offer of pardon and salvation to all mankind, so as all may be saved who are willing to accept the gospel offer." Clearly, Sherman seeks to balance the Calvinistic element of predestination with the concept of personal liberty.

## **Key Results:**

- ◆ At his death, President John Adams said of him: "... an old Puritan, as honest as an angel and as firm in the cause of American Independence as Mount Atlas."
- ◆ On his tombstone: "He ever adorned the profession of Christianity which he made in youth; and, distinguished through life for public usefulness, died in the prospect of a blessed immortality."