

Chronology, 1745–1779

- 1745
12 Dec. (N.S.) Born in New York City
- 1753–60 Studied at Latin grammar school in New Rochelle and at home in Rye
- 1760
29 Aug. Entered King's College
- 1764
April "Dispute between Dr. Cooper and students abt. wooden horse"
22 May Graduated from King's College and awarded a B.A. degree
1 June Began the study of the law with Benjamin Kissam in New York City
- 1767
19 May Awarded M.A. degree by King's College
- 1768
26 Oct. Granted license to practice law in New York
- 1768–71 Law partnership with Robert R. Livingston
- 1769–4 July 1770 Secretary to Commission to Settle the Boundary between New York and New Jersey
- 1773
17 Feb. Elected a member of the Corporation of New York Hospital

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1774

- 28 April Married Sarah Van Brugh Livingston
- 16 May Elected a member of the New York Committee of Fifty-one
- 19 July Elected a member of the Committee of Fifteen
- 28 July Elected a delegate to the First Continental Congress
- 5 Sept.–26 Oct. Attended Congress
- 20 Oct. Adoption by Congress of JJ's "Address to the People of Great Britain"
- 22 Nov. Elected a member of the New York Committee of Sixty

1775

- 15 March Elected a delegate to the New York Provincial Convention
- 21 April Elected one of twelve delegates to the Second Continental Congress
- 1 May Elected a member of the New York Committee of One Hundred
- 13 May–2 Aug. Attended Second Continental Congress
- 29 May Adoption by Congress of JJ's "Letter to the Oppressed Inhabitants of Canada"
- 3 June Moved in Congress that a second petition be sent to the king
- 12 Sept.–3 Nov. Attended Continental Congress
- 3 Nov. Commissioned colonel of the 2nd Regiment of New York Militia of Foot
- 23 Nov.–31 Dec. Attended Continental Congress
- 29 Nov. Elected to Committee of Secret Correspondence

1776

- 1–8 Jan. Attended Continental Congress
- 2 Mar.–27 Apr. Attended Continental Congress
- April Elected a member of the New York Provincial Congress
- 24 May Appointed a member of committee on the formation of a new state government
- 25 May–28 June Attended New York Provincial Congress
- 11 June Introduced resolution in provincial congress, unanimously carried, "that the people of this colony . . . have

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	not authorized this Congress . . . to declare this Colony to be and continue independent of the Crown of Great Britain”
11 June	Added to committee to deal with “disaffected persons”
17 June	Appointed to secret committee to confer with Washington regarding secret intelligence; investigation of “Hickey Plot”
29 June	Arrival of British fleet at New York City
9 July–6 Dec.	Attended 4th Provincial Congress, renamed “The Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York”
9 July	Drafted resolution endorsing the Declaration of Independence
16 July	Appointed a member of the secret committee for obstructing the Hudson
21 Sept.	Appointed a member of Committee for Detecting Conspiracies
23 Dec.	Adoption by New York Convention of JJ’s “An Address of the Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York to their Constituents”
1777	
3 Mar.–13 May	Attended New York Convention
20 April	Appointed a member of committee to report a plan for organizing the new government
3 May	Elected chief justice of the New York State Supreme Court of Judicature
14 May–9 Sept.	Active member of New York Council of Safety
9 Sept.	Opened first session of Supreme Court at Kingston with address to the grand jury of Ulster County
1778	
1–7 Jan.	Attended New York State legislature
[c. 15 Jan.–2 Apr.]	Wrote “A Hint to the Legislature of New York,” signed “A Freeholder”
4 Nov.	Sent to Continental Congress by New York State to present its position on the Vermont lands
7–31 Dec.	Attended Continental Congress
10 Dec.	Elected president of the Continental Congress

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1779

- 1 Jan.–28 Sept. Attended Continental Congress
- 28 Aug. Resigned chief justiceship of New York State Supreme Court of Judicature
- 13 Sept. Adoption by Congress of JJ's Circular Letter "from the Congress of the United States of America to their Constituents" on finance
- 27 Sept. Elected minister plenipotentiary to Spain
- 28 Sept. Resigned the presidency of Congress
- 20 Oct. The Jays sailed on the Continental frigate *Confederacy*
- 18 Dec. *Confederacy* landed at St. Pierre, Martinique, for repairs
- 28 Dec. Sailed on the French frigate *Aurora* to Spain