

## Thomas Tudor Tucker

(25 Jun 1745 – 2 May 1828)

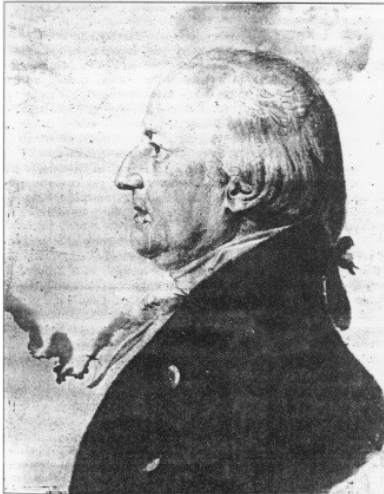
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A Delegate and a Representative from South Carolina; born in Port Royal, Bermuda, June 25, 1745, attended the common schools; studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; moved to South Carolina and practiced medicine; served as a surgeon in the Revolutionary War; Member of the Continental Congress in 1787 and 1788; elected as a Federalist to the 1st and 2nd Congresses (March 4, 1789 to March 3, 1793); appointed U.S. Treasurer by President Jefferson and served from December 1, 1801 until his death in Washington, D.C., May 2, 1828. Interment in Congressional Cemetery.

Uncle of Henry St. George Tucker

*The National Intelligencer, May 2, 1828*

In this City, at a quarter before 6 o'clock last evening (May 1), the Honorable Thomas Tudor Tucker, Treasurer of the United States, in the 84th year of his age. He had been confined to his bed, by the malady which terminated his life, for thirteen weeks, and died in the entire possession of his mental facilities, and in the most resigned and pious frame of mind.



Of this venerable and most estimable man, it is not our purpose to portray the character, further than to say, that he was a patriot of the purest character, tested in the ordeal of the Revolution, and approved in the political trials which followed it. He was a Representative from the State of South Carolina, in the first Congress of the United States, and for some time afterwards, deservedly enjoying the respect of those with whom he was associated in the important duty of putting this Government into operation. He had, for many years previous to his decease, filled with fidelity the duties of the office which he held at the time of his death; and, in his public as well as private life, was the model of a gentleman, and an example to all around him.

The Funeral of the deceased will be attended by the Officers attached to the Treasury Department, who are for that purpose requested to attend at the Treasury Office this day, at 10 o'clock, a.m. Of the arrangements for the Funeral, further notice will be given.

*The National Intelligencer, May 3, 1828*

The funeral of the late venerable Dr. Tucker, Treasurer of the United States, took place from his late residence yesterday afternoon and was numerously and most respectably attended.

Diana Dru Dowdy, "A School for Stoicism": *Thomas Tudor Tucker And The Republican Age*, South Carolina Historical Magazine, 96 No. 2 (April 1995).

The specter of war in 1812 between Britain and America threatened to choke off the family ties between America, England, and Bermuda. Not only was this distressing, but also James, Thomas's nephew and Nathaniel's son, considered enlisting in the British army. Thomas shuddered "at the thought of beholding enemies in the sons of our most inestimable brothers ... I wish they were all well

provided for in some other department." Despite these thoughts of war pitting the branches of the family against each other, Thomas was proud of "our little Navy" and arrogantly boasted that "2 or 3 years of War [with the British] will teach them to treat us with perfect respect, and convince them that they have foolishly lost what was of incalculable value to them." Still, he worried about St. George's safety after the British captured Hampton. The painful sluggishness of the American effort frustrated him and made him impatient -- "we ought to have been at the Walls of Quebec long ago... Whatever we may be as individuals, we appear as a nation to be without nerve."

As America continued to lose, Thomas wished the war would end, noting that "should our host of Plenipotentiaries finish it without humiliating concessions, they will merit thanks." Thomas resided at the capital until the British burned it, and he became, like many others, a wanderer, having "no longer a country or a Government that I can speak of with pride." Many of Thomas's books and papers were destroyed in the attack, but luckily the necessities for conducting business were saved. "There is in every public Office much rubbish of little value," he noted; he had been able to separate out the important documents and carry them off before the British arrived. When peace finally came, Thomas embraced it eagerly.

*Will of Thomas Tudor Tucker, of S.C., at present living in Washington (dtd. Oct. 24, 1824/March 16, 1828, probated July 11, 1828, Will Book 3)*

Acknowledgment to sisters Frances Tucker, widow of Henry Tucker, Esq., and Elizabeth Tucker, both residing in Bermuda, that I hold in trust for them 120 shares in the Philadelphia Insurance Company, City of Philadelphia.

To my sister Frances, \$10,000 to be paid in Philadelphia, else to her children and the children of her son John Tucker and her deceased daughter Elizabeth.

To sister Elizabeth, \$10,000.

To brother St. George Tucker, residing in Williamsburg, Va., \$14,000, upon his death, \$2,000 to his wife and the residue among his children, counting the children of his daughter Frances, late wife of Judge Coalter, who, as their father, is to receive their portion; all my books, wearing apparel and other moveables; many years ago, in the Revolutionary War, I received at Charleston from my brother, a sum of money which I have never accounted for, and he never mentioned; if he can recollect the amount, to pay himself; else from square of lots in town of Columbia, S.C. and another square in the City of Washington; John Woddrop, Esq. of Charleston is my attorney and pays the taxes for the square in Columbia; to sons of my deceased brother Henry Tucker, of Bermuda, \$2,000; to nephew John Justus Tucker, son of my brother Nathaniel Tucker, physician, who died in England, \$1,000; to niece Frances Tucker, daughter of sister Frances, \$2,000; and to her brother Richard Jennings Tucker, \$1,000; and to niece-in-law Elizabeth Tucker, widow of nephew John Tucker, or to her children, \$1,000; to children of my deceased niece Elizabeth Tucker, daughter of my sister Frances, \$1,000 to be received by their father for their use; to grandniece Frances, daughter of nephew Henry Tucker son of my sister Frances, \$500.

To Sarah Stone, widow of Judge Stone, of N.C., and her sister Margaret G. Dashiell, both of them daughters of Mrs. Sarah Wilson, of Washington, \$100 each as a small token of my great respect and regard, and recommend them to the kindness and friendship of my dear brother or other surviving friends who may respect my memory; to my unfortunate friend Aletta Maria Dickinson, widow of Gilchrist Dickinson, of Bermuda, \$200.

Exrs.: St. George Tucker, brother, and his two sons Henry St. George Tucker and Nathaniel Tucker, and St. George's son-in-law Judge Coalter, who married Frances Tucker, deceased.

Wits.: Thomas Sim; Richard Harrison; William Steuben Smith; George W. Dashiell

Codicil, dated March 16, 1828; restating powers of Exrs.; to nephew James Justus Tucker, \$2,000 instead of \$1,000; niece Frances Tucker has died, her legacy is void; to sister Elizabeth \$3,000 in

addition; friends Messrs. Elliston and John Perot, that the Philadelphia Insurance Company had not found sufficient employment for all their capital.

Wits.: Thomas B. Dashiell; Benjamin B. Beall; James Moore