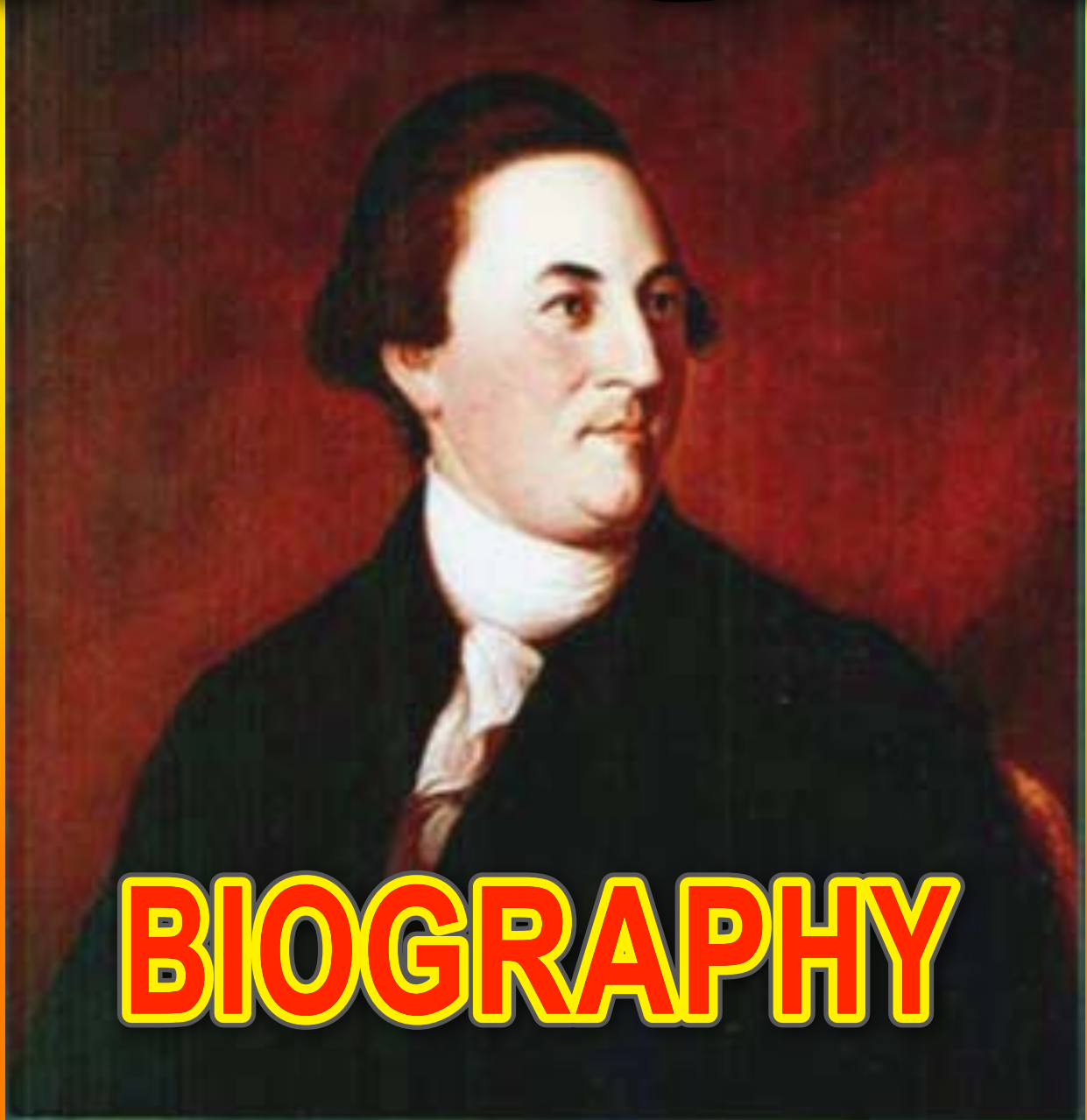


WILLIAM PACA



BIOGRAPHY

WILLIAM PACA

William Paca was born on October 31, 1740, in Maryland, which was a British colony at the time. Paca was well educated, and studied to be a lawyer. He trained in Annapolis, Maryland, where he later set up his own law firm.

Paca became involved in Maryland politics in the 1760s. In 1765, Great Britain passed the Stamp Act, which was a tax on paper and other materials for printing in the American colonies. Paca was one of the many people who objected to such a tax being imposed on them without their say. Paca, along with others, organized a local chapter of the Sons of Liberty. This was a name for people who wanted to resist such tax without representation.

As people in the colonies moved towards revolution and resistance to rule by Britain, Paca argued in court about the key issues of independence, and he also wrote about them too. In 1774, he was chosen to represent Maryland at the First Continental Congress. This was a meeting to discuss the colonies' relationship with Britain. One outcome of the meeting was a decision to avoid buying British goods.

Such actions eventually led to the Revolutionary War against Great Britain. Although Paca did not fight in the war directly, he was involved in gaining independence, by voting for and signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

After independence, Paca was elected to the Maryland Senate and was in office from 1777 until 1780. Two years later, he became governor of Maryland. When he was elected to the Senate and the House of Delegates at the same time, he decided to join the House of Delegates because he could represent the people more directly in that position. When George Washington formed his new government, he made Paca a judge for the federal district court of Maryland. Paca died in Maryland in 1799.

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'tax'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'tax' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'tax'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'tax'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'tax' means.

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: resist	fight against

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

After independence, Paca held political offices in Maryland.

Before he died, Paca was a judge in Maryland.

In 1773, Paca represented Maryland at the First Continental Congress.

William Paca was born in Maryland in 1740.

Paca was among the men who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Along with others, Paca resisted the Stamp Act of 1765.

Paca trained to be a lawyer, and he also became interested in politics.

Get to the facts

1 When did William Paca become involved in politics?

2 What was the Stamp Act?

3 What did Paca sign in 1776?

4 Which state was Paca governor of?

5 Who made Paca a judge in Maryland?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

Stamp Act meeting

Write a notice inviting people in Maryland to come to a meeting about the Stamp Act of 1765. It could start like this: 'I hereby invite the people of Maryland to a meeting to hear distinguished lawyer, William Paca, speak...' (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'tax'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'tax' means.
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Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – resist Synonym – fight against

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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