

= John Brooks (governor) =

John Brooks (baptized May 4 , 1752 ? March 1 , 1825) was a doctor , military officer , and politician from Massachusetts . He served as the 11th Governor of Massachusetts from 1816 to 1823 , and was one of the last Federalist officials elected in the United States .

Trained as a doctor , Brooks was an officer of the Reading , Massachusetts militia when the American Revolutionary War broke out , and led his troops in the Battles of Lexington and Concord . He served under George Washington in the New York and New Jersey campaign of 1776 , although he missed the Battle of Trenton due to illness . In 1777 he was part of the relief force for the Siege of Fort Stanwix , and led a successful assault against British positions in the key Second Battle of Saratoga . He played a significant role in the 1783 Newburgh Conspiracy , in which he helped quash ideas of mutiny in the Continental Army .

After the war he returned to medical practice , but continued to be active in the state militia , helping to put down Shays ' Rebellion in 1787 . He served in the militia during the War of 1812 , after which he was elected governor . Brooks was popular and politically moderate , and came to personify the " Era of Good Feelings " that followed the war . He retired in 1823 , and died two years later .

= = Early years = =

John Brooks was born in Medford , Massachusetts , the son of Caleb and Ruth Albree Brooks , who were local farmers , and was baptized on May 4 , 1752 . After education in the local schools , Brooks studied medicine with Dr. Simon Tufts alongside Benjamin Thompson . In his free time he engage in military drills with other local boys and carefully watched the maneuvers of British Army troops stationed in nearby Boston . When his apprenticeship with Dr. Tufts ended Brooks established a medical practice in Reading , where he was active in the local militia .

= = Revolutionary War service = =

When Paul Revere gave the alarm that sparked the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19 , 1775 , Brooks , then 22 and a major in the Reading militia , marched with his unit in response . His troops were among the first to reach Concord as the British took the road back to Boston , and are credited with beginning the running battle that took place . Brooks later described that day as the most difficult of his life . He then joined the Continental Army in May 1775 as a major in Bridge 's Regiment , and was among the troops sent to fortify Breed 's Hill on the night of June 16 ? 17 . He missed the next day 's Battle of Bunker Hill , because he was sent by Colonel William Prescott to request reinforcements . He continued to serve in the Siege of Boston , transferring to the 19th Continental Regiment on January 1 , 1776 . One of Brooks ' subordinates in this unit was William Hull , with whom he formed a fast friendship . After the British withdrawal from Boston , Brooks ' regiment next saw action in the October 1776 Battle of Red Bank , and was in General George Washington 's retreat across New Jersey afterward . Brooks was ill in camp when the army engaged in the Battle of Red Bank on December 26 . On November 1 , 1776 he transferred to the 8th Massachusetts Regiment , where he was promoted to lieutenant colonel .

The 8th Massachusetts was among the forces Benedict Arnold led in relief of the Siege of Fort Mifflin in upstate New York , and was present at the Battles of Red Bank . In the second battle on October 7 , 1777 , Brooks gained a reputation for fearlessness in the assault and capture of Hessian fortifications on the British right . In the winter of 1777 ? 78 Brooks was at Valley Forge , where he served as a leading drill master under Baron von Steuben . Brooks was temporarily named adjutant to General Charles Lee when the army followed the British across New Jersey in 1778 , engaging them in the Battle of Red Bank . He was transferred to the 7th Massachusetts in November 1778 , and was its lieutenant @-@ colonel commandant until June 12 , 1783 when he resigned . His regiment was involved in garrison duty in New England and the New York City area until the end of his service .

Brooks was a Freemason and in 1781 was elected master of Washington Lodge under the Grand

Lodge of Massachusetts . Washington Lodge was a " Travelling Lodge " which travelled with the Continental Army .

In 1783 Brooks played a prominent role in events concerning army pay arrears and pensions that became known as the Newburgh Conspiracy . He was one of three officers who delivered to the Continental Congress a letter drafted by discontented officers , and participated in hearings in which the army delegation outlined serious issues among the officers at Newburgh , New York . He then carried letters back to the army headquarters , and took part in actions orchestrated by Washington supporters to put down any ideas of mutiny . He was accused , apparently falsely , of informing Washington of the conspiracy (Washington was tipped off by Alexander Hamilton to anticipate unrest .) Historian Richard Kohn writes that details are lacking of Brooks ' actions and motivations in the critical days of the conspiracy in February and March 1783 , but describes his role in the affair as " crucial " .

In 1783 Brooks became an Original Member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati and served as its first secretary from 1783 to 1786 . In 1810 he became president of the Massachusetts society and in 1811 he became vice president of the national society . He served both offices until his death in 1825 .

= = Post @-@ Revolution and War of 1812 = =

After the war Brooks returned to medical practice , taking over the office of Dr. Tufts in Medford . He was the first member elected to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company when it was revived after the Revolution in 1786 .

In the militia he rose to the position of major general in command of the Middlesex Division . He commanded the division under Major General Benjamin Lincoln when the Massachusetts Militia put down Shays ' Rebellion in 1787 . That same year , he was elected to a one @-@ year term as captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company . He was elected to the state convention that ratified the United States Constitution in 1788 .

In 1792 Secretary at War Henry Knox offered Brooks a position as brigadier general in the Legion of the United States , a reorganization of the United States Army headed by General Anthony Wayne . Brooks refused the appointment , which went instead to his friend William Hull . He was elected to a second one @-@ year term as captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1794 .

He was offered a position as brigadier general in the United States Army by George Washington when war was threatened with France in 1797 , but refused . During the War of 1812 Brooks was the state militia 's adjutant general with the rank of major general .

= = Governor of Massachusetts = =

Brooks , politically a Federalist , served in the state legislature for a number of years . In 1816 Governor Caleb Strong announced his retirement . The Federalist caucus first chose Harrison Gray Otis as its candidate , but he categorically refused the nomination . The nomination was next offered to Lieutenant Governor William Phillips , Jr . , but he also turned the nomination down because he was not the first choice . The caucus then cast about for other candidates ; Brooks was proposed by House Speaker Timothy Bigelow . He also initially refused the nomination , but was convinced by a committee from the caucus to accept , and won the election . He won reelection annually until 1823 , when he retired from public service .

The politics of the state was dominated by Federalists , despite their general decline elsewhere in the nation , in part because Brooks adopted moderate positions that denied the opposition Democratic @-@ Republicans opportunities for vigorous opposition . He included Republicans in patronage appointments , courted Republican politicians on the national level , including President James Monroe , and minimized his association with the Federalist leadership in Massachusetts . Historian Ronald Formisano writes that Brooks " came to personify the non @-@ partisan Era of Good Feelings in Massachusetts . "

The Panic of 1819 and the granting of statehood to Maine (which was until 1820 part of Massachusetts) introduced fractures in the strong Federalist party system in the state . Dissident Federalists such as Josiah Quincy III joined Republicans in calls for a constitutional convention , citing the state constitution 's requirement that Maine be allocated representation in the legislature as a reason . Brooks lobbied against the idea , arguing that the legislature could draft proposed amendments , but a convention was held despite his efforts . Nine amendments produced by the convention were eventually approved , but Federalist leaders managed to block most of the substantive reforms that had been sought . One of the consequences of the panic was the rise , particularly in Boston , of a political faction known as the " Middling Interest " . This group was composed of primarily working class men who were unhappy with the state party 's elitist leadership . Led by Josiah Quincy , the split would eventually lead to the final collapse of Federalism in the state .

Brooks announced in 1822 that he would not seek reelection in 1823 . The 1823 election saw the victory of Republican William Eustis over Federalist party leader Harrison Gray Otis . Otis almost did not carry Boston , and lost other Federalist strongholds in the state .

Brooks was a leading member of the Massachusetts Medical Society for many years , serving as its president after his retirement from politics , and was also president of the Bible Society of Massachusetts . He was also president of the Society of the Cincinnati for many years , and was involved in the Washington Monument Association and the Bunker Hill Monument Association .

Governor Brooks died in Medford on March 1 , 1825 , and was buried in Medford 's Salem Street Burying Ground , where the family grave is marked by a large obelisk erected in his honor .

= = Family and legacy = =

In 1774 Brooks married Lucy Smith , with whom he had five children ; two of them died young . His two sons were both active in the United States military . One his sons , Marine Corps First Lieutenant John Brooks , Jr . , was killed in action at the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813 . His other son , Alexander Scammel Brooks , was a lieutenant colonel in the Army and was killed in steamboat explosion in Florida in 1836 .

The Maine towns of Brooks , established in 1816 , and Brooksville , founded in 1817 , were named for him .