

Thomas Tredwell

Suffolk County

Born: February 6, 1743, Smithtown, L.I.

It seems you like to move around, from the bottom of the state, to the top of the state, and to the bottom once again. You are the aptly named Thomas Tredwell, of Suffolk County, Clinton County, and Suffolk County. You were born February 6, 1743, to Timothy Tredwell and Mary Platt Tredwell in Smithtown, Long Island. You attended the College of New Jersey (Princeton), graduating in 1764. You read law and were admitted to the bar. But you began your practice in upstate Plattsburgh (though not named that yet), just south of the Canadian border. You married at this time, to Ann Hazard, and set about producing a family of thirteen.

With the coming of the war and the termination of British rule, you served in the Provincial Congress and in the convention that ratified the new state constitution. Under that constitution, you served successive terms in the state assembly (1777–83). You represented Suffolk County, not Clinton County, because you had relocated to Long Island. In 1786 you were elected to the state senate. You were also a longtime judge on the probate court of Suffolk County (1778–87) and are now a judge on the county's surrogate court.

This past spring, your Suffolk constituents honored you with reelection to the senate and election to the state ratifying convention convened in Poughkeepsie to accept or reject the Constitution. You go as a confirmed Antifederalist, eager to support Governor George Clinton, the Antifederalist party leader, and Melancton Smith, the party lieutenant, as they, and others of your party, endeavor to defeat the Constitution or secure amendments thereto.

P.S. Later you will return to Plattsburgh, "treading well" until the very end!