

STORIES of New Jersey

Jonathan Dayton (1760-1824)

Jonathan Dayton, youngest member of the Convention, was only 27 years old when he helped to frame the Constitution. Born in Elizabeth, he had been graduated from Princeton at 16 in 1776, and hurried into the army, serving throughout the war and becoming paymaster. Later he speculated in land, bonds and currency. Dayton, Ohio, scene of one of his ventures, was named for him.

About 1783 he helped manage a lottery to raise money to finish Presbyterian church buildings in Elizabeth and New Brunswick. In 1787 Jonathan's father, Brigadier General Elias Dayton, was named a delegate to the Convention, but resigned in favor of his son.



Boxwood Hall, Elizabeth, once the home of Jonathan Dayton, now a home for aged women.