**Whatever became of . . . ?**

***(The lives of the key players in Aaron Burr’s trial, after the trial)***

1. **Chief Justice John Marshall**

After delivering the last of his rulings in Burr’s case in late October 1807, Marshall “galloped to the mountains” for a much-needed vacation. He was relieved to be done “with the most unpleasant case which has ever been brought before a Judge in this or perhaps in any other country which affected to be governed by laws.” He continued to serve as one of our nation’s most influential Chief Justices until his death in July 1835. He is remembered for several important decisions that developed and upheld federal powers including *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden* and the “Marshall Trilogy.”

1. **George Hay**

On the eve of the Burr prosecution, Hay suffered the loss of his first wife.  After the Burr trial, Hay married a daughter of James Monroe. Hay continued to serve as U.S. attorney for Virginia until 1816, when he resigned to enter the Virginia legislature. After a term in the House of Delegates and several terms in the State Senate, he moved his family to Monroe’s northern Virginia estate. He spent much time in Washington, D.C., practicing law and advising President Monroe. On July 5, 1825, Hay received a recess appointment from John Quincy Adams to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. When Congress reconvened, Hay was nominated to a permanent seat on that that court. He was confirmed by the Senate in 1826 and remained a judge until his death in 1830. As a judge, he also sat with Chief Justice Marshall on the U.S. Circuit Court.

1. **William Wirt**

Wirt became famous for his performance at the Burr trial, especially his four-hour speech in opposition to Burr’s motion to preclude the prosecution witnesses (all of the speeches, of course, have been greatly abridged for tonight’s reenactment). In 1817, President Monroe appointed him Attorney General of the United States, a post he held for twelve years. As both attorney general and private counsel, Wirt made frequent appearances before the Supreme Court. He argued some of the most important cases of the Marshall Court period, including *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, and the Cherokee cases of 1831 and 1832. Chief Justice Marshall praised Wirt’s “judgment and genius,” adding: “In the brilliant play of imagination, in fertility of invention, I should hesitate were I required to name his equal.” Wirt was nominated for president by the Anti-Masonic party in 1831. He was also well received as a writer, including his book, *Sketches of the Life and Character of Patrick Henry*, which many scholars believe contains fabricated quotes of Henry, including the famous line, “Give me liberty, or give me death!” Wirt County, Virginia (now in West Virginia) is named in his honor.

Wirt is buried at Washington D.C.’s Congressional Cemetery. In the early 2000s, after a series of mysterious phone calls to the cemetery, it was discovered that in the 1970s someone had broken into the Wirt Tomb and stolen his skull. It was recovered and ultimately returned to his grave.

1. **John Wickham**

The Burr trial was the high point of Wickham’s distinguished legal career, and it took place before Wickham’s good friend and old law school classmate, John Marshall. After the trial, Wickham continued in private practice and life as an affluent Virginia gentleman. He entertained prominent visitors to Richmond, including noted American statesmen and English literary figures. He also bred horses and gambled, famously losing one of the great horses of his day, Boston, in a card game.

1. **Luther Martin**

Burr’s trial came two years after Martin resigned after a record 28 consecutive years as state Attorney General of Maryland. In 1813, five years after the Burr trial, Martin became Chief Judge of the Court of Oyer and Terminer for the City and County of Baltimore. He was reappointed as Attorney General of Maryland in 1818, and, in 1819, he argued Maryland's position in the landmark Supreme Court case *McCulloch v. Maryland*, in which the plaintiffs were represented by Daniel Webster, William Pinkney, and William Wirt.

Heavy drinking, illness, and poverty weighted heavily on Martin, taking their toll as he aged. He suffered a stroke in 1819 that eventually caused him to resign as Attorney General in 1823. By the mid-1820s, he was subsisting on a special tax imposed on Maryland lawyers solely for his personal support. After Martin suffered another stroke that left him incapacitated, he was taken in by Burr, with whom he lived in New York City for the remaining three years of his life. He died in 1826 and was buried in an unmarked grave in St. John's churchyard.

1. **Aaron Burr**

Disgraced by the trial, Burr fled his creditors and spent most of the next five years (1808-1812) in London, where he befriended philosopher Jeremy Bentham, and occasionally lived in his home.  While in England, Burr renewed his effort to raise funds for an invasion of Mexico, but was rebuffed and discovered. He was ordered out of England and Napoleon Bonaparte refused to receive him, forcing him to return to the United States. Burr’s beloved daughter Theodosia was lost at sea while sailing to meet him upon his return to New York.  In 1833, at age 77, Burr married Eliza Jumel, a wealthy widow who was 19 years his junior, and they briefly lived at her famous home, the Morris–Jumel Mansion, in Washington Heights (also known as Mount Morris, and headquarters to both sides during the Revolutionary War). After only four months of his squandering her money, she filed for divorce, a process that was not completed until September 14, 1836, the day of Burr’s death.  In the interim, Burr suffered a debilitating stroke in 1834, which rendered him immobile. In 1836, Burr died on [Staten Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staten_Island) in the village of [Port Richmond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Richmond,_Staten_Island), in a boardinghouse and was buried in Princeton, New Jersey, near his father.

1. **General William Eaton**

William Eaton returned to [Brimfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brimfield,_Massachusetts), Massachusetts, the place he had called home for most of his life. He was elected to the [state legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_legislature_(United_States)), but his outspoken criticism about the treatment he had received from the Federalists, notably Chief Justice Marshall, cost him Federalist supportand he failed at his bid for re-election. After a period of illness and decline, Eaton died in Brimfield, June 1, 1811. William Eaton is the namesake of Eatonton, Georgia; Eaton, New York; and Eaton, Ohio. The Navy also named a World War II destroyer in his honor.

1. **Commodore Thomas Truxton**

Truxton was essentially retired on his farm in New Jersey since the age of 47, when a letter of his was accidently interpreted as his resignation from the Navy in 1802, five years before the Burr trial. Truxton ran an unsuccessful campaign for the [United States House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) in 1810. In 1816, Truxtun was elected sheriff of [Philadelphia County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia_County,_Pennsylvania), Pennsylvania, serving until 1819.  He also published several books, well-known at the time, covering [navigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navigation) and [naval tactics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_tactics). Truxtun’s health declined shortly after he left office as sheriff. He died in Philadelphia on 5 May 1822 and is buried at [Christ Church Burial Ground](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_Church_Burial_Ground).

1. **General James Wilkinson**

The grand jury nearly produced enough votes in favor of indicting Wilkinson for [misprision of treason](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misprision_of_treason), and foreman [John Randolph](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Randolph_of_Roanoke) said of Wilkinson that he was a “mammoth of iniquity,” the “most finished scoundrel,” and “the only man I ever saw who was from the bark to the very core a villain.” He was removed from the office of Territorial Governor office of Missouri after being publicly criticized for heavy-handed administration and abuse of power Wilkinson was subjected to investigations and courts martial relating to his Spanish dealings and conduct in the army. He survived these, and during the War of 1812 he was put in charge of a plan to invade Canada. This proved to be a disaster, resulting in the loss of his military command and a further court martial. Although he was acquitted, the army no longer had any use for his services. He settled in New Orleans, wrote his memoirs, and was later appointed U.S. Envoy to Mexico where he spent the last three years of his life in Mexico City in pursuit of Texas land claims. Long after his death in 1825, evidence conclusively established that he had been an agent of Spain and Theodore Roosevelt later condemned him saying, “In all our history, there is no more despicable character.”