



Irish-American Heritage

The Constitution of the United States was drawn up at a meeting called the Constitutional Convention. In 1787, delegates from every state except Rhode Island gathered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to decide what the Constitution would say. Though all of the delegates were dedicated to the formation of the United States, some were born outside of the 13 colonies that became America. Four of these founding fathers immigrated from Ireland.

All four became important members of their communities and contributed greatly to the new country they helped create. Pierce Butler became a doctor, and later, a United States Senator. Thomas Fitzsimons became a member of the House of Representatives, and worked to improve public education. James McHenry became a doctor, serving as a military surgeon in the War of Independence. William Paterson served as a United States Senator, and later, as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

- Pierce Butler was also elected to the _____ Congress, which governed the thirteen Colonies before they became the United States of America. INECNTAONTL
- Thomas Fitzsimons was also a business leader, and was one of the founders of the _____ of North America. KABN
- James McHenry served in the Senate in his home state of _____ . NDMLARYA
- William Paterson studied law at the College of New Jersey, which later became _____ University. INPETONRC

Answers: 1. CONTINENTAL 2. BANK 3. MARYLAND 4. PRINCETON