



Edward Tiffin

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Edward Tiffin (1766-1829) was born in Carlisle, England. He and his family moved to the United States, where he met his wife, Mary Worthington. He was socially minded and in his lifetime became a lay preacher, a doctor, and manumitted his family's slaves. After settling in Chillicothe, he helped undermine local Federalist leadership by engaging in politics with friends like Nathaniel Massie and Thomas Worthington (also his brother-in-law). When Ohio became a state, he served as its first governor, and continuously held political offices until his death. However, with the permission of President Madison, he returned to Ohio from Washington D.C. and moved the surveyor general's office to Chillicothe so that he could live in the home he helped build years ago. Tiffin is buried in Chillicothe, Ohio. Tiffin, Ohio was named in his honor in 1822.

Important Dates

- June 19, 1766: Edward Tiffin is born in Carlisle, England.
- 1784: The Tiffin family immigrated to Charles Town in what is now West Virginia.
- 1792: Tiffin joined the Methodist Episcopal Church as a minister.
- 1796: Tiffin moves with his wife and her family to Chillicothe, Ohio.
- 1799-1801: Tiffin serves as speaker of the Northwest Territory House of Representatives.
- 1802: Tiffin helps to form the Ohio constitution as president of the Ohio Constitutional Convention and as a member of the Chillicothe Junto.
- 1803-1807: Tiffin serves as the first governor of Ohio.
- 1806: Tiffin prevents Aaron Burr's expedition from Blennerhassett's Island, leading to Burr's arrest.
- 1807-1809: Tiffin is elected to the U.S. Senate, but resigns after his wife's death.
- 1809-1811: Tiffin serves as the speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, and marries Mary Porter.
- 1812-1814: Tiffin serves as the first Commissioner of the General Land Office (now the Department of the Interior).
- August 12, 1814: Tiffin saves Land Office records during the Burning of Washington.
- 1815: Tiffin and Josiah Meigs switch offices, making Tiffin Surveyor General of the Northwest Territory.
- August 9, 1829: Tiffin dies at home in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Edward Tiffin, Governor Tiffin, Burr, Thomas Worthington, Chillicothe, land office, Ohio governor.
- Include date ranges after Tiffin's death to see biographical notes about his career.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Communication of the Governor of Ohio to the General Assembly of the State of Ohio](#)" *National Intelligencer and Washington Advertiser* (Washington, DC), March 30, 1803, Image 3, col. 1-3.
- "[Early Ohio History](#)" *News-Herald* (Hillsboro, OH), February 10, 1887, Image 3, col. 1-5.
- "[U. S. Land Office is 100 Year Old Today](#)" *Day Book* (Chicago, IL), May 7, 1912, Image 8, col. 1-2.
- "[George Washington Letter Discovered](#)" *Richmond Palladium and Sun-Telegram* (Richmond, IN), January 31, 1921, Image 2, col. 5-7.