

**ERASTUS WOLCOTT** (*September 21, 1722–September 14, 1793*) was probably born in Windsor, Connecticut. He was the son and twelfth child of Governor Roger Wolcott and Sarah (Drake). He received a local education and later an honorary degree from Yale College. Wolcott married Jerusha (?) in 1746. They had seven children. He practiced law in East Windsor.

This successful lawyer and member of an important family early became a political leader. Wolcott served in the colonial and state general assembly and eventually became speaker of the state legislature. Wolcott also was elected a justice of the peace and later a judge of the state supreme court. He was also a member of the Connecticut council. Wolcott had been general of Connecticut troops in the American Revolution. In 1776 he commanded troops under General George Washington in the fortification of New London, Connecticut. In 1777 he served at Peekskill, New York.

After the Revolution, Wolcott continued to remain active in Connecticut politics. He became close allies of James Wadsworth (q.v.) and Dr. Benjamin Gale (q.v.). Known as “Old Log Head,” Wolcott led the state’s Democratic-Republicans. In 1787 he was elected to the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention but refused to attend. He believed the convention members planned major changes in the Articles of Confederation, and he opposed them. As lieutenant governor of Connecticut in 1788, he took leadership of the minority Antifederalist forces. Wolcott opposed the Constitution. Perhaps less politically powerful than his Federalist brother, Oliver, Wolcott did much work in support of the futile cause of the Antifederalists. He died in Windsor, Connecticut, on September 14, 1793.