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Jonathan Fassett, "impeached" and expelled from the General Assembly, 1787

This was an expulsion. Though the term impeachment was initially used by the General Assembly the final vote was to expel. The matter did not come before the Governor and Council as the Constitution would have required if this had been an impeachment.

Jonathan Fassett, Pittsford Representative, was a leader of the [Rutland County Court riots](#) in 1786. On February 19, 1787 Representative Gideon Brownson and Elijah Dewey moved that Rep. Fassett "be suspended from taking his seat in this House until tomorrow morning in order that they may bring in and support a complaint or impeachment against him for aiding and assisting the mob which assembled at Rutland in November last with the intention of to stop the County Court from sitting in that place..."

Brownson's complaint, read on February 20th, stated that Fassett, "by seditious speeches...endeavoured to influence the minds of the citizens of this State against the proceedings of this Assembly...and did excite them to mutiny and riot & sedition against the Laws and Government of this State..."

Fassett plead not guilty, a hearing was set for the following week and the "states attorney for the County of Rutland be requested to bring forward evidence to support the complaint." On February 28, 1787 the House, having heard the evidence, "expelled" Fassett "from his seat as a member of this House" by a unanimous roll call vote.

(See Walton, [Governor and Council](#), Vol. II pp. 360-371; [Vermont State Papers](#), Vol. III, Part III, pp. 271, 300, 301-303).