

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Vermont State Archives

1837: Treasurer

Total votes cast:	39,006	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	19,504	50 plus 1 vote
Augustine Clark had:	18,458	47.3%
Charles Cleaves had:	17,476	44.8%
Norman Williams had:	1,335	3.4%

Comments: Augustine Clark fell 1,046 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1837. The joint assembly convened on October 12 to hear the report of the canvassing committee and, in the case of the office of State Treasurer, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. The joint assembly was deadlocked, no Treasurer was elected and the Governor ultimately appointed Allen Wardner to "supply the vacancy in that office, until the same can be filled in the manner directed by law or the constitution of the state."

****There were six declared candidates for this race for Treasurer. Clark was the incumbent, but a national depression and his association with the Anti-Masons undermined his popularity. Norman Williams had in fact been elected by the joint assembly on October 18, but declined to serve. The Senate and House disagreed on whether they were empowered to fill the vacancy once Williams declined, leaving the door ajar for the Governor to fill the vacancy on October 26, 1837. The House kept trying to call for a joint assembly after that date, finally abandoning the effort on November 1.**