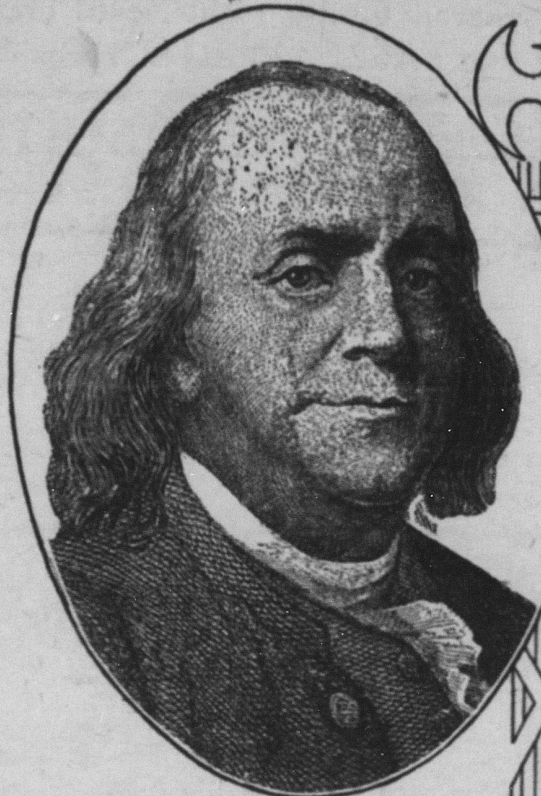
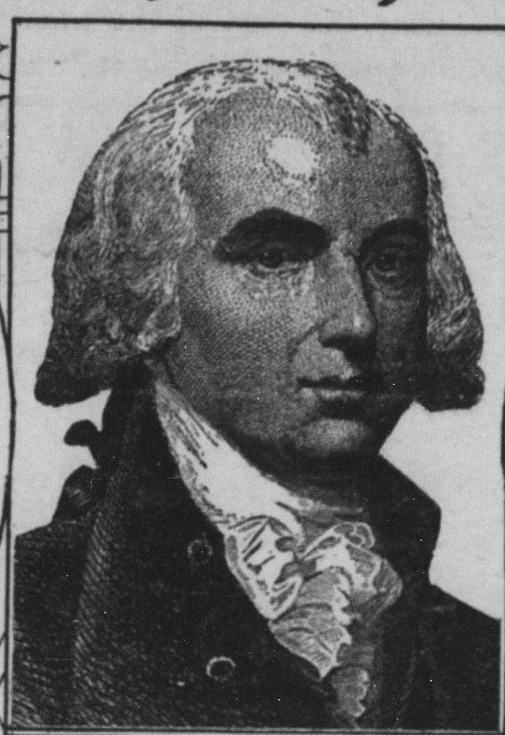


We the People

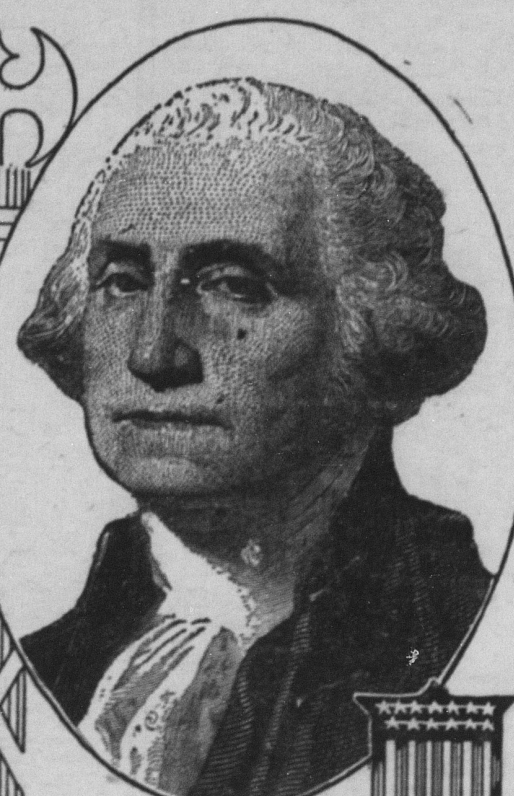
of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



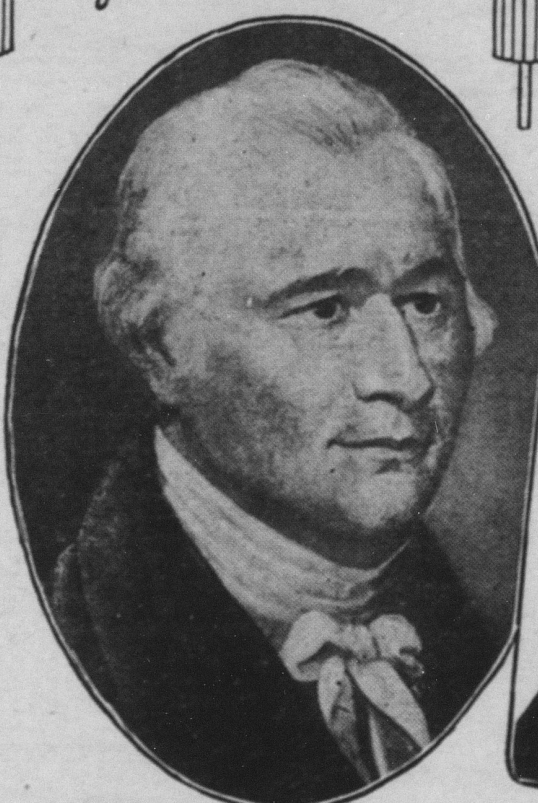
Benjamin Franklin



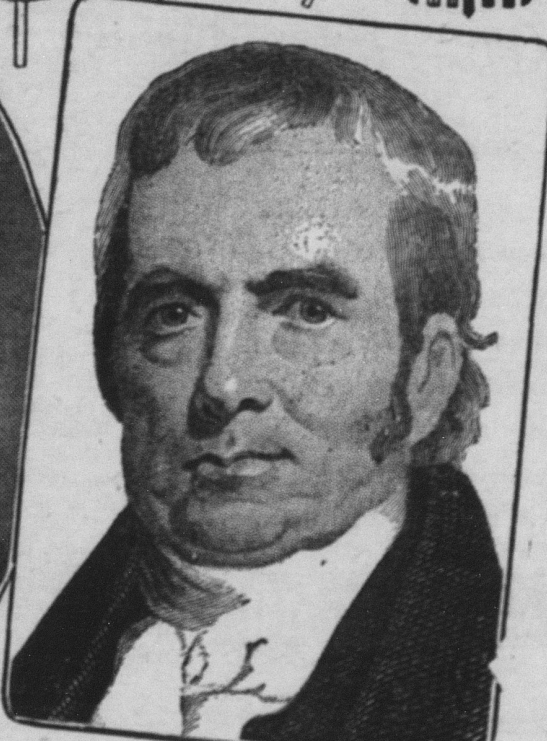
James Madison



George Washington



Alexander Hamilton



John Marshall

September 17 is celebrated throughout the United States as Constitution day, since it was on that date in 1787 that the delegates to the Constitutional convention in Philadelphia finished their work and signed their names to the document under which the United States has been governed for 148 years. What manner of men were these "Fathers of the Republic"? What was their preparation for their great work? Under what circumstances did they bring into existence one of the most important charters of government in all history? What did they think of the fruits of their labor after they had finished?

These and other questions which naturally come to mind as we celebrate Constitution day are answered in this article.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



IT WAS hot in Philadelphia that summer of 1787—one of the hottest the little city had ever known. And of all its 20,000 inhabitants none suffered more discomfort than a little group of 40 or 50 men who gathered every day in a small room in the State house and sweltering there behind closed windows and closed doors wrestled with the tremendous task of saving a new nation from chaos.

For indeed the fortunes of the United States of America had about reached their lowest ebb. Only 15 members, representing seven states, were attending the sessions of the Continental congress, which was making a futile effort, under the authority given it by the Articles of Confederation, to function as a governing body. Measure after measure was proposed in congress to provide funds for government expenses but most of these failed for lack of the necessary nine votes. Even when the bills were passed the states treated the demands upon them for funds with the greatest indifference. In fact, a more appropriate name for the nation at that time would have been the Dis-United States of America.

The soldiers of the disbanded army which had won the fight for freedom from England were unpaid and in an ugly mood. They wanted their money, long overdue, and large numbers of them camped outside the city and began threatening to stone the building where the congress was meeting unless their demands were met. Presently the situation became so threatening that the congress had to flee from Philadelphia to Princeton, N. J., where it sat for a while, then went on to New York.

From New York the congress authorized the holding of a constitutional convention and called on the states to send delegates to such a meeting in Philadelphia "to take into consideration the situation of the United States, to revise the Articles of Confederation and to devise such further provisions as should appear to them necessary to render the Constitution of the federal government adequate to the exigencies of the Union." Each state could send as many delegates as it pleased, since each was to have but one collective vote.

Of all the states only Rhode Island, which had been at odds with the federal government almost from the beginning, refused to send any delegates at all and, consistent with its attitude, it was the last to ratify the Constitution after one was finally adopted. New Hampshire was in favor of the meeting but because of lack of funds its delegates did not arrive until the convention was well under way.

Altogether 72 of the leading citizens of the 13 states were accredited as delegates although some of them failed or refused to go. Outstanding among the latter was Patrick Henry, the fiery orator of the Revolution, who was suspicious of the purposes of the convention. Or, as he phrased it, "I smelt a rat!" Of the 72 accredited delegates, 55 took part in the deliberations of the convention at one time or another but only 39 stayed on the job until the end. They were the following:

CONNECTICUT—Roger Sherman and William S. Johnson.

DELAWARE—Richard Bassett, Gunning Bedford, Jr., Jacob Broom, John Dickinson and George Read.

GEORGIA—Abraham Baldwin and William Few.

MARYLAND—Daniel Carroll, Daniel Jenifer and James McHenry.

MASSACHUSETTS—Nathaniel Gorham and Rufus King.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—Nicholas Gilman and John Langdon.

NEW JERSEY—David Breasley, Jonathan Dayton, William Livingston and William Patterson.

NEW YORK—Alexander Hamilton.

NORTH CAROLINA—William Blount, Richard D. Spaight and Hugh Williamson.

PENNSYLVANIA—George Clymer, Thomas Fitzsimmons, Benjamin Franklin, Jared Inger-

sch, Thomas Mifflin, Gouverneur Morris, Robert Morris and James Wilson.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Pierce Butler, Charles Pinckney, Charles C. Pinckney and John Rutledge.

VIRGINIA—John Blair, James Madison and George Washington.

Of this number more than half, 21, were lawyers. Six are classified as "statesmen," three were farmers, landowners or planters, three were merchants, two bankers or "financiers," one an educator, two physicians and one a soldier. Most of them were well educated. Nine of them had studied in the Inner Temple or the Middle Temple in England, one at Oxford under Blackstone and two in Scottish universities. Half of the delegates were graduates of American or European colleges, three were professors and one, Dr. William S. Johnson, was president of Columbia college, on leave of absence to act as delegate from Connecticut.

Moreover it was a convention of young men. The patriarch Benjamin Franklin was then eighty-one years old, but 20 of the 55 were under forty years of age. Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey was the "baby" of the convention—only twenty-seven years old. Charles Pinckney, who submitted the first draft of the Constitution, was only two years his elder. Alexander Hamilton of New York, destined to play a leading role in the convention but a more important one in securing the ratification of the Constitution, was barely thirty, and James Madison, who would become known as the "Father of the Constitution," was thirty-six.

John Marshall, then only thirty-two years old, was not a delegate to the convention. But because of his part in securing the ratification of the Constitution and the work he did as chief justice of the United States later in interpreting it and strengthening the federal foundations of the government by means of it, he is entitled to a high place among the "Makers of the Constitution."

The date set for the opening of the convention was the second Monday in May. The roads of that time were poor and travel was expensive and slow, so it was not until two weeks later that the first meeting was held.

The convention met formally for the first time on Friday, May 25, although only a few more than half the delegates had arrived by that time. Seven states were represented at this meeting, according to one authority; according to another, there were nine. Whatever the number, those present got down to business at once by electing a presiding officer. Benjamin Franklin, because of his age and the fact that this was his home city, was the logical choice for this position but he graciously waived that honor and suggested the choice of George Washington, the late commander in the struggle for liberty.

Washington's election was unanimous and he presided throughout the convention with his usual dignity. His chair was on a raised platform and it was a rule of the sessions that the members should stand at their places, upon adjournment, until he had preceded them from the room. Occasionally the great Virginian yielded the chair and took the floor as a Virginia delegate to express his views on the question at issue.

On Monday, May 28, the convention entered upon the business for which it had been called and from that time until September 17 these men struggled daily with their great task in that stuffy room in the old State house, suffering terribly from the heat and—it must be admitted!—also suffering from weariness with the long speeches of some of the delegates. One of them actually spread his speech over a period of two

days, to the disgust of his audience, and while others were not so long-winded as he, they made up for it by the frequency with which they spoke.

Debate, argument, controversy, bitterness over clashing personalities and viewpoints—all of these characterized the convention which finally produced the Constitution of the United States. Nor was the sultry weather conducive to serenity and judicial consideration of momentous problems. More than once the convention threatened to break up and if it had it might have meant the end of the federal union. But more than once wise old Ben Franklin acted as peacemaker and saved the situation.

Once he tided the convention over a deadlock by suggesting that the delegates seek guidance in prayer. This brought from Hamilton the caustic remark that "no foreign aid was needed," a remark that was something of a fling at Franklin's well-known fondness for the French. When another crisis came Franklin suggested a temporary adjournment and along with the recess came a proverbial drop in the temperature in which tempers cooled both literally and figuratively.

The greater part of the controversy revolved around three principal plans of government—the Virginia plan, sponsored by Madison, which safeguarded the rights of the states; the New York plan, sponsored by Hamilton, which looked to a strong centralized federal government; and the New Jersey plan, which was in the nature of a compromise between the two. Eventually the substance of the Virginia plan, with its 15 "resolutions" expanded to 23, won out.

On July 26 the convention turned over the job of making a final draft of the complete Constitution to a "committee on detail" and adjourned until August 28. While doing this the committee embodied some suggestions of its own in the document. Then the delegates returned to their labors, studying and debating every line and every sentence with the greatest care, fixing exact definitions wherever necessary, making alterations and compromising differences in phraseology. Finally it was turned over to a "committee on style" which polished up the phraseology. Out of that committee, headed by Gouverneur Morris, came the sonorous "We, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, etc."

Later the final draft of the Constitution was gone over again for there were still delegates opposed to one or another aspect of it. Indeed there were some who refused to be satisfied with it and who refused to sign it.

Gouverneur Morris won over several obstinate members with his suggestion that the delegates approve the Constitution as states even though they personally refused to sign it and at last all those present except Gerry, Mason and Randolph signed. Despite the fact that their great task was ended the delegates adjourned in gloom and with a feeling of doubt as to the outcome. Not even the words of Benjamin Franklin, as the last members were signing, could entirely reassure them. Pointing to the sun that was painted on the back of the president's chair, he said: "I have often and often in the course of the sessions and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue looked at that behind the president without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting. But now at length I have the happiness to know that it was a rising and not a setting sun."

And history justified Franklin's prophecy. For from that date 148 years ago a new sun in the constellation of nations has been rising steadily to its zenith. Its name is the United States of America.

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DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF LIGHT NEEDED

A survey shows that 22 per cent of children finishing grade school have damaged eye sight. When they have finished college, 40 per cent are so affected. At age forty, 65 per cent suffer from visual defects. And at age sixty, 95 per cent have eye defects.

This regrettable increase in eye troubles is in many instances caused by eye strain resulting from reading, studying, sewing at night with poor light and not enough light.

Science measures light in terms of foot-candles. A foot-candle is the amount of light one standard candle shines on a surface one foot away.

For seeing one's way around and performing ordinary tasks which do not require seeing very small objects, 5 foot-candles is sufficient. For reading coarse print and large stitch sewing, you can get along with 10 foot-candles. For continued reading of ordinary print, or doing ordinary sewing, you need at least 20 foot-candles. For reading fine print and fine sewing, you require 30 foot-candles, or more.

Your light may look bright, but it is the illumination you get on your work that saves your eyes from strain; and this diminishes rapidly the farther away you are from your lamp.

Seated with your paper or work 3 feet away from your lamp, it will require a light of at least 275 candlepower to produce the 30 foot-candles needed to be certain your eyes have enough light to do their work without danger of strain and permanent injury.

If you use electricity, your light company will recommend the right size bulbs to use.

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By GRANDMOTHER CLARK



This Collar and Cuff set is quite a departure from the many models shown in open net work. The solid work gives the pieces more definite form and very little starching is necessary to hold the shape. Collar and Cuff sets are going to add attraction to fall dresses more than they did last spring so a little time given your crochet now will find you ready when the season makes its change.

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Send 25 cents and you receive this package by mail postpaid. Instructions and illustrations will be mailed for 10 cents.

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