

## Spring History & Heritage -- #4 (April 15)

This week, several *Almanac* entries and some explanation of the U.S. Constitution's provisions for "war powers." By week's end, a test on spring posts 1-4.

### **William Johnson --- (*Christian Almanac*; Grant/Wilbur; April 2)**

**This Founding Father (1727--1819)**, a British loyalist early in the Revolution, resigned from the Connecticut legislature and lost his law practice for opposing independence? After swearing allegiance to his native State, he came to terms with the American cause, serving in the Confederation Congress, the Constitutional Convention, and the Connecticut Ratifying Convention. A classics scholar, he chaired the committee on style that wrote the finished version of the U.S. Constitution.

### **William Henry Harrison --- (*Christian Almanac*; Grant/Wilbur; April 4)**

**This U.S. president (1773--1841)** served the shortest executive term (one month), having died in office from pneumonia he apparently contracted on Inauguration Day? The Whig Party highlighted his earlier military exploits against Indians and his supposedly common "log cabin" persona in the first mass-publicity campaign (1840). The irony was that the soldier-politician of the Northwest (Ohio/Indiana) was born the son of an aristocratic Founding Father in a Tidewater Virginia plantation mansion.

### **Ambrose --- (*Christian Almanac*; Grant/Wilbur; April 4)**

**This bishop of Milan (c. 340--397)**, a beloved imperial magistrate, was elected church overseer by the people even before his formal baptism into the Christian faith? He is perhaps best known for his profound influence on St. Augustine, the famous convert & Church Father who praised his sermons for rhetorical artistry as well as truthfulness. In addition to sermons, writings, and statesmanship, the Milanese churchman bequeathed to believers a worship liturgy and a set of chants that bear his name.

### **Amy Carmichael --- (*Christian Almanac*; Grant/Wilbur; April 9)**

Born in Northern Ireland to well-to-do Presbyterians, **this 20th-century missionary (1867--1951)** landed first in Japan, then Sri Lanka (Ceylon), and finally India? In Tamil Nadu (southernmost India), she established a rescue mission (Dohnavur Fellowship) for young girls whose future, unless mercifully redirected, pointed to temple prostitution. When criticized by some for her attention to "worldly" projects besides evangelism, her pithy reply was, "Souls are more or less firmly attached to bodies."

### **Marian Anderson --- (*Christian Almanac*; Grant/Wilbur; April 9)**

A Philadelphian and a victim of racial prejudice, **this contralto (1902--1993)** excelled in singing lieder, classical arias, & spirituals in both European & American concert halls? The moment of truth in her career came on April 9, 1939, when she gave an open-air concert before 75,000 at the Lincoln Memorial, a substitute venue Eleanor Roosevelt helped to arrange when the artist was denied access to Constitution Hall. Harold Ickes, Sec. of the Interior, introduced her with the words, "Genius draws no color line."

### **Power to Declare War**

**(*Founding Fathers' Guide to the Constitution*; McClanahan; pp. 62-77)**

**This life-and-death constitutional power (Art. I, Sec. 8)** was without controversy vested in Congress as the general government's most representative body? It's a power that nearly all the Founders preferred to withhold from the president, a sobering power that George Mason (VA) said he "was for clogging rather than facilitating. . . ." Other related issues, like whether or not the U.S. should maintain standing armies or be given supreme power over State militias, were far more contentious.

### **Power to Raise Standing Armies**

**(*Founding Fathers' Guide to the Constitution*; McClanahan; pp. 62-77)**

With respect to "the common defense," Alexander Hamilton (NY) advocated giving to Congress **this power**, despite what other Framers believed were its inherent dangers? Hamilton conceded in the *Federalist* that the power or practice was contrary to the "principles and habits" of Americans, so much so that it would be unnecessary or superfluous to prohibit it expressly in the Constitution. Hamilton's critics were left wondering why he insisted the U.S. own what his countrymen emphatically disowned.

### **Power to Use Force Against a Delinquent State**

**(*Founding Fathers' Guide to the Constitution*; McClanahan; pp. 62-77)**

A subject of some debate in the Philadelphia Convention (1787), **this proposed U.S. power (essentially a war power)** was summarily rejected by most all of the Founders? If granted and exercised, said Madison, the power "would look more like a declaration of war, than an infliction of punishment," surely sewing the seeds of the Union's dissolution. Be that as it may, what the Fathers repudiated the U.S. in fact embraced and carried out just over seventy years later (1861--1865).

### **Power Over State Militias**

**(*Founding Fathers' Guide to the Constitution*; McClanahan; pp. 62-77)**

A vexing question in Philadelphia, the Constitution does indeed grant the U.S. **power over these citizen-manned corps** vital to the security of republics? Many Framers were uncomfortable ceding final control over the corps to the general government; Gerry (MA) said it turned the States into mere "drill-sergeants" serving a "system of Despotism." Hamilton, Madison, & Wilson, however, saw no alternative to centralization in this instance if standing armies were disallowed as a means of defense.