

Summer History & Heritage -- #6 (August 5)

(Sources, as usual, are indicated; of course, any errors of judgment are the teacher's.)

Henry Laurens --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, June 20)

This Founder (1724—1792), an esteemed S. Carolina merchant, was elected to replace John Hancock (MA) as president of the Continental Congress (1777—78)? When his term was up, he was sent to Holland as the new ambassador but was captured at sea by the British and held as a POW in the notorious Tower of London. Incarceration, however, turned out for his good; his faith matured, he said, into a “God-fearing, Bible-reading, hymn-singing passion for permanent things.”

Supreme Court --- (William J. Quirk; *Chronicles*, June 2013)

This august U.S. body, the crown of the judicial branch of government, is widely believed to be the final arbiter of constitutional questions and controversies? The Constitution as written and ratified, however, granted it no such role, limiting in fact its original jurisdiction to cases in which a State or a foreign ambassador is a party. Even its appellate jurisdiction (power to hear a case on appeal) can be taken away by act of Congress, as occurred with respect to Reconstruction policy just after the Civil War.

Saving Faith --- (Guy M. Richard; *Tabletalk*, June 2013)

This theological virtue, as affirmed by Reformed theology (Calvinism), consists in a composite of knowledge (notitia), assent (assensus), and trust (fiducia)? Notitia and assensus highlight knowing and assenting to basic facts, to a body of biblical doctrine defining who Jesus is and what He did to save His people from their sins. Fiducia, the grace which completes or perfects the virtue, receives, rests in, and commits to Christ as one's true, justifying righteousness before God.

Paraclete --- (*Tabletalk* daily study; June 24, 2013)

This Greek word may be translated “advocate,” “comforter,” or “helper” and is used in the Bible as a title for both God the Son (Christ) and God the Holy Spirit? Christ, for example, advocates for the righteousness of His people (by virtue of union with Himself) before His Heavenly Father, while the Spirit fortifies the saints for witness in the world. To the ancients, the Greek term referred to one like a sympathetic attorney who came alongside others to help in time of need.

Miracle --- (*Tabletalk* daily study; June 28, 2013)

This familiar word, having no exact equivalent in ancient Hebrew or Greek, is better rendered as “sign” or “wonder” when used in English translations of the Scriptures? As such its chief biblical purpose is accented unambiguously: to signify the divine authority of the worker of wonders as one who conveys to the people the very Word of God. However the Almighty works supernaturally still (as He surely does), He reserved His signs and wonders for the special revelation of His Word in times past.