Fall History & Heritage -- #1 (Sept. 16)
(the 1st of 8 fall posts, this week we focus on some of the men & ideas of America's Founding)

John Witherspoon --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, Aug. 22)
This Scots Presbyterian educator (1723—1794) was the only clergyman to sign the *Declaration of Independence*? An acclaimed Calvinist theologian, he came to America in 1768 to head up the College of New Jersey (Princeton), where he taught many prominent figures including future U.S. President James Madison. In addition to his work organizing Presbyterianism in America, he served in the Continental Congress and in the New Jersey Convention for Ratification of the U.S. Constitution (1787).

Peyton Randolph --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, Sept. 5)
This Virginian (1723—1775), a distinguished lawyer and scholar, was chosen by his American peers on Sept. 5, 1774, as first president of the First Continental Congress? His career included service as a legislator in the VA House of Burgesses, a commander in the colonial militia, colonial attorney general, and professor at William and Mary College where he tutored the young Patrick Henry among others. His home in Williamsburg offered gracious hospitality to the Old Dominion's aristocracy.

Roger Sherman --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, Sept. 12)
This Connecticut Puritan (1721—1793) was, according to John Adams, "one of the soundest and strongest pillars of the Revolution"? A largely self-taught shoemaker, his service to his State as legislator & judge was exemplary, and his contribution to the founding documents of the U.S. was as significant as any of his illustrious colleagues. Of course, he's best known for the *Constitution's* "Connecticut Compromise," which gave the U.S. Congress its bicameral structure (consisting in two chambers).

"Connecticut Compromise" --- (follow-up commentary)
This constitutional compromise gave us a federal legislature (U.S. Congress) consisting of two chambers, a Senate and a House of Representatives? Representation in the House was made proportional to a State's population, while in the Senate the States enjoyed equal representation (2 senators per State). Often portrayed as a settlement between large and small States, even more was it a compromise between nationalist-minded Founders and those favoring a confederation.

(The nationalist-leaning Founders, misnamed Federalists, wanted a greater consolidation of States into a centralized governmental system; whereas the so-called Anti-Federalists favored preserving, with some modifications, what Americans had under the *Articles of Confederation*: a decentralized order that gave priority to the rule of independent States under a general or federal protective canopy. The U.S. Constitution—a partly national, partly federal structure in the words of historian Forrest McDonald—is largely the product of compromises crafted by these two sometimes adversarial parties.)