

Spring History & Heritage -- #4 (April 14)

Arthur St. Clair --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, March 25)

This U.S. Founder (1734--1818), a Scots-born foe of the English who nonetheless served the Royal Navy, first came to America during the Seven Years War (1756-1763)? Later, he settled with his kin in PA and played several roles in the Revolutionary Era, including pres. of Congress, 1st governor of the NW Territory, and founder of Cincinnati. An Anti-federalist, he was wary of the new Constitution's central government, predicting its taxing power would someday strip away a quarter of the people's earnings.

Theotokos --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, April 10)

This Greek title meaning "Mother of God," assigned to Jesus' mother Mary, indicated the esteem with which the Virgin was held in early Christianity? The title also served as a sign of orthodoxy, affirming that Mary's Son from conception was both true God and true Man, a union of two authentic natures (divine and human) in one person. However, in the 400s AD Bishop Nestorius of Constantinople rejected the title and pursued an heterodox christology, contributing with others to the creedal crisis in the Church.

Samuel Johnson --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, April 3)

This 18th-century English man of letters (1709--1784), "pious, thoughtful, bookish, and venerable" writes George Grant, dominated the literary landscape in his day? He wrote masterful moral essays, poetry, prayers, and an acclaimed novel (*Rasselas*), in addition to setting the all-time etymological standard with his *Dictionary of the English Language*. Whatever his wisdom and eloquence, however, his influence rests mostly on a book written not by him, but about him—a biography by Scotsman James Boswell.

Italy --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, March 11)

This boot-shaped peninsula in S. Europe staged an explosion of arts and sciences (the Renaissance, c. 1400-1550) which virtually reconstructed the Western World? At the time the peninsula was composed of many minor city-states scattered among five chief kingdoms: Milan, Florence, Venice, the Papal States, and Naples. Only Venice, however, had maintained its medieval potency led by a tough ruling oligarchy (the few, an elite class) superintending possessions abroad in the Adriatic and Aegean seas.

John C. Calhoun --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, March 18)

This U.S. statesman (1782--1850), son of a small-scale farmer in South Carolina's upcountry, became vice president to two chief executives (J.Q. Adams & Jackson)? A nationalist and "war hawk" early on, he underwent a dramatic change of heart by which he became the voice of the South in the Senate for constitutionalism, federalism, and the interests of regions, States, and localities. His acclaimed political writings include the "South Carolina Exposition and Protest" and *A Disquisition on Government*.

(sources for the Q&A's are indicated; any errors of judgment are those of Veritas history teacher Mr. Zaffini, writer of this post for his students and their families)