

Spring History & Heritage -- #6 (May 6)

First, Bonnie Prince Charlie & Samuel Adams of the 1700s, plus Luther's famous "Here I Stand" of the 1500s; then, more from *The Founding Fathers' Guide to the Constitution*.

Charles Edward Stuart --- (*Christian Almanac*; Grant/Wilbur; April 16)

Known as the Young Pretender or Bonnie Prince Charlie, **this British prince (1720--1788)** led Scotsmen against George II's polished army in the Rising of '45? Amazingly, the prince gained three-quarters of the land and approached London before betrayal in his own ranks forced his retreat and final defeat at Culloden (1746). Grandson of deposed James II, he fled first to France, then to Italy, but never gave up his quixotic quest to restore his family's place on Great Britain's throne.

Samuel Adams --- (*Christian Almanac*; Grant/Wilbur; April 18)

Older cousin of a distinguished Founder, **this honored MA patriot (1722--1803)** championed the cause of American liberty with fervor in word and deed? He boldly challenged Britain's meddlesome regulations by agitating against the stamp and tea taxes, organizing colonial "committees of correspondence," and serving in the Continental Congress. Along with John Hancock, he was sought for by British regulars when they arrived at Lexington Green on the morning of April 19, 1775.

Diet of Worms --- (*Christian Almanac*; Grant/Wilbur; April 18)

"Unless I am convicted by scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of popes and councils for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I Stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

The ringing declaration (set forth above) of the supreme authority of Scripture is that of German monk Martin Luther (1483--1546) at the **Diet of Worms** in April 1521. Luther had been called to the city (Worms) to appear before an assembly (diet) of churchmen and princes at the behest of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Charles expected him to renounce his views (expressed in various writings), but what Luther said, his "Here I Stand," became the battle cry of the Protestant Reformation.

What are States?

(*Founding Fathers' Guide to the Constitution*; McClanahan; pp. 84-88)

In American terminology and tradition, States are free, independent, and sovereign political societies. They "have full power," wrote Jefferson in the *Declaration of Independence*, "to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. . ." The *Declaration*, in fact, summarizes the status of the United Anglo-American Colonies by asserting that they "are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States. . ."

Article I, Section 10 --- (*Founding Fathers' Guide*; McClanahan; pp. 84-88)

This passage in the U.S. Constitution requires States to delegate some of their sovereign powers to the general or federal government? The delegated powers, like those pertaining to war or treaties, deal with diplomacy and some aspects of commerce, corresponding to various provisions given over to Congress in Article I, Section 8. Thus, despite some losses incurred by the States, they retained broad and indefinite political powers of all kinds, as even the Constitution's proponents (Federalists) conceded.

Executive Department or Branch --- (McClanahan; pp. 91-92)

One glaring deficiency of the U.S. under the *Articles of Confederation*, in most of the Framers' minds, was the omission of **this department or branch of government?** Most proposed revisions of the *Articles* sought to address it, including the constitutional plans of Madison (VA), William Patterson (NJ), and Charles Pinckney (SC). The latter's draft coined the title "His Excellency" for the department's chief officer, but the Fathers were wary of calling for too strong an official, a de facto "King of the United States."

Plural Executive Elected from the Three Sections of the Union
(*Founding Fathers' Guide to the Constitution*; McClanahan; pp. 93-94)

This mode or type of executive branch headship was initially advanced by George Mason (VA), a prominent opponent of the Constitution, in the Philadelphia Convention? He said such headship would "bring...a more perfect and extensive Knowledge of the real Interests of this great Union" as well as check or counterbalance "the aspiring Views of dangerous and ambitious Men." Without it, Mason supported an advisory council for the executive similar to those mandated by many of the States.

James Wilson --- (McClanahan; pp. 93-96)

Along with Hamilton, **this Founder (PA, 1742--1798)** argued tirelessly for a single chief executive (U.S. president) in both Philadelphia and his State's Ratifying Convention? One man as opposed to a plurality, he insisted, facilitated "vigorous execution of the Laws" and removed any cover or "screen" behind which misdeeds could be hidden. A magistrate is not a king, he said, and after all, Americans did not oppose the British King ("an Unity") but the Parliament ("a corrupt multitude").

Alexander Hamilton --- (*Founding Fathers' Guide*; McClanahan; pp. 95-96)

"A feeble executive implies a feeble execution of the government. A feeble execution is but another phrase for a bad execution. . ." Thus wrote **this Founder (NY, 1755--1804)** in *Federalist No. 70* in defense of a single chief executive who could govern vigorously? Unbeknownst to his readers in the New York press, his initial plan in the Philadelphia Convention called for a lifetime presidential appointment, creating in essence a U.S. kingship, as disagreeable as that surely would have been to most Americans.