

Fall History & Heritage -- #3 (Sept. 30)

“Genevan Jigs” --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, Sept. 10)

This popular name was attributed to the Biblical Psalms sung in worship services in 16th-century Geneva under Reformer John Calvin (1509—1564)? Pulsing with energy, the Psalms were translated into French, arranged according to several metrical verse patterns, and set to music (either old folk tunes or new hymn compositions with multiple voice parts added). The sacred artistry was the work of highly gifted men including theologian Theodore Beza, poet Clement Marot, and musician Louis Bourgeois.

Francis de Sales --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, Aug. 22)

This French prelate (1567—1622), a Jesuit in the Counter-Reformation, turned many Calvinists back to Catholicism in Chablais, a region south of Lake Geneva? Escaping assassins more than once, he persevered in his preaching and teaching, writing such persuasive booklets as *Introduction to the Devout Life* (1609) and *Treatise on the Love of God* (1618). His upbringing was devout, as evidenced by his family’s personal efforts to feed 500 people per day for weeks in the famine of 1570.

Dr. Benjamin Rush --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, Aug. 22)

This Philadelphian (1745—1813), physician & educator, signed the Declaration of Independence and attended the PA Convention on Ratification of the U.S. Constitution? He began his medical practice in 1769 and served as surgeon general of the Continental Army in 1777-78. A professor of chemistry for over two decades at the College of Philadelphia, his *Syllabus of a Course of Lectures on Chemistry* (1770) was the first textbook on the topic published in America.

Farewell Address --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, Sept. 17)

This valedictory message, prepared with assistance from Alexander Hamilton, was presented by President George Washington to his cabinet on September 17, 1796? Subsequently published in newspapers, the message warned of dangers to the Union in partisan party politics, foreign alliances that could drag the republic into unnecessary wars, and sectional or regional strife. The president also appealed eloquently for the preservation of Christian faith and morality as “indispensable” to “political prosperity.”

Religion, Morality, & Political Prosperity --- (from Washington’s Farewell Address)

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked: Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.