

Fall History & Heritage -- #7 (Oct. 28)

Virgil --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, Oct. 15)

This ancient Roman writer (70--19 BC), apparently of rough and rustic appearance, crafted at the behest of Caesar Augustus one of the greatest epics of all time? Ostensibly about the heroism of Rome's greatest ancestor (Aeneas), his *Aeneid* was really a hymn of praise to the wisdom and virtue conveyed by Roman tradition. Both the poem and the poet were favorably received for literary and moral merit by generation after generation of Christian teachers and writers.

Quo Vadis? --- (*Christian Almanac*, Oct. 24)

This late 19th-century novel (1896), one of the many works of Polish polymath Henryk Sienkiewicz, set the era's standard for success in popular publishing? The novel depicted the historic landscape of mid-1st-century imperial Rome: Nero's shenanigans, the persecutions of Christians, the threat of Germanic tribes on the frontier. The title alludes to a legendary event in which the Apostle Peter, escaping persecution along the Appian Way, sees Christ in a vision and asks Him where He is going.

Henry Middleton --- (*Christian Almanac*, Oct. 22)

This South Carolinian (1717--1784) was his peers' choice to fill in for Peyton Randolph as president of the colonial Continental Congress, the second man to hold the post? A wealthy planter and patriarch, he served his State admirably in its Common House and Council, gaining recognition for his bravery and leadership in the Cherokee War (1760). His humble, amiable manner with men from all walks of life—he knew no strangers—belied the aristocratic and dynastic status his family enjoyed.

Alexis de Tocqueville --- (*Christian Almanac*, Oct. 3)

This French writer (1805--1859) made a tour of the U.S. in the 1830s, inspiring his magisterial *Democracy in America*? Beginning with the feverish pace of N.Y.C., the Frenchman observed the promise and peril of a people more free than most had ever been. "I confess that in America," he wrote, "I saw more than America; I sought there the image of democracy itself, with its inclinations, its character, its prejudices, and its passions, in order to learn what we have to fear or to hope from its progress."

Edgar Allan Poe --- (*Christian Almanac*, Oct. 17)

This Boston-born poet & storyteller (1809--1849), orphaned in youth, was raised in Richmond, VA, where he later edited the *Southern Literary Messenger*? The Bostonians, in fact, walked out on him when he read *The Raven* in their Lyceum on an October 1845 evening, prompting the poet to regret having been born in such a city. He is credited with inventing several literary genres including the short story and detective fiction, and admired for his ingenious depiction of man's deepest wants and fears.