



PINEYWOODS PINE SHAVINGS

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Official Newsletter of the PineyWoods Chapter

CONSTITUTION WEEK "MEMBERS ONLY" DINNER

At the September 17th dinner meeting for "members only" we will celebrate Constitution Week. There will be a discussion on the proposed Constitution & Bylaws changes and voting procedure. We will also discuss the need to find a suitable location for future meetings. An RSVP form is included in this newsletter. Please return it to arrive by the 14th so that the planning committee can advise the Humble Inn.

Rev. Harper Seeks State Office

The Reverend Douglas E. Harper, Jr., Th.D., Past President of the Paul Carrington Chapter, and Chaplain of the PineyWoods Chapter, will accept the nomination for the office of Chaplain of the Texas Society,

**PINEYWOODS PINE
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the attention of the Editor

SAR. This office will become vacant in March 1999 when Rev. John Stepp's term comes to an end. The Rev. Stepp has served the TXSSAR for more than two terms, and wants to step down. He will be missed. The PineyWoods Chapter is pleased to enter Rev. Harper's name into nomination.

104th Annual Convention

The PineyWoods Chapter will be hosting the TXSSAR Annual Convention next March 12 - 14 at the Sheraton Crown, JFK Blvd. Arrangements for meeting rooms have been made, and a block of rooms set aside for guest reservations, however there is still much preparation and staffing to be done. All active members are urged to participate in any way they can to help make this a success. Contact Jeff Meadows at (409) 336-2446, or Email him at Txeditor@aol.com to let him know what you can do to help.

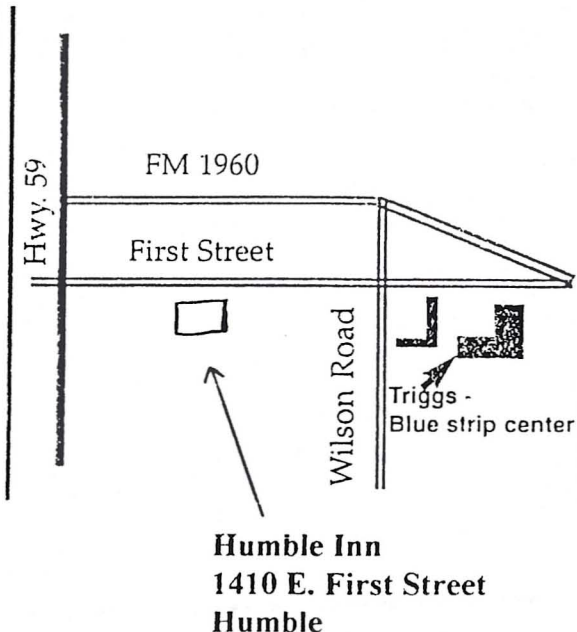
Welcome, Charles McKim, Jr.

Welcome to our newest member Charles M. McKim Jr.



Needlepoint Raffle

Tickets are now on sale for the needlepoint SAR logo. This beautifully framed work of art will become a centerpiece in any home. Tickets are \$3.00 each, or 4 for \$10.00. The drawing will be held during the 104th annual TXSSAR convention next March. Proceeds of the sales are deposited into the Educational Endowment Fund, the earnings of which will fund recognition awards.



REACTION

CONSTITUTION: A HOT DEBATE

Ratify? Not everyone agrees

AFTER THE CONVENTION, THE DEBATE CONTINUES

Who signed; who didn't

USA FREEDOM compiled the following scorecard to track delegates' stands.

Delegate	Did he sign?	Age	Occupation
Connecticut			
Oliver Ellsworth	no	42	lawyer
William S. Johnson	yes	60	lawyer
✓ Roger Sherman	yes	66	lawyer
Delaware			
Richard Bassett	yes	42	lawyer
Gunning Bedford	yes	40	lawyer
Jacob Broom	yes	35	politician
John Dickinson	yes	55	lawyer
✓ George Read	yes	54	lawyer
Georgia			
Abraham Baldwin	yes	33	lawyer
William Few	yes	39	banker
William C. Houston	no	46	lawyer
William Pierce	no	47	merchant
Maryland			
Daniel Carroll	yes	57	politician
Daniel Jenifer	yes	64	politician
Luther Martin	no	39	lawyer
James McHenry	yes	34	physician
John F. Mercer	no	28	lawyer
Massachusetts			
Elbridge Gerry	no	43	politician
Nathaniel Gorham	yes	49	merchant
Rufus King	yes	32	lawyer
Caleb Strong	no	42	lawyer
New Hampshire			
Nicholas Gilman	yes	32	lawyer
John Langdon	yes	46	merchant
New Jersey			
David Brearley	yes	42	lawyer
Jonathan Dayton	yes	27	politician
William Houston	no	41	lawyer
William Livingston	yes	64	lawyer
William Paterson	yes	43	lawyer
New York			
Alexander Hamilton	yes	30	lawyer
John Lansing	no	33	lawyer
Robert Yates	no	63	judge
North Carolina			
William Blount	yes	43	politician
William R. Davie	no	31	lawyer
Alexander Martin	no	47	politician
Richard D. Spaight	yes	29	politician
Hugh Williamson	yes	52	physician
Pennsylvania			
George Clymer	yes	48	merchant
Thomas Fitzsimons	yes	46	businessman
✓ Benjamin Franklin	yes	81	philosopher
Jared Ingersoll	yes	38	lawyer
Thomas Mifflin	yes	43	general
Gouverneur Morris	yes	35	lawyer
✓ Robert Morris	yes	53	merchant
✓ James Wilson	yes	45	lawyer
South Carolina			
✓ Pierce Butler	yes	43	planter
Charles Pinckney	yes	30	lawyer
Charles C. Pinckney	yes	41	general
✓ John Rutledge	yes	48	lawyer
Virginia			
John Blair	yes	55	lawyer
James McClurg	no	41	physician
James Madison Jr.	yes	36	lawyer
George Mason	no	62	politician
Edmund Randolph	no	34	politician
George Washington	yes	55	planter
George Wythe	no	61	lawyer

The action of the Constitutional Convention has shocked many state leaders — and even some members of the Confederation Congress.

Charged one member: "The convention completely exceeded its authority. Congress approved a convention 'for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation.'"

Other reactions:

■ Congress President Richard Henry

Lee is worried about the potential of too much power.

"The first maxim of a man who loves liberty... never grant to rulers an atom of power that is not most clearly and indispensably necessary for the safety and well-being of society."

■ State legislative leaders are angry because state conventions delegates — not them — will vote whether to ratify. Said one high source at the conven-

tion: "The state legislatures do not want to support any changes that might lessen their power... state conventions will be open to new ideas, and not concerned as much about self-interest."

So, as the heated debate moves from Congress to the states, the battle lines are clearly drawn.

It's the pro-constitutional forces — dubbed the Federalists — versus the strong supporters of states' rights.

Taking a stand

AGAINST RATIFICATION

North Carolina



WILLIAM LENOIR, delegate: "It appears to me that, instead of securing the sovereignty of the states, it is calculated to melt them down into one solid empire... It appears to me to be a scheme to reduce this government to an aristocracy."

Virginia



GEORGE MASON, delegate: "There is no declaration of rights; and, the laws of the general government being paramount to the laws and constitutions of several states, the declaration of rights in the separate states are no security."

Virginia



PATRICK HENRY: "If you give up these powers, without a Bill of Rights, you will exhibit the most absurd thing to mankind that ever the world saw — a government that has abandoned all its powers — the powers of direct taxation, the sword, and the purse."

FOR RATIFICATION

Pennsylvania



BEN FRANKLIN, delegate: "I agree to this Constitution, with all its faults, if they are such; because I think a general government necessary for us, and there is no form of government, but what may be a blessing to the people if well administered."

New Hampshire



NICHOLAS GILMAN, delegate: "It was done by bargain and compromise, yet notwithstanding its imperfections, on the adoption of it depends whether we shall become a respectable nation, or a people torn to pieces."

South Carolina



PIERCE BUTLER, delegate: "In passing judgement on it you must call to mind we had clashing interests to reconcile... View the system then as resulting from a spirit of accommodation to different interests."

By Sam Ward, USA FREEDOM

Missing 'bill of rights' draws fire

The Constitution already needs a major overhaul, critics say.

Their major complaint: no bill of rights; no protection from tyrants.

"Our lives, our property and our consciences, are left wholly at the mercy of the legislature," said Thomas Tredwell of New York.

James Madison — a chief architect of the Constitution — pushed for a bill of rights to include at least the basic rights, such as freedom of religious worship, speech and press.

George Mason unsuccessfully introduced a resolution Sept. 12 to establish a committee to study a bill of rights.

Among the opposition: George Washington, a hero of the revolution.

"An attempt to amend the Constitution... would be productive of more heat and greater confusion than can well be conceived," he argued.

Most states already have a bill of rights in their own constitutions, and many are expected to push for similar amendments to the Constitution. Among the proposals:

- Provide legal rights, such as guarantee of jury trials, due process and protection from excessive bail.
- Protect freedom of religion, speech and press.
- Prohibit armies in times of peace.
- Protect people from unreasonable searches and seizures.
- Preserve the freedom to assemble and petition the government.
- Limit federal judicial power.

If each of the 13 states proposes an average of 10 amendments, there would be more than 130 amendments for Congress to consider. Some predict the number could be even higher.

For now, the argument over a bill of rights may be moot. The determined Federalists appear to have the momentum and support to win ratification — with or without a bill of rights.

But the new Congress — plans already are under way for its election — probably will consider a bill of rights among its first orders of business.

Wrote Roger Sherman in the *New Haven Gazette* and *Connecticut Magazine*: "No bill of rights ever yet bound the supreme power longer than the honeymoon of a new married couple, unless the rulers were interested in preserving the rights."

"The sole question — so far as any apprehension of tyranny and oppression is concerned — ought to be, how are Congress formed? How far have you a control over them? Decide this, and then all the questions about their power may be dismissed for the amusement of those politicians whose business it is to catch flies."

How ratification process works

The new Constitution — after months of debate and fine tuning by the Constitutional Convention — now gets scrutinized by the 13 states.

Before it becomes law, at least nine states must vote for ratification.

But it won't be the state legislatures that will do the voting. Instead, the Constitution's writers decided the decision be left to special conventions.

One speculation is to avoid conflict of interest. The

require power sharing between the states and federal government.

Ratification is expected, but the debates promise to be fierce. Among the concerns — besides no bill of rights — is the question of slavery.

Said Joshua Atherton of New Hampshire: "We will not lend aid of our ratification to a Constitution that condones this cruel and inhuman practice... It is our full purpose to wash our hands clear of it."

13 Things You Never Knew About The American Revolution

6. History's first submarine attack took place in New York Harbor in 1776.

The Connecticut inventor David Bushnell called his submarine the *Turtle* because it resembled two large tortoise shells of equal size joined together. The watertight hull was made of 6-inch-thick oak timbers coated with tar. On September 6, 1776, the *Turtle* targeted the *HMS Eagle*, flagship of the British fleet. The submarine was supposed to secure a cask of gunpowder to the hull of the *Eagle* and sneak away before it exploded. Unfortunately, the *Turtle* got entangled with the *Eagle's* rudder bar, lost ballast and surfaced before the gunpowder could be planted.

7. Benedict Arnold was the best general in the Continental Army.

"Without Benedict Arnold in the first three years of the war," says the historian George Neumann, "we would probably have lost the Revolution." In 1775, the future traitor came within a whisker of conquering Canada. In 1776, he built a fleet and fought a bigger British fleet to a standstill on Lake Champlain. At Saratoga in 1777, his brilliant battlefield leadership forced the British army to surrender. The victory persuaded the French to join the war on the American side. Ironically, Arnold switched sides in 1780 partly because he disapproved of the French alliance.

8. By 1779, as many as one in seven Americans in Washington's army was black.

At first Washington was hesitant about enlisting blacks. But when he heard they had fought well at Bunker Hill, he changed his mind. The all-black First Rhode Island Regiment - composed of 33 freedmen and 92 slaves who were promised freedom if they served until the end of the war - distinguished itself in the Battle of Newport. Later, they were all but wiped out in a British attack.

9. There were women in the Continental Army, even a few who saw combat.

Probably the best known is Mary Ludwig Hays, nicknames "Molly Pitcher." She replaced her wounded husband at his cannon during the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. Another wife of artillery man, Margaret Corbin, was badly wounded serving in her husband's gun crew at the Battle of Harlem Heights in 1776. Thousands of other women served in Washington's army as cooks or nurses.

10. George Washington was the best spymaster in American history.

He ran dozens of espionage rings in British-held New York and Philadelphia, and the man who supposedly could not tell a lie was a genius at disinformation. He constantly befuddled the British by leaking, through double agents, inflated reports on the strength of his army.

11. By 1779, there were more Americans fighting with the British than with Washington.

There were no less than 21 regiments (estimated to total 6500 to 8000 men) of loyalists in the British army. Washington reported a field army of 3468. About a third of Americans opposed the Revolution.

12. At Yorktown, the victory that won the war, Frenchmen outnumbered Americans almost three to one.

Washington had 11,000 men engaged in the battle, while the French had at least 29,000 soldiers and sailors. The 37 French ships-of-the-line played a crucial role in trapping the 8700-strong British army and winning the engagement.

13. The King almost abdicated when the British lost.

After Yorktown, George III vowed to keep fighting. When Parliament demurred, the King wrote a letter of abdication - then withdrew it. He tried to console himself with the thought that Washington would become a dictator and make the Americans long for royal rule. When he was told that Washington planned to resign his commission, the monarch gasped: "If he does that, sir, he will be the greatest man in the world!"



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MARGARET COCHRAN CORBIN

General George Washington allowed a number of soldiers' wives to travel with each company in the Continental Army.

Twenty-five-year old Molly Corbin was married to John Corbin, a gunner and artillery man who loaded and fired cannons for the First Company of the Pennsylvania Artillery.

Molly was among those wives who cooked for the men, washed and mended clothes, and nursed the sick and wounded. Though the work was abundant and hard, Molly sometimes watched John's daily drills and learned the gunnery routine.

In mid-November 1776, when John and Molly were stationed in Fort Washington, New York, nearly 9,000 British and Hessian soldiers were bombarding the fort. Only 2,800 Americans were there to face the attack from warships in the river below.

Molly refused to leave her husband's side in his two-gun battery as shells fell around them. When the gunner in charge fell dead, John quickly took over and Molly became his assistant. Together they kept the cannon roaring down at the enemy. Then, in a sudden loud explosion, Molly saw her husband reel back from the cannon. A direct hit had killed him!

Though distraught with grief and shock, Molly knew what she must do. She took the ramrod and stepped to John's place with the cannon. As the battle raged until late that afternoon, she continued loading and firing the cannon until she, too, felt hot British grapeshot tear through her shoulder. A shower of small iron balls had lacerated her jaw, mangled her chest and nearly tore off her left arm. Soldiers carried Molly to the rear, where she received first aid.

When the fighting stopped, the British and Hessians had captured Fort Washington, and the American survivors became their prisoners. The British put the American wounded on parole and Molly, together with the wounded men, was ferried across the river to Fort Lee. From there she was taken nearly one hundred miles in a jolting wagon to Philadelphia.

Molly never fully recovered from her wounds, and in April 1783, was mustered out of service. She became the first woman ever to receive a lifetime pension from the United States Government, and spent the rest of her days near West Point, New York, where she was known as "Captain Molly"

Margaret Corbin was strong and brave enough to handle the heavy, dirty, dangerous task of serving a muzzle-loading cannon.

