

FOUNDED Excerpts

Copy Right Gary Douglas Stern

Preface

Ben's insistence to find some humor angle on everything, was very typical of the national temperament that would grow over the centuries, after he left the humble stage he had thrown together for himself, to give his own *late night version* of current events....

1.Learning Planting and Theocracy

In this time, in the mid-1600's of indentured servants, Virginia had only 2% African American slaves, and their masters often gave them working terms, that were *the same* as the indentured servants, freeing them after a working period, or allowing them to buy their freedom in time. Intermarriage was legal; freed slaves could own land. Some freed slaves had slaves.

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...Their Compact read, "Haven undertaken...a voyage to plant the first colonie in the Northerne parts of Virginia, does by these presents solemnly & mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant & combine our selves together into a civill politick; for our better ordering, & preservation...and frame such just & equall lawes, ordinances...."

They believed they needed to *agree* on government, and *to sign* that agreement. It was the beginning of an attitude, that would lead on, eventually...to a belief system...

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...“The best is always the least, & of that best part, the wiser is always the lessor”.⁶ To this end, the Massachusetts Bay Colony thought it needed to enforce discipline. Winthrop thought women should not learn, as “learning can lead to insanity” with women. Between 6 o'clock on Saturday evening, until sundown on Sunday, it was illegal for men to talk to each other, on the streets...

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...Cotton said that William's "head runneth around". Governor John Winthrop added that Roger William's type of thinking, was actually "democracy", for which "we should have no warrant in scripture"...

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"...such governments, that are by them erected and established, have no more power, nor for no longer times than the civill power or people consenting, and agreeing, shall betrust them with." Williams is also to be remembered for his respectful relations with Native Americans, and his urging to others, like Governor Winthrop back in Massachusetts Colony, to do the same...

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...High backed chairs in these times, were common, because you wanted to face the fireplace and keep the house cold drafts off your back. Most early houses were one room around the hearth fireplace, with a garret room above, reached by latter, for sleeping. Beds were a rarity. You used a bedroll. You generally tried to bring things like skillets and tools, with you on the ship, when you came over.

The vegetables also gave more of a power diet, than in Europe. North American cassava (manioc, tapioca) gives 9.9 million calories per hectare of planting, maize(corn) 7.3 million calories/hectare, potatoes 7.5 million calories/hectare, where Euro crops of wheat, barley, oats, averaged 5 million calories/hectare. Early Americans were taking in a high calorie diet, from the beginning.

You planted when the oak tree spring leaves reached the size of a mouse's ear, dropping corn into holes, then adding small herring found in the streams, for fertilizer. The next thing was to tie your dog's forepaw to his neck for 40 days, to keep the dogs from digging up the herrings in that period...

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...Holidays were Lady's Day, March 25, Midsummer, June 24, Michaelmas, September 29 equinox. Christmas was not a holiday, as it had become rowdy in England, but it was observed only unofficially. There existed fines in Massachusetts Colony, for not working on Christmas. Candlemas Day was important in the winter. If the day was bright, winter would stay, if overcast, it would go. The time was February 2, (so that is obviously Groundhog Day, although the result of the day, seems reversed)...

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...A merchant in Boston would ask you first *what* you would pay with? It could be grain, pork, beef, at rates of the day, Spanish pieces of eight, silver English

coins, shillings minted there in Boston, or ‘trust’ (credit). A receipt of 1651, shows a purchase of a loaf (a cone) of sugar, a doll, and a bird whistle, in return for the payment of 12 bushels of rye. Church tithes could also be paid in kind. In Virginia, your Anglican church minister, had the right to your 20th calf, 20th goat, 20th pig, and a government assemblyman was paid, his per diem, in tobacco.

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...The M 1 supply of (Dutch manufactured) wampum is estimated to have reached 3 million, in the 1600’s, but the Native Americans were still happy to take them. In fact, supported by the level of Native American demand, New Englanders also took wampum from *each other* in trade, throughout the first half of the 1600’s. It was accepted for court fines, and in other situations, for wampum could always be traded with Native Americans, for pelts...

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...If someone had listened to this prophet, the history of the Native Americans may have been different, as they may have united into larger family, to deal with their interests in better policies of self-interest, rather than killing off, other Native Americans...

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...The pigs also dug up the coastal clam banks that were an important part of the Native American food cycle. Native Americans had always found, that their stored-food storage pits had done their job, until the large Euro rats that jumped off the settlers’ ships, arrived in the forests, with their better abilities to penetrate the pit linings. In 1642, Narragansett Native American chief Miantonomi said, “You know our fathers had plenty of deer...and our coves full of fish and fowl. But these English...their cows and horses eat the grass, and their hogs spoil our clam banks, and we shall be starved.”

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...“As for the Natives in New England, they enclose noe land, neither have they settled habitation, nor any tame cattle...so as if we leave them sufficient for their use, we may lawfully take the rest” And in 1640, in Milford, Connecticut: “Voted. That the earth is given to the saints. Voted. *We are the saints.*”

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...The Governor also lamented, again with some premonition, “How miserable that a man Governes a People where six parts of seven at least are Poore, Endebted, Discontented, *and Armed!*”

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...Thomas Hancock, father of John Hancock, who would become famous in the Revolution times, set up a printing press in Massachusetts, to print bibles. He traded the bibles for hogs from farmers, and sold the pork to Newfoundland for fish. He then sold the fish in England for knives, and took the knives to buy a part share in a ship, that would bring untaxed goods (contraband) back to Boston. The point is, that he could do this without utilizing cash, *at any stage*, in this particular marketplace, of his times....

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...In Boston in 1644, a married woman had an affair with an 18 year old boy, and both were hung. In Connecticut, in the 1660's, court hearings for suits covered subject matters of 'eavesdropping', 'bad grinding at a mill', 'admitting to being a Quaker', 'girl riding between two men at night in a carriage'... 'sleeping in the Assembly meeting'...

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...A suit for slander was brought in those 1600's years, by a woman, whose neighbor had insisted that she was a witch appearing as a cat in a boat. (The woman won, because someone testified that she was in her yard, at the same hour, in which she was supposed to be a cat, in a boat.) Courts in New England fined litigants 20 shillings, for any time over one hour, taken by the courts to listen to the pleas. One judgment from a New England court, was the sentencing of having the guilty party's house burned to the ground. The 1700's would now bring a rather different tone of colonial life for all these people. Some things would radically change for these Americans; some would not (as most likely, for example, the litigious preference indicated in these stories).

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...The log carters responded with a refusal, and a statement, "We are as good as you". The Governor tried to strike one of the log carters, calling him a dog, with his sword, only to have it taken from him, and broken in two. The Governor had both arrested, but a well-known New Englander, Samuel Sewell, marched into the courthouse, and posted bond for both of them.

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...Slaves *lost* their rights to own property or to bear arms, if they were freed. New laws allowed private livestock of slaves to be seized, and criminal codes were written for harsh treatment of runaways. No one could free their slaves in Virginia, after 1691; all slavery was now *permanent*...

2. Mercantile Life and Bad Fit Clothes

Whether or not, you were measured as rich by the fifteen-hundred-pounds benchmark, or not, as per Massachusetts's Governor Bradstreet's estimate for the times, Euro visitors would notice that even the best of American clothes, did not seem to fit Americans very well . Through the 1600's and the 1700's, from Virginia to New England, people bought their clothing from England, mailing measurements across the Atlantic, and having the clothes shipped to them...

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“the *only use* of the American Colonies, is the monopoly of their consumption, and the carriage (by British shipping, he means) of their produce.” The Lord was right, but both of them may have better served the grand purpose of British mercantilism, if they had kept their opinions out of print...

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...Meanwhile the French had the Iroquois and others, attack colony settlements, as a part of the war, and, with only 150 troops from Parliament, the colonies had to figure out their own defense, in this confrontation between the mother country and France. Discussion commenced rather quickly right at that time, about whether the colonials should have to defend themselves for the wars, that the mother country was starting, and also about who would pay the bills, when British troops did actually show up to defend. British taxes at home averaged 9% in the early 1700's, and the military took 75% of the budget. War, and budget for war --- for a growing empire --- would be subject matters, which would now create some future history, on the North American coastline...

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...As far as the concept of the fiat money that was now created to pay the new fight-bills, one New England colonial left us his own macro-economic opinion, on the back of one of the notes, that we still have, today, “...specimen of ye mad humour among many of ye people of ye Province.”

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...In the 1600's, it took a 100 years, to advance a 100 miles westward, historian Frederick Jackson Turner observed. In the 1700's the frontier would move faster, and for French and Spanish territorial interests, which were west of British colonial America, that could only be perceived as a problem....

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...By what invisible power has this surprising metamorphosis been performed...He *no sooner breathes* the air than he forms new schemes...Here, individuals are melted into a new race..." It was a good observation of the modification of dispositions that was happening with all transplanted British and Europeans. ...

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"Monday May 2nd: At 2 pm Captain carried five servants ashore to Hampton, in order to sell their Indentures, but returned again at Midnight without selling any more but one Boat Builder...Monday 16th..among them two soul drivers...buy sometimes the whole parcel of them...drive them through the Colony like a parcel of Sheep, until they can sell them to advantage."

**

...James Franklin's younger brother was Benjamin, in their family of 17 children. One of Ben's earliest recollections was spending all the coppers in his pocket to buy a whistle. In their annoyance at his tooting about the house, his extended family pointed out to him that his purchase transaction amounted to 300% more, than anyone would pay for the whistle. The man who would become famous for tooting at a whole generation of Americans about wise frugality, had learned a small business lesson.

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...His competitor Bradford had been the postmaster before, and owning the one competitor newspaper, the 'American Weekly Mercury', Bradford had forbidden his horsemen to carry Ben's 'Pennsylvania Gazette'. Ben, as postmaster, had the riders carry both his Gazette, and also Bradford's competing Mercury paper....

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...When asked to help fund a building for religious speakers, he participated, pointing out, "If the Mufti of Constantinople sent a missionary to preach to us", that the Mufti would find a pulpit in that building."

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...John Lawson, from the Carolina's reviewed the matter, and summed up the attitude that would now rule the minds and decisions of the new inhabitants, arriving to share North America: "They are really better to us, than we are to them. They always give us food at their quarters, and take care of us against Hunger and Thirst. We do not do so by them, but let them walk by our Doors hungry..."

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...Native Americans needed to trade, because they now needed, muskets, men and women's clothes, tobacco, tools, paints for face, liquor, jewelry, etc. Manufacturers back in Europe learned that heavy 'duffel' cloth and certain dye shades of red and blue, had to be just right, or their goods would be rejected by these new consumers, from the forests of North America...

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...Ben Franklin read the account with interest, and wrote that, *if the Iroquois could form a union* under a 'federal government', the colonialists should be able to do that. Ben's future 'Albany Plan' would in fact be that plan....

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...In Connecticut, in the two decades from 1763 until 1785, there were a total of 12 murders, 5 premeditative. There were no strikes. New England and the middle colonies all had slaves, but slaves could marry whites, and press court claims. There were no minimum wage rules; there were *maximum wage* rules, and *minimum hour* rules, and punishments for idleness. There were different calendars for the colonies. The English used the Julian calendar. The Dutch along the Hudson, and the Germans in Pennsylvania, used the Gregorian calendar, so they were respectively, 10 days different from each other, in calendar dates....

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...Miss Polly was in court for having 5 children, as a single mom. Ben noted that she was arraigned for following the laws of nature, if not of the Province: "...I cannot conceive (may it please Your Honours) what the nature of my offence is...I have brought five fine children into the world...What is a poor woman to do?...I have hazarded the loss of public esteem and have frequently endured public disgrace..." She was acquitted, and one of the judges married her. They had 15 children...

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...George at 6 foot 2 inches, was always a pretty good target in battle, as he usually stayed in the front and in the fight --- this time, and in the future. His hat was shot off his head, and two horses shot from under him. But it was General Braddock, and two-thirds of his British officers, who were killed that day, along with large numbers of soldiers. George loaded the corpses on the wagons, and retreated. He now, at this time in his career, had no combat experience which *had not* resulted in a retreat. The British blamed the colonials, not General Braddock, for the disaster....

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...All southern plantations dealt with a ‘factor system’, by which London buyers of George’s tobacco, would give him a price they determined each year, but would pay him in things he needed, in kind. All of Washington’s equipment, much furniture, toys for the children, kitchen equipment, and clothes (which however hansom for the men and the women, still never quite fit right), would come in on ships from his London factor company. George’s factor company was Robert Cary and Co, and constant arguments about misplaced invoices, equipment with parts missing, were ongoing issues of the year, each year....

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...Hume wrote Ben of a pet peeve of his; the colonialists seemed to be coming up with new words. Hume thought, “The use of new words, where we are already possessed old ones, sufficiently expressive, I confess must be generally wrong...”¹⁷ Hume particularly disliked the new colonial words ‘unshakeable’ and ‘colonize’. Ben agreed to stop using both of them, (*but* we still have them)...

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...He listened to Charles Pratt, who would become Lord Camden, say that the colonies would some day throw off their dependency on Britain. Ben protested that that *could not* happen, unless the colonies were abused. Pratt told him that that was exactly what would eventually happen. At this early stage in the coming arguments along the lines that Pratt was suggesting, Ben would put forth the idea that, “People who have property in a country, which they may lose, and privileges, which they may endanger, are generally disposed to be quiet, while the government is mild and just.”

3. Retreat with Cunning & Diplomacy with Livres

Ben had often tried to point out, that the colonies would be more important to the British Empire, in the future. He wrote to explain to the British, that the colonies would have a doubling of population, in the future, giving them more people than Britain, and asking them to consider what an opportunity that would be, for the ‘increase in trade and navigation’...

**

...There was one problem with the future, now that Britain had won out against France in North America. Britain in coming out the victor over the French in the ‘Seven Years War’, (‘French and Indian War’), had gained almost all

territory, east of the Mississippi River, save that which Spain held in Florida. But that victory had run up a debt of £137 million. Furthermore, it was decided in London, that Britain needed 10,000 troops to hold Canada and the western lands, covering the new area of the West reaching up to the Mississippi River. And, in the victory year, 1763, George Grenville, became First Lord of the Treasury in Britain, and Grenville decided to tackle the debt and annual expense problem....

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...James Otis, in Massachusetts responded to all this, in what is thought to be the first mention of the concept of '*representation*' (since Reverend Wise's overlooked comments in Massachusetts, of over a half century earlier). Otis commented that taxes could not be imposed on people who were not represented in Parliament. (Through this whole coming period, Parliament evidently *would never seriously discuss* this option, this solution, of giving the colonies seats in the House of Commons.)

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...Those who considered themselves, the informed crowd, would check at the popular coffeehouses, to see new pamphlets coming in. Grenville had a subordinate write a *counter-pamphlet*, to Otis' thoughts, addressing the colonial opinions on his Sugar Act tax, and fed it into the coffeehouse news distribution system...

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...The term 'unconstitutional' had, in fact, been used for a hundred years in the colonies. It referred to specific clauses in their various colony constitutions...

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...He wanted to find additional revenue, from the colonies. But he started this, by dropping land tax in Britain, by £400,000 a year, stating that he could make up the difference in colonial tax. It was 1766...

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...No one listened to Ben's theory about the overall growth of empire wealth, through the population increase and productivity increase of colonial populations. Adam Smith would not be publishing, for another ten years...

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...Meanwhile, on his British side of the Atlantic, Ben noted, "Every man in England, seems to jostle himself into the throne with the King, and talks of '*Our*

subjects in the colonies.” Ben also sent home for publication in newspapers, articles which would lead anyone to believe that Englanders had no knowledge of what life in the colonies was about. One article in a British newspaper, which Ben forwarded, dealt with a whale that the article said, had jumped up Niagara Falls...

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...Lawyer John Adams had grown up in Braintree, Massachusetts, son of a farmer, who took him through the most unpleasant of farming experiences, to insure that his son would be more than an indifferent student in school. (John still said he liked farming, but his father would not hear it.) Accepted to Harvard at 15, on graduation, he would apprentice for the law. Developing a profile that worked from dawn to dusk everyday, smoking since he was eight years old, he came into the founding fathers story, as a rather ‘staunch’ (as they say), example of the down-to-earth New Englander.

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...The first inquiry did not go well. Ben asked for three weeks, before the second, thinking things would cool down. But just then, within *those very three weeks*, the ‘Boston Tea Party’ happened...

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...But Sam was going further than others. He was talking about the rights of ‘*People without Doors*’...

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...Those letters of Ben’s, and their sharp opinions, had been obtained by one Mr Jeffries, who gave them, then, to one Mr. Thompson, who gave them to one Count Rumford, who gave them to Lord Germain, who gave them... to King George III....

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...Son Thomas took more to the book collection, reflective, side of his father’s personality. When sent into the wild, with a gun to prove his ‘manly wood’s abilities’, he found a turkey, already caught in someone’s trap, shot it, and returned home. He studied the violin, and read much. Six foot, two, in height, like George Washington, he stood out in the crowd. After attending William and Mary College in Virginia, like John Adams, Thomas Jefferson went on to apprentice in law, and in his early career, defended the free status of a mixed-blood (they all in their times, used the term mulatto) lady. In the defense, Thomas stated ‘all men are created equal’. The Virginia judge cut his argument short...

**

...In contrast to the role in her husband's life, that we will see someone like Abigail Adams play, Deborah Franklin in her life did not seem to enter into debate about this particular history of a nation. Deborah, instead, managed Ben's profitable printing business, while he (and his wit) spent the day becoming an icon of the colonial leaders. She had taken in his illegitimate son William, and had had two additional children with Ben. When Ben was wandering the streets of Philadelphia with his extra socks sticking out of his pockets, and a three-pence bread loaf under his arm, she --- on that very first day for Ben Franklin in Philadelphia --- had spotted him... and giggled at the strange spectacle he made....

**

...America had no bayonets, someone noticed, and Ben was asked to supervise the design of a pike. He was also was put on the committee which built oar boats...with guns. Obviously, no one knew exactly how they were going to deal with the British naval flotillas, when they showed up...

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...Washington's first thoughts, evidently, were about his military record in the past. He had not succeeded in the Virginian mission for Governor Dinwiddie, and then, he was part of Braddock's disastrous loss, where Braddock himself was killed. They were the honest thoughts of a sincere military analyst, who over the coming years, would evolve to become an excellent military analyst...

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...Washington knew that New York City would be the important target, but Manhattan was an island, and not easy to defend from someone with a navy. He went to Philadelphia, to talk to the Continental Congress, but they were still debating whether they were fighting for recognition from Parliament, or fighting for independence. Then, when George got back to New York City, a copy of the Declaration of Independence from Britain, arrived, so one matter was solved...

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...It was rather prophetic, looking back. Over 500,000 people in the colonies read 'Common Sense'. It was the 'pamphlet of the era', and it showed how this new people could adhere to a shared communication system (of 'pamphlet-ing', in this communication case in history), to engender a mindset (a mindset that fostered a successful if-history, in terms of the Era Spirits download book). American Tories put T.P. (Tom Paine) boot nails in their boot heels, and stomped on this particular pamphleteer's name all day (it would probably be taken as a complement today), and they burned his pamphlet...

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...John Adams did *not* give a 4th Reason, for *not* writing the ‘Independence document’. Ben Franklin, always with a quip for everything (whether it was comfortable to the listener or not), responded to John Hancock’s serious cautioning, at the Congress in Philadelphia, that all present must hang together, that yes, they must hang together, or surely, ‘They will hang separately’. In more detail with his dark humor of the moment, Ben told Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, that with Ben’s type of weight, if hung, Ben would die in minutes, but Gerry’s light body, would bounce for an hour. This little detail, concerning the fact that all the signers of Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration, now committed high treason to the King, was not much written about. We have Ben to thank, for the observation that, surely, this must have been on everyone’s mind...

**

...John Adams thought that second day, *July 2*, would always be remembered, as a kind of ‘Independence day’. But the draft had some details to be amended, and it was the 4th of July, before it was officially ready for signatures. ..

**

...Thomas Jefferson had used the term ‘United States’ in the document. Since the early 1760’s the term to *refer to all* the Colonies, had been ‘United Colonies’. This represented some hopeful thinking by those like Ben Franklin, since his old ‘Albany proposal’ for a ‘Council of all Colonies’, and also people like John Dickinson, who wanted to see Colony representation in Parliament.

At the Philadelphia convention, it was obviously a consensus that the term ‘colonies’ had to be out. But then what? The term ‘states’, was agreed upon. So, Jefferson changed the then common usage ‘United Colonies’ that they had all used for some time, into ‘United States’. It’s an unusual name for a country...

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...One reason, for not pushing on, was that much of his force went home. He had over 3000 troops left. Washington asked the Continental Congress for more men, but the States, as the Colonies now would call themselves, were hesitant to send the men they were training, away from the home state, as no one knew where the mobile British with their fleet, would land next...

**

...Another time, surprised by a small British force, George raced to the front, again, and one aide held his breath, and then sheltered his eyes, from what he

thought was definitely the end of his Commander. The British here, and in the future, had trouble analyzing, exactly what the Continental strategy was. Anyway, within that first winter, General Howe decided that the fort-building idea was bad, and ordered everyone back to New York City...

**

...The fur hat was such a sensation in Paris, that he wore it from then on. It was an American rustic theme, for this Boston-Philadelphia city boy. France was already sending ammunition to their West Indies colonies, for American ships to pick up. Silas Deane had been sent earlier, to arrange this. A dummy company was set up in French Haiti and French Martinique, to handle the reshipping to the Americans...

**

...George refused to force the countryside to help, but some help came in. His men sometimes had to actually *time-share clothes*, when they went outside their huts, for duties. Washington went into the winter forest, alone, for prayers for his army, and for his country...

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...Hearing that the British fleet had much damage after a storm, and were being repaired on Long Island, New York, George raced to Newport, to get the French to take advantage of the moment, and attack. He was immediately told, first to attend a ball, with the French officers, all in their full dress uniforms. By the time, George got General Rochambeau, ready to move, the British had recovered, *and left*...

**

...That was okay, but taxation would not be allowed. The states would altogether raise only 6 million dollars, over the war years.

**

...Of course, the Continental Congress had the right to ask the states for money, but all states had equal votes. The Continental Congress ran lotteries since the beginning, but they were not a success, since the value of the continental dollar was weak from the beginning. Washington's troops were paid in these 'continental' dollars. By 1780, the specie value (coins from England and Spain, etc. with metal content, like the shillings or pieces-of-eight) of a 'continental' dollar was about 40 to 1. Some American seaman took bundles of these dollars, and had suits made of the (worthless) 'continentals', in which they paraded...

**

...Alexander was not trained in finance, but evidently, in his aide position, he told his Commander Washington, that the problem with the continental dollar, could be solved with a national bank. He was in no position to act on that. In Philadelphia, in 1779, a Bank of Philadelphia had been created, and Washington could see that its particular currency had held its value...

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...George had won the war. He had fought 9 battles, and won 3 times. How to win with numbers like that? George knew something, from the very beginning, knew it from his experience with General Braddock's defeat, back in the colonial war against the French in the 1750's. He knew how the Euro's fought.

In the famous battle of Quebec, in 1759, which won Canada for Britain, and had inspired New Yorkers to cast an equestrian statue of King George III, the British forces performed a famous nighttime stealth attack, which everyone knew about. General Wolfe had his men climb a fifty-three meter cliff outside the fortress of Quebec, undetected in the night. But they did not attempt to surprise the fortress. Instead they formed a battle formation, and waited for daybreak...

4. Figuring Chief, Judge, and 'Hill'

When Washington went to officially take over New York, after the British evacuation, the ceremony was held up for quite some time, because his troops could not raise the U.S. flag. The British had left their flag up on the tall pole, cut the lines, and greased the pole, making it extremely difficult to change flags.

**

...Back at his home in his Monticello, Thomas Jefferson (whose war story had been somewhat the opposite of Washington's), despondent over the public opinion of him that had resulted from his resignation as Governor, and eventual flight from Monticello, wrote his famous 'Notes on Virginia', dealing with

many items. For the slavery in which his, and all plantations participated, he wrote, "I think a change already perceptible...the spirit of the master abating, and the slave rising from the dust...the way I hope preparing under the auspices of heaven, for a *total emancipation*...Indeed, I tremble for my country, when I reflect that God is just, and that his justice cannot *sleep forever*." It was a prophetic statement with a sad accuracy...

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...Thomas Jefferson, had seen his wife die in childbirth, with what would have been their seventh child. On her deathbed, she asked him not to marry again, and the man --- who could not see the African American as an equal --- took one of his slaves, Sally Hemmings, a beautiful mixed-blood slave, as his de facto wife, confidant, and companion, for the rest of his life...

**

...When the three presented their credentials to the King of France, the collective profile of the six foot two Jefferson, the short Adams, and the stout Franklin, led someone at the Versailles Palace to comment, that '*a candlestick, cannonball, and teapot*' had shown up, as the American holy trinity...

**

...Most Virginians went to school in William and Mary College. Madison went to Princeton (then called College of New Jersey), remembering in later years, the long horse ride there from Virginia, and the usual stop at Bladenburg, a town where he would eventually, see one of the saddest sights of his life, many years later...

**

...Elected to the Continental Congress in 1780, Madison moved into Mrs. House's House, a boarding room hotel, at Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia, and it became a center for Virginians who were in the Continental Congress. This 'House House' was struck by lightning one time, but luckily had Ben Franklin's lightning rods on its roof...

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...Slavery was prohibited in this new western area, as the New England voting block, had now gotten itself organized on the subject of slavery. South of the Ohio River, Virginia, Carolinas, and Georgia still claimed their western land. North Carolina in 1782, sold sections of its western lands to speculators. But then, Spain also still claimed this same land, since Spain had not signed the treaty at the end of the Revolutionary War. North Carolina sent troops west. The Continental Congress stood by and observed, feeling it had no rights in the matter *between* one of its States, and the nation of Spain. (The new Constitutional Congress would eventually take over that same area in 1790, and it would become a State, Tennessee, in 1796)...

**

...All this sudden cooperation among the Continental Congress States, was for a reason. Britain was now making sounds, about the west being part of Canada, and Spain had closed its port of New Orleans, for a while, to try to force the citizens, of what would become Kentucky and what would become Tennessee, to join *them*... not the U.S...

**

...Ben Franklin, at the Convention, was thinking of two executives and one legislative house of the people. John Adams had written his opinions beforehand (he was not present). He wanted a system like the New England colonies and now the State had, with two Houses of legislature, and an Executive, and a Judicial, but he wanted the Executive to have an absolute veto on all legislation, all the time. Hamilton wanted one legislative body, elected for three years, and an Executive elected for life. A Delaware representative threatened on behalf of the smaller states, that there were foreign powers that would be willing to talk to them, individually, if there was no agreement here. A stony look from George Washington, on the dais, shut him up...

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...Madison had wanted both houses, in the two house proposal, to be elected by the people, but the compromise had the Senate elected by the States. Madison did win in his effort, to have the representatives paid by the national government, not by the states. Madison dealt with a rumor at one point, by which King George III, was to be *invited to be* President...

**

...Thomas Jefferson wrote from Paris, that there should be a Bill of Rights, and Madison composed one, and sent it to Thomas to review. (That list would, in fact, become the first Amendments to the Constitution during the Washington Presidency. Some of the rights included would be personal: some would be States rights). Thomas had sent Madison two trunks of books from Europe, on all political theory and subjects, to assist his overall exercise with the

Constitutional Convention. There was one ten day recess through the summer of 1787, and George Washington got his first chance to see what Valley Forge looked like, outside the dead cold of winter. He went fishing there...

**

...Madison did not agree with that. Federalist 41, which Madison wrote, spoke against taxes for the need for a standing army, which is something Hamilton never agreed with. As usual, a pseudonym was used for the author. In this case, one 'Publius' name, was used for all three author contributors, so sometimes 'Publius' did not agree with himself...

**

...Massachusetts Farmer One "...These lawyers and me of learning and money men, that talk so finely, and gloss over matters so smoothly, to make us poor illiterate people swallow down the pill.." Massachusetts Farmer Two "I got a copy of it and read it over and over...I did not go to a lawyer, to ask his opinion. We have no lawyer in our town, and we do well enough without...I formed my own opinion, and was pleased with this Constitution."

**

...George had decided to take no salary, but his previous government job as Commander in the Revolutionary War, had left him £10,000 short. He could only borrow £1000 in Virginia, and had to find another £100 to make the move to New York, the nation's new capital. At the time, he wrote, "the destiny of the *republican form of government* are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

5.Three Capitols

...The city had a wax museum, and already had a wax 'George Washington' for visitors to view. But the city had no piped water, as carts brought water in, from a pump station on Chatham road, and wild hogs, looking for garbage, sometimes delayed the President, on Broadway, on his way from the Presidential House to Federal Hall. Manhattan, already 150 years old, still had much land to spare. A Lutheran church was offered six acres, free, at Broadway and Canal, and turned it down, as it was not worth the fencing cost. The old Articles of Confederation time had not been profitable, and one in seven men, were in debtors prison...

**

...He never wore a European wig. George held levee's (informal discussion meetings), in the afternoon at three o'clock in the President's House; they were open to 'any man in formal attire'. George dressed formally for these, but when an aide shouted 'The President of the United States', once at the beginning, upon opening the door for his entrance, George told him not to do *that sort of thing*. Martha Washington would have teas on Friday's and George would come dressed casually. Washington did a whole tour of New England in 1789, *except* for Rhode Island, which had never showed up for the Constitutional Convention, and had not yet signed the Constitution...

**

...It is fitting that he should move on the next big question of liberty. Reading a speech of a Georgia Congressman, advising Congress against interfering with slavery, true to his style to use wit to make his point, Ben put out a statement from a Mohamet Ibrahim of Algiers, defending taking Christians as slaves. Looking back on what he, and the others had gotten started, in his final years, he said, "God grant that not only the love of liberty, but a thorough knowledge of the rights of man, may pervade all the nations of the earth, so that a philosopher may put his foot anywhere on its surface, and say, 'This is my country' "

**

...Then it became apparent that Hamilton wanted to pay the old soldier and small bondholder IOU's and bonds at face value, while acquaintances of his were sending agents to backwoods areas, to buy up the debt at the existing steep discounts. James Madison now stepped in. Madison campaigned to have the original holders receive the face value, not the speculators. Hamilton thought that system too difficult to implement. But in an age of pamphlets and newspapers, which had done much to bring awareness to a people to fight for a democracy, it seems strange that the Federal government thought it had no way to inform its citizens, that their IOU's and bonds, in the hands of average citizens and veterans, would have a future better value, when Hamilton's Treasury plan was unveiled to pay face value...

**

...When the Bank was licensed, the public ran the script price up from \$25 to \$300. Everything else seemed to stop in New York, and Philadelphia, as ship captains signed off on voyages, to trade script. The North had used money and hard coin specie, since colonial times. The South still operated basically on barter, so they looked on. Hamilton's classmate friend and former Treasury employee, William Duer, quickly became the main name, associated with the speculation. Again, as with buying the war veterans notes, Hamilton confidants

seemed to have an inside track, to some of those who were watching this event unfold. On Black Monday, August 12, 1791, the shares collapsed. Hamilton issued 200,000 dollars, to stabilize the market, and an African American street vendor in Philadelphia, started taking script shares, in payment for her food stall's fresh hot corn...

**

...Hamilton nevertheless was still determined to get U.S. manufacturing going. He paid the expenses of a George Parkinson, to learn about the British flax-spinning industry. He did the same for an employee of Richard Arkwright, in Britain, who memorized Arkwright's textile machinery design. Hamilton also paid for industrial espionage on British fabric color staining, and bleaching operations, and also for an individual, who had learned the latest British cotton mill design. When Hamilton, as Treasurer, was granted his request to present his 'Report on Manufacturers' to Congress, he had displays of all sorts of sample products, from woolen goods to carpets, to lay out on the Congress committee room floor...

**

...President George Washington subscribed to the National Gazette (\$3 a year), and then was dismayed, as he watched his administration attacked by it. Washington consistently continued to defend Hamilton, because the financial stability, in general, was much better than anyone had seen in the past, in spite of the problems with the bubbles, and the unfairness to the original small-holders of the war IOU's and notes....

**

...George had also been finding the development of the Federal City, for his new country, on the Potomac River, slow going. Early on, he had visited the site with architect L'Enfant, and agreed that the Capitol Building should be on Jenkins Hill. George picked another high ground site within L'Enfant's plan, for the President's House. Only 35 lots, had been sold, and L'Enfant had insisted a \$1 million bond be now floated to ensure the proper finance for the new capital city...

**

...George was hesitant to do that. The President's House (it would only become the 'White House' in the Monroe administration, for a reason of the times) was reduced from three story's, to two story's... to save money...

**

...George made a presidential trip of the States in the South, to equal his New England tour. He was disappointed to see that breakfast in the South, did not necessarily include pancakes every day. As a man who liked dancing, many

dances were prepared for him, causing him to stay up beyond his usual 9:00 pm retiring time...

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**

...Genet found the American public enthusiastic about France's Revolution, and about their war with Britain, at least the public outside New England, where opinion was more pro-Britain, because New England traded with Britain. Genet wanted to outfit privateer ships against the British, in American harbors, which is what America had done, under the coordination of Ben Franklin, in French harbors, in America's Revolution. Many French aristocracy started fleeing to the U.S., including Louis Philippe Bourbon, who would become one of the kings of France, in France's relapse to monarchy, in the next century. Future Emperor Louis Philippe lived over a barbershop in Philadelphia, in this period...

**

...In 1793, a plague hit Philadelphia. Many died. Congress fled. Washington stayed in the city of empty streets. No one buried the dead, except the African Methodist Church, under the leadership of African American Absalom Jones. (Philip Freneau, in the National Gazette, had some words for the other Christian churches, who did *not* assist Absalom.) No one in this century knew that this fever illness was carried by mosquitoes. The chairman of the chemistry department of the University of Pennsylvania, pronounced that the plague came from discharge given off some spoiled coffee, on Philadelphia's Arch Street wharf, and had gunpowder set off around the city, to counter the discharge vapors.

French doctors, from the French part of the West Indies, recommended rest, cool water, to deal with the plague, as they were familiar with malaria. That became known as a '*Republican remedy*', as it had to do with France, whereas the University chemistry chairman solution (with the gunpowder

blasts), became known as the '*Federalist remedy*'. It is amazing how modern the contention between parties seems....

**

...Eventually, the fight between the National Gazette and the Gazette of the United States, brought Jefferson's relation with his slave, Sally Hemmings, into national view. It also uncovered Alexander Hamilton's relation with one Maria Reynolds. Maria's former husband, who had made a living forging the war IOU's for dead soldiers, then collecting on them (until one of the dead turned out to be alive), put together a blackmail program against Hamilton, for which Hamilton paid. Hamilton decided to admit his blackmail situation. Jefferson decided to say nothing. Thomas now wanted to retire from the nastiness of politics, but decided to wait to the end of the Washington term....

**

...Washington, himself, thought that this would be his only four years, as President. The developing partisan fight between the Federalists and the Republicans, was the factor, that convinced him, to allow the nation to put his name on the ballot, once again. Jefferson, himself, on one side of the ongoing Federalist-Democratic Republican feud, pleaded with George to stay, arguing, 'the Union may be in danger, without you.'...

...At the same time, Washington asked for treaties, in all cases, with the Native Americans. His plan was that within the new U.S. West, east of the Mississippi River, which was now the U.S. western boundary, the federal government should set up areas of land, that would be *permanently reserved* for Native Americans.

The settlers and land speculators had no such plan, and Washington himself, as a land speculator, had 40,000 acres in the West, which he would sell in his retirement. The Catawab tribe came to Washington, to petition for fairness on one tract of theirs in North Carolina, and George took a position against an unfair treaty, manufactured by a few bribed tribesmen....

**

...Average people, like war veteran officers in New York, were, themselves, given land parcels in the west. James Madison had bought 1000 acres in the Mohawk Valley at \$1.50 an acre, from speculators, and had asked Jefferson, when Thomas was in Paris, to bring in French capital, to buy a larger piece, advising Thomas, that Madison had heard that they could get 6% interest, if they bribed the Paris financiers.

Then, as well, on a large scale, people like Robert Morris, who had helped finance the Revolution, went on to get a special deal on 6000 lots in the new Federal City (which would someday be named Washington D.C.). Morris used the Federal City lots as collateral, for a Dutch loan on 6 million acres in the west, Pennsylvania to Georgia. (This did not work out. Robert Morris went broke, and ended up in a debtor prison.)

**

...Thomas Jefferson had given one Native American some press of his own, in his 'Notes on Virginia', written before he did his tour in Paris. He reprinted something from the Virginia papers at the end of colonial times, where a Chief Logan, who had been a friend to Virginians, saw his family killed in a war against Native Americans: "I appeal to any white man, if ever he be entered into Logan's camp hungry, and he gave him not meat...cloathed him not...Colonel Cresap last spring...unprovoked, murdered all the relations of Chief Logan...who is there to mourn for Chief Logan, not One?"

**

...Eventually, fed up with his own decision, not to follow politics, Thomas took a subscription to Ben Franklin's grandson's 'Aurora', and started to follow national political debates (and polemics), again. Hamilton's financial policies irked him. Of the ongoing government finances, and their connection with the money groups of Philadelphia and New York, Jefferson wrote, "Hamilton's system...had two objectives. 1st as a puzzle, to exclude popular understanding. 2nd as a machine for the corruption of the legislature." It was Thomas' hatred of ongoing Hamilton policies, that probably now drove him *back into* politics...

**

...When Jay's ship had left for Britain, New York crowds had cheered his mission. Now, on return, Jay himself noted, 'I can walk the length of America, by the glow from my own flaming effigies'. But the treaty was finally accepted by Congress. At least, the Northwest (which meant Ohio to Wisconsin) was secured

**

...Of course, America would go on, to always find itself in the middle of foreign involvement, and would go on, also, to always be in the middle of organized citizen criticisms. So, interestingly enough, George's two major pieces of advice, which he really wanted to get across to everyone, would not be followed by his fellow citizens, in his time... or any time in the future. Furthermore, from this point forward, America would witness a two-party system. George was hoping that would never be the case....

**

...When Gilbert Stuart painted the most famous portrait we have of George, Stuart insisted to take out the hippopotamus false teeth, and substituted cotton. Historian Richard Norton Smith noted that Gilbert's portrait procedure gives all of us, in posterity, 'a steely Washington'. In fact, it does....

**

...President Washington tried to sell President John Adams some Presidential House furniture, he had financed himself, and also two horses. President Adams was not a buyer, and George later admitted that the horses were, in fact, older than he had indicated. The capital was still Philadelphia, for four more years, and the Presidential House, was still financier Robert Morris' mansion on Market Street, which had also been used as the residence of British General Gage, when Britain had taken over Philadelphia, during the Revolutionary War...

**

...Now the Federalists, who would be *only* be in power until after the election, were presiding over an Electoral College election, which would put their rival Democratic-Republicans in power!? The balloting went on for five days, with delegates sleeping in their chairs one night. A suggestion was made (by the outgoing Federalists) that perhaps an interim President, say, John Marshall of the Supreme Court, should be named, but rumors of Democratic-Republican militias forming in Virginia and Pennsylvania, to come to the new capital, brought that discussion to an end. Federalist John Adams left the Federal City, now called 'Washington' city, at 4:00 am, for New England, and home, on the inauguration day for the new President, Democratic-Republican Thomas Jefferson...

**

...In the uncompleted new Capitol, Congressmen had to speak occasionally, over the sound of rifle fire of hunters after quail and wild turkey, just outside the Capitol Building. The marshes gave a constant background sound of croaking frogs. There were stumps in the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue, that carriages had to maneuver around. Maps given to visitors had all the planned buildings shown, most of which, did not exist yet....

**

...Thomas wanted to pay off the national debt of \$112 million over 16 years, and cut taxes. "We are hunting out, and abolishing multitudes of useless offices," he promised. He thought to close what embassies the U.S. had overseas. His Treasury Secretary, Albert Gallatin, talked him into keeping the

customs import duties, and the National Bank. John Adams, in retirement, expressed worry about dismantling the navy, which he had put together because of the French war scare...

**

...The Presidential bows of George Washington, and stiff formality of John Adams were gone. Jefferson greeted Ministers in the President's House in his slippers. Mrs. Merry, the British Ambassador's wife complained that at official dinners, when it was time to sit to dine, Jefferson would take one of the wives to sit with him, and all others followed suit, so there was absolutely no planned seating arrangement at the table. Jefferson kept a mockingbird in his study at the Presidential House, which he let out of its cage, when he worked; the bird would sometimes be seen on his shoulder....

**

...There was one other problem. This agreement with France for the purchase, had been rushed through, the Federalist opposition noted, with less time and discussion than the average Native American treaty. The Presidential office, more or less, did the whole thing. This is exactly what Jefferson, as a Democratic-Republican, *had always complained about*, with the Federalists, and in particular, with the John Adams' presidency. For this 'slip', Thomas said he hoped, "the good sense of our country will correct the evil of (broad) construction (of the Constitution), when it produces ill effects."

**

...Burr went further with this plan on his own. Jefferson and Congressmen were to be assassinated at the same time, and the U.S. mint raided. Burr approached General Eaton, who had recently led the Tripoli attack, to join him. General Eaton told this strange story to Congress. Everyone laughed, but then the same story arrived from other sources. Some heard that 500 men were to attack Congress, in the sparsely populated Washington, and drive the Congressmen into the Potomac.

Some remembered that Burr in his last speech as Vice President, and presiding officer of the Senate, had said something to the extent that, if the Republic perished, the event would be *witnessed on the floor* of Congress...

**

...President Jefferson, in his Presidential term, would come to the conclusion, that John Marshall intended to use the Supreme Court as a political tool. The Supreme Court in its early three years had little to do, but its Justices had to all ride circuits for 27 circuit courts, plus hold two sessions at the Supreme Court,

all of which made for an arduous year, each year. This was in the years when the capital was in Philadelphia.

The Justices had complained to then President Washington, and it was decided that only one Justice had to be at each circuit court location, at a time. Hamilton had wanted U.S. Justices to wear wig and cloak, but Jefferson (in his Washington administration years), had insisted they did not. Justice Cushing went to court with his old British judicial wig and cloak the first day of court, then noticed someone laughing at him on the street, and went home to change...

**

...John Adams, when he lost the election of 1800 to Jefferson, immediately appointed fifty Federalist justices. This was called the 'midnight appointments', and Democratic-Republicans complained. John Marshall was appointed Chief Justice by Adams. Marshall's legal training had been three months of law lectures. However, some of President Adams's other appointments were not delivered, and the new President Jefferson, on taking office, told the new Secretary of State, James Madison not to deliver them...

**

...The Supreme Court in *Marbury v Madison*, 1801, ordered the delivery of the appointments, but more important, it established for the first time --- and forever --- that it would decide and rule on any case it took from lower courts: the *right of 'judicial review'*....

**

...Secretary of War, General Armstrong's, greatest fault, was failing to organize the 100,000 militiamen that were available in the states around Washington, D.C., to protect the capital. In 1814, 4000 British troops landed on the Chesapeake shore. Madison warned wife Dolley in the Presidential House, to get ready to flee, then rode toward the British landing area, to take charge himself. Dolley loaded the wagons available with important items, like the portrait of George Washington, and left. She would never sleep in the Presidential House again....

**

...Admiral Cockburn moved on to the Presidential House, and found that dinner had been left on the table, by those departing in haste. He sat down at the table, toasted his success, took one souvenir top hat of President Madison, and had his troops burn the Presidential House. The next day, the British burned other government buildings, leaving the Patent Office, where a Dr Thornton of the Office, stayed behind to stubbornly tell the British General Rush, that he could

not burn that building under his rules of engagement, because it contained private property of citizens. So the General didn't burn it...

**

...The peace treaty was not harsh on the American side. Evidently British overall Commander Wellington, who had beaten Napoleon by this time, said that America was unconquerable, when he was asked to take over the war. In the discussion, there had been the usual British denial of fishing rights off Newfoundland, for the New England fishing ships. Henry Clay, representing the West, was willing to give up those rights, in return for renegotiating the final U.S. rights to navigation on the Mississippi, that still were not permanent, as a result of the old Revolutionary War settlement...

**

...(The reason why Americans and British both still believed that the navigation rights to the Mississippi River were a British-Canadian matter, was that at the end of the Revolutionary War, everyone believed the Mississippi river originated in British Canada. At the end of this second War with the British, everyone *still thought* that.) The Senate ratified the peace. The war became known as the *War of 1812*...

**

...James Madison, joined his fellow early leaders, in showing a serious interest in things scientific. Losing his thermometer, at the burned Presidential House, and now moving to Octagon House, Madison continued to record daily thermometer readings, from the shade side of the building... to send them to Thomas Jefferson, at Monticello, as he had before the War...

**

...The Presidential House in its rebuilding after the British burning, with a bright multiple coat of white paint, to cover the scorch of the burning on the outer walls that still stood, now became known, in slang, as the '*White House*'. Over the years, the new handle became favored...

**

...John Quincy was also negotiating with Lord Canning, Minister for Britain on the Columbia River basin, which would give the Louisiana Territory an Ocean boundary. Jefferson was in touch, at that time, to say that Texas should be included in the negotiation with the weakened Spain, in order to give the U.S. an outlet on the Southern Sea (their name at the time, for the Pacific Ocean). John Quincy did not succeed with Lord Canning, on getting the Columbia River basin, and in one moment of exasperation, raised his voice to say that 'the modern British claim everything is theirs, Africa, India'... Lord Canning stopped him briefly to add, 'a piece of the Moon'...

**

...At one time, during the Madison administration, Madison prematurely assumed that the British were lifting their Orders of Council's impossible requirements for American shipping, and 600 ships immediately left port in the U.S., before the reality of that false hope was revealed. So strong was the early American impulse to do business and trade...

**

...The sister-thought, to the British insistence for a mercantile shipping monopoly, was to keep all manufacturing at home. A member of Parliament, at the time of the War of 1812, said, "America...could not do without Birmingham --- she could not shave herself, or catch her mice without their aid." What he meant, was that America, even at that point in time, manufactured practically nothing. This was starting to change, as the freedom for shipping, in the Monroe administration, finally began the manufacturing growth, which Alexander Hamilton had years before, tried to nurture. It was slow growth, because, although the U.S. could compete in price, the goods produced in America, were generally of inferior quality to British goods...

**

...The U.S. population itself had, in President Monroe's time, doubled, to over 8 million. The Mississippi trade itself boomed. Philip Freneau, the polemicist for Jefferson and Madison, in the Democratic-Republican press, had written in his time, a citizen's thoughts on government infrastructure, "Having heard that there was a tavern, about a distance of a mile,... Mrs. Slender told me elevenpence was enough, say I, I'll take a quarter dollar, for a man always feels himself of more consequence when he had got good money in his pocket... But I had not gone more than half the way, when by making a false step, I splashed my stocking from knee to ankle...I moralized on my splash'ed stockings, but money might be with more profit be laid out in repairing roads, than on marine establishments, supporting a standing army, useless embassies, exorbitant salaries...

**

...In 1823, British Minister George Canning, proposed to Secretary of State John Quincy Adams that a joint statement be made between Britain and the U.S., discouraging European, (that is, discourage the Spanish) involvement in the Americas. John Quincy told President Monroe, that he thought that was not the way to go; America should go it alone, on the statement. Monroe agreed, and gave a policy speech prepared by John Quincy, that is today, called the 'Monroe Doctrine'.

6. Fast Founding Habits

They were all Englishmen. Every founding father, who participated in the startup of the new nation, had tea in the afternoon, was raised on the history of the British nation, and would have a special respect for the English way of life, whatever happened. They also thought that their insistence on liberty actually came from their English blood. Ben Franklin put it that Englishmen, transported to America, even until the fourth generation, show the spirit of liberty, “which in every age so gloriously distinguished Britons and Englishmen from the rest of mankind.” These were the Englishmen Founding Fathers of America....

**

...Ben, at the same time noted, that the privilege of birth, was one thing that could *not* be transported to the new land, it being of little use, in, “America, where we do not inquire concerning a Stranger, ‘What is he?’, but ‘What can he do?’”² Ben had visited Ireland, and it called him to think thankfully of the American middle class, who, ‘with a vote in public affairs, lives in a tidy warm house’. He saw in Ireland, an economic system that favored only some, and this, in Ben’s time, was the result of hereditary privilege: “three quarters of the people of Ireland live the year round on potatoes and buttermilk, without shirts, that they may they export beef, butter, and linen”

**

...In his retirement years, Washington invited a well-known British comedian to dinner, after a road collision incident, that they both happened upon, near George’s Mount Vernon. George was explaining the American equality theory to the British comedian after dinner, just at the moment that a slave woman brought them drinks. George noticed the comedian smile, and got the message that his visitor thought George’s talk on equality incongruous, with owning slaves. George nodded and added, “the rooting out of slavery, can perpetuate the existence of our Union...”

**

...If more thought had been given to George Washington’s plan for Native American rights, large tracts of land inhabited over a hundred years by descendants of the Native Americans of the Founding Fathers’ times, would have brought a changed record on both ecology and also on human rights, to the future of the Founding fathers’ country. It also would have left a modern landscape of immense tracts of forest land in the eastern half of the U.S.

**

...Ben also tells us a story of the Virginia commissioners offer to the Iroquois Six Nations, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the 1740's, to take some young natives to give an education. The chiefs present said, 'No thanks', for those who had been sent before, came back "bad runners, ignorant of every means of living in the woods, unable to bear cold or hunger...neither fit for warriors, hunters, or counselors... they were totally good for nothing."

**

...When asking for prayers to start the --- at that moment in time unsuccessful -- - Constitutional Convention, Ben put it that the lack of progress at the Convention, was "proof of imperfection of human understanding...How has it happened that we have not hitherto on the thought of humbly applying to the Father of Lights, to illuminate our understanding..." George Washington, gave demonstration of that call to humbly applying to the Father, in his Valley Forge winters, in going into the winter forest alone to pray, and in calling for morning prayers for his troops...

**

...There was no discussion of the rights of women in this period. But there was the demonstration of the type of womanhood, that would someday in future American history, bring all, to discuss women's rights, in the person of Abigail Adams, wife of President John. When John Adams was an envoy for the U.S., for what turned out to be several years in Europe, Abigail took over the farming in their New England farm, learned the necessities, and, most important, called herself in her writings, a 'Farmeress'.

In the use of the important '-ess', in her self-designation, Abigail would have something to say to some modern American women, about the utilizing of the '-ess' label in all professions, to proudly announce, 'Women are doing this; this professional is a woman'. (But unfortunately, American women, for the moment, in modern times, turn away from Abigail's proclamation, and even 'actresses' shy from proclaiming the *feminine contribution*, as does the modern doctress, lawyeress, and architectess.)

**

...When husband John was at the Constitutional Convention, helping to compose a new code for society, Abigail wrote him, 'Remember the Ladies'. He --- all of them --- *did not*, in that particular document, remember the ladies, until a long distant Amendment (19th) came along. Throughout her life, Abigail wrote on politics. At the Revolution, Abigail Adams announced, "a people may let a King fall, yet remain a people; why not proclaim to the World in decisive terms (our) importance." Through her life, her letters put forth astute political analysis. She predicted her husband's loss, on his bid for a second term as President...

**

...The whole British (coffee and tea house) world was already using pamphlets to convince others about one's opinions. What is remarkable here, is not the use of pamphlets, but that this group of people, these Founding people, believed it necessary for them, incumbent upon them, to *make the effort to convince* every citizen to follow the scheme of the bigger picture they believed lay ahead... for all.

It would not always solve all problems. When President Madison wrote a pamphlet explaining the need to stand up to Britain, before the War of 1812, Senator Randolph threw it on the floor of Congress, saying, "a shilling pamphlet hurled against eight hundred ships of war!" (He was referring to the power of Madison's international trade logic talk, against the fire-power of the British war machine.)

**

...Betsy Patterson, when she was chosen by Napoleon's brother to become Betsy Napoleon, came to public interest, as boys crowded around her carriages, to observe what one American described as something, he hoped would not often be seen in his country, 'an almost naked woman'. We do not have details of her daily dress appearance, but, as dress customs went, it is good to keep in mind, Betsy's friend, Dolly, Mrs. President Madison, was often publicly criticized for wearing a dress, without the required handkerchief at her bosom...

**

...President Jefferson continued on, in his Presidential years, with his argument with European Buffon, about whose animals were larger, Europe or North America. One particular argument developed with Buffon, about the existence (or non-existence) of the North American Mammoth. Jefferson's friends presented him, in the midst of his size-contest, with a *mammoth* 1200 pound cheese, 'from the milk of 900 cows, not one of them Federalist'!

**

...French writer de Crevecoeur, who wrote about the new immigrant, breathing the North American air, and suddenly becoming a new person, with new schemes, also had an additional thought. He believed that the American nation would complete the cycle of the ages, which started in China. As a consumer economy, that had been a mainstay in Britain's mercantile dreams of the 1700's, America would remain a consumer economy that would help bring to vitality, another trade power, in the 2000's century --- China --- in its time of profitable participation in American consumerism. It is a manifestation of a phenomenon at which de Crevecoeur thought he peered, from his early standing point, but it is certainly not what de Crevecoeur had in mind...

**

...Eventually, they were all retirees. Ben, still reading, forever reading about his world, invented bi-focal lenses in his old age, to assist in continuing his reading (as did the high-shelf book-grabbing device he invented to get at his many books). When Ben heard that the Bald Eagle had been chosen as the national bird, he disagreed. He understood, the eagle was liked for its fierceness, but pointed out, that the turkey is equally fierce in defending its farmyard.

**

...Adams, in the end, said that the only differences they really had were hairstyles; Jefferson wrote Adams was of the original band of brothers of the Revolution. They never met, but both decided, evidently, that they were going to make their last days last, until July 4th, 1826, the year, they both felt was their final one. They succeeded, Jefferson dying six hours before John Adams. (Monroe would also try to make it to the '4th', on his last year, but would die in June.)

**

...Monroe would seem to be the last to leave, but there is one person, in our story, here, that evidently lingered longer: Dolly Madison. She had labored over the reconstruction of the White House, in her final years in Washington, after the burning in 1814. She was particularly involved with the lawn and the rose garden. When President Wilson's wife decided to relocate the rose garden, over a hundred years later, in the early twentieth century, frightened gardeners reported a lady with a turban and two large plumes had challenged them. It was Dolly Madison's favorite headpiece. The rose garden stayed put, where it had always been. It's still there...

**

...But then Ben also said, at the very end of his life's long efforts, "I seem to have intruded myself into the company of posterity, when I ought to have been abed and asleep...whether I have been doing good or mischief, is for time to discover."¹³ We, who have seen that future, far beyond a 100 years, should make an effort to assure Ben, and also his Founding-comrades, in their long sleep, that they had all been doing good.