

Benjamin Franklin

September 17 is celebrated throughout the United States as Constitution day, since it was on that date in 1787 that the delegates to the Constitutional convention in Philadelphia finished their work and signed their names to the document under which the United States has been governed for 148 years. What manner of men were these "Fathers of the Republic"? What was their preparation for their great work? Under what circumstances did they bring into ex-Istence one of the most Important charters of government in all history? What did they think of the fruits of their labor after they had finished?

These and other questions which naturally come to mind as we celebrate Constitution day are answered in this article.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



r WAS hot in Philadelphia that summer of 1787-one of the hottest the little city had ever known. And of all its 20,000 inhabitants none suffered more discomfort than a little group of 40 or 50 men who gathered every day in a small room in the State house and sweltering there behind closed windows and closed doors wrestled with the tremendous task of saving a new nation from chaos.

United States of America had about reached Morris and James Wilson. the Continental congress, which was making a ledge. futile effort, under the authority given it by the Articles of Confederation, to function as a governing body. Measure after measure was proposed in congress to provide funds for government expenses but most of these failed for lack of the necessary nine votes. Even when the bills were passed the states treated the demands upon them for funds with the greatest indifference. In fact, a more appropriate name for the nation at that time would have been the Disunited States of America.

The soldiers of the disbanded army which had camped outside the city and began threatening to stone the building where the congress was meeting unless their demands were met. Presently the situation became so threatening that the congress had to flee from Philadelphia to Princeton, N. J., where it sat for a while, then went on to New York.

holding of a constitutional convention and called only two years his elder. Alexander Hamilton on the states to send delegates to such a meeting of New York, destined to play a leading role in York plan, sponsored by Hamilton, which looked in Philadelphia "to take into consideration the situation of the United States, to revise the Articles of Confederation and to devise such further barely thirty, and James Madison, who would provisions as should appear to them necessary to render the Constitution of the federal government adequate to the exigencies of the Union," Each state could send as many delegates as it pleased, since each was to have but one collective vote.

Of all the states only Rhode Island, which had been at odds with the federal government almost from the beginning, refused to send any delewas the last to ratify the Constitution after one was finally adopted. New Hampshire was in favor of the meeting but because of lack of funds its delegates did not arrive until the convention was well under way.

Altogether 72 of the leading citizens of the 13 that the first meeting was held. states were accredited as delegates although some of them failed or refused to go. Outstanding among the latter was Patrick Henry, the flery orator of the Revolution, who was suspicious of the purposes of the convention. Or, as he phrased it, "I smelt a rat!" Of the 72 accredited delegates, 55 took part in the deliberations of the convention at one time or another but only 39 stayed on the job until the end. They were the following:

DELAWARE-Richard Bassett, Gunning Bed- mander in the struggle for liberty. ford, Jr., Jacob Broom, John Dickinson and George Read.

GEORGIA-Abraham Baldwin and William

MARYLAND-Daniel Carroll, Daniel Jenifer and James McHenry.

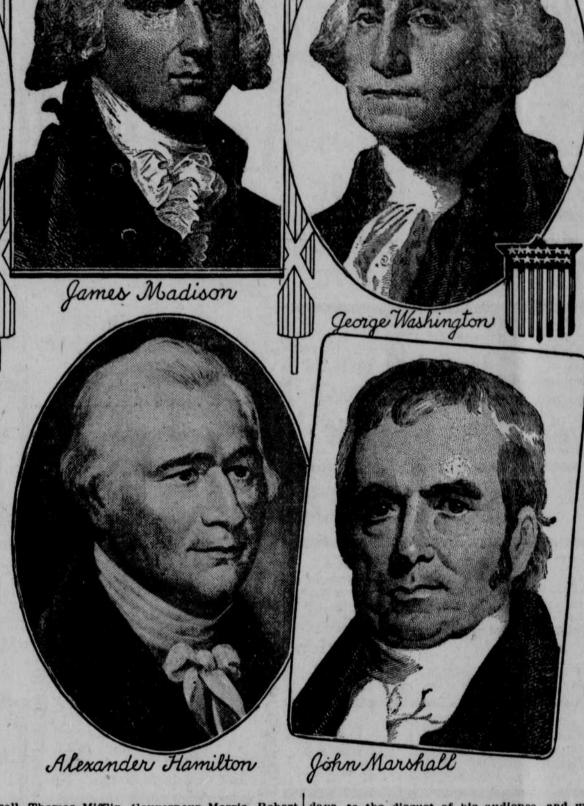
MASSACHUSETTS-Nathaniel Gorman and Rufus King.

NEW HAMPSHIRE-Nicholas Gilman and

NEW JERSEY-David Breasley, Jonathan Dayton, William Livingston and William Patterson.

NEW YORK-Alexander Hamilton. D. Spaight and Hugh Williamson.

Fitzsimmons, Benjamin Franklin, Jared Inger- actually spread his speech over a period of two



For indeed the fortunes of the soll, Thomas Mifflin, Gouverneur Morris, Robert days, to the disgust of his audience, and while

their lowest ebb. Only 15 members, represent- SOUTH CAROLINA-Pierce Butler, Charles up for it by the frequency with which they spoke. ing seven states, were attending the sessions of Pinckney, Charles C. Pinckney and John Rud-

George Washington.

Of this number more than half, 21, were lawwere farmers, landowners or planters, three were merchants, two bankers or "financiers," one an educator, two physicians and one a soldier. Most meant the end of the federal union. But more of them were well educated. Nine of them had studied in the Inner Temple or the Middle Temple in England, one at Oxford under Blackstone and two in Scottish universities. Half of the delegates were graduates of American or Eurowon the fight for freedom from England were pean colleges, three were professors and one, unpaid and in an ugly mood. They wanted their Dr. William S. Johnson, was president of Colummoney, long overdue, and large numbers of them bia college, on leave of absence to act as delegate from Connecticut.

Moreover it was a convention of young men. The patriarch Benjamin Franklin was then came a proverbial drop in the temperature in eighty-one years old, but 20 of the 55 were under forty years of age. Jonathan Dayton of New tively. Jersey was the "baby" of the convention-only twenty-seven years old. Charles Pinckney, who From New York the congress authorized the submitted the first draft of the Constitution, was the convention but a more important one in se- to a strong centralized federal government; and curing the ratification of the Constitution, was the New Jersey plan, which was in the nature become known as the "Father of the Constitu- the substance of the Virginia plan, with its 15 tion," was thirty-six.

> John Marshall, then only thirty-two years old, was not a delegate to the convention. But because of his part in securing the ratification of the Constitution and the work he did as chief justice of the United States later in interpreting it and strengthening the federal foundations of in the document. Then the delegates returned the government by means of it, he is entitled to to their labors, studying and debating every line tion."

> that time were poor and travel was expensive and slow, so it was not until two weeks later phraseology. Out of that committee, headed by

on Friday, May 25, although only a few more more perfect union, etc." than half the delegates had arrived by that time. Seven states were represented at this meeting, according to one authority; according to another, opposed to one or another aspect of it. Indeed there were nine. Whatever the number, those present got down to business at once by electing it and who refused to sign it. a presiding officer. Benjamin Franklin, because of his age and the fact that this was his home city, was the logical choice for this position but CONNECTICUT-Roger Sherman and William he graciously waived that honor and suggested the choice of George Washington, the late com-

> presided throughout the convention with his with a feeling of doubt as to the outcome. Not usual dignity. His chair was on a raised plate even the words of Benjamin Franklin, as the form and it was a rule of the sessions that the last members were signing, could entirely reasmembers should stand at their places, upon ad- sure them. Pointing to the sun that was painted journing, until he had preceded them from the on the back of the president's chair, he said: room. Occasionally the great Virginian yielded "I have often and often in the course of the sesthe chair and took the floor as a Virginia dele- sions and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears gate to express his views on the question at as to its issue looked at that behind the presi-

upon the business for which it had been called happiness to know that it was a rising and not and from that time until September 17 these men a setting sun." struggled daily with their great task in that | And history justified Franklin's prophecy. For stuffy room in the old State house, suffering ter- from that date 148 years ago a new sun in the NORTH CAROLINA-William Blount, Richard ribly from the heat and-it must be admitted!- constellation of nations has been rising steadily also suffering from weariness with the long to its zenith. Its name is the United States .. PENNSYLVANIA - George Clymer, Thomas speeches of some of the delegates. One of them America.

others were not so long-winded as he, they made

Debate, argument, controversy, bitterness over clashing personalities and viewpoints-all of VIRGINIA-John Blair, James Madison and these characterized the convention which finally produced the Constitution of the United States. Nor was the sultry weather conducive to serenyers. Six are classified as "statesmen," three ity and judicial consideration of momentous problems. More than once the convention threatened to break up and if it had it might have than once wise old Ben Franklin acted as peacemaker and saved the situation.

> Once he tided the convention over a deadlock by suggesting that the delegates seek guidance in prayer. This brought from Hamilton the caustic remark that "no foreign aid was needed," a remark that was something of a fling at Franklin's well-known fondness for the French. When another crisis came Franklin suggested a temporary adjournment and along with the recess which tempers cooled both literally and figura-

> The greater part of the controversy revolved around three principal plans of governmentthe Virginia plan, sponsored by Madison, which safeguarded the rights of the states; the New of a compromise between the two. Eventually "resolutions" expanded to 23, won out.

On July 26 the convention turned over the job of making a final draft of the complete Constitution to a "committee on detail" and adjourned until August 26. While doing this the committee embodied some suggestions of its own gates at all and, consistent with its attitude, it a high place among the "Makers of the Constituexact definitions wherever necessary, making The date set for the opening of the convention alterations and compromising differences in was the second Menday in May. The roads of phraseology. Finally it was turned over to a "committee on style" which polished up the Gouverneur Morris, came the sonorous "We, the The convention met formally for the first time People of the United States, in order to form a

Later the final draft of the Constitution was gone over again for there were still delegates there were some who refused to be satisfied with

Gouverneur Morris won over several obstinate members with his suggestion that the delegates approve the Constitution as states even though they personally refused to sign it and at last all those present except Gerry, Mason and Randolph signed. Despite the fact that their great task Washington's election was unanimous and he was ended the delegates adjourned in gloom and dent without being able to tell whether it was On Monday, May 28, the convention entered rising or setting. But now at length I have the

Western Newspaper Union.

College Dean Tells Women Fixed wives may carry to market for use in identifying the kind of fish they want. Goal Is Vital to Married Life

and mother, has found what she be working. lieves to be a solution. Her con-

·lusions are:

"But she should not keep a job and just drift along without any

She continued: "From the economic point of view, the woman is not gaining much by working unless her salary is large enough to enable her to hire the work done which she would do if she were home. Unless things go with order and precision, and the atmosphere is kept homelike it does not pay her economically or psycholog ically, to leave the home. It is very easy for a woman to destroy this home psychology by working outside.

"The professional woman who is not interested in her home is a hazard to the development of a successful home life. There is nothing worse than to come home to a place which is definitely 'maid-made,' a home which lacks personality, vitality, and real home interest. A woman ought to be vitally interested in every phase of her home.

"The woman who works outside the home should protect her home life so that her husband and children will always have the feeling that it belongs to them. She should not flood her home with outside in

"I believe strongly in a marriage program. As soon as possible, young people should pick out what I call third loyalty'-some goal that they want to reach more than anything else, and not waste too much time just looking at each other. It may just looking at each other. It may cura Laboratories, Dept. R, Malden, be a child, or the opportunity for Mass."—Adv.

Marriage vs. career-what's the the man to continue studying, or olution of the problem for a married building a home, but whatever it is it must bring their lives more closely Lucy Jenkins Franklin, dean of together. With a definite end in women at Boston university, a wife view, I approve of married women

"The married woman who wants a career has two jobs, and she must "If a couple is working for a have a methodical and executive definite goal which will further their mind in order to do them successplans for establishing a happy home. fully. She must also have the physia married woman should work if she | cal strength necessary for such an undertaking."

State Identifies Fish

Because so many California fish are known by several names, and because the same names are applied to different fish, state officials have Successful Elimination published a booklet which house-

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