

America, A Christian Nation?

Dr. Lyons



America the Beautiful

One of most popular patriotic songs

Written by Katharine Lee Bates

Published in 1895

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!

God shed his grace on thee

And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

Pilgrims, Self-control, God cleansing us

O beautiful for **pilgrim feet**
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!

America! America!

God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in **self-control,**
Thy liberty in law!

Mercy, God making us like Him

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.

Who more than self their country loved
And **mercy more than life!**

America! America!

May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!

God's grace= Jesus

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!

America! America!

God shed his grace on thee

And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

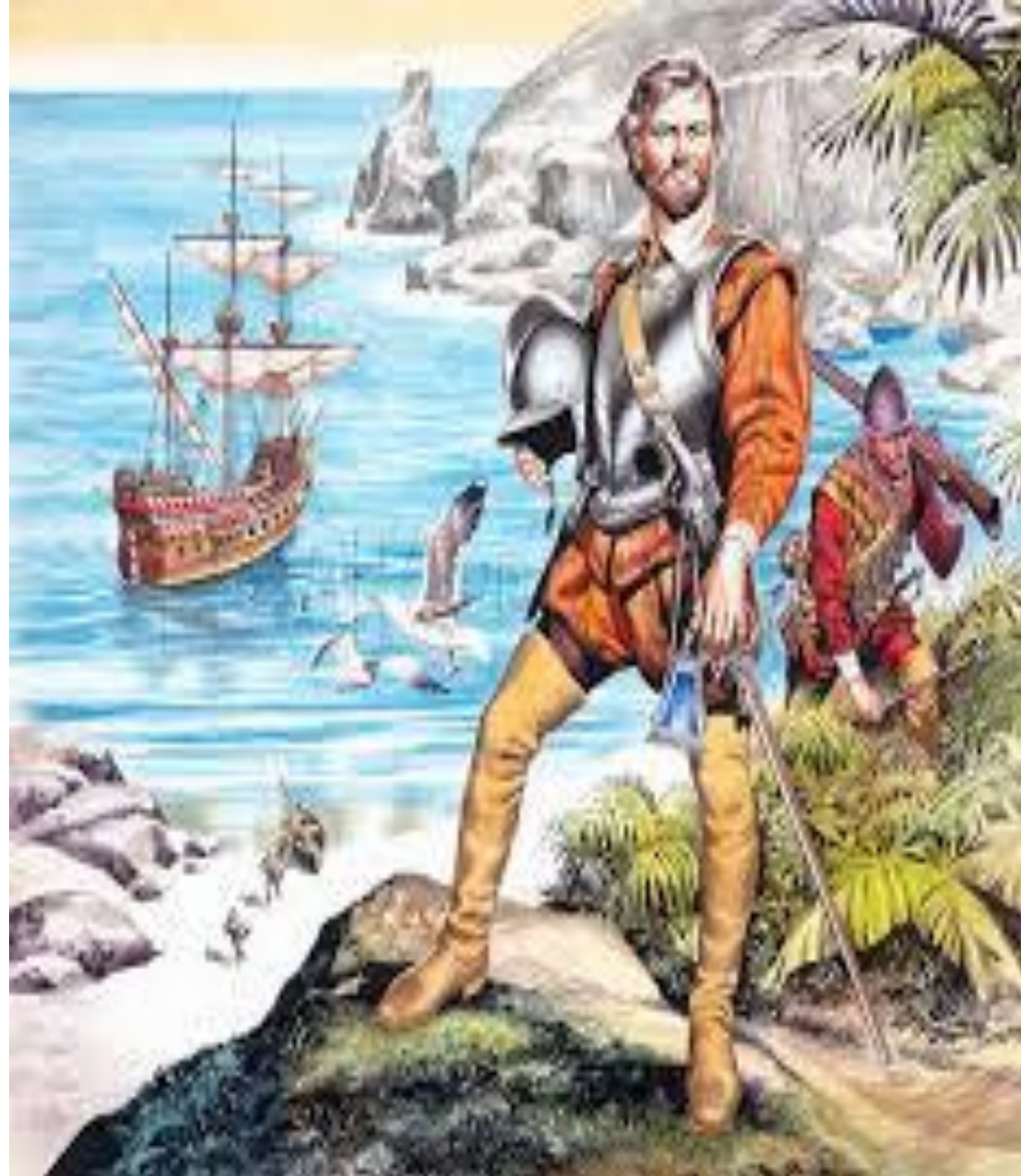


Columbus

Christ- bearer

At this time I have seen and put in study to look into the Scriptures, cosmography, histories, chronicles and philosophy and other arts, which our Lord opened to my understanding (I could sense his hand upon me), so that it became clear to me that it was feasible to navigate from here to the Indies; and he unlocked within me the determination to execute the idea. All those who heard about my enterprise rejected it with laughter, scoffing at me. Neither the sciences which I mentioned above, nor the authoritative citations from them, were of any avail.

Who doubts that this illumination was from the Holy Spirit? I attest that he [the Spirit], with marvelous rays of light consoled me through the holy and sacred Scriptures, a strong and clear testimony, with the forty four books of the Old Testament, and four Gospels with twenty-three Epistles of those blessed Apostles, encouraging me to proceed, and, continually, without ceasing for a moment, they inflame me with a sense of great urgency.





Francis Drake, a Christian explorer

He was a PK

Called by God to sea life

*He apprenticed under a Plymouth ship-master
who willed Drake his ship*

*Drake, a born again Christian, never took anyone
but believers on his voyages*





Richard Hakluyt

Richard Hakluyt

- Englishman, Oxford graduate
- Called to the ministry
- Called by God to evangelize and colonize North America
- Wrote *Hakluyt's Voyages, the Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques, & Discoveries of the English Nation*.
- Helped form the Virginia Company
- Known as the *Father of American Colonization*

VIRGINIA CHARTERS

NUMBER I.

ing JAMES I.'S LETTERS PATENT TO Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers
and others, for two several Colonies and Plantations, to be made in VIRGINIA
and other Parts and Territories of AMERICA. Dated April 10, 1606.

JAMES, by the grace of God, King of England,
Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the
faith, &c. Whereas our loving and well disposed
counsellors, Sir Thomas Gates, and Sir George Somers,
knight, Richard Hacklitt, Clerk, Prebendary of
Lincoln, and Edward Maria Wingfield, Tho-
mas Haden, and Raleigh Gilbert, Esqrs. William
Arthur and George Popham, Gentlemen, and divers
others of our loving subjects, have been humble
petitioners unto us, that We would vouchsafe unto them

and may in time bring the infidels and savages, li-
ving in those parts, to human civility, and to a settled
and quiet government; Do, by these our letters pa-
tent, graciously accept of, and agree to, their hum-
ble and well intended desires.

IV. And do therefore, for Us, our heirs and suc-
cessors, Grant and agree, that the said Sir Thomas
Gates, Sir George Somers, Richard Hacklitt, and
Edward Maria Wingfield, adventurers of and from
our city of London, and all such others, as are,

THE CHARTER OF 1606

1606 Charter of Virginia

1606 Virginia Charter

America's Birth Certificate

*...Wee, greatly commending and graciously accepting of thiere desires to the furtherance of soe noble a worke which may, **by the providence of Almighty God, hereafter tende to the glorie of His Divine Majestie in propagating of the Christian religion to suche people as yet live in darknesse and miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worshippe of God may in tyme bring the infidels and salvages living in those parts to humane civilitie and to a settled and quiet govrmte...***

Source: *The Charters of Virginia 1606-1621* (Virginia Beach, Va: Patriot Prints, 1994)
Chapter four

The Christian Faith was to be preached

*...and wee doe especially ordaine, charge and require the said Presidents and Councells and the ministers of the said several Colonies respectively, within their several limits and precincts, that they with all diligence, care and respect doe provide that **the true word of God and Christian faith be preached, planted** and used, not only within every of the said several Colonies and plantacions but alsoe as much as they may amongst the salvage people which doe or shall adjoine unto them, according to the doctrine, rights and religion now professed and established within our realm of England;...*

Fourth Charter

*And whereas, by a special grant and licence from His Majesty, a general contribution over this realm hath been made for the **building and planting of a college for the training up of the children of those infidels in true religion, moral virtue and civility, and for other godly uses**, we do, therefore according to a former grant and order, hereby ratifie and confirm and ordain that a convenient place be chosen and set out for the planting of a university at the said Henrico in time to come and that in the mean time preparation be there made for the building of the said college for the children of the infidels...*



1

120° 115° 110° 105° 100° 95° 90° 85° 80° 75° 70°

45°

40°

35°

30°

25°

20°

New Land of Righteousness

Virginia- America

North colony

South colony

Gulf of Mexico

Scale of Miles

0 50 100 150 200



Dedication of America/Virginia

We do hereby dedicate this Land, and ourselves, to reach the People within these shores with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to raise up Godly generations after us, and with these generations take the Kingdom of God to all the earth.

May this Covenant of Dedication remain to all generations, as long as this earth remains, and may this land, along with England, be Evangelist to the World.

May all who see this Cross, remember what we have done here, and may those who come here to inhabit join us in this Covenant and in this most noble work that the Holy Scriptures may be fulfilled.



First Landing Cross Planting and Dedication



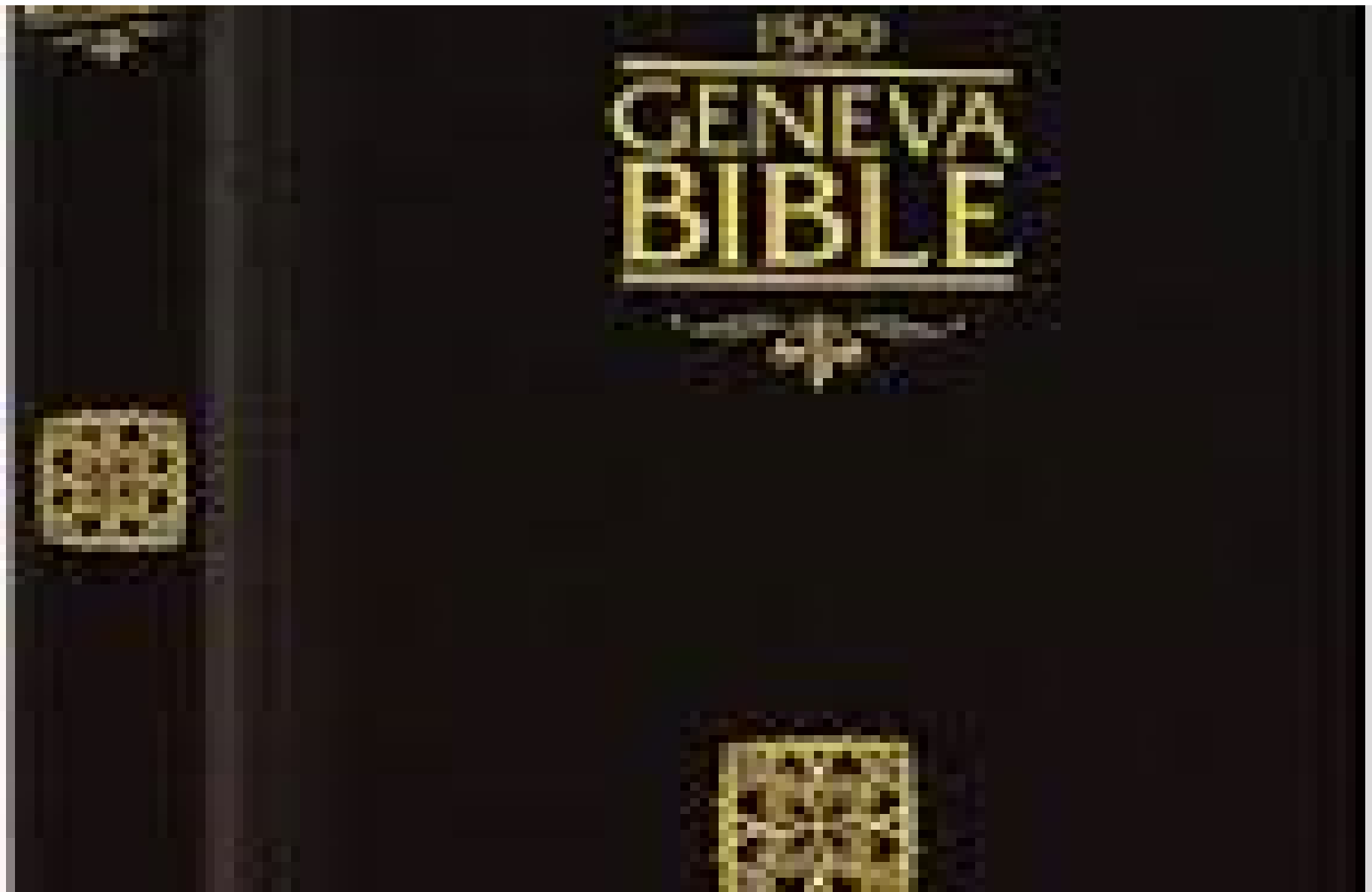


Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

"Lastly, and which was not least, a great hope and inward zeal they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make someway thereunto, for the **promoting and advancing of the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world; yea, though they should be but even as stepping-stones unto others for the performing of so great a work.**"



Embarkation of the Pilgrims



Geneva Bible



Ireland King, Defender of ye faith, &c.

Having undertaken, for ye glorie of God, and advancement
of ye Christian faith and honour of our King & country, a voyage
to plant ye first colonic in ye Northerne parts of Virginia, doe
by these presents solemnly & mutually in ye presence of God,
and one of another, covenant, & combine ourselves together into
a Civill body politick; for our better ordering, & preservation
in furtherance of ye ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to
make, constitute and frame such just & equall Lawes,
ordinances, Acts, constitutions & officers from time to time, as
shall be thought most meete & convenient for ye generall good of
ye colonic: unto which we promise all due submission and
obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our
names at Cape-Codd ye -11- of November, in ye year of ye
reigne of our evervalgne Lord King James of England, France &
Ireland ye eighteenth, and of Scotland ye fiftie fourth. Anno
Dom. 1620.

John Smith
William Brewster

Richard Smith
John Rolfe

John Rolfe
William Brewster

Edward Mather
John Rolfe

Mayflower Compact

Mayflower Compact

In ye the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten... having undertaken, for ye glorie of God, and advancemente of ye Christian faith, and honour of our king & countrie, a voyage to plant ye first colonie in ye Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly & mutually in ye presence of God, and one of another, covenant & combine our selves together into a civill body politick...



Pilgrims



First Thanksgiving



God Answered Prayer!

Upon which they sett a parte a solemne day of humilliation, to seek ye Lord by humble & fervente prayer, in this great distrese. And he was pleased to give them a gracious & speedy answer, both to their owne, & the Indeans admiration, that lived amongst them, For all ye morning, and greatest part of the day, it was clear weather & very hotte, and not a cloud or any signe of raine to be seen, yet toward evening it begane to overcast, and shortly after to raine, with shuch sweete and gentle showers, as gave them cause of rejoyceing, & blesing God

It came, without either wind, or thunder, or any violence, and by degreese in yt abundance, as that ye earth was thorowly wete and soked therewith. Which did so apparently revive & quicken ye decayed corne & other fruits, as was wonderfull to see, and made ye Indeans astonished to behold; and afterwards the Lord sent them shuch seasonable showers, with enterchange of faire warme weather, as, through his blessing, caused a fruitfull & liberall harvest, to their no small comfote and rejoycing. For which mercie (in time conveniente) they also sett aparte a day of thanksgiving.”

Source: Verna M. Hall, *The Christian History of the Constitution* (San Francisco, CA: F.A.C.E., 1966), 215



Puritans

THE PURITANS



FROM THE REFORMATION TO THE PRESENT

Puritans & Pilgrims vision: a holy nation

Psalm 33:12 *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*





THE BATTLE OF MONONGAHELA

THE BATTLE

Painted by John C. Burt Foster, Jr. 1881. The painting depicts the Battle of Monongahela, a decisive victory for the British over the French and their Native American allies in 1755. The scene shows British soldiers on horseback and on foot fighting against Native American warriors. The British are shown in the foreground, while the Native Americans are in the background. The painting is a historical representation of the battle.

1881. J. C. B. F.

Battle of Monongahela



Washington: God saved me

By the all powerful help of Providence (God), I have been protected beyond all human expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me!

Source: *Celebrations of a Nation*, 105

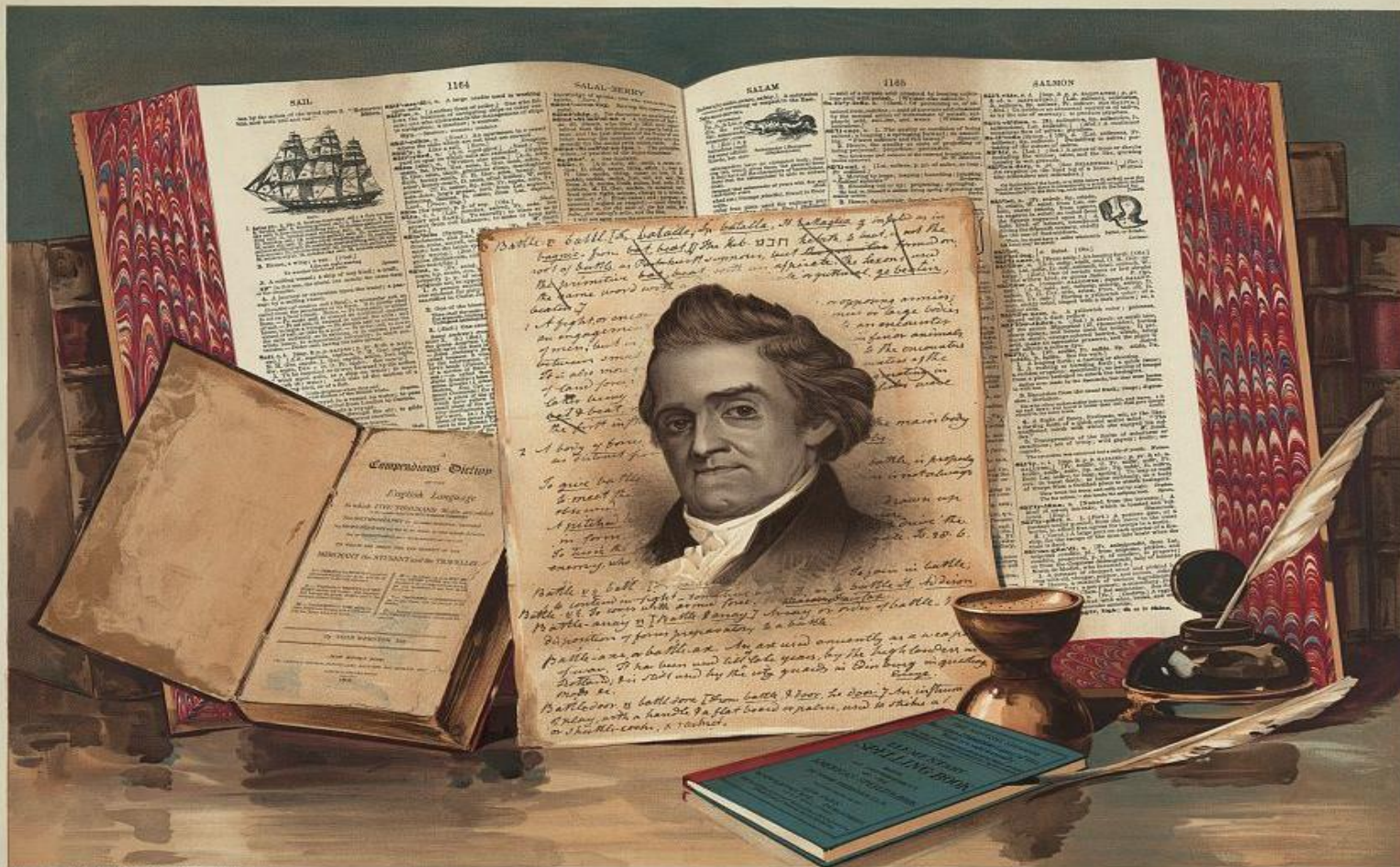
Indian Chief: God protected Washington

He cannot die in battle. I am old, and soon shall be gathered to the great council fire of my fathers in the land of shades, but there is something bids me speak in the voice of prophecy. Listen! The Great Spirit protects that man, and guides his destinies- he will become the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire.

Washington

*It is impossible to rightly
govern the world without God
and the Bible.*

Source: America's God and Country, p. 660



NOAH WEBSTER
 "The Schoolmaster of the Republic"

Noah Webster

Noah Webster

"In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the **Christian religion must be the basis of any government** intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people..."

Education
is useless
without the
Bible.

-Noah Webster

Author of Webster's Dictionary

should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and Happiness. Prouden, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. — But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. — He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States, for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has created a multitude of new Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our Legislatures. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by jury. — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty, perfidy, and fearful parallel in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. — We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Button Gwinnett
 Lornah Hall

Jm Hooper
 Joseph Hewes,
 John Penn

John Hancock
 Samuel Chase
 1776

Rob Morris
 Benjamin Rush
 Ben Franklin

Josiah Bartlett
 M. Whipple
 Sam Adams

Josiah Bartlett
 M. Whipple
 Sam Adams

Declaration of Independence

References to God

- *“laws of nature and of nature’s God,”*
- *“that they are endowed, by their Creator with certain unalienable rights,”*
- *“appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world,”*
- *“with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence”*



Constitution

50 Of 55 Signers Were Protestant Christians

- **7 Congregationalists**
- **26 Episcopalians**
- **2 Dutch Reformed**
- **8 Presbyterians**
- **1 Quaker/Lutheran**
- **1 Presbyterian/Episcopalian**

- **2 Quaker/Episcopalian**
 - **2 Methodist**
 - **1 Lutheran**
-
- **2 Catholics**
 - **3 Deists**

Source: *A Worthy Company* by M.E. Bradford



Justice David Brewer

Justice David Brewer

Church of the Holy Trinity vs. The United States

Author of a unanimous opinion of the Supreme Court

“These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that **this is a Christian nation**”

Wrote: The United States: A Christian Nation

What was the original national motto?

E Puribus Unum

Out of many, one

National Motto Changed in 1956

In God We Trust



National Motto: In God We Trust

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN GOD WE TRUST

ONE

ONE DOLLAR