

# The Story of the Constitution

by CALEB JOHNSON

## IX. THE BILL OF RIGHTS

The Constitution could not take effect until it had been ratified by conventions in at least nine of the thirteen States. Delaware was the first to ratify. Pennsylvania was next. New Jersey third, all in 1787. By the middle of 1788, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina and New Hampshire had given their sanction. And the Federal Government was at last actually in existence. Virginia and New York ratified later in the same year.

The feeling that the right of the States were not sufficiently protected was so strong that the vote for ratification was very close in many States. Little Rhode Island refused even to call a ratification convention until assurances were given that immediate amendments would be made to further protect State independence and the rights of citizens. The result of this was the submission of the so-called "Bill of Rights" constitution, the first eleven amendments to the Constitution.

As things turned out, these amendments were as important as the people of many of the States believed they were. Most important of all of them is Article 1.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free ex-

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ercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

On Article 1 rest the liberties which the people of America have enjoyed from the beginning of our Nation and still enjoy. Relying upon the Constitutional guaranty of freedom of religion, of speech and of the press, and the right of assembly and petition, the citizens of the United States have successfully resisted innumerable efforts to limit their freedom.

The other most important article of the Bill of Rights, is Article X. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively or to the people."

The right of the people to keep and bear arms, to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure and arrest without warrant, and to a speedy and public trial when accused of crime are among the guarantees sought and given in the Bill of Rights. Herein was established the principle that no person can be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense, nor compelled to be a witness against himself, or deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

The principle that private property may not be taken for public use without just compensation is laid down here as is the prohibi-

tion of the excessive bail and cruel and unusual punishments. And to make it doubly certain that all natural rights not specifically delegated should be preserved, Article IX of the Bill of Rights says: "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

The Bill of Rights was speedily ratified by all the States, and the new nation was off, in 1789, to an auspicious start, with George Washington elected unanimously as its first President.

### Mrs. Blackburn Tells Of Birthday Dinner

Editor Journal-Patriot: I have many solicitations to write for the Journal-Patriot, so here I go submitting a short chronicle of the proceedings of the celebration of the 88th birthday of our beloved Mary Ann Phillips, wife of the late William Phillips. Hundreds of people met on August 25, at the home of Mrs. Phillips, and her grandson, Clyde Phillips and family, to celebrate her 88th birthday in honor to her devoted life to good works and motherly care in helping to rear her grandson, Clyde Phillips, from infancy, as his father died when he was a small boy. Finally he became caretaker of his grandparents, for which he deserves great honor. So a table being prepared was filled from end to end and from side to side being 48 feet long, with the delicious food of different varieties being very palatable and pleasing to look upon. In fact it was a picturesque scene being set out on the lawn near a large apple tree for a shade. After the feast was over, this thought came to me, "What a great banquet table will be set in the sweet by and by for all those who love and serve God. 'Some sweet day after while.'" "Yes, in the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood up and cried, 'If any thirst, let him come unto me and drink.'"

Yes the last of a feast is always the best. Well, it was a great day for me. I sure enjoyed meeting and greeting friends, acquaintances of long ago. Everybody seemed to be happy and filled with the spirit of peace and unity. After the feast was over the folks remained under the apple tree and thereabouts for the remainder of the service, which was singing, praying, short talks and preaching, or the same as preaching. First Brother Francis Watson submitted some excellent remarks concerning Mrs. Phillips, his great aunt. He spoke of her hospitality toward him in his childhood days, also toward all with whom she met. His remarks were brief and very touching.

Brother Lee J. Church gave some wonderful and safe counsel to parents and their children and if strictly adhered to by parents and children it would bring about a great reformation in general among our people.

Brother T. J. Walsh gave some grand instructional remarks and Rev. Ed O. Miller put on the finishing touch with the solicitation that everybody that was present give Sister Phillips their hand in token of love to her, also to each other. It seemed that the very air was permeated with the breath of the angelic host. The dear old sister said she was happy and exhorted some of her grandsons to repent of their sins and accept Jesus as their Saviour. O, what a home-coming day it was to all who were there that love the Lord.

### MRS. L. C. BLACKBURN.

### ROOSEVELT MAY GO TO LEGION MEETING

Hyde Park, N. Y., Sept. 9.—President Roosevelt seriously considered tonight a stop at the American legion convention in St. Louis late this month on his travel to the Pacific coast in response to an invitation presented to him here today.

The occasion offers opportunity for a discussion by the President of thoughts on the recurring issue for cash payment of the bonus insurance certificates.

Frank Belgrano, national commander of the legion, Col. Henry Monroe Johnson, assistant secretary of commerce, and a member of the legion executive committee, presented the invitation. They reported the President was giving cord's deration to it.

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### NORTH WILKESBORO ROUTE 1 NEWS NOTES

People in this part of the county seem to be busy taking care of their fuder.

Mr. George Adams has been visiting his children in Schoolfield, Va., for the past two weeks.

Mrs. Nellie Shumate visited Mrs. Alice Church, Sunday afternoon.

Miss Velma church visited Misses Grace and Florine Shumate, Sunday.

Mrs. John Elledge visited her daughter, Mrs. Claude Abshey, Saturday.

Miss Marie Owens has been visiting relatives in Winston-Salem for the past week.

Misses Florine Shumate, Velma Church and Grace Shumate visited Mrs. Ivory Shumate Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Church and Mrs. Della Church visited Mrs. Nancy Adams, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Odell Shumate visited Mr. and Mrs. George Church Sunday afternoon.

Misses Irene and Inez Adams, of Schoolfield, Va., visited their aunt, Sunday.

We are glad to learn that Mrs. Ellen Adams is able to be out again.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Mary Owens has fell and hurt her hip, we hope not seriously.

Mrs. Alice Church visited Mrs. J. C. Adams Saturday afternoon.

Friends of Mr. Sylvester Elledge gave him a surprise birthday supper at his home on Wednesday evening, August 23, at 5:20 o'clock. The table was loaded with a bountiful supply of tempting food. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Claude Abshey and son, Wayne, of North Wilkesboro, Messrs. John and Grant Hincer, of Hays, Mr. Gaither Kilby, of North Wilkesboro, Misses Florine and Grace Shumate, Misses Velma, Grace and Ethel Church and Mr. Frank Abshey.

Read Journal-Patriot ads.

### VETERAN, 103, IS HAILED INTO COURT

Payetteville, Sept. 9.—George Slates, Confederate veteran, said to be 103 years old, appeared in recorder's court here today to answer to a charge of pointing a shotgun at a neighbor, Mrs. A. C. Beard, during a dispute over possession of an oil stove.

The case was not reached on the court docket and was continued. The offense allegedly occurred August 24 in Pearce's Mill township where the Slates and Beards reside.

Slates is the father of three young children, who were in the courtroom with their parents.

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