



wards for winners of the Americanism Essay Contest sponsored by the general Federation of Women's clubs were presented in appropriate ceremonies recently at the Black Mountain Grammar school Carver school.

"What America Means To Me"

By Jewel Stroud, Mountain Grammar School. Constitution of the United States. The United States is old in the sense that Americans have lived longer under the same constitutional government than almost any other nation in the world.

Even at the present the United States can be thought of as a young nation. It is very young, for example, when compared with England, France, Spain, and Portugal.

Americans framed a constitution in 1787 and adopted it the following year. It was a bold and hungry, still they fought, often winning where the odds looked unsumountable.

One of the Lees of Virginia said, "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states."

The signing and publishing of the Declaration of Independence did not mean the American people were really independent. They still had a long way to fight and win.

But it was no easy matter to get the scattered people to realize that they were now a single unit. Congress at the beginning did not have much authority over the states.

Jefferson, Adams, Washington, and Hamilton were so busy planning the Constitution that they forgot the Bill of Rights.

The Constitution went into effect in 1789. The Bill of Rights were added by Amendments; which gives the people the right to worship in any way they wish; they can speak, write or say whatever they wish.

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 6,381,000 chicks during February, an increase of 1 per cent over hatchings during the same period a year earlier.

George Washington as commander of all the American troops. Washington had a hard time to take poor farmers, without military training and out few soldiers etc., and train them into a body of capable soldiers able to stand up to the English soldiers who went through winters snow to their waists, cold

into operation. The American Constitution is still in force. Jefferson was the leader of the Democratic-Republican party. He agreed with Hamilton's respect for law and the Constitution. He feared a government which assumed more power given to it by the constitution granted.

Soon after George Washington took office, the Bill of Rights was added to the constitution in the form of amendments. This Bill of Rights guarantees, among other rights, to the American citizen: The right to worship as he chooses; the right to assemble in peaceable meetings; the right to express his opinions in conversations, in speeches, or in the press; and the right to petition the government to redress grievances.

Our Forefathers Many people in England looked to America as a land where they make their fortune. But without money to pay for their ocean passage there seem to be little chance to leave England. These laborers were usually required to work for four years to pay the cost of their trip. At the end of this time the indentured servants became free.

In 1619 a few Negro slaves were brought to Virginia. The Negro population did not become large until the eighteenth century. Then, however Negroes increased rapidly. Negro slaves could be found in all the colonies, both North and South.

An important trade sprang up in the eighteenth century with Africa and the West Indies. From Boston or Providence or Salem, for example, a merchant might send a ship to the west coast of Africa laden with rum made from sugar cane. There the captain would trade the rum for Negro slaves captured in the inland villages of the continent. The ship sailed rapidly because many of the Negroes chained to its decks soon died, and their death meant loss to the captain.

A question was raised concerning the Negro slaves in each state. Should all or only part of the number of slaves be counted in deciding the number of a state's votes in the House of Representatives? It was decided that three-fifths of the slaves in a state would be included in the count.

Men have struggled for freedom from the beginning of history. In 1776 our forefathers won their liberty through blood and tears. Today we hold that liberty in trust. The Declaration of Independence. On June 7, 1776, in Philadelphia Richard Henry Lee of Virginia rose in Congress. The room became very still. Many men knew that Lee had received a message from Virginia which commanded him to bring up the question of independence.

In a clear voice Lee read from a piece of paper in his hand: That the United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states. So long as we fight only for our rights as subjects of the King, one man would say, "we can expect no help from the outside world. Alone we can hardly hope to defeat the great armies and navy of England. If we declare for independence perhaps France will help us.

Days passed while the discussion in Congress went on in secret, behind closed doors. On July 2 the vote was taken. The delegates of every colony rose and voted in favor of independence. Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams were appointed to draw up a Declaration of Independence. Jefferson wrote a draft. That is, he wrote down what he thought the Declaration should contain. Adams and Franklin offered some suggestions, and few other changes were made. Finally the Declaration was read and accepted. On July 4, John Hancock, president of the Congress signed it. The others signed later.

In the Pennsylvania Pracket for July 6 appeared the first printed copy of the Declaration of Independence. What America Means to Me. America means a lot to me. It means freedom. The right to worship as you please; the right to express your opinion in conversations, in speeches, or in the press; the right to assemble in peaceable meetings; the right to petition the government to redress grievances. Free to oppose to what you think is wrong; free to vote as you wish and many other freedoms. I am happy to be a free American.

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The U. S. A. holds that all men are created equal and should be free, for that reason Abraham freed the slaves; and we went to the aid of Cuba and the Philippines, also to help Belgium, France and England in World War I; then to help European countries in World War II. We went to Korea for the same purpose. I guess we will always help the downtrodden. It looks like the Lord meant us for that purpose.

Free America means to me, a little home of our own, down in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. A Father to work for our living at whatever he wants to, hunt and fish on his vacation; a mother to work and care for us, and a big yellow school bus to come by to pick us up for school in town, where we learn about America and the world, and last a little white church where we can go to preaching and Sunday school. There's lots of countries in the world where children can't have these privileges. We have them because God picked out America to be a free Country and to help other people.

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Mr. and Mrs. Grove Effler of Swannanoa, route 1, have a daughter born April 9 in Memorial Mission hospital. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn N. Coker of Swannanoa a son, April 10, in St. Joseph's hospital. He never forgets his old home and relatives in North Carolina. He and his wife come back on a visit almost every year.

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