

**THE TAMPA CHAPTER  
FLORIDA SOCIETY  
SON'S OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



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Patriotic Educational Historic

**N-E-W-S-L-E-T-T-E-R**

**JANUARY 1993**

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OUR JANUARY MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY JANUARY 16th AT THE  
WILDDOOD RESTAURANT 11511 NORTH DALE MABRY AT 12:00 NOON. EACH  
PERSON WILL ORDER FROM THE MENU AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING  
FOR THEIR OWN MEAL PLUS THE USUAL 15% GRATUITY.  
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AT THIS MEETING OUR NEW OFFICERS WILL BE INSTALLED BY OUR  
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, COURTENAY CRUTCHER:

President	Cyril P. Gamber
Vice President	Leslie O. White
Geneologist/Registrar	James Prouty
Secretary/Treasurer	James E. Washburn

Remind you that our meetings are open to anyone who is  
interested in becoming a member or in Historic, Educational &  
Patriotic programs. Lets bring a friend to this meeting and  
give our incoming Officers a show of support.

**1993 ANNUAL DUES**

THERE ARE STILL A FEW WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR 1993 DUES. PLEASE  
SEND YOU DUES AT ONCE TO:

Jim Washburn  
5211 Neptune Way  
Tampa, Florida 33609

National Dues	\$ 17.00
State Dues	\$ 9.00
Chapter Dues	\$ 10.00
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Total	\$ 36.00

**BETTER YET BRING THEM TO THE MEETING SATURDAY JANUARY  
16th. See You there!**

**BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING**

The Board of Governors will meet January 14th at the  
Penninsular Library at Henderson & Neptune from 5:30 to 6:30.  
all members are invited to attend these meetings.

# H-A-P-P-Y B-I-R-T-H-D-A-Y

Martin Miller  
Bennett McGee  
Louis Putney

Jan. 5  
Jan. 12  
Jan. 28

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Checking thru some files I found the following compiled by Compatriot Stephen E. Slocum, who prior to his death was a member of the Paul Carrinton Chapter, Texas Society, Son's of the American Revolution, that I would like to share with you:



## TWELVE PRESIDENTS OF CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

### OUR FORGOTTEN PRESIDENTS



July 4, 1776 - the birthday of the United States of America

It was a time of stirring events and great men, but oddly, history has forgotten the twelve men who served as President between Independence Day and the government under the New Constitution in 1789.(13 years)

Some of these men are remembered for other deeds, <sup>1</sup>John Hancock for his bold signature, <sup>2</sup>John Jay as first Chief Justice, <sup>3</sup>Richard Henry Lee as the man who proposed independence and <sup>4</sup>Arthur St.Clair as a renowned Indian Fighter, but their roles as President of the Continental Congress have been overlooked.(not in my school books)

Four of these men were signers of the Declaration of Independence, Hancock, Lee, <sup>5</sup>Huntington and <sup>6</sup>McKean. Two of them affixed their signatures to the Constitution, <sup>7</sup>Thomas Mifflin and <sup>8</sup>Nathaniel Gorham. Six were signatories of the Articles of Confederation, Hancock, Huntington, Lee, McKean, <sup>9</sup>Henry Laurens and <sup>10</sup>John Hanson.

The other Presidents have indeed been forgotten. They are <sup>11</sup>Elias Boudinot and <sup>12</sup>Cyrus Griffin. Samuel Johnston of North Carolina was chosen President on July 6, 1781; when he declined the honor McKean was selected the next day. Prior to Hancock's election Peyton Randolph of Virginia and Henry Middleton of South Carolina served as presiding officers of the Continental Congress, but this was before independence. Hancock many believe was the country's first chief executive because he was President of the Congress when the Declaration of Independence was voted in 1776. Supporters of Maryland's Hanson say he was No.1 because he was the first to be elected following organization of the new government under the Articles of Confederation in 1781.

The original intention of the congressional leaders was to rotate the presidency among the states. North Carolina, Georgia, New Hampshire and Rhode Island never had representatives elected President while the powerful states of Virginia, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania had two each.

The years during which these twelve Presidents served can be divided into two periods. From 1776 until the Articles of the Constitution set up a permanent form of government and from 1781 when the Articles took affect until 1789 when George Washington was inaugurated as President under the present Constitution.

During these thirteen years many momentous decisions were made, many important issues discussed and many new governmental policies were formed.

In the first period Presidents Hancock, Laurens, Jay, Huntington and McKean had to worry primarily about winning the war and internal recognition of independence. The second group of Presidents, Hanson, Boudinot, Mifflin, Lee, Gorham, St.Clair and Griffin faced many challenging situations in trying to develop a new government with limited power.

The Presidents were not mere presiding officers of the Continental Congress, they performed the functions of a ceremonial head of state and worked hard as the chief executive of what government the thirteen colonies had during and after the Revolution.

When John Hancock signed his bold John Hancock to the Declaration of Independence, a smuggler became the President of the New United States of America. This minister's son, who inherited his uncle's wealth and became a leading Massachusetts merchant, rose to prominence in the Patriot cause when the British seized his ship "Liberty" for violating navigation laws. In short, for smuggling wine.

John Hancock, born January 16, 1737, was educated at Harvard and reared by his uncle who sent him to London at the age of twenty-three for boarding and to develop business contacts. While in London he attended the funeral of King George II and saw a new reign start under a monarch who later was to declare him an outlaw.

Henry Laurens, a wealthy South Carolina Huguenot who was the new nation's second wartime President, was captured by the British, imprisoned in the Tower of London and was so crippled by close confinement that he left prison on crutches. He has another claim to fame, he was the first white man cremated in America.

John Jay, a conservative New Yorker, was the third President. Jay was New York's first chief justice as well as reelected to the Continental Congress. He was a diplomat to Spain and one of the commissioners to negotiate the peace treaty with England. Washington named Jay Chief Justice after offering him his choice of federal office. From 1795 to 1801 Jay was Governor of New York.

Samuel Huntington of Connecticut the fourth President was born July 3rd, forty five years before the Declaration of Independence. Son of a farmer he learned the cooper's trade, studied law and was appointed King's attorney in 1775. Huntington was President from October 28, 1779 until July 10, 1781 when he resigned because of poor health.

Thomas McKean, the fifth President, was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, March 19, 1734. He studied law and rose to prominence in the Stamp Act Congress. He was Speaker of the Delaware assembly in 1772, member of the Continental Congress, Colonel of the 4th Battalion of Philadelphia and governor of Pennsylvania.

John Hanson the sixth President was too old to fight in the Revolution at the age of 66. Hanson was born April 3, 1715 in Charles County, Maryland; a descendant of Swedes who settled near the Delaware River in 1643. He was elected President, November 5, 1781, at the first session following the adoption of the Articles of Confederation.

Elias Boudinot, the seventh President, was born April 21, 1740 in a room above his father's silversmith shop in Philadelphia near Ben Franklin's print shop. A long-time friend of George Washington who supplied the General with his cider. Boudinot faced many major problems in the fields of foreign affairs, western land, finance and confrontation with the military. He signed the Spanish Treaty and the preliminary articles assuring peace with Britain, April 15, 1783. Boudinot was a foe of slavery and founded the American Bible Society.

Thomas Mifflin the eighth President was born January 10, 1744, a descendant of an old Quaker family of wealth. Graduated from the College of Philadelphia. He was chosen by Washington as an aide-de-camp and was the first Quarter Master General. Mifflin's most important task was to secure the ratification of the definitive treaty with Great Britain officially recognizing America's independence January 14, 1784.

Richard Henry Lee was the ninth President. A Virginia planter born, January 31, 1733, in the same room at Stratford where Robert E. Lee was born 74 years later. He made the motion for independence at the Continental Congress. Died June 14, 1794.

Nathaniel Gorham, tenth President, a Massachusetts merchant born May 27, 1738 was a descendent of a Mayflower Pilgrim who fell overboard but lived to be the last survivor of the original Plymouth Company. He played a prominent part in the Continental Congress where he was presiding officer for three months. He was elected President June 6, 1787. Died June 11, 1796 at Charleston, Massachusetts.

Arthur St. Clair the eleventh President born April 3, 1734, - a foreigner at that - son of a prominent Norman-French family living in Scotland. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh. Studied medicine and then took up the profession of arms. He arrived in America in 1758, fought in the French and Indian War and married a niece of Governor Bowdoin of Massachusetts. When trouble with the British started he was commissioned Colonel, soon rose to Brigadier General then Major General after his prominent part in the surprise victory at Trenton. Suffered with Washington at Valley Forge - spent eight years fighting for his adopted country. Was chosen President February 2, 1787. Died August 31, 1818 at the age of 84.

Cyrus Griffin, twelfth President, the last President before Washington was born July 16, 1784. Educated at Edinburgh University and studied law at the Temple University in London. Griffin sat with John Marshall during the trial of Aaron Burr. He died December 14, 1810.

These are our twelve forgotten Presidents.