

Seven Baptist Heroes

Seven Baptist Heroes

Influential in Early America

We Are Baptists

Because the Bible tells us so by John,
Jesus, and the apostles.

We Are Baptists

Baptists are the closest to apostolic tradition and existed since the apostles.

We Are Baptists

1/3 of the World is Christian
1/3 of Christians are Protestant
1/8 of Protestants are Baptist

We Are Baptists

We are a minority of 1 out of 72 !!!!!

7 Largest Baptist Populations

USA ... 33M

India ... 2M

Brazil ... 1M

Nigeria ... 1M

Zaire ... 720k

Korea ... 650k

Myanmar ... 600k

7 Largest Baptist Percentages

Bahamas ... 19%

America ... 12%

Tanzania ... 5%

Rwanda ... 5%

Korea ... 3%

Liberia ... 2%

Jamaica ... 2%

7 States with Most Baptists

Mississippi ... 55%

Alabama ... 51%

Georgia ... 50%

N. Carolina ... 47%

S. Carolina ... 47%

Tennessee ... 43%

2 States with Least Baptists

Utah ... 2%

Minnesota ... 4%

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise 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.

Important Constitutional Dates

June 21, 1788 ... N.H. as 9th state ratifies it.

March 4, 1789 ... date for operating by it.

Dec 15, 1791 ... ten Bill of Rights ratified.

Dec 15, 1791 ... Virginia was ratifying state.



Let's Go!

Seven Baptist Heroes by
Seven Young men

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32

Seven Baptist Heroes

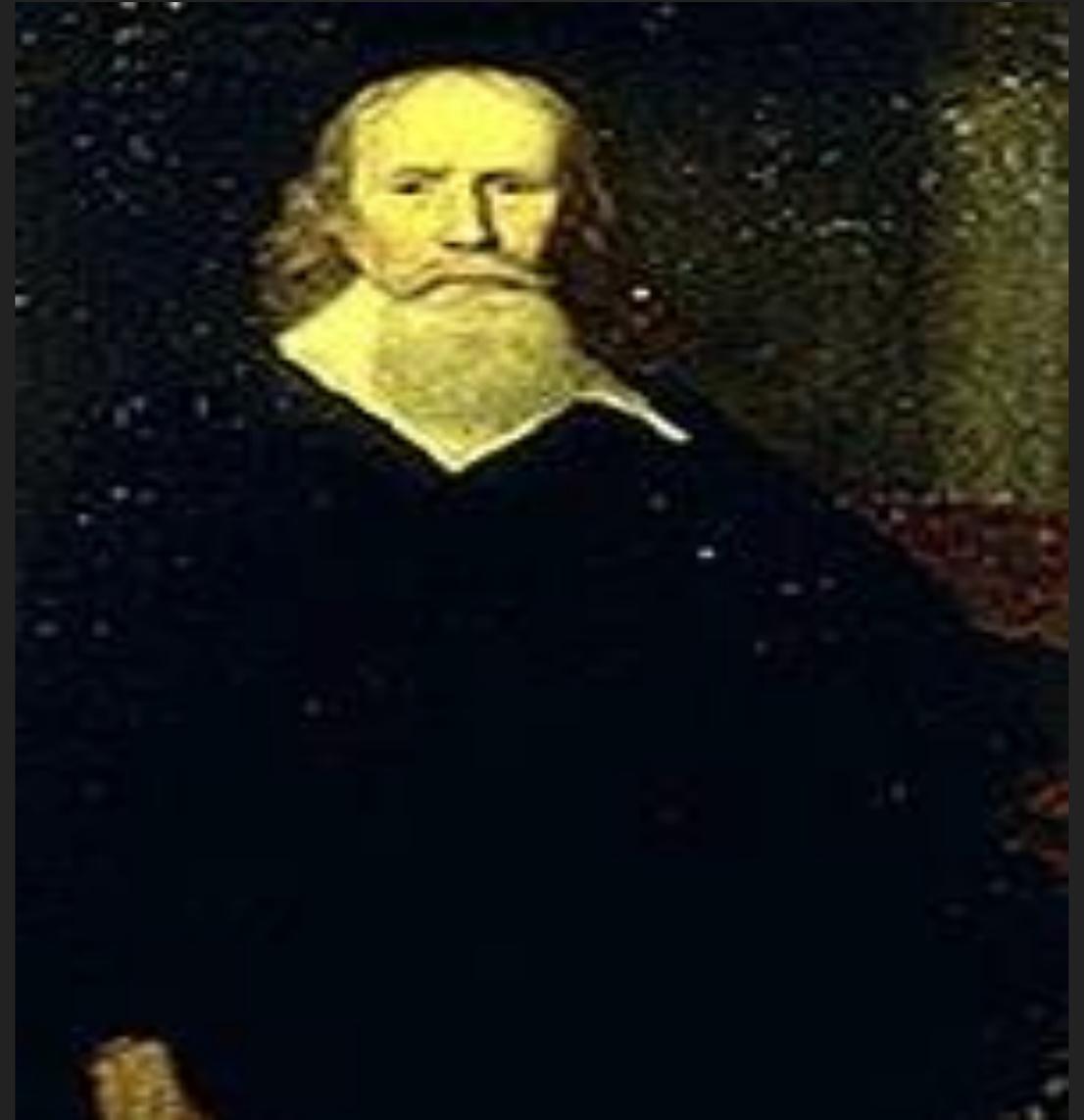
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MEN OF BAPTIST HISTORY

JOHN CLARKE

JOHN CLARKE - INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Born in Suffolk, UK during 1609
- ▶ Died 1676 in Newport, Rhode Island
- ▶ He was baptized within a year after birth
- ▶ History is unclear of his time in England, given his common name
- ▶ He graduated from Lieden University with a medical degree and a Master of the Arts degree, in association with the concordance he authored
- ▶ His conversion is not recorded but he was a baptist minister when he arrived in Massachusetts



JOHN CLARKE - BEGINNING IN AMERICA

- ▶ Arrived in Boston, Massachusetts November 1637
- ▶ Soon after, during the “covenant of grace” and “covenant of works” controversy, John Clarke and others split from the Massachusetts Bay Colony
- ▶ The split was mainly due to illegality of Baptists and the pursuit of religious freedom
- ▶ After acquiring land, John Clarke and William Coddington established Newport, Rhode Island in 1638
- ▶ He would later travel to England and return with the Rhode Island Royal Charter, detailing religious freedoms never before offered to a colony

JOHN CLARKE - HIS BAPTIST BACKGROUND

Arrived in America as a Baptist minister

- ▶ Massachusetts Governor wrote in 1640 that there were Anabaptists on Rhode Island
- ▶ Publicly ministered in Newport until 1644, when he established the second baptist church of America in Rhode Island
- ▶ His belief was to preach strictly apostolically
- ▶ He wrote a concordance and lexicon

JOHN CLARKE - PERSECUTED

- ▶ An elderly blind man in Lynn, Massachusetts reached out to Clarke in 1651, wanting to connect with Baptist faith
- ▶ Clarke immediately obliged and traveled to him. During the service, two constables entered and presented a warrant for Clarke's arrest based on re-baptism
- ▶ He was charged a fine equivalent to \$4,400 dollars
- ▶ His friends outside of prison paid for his fine unbeknownst to him and he was released
- ▶ Clarke challenged Puritan ministers to a debate in court, but they always declined

JOHN CLARKE - THREE PRINCIPLES

- ▶ First: Jesus Christ is the Lord: none to or with him by way of commanding and ordering, with respect to the worship of God, the household of faith.
- ▶ Second: baptism, or dipping in water, is one of the commandments of this Lord Jesus Christ, and that a visible believer or disciple of Christ Jesus, that is, one that manifesteth repentance toward God, and faith in Jesus Christ, is the only person that is to be baptized, or dipped with that visible baptism.

JOHN CLARK - THREE PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Third: every such believer in Christ Jesus may in point of liberty, yea, ought in point of duty, to improve that talent his Lord hath given unto him, and in the congregation may speak to the edification, exhortation, and comfort of the whole.

JOHN CLARKE - LEGACY

▶ Second Baptist church in America seen here 1915

- ▶ Stood for freedom of religion and peace between differences in Christian religion
- ▶ Implemented these ideas officially by King Charles II, when in England seeking recognition of Newport as a settlement (1663)
- ▶ He was an Anabaptist - “re-baptizer”, “believer’s baptism”



JOHN CLARKE - LEGACY CONT.

- ▶ Roger Williams in a letter to Governor Winthrop: "A great many have lately concurred with Mr. John Clarke, and our Providence men, about the point of a new baptism and the manner by dipping; and Mr. John Clarke hath been there lately, and Mr. Lucar, and hath dipped them. I believe their practice comes nearer to the first practice of our great Founder, Christ Jesus, than other practices of religion do."



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Influential in Early America

Henry Dunster





Henry Dunster

- Lived from 1609-1659
- Born in Lancashire, England
- Graduated from Cambridge at 23
- Ordained Minister
- Moved to New England in 1640
- Appointed the “First” President of Harvard College at 28
- Resurrected the College out of scandal and financial ruin
- Established the “Charter of 1650” by which the University is still managed
- Family legacy

Dunster House on Harvard's Campus



Henry Dunster

- Sought religious freedom from Church of England
- Frustrated with the Puritans “State Church”
- Challenged by John Clarke’s persecution
- Rejected the Puritan view on infant baptism
- Refused to baptize his infant son – a civil crime
- Questioned by the Puritan leaders for renouncing infant baptism
- Forced to resign as President of Harvard
- Exiled himself from Boston to the Plymouth Colony
- Influential in starting the First Baptist Church of Boston
- Pastored a Baptist Church in Scituate, MA where he would reside until his death

Henry Dunster

- Personal mentor to the young men of Harvard
- Influenced by the persecution of John Clarke
- Contemporary of Thomas Gould
- Affected a Welsh Baptist in Dublin to petition Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell
- One of the foremost influences of Baptist history in America
- It is on the shoulders of men like Henry Dunster that we now stand!

HENRY DUNSTER

1609 – 1659

FIRST PRESIDENT, HARVARD COLLEGE

1640 – 1654

In Christi Gloriam



20

11

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Screven

William & Elisha

1629-1713 (84)

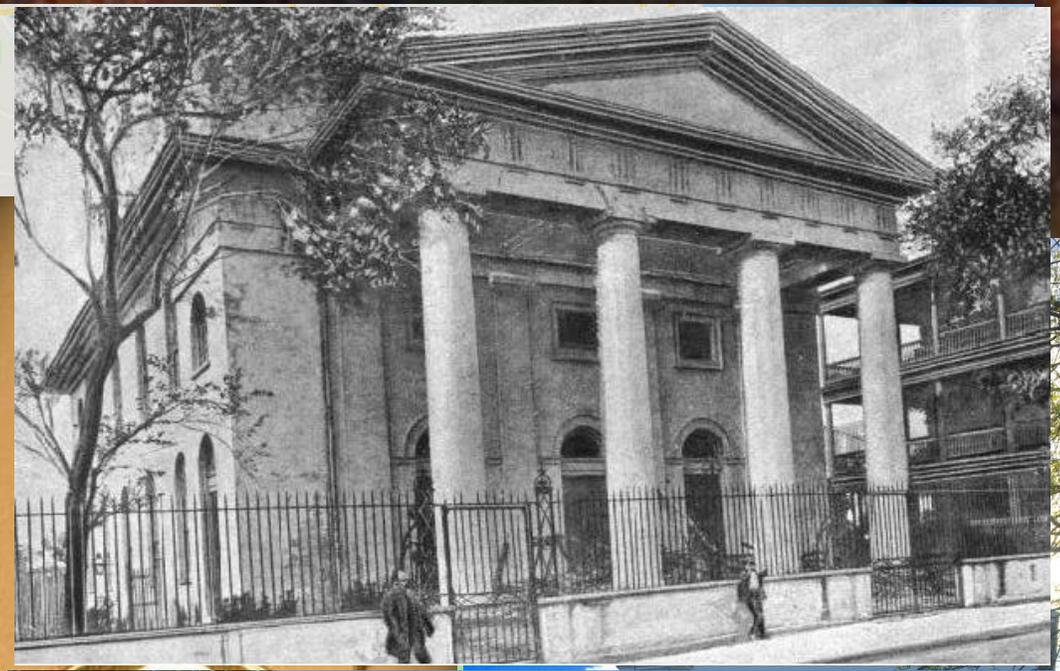
1698-1757 (59)

by Bryant Cutler

William Screven

1629-1713 (84)

- From Somerset, England moved to Kittery, ME around the 1640's
- His first mention in public records were from 1676 in Kittery, ME
- In 1681 was Baptized and became a member of the FBC in Boston by John Myles, but was in Maine.
- Baptists were meeting unofficially in Kittery, know as the Baptists at Kittery
- Persecution from local authorities began because they were not attending church but were meeting by themselves
- Ordained in January 1682 by Isaac Hull, 2nd Pastor of FBC Boston to serve the Kittery, Maine church.
- Upon his return to Kittery, he immediately ran into persecution because of the doctrine of Baptism AND their lack of attendance to the state church in Kittery, Maine
- He spent some time in Jail, was summoned before the courts, etc but ultimately, he and a few church members moved to the Charleston area and started a settlement called Somerton.
- Because of the faster growing colony of Charleston, the church was moved there and established as the FBC in Charleston around 1693 and is considered the first Baptist church in the South
- The FBC as it stands today, was built in 1699-1700
- William Screven remained active as a Pastor until 1706



Elisha Screven

1698-1757 (59)

- ▶ Elisha Screven, founder of Georgetown, was a younger son of William Screven born around the time of their transition to Charleston from "Somerton" SC (a colony started by William Screven)
- ▶ Elisha was given 1550 acres outside Charleston which was around the same area of Somerton, the town William had tried to start. The land was willed to him by his mother Bridget Screven
- ▶ To promote settlement here, Elisha planned a town, to be called Georgetown, which reserved lots for Anglican, Presbyterian, and Baptist churches, as well as for a school and other public buildings. Retained in the plan was this Screven family cemetery. The town had been laid out by 1730-1735.
- ▶ 224 lots had been sold and were beginning to be built within 2 years of the founding of Georgetown, which is the 3rd oldest town in South Carolina
- ▶ Elisha owned and lived his final years on these Winyah lands, which are at the Port of Georgetown today in the Winyah Bay area.
- ▶ Elisha reserved a lot at the end of Screven Street along Church Street for the Antipedo Baptist Church & Cemetery
- ▶ The cemetery is all that is left there as well as a Civil War Memorial
- ▶ Some of the Signs and information available were put out by the First Baptist Church in Georgetown in 2007 by the Historical Committee



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Shubal Stearns

1706 – 1771

Ministry: 1745-1771

- Born into congregationalist church 1706
- Converted by George Whitfield's preaching 1745
- Very charismatic preacher, like GW
- Became part of "new light" separatists
- Immediately started preaching to Congregationalists
- Converted to Baptist doctrine 1751
- Baptized & ordained 1751 by Elder Waitt Palmer in CT

- Joined forces with Daniel Marshall, brother in law, VA, 1754
- Started Sandy Creek Baptist church 1755
- Preached holiness, E&P, heartfelt conversion, new birth
- Huge success immediately for conversions and effect
- Shubal and Daniel Marshall traveled all over NC, GA, SC, VA, KY
- Sandy Creek Association founded to send ministers 1758
- Died 1770 with a tremendous legacy of Baptist churches



Legacy:

- 16: original members of Sandy Creek
- 900: members in combined 3 churches after only 3 years
- 50: churches in VA alone by 1771 (his death)
- 125: elders ordained by Shubal Stearns
- 42: established churches outside VA by Shubal's direct efforts, plus many branches
- Greatest contributions: evangelism, holy lives, E&P
- Primitive Baptists can be traced back to Shubal & Sandy Creek



What was Shubal's affect on the south?

- *"It is a mother church, nay a grand mother and a great grand mother. All the Separate Baptists sprang hence not only eastward towards the sea, but westward towards the great Mississippi, but northward to Virginia and southward to South Carolina and Georgia. The word went forth from this Sion, and great was the company of them who published it, in so much that her converts were as the drops of dew. This first church that sprang hence was Abbott's Creek, the Deep River, Little river, New River, (Ezek. Hunter), Southwest (Charles Marklin), Trent (James McDaniel), Staunton-river, Virg. (William Murphy), Fall-creek, VA (Samuel Harris), Danriver, Va. (Dutton Lane), Grassy-creek (James Reed), John Walker's church, Va Amelia Va. (Jeremia Walker), Fairforest, S. C. (Phil Mulkey) Congaree, S. C. (James Rees), Stephens-Creek, S. C.; (Dan. Marshal), Shallow-fords, N. C. (Joseph Murphy), &c."*

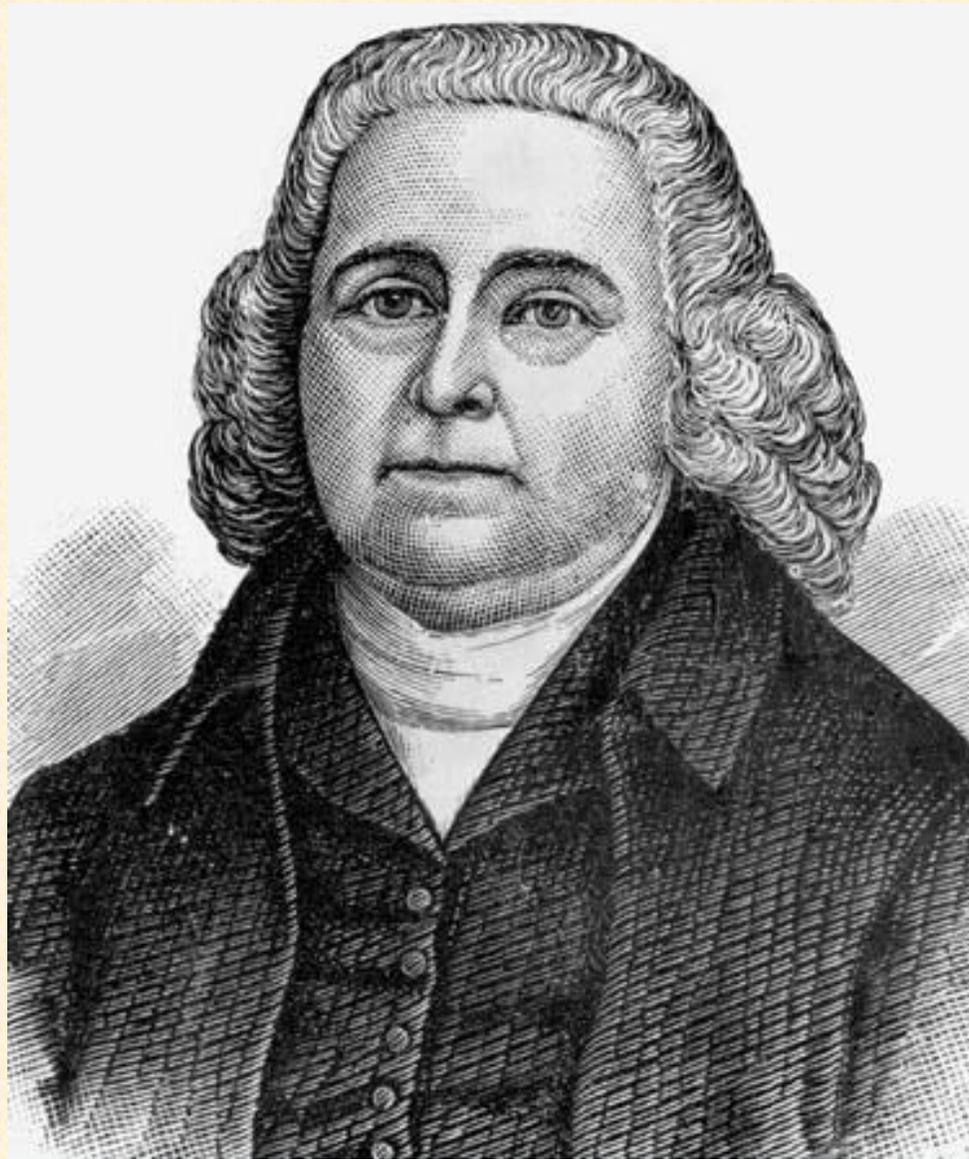
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ISAAC BACKUS

Separation of Church and State





January 9, 1724 – November 20, 1806
Born in Yantic (Norwich), Connecticut

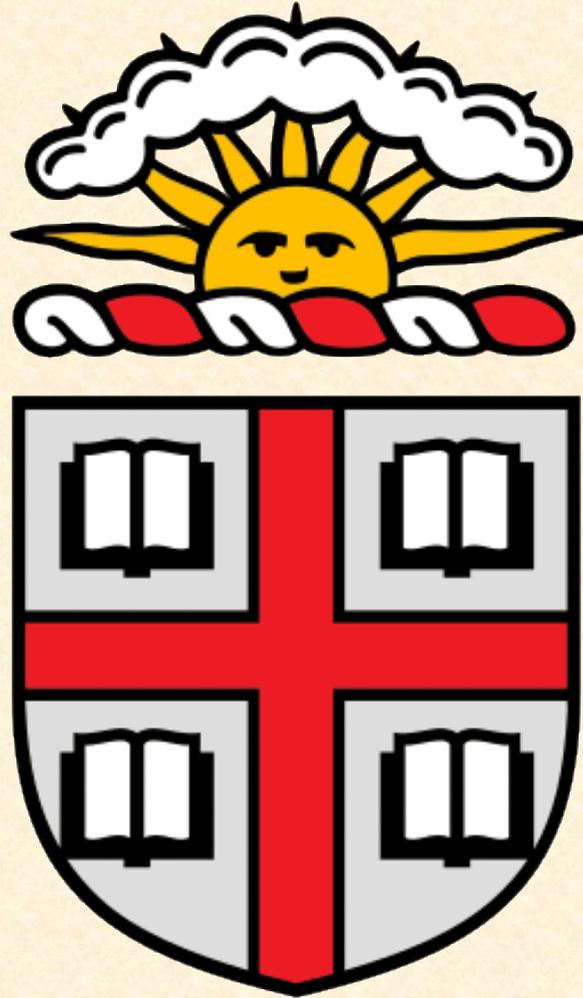


EARLY LIFE

- Converted in 1741 at age 17
 - The Great Awakening
 - The works of Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield
- Member of a Separatist Congregationalist church
- Started preaching in 1746, ordained in 1748
- Became a Baptist in 1751 and started a Baptist church in Middleborough, Massachusetts
- Never attended a college or seminary



COLLEGE IN THE ENGLISH COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS



Backus helped found the first Baptist school of higher learning:
Brown University



AMERICAN REVOLUTION PERIOD

- Strong proponent for separation of church and state
- Published his sermon *An Appeal to the Public for Religious Liberty, Against the Oppressions of the Present Day in 1773*



AMERICAN REVOLUTION PERIOD

"Now who can hear Christ declare, that his kingdom is, not of this world, and yet believe that this blending of church and state together can be pleasing to him?"



RATIFICATION DEBATE

- In 1788, Isaac served as a delegate in the Massachusetts ratifying convention
- Opposed the “ecclesiastical tax,” which personally impacted family



RATIFICATION DEBATE

“Many appear to be much concerned about [prohibition of religious tests], but nothing is more evident, both in reason, and in the holy scriptures, than that religion is ever a matter between God and individuals; and therefore no man or men can impose any religious test, **without invading the essential prerogatives of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Ministers first assumed this power under the Christian name; and then Constantine approved of the practice, when he adopted the profession of Christianity, as an engine of state policy. **And let the history of all nations be searched, from that day to this, and it will appear that the imposing of religious tests hath been the greatest engine of tyranny in the world.**”



THE IMPACT OF HIS LIFE:

- Freedom to meet like we are tonight and do every Sunday
- Freedom from laws hindering our ability to worship Jehovah
- Freedom from others persecuting us with secular powers as they did in the past with the martyrs



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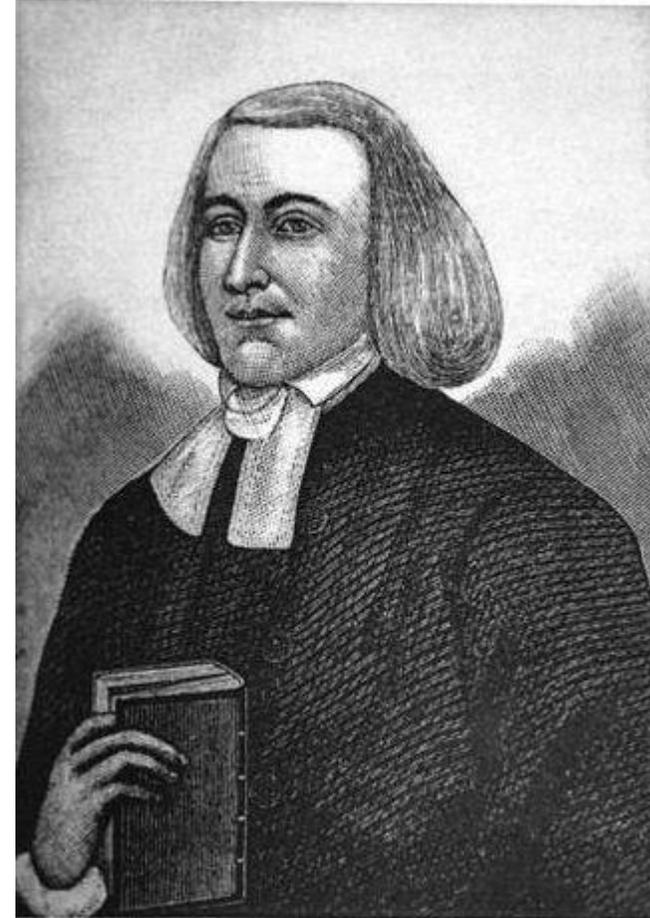
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SOME BAPTIST HISTORY...

...about John Gano

BIRTH

- **Born: July 22, 1727**
- **Hopewell Township, Mercer County, NJ**
- **Raised: Presbyterian**
 - **Father: French Calvinist**
 - **Mother: English Baptist**



FAMILY TREE

Francis Gano (French descent, escaped martyrdom)



Stephen Gano (6 sons, 3 daughters)



Daniel (married Sarah Brighton)



Francis



James



John



Lewis



Isaac



(5 sons, 3 daughters)



Daniel



Stephen



John



Nathan



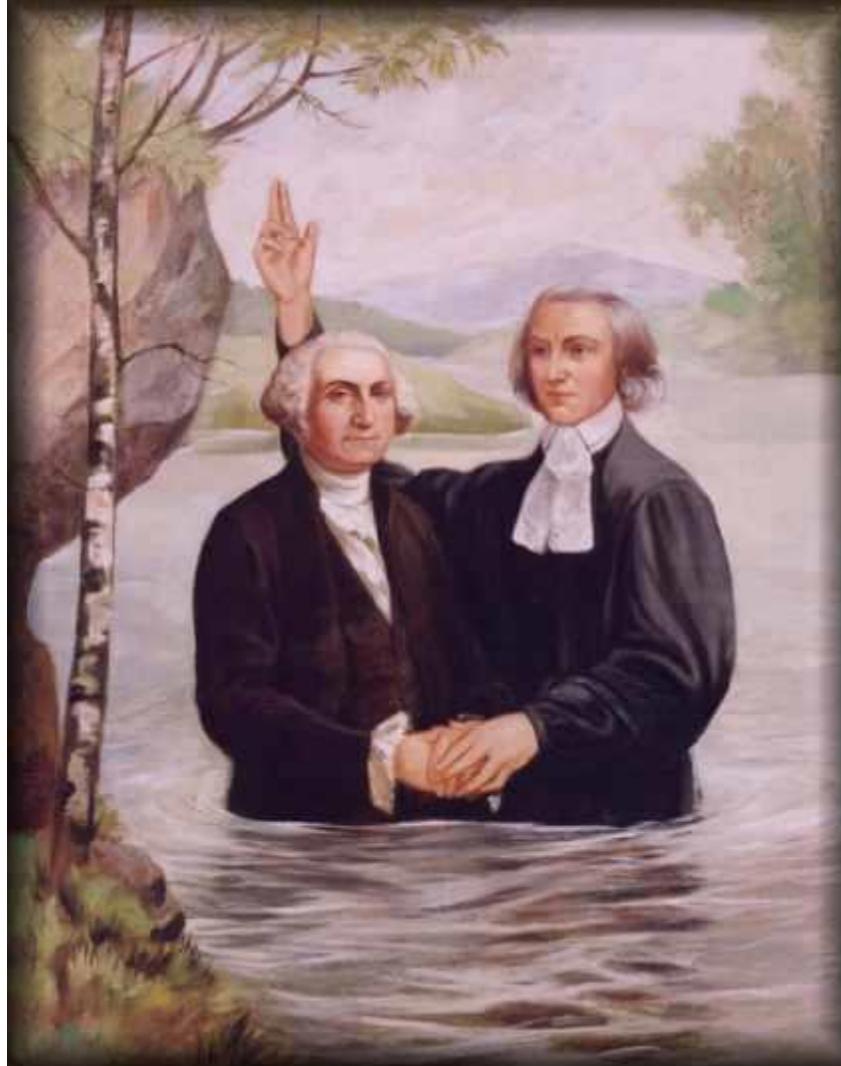
David

KNOWN FOR...

- “The Fighting Chaplain”
 - Proved his bravery at Battle of Chatterton Hill.
- During American Revolution, served as a soldier & chaplain in the Continental Army.
 - General Washington chose him to say a prayer marking official end of American Revolutionary War (1783).

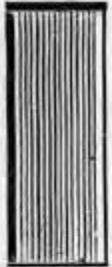
KNOWN FOR...

- 1889 – affidavit of two grandchildren – claimed Gano’s eldest daughter told them: “Gano had baptized George Washington.”
 - Some believe the account to be authentic...
 - ...while Washington biographer / uncle of Howard Hughes made claim that Rev. Gano served with Clinton’s army...
 - ...unclear whether Valley Forge or Potomac...
 - ...no documentation, Gano’s own correspondences, 42 witnesses provided no evidence, etc.^[1,2,3]



Painting^[1] hanging in Gano Chapel,
William Jewell College in
Liberty, Missouri, showing baptism by
immersion of George Washington by
John Gano

1884



FIRM FOUNDATION

1933



A National Weekly With a World-Wide Mission and a Definite Policy—the Defense of the Ancient Gospel Delivered to the Saints. Under Present Management Over a Quarter of a Century

The Firm Foundation of God standeth. Having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his"—2 Timothy 2:19.

Volume 50, Number 15]

Austin, Texas, Tuesday, April 11, 1933

[\$2.00 Per Year in Advance

Was George Washington Immersed?

by JAMES H. CHILDRESS

Time News-Magazine
September 6, 1932

HISTORY OF CONVERSION

- Baptized? by Isaac Eaton (established Baptist ministry school).
- Apparently, he'd had a powerful conversion experience after period of intense study → Calvinist Baptist.
- Doubted scriptural authority for infant baptism!
 - Studied topic at length, only to find himself more deeply entrenched in the truth of Baptist principles!



RELATED INSTITUTION / EDUCATION

- He left family farm to study at Princeton
 - ...but left before graduating.
- Education was irregular & limited.

ORDINATION

- Was ordained pastor of Scotch Plains, NJ, Baptist Church on May 29, 1754.
- In 1760, became founding pastor of what later became: First Baptist Church in New York City.
 - Served as pastor until 1787!
 - In the meantime, made frequent evangelistic trips throughout the colonies, stating: “I...had a right to proclaim free grace wherever I went.”

STATE MOST INFLUENCED

- Appears to have influenced the early colonies...
- ...from Rhode Island to South Carolina.

CONTEMPORARIES

- Had conversations with renowned Gilbert Tennant, a famous Presbyterian pastor.
- Accompanied Benjamin Miller, David Thomas
 - Most eminent ministers of their day
- George Whitefield
- Isaac Backus

ACQUAINTANCES / FRIENDS

- Gano was a co-laborer of Craig, Taylor, Hickman, Dudley, “others of a noble band who were in KY before him.”
 - They recognized him as a father in the faith.

ACQUAINTANCES / FRIENDS

- Richard Furman – distinguished pastor in Charleston:

"The late Rev. John Gano will be long remembered with affection & respect in the US. He was a person below the middle stature, & when young, of a slender form; but of a firm vigorous constitution. His mind was formed for social intercourse & friendship. His passions were strong, & his sensibilities could be easily excited, but so chastened & regulated were they, by the meekness of wisdom, that he preserved great composure of spirit & command of his words & actions."



DOCTRINE KNOWN FOR

- After baptism, preached Christ to dying sinners.
- Richard Furman / other sources, state: “Calvinistic in doctrine.”

MARRIAGE, CHILDREN, ETC.

- Married Sarah Stites (after several preaching trips)...
 - Had eleven children
 - Interesting note: one son was named Isaac Eaton***
- Married again, to daughter of a colonel, after 1st wife passed away.

CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN

- Seems that billionaire Howard Robard Hughes, Jr., is a descendant!
- Confederate States: General Richard Montgomery Gano
- Union General: Stephan Gano Burbridge

RESIDUAL EFFECTS

- Grandson John Allen Gano – one of the greatest gospel preachers of the Restoration Movement in KY.

PERSECUTION / RESISTANCE

- It seems he did not encounter heavy persecution / resistance...
- ...other than excerpt claiming "...he talk[ed] like one of the Joneses." – i.e., too much praying / talk of Christ
- He preached in Charleston, SC – “good acceptance.”
- Tar River, NC – principal men agreed to apprehend him as a “spy”

“On the frontier of Virginia this zealous missionary, while conversing with some people where he lodged, in an affectionate manner, respecting their religious concerns, overheard one of the company say to another, "This man talks like one of the Joneses!" On inquiring who the Joneses were, he was informed that they were distracted people, who did nothing but pray & talk about Jesus Christ, & that they lived between 20 – 30 miles distant on his route. "I determined," said he, "to make it my next day's ride, & see my own likeness." When he arrived at the house he found there a plain, obscure family, which had formerly lived in a very careless manner, but a number of them had lately been changed by grace, & were much engaged in devotional exercises. As he entered the house, he saw the father of the family lying before the fire, groaning with rheumatic pains. He inquired how he did.

"O," said he, "I am in great distress." "I am glad of it," replied the stranger. The old gentleman, astonished at this singular reply, raised himself up & inquired what he meant. "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, & scourgeth every son he receiveth," answered Mr. Gano. From this they proceeded to religious conversation, & he soon found that this pious family, whom the world accounted mad, had been taught the words of truth & soberness. They asked him many questions, & were much pleased to find one who was acquainted with the things they had experienced.”

PERSECUTION / RESISTANCE

- In Virginia, two young men believed his sermon was directed at them.
- They challenged him to a fight, but he graciously deferred, by stating he did not know anyone in town, let alone their character.
- The men apologized, & a physical fight was avoided.

PREACHING

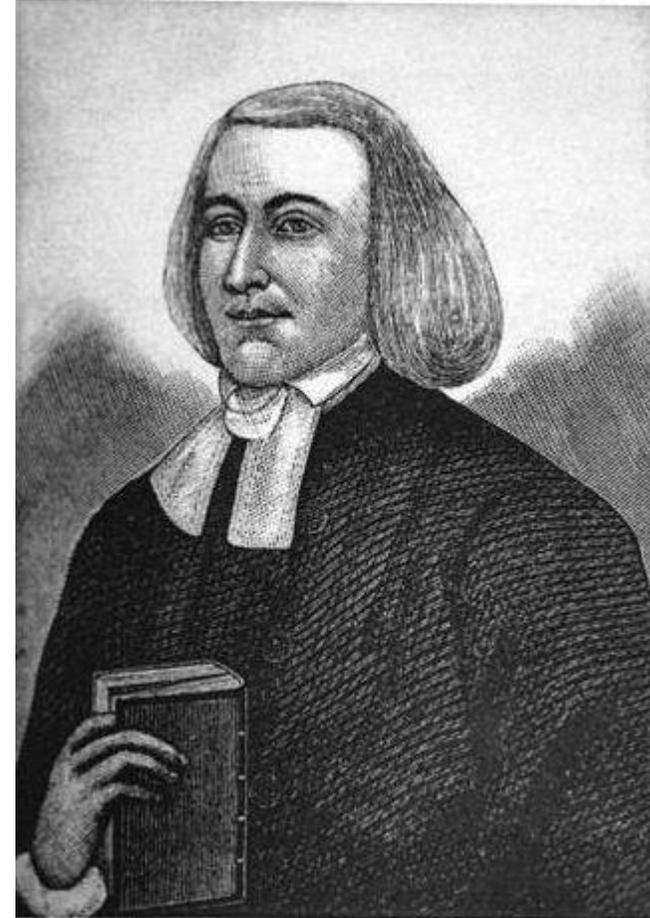
- On another preaching trip, he approached a man at the first house...
- He asked Gano if he was “a press-master.” Gano replied, “Yes, I am.”
- Man replied, alarmed “But you do not take married men?”
- Gano: “I surely do... The Master I wished him to serve was good, His character impeachable, the wages great, & it would benefit his wife & children if he enlisted.”
- The man made many excuses, but his fears were calmed when he realized Gano was speaking of Christ.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Helped found Rhode Island College (now Brown University)
- Served as regent of the University of the State of New York
- Trustee of King's College (Columbia)

DEATH

- Died: Aug 10, 1804
- Buried: Daughters of the Revolutionary War Section, Frankfort Cemetery, KY
- Length of Life: 77 years



REV. JOHN GANO

1736 — 1804

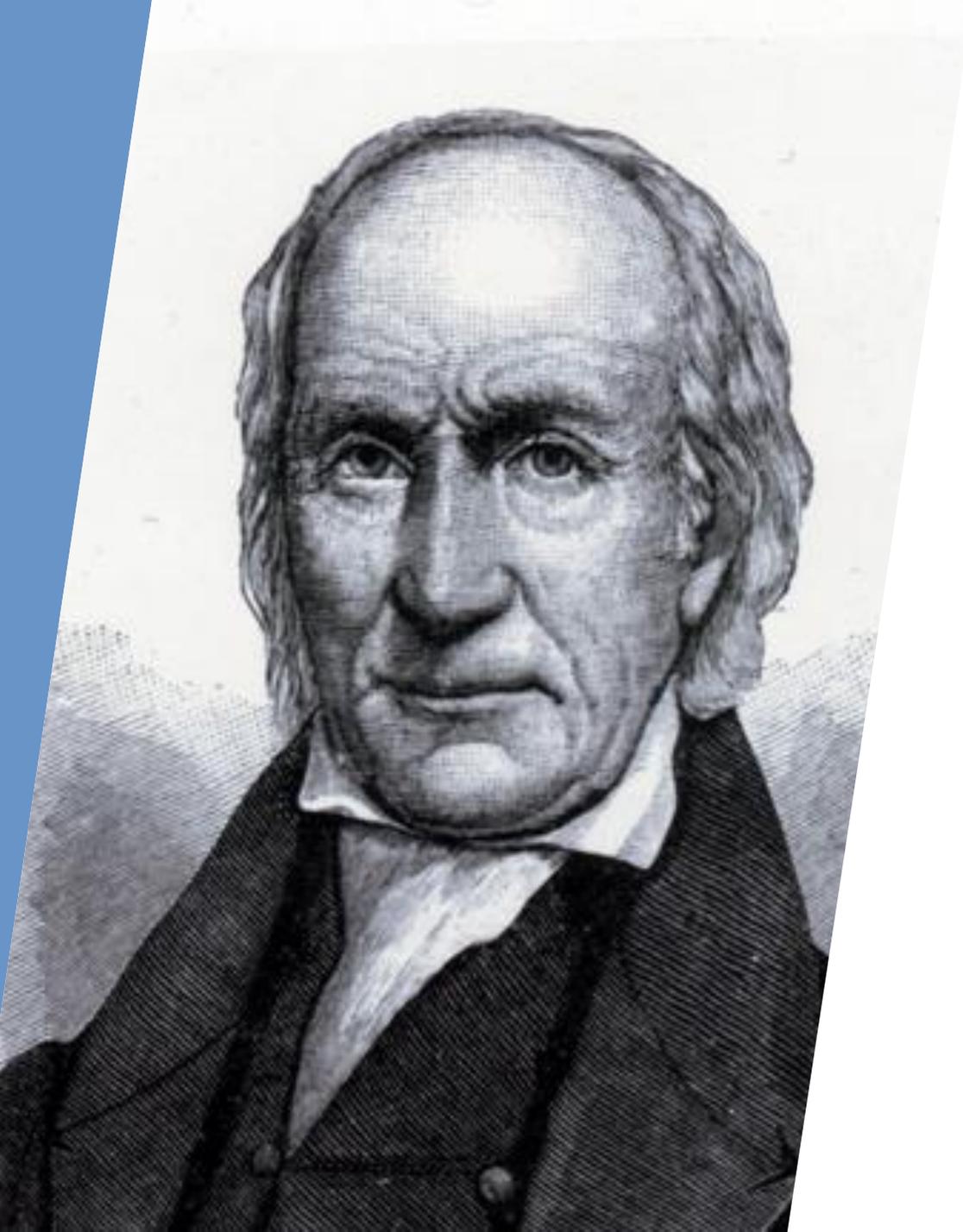
SARAH GANO
WIFE OF
JOHN GANO
1735 — 1792

REFERENCES

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2. http://www.therestorationmovement.com/_states/kentucky/gano,john.htm
3. <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/gano-john>
4. <http://baptisthistoryhomepage.com/gano.john.index.html>
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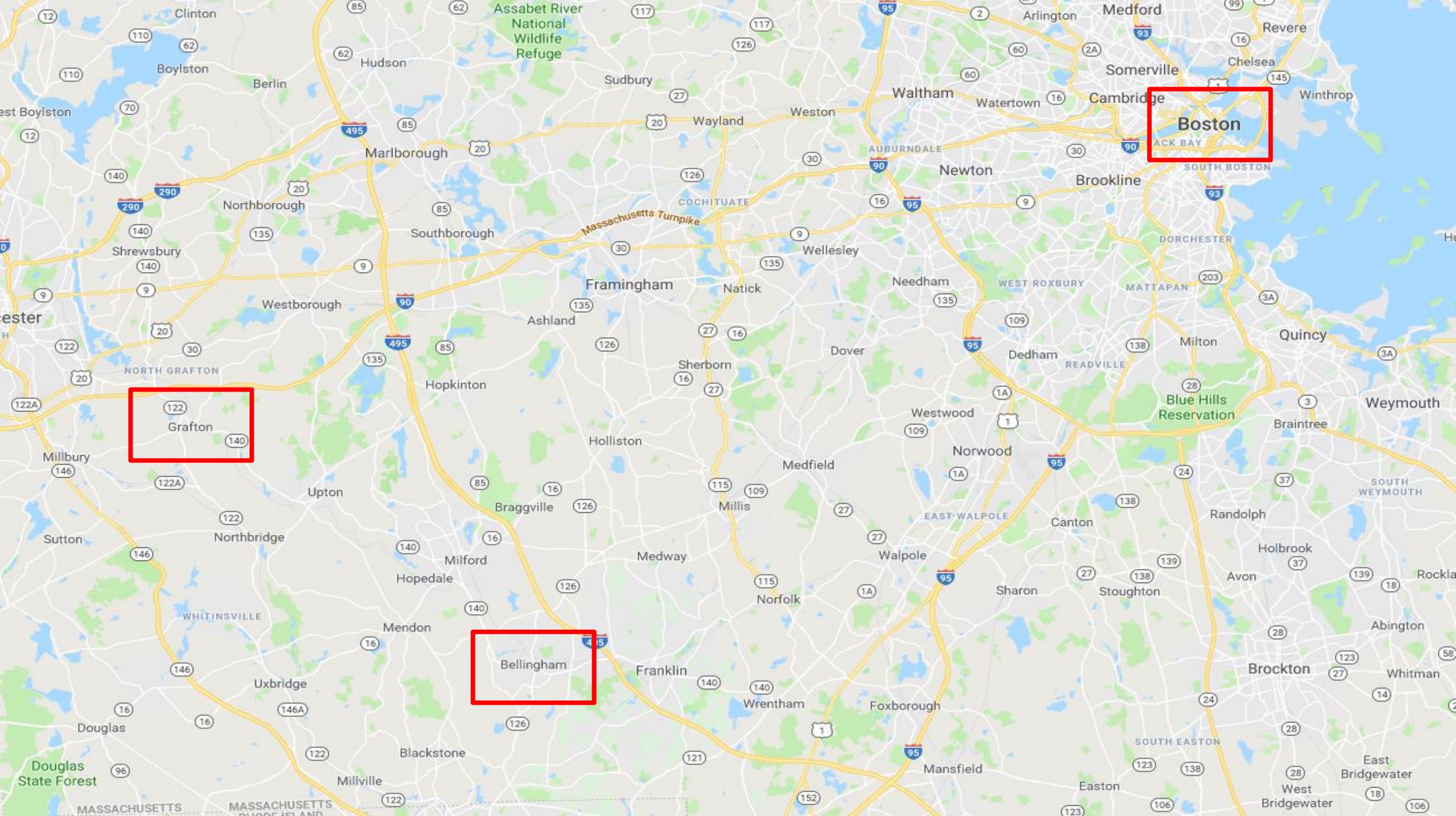


John Leland

Baptist Minister and Champion of
American Religious Freedom

Early Life

- ▶ Born 265 years ago yesterday (May 14, 1754), in Grafton, MA
- ▶ Parents were Congregationalists (opposed outside religious governing bodies)
- ▶ During his early childhood and youth, gave into lusts and vices.
- ▶ At age 18, became extremely remorseful and convicted of his sins.
- ▶ Grew deeply mindful of his eternal destiny and repented.
- ▶ Converted on proper baptism by Elhanan Winchester.
- ▶ Was properly baptized two years later by Noah Alden, a Baptist elder from Bellingham.



Boston

Grafton

Bellingham

Ministry

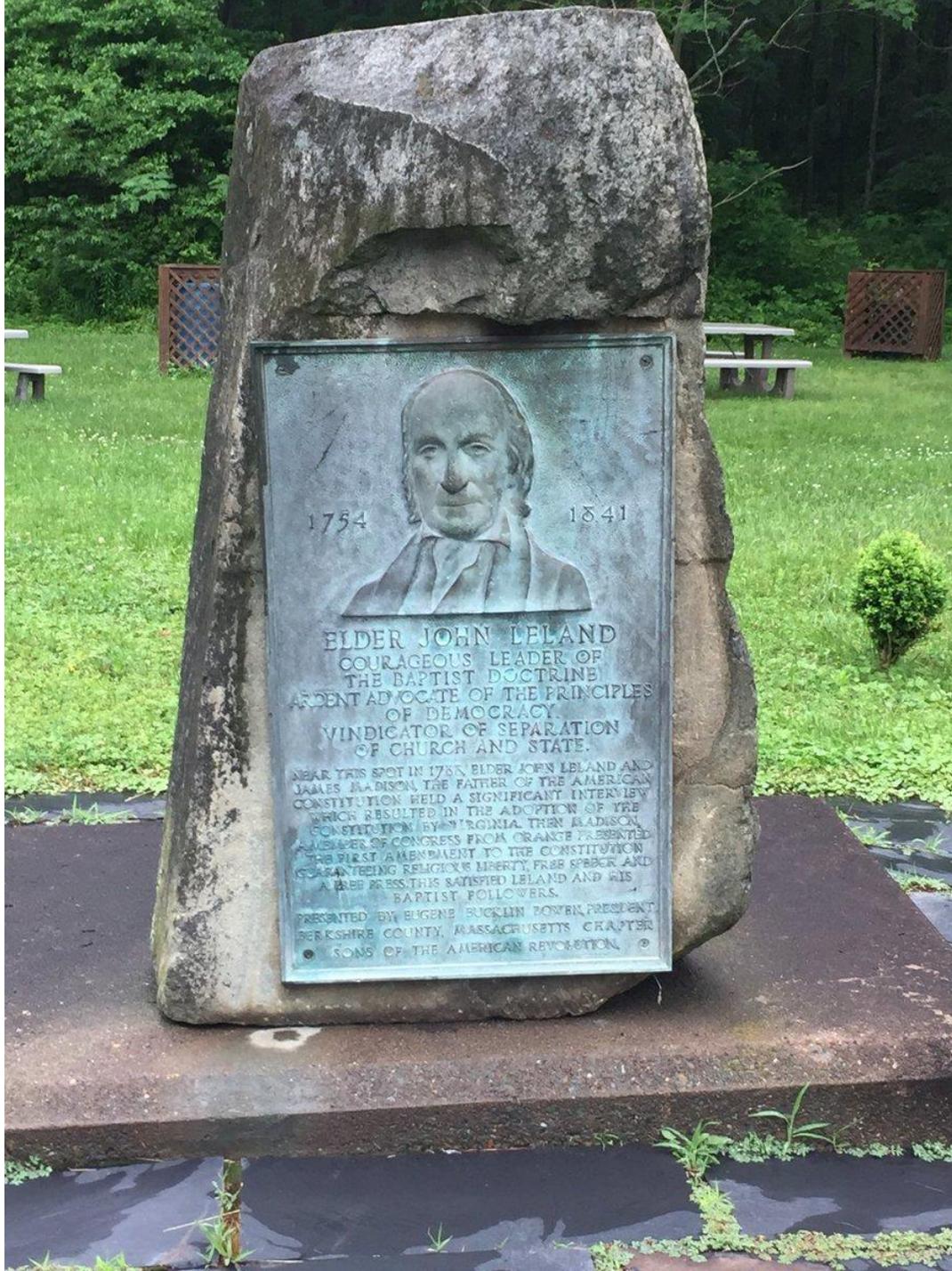
- ▶ No Baptist minister in Grafton; but meetings were held there.
- ▶ On June 20, 1774, preached his first sermon at 20.
- ▶ From that day forward, devoted his life to the ministry.
- ▶ Unofficially preached in neighboring towns whenever requested.
- ▶ In the Fall of 1774, joined the Bellingham Church.
- ▶ In October 1775, traveled to Virginia and returned during Summer 1776
- ▶ Married Sally Devine on September 30, 1776 at 22.
- ▶ Ordained in June 1787 by several Baptist ministers at age 33
- ▶ Traveled back to Virginia and preached there until 1791 when he returned to Massachusetts.

Relationship with James Madison

- ▶ Leland was considered the “leader of the Virginia Baptists.”
- ▶ Saw then Congressman Madison’s limited measures for protecting religious liberty, but wasn’t satisfied.
- ▶ In 1788, considered running against him to ensure full protection of religious freedom.
- ▶ Madison visited Leland and they settled on a compromise:
 - ▶ Leland would not run against Madison.
 - ▶ Madison agreed to spearhead Leland’s and his fellow Baptists’ concern for religious liberty.
- ▶ Madison kept his word and soon after pushed for the Bill of Rights.







1754

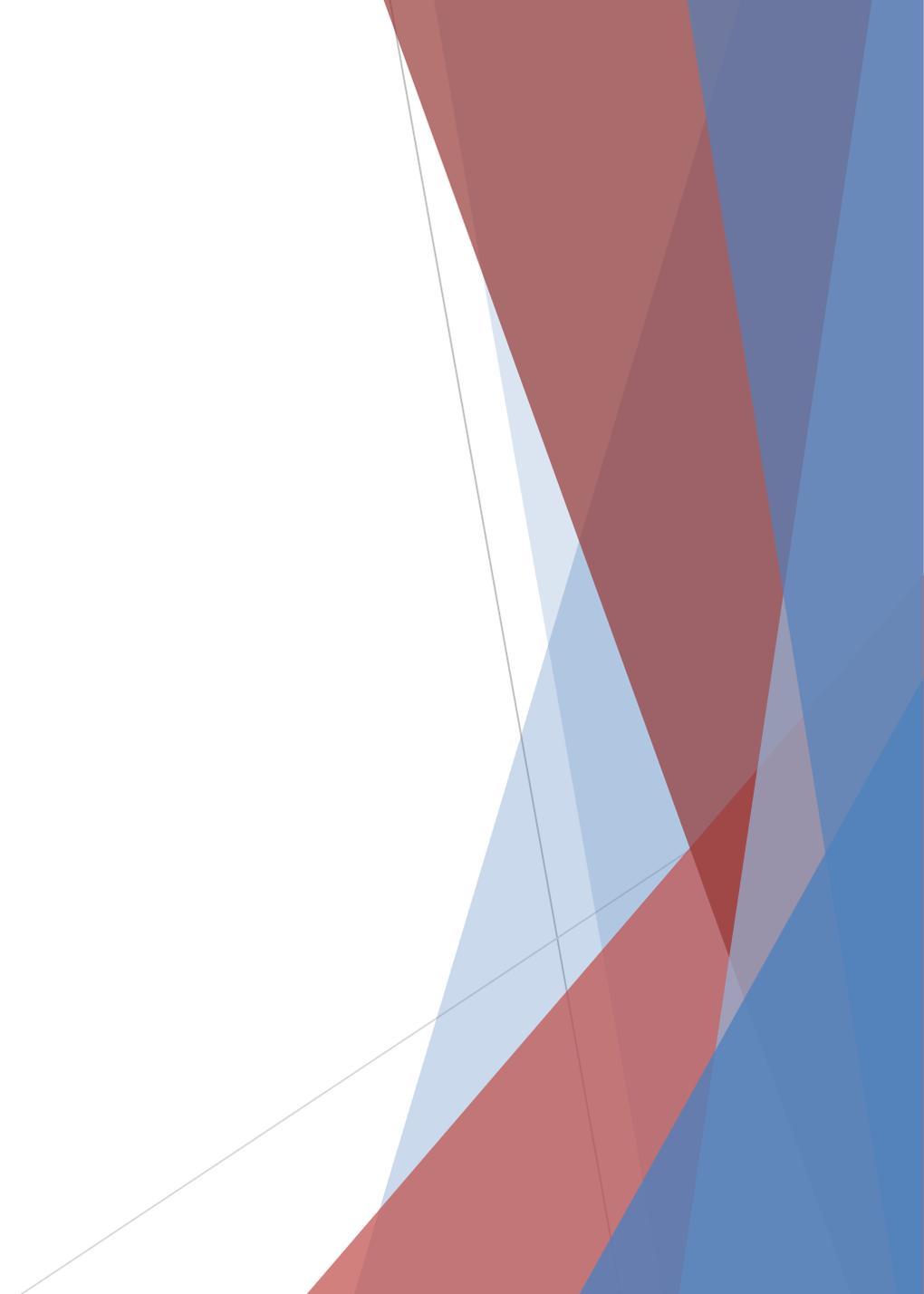
1841



ELDER JOHN LELAND
COURAGEOUS LEADER OF
THE BAPTIST DOCTRINE
ARDENT ADVOCATE OF THE PRINCIPLES
OF DEMOCRACY
VINDICATOR OF SEPARATION
OF CHURCH AND STATE.

NEAR THIS SPOT IN 1787, ELDER JOHN LELAND AND
JAMES MADISON, THE FATHER OF THE AMERICAN
CONSTITUTION HELD A SIGNIFICANT INTERVIEW
WHICH RESULTED IN THE ADOPTION OF THE
CONSTITUTION BY VIRGINIA. THEN MADISON,
A MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM ORANGE, PRESENTED
THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
GUARANTEEING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, FREE SPEECH AND
A FREE PRESS. THIS SATISFIED LELAND AND HIS
BAPTIST FOLLOWERS.

PRESENTED BY EUGENE BUCKLIN POWER, PRESIDENT,
PERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.





DEDICATION
OF

LELAND-MADISON MONUMENTAL PARK

"RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR ALL"

OCTOBER 4, 1953

ORANGE COUNTY JAYGEES



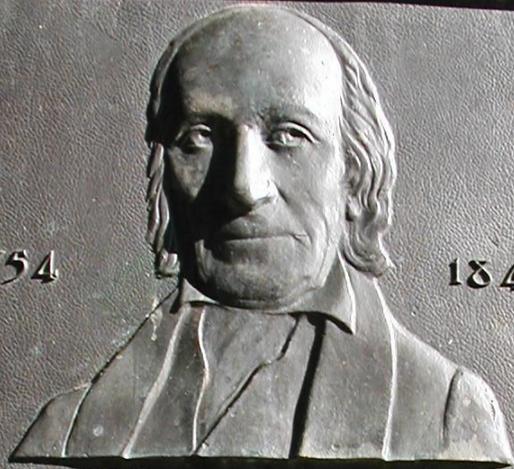
“

Every man must give account of himself to God, and therefore every man ought to be at liberty to serve God in a way that he can best reconcile to his conscience. If government can answer for individuals at the day of judgment, let men be controlled by it in religious matters; otherwise, let men be free.

”

- John Leland, “Right of Conscience Inalienable.”

1754



1841

ELDER JOHN LELAND

**ELOQUENT PREACHER, BELOVED PASTOR,
INFLUENTIAL PATRIOT
FATHER OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

**WITH JAMES MADISON CARRIED VIRGINIA
IN THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE FIRST
AMENDMENT. DESPITE OPPOSITION OF EVERY
OTHER PULPIT IN MASSACHUSETTS
CARRIED EVERY VOTE IN CHESHIRE FOR THE
ELECTION OF**

PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON

**AND PRESENTED TO HIM ON JAN. 1, 1802, IN THE EAST ROOM
OF THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN
DIPLOMATS, SUPREME COURT JUDGES
AND THE CONGRESS**

**THE BIG CHESHIRE CHEESE
WEIGHING 1235 LBS.**

**DEDICATED BY
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

1940

“ Since I began to preach, in 1774, I have travelled distances which, together, would form a girdle nearly sufficient to go round the terraqueous globe three times...

I am now in the decline of life, having lived nearly two-thirds of a century. When Jacob had lived twice as long, his days had been few and evil. Looking over the foregoing narrative, there is proof enough of imperfection; and yet what I have written is the best part of my life.

”

A history seven times as large might be written of my errors in judgment, incorrectness of behavior, and baseness of heart. My only hope of acceptance with God is in the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. And when I come to Christ for pardon, I come as an old gray-headed sinner; in the language of the Publican, “God be merciful to me a sinner.”

- John Leland

Our Derived Benefits

- ▶ The First Amendment protects us today from government censorship and persecution.
- ▶ No other nation has a First Amendment. We are blessed.
- ▶ We should thank God every time we see a Catholic church or a Muslim mosque.
- ▶ Hate speech laws are used in other countries to persecute and censor.
- ▶ China, Germany, France, Canada, UK, Switzerland, New Zealand, etc.
- ▶ We are able to preach from the word of God without fear of government interference.
- ▶ These blessings would not be available to us without men like Leland and Backus.

Sources

- ▶ <https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/john-leland-how-a-baptist-preacher-helped-ensure-religious-liberty>
- ▶ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Leland_\(Baptist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Leland_(Baptist))
- ▶ <https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/5-facts-about-john-leland>
- ▶ <http://baptisthistoryhomepage.com/leland.john.annals.1860.html>
- ▶ <https://www.newsmax.com/t/newsmax/article/636039/113>
- ▶ <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/>
- ▶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheshire_Mammoth_Cheese

Seven Baptist Heroes

Influential in Early America

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32