

“The Truth about the Founding Fathers of the American Republic”

by Catherine Millard

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Introduction

Since its inception in 1984, *Christian Heritage Tours, Inc.* has received numerous, recurring questions regarding *The Truth about the Founding Fathers of American Republic* – their ideals, morals, conduct, education, beliefs and way of life. To wit: Is it true that George Washington and James Madison were Freemasons? Did Thomas Jefferson write his own bible? Were Benjamin Franklin and John Adams deists? Did the American founding fathers – signers of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution – base their philosophy and beliefs upon the European “Enlightenment,” and deism?

It was discovered that the general media, including modern-day textbook versions, and foremost national historic sites’ exhibits, had portrayed the founders of the American Republic in a revisionist, derogatory manner, alien to their true identity.

This book is a result of twenty-two years’ research and study, utilizing the original papers, letters, writings, speeches, proclamations and addresses of the founding fathers, which provide evidence *in their own words*, many hand-written by them, of their belief in – and defense of the Christian Protestant Religion. The irrefutable proof contained herein is from original documents of American history housed in the Rare Book Collection of the Library of Congress.

George Washington wrote that he had “never presided over any (Freemasonic) Lodge in the United States,” and that he had been in one, “only once or twice in thirty years.” Washington also wrote that the tenets and doctrines of the Illuminati were “nefarious, dangerous and diabolical,” and the principles of Jacobinism “pernicious.” In an original letter, **James Madison** writes that, “I never was a Mason, and no one, perhaps, could be more a stranger to the principles, rites and fruits of the Institution.” **John Adams** drafted the 1780 Massachusetts Constitution, in which he authorizes the legislature “to make suitable provision, at their own expense, for the support and maintenance of public

Protestant Teachers of piety, religion and morality.” **Thomas Jefferson** did not “write his own bible” – his family Bible (King James 1611 Authorized), being his own personal Bible, as shown in this book. **Benjamin Franklin**, a member of Christ Church, Philadelphia, founded the *Academy and College of Philadelphia*, his first chosen Provost being a Doctor of Divinity, and his curriculum containing “*The Holy Bible*” and great Christian writers. These in turn, trained many founding fathers, to include the first two Chaplains of the Continental Congress.



“Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States” painting by Howard Chandler Christy. James Madison, “father of the U.S. Constitution,” is seated at table in the center. A Bible, to the right, is opened at the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 5.

Benjamin Rush, M.D., tutor at the *College of Philadelphia*, wrote “*A Defense of the Use of the Bible in Schools*,” in 1791. In 1775, Benjamin Franklin, L.L.D., with Dr. Benjamin Rush founded the first *Abolition Society*, becoming its two early presidents. **John Witherspoon, Doctor of Divinity, L.L.D.**, president of the College of New-Jersey (Princeton) instructed James Madison, who in turn became the “father of the U.S. Constitution.”

James Madison’s 1785 “*Memorial and Remonstrance*” states that “every page of it (the Christian Religion) disavows a dependence on the power of this world,” and that “it is known that this Religion both existed and flourished, not only without the support of human laws, but in spite of every opposition from them.”

John Hancock, first founding father to sign the *Declaration of Independence*, stated, in his *March 5, 1774 Oration* that “the Lord’s Day was hallowed, and set apart by God Himself for His peculiar worship,” quoting passages from Scripture, such as, Hebrews 1:9; Jeremiah 18:7, 9 and Habakkuk 3:17,18.

Samuel Adams, organizer of the American Revolution, stated in his *August 1st, 1776 Oration to Congress*, “Our Forefathers threw off the yoke of Popery in Religion. They opened the Bible to all, and maintained the capacity of every man to judge for himself in Religion.”

Alexander Hamilton was a graduate of *King's College* (now Columbia), whose first Board of Trustees was headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, with pastors of five Protestant Christian denominations in New York – Episcopalian, Dutch Reformed, Lutheran, French Protestant and Presbyterian, as Trustees. **John Jay**, L.L.D., a graduate of *King's College*, and first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court; became a first Vice President of the *American Bible Society* (1816), serving as its president from 1821-1829.

George Wythe, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and mentor to Thomas Jefferson, was the first Professor of Law at the *College of William and Mary*, its 1693 Charter stating that it was founded “to the end that the Church of Virginia may be furnished with a Seminary of Ministers of the Gospel, and that the Youth may be piously educated in Good Letters and Manners, and that the Christian Faith may be propagated amongst the Western Indians, to the glory of Almighty God.”

Patrick Henry, together with **Thomas Jefferson**, delegates in the House of Burgesses, Williamsburg, Virginia, drafted a joint resolution proclaiming a “*Day of Humiliation, Prayer and Fasting*,” designated for June 1st, 1774 – signed by George Wythe.

George Mason authored the *Virginia Declaration of Rights* – forerunner to the United States Bill of Rights – in which he affirms that “it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love and charity, towards each other.” (Article XVI).

William Livingston, Signer of the U.S. Constitution, defends the Christian Protestant Religion in his 1768 “*Letter to the Right Reverend Father in God, John, Lord Bishop of Landaff; Occasioned by some passages in his Lordship's Sermon, on the 20th of February 1767, in which the American Colonies are loaded with great and undeserved Reproach,*” speaking of “Him, to whom angels and authorities, and powers are made subject” (1 Peter 3:22); of “the sacred books of the Old and New Testament translated by John Elliot into the Indian language and dispersed among the natives for their instruction in things pertaining to the kingdom of God and Christ;” that “the consequence was Indians met together every Lord's Day, for the worship of God through Jesus Christ;” and that David Brainard, missionary from Scotland, spent his life bringing the Gospel to several tribes of natives in New York;” and of the importance of furthering “the kingdom of ‘The Prince of Peace.’” (Isaiah 9:6).

Francis Hopkinson, first graduate of the *College of Philadelphia* and Signer of the Declaration of Independence, in his 1763 “*The Lawfulness, Excellency and Advantage of Instrumental Music, in the Public Worship of God, but chiefly of Organs,*” speaks of “the propriety of having Organs in our

churches, now under the pure and spiritual dispensation of the Gospel,” and refers his readers to Genesis 4:21, Psalm 32:11 and Philippians 1:26; 2:17,18.

Philip Livingston, Signer of the *Declaration of Independence*, graduated from *Yale College*, of which he became a benefactor. The college was founded in 1754 by ten Ministers of the Christian Protestant Religion, their Charter's “main Design being to educate Persons for the Ministry of those Churches, commonly called Presbyterian or Congregational;” and “for public Employment of Church and State.” Philip Livingston, in his 1774 “*The Other Side of the Question: or, A Defense of the Liberties of North-America, in Answer to a late Friendly Address to All Reasonable Americans on the Subject of our Political Confusions,*” writes that “he had rather trust God Almighty with his soul, than the British Parliament with his estate;” that “only Almighty God can have a natural right to make laws binding on others;” and that “Americans' rights were conferred by the King of Kings” (Revelation 19:16 – Jesus Christ) “therefore no earthly Potentate can take them away.”

Noah Webster, L.L.D., author of the 1828 “*An American Dictionary*” and “*Sketches of American Policy*” wrote of “the injustice of enslaving any part of the human race” in his 1793 “*Effects of Slavery on Morals and Industry;*” while his 1811 “*Peculiar Doctrines of the Gospel Explained and Defended,*” was widely acclaimed.

Thomas Nelson, Jr., Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Commander of the Virginia Militia, ordered the bombardment of his own house, as it was believed that General Cornwallis had established his headquarters therein during the siege of Yorktown. A worshipper at *Colonial Grace Episcopal Church*, (circa 1697) where he is interred, his epitaph reads, “Patriot – Soldier – Christian-gentleman. *He gave all for liberty.*”

Richard Stockton – Signer of the Declaration of Independence – a graduate and Trustee of the College of New-Jersey (Princeton), was chosen, with Benjamin Rush, to travel to Scotland for the purpose of recruiting Rev. John Witherspoon, D.D., L.L.D., a Presbyterian Minister of the Gospel, to become president of the College of New-Jersey (Princeton). The 1748 Charter of this college names twelve, “ministers of the Gospel” among “the Trustees of the said College of New-Jersey.” **Richard Stockton's** home, “*Morven,*” was invaded by the British, his library, documents and furnishings burned, his portrait disfigured, his farm destroyed, and he himself confined to a New York jail, from which he was finally freed – but which hastened his death in 1781. This founding father stands out as the embodiment of the *Declaration of Independence*, “...and for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance upon the protection

of *Divine Providence*, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”

Caesar Rodney, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, President, Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Delaware State, proclaimed March 20th, 1779 as a “*Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer to Almighty God.*” In it, he beseeches Almighty God to “grant us His grace to repent of our sins, and amend our lives according to His Holy Word...extend the influence of true Religion, and give us that peace of mind which the world cannot give: that He will be our shield in the day of battle, our comfort in the hour of death, and our kind Parent and merciful Judge through time and through Eternity.”

Paul Revere, Heroic Rider of the American Revolution, was a member of *Christ Church (Old North Church)*, Boston. His April 19th, 1775 “*Midnight Ride*” following two lanterns being lit in the steeple of Christ Church, warned, not only Samuel Adams and John Hancock – but also alarmed minutemen at every house, with the message “the British are coming, the British are coming!” – thus saving the American colonists.

Charles Thomson, Secretary of Congress from 1774-1789, and lifelong friend of Thomas Jefferson, devoted the last twenty-five years of his life to translating the *Septuagint (Greek) Old, and New Testament of the Bible* into English, first in America. Jefferson ordered a copy for his Library, now housed in the Rare Book Collection of the Library of Congress; Thomson being acclaimed one of the greatest scholars of his time.

All of the above, and much more, preclude atheism, deism, agnosticism, rationalism, freemasonry and the European “Enlightenment” philosophy; and prove, from the founding fathers’ original writings, their belief in – and defense – of the *Christian Protestant Religion*.

“A deist” in Webster’s 1828 Dictionary is described as:

One who believes in the existence of a God, but denies revealed religion; one who professes no form of religion, but follows the light of nature and reason, as his only guides in doctrine and practice; a free-thinker.

Webster’s Dictionary describes “The Enlightenment” in these terms:

An 18th-century European philosophical movement characterized by rationalism, an impetus toward learning, and a spirit of skepticism and empiricism in social and political thought.

And, “rationalism” as:

In theology, the doctrine that rejects Revelation and the supernatural, and makes reason the sole source of knowledge.

The definition for “empiricism” in Webster’s Dictionary is:

In philosophy, the theory that sensory experience is the only source of knowledge.

Thomas Paine’s Scriptural “*Common Sense*,” published in January, 1776, made him the best known and most influential writer in America at the time. To “*Common Sense*” is ascribed the turning point in favor of independence. “*Common Sense*” is a powerful argument, derived from Scripture, against monarchical rule and tyranny. Paine’s “*Age of Reason*,” however, was published in Europe in 1794, the second year of the French Republic and during George Washington’s second term as President of the United States. It was widely condemned as blasphemy in the new nation – being also exposed by George Washington’s pastor, Rev. James Muir, D.D., as “an utter contempt for Revelation,” in his *Examination of the Age of Reason, in Ten Discourses*.

A nation that does not know from where it came also does not know where it is going, and becomes easy prey for an alien philosophy. It is for this reason that I write this book, *The Truth about the Founding Fathers of the American Republic*, to resuscitate and re-awaken a lost history, the anchor and hope for America.

— Catherine Millard