

## Exhibit Ephemera Includes

**[Oath of Secrecy]** –This November 9, 1775 Oath of Secrecy was executed by eighty-seven Continental Congress Delegates.

**1778 Journals of Congress**, containing the Proceedings of the Continental Congress from January 1, 1778 to January 1, 1779, Philadelphia: Printed by David C. Claypoole, Printer to the Congress of the United States of America, Volume IV, 748 pages plus index, 1779.

**Jay, John** - An important May 28, 1779 letter signed as President of the Continental Congress to Patrick Henry who has docketed on verso.

**Continental Currency and Fugio Dollar** - Hyper-inflation of the U.S. Dollar with original currency dated from 1776 to 1779. Also included is an 18th Century Monthly table of depreciation for US Dollar from 105 (indexed to gold and silver) in January 1777 to 4000 in March 1780 that was included in an Almanack for the year 1786, published by Nathanael Low.

**Boudinot, Elias** – Autograph letter signed as President of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, to Major General Arthur St. Clair dated 9 July 1783 regarding the relocation of the government to Princeton, NJ due to a mutiny of U.S. Troops in Philadelphia.

**Mifflin, Thomas** - February 22, 1784 Military Commission signed as President of the United States, in Congress Assembled with a 1784 printing of his Treaty of Paris ratification ending the Revolutionary War with Great Britain

**[U.S. Constitution]** - *The American Museum*, Philadelphia, September, 1787, 8vo., printing which has the very distinguished honor of being the first magazine to print the Constitution of the United States.

## U.S. Constitution Day

### *The Foundation For Freedom The United States Constitutional Exhibit*

was produced by Stanley Yavneh Klos thanks to a Bi-Partisan initiative envisioned by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, to restore U.S. history to its rightful place in America's schools. In conjunction with this program federal legislation was passed notifying:

*"Each educational institution receiving Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education that a new statutory requirement for implementation of an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution, on a date designated by statute."*

### **Specifically the Congressional initiative states in Section 111(b):**

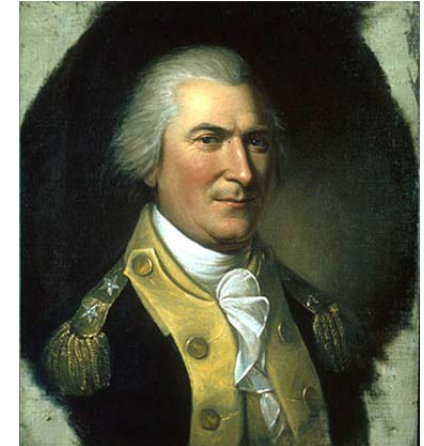
*"[e]ach educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution." For purposes of the Department's implementation of this requirement, "educational institutions" includes but is not limited to "local educational agencies" and "institutions of higher education" receiving Federal funding from the Department."*

### **Section 111 also requires that:**

*"Constitution Day be held on September 17 of each year, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week."*

## SEPTEMBER 17, 1787

### *The More Perfect Union A Glorious Adventure!*



**Arthur St. Clair**

9th President of the United States  
in Congress Assembled  
February 2, 1787 to October 29, 1787

Hosted By

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## Oath of Secrecy



**The Foundation For Freedom: The United States Constitutional Exhibit** covers the four distinct legal stages in the formation of the United States of America:

1. United Colonies of America under the colonial Continental Congress: September 4, 1774 to July 1, 1776
2. United States of America under the U.S. Continental Congress: July 2, 1776 to February 28, 1781
3. United States of America under the ratified Constitution of 1777 (Articles of Confederation): March 1, 1781 to March 3, 1789
4. The United States of America under the ratified Constitution of 1787: March 4, 1789 to Present.

Each of the four stages marks a different phase in the legal evolution of the republic formed by the British Colonies of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

The origin of the United States' current tripartite government's **first stage** can be traced back to September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1774 when deputies from the

colonies first met at Philadelphia's City Tavern on Second Street, just north of Walnut Street. Here, representatives caucused to decide where the initial meeting of the "*Congress of Deputies from the colonies in general*" would convene, what should be the operating procedures and who should serve as their presiding officer.



## The 1776 Fugio U.S. Dollar

**The second stage** was born on July 2, 1776 when both Robert Morris and John Dickinson, opponents to the resolution for Independence, "*abstained*" by not attending the historic session, allowing the remaining Pennsylvania delegation to vote for independence. On that date South Carolina delegate Arthur Middleton, who had replaced former Continental Congress President Henry Middleton, changed the colony's position to yes on independence in direct violation of his father's directive. Finally, traveling 80 miles through a lightning storm, asthmatic and suffering from a serious facial cancer, delegate Caesar Rodney, who was summoned by fellow delegate Thomas McKean, arrived in time to break Delaware's dead-lock. Rodney cast the third vote for Delaware and it was for independence. With this vote, all 12 colonies adopted the resolution, introduced by Richard Henry Lee and John Adams, declaring "*...that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.*"

**The third stage** occurred on March 1, 1781 when the Continental Congress officially recorded Maryland's ratification of the Articles of Confederation. By virtue of this ratification, the ever-fluid Continental Congress ceased to exist.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, "*The United States, in Congress Assembled*" was placed at the head of each page of the Official Journal of Congress. The United States of America's perpetual union, conceived on July 2, 1776, proclaimed on the 4<sup>th</sup>, formulated on November 15, 1777 had officially commenced on March 1, 1781 under the watch of President Samuel Huntington with the ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> State, Maryland.

**The fourth stage** is marked on March 4, 1789 when the second U.S. Constitutional government took office and the confederation congress faded away. 18 Months earlier, on September 17, 1787 the Philadelphia Convention adopted an innovative Plan for a New Federal government and rushed it to New York by stagecoach for consideration by the United States in Congress Assembled. Richard Henry Lee led the "9-13 opposition" insisting on unanimous State convention ratification as per Article XIII of the federal constitution. Lee also sought to amend the new constitution. A heated debate ensued. James Madison and Rufus King's opinions won out in the end and they were earnestly supported by President Arthur St. Clair who, surprisingly, was and remains the only foreign-born President of the United States. On September 28, 1787 the United States in Congress Assembled adopted a resolution permitting state conventions to be formed to consider ratifying the new constitution. On June 21, 1788 the ninth State, New Hampshire, ratified the new constitution meeting the minimum requirement of states to discard the Articles of Confederation and adopt the Philadelphia Convention's Plan for governing the United States of America. The final State, Rhode Island, would hold out on ratification until May 29, 1790.

