



About Quill Entertainment

Founded in 1998, Quill Entertainment Company is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit educational organization whose mission is *Teaching America's Heritage Through Story and Song*. Quill has written and produced six 50-minute musicals designed to be performed in connection with school history curricula, library programming, and other family community program offerings. Since its inception, Quill has entertained and educated over 40,000 people.

Quill Productions available for the school year 2012 - 2013 are:

Fall

EVERYBODY'S WATCHING: The Making of the Constitution

Winter

DREAM: Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Spring

THE LAST FULL MEASURE: The Battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Address

To schedule a Quill History Musical at your school, library, or other community location, please contact Granville Burgess at 203.253.1825 or e-mail at quillcompany@gmail.com

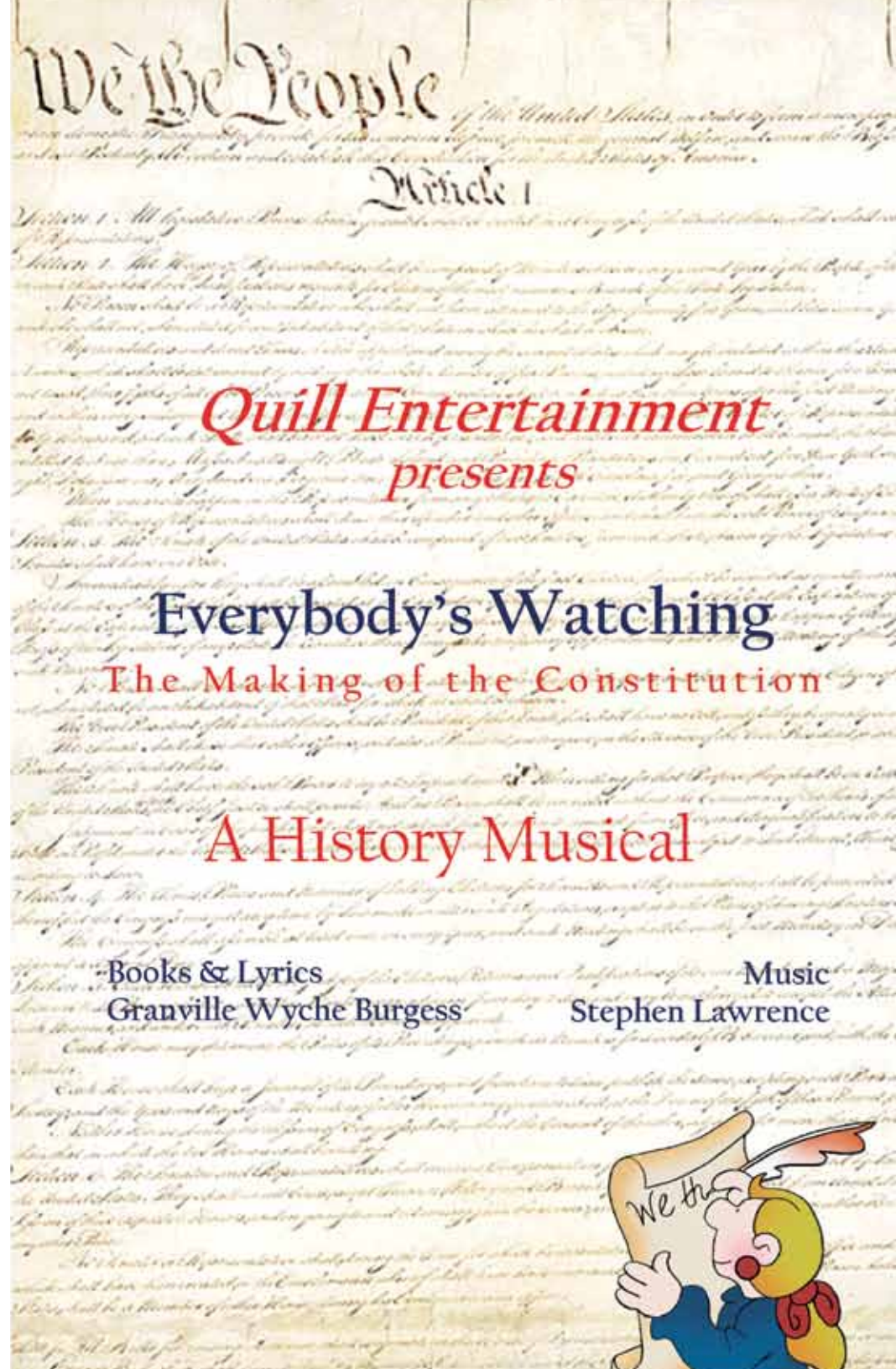
For a complete schedule, list of educational materials, and additional information, please visit our website at: www.quillentertainment.org



Teaching America's Heritage Through Story and Song

www.quillentertainment.org

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We the People

Article 1

Quill Entertainment presents

Everybody's Watching

The Making of the Constitution

A History Musical

Books & Lyrics
Granville Wyche Burgess

Music
Stephen Lawrence





Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, ESTABLISH JUSTICE, INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE, PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE, AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



The Thirteen Colonies



Student Activities

- We'd love to hear from you! Go to our website, www.quillentertainment.org, click on our email and tell us:
 1. What did you like about our show?
 2. Who was your favorite character and why?
 3. What did you learn about the Constitution?
- Exercise your rights as a citizen, as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution, by writing your Senator or Representative about an issue of importance to you.
- Recommended Reading List



*The United States Constitution
what it says, what it means:
A Hip Pocket Guide*
By www.justicelearning.org

*Understanding Democracy:
A Hip Pocket Guide*
By John J. Patrick

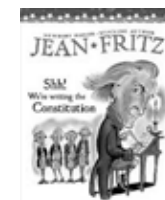


*The United States Constitution
A Round Table Comic*
by Nadja Baer

*If you were there when they
signed the Constitution*
by Jeanne Fritz



*Shhhh! We're writing
the Constitution*
by Jeanne Fritz





Test Your U.S. Constitution Knowledge

Questions

1. When was the U.S. Constitution written and where?
2. What does *e pluribus unum* mean?
3. What was the song “Scratch My Back” really about?
4. Which Representative suggested the Connecticut Compromise?
5. What did the delegates decide with regard to how the American people would be represented in government?
6. What industries from the north and the south played an economic role in the decision-making process?
7. What was the compromise about slavery?
8. What do many believe was the future result of that compromise?
9. What did Ben Franklin mean when he called the Constitution a living, breathing document?

Answers

1. 1787, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2. “Out of many, one”
3. To compromise
4. Roger Sherman
5. Each state gets two representatives in the Senate and a calculated number of representatives in the House based on population
6. Ship building in the north, cotton in the south
7. The slave trade would be abolished in 20 years in exchange for an import tax on slaves
8. The Civil War
9. That, through the amendment process, the U.S. Constitution was written to change as America and its citizens changed.



Characters

Benjamin Franklin
Edmund Randolph
William Paterson

James Madison
John Rutledge
Roger Sherman

With a special appearance by General George Washington

Description of *Everybody’s Watching*

Our musical describes the making of the United States Constitution. Five teens are bored with their current history assignment. They meet the magical Mr. History, who takes them back in time to 1787 and the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, where the teens “become” delegates at the convention.

JAMES MADISON, who will be the engine behind the making of the Constitution, is aware that the eyes of the whole world are on the delegates: “Everybody’s Watching.” BEN FRANKLIN welcomes the delegates to Philadelphia, one of the great cities of the world, as he describes in “The Song of Philadelphia.”

When the convention is underway, Madison sees that there will be trouble over representation - small states versus large states - and over slavery. Franklin and other delegates instruct Madison on the fine art of compromise in “Scratch My Back,” but Madison holds firm on his intent to abolish the slave trade from the Constitution.

Taking a day off to go fishing, GEORGE WASHINGTON and EDMUND RANDOLPH meet two teenage girls who instruct them on the kind of country they want in the anthem “E Pluribus Unum.” At the convention, Madison finally compromises with JOHN RUTLEDGE of South Carolina and allows the slave trade to continue until 1808 and for blacks to be counted as population at the “rate” of 3/5 of a man.

Back in the present, the teens acknowledge how much fun learning history can be, and the show ends with a rousing version of “E Pluribus Unum.”

Delegate from Pennsylvania

Benjamin Franklin 1706 - 1790



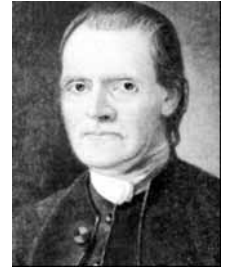
Benjamin Franklin was one of the most industrious, clever, inventive, witty, intelligent, and civic-minded people ever to walk the earth—and those adjectives hardly exhaust the list. Equally impressive are his accomplishments—drafter of the Declaration of Independence, signer of the U.S. Constitution, ambassador to England; his inventions—the Franklin stove, swim fins, bifocals, the nature of electricity; and his creations—the first subscription library, a fire insurance company, a newspaper. In his *Poor Richard's Almanack*, he penned aphorisms that are still with us today: “A penny saved is a penny earned;” “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Thomas Jefferson may have written the Declaration of Independence, but it was Franklin who filled his head with many of the ideas. As ambassador to France, he crafted an alliance that brought the French in on our side and may well have been the ultimate cause for our Revolution's success. And as a man of eighty-one, troubled by gout, he summoned the energy to attend the Constitutional Convention every day and, by his wisdom, good humor, and intellect, helped guide the delegates to the creation of one of humankind's greatest political documents.

Many of these aspects of Franklin's personality are on display in *Everybody's Watching*. “Song of Philadelphia” allows him to extol the many pleasures of his beloved city. “Scratch My Back” is a sprightly tune that mirrors his witty portrayal of the art of compromise. He uses his political wisdom to finally persuade James Madison that he must compromise with the southern delegates, if the Constitution is to pass. When Madison cries out in anguished protest, “But what will future generations think of us?!” Franklin's humble answer underscores the humanity he personified so well: “Let them think, Jemmy, that we did the best we could.”

Delegate from Connecticut

Roger Sherman 1721 - 1793



Sherman was the only American to sign all four of our great papers: The Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution. He grew up in New Milford, CT, where he opened the first store and introduced the sale of candy! Clearly a man of many interests and talents, he was a professor of religion at Yale, where he also received an honorary Master of Ballet degree. From 1784 until his death, he served as Mayor of New Haven.

Sherman will forever be remembered as the author of the Connecticut Compromise, the clever solution to distributing power equally among the large states like New Jersey, and the small states, like Connecticut. In the song, “Scratch My Back,” he proposes this compromise to William Paterson of New Jersey. When Paterson replies, “Each state to have two senators!,” the deal is struck—or the back is scratched!

Sherman was a vocal participant at the Constitutional Convention where he made 138 speeches. When he died, Thomas Jefferson said of him something we all probably wish might be said of us: “Roger Sherman was a man who never said a foolish thing in his life.”

Delegate from New Jersey

William Paterson 1745 - 1806



William Paterson was born in Ireland and immigrated to America at the age of two. It was not unusual for children in those times to go to college at an early age, and Paterson attended the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) at age fourteen. He then studied law under a tutor and was Attorney General of New Jersey during the Revolution.

At the Constitutional Convention, Paterson, desirous of protecting the rights of small states like his, co-authored the New Jersey Plan, which proposed that there be only one house of delegates in Congress, each state to have the same number of representatives. In "Scratch My Back," Roger Sherman proposes that there be two houses of Congress, a lower (House of Representatives) and an upper (Senate). When Paterson agrees, the New Jersey Plan is abandoned and the Virginia Plan becomes the basis of the Constitution.

On the slavery issue, Paterson proposed banning the slave trade and forcing the southern delegates to "repent!" When Rutledge objects that abolishing slavery would keep southerners from putting food on the table, Paterson fiercely challenges him: "And what table do your slaves eat from sir?!" It is this challenge that sends Rutledge into a fury and almost causes the Convention to dissolve.

Delegate from Virginia

James (Jemmy) Madison 1751 - 1836



James Madison served our country as a politician for some forty-one years, including eight years as President (1809-1817), but at no time more fruitfully, perhaps, than at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Only thirty-six years old at the time, he gave over 200 speeches and was involved in the management and debate of every major issue. His unofficial minutes are the only surviving documentation of the creation of our Constitution, and he made a major contribution to its ratification by writing, with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, the Federalist Papers, which argued forcefully for a strong national government with sovereignty over the individual states. He also, notably, drafted the first ten amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights.

In our musical, Madison has studied why other attempts at democracy had failed, and, as he sings in "Everybody's Watching," he knows that the whole world would be wondering if the upstart colonies could form themselves into a permanent union. With the help of Edmund Randolph, he immediately places the Virginia Resolves before the convention, and this becomes the plan around which all subsequent debate revolves. When Franklin extols the virtues of compromise in the song "Scratch My Back," Madison walks out, refusing to compromise on the issue of slavery. His habit of always dressing in black underscores the seriousness he brings to the proceedings. When others take a ten-day recess, Madison stays in Philadelphia, copying over notes. Though he owned slaves himself, he fights hard for abolishing the slave trade. The Constitution is a series of compromises, but this last one is hardest of all for Madison to make. He worries that the delegates would forever be known as endorsing slavery. But, with Franklin's help, he finally offers John Rutledge the compromise that secures the southern delegates' signatures, and the document passes.

In later life, Madison demurred when people referred to him as the Father of the Constitution, protesting that it was not "the off-spring of a single brain," but "the work of many heads and hands." While no doubt true, it is also true that no brain worked harder and no hand was busier than that of little Jemmy Madison.

Delegate from Virginia

Edmund Randolph 1753 - 1813



Many sons have occasion to differ with their fathers, but Edmund Randolph really differed with his. When the Revolution broke out, his father, John, was a Loyalist, supporting the king, and he left to live in England. His son became one of our earliest statesmen, serving as Washington's aide de camp, a member of Congress, and an important delegate to the Constitutional Convention from Virginia.

A crucial question before the delegates was how representatives were to be elected. Randolph proposed the Virginia Plan, which based representation on population. Of course, Virginia was one of the most populous states! The Connecticut Compromise solved the problem by having one house elected based on population and the other always having the same number of senators.

Randolph favored a strong national government—but not too strong. He so feared that a single executive, or president, would wield too much power that he actually voted to have three presidents! Fortunately, this idea was defeated.

In our musical, Randolph is a strong ally of James Madison. At the end, he complains that his Virginia Plan has been “picked over like a rotting carcass,” but without that plan, the delegates would have had nothing to start with and who knows if they could have accomplished what they did. In actual fact, Randolph was so convinced that the checks and balances in his plan had been so diluted that he did not even vote for passage of the Constitution. He did change his mind and support ratification by Virginia, however, proving at the last his deep faith in *e pluribus unum*.

Delegate from South Carolina

John Rutledge 1739 - 1800



By the time of the Constitutional Convention, John Rutledge had led a distinguished life as a fearless patriot. He served in the Stamp Act Congress, the First and Second Continental Congresses, and as President of South Carolina during the Revolution. Defying the recommendation of his generals to surrender, he ordered Fort Moultrie defended against a superior British force. The fort's walls were made out of soft palmetto palm trees, and the British cannonballs simply sank into the logs without doing any damage. Some bounced off the sponge logs and back at the British ships! South Carolina placed the palmetto in its state flag and has ever after been known as the Palmetto State.

As a man of privilege, Rutledge favored a strong national government to protect the rich from an excess of democracy. He was involved in two of the most momentous compromises of the Constitutional Convention. In the song “Scratch My Back,” Franklin gets him to agree to the idea of counting slaves as “three-fifths of a man” for purposes of population, so that the Connecticut Compromise can be passed. In the climax of the musical, Rutledge threatens to walk out and take the other southern states with him if the delegates insist on banning the importation of slaves into the United States. Madison is forced to compromise and agree that the slave trade may continue for twenty more years. Many believe that this compromise led directly to the Civil War, that the delegates should have abolished slavery when they had the chance. It may also be true, however, that without this compromise the United States would never have been formed.