

Stewart, *The Summer of 1787*, Chapters 1-4
Wesley Advocates 26 March 2017

Please note the list of delegates on pages ix and x and the list of states on page xi.

It Started at Mount Vernon

How did the Potomac lead Washington and Mason to conclude the confederation needed new means of governance?

Who was George Mason? How were he and Washington alike? Different?

When had the Articles of Confederation finally passed? How did the Articles privilege states' rights? Why did the Articles exclude a legislature and court system?

What was Madison's role in urging a convention?

Blood on the Snow

What was Shays' Rebellion? Where, when, and why did it occur?

How did the failure or lack of national government contribute to this rebellion? And fail to end it swiftly?

A House on Fire

Where were Adams and Jefferson during the period just before and during the Constitutional Convention?

What specific problems arose from the Articles and from states' rights with regard to

money, currency, the dollar

trade, commerce, port taxes

state boundaries and taxable properties

treaties with foreign powers

internal hostilities and peace

lack of revenue

national debt (“Vagabondage is not the hallmark of a great government.”)

Characterize the Congress created by the Articles of Confederation.

What significant disjunction do we see between the means of government provided by the Articles and those provided by the state constitutions?

All together, how many delegates were appointed to attend the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787? How many arrived? How many stayed?

Demigods and Coxcombs Assemble

What do we know about Philadelphia in summer 1787?

Where did incoming delegates stay during the convention?

What do we learn about the particular character and preparation of these men:

James Madison

Gouvernor Morris

George Wythe

Edmund Randolph

Benjamin Franklin

John Rutledge

James Wilson

The cousins Pinckney

Despite living in Britain at the time, John Adams made his voice heard in Philadelphia. How?

Where and how much did the delegates drink?

Although the convention should have begun earlier, when did it actually reach quorum? What did quorum require? What kinds of “flagitious evils,” according to Henry Knox, might the Convention find means to avoid?

Although Jefferson, absent in France, called it an “assembly of demigods,” how did George Mason regard his colleagues?

