



The Patriot's Companion

Volume 1 – Issue 3

October 2010



November 2:
Election Day

Polls in Idaho are open
8:00am – 8:00pm

Republic or Democracy

By Patricia Gall, 9-12 Education Committee

When asked what kind of government was created by the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin replied "A Republic, if you can keep it."

In the Inaugural Issue of The Patriot's Companion, you learned the story of the Pledge of Allegiance and know that we "pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands..." Yet many people today refer to America as a democracy rather than a Republic, either because they don't know the difference or because they believe that we are (or should be) a pure, direct democracy. Simply stated, the difference is a Democracy is the rule of the majority, a Republic protects the unalienable rights of the individual.

Election Day 2010 is upon us (November 2) and we need to think about why the Founding Fathers specifically created a Constitutional Republic and what we need to do to preserve it.

Our Founding Fathers had to find a balance among several factors.

- From their studies of the Greek experiments with democracy during the 5th and 6th centuries B.C., they understood the weaknesses of a pure, direct democracy and what happens when there are no checks and balances. They considered this type of direct democracy a failed model – 'the tyranny of the majority.'
- They understood the Roman Republic with its checks & balances, with its lawful way to change power in the government, with its hatred of kings.
- They studied the administration and organization structure of the 'ancients' (the Anglo-Saxons and the Israelites under Moses).
- They saw the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation where the power was concentrated in the states, but we could not function as a country.
- They also had a great fear of having the concentration of power in too few people with a centralized government.

(Continued on page 2)



Welcome to the 9-12 Project Idaho's family newsletter, *The Patriots' Companion*, with something for everyone. **Please share with family & friends.**

Got ideas for an article, feedback on this issue, **add someone to our distribution list?** Send email to sfsmllbiz@aol.com and include 9-12 Newsletter in the Subject line.

Please check "Events" on the 9-12 Project Idaho website for upcoming activities!

Inside This Issue

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FEATURED LOCAL

Welcome to
Food 2 Store



BUSINESS

Food 2 Store is a company that helps people plan, manage, and use their food storage. They supply delicious, wholesome foods for your storage that are excellent for daily use. Classes, workshops, and seminars are held to help you gain the knowledge and experience you will need to provide for your family in an emergency and live with health and thrift in daily life. It's more than just a food storage company—it's what you need to prepare for life in these times.

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1-877-344-5575
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Feature Your Business

We will feature a local 9-12 business in each newsletter as a fund-raiser for our 9-12 group. Putting in a short advertisement for your business would cost a \$50 donation to 9-12 Project Idaho. We need your business card and a short blurb to tell us what you do in a way that makes us all want to rush over to your business!

For more information,
please contact:
Vicki Keen
208-344-2471 (home)
208-859-2212 (cell)
vkeen@hotmail.com

The long months of struggle with how to build a form of government that could incorporate the best and overcome the worst of these factors resulted in the creation of a Constitutional Republic, based on rules of law, with a system of checks and balances.

As Franklin pointed out, though, it was the best form of government ever adopted IF WE COULD KEEP IT! There are weaknesses that will always cause democracies and republics to fail if the voters are not informed and vigilant.

Weakness #1: The majority of voters find out that they have the power to vote themselves benefits they never earned, while enslaving the earners to provide those benefits.

'Bread and Circuses' is the cancer of democracy, the fatal disease for which there is no cure. Democracy often works beautifully at first. ...when the plebs discover that they can vote themselves bread and circuses without limit and that the productive members of the body politic cannot stop them, they will do so, until the state bleeds to death, or in its weakened condition the state succumbs to an invader—the barbarians enter Rome.' - Robert A. Heinlein

This is easier to do in a direct democracy where there are no checks and balances and 51% of the people can control the other 49%, but it happens in a republic as well if the checks and balances are circumvented and the voters do nothing to stop it.

From FDR's New Deal through LBJ's Great Society to Obama's Czar-ocracy, America has progressively moved to more big government, embraced an entitlement/welfare state and permitted the demise of State's powers and individual rights. Too many now sit back and rely on the growth of Federal power and promises to take from some and give to others – our modern day 'bread and circuses.'

Weakness #2: The voters quit being vigilant about educating themselves on the issues and quit holding their representatives responsible for protecting their individual rights and property.

How many voters today make their decisions based on 30-second sound bites on the Mainstream Media? Or on the candidate's physical appearance and personality? Or on the candidate's religion? Or any other number of reasons that have nothing to do with the candidate's promise to uphold the Constitution and protect our individual freedoms.

Weakness #3: Beware of the 'ruling elite.'

The Founding Fathers believed that the country would be governed by "We, the People." That everyday Americans would come to Washington to protect property rights and individual freedoms and maintain minimal government within the limits of the Constitution. *(Continued on page 3)*

Today, we have career politicians and a mainstream media made up of the ruling elite that believe they know what is best for us – primarily more growth of and more control by the Federal government.

What can we do to preserve our Republic?

We need to start by attacking Weakness #2. If we educate ourselves and vote for the right candidates, we can reinstate the rules of law and checks & balances that our Founding Father provided to us.

- Know the issues. Spend time researching on the web or in the library. DO NOT rely on mainstream media (TV, newspapers, magazines) as your only source of information. Understand the implications to our individual liberty.
- Know your candidates. Spend time getting to know their views on the issues. Make them promise to uphold the Constitution...and make sure that they've actually read the Constitution and understand it. Monitor how they are voting and if they do not keep their promises, don't be afraid to look for someone else in the next election.
- Teach your children. If you have teenagers that are approaching their 18th birthday, make sure that they are also getting educated **by you** before they go to the voting booth for the first time. They need to understand that voting is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. It is not a popularity contest.
- READ! And make sure your children read. Find out more about the history of our great country. The stories of the founding of our country are much more interesting than we were ever taught in school. I saw some alarming statistics in an article recently that we need to reverse:
 - 33% of high school graduates and 42% of college graduates never read another book after they leave school
 - 80% of U.S. families did not buy or read a book last year
 - Daily video rentals: 6 million;
Daily public library items checked out: 3 million

Suggested readings:

- The Constitution
- The Federalist Papers (Quick quiz: Who wrote these?)
- The Five Thousand Year Leap by W. Cleon Skousen
- The Making of America by W. Cleon Skousen
- Historical fiction that is factual is also good. Recommend Prelude to Glory series by Ron Carter with sources noted for each chapter
- This newsletter has short articles each month that we hope will encourage you to want to read more and dig deeper

The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.



~ Winston Churchill

Believe it or not...

In January 1835, the United States became the only major nation in modern history to pay off completely its national debt. This was accomplished through the sale of public lands in the West. Eighteen thirty-five was the only year America has had no debt.

~ from One Night Stands with American History by Richard Shenkman and Kurt Reiger

Do your part to save the Republic entrusted to us by our founders!

Please make sure that
you, your family and friends
get informed and **VOTE** on
November 2nd.

The future of America
depends on it!

***It is the duty of the
Patriot to protect his
country from his
government."***

~ Thomas Paine

Admire Their Uniqueness

Once a wise teacher was speaking to a group of eager young students. He gave them the assignment to go out and find a small, unnoticed flower somewhere. He asked them to study the flower for a long time.

"Get a magnifying glass and study the delicate veins in the leaves, and notice the nuances and shades of color. Turn the leaves slowly and observe their symmetry. And remember that this flower might have gone unnoticed and unappreciated if you had not found and admired it."

After the class returned, the teacher observed, "People are like that. Each one is different, carefully crafted, uniquely endowed. But you have to spend time with them to know this. So many people go unnoticed and unappreciated because no one has ever taken time with them and admired their uniqueness."

- John Powell

2010 Candidate Research & Voting Records

By Vicki Keen and Sandra Cianci, 9-12 Education Committee

The 2010 mid-term elections are November 2nd and it is *imperative* that we all be as informed as possible about the candidates who are running before we vote. [Liberty Central](#) has a website that has a countdown to the 2010 elections. The site contains all sorts of information about elections in every state. Simply click on a state and you will see who is running and for what office as well as a Liberty Central scorecard on their voting record. Other options to view under the 2010 Election tab are:

- Candidate Survey Card
- Latest Election News
- Legislative Scorecards
- Race of the Week
- Top Races

Another good place for information is [U.S. Elections](#). There you will find facts about all Idaho elections and elected officials. Simply click on the name of the candidate and in most cases you will be directed to their own websites where you will find out more details about them. Other useful things on the website are:

- Latest Political News
- Your Congressional District
- Idaho Web Sites and Local Election Information
- State Political Parties
- Frequently Asked Questions About Voting

To learn about elections in Ada County visit [Ada County Elections](#). Among other things, you will find useful information about:

- 2010 General Candidates – [Ada Web](#)
- Voter Registration
- Absentee/Early Voting
- Polling Locations
- Voting District Maps

Other Links to Voting Information:

Idaho Votes – [Idaho Voting information](#)

Idaho Judges – [Judges and Magistrate Courts](#)

Idaho Judicial Elections – [Elections 2010](#)

Track Congress - [Research Congress](#)

Blogs worth checking out:

http://judgepedia.org/index.php/Idaho_blogs

http://right-mind.us/blogs/blog_0/archive/2010/09/22/76042.aspx

History Story: Josiah Wedgwood (12 July 1730 – 3 January 1795)

By Sandra Cianci, 9-12 Education Committee



Josiah Wedgwood was an English potter credited with the industrialization of the manufacture of pottery – Wedgwood China. A prominent abolitionist, Wedgwood is also remembered for his “Am I Not a Man and A Brother?” anti-slavery medallion.

He survived a childhood bout of smallpox and later served as an apprentice potter under his eldest brother. Smallpox left Josiah with a permanently weakened knee, which made him unable to work the foot pedal of a potter’s wheel. As a result, he concentrated from an early age on designing and marketing pottery rather than making it. He is credited as the inventor of modern marketing, specifically direct mail, money-back guarantees, traveling salesmen, self-service, free delivery, buy one get one free and illustrated catalogs.

Wedgwood was also a prominent slavery abolitionist. His friendship with Thomas Clarkson - abolitionist campaigner and the first historian of the British abolition movement - aroused his interest in slavery. Wedgwood mass produced cameos depicting the seal for the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade and had them widely distributed. The Wedgwood medallion was the most famous image of a black person in all of 18th-century art and became a popular and celebrated image. Wedgwood actively participated in the cause, and his Slave Medallion was very effective in bringing public attention to the horrors of the Slave trade and the abolition movement. Wedgwood reproduced the design in a cameo with the black figure against a white background and donated hundreds of these to the Society. Thomas Clarkson wrote; "ladies wore them in bracelets, and others had them fitted up in an ornamental manner as pins for their hair...promoting the cause of justice, humanity and freedom." In 1788, medallions were sent to Benjamin Franklin who was president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. He declared the medallions effectiveness was “equal to that of the best written Pamphlet, in procuring favour to those oppressed People”. **In Britain, the Slavery Abolition Act was passed in 1833.**

By 1780, Wedgwood had his smallpox afflicted knee amputated and his long-time business partner died. He turned to a friend, Erasmus Darwin, for help in running the business. As a result of the close association, their families intermarried and Josiah became the grandfather of Charles Darwin. Darwin’s huge inheritance from Wedgwood gave him the leisure time to formulate his *theory* of evolution. In academia, Darwin is a hero and your children are being taught Darwinism as “*fact*” not theory. Darwin’s ideas such as “a farmer wouldn’t breed his worst stock...thus why should man” led to Eugenics and Planned Parenthood.

You need to teach yourself and your children what is not being taught in school...and possibly even teach their teachers. A very good resource on this subject is Ben Stein’s DVD *Expelled – No Intelligence Required*, available from Netflix or for purchase -- as I did -- at Amazon.com.

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josiah_Wedgwood
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_for_the_Abolition_of_the_Slave_Trade
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/abolition/africans_in_art_gallery_02.shtml
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugenics>
http://www.amazon.com/Expelled-Intelligence-Allowed-Ben-Stein/dp/B001BYLFFS/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1285197303&sr=8-1



Journal of a Young Patriot Soldier

by Jory Farnsworth,
Age 15, Emmett, ID

I have lost count of the days and weeks we have marched north. We have pushed through swamps so dense that not even a rabbit could get through, but we keep going. They say this war has no meaning. But those city folk up north don't know what they're talkin 'bout. I have lost my good friend and other good men fighting for a people that don't truly know why yet.

We were hit with small pox and it was gettin bad. Only me and 20 other guys weren't hit with it. We do know that the Brits are being hit with it hard. Two men and I were scouting when we came across an indian tribe. They were very friendly and gave us some supplies. We asked them why they had not been hit with small pox. They explained what you did was cut a V on a sick man's arm and a healthy one. Then you take a stick and get blood from the sick and apply it to the healthy one. I didn't know but they have been doing this for awhile.

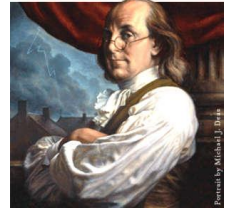
We march out and meet the reds head on all the time and lose. Well the indians taught us to fire from behind trees and rocks, and try to shoot their chief first. These people aren't savages. Their strategists. If we had done that from the beginning we would've won! Well we are headin out of the tribe to go north. We even got some indians to join. I sure feel more confident.



The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those that would not.

~ Thomas Jefferson

History Trivia: Ben Franklin



Ben Franklin was born the 10th son of a large family.

His father tried to steer him towards the clergy but because Ben liked to read so much, he instead apprenticed him to his older brother James, who was a printer.

After helping James compose pamphlets and set type, which was grueling work, 12-yr old Ben would then go out and sell their products in the streets.

When Ben was 15, his brother started the first newspaper in Boston. It carried opinion pieces written by James and his friends as well as local news. Ben wanted to write pieces too but James would never let him.

So Ben began writing articles late at night and signing under the name of a fictional widow, Silence Dogood. "Silence" shared advice and was rather critical of the world around her. She became a smash hit and the town was abuzz trying to figure out who Silence was.

Eventually, Ben had to confess and his brother became very angry and jealous of the attention Ben was getting.

James, because of the paper's stand on some issues of the day, was jailed for a short while and Ben ran the newspaper.

When James was released, he was not grateful to Ben for keeping the paper going. Instead he started harassing and beating him. After a while, the abuse got to Ben who couldn't take it anymore and ran away to New York.

Running away was illegal in early America, especially for an apprentice. Ben couldn't find any work as a printer in New York, so he walked across New Jersey and arrived in Philadelphia by boat.

Wet, disheveled, dirty, hungry and alone, he used the last of his money to buy some rolls.

He finally did find work, and these early days probably reinforced his philosophy on thrift, for which he became so well-known.

~ from UShistory.org

Are You Really Prepared?

<http://www.the912project.us/group/preparedness>



A lot of survival is simply thinking ahead. There are three primary areas of preparation to keep yourself and your family alive if the worst happens; water, food, and security. Unfortunately, even the best of us may only think about two of the three. Either we forget about a secure location, think someone else will have food or water covered or simply get so focused on the area we're most concerned with that we don't put the time into a broad range of preparations. What happens if disaster hits and we're not prepared?

If the worst does indeed happen, you need to have what is called "situational awareness." This is an ability to analyze the situation, ask the right questions and properly interpret the answers. For example: How bad is it? Is my home secure enough? Is it going to be secure long term? Are alternative locations easy to access? A little preparation will go a long way to answer these questions.

While you may have long-term supplies stockpiled, you also should remember to have a short-term kit ready for every person in your family. If you have an alternative location (such as a secure retreat) you need to be able to get there, so your vehicle becomes key to your plans. An older SUV will be the best for many as parts are easy to fix and maintain compared to newer models that are far more complex and dependent upon expensive and possibly difficult-to-acquire replacement electronics. Do you know how you are going to get places when everyone else is panicking? Planning your routes is a must. Remember the majority of people will not have made sufficient preparations and will be panicking as well; generosity is not something that can be counted on. When everyone is thinking about themselves, you can't count on them to behave as they normally might, or even to be civil. Planning on total self-sufficiency is key.

Make sure to think about the supplies you are preparing as well. Climate will make a big difference here. If you live in the upper Midwest, thinking about winter supplies is critical even if you're preparing in the middle of June. How will your plans be affected if there is a loss of power? Do you have a way to keep your loved ones warm over a long winter off the grid?

One area that many preppers ignore is "dry runs" or practice. Remember, practice makes perfect. Going over your preparations will not only help you make sure you really are prepared, but going through the motions will help you when tensions are high. You can perform habits without even consciously thinking about what you are doing. This will be key when you are rushed and trying to do everything at once. What about your communications? How will you communicate with your friends or loved ones, especially if they are involved in your planning? What if you are separated? How are you going to find out what is going on elsewhere? CBs and radios all require power. In your preparations, did you cover ways on how to obtain power? Solar or otherwise, they won't work if they don't get the juice.

The real key is to think these things through. Don't rush out and buy a bunch of equipment without thinking about how your plans will work if things go badly. By "going badly" I don't mean the crisis itself; I mean a failure in your own preparations. What if the crisis hits when you are not where you had hoped to be, or if your supplies are lost, stolen or damaged, or if a member of your team is hurt, killed or otherwise not around?

A lot of these things are common sense for someone who has been living an off-grid lifestyle, but for many others it is all foreign, as foreign as living in another country with different customs and practices. Paying attention, thinking ahead, and preparing are all keys to survival if the worst ever happens. A few low tech hobbies might be just the thing you need for a little extra preparation. If you hang out in front of the TV on a regular basis or spend more time on the computer than you really need to, perhaps you should replace those "hobbies" with something as equally enjoyable but far more valuable in a crisis, such as gardening, camping, learning self defense skills or firearms training. Wherever you are in your preparations, go back and challenge your thinking to see if you're making the best use of your time, resources and talents.

History Quiz – Could you become a citizen?

Part 1 of 4. To be continued next month.

U.S. Citizenship Test - Part 1	
1. What are the colors of our flag?	Red, White, and Blue.
2. How many stars are there in our flag?	50
3. What color are the stars on our flag?	White
4. What do the stars on the flag mean?	One for each state in the Union
5. How many stripes are there in the flag?	13
6. What color are the stripes?	Red and White.
7. What do the stripes on the flag mean?	They represent the original 13 states
8. How many states are there in the Union?	50
9. What is the 4th of July?	Independence Day
10. What is the date of Independence Day?	July 4th
11. Independence from whom?	England
12. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?	England
13. Who was the first President of the United States?	George Washington
14. Who is the President of the United States today?	Currently Barack Obama
15. Who is the vice-president of the United States today?	Currently Joseph Biden
16. Who elects the President of the United States?	The electoral college
17. Who becomes President of the United States if the President should die?	Vice - President
18. For how long do we elect the President?	Four years
19. What is the Constitution?	The supreme law of the land
20. Can the Constitution be changed?	Yes
21. What do we call a change to the Constitution?	An Amendment
22. How many changes or amendments are there to the Constitution?	27
23. How many branches are there in our government?	3
24. What are the three branches of our government?	Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary
25. What is the legislative branch of our government?	Congress



"We are too solicitous for government intervention, on the theory, first, that the people themselves are helpless, and second, that the Government has superior capacity for action. Often times both of these conclusions are wrong."

~ Calvin Coolidge

Did you know . . . Our Constitution

The entire Constitution is displayed at the National Archives in Washington, DC only once a year -- on September 17, the anniversary of the date on which it was signed.

On other days, the first and fourth pages are displayed in a bulletproof case. At night, they are lowered into a vault strong enough to withstand a nuclear explosion!

~ from *Essentials of American History* by John McGeehan

Young Patriots Corner: Color the Patriot



Our country's first flag.

Young Patriots Corner – Bedtime Story

What was it like to live in the colonies?

Most colonists had only two sets of clothes. Most people made their own clothes at home and it took a lot of work, starting with making the thread and weaving the fabric. If you had the money, you could buy ready-made fabric or hire a seamstress or tailor to make your clothes. Little boys wore dresses until they were 5 or 6 and then they wore the same type of clothes as their fathers. Why do you think that was? This was also the age when children were given their first pair of real shoes, too. Before then, they went barefoot or wore slippers.

Clothing wasn't washed very often because the soap had to be made by hand, too. Soap was made from animal fat and wood ashes.

Colonial houses did not have bathrooms inside. To wash your hands and face, you poured water into a bowl. The toilet was outside in an outhouse or "privy". So that you wouldn't have to go outside at night in the cold to use the privy, they had chamber pots inside where you went to the bathroom. In the morning, the chamber pots would be dumped outside. But the problem with that was, until they learned better, when the winter was over and the ground started to thaw, there was a horrible stench that attracted vermin and fostered diseases that would make people sick, and sometimes an epidemic would start that would kill a lot of people.

Houses were often just 4-5 rooms: two or three downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs. No closets. This is because they were taxed on the number of rooms they had, and a closet would be counted as a room, so they used armoires (large cupboards with shelves and sometimes drawers inside).

The only way to heat a home in the winter time was by burning wood in the fireplaces. If you see the beds from that time, they seem very short – that's because people had a lot of lung problems from breathing in so much smoke all the time so they had to sleep propped up to breathe better.

There was no electricity for lights, so they used lanterns with candles in them for light and they would sit around their fireplaces in the evenings for light and heat. People went to bed pretty early back then, and they got up when it was still dark to start their long day of work.

People grew most of the food they needed. There weren't any grocery stores or Walmarts or Home Depots. They had to make whatever they needed or have the money to buy what they needed. Even in Boston, people had gardens and kept chickens and grew fruit trees to feed their families. If they had a big enough yard, they could keep a cow or goat for fresh milk or a pig for meat. They had to grow enough to feed themselves all winter and through the summer until more crops were ready to harvest. They didn't have refrigerators or freezers so how do you think they kept their food from spoiling?

They had root cellars which were kind of underground storage rooms where they stored their potatoes and vegetables, etc. Because it was down deep in the ground, it stayed cool in the summer and food didn't freeze in the winter. They kept their milk and butter down there too. So whenever someone wanted to get some milk to drink, they had to go down into the dark root cellar with a candle and grab the milk jug to bring to the kitchen. Then they had to return it when they were finished with the milk.

The women baked all the bread the family would need once a week. To bake enough bread for a family for a week took a lot of time and hard work. They would give loaves of bread as gifts to friends and neighbors. This was a whole-day project and women took great pride in their bread recipes and making their own butter with a press that would leave their special design on the top of their butter, signifying the family who made it.

The only way to keep meat from spoiling was to salt it down and put it in barrels or they would make jerky out of it. Unless you lived on a farm, or had money to spend at the butcher shop, meat was kind of a luxury and used for Sunday dinner or special occasions.

Laundry was done every Monday in Boston and it took a whole day. The Moms had to get up early in the morning, get out the wash tubs, fill them with water, get a fire going under one of them to heat the water for the

washing part. They had to make their own laundry detergent through a process of pouring hot water through ashes from the fireplace which made lye. It would take five or six large buckets of ashes to produce enough lye for one barrel of soap. It took most of a day to make just one barrel of soap. Working with the lye was very dangerous because it could cause terrible burns to the skin and eyes and the fumes could burn the lungs. Because of the danger and the mess, the soap had to be made outdoors. They would make their laundry detergent once or twice a year and make several barrels of it at a time because it was hard, time-consuming work.

So they would put some laundry detergent in the heated water, put the dirty clothes in there and scrub each item on a wash board. Then they would use a long stick to take the scrubbed clothes out of the hot water and put in the next tub for rinsing. They would swish the clothes around in the rinse water to get the soap out and then move the clothes to the third tub for the final rinse. Then would begin the backbreaking work of picking up each piece of clothing, wringing it out as best they could by hand and then putting it on the clothesline to dry. This was such hard work that often their hands would be red and scraped when the laundry was finally done. Then they had to empty all the tubs and put them away until the next laundry day. This is how laundry was done even in the winter time with snow on the ground.

People living in the country and working hard outdoors all day long weren't as fussy about clean clothes because there was so much work to do every day and they seldom saw anyone outside their own family anyway. It wasn't uncommon for people to wear the same clothes every day for a month or more and bathe even less frequently.

Baths used to consist of hauling out the tub and filling it with hot water on a Saturday night. Why do you think it was always on a Saturday night?

The man of the house had the privilege of bathing first, then all the other men, then the women and finally the children. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. That's how the expression started: "don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

There were no cars or even bicycles yet, so people walked everywhere they needed to go. If they lived out in the country, they either had to walk to town or they rode their farm horse or hitched up a wagon when they needed to go get supplies.

When the Revolutionary War started, many men went off to fight so the children and the women had to do the man's chores as well as their own: plow fields, plant crops, milk the cows, butcher the meat, chop the wood, hunt for game and sell the crops for some money to buy what they needed. Farmers would often come home to help with the harvest and then go back to their units to carry on with the war.

As colonial settlements grew, the people built schools for their children. Most schools contained only one room with wooden desks. Many were not heated. Everyone had to bring their own lunch. The schoolyard was bare dirt and had no playground equipment. One teacher taught all the children from first through eighth grade, and then the older students would help teach the younger ones.

Teachers were paid by the families in the community, sometimes in money, but more often in goods like meat and vegetables. Families often took turns providing room and board for the teacher if the community could not afford to build a small bedroom onto the school building.(Can you imagine having your teacher living with you??)

Schools had very few books and maps, no libraries and no media centers. At first, paper was too expensive because it had to be made by hand too, and very rare except to use for very special letters and documents. Instead, children wrote on small pieces of slate with chalk and everyone would share the writing boards. The advantage of this method was that the slates could be wiped clean and used over and over again.

Children of all ages grew up with their own chores to do, so there was very little time for play. They would help with the cooking, cleaning, churning butter, feeding farm animals, cleaning barns, planting crops while they were learning how to sew, make candles and soap and butcher animals for meat.

Do you think you would have liked living back then?



PARTING THOUGHTS AS YOU GO TO VOTE...

Should We, the People enact a Congressional Reform Act of 2010

1. Term Limits: 12 years only, one of the possible options below:

- A. Two Six year Senate terms
- B. Six Two year House terms
- C. One Six year Senate term and three Two Year House terms

Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, serve your term(s), then go home and back to work.

2. No Tenure / No Pension:

A congressman collects a salary while in office and receives no pay when they are out of office.

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3. Congress (past, present & future) participates in Social Security:

All funds in the Congressional retirement fund moves to the Social Security system immediately. All future funds flow into the Social Security system, Congress participates with the American people.

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4. Congress can purchase their own retirement plan just as all Americans.

Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, serve your term(s), then go home and back to work.

5. Congress will no longer vote themselves a pay raise. Congressional pay will rise by the lower of CPI or 3%.

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6. Congress loses their current health care system and participates in the same health care system as the American people.

Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, serve your term(s), then go home and back to work.

7. Congress must equally abide in all laws they impose on the American people.

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8. All contracts with past and present congressmen are void effective 1/1/11.

The American people did not make this contract with congressmen, congressmen made all these contracts for themselves.

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