

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

May—June, 2013 ☆ Vol. 23, Number 03

Inside

How the Constitution Ended Slavery—Part I

By
KrisAnne Hall

Editor's Note:
This is a two-part article and our Founders' solution to the dilemma will appear in our July-August issue.

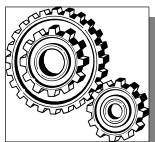
KrisAnne Hall is coming to Vermont on September 13, 2013 (see back panel).

A Good Fight!

A tribute to Sue Carlsen and her contributions to CAM

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If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)



In the Works

KrisAnne Hall
September 13, 2013

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

Would you like to help bring KrisAnne Hall to Vermont? We are looking for sponsors and for workers to put on this event. Contact us!



While defending the Constitution I am often asked two questions:
1) If the founders were so great and the Constitution such a great document, why did it preserve slavery?
2) Why did the Constitution

treat black people as 3/5th of a person?

The answers to these questions are rather simple when fact and truth are employed. To understand the truth, we start with some basics...

In June of 1776 the Lee Resolution was ratified. It was the legislative action that authorized the Declaration of Independence. This Resolution was a three step process for declaring inde-

pendence from Great Britain and establishing a union of States:

“Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, 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. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.”

The Colonies knew that once they became thirteen independent and sovereign States and formed alliances with foreign nations to break free from the hold of



“It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue.”

John Adams—Second President of the United States

Great Britain, the most important thing they could do would be to form a union of States. If they failed to form a union, everything that they sacrificed for independence would have been in vain. They had just bankrupted themselves, and invited foreign nations onto their soil. Failure to unite could result in their servitude once more. A union would mutually protect their sovereignty from external attack.

As Thomas Jefferson correctly stated, the Constitution would have to be ratified by the “whole American people.” The framers needed all the States to consent. Immediately after the revolution, the victors could very well have attempted to force the other States to unite. However, they never intended to form the union by force, as they never intended to keep it together by force. James Madison said, in a letter to Robert Walsh (27 Nov. 1819) that “*the Constitution was ‘the result of mutual deference & Concession’.*” They knew the only way to form a lasting union, a union based upon Liberty, was to do so by consent.

Understanding that the formation of the union of States was the most important thing they could do left them with a dilemma. There were societal and cultural differences between the States. One such difference existed in the institution of slavery. Many saw it as a great evil but recognized that the successful formation of the new nation was the only way to see it abolished.

“*Great as the evil is, a dismemberment of the Union would be worse. If those States should disunite from the other States for not indulging them in the temporary continuance of this traffic, they might solicit and obtain aid from foreign powers.*” – James Madison, *Virginia Ratifying Convention, 15 June 1788.*

Slavery was an imposition placed upon the colonists by the demand of Great Britain. Col. Mason describes this source and its problem during the Federal Convention (22 Aug. 1787):

“*This infernal traffic originated in the avarice of Brit-*

ish Merchants. The British Govt. constantly checked the attempts of Virginia to put a stop to it.”

This created an addiction to this labor in many states. Judge Pendleton observed during the Debate in South Carolina House of Representatives (1788) “*that only three States, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, allowed the importation of negroes. Virginia had a clause in her Constitution for this purpose, and Maryland, he believed, even before the war, prohibited them.*”

However, Madison also pointed out during the Debate in the Virginia Ratifying Convention (15 June 1788) that there were even “*a few slaves in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut: these states would, probably, oppose any attempts to annihilate*” slavery.

How could the States overcome their differences on this subject and agree on enough to form this union? The framers of this nation had an advantage. They knew a few things to be ab-

solutely true and these things would provide the solution to their dilemma.

The framers of this nation knew their history. They had studied governments and how people interact in society throughout history and they knew the principles of Liberty. They *knew* that they could not plow new fields overnight; they understood that they could not reform society with one move. But they *knew* they were forming a **REPUBLIC** and **NOT** a democracy.

A democracy is mob rule; it is tyranny in public form. Jefferson said, “*173 despots would surely be as oppressive as one.*” With a democracy, the majority of the people would always oppress the minority. Liberty would never prosper and grow. The force of the majority would always maintain the minority in servitude. By creating a *republican government*, they were able to provide minorities with a society changing voice. This voice would ensure not only the survival of Liberty but also its expansion.



“Laws that forbid the carrying of arms ... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.”

Cesare Beccaria 1774

The arguments put forth by Beccaria, a noted Italian philosopher, were well known by the authors of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Second amendment advocates know our Founders were quite familiar with them. These same arguments are echoed today in the national debate over gun control and our 2nd amendment rights.

The framers' very words prove they were pushing for an end to slavery. That bit of history has been conveniently concealed. The framers were incorporating into the Constitution Article 1 Section 9, a provision that would provide the means to end slavery in 1808 by putting an end to the slave trade once and for all.

Justice James Iredell stated during the Debate in North Carolina Ratifying Convention (26 July 1788):

"It was the wish of a great majority of the Convention to put an end [to slavery] immediately; but the states of South Carolina and Georgia would not agree to it. Consider, then, what would be the difference between our present situation in this respect, if we do not agree to the Constitution, and what it will be if we do agree to it. If we do not agree to it, do we remedy the evil? No, sir, we do not. For if the Constitution be

not adopted, it will be in the power of every state to continue it forever. They may or may not abolish it, at their discretion. But if we adopt the Constitution, the trade must cease after twenty years, if Congress declare so, whether particular states please so or not; surely, then, we can gain by it. This was the utmost that could be obtained. I heartily wish more could have been done. But as it is, this government is nobly distinguished above others by that very provi-

sion. Where is there another country in which such a restriction prevails? We, therefore, sir, set an example of humanity, by providing for the abolition of this inhuman traffic, though at a distant period."

KrisAnne Hall lectures throughout the country on Constitutional issues and Christianity's affect on its formation. She will be CAM's featured speaker on September 13th at the Sheraton Conference Center.

A Good Fight!

By

Lauston Stephens

"I have made a good fight, I have come to the end of my journey, I have kept the faith:" (2 Timothy 4:7 BBE)

We trust that you did not miss the brief announcement in our last issue of the passing of our friend and sister in the Lord, Sue Carlsen. Many long time readers of this newsletter may only know the authors of the various articles through what is written here. We trust that you find the articles informative and challenging. It is not our intent that you get to know us personally, but if you only knew Sue by what you read, there is one more challenge for you: her life.

Through these pages, it is possible to be heard in dozens of churches, but Sue did not crave the limelight, she averaged about one article every three years. Her only "lead article" was a review of a book by another. But this does not mean that Sue was only casually concerned with issues of the day. Attendance at CAM meetings was always in spite of medical challenges for her. We are an inter-denominational group. Sue had the courage to go beyond her comfort zone.

As you re-read her articles, you see that Sue did make a "good fight." Ephesians 6:12 tells us that our fight is not against "flesh and blood." Broad cultural and legal issues are addressed within these pages. America may be deeply divided by many things today, but you do not find a tone of "us versus them" in Sue's writing, condemning those who disagree.

Finally, she kept the faith. Her final printed words in the July/August issue of 2011: "Teach your children the truth. The Word of God is the truth."

"Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you confessed the good confession in the sight of many witnesses." (1 Timothy 6:12 WEB)

Lauston Stephens is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Assembly of God in Rutland



What can I do?



*Faith without
works is dead*
James 2:17

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Friday, September 13, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Sheraton Conference Center So. Burlington, VT

CAM is delighted to bring KrisAnne Hall to Vermont for an evening on the U.S. Constitution.

KrisAnne Hall is an attorney and former prosecutor, fired after teaching the Constitution to TEA Party groups. She would not sacrifice liberty for a paycheck. She is a disabled veteran of the US Army, a Russian linguist, a mother, a pastor's wife and a patriot. She now travels the country and teaches the Constitution and the history that gave us our founding documents.

KrisAnne Hall does not just teach the Constitution, she lays the foundations that show how reliable and relevant our founding documents are today. She presents the "genealogy" of the Constitution – the 700 year history and five foundational documents that are the very roots of American Liberty. One cannot properly understand or interpret the Constitution without a firm grasp of its very foundation.

KrisAnne will also be the keynote speaker at Constitution Day on Saturday, Sept 14 in Taylor Park, St. Albans at 10:00 am. Constitution Day is sponsored by American Conservative Women in Action (ACWA).



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Next Meetings

May 14, 7:00 pm
Community Bible Church
So. Burlington, Vt.
June 18, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**