

American Minute with Bill Federer George Mason - Father of the Bill of Rights

Read American Minute

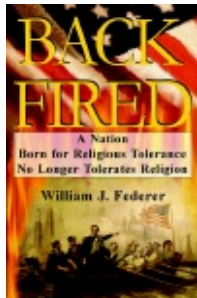
"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."



Thus began the first of the **Ten Amendments, or Bill of Rights**, which were approved September 25, 1789.

"**The Father of the Bill of Rights**" was **George Mason** of Virginia. ... *continue reading* ...

Download as PDF ...



BACKFIRED-A Nation Founded for Religious Tolerance No Longer Tolerates the Religion of Its Founders

George Mason was the richest man in Virginia, owning 15,000 acres.

When **George Washington** was chosen to be the Commander of the Continental Army, **Mason** was drafted by the citizens of Virginia to fill



Washington's place in the Continental Congress.

Mason wrote the **Virginia Declaration of Rights**, from which **Jefferson** drew to write the **Declaration of Independence**.

Mason stated before the General Court of Virginia:

"The **laws of nature** are the **laws of God**, whose authority can be superseded by no power on earth."

Mason's phrase was echoed by **Jefferson's**:

"The laws of nature and **nature's God**."

At the Constitutional Convention, **George Mason** called for an **end of the slave trade**, desiring to immediately ban any more slaves from being brought into the country, and that slavery should not be allowed to spread into new states.



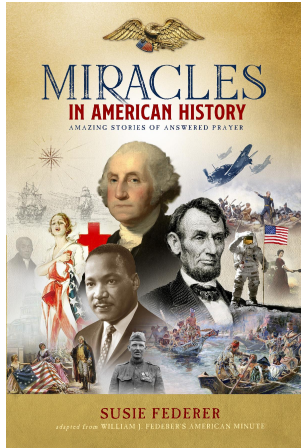
He called slavery a "slow poison" and argued for the gradual emancipation of all slaves.

On August 22, 1787, **George Mason** stated:

"Every master of slaves is born a petty tyrant. They bring the judgment of heaven upon a country.

As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, they must be in this.

By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, **Providence punishes national sins, by national calamities.**"



GIFT EDITION - Miracles in American History-50 Amazing Stories of Answered Prayers

Mason argued in favor of citizens being armed, as he stated at **Virginia's Ratifying Convention, 1788** (3 Elliot, *Debates* at 380):



"When the resolution of enslaving America was formed in Great Britain, the British Parliament was advised ... **to disarm the people; that it was the best and most effectual way to enslave them;** but that they should not do it openly, but weaken them, and let them sink gradually, by totally disusing and neglecting the militia."

He remarked on Annual Elections for the Fairfax Independent Company (*The Papers of George Mason, 1725-1792*, ed Robert A. Rutland, Chapel Hill, 1970):

"(Colonies were) all democratic governments, **where the power is in the hands of the people** and where there is not the least difficulty ... **putting arms into the hands of every man in**

the country.

(European nations should not) be ignorant of the strength and the force of such a form of government and how strenuously ... **people living under one have sometimes exerted themselves in defense of their rights and liberties**

and how fatally it has ended with ... many a state who have entered into quarrels, wars and contests with them."

Fifty-five delegates attended the Constitutional Convention but only 39 signed it.



Some did not sign because they feared the new Federal government would become a deep state bureaucracy taking power from the states.

Mason was a delegate, but did not sign because **it did not end the slave trade and it did not have a Bill of Rights**, limiting the Federal Government's power.

He predicted the **judiciary would be tempted to usurp power.**

Other **anti-federalists** included:

- Virginia Governor **Patrick Henry**;
- Future Governor of Massachusetts Samuel Adams;
- Future 5th U.S. President James Monroe
- Richard Henry Lee;

- Robert Yates;
- George Clinton;
- Melancton Smith;
- Arthur Fenner;
- James Winthrop;
- Luther Martin; and
- the famous woman writer, Mercy Otis Warren.

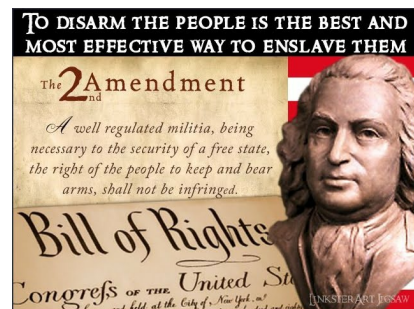
Thomas Jefferson also advocated many **anti-federalist** views.

Mason and other **anti-federalists** tried to **prevent the Constitution from being ratified**, as they feared it would bring a repeat of King George III, who weaponized the government against the people.

President Dwight Eisenhower admitted as much at a Governors' Conference, June 24, 1957:

"The **National Government** was itself the **creature of the States** ... Yet today it is often made to appear that **the creature, Frankenstein-like**, is determined to **destroy the creators.**"

Mason's opposition to the Constitution, sadly, **cost him his friendship with George Washington**, who presided over the Constitutional Convention.



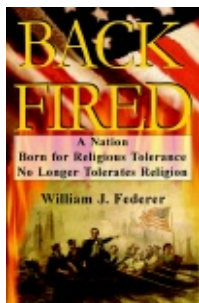
When the Constitution was finally ratified, **George Mason** led the effort to put **limitations** or "amendments" on it to **restrict the Federal government's power**.

He stated of the Constitution:

"There is no **declaration of rights**, and the laws of the general government being paramount to the laws and constitution of the several states, the **declarations of rights** in the separate states are no security."

His role was acknowledged by **Jefferson**, April 3, 1825:

"The fact is unquestionable, that the **Bill of Rights**, and the **Constitution of Virginia**, were drawn originally by **George Mason**, one of our **greatest men**, and of the first order of greatness."



BACKFIRED-A Nation Founded for Religious Tolerance No Longer Tolerates the Religion of Its Founders

Mason is commemorated by a bas-relief of him in the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Bill of Rights were successfully added to the Constitution, stating in its **Preamble**:



"**The States**, having at the time of their **adopting the Constitution**, expressed a desire, in order to **prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers**, that further declaratory and **restrictive clauses should be added ...**

RESOLVED ... that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as **Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.**"

Mason originally suggested that the wording of the **First Amendment** be:

"All men have an equal, natural and unalienable right to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that **no particular sect or society of Christians ought to be favored or established by law in preference to others.**"

In a glimpse into his personal life, **George Mason** recorded his wife's death March 9, 1773, inside their 1759 Family Bible:



*Portraits of George & Ann Mason,
Gift of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, on behalf of David K.E. Bruce*

"About three o'clock in the morning, died at Gunston-Hall ... Mrs. Ann Mason, in the thirty-ninth year of her age; after a painful and tedious illness of more than nine months, which she bore with truly **Christian patience and resignation**, in faithful hope of eternal Happiness in the world to come ...

For many days before her death she had lost all hopes of recovery, and endeavour'd to wean herself from the affections of this life, saying that tho' it must cost her a hard struggle to reconcile herself to the hopes of parting with her husband and children, she hoped God would enable her to accomplish it ...

An easy and agreeable companion, a kind neighbor, a steadfast friend, a humane mistress, a prudent and tender mother, a faithful, affectionate and most obliging wife; charitable to the poor and **pious to her Maker, her virtue and religion were unmixed with hypocrisy or ostentation.**"

George Mason University in Virginia is named for him.

He wrote in his Last Will and Testament:

"I, **George Mason**, of "Gunston Hall", in the parish of Truro and county of Fairfax, being of perfect and sound mind and memory and in good health, but mindful of the **uncertainty of human life** and the imprudence of man's leaving his affairs to be settled upon a **deathbed**, do make and appoint this my last Will and Testament.

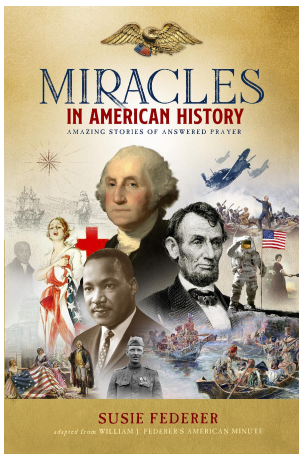


My soul, **I resign into the hands of my Almighty Creator**, whose tender mercies are over all His works, who hateth nothing that He hath made and to the Justice and Wisdom of whose dispensation I willing and cheerfully submit, humbly hoping from His unbounded mercy and benevolence, **through the merits of my blessed Savior, a remission of my sins.**"

--

[Download as PDF](#)

[Read as American Minute post](#)



*GIFT EDITION - Miracles in American
History-50 Amazing Stories of
Answered Prayers*

American Minute is a registered trademark of William J. Federer.

Permission granted to forward, reprint, or duplicate.

[Please consider donating to American Priorities 501\(c\)3. Thank you!](#)

[Sign up for a Reading Plan of the Old and New Testaments in a Year](#)

Amerisearch, Inc | PO BOX 60442 | Fort Myers, FL 33906 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!