



## **Delaware Day**

On September 17, 1787, the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia concluded with the signing of the United States Constitution. Because nine states were required for ratification, each state elected delegates to state conventions to accept or reject the Constitution.

In early December the Delaware delegates met at Battell's Tavern (also known as the Golden Fleece Tavern) in Dover. On December 7, 1787, they ratified the United States Constitution, thus making Delaware the first state to approve this new form of democratic government, earning the nickname "The First State."

In 1933, Governor C. Douglass Buck responded to a statewide petition drive to designate December 7 as Delaware Day. This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this commemoration.

## **Books available from Delaware Libraries**

### *13 Colonies Delaware The History of Delaware Colony 1638-1776*

Arnold, James R & Wiener, Roberta 2004

Facts and history of how Delaware became a colony from its inception to the events leading to the American Revolution. Juvenile

### *F is for the First State A Delaware Alphabet*

Crane, Carol & Traynor, Elizabeth (Illustrator) 2005

As the first state to ratify the United States Constitution, Delaware rightfully earned its nickname of "First State." Though small in size, it is a treasure trove of history (Fort Delaware), inventions (the Victrola), and garden wonders (Winterthur). State symbols such as the Blue Hen Chicken and peach blossom speak to the character and traditions that formed the state. Juvenile

### *A More Perfect Union The Story of our Constitution*

Maestro, Betsy & Giulio 1987

Covers the birth of the Constitution from the initial decision to hold the convention, through the summer meetings in Philadelphia, the ratification struggle, the first election, and the adoption of the Bill of Rights. Juvenile

### *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution*

Fritz, Jean & dePaola Tomie (illustrator) 1987

An account of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 written in an interesting way to engage youngsters. Juvenile

### *A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution*

Berkin, Carol 2002

Revisiting all the original documents and using her deep knowledge of eighteenth-century history and politics, Carol Berkin takes a fresh look at the men who framed the Constitution, the issues they faced, and the times they lived in.

### *Historic Photos of Delaware*

Rendle, Ellen 2008

This collection of photographs celebrates the First State's history with an eclectic mix of rural and urban, from the rolling hills and swift streams of New Castle County to the flat and rich agricultural lands of Kent and Sussex counties to the enduring beauty of the beach communities of the Atlantic Coast. Subjects range from horse-drawn farm machinery and black powder wagons to the celebratory openings of the Delaware Memorial and the Chesapeake Bay bridges.

### *History of Delaware 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*

Munroe, John A. 2006

One volume history of Delaware chronicling events from the early 1600's up to 2005.

*The Life and times of John Dickinson 1732-1808*

Reprint Stille J. Charles

A reprint of papers from the Pennsylvania Historical Society that detail John Dickinson's life from the early years of his family through his career as a lawyer, to the writing of the Constitution.

*The Summer of 1787 : The Men who invented the Constitution*

Stewart, David O. 2007

This book takes us into the sweltering room in which delegates struggled for four months to produce the flawed but enduring document that would define the nation. George Washington presided, James Madison kept the notes, Benjamin Franklin offered wisdom and humor at crucial times

*The U.S. Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It*

2003

Text of the United States Constitution and facts about the signers and events surrounding it.

*The Constitution of the United States of America*

Applewood Books

Text of the United States Constitution

#### **Books available from libraries' Delaware Collection and the Delaware Public Archives**

*Framers of the Constitution*

McGee, Dorothy Horton 1987

Reprint. Originally published, 1968. With updates.

Outlines the events leading up to the adoption of the Constitution and describes the lives of its signers. Juvenile

FRANKFORD ELSMERE NEWARK

*History of Delaware : 1609-1888*

Scharf, J. Thomas (John Thomas), 2 volumes 1888

Extensive historical facts of Delaware from 1609-1888 in 2 volumes.

FULL TEXT available in Delaware Library Catalog & DE ARCHIVES NEW CASTLE

ELSMERE WOODLAWN

*Signers of the Constitution : historic places commemorating the signing of the Constitution.*

Washington : U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park 1976

Guidebook of the historic sites surrounding the signing of the Constitution

DTCCTERRY DE ARCHIVES

*The Signers of the Constitution of the United States /*

Quinn, C. Edward & Ruhf, Thomas (Illustrator). 1987

Presents brief biographies of the men who signed the Constitution and the nonsigning delegates and describes the membership of the Convention's committees.

GEORGETOWN REHOBOTH WESLEY MILTON BRANDYWINE NEW CASTLE

## **Websites**

Delaware Day

<http://delawareday.delaware.gov/>

The Constitution

United States Senate Website

[http://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution\\_item/constitution.htm](http://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution_item/constitution.htm)

Constitution of the United States, Analysis and Interpretation: 2002 Edition & Supplement

GPO Access (Government Printing office)

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/constitution/index.html>

The Federalist Papers

85 essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison & John Jay about how the government under the Constitution would operate

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>

<http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/>