



FIRST PLACE
2010
COMPLETE PROGRAM
"AS AMERICAN AS
APPLE PIE"

PRESENTED BY
SUSAN PIANKA
NORTH STONINGTON
COMMUNITY GRANGE

1

As American as Apple Pie

A Program for Lecturer's State Competition
North Stonington Community Grange #138

Presented August 27, 2010

Susan Pianka, Lecturer

Length: 45 minutes



Introduction

The theme "As American As Apple Pie" led us this year to thinking what how an apple pie is made and how it could be compared to America as a whole, and that led to thinking of all the things that are symbolic of America. We decided to take one symbol, Uncle Sam, and have him tell us all about other symbols that are representative of America.

Thus this program is easily put on by a small Grange as well as a large one, since there are just a few main "players" and the speaking can be divided amongst a few or given as "cut apart" to many.

At some meeting prior to the program (we did it at the meeting just before this one, but it could be done at any time...) I passed around a pad asking people to write where their ancestry came from, eg. Polish, French, English, etc... This information was used in the last part of the program.

In our case, we utilized the following:

Uncle Sam:		portrayed by Fritz Rauch
Flag Folding:	Speaker (or more as you decide)	Miriam Shabunia Frances Miner Jeff Barnes Debbie Barnes
	Flag Folders	Dan Mutchler Ron Purinton
Pledge of Allegiance:	Reader Pledge Speaker	Margeurite Rauch Andy Rauch
Declaration of Independence:	Thomas Jefferson	portrayed by Scott Bill Hirst
Miscellaneous speakers:		Nancy Weismuller Flo Mullane Gene Bromley Cindy Anderson Sue Pianka
Curtain Puller/Overhead projector operator:		Cindy Anderson
Pianist:		Anita Ames

Music

I wanted to create this program such that any Grange could use it whether or not they had a pianist/musician, so I kept most of the music right from the Grange songbook. The only exception is a song that everyone knows anyway and would be able to sing without any prompts.

In addition to the music within the program itself, the opening song for Grange was verse 4 of #12, My Country Tis of Thee, and the closing song was verses 2 and 4 of #7, America the Beautiful.

Within the program, and in the following order were:

- #5 Stars and Stripes Forever
- #4 You're a Grand Old Flag
- #11 Yankee Doodle
- #2 Star -Spangled Banner, all 3 verses

And not in the songbook...

God Bless America

CT State Grange Lecturer's Program Entry 2010

As American as Apple Pie

(Fritz as Uncle Sam at table eating apple pie; have Grace's station moved away from stage at least 3 feet)

Fritz: I'm sure you've heard the expression, "as American as apple pie". Like baseball and hotdogs, Mom's apple pie has become an unofficial symbol of what it means to be an American. There **are** official symbols of the United States, objects, places and songs that are recognizable around the world as being "American", and it gives me pleasure to think of how they came to be so well known.

The most recognizable symbol is, of course, the Stars and Stripes. It flies over our national and state capitols and in our schools, and even on the moon. It honors our dead in cemeteries and memorials across the world, such as Pearl Harbor, Normandy, Valley Forge, and Arlington National Cemetery. It has flown in places of great sacrifice, such as Iwo Jima in WWII and more recently in New York City in the aftermath of 9-11. It's not exactly the same flag today as it was in the beginning – as our country has grown, so has our flag evolved.

Gene: The U.S. flag has undergone many changes since the first official flag of 1777. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act, which said that the flag would be made up of thirteen alternating red and white stripes and thirteen white stars on a blue field. Each part of the flag has a meaning, even the colors! White: Signifies purity and innocence, Red: Signifies valor and bravery, and Blue: Signifies Vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The stars are considered a symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun. As new states were added to the union, a new star was added to the flag, and we now have 50 stars.

Lecturer: Let us now sing #5, The Stars & Stripes Forever

(Pianist: 1 verse #5)

Lecturer: The flag is folded into a triangle for presentation to people who have served America honorably or to the families of people who died in the line of duty, and there is meaning to each fold.

(Cut aparts passed around the room, in order to be read; two people (Robert & Jason) to hold and fold the flag as each line is read.)

The 1st fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.

The 6th fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they are found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust." ~

Lecturer: After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

Let's sing #4, "You're a Grand Old Flag".

(Pianist: 1 verse #5)

Fritz: We honor our flag and our country with another of our symbols - not one you see...one you say. The "Pledge of Allegiance" didn't come along until much later in our history. On September 8, 1892 a Boston-based youth magazine "*The Youth's Companion*" published a 23-word recitation for school children to use during planned activities the following month to

commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. Under the title "The Pledge to the Flag", the composition was the earliest version of what we now know as the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Marguerite: That first Pledge of Allegiance read:

Andy: I pledge allegiance to my Flag,
and to the Republic for which it stands:
one Nation indivisible,
With Liberty and Justice for all.

Marguerite: The Pledge to the Flag became a popular daily routine in America's public schools, but it was almost 25 years, Flag Day - June 14, 1923, before the Pledge received major attention from adults. At the first National Flag Conference in Washington, D.C., the Conference agenda took note of the wording in the Pledge, and concerned that with the number of immigrants now living in the United States, there might be some confusion when the words "My Flag" were recited, they altered the pledge to read:

Andy: I pledge allegiance to the
Flag of the United States,
and to the Republic for which it stands:
one Nation indivisible,
With Liberty and Justice for all.

Marguerite: The following year the wording was changed again to read:

Andy: I pledge allegiance to the Flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation indivisible,
With Liberty and Justice for all.

Marguerite: While it gained heightened popularity among adults during the patriotic fervor created by World War II, it still was an "unofficial" pledge until June 22, 1942 when the United States Congress included the Pledge to the Flag in the United States Flag Code (Title 36). This was the first Official sanction given to the words that had been recited each day by children for almost fifty years. In 1945 the Pledge to the Flag received its official title as: The Pledge of Allegiance

Fritz: The last change in the Pledge of Allegiance occurred on June 14 (Flag Day), 1954 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved adding the words "under God". The 23 words what had been initially penned for a Columbus Day celebration now comprised a Thirty-one word profession of loyalty and devotion to not only a flag, but to a way of life....the American ideal.

Lecturer: Please join in singing #11, "Yankee Doodle"

(Pianist: 1 verse #11)

Fritz: Well now, that song reminds me of another of our great symbols– the Liberty Bell - symbol of the beginning of our new great nation. According to tradition, its most famous ringing occurred on July 8, 1776, to summon citizens of Philadelphia for the reading of the Declaration of Independence, written, as you know, by Thomas Jefferson...

(Curtain opens; "Thomas Jefferson (Scott) seated at table with feather, ink bottle, and paper, writes briefly, puts feather pen in ink bottle, stands and reads following...(first lines of Declaration of Independence))

Scott: "WE, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, 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 Connexion between them and the State of Great-Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of Right do. And for the Support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honour.

(Curtain closes; Uncle Sam pull down screen)

Lecturer: The bell was ordered in 1751 by the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly for use in the Pennsylvania State House (now known as Independence Hall) in Philadelphia. It was cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London and delivered to Philadelphia in 1752. It cost £100, weighed 2,080 lbs, is twelve feet in the lip circumference, and three feet from the lip to the top. The inscription on the Liberty Bell came from the Bible, Leviticus 25:10, and reads as follows: "Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof."

To the dismay of onlookers, the bell cracked during testing. A replacement was ordered, but in the meantime, the bell was recast a couple of times, and finally hung in the steeple of the State House in June 1753.

(Overhead of Liberty Bell)

Flo: When Philadelphia was in imminent danger of British invasion, eleven bells, including this one, were taken down and removed to a place of safety so that they wouldn't be melted down and turned into cannons. It was restored when danger was passed. It is not certain when the second crack began (the first after the recastings), though it has been long believed to have been at the death of John Marshall in 1835. The bell was repaired in February 1846.

On February 22, 1846, the bell was tolled for several hours in the tower of Independence Hall in honor of George Washington's birthday. When the bell was rung, the crack grew from the top of the repaired crack to the crown of the bell, rendering the bell unusable. Contrary to appearances, the large crevice that currently exists in the Liberty Bell is a repair from the expansions, and not the crack itself.

In 1852, the bell was removed from its steeple, and put on display in the "Declaration Chamber" of Independence Hall. From 1885 to 1915, the Liberty Bell traveled to numerous cities and was displayed at expositions and world's fairs. Today, the Liberty Bell hangs in Philadelphia at the Liberty Bell Pavilion on Market Street for all to see and is still gently rung each July 4th.

Fritz: Those early leaders were men of great vision and purpose. It must have been hard creating the early symbols of our nation. They had to think to the future, to a time they couldn't possibly imagine, and come up with symbols that would remain timeless – a reminder of our origins and a foothold to the future. Two of these are the bald eagle, and our seal (and I don't mean the mammal!)

Nancy: The bald eagle is a large, powerful, brown bird with a white head and tail. The term "bald" does not mean that this bird lacks feathers. Instead, it comes from the word *piebald*, an old word, meaning "marked with white. When Europeans first arrived on the North American continent bald eagles were numerous, but populations have since dropped for many reasons and in 1967, the bald eagle was included on the Endangered Species List. Federal laws, such as the *Bald Eagle Protection Act*, protect the bald eagle and have since led to the recovery of bald eagle populations. By 2007, populations had improved and the bald eagle has been removed from the list. We're fortunate to have a bald eagle population right here in Connecticut (on the Connecticut river) and it is an awe-inspiring sight to see them soaring over the waters

The bald eagle was made the national bird of the United States in 1782 after much controversy. The Founding Fathers wanted to choose an animal that was unique to the United States. For six years, the members of Congress engaged in a dispute over what the national emblem should be. Benjamin Franklin thought that the wild turkey should be the national bird of the USA. The bald eagle was chosen partly because it symbolized strength, courage, freedom, and immortality and partly because it would look much better than the turkey on money, armed forces insignia, and the Great Seal.

(overhead: turkey substitutions)

Lecturer: On July 4, 1776, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson were given the task of creating a seal for the United States of America. The delegates of the Constitutional Convention believed an emblem and national coat of arms would be evidence of an independent nation and a free people with high aspirations and grand hopes for the future.

(overhead: the Great Seal)

The Great Seal was finalized and approved six years later on June 20, 1782. The seal reflects the beliefs and values that the Founding Fathers wanted to pass on to their descendents. In the center of the seal is the bald eagle. It holds in its beak a scroll inscribed *E pluribus unum*, which is Latin meaning "out of many, one" and stands for one nation that was created from 13 colonies. In one claw is an olive branch, while the other holds a bundle of arrows. The olive branch and arrows "denote the power of peace and war."

A shield with red and white stripes covers the eagle's breast. The shield is supported solely by the American eagle to denote that Americans should rely on their own virtue. The red and white stripes of the shield represent the states united under and supporting the blue, representing the

President and Congress. Above the eagle's head is a cloud surrounding a blue field containing stars, which forms a constellation. The constellation denotes that a new State is taking its place among other nations.

The Secretary of State is the official custodian of the seal. It is only attached (affixed) to certain documents, such as foreign treaties and presidential proclamations. The Great Seal is displayed in the Exhibit Hall of the Department of State, in Washington, DC. The Great Seal can be seen on the back of a one-dollar bill.

Lecturer: There are 5 sets of "13" on the face of the seal. Can you identify them? (*if not readily identified, point to them*)

- 13 stars in the crest above the eagle
- 13 stripes in the shield upon the eagle's breast
- 13 arrows in the eagle's left claw
- 13 olives and leaves in the eagles' right claw
- 13 letters in the motto carried by the eagle, *E Pluribus Unum*

Since we're on lucky number 13 can you name the original 13 states ?

(Paper and pencils passed out at start of program... Give 2 minutes for deliberations.)

Fritz: There are many other great symbols of our country, among them the White House, where our president resides, and Mt. Rushmore National Memorial with sculptures of four of our country's greatest presidents. And there's me, of course. I may be a caricature, but I've been around for a long time... it all started way back in the War of 1812.....

Marguerite: Samuel Wilson was a businessman from Troy, NY who supplied the U.S. Army with beef in barrels. The barrels were labeled "U.S." When asked what the initials stood for, one of Wilson's workers said it stood for Uncle Sam Wilson. The suggestion that the meat shipments came from "Uncle Sam" led to the idea that Uncle Sam symbolized the Federal Government. In 1961, Congress passed a resolution that recognized Samuel Wilson as the inspiration for the symbol Uncle Sam.

Fritz: But Sam Wilson looked nothing like me. I am the invention of artists and political cartoonists including Thomas Nast who produced many of the earliest cartoons of Uncle Sam. Perhaps my most famous picture is on the Army recruiting posters from World Wars I and II. James Montgomery Flagg drew that picture, and served as the model too! And now..... I want you (*points like poster*) to join me in singing all three verses of our National Anthem which, like me, was inspired by an event in the War of 1812.

Lecturer: The Star Spangled Banner is #2 in the Grange songbook.

(Pianist: all 3 verses #2)

Fritz: (eating the last bite of pie and scraping the plate)... Well, I started this conversation talking about this American Apple Pie, didn't I. Did you know that of all of America's symbols, this pie is perhaps the most representative of all Americans? The absolute best apple pie is made up of more than one kind of apple... it enhances the flavor and brings out the best of each. And so it is with Americans.

Like an apple pie made with pippins, Granny Smith, Cortlands, etc, ours is a nation of mixed nationalities, races, creeds and religions. Whether they landed at Jamestown or Plymouth Rock, passed through Ellis Island or crossed the Bering Straight from Asia, our forefathers all emigrated to the New World and from the best of themselves forged this great country of ours. A group of their descendants, working to improve the lives of their friends, neighbors and countrymen, started the organization known as the Patrons of Husbandry, or the Grange.

The national symbol that represents our immigrant heritage is perhaps the one most recognized by people all over the world.

(Overhead: Statue of Liberty)

Cindy: Dedicated on October 28, 1886, the statue formally titled "*Liberty Enlightening the World*" was given to the United States by the people of France to commemorate the centennial of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence. Standing on Liberty Island in New York Harbor, she welcomes visitors, immigrants, and returning Americans traveling by ship.

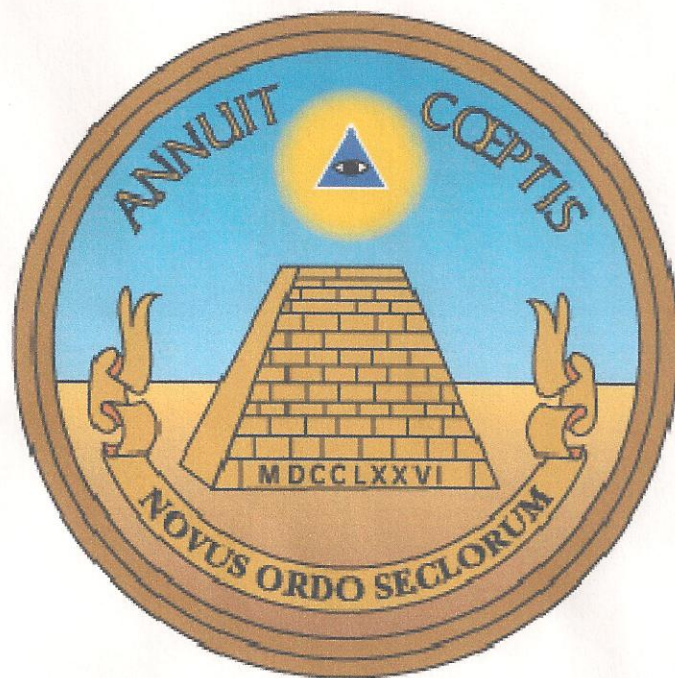
(Read inscription)

Lecturer: At our last meeting, I asked about your ancestors... please raise your hand when you hear the country or countries of your origins... Here this evening, we have descendants of people who came from Germany, Poland, Sweden, England, Portugal, Ireland, Scotland, France, Wales, and Italy. If I missed your ancestors, please raise your hand and tell us where you are from.... *(look around and call on people to be included)*

Lecturer: Let's close our program by singing "God Bless America".

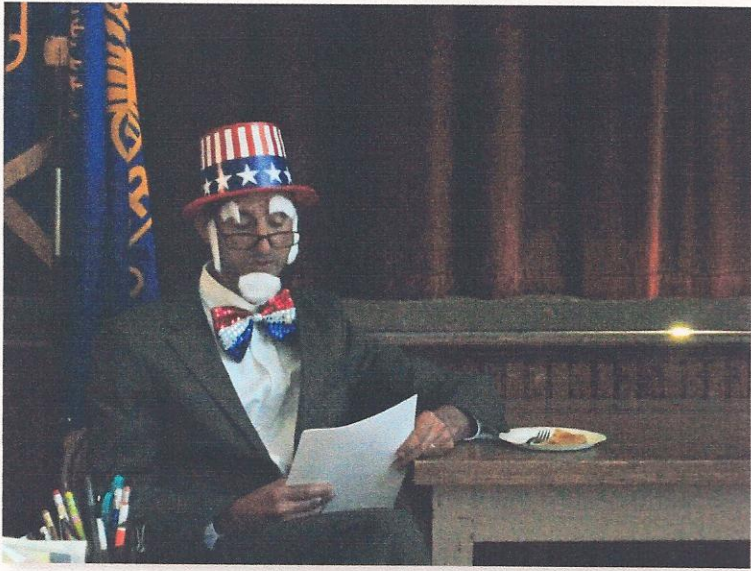
(end of program)

Answer to quiz: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.)

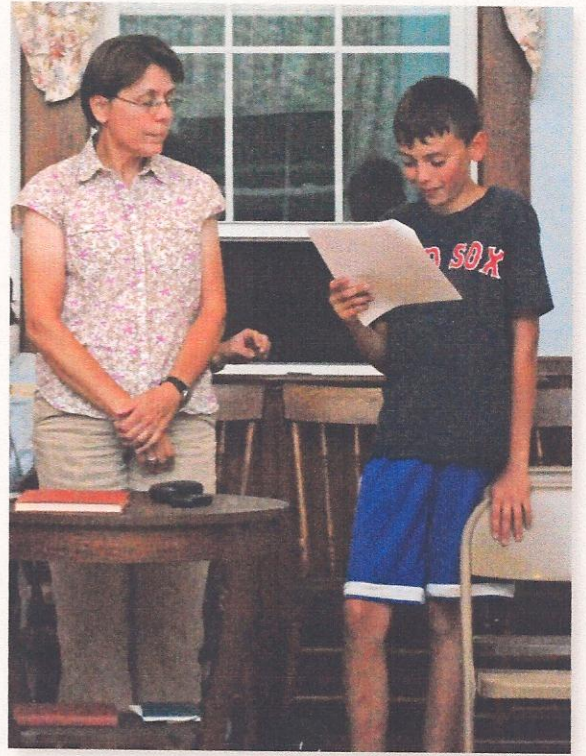




Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.



Fritz Rauch as Uncle Sam



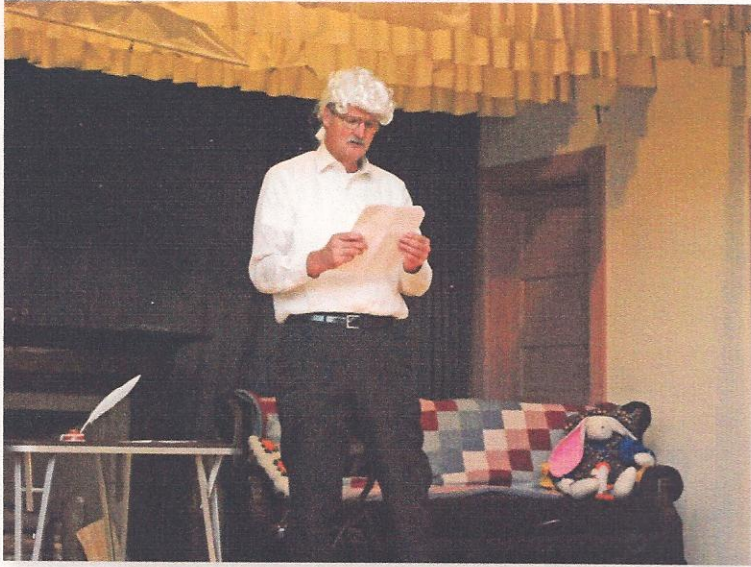
Maggie & Andy with the History of the Pledge of Allegiance



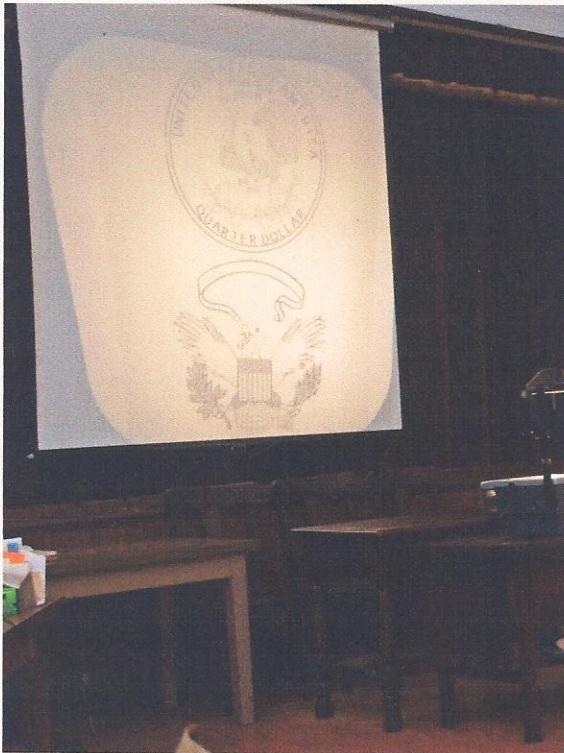
Frances & Miriam - The meaning of the folds of the flag



Ron & Dan folding the flag



Scott as Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence



A TURKEY as our national bird???



That is great Apple Pie... just like America!



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