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# CONSTITUTION DAY

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OCTOBER 19, 1900

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BULLETIN

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CONSTITUTION DAY

OCTOBER 19

1900

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ISSUED BY  
HELEN L. GRENFELL, SUPERINTENDENT  
OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

COLORADO



DENVER:  
THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING COMPANY  
1900

TO THE SUPERINTENDENTS AND  
TEACHERS OF COLORADO:

The 19th of October having been selected as "Constitution Day," and the proposal of the Society of Daughters of 1812 to collect funds for the rebuilding of the old Frigate Constitution having received the sanction of Congress, I desire to call your attention to the request made by the society to the Governor that the schools of our State devote some part of the day to exercises commemorative of the events of 1812, especially to the part taken by "Old Ironsides," and that the pupils assist in raising the fund by contributing money on that day, and to the approval of the plan expressed by our chief executive.

A short program of patriotic verse and song, wherever practicable, will be helpful in arousing the interest of the children and encouraging the requested financial aid.

Let us see to it that the public school pupils of our State have the opportunity to appreciate their share in the inheritance of the honor and pride descending to us all from the achievements of the Constitution, and the brave men who led her to victory.

Yours fraternally,

HELEN L. GRENFELL,

DENVER, COLO.,  
September 20, 1900.

Superintendent  
of Public Instruction.

Teachers should forward contributions received to the county superintendent, and the county superintendent, after sending the amount raised to Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., Bankers, and treasurer of Constitution Fund, Boston, Mass., will please report results to the State Superintendent of Colorado.

The following letter, recently received at the Executive Chamber, explains the origin and purpose of the movement to restore the Constitution :

Boston, July 30, 1900.

HIS EXCELLENCY, CHARLES S. THOMAS,  
Denver, Colorado.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to present to your notice and to ask your favorable consideration for the work which the Massachusetts State Society, United States Daughters of the War of 1812 has undertaken, to raise the fund for the rehabilitation of the famous old U. S. Frigate Constitution.

A brief statement of how this matter has been brought about may be of interest to you. For many years this famous old Frigate, so dear to the hearts of the American people, had been lying at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, gradually going to decay.

At a patriotic meeting in Fanueil Hall, Boston, on February 22d, 1897, Mrs. Nelson V. Titus, the President of the Massachusetts State Society, United States Daughters of 1812, offered a resolution that the old ship should be brought to Boston, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of her birth. The petition was presented to the Secretary of the Navy, who ordered the ship brought to Boston, and the celebration on October 21st, 1897, awakened much interest for her preservation. The President of the Society then presented a petition to Congress, urging that an appropriation be made to rebuild

this famous man-of-war. This was duly presented to Congress by Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge, and was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, who voted it "inexpedient." The matter then rested a year. The Society was not disheartened, however, and with the cordial co-operation of the Secretary of the Navy, the necessary authority to rebuild the ship has now been obtained from Congress.

The following bill was passed by both houses of Congress and approved by President McKinley, on February 14th, 1900:

An Act for the preservation of the Frigate Constitution. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized to place the Frigate Constitution, now lying at the Boston Navy Yard, as near as may be consistent with her preservation, in the same condition as regards her hull and rigging as she was when in active service; Provided, that before beginning on such work a sufficient sum of money to complete such work shall be raised through the agency of the Massachusetts State Society, United States Daughters of 1812, and placed at his disposal for the purpose.

Approved February 14th, 1900.

Having now received the necessary permission from Congress to raise the fund for the rebuilding of the ship, this Society desires to ask the cordial co-operation of every State in the Union to unite in raising the money needed to rebuild this historic man-of-war. According to the estimate submitted to the Society by the Bureau of Construction and Repair at Washington, the amount needed will be \$400,000. While this at first seems a large sum, it is not so much when divided among the different States in the Union. The preservation of this famous vessel is a matter of national interest, and the purpose of this letter is to ask your Excellency to present

this matter to the proper authorities in your State and advise the Society if we may look for your co-operation in this patriotic work. It has been suggested that October 19th next be made "Constitution Day" in every public school throughout the land, when every child may on that day contribute something for the rebuilding of the ship. Will you not present this matter at once to your State Board of Education, and to such of the authorities as may seem best to you? Any suggestions that you care to offer as to the best method of raising this fund will be gladly received. Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., Bankers, Boston, have consented to act as treasurer of the fund. May we not count on the aid of the citizens of your State in this great patriotic work to preserve and hand down to posterity this famous old ship, whose guns in the War of 1812, in the space of fifteen minutes' time, raised the United States from a second class to a first class power and established the Independence of the United States of America forever?

Hoping that this patriotic work will receive your favorable consideration, and that you will unite with us to raise the amount desired as quickly as possible,

Very respectfully yours,

MRS. NELSON V. TITUS,

Pres. Mass. State Society,  
U. S. D. 1812.



STATE OF COLORADO,  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
DENVER.

August 20th, 1900.

MRS. HELEN GRENFELL,  
Superintendent Public Instruction,  
Denver, Colorado.

DEAR MADAM: The enclosed letter was received some days ago, and should have received earlier attention. Its contents need but little elaboration at my hands. I think the object sought to be attained by the Daughters of the War of 1812 a most commendable and patriotic one, and I have assured the writer of the communication that in my judgment the people of our State will contribute more than their proportion toward preserving "Old Ironsides." If the suggestion of Mrs. Titus meets your approval, I shall be glad to join you in any communication you may see fit to make, if you so desire, to the teachers and pupils of our public schools to make Constitution Day of October 19th next, so that every one on that date may contribute something toward the repair of the ship. It will also gratify me to contribute \$25.00 to the purpose of the Society.

I have the honor to be

Your most obedient servant,

C. S. THOMAS,  
Governor.

## THE CONSTITUTION'S GREAT BATTLE

During the War of 1812, one of the first ships to set forth from a United States port was the Frigate Constitution. The vessel was one hundred and seventy-three feet long and forty-four feet wide, carrying thirty-two "long 24s" and twenty "32-lb." carronades, in all fifty-two guns. The Constitution, commanded by Captain Isaac Hull, sailed from Boston, and on the 19th of August, 1812, engaged the British frigate *Guerriere* in that combat which astonished the world, and immediately raised the United States into the position of one of the naval powers of the nations.

Captain Hull and Captain Dacres of the *Guerriere* were both skillful commanders and brave men, but the British ship suffered complete disaster. Her loss was seventy-nine killed and wounded, while that of her despised American opponent was fourteen. Within thirty minutes after the first fire the *Guerriere* struck her colors and lay a wreck on the waters. The Constitution sustained but trifling injury and was ready for another encounter.

## OLD IRONSIDES

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Ay, tear her tattered ensign down!  
Long has it waved on high,  
And many an eye has danced to see  
That banner in the sky;  
Beneath it rung the battle shout,  
And burst the cannon's roar;—  
The meteor of the ocean air  
Shall sweep the clouds no more.

Her deck, once red with heroes' blood,  
Where knelt the vanquished foe,  
When winds were hurrying o'er the flood,  
And waves were white below,  
No more shall feel the victor's tread,  
Nor know the conquered knee;—  
The harpies of the shore shall pluck  
The eagle of the sea!

Oh, better that her shattered hulk  
Should sink beneath the wave;  
Her thunders shook the mighty deep,  
And there should be her grave;  
Nail to the mast her holy flag,  
Set every threadbare sail,  
And give her to the god of storms,  
The lightning and the gale!

— Oliver Wendell Holmes.

The following may  
serve  
as a suggestive  
program:

- SONG, "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" . . . .
- RECITATION, "The Centennial Hymn" . . Whittier
- RECITATION, "Old Ironsides" . . . . . Holmes
- ESSAY, "Great Deeds of Our Navy of Former Times"
- SONG, "The Star Spangled Banner" . . . . .
- READING, "Perry's Victory" . . . . .
- RECITATION, "Old Ironsides at Anchor Lay" . .
- ESSAY, "Great Deeds of Our Navy of To-Day" .
- SONG, "America" . . . . .

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