

Country Squires of New London, NH
Notes for the Meeting on Thursday, October 11, 2018 at Eastman

***Welcome:** President Tom Nowell welcomed members, guests, and our guest speaker John Roberts at noon.

President Nowell expressed well wishes from the Squires to Ted Jones, who is recuperating from his recent shoulder surgery.

***Invocation:** Before Phil O' Brien gave the invocation, he asked for a moment of silence to remember Charley Carey, a Past President of the Squires, one of the founders of Adventures in Learning (AIL), and a WW II US Marine veteran of the Guadalcanal campaign. He then gave the invocation, which was written by Mother Theresa of India, now known as Saint Theresa of Calcutta.

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Be good anyway.
Give the world the best that you have; it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.
For in the end, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them.

***Luncheon:** We then enjoyed our luncheon of salad, chicken breast, mashed potatoes and vegetables, and a brownie with vanilla ice cream for dessert.

***Call to Order:** At 1:00 O'clock President Nowell called the meeting to order.

Members were reminded that the minutes of the previous meeting are posted on the Squires website. A motion was made to accept the minutes as posted. The motion was seconded and approved.

President Nowell then proceeded to welcome guests and electing new members.

***Guests:**

No guests were introduced at this meeting.

***New Members:**

Bill Brugiere introduced Ed Blanchard. Ed graduated from Dickinson College and was a Naval anti-submarine warfare officer. In civilian life he had a career in human resources with Gillette, which gave him global experience. He now lives in New London and is active in AIL, golf, and Outdoor Recreation For Seniors (ORFS). A motion

to elect Ed into the Squires was made and seconded. Ed was elected unanimously and was awarded the Squires pen to signify his membership.

***Speaker and Presentation:** Art Rosen introduced our guest speaker Dr. John Roberts. Dr. Roberts earned a BA in English from Yale University and an MD from Columbia University. He is a retired pediatric orthopedist who was a professor at the Schools of Medicine at Louisiana State University, Brown University and Boston University. He is currently the Chair of the Curriculum Committee of AIL. He spoke about John Adams, the second President of the United States.

While John Adams' term in the White House was marked by somewhat dubious achievements, (legislation resulting in a quasi-war with France, and passage of the Sedition and Alien Acts). His prickly and driven personality managed to alienate most of his colleagues. However, President Adams' writings and beliefs are at the core of the laws and political culture of the United States of America. In the Continental Congress, Adams argued strongly for independence, a new government and a new constitution. He felt that good government was an empire of laws and governance should be based in virtue. He argued for the separation of powers, an executive branch with veto powers, a bicameral legislature, an independent judiciary, and that governance was only possible with the consent of the governed. In spite of alienating and angering his colleagues with his constant and unrelenting hectoring about his vision for the new nation, the Congress did eventually issue the Declaration of Independence that followed Adams' vision for the new nation.

After the Declaration of Independence was issued, Adams went to Paris to help Benjamin Franklin negotiate a treaty with France to obtain financing and military assistance. The treaty was agreed to not because of Franklin and Adams but because the American victory at Saratoga convinced the French that the Americans could win their revolution. Adams argued strenuously for help from the French Navy (which ended up being a key to the victory at Yorktown), but aggravated the French royalty so much that he was recalled to the US.

Upon returning to the US, Adams was asked to draft the new State of Massachusetts' constitution. The resulting document was the model for the US' Bill of Rights.

Adams returned overseas and secured major loans from Holland after the US won its independence, and was then named the first Ambassador to the Court of St. James. In addition to his ideas for good governance, his legacy rests in his 1160 letters to his wife, Abigail. His other notable correspondence was with his former adversary and rival Thomas Jefferson. However, Jefferson is remembered with his larger-than-life

magnificent memorial in Washington, DC. In contrast, Adams is remembered by his life-sized statue outside of City Hall in the city of Quincy, MA.

***Post-talk Presentation:** Tom Nowell thanked Dr. Roberts for his talk and presented him with the often imitated but never duplicated and much-admired Squires mug.

***Old Business:** None.

***New Business:** None.

***Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be held on Thursday November 8. Dean Spiliotis, Professor of Civics at Southern NH University, and a frequent contributor to NPR on issues relating to government and politics, will recap the State and federal elections.

Members were reminded that the formal dress code (jackets and ties or turtle necks) will be in effect until next June.

***A Motion to Adjourn was called for, seconded and approved, thus ending the meeting.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Etkind, Secretary
11 October 2018