

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

As illustrated in the Prologue, there was no more consensus in 1876 than there was in 1976 as to when the Centennial (or Bicentennial) celebration began and ended. The "official" hundredth (or two hundredth) anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence began on July 5, 1875 (or 1975) and ended either on July 4th or December 31st of the following year, depending on how you count it. (The same controversy raged during the recent Millennium. January 1, 2000, was actually the first day of the year 2000 A.D. , but we celebrated it as the Millennium, which was mathematically still a year away.)

During our Bicentennial celebration, the U.S. Mint began issuing Bicentennial medals in 1972, and continued through 1976. Similarly, medals celebrating (anticipating ?) the Centennial were issued as early as 1874, when the Union League issued its "98th Anniversary of American Independence" on July 4, 1874. The four "official" Congressionally authorized Commemorative Medals to commemorate the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775, the Mecklenburg Declaration on May 20, 1775, and the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

So, it is anyone's conjecture as to when the "centennial" began and ended. Far be it from me to dictate. Personally, I collect Centennial medals of the American Revolution, which I think began with Benjamin Franklin's 1754 cartoon of a segmented snake captioned "Join or Die" and end with the Ratification of the Constitution on December 15, 1791. However, this catalog (for now) starts with the 98th Anniversary and ends with the Battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776. Your collection may have different termini. If so, this chronology summarizes "revolutionary" events from 1754 to 1791. Enjoy!

Date	Event	Description
1754/05/09	"Join or Die"	Benjamin Franklin draws a cartoon of a snake cut into eight pieces, representing the colonies, with the caption "Join or Die."
1754/06/19	Conference of Albany NY	Representatives from seven American colonies meet at Albany, New York, to work toward common defense against the French and to secure the support of the Iroquois Confederacy.
1754/07/10	First Union Plan	The Albany conference approves Benjamin Franklin's plan to form a union of colonies.
1754/08/17	Union Plan Rejected	Pennsylvania rejects the Albany Plan, and other colonies and the British government also refuse to support it.
1755/05/14	Governors meet with Ed. Braddock	British general Edward Braddock meets with colonial governors at Alexandria, Virginia, to plan an attack on French fortifications.
1757/03/02	PA appoints Franklin as Agent	The Pennsylvania assembly appoints Benjamin Franklin their agent in dealing with the proprietary government.
1762	Treaty of San Ildefonso	In the secret Treaty of San Ildefonso, France cedes Louisiana to Spain.
1763/02/10	Treaty of Paris Signed	French and Indian War ends.
1763/05/10	Pontiac's Uprising	Indians storm British Fort Detroit. Brutally crushed. Indians could no longer play French and British off against each other, tried to get them out of America. Failed.
1763/07/31	Battle of Bloody Run	In an attempt by the British to surprise Pontiac's camp, the battle of Bloody Run was fought on July 31, 1763, with great loss to the British. The borders of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia were kept in a state of terror.
1763/10/07	Proclamation of 1763 Signed	The Proclamation of 1763, signed by King George III of England, prohibits any English settlement west of the Appalachian mountains and requires those already settled in those regions to return east in an attempt to ease tensions with Native Americans.

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1764/04/25	Sugar Act Passed	The Sugar Act is passed by the English Parliament to offset the war debt brought on by the French and Indian War and to help pay for the expenses of running the colonies and newly acquired territories. This act increases the duties on imported sugar and other items such as textiles, coffee, wines and indigo (dye). It doubles the duties on foreign goods reshipped from England to the colonies and also forbids the import of foreign rum and French wines.
1764/07/23	Taxation Without Representation	In May, at a town meeting in Boston, James Otis raises the issue of taxation without representation and urges a united response to the recent acts imposed by England. In July, Otis publishes "The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved." He published his views on July 23, 1764.
1764/08/00	Boston Boycott	Boston merchants begin a boycott of British luxury goods.
1764/09/01	Currency Act Passed	The Currency Act prohibits the colonists from issuing any legal tender paper money. This act threatens to destabilize the entire colonial economy of both the industrial North and agricultural South, thus uniting the colonists against it.
1765/03/22	Stamp Act Passed	The Stamp Act is passed by the English Parliament imposing the first direct tax on the American colonies, to offset the high costs of the British military organization in America. Thus for the first time in the 150 year old history of the British colonies in America, the Americans will pay tax not to their own local legislatures in America, but directly to England. Under the Stamp Act, all printed materials are taxed, including; newspapers, pamphlets, bills, legal documents, licenses, almanacs, dice and playing cards. The American colonists quickly unite in opposition, led by the most influential segments of colonial society lawyers, publishers, land owners, ship builders and merchants who are most affected by the Act, which is scheduled to go into effect on November 1.
1765/03/24	Quartering Act Passed	The Quartering Act requires colonists to house British troops and supply them with food.
1765/05/30	"If This Be Treason, So Be It"	In May, in Virginia, Patrick Henry presents seven Virginia Resolutions to the House of Burgesses claiming that only the Virginia assembly can legally tax Virginia residents, saying, "If this be treason, make the most of it." Also in May, the first medical school in America is founded, in Philadelphia.
1765/07/0	Sons of Liberty Formed	Originally formed by Samuel Adams as The Copperheads, it later became known as the Sons of Liberty. In July, the Sons of Liberty, an underground organization opposed to the Stamp Act, is formed in a number of colonial towns. Its members use violence and intimidation to eventually force all of the British stamp agents to resign and also stop many American merchants from ordering British trade goods.
1765/08/13	Boston Oliver Riot	A Boston mob destroys the office of stamp collector Andrew Oliver and attacks his house.
1765/08/26	Boston Hutchinson Riot	August 26, a mob in Boston attacks the home of Thomas Hutchinson, Chief Justice of Massachusetts, as Hutchinson and his family narrowly escape.
1765/09/16	Phila. Stamp Act Riot	A Philadelphia mob attacks stamp distributors.
1765/10/7	Stamp Act Congress	Nine colonies represented at the Stamp Act Congress in New York protest Parliament's taxation of the colonies.

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1765/11/01	Stamp Act In Effect	On November 1, most daily business and legal transactions in the colonies cease as the Stamp Act goes into effect with nearly all of the colonists refusing to use the stamps. In New York City, violence breaks out as a mob burns the royal governor in effigy, harasses British troops, then loots houses.
1765/12/0	NY Assembly Considers Quartering Act	In December, British General Thomas Gage, commander of all English military forces in America, asks the New York assembly to make colonists comply with the Quartering Act and house and supply his troops. Also in December, the American boycott of English imports spreads, as over 200 Boston merchants join the movement. In January 1766, the assembly there refused to fund the full amount requested by the Crown. The New Yorkers reasoned that it was unfair to expect them to pay the full cost of Thomas Gage's growing army.
1765/10/19	Stamp Act Congress Publishes Resolutions	In October, the Stamp Act Congress convenes in New York City, with representatives from nine of the colonies. The Congress prepares a resolution to be sent to King George III and the English Parliament. The petition requests the repeal of the Stamp Act and the Acts of 1764. The petition asserts that only colonial legislatures can tax colonial residents and that taxation without representation violates the colonists' basic civil rights.
1766/01/0	NY Assembly Rejects Quartering Act	In January, the New York assembly refuses to completely comply with Gen. Gage's request to enforce the Quartering Act.
1766/03/18	Stamp Act Repealed	In March, King George III signs a bill repealing the Stamp Act after much debate in the English Parliament, which included an appearance by Ben Franklin arguing for repeal and warning of a possible revolution in the American colonies if the Stamp Act was enforced by the British military.
1766/03/18	Declaratory Act Passed	On the same day it repealed the Stamp Act, the English Parliament passes the Declaratory Act stating that the British government has total power to legislate any laws governing the American colonies in all cases whatsoever.
1766/07	Treaty of Oswego	The Treaty of Oswego ends Pontiac's War.
1766/08	NY Quartering Act Riot	In August, violence breaks out in New York between British soldiers and armed colonists, including Sons of Liberty members. The violence erupts as a result of the continuing refusal of New York colonists to comply with the Quartering Act.
1766/12/06	Massachusetts Compensates Stamp Act Victims	The Massachusetts assembly votes to compensate victims of the Stamp Act riots but also pardons the rioters.
1766/12	NY Legislature Suspended	In December, the New York legislature is suspended by the English Crown after once again voting to refuse to comply with the Act.
1767	Dickinson's "Letter of a Pennsylvania Farmer"	John Dickinson was known as "The Penman of the Revolution." The widely read "Letters From A Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies" in 1768, vigorously defended colonial rights while urging conciliation.
1767/01/20	Louisiana Transferred to Spain	The formal transfer of Louisiana to the Spanish governor Don Antonio de Ulloa occurs.

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1767/07/02	Townshend Revenue Acts Passed	Charles Townshend, Chancellor of the Exchequer, took over the effective reins of the government. Unlike his predecessor, Townshend was not concerned with the subtleties of the rights of American colonists. Townshend wanted to strengthen the power of the British parliament which would simultaneously strengthen the power of royal officials. He convinced the Parliament to pass a series of laws imposing new taxes on the colonists. These laws included special taxes on lead, paint, paper, glass and tea imported by colonists. In addition, the New York legislature was suspended until it agreed to quarter British soldiers. The Acts also insured that colonial officials, including governors and judges, would receive their salaries directly from the Crown.
1768/02/0	Sam Adams' Circular Letter	Sam Adams drafted a circular letter he drafted as a response to the 1767 Townshend Acts, distributed among the other twelve colonies in a bid to achieve a united front of resistance to these acts. The failure of the legislature to rescind the contents of this letter at the express demand of King George is usually cited as one of the main factors resulting in the stationing of troops in Boston beginning in 1768.
1768/04/0	NH, CT, and NY Endorse Circular Letter	In April, England's Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Hillsborough, orders colonial governors to stop their own assemblies from endorsing Adams' circular letter. Hillsborough also orders the governor of Massachusetts to dissolve the general court if the Massachusetts assembly does not revoke the letter. By month's end, the assemblies of New Hampshire, Connecticut and New Jersey have endorsed the letter.
1768/05/0	British Warship Sails Into Boston Harbor	In May, a British warship armed with 50 cannons sails into Boston harbor after a call for help from custom commissioners who are constantly being harassed by Boston agitators. In June, a customs official is locked up in the cabin of the Liberty, a sloop owned by John Hancock. Imported wine is then unloaded illegally into Boston without payment of duties. Following this incident, customs officials seize Hancock's sloop. After threats of violence from Bostonians, the customs officials escape to an island off Boston, then request the intervention of British troops.
1768/07/0	MA Governor Dissolves General Court	In July, the governor of Massachusetts dissolves the general court after the legislature defies his order to revoke Adams' circular letter.
1768/08/0	Boston and NY Boycott	In August, in Boston and New York, merchants agree to boycott most British goods until the Townshend Acts are repealed. In September, at a town meeting in Boston, residents are urged to arm themselves.
1768/09/28	English Regiments Land in Boston	In September, English warships sail into Boston Harbor, then two regiments of English infantry land in Boston and set up permanent residence to keep order.
1769/03/0	Philadelphia Joins Boycott	In March, merchants in Philadelphia join the boycott of British trade goods.

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1769/04/19	Virginia Resolves Passed	In May, a set of resolutions written by George Mason is presented by George Washington to the Virginia House of Burgesses. The Virginia Resolves oppose taxation without representation, the British opposition to the circular letters, and British plans to possibly send American agitators to England for trial. Ten days later, the Royal governor of Virginia dissolves the House of Burgesses. However, its members meet the next day in a Williamsburg tavern and agree to a boycott of British trade goods, luxury items and slaves.
1769/05/17	VA House of Burgesses Dissolved	Royal Governor of Virginia, Lord Botetourt, dissolves the Virginia House of Burgesses in response to its official condemnation of "taxation without representation."
1769/07/16	San Diego Founded	In July, in the territory of California, San Diego is founded by Franciscan Friar Juniper Serra.
1769/10/0	Boycott Spreads	In October, the boycott of English goods spreads to New Jersey, Rhode Island, and then North Carolina.
1770/01/19	Sons of Liberty Fight British Troops	Violence erupts in January between members of the Sons of Liberty in New York and 40 British soldiers over the posting of broadsheets by the British. Several men are seriously wounded.
1770/01/31	Lord North Becomes Prime Minister	By late 1769, George III realized that the Grafton ministry was doomed. He sought out Lord North to become prime minister, but North was at first hesitant. After consulting his father, North accepted. On 31 January, 1770, he become George III's sixth prime minister.
1770/03/05	Boston Massacre	The Boston Massacre occurs as a mob harasses British soldiers who then fire their muskets pointblank into the crowd, killing three instantly, mortally wounding two others and injuring six. After the incident, the new Royal Governor of Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchinson, at the insistence of Sam Adams, withdraws British troops out of Boston to nearby harbor islands. The captain of the British soldiers, Thomas Preston, is then arrested along with eight of his men and charged with murder.
1770/04/12	Townshend Acts Repealed	In April, the Townshend Acts are repealed by the British. All duties on imports into the colonies are eliminated except for tea. Also, the Quartering Act is not renewed.
1770/11/27	Boston Massacre Trial	Trial begins for the British soldiers arrested after the Boston Massacre. Colonial lawyers John Adams and Josiah Quincy successfully defend Captain Preston and six of his men, who are acquitted. Two other soldiers are found guilty of manslaughter, branded, then released.
1772/06/09	Gaspee Burned	In June, a British customs schooner, the Gaspee, runs aground off Rhode Island in Narragansett Bay. Colonists from Providence row out to the schooner and attack it, set the British crew ashore, then burn the ship.
1772/08/26	Gaspee Reward	A 500 pound reward is offered by the English Crown for the capture of those colonists, who would then be sent to England for trial. The announcement that they would be sent to England further upsets many American colonists.
1772/11/0	Boston Town Meeting	In November, a Boston town meeting assembles, called by Sam Adams. During the meeting, a 21-member committee of correspondence is appointed to communicate with other towns and colonies. A few weeks later, the town meeting endorses three radical proclamations asserting the rights of the colonies to self-rule.

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1773/05/10	Tea Act Effective	May 10, the Tea Act takes effect. It maintains a threepenny per pound import tax on tea arriving in the colonies, which had already been in effect for six years. It also gives the near bankrupt British East India Company a virtual tea monopoly by allowing it to sell directly to colonial agents, bypassing any middlemen, thus underselling American merchants. The East India Company had successfully lobbied Parliament for such a measure. In September, Parliament authorizes the company to ship half a million pounds of tea to a group of chosen tea agents.
1773/10/0	Philadelphia Mass Meeting	In October, colonists hold a mass meeting in Philadelphia in opposition to the tea tax and the monopoly of the East India Company. A committee then forces British tea agents to resign their positions.
1773/10/16	Virginia Committee of Correspondence	In March, the Virginia House of Burgesses appoints an eleven member committee of correspondence to communicate with the other colonies regarding common complaints against the British. Members of that committee include, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee. Virginia is followed a few months later by New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut and South Carolina.
1773/11/0	Boston Mass Meeting	In November, a town meeting is held in Boston endorsing the actions taken by Philadelphia colonists. Bostonians then try, but fail, to get their British tea agents to resign.
1773/11/28	HMS Dartmouth Enters Boston Harbor With Tea	The Dartmouth arrived in Boston harbor with a cargo of Darjeeling tea. Samuel Adams and other radicals were determined that the cargo would not be landed in the city. His mobs roamed the streets in the evenings, threatening violence if challenged by the authorities.
1773/11/29	Boston Tea Tax Meetings	November 29/30, two mass meetings occur in Boston over what to do about the tea aboard the three ships now docked in Boston harbor. Colonists decide to send the tea on the ship, Dartmouth, back to England without paying any import duties. The Royal Governor of Massachusetts, Hutchinson, is opposed to this and orders harbor officials not to let the ship sail out of the harbor unless the tea taxes have been paid.
1773/12/16	Boston Tea Party	About 8000 Bostonians gather to hear Sam Adams tell them Royal Governor Hutchinson has repeated his command not to allow the ships out of the harbor until the tea taxes are paid. That night, the Boston Tea Party occurs as colonial activists disguise themselves as Mohawk Indians then board the ships and dump all 342 containers of tea into the harbor.
1774/03/31	Coercive ("Intolerable") Acts Passed	In March, an angry English Parliament passes the first of a series of Coercive Acts (called Intolerable Acts by Americans) in response to the rebellion in Massachusetts. The Boston Port Bill effectively shuts down all commercial shipping in Boston harbor until Massachusetts pays the taxes owed on the tea dumped in the harbor and also reimburses the East India Company for the loss of the tea.
1774/05/13	MA Under Military Rule	May 12, Bostonians at a town meeting call for a boycott of British imports in response to the Boston Port Bill. May 13, General Thomas Gage, commander of all British military forces in the colonies, arrives in Boston and replaces Hutchinson as Royal
1774/05/17	Call for Intercolonial Congress	May 17-23, colonists in Providence, New York and Philadelphia begin calling for an intercolonial congress to overcome the Coercive Acts and discuss a common course of action against the British.

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Date	Event	Description
1774/05/20	Quebec Act Passed	May 20, The English Parliament enacts the next series of Coercive Acts, which include the Massachusetts Regulating Act and the Government Act virtually ending any self-rule by the colonists there. Instead, the English Crown and the Royal governor assume political power formerly exercised by colonists. Also enacted; the Administration of Justice Act which protects royal officials in Massachusetts from being sued in colonial courts, and the Quebec Act establishing a centralized government in Canada controlled by the Crown and English Parliament. The Quebec Act greatly upsets American colonists by extending the southern boundary of Canada into territories claimed by Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia.
1774/06/02	New Quartering Act Passed	In June, a new version of the 1765 Quartering Act is enacted by the English Parliament requiring all of the American colonies to provide housing for British troops in occupied houses and taverns and in unoccupied buildings.
1774/09/00	Charlestown Arsenal Seized	In September, Massachusetts Governor Gage seizes that colony's arsenal of weapons at Charlestown.
1774/09/05	First Continental Congress Convenes	September 5 to October 26, the First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia with 56 delegates, representing every colony, except Georgia. Attendants include Patrick Henry, George Washington, Sam Adams and John Hancock.
1774/9/17	Congress Opposes Intolerable Acts	On September 17, the Congress declares its opposition to the Coercive Acts, saying they are "not to be obeyed," and also promotes the formation of local militia units.
1774/10/14	Declaration of Resolves Adopted	On October 14, a Declaration and Resolves is adopted that opposes the Coercive Acts, the Quebec Act, and other measure taken by the British that undermine self-rule. The rights of the colonists are asserted, including the rights to "life, liberty and property."
1774/10/14	Continental Association Adopted	On October 20, the Congress adopts the Continental Association in which delegates agree to a boycott of English imports, effect an embargo of exports to Britain, and discontinue the slave trade.

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1774/10/19	Peggy Stewart Burned in Annapolis Harbor	<p>An Annapolis resident, Anthony Stewart owned a ship known as the Peggy Stewart, named for his daughter. Loaded with 2,000 pounds of tea the ship arrived at Annapolis harbor. Anthony Stewart decided that he would pay the tax on the tea, and have it quietly moved ashore; but soon the word of his intentions got out. Citizens became angry, and gathered at the harbor. As tempers grew hotter, the group of angry citizens went to Stewart's house and confronted him. They reminded him that he should be loyal to the non-importation agreement, although he had refused to sign it. The angry crowd gave him a choice; burn the ship "or be hanged right here at your front door."</p> <p>Stewart agreed to burn the tea and offer a public apology, but pleaded to let him unload the rest of his valuable cargo. Although some people agreed, the mob continued to shout louder. Fearing for the safety of his family, he agreed to burn his ship. On October 19, 1774, Stewart ran his ship aground and applied the torch himself.</p> <p>The crowd cheered as the ship burned to the water. Not only did Stewart lose his valuable cargo, but also his ship worth thousands of dollars. Some people believe that the punishment was too harsh, that he should have been permitted to burn only the tea. But many experts do agree that this action clearly demonstrated the determination Marylanders felt against England and</p>
1775/02/01	MA Provincial Congress	February 1, in Cambridge, Mass., a provincial congress is held during which John Hancock and Joseph Warren begin defensive preparations for a state of war.
1775/02/09	MA Declared in Rebellion	February 9, the English Parliament declares Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion.
1775/03/23	"Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death!"	March 23, in Virginia, Patrick Henry delivers a speech against British rule, stating, "Give me liberty or give me death!"
1775/03/30	New England Restraining Act	Tensions are heightened as England Declares Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion. The New England Restraining Act is also passed, requiring the Colonies to trade only with Britain. Patrick Henry gives a speech in which he declares "give me liberty or give me death." The Second Continental Congress convenes and unanimously appoints George Washington as General of the Continental Army.
1775/03/30	NE Restraining Act	March 30, the New England Restraining Act is endorsed by King George III, requiring New England colonies to trade
1775/04/01	Daniel Boone Settles in Kentucky	
1775/04/14	MA Governor Ordered to Enforce Intolerable Acts	Massachusetts Governor Gage is secretly ordered by the British to enforce the Coercive Acts and suppress "open rebellion" among colonists by using all necessary force.
1775/04/18	Paul Revere's Ride	General Gage orders 700 British soldiers to Concord to destroy the colonists' weapons depot. That night, Paul Revere and William Dawes are sent from Boston to warn colonists. Revere reaches Lexington about midnight and warns Sam Adams and John Hancock who are hiding out there.



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1775/04/19	Lexington and Concord	At dawn on April 19 about 70 armed Massachusetts militiamen stand face to face on Lexington Green with the British advance guard. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' begins the American Revolution. A volley of British rifle fire followed by a charge with bayonets leaves eight Americans dead and ten wounded. The British regroup and head for the depot in Concord, destroying the colonists' weapons and supplies. At the North Bridge in Concord, a British platoon is attacked by militiamen, with 14 casualties. British forces then begin a long retreat from Lexington back to Boston and are harassed and shot at all along the way by farmers and rebels and suffer over 250 casualties. News of the events at Lexington and Concord spreads like wildfire throughout the Colonies.
1775/04/23	MA Provincial Congress Mobilizes Soldiers	The Provincial Congress in Massachusetts orders 13,600 American soldiers to be mobilized. Colonial volunteers from all over New England assemble and head for Boston, then establish camps around the city and begin a year long siege of British-held Boston.
1775/05/10	Americans Capture Fort Ticonderoga	American forces led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold capture Fort Ticonderoga in New York. The fort contains a much needed supply of military equipment including cannons which are then hauled to Boston by ox teams.
1775/05/10	Second Continental Congress Convenes	The Second Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia, with John Hancock elected as its president.
1775/05/15	Congress Places Colonies on Defense	On May 15, the Congress places the colonies in a state of defense.
1775/06/15	Congress Elects Washington Commander-in-Chief	On June 15, the Congress unanimously votes to appoint George Washington general and commander-in-chief of the new Continental Army.
1775/06/16	Washington Accepts Command	In a speech given to the Continental Congress on June 16, Washington accepted the commission and requested that he not receive a salary for his service, only that his expenses be paid at the conclusion of the war.
1775/06/17	Congress Drafts Washington's Commission	On June 17, the Continental Congress drafted Washington's commission as commander in chief.
1775/06/17	Battle of Bunker Hill	The first major fight between British and American troops occurs at Boston in the Battle of Bunker Hill. American troops are dug in along the high ground of Breed's Hill (the actual location) and are attacked by a frontal assault of over 2000 British soldiers who storm up the hill. The Americans are ordered not to fire until they can see "the whites of their eyes." As the British get within 15 paces, the Americans let loose a deadly volley of rifle fire and halt the British advance. The British then regroup and attack 30 minutes later with the same result. A third attack, however, succeeds as the Americans run out of ammunition and are left only with bayonets and stones to defend themselves. The British succeed in taking the hill, but at a loss of half their force, over a thousand casualties, with the Americans losing about 400, including important colonial leader, General Joseph Warren.

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1775/07/03	George Washington Takes Command	At Cambridge, Massachusetts, George Washington takes command of the Continental Army which now has about 17,000 men.
1775/07/05	Olive Branch Petition Adopted	The Continental Congress adopts the Olive Branch Petition which expresses hope for a reconciliation with Britain, appealing directly to the King for help in achieving this. In August, King George III refuses even to look at the petition and instead issues a proclamation declaring the Americans to be in a state of open rebellion.
1775/07/06	Declaration on the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms Issued	The Continental Congress issues a Declaration on the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms detailing the colonists' reasons for fighting the British and states the Americans are "resolved to die free men rather than live as slaves."
1775/07/26	Ben Franklin Appointed Postmaster General	An American Post Office is established with Ben Franklin as Postmaster General.
1775/11/28	American Navy Established	The American Navy is established by Congress. The next day, Congress appoints a secret committee to seek help from European nations.
1775/12/00	France Offers Support	Also in December, Congress is informed that France may offer support in the war against Britain.
1775/12/23	King George Closes American Ports	King George III issues a royal proclamation closing the American colonies to all commerce and trade, to take effect in March of 1776.
1776/01/05	NH Adopts First American State Constitution	The assembly of New Hampshire adopts the first American state constitution.
1776/01/09	Common Sense Published	Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" is published in Philadelphia. The 50 page pamphlet is highly critical of King George III and attacks allegiance to Monarchy in principle while providing strong arguments for American independence. It becomes an instant best-seller in America. "We have it in our power to begin the world anew...American shall make a stand, not for herself alone, but for the world," Paine states.
1776/02/27	Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge	In January 1776, the royal governor of North Carolina, Josiah Martin, mustered his Loyalist militia to join and augment an expected British Army expedition. Local Continental Army units and Patriot militiamen blockaded several likely travel routes in an attempt to prevent the Loyalists from joining up. Eventually, on February 27, 1776, the Loyalists attempted to break through by crossing Moore's Creek Bridge. They were repulsed by a withering fusillade of musket fire, killing one Loyalist leader, capturing another, scattering the remainder, and arresting many in the days following. As a result, North Carolina was not again threatened until 1780, and even then, the memory of the battle severely hindered General Cornwallis' attempts to recruit Loyalists. Score an American victory.

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1776/03.17	US Captures Dorchester Heights. British Evacuate Boston.	American forces capture Dorchester Heights which overlooks Boston harbor. Captured British artillery from Fort Ticonderoga is placed on the heights to enforce the siege against the British in Boston. The British evacuate Boston and set sail for Halifax. George Washington then rushes to New York to set up defenses, anticipating the British plan to invade New York City.
1776/04/06	Continental Congress Opens Colonial Ports	The Continental Congress declares colonial shipping ports open to all traffic except the British. The Congress had already authorized privateer raids on British ships and also advised disarming all Americans loyal to England.
1776/04/12	NC Empowers Its Delegates to Revolt	The North Carolina assembly is the first to empower its delegates in the Continental Congress to vote for independence from Britain.
1776/05/02	France Commits \$1 Million	The American revolutionaries get the much needed foreign support they had been hoping for. King Louis XVI of France commits one million dollars in arms and munitions. Spain then also promises support.
1776/05/10	Continental Congress Authorizes Local State Governments	The Continental Congress authorizes each of the 13 colonies to form local (provincial) governments.
1776/06/00	British Fleet Arrives in NY Harbor	During June and July of 1776, a massive British war fleet arrives in New York Harbor consisting of 30 battleships with 1200 cannon, 30,000 soldiers, 10,000 sailors, and 300 supply ships, under the command of General William Howe and his brother Admiral Lord Richard Howe.
1776/06/07	Lee Calls for Independence	On June 7, Richard Henry Lee, a Virginia delegate to the Continental Congress, presents a formal resolution calling for America to declare its independence from Britain. Congress decides to postpone its decision on this until July.
1776/06/11	Congress Appoints Committee To Draft Declaration of Independence	On June 11, Congress appoints a committee to draft a declaration of independence. Committee members are Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Livingston and Roger Sherman. Jefferson is chosen by the committee to prepare the first draft of the declaration, which he completes in one day.
1776/06/28	Battle of Sullivan's Island	During the First Siege of Charleston, British Admiral Peter Parker and General Henry Clinton led a fleet to Charleston, South Carolina, which was defended by yet-unfinished fort on Sullivan's Island. On June 28, 1776, every British foray was turned back by the Americans. The British naval bombardment had little effect on the fort's resilient palmetto logs, a land assault failed because the water around the island was too deep to wade, and an attempted amphibious landing was successfully repulsed. At the end of the day, the British withdrew and did not return until the Second Siege of Charleston. Score it as a draw.
1776/06/28	Battle at Fort Moultrie SC	In South Carolina, American forces at Fort Moultrie successfully defend Charleston against a British naval attack and inflict heavy damage on the fleet.
1776/06/28	Jefferson's Declaration Presented to Congress	Just seventeen days later, June 28, Jefferson's Declaration of Independence is ready and is presented to the Congress, with changes made by Adams and Franklin.

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Date	Event	Description
1776/07/02	All but NY Vote for Independence	On July 2, twelve of thirteen colonial delegations (New York abstains) vote in support of Lee's resolution for independence.
1776/07/04	Declaration of Independence Endorsed	On July 4, the Congress formally endorses Jefferson's Declaration, with copies to be sent to all of the colonies. The actual signing of the document occurs on August 2, as most of the 55 members of Congress place their names on the parchment copy.
1776/07/12	GW Declines Gen. Howe's Offer of Clemency	As a show of force, two British frigates sail up the Hudson River blasting their guns. Peace feelers are then extended to the Americans. At the request of the British, Gen. Washington meets with Howe's representatives in New York and listens to vague offers of clemency for the American rebels. Washington politely declines, then leaves.
1776/08/02	Declaration of Independence Fully Signed	The actual signing of the document occurs on August 2, as most of the 55 members of Congress place their names on the parchment copy.
1776/08/27	Battle of Long Island	The Battle of Long Island, also known as the Battle of Brooklyn Heights, was not a victory for the Americans, but it was the first major battle of the Revolutionary War, the largest engagement of the entire war, and the first time that the Continental Army directly confronted the British Army. After defeating the British in the Siege of Boston on March 17, 1776, General Washington marched the Continental Army to Manhattan to defend New York City. On August 27, the British landed on Long Island and marched the twelve miles to Manhattan, where they attacked. The unseasoned Americans panicked and ran, but a determined stand by 250 Maryland volunteers held off the British until the retreating Americans could flee to the main defenses at Brooklyn Heights. The British encamped for a long siege, but on the night of August 29-30, in a brilliant display of leadership and coordinated logistics, Washington successfully evacuated his entire army without the loss of material or a single life. Chalk up a British win in this one.
1776/08/29	Evacuation of NYC	At night, the Americans cross the East River in small boats and escape to Manhattan, then evacuate New York City and retreat up through Manhattan Island to Harlem Heights. Washington now changes tactics, avoiding large scale battles with the British by a series of retreats.
1776/09/11	Staten Island Peace Conference Fails	A peace conference is held on Staten Island with British Admiral, Lord Richard Howe, meeting American representatives including John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. The conference fails as Howe demands the colonists revoke the Declaration of Independence.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1776/09/16	Battle of Harlem Plains	The Battle of Harlem Plains is also known as the Battle of Harlem Heights. The Americans were encamped on the Harlem Heights where they were safe from the cannons on Admiral Lord Howe's fleet in the harbor. The American defense of New York had not seen much in the way of American victory. Retreat had been the order of the day for the Americans, but on September 16, 1776, they engaged the British on the Harlem Plains, at what is now Broadway and 106th Street (known as Off-Broadway today). Though outnumbered almost three to one, the 1,800 Americans under General Washington and Major General Nathaniel Greene drove the British back until they were reinforced by Germans. Sensing a trap and not wanting to risk another defeat, General Washington ordered retreat, which proceeded in an orderly military manner until a British bugler sounded "Gone to Ground," a fox-hunting call signaling an enemy's headlong retreat. This infuriated the Americans, especially the Virginians to whom the hunt was a sacred tradition. They halted their retreat, flanked the British, and inexorably pushed them back until the Redcoats were the ones retreating. This ended up being General Washington's first battlefield victory and gave the Continental Army a much-needed boost in confidence. Chalk this one up as an American victory served up by an overconfident opponent.
1776/09/22	Nathan Hale Executed	After he is caught spying on British troops on Long Island, Nathan Hale is executed without a trial, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."
1776/10/09	San Francisco Founded	San Francisco is established by Spanish missionaries on the California coast.
1776/10/11	Battle of Lake Champlain	In June, 1776, after the British brought in overpowering reinforcements, the Continental Army retreated from Quebec to Fort Crown Point and ultimately to Fort Ticonderoga. Ticonderoga, originally built by the French, was captured by the British in 1759 during the French and Indian War. It became an American stronghold when Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys and state militiamen under Benedict Arnold captured it in May, 1775. The name "Ticonderoga" comes from the Iroquois tekontaró:ken, meaning "it is at the junction of two waterways," Commanding the La Chute River between Lake George and Lake Champlain. The Governor of Quebec, General Guy Carleton, was anxious to field his 9,000-man army in the Hudson Valley. Land routes were scarce, so he began building a navy to ferry his troops down Lake Champlain, through the La Chute into Lake George, and then south into the Hudson Valley. The Americans had a smaller fleet under the command of Benedict Arnold, who massed them in the strait between New York and Valcour Island. Unfortunately, Arnold's bravery exceeded his maritime skills, and the Americans were soundly defeated in one of the first naval battles of the war. Nevertheless, the American defense of Lake Champlain stalled the British drive to the Hudson Valley and marked the entry of the United States' fledgling navy into the war. The series so far is tied at 2 victories each and one draw.
1776/10/11	Battle of Valcour Bay (Lake Champlain)	A big defeat for the inexperienced American Navy on Lake Champlain at the hands of a British fleet of 87 gunships. In the 7 hour Battle of Valcour Bay most of the American flotilla of 83 gunships is crippled with the remaining ships destroyed in a second engagement two days later.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1776/10/28	Battle of White Plains	On October 28, 1776, 4,000 British and Hessians under General Sir William Howe attacked about 1,500 Americans under General Washington. The Continentals were dug in on Chatterton's Hill (today called Battle Hill), about six miles east of White Plains, New York. The British got the upper hand and displaced the Patriots from Chatterton's Hill. Having lost the high ground, Washington decided that further defense of the position was untenable, and he led his army northward to fight another day. General Howe was unable to capitalize on his victory because of heavy rains in the days following the battle. Though a loss on balance for Continental Army, the Americans inflicted 224 casualties on the British, at a cost of 154 Continental casualties. This was a close one, but ya gotta give the nod to the Brits.
1776/11/20	Battle of Fort Washington	After his victory at White Plains, General Howe marched on Fort Washington on Manhattan Island, the last American stronghold in New York. Washington considering abandoning the fort and retreating to New Jersey, but Nathaniel Greene talked him into defending the fort. On November 16, 1776, the British attacked from the north, south, and east. The American southern and western fronts collapsed quickly, and the northern front resisted gamely but was eventually overwhelmed. The fort surrendered, suffering 59 Americans killed and 2,837 captured. This defeat allowed the British to chase the retreating Continental Army out of New York, through New Jersey, and all the way into Pennsylvania. Score this one for the British, but don't count the Americans out yet. The season ain't over!
1776/11/16	Battle of Fort Lee	The Americans lose Fort Lee in New Jersey to Gen. Cornwallis.
1776/12/06	British Capture Newport RI Navy Base	The naval base at Newport, Rhode Island, is captured by the British.
1776/12/11	Continental Congress Moves To Baltimore	Washington takes his troops across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. The next day, over concerns of a possible British attack, the Continental Congress abandons Philadelphia for Baltimore. Among Washington's troops is Thomas Paine, author of Common Sense, who now writes "...These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country: but he that stands it NOW deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered. Yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."
1776/12/12	Second Continental Congress Adjourns	The Second Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in July, 1776, and first proposed the Articles of Confederation by a committee headed by John Dickinson, on July 12, 1776 -- not bad in only 18 months!
1776/12/20	Third Continental Congress Convenes	The Third Continental Congress got underway almost immediately following, on December 20, 1776. This Congress prosecuted the war, and also modified and finalized the Articles of Confederation.
1776/12/25	Washington Crosses the Delaware	On Christmas night, George Washington takes 2400 of his men and recrosses the Delaware River. Washington then conducts a surprise raid on 1500 British-Hessians (German mercenaries) at Trenton, New Jersey. The Hessians surrender after an hour with nearly 1000 taken prisoner by Washington who suffers only six wounded (including future president Lt. James Monroe). Washington reoccupies Trenton. The victory provides a much needed boost to the morale of all American Patriots.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1776/12/26	Battle of Trenton	After several defeats in New York and the long retreat through New Jersey across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania, American morale was at rock bottom and many enlistments would be running out at the end of the year. Washington desperately needed a victory to keep his army together through the impending winter. He settled on a daring attack on a Hessian garrison in Trenton, just across the Delaware River. On Christmas night, he and Major Generals Nathaniel Greene and John Sullivan successfully ferried 2,400 American under the cover of darkness and a fortuitous but biting snowstorm across the river, using commandeered wooden river boats. In the Hessian encampment were three German regiments with Hessian jaegers and a troop of British 16th Light Dragoons, numbering 1,500 troops altogether. They made the eastern shore at about 3:00 AM and marched 9 miles to Trenton. Greene and Sullivan took up positions northeast of town to set up artillery and cut off a German retreat. The Germans had lowered their guard after Christmas feasting. A local Tory tried to sound the alarm to commanding Colonel
1777/01/03	Battle of Princeton	A second victory for Washington as his troops defeat the British at Princeton and drive them back toward New Brunswick. Washington then establishes winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. During the harsh winter, Washington's army shrinks to about a thousand men as enlistments expire and deserters flee the hardships. By spring, with the arrival of recruits, Washington will have 9000 men.
1777/03/12	Continental Congress Returns to Philadelphia	The Continental Congress returns to Philadelphia from Baltimore after Washington's successes against the British in New Jersey.
1777/04/27	Battle of Ridgefield CT	American troops under Benedict Arnold defeat the British at Ridgefield, Connecticut.
1777/06/14	Congress Mandates New US Flag	The flag of the United States consisting of 13 stars and 13 white and red stripes is mandated by Congress; John Paul Jones is chosen by Congress to captain the 18 gun vessel <i>Ranger</i> with his mission to raid coastal towns of England.
1777/06/17	Burgoyne Invades from Canada	A British force of 7700 men under Gen. John Burgoyne invades from Canada, sailing down Lake Champlain toward Albany, planning to link up with Gen. Howe who will come north from New York City, thus cutting off New England from the rest of the colonies.
1777/07/06	Burgoyne Captures Fort Ticonderoga	Gen. Burgoyne's troops stun the Americans with the capture of Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. Its military supplies are greatly needed by Washington's forces. The loss of the fort is a tremendous blow to American morale.
1777/07/23	Howe Sails for Philadelphia	British Gen. Howe, with 15,000 men, sets sail from New York for Chesapeake Bay to capture Philadelphia, instead of sailing north to meet up with Gen. Burgoyne.
1777/07/27	Marquis de Lafayette Joins Up	Marquis de Lafayette, a 19 year old French aristocrat, arrives in Philadelphia and volunteers to serve without pay. Congress appoints him as a major general in the Continental Army. Lafayette will become one of Gen. Washington's most trusted aides.
1777/08/01	Burgoyne Reaches the Hudson	Gen. Burgoyne reaches the Hudson after a grueling month spent crossing 23 miles of wilderness separating the southern tip of Lake Champlain from the northern tip of the Hudson River.
1777/08/16	Battle of Bennington	In the Battle of Bennington, militiamen from Vermont, aided by Massachusetts troops, wipe out a detachment of 800 German Hessians sent by Gen. Burgoyne to seize horses.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1777/08/25	Howe Disembarks at Chesapeake Bay	British Gen. Howe disembarks at Chesapeake Bay with his troops.
1777/09/09	Battle of Brandywine Creek	On September 9-11, in the Battle of Brandywine Creek, Gen. Washington and the main American Army of 10,500 men are driven back toward Philadelphia by Gen. Howe's British troops. Both sides suffer heavy losses. Congress then leaves Philadelphia and resettles in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
1777/09/26	Howe Occupies Philadelphia; Congress Moves to York PA	British forces under Gen. Howe occupy Philadelphia. Congress then relocates to York, Pennsylvania.
1777/10/07	Battle of Saratoga	The Battle of Saratoga results in the first major American victory of the Revolutionary War as Gen. Horatio Gates and Gen. Benedict Arnold defeat Gen. Burgoyne, inflicting 600 British casualties. American losses are only 150.
1777/10/17	Burgoyne Surrenders	Gen. Burgoyne and his entire army of 5700 men surrender to the Americans led by Gen. Gates. The British are then marched to Boston, placed on ships and sent back to England after swearing not serve again in the war against America. News of the American victory at Saratoga soon travels to Europe and boosts support of the American cause. In Paris the victory is celebrated as if it had been a French victory. Ben Franklin is received by the French Royal Court. France then recognizes the independence of America.
1777/11/15	Congress Adopts Articles of Confederation	Congress adopts the Articles of Confederation as the government of the new United States of America, pending ratification by the individual states. Under the Articles, Congress is the sole authority of the new national government.
1777/12/17	Washington HQ in Valley Forge	At Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, the Continental Army led by Washington sets up winter quarters.
1778/02/06	France and US sign Treaty of Amity and Commerce and Treaty of Alliance	American and French representatives sign two treaties in Paris: a Treaty of Amity and Commerce and a Treaty of Alliance. France now officially recognizes the United States and will soon become the major supplier of military supplies to Washington's army. Both countries pledge to fight until American independence is won, with neither country concluding any truce with Britain without the other's consent, and guarantee each other's possessions in America against all other powers. The American struggle for independence is thus enlarged and will soon become a world war. After British vessels fire on French ships, the two nations declare war. Spain will enter in 1779 as an ally of France. The following year, Britain will declare war on the Dutch who have been engaging in profitable trade with the French and Americans. In addition to the war in America, the British will have to fight in the Mediterranean, Africa, India, the West Indies, and on the high seas. All the while facing possible invasion of England itself by the French.
1778/02/23	Von Steuben Arrives at Valley Forge	Baron von Steuben of Prussia arrives at Valley Forge to join the Continental Army. He then begins much needed training and drilling of Washington's troops, now suffering from poor morale resulting from cold, hunger, disease, low supplies and desertions over the long, harsh winter.



## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1778/03/16	Parliament Creates Peace Commission	A Peace Commission is created by the British Parliament to negotiate with the Americans. The commission then travels to Philadelphia where its offers granting all of the American demands, except independence, are rejected by Congress.
1778/05/08	Clinton Replaces Howe	British General Henry Clinton replaces Gen. Howe as commander of all British forces in the American colonies.
1778/05/30	Iroquois Burn Cobleskill NY	A campaign of terror against American frontier settlements, instigated by the British, begins as 300 Iroquois Indians burn Cobleskill, New York.
1778/06/18	Clinton Withdraws from Philadelphia	Fearing a blockade by French ships, British Gen. Clinton withdraws his troops from Philadelphia and marches across New Jersey toward New York City. Americans then re-occupy Philadelphia.
1778/06/19	GW Intercepts Clinton	Washington sends troops from Valley Forge to intercept Gen. Clinton.
1778/06/27	Battle of Monmouth	On June 27 and 28, the Battle of Monmouth occurs in New Jersey as Washington's troops and Gen. Clinton's troops fight to a standoff. On hearing that American Gen. Charles Lee had ordered a retreat, Gen. Washington becomes furious. Gen. Clinton then continues on toward New York.
1778/07/02	Congress Returns to Philadelphia	Congress returns once again to Philadelphia.
1778/07/03	Wyoming Valley PA Indian Massacre	British Loyalists and Indians, under Col. John Butler, massacre 360 American settlers in the Wyoming Valley of northern Pennsylvania.
1778/07/08	GW HQ at West Point	Gen. Washington sets up headquarters at West Point, New York.
1778/07/10	France Declares war on Britain	France declares war against Britain.
1778/08/08	Siege of Newport RI	American land forces and French ships attempt to conduct a combined siege against Newport, Rhode Island. But bad weather and delays of the land troops result in failure. The weather-damaged French fleet then sails to Boston for repairs.
1778/09/14	Franklin Appointed French Ambassador	Ben Franklin is appointed to be the American diplomatic representative in France.
1778/11/11	Cherry Valley NY Indian Massacre	At Cherry Valley, New York, Loyalists and Indians massacre over 40 American settlers.
1778/12/29	Savannah GA Captured.	The British begin a major southern campaign with the capture of Savannah, Georgia.
1779/01/00	Augusta GA Captured	British capture Augusta, Georgia.
1779/02/01	Clinton Arrives in Charleston	Clinton arrives at Charleston SC.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1779/04/01	Americans Attack Chickamaugas in Tennessee	During the month of April, in retaliation for Indian raids on colonial settlements, American troops from North Carolina and Virginia attack Chickamauga Indian villages in Tennessee.
1779/05/10	Portsmouth and Norfolk Burned	British troops burn Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia.
1779/06/16	Spain Declares war on Britain	Spain declares war on England, but does not make an alliance with the American revolutionary forces.
1779/07/05	Loyalists Burn Fairfield, Norwalk, and New Haven CT	During July 5-11, loyalists raid coastal towns in Connecticut, burning Fairfield, Norwalk and ships in New Haven harbor.
1779/07/10	Battle of Castine, Maine	Naval ships from Massachusetts are destroyed by the British while attempting to take the Loyalist stronghold of Castine, Maine.
1779/08/14	Congress Approves Peace Plan	A peace plan is approved by Congress which stipulates independence, complete British evacuation of America and free navigation on the Mississippi River.
1779/08/29	Battle of Elmira NY	American forces defeat the combined Indian and Loyalist forces at Elmira, New York. Following the victory, American troops head northwest and destroy nearly 40 Cayuga and Seneca Indian villages in retaliation for the campaign of terror against American settlers.
1779/09/03	Americans Defeated at Savannah GA	From September 3 to October 28. Americans suffer a major defeat while attacking the British at Savannah, Georgia. Among the 800 American and Allied casualties is Count Casimir Pulaski of Poland. British losses are only 140.
1779/09/23	"I Have Not Yet Begun To Fight!"	Off the coast of England, John Paul Jones fights a desperate battle with a British frigate. When the British demand his surrender, Jones responds, "I have not yet begun to fight!" Jones then captures the frigate before his own ship sinks.
1779/09/27	Congress Appoints Adams to Negotiate Peace	John Adams is appointed by Congress to negotiate peace with England.
1779/10/17	GW HQ at Morristown NJ	Washington sets up winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey, where his troops will suffer another harsh winter without desperately needed supplies, resulting in low morale, desertions and attempts at mutiny.
1779/12/26	Clinton Sails for Cahrleston SC	British Gen. Clinton sets sail from New York with 8000 men and heads for Charleston, South Carolina, arriving there on Feb. 1.
1779?06/01	Clinton Sails toward West Point	British Gen. Clinton takes 6000 men up the Hudson toward West Point.
1780/04/08	British Enter Cahrleston Harbor	The British attack begins against Charleston as warships sail past the cannons of Fort Moultrie and enter Charleston harbor. Washington sends reinforcements.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1780/05/06	British Capture Fort Moultrie	The British capture Fort Moultrie at Charleston, South Carolina.
1780/05/12	British Capture Charleston	The worst American defeat of the Revolutionary War occurs as the British capture Charleston and its 5400-man garrison (the entire southern American Army) along with four ships and a military arsenal. British losses are only 225.
1780/05/25	GW Puts Down a Mutiny	After a severe winter, Gen. Washington faces a serious threat of mutiny at his winter camp in Morristown, New Jersey. Two Continental regiments conduct an armed march through the camp and demand immediate payment of salary (overdue by 5 months) and full rations. Troops from Pennsylvania put down the rebellion. Two leaders of the protest are then hanged.
1780/05/29	Waxhaws Massacre	British Col. Banastre Tarleton's cavalry destroys the remaining American army in South Carolina at Waxhaws. Over 300 are killed or captured in this "massacre."
1780/06/11	MA Endorses State Constitution	A new Massachusetts constitution is endorsed asserting "all men are born free and equal," which includes black slaves.
1780/06/13	Gates Takes Command of Southern Army	Gen. Horatio Gates is commissioned by Congress to command the Southern Army.
1780/06/23	Battle of Springfield NJ	American forces defeat the British in the Battle of Springfield, New Jersey.
1780/07/11	French Arrive under Rochambeau	6000 French soldiers under Count de Rochambeau arrive at Newport, Rhode Island. They will remain there for nearly a year, blockaded by the British fleet.
1780/08/03	Arnold Appointed Commander of West Point	Benedict Arnold is appointed commander of West Point. Unknown to the Americans, he has been secretly collaborating with British Gen. Clinton since May of 1779 by supplying information on Gen. Washington's tactics.
1780/08/16	Battle of Camden	Gen. Cornwallis takes the offensive and marches deep into South Carolina from Charleston. American Gen. Gates, the victor at Saratoga, leads a mostly green force of 2,500 to Camden, SC. Cornwallis' veteran British regulars, around 2,000, meet Gates
1780/08/18	Battle of Fishing Creek SC	An American defeat at Fishing Creek, South Carolina, opens a route for Gen Cornwallis to invade North Carolina.
1780/08/20	Swamp Fox Victorious Near Camden	August 20, 1780 -- Francis Marion, "The Swamp Fox" and only 16 troopers attack a British column and free American prisoners, while capturing the British soldiers in a dramatic raid near Camden, SC.
1780/09/23	Arnold Flees West point, Joins British	A British major in civilian clothing is captured near Tarrytown, New York. He is found to be carrying plans indicating Benedict Arnold intends to turn traitor and surrender West Point. Two days later, Arnold hears of the spy's capture and flees West Point to the British ship <i>Vulture</i> on the Hudson. He is later named a brigadier general in the British Army and will fight the Americans.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1780/10/07	Battle of Kings Mountain	At Kings Mountain, South Carolina, an irregular force of 1,000 volunteer frontier "mountain men" from Tennessee Territory annihilates the British Royalist force sent to subdue them. Cornwallis' left flank is suddenly threatened by an unexpected uprising of frontiersmen, so he retreats north.
1780/10/14	Greene Replaces Gates as Commander of Southern Army	Gen. Nathanael Greene, Washington's most able and trusted General, is named as the new commander of the Southern Army, replacing Gen. Gates. Greene then begins a strategy of rallying popular support and wearing down the British by leading Gen. Cornwallis on a six month chase through the back woods of South Carolina into North Carolina into Virginia then back into North Carolina. The British, low on supplies, are forced to steal from any Americans they encounter, thus enraging them.
1781/01/03	PA Troops Mutiny in NJ	Mutiny among Americans in New Jersey as troops from Pennsylvania set up camp near Princeton and choose their own representatives to negotiate with state officials back in Pennsylvania. The crisis is eventually resolved through negotiations, but over half of the mutineers abandon the army.
1781/01/17	Battle of Cowpens SC	An American victory at Cowpens, South Carolina, as Gen. Daniel Morgan defeats British Gen. Tarleton.
1781/01/20	Mutiny at Pompton NJ	Mutiny among American troops at Pompton, New Jersey. The rebellion is put down seven days later by a 600-man force sent by Gen. Washington. Two of the leaders are then hanged.
1781/03/01	Articles of Confederation Ratified	Because of the war, and disagreements between the colonies, it took three and a half years to get final ratification of the Articles, which had to be ratified by each and every state.
1781/03/15	Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC	Forces under Gen. Cornwallis suffer heavy losses in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina. As a result, Cornwallis abandons plans to conquer the Carolinas and retreats to Wilmington, then begins a campaign to conquer Virginia with an army of 7500 men.
1781/05/21	GW and Rochambeau Conduct War Council	Gen. Washington and French Gen. Rochambeau meet in Connecticut for a war council. Gen Rochambeau reluctantly agrees to Washington's plan for a joint French naval and American ground attack on New York.
1781/06/04	Jefferson Escapes Capture at Charlottesville VA	Thomas Jefferson narrowly escapes capture by the British at Charlottesville, Virginia.
1781/06/10	Lafayette, Wayne, and Von Steuben Join Against Cornwallis and Arnold in VA	American troops under Marquis de Lafayette, Gen. Anthony Wayne and Baron von Steuben begin to form a combined force in Virginia to oppose British forces under Benedict Arnold and Gen. Cornwallis.
1781/06/11	Congress Appoints Peace Commission to Augment Adams	Congress appoints a Peace Commission comprised of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Jay and Henry Laurens. The commission supplements John Adams as the sole negotiator with the British.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1781/07/20	Williamsburg VA Slave Rebellion	Slaves in Williamsburg, Virginia, rebel and burn several buildings.
1781/08/01	Cornwallis Arrives in Yorktown VA	After several months of chasing Gen. Greene's army without much success, Gen. Cornwallis and his 10,000 tired soldiers arrive to seek rest at the small port of Yorktown, Virginia, on the Chesapeake Bay. He then establishes a base to communicate by sea with Gen. Clinton's forces in New York.
1781/08/14	GW and de Grasse Head for Yorktown	Gen. Washington abruptly changes plans and abandons the attack on New York in favor of Yorktown after receiving a letter from French Admiral Count de Grasse indicating his entire 29-ship French fleet with 3000 soldiers is now heading for the Chesapeake Bay near Cornwallis. Gen. Washington then coordinates with Gen. Rochambeau to rush their best troops south to Virginia to destroy the British position in Yorktown.
1781/08/30	Count de Grasse Arrives at Yorktown	Count de Grasse's French fleet arrives off Yorktown, Virginia. De Grasse then lands troops near Yorktown, linking with Lafayette's American troops to cut Cornwallis off from any retreat by land.
1781/09/01	Washington and Rochambeau Arrive at Yorktown	The troops of Washington and Rochambeau arrive at Philadelphia.
1781/09/06	Arnold Burns New	Benedict Arnold's troops loot and burn the port of New London, Connecticut.
1781/09/08	de Grasse's Fleet Defeats British at Yorktown	From September 5-8, off Yorktown, a major naval battle between the French fleet of de Grasse and the outnumbered British fleet of Adm. Thomas Graves results in a victory for de Grasse. The British fleet retreats to New York for reinforcements, leaving the French fleet in control of the Chesapeake. The French fleet establishes a blockade, cutting Cornwallis off from any retreat by sea. French naval reinforcements then arrive from Newport.
1781/09/14	de Grasse's Fleet Transports Americans to Yorktown	From September 14-24, De Grasse sends his ships up the Chesapeake Bay to transport the armies of Washington and Rochambeau to Yorktown.
1781/09/28	Siege of Yorktown Begins	Gen. Washington, with a combined Allied army of 17,000 men, begins the siege of Yorktown. French cannons bombard Gen. Cornwallis and his 9000 men day and night while the Allied lines slowly advance and encircle them. British supplies run dangerously low.
1781/10/17	Cornwallis Negotiates Surrender	As Yorktown is about to be taken, the British send out a flag of truce. Gen. Washington and Gen. Cornwallis then work out terms of surrender.
1781/10/19	British Surrender at Yorktown	As their band plays the tune, "The world turned upside down," the British army marches out in formation and surrenders at Yorktown. Hopes for a British victory in the war against America are dashed. In the English Parliament, there will soon be calls to bring this long costly war to an end.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1781/10/24	7000 British Reinforcements Turn Back	7000 British reinforcements under Gen. Clinton arrive at Chesapeake Bay but turn back on hearing of the surrender at Yorktown.
1782/01/01	Loyalists Begin Leaving America	Loyalists begin leaving America, heading north to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.
1782/01/05	British Withdraw From NC	The British withdraw from North Carolina.
1782/02/27	House of Commons Votes Against Further War	In England, the House of Commons votes against further war in America.
1782/03/05	Parliament Empowers King To Seek Peace	The British Parliament empowers the King to negotiate peace with the United States.
1782/03/07	Delaware Indians Massacred In Ohio	American militiamen massacre 96 Delaware Indians in Ohio in retaliation for Indian raids conducted by other tribes.
1782/03/20	Lord North Resigns As PM; Rockingham Takes over	British Prime Minister, Lord North, resigns, succeeded two days later by Lord Rockingham who seeks immediate negotiations with the American peace commissioners.
1782/04/04	Sir Guy Carleton Replaces Clinton; Heads British Withdrawal from America	Sir Guy Carleton becomes the new commander of British forces in America, replacing Gen. Clinton. Carleton will implement the new British policy of ending hostilities and withdraw British troops from America.
1782/04/12	Peace Talks Begin in Paris	Peace talks begin in Paris between Ben Franklin and Richard Oswald of Britain.
1782/04/16	GW HQ at Newburgh NY	Gen. Washington establishes American army headquarters at Newburgh, New York.
1782/04/19	Holland Recognizes Independent America	The Dutch recognize the United States of America as a result of negotiations conducted in the Netherlands by John Adams.
1782/06/20	Congress Adopts New Great Seal	Congress adopts the Great Seal of the United States of America.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1782/07/11	British Evacuate Savannah GA	British Royal Governor Sir James Wright, along with several civil officials and military officers, fled the city of Savannah, Georgia, and headed to Charleston, South Carolina. As part of the British evacuation, a group consisting of British regulars led by General Alured Clarke traveled to New York, while Colonel Thomas Brown led a mixed group of rangers and Indians to St. Augustine, Florida. The remaining British soldiers were transported to the West Indies aboard the frigate HMS Zebra and the sloop of war HMS Vulture.
1782/08/19	Loyalists and Indians Defeat Settlers Near Lexington KY	Loyalist and Indian forces attack and defeat American settlers near Lexington, Kentucky.
1782/08/27	Last Fight Between British and Americans: Combahee River SC	The last fighting of the Revolutionary War between Americans and British occurs with a skirmish in South Carolina along the Combahee River.
1782/09/25	Mohawks Raid Settlements in PA and KY	Mohawk Indian Chief Joseph Brant conducts raids on settlements in Pennsylvania and Kentucky.
1782/11/10	Final Battle of War: Americans vs Loyalists and Indians in Ohio	The final battle of the Revolutionary War occurs as Americans retaliate against Loyalist and Indian forces by attacking a Shawnee Indian village in the Ohio territory.
1782/11/30	Preliminary Peace Treaty Signed in Paris	A preliminary peace treaty is signed in Paris. Terms include recognition of American independence and the boundaries of the United States, along with British withdrawal from America.
1782/12/14	British Evacuate Charleston SC	The British evacuate Charleston, South Carolina.
1782/12/15	France Objects; Franklin Soothes	In France, strong objections are expressed by the French over the signing of the peace treaty in Paris without America first consulting them. Ben Franklin then soothes their anger with a diplomatic response and prevents a falling out between France and America.
1783/01/20	Britain Signs Treaty with France and Spain	England signs a preliminary peace treaty with France and Spain.
1783/02/03	Spain Recognizes America	Spain recognizes the United States of America, followed later by Sweden, Denmark and Russia.
1783/02/04	England Declares Official End to Hostilities	England officially declares an end to hostilities in America.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1783/03/10	Mutiny Threatened at Newburgh NY	An anonymous letter circulates among Washington's senior officers camped at Newburgh, New York. The letter calls for an unauthorized meeting and urges the officers to defy the authority of the new U.S. national government (Congress) for its failure to honor past promises to the Continental Army. The next day, Gen. Washington forbids the unauthorized meeting and instead suggests a regular meeting to be held on March 15. A second anonymous letter then appears and is circulated. This letter falsely claims Washington himself sympathizes with the rebellious officers.
1783/03/15	GW Averts Mutiny	General Washington gathers his officers and talks them out of a rebellion against the authority of Congress, and in effect preserves the American democracy.
1783/04/11	Congress Declares Official End to Hostilities	Congress officially declares an end to the Revolutionary War.
1783/04/26	7000 Loyalists Flee America	7000 Loyalists set sail from New York for Canada, bringing a total of 100,000 Loyalists who have now fled America.
1783/06/13	Continental Army Disbands	The main part of the Continental Army disbands.
1783/06/24	Congress Relocates to Princeton NJ	To avoid protests from angry and unpaid war veterans, Congress leaves Philadelphia and relocates to Princeton, New Jersey.
1783/07/08	MA Abolishes Slavery	The Supreme Court of Massachusetts abolishes slavery in that state.
1783/09/03	Treaty of Paris Signed	The Treaty of Paris is signed by the United States and Great Britain. Congress will ratify the treaty on January 14, 1784.
1783/10/07	VA Frees Slaves Who Served in Continental Army	In Virginia, the House of Burgesses grants freedom to slaves who served in the Continental Army.
1783/11/02	GW Delivers Farewell Address to Army	George Washington delivers his farewell address to his army. The next day, remaining troops are discharged.
1783/11/25	GW Enters Manhattan	Washington enters Manhattan as the last British troops leave.
1783/11/26	Congress Meets in Annapolis MD	Toward the end of the Revolutionary War, Annapolis served as capital to the newly forming American nation when the Continental Congress met in Annapolis from November 26, 1783 to June 3, 1784.
1783/12/23	GW Resigns Commission Before Congress	Following a triumphant journey from New York to Annapolis, George Washington, victorious commander in chief of the American Revolutionary Army, appears before Congress and voluntarily resigns his commission, an event unprecedented in history.
1784/01/14	Treat of Paris Ratified by Congress	The Treaty of Paris is ratified by Congress in Annapolis. The Revolutionary War officially ends.



## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1784/03/01	Nationwide Ban on Slavery Defeated	A congressional committee led by Thomas Jefferson proposes to divide up sprawling western territories into states, to be considered equal with the original 13. Jefferson also proposes a ban on slavery everywhere in the U.S. after 1800. This proposal is narrowly defeated.
1784/08/30	Trade With China Begins	Beginning of the China Trade, as the American Ship <i>Empress of China</i> , sailing from New York, arrives at Canton, China. The ship will return with exotic goods, including silks and tea, spurring large numbers of American merchants to enter the trade.
1784/09/22	Russians Settle in Kodiak AL	Russians establish their first settlement in Alaska, on Kodiak Island.
1785/01/11	Congress Relocates to NYC	Congress relocates to New York City, temporary capital of the U.S.
1785/02/24	Adams Appointed Ambassador to Britain	Although England refuses to send an ambassador to the U.S., John Adams is sent as the American ambassador to Britain. He will spend the next three years trying without success to settle problems regarding the existence of a string of British forts along the Canadian border, pre-war debts owed to British creditors, post-war American treatment of Loyalists, and the closing of the West Indian colonies to American trade.
1785/05/08	Land Ordinance Act Passed	Congress passes the Land Ordinance of 1785 which divides the northwest territories into townships, each set at 6 square miles, subdivided into 36 lots of 640 acres each, with each lot selling for no less than \$640.
1786/01/16	VA Passes Jefferson's Ordinance of Religious Freedom	The Virginia legislature passes Jefferson's Ordinance of Religious Freedom guaranteeing that no man may be forced to attend or support any church or be discriminated against because of his religious preference. This will later serve as the model for the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
1786/08/08	Congress Adopts Monetary System	Congress adopts a monetary system based on the Spanish dollar, with a gold piece valued at \$10, silver pieces at \$1, one-tenth of \$1 also in silver, and copper pennies.
1786/08/31	Shays Leads Rebellion in Northampton Court MA	In Massachusetts, to prevent debtors from being tried and put in prison, ex-Revolutionary War Captain Daniel Shays, who is now a bankrupt farmer, leads an armed mob and prevents the Northampton Court from holding a session.
1786/09/20	Mob Riots in NH Demanding Paper Money	In New Hampshire, an armed mob marches on the state assembly and demands enactment of an issue of paper money.
1786/09/26	Shays' Rebels Confront Militia in Springfield MA	Shays' rebels, fearing they might be charged with treason, confront 600 militiamen protecting the state Massachusetts Supreme Court session in Springfield and force the court to adjourn.
1786/10/16	Congress Establishes Mint	Congress establishes the United States mint.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1786/10/20	Knox Raises Army to Defend Speinfield MA Arsenal	Congress authorizes Secretary of War Henry Knox to raise a an army of 1340 men over concerns of the safety of the federal arsenal at Springfield, Mass.
1786/12/26	Army Marches to Springfield MA	Shays assembles 1200 men near Worcester, Mass. and heads toward Springfield. Massachusetts Governor, Bowdoin, then orders mobilization of a 4400 man force.
1787/01/26	Shays' Rebels Repelled From Springfield Arsenal	Shays' rebels attack the federal arsenal at Springfield but are unsuccessful. Revolutionary War hero, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, then arrives with reinforcements from Boston to pursue the rebels.
1787/02/04	Shays Flees to Vermont	Gen. Lincoln's troops attack Shays' rebels at Petersham, Massachusetts, and capture 150 rebels. Shays flees north to Vermont.
1787/02/21	Congress Endorses Constitutional Convention	Amid calls for a stronger central government, due in part to Shays' Rebellion, Congress endorses a resolution calling for a constitutional convention to be held in Philadelphia, beginning in May.
1787/05/25	Constitutional Convention Begins	With 29 delegates from nine states present, the constitutional convention begins in the state house (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia. A total of 73 delegates have been chosen by the states (excluding Rhode Island) although only 55 will actually attend. There are 21 veterans of the Revolutionary War and 8 signers of the Declaration of Independence. The delegates are farmers, merchants, lawyers and bankers, with an average age of 42, and include the brilliant 36 year old James Madison, the central figure at the convention, and 81 year old Ben Franklin. Thomas Jefferson, serving abroad as ambassador to France, does not attend. The delegates first vote is to keep the proceedings absolutely secret. George Washington is then nominated as president of the constitutional convention.
1787/06/19	Delegates Vote to Create New Constitution	Rather than revise the Articles of Confederation, delegates at the constitutional convention vote to create an entirely new form of national government separated into three branches: the legislative, executive and judicial, thus dispersing power with checks and balances, and competing factions, as a measure of protection against tyranny by a controlling majority.
1787/07/16	Sherman Proposes Bicameral Compromise	At the constitutional convention, Roger Sherman proposes a compromise which allows for representation in the House of Representatives based on each state's population and equal representation for all of the states in the Senate. The numerous black slaves in the South are to counted at only three fifths of their total number. A rough draft of the constitution is then drawn up.
1787/08/06	Draft Constitution Debated	Items in the draft constitution are debated for five days, including the length of terms for the president and legislators, the power of Congress to regulate commerce, and a proposed 20 year ban on any Congressional action concerning slavery.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1787/08/13	Congress Enacts Northwest Ordinance	Congress enacts the Northwest Ordinance which establishes formal procedures for transforming territories into states. It provides for the eventual establishment of three to five states in the area north of the Ohio River, to be considered equal with the original 13. The Ordinance includes a Bill of Rights that guarantees freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, public education and a ban on slavery in the Northwest.
1787/09/17	Thirty-nine Delegates Sign Final Draft of New Constitution	Thirty nine delegates vote to approve and then sign the final draft of the new Constitution. The Legislative Branch will consist of two houses. The upper house (Senate) to be composed of nominees selected by state assemblies for six year terms; the lower house (House of Representatives) to be elected every two years by popular vote. The Executive Branch is to be headed by a chief executive (President) elected every four years by presidential electors from the states. The President is granted sweeping powers including: veto power over Congress which can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in each house; commander in chief of the armies; power to make treaties with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate; power to appoint judges, diplomats and other officers with the consent of the Senate; power to recommend legislation and responsibility for execution of the laws. The President is required to report each year to the legislative branch on the state of the nation. The legislative branch has the power to remove the President from office. The House can impeach the President for treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors with actual removal from office occurring by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The Judicial Branch consists of a Supreme Court and lower federal courts. The Constitution is signed by the delegates on September 17, 1787.
1787/09/19	New Constitution is Published	For the first time the proposed Constitution is made public as printed copies of the text are distributed. A storm of controversy soon arises as most people had only expected a revision of the Articles of Confederation, not a new central government with similarities to the British system they had just overthrown.
1787/09/28	Congress Votes To Send Constitution To States For Vote	Congress votes to send the Constitution to the state legislatures for ratification, needing the approval of nine states.
1787/10/27	Federalist Papers Begin	The Federalists, who advocate a strong central government and approval of the new Constitution, begin publishing essays in favor of ratification. Written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, the total number of articles will eventually reach 85 and be compiled and published as the Federalist Papers.
1787/12/07	DE Ratifies Constitution	Delaware is the first of the nine states needed to ratify the Constitution. To be followed by: Pennsylvania (Dec. 12) New Jersey (Dec. 18) Georgia (Jan. 2, 1788) Connecticut (Jan. 9) Massachusetts (Feb. 7) Maryland (April 28) South Carolina (May 23) and New Hampshire (June 21).
1787/12/12	PA Ratifies Constitution	PA Ratifies Constitution
1787/12/18	NJ Ratifies Constitution	NJ Ratifies Constitution
1788/01/02	GA Ratifies Constitution	GA Ratifies Constitution

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1788/01/09	CT Ratifies Constitution	CT Ratifies Constitution
1788/02/06	Adams and Hancock Force Civil Liberties Amendments	Anti-Federalists in Massachusetts, led by Sam Adams and John Hancock, favor a more decentralized system of government and give their support to ratification of the Constitution only after a compromise is reached that amendments will be included which guarantee civil liberties.
1788/02/07	MA Ratifies Constitution	MA Ratifies Constitution
1788/03/24	RI Rejects Constitution in Popular Referendum	In Rhode Island, the Constitution is rejected by a popular referendum. The state, fearful of consolidated federal power, had refused to send a delegation to the constitutional convention in Philadelphia and had subsequently rejected a state convention to consider ratification.
1788/04/28	MD Ratifies Constitution	MD Ratifies Constitution
1788/05/23	SC Ratifies Constitution	SC Ratifies Constitution
1788/06/21	NH Ratifies Constitution	NH Ratifies Constitution
1788/07/02	Constitution Announced "In Effect"	A formal announcement is made by the president of Congress that the Constitution of the United States is now in effect, having been ratified by the required nine states.
1788/07/08	Committee Formed to Transfer Power to New Constitution	A committee in the old Congress (still under the Articles of Confederation) is established to prepare for an orderly transfer of power, including procedures for electing representatives to the first Congress under the new Constitution and procedures for choosing the electors of the first president.
1788/07/26	NY Ratifies Constitution	The state of New York votes 30 to 27 to endorse ratification while also recommending a bill of rights be included.
1788/09/13	NYC Becomes Temporary Seat of Government	New York City is chosen by Congress to be the temporary seat of the new U.S. government.
1788/11/01	Old Congress Adjourns	The old Congress, operating under the Articles of Confederation, adjourns. The U.S. is temporarily without a central government.
1788/11/21	NC Ratifies Constitution	North Carolina endorses the Constitution by a vote of 194 to 77.
1789/01/23	Georgetown University Founded	Georgetown University, the first Catholic college in the U.S., is founded by Father John Carroll.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1789/02/04	First Presidential Election	Ballots are cast in the first presidential election, to be counted on April 6.
1789/03/04	First Congress Convenes Without Quorum	The first Congress convenes in New York City, but is unable to achieve a quorum, since most members are still traveling there.
1789/04/01	First Congress Successfully Convenes	A quorum is reached in Congress with 30 of 59 members present and the House of Representatives begins to function. Of the 59 members, 54 had also been delegates to the constitutional convention.
1789/04/06	Ballots Counted, Washington Elected First President	In the Senate, with 9 of 22 senators present, the presidential ballots cast on Feb. 4 are counted. George Washington is the unanimous choice for President with 69 votes. John Adams is elected Vice President with 34 votes. Messengers are then sent to inform Washington and Adams.
1789/04/21	John Adams Sworn In As Vice President	John Adams arrives in New York and is sworn in as Vice President, then takes his seat as presiding officer of the Senate.
1789/04/30	George Washington Sworn In As President	On the balcony of New York's Federal Hall, George Washington, at age 57, is sworn in as the first President of the United States. He then enters the Senate chamber to deliver his inaugural address.
1789/05/07	First Inaugural Ball	The first inaugural ball occurs in honor of President Washington.
1789/07/04	Congress Passes First tax	Congress passes its first tax, an 8.5 percent protective tax on 30 different items, with items arriving on American ships charged at a lower rate than foreign ships.
1789/07/14	French Revolution Begins	In France, the French Revolution begins with the fall of the Bastille in Paris, an event witnessed by the American ambassador, Thomas Jefferson.
1789/07/20	Congress Passes First Tonnage Act	Congress passes the Tonnage Act of 1789 levying a 50 cents per ton tax on foreign ships entering American ports, 30 cents per ton on American built but foreign owned ships, and 6 cents per ton on American ships.
1789/09/29	US Army Established	The U.S. Army is established by Congress. Totaling 1000 men, it consists of one regiment of eight infantry companies and one battalion of four artillery companies.
1789/10/02	GW Sends 12 Constitutional Amendments to States	Congress submits 12 proposed constitutional amendments to the states for ratification. The first ten will be ratified and added to the Constitution in 1791 as the Bill of Rights.
1789/11/26	Thanksgiving Day Established	A Day of Thanksgiving is established by a congressional resolution and a proclamation by George Washington.

## Historical Events of the American Revolutionary Era

Date	Event	Description
1790/03/01	Congress Passes Census Act	A Census Act is passed by Congress. The first census, finished on Aug. 1, indicates a total population of nearly 4 million persons in the U.S. and western territories. African Americans make up 19 percent of the population, with 90 percent living in the South. Native Americans were not counted, although there were likely over 80 tribes with 150,000 persons. For white Americans, the average age is under 16. Most white families are large, with an average of eight children born. The white population will double every 22 years. The largest American city is Philadelphia, with 42,000 persons, followed by New York (33,000) Boston (18,000) Charleston (16,000) and Baltimore (13,000). The majority of Americans are involved in agricultural pursuits, with little industrial activity occurring at this time.
1790/04/17	Benjamin Franklin Dies	Benjamin Franklin dies in Philadelphia at age 84. His funeral four days later draws over 20,000 mourners.
1790/07/10	Congress Votes to Locate Capitol In DC	The House of Representatives votes to locate the national capital on a 10 square-mile site along the Potomac, with President George Washington choosing the exact location.
1791/12/15	Bill of Rights Ratified	Ninth state ratifies Amendments 3 through 12, to be added to Constitution as the Bill of Rights.