



TIMELINE

1779-1823

- 1779** Jefferson writes draft bill for establishing religious freedom in Virginia.
John Paul Jones, commanding the *Bonhomme Richard*, wins naval battle against the British *Serapis* off the coast of England.
- 1780** **POPULATION** (est.) of the 13 colonies is 2.8 million, of which approximately one fifth is enslaved (560,000).
British capture Charleston.
- 1781** **REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENDS** with Washington's defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown.
Articles of Confederation are ratified.
- 1782** The Great Seal of the United States is adopted.
- 1783** Treaty of Paris officially ends the American Revolution.
- 1784** Franklin expresses his disappointment that the turkey was not adopted as the national symbol (in a letter to his daughter).
- 1785** Stagecoach service begins along Boston-New York-Philadelphia route.
Jefferson becomes U.S. minister to France; John Adams to Great Britain.
Madison writes "Memorial and Remonstrance" to the Virginia General Assembly supporting disestablishment and opposing a religion tax.
First Fourth of July parade held in Bristol, Rhode Island.
Barbary pirates seize U.S. ships and imprison the crews in Algiers for eleven years.
- 1786** **SHAY'S REBELLION.** Farmers' protest in western Massachusetts against postwar economic conditions is put down by the federal government.
Benjamin Rush publishes "Of the Mode of Education Proper in a Republic."
Virginia passes Jefferson's bill for religious freedom.
- 1787** **THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**
"Federalist Papers" and "Anti-Federalist Papers" are published.
Jefferson publishes *Notes on the State of Virginia*.
NORTHWEST ORDINANCE is passed by Congress to provide territorial government for and to ban slavery in the area of the present states of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota.
Royall Tyler's popular comedy *The Contrast* opens.
- 1788** **THE CONSTITUTION IS RATIFIED** by the last of the required nine states.
Benjamin Franklin completes his *Autobiography* (begun in 1771).



First publication of Great Seal of the U.S. (1786)



Northwest Territory, 1796



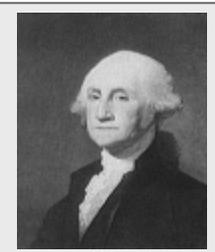
Franklin

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

U.S. under the ARTICLES of CONFEDERATION

1789 U.S. GOVT. UNDER THE CONSTITUTION BEGINS. Washington is inaugurated.

Suggestions for addressing the president include “Excellency” and “Highness.”
Washington states U.S. neutrality after the French Revolution begins in Paris.



Washington

1790 FIRST CENSUS: U.S. population totals 3.9 million, including app. 760,000 African Americans, of whom 700,000 are enslaved.

Congress meets in Philadelphia and plans a new capital on the Potomac.
First petition to Congress to emancipate slaves is submitted by Quakers (VA).
Seneca chief Cornplanter appeals to Pres. Washington to abide by the land boundaries set in the 1784 Treaty of Fort Stanwix.
Judith Sargent Murray publishes “On the Equality of the Sexes.”
Benjamin Franklin dies in Philadelphia (b. 1706).
Samuel Slater’s mill begins spinning cotton (Rhode Island).



Cornplanter

1791 BILL OF RIGHTS IS RATIFIED and becomes part of the Constitution.

First Bank of the United States is chartered for a twenty-year period.
Vermont enters the Union as the 14th state.
Secy. of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton submits his Report on Manufactures to Congress.
Benjamin Banneker writes Jefferson to apply the Declaration’s principles to enslaved people.
U.S. troops are defeated by the Miami Indians in Ohio after being sent by Washington to respond to the massacre of settlers at Big Bottom.

1792 Kentucky enters the Union as the 15th state; first state to grant universal manhood suffrage.
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Washington and Adams are re-elected president and vice-pres.

1793 Washington declares U.S. neutrality as war breaks out between France and Great Britain.

Indians of the Northwest confederacy entreat U.S. to keep the Ohio River as the boundary of Indians’ lands.

Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin. Cotton production soars.
Fugitive Slave Act is passed by Congress.
Yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia results in over 4,000 deaths.



Ad, South Carolina, 1780s

1794 Britain agrees to withdraw from the Northwest Territory, and the U.S. agrees to pay pre-Revolution debts. (Jay’s Treaty:)

WHISKEY REBELLION, in which farmers in western Pennsylvania protest the excise tax on whiskey, is put down by federal troops.

U.S. troops defeat the Shawnee Indians (Battle of Fallen Timbers) near the Ohio River.

1795 Spain allows the U.S. navigation rights on the Mississippi River, and the 31st parallel is set as the border between the U.S. and the Spanish empire. (Pinckney’s Treaty)

NORTHWEST TERRITORY is opened for settlement after Indian defeat at Fallen Timbers.

1796 Tennessee enters the Union as the 16th state, granting universal manhood suffrage.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. John Adams (Federalist) defeats Thomas Jefferson (Republican) for president (Jefferson becomes vice-president).

Washington leaves the presidency after two terms and delivers his Farewell Address.

1797 John Adams is inaugurated as second president of the United States.

1798 “QUASI WAR” of 1798-1800 begins when France attempts to bribe U.S. commissioners in Paris, sparking the building tension between the nations.

ALIEN & SEDITION ACTS restrict political opposition and order deportation of “dangerous aliens.” Jefferson and Madison publish resolutions in opposition.

Eli Whitney opens factory to build rifles for the U.S. government using his system of interchangeable parts.

A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, A Native of Africa is published

Joseph Hopkinson writes “Hail Columbia,” known as the first American national anthem.

1799 George Washington dies in Virginia at age 67 (born 1732).

Weems’s *The Life and Memorable Actions of George Washington*, including the cherry-tree myth, is published the next year.

Patrick Henry dies in Virginia at age 63 (born 1736).

1800 **SECOND CENSUS:** U.S. population totals 5.3 million, including one million African Americans, of whom 900,000 are enslaved.

Federal capital moves from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C.

A new Land Act provided credit and low down payments for buying land in the Northwest Territory, thus opening the area to greater settlement.

Free African Americans petition Congress to repeal the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793.

South Carolina bans slaves from gathering for religious worship between sunset and dawn.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Jefferson & Burr (Democratic-Republican) tie for president, defeating Adams and Pinckney (Federalist).



John Adams



Bodleian Library, Univ. of Oxford



United States, ca. 1800

THOMAS JEFFERSON BARBARY WAR

1801 The Jefferson-Burr tie forces the election into the House of Representatives (since candidates were not nominated separately for president and vice-president); Jefferson is elected in 36 ballots as third president of the U.S.

John Marshall is appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1801-1835).

BARBARY WAR BEGINS. Tripoli declares war on U.S.; Jefferson sends U.S. ships to the Mediterranean Sea.

25th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is celebrated.

An anonymous “Lady” published *The Female Advocate*.



Jefferson

1802 Alien and Sedition Acts are allowed to expire by Congress.

1803 **LOUISIANA TERRITORY** is purchased from France for \$15 million, nearly doubling the size of the U.S.

LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION begins in St. Louis.

Ohio enters the Union as the 17th state, granting universal manhood suffrage.

Samuel Adams dies in Boston at age 81 (born 1722).

MARBURY v. MADISON. Supreme Court declares its right to review the constitutionality of acts of Congress.



Bombardment of Tripoli, 1804

1804 Twelfth Amendment is ratified, providing for separate election of president and vice president.

Alexander Hamilton is killed by Vice President Aaron Burr in a duel.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Jefferson is re-elected president and George Clinton elected vice pres. (Dem-Rep).

1805 **BARBARY WAR ENDS** after U.S. troops capture Darna Piracy by Barbary States continues until 1815.

Lewis and Clark expedition reaches the Pacific Ocean.

1806 Lewis and Clark expedition ends with return to St. Louis.

1807 **BAN ON SLAVE TRADE** (importation of slaves) is passed by Congress, as required by the Constitution.

Embargo Act is passed by Congress in response to British and French interference with U.S. trade.

Jefferson orders British warships to leave U.S. waters after British attack the *Chesapeake*.

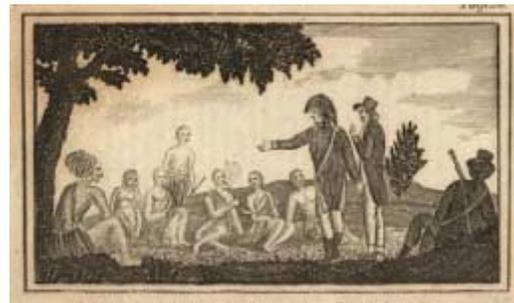
Impressment continues: approx. 1,000 U.S. seamen are “pressed” annually into the British navy.

Cotton is the leading U.S. export (and remains top export through most of the 1800s).

1808 The Osage tribe cedes its lands in Missouri and Arkansas regions to the U.S.

U.S. ships and cargoes in European ports are confiscated by France.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. James Madison elected president and George Clinton re-elected vice president (Democratic-Republican).

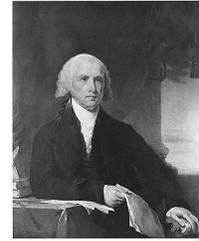


“Lewis and Clark in Council with the Indians”

JAMES MADISON WAR OF 1812

1809 Embargo Act is repealed; Congress allows trade with all countries except France and Britain. Abraham Lincoln is born (16th president, 1861-1865).

1810 **THIRD CENSUS:** U.S. population totals 7.2 million, including 1.4 million African Americans, of whom 1.2 million are enslaved; population west of Appalachian Mountains is 1 million.



James Madison

1811 Construction of Cumberland Road begins in Maryland; reaches Vandalia, Illinois, in 1840.

First steamboat journey is completed (Pittsburgh to New Orleans via Ohio and Mississippi Rivers).

1812 **WAR OF 1812** begins as U.S. declares war on Great Britain over issues of borders, trade, freedom of the seas, and the rights of neutrals. In general, the war is supported by westerners and opposed by New Englanders. Indians under Tecumseh fight on the side of the British.

Louisiana enters the Union as the 18th state.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Madison is re-elected president and Elbridge Gerry elected vice president (Democratic-Republican).

Napoleon unsuccessfully invades Russia.

1813 U.S. defeats British in the Battle of Lake Erie and the Battle of the Thames (in which Tecumseh is killed). British seize Fort Niagara, burn Buffalo, NY, and blockade coastal ports.

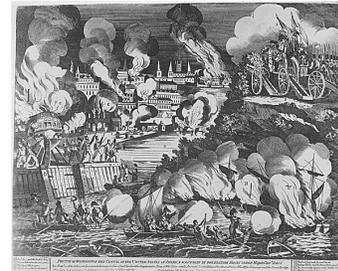
1814 British attack and burn Washington, DC.

U.S. wins Battle of Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor (witness Francis Scott Key later writes “The Star-Spangled Banner”).

Hartford Convention: Federalists opposed to the War of 1812 meet to propose constitutional revisions.

WAR OF 1812 ENDS with signing of Treaty of Ghent.

CREEK WAR ENDS with defeat by U.S. troops in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (Alabama).



“The Taking of the City of Washington,” 1814

1815 Hartford Resolutions. New England Federalists who opposed the War of 1812 consider secession but compromise at recommending constitutional amendments to protect state sovereignty.

Gen. Andrew Jackson defeats British at the Battle of New Orleans (two weeks after signing of the Treaty of Ghent).

“**OLD SOUTHWEST**” (Alabama & Mississippi territories) is opened to migration of American settlers after the defeat of the Indians in the Creek War.

1816 First protective tariff is passed by Congress.

Second Bank of the United States receives twenty-year charter.

African Methodist Episcopal Church is established by Rev. Richard Allen in Philadelphia.

Indiana enters the Union as the 19th state.

American Bible Society is established to provide Bibles to settlers in the west.

“Year in which there was no summer” brings snow to New England in June.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. James Monroe and Daniel Tompkins are elected president and vice president (Democratic-Republican).



Rev. Richard Allen

1817 U.S. and Britain demilitarize the Great Lakes, set the northern U.S. border at the 49th parallel from Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mts., and agree to joint custody of the Oregon Territory.
ERIE CANAL. Construction begins; completed in 1825, it connects the Great Lakes and the Ohio and Mississippi valleys with the Hudson River and thus the Atlantic Ocean.
FIRST SEMINOLE WAR begins with attacks on settlers in Florida & Georgia.
 New York Stock Exchange is established.
 Mississippi enters Union as 20th state.



James Monroe

1818 Gen. Andrew Jackson leads troops into Florida to fight the Seminoles.
 Connecticut abolishes property ownership as a requirement for voting.
 First public elementary schools opens in Boston (first public high school, Boston, 1821).
 Illinois enters the Union as the 21st state.
 Paul Revere dies in Boston at age 84 (born 1735).

1819 **M^CCULLOCH v. MARYLAND.** Supreme Court upholds right of federal government to charter a national bank, thus affirming its “implied powers” beyond those stated in the Constitution.
 U.S. acquires Florida from Spain in the Adams-Onís Treaty.
 Panic of 1819 leads to a six-year economic depression.
 Alabama enters the Union as the 22nd state.
 Washington Irving publishes “Rip Van Winkle.”



“Rip Van Winkle”

1820 **FOURTH CENSUS:** U.S. population totals 10 million, including 1.7 million African Americans, of whom 1.5 million are enslaved; population west of Appalachian Mts. is 2.2 million. 6% of Americans live in cities.
MISSOURI COMPROMISE is passed by Congress; allows admission of Missouri as a slave state, and bans slavery in the Louisiana Territory north of 36°30’ (the southern boundary of Missouri).
 Maine enters the Union as the 23rd state under the Missouri Compromise (free state).
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Monroe & Tompkins are re-elected president & vice president.

1821 Missouri enters the Union as 24th state under the Missouri Compromise (slave state).
 First American settlers (300 families) arrive in Texas, led by Stephen Austin.
 Mass. and N.Y. abolish property qualifications for voting (adopt universal manhood suffrage)
 Peru, Mexico, Venezuela, and Guatemala become independent from Spain.



United States, 1821

1822 Slave rebellion led by Denmark Vesey is crushed in Charleston, South Carolina.
 Amer. Colonization Soc. establishes Monrovia (Liberia) to promote emigration of free blacks.
 Brazil becomes independent from Portugal.

1823 **MONROE DOCTRINE.** Europe is warned not to interfere in Western Hemisphere affairs.
 Cotton mills begin production in Lowell, Massachusetts, with water-powered machinery.