

- 1215 Runnymede (mtg meadow) “Articles of Barons” - Magna Charta - King John - Heredity & the Feudal System (rebellion of Barons, agreement, King John reneged & dead 1 yr later)
- 1620 “Mayflower Compact”: Pilgrims - William Bradford (Cape Cod, not VA)
 couenant, & combine our selues togeather into a ciuill body politick; for y^e our better ordering, & preservation & furtherance of y^e ends aforesaid; and by vertue hearof, to enacte, constitute, and frame shuch just & equall lawes, ordinances, Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete & conuenient for y^e generall good of y^e colonie: vnto which we promise all due submission and obedience
- 1689 “Two Treatise of Government: I An Essay Concerning the True Original, Extent & End of Civil Government” - published, anonymously in France, by John Locke - refutes divine right of kings & “II State of Nature” (anarchy) & “Law of Nature” - right of representative government and right of revolution
- 1765 “Stamp Act” (11/1/65 - 3/17/66) - to pay off military debts for British Troops stationed in Colonies during the “Seven Years War” (French & Indian War) - results in the “Stamp Act Congress” in NYC (1st united colony response to British rule) & the rise of the “Sons of Liberty” (Sam Adams). After repeal, King George III Statue in Bowling Green - graffiti
- 1770 “Boston Massacre” (3/5/70) - 5 men killed - John Adams defends Captain Preston & 8 enlisted - all but 2 acquitted - “benefit of clergy” (read the bible, reduce to “m”anslaughter & branded “M” on thumbs so could not use defense again) - Preston: command to fire?
- "I have reason to remember that fatal Night. The Part I took in Defense of Captn. Preston and the Soldiers, procured me Anxiety, and Obloquy enough. It was, however, one of the most gallant, generous, manly, and disinterested Actions of my whole Life, and one of the best Pieces of Service I ever rendered my Country. Judgement of Death against those Soldiers would have been as foul a Stain upon this Country as the Execution of the Quakers or Witches, anciently. As the Evidence was, the Verdict of the Jury was exactly right."
- John Adams, Diary entry, March 5, 1773
- 1773 “Townsend Act” (Tea Act) (5/10/73- 78) - East India Co Tea Surplus - act allowed tea shipped directly to Colonies from India to eliminate middle man mark up going through London - undercut colonial smugglers - still imposed tax
- 1773 “Boston Tea Party” (12/16/73)
- 1774 1st Continental Congress - met in Carpenter Hall, Philly: 9/5-10/26 to organize boycott &

petition King George III with grievances & resolved to meet again if no results

1775 "Shot Heard Around the World" (4/19/75) - Ralph Waldo Emerson (North Bridge, Concord) "Concord Hymn" 1837:

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set to-day a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare,
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

Paul Revere's Ride - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1860):

Listen my children and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.
He said to his friend, "If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light,—
One if by land, and two if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country folk to be up and to arm."
Then he said "Good-night!" and with muffled oar
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,
Just as the moon rose over the bay,

Where swinging wide at her moorings lay
The Somerset, British man-of-war;
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar
Across the moon like a prison bar,
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile, his friend through alley and street
Wanders and watches, with eager ears,
Till in the silence around him he hears
The muster of men at the barrack door,
The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet,
And the measured tread of the grenadiers,
Marching down to their boats on the shore.

Then he climbed the tower of the Old North Church,
By the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,
To the belfry chamber overhead,
And startled the pigeons from their perch
On the sombre rafters, that round him made
Masses and moving shapes of shade,—
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,
To the highest window in the wall,
Where he paused to listen and look down
A moment on the roofs of the town
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,
In their night encampment on the hill,
Wrapped in silence so deep and still
That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,
The watchful night-wind, as it went
Creeping along from tent to tent,
And seeming to whisper, "All is well!"
A moment only he feels the spell
Of the place and the hour, and the secret dread
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent
On a shadowy something far away,
Where the river widens to meet the bay,—
A line of black that bends and floats
On the rising tide like a bridge of boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.

Now he patted his horse's side,
Now he gazed at the landscape far and near,
Then, impetuous, stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle girth;
But mostly he watched with eager search
The belfry tower of the Old North Church,
As it rose above the graves on the hill,
Lonely and spectral and sombre and still.
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight
A second lamp in the belfry burns.

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing, a spark
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet;
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,
The fate of a nation was riding that night;
And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight,
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.
He has left the village and mounted the steep,
And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;
And under the alders that skirt its edge,
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.

It was twelve by the village clock
When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.
He heard the crowing of the cock,
And the barking of the farmer's dog,
And felt the damp of the river fog,
That rises after the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,
When he galloped into Lexington.
He saw the gilded weathercock
Swim in the moonlight as he passed,
And the meeting-house windows, black and bare,
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,
As if they already stood aghast
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,

When he came to the bridge in Concord town.
He heard the bleating of the flock,
And the twitter of birds among the trees,
And felt the breath of the morning breeze
Blowing over the meadow brown.
And one was safe and asleep in his bed
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,
Who that day would be lying dead,
Pierced by a British musket ball.

You know the rest. In the books you have read
How the British Regulars fired and fled,—
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farmyard wall,
Chasing the redcoats down the lane,
Then crossing the fields to emerge again
Under the trees at the turn of the road,
And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm,—
A cry of defiance, and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo for evermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

1775 2nd Continental Congress - met again in Philly, war underway - tried reconciliation ended in Declaration of Independence & began drafting Articles of Confederation

1776 Declaration of Independence (TJ) - "The American Creed" - not the law - aspirational

1777 "Saratoga" (9/19 & 10/7) - Benedict Arnold's triumph & Gen John Burgoyne surrenders

1781 - "Articles of Confederation" - drafting starts 1776, ratified 1781: our gov't till 1789

1782 Battle of Yorktown - surrender - Gen Lord Cornwallis pushed out

- 1783 “Treaty of Paris” - ends American Revolution but British Navy still seizing & impressing
- 1786 Shays Rebellion - Veteran leads uprising to shut down MA Courts to stop foreclosures & debtors imprisonments: had democracy turned into anarchy? Calls for stronger Fed Gov’t.
- 1787 Constitutional Convention - Philly (Carpenter’s Hall - Constitutional Hall)
- 1788 Constitution is ratified by requisite 9th State
- 1789 GW elected & 1st U.S. Congress under Constitution meets in NYC - fails/lack of quorum
- 1789 Whiskey Rebellion - Hamilton’s Treasury Act to pay National Debt under GW - Hit the fan in Western PA in 1794 - Thomas Jefferson takes office and repealed in 1801
- 1812 War of 1812 - “War Hawk Congress” fed up & declare war: Brit’s capture Ft. Mackinac & Detroit; 1st of 3 embarrassing attempts to invade Canada (thought greeted as liberators)
- 1813: Battle of Lake Erie - Perry: “We have met the enemy and they are ours” & get forts back
- 1814: “9/11” - Battle of Plattsburgh (Lake Champlain) Brit’s try again to split off New England using the “Highway of War” (Lake Champlain to Hudson River) used in the French & Indian War; War of 1812, & 9/11/01. Brit Diversionary Battles of Burning of White House & Bombardment of Fort McHenry (Baltimore Harbor – Star Spangle Banner – Francis Scott Keys) remembered but not main battle of Plattsburgh (all about PR). Same as Am Revolution: lost in north, than south.
- 1814 ATreaty of Ghent@ - ended War of 1812
- 1820 Missouri Compromise – except for Missouri, slavery prohibited above parallel 36:30 (northern edge of Texas).
- 1846 Oregon Treaty - War again with Brit’s? Expansionist “Manifest Destiny” push to the Pacific: Candidate Pres Polk watch my lips “54:40 or fight”, then agreed to 49th parallel boarder with Brits/Canada
- 1846 Mexican War following US annexation of Texas. Pres Polk continues expansion of US

- 1848 Mexican War Ends – Southwest to US
- 1850 Fugitive Slave Act (“Uncle Tom’s Cabin” – 1852 & “Dread Scott” decided 1857)
- 1854 Kansas Nebraska Act – created the Kansas & Nebraska Territories and repealed the Missouri Compromise allowing “popular sovereignty” Stephen Douglas (IL) promoted Douglas-Lincoln Debates – “Bleeding Kansas” – undeclared Civil War in full swing.
- 1859 Harpers Ferry – Abolitionist John Brown from Kansas to arm black slaves & promote uprising in South – 2 freed slaves killed – Col Robert E. Lee captures Brown
- 1860 Lincoln elected, sworn in March, 1861 & Fort Sumter, April, 1861. Southern States Secede from 12/61 (South Carolina) to 5/62 (North Carolina).
- 1861 Fort Sumter bombarded & surrendered– Charleston, SC Harbor – hostilities begin
- 1861 – 1865 American Civil War (“War between the States”) – The Declaration of Independence & U.S. Constitution Come to Blows: West Virginia, 625,000 dead (about half the death toll of all other US wars combined: Am. Revolution to Afghanistan – WWII next at 405,000); and 13th, 14th & 15th Amendments