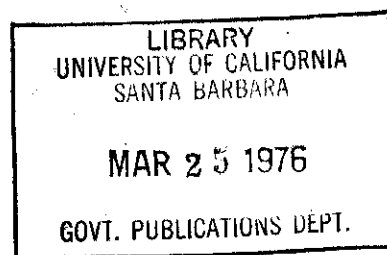


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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,
A CHRONOLOGY, 1763-1783



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December 1975

INTRODUCTION

This chronology represents an attempt to list and describe, in brief form, some of the most prominent and significant events of the American Revolution. The chronology begins with the year 1763, a somewhat arbitrary but convenient date, because most historians consider that year to mark a turning point in British colonial policy. As a result of the too-successful war with France, Great Britain in 1763 found herself not only with an enlarged empire but with an enlarged debt. New measures for revenue, in addition to the enforcement of the old acts, now began to be considered by Parliament. Naturally enough, from the British point of view, the colonies were expected to participate in, and contribute to, this endeavor. From 1763 on, then, the story is one of increased colonial resistance to, and eventually overt action against, these various British measures.

It is true, of course, that some of these elements of resistance existed before 1763, but on a much smaller and isolated scale. Colonial legislatures, for example, were frequently at odds during the latter part of the 17th century and the early years of the 18th century with officials of the Crown. The Writs of Assistance (1761) were once considered by John Adams as the beginning of the controversy between Great Britain and the colonies. An expression of the impact of military victory may be found in Francis Parkman's remark that the fall of Quebec (1759) "began the history of the United States."

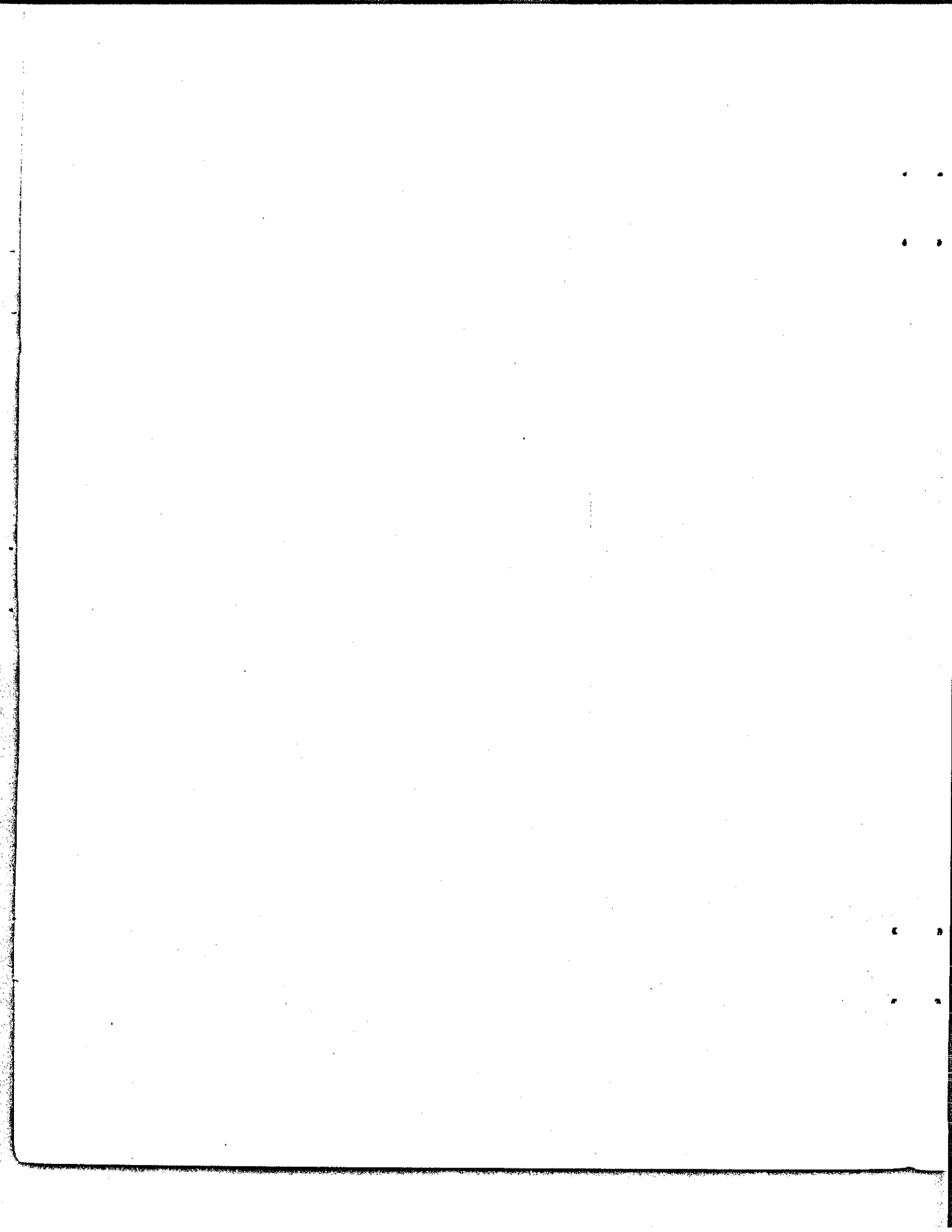
The chronology departs from many similar efforts in that attention is paid to a somewhat neglected phase of the American Revolution, namely, the extensive, and at times intensive, use of pamphlets, essays, letters, etc., in both promoting the colonial cause and in upholding the British position. Many of these publications constitute the most literate expression of the American Revolution.

As the revolution did not begin in 1763, it did not end, except in a military sense, in 1783 with the Treaty of Paris. Indeed, many historians have observed that the revolution continued, in at least the political sense, in the formation of new State governments, in the formation of the Articles of Confederation, and ultimately, in the establishment of the American Constitution. The American Revolution has had, as Arnold Toynbee pointed out, a "continuing effect." Whether the American Revolution has finally ended, in the larger sense, is still a matter of some discussion.

A bibliography has been inserted in order that the reader may learn more about the people, places, and events described in the chronology, and of the causes and continuing impact of the American Revolution.

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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A CHRONOLOGY

1763

February 10

Treaty of Paris, signed by Great Britain, France, and Spain, ended the French and Indian War in America and the Seven Years War in Europe. By this treaty, Great Britain gained Canada and all French possessions east of the Mississippi, except the Isle of Orleans, which was ceded to Spain as were the French possessions west of the Mississippi. Conclusion of the conflict, however, left Great Britain in dire financial straits. Parliament now began to consider additional ways and means to obtain needed revenue from the colonies.

October 7

Proclamation of 1763 divided the former French territory in North America into three royal provinces: Quebec, East Florida, and West Florida. Colonists were confined to settlements along the seaboard as expansion into lands west of the Alleghenies was prohibited. Indian trade was placed under royal control. The provisions of the Proclamation, although temporary, were opposed by the colonists who resisted efforts to curb their westward expansion.

November 5 - December 1

The Parsons Cause:

In 1758 the Virginia Assembly passed the Two Penny Act. This provided that for one year, because of the failure of the tobacco crop, payments to the clergy would be at the rate of two pence per pound of

tobacco. The market price of tobacco was then six pence per pound. The clergy complained and the King vetoed the act. The clergy then brought suit for their usual quantity of tobacco and for damages. Patrick Henry appeared for the defense and defended the act of 1758. In an impassioned speech, Henry challenged the authority of the crown to disallow colonial statutes. The jury awarded the plaintiff one penny damages. Henry's participation in this case brought him prestige and acceptance as a spokesman for the colonial cause.

1764

April 15

Sugar Act:

Confronted with a large debt as a result of the French and Indian War, heavy taxes in England, and the necessity of supporting an army in the colonies, Parliament passed the American Revenue Act, generally known as the Sugar Act, with the specific purpose of raising moneys in the colonies for the crown. The Act extended the Molasses Act of 1733, continued the old duty on raw sugar, and increased the duty levied on foreign refined sugar. Other provisions of the Act increased duties on certain non-British products, added numerous commodities to the enumerated list, and prohibited the import into the colonies of foreign rum and French wine.

April 19

Currency Act of Parliament prohibited issue of legal tender currency in all of the American colonies.

May 24

Town meeting in Boston denounced taxation without representation and proposed united action by the colonies in protest.

June 13

Massachusetts House of Representatives authorized Committees of Correspondence to contact other provinces.

- July 23 James Otis published his best-known pamphlet, The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved, in which he claimed the rights of colonists to freedom from taxation except with their own consent.
- September Oxenbridge Thacher, following thought of Otis, published Sentiments of a British American.
- December 22 Stephen Hopkins, Governor of Rhode Island, published The Rights of Colonies Examined.

- February Martin Howard, Loyalist writer, published anonymously at Newport A Letter from a Gentleman at Halifax, to his Friend in Rhode Island in which the argument of Otis, Thacher, and Hopkins were criticised. Several rebuttals were published by Otis and Hopkins.
- March 22 The Stamp Act, first direct tax Parliament had ever tried to levy in America, was designed to raise revenue to support the military establishment in the colonies. The Act provided for a tax on various types of printed matter such as newspapers, pamphlets, legal documents, etc.
- March 24 The Quartering Act, requested by General Thomas Gage, commander of the British forces in America, required civil authorities in the colonies to supply barracks and supplies for the British troops.
- May 29 Patrick Henry introduced Virginia Resolutions in House of Burgesses in famous "Treason" speech. Denounced the Stamp Act and asserted Virginia General Assembly had sole power to tax Virginians.
- June 8 Massachusetts Assembly sent a circular letter to each colony proposing that a congress meet in New York in October.
- August 26-27 Boston: Sons of Liberty, formed during the summer to organize opposition to the Stamp Act and to force stamp agents to resign, burned records of the vice-admiralty courts, ransacked home of the comptroller of the currency, and looted home and library of Chief Jus-

tice Thomas Hutchinson. Before the effective date of the Stamp Act, November 1, all the stamp agents in the colonies had resigned.

- October 7-25 Stamp Act Congress, with delegates from nine colonies, met in New York and adopted a fourteen-resolution "Declaration of Rights and Grievances." Separate petitions embracing these resolutions and calling for the repeal of the Stamp Act were prepared for submission to the King, the House of Commons, and the House of Lords.
- Mid-October Daniel Dulany, a Maryland lawyer, published Considerations on the Propriety of Imposing Taxes in the British Colonies, for the Purpose of Raising a Revenue, by Act of Parliament. Dulany's pamphlet was a skillful and subtle refutation of the claim of Parliament that the colonists could and should be taxed.
- October - December New York, Philadelphia, and Boston merchants agreed to nonimportation of European goods until Stamp Act was repealed.
- December Philadelphia:
John Dickinson, a Pennsylvania lawyer, published pamphlet, The Late Regulations respecting the British Colonies on the Continent of America, Considered in a Letter from a Gentleman in Philadelphia to his Friend in London. Dickinson advocated seeking the aid of British merchants to secure the repeal of the Stamp Act.

1766

- January 17 London merchants, citing several bankruptcies as result of shrunken American markets, petitioned Parliament for repeal of the Stamp Act.
- February 13 Benjamin Franklin, agent for Pennsylvania in London, testified in House of Commons that Stamp Act was unenforceable and that any attempt at enforcement would bring on rebellion.
- March Williamsburg, Virginia:
Richard Bland published An Enquiry into the Rights of the British Colonies in which he denied Parliamentary authority.
- March 18 Stamp Act repealed. New York Assembly voted statues to George III and William Pitt.
- March 18 Declaratory Act asserted that Parliament had the power to make laws binding the colonies "in all cases whatsoever."
- November 1 Trade laws modified to the extent that duty on molasses was reduced and export duties on British West Indian sugar were removed. All colonial shipping to northern Europe, however, had to clear through British ports en route.

1767

- June 15 New York Assembly suspended by Parliament for refusing to comply fully with the Quartering Act.
- June 29 Townshend Revenue Act. Duties were imposed on glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea imported into the colonies. An American Board of Commissioners of the Customs at Boston, responsible to the British Treasury Board, was also established for the collection and enforcement of the new duties.
- October 28 Boston Town Meeting revived nonimportation and drew up list of British products not to be purchased. Other colonies followed suit in an effort to cause the repeal of the Townshend Acts.
- December 2 John Dickinson's Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies published in the Pennsylvania Chronicle. Letters later collected and issued as pamphlet. Dickinson continued the argument against external taxation.

1768

- February 11 Massachusetts Circular Letter was prepared by Samuel Adams and approved by the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Letter was sent to Assemblies of the other colonies informing them of the steps taken by Massachusetts. Adams attacked the Townshend Acts, reasserted that Americans could never be represented in Parliament, and solicited proposals for concerted opposition.
- June 10 John Hancock's sloop Liberty was seized in Boston harbor by customs officials after a cargo of wine had been landed without payment of duty. The Liberty was towed to the frigate Romney in the harbor. An unruly crowd formed and assaulted the customs officials, who fled to Castle William and appealed for troops to restore order.
- June 30 Massachusetts House of Representatives refused to rescind the Circular Letter and was dissolved (July 1) by Governor Francis Bernard.
- August 1 Boston merchants drew up a stringent nonimportation agreement.
- October 1 Two regiments of British infantry landed in Boston.

1769

- February 9 Parliament urged enforcement of act of Henry VIII, allowing the Crown to transport to England for trial those alleged to have incited rebellion in colonies.
- May 16 George Washington introduced in the Virginia House of Burgesses a set of resolutions drawn up by George Mason. Adopted unanimously, the resolutions reasserted the claim that only the Governor and the legislature of the province had the right to tax Virginians, censured the British Ministry for its denunciation of the Massachusetts and the Virginia Circular Letters, and condemned the efforts of Parliament to revive the act of Henry VIII.
- May 17 Governor Botetourt dissolved the Virginia Assembly.
- May 18 Burgesses met informally in Raleigh's Tavern in Williamsburg and adopted the Virginia Association, a nonimportation agreement. By November most of the other colonies had either adopted the Virginia Association or had formed one of their own. As a result, colonial imports from Great Britain fell drastically, giving an impetus to the movement for the repeal of the Townshend Acts.

1770

January 19

"Battle" of Golden Hill.

Clashes between citizens and soldiers broke out early in 1770 in New York City. An effort by the Sons of Liberty to prevent the posting of broadsides by soldiers led to a riot on Golden Hill in which some 30 or 40 soldiers used bayonets against citizens armed with swords and clubs. Several on both sides were wounded seriously, but there were no fatalities.

January 31

Lord Frederick North became Prime Minister of Great Britain.

March 5

Lord North proposed repeal of the Townshend Acts, except for tax on tea.

April 12

Townshend Acts repealed. News of this action caused abandonment of the nonimportation program in the colonies, despite efforts of Boston to continue.

March 5

Boston "Massacre."

Clashes between citizens and soldiers were frequent occurrences after the arrival of troops in October, 1768. In the afternoon of March 5, a fist fight took place between a worker at Grey's ropewalk and a soldier seeking off-duty employment. The event quickly became a riot and that evening belligerent bands of soldiers and civilians roamed the streets

of Boston. About 9 pm a sentry in King Street near the State House was so taunted and menaced by a mob that the main guard, led by Captain Preston, was called out. After continued provocation by the swelling crowd, the soldiers fired into the mob, killing three and mortally wounding two others. Two of those killed were Crispus Attucks, a black, and Patrick Carr, a native of Ireland.

British troops were withdrawn to islands in Boston harbor in order to prevent a general uprising. Preston and six of his men were arrested and charged with murder. John Adams and Josiah Quincy, outstanding colonial lawyers, agreed to defend the soldiers in court. Preston and four soldiers were acquitted while two of the guards were found guilty of manslaughter, branded, and released.

1771

May 16

Battle of Alamance:

Settlers in the interior of North Carolina had formed organizations known as "Regulators" as early as 1768 to protest what they felt was lack of representation in the Assembly. The Regulators also charged the eastern part of the colony with extortion and oppression of the Piedmont areas. By 1771 the actions of the Regulators had become bolder and defiance of authority more vigorous. On January 15, 1771, the Assembly passed the "Bloody Act" that made rioters guilty of treason, and in April Governor William Tryon took an army of 1,200 militiamen into Regulator country to restore order by force. On May 16 he met and crushed a force of some 2,000 Regulators at Alamance Creek near Hillsboro. Several Regulators were hanged and the rest, as well as some 6,500 Piedmont settlers, were obliged to take an oath of allegiance to the government.

The incident is important because it represents one of the several varieties of sectionalism in the colonies.

1772

June 9

The Gaspee Affair

In the afternoon of June 9 the customs schooner Gaspee ran aground on Namquit Point, seven miles below Providence, Rhode Island, while chasing another vessel. After dark, several boatloads of men from Providence, organized by merchant John Brown and led by Abraham Whipple, attacked the ship. After setting the officers and crew ashore, the attackers set the Gaspee afire. Despite a reward, the British were never able to uncover enough evidence to send the culprits to England for trial.

June 13

Governor Hutchinson announced that henceforth he would receive his salary from the crown. This was followed in September by a similar announcement relative to Massachusetts' judges. Thus the executive and the judiciary were made practically independent of the Assembly's control of the purse.

November 2

At Boston Town Meeting, Samuel Adams secured the appointment of a standing Committee of Correspondence to inform the other colonies of Boston's position. James Otis was made chairman of the Boston Committee. Other Committees were established throughout Massachusetts.

November 20

Three radical statements were reported to the Town Meeting, endorsed, and sent to the other towns: Samuel Adams' State of the Rights of the Colonists, Joseph Warren's List of Infringements and Violations of those Rights, and Benjamin Church's Letter of Correspondence.

1773

- March 12 The Virginia House of Burgesses appointed an 11-man Provincial Committee of Correspondence for inter-colonial correspondence. Membership included Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and Richard Henry Lee. By February of 1774, all the colonies except Pennsylvania and North Carolina had appointed similar committees.
- May 10 The Tea Act:
The East India Company, on the verge of bankruptcy, applied to Parliament for relief and was granted a refund of all British duties on teas exported to the American colonies. The American duty of 3d. a pound was retained. The Company was also permitted to sell the tea directly to agents or consignees in the colonies. This meant that the East India Company could undersell smuggled Dutch tea as well as legally imported tea.
- September The East India Company was authorized to send half a million pounds of tea to the colonies to be sold by selected merchants in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston.
- September 11 Benjamin Franklin, in London, attacked British colonial policy in Rules by which a Great Empire may be reduced to a Small One, published in The Gentleman's Magazine.

- October 16 A mass meeting in Philadelphia condemned the Tea Act and demanded the resignation of the Philadelphia consignees. The latter complied with this demand.
- November John Dickinson wrote Two Letters on the Tea Tax.
- November 5-6 Boston Town Meeting endorsed Philadelphia resolves, but Boston's consignees did not resign.
- November 10 Broadside warned New York harbor pilots against guiding tea ships.
- November 27 First tea ship, the Dartmouth, arrived in Boston. Sons of Liberty and Committee of Correspondence prevented unloading of cargo, but could not force consignees to reject it.
- Captain Rotch of the Dartmouth and captains of two newly arrived tea ships, the Eleanor and the Beaver, agreed to leave but were denied clearance by Governor Hutchinson.
- By law, if the tea was not unloaded within twenty days (December 17), it was to be seized and sold for customs duties.
- November 29 A meeting of the New York Sons of Liberty branded tea importers "enemies of America."
- December 1 New York consignees resigned their commissions.
- December 2 Tea ship, the London, arrived in Charleston, South Carolina. A mass meeting on December 3 demanded and secured the resignation of the tea consignees. The tea was impounded and later sold by the revolutionary government.

- December 14 Captain Rotch was called before mass meeting and ordered to request clearance. Neither the customs collector nor the Governor would grant it.
- December 16 **Boston Tea Party:**
Organized and encouraged by Samuel Adams, a group of men, disguised as Indians, boarded the tea ships in Boston Harbor on the evening of December 16 and dumped 342 chests of tea, valued at \$90,000, into the harbor.
- December 21 Paul Revere arrived in New York with the news of the Boston Tea Party. Another courier sent by the New York Sons of Liberty took the news to Philadelphia.
- December 26 Tea ship Polly, destined for Philadelphia, anchored at Gloucester Point below Chester. The captain was taken to Philadelphia where he witnessed a mass demonstration against tea tax. Philadelphia consignees refused to accept the tea.
- December 27 Paul Revere returned to Boston with news that New York and Philadelphia would prevent the landing of tea when ships arrived in those ports.
- December 28 Captain Ayres of the Polly weighed anchor for England with cargo, including tea, intact.

1774

- Early in year Benjamin Franklin published article On the Rise and Progress of the Differences between Great Britain and Her American Colonies in London Public Advertiser.
- March 6 Brig Fortune arrived in Boston with cargo of tea.
- March 7 Patriots boarded Fortune and threw overboard twenty-eight and one-half chests of tea.
- March 31 Boston Port Act:
The first of the "Coercive" or "Intolerable" measures, the Boston Port Bill (effective June 1), prohibited the loading or unloading of ships in Boston harbor until East India Company was compensated for losses incurred by the Tea Party. Military supplies could be brought in if cleared by customs office in Salem, to which place the customs office was removed from Boston. News of the Port Act arrived in Boston on May 5.
- April 22 The London attempted to land tea at New York. Ship was boarded by committee of citizens and tea destroyed.
- May 12 Boston Committee of Correspondence and members from neighboring towns met at Faneuil Hall. Denounced Port Act in circular letter to other ports in colonies.
- May 13 Boston Town Meeting called for new economic sanctions against Great Britain. Bostonians proposed suspension of trade with Britain by all colonies.

- May 13 General Thomas Gage arrived in Boston on board HMS Lively to replace Hutchinson as Governor and to command all British troops. Four additional regiments arrived shortly.
- May 14 Paul Revere dispatched to Philadelphia with news of Port Act and Boston's stand. (Revere arrived in Philadelphia on the 19th or 20th. Date not certain).
- May 17 First of many calls for an intercolonial congress came from Providence, Rhode Island. Philadelphia (May 21) and New York City (May 23) called for congress to discuss common measures binding all the colonies.
- May 20 The Administration of Justice Act protected crown officials in Massachusetts by providing that those accused of a capital offense in putting down a riot or in collecting revenues would not be tried in a provincial court, but would instead be tried in England or another colony.
- May 20 The Massachusetts Government Act, effective August 1, virtually annulled the colony's charter. By the Act, members of the Council were to be appointed by the King and to hold office at royal pleasure. Other officers were made appointable and removable by the Governor. Finally, town meetings could not be held without prior written consent of the Governor, and if approved, the meeting must be confined to an approved agenda.

- May 20 Quebec Act extended the boundary of Canada to the Ohio River, an area claimed by Virginia, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Act also provided for a permanent civil government for Canada and granted French Canadians the free use of their Catholic religion.
- May Boston. Josiah Quincy, Boston lawyer, published Observations on the Acts of Parliament, commonly called the Boston Port-Bill; with Thoughts on Civil Society and Standing Armies. Quincy's pamphlet was followed shortly by James Wilson's Considerations on the Nature and the Extent of the Legislative Authority of the British Parliament.
- May 24 Virginia House of Burgesses proclaimed June 1, effective date of the Boston Port Bill, a day of fasting and prayer.
- May 26 Virginia House of Burgesses dissolved by Governor Dunmore.
- May 27 House of Burgesses met unofficially at Raleigh's Tavern, Williamsburg, Virginia, and adopted resolutions which called for an annual intercolonial congress, nonimportation of any East India Company commodity, and a general commercial boycott of Great Britain. Copies of these resolutions were sent to other colonial assemblies.

- June 2 A New Quartering Act was made applicable to all colonies. The Act legalized billeting of troops in occupied buildings.
- June 5 Boston's Committee of Correspondence drew up a Solemn League and Covenant which pledged all signers to boycott British goods after August 1.
- June 16 Harrodstown (Kentucky), first permanent white settlement west of the Alleghenies, founded by James Harrod of Pennsylvania.
- June 17 Massachusetts House of Representatives suggested a congress of all colonies be held in September in Philadelphia. By August all colonies except Georgia had named delegates.
- July Thomas Jefferson published Summary View of the Rights of British America..., an appeal to George III to heed "liberal and expanded thought."
- August 1 Virginia's first convention met in Williamsburg, pledged supplies to Boston, suspended transatlantic debts and commerce, and elected delegates to a continental congress.
- August William Henry Drayton, an assistant judge of South Carolina, published Letter from Freeman of South Carolina, to the Deputies of North America, assembled in the High Court of Congress at Philadelphia.

- August 17 James Wilson of Pennsylvania published Considerations on the Nature and Extent of the Legislative Authority of the British Parliament in which he rejected authority of Parliament over the colonies.
- September 1 General Gage seized Massachusetts' cannon and powder at Charlestown and Cambridge.
- September 5 First Continental Congress met in Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, with fifty-six delegates from all colonies except Georgia. The members were led by such conservatives as Joseph Galloway (Pennsylvania), James Duane (New York), and George Read (Delaware), and the radicals by Samuel Adams and John Adams (Mass.), Christopher Gadsden (South Carolina), Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee (Virginia). Peyton Randolph (Virginia) was elected president and a nondelegate, Charles Thomson (Pennsylvania) named secretary.
- September 7 Reverend Jacob Duche, an Episcopal clergyman, opened session of the Continental Congress with a reading of the 35th Psalm and prayer of his own composition.
- September 9 Convention in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, adopted resolutions drafted by Joseph Warren. Resolves declared Intolerable Acts unconstitutional, urged Massachusetts to form a government and to with-

hold taxes from the Crown until acts were repealed, advised the people to arm, and proposed economic sanctions against Great Britain.

- September 17 Suffolk Resolves, rushed to Philadelphia by Paul Revere, presented by radical delegates and endorsed by the Continental Congress.
- September 21 Worcester, Massachusetts:
 New militia regiments, composed of men from disbanded old regiments, specifically referred to as "minutemen."
- September 28 Joseph Galloway of Pennsylvania submitted to the Continental Congress his Plan of a Proposed Union between Great Britain and the Colonies. Proposal was defeated by one vote.
- October 7 Massachusetts House of Representatives met in defiance of General Gage. House constituted itself a Provincial Congress and named John Hancock as head of Committee of Safety empowered to call out the militia.
- October 8 Continental Congress approved the Suffolk Resolves.
- October 10 Battle of Point Pleasant on the Ohio River.
 Colonial force of Virginians under command of Colonel Andrew Lewis defeated Shawnees under Chief Cornstalk. Victory of the colonial troops, without support of regular British forces, spared Western

frontier from Indian warfare during the first years of the American Revolution and opened the way for American expansion into the Northwest Territory during the Revolutionary War.

- October 14 Declaration and Resolves of the Continental Congress denounced the Intolerable Acts, the Quebec Act, and criticized the revenue measures enacted since 1763. Declaration protested the dissolution of colonial assemblies, the keeping of a standing army, and the extension of the Admiralty Courts. Ten resolutions set forth the rights of the colonists. Thirteen acts of Parliament since 1763 were declared unconstitutional and economic sanctions pledged until they were repealed.
- October 19 A cargo of tea brought into Annapolis, Maryland aboard the brig Peggy Stewart was destroyed by fire along with the ship.
- October 20 Delegates adopted the Continental Association which provided for the cessation of all imports from Great Britain effective December 1, the institution of non-consumption of British products, and the embargo of all exports to Britain and Ireland, and the West Indies, effective September 1, 1775. Provisions were made for the enforcement of these measures by the establishment in each county, city, and town of an

elected committee empowered to punish violators by publicity and boycott. By April of 1775, the Association was in operation in twelve colonies.

- October 25 Continental Congress approved drafts of An address to the people of Great Britain, a memorial to the inhabitants of the British colonies, a letter to the inhabitants of Quebec, and an Address to the King. John Dickinson, Patrick Henry, John Jay, John Adams, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Johnson, and John Rutledge all had a part in the preparation of these memorials and petitions.
- October 26 First Continental Congress adjourned. Agreed to meet again on May 10, 1775, if grievances had not by then been redressed. That evening the delegates attended a final banquet at the City Tavern.
- November 2 General Gage in Boston wrote to the Secretary of the Army in London and requested prompt strengthening of the military establishment in the colonies. Gage concluded, "The crisis is indeed an alarming one and Britain had never more need of wisdom, firmness and union than at this juncture."
- November 16 Reverend Samuel Seabury, the "Westchester Farmer," published four pamphlets entitled respectively, Free Thoughts on the Proceedings of the Continental Congress, The Congress Canvassed, A View of the Controversy between Great Britain and her Colonies,

and An Alarm to the Legislature of the Province of New York. Seabury's pamphlets attacked the aims and policies of the Continental Congress.

- November 17 Philadelphia Troop of Light Horse, one of the earliest revolutionary military groups, formed by Philadelphia patriots.
- December Alexander Hamilton replied to Seabury with a pamphlet entitled, A Full Vindication of the Measures of the Congress, from the Calumnies of their Enemies.
- December 12 Daniel Leonard, Tory lawyer, published To the Inhabitants of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay under the pen-name "Massachusettensis."
- December 14 Fort William and Mary, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, raided of arms and gunpowder by band of patriots led by John Sullivan.
- December 22 Greenwich, New Jersey:
A cargo of tea, unloaded from brigantine Greyhound and stored in home of local Tory, is seized by patriots and burned in Market Square.

1775

- January 19 Petitions and declarations of the Continental Congress presented to Parliament.
- January 20 Lord Chatham proposed immediate removal of troops in Boston. Proposal defeated in Parliament by 3-1 margin.
- January 23 John Adams, over signature of "Novanglus," replied to Daniel Leonard, Tory Lawyer, in a series of letters in Boston Gazette.
- February 1 Second Provincial Congress of Massachusetts met at Cambridge. Under the leadership of Warren and Hancock, various measures were taken to prepare the colony for war.
- February 1 Lord Chatham presented a plan for conciliation with the colonies to Parliament. The plan, based on mutual concessions, was rejected.
- February 9 Parliament declared Massachusetts to be in state of rebellion.
- February 20 Lord North presented plan of reconciliation. By its terms Parliament would impose only regulatory taxes upon any American colony which, through its own assembly, taxed itself to provide revenues for the common defense and for the support of the local government within its own province.
- February 26 British troops made an unsuccessful attempt to seize military supplies at Salem, Massachusetts.

- February 27 House of Commons agreed to North's plan.
- March 22 Edmund Burke delivered address in House of Commons on conciliation with America.
- March 23 Patrick Henry delivered "Liberty or Death" speech in Virginia House of Burgesses.
- March 30 New England Restraining Act prohibited the four colonies of New England from trading with any nation but Great Britain and the British West Indies. The Act also barred New England fishermen from the fishing banks off Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. The Act was later applied to the other colonies when news of their ratification of the Continental Association reached London.
- April 14 General Gage received letter from Lord Dartmouth, Secretary of State for the Colonies, ordering him to enforce the Coercive and other acts and to take action to prevent the colonists from gathering military supplies.
- April 18 General Gage ordered Lt. Col. Smith and force of some 700 men to proceed to Concord and destroy colonial military supplies.
- April 18-19 Boston Committee of Safety sent Paul Revere and William Dawes to alert the countryside. Revere reached Lexington and warned Hancock and Adams. Revere, joined by Dawes and Dr. Samuel Prescott, proceeded to Concord but were surprised by British patrol.

Prescott escaped and warned Concord. Dawes escaped back to Lexington. Revere captured but later released near Lexington.

April 19

British force arrived in Lexington at sunrise and found 70 armed Minutemen under Captain John Parker drawn up on the Common. Shots were exchanged; eight colonials were killed and 10 wounded. British marched on to Concord where some military supplies were destroyed. Later in the morning an American force attacked a British platoon at Concord's North Bridge, inflicting some casualties. British began march back to Boston shortly after noon and were attacked all along the way by militiamen. By midafternoon the retreating British were met by a relief force from Boston. Fighting continued until British reached Boston and the protection of naval guns. Colonials closed in on Boston and began a siege that was not lifted until March 17, 1776.

April 23

Massachusetts Provincial Congress authorized the raising of 13,600 men and made Artemas Ward Commander in Chief. The Congress also appealed to the other colonies for aid.

May 10

Second Continental Congress convened in the State House (Independence Hall) Philadelphia. Peyton Randolph and Charles Thomson again elected president and secretary, respectively, but Randolph withdrew on May 24 and John Hancock was elected president.

- May 10 Fort Ticonderoga captured by Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys.
- May 12 Crown Point, north of Ticonderoga, seized by colonial troops under Seth Warner.
- May 15 Continental Congress resolved to put the colonies in state of defense.
- May 16 St. Johns, Canada, raided by colonials under Benedict Arnold.
- May 25 Frigate Cerberus arrived in Boston with major generals William Howe, John Burgoyne, and Henry Clinton. Generals were sent to assist Commander in Chief Thomas Gage.
- May 29 Continental Congress adopted an address to the people of Canada which asked them to join the revolution.
- May 31 Mecklenburg Resolves, adopted by patriots of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, declared null and void all laws and commissions from the king and parliament.
- June 12 General Gage proclaimed martial law, declared Americans in arms and those aiding them to be rebels, and offered pardon to all who returned to their allegiance with two exceptions: Sam Adams and John Hancock.
- June 12 Jeremiah O'Brien and force of Maine patriots seized British sloop Unity. O'Brien then pursued and captured the British armed schooner Margaretta in

June

running sea battle off Machias, Maine. Event is generally considered the first naval engagement of the American Revolution.

- 14 Continental Congress resolved to raise 10 companies of riflemen in Pennsylvania (6), Maryland (2), and Virginia (2).
- 15 George Washington elected Commander in Chief of Continental Army. Washington was nominated by Thomas Johnson (Maryland) and seconded by John Adams (Massachusetts). The vote was unanimous.
- 15 Americans in Boston learned that General Gage intended to occupy Dorchester Heights on June 18.
- 16-17 During the night the Americans, estimated to be about 1200-1800, occupied and fortified Breed's Hill (near Bunker Hill) on Charlestown Peninsula.
- 17 General Gage sent General Howe in command of 2,400 men to assault American position. Frontal attack began in the early afternoon and hill taken on third attempt after Americans ran out of powder. British suffered heavy casualties, especially in officers.
- 22 Continental Congress voted to issue \$2 million in bills of credit to finance the Revolution.
- 22 Pennsylvania's response to call for riflemen was so great that Continental Congress raised authorization to 8 companies.

- June 27 Continental Congress authorized General Philip Schuyler to invade and seize any point in Canada vital to security of the colonies. Illness forced Schuyler (Sept. 13) to leave army in command of Brigadier General Richard Montgomery.
- July 3 George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 5 Continental Congress adopted the "Olive Branch Petition" prepared by John Dickinson. Petition professed the attachment of the American people to George III, expressed a desire for the restoration of harmony, and begged the king to prevent further hostile actions until a reconciliation could be worked out.
- 6 Continental Congress adopted Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms, prepared by Dickinson and Jefferson.
- 19 Continental Congress appointed commissioners to treat with the Indians for peace.
- 26 Continental Congress established a postal department and named Benjamin Franklin Postmaster General.
- 31 Continental Congress rejected Lord North's plan for reconciliation.
- August Philip Freneau, poet, published On the Conqueror of America Shut up in Boston and General Gage's Soliloquoy. The satirical humor of these and other poems by Freneau did much to confirm the faith of the patriots.
- 2 Continental Congress adjourned.

- August 23 Proclamation of Rebellion issued by order of King George III.
- September 2 George Washington commissioned squadron of schooners to intercept supplies for British Army in Boston.
- 7 Captain Nicholas Broughton of the armed schooner Hannah captured British Unity loaded with naval stores and lumber. This was the first capture by Continental vessel.
- 12 Continental Congress reconvened, this time with a delegate from Georgia.
- October 7 A small British fleet bombarded Bristol, Rhode Island.
- 11 General Gage sailed for England. General William Howe now Commander in Chief of British forces in America.
- 13 Continental Congress authorized the fitting out of two ships of ten guns each. Later (October 30) increased to four ships.
- 18 British ships Canceau (8 guns) and Halifax (6 guns), under direction of Admiral Graves, bombard and burn Falmouth (now Portland, Maine).
- November 7 Governor Dunmore of Virginia placed colony under martial law, established base at Norfolk, and began recruitment of Loyalist army.
- 9 News arrived that George III had rejected the Olive Branch Petition and had (August 23) proclaimed the colonies in rebellion.

- November 10 Continental Congress resolved that two battalions of marines be raised. The first marine officer, Captain Samuel Nicholas, recruited for the new corps at the Tun Tavern, Philadelphia.
- 13 American force under Brig. Gen. Richard Montgomery captured Montreal.
- 17 Dunmore promised freedom to slaves who deserted. Dunmore raised a Negro regiment but in so doing, lost support of planters in Virginia.
- 19 Patriot force under Major Andrew Williamson clashed with Tories at Ninety-Six, South Carolina.
- 27 Captain John Manley of armed schooner Lee out of Plymouth, Massachusetts, captured British schooner Nancy, loaded with military stores and ordnance, off Boston harbor.
- 28 Continental Congress adopted Adams' draft of "Rules for the Regulation of the Navy of the United Colonies."
- 29 Continental Congress appointed a five-man Committee of Secret Correspondence to contact "our friends in Great Britain, Ireland and other parts of the world."
- December 6 Continental Congress stated allegiance to the king but not to the Parliament.
- 9 Col. William Woodford led force of Virginia and North Carolina "shirt-men" (militia) to victory against Lord Dunmore's mixed force of British sailors, marines, and loyalists at Great Bridge, below Norfolk, Virginia.

- December 12 Continental Congress requested Arthur Lee, agent for Massachusetts in London, to ascertain European attitude toward America.
- 22 Continental Congress named Esek Hopkins of Rhode Island as Commodore of Continental ships.
- 23 Royal proclamation closed colonies to all commerce effective March 1, 1776.
- 31 Benedict Arnold, joined by Montgomery, attacked Quebec. American attack repulsed, Montgomery killed, and Arnold wounded. Arnold maintained a weak siege around Quebec throughout winter.

1776

- January 1 British fleet, on orders of Lord Dunmore, bombarded and burned Norfolk. British landing parties set fire to houses on waterfront.
- 10 Philadelphia. Thomas Paine's pamphlet, Common Sense, converted thousands to the cause of independence.
- 20 General Clinton sailed from Boston to meet British fleet at Cape Fear River, North Carolina. On board are officers to lead corps to be enlisted from North Carolina loyalists.
- 31 The Pennsylvania Journal published first canto of John Trumbull's McFingal, a satire on General Gage.
- February 27 Scottish loyalists from North Carolina interior defeated by patriots at Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina. The Scotsmen were en route to joint British forces on the coast.
- March 3 Continental Congress sent Silas Deane to Europe to purchase war materiel.
- 4 American army fortified Dorchester Heights with cannon captured at Fort Ticonderoga and brought to Boston by General Henry Knox.
- 12 Clinton reached Cape Fear and learned of defeat of loyalists at Moore's Creek.
- 17 General Howe evacuated Boston and on March 26 the British fleet, with troops and several hundred loyalists, sailed for Halifax and Nova Scotia.

- March 19 Continental Congress authorized privateering.
- 23 Continental Congress issued letters of marque and reprisal.
- April 6 Continental Congress opened ports of the colonies to the trade of all countries except Britain.
- 6 Five Continental ships under Esek Hopkins, on way home from raid on Nassau, encountered British frigate Glasgow, Captain Tryingham Howe, off Block Island. After a three-hour night action, Glasgow escaped.
- April 12 Fourth Provincial Congress of North Carolina met in Halifax, North Carolina and authorized delegates in the Continental Congress "to concur with the delegates of the other colonies in declaring Independence." Halifax Resolves, constituted the first official action of any Colonial legislature for the separation from Great Britain and for independence.
- 13 George Washington arrived in New York with Continental Army.
- May 2 King Louis XVI of France ordered munitions to be supplied to the Americans through a fictitious company, Roderique Hortalez et Compagnie, administered by Pierre de Beaumarchais.
- 6 British reinforcements reached Quebec and American Army began withdrawal.
- 10 Continental Congress recommended that colonies without a government sufficient to its needs adopt such a government.

- May 15 The Continental Congress adopted preamble to resolution of May 10. Preamble, written by John Adams, declared that it was "necessary that the exercise of every kind of authority under the said crown should be totally suppressed, and all the powers of government exerted, under the authority of the people of the colonies." Adams considered the adoption of this preamble "the last step" toward "total absolute independence" from Great Britain.
- 26 Halifax Resolves presented to the Continental Congress by Joseph Hewes of North Carolina.
- June 7 American privateer, Yankee Hero, Captain Tracy, defeated by British frigate Melford, Captain John Burr.
- 7 Richard Henry Lee (Virginia) offered resolution to the Continental Congress that the United Colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."
- 8 American army defeated at Battle of Three Rivers, Canada. Army continued retreat to St. John's and later (July), Fort Ticonderoga.
- 11 Continental Congress appointed a committee to prepare Declaration of Independence. Members of Committee were John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.
- 12 Virginia convention adopted Declaration of Rights, drafted by George Mason.
- 25 General William Howe arrived off Sandy Hook with vanguard of British forces from Halifax.

- June 28 Patriots repulsed British fleet at Sullivan's Island,
Charleston, South Carolina.
- 28 Committee appointed June 11 decided that Thomas
Jefferson should write the draft of the Declaration.
Draft presented, with a few changes by Adams and
Franklin, on June 28.
- July 2 Howe disembarked troops unopposed on Staten Island.
- 2 Continental Congress adopted Lee's resolution declaring
independence.
- 4 Continental Congress approved amended Declaration
of Independence. Signed by John Hancock, presi-
dent, and Charles Thomson, secretary.
- 12 Admiral Lord Richard Howe, "Black Dick," brother
of General Howe, arrived in New York with sup-
plies and reinforcements.
- July 21-August 1 Clinton reached New York with troops from Charleston
defeat.
- August 1 Cornelius Harnett, North Carolina patriot, read the
Declaration of Independence for the first time in
the state from a platform in front of the first court-
house in Halifax, North Carolina.
- 12-17 German mercenaries arrived in New York from England.
- 22-25 General Howe landed expeditionary force on Long Island.
- 23 Colonel Edward Hand and 500 riflemen of the 1st Penn-
sylvania Continentals attacked Hessian camp of
von Donop's "jagers" (German Riflemen) at Flatbush.
Hand pushed Hessians back but was forced to retreat
by German counterattack.

- August 27 American army under George Washington defeated by combined British and Hessian force in Battle of Long Island (Brooklyn, New York).
- 29-30 American army evacuated during the night from Long Island. Landed in New York by John Glover's regiment of Massachusetts fishermen.
- September 11 After the Battle of Long Island, Howe sent General Sullivan, captured during that battle, to the Continental Congress with a proposal for a peace conference. On September 7, the Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge to confer with Lord Howe. Conference (September 11) took place at home of Christopher Billopp on Staten Island. Conference was fruitless as Howe's demand for a revocation of the Declaration of Independence left no room for further discussions.
- September 12 George Washington decided to evacuate New York City.
- 15 British land at Kip's Bay on eastern side of island and encountered rearguard of the American army.
- 16 British attack is repulsed in Battle of Harlem Heights. American army prepared new fortifications.
- 22 Captain Nathan Hale of Connecticut hanged as spy by order of General Howe. "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."
- 26 Continental Congress appointed Silas Deane (in Europe), Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson as commissioners to negotiate treaties with and secure aid

from European nations. Jefferson declined appointment and Arthur Lee (in Europe) was named in his place.

- October 11-13 A slapdash squadron, constructed by Benedict Arnold at improvised boatyards at Skenesboro, New York fought a delaying action off Valcour Island in Lake Champlain with a superior British fleet. Arnold's squadron was defeated but the encounter caused the British to postpone the invasion of New York and they returned to Canada.
- 18 General Howe made a successful landing in the rear of Continental Army in an attempt to cut off Washington. Howe's forces met by Glover's Massachusetts regiments which fought a delaying action and gave Washington time to reach his next base, White Plains.
- 28 In Battle of White Plains Howe seized key hill and American army withdrew to a new line at North Castle.
- November 4 General Howe withdrew to the south and prepared to invade New Jersey.
- 10 Washington moved part of army into New Jersey. Approximately 11,000 left in New York at North Castle and New York Highlands.
- 16 Howe captured Fort Washington on the Hudson.
- 20 General Cornwallis captured Fort Lee on Jersey side of the Hudson.
- November 18 -
December 20 Continental Army retreated across New Jersey into Pennsylvania. Army passed through Newark, New Brunswick, and Princeton. Crossed Delaware River below Trenton.

- December 8 British captured Newport, Rhode Island.
- 12 The Continental Congress, fearing an attack on Philadelphia, moved to Baltimore.
- 13 General Howe returned to New York City with bulk of army for the winter but left garrisons at Trenton, Princeton, Bordentown, Perth Amboy, and New Brunswick.
- 19 First of sixteen tracts by Thomas Paine called The Crisis appeared in The Pennsylvania Journal:
"These are the times that try men's souls" was the opening line of Paine's impassioned plea to stand firm in the patriot cause.
- 25 Washington crossed the Delaware River (at McKonkey's Ferry, now Washington Crossing, New Jersey) at night into New Jersey. Boats were manned by Glover's Marblehead Massachusetts regiment.
- 26 Early morning surprise attack by Washington defeated Hessian force under Col. Rall at Trenton, New Jersey. Hessian prisoners taken to Philadelphia.
- 30-31 Washington recrossed Delaware River and reoccupied Trenton.

1777

- January 2 British army advance units engaged in a skirmish with Washington's forces east of Trenton. Gen. Cornwallis decided to attack the next day with main force.
- January 3 During the night Washington slipped around Cornwallis' flank and by dawn was near Princeton. In the Battle of Princeton Washington defeated the British. American victory cleared all but easternmost New Jersey of the British and boosted patriots' morale. Washington's original plan was to capture British supplies at New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- January 6 Washington established winter quarters for Continental Army at Morristown, New Jersey. British army pulled back to Amboy and New Brunswick.
- February 2-4 Tories captured Fort McIntosh on the left bank of the Satilla River in South East Georgia.
- March 4 Continental Congress returned to Philadelphia from Baltimore.
- March 12 Continental Congress reconvened in the State House, Philadelphia.
- March 23 British raided and burned the New York village of Peekskill.
- April 17 Continental Congress reconstituted the Committee of Secret Correspondence as the Committee for Foreign Affairs.

- April 26 British raided and burned Danbury, Connecticut.
- April 27 Generals David Wooster and Benedict Arnold engaged the retreating British at Ridgefield, Connecticut. British escaped to waiting ships after bloody running battle.
- May 1 Arthur Lee named by Continental Congress to represent the United States at Spanish Court.
- May 7 Continental Congress named Ralph Izard commissioner to the Grand Duke of Tuscany.
- May 9 William Lee appointed by the Continental Congress to posts at Vienna and Berlin.
- May 23-24 Col. Return Jonathan Meigs led a successful raid on British foraging party at Sag Harbor, Long Island. Meigs sailed from Sachem's Head (now Guilford, Conn.) and attacked members of DeLancy's Brigade. The American forces burned all vessels in the harbor, destroyed 100 tons of hay, much grain, ten hogsheads of rum and sugar, took 99 prisoners and returned to Conn. without a casualty. Congress voted a sword to Col. Meigs for his exploits.
- May 28 Washington moved the Continental Army from Morristown to Middlebrook Valley, only eight miles from New Brunswick. The move was made to observe and intercept any British advance in direction of Philadelphia.

- June 12 Gen. Howe camped the British army in New Jersey at Middlebrook and Somerset. Howe's objective was to lure Washington down from Middlebrook.
- June 14 Continental Congress resolved that the flag of the United States be "thirteen stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be thirteen stars white in a blue field."
- June 17-20 General Burgoyne began movement south from Canada as first part of three-pronged British offensive. A force under St. Leger was to advance from Oswego, New York through the Mohawk Valley and a larger force under Howe was to move up the Hudson. All three were to meet at Albany, thus isolating New England and splitting the colonies. At the same time, however, Lord Germain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, approved Howe's plan for an attack on Philadelphia, hoping that Howe would finish in time to join Burgoyne.
- June 22 Howe evacuated New Brunswick and withdrew to Amboy, New Jersey. Washington followed Howe.
- June 26 Howe attempted to cut off Washington from the heights at Middlebrook by fighting an American force under General William Alexander at Metuchen Meeting House, New Jersey. Washington retreated and restored old position.

- June 30-July 1 Howe withdrew to Amboy and transferred army to Staten Island.
- July 5-6 General Arthur St. Clair abandoned Fort Ticonderoga to the British.
- July 7 American rearguard under Seth Warner defeated in Battle of Hubbardton (Vermont) by British force under command of Fraser and Riedesel.
- July 12 General St. Clair reached Ford Edward, New York.
- July 23 Howe sailed for Philadelphia with troops via Chesapeake Bay.
- July 26 General St. Leger, with an army composed of large numbers of Loyalists and Indians, began drive at Fort Oswego to join Burgoyne at Albany.
- July 27 The Marquis de Lafayette and Baron Johann de Kalb arrived in Philadelphia. Lafayette commissioned a major general on July 31.
- July 28-29 General Philip Schuyler abandoned Ford Edward at the approach of Burgoyne's army. Schuyler withdrew to Stillwater (August 3), New York, 30 miles above Albany, Burgoyne's objective.
- July 30 Howe's fleet sighted at the mouth of the Delaware.
- July 30 General Burgoyne reached Fort Edward, New York.
- July 31 Washington ordered Continental Army to Philadelphia and took up defensive position barring way to the city on the eastern side of the Brandywine Creek.

- August 3 Fort Stanwix, New York, under Col. Peter Gansevoort, besieged by British force under St. Leger.
- August 4 General Schuyler replaced as Commander of the Continental Army in the North by General Horatio Gates.
- August 6 Col. Nicholas Herkimer, marching to the relief of Fort Stanwix, is ambushed near Oriskany by Tories and Indians under Butler and Brant. Americans withstood attack despite heavy losses but retreated eastward.
- August 16 Hessian force under Baum, sent to seize supplies at Bennington, Vermont, defeated by militiamen under Col. John Stark.
- August 22 Indian allies of St. Leger left British army after the battle of Oriskany. Schuyler sent Arnold to the relief of Fort Stanwix. St. Leger abandoned siege of Fort Stanwix and withdrew to starting point of campaign Fort Oswego. Burgoyne's right wing is clipped.
- August 24 Washington paraded Continental Army through Philadelphia on the way to meet Howe.
- August 25 Howe landed British army at Head of Elk, Maryland, and moved on Philadelphia.
- August 31-September 1 Indians unsuccessfully attacked Fort Henry (Wheeling, West Virginia).

- September 3 Brig. Gen. William Maxwell's Light Infantry took up a position near Cooch's Bridge (on Christina Creek, northeast of Elkton, Maryland) to harass Howe's advance from Head of Elk. In the ensuing battle, Maxwell was defeated and retreated to Washington's main body of troops on White Clay Creek, north of Cooch's Bridge.
- September 11 Howe attempted to turn the American line at Battle of Brandywine but Washington retreated to Chester Bridge, 12 miles east of battlefield.
- September 12 Gen. Gates moved to Bemis Heights, New York, and fortified position.
- September 13 Burgoyne crossed the Hudson to the Albany side (west) of the river and moved against Gates' position on Bemis Heights.
- September 15 DeKalb commissioned major general.
- September 19 Burgoyne's advance against American position checked at Battle of Freeman's Farm. At the end of the battle, British occupied the field but suffered heavy casualties by American riflemen under Morgan and Dearborn. Battle also known as First Battle of Saratoga.
- September 20-October 6 Burgoyne entrenched and hoped for reinforcements from Clinton in New York.

- September 19 Continental Congress left Philadelphia as British army under Howe advanced on city.
- September 21 Surprise night bayonet attack by British force led by Major General "No-flint" Grey routed American force under General Anthony Wayne at Paoli, Pennsylvania. Event is referred to as "Paoli Massacre."
- September 24 American force under Col. John Brown raided Fort Ticonderoga.
- September 26 British occupied Philadelphia.
- September 27 Continental Congress met at Lancaster, Pennsylvania for one day and adjourned.
- September 30 Continental Congress met at York, Pennsylvania and adjourned immediately.
- October 4 Washington attacked British at Germantown but was repulsed in ensuing battle.
- October 6 Clinton attempted to relieve Burgoyne by creating a diversion behind Gates. Clinton moved north and captured Forts Clinton and Montgomery on the Hudson River.
- October 7 Attack by Burgoyne's army at Bemis Heights beaten off by counterattack led by Benedict Arnold.
- October 7 British captured Fort Constitution on the Hudson River.
- October 8-10 Burgoyne retreated to Saratoga.

- October 13 General Burgoyne, surrounded by Gates' army, proposed cessation of hostilities.
- October 16 Kingston (Esopus), New York, burned by the British under Vaughan, who was attempting to contact Burgoyne.
- October 17 Burgoyne surrendered entire army to Gates. News of the American victory prompted France to recognize American independence (December 17).
- October 18 Thaddeus Kosciuszko commissioned colonel of engineers.
- October 19 General Howe moved main army into Philadelphia. Evacuated Germantown.
- October 22 The 400-man garrison of Fort Mercer (Red Bank, New Jersey), under command of Christopher Greene, repulsed an attack of 1,600 Hessians. Fort Mercer was on the Delaware River below Philadelphia.
- October 22 Clinton ordered Vaughan to withdraw after news that Vaughan could not contact Burgoyne and after receipt of orders from Howe to abandon New York Highlands and to send reinforcements to Pennsylvania.
- October 23 Fort Mifflin, on the Delaware River opposite Fort Mercer, repulsed British naval attack.
- November 2 Washington established camp at White Marsh, 12 miles northeast of Philadelphia.
- November 15 Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union agreed upon by Continental Congress.

- November 15-16 Fort Mifflin evacuated. By November 23 the Delaware River as far north as Philadelphia was clear for British ships.
- November 17 Articles of Confederation sent to the states for ratification.
- November 20-21 Fort Mercer abandoned in face of assault by Cornwallis and 5,000 men.
- November 27 Continental Congress approved the confiscation of Loyalists' estates.
- December 5-7 Howe attempted to bring on a general engagement with Washington. After indecisive forays around White Marsh, Howe returned to Philadelphia for the winter.
- December 11 Foraging party under Cornwallis clashed with portions of Washington's army at Matson's Ford (West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania). The American army, en route to winter quarters, withdrew. Cornwallis returned to Philadelphia.
- December 17 The French informed the American envoys, Deane and Franklin, that the King's council had decided to recognize the independence of the United States.
- December 19 Continental Army entered Valley Forge, twenty miles northeast of Philadelphia, for winter quarters.

Winter of 1777-1778

Small coterie of malcontents in the Continental Congress unsuccessfully attempted to remove Washington as Commander in Chief and thus acquire control of the Continental Army. The event is known as the "Conway Cabal," after one of its members, Major General Thomas Conway.

1778

- January 21 New Jersey Gazette published Francis Hopkinson's "The Battle of the Kegs," a humorous account of the alleged panic among the British in Philadelphia caused by the attempt of the Americans to float kegs loaded with gunpowder down river to annoy British shipping in Philadelphia.
- February 6 France signed the Treaty of Alliance and the Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the United States.
- February 17 Lord North presented to Parliament a plan for reconciliation with the colonies. Peace commissioners to be led by the Earl of Carlisle (February 22).
- February 23 Baron Frederick von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge and volunteered to drill the Continental Army.
- March (?) Conrad Alexandre Gerard named first French Minister to the United States.
- March 13 French ambassador in England notified the British government of the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the United States. Ambassadors of France and Great Britain recalled.
- March 20-21 Major John Simcoe led a force of Tories in a surprise attack on an American detachment bivouacked in the William Hancock house near

Salem, New Jersey. The number of casualties varies but most of the Americans were killed while they slept. Simcoe raided the neighborhood, returned to his flatboats on Alloway Creek, and sailed to Philadelphia.

April 10

Captain John Paul Jones of the Ranger left Brest, France, for raiding cruise in British waters.

April 23

Capt. John Paul Jones landed raiding party at Whitehaven, England. The Americans succeeded in spiking the guns covering the harbor and setting fire to small ships in port. Jones then sailed into Kirkudbright Bay and landed at St. Mary's Island with the intention of capturing the Earl of Selkirk. The Earl was not at home so the family silver was taken to placate the unruly crew. After the war Jones returned the silver to Lady Selkirk at his own expense.

April 24

In a one-hour action off Carrickfergus, Ireland, Jones of the Ranger defeated the British sloop Drake.

May 5

Continental Congress appointed von Steuben inspector general with the rank of major general.

May 8

Jones returned to Brest, France, with Drake, other prizes, and numerous prisoners.

May 8

General Howe turned over office of Commander in Chief of the King's Army in America to Clinton in Philadelphia. Howe sailed for England on May 24.

- May 12 George Rogers Clark, on behalf of the state of Virginia, began expedition to take Kaskaskia, a major British post in Illinois country, and, if possible, Detroit.
- May 18 The Mischianza, an extravaganza organized by British officers to mark Howe's departure as Commander in Chief, held in Philadelphia.
- May 20 Washington gave Lafayette a large force to harass and reconnoiter the British in Philadelphia. Lafayette took up a position at Barren Hill, midway between Valley Forge and Philadelphia. The British attempted to capture Lafayette and crush his army in battle of Barren Hill but failed because of Lafayette's skillful retreat and because of training given to troops at Valley Forge by von Steuben.
- June 17 Peace offer brought by the Earl of Carlisle rejected by the Continental Congress. Congress replied that only withdrawal of British forces and recognition of independence would be acceptable.
- June 17 Hostilities began between France and Great Britain in naval skirmish off Ushant Island, France (west-northwest of Brest).
- June 18 British left Philadelphia. Clinton, ordered to consolidate his army at New York and Newport, began march across New Jersey.

June 18-27

Washington moved out of Valley Forge, followed British army and began campaign of harrassment while seeking best place for general engagement.

June 28

General Charles Lee given command of strong advance corps and ordered to strike Clinton's extended column at first opportunity. On the 28th Lee attacked near Monmouth. Clinton sent reinforcements and forced Lee to retreat. Washington relieved Lee of command, took personal charge of situation and formed a line that checked several attempts of the British to advance. Heat, fatigue, and darkness ended battle. During the night Clinton withdrew troops. By the 30th of June the entire British force was at Sandy Hook and by the 5th of July in New York.

July 1-21

Washington moved Continental Army from New Jersey to New York. On July 21st headquarters were established at White Plains, New York.

July 2

Continental Congress returned to Philadelphia.

July 3-4

Col. Zebulon Butler led about 300 Americans out of Forty Fort (near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania) to drive off Tory and Indian Force under Col. John Butler. The American force was practically annihilated and several settlements

burned. Many civilians were killed by the Indians. The event is known as the Wyoming Valley "Massacre."

- July 4 George Rogers Clark, a militia leader from Harrodsburg, Kentucky, captured Kaskaskia, a British post in Illinois country on the Mississippi River.
- July 4-August 12 Court-martial at New Brunswick, New Jersey, of General Charles Lee for disobedience at Battle of Monmouth. Lee found guilty and suspended from command for 12 months.
- July 8 French fleet of 16 vessels arrived off Capes of the Delaware after voyage of 88 days from Toulon only to find that the British fleet had sailed for New York. With the fleet was Conrad Gerard, first diplomatic representative to the United States.
- July 11 French fleet arrived off New York but plan for sea-land assault on New York is dropped because size of French vessels made crossing shallow bar hazardous.
- July 20 Vincennes (Indiana) capitulated to Clark's force. Cahokia and other posts in area fall and territory is organized as part of Virginia.
- July 22 D'Estaing sailed for Newport, Rhode Island and joint operations against British garrison.

- July 29 French fleet arrived off Newport.
- August 9 French troops landed to besiege Newport in conjunction with American force under General Sullivan.
- August 10 French re-embark and fleet sailed out to contest the newly arrived British Fleet under Howe.
- August 21-24 French fleet sailed to Boston for repair caused by storm which battered and scattered both fleets and prevented any large scale naval action. British fleet returned to New York.
- August 29 General Sullivan began withdrawal from siege of Newport. Fought off British attack in Battle of Newport.
- August 31 British fleet appeared off Boston but withdrew without attacking d'Estaing's fleet.
- September 4 Continental Congress ratified unanimously treaties with France.
- September 13 A force of Tories and Indians under command of Joseph Brant raided and burned German Flats (now Herkimer) settlement in New York.
- September 14 Benjamin Franklin elected by the Continental Congress to post of Minister to France.
- September 25 General Benjamin Lincoln replaced General Robert Howe as head of the American Southern Department. Lincoln established headquarters at Charleston, South Carolina, and Howe moved to command at Savannah, Georgia.

- September 27-28 British force under General "No-flint" Grey of Paoli fame launched night bayonet attack against Col. George Baylor's Dragoons asleep in three barns at Old Tappan, New York. Baylor's small regiment destroyed as fighting force.
- October 6-8 Americans under Col. William Butler raided Brant's supply base at Unadilla, New York.
- October 15 British force of about 300 men under Captain Patrick Ferguson launched a surprise night attack against sleeping infantry detachment of Pulaski's Legion near Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey. Ferguson driven off by Pulaski Dragoons after some 50 Americans were killed. (Authorities disagree on date of this action. Some claim October 5 as date.)
- November 4 French fleet under d'Estaing left Boston for Martinique in French West Indies.
- November 11 Captain Walter Butler, in command of Tory rangers and Indians, raided settlements in Cherry Valley, New York -- Cherry Valley "Massacre."
- November 27 British army 3,500 under Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell sailed for Savannah, Ga.
- November 27 Carlisle Peace Commission left for England after failing to bribe three members of the Continental Congress and failing in an appeal to the American people.

- December 12 Vincennes retaken by British and Indians under command of Lt. Col. Henry Hamilton (the "Hair-buyer"), Lt. Governor of Detroit.
- December 23 British expedition anchored off Tybee Island below Savannah, Georgia.
- December 29 British force led by Col. Campbell captured Savannah after defeat of American militia under Gen. Robert Howe.

1779

- January 6 Fort Sunbury (Georgia) captured by British under General Augustine Prevost.
- January 29 Augusta, Georgia, captured by British force led by Gen. John Campbell.
- February 3 General William Moultrie repulsed British attack on Port Royal, South Carolina.
- February 14 Col. Andrew Pickens defeated Loyalist force at Kettle Creek, Georgia.
- February 24-25 British Col. Henry Hamilton surrendered Vincennes to George Rogers Clark.
- March 3 Lt. Col. Marc Prevost routed American force under Gen. John Ashe in the Battle of Briar Creek, Georgia.
- May 10 British captured and set afire Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia.
- May 31 Stony Point and Verplanck, New York, taken by British under Clinton.
- June 21 Spain declared war on Great Britain but refused to recognize American independence.
- July 5-11 Loyalist expedition under Governor Tryon of New York raided Connecticut coast. New Haven plundered; Fairfield, Green's Farms, and Norwalk looted and burned.

July 16

Stony Point, New York, retaken in night bayonet attack by American force commanded by General Anthony Wayne. Americans dismantled works and retired.

August 19

American force under Major Henry Lee captured Paulus Hook (Jersey City), New Jersey, in pre-dawn bayonet attack. Paulus Hook was last major British outpost in New Jersey.

August 29

Generals John Sullivan and James Clinton led American force to victory over Tories and Indians led by Sir John Johnson and Joseph Brant in Battle at Newton (Elmira), New York.

August 27-September 21

Spaniards under Captain General Bernardo de Galvez captured Fort Manchac (September 7), Baton Rouge (September 21), and Fort Panmure at Natchez (September 21) on Mississippi River.

September 5

Major Benjamin Tallmadge sailed at 8 pm from Shippan Point, near Stamford, Connecticut with 130 Dragoons. By 10 pm he had reached Fort Franklin on Lloyd's Neck, Long Island. Tallmadge attacked the Tories there, numbering about 500, captured most of them, and returned to Connecticut without the loss of a man.

September 23

Captain John Paul Jones of the Bonhomme Richard defeated Captain Pearson of the British Serapis in close range night battle off east coast of England. The Richard sank on the 24th of September and Jones transferred crew and prisoners to the Serapis. One of the French ships in Jones' squadron, the Pallas, took the Countess of Scarborough in the same engagement.

September 23-October 20

The Siege of Savannah, Georgia.

The actual siege began on September 23 and the allied assault took place on October 9. The French fleet departed on October 20. British forces under Prevost defeated an attempt to take the city of Savannah by a mixed force of Americans and French under command of Lincoln and d'Estaing. As a result, Georgia remained under British control, Tory activity increased in the area, and the British retained a valuable naval base in the South. Among the American casualties was Count Casimir Pulaski.

September 27

John Adams appointed by the Continental Congress to negotiate peace treaty with Great Britain. John Jay appointed as agent to Spain to seek recognition of the United States, an alliance, or a loan.

December 1

Washington established winter quarters for the Continental Army at Morristown, New Jersey.

December 26

Sir Henry Clinton left New York with British fleet for renewed attempt to take Charleston, South Carolina. Fleet contained about 9,000 British and Hessian troops.

January 14-15

Staten Island expedition:

Major General William Alexander, "Lord Stirling," led "commando" raid on Staten Island. The expedition left Elizabethtown Point with 500 sleighs and 3,000 troops. American force crossed the ice but accomplished little as British had learned of attack and had retired to fortified positions. The New Jersey civilians who accompanied expedition engaged in indiscriminate plunder of the Staten Island farmers. Stirling stayed on the island for twenty-four hours but left with little gained. Washington had all stolen goods that could be recovered returned to the British a few days later.

January 25

British retaliated for the Staten Island raid by burning the academy at Newark, and the courthouse and meeting house at Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

March 14

Mobile captured by Gálvez, Spanish Governor of Louisiana.

April 1

British began siege of Charleston, South Carolina. The British landed troops north of the city and outmaneuvered defenders.

May 12

Charleston captured by British force under Sir Henry Clinton.

- May 25 Mutiny by two Connecticut regiments at Morristown, New Jersey, suppressed. Connecticut regiments demanded full rations and immediate payment of salaries.
- May 29 Col. Banastre Tarleton's cavalry destroyed Virginia regiment in Battle of Waxhaws, South Carolina.
- June 7 Massachusetts State constitution, first to be adopted by convention specifically called for that purpose, ratified by popular vote.
- June 9 Massachusetts navy frigate Protector (26 guns), under command of John Foster Williams, sank the British privateer Admiral Duff (32 guns), Capt. Richard Stranger, in fierce action off banks of Newfoundland.
- June 20 General Griffith Rutherford and Col. Francis Locke defeated a Loyalist force under John Moore in Battle of Ramsour's Mill near Charlotte, North Carolina.
- June 23 Gen. Greene defeated a force of British and Hessians at Battle of Springfield, New Jersey.
- July 10 Comte de Rochambeau arrived at Newport, Rhode Island with 5,000 French troops. British fleet blockaded Newport within a few weeks after the arrival of Rochambeau.
- August 5 Partisan leader Thomas Sumter, the "Carolina Gamecock," defeated some 500 Loyalists at Hanging Rock, twelve miles from Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

the latter moved into North Carolina, defeated in the Battle of King's Mountain by American frontiersmen under Col. Isaac Shelby and Col. William Campbell.

October 17

Sir John Johnson led a mixed force of Tories and Indians in an attack against the Old Stone Fort, Schoharie, New York, commanded by Major Melancton Woolsey. Woolsey had decided to surrender but the militia under Timothy Murphy prevented the white flag from being raised. The British, in the meantime, had decided that the fort was too strong to take and moved out to pillage area.

October 19

General Robert Van Rensselaer attacked Sir John Johnson's mixed force of British regulars, Tories, jägers, and Indians at Klock's Field, New York. A complete victory for the Americans was missed when Van Reasselaer refused to assault the breastworks and to pursue the jägers and Indians.

November 21-23

Major Benjamin Tallmadge sailed from Fairfield, Connecticut with 80 troopers of the 2nd Continental Dragoons. Tallmadge landed on Long Island and proceeded to Fort George on the South shore. In a surprise dawn attack on the

23rd, Tallmadge captured the fort. The American force returned to Connecticut the evening of the 23rd with more than 200 prisoners.

December 28

Col. William Washington led detachment of Morgan's men in a successful attack on a Loyalist force in the Battle of Hammond's Store, near British post of Ninety Six, South Carolina.

1781

- January 1-15 Mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line:
On January 1, 2,400 men of the Pennsylvania Line left camp at Morristown and began march to Philadelphia to demand back pay, three years in arrears. On January 3 they camped at Princeton where they were approached by two Loyalist emissaries from Clinton who offered pardons and back pay. The troops turned the pair of Loyalists over to General Wayne, commander of the Line, and they were hanged as spies. On January 7, Pennsylvania authorities began negotiations and eventually made concessions (January 15) which ended the mutiny.
- January 5 Benedict Arnold, in command of British force, plundered and burned Richmond, Virginia.
- January 17 Tarleton's British cavalry defeated in Battle of the Cowpens by Daniel Morgan's militia and Col. Washington's cavalry.
- January 20-27 Three regiments of the New Jersey Line mutinied at Pompton, New Jersey. Washington sent General Robert Howe with 600 New England Continentals to quell uprising. On January 27, Howe surprised the mutineers in camp, restored officers to their commands, and executed two of the ringleaders.

- February 7 Morgan's force merged with Gen. Greene's main army at Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina.
- February 20 Robert Morris made Superintendent of Finance by the Continental Congress.
- February 25 "Light-Horse Harry" (Henry) Lee's Legion shattered Tory force of 400 mounted Loyalists in engagement at Haw River, North Carolina. The event discouraged other Loyalists from joining Cornwallis.
- March 1 Formal ratification of the Articles of Confederation. Maryland was last state to approve (February 27).
- March 2 Continental Congress assumed new title; The United States in Congress Assembled."
- March 15 Battle of Guilford Courthouse
General Greene fought bloody engagement with Cornwallis. Greene withdrew, the British held the field but Cornwallis' casualties were heavy. One-fourth of his troops were out of action.
- March 18 Cornwallis retreated to Wilmington, North Carolina, and awaited reinforcements by sea.
- April 2 Captain John Barry, on way home from France on the Alliance, was attacked by two British privateers, the Mars and the Minerva, but soon forced both to surrender.
- April 23 Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox," and "Light-Horse Harry" Lee besieged Fort Watson, South Carolina, a link in the British line of communication

from Charleston. The fort capitulated after a log tower, suggested by Col. Hezekiah Maham, was constructed and the Americans poured rifle fire into the stockade from its heights.

April 25

Greene defeated in the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill by Lt. Col. Francis Rawdon. The British held the field but again suffered heavy casualties.

May 9

Pensacola, under command of Brig. John Campbell, surrendered to the Spanish, thus completing their conquest of West Florida. Spanish were led by Bernardo de Gálvez, Governor of Louisiana and Florida.

May 14

DeLancey's Tories surprised outpost at Points Bridge, Croton River, New York, commanded by Col. Christopher Greene. Greene was killed and Rhode Island's black battalion suffered heavy casualties.

May 20

Cornwallis joined forces with Benedict Arnold at Petersburg, Virginia.

May 21

Washington conferred with Rochambeau at Wethersfield, Connecticut. Washington secured support for joint attack against New York supported by French fleet under DeGrasse from the West Indies. Rochambeau left DeGrasse to decide on New York or Chesapeake Bay.

May 22-June 18

Gen. Greene failed to capture British post of Ninety Six, South Carolina.

May 29

Two British men-of-war, the Atalanta and the Trepassy, attacked becalmed Alliance under Barry. In the ensuing action, Barry was severely wounded but held his mutinous crew to their guns until a breeze came up whereupon Barry sailed between his attackers, forcing each to surrender.

June 4

A raid by Tarleton and 250 Dragoons almost captured Jefferson at Charlottesville, Virginia.

June 6

Augusta, Georgia, captured by Generals Lee and Andrew Pickens after 16 days resistance.

June 10

Lafayette's force in Virginia joined by Anthony Wayne and his troops. On June 16, von Steuben joined Lafayette.

June 15

Cornwallis, after a vain attempt decisively to engage Lafayette and von Steuben in Virginia, moved toward the coast in order to obtain better communications with Clinton in New York. Cornwallis reached Richmond on June 16, New Kent Courthouse on June 23, and Williamsburg on June 26.

June 15

John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, and Thomas Jefferson appointed by the Continental Congress to assist John Adams in peace negotiations. Jefferson declined appointment.

- June 26 Simcoe's Rangers, encamped at Spencer's Tavern, Virginia, surprised by early morning attack by Continental Army. Skirmish was sharp, but indecisive.
- July 5 The French army, previously stationed in Rhode Island, joined Washington's army above New York.
- July 6 Cornwallis repulsed an attack by Lafayette and Wayne on his army at Jamestown Ford, Virginia.
- July 17 Cornwallis reached Portsmouth where he received instructions from Clinton to select a position by a defensible harbor. Cornwallis selected Yorktown. Gloucester, across York River, was also occupied.
- August 1 Cornwallis arrived in Yorktown and began to concentrate British forces there.
- August 8 The Trumbull, under command of Capt. Nicholson, overtaken and captured by British Iris off Halifax. Despite the fact that three-fourths of his crew, largely British deserters, refused to fight, Nicholson, several officers and some crewmen resisted for an hour and a half before being captured.
- August 14 Washington received a letter from DeGrasse which informed him that the French fleet would sail on the 13th and would be in the Chesapeake for combined operations until mid-October.

- August 20-26 Washington left token force outside New York and moved his and Rochambeau's troops to Virginia. Armies crossed Hudson and moved south across New Jersey.
- August 30 DeGrasse arrived off Yorktown, began naval blockade, and landed (August 31) troops to reinforce Lafayette's forces guarding Cornwallis in Yorktown.
- September 5-10 British fleet under Admiral Thomas Graves engaged French fleet under DeGrasse off Virginia Capes. Fierce battle on the 5th of September.
- September 6 The Congress, a Philadelphia privateer of 26 guns, under Capt. George Geddes, defeated British naval sloop Savage, Capt. Charles Stirling, off Charleston in running sea battle lasting more than four hours.
- September 6 Benedict Arnold landed near New London, Connecticut and captured Forts Trumbull and Griswold. Arnold also plundered and burned New London and Groton.
- September 8 Gen. Greene fought a pitched battle with Lt. Col. Alexander Stewart at Eutaw Springs, South Carolina. British held field but suffered severe losses. Stewart retired to Charleston, South Carolina on Sept. 9. Greene now in control of the South except for British posts in Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia and Wilmington, North Carolina.

- September 9 DeGrasse reinforced by fleet under deBarras.
- September 10 British Admiral Graves now decided that the combined French fleets were too strong to attack. Graves sailed for New York. The French fleet now in command of seas off Yorktown.
- September 28 Allied forces began march to Yorktown from Williamsburg. Siege of Yorktown begun.
- September 30 Cornwallis abandoned outer line of fortifications.
- October 2 British redoubts on left of line taken by assault led by Col. Alexander Hamilton.
- October 3 Major Lemuel Trescott led a force of 150 men from the 5th Conn. Regt. and the 2nd Continental Dragoons in a surprise 4 AM raid against British held Fort Slongo (Salonga) on the north shore of Long Island east of Northport. Fort's blockhouse was destroyed and Trescott and his men withdrew across Long Island Sound with 21 prisoners and a good supply of captured material. (Boatner, Encyclopedia of the American Revolution, p. 1112, gives October 10 as date of this raid.)
- October 16 Cornwallis attempted to escape across York River but was foiled by storm.
- October 19 Cornwallis surrendered British forces at Yorktown and Gloucester, ending the last significant battle of the American Revolution.
- October 22 Col. Tench Tilghman, one of Washington's aides, arrived in Philadelphia with news of victory.

- October 24 Washington's official dispatch of October 19, announcing victory at Yorktown, read before the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. Congress immediately resolved to "go in procession to the Dutch Lutheran Church, and return thanks to Almighty God."
- October 24 Clinton arrived off Chesapeake Bay with reinforcements for Cornwallis, learned of his surrender, and returned to New York.
- November 18 British evacuated Wilmington, North Carolina and moved forces to Charleston, South Carolina.
- December 9 General Greene established headquarters at Round O, about thirty miles west of Charleston, South Carolina. Greene now joined by Francis Marion, and Col. Wade Hampton. The British in the South were now confined to Charleston and Savannah.

1782

- January 4 General Wayne arrived at General Greene's camp at Round O, South Carolina with Pennsylvania Line. Within days, Gen. St. Clair also arrived with Maryland and Delaware troops.
- February 27 House of Commons voted against further prosecution of the war in America.
- March 4 House of Commons authorized the crown to make peace with the former colonies.
- March 20 Lord North resigned as Prime Minister and was succeeded (March 22) by Lord Rockingham, who opened direct negotiations with the American peace commissioners.
- April 12 Richard Oswald, sent by Rockingham ministry to open peace negotiations, began talks with Benjamin Franklin, then the only commissioner in Paris.
- April 19 The Netherlands recognized the independence of the United States.
- May 9 Sir Guy Carleton arrived in New York as the Commander in Chief of the British forces in America.
- June 4-5 Col. Crawford's Pennsylvania and Virginia frontiersmen defeated in Battle of Sandusky and Olentangy by Butler's Tory Rangers and Indians. Many American prisoners, including Crawford, tortured to death by Delaware Indians.

- July 11 British under General Alexander Leslie evacuated Savannah, Georgia and sailed for New York.
- August 1 Flushing, New York, visited by His Royal Highness, William Henry, Duke of Clarence (afterward King William IV). While in Flushing he was the guest of William Prince. His Royal Highness came to present a stand of colors to the King's American Dragoons then in camp about three miles east of the village. A march past and an ox roast completed the festivities.
- August 7 George Washington established the Order of the Purple Heart of Military Merit. According to surviving records, only three men, all non-commissioned officers and all from Connecticut, were awarded the order during the American Revolution. The first to be awarded the badge, a heart-shaped piece of purple cloth embroidered with the words "MERIT", was Sergeant Elijah Churchill of the Second Continental Dragoons of Connecticut. Churchill's citation noted his "very conspicuous and singularly meritorious part" in "several enterprises against Fort Saint George and Fort Slongo on Long Island" in which he "acquitted himself with great gallantry, firmness and address." Churchill was awarded the Badge of Merit by general order of George Washington, April 27, 1783.

- August 27 An American attack at Combahee Ferry, South Carolina, failed to halt British foraging for besieged garrison of Charleston. Col. John Laurens of South Carolina killed in the attack.
- September 19 Oswald authorized to treat with the commissioners of the "13 United States." Formal negotiations with Franklin and Jay began on September 27.
- November 30 Provisional treaty of peace signed in Paris by Franklin, Jay, and Adams, with British negotiator, Richard Oswald. Britain recognized American independence, established boundaries, fishing rights, and pledged evacuation of land and sea forces "with all convenient speed." Congress was pledged to recommend compensation by the States to the Loyalists.
- December 14 British evacuated Charleston, South Carolina and sailed for New York.

Last battles of the American Revolution:

- September 11-13 Fort Henry, near present day Wheeling, West Virginia, fought off band of Tories and Indians.
- November 4 Johns Island, South Carolina. British foraging party beaten off by the 2nd Maryland Continentals.
- November 10 Chillicothe, Ohio. Raiding Shawnees and their village destroyed by punitive expedition led by George Rogers Clark.

1783

- January 20 Preliminary articles of peace signed by Great Britain with France and Spain.
- February 4 Britain declared a cessation of hostilities.
- February 5 Sweden recognized the Independence of the United States. Denmark followed on February 25, Spain on March 24, and Russia in July.
- March 10, 12. Newburgh Addresses:
A series of anonymous addresses circulated among the officers at Washington's camp near Newburgh, New York. The officers feared that the army would be disbanded by Congress before any payment to troops. Officers threatened to not disband and to defy Congress. On March 15, Washington spoke before gathering of officers and assured them of his confidence in Congress. Washington called for patience and urged the officers not to "sully the glory you have hitherto maintained." Washington's presence and speech carried the day and the officers repudiated the propositions in the anonymous addresses and expressed their confidence in Congress.
- April 11 Congress declared an end to hostilities and proclaimed the end of the war on April 19.

- April 15 Congress ratified the provisional articles of peace.
The peace treaty was signed at Paris on September 3 and ratified by Congress on January 14, 1784.
- April 26 Seven thousand Loyalists sailed from New York for Canada.
- May 13 Society of Cincinnati formed by officers of the Continental Army.
- June 30 Congress met in Princeton, New Jersey, following a mutiny of unpaid troops in Philadelphia.
- November 3 Congress discharged most of the Continental Army.
A small force was kept in New York to follow through the British evacuation.
- November 25 British evacuated New York City.
- December 4 British evacuation completed as last of the troops left Long Island and Staten Island.
- December 4 Washington bade farewell to officers at Fraunces' Tavern, New York City.
- December 23 Washington resigned commission as Commander in Chief before Congress in Annapolis, Maryland.

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