



America250 Day by Day

American Revolution Teacher Resource

January – March

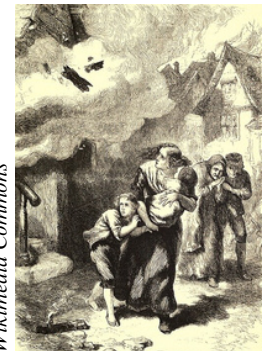
This document was created to commemorate 250 years of Revolutionary War history. On April 19, 1775, the first shots of the war were fired at the Battles of Lexington and Concord. The war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on September 3, 1783. Some of the dates in this document fall outside of this range, but are significant to Revolutionary War history. This document includes notable events from January through March. To learn more about this year of remembrance, please visit our website, <https://www.ohiostatehouse.org/about/america-250-ohio>.

January

January 1, 1776 – During the Burning of Norfolk, a military action ordered by Lord Dunmore, the Virginia town burned for three days.

January 2, 1776 – The Continental Congress published the “Tory Act” resolution. It described the guidelines local “councils of safety” would follow to handle people loyal to Great Britain in their communities.

January 3, 1777 – The Battle of Princeton was a victory for the Continental Army.



The Burning of Norfolk



The Battle of Trenton

January 4, 1777 – A Philadelphia newspaper, The Pennsylvania Packet, published a letter that George Washington wrote to John Hancock and the Continental Congress describing crossing the Delaware River and the victory at the Battle of Trenton. It was subsequently picked up by other newspapers, spreading the story to the general public.

January 5, 1776 – New Hampshire became the first colony to adopt their own constitution, officially separating themselves from Great Britain.

January 6, 1777 – George Washington established the Continental Army’s winter camp at Morristown, New Jersey where he could monitor British troops in New York City.

January 7, 1782 – The Bank of North America, chartered by the Continental Congress and the brainchild of Robert Morris, opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

January 8, 1776 – During a production of the play *The Blockade of Boston* in Boston, a farce written by General John Burgoyne to make fun of Americans, colonists attacked nearby Charlestown, interrupting the play.

January 9, 1777 – The Continental Army observed a partial eclipse of the Sun.



The Bank of North America

January 10, 1776 – Common Sense by Thomas Paine was released.

January 11, 1775 – Francis Salvador joined the South Carolina Provincial Congress after being elected. In 1775 he died after being ambushed by Cherokee and Loyalists in South Carolina, becoming the first recorded Jewish soldier killed during the American Revolution.

January 12, 1777 – After being wounded in the Battle of Princeton, Brigadier General Hugh Mercer died. He was a doctor who had previously served in the French and Indian War.



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Common Sense



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American Commissioners of the Preliminary Peace Agreement with Great Britain

January 13, 1777 – Prince Hall, a free Black man in Massachusetts, submitted a petition to free enslaved persons in the new state, drawing upon the Declaration of Independence which stated that “all men are created equal” and that they have been “endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights.” The petition was ignored, but a 1783 case ended slavery in Massachusetts.

January 14, 1784 – The Continental Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris, officially ending the Revolutionary War.

January 15, 1777 – Vermont declared itself independent from both Great Britain and the colony of New York. They would create and adopt their first state constitution in July 1777.

January 16, 1775 – A drawing of the Edenton Tea Party of 1774 appeared in the London newspaper *The Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*. On October 25, 1774, women from Edenton, NC agreed to boycott English goods, and sent a letter to England with their decision.



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Edenton Tea Party

January 17, 1781 – The Battle of Cowpens was an important Patriot win that demonstrated they could win a battle without surprise or terrain advantage, even if the British had more troops.



Goddard Broadside

Digital Commonwealth

January 18, 1777 – A second printing of the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress, complete with the names of all signers. It was originally printed by Mary Katharine Goddard, a female printer in Baltimore, Maryland.

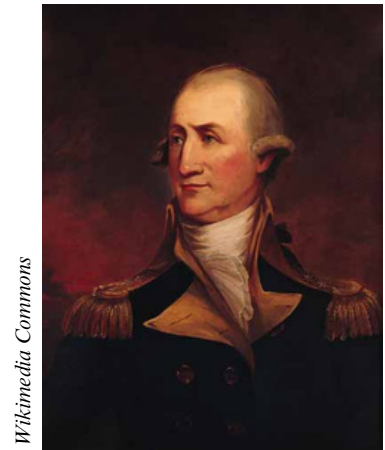
January 19, 1778 – The Conway Cabal, an effort to replace Washington as commander of the Continental Army led by Thomas Conway, ended.

January 20, 1777 – George Johnston accepted the position of aide-de-camp to George Washington. Johnston was with Washington in December 1776 when Washington crossed the Delaware River before the Battle of Trenton.

January 21, 1776 – Peter Muhlenberg, a pastor in Virginia, gave a farewell sermon to his congregation. During the sermon he threw off his robes and revealed a Continental Army uniform. Because of his sermon, nearly 300 men enlisted in his regiment, the 8th Virginia.

January 22, 1779 – A supply column from Fort McIntosh was attacked by Simon Girty and Haudenosaunee warriors from Fort Detroit.

January 23, 1782 – Abner Weston, who kept a diary during the Revolutionary War, wrote of the “uncommon affair” of Deborah Sampson, a woman, dressing in men’s clothing and attempting to enlist. She was recognized on her first attempt, but was successful a few months later.



Peter Muhlenberg



Montgomery Memorial

January 24, 1781 – Patriot commanders Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee and Francis “Swamp Fox” Marion conducted a raid on Georgetown, South Carolina. Met with surprisingly little resistance, they took over the hold and captured the British leader Lt. Col. George Campbell. The British fired Lt. Col Campbell, who was so heavily disliked by his soldiers that they refused to aid him in battle.

January 25, 1776 – The Continental Congress approved the first national Revolutionary War memorial. It honors Brigadier General Richard Montgomery who was killed during an assault on Quebec in December of the previous year. It now sits in front of St. Paul’s Chapel along Broadway in New York City.

January 26, 1780 – Benedict Arnold, on trial for accusations of misconduct in Philadelphia, was acquitted of all but two charges. Unhappy with the outcome, Arnold would soon begin conspiring with the British.

January 27, 1775 – Lord Dartmouth, Secretary of State for the Colonies, wrote a dispatch to General Thomas Gage instructing him to arrest the “principal actors & abettors in the Provincial Congress” in Massachusetts. Gage received the letter in April 1775, and quickly took action, which led to the Battles of Lexington and Concord, starting the Revolutionary War.

January 28, 1781 – The British Navy began an attack on Wilmington, North Carolina, leading to an occupation of the city.



Benedict Arnold



Washington and Lafayette at Valley Forge

January 29, 1778 – George Washington wrote the Letter to the Camp Committee with the help of Alexander Hamilton. The letter was addressed to the Continental Congress and listed ways to improve the “numerous defects” in the Continental Army.

January 30, 1781 – Brigadier General Daniel Morgan met with General Nathaniel Greene following his victory at the Battle of Cowpens earlier in the month.

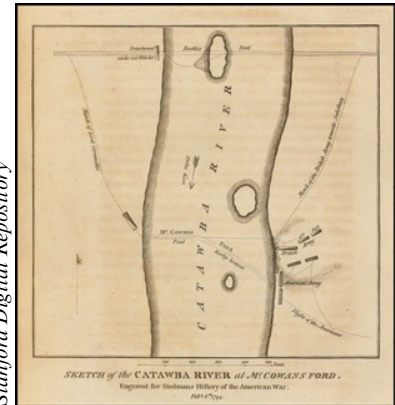
January 31, 1776 – The Second Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that any prisoners enlisted in the Continental Army are to be discharged, and no more prisoners were to be enlisted.

February

February 1, 1781 – At the Skirmish at Cowan's Ford, the British attempted a surprise attack on the Patriots and were instead met by American militia who knew they were coming. Sadly this battle led to the death of Patriot William Davidson, and an American retreat with a British victory.

February 2, 1781 – Maryland became the final of the thirteen colonies to ratify The Articles of Confederation.

February 3, 1780 – Barnett Davenport, a 19-year-old deserter from the Continental Army, murdered his employer and four other members of his employer's family. He was hanged for his crime in May 1780.



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Catawba River at Cowan's Ford



Smallpox Inoculation

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February 4, 1783 – King George III officially proclaimed an end to fighting during the American Revolution.

February 5, 1777 – George Washington issued an order mandating that all troops receive an inoculation against smallpox.

February 6, 1778 – The Treaty of Alliance with France formalized. The Treaty laid out terms for the alliance and recognized the "United States of North America" as its own separate and independent country.

February 7, 1778 – Daniel Boone and a party from Boonesborough were captured by Shawnee Chief Blackfish. He eventually managed to escape months later. In September the Shawnee began a siege to capture Boonesborough that ultimately failed.

February 8, 1777 – Benjamin Franklin wrote to Emma Thompson who had insulted him by saying he is participating in a "rebellion" instead of the "revolution" he considered it. His response was a very long winded and insulting letter about how she should not speak so plainly about matters she does not understand.



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Fort Boonesborough



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Marquis de Lafayette

February 9, 1778 – Major General Lafayette wrote to George Washington about battles to come and lamented the idea that he could not be by Washington's side.

February 10, 1780 – Paul Cuffee and other free Black men petitioned the Massachusetts government to give African American men the right to vote. The House of Representatives voted against the petition, but the Massachusetts Constitution, approved later in 1780, included the provision that any male property owner would be able to vote.

February 11, 1779 – Militias from Georgia and South Carolina met with British forces under the command of Col. Boyd at the Battle of Van Creek. They attempted to cut off the British forces from joining other members of the British Army in Augusta, Georgia. The Patriots failed, and Boyd continued and fought the Battle of Kettle Creek three days later.



Paul Cuffee



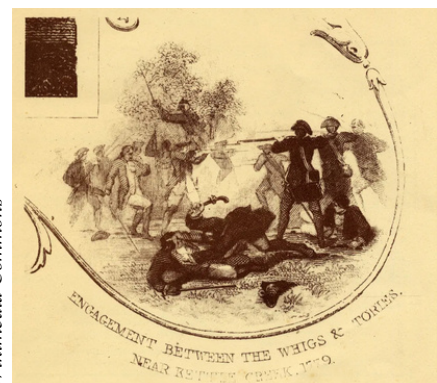
USS *Boston*

February 12, 1781 – Spanish forces take Fort St. Joseph in modern-day Michigan.

February 13, 1778 – Two future presidents, John Adams and his 10-year-old son John Quincy Adams, prepare to leave for France aboard the frigate, *Boston*. There John Adams will replace Silas Deane in Congress' commission to negotiate a treaty of alliance.

February 14, 1779 – During the Battle of Kettle Creek the Patriots ambushed a camp of Loyalists along the creek who were going to rendezvous with British forces in Augusta, Georgia. Patriots managed to defeat British Colonel Boyd's regiment that day. This was noted as one of the first major military successes for the Patriots in Georgia.

February 15, 1776 – Col. George Rogers Clark continued his march from Kaskaskia, Illinois to the British held town of Vincennes, Indiana. In his memoir, he wrote about crossing a river using scaffolding to transport the baggage the troops were carrying. They reached Vincennes eight days later and begin a siege that is ultimately successful.



Battle of Kettle Creek



Washington at *Dorchester Heights*

February 16, 1776 – During the Siege of Boston, George Washington reached the decision to capture Dorchester Heights after meeting with his officers. A couple weeks later, the operation is successful.

February 17, 1776 – Robert Morris, best known as the "Financier of the American Revolution," wrote to Charles Lee about his current illness and the possession of Canada for the Patriots.

February 18, 1776 – John Adams sent Abigail Adams a copy of *Common Sense* wanting to correspond about it. Stating about the conflict "Reconciliation if practicable and Peace if attainable" would be agreeable to him, but he could not see a future where that was possible.

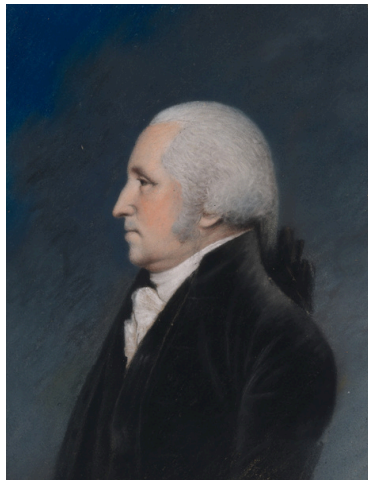
February 19, 1777 – The Continental Congress voted to promote five men, including Benjamin Lincoln, to the rank of major general. However, Brigadier General Benedict Arnold felt slighted that junior officers received promotions instead of him and threatened to resign from the Continental Army.

February 20, 1779 – An 11-year-old John Quincy Adams wrote to his mother Abigail. “a letter from you to my Pappa dated Jany. 4th. in which you complain much of my Pappa’s not writing. He cannot write but very little because he has so many other things to think of, but he can not let slip one opportunity without writing a few lines and when you receive them you complain as bad or worse than if he had not wrote at all and it really hurts to receive such letters.”



National Portrait Gallery

John Quincy Adams



National Portrait Gallery

George Washington

February 21, 1778 – George Washington wrote to Brigadier General William Smallwood about what to do with deserters and how they should be handled.

February 22, 1777 – George Washington turned 45. He was at the Army’s winter quarters in Morristown, Pennsylvania.

February 23, 1779 – The Siege of Fort Laurens begins when British and Native American forces attack and kill 19 men from the garrison.

February 24, 1778 – George Washington wrote to Colonel Joseph Ellis about assisting Captain Lieutenant Symonds in annoying the British by firing on their shipping.

February 25, 1779 – The Siege of Fort Sackville ended with a British surrender. George Rogers Clark captured several British posts in the Ohio Territory (present day Illinois and Indiana) without firing a shot. Eventually attacking Fort Sackville, they won by deceiving the British into thinking they had more men than they did.

February 26, 1779 – George Washington wrote to Major General Baron von Steuben about translating his military training manual from French into English.



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Fort Sackville



National Park Service

Moore's Creek Bridge

February 27, 1776 – At Moore’s Creek Bridge, British General Donald MacDonald led a charge against the Patriots to reassert control in North Carolina. MacDonald was forced to retreat after an onslaught of rifle fire came down, strengthening the Patriots in North Carolina.

February 28, 1777 – In regards to the Saratoga Campaign of 1777, John Burgoyne submitted a plan to the British Government to isolate New York from the rest of the colonies. With 8,000 men his campaign went into effect that summer.

March

March 1, 1780 – Peter Salem, a formerly enslaved man who had served in the militia and Continental Army since the beginning of the war, was discharged. He fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill where it is believed he shot British officer Major John Pitcairn. He died in 1816 and never received a pension for his service.

March 2, 1775 – The Providence Tea Party took place in Providence, Rhode Island. One of many tea parties modeled after the Boston Tea Party, citizens of Providence, led by a group of women, gathered in Market Square and burned 300 pounds of British tea.

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Peter Salem shooting Major Pitcairn



Boston Massacre

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March 3, 1779 – The Battle of Brier Creek in Georgia was a British victory that allowed the British forces to strengthen their presence in Georgia before invading South Carolina.

March 4, 1776 – The Continental Navy and Marines captured the town of Nassau, Bahamas, where the British were storing gunpowder.

March 5, 1770 – The Boston Massacre occurred when a group of colonists were protesting the presence of British troops in Boston, and the troops opened fire. The five men who were killed, including Crispus Attucks, an African American, are considered the first fatalities of the Revolutionary War.

March 6, 1781 – The Battle of Weitzel's Mill took place when American troops under the command of Col. Otho Holland Williams met British troops under the command of Col. James Webster. The battle was a British victory, and was a precursor to the Battle of Guilford Court House nine days later.

March 7, 1778 – Martha Washington wrote to Mercy Otis Warren while she was staying with General George Washington in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. She wrote about her hopes for an American victory, and about conditions at the camp.

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Otho Holland Williams



Mercy Otis Warren

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March 8, 1782 – American militia forces massacred 96 Native American men, women, and children who were part of the pacifist Moravian Christian faith in Gnadenhutzen, Ohio.

March 10, 1776 – Mercy Otis Warren wrote to John Adams about the qualities of a Republic, saying she hoped “never to see an American Monarchy.” The letter is in reply to one sent to her in January 1776.

March 11, 1779 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established to aid in the planning, building, and preparation of facilities for the Continental Army. The Corps was dissolved at the end of the war, and reestablished permanently in 1802.

March 12, 1776 – Caleb Gibbs was appointed commander of the Commander-in-Chief's guard. For five years, he served as Washington's steward and the head of his security.

March 13, 1780 – The Spanish Governor of Louisiana, General Bernardo de Galvez, captured Mobile, Alabama from the British and ended the Battle of Fort Charlotte.



Banner of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard



Alexander Hamilton

March 14, 1776 – Alexander Hamilton became a captain of a New York artillery company. About a year later, he joined General George Washington's staff as a personal aide.

March 15, 1783 – George Washington delivered the Newburgh Address to a group of officers on the brink of mutiny because of ill treatment by the Continental Congress.

March 16, 1780 – George Washington issued an order saying that the next day, St. Patrick's Day, would be a holiday for all "working parties" in the Continental Army.

March 17, 1776 – The Siege of Boston ends when British troops evacuate the city.

March 18, 1778 – The Battle of Quinton's Bridge was fought near Salem, New Jersey, when members of the New Jersey militia met British troops commanded by Lt. Col. Charles Mawhood. The Continental Army won the battle.

March 19, 1776 – General George Washington wrote to John Hancock informing him of the British evacuation from Boston, and updating him about the condition of his property, which General Henry Clinton had lived in during the British occupation.



British evacuating Boston



Benjamin Franklin in France

March 20, 1778 – Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee were received in King Louis XVI's court at Versailles, one month after France officially recognized the United States. The three were there as official representatives of the new country.

March 21, 1778 – Loyalist troops under the command of Col. John Simcoe started the Massacre at Hancock's Ridge when they attacked Salem militia members in the middle of the night, killing 20 men.

March 22, 1782 – Captain James Estill was killed at the Battle of Little Mountain in Kentucky when he attacked a group of Wyandot warriors at Little Mountain Creek. The Wyandots had attacked his settlement of Estill's Station two days prior, killing a young girl.

March 23, 1775 – In Richmond, Virginia, at a meeting of the Second Virginia Convention, Patrick Henry proclaimed “give me liberty or give me death.”

March 24, 1779 – The British end the Siege of Fort Laurens after one month in defeat. The fort was running low on supplies, but they deceived the British into thinking they were well supplied by sending barrels of food out of the fort.



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Patrick Henry



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Thaddeus Kosciuszko

March 25, 1777 – Marquis de Lafayette left France bound for America to fight the British in the American Revolution.

March 26, 1778 – Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish engineer, arrived at West Point. After being appointed by General George Washington, he would design the fortifications there.

March 27, 1775 – Thomas Jefferson was selected as a delegate from Virginia to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

March 28, 1775 – Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia, issued a proclamation prohibiting the appointment of Virginia delegates to the Second Continental Congress.

March 29, 1780 – The Siege of Charleston began when the British Army and Navy converged on the city. The siege would last until May 12, 1780 when the American troops were forced to surrender.



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Siege of Charleston



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King George III

March 30, 1775 – King George III endorsed the New England Restraining Act, which declared that New England colonies could exclusively trade with Great Britain.

March 31, 1776 – Abigail Adams wrote to her husband John Adams, a delegate to the second Continental Congress, to “Remember the Ladies.”

This document was compiled by staff of the Ohio Statehouse Museum and Education Center in January 2026.