



# America250 Day by Day American Revolution Teacher Resource April-June

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 April through June. To learn more about this year of remembrance, please visit our website, <https://www.ohiostatehouse.org/about/america-250-ohio>.

## April

**April 1, 1778** – John Adams wrote to Henry Laurens, the President of Congress. The letter was about Adams’s arrival in France and his plan to head to Paris, as well as the Treaty of Alliance and the fact that the British government had been informed about this Treaty.

**April 2, 1777** – George Washington wrote to Major General Benedict Arnold about not taking any drastic measures in response to his lack of promotion in comparison to his juniors, which even Washington thought was strange. Washington said, “it may serve to shew you, that the promotion which was due to your seniority was not overlooked for want of Merit in you.”



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Henry Laurens



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The Continental Army

**April 3, 1776** – In a bill signed by John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, it was decided to give privateers permission to attack any and all British ships to make up for the Patriots’ lack of naval power.

**April 4, 1776** – General George Washington began the march from Cambridge, Massachusetts, towards New York City in advance of an anticipated invasion by the British.

**April 5, 1777** – George Washington wrote to his younger brother, Samuel, about his shock at how General Howe has not moved on the Patriots yet, and talked about the struggle to get troops, possibly, “owing to an unwillingness in the men to enlist... and their reluctance to leave their friends.”

**April 6, 1776** – In the Battle of Block Island in Rhode Island, forces were led by Esek Hopkins, commander-in-chief of the new Continental Navy. It was considered a victory for the British because their ship the *Glasgow* escaped from the Patriots.



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Samuel Washington

**April 7, 1780** – Over 700 Virginians arrived in Charleston, South Carolina after marching south from Morristown, New Jersey in an effort to help General Benjamin Lincoln defend the city. A month after their arrival, Lincoln surrendered, and all Continental Army soldiers and officers were taken prisoner by the British.

**April 8, 1780** – General Benedict Arnold married Peggy Shippen in Philadelphia. Peggy Shippen Arnold had met John André in 1777, and Arnold began conspiring with the British through communication passed to John André through Peggy Shippen Arnold.



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Peggy Shippen Arnold



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Abraham Whipple

**April 9, 1780** – The Royal Navy, having pushed past Fort Moultrie, began attacking the city of Charleston from the harbor. Commodore Abraham Whipple, leader of a small American Naval force, then maneuvered his fleet to obstruct the onslaught from hitting the city.

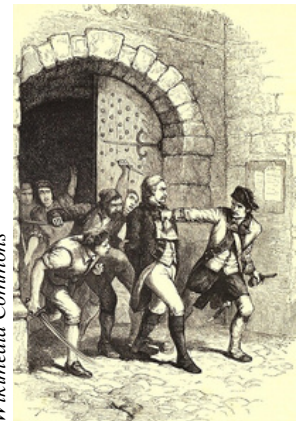
**April 10, 1781** – The Marquis de Lafayette wrote to George Washington about the lack of basic necessities for soldiers such as clothes, shoes, baggage and money.

**April 11, 1783** – Congress issued a proclamation declaring the end of the armed conflict against Great Britain.

**April 12, 1782** – In retaliation for the death of Loyalist Phillip White the previous month, Loyalists hanged American Captain Jack Huddy, a prisoner of war.

**April 13, 1778** – Thomas Jefferson turned 35. In 1778, he was serving in the Virginia House of Delegates and began revising the state's laws. He was elected governor the following year.

**April 14, 1778** – Titus Coburn, an African American man who served at the Battle of Bunker Hill and Saratoga, died at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.



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Joshua "Jack" Huddy

**April 15, 1783** – The Continental Congress passed the preliminary articles for the Treaty of Paris and sent word to Paris for the official treaty signing, which took place September 5, 1783.

**April 16, 1779** – The Van Schaick expedition was led against the Onondaga. It set off from Fort Schuyler and troops arrived, along with supplies, to ready for detachment. Over 550 troops were assigned to the expedition.

**April 17, 1779** – George Washington wrote to Major General Horatio Gates about the movement of troops to Rhode Island.

**April 18, 1775** – Paul Revere, along with William Dawes and Samuel Prescott, set out on a midnight ride to inform the towns of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts that the British Army, or "regulars", were marching towards them.



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Paul Revere

**April 19, 1775** – During the Battles of Lexington and Concord, British soldiers encountered American militia forces in Lexington, Massachusetts. It is not known who fired for the first shot, but afterwards both sides opened fire, beginning the armed conflict of the Revolutionary War.

**April 20, 1777** – New York adopted its first state constitution. The constitution called for 24 senators and 70 assemblymen to be elected, as well as a governor.



Battle of Lexington

**April 21, 1775**– In the early hours of the morning, forces under the order of Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia, seized the gunpowder from the public magazine in Williamsburg, Virginia. Colonists rally around the Governor's Mansion in Williamsburg to demand the return of the gunpowder.



Gunpowder Magazine

**April 22, 1774** – The New York Tea Party took place when the *London* arrived in the area. The captain originally denied having tea on board, but when it was discovered that he had 18 chests, the ship was boarded, the tea was thrown into the harbor and the empty chests were taken to the city to be used in a bonfire.

**April 23, 1778** – Commander John Paul Jones, naval hero and Father of the American Navy, attacked the coastal town of Whitehaven, England where 400 British merchant ships were located. He set fire to the southern fort in the port, which eventually spread to the town.

**April 24, 1782** – Benjamin Franklin wrote to John Jay about an act passed in Britain for exchanging American prisoners. Britain held nearly 1,100 American prisoners, who were all charged with high treason. The act allowed the king to acknowledge them as prisoners of war, which would allow for them to be exchanged and returned to America.



Whitehaven

**April 25, 1775** – Cato Smith, an enslaved person, enlisted in the company raised by his enslaver, William Smith, in Massachusetts. He died during the war on January 23, 1777.

**April 26, 1777** – After hearing that the British were going to attack a stockpile of provisions at Danbury, Connecticut, sixteen-year-old Sybil Ludington rode through the night to warn troops there.

**April 27, 1776** – Abigail Adams wrote to Mercy Otis Warren about letters she had sent to John Adams asking him to remember the women of the country when Congress was creating laws. She tried to recruit Warren to also write to him on behalf of women.



Sybil Ludington

**April 28, 1777** – In the final day of the Battle of Ridgefield, the British, under the command of William Tryon, fought their way through General Benedict Arnold's barricade and they won the battle.

**April 29, 1779** – Patriot forces under the command of Major General Benjamin Lincoln met with British forces under the command of Brigadier General Augustine Prevost near Purrysburg, South Carolina, as Prevost attempted to march towards Charleston.

**April 30, 1781** – Earlier in the spring, the HMS *Savage* anchored on the Potomac River near Mount Vernon. George Washington wrote to his cousin and Mount Vernon's acting manager, Lund Washington, to admonish him for boarding the ship and offering provisions to the British when they threatened to attack.



Connecticut History

Battle of Ridgefield

## May



Elias Boudinot

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**May 1, 1775** – Officer Epaphras Bull arrived in Stockbridge, Massachusetts on the way to capture Fort Ticonderoga. Nine days later American militia forces reached the fort and captured it.

**May 2, 1778** – Simeon Deane arrived at the Continental Congress in York, Pennsylvania with an alliance treaty from the French. The treaty is quickly ratified.

**May 3, 1779** – George Washington wrote a letter to Elias Boudinot, who served as an intelligence officer for him, describing ways to use codes and invisible ink in messages.

**May 4, 1775** – George Washington left Mount Vernon bound for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He would not return for more than six years.

**May 5, 1781** – During the Siege of Pensacola, Spanish General Don Bernardo de Gálvez opened fire on British forces. The Spanish took the city five days later.



Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon

**May 6, 1776** – The House of Burgesses met for the last time in Virginia, ending the colonial government in that state. Later that day, the Virginia Revolutionary Convention voted for independence from Great Britain and elected Patrick Henry as governor of the commonwealth.

**May 7, 1776** – Abigail Adams wrote to John Adams that she “can not say that I think you very generous to the Ladies, for whilst you are proclaiming peace and good will to Men... you insist upon retaining an absolute power over Wives.”

**May 8, 1777** – Button Gwinnett, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, left the office of Governor of Georgia when he failed to be elected by the new state legislature. He died 11 days later as a result of injuries received during a duel.



Button Gwinnett

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**May 9, 1754** – Benjamin Franklin published the “Join, or Die” political cartoon in the Pennsylvania Gazette. Picturing a dead snake in eight sections, with each section representing a state or region, and the words “Join, or Die” beneath the snake, the image was used throughout the American Revolution.



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“Join, Or Die”

**May 10, 1775** – Jude Hall, a formerly enslaved man from New Hampshire, enlisted in a New Hampshire regiment. He would go on to reenlist and serve in the Continental Army at the Battles of Bunker Hill, Saratoga, and Monmouth among others.



Thomas Sumter

**May 11, 1781** – General Thomas Sumter captured Orangeburg, South Carolina, a supply post on the route to Charleston, from the British forces.

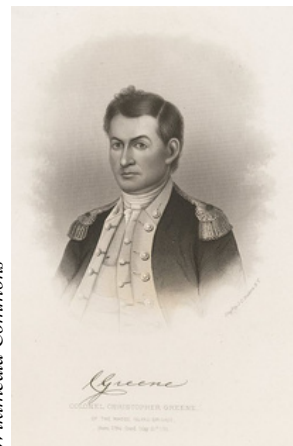
**May 12, 1775** – Two days after the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, Captain Seth Warner led American forces to capture the British garrison at Crown Point, supplying the army with badly needed artillery.

**May 13, 1783** – Named after Roman hero Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, the Society of Cincinnati was founded. The organization was created to maintain fraternal bonds between Revolutionary War officers.

**May 14, 1781** – Colonel Christopher Greene, commander of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment which consisted of two companies of formerly enslaved men, was killed by Loyalists at Pines Bridge, New York.

**May 15, 1778** – A delegation of 50 Oneida and Tuscarora warriors requested by George Washington to help fight against British raids in the area arrived at Valley Forge.

**May 16, 1778** – Members of the Wyandot and Mingo tribes attacked Fort Randolph near present-day Point Pleasant, West Virginia. The attack was possibly in response to the deaths of Cornstalk, Red Hawk, and Elinipsico, who had been killed by local residents earlier in the year.



Christopher Greene

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The Meschianza

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**May 17, 1777** – The Battle of Thomas Creek ended with a loss for the Continental Army when Continental troops under the command of Colonel John Baker were ambushed by British troops and Loyalists under the command of Colonel Thomas Brown. The battle ended the Second Florida campaign.

**May 18, 1778** – British officers in Philadelphia threw an elaborate farewell party for General Sir William Howe and Admiral Richard Howe. Called “Meschianza,” over 400 people attended, and the party received criticism by Philadelphia residents for its lavishness in a time of war.

**May 19, 1780** – Many New England states experienced a “dark day” when it was as dark as night at noon. The cause was a mystery until a century later when it was discovered that smoke from forest fires in Ontario caused the phenomenon.

**May 20, 1778** – British forces occupying Philadelphia were cut off from communication and supply routes by American forces commanded by the Marquis de Lafayette during the Battle of Barren Hill. They abandoned the city a month later.



New England “Dark Day”

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**May 21, 1776** – The Continental frigate *Raleigh*, named after Sir Walter Raleigh, was launched at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Prior to being captured by the British in 1778, she captured or burned three Royal Navy ships.

**May 22, 1781** – Patriot forces began a siege of Ninety Six, South Carolina, an important stronghold for the defense of the northwest portion of the state. The siege lasted until June 18th, and the Americans failed to take the city from the British.

**May 23, 1782** – Deborah Sampson, a teacher and weaver from Middleborough, Massachusetts, enlisted in the Continental Army under the name Robert Shurtliff. She served until October 25, 1783 when her identity was discovered.



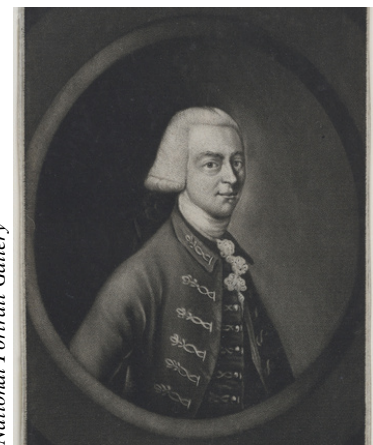
Deborah Sampson

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**May 24, 1775** – John Hancock was elected the president of the Second Continental Congress by the delegates. As president, he was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence the following year.

**May 25, 1781** – Richard Varick, who had previously served briefly as Benedict Arnold’s military secretary, was chosen as George Washington’s recording secretary.

**May 26, 1780** – The Battle of St. Louis occurred when British forces consisting mostly of Native Americans attacked Spanish forces in present-day St. Louis, Missouri, a French settlement in Spanish Louisiana. The British also attacked Patriot forces across the Mississippi River in Cahokia. Both settlements repulsed the attacks and the British forces retreated.



John Hancock

National Portrait Gallery



William Douglas

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**May 27, 1775** – The Battle of Chelsea Creek occurred when British troops invaded islands near Boston in an attempt to capture livestock and supplies. During the battle, the schooner HMS *Diana* ran aground and was abandoned by the British.

**May 28, 1777** – William Douglas, a merchant from Connecticut, died. He served in the French and Indian War as a teenager and rejoined the military at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. He also used his wealth to aid the Patriots.

**May 29, 1777** – Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia upholsterer, received 14 pounds, 12 shillings and 2 pence from the Continental Congress for making “ships colours”, or flags. This transaction is used as evidence for the story that Ross made the first flag, a story that was first told nearly 100 years later.

**May 30, 1777** – Shawnee warriors attacked Logan’s Fort in Kentucky. Over several days, the Shawnee and inhabitants of the fort exchanged gunfire. The Americans maintained hold of the fort, and on June 1, 1777, the Shawnee retreated.

**May 31, 1775** – A committee met at the Mecklenburg Courthouse in North Carolina to create and adopt the Mecklenburg Resolves, consisting of 20 articles of anti-British sentiment that resulted in the creation of a local regiment of the militia.



Betsy Ross

## June



Quatering British Soldiers

**June 1, 1779** – Benedict Arnold faced a court-martial that first convened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but would not conclude until December in Morristown, New Jersey. He was charged with 13 counts of misbehavior.

**June 2, 1774** – The British parliament renewed the Quartering Act, which demanded that colonists provide housing for British soldiers in barracks, and later in hotels and empty buildings. This act was one of the final acts to punish Boston for the Boston Tea Party.

**June 3, 1781** – Captain Jack Jouett, known as Virginia’s Paul Revere, rode his horse to alert the arrival of Lt. Col. Banastre “Bloody” Tarleton and his 250 British soldiers. Tarleton intended to capture Governor Thomas Jefferson and other officials.

**June 4, 1782** – American troops under the command of Colonel William Crawford were defeated at the Battle of Sandusky.



Battle of Sandusky

**June 5, 1781** – The British troops at Fort Augusta on the Savannah River, who were under siege by Generals Henry Lee and Andrew Pickens, surrendered.

**June 6, 1776** – Nathan Hale turned 21. He entered Yale at the age of 14 and he joined the Revolutionary War at the age 20, operating a spy for the Patriots. He was quickly discovered by the British and was hanged on September 22, 1776.

**June 7, 1776** – Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced a resolution for the independence of the colonies to the Continental Congress. His resolution declared that the colonies should be “free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.” The resolution was debated, but a vote was delayed until July 1, 1776.



Richard Henry Lee

**June 8, 1783** – In a letter from George Washington to the public about his upcoming resignation from the Army, he wrote “I left with the greatest reluctance, a retirement for which I have never ceased to sigh through a long and painfull absence.”

**June 9, 1783** – Cash Pallentine, an African American soldier, was discharged from the Continental Army. He enlisted in May 1777 and served in the Army during the encampment at Valley Forge and the Battle of Monmouth.



Ohio Statehouse

George Washington



Declaration Committee

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**June 10, 1775** – John Adams proposed that the men laying siege to Boston during the British occupation should be considered a “Continental Army” and suggested George Washington to lead them.

**June 11, 1776** – The Continental Congress appointed a committee to draft a declaration of independence from Great Britain. The men chosen for the committee were Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston.

**June 12, 1780** – The broadside “Sentiments of an American Woman” was published. Written by Esther De Berdt Reed, wife of the Pennsylvania governor, it was meant to encourage women to support the Revolution. It led women to go door to door collecting funds, and by July, 300,000 Continental dollars had been collected.



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Esther de Berdt Reed

**June 13, 1777** – The Marquis de Lafayette arrived in South Carolina. He would proceed to Philadelphia to petition Congress for a commission in the army. After suggesting that he serve without payment, he was commissioned as a major-general at the end of July.



Washington Appointed Commander-in-Chief

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**June 14, 1777** – The Continental Congress adopts the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States, stating that it should be “thirteen alternate stripes red and white” and that “the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation.”

**June 15, 1779** – Colonel Joseph Louis Cook (Akiatonharonkwen), an officer in the Continental Army of both African American and Native American descent, received his commission.

**June 16, 1775** – George Washington accepted his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

**June 17, 1775** – In the Battle of Bunker Hill, considered to be one of the first major battles of the American Revolution, 2,200 British soldiers fought against an inexperienced colonial militia who managed to hold their own. Though they eventually had to abandon their position, the battle inspired the thirteen colonies.



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The Battle of Bunker Hill

**June 18, 1778** – The British forces under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton leave Philadelphia after nine months of occupation. After the French entered the war and supported America, the British were not able to hold the city.

**June 19, 1778** – After six months, the Continental Army finally marched out of their winter quarters at Valley Forge. Washington remained their commander, and they headed to New Jersey where they would meet the British army who had just evacuated Philadelphia.



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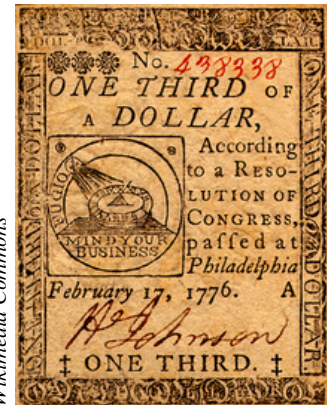
Washington at Valley Forge

**June 20, 1777** – Lewis Nicola, the mayor of Philadelphia, assembled a Corps of Invalids consisting of disabled veterans.

**June 21, 1779** – The Spanish declared war on Great Britain after signing a treaty of alliance with France earlier in the year.

**June 22, 1775** – The Second Continental Congress authorized the printing of \$2 million in paper bills called “Continental” to help fund the Continental Army.

**June 23, 1775** – George Washington set out from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on his way to Boston, Massachusetts with two other major generals. Before he leaves, he wrote his wife Martha Washington a short letter let her know his plans and that he may not be able to write again soon.



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Continental Currency

**June 24, 1778** – In the days leading to the Battle of Monmouth, a total eclipse of the sun was seen from New England to the Carolinas.

**June 25, 1781** – George Washington wrote to John Hancock about drawing back Continental Army troops who were present on Northern frontiers because “there is very great reason to apprehend an incursion of the Enemy from Canada.”

**June 26, 1777** – The Battle of Short Hills was General Howe’s last attempt to lure the Continental Army out of their positions in the Watchung Mountains. General William Alexander held them off, allowing Washington time to retreat back into the mountains and stifling British opposition.

**June 27, 1778** – General Charles Lee’s vanguard readying for the Battle of Monmouth was within striking distance of the British army camped around Monmouth Courthouse. They had orders to march the next morning and pin the rear of the British force so Washington could deliver a blow that would hopefully result in a win.



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General Charles Lee

**June 28, 1778** – The Battle of Monmouth took place, with George Washington entrusting Charles Lee to command. Lee lacked confidence in his soldiers, failing to press their advantage against the British. Eventually Washington handed over command to Marquis de Lafayette and General “Mad” Anthony Wayne who secured victory.

**June 29, 1776** – Private Daniel McCurtin watched at the British fleet enters New York Harbor and wrote that he “thought all London was in afloat.”



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Battle of Monmouth

**June 30, 1778** – In the Battles of Fort Mifflin and Alligator Creek the Continental Army made a third attempt at capturing St. Augustine. After splitting forces one half went and captured Fort Mifflin, while the other moved to attack British forces blocking the King’s Road.

*This document was compiled by the staff of the  
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