

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Source: Historical Documents Company, 1962:

1775

- 62 April 18--British troops march out of Boston toward Concord. Paul Revere and William Dawes ride to alarm the countryside.
- 1 April 19-- War begins at Lexington and Concord.
- 2 May 10-- Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys seize fort Ticonderoga.
- 63 May 10--Second Continental Congress assembles in Philadelphia's State House (Independence Hall).
- 63 June 15--Congress elects Washington to command Continental Army.
- 3 June 17--British win Battle of Bunker Hill at a cost of 1,054 men.
- 3 October 13--Congress establishes Navy.
- 4 October 17--British burn Falmouth (Portland) Maine.
- 5 November 2--Americans under Montgomery capture St. Johns, Canada.
- 6 November 13--Montgomery's forces capture Montreal.
- 7 December 30--American assault on Quebec beaten off.

1776

- January 15--Publication of Tom Paine's "Common Sense" sparks movement toward independence.
- 8 February 27--1100 North Carolina patriots crush Tory force of 1600 at Moore's Creek.
- 62 March 17--British evacuate Boston.
- 62 May 2--France begins to supply colonies with war material
- 7 May 4--Americans abandon siege of Quebec and begin retreat from Canada.
- 7 May 10--Congress advises colonies to form new governments.
- 7 June 7--R.H. Lee moves in Congress, "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."
- 8 June 28--British attack on Charleston beaten off.
- 8 July 2--Colonies declare themselves independent.
- 8 July 4--Declaration of Independence adopted.
- 8 August 2--Members of Congress sign the engrossed copy of the Declaration.
- 10 August 27--British win battle of Long Island, trap Washington against East River.
- 10 August 29 and 30--Americans escape from Long Island in a heavy fog.
- 11 September 15 to November 19--Westchester Campaign. On Sept. 16, British attack on Harlem Heights is repulsed. Oct. 18th British land at Pell's Point, but are halted in Battle of Pell's Point. On Oct. 28th the British are checked again at White Plains; but, on Nov. 16 they storm and capture Fort Washington on the Manhattan side of the Hudson; and on the 18th Fort Lee across the river with its irreplaceable cannon and stores. Is abandoned and Washington retreats across New Jersey.
- 12 October 11--British defeat Benedict Arnold's Lake Chaplain Fleet at Valor Island.
- 13 December 25--Washington ends retreat and recrosses the Delaware into New Jersey with 2,400 men at McConkey's Ferry.
- 14 December 26--Ragged, hungry, freezing Continentals captures Trenton and 800 of its Hessian garrison at a cost of four men wounded.

1777

- 15 January 3--Americans win Battle of Princeton.
16 April 25,26--Continental supply dump at Danbury Connecticut, destroyed by British raiding party.
16 June 14--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, representing a new constellation."
2 July 5--Americans abandon Fort Ticonderoga to Burgoyne's invading army.
17 July 7--American rear guard defeated in small but hot fight at Hubbardton, Vermont.
17 July 27--Lafayette arrives in Philadelphia to volunteer his services.
18 August 3--British and Indians lay siege to Fort Stanwix, New York.
19 August 6--Militia marching to relieve Fort Stanwix ambushed and stopped at Oriskany.
20 August 16--2400 Militia under General Stark smash Hessian foraging party at Bennington, killing or capturing 900.
20 August 22--Arnold raises siege of Fort Stanwix.
21 August 25--British Army under Howe lands at Head of Elk for attack on Philadelphia.
22 September 11--British defeat Washington at Brandywine.
23 September 19--Burgoyne's invasion checked by Americans at Freeman's Farm.
24 September 20--British surprise 1500 Americans at Paoli, Penn. kill or capture 300 at a cost of 8 or nine men.
63 September 26--Howe occupies Philadelphia.
25 October 4--Americans attack at Germantown and are beaten off with heavy loss.
28 October 6--British force, marching from New York to help Burgoyne, captures Forts Montgomery and Clinton.
27 October 7--Burgoyne attacks Bemis Heights and is defeated, losing a thousand men.
28 October 17--Burgoyne surrenders himself and the 5700 men of his army at Saratoga.
29 October 22--Hessians assault Fort Mercer and are driven off.
30 November 15--British bombardment flattens Fort Mifflin.
30 November 20--Evacuation of Fort Mercer opens the Delaware to British ships.
31 December 18--Continental Army camps at Valley Forge, where naked, starving unpaid troops suffer terrible hardships, but Army survives.

1778

- 31 February 6--France signs treaty of alliance with United States.
31 February 23-- Washington attacks British on their retreat from Philadelphia. Sights drawn battle at Monmouth, N.J.
33 July 4--Indians massacre settlers in Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley.
34 July 4--George Rogers Clark captures Kaskaski.
35 August 8--French and American forces besiege Newport, R.I.
35 August 29--British attack on American positions at Newport is repulsed.
36 November 11- Indians massacre settlers in Cherry Valley.
37 December 29- British occupy Savannah.

1779

- 38 Feb 14-300 Georgia and South Carolina militia attack and foul a force of 700 Tories at Battle Creek, killing 40, capturing 75.
- 39 February 23- George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes after epic march across flooded prairie.
- 40 July 8- British raiders burn Fairfield, Connecticut.
- 41 July 11--British loot and burn Norwalk.
- 42 July 15-16--Americans under "Mad Anthony" Wayne storm and capture Stony Point and its garrison of 680 men.
- 43 August 19--Americans led by "Light-Horse Harry" Lee storm Paulus Hook.
- 44 August 29--Expedition commanded by John Sullivan defeats Indians at Newtown (Elmira) and marches on to destroy Indian towns.
- 37 October 9--Allied attempt to recapture Savannah fails.
- 45 December 1--Continental Army camps at Morristown for a cold, snowy winter of suffering worse than Valley Forge.

1780

- 9 May 12--British capture Charleston and its garrison of 6,000.
- 46 May 29--270 British attack and destroy patriot force of 400 at Waxhaw Creek.
- 47 June 20--Force of 400 Patriots smash gathering of 1300 North Carolina Tories, savage fight at Ramseur's Mill.
- 48 August 6--Patriots commanded by Thomas Sumter defeat Tories at Hanging Rock, South Carolina.
- 49 August 16--British rout American Southern army at Camden.
- 49 September 25--Arnold's plot to surrender West Point is discovered.
- 50 October 7--900 frontiersmen wipe our force of 1,100 Tories at King's Mountain.
- October 14--Washington names Nathaniel Greene to command remnants of Southern army.

1781

- January 1--Naked, ill-clad troops of Pennsylvania line mutiny, and demand discharges for those who enlisted for three years of the War.
- 51 January 17--British attack Daniel Morgan's detachment and are wiped out in Battle of Cowpens.
- February 20--Congress appoints Robert Morris Superintendent of finance.
- March 2--Articles of Confederation, our first frame of government, is signed by Congress.
- 52 March 15--British defeat Greene's army in Battle of Guilford Court House but suffer crippling losses.
- 61 March 18--Victorious British, are led by Cornwallis, in the retreat which lead to Yorktown.
- 53 April 23--Small American force captures Fort Watson, South Carolina, and its 120 man garrison.
- April 25--Greene is defeated again at Hobkirk's Hill. He reports, "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again."
- May 11--Americans capture Orangeburg and its garrison of 85 men.
- May 12--Americans capture Fort Motte.
- 57 May 15--Americans seize Fort Granby.
- 64 June 9--Americans recapture Augusta, take 600 prisoners.
- 58 June 19--British repel assault on Ninety Six, South Carolina.
- 59 July 8--Anthony Wayne's 900 men attack Cornwallis at Green Springs Farm and are driven off.
- 60 September 17--members of the Constitutional Convention meet in Independence Hall and sign the Constitution.
- 61 October 16--After a siege Cornwallis surrenders his 8,000 men in Yorktown and signs the Articles of Capitulation.

THE FRUITS OF VICTORY

1789

March 4--First Congress of the United States meets in New York's Federal Hall. Proceedings are started on the Bill of Rights.
April 30--Washington is inaugurated President.

1791

December 15--Bill of rights is added to the Constitution, receiving ratification by the required number of States.

Transcribed by Compatriot Bill Bigham February 2001.
