

## The United States of America

Gradually, more and more states were added to the United States of America. Each time that a new state joined the Union, a new star was added to the American flag. In 1959, Alaska and Hawaii became states, bringing the number of states in the USA (and the number of stars on the flag) to fifty.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## First Moon Landing

On July 20, 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first human being to set foot on the moon. To prepare for this important step forward in humanity's exploration of space, the United States had landed five unmanned *Surveyor* spacecraft on the moon, and sent a manned spacecraft around it. Lunar orbiters had also photographed over 98% of the lunar surface,

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## I Have a Dream

In 1963, two hundred thousand civil rights marchers converged on the Mall in Washington D.C. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" address to the crowd that gathered. Dr. King supported a non-violent approach to the problems of segregation and racial discrimination until his assassination in 1968.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## Silent Spring

It took Rachel Carson four years to complete her book *Silent Spring*, which was inspired by reports of large bird kills on Cape Cod following the spraying of DDT. *Silent Spring* played a major role in establishing the environmental movements in America, and around the world. Rachel Carson's work was also responsible for the preservation of such species as the peregrine falcon, which was brought to the brink of extinction,

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### The Union and the Confederacy

The Civil War took more American lives than any other war in history. Fighting broke out on April 12, 1861, when troops from the Confederate States (South) fired on Fort Sumter, Union (North) outpost. Historians tend to agree that the war began for a number of reasons, related to the different ways of life and the different beliefs that were to be found in the North and in the South.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Sinking of the Lusitania

The First World War (or "Great War") began in Europe in 1914. At this time, America decided to remain neutral, and did not join the conflict. On May 7, 1915, an explosion (attributed to a single torpedo fired from a German submarine) led to the sinking of the ocean liner *Lusitania*, and the loss of over 1,000 lives, including over 120 Americans. This attack, the sinking of several U.S. cargo ships, and other actions by the German government, finally led to the entry of the United States into the war in 1917. The war ended on November 11, 1918, and we now celebrate that day as *Veteran's Day*.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Goddard's Rocket Research

Dr. Robert H. Goddard is recognized as an American rocket science pioneer. In 1919 he described the kind of rocket flight that would be needed if human beings were to reach the moon. In 1926, Goddard launched the world's first liquid-fueled rocket. Goddard also developed the first smokeless powder rocket, and the first automatic steering device.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Maria Montessori in the U.S.A.

Maria Montessori's first school opened in Rome, in 1907. Word of her work with children quickly spread, and in 1915, Montessori traveled to San Francisco to attend the Panama Pacific International Exposition. While in the United States, Montessori delivered a series of lectures, and visited the glass-walled demonstration classroom at the Exposition.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002 © Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### "Northeaster" by Winslow Homer

Winslow Homer was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1836. He worked as an apprentice lithographer, took a few lessons in painting from Frederick Rondel, then took a position as a freelance magazine illustrator. He traveled widely, but settled in Prout's Neck, Maine, where he painted the powerful marine and maritime works for which he is most remembered. N.C. Wyeth once said: "Homer painted the sea for the first time in history as it really looked".

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### John Philip Sousa

Sousa began his musical studies when he was six. As time went on, he studied voice, violin, piano, flute, cornet, baritone, trombone and alto horn. When he was thirteen, Sousa tried to run away from home to join a circus band, so his father decided to enlist him as an apprentice marine. Five years later he published his first composition. Sousa became known as "The March King", composing such pieces as "Thunderer", "Liberty Bell", and "The Stars and Stripes Forever".

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Wilbur and Orville Wright

Orville Wright was creative, and likely to act without thinking something through. Wilbur Wright was steady, careful and determined. When the Wright Brothers focused their attention on a quest to build a motorized aircraft, these qualities complemented one another, and history was made. The world's first powered flight, with Orville at the controls, took place on December 17, 1903. The aircraft traveled 120 feet in 12 seconds.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002 © Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky. As a boy, Lincoln learned to split logs, plow fields, cut and husk corn, and thresh grain. When he decided to study law, he sometimes walked 20 miles to borrow a textbook. Abraham Lincoln was first elected President in 1861, the year that also saw the American Civil War break out. He was assassinated early in his second term, while attending a play at Ford's Theater in Washington D. C.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### **The Trail of Tears**

The Cherokee Nation called Georgia home until, in 1838, the United States government began a compulsory relocation of the Cherokee people from Georgia to Oklahoma. Men, women and children were forced to travel 1,000 miles, leaving in early fall, and journeying through the brutal winter of 1838-1839. Approximately 4,000 Cherokee people died, and from that time on, the survivors referred to the route as "Nunna daul Tsuny", or "The Trail Where They Cried". We now call the route "The Trail of Tears".

Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### **First U.S Postage Stamps**

The First U.S. postage stamps were issued in 1847. The sheets of stamps were not perforated, and so they had to be separated with scissors, or they were just tom apart.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### **The Louisiana Purchase**

In 1803, the United States of America paid France 15 million dollars for the Louisiana Territory. The land purchased stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border. Thirteen states were eventually carved from the Louisiana Territory, which had an area of 828,000 square miles.

Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### **First Passenger Railroad**

By 1825, seaports such as Baltimore, Charleston and Boston were struggling to keep traffic moving to and from the western territories. Canals and roadways were not practical, and so interest focused on railroad systems. On August 25, 1830, Peter Cooper's locomotive "The Tom Thumb" pulled a train of officials from Baltimore to Ellicott Mills, inaugurating the development of America's rail system.

© Greg .T. MacDonald 2002

### California Gold Rush

In 1848, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California. News of the gold strike traveled quickly, and from 1848 through 1849, these *Forty-Niners* swelled the population of California from 15,000 to over 100,000. A variety of methods, including gold panning, were used to find the gold. Very few people found enough gold to make them rich, however, and, once cured of their "gold fever", some settled in California as ranchers and farmers.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Clara Barton

During the Civil War, Clara Barton carried supplies to soldiers and nursed the wounded. Many people called her "The Angel of the Battlefield". When Barton became interested in the Red Cross organization, her campaign led to the establishment of the American branch of the Red Cross. It was also Clara Barton who widened the scope of Red Cross activities to include relief for people facing hardships caused by factors other than war.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Mark Twain

Samuel Langhorne Clemens began signing his work "Mark Twain" in 1863. "Mark Twain" was a Mississippi River phrase that meant "two fathoms deep". Mark Twain held many jobs, including typesetter and steamboat pilot. His writing is known for its authentic language and for its humor. Mark Twain's best-known books are *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, *Tom Sawyer*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, and *Huckleberry Finn*.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### The Oregon Trail

The Oregon Trail was the only practical way for early settlers to cross the Rocky Mountains. Hundreds of thousands made the difficult, 2,000 mile trip west, many of them walking barefoot. One in ten of the people who started the trip did not survive to reach the end of the Trail. Even today, wagon ruts from this great emigration can still be found along the Oregon Trail, which gradually fell into disuse when the transcontinental railroad was eventually completed.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## Tobacco

Tobacco became an important crop in the colonies. It was smoked in pipes, and other tobacco users chewed a preparation made from tobacco leaves. Tobacco powder, known as *snuff*, was inhaled through the nose, often causing a resounding sneeze.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## The Thirteen Colonies

Eventually, thirteen British colonies were established in the New World. We now think of these colonies as the original thirteen colonies of the United States of America, as they were the states that ratified the Constitution. The Thirteen Colonies were: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## Lewis and Clark

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led an expedition commissioned by Thomas Jefferson, who believed in the existence of a "Northwest Passage". Lewis and Clark traveled from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean, then returned, a distance of about 8,000 miles. Sacagawea, a Shoshone Native American woman, helped the party as an interpreter, assisting Lewis and Clark to make peaceful contact with the Native American groups that they encountered.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## Liberty Bell

Britain had passed a series of laws that led to a rising swell of rebellion in the colonies, and such acts as "The Boston Tea Party". The Revolutionary War began in 1775, when British forces and American patriots clashed in Massachusetts. On July 8, 1776, the Liberty Bell called citizens to hear the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, which had been adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## The Great Depression

In October 1929, the values of stocks plunged. Thousands of people lost large amounts of money, and some people lost everything. Banks failed, factories and stores closed, and millions of Americans were left without jobs. Charities and the government provided food for many people, who often waited in "bread lines" and who sometimes lived in shacks made from old crates and flattened tin cans.

Greg I. MacDonald 2002

## Television

In 1875, George Carey of Boston suggested that pictures could be transmitted from one place to another. John Baird publicly demonstrated the first television in London, in 1926, using a mechanical disk system. In America, Vladimir Zworykin developed a device that reproduced scanned pictures on a picture tube. (His TV. screen had an area of one square inch!) In 1927, Philo T. Farnsworth of Utah transmitted a television image, and by 1939, during the World Fair in New York, regular television transmission had begun.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## Babe Ruth

George Herman ("Babe") Ruth hit 714 home runs during his baseball career, a record that lasted until 1974. Babe Ruth played 72 games in which he hit two or more home runs! In 1936, Ruth was one of the first five players to be elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## D-Day

World War Two lasted from 1939 through 1945. The Allies devised a plan to retake mainland Europe by invading from England. The Axis powers had constructed heavy fortifications along the coast, but nevertheless, on June 6, 1944, 2,700 ships crossed the English Channel, landing 176,000 soldiers along a sixty-mile coastal front. It was D-Day, and the effort to retake Europe had begun.

© Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### Leif Erikson

The first European to visit North America was Leif Erikson, a Viking who in A.D. 1002 set sail from a settlement in Greenland. He reached a land that he called *Vinland*, after the grapevines that he discovered there.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Cultures of the First Americans

As people settled across North America, they found different conditions. The climate, landscape, plants and animals were not always the same, and so the various groups found different ways to satisfy their needs. They created different cultures, with their own traditions and ways of life.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Bearing Dial

The Vikings (or *Norsemen*) were able to navigate by using the stars. They did not have any charts, but they did use a kind of compass called a "Bearing Dial". At noon, a notch indicating "south" was lined up with a point on the horizon directly below the sun. The course was then set using the pointer.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### The Santa Maria

Christopher Columbus believed that he could reach Asia by sailing due west, rather than by sailing around the coast of Africa. In 1492, he set sail with 3 ships: the *Nina*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*. He had underestimated the circumference of the earth by about 25%, but eventually he reached the island of San Salvador, which he believed to be an island near the coast of China or Japan. Columbus conducted further explorations, then returned to Spain, arriving on March 15, 1493.

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## Lacrosse

Lacrosse was played for religious purposes, as an alternative to war, and to train young men for war. Games would last for days, stopping at sunset, and beginning at sunrise the next day. Goals could be from 500 yards to several miles apart. Injuries to players could be severe, as there were no rules, and no protective equipment was worn. It's easy to understand why the Iroquois name for the game was *Tewaarathon*, which meant "little brother of war"!

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## Music

Song and dance were important parts of the cultures of the first peoples to settle in North America. Gourd maracas, tortoise-shell rattles, flutes and drums were some of the instruments used for musical performances.

© Greg I. MacDonald 2002

## Mound Builders

In some areas of the continent, Native Americans built large mounds as tombs for their leaders, and as religious centers. The principal temple in the city of Cahokia was built on a mound approximately 100 feet high, 360 feet long, and 160 feet wide. Another mound, constructed in the shape of a huge snake, was almost a quarter of a mile long.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## Pictographs

Native Americans used signs to communicate with one another. Pictographs have been found on rocks. Some groups used bead patterns, called "wampum", Still other groups left messages on birch bark. This message says: "Gone to my beaver-trapping camp, four looks away. Back in two days".

© Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### **Migration of the Clovis People**

During the Pleistocene Epoch, the first human beings migrated from Asia to North America across the Bering Strait land bridge. Those first human arrivals on our continent were probably nomadic people who hunted herd animals such as reindeer and mammoths. Now we refer to these first settlers as the "Clovis" people, and we know that they gradually spread throughout North America.

Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### **Hunting and Gathering**

Hunter-Gatherer cultures catch shellfish and fish, hunt the animals that they find across the land, and collect roots, seeds and fruits. In North America, these people discovered that the bison were not frightened of wolves, because the herds were able to protect themselves from these predators. Some Native American hunters disguised themselves with a wolf's skin, and could then creep close to a bison herd, with a better chance of accurately firing their arrows.

© Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### **The Anasazi**

The need for shelter was satisfied in many ways by the first settlers in North America. In some parts of the continent, huge lodges were constructed from wood. Elsewhere, teepees made from animal skins were portable homes for families. In the more arid parts of the continent, groups like the Anasazi constructed their homes from terraced stone and adobe.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### **Stone Tools**

The first people to settle in North America made their tools from stone, a technology that we call "stone knapping". They used many different techniques to create knives, arrow heads, hammers, chisels, arrow straighteners and axes. The stone parts of these tools were shaped according to the method that would be used to fasten them to the wooden hafts and shafts.

© Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### The Quadrant

One of the instruments used for navigation at sea was the quadrant. It was a metal plate in the shape of a quarter-circle. Hanging from the center of the circle was a weight on a string. The navigator would sight the North Star along the edge of the quadrant, and the point at which the string crossed the scale on the edge showed the star's altitude (angle above the horizon). This provided a close approximation of the ship's latitude.

Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### The Golden Hind

In late 1578, Sir Francis Drake, aboard his flagship *The Golden Hind*, sailed through the deadly Straits of Magellan, finding a course that led north along the Pacific South American coast, and then further north to North America. He found a safe harbor in a region that he called "Nova Albion". Before embarking on the voyage back to England, Drake set up an engraved metal plate as a monument. The metal plate has never been found.

© Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### The Columbian Exchange

The *Columbian Exchange* is a term coined by the historian Alfred Crosby to describe the results of the cultural and biological exchange that took place following the discovery of the "New World" by Christopher Columbus. Foods, weapons, animals, plants, religions, and languages were exchanged as contact between the New World and the Old World continued.

Greg I MacDonald 2002

### Early Maps of the New World

During the period of exploration, maps gave a view of the world as the explorers expected to find it. As navigation techniques improved from "dead reckoning" to the use of instruments such as the astrolabe and the quadrant, the accuracy of maps was improved. It was suspected during these times that a "Great Southern Continent" existed, although it is clear from maps drawn up that cartographers of the day had little information about the shape and size of this land mass.

© Greg J, MacDonald 2002

### **Punishments**

The *pillory*, which stood in the village square, was one of the devices used to punish people for minor offenses. The prisoner, whose head would often be shaved, was held in an uncomfortable position, and subjected to the jeers of passers-by, who would often also hurl eggs and even stones at the unfortunate victim.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### **Slave Trade**

During the Colonial Period, hundreds of thousands of people were transported from Africa to the Americas, where they would live as slaves. Crowded into the hold of ships, many of these people died, or became too ill to be sold at auction in the New World.

© Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### **Flint, Steel and Tinder Box**

Until the safety match was invented in 1855, many people used flint and steel to start a fire. Striking steel with flint created sparks, which ignited tinder (anything that caught fire easily). The burning tinder could then be used to start a larger fire.

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### **Quill Pen**

When it was time to write a letter, people in the colonies would often use a quill pen and ink. The quill pen was made from a feather, which had been carefully prepared with a sharp blade.

© Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### Exploration Routes

Explorers came into contact with North America from the east, the west, the north and the south. They came in search of gold, or to acquire new lands for the royal families left behind in Europe, and who sometimes financed the voyages.

Greg I. MacDonald 2002

### The Lost Colony

On August 18, 1587, over 100 men, women and children came ashore on Roanoke Island, where they were to establish a colony. Soon after, Virginia Dare became the first English child to be born on American soil. When John White returned to the island exactly three years later, the settlement was deserted. He found the word *CROATOAN* carved onto a palisade plank, and the letters *CRG* carved into a tree. What happened to the colonists remains a mystery to this day ...

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### The Mayflower and the Pilgrims

The *Mayflower* reached what is now called Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts in December 1620. The sea-weary Pilgrims found a stream with clear water, and a high hill that would be ideal for a fort. They decided that they had found their new home. The first year was very difficult for the colonists. About half of the people were lost to poor food, sickness, and the fierce winter cold. Native Americans showed the Pilgrims how to plant corn, pumpkins and beans, and in the autumn of 1621, the two groups celebrated the first "Thanksgiving".

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

### Glass Armonica

Benjamin Franklin saw music played on a set of goblets filled with various amounts of water, and he was inspired to develop a new instrument, which he called the "Glass Armonica". Once, when he returned home from a voyage, Franklin went up to the attic of his Philadelphia home, and began to play on the Armonica, which his wife had never heard. The music drifted down to his wife's bedroom, and she awoke, convinced that she had died and gone to heaven. It seemed to her that she was listening to the music of angels!

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

A.D. 1850

A.D. 1914

# **Exploration New Nation**

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## **Native Americans**

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## **Colonial Times**

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

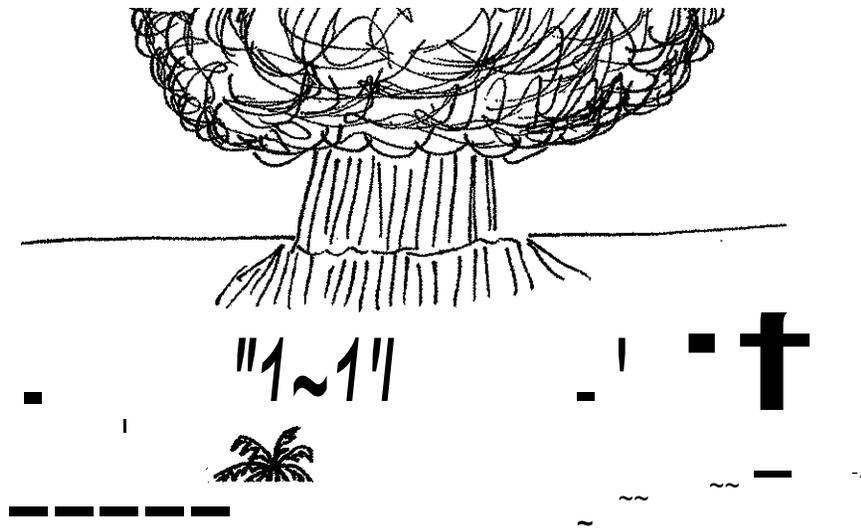
## **Independence and Expansion**

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## **Reform and Reconstruction**

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002



A.D. 1492

Greg I. MacDonald 2002

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

A.D. 1600 A.D. 1750

Greg J. MacDonald 2002

© Greg J. MacDonald 2002

## **Bikini Atoll**

Bikini Atoll is one of the 29 atolls and five islands that make up the Marshall Islands. It was the site of a series of nuclear bomb tests that began with *Operation Crossroads* in 1946. Inhabitants of the island were moved to other islands, since the area was poisoned by the radioactivity which resulted from the tests.