



Continental Army at Valley Forge

December, 1777-June, 1778 A.D. A Pennsylvania village on the Schuylkill River, northwest of Philadelphia, served as headquarters for George Washington's Continental Army. The encampment suffered severe winters, illness, and inadequate food and clothing, losing several men to exposure and desertion.



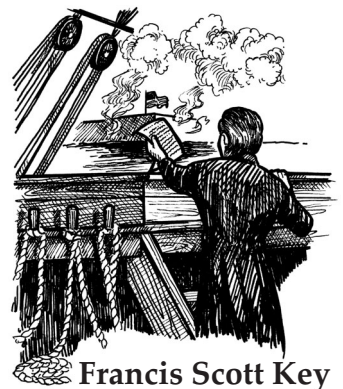
Daniel Webster

1782-1852 A.D. American orator and statesman known for his literary skill throughout his career as senator and in the courts of law.



Articles of Confederation

1781 A.D. The first constitution written in 1776-1777, this initial federal system was established to define the powers of Continental Congress and bring unity among the new states. It consisted of a preamble and 13 articles. It was succeeded by the Constitution we know today in 1789.



Francis Scott Key

1779-1843 A.D. American lawyer and author whose witness of the British attack on Ft. McHenry inspired him to write the poem *The Star-Spangled Banner*. It was set to an 18th century tune, called *To Anacreon in Heaven*, and adopted as our national anthem in 1931.



Battle of Yorktown

1781 A.D. Located on the York River in southeast Virginia, Yorktown was the site where the British troops, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, met their defeat against American and French troops. The result of this battle convinced the British that American freedom was inevitable.



Treaty of Paris

September 3, 1783 A.D. For months John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay diplomatically negotiated with England, resulting in the signing of a treaty that terminated the American Revolution, with Great Britain solemnly acknowledging America's Independence.



Battle of Saratoga

June-October, 1777 A.D. A village in eastern New York on the west bank of the Hudson River hosted two battles, both with victorious outcomes for the Patriots. The British army under the leadership of General Burgoyne was forced to surrender, turning the war in favor of the Americans and encouraging the French to assist with military aid.



Martin Van Buren

1782-1862 A.D. The 8th president of the United States (1837-1841). He had served as Vice President under Andrew Jackson before his presidential election, and settled boundary disputes between Canada and Maine.



Zachary Taylor

1784-1850 A.D. The 12th president of the United States (1849-1850) and an American Whig and statesman. Because he shared in his soldiers' hardships during the Mexican-American War, this national hero took on the nickname "Old Rough and Ready."



Washington Irving

1783-1859 A.D. American historian, essayist, and author, noted for his tales, *Rip Van Winkle*, *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and the biography, *Life of Washington*, among others.