The Important Dates of the Nineteenth Century

A Chronological History of the Stirring Events of the Past One Hundred Years.

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America has led in the history of the world for the past century. The rise within practically 100 years of the struggling American colonies to the greatest republic the world has ever known has attracted greater attention than Napoleon's attempted conquest of Europe. Because of these facts there is necessarily given a greater number of dates relating to the United States than to any other nation, and, that space might be saved, the name of this country is not always used, but dates in which the country is not mentioned may be taken to mean the United States.—Editor.

1801.

Jan. 1—Legislative union established between Great Britain and Ireland.

NAPOLEON

Born Jan. 7, 1768.—Died May 5, 1821.

Feb. 9—Treaty of peace between France and Austria.

Feb. 18—Thomas Jefferson elected president by vote of the house of representatives because of tie in electoral vote between himself and Aaron Burr, the latter becoming vice president.

March 21—French army in Egypt finally defeated by English.

March 24—Emperor Paul of Russia assassinated.

May 9—St. Domingo republic founded by Toussaint.

June 10—Tripoli declared war against United States.

Dec. 7—President Jefferson inaugurated system of sending written messages to congress. Since this date no president has addressed congress orally.

1802.

March 16—Law passed establishing military academy at West Point. Same law reduced standing army to one regiment of artillery and two of infantry.

March 27—Treaty of peace signed at Amiens between France and England.

April 14—Present naturalization laws passed.

April—Library of congress first catalogued. It contained 964 volumes and nine maps.

May 19—French Legion of Honor instituted by Napoleon.

May—Washington, D. C., incorporated as a city.

Aug. 2—Napoleon elected first consul of France.

First electric light with carbon points produced in England.

1803.

Feb. 19—Ohio admitted to the nion.

April 30—Territory of Louisiana purchased from France for $15,000,000. Territory consists of 1,171,931 square miles.

May 18—England declared war against France.

Aug. 9—Robert Fulton started his first steamboat on the River Seine in France. It was only partially successful.

Oct. 31—United States frigate Philadelphia captured by Tripolitans in harbor of Tripoli.

1804.

Feb. 16—United States frigate Philadelphia burned by Lieut. Stephen Decatur and American crew in harbor of Tripoli.

Feb.—Impeachment trial of Samuel Chase, associate justice of the supreme court, began. He was acquitted in March, 1805.

May 14—Lewis and Clark expedition started from Mississippi river for Pacific coast.

July 11—Alexander Hamilton killed in duel with Aaron Burr at Weehawken on the Hudson.

Aug. 11—Francis II., emperor of Germany, abdicated to become emperor of Austria.

Sept. 1—Planet Juno discovered by M. Harding. It is 254,000,000 miles from the earth.

Sept. 25—Twelfth amendment to constitution adopted.

Dec. 2—Napoleon crowned emperor of France.

1805.

March 4—Thomas Jefferson and George Clinton inaugurated.

May 26—Napoleon crowned king of Italy at Milan.

June 3—Treaty of peace signed between Tripoli and the United States.

June 30—Territory of Michigan formed from Indiana.

Aug. 5—Austria declared war against France.

Oct. 21—English fleet under Nelson destroyed French fleet at Trafalgar. Nelson killed.

Dec. 2—Battle of Austerlitz; Russians and Austrians defeated by Napoleon.

Dec. 26—Treaty of peace signed between France and Austria at Presburg.

1806.

Jan. 23—William Pitt died in England, aged 47.

March 29—Congress authorized the building of a national road from Cumberland, Md., to the Ohio river.

May 16—An "order in council" issued by Great Britain declared the whole coast of Europe under blockade.

Oct. 14—Napoleon defeated Prussians at Jena.

Nov. 21—Berlin decree issued by Napoleon. It declared a blockade of the British isles, ordered all Englishmen in countries occupied by French troops to be treated as prisoners of war, forbade all trade in English merchandise, and several other things.

Dec. 30—Turkey declared war against Russia.

The tailors formed first trade union in the United States.

1807.

March 25—Abolition of slave trade in England.

July 7—Treaty of peace signed between France and Russia at Talsit.

July—American ports closed to the British and British ships ordered from American waters.

Aug. 11—Successful voyage of Robert Fulton's steamboat Clermont from New York to Albany.

Sept. 1—Aaron Burr acquitted of charge of treason for attempting to organize new empire in northern Mexico.

Nov. 7—Russia declared war against England.

Nov. 11—A British "order in council" issued that forbade neutral nations to trade with France or her allies except under tribute to England.

Dec. 17—Napoleon's Milan decree issued. It forbade trade with England and her colonies, and ordered confiscated every vessel paying tribute or submitting to English search.

Dec. 21—Embargo act passed forbidding American vessels to leave for foreign ports.

1808.

Jan. 1—Act prohibiting importation of slaves into country became law.

May 5—Charles IV. and son of Spain abdicated in favor of Napoleon.

July —Beginning of peninsular war between France and Spain.

1809.

March 4—James Madison and George Clinton inaugurated.

LORD NELSON

Born Sept. 29, 1758.—Killed Oct. 21, 1805.

March 15—Embargo act, excepting as to Great Britain and France, repealed.

March 29—Gustavus IV. of Sweden compelled to abdicate.

April —Alliance between England and Austria against France formed.

July 5-6—Napoleon defeated Austrians at Wagram.

July 6—Pope Pius VII. captured by order of Napoleon and carried prisoner to France.

Sept. 17—Treaty of peace between Sweden and Russia signed at Fredericksham.

Oct. 14—Treaty of peace between Austria and France signed at Schonbrunn.

Dec. 31—Josephine divorced by Napoleon.

1810.

Jan. 6—Treaty of peace between Denmark and France signed at Paris.

Feb. 18—Andreas Hofer executed at Mantua, Italy.

March 11—Napoleon and Maria Louisa married at Vienna.

April 30—A general post office established in Washington under the postmaster general.

May 10—First agricultural exhibition in United States held at Georgetown, D. C.

June—Third census taken; population, 7,239,881.

July 1—Louis of Holland abdicated at request of Napoleon. Holland annexed to France.

Sept. 18—Chili declared its independence of Spain.

Nov. 1—Napoleon's Berlin and Milan decrees revoked by France.

Nov. 19—Sweden declared war against England.

1811.

March 20—King of Rome, Napoleon II., born.

July 5—Venezuela declared its independence of Spain.

Nov. 7—Battle of Tippecanoe fought by Gen. Harrison.

1812.

April 8—Louisiana admitted to the union.

May 28—Treaty of peace signed between Russia and Turkey at Bucharest.

June 17—"Orders in council" abandoned by England.

June 18—U. S. declared war against England.

June 22—Napoleon declared war against Russia.

June 26—Strength of the regular army raised to 36,700.

Aug. 15—Fort Dearborn massacre on present site of Chicago.

Sept. 7—French defeated Russians at Borodino.

Sept. 14—Moscow captured by the French.

Nov. 4—John C. Calhoun made his first appearance in congress.

1813.

Feb. 3—Prussia concluded alliance with Russia and Sweden and declared war against France.

March 4—James Madison and Elbridge Gerry inaugurated.

Aug. 10—Austria declared war against France.

Aug. 31—Indians massacred garrison and women and children at Fort Mimms, Ala.

Sept. 10—Com. O. H. Perry defeated British squadron at Put-in-Bay, Lake Erie.

Oct. 16, 17, 18—Battle of Leipsic, battle of the nations. Napoleon defeated by the allies. Half a million men engaged.

Oct. 19—Retreat of the French army from Russia began. French loss during Russian campaign, 450,000 men.

Dec. 21—Army of the allies, numbering more than 1,000,000 men, began the invasion of France.

1814.

Jan. 14—Norway ceded to Sweden by Denmark.

March—The allies signed a treaty against Napoleon.

March 29—Slave trade in France abolished by proclamation of Napoleon.

March 31—Paris surrendered to the allies.

April 6—Napoleon I. of France compelled to abdicate.

April 14—The embargo act repealed by congress.

May 3—Louis XVIII. returned to Paris as king of France.

May 30—Treaty of Paris signed between France and allied powers defining boundaries of France at what they had been previous to 1792.

June 22—Napoleon abdicated in favor of his infant son.

Aug. 25—Washington burned by the British.

Sept. 13—"The Star Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key while detained on board the British ship Minden during the attack on Fort McHenry at Baltimore. It was first sung at a Baltimore theater in October of the same year.

Nov. 1—Congress of Vienna met to reestablish European boundaries. It concluded its labors and adjourned May 25, 1815.

Nov. 23—Vice President Elbridge Gerry died at Washington, aged 70.

Dec. 7—Marshal Ney, of France, executed.

Dec. 24—Treaty of peace signed between Great Britain and United States at Ghent, Belgium.

George Stephenson built his first successful railway locomotive. It traveled at the rate of six miles per hour.

1815.

Jan. 8—British defeated by Americans at New Orleans.

Feb. 15—U. S. declared war against Algiers.

March 1—Napoleon returned to France from Elba.

June 18—Napoleon met final defeat by Wellington at Waterloo.

June 30—Peace treaty signed between United States and Algiers.

July 8—Louis XVIII. entered Paris as king of France.

July 15—Napoleon surrendered to Capt. Maitland, of English frigate Bellerophon.

Sept. 26—Treaty of the Holy Alliance signed.

Oct. 8—Napoleon arrived at St. Helena.

Nov. 20—Second peace of Paris signed between France and allied powers.

1816.

Jan. 12—Family of Bonaparte excluded forever from France by law of amnesty.

COMMODORE PERRY

Born August 23, 1785—Died August 23, 1819

April 10—United States bank chartered by congress for 20 years; capital, $35,000,000.

April 27—First protective tariff bill passed by congress.

July 5—Ice a quarter of an inch thick formed in Pennsylvania, New York and New England states.

July 9—Argentine Republic declared its independence of Spain.

Dec. 11—Indiana admitted to the union.

Dec.—American colonization society organized in Princeton, N. J. This society founded the negro state of Liberia in Africa in 1822, its object being to establish a home for free American negroes.

1817.

Jan.—The United States bank began operations.

Feb. 3—The "Green Bag" inquiry began in England. The report of the parliamentary committee made on Feb. 19 resulted in the suspension of the habeas corpus act throughout England on Feb. 24.

March 4—James Monroe and Daniel D. Tompkins inaugurated.

Dec. 10—Mississippi admitted to the union.

1818.

March 18—First general pension bill for revolutionary war veterans passed by congress.

April 7—Gen. Jackson captured the Spanish forts of St. Marks, Fla. At this time he captured Arbuthnot and Ambrister and executed them for complicity in the Indian wars on April 30 of the same year.

April 14—President approved act establishing flag of United States at 13 stripes and a star for each state.

June 8—Germanic confederation formed.

Aug. 24—Center foundation of the capitol at Washington laid.

Nov. 17—Queen Charlotte of England died at Kew.

Dec. 3—Illinois admitted to the union.

First percussion caps made in England.

1819.

Feb. 22—Spain ceded Florida to United States for consideration of $5,000,000.

May 24—First ocean steamship, the Savannah, left Savannah, Ga., for Liverpool. Trip completed in 26 days.

June 19—Maine separated from Massachusetts by Massachusetts legislature.

Aug. 23—Com. O. H. Perry died at Trinidad, West Indies.

Dec. 14—Alabama admitted to the union.

1820.

Jan. 29—King George III. of England died at Windsor castle, aged 82. His son crowned as George IV. same day.

Feb. 23—Cato-Street conspirators arrested in England. They had attempted the assassination of the whole English ministry because of unpopular acts. They were executed May 1 of the same year.

March 15—Maine admitted to the union.

Sept. 26—Daniel Boone died at Charrette, Mo., aged 85.

1821.

Feb. 24—Mexico declared its independence of Spain. Iturbide crowned first emperor as Augustin I., Sept. 24, 1821.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON

Born April 30, 1769.—Died Sept. 14, 1852.

March 5—James Monroe and Daniel D. Tompkins inaugurated president and vice president for second term.

April 6—War for Greek independence began against Turkey.

May 5—Napoleon died at St. Helena, aged 52.

July 28—Peru declared its independence of Spain.

Aug. 7—Queen Caroline of England died of a broken heart. Her husband, George IV., refused to permit of her coronation as his consort.

Aug. 10—Missouri admitted to the union.

Sept. 21—Central American states declared their independence of Spain.

1822.

Jan. 27—Independence of Greece proclaimed.

March 28—Independence of Spanish provinces in South and Central America recognized by United States.

April 11—Turks massacred 40,000 inhabitants of Chios island, Greece.

May 4—President Monroe vetoed appropriation bill providing for government improvements on the Cumberland road, and transmitted to congress a message embodying his objections to national appropriations for internal improvements. This practically changed the policy of the government regarding internal improvements excepting as regards rivers and harbors.

Sept. 7—Brazil declared its independence of Portugal.

Dec. 1—Pedor I. crowned first emperor of Brazil.

1823.

Jan. 27—Congress petitioned to send an expedition to the north to investigate the Symme's theory that the earth was hollow, being opened at the poles for the admission of light and air, and inhabited inside.

March 26—Augustin I. of Mexico compelled to abdicate, and Mexico proclaimed a republic October 4, 1823.

April 7—French army entered Spain to restore despotic rule of King Ferdinand.

Dec. 2—Proclamation by President Monroe declared that for the future the American continents were not to be considered as subjects for colonization by any European power. This constitutes the "Monroe doctrine."

1824.

March 13—Convention signed between Great Britain and United States for suppression of slave trade.

April 24—Lord Byron died at Missolonghi, Greece.

Aug. 4—Bolivia declared its independence of Spain.

Aug. 15—Gen. Lafayette landed in New York for visit to America.

Sept. 16—Louis XVIII. of France died.

Nov. 9—Tenth presidential election. Of popular vote John Quincy Adams received 105,321; Andrew Jackson, 152,899; W. H. Crawford, 47,265; Henry Clay, 47,087. No candidate for president received a majority of electoral votes and election devolved upon house of representatives. John C. Calhoun elected vice president.

1825.

Feb. 9—House of representatives voted for president, each state having one vote. John Quincy Adams received 13, Andrew Jackson, 7, and William H. Crawford, 4.

ROBERT FULTON

Born in 1765.—Died Feb. 24, 1815

May 25—American Unitarian association organized in Boston.

May 29—Count of Artois crowned king of France as Charles X.

June 17—Corner stone of Bunker hill monument laid by Lafayette.

Oct. 29—Erie canal opened from Buffalo to Albany.

Dec. 1—Emperor Alexander I. of Russia died. Nicholas I. crowned emperor.

1826.

Feb. 26—Biela's comet discovered.

April 30—National guard of France disbanded.

May 10—American Home Missionary society organized in New York.

June 22—Conference called by Central and South American states to determine rights of those states met in Panama. United States sent representatives.

July 4—Ex-Presidents John Adams, Quincy, Mass., and Thomas Jefferson, Monticello, Va., died.

Sept. 12—William Morgan abducted from Canandaigua, N. Y. This gave rise to the anti-masonic party that played a prominent part in national politics for a short time.

1827.

July 6—Treaty between England, France and Russia signed at London to secure Greek independence.

Aug. 8—George Canning, premier of England, died.

Oct. 20—Allied fleet of England, France and Russia annihilated Turkish and Egyptian fleet at the Morea.

First railroad in the United States began operations. It extended from Quincy, Mass., to the Neponset river and was operated by horse power.

1828.

April 26—Russia declared war against Turkey.

May 19—Tariff revision bill, placing high duties on woolen and cotton goods, approved by president.

Nov. 11—Eleventh presidential election. Andrew Jackson received 658,028 popular and 178 electoral votes; John Quincy Adams received 512,159 popular and 83 electoral votes.

1829.

March 9—William T. Barry appointed postmaster general in Jackson cabinet. Previous to this time the postmaster general was not considered a member of the cabinet.

April 13—Roman Catholic relief bill passed by British parliament. It admitted Catholics to parliament and to most civil and military offices under the crown. By its passage civil war in England and Ireland was averted.

June 27—James L. M. Smithson, founder of Smithsonian institution, died at Genoa, Italy.

Aug. 8—First railway locomotive operated in America started at Honesdale, Pa.

Sept. 14—Treaty of peace signed between Russia and Turkey in which Greek independence was acknowledged.

1830.

Jan. 25—Robert Y. Hayne, S. C., in speech in congress on Foote resolution on public lands announced nullification doctrine.

May 24—First 14 miles of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad opened.

June 26—King George IV. of England died. He was succeeded by his brother, William IV.

July 27—Beginning of second French revolution.

Aug. 2—Charles X. of France abdicated. Louis Philippe, duke of Orleans, crowned king August 9.

Aug. 20—Belgium's revolution against Holland began in Brussels.

Sept. 15—Liverpool and Manchester railway, first of the English railway lines, opened.

Sept.—Anti-masonic party held the first national political convention in United States at Philadelphia.

Nov. 29—Polish revolution against Russia began.

Dec. 17—Gen. Bolivar, hero of South American independence, died.

Dec. 26—Belgium's independence acknowledged by allied powers.

1831.

Jan. 15—South Carolina railroad, first passenger and freight railroad in United States, opened for traffic.

July 4—Ex-President James Monroe died in New York, aged 73.

July 26—First successful reaper, invention of Cyrus H. McCormick, tested at Steele's Tavern, Va.

Sept. 7—Warsaw surrendered to Russia and Polish revolution crushed.

Oct. 9—President Count John Capo d'Istria of Greece assassinated. Greece erected into constitutional monarchy by allied powers and Otho crowned king May 7, 1832.

Chloroform discovered by Samuel Guthrie, of Sacket Harbor, N. Y.

Matches first used in United States.

1832.

March —Black Hawk war begun.

GEO STEPHENSON

Born June 9, 1781.—Died August 12, 1848.

June 7—First reform bill in England became law. It prevented a revolution and gave to the middle classes the supreme political power in the kingdom.

June 22—First death from cholera in the United States occurred at New York.

July 13—Source of Mississippi discovered by Henry R. Schoolcraft.

July 14—Tariff measures of 1828 partially repealed.

Sept. 21—Sir Walter Scott died in England.

Nov. 13—Twelfth presidential election. Andrew Jackson received 687,502 popular and 219 electoral votes, and Henry Clay 530,189 popular and 49 electoral votes.

Nov. 14.—Charles Carroll, last surviving signer of declaration of independence, died at Baltimore, aged 95.

Nov. 19—Convention at Columbus, S. C., adopted resolutions declaring tariff acts null and void.

1833.

March 16—South Carolina repealed nullification resolution in convention.

Sept. 26—President Jackson directed removal of $10,000,000 of government funds from National bank to be deposited in state banks.

Sept. 29—Ferdinand VII. of Spain died.

Nov. 13—Great meteoric display visible in North America.

Dec. 6—American Anti-Slavery society organized in Philadelphia.

1834.

May 19—Gen. Lafayette died in France, aged 77.

June 30—Indian territory established by act of congress.

July 10—Beginning of Carlist revolution in Spain.

Aug. 1—Slavery abolished in British colonies. Eight hundred thousand slaves freed.

Antiseptic dressing of wounds with carbolic acid first discovered by Runge.

Dec. —President in annual message announced extinguishment of national debt.

1835.

July 28—An attempt to assassinate Louis Philippe of France with an infernal machine resulted in the death of Marshal Mortier and nearly 40 other persons, and in the wounding of many others.

Sept. 9.—Corporation reform act, granting self-government to towns, denied since fourteenth century, passed by British parliament.

Dec. 16-18—Business portion of New York city destroyed by fire; 648 buildings destroyed; loss $18,000,000.

Dec. 28—Seminole Indian war began.

Thomas Davenport, of Braddon, Vt., built first electric railway motor at Springfield, Mass.

1836.

March 2—Texas declared its independence.

March 6—Massacre at the Alamo, San Antonio, Tex., by Mexicans under Santa Anna.

May 14—Mexico acknowledged independence of Texas.

June 15—Arkansas admitted to the union.

June 28—Ex-President James Madison died at Montpelier, Vt., aged 85.

July—The first railway opened in Canada.

Oct. 22—Samuel Houston elected first president of Texas.

Nov. 8—Thirteenth presidential election. Martin Van Buren elected president with 761,549 popular and 170 electoral votes, against 73 electoral votes for his nearest competitor, William Henry Harrison. Total popular vote, 1,498,205. No vice president chosen because of lack of majority of electoral votes. Senate chose Richard M. Johnson.

Modern germ theory of disease first suggested by discovery of yeast plant by Cagniard Latour in France. It has since been put to practical use by such men as Pasteur, Koch, Lister and many others.

1837.

Jan. 6—Michigan admitted to the union.

May 10—All banks in New York city suspended specie payment because of financial panic.

June 20—King William IV. of England died. Succeeded by his niece, Princess Alexandrina Victoria. The crowns of England and Hanover separated.

First railway line in Russia opened. It ran from St Petersburg to Charsko-Selo.

1838.

May 10—Banks in New York resumed specie payment.

June 28—Coronation of Alexandrina Victoria as queen of England.

First telegraph line set up in Great Britain on line of Great Western railway by Cooke.

1839.

March —Opium war between China and England began.

Aug. 31—Carlist revolution in Spain crushed. It had lasted five years and cost 300,000 lives.

Oct. 10—United States bank suspended, causing financial panic.

1840.

Jan. 19—Lieut. Wilkes discovered Antarctic continent.

CYRUS H. McCORMICK

Born Feb. 15, 1809.—Died May 13, 1884.

Feb. 10—Queen Victoria married to her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg.

June—Fifth census taken. Population, 17,068,666.

July 19—"Britania," first of the Cunard steamers, arrived at Boston 14 days 8 hours from Liverpool.

Nov. 10—Fourteenth presidential election. William Henry Harrison received 234 electoral and 1,275,017 popular votes, and Martin Van Buren 60 electoral and 1,128,702 popular votes.

Dec. 15—Remains of Napoleon I. interred in Paris.

1841.

April 4—President Harrison died, aged 68.

April 5—Vice President Tyler took oath of office as president.

July 6—Act to distribute money from sales of public lands among the states passed.

July 15—Independence of Egypt acknowledged by Turkey.

Aug. 20—Large English expedition began the ascent of the Niger river for the purpose of establishing an English colony in Central Africa. Disease broke out among the colonists and the three vessels carrying the expedition were forced to return to the coast.

Nov. 2—Afghanistan rebelled against England. During this rebellion the English ambassadors were murdered and the greater part of the English army of occupation, numbering 26,000 persons, were killed.

Nov. 9—Prince of Wales born.

1842

Jan. 24—Petition from citizens of Haverhill, Mass., asking for peaceful dissolution of the union, presented to the senate by Mr. Adams of that state. Caused violent debate, and the reception of petition was refused.

Feb.—Algeria annexed to France.

May 2—Col. John C. Fremont's first expedition started for Rocky mountains.

May 30—Attempted assassination of Queen Victoria. A second attempt was made July 3 of the same year, and again June 27, 1850.

Aug. 14—End of Indian war in Florida proclaimed.

Aug. 20—Ashburton reaty, settling Maine boundary dispute between United States and England, ratified by senate.

Aug. 29—Peace treaty between England and China signed at Nanking, China. This treaty opened the first ports of China to the trade of the world.

Oct. 18—First submarine cable laid by Prof. Morse in New York harbor.

1843.

Jan. 10—Resolution for impeachment of President Tyler offered by John M. Botts, of Virginia, rejected by the house.

Jan. 11—Francis S. Key, author of "Star-Spangled Banner," died at Baltimore, aged 68.

Feb. 28—Great comet seen at noon by naked eye in North America.

June 17—Bunker Hill monument dedicated.

1844.

May 27—First telegram sent over a land line from Washington to Baltimore.

June 27—Joe and Hiram Smith, Mormons, murdered by mob at Nauvoo, Ill.

July 3—First treaty of commerce between United States and China signed.

Nov. 12—Fifteenth presidential election. James K. Polk received 170 electoral and 1,335,834 popular votes. Henry Clay received 105 electoral and 1,297,033 popular votes.

1845.

Jan. 23—Congress appointed first Tuesday following first Monday in November national election day.

Feb. 28—Texas annexed by joint resolution.

March 3—Congress fixed postage on letters at 5 cents for 300 miles or under and 10 cents for over that distance.

March 3—Florida admitted to the union.

June 8—Ex-President Andrew Jackson died, aged 78.

Dec. 29—Texas admitted to the union as a state.

The Sahara desert explored during the year by James Richardson, of England.

1846.

April 25—Hostilities between Mexico and United States began by capture of small force of U. S. troops by Mexicans.

ELIAS HOWE

Born July 9, 1819.—Died June 1, 1873.

May 11—President Polk announced that state of war existed between United States and Mexico.

June 15—Treaty signed with Great Britain settling the the Oregon boundary dispute.

June 26—Corn laws of England repealed by parliament. This was practically the beginning of English free trade as it exists to-day.

July 6—Com. John D. Sloat, U. S. N., occupied Monterey, Cal., and declared country annexed to United States.

Sept. —Elias Howe patented first successful sewing machine.

Dec. 28—Iowa admitted to the union.

1847.

Feb. 22-23—Battle of Buena Vista fought; 20,000 Mexicans defeated by 5,000 Americans.

July 24—Salt Lake City founded by the Mormons.

Sept. 13—City of Mexico occupied by American troops.

Nov. —Chloroform first used as an anaesthetic by Sir James Young Simpson, of Edinburgh.

During the year the cylinder printing press was invented by Richard M. Hoe.

1848.

Jan. 19—Gold discovered near Coloma, Cal., by James Wilson Marshall.

Jan. 28—Frederick VII. of Denmark proclaimed a new constitution, making the government a constitutional instead of an absolute monarchy.

Feb. 2—Treaty of peace between United States and Mexico signed at Guadalupe Hidalgo. United States paid Mexico $15,000,000 for New Mexico and California.

Feb. 23—Ex-President John Quincy Adams died at Washington, aged 81.

Feb. 24—Louis Philippe compelled to abdicate French throne and the second French republic formed.

March 29—John Jacob Astor died in New York, aged 85.

May 29—Wisconsin admitted to the union.

June 22—Rebellion of Paris communists against the republic began. It lasted but four days, but resulted in the loss of nearly 25,000 lives and the destruction of one-fourth of the city of Paris.

July 4—Corner stone of the Washington monument laid.

Aug. 12—George Stephenson, inventor of the railway locomotive, died in England, aged 67.

Nov. 4—French constitution adopted by the national assembly.

Nov. 7—Sixteenth presidential election. Zachary Taylor received 163 electoral votes, and Lewis Cass, of Kentucky, 127 electoral votes.

Dec. 15—Postal treaty signed with Great Britain.

Dec. 20—Louis Nepoleon inaugurated president of France.

First settlement of the Boers in the Transvaal.

1849.

Feb. 9—National assembly of the Roman republic declared pope's temporal power at an end.

March 3—Department of interior created by congress.

March 4—New constitution combining empires of Austria and Hungary proclaimed by Francis Joseph.

June 15—ExPresident James K. Polk died at Nashville, Tenn., aged 54.

July 3—Rome surrendered to the French and pope restored to temporal power.

1850.

March 31—John Calhoun died at Washington, aged 68.

April 19—Bulwer-Clayton treaty for joint occupancy of canal across Central America signed.

June 1—Seventh census taken; population, 23,191,876.

July 2—Sir Robert Peel died in London, aged 62.

July 9—President Taylor died at Washington, aged 66.

July 10—Vice President Fillmore took oath of office as president.

Aug. —Tae-ping rebellion began in China.

Sept. 9—California admitted to the union.

Sept. 20—"Omnibus" bill passed by congress.

1851.

March 3—Letter postage reduced to 3 cents for distances of 3,000 miles and less if prepaid; 5 cents if not, and double rate for longer distances.

March 30—Sixth census of the United Kingdom taken; population 27,637,761.

April 29—Trial of electric locomotive built by Alfred Vail with congressional appropriation on B. & O. Ry. It attained a speed of 19 miles per hour.

May 1—First world's fair opened in Crystal Palace, London.

May —Gold discovered in Australia.

Oct. 8—Hudson river railroad opened from New York to Albany.

Dec. 24—Congressional library at Washington and contents destroyed by fire.

1852.

Feb. 17—Birthday of Napoleon I., Aug. 15, decreed to be the only national holiday in France.

June 29—Henry Clay died at Washington, aged 75.

Sept. 14—Duke of Wellington died, aged 83.

Nov. 2—Seventeenth presidential election held. Franklin Pierce received 254 electoral votes, and Gen. Winfield Scott 42 electoral votes.

Dec. 2—French empire restored. Louis Napoleon crowned emperor of France as Napoleon III.

1853

Jan. 29—Louis Napoleon married to Eugenie de Montijo of Spain.

S. F. B. MORSE

Born April 27, 1791.—Died April 2, 1872.

March 24—Oath of office as vice president administered to William R. King by Consul Sharkey at Cumbre, Cuba. Allowed by special act of congress.

April 18—Vice President William R. King died at Cahawba, Ala., aged 67.

Oct. 5—Turkey declared war against Russia. This was the beginning of the Crimean war.

Dec. 30—Treaty providing for purchase of territory south of the Gila river from Mexico approved. Extent of purchase, 45,535 square miles; consideration to Mexico, $10,000,000.

Chicago and New York connected by railway.

1854.

March 31—First commercial and diplomatic treaty with Japan concluded by U. S.

April 11—Russia declared war against England and France as allies of Turkey.

May 30—Kansas-Nebraska bill passed by congress. It repealed Missouri compromise act of 1820.

June 5—Reciprocity treaty with Great Britain signed.

June 7—First reciprocity treaty concluded between United States and Canada.

Oct. 25—Battle of Balaklava fought in the Crimea.

Nov. 5—Fifty thousand Russians defeated by 14,000 French and English at battle of Inkermann.

1855.

Jan. 28—Railroad across isthmus of Panama opened.

March 2—Emperor Nicholas of Russia died. He was succeeded by his son, Alexander II.

Sept. 9—Sevastopol evacuated by the Russians and occupied by the French and English.

1856.

Jan. 24—Pro-slavery legislature in Kansas recognized by President Pierce. Proclamation classes attempt to establish free state government an act of rebellion.

March 30—Treaty of peace between England, France, Sardinia and Turkey and Russia in Paris. This closed the Crimean war. The treaty guaranteed the independence of Turkey. In this war more than 1,000,000 men perished of disease and in battle.

May 21—Capture and sack of Lawrence, Kan., by pro-slavery party.

Nov. 4—Eighteenth presidential election held. James Buchanan received 174 electoral votes, John C. Freemont 114 and Millard Fillmore 8.

Nov. 12—Grand Trunk railway of Canada completed from Quebec to Toronto, 850 miles.

H. Bessemer invented process of making steel by passing cold air through liquid iron. Known as the "Bessemer process."

1857.

Jan. 6—Free state legislature in Kansas dispersed by federal troops.

March 6—Dred Scott case decided against plaintiff by United States supreme court.

May 11—Mutiny of Sepoys in India broke out. English residents of Delhi massacred.

July 8—The cup won by the yacht "America" in England, Aug. 22, 1851, presented by the owners to the New York Yacht club as an international trophy.

Aug. 5—First attempt made at laying submarine cable. Start made from Valencia bay, Ireland. Cable broke and attempt was abandoned until the following year.

Sept. 11—Mountain Meadow massacre perpetrated near Cedar City, Utah. Thirty families practically annihilated by Indians and Mormons.

Sept. 15—Brigham Young, governor of Utah, declared martial law and ordered government troops not to enter Salt Lake City.

1858.

Feb. 13—Constitution of the Transvaal republic proclaimed.

May 11—Minnesota admitted to the union.

June 19—Gwalior taken by the English from the Sepoy rebels. This practically closed the rebellion in India.

July 2—Alexander II. of Russia issued proclamation freeing serfs on the imperial domains.

July 23—Political disabilities of Jews in England relieved by act of parliament. This was done to permit Nathan Lionel Rothschild to take a seat in the house of commons to which he had been elected. The first Jew elected to political office in England.

Aug. 2—First street deposit boxes for letters used in Boston.

Aug. 5—First Atlantic cable completed.

Sept. 1—Government of India transferred from East Indian company to Great Britain.

Oct. 9—Donati's comet attained its greatest brilliancy.

Oct. 9—First overland mail from San Francisco reached St. Louis. Time, 24 days, 18 hours.

1859.

Jan. 4—New senate chamber occupied.

Jan. 15—Gold discovered on Boulder creek, Col.

Feb. 14—Oregon admitted to the union.

April 26—Austrian army of 120,000 men invaded Sardinia. This was the beginning of the war for Italian nationality.

May 10—Emperor Napoleon III. took the field at the head of the French troops as an ally of Sardinia against Austria.

June 4—Austrians defeated by French and Sardinians at Magenta. Austrian loss, 27,000 men.

June 24—Austrians defeated at the battle of Solferino.

Oct. 16—Government arsenal at Harper's Ferry seized by John Brown.

Oct. 18—John Brown captured by government troops under Col. R. E. Lee.

Nov. 10—Definite treaty of peace signed between Austria and France and Sardinia at Zurich. Italian nationality recognized by Austria.

Nov. 28—Washington Irving died at Tarrytown, N. Y., aged 76.

Dec. 2—John Brown hanged at Charleston, W. Va.

1860.

May 11—Garibaldi landed at Marsala, Sicily. On May 14 he proclaimed himself dictator in the name of King Victor Emmanuel. This was the beginning of the war for Italian unity.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Born Feb. 12, 1809.—Died April 15, 1865.

May 18—Abraham Lincoln nominated for president on fourth ballot at Chicago.

June—Eighth census taken. Population, [illegible]

Oct. 12—French and English allies capture Peking, China.

Oct. 24—Treaty of peace signed at Peking between England and China.

Nov. 6—Nineteenth presidential election held. Abraham Lincoln received 180 electoral and 1,866,352 popular votes; John C. Breckenridge 72 electoral and 847,514 popular votes; John Bell 39 electoral and 587,830 popular votes, and Stephen A. Douglas 12 electoral and 1,375,157 popular votes.

Dec. 4—President Buchanan in annual message to congress said southern states had no legal right to secede, and government no power to prevent secession.

Dec. 20—South Carolina seceded.

Dec. 27—Ralph Farnham, last survivor of battle of Bunker Hill, died at Acton, N. H., aged 104½.

1861.

Jan. 2—Frederick William IV. of Prussia died.

Jan. 9—Steamer Star of the West with reenforcements for Fort Sumter fired upon by South Carolina troops from Morris island and forced to retire.

Jan. 9—Mississippi seceded.

Jan. 10—Florida seceded.

Jan. 11—Alabama seceded.

Jan. 19—Georgia seceded.

Jan 26—Louisiana seceded. Kansas admitted to the union.

Feb. 1—Texas seceded.

Feb. 4—Confederate congress met at Montgomery, Ala. Six states represented.

Feb. 9—Jefferson Davis chosen president and Alexander H. Stephens vice president of Southern Confederacy.

Feb 18—First Italian parliament met at Turin.

Feb. 26—Italian parliament decreed Victor Emanuel II., of Sardinia, king of Italy.

April 12—Fort Sumter fired upon. First gun fired by Edmund Ruffin of Virginia. He committed suicide soon after close of the war.

April 14—Fort Sumter surrendered.

April 15—President called for 75,000 troops.

April 17—Virginia seceded.

April 19—President proclaimed blockade of southern ports.

May 6—Arkansas seceded.

May 21—North Carolina seceded.

June 8—Tennessee seceded.

July 21—Federal troops defeated at battle of Bull Run.

Oct. 18—William I. crowned king of Prussia.

Nov. 8—Confederate envoys Mason and Slidell captured on British steamer Trent, by Capt. Wilkes, U. S. N.

Dec. 14—Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, husband of Queen Victoria, died.

1862.

Jan. 1.—Government suspended specie payment.

Feb. 6—Fort Henry, Tenn., captured by Gen. Grant and Com. Foote.

Feb. 16—Fort Donelson surrendered to Gen. Grant.

March 8—U. S. frigate Congress and U. S. sloop-of-war Cumberland destroyed by confederate ram Merrimac at Hampton Roads.

March 9—Battle between Monitor and Merrimac at Hampton Roads.

April 25—Admiral Farragut occupied New Orleans.

May 15—Department of agriculture established.

May 20—Homestead act approved by the president.

June 19—Slavery forever prohibited in the territories.

June 26-July 2—Seven days' fighting. Army of the Potomac retreated from before Richmond.

July 1—President approved act for building railroad and telegraph line from Missouri river to Pacific ocean.

July 24—Ex-President Martin Van Buren died at Lindenwold, N. Y., aged 80.

Aug. 19—Sioux Indians attack frontier settlements of Minnesota.

Aug. 25—Enlistment of 5,000 colored volunteers ordered. First permission of the government to employ negroes as soldiers.