

WHAT WAS OUR COUNTRY LIKE IN 1809?

Notable Events Of 1809

- February 3 - Illinois Territory was created.
- February 11 - Robert Fulton patents the steamboat.
- February 12 - Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln were born.
- February 20 - A decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, states that the power of the federal government is greater than any individual state.
- March 4 - James Madison succeeds Thomas Jefferson as the President of the United States.
- May 5 - Mary Kies is the first American woman to be awarded a patent.
- December 30 - Wearing masks at balls is forbidden in Boston, Massachusetts.
- USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) is re-commissioned as flagship of the North Atlantic Squadron.
- Nicolas François Appert (1750-1841) develops a method to preserve food by means of canning.
- Shawnee leader Tecumseh begins to establish a defensive confederacy to resist the westward movement of white settlers.
- New England governors refuse to supply militia to enforce the Embargo Acts (of 1807 and 1808)
- Phoenix completes the first sea voyage by a steamboat by traveling around the shores of New Jersey.



The 1800-1810s

It's difficult to imagine that in 1800 American independence was only 25 years old. The capital was moved from Philadelphia to Washington, Aaron Burr killed Alexander Hamilton in the famous duel, West Point established, Louisiana purchased, money from many countries circulated throughout America. 80% of Americans worked on a farm. Boarding houses and tenements were popular in the cities and one room log cabins in the country. Travel from Charleston to Philadelphia took 15 days by stage. The importation of slaves to the United States was banned. Johnny Appleseed arrived in the Ohio Valley with seeds from Philadelphia. Robert Fulton's paddle steamer navigated the Hudson River.

Fashions 1800-1810s

Hair Fashions

Long hair was a part of fashion in the 1800's for women. Curls were very much in fashion.



Hair styles of 1802, 1805, and 1806.

Hat Fashions

Hats formed an integral part of clothing during this period. Women had to wear bonnets or hats whenever they went outside the house. These bonnets were often exquisitely decorated. Women carried parasols whenever they stepped out of the house. These parasols were fashionable umbrellas designed to protect the skin from the rays of the sun. Men wore tall, conical hats and often sported sideburns.



Above – Caps and turbans from 1800, 1806, and 1807.

Clothing



For women's dresses, the high waist Empire style gown was a characteristic feature of fashion in the 1800s. Although there were different versions of the same early on, by the 1800, the Empire dress changed to a certain extent and was seen particularly with a square neckline. Sleeves were often puffy at the shoulders. This dress had a snug fit especially towards the upper torso. The garment was free flowing from the waist onwards. This high waistline often brought the attention away from the natural shape of the waist. Fabrics used for such dresses were generally muslin or batiste. Wearing white Empire gowns was then considered to be a status symbol. Such white gowns often had exquisite embroidery. The reason why it was a status symbol was simply because whites soiled easily with regular wear hence a woman who could afford to soil her Empire dress without any worries was considered to be an important figure in the society.



Men who belonged to affluent families wore garments that had excessive detailing. Tailcoats were a common feature. Knee length breeches were worn over stockings. This was the era when men showed off their calves (some men even wore "calf enhancers" inside their stockings). Then, there came a change in clothing when Napoleon Bonaparte became the Emperor in 1804. Trousers made their appearance and clothes had a less formal appearance. Cloaks were often worn for many occasions but men preferred overcoats, which were comparatively easier to manage. For some reason, blue coats were always outfitted with gold buttons, while all other colors had self-fabric buttons.

Children 1800-1810s



Most children in the new nation did not have easy lives. Children were about ten times more likely to die before they reached their first birthday than children today. Eight to ten percent of children died between ages one and twenty-one. If they survived to become children or teenagers, most were put to work in the family business, usually a farm. Although many children were taught basic literacy, few were educated beyond that point.

In a nation of relatively informal manners, children were the only ones required to make outward signs of respect. While adults usually shook hands in greeting, children were taught to take off their caps, bow or make courtesies to show respect to elders. This was called "making your manners."

A Boston schoolmaster published a book, entitled, *The School of Good Manners*, which had 163 rules to follow and 8 "sins" to avoid. "At table ... do not ask for anything. Wait until it is offered to thee ... Do not look at another person's plate or upon his meat. Do not look earnestly on anyone that is eating. Spit not in the room, but in the corner, or rather, go out and do it abroad." In addition to mealtime etiquette; these rules described appropriate behavior at church, at school, on the street, with other children, with adults, and in a number of other situations. Beyond showing respect to elders, however, it seemed that *The School of Good Manners* was either not read or not heeded by most families.

Children's clothing varied according to the wealth of their families. In general, however, both boys and girls wore loose muslin frocks until they were about four years old. Girls stayed in frocks until they were about eleven years old, while boys wore "skeleton suits." These suits features long, tight-fitting pants and tight jackets, and distinguished them from girls their age and from older men. Older children wore simplified versions of adult clothes

Transportation



Conestoga wagon was a heavy freight-carrying vehicle of distinctive type that originated in the Conestoga region of Pennsylvania c.1725. It was used by farmers to carry heavy loads long distances before there were railroads to convey produce to markets. Later it was used to carry manufactured goods across the Alleghenies to frontier stores and settlements and to bring back the frontier produce. The transportation of

goods by wagon train developed into a major business employing thousands of wagons before the railroads crossed the mountains c.1850.



The Conestoga wagon had a capacity of up to six tons, a floor curved up at each end to prevent the contents from shifting inside, and a white canvas cover to protect against bad weather; it was pulled by four to six horses. It became famous as later adapted by westward-traveling pioneers for hauling their possessions; with its tall white canvas top, it resembled a sailing ship from a distance, which earned it the name "prairie schooner."

Furniture



Cupboard



Sewing Rocker



Shelf Clock



Table



Spinning Wheel



Yarn Winder



Chair



Cradle



Bookcase



Sideboard



Sewing Stand

The United States In 1800



Presidential Office - 1809

3rd President of the United States



From March 4, 1801 to March 3, 1809 Thomas Jefferson was the 3rd President of the United States. The presidential salary was \$25,000 a year. His nicknames were "Man of the People" and "Sage of Monticello". President Jefferson was born April 13, 1743 in Shadwell, Virginia and died July 4, 1826 at Monticello which is near Charlottesville, Virginia in virtual poverty, his home and all its furnishings sold to satisfy creditors. He married Martha Wayles Skelton on January 1, 1772 and together they had 6 children. President Jefferson had no formal religious affiliation. He graduated from College of William and Mary in 1762 and was a lawyer and planter. His political party was Democratic-Republican.

Points of Interest:

- Jefferson was the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C.

- Approximately 6,000 books from Jefferson's private library were purchased for \$23,950 to help start the Library of Congress.
- Bears brought back from Lewis and Clark's famous expedition were displayed in cages on the White House lawn. For years the White House was sometimes referred to as the "president's bear garden."
- The only presidents to sign the Declaration of Independence, Adams and Jefferson both died on its 50th anniversary, July 4, 1826. Adams' dying words were "Thomas Jefferson survives". Jefferson, however, had passed on a few hours earlier.
- Jefferson is credited with several inventions, including the swivel chair, a pedometer, a machine to make fiber from hemp, a letter-copying machine, and the lazy susan.
- Jefferson wrote his own epitaph without mentioning that he served as president of the United States.



4th President of the United States

From March 4, 1809 to March 3, 1817 the 4th President of the United States was James Madison. The presidential salary was \$25,000 a year. His nickname was "Father of the Constitution". President Madison was born March 16, 1751 in Port Conway, Virginia and died June 28, 1836 in Montpelier, Virginia. He married Dolley Payne Todd on September 15, 1794 and they had no children. President Madison was an Episcopalian. He graduated from College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) in 1771 and was a lawyer. His political party was Democratic-Republican.

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Points of Interest:

- Madison was the first president who had prior service as a congressman.
- Zachary Taylor and Madison were second cousins.
- Madison was the first president to wear long trousers. All previous presidents wore knee breeches.
- During the War of 1812 Madison was under enemy fire. He was the first president to be in that situation.
- At 5 feet, 4 inches and less than 100 pounds, he was the shortest and lightest president.
- Dolley Madison sent the first personal message using the Morse telegraph in 1844.

The Star Spangled Banner, the 15 Star Flag 1795



This Flag became the Official United States Flag on May 1, 1795. Two stars were added for the admission of (14th) Vermont, March 4, 1791 and (15th) Kentucky, June 1, 1792.

This was the official flag for 23 years. The five Presidents who served under this flag were; George Washington (1789-1797), John Adams (1797-1801), Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809), James Madison (1809-1817), and James Monroe (1817-1825).

The 15-star, 15-stripe flag was authorized by the Flag Act of January 13, 1794, adding 2 stripes and 2 Stars. The regulation went into effect on May 1, 1795. This flag was the only U.S. Flag to have more than 13 stripes. It was immortalized by Francis Scott Key during the bombardment of Fort McHenry, Sept 13, 1814. The image above is representative of the actual flag that flew over Fort McHenry on that day and which is now preserved in the Smithsonian Museum. You can notice the "tilt" in some of the stars just as in the original Star Spangled Banner.