**1780**

May 12 – British forces capture Charleston

July 11 – French troops arrive in force in Newport, RI

October 7 – Battle of King’s Mountain

**1781**

January 1, 1781- Pennsylvania Line Mutiny: A series of mutinies by Continental Army soldiers culminates in the execution of two soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line.

January 17 – Battle of Cowpens

March 1, 1781 - Ratification of Articles of Confederation which had been signed by Continental Congress in November, 1777. Maryland’s dispute over Virginia’s western land claims delayed ratification for almost four years.

October 19, 1781 – Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown, VA.

**1782**

July – British evacuate Savannah

December – British evacuated Charleston

**1783**

March 15, 1783 - Newburgh Conspiracy: An inflammatory address written by Major John Armstrong, aide-de-camp to General Gates, called for a forceful ultimatum. If Congress did not provide half-pay for retired soldiers, the army should threaten to either disband—leaving the country unprotected—or refuse to disband after a peace treaty ending the war was signed. The latter option was a thinly veiled threat of a military takeover.

April 15, 1783 - Congress ratifies the preliminary peace treaty with Great Britain, ending the Revolutionary War.

November 3, 1783 - The Continental Army is ordered disbanded by General George Washington. The British leave New York City on November 25.

Noah Webster publishes the American Spelling Book, a bestseller credited for standardizing spelling and pronunciation in the United States of America.

**1784**

September 21, 1784 - The Pennsylvania Packet General Advertiser is published, the first successful daily newspaper in the United States.

Great Britain receives its first bales of imported American cotton.

**1785**

March, 1785 – Commissioners from MD and VA meet at Mount Vernon to discuss fishing rights and the regulation of commerce on Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

May 11, 1785 - Empress of China, captained by John Green, becomes the first American ship to trade with China when it returns to New York after a fourteen month journey.

June 3, 1785 - The Continental Navy is disbanded.

July 6, 1785 - The United States adopts a decimal coinage system, with the dollar overwhelmingly selected as the monetary unit.

**1786**

January 3, 1786 - The Treaty of Hopewell is signed between representatives of the Confederation Congress of the United States and the Indian nation of the Choctaw. Similar treaties are signed at Hopewell plantation with the Cherokee and Chickasaws; they provided for prisoner exchanges, boundaries, trade, peace, and perpetual friendship.

June-July 1786 - Rhode Island farmers strike against merchants who refuse to accept the depreciated paper currency.

September 11-14, 1786 - Twelve delegates from five states (NY, NJ, PA, DE, VA) meet in Annapolis, Maryland and call for a larger meeting in Philadelphia to “remedy defects of the Federal Government.”

**1787**

January 25, 1787 - In Massachusetts, six hundred debt-ridden farmers, led by Daniel Shays, revolt against their creditors and high Massachusetts taxes. Shays' Rebellion fails when state militia intervene.

May 25, 1787 - With George Washington presiding, the Constitutional Convention opens in Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

July 5, 1787 - A compromise during the Constitutional Convention proposed by Roger Sherman of Connecticut solves the problem of the amount of votes each state would receive in Congress. A bicameral legislature would be enacted, with equal votes for the Senate and proportional representation based on population in the House of Representatives.

July 13, 1787 - The Northwest Ordinance, which determined a government for the Northwest Territory of the United States (north of the Ohio River and west of New York), is adopted by the Continental Congress. It guaranteed freedom of religion, school support, and no slavery, plus the opportunity for statehood.

September 17, 1787 - Delegates to the Constitutional Convention adopt the Constitution.

**1788**

Constitutional conventions take place in every state.

January 22, 1788 - Cyrus Griffin is elected as the last president of the Continental Congress prior to official ratification of the United States Constitution.

June 21, 1788 - Ratification by New Hampshire of the United States Constitution, the 9th state to do so, indicates adoption of the document by the United States.

**1789**

February 4, 1789 - George Washington is elected unanimously by the Electoral College as the 1st President of the United States.

March 4, 1789 - In Federal Hall, New York City, a converted Customs House, the government of the United States under the United States Constitution begins to act. The U.S. Constitution is declared to be in effect.

April 30, 1789 - The 1st President, George Washington, is inaugurated in New York City. He had been chosen president by all voting electors (there was no direct presidential election) with John Adams elected Vice President.

July 14, 1789 – Storming of the Bastille in Paris

September 24, 1789 - The Federal Judiciary Act is passed, creating the Supreme Court.

September 25, 1789 – Congress approves 12 amendments to the Constitution and sends them to the states for ratification.