

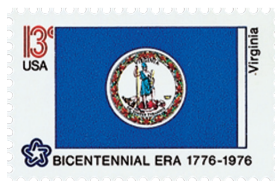
# This Day in History... June 25, 1788

## Virginia Becomes 10th State

On June 25, 1788, Virginia ratified the US Constitution and was admitted as the 10th state of the Union.

Several Native American tribes lived in Virginia when the first European explorers arrived. These included the Powhatan, Monacan and Manahoac, Nahyssan, Occaneechi, Susquehanna, Cherokee, and Nottoway. Spanish Jesuits created a settlement on the York River in 1570, but natives destroyed it after just a few months.

England's Queen Elizabeth I granted Sir Walter Raleigh permission to establish a colony in America in 1584. Raleigh sent several expeditions to the New World, but they all failed due to inadequate supplies. At that time, Raleigh and the queen gave the name Virginia to the east coast of America. In 1606, King James I chartered the Virginia Company to create a colony in Virginia. The first permanent English settlement in America was begun at Jamestown in May 1607.



*Virginia's flag pictures a woman, Virtue, standing in victory over a tyrant, acting out the state motto (which also appears on the flag): "Thus Always to Tyrants."*

Captain John Smith led Jamestown. Smith

guided the colony through many hardships until 1609, when he was injured and had to return to England. Without Smith's leadership, the colony floundered. The following winter was called the "Starving Time," and many colonists died of starvation. In the spring, the 60 survivors (out of 214) abandoned the settlement, but shortly after setting sail were met by supply ships led by Governor Thomas West, who was also known as Lord De La Warr. The settlers returned to Jamestown.

In 1612, colonist John Rolfe began raising tobacco. Rolfe also developed a new method for curing the tobacco leaves, and proved that tobacco could be exported to Europe. This product allowed the colony to survive economically. Rolfe married Pocahontas, the daughter of Chief Powhatan, paramount chief of the Powhatan Confederacy, in 1614. This marriage brought peace between the natives and the colonists.

Two major events occurred in Virginia in 1619. The first representative legislature in America, the House of Burgesses, was formed. The House of Burgesses met with the governor and his council to make laws for the colony. Dutch traders brought the first enslaved Africans in America to Virginia that year as well.

In 1624, Virginia was made a royal colony. The colony expanded westward a great deal. Over time, the colonists in eastern Virginia came to have different interests from those in the West.

Like most other colonists, Virginia's citizens were disturbed by Britain's tax policies, yet most remained loyal to the king. Virginia's leaders, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, led the colony in its dissent. When the House of Burgesses was dissolved, its members met without permission, calling themselves the First Virginia Convention. The members elected the delegates to America's First Continental Congress. A delegate from Virginia, Peyton Randolph, became its first president. At the Second Virginia Convention, held on March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry made his famous speech, which included the words, "Give me liberty or give me death!"



*Though fighting continued for nearly two more years, Yorktown was the last large-scale land battle of the war.*

In June of 1776, Virginia adopted its first Constitution and became an independent commonwealth. This constitution included a declaration of rights written by George Mason – the first bill of rights in an American



*Stamp picturing the historic capitol building in Williamsburg.*



*Patrick Henry Stamp from the American Credo Series*

## This Day in History... June 25, 1788 continued

constitution. In 1776, the colony submitted to the Continental Congress a resolution calling for independence. This resolution became the Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson. Many Virginians fought for independence; in fact, more fought than in any other Southern colony. Noted leaders included the great cavalry leader "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, Daniel Morgan, and George Rogers Clark. The last major battle of the Revolutionary War was won on Virginia's soil. In 1781, Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington at Yorktown, Virginia.



*Stamp pictures a cannon on display in the state capital of Richmond as well as the Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg.*



*37¢ Greetings from Virginia Stamp issued for the 2002 Rate Increase*

The Articles of Confederation loosely tied the 13 original colonies together. However, the Articles of Confederation soon proved to be inadequate. James Madison and other Virginians led the movement to create the Constitution of the United States. Virginia ratified the Constitution on June 25, 1788, making it the 10th state to enter the Union.

Virginia has been called the Mother of Presidents. Four of the first five US presidents were from Virginia – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. (In total, eight US presidents have hailed from Virginia. The other four were William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson.)

During the winter of 1860-61, seven Southern states withdrew from the Union. Virginia remained, hoping to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. But, two days after Abraham Lincoln called for Virginia to supply troops to the Union on April 15, 1861, Virginia voted to secede. Richmond served as the capital of the Confederacy from May 1861 until it was captured in April 1865.

Many people from the western part of the state did not agree with the decision to secede. They set up an independent government in the northwestern portion of the state. On June 20, 1863, 48 Virginia counties became the state of West Virginia, the 35th state to join the Union. In November 1863, two more counties joined West Virginia.

Like much of the Confederacy, Virginia was devastated by the Civil War. More battles were fought there than in any other state. Virginia's General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865.



*Stamp pictures the state flag and modern replicas of the three ships that brought the settlers to Jamestown in 1607.*



*Stamp pictures the Virginia state bird and flower: the cardinal and flowering dogwood.*

During the 1880s, while still recovering from the Civil War, Virginia began building modern industries. These included cigarette factories, cotton textile plants, and shipbuilding plants. Later, in the 1930s, many synthetic textile factories were built. World War II brought many changes to Virginia. Large numbers of people serving in the armed forces moved to Norfolk and Washington, DC. Many of these people took permanent residence in the state after the war. During the 1960s, the manufacture of chemicals, clothing, electrical equipment, furniture, and transportation equipment increased the state's economic strength.

Industry's reliance on coal as a fuel source, as well as increased settlement along the Chesapeake Bay, caused a great deal of pollution in the state. Despite this, Virginia has a strong economy, mainly due to its broad economic base. Manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, and the activities of the federal government keep the economy healthy.

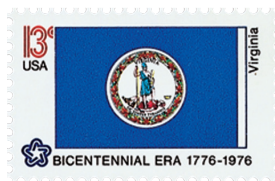
# This Day in History... June 25, 1788

## Virginia Becomes 10th State

On June 25, 1788, Virginia ratified the US Constitution and was admitted as the 10th state of the Union.

Several Native American tribes lived in Virginia when the first European explorers arrived. These included the Powhatan, Monacan and Manahoac, Nahyssan, Occaneechi, Susquehanna, Cherokee, and Nottoway. Spanish Jesuits created a settlement on the York River in 1570, but natives destroyed it after just a few months.

England's Queen Elizabeth I granted Sir Walter Raleigh permission to establish a colony in America in 1584. Raleigh sent several expeditions to the New World, but they all failed due to inadequate supplies. At that time, Raleigh and the queen gave the name Virginia to the east coast of America. In 1606, King James I chartered the Virginia Company to create a colony in Virginia. The first permanent English settlement in America was begun at Jamestown in May 1607.



*Virginia's flag pictures a woman, Virtue, standing in victory over a tyrant, acting out the state motto (which also appears on the flag): "Thus Always to Tyrants."*

Captain John Smith led Jamestown. Smith

guided the colony through many hardships until 1609, when he was injured and had to return to England. Without Smith's leadership, the colony floundered. The following winter was called the "Starving Time," and many colonists died of starvation. In the spring, the 60 survivors (out of 214) abandoned the settlement, but shortly after setting sail were met by supply ships led by Governor Thomas West, who was also known as Lord De La Warr. The settlers returned to Jamestown.

In 1612, colonist John Rolfe began raising tobacco. Rolfe also developed a new method for curing the tobacco leaves, and proved that tobacco could be exported to Europe. This product allowed the colony to survive economically. Rolfe married Pocahontas, the daughter of Chief Powhatan, paramount chief of the Powhatan Confederacy, in 1614. This marriage brought peace between the natives and the colonists.

Two major events occurred in Virginia in 1619. The first representative legislature in America, the House of Burgesses, was formed. The House of Burgesses met with the governor and his council to make laws for the colony. Dutch traders brought the first enslaved Africans in America to Virginia that year as well.

In 1624, Virginia was made a royal colony. The colony expanded westward a great deal. Over time, the colonists in eastern Virginia came to have different interests from those in the West.

Like most other colonists, Virginia's citizens were disturbed by Britain's tax policies, yet most remained loyal to the king. Virginia's leaders, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, led the colony in its dissent. When the House of Burgesses was dissolved, its



*Though fighting continued for nearly two more years, Yorktown was the last large-scale land battle of the war.*

members met without permission, calling themselves the First Virginia Convention. The members elected the delegates to America's First Continental Congress. A delegate from Virginia, Peyton Randolph, became its first president. At the Second Virginia Convention, held on March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry made his famous speech, which included the words, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

In June of 1776, Virginia adopted its first Constitution and became an independent commonwealth. This constitution included a declaration of rights written by George Mason – the first bill of rights in an American



*Stamp picturing the historic capitol building in Williamsburg.*



*Patrick Henry Stamp from the American Credo Series*



# This Day in History... June 25, 1788 continued

constitution. In 1776, the colony submitted to the Continental Congress a resolution calling for independence. This resolution became the Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson. Many Virginians fought for independence; in fact, more fought than in any other Southern colony. Noted leaders included the great cavalry leader “Light-Horse Harry” Lee, Daniel Morgan, and George Rogers Clark. The last major battle of the Revolutionary War was won on Virginia’s soil. In 1781, Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington at Yorktown, Virginia.



*Stamp pictures a cannon on display in the state capital of Richmond as well as the Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg.*



*37¢ Greetings from Virginia Stamp issued for the 2002 Rate Increase*

The Articles of Confederation loosely tied the 13 original colonies together. However, the Articles of Confederation soon proved to be inadequate. James Madison and other Virginians led the movement to create the Constitution of the United States. Virginia ratified the Constitution on June 25, 1788, making it the 10th state to enter the Union.

Virginia has been called the Mother of Presidents. Four of the first five US presidents were from Virginia – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. (In total, eight US presidents have hailed from Virginia. The other four were William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson.)

During the winter of 1860-61, seven Southern states withdrew from the Union. Virginia remained, hoping to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. But, two days after Abraham Lincoln called for Virginia to supply troops to the Union on April 15, 1861, Virginia voted to secede. Richmond served as the capital of the Confederacy from May 1861 until it was captured in April 1865.

Many people from the western part of the state did not agree with the decision to secede. They set up an independent government in the northwestern portion of the state. On June 20, 1863, 48 Virginia counties became the state of West Virginia, the 35th state to join the Union. In November 1863, two more counties joined West Virginia.

Like much of the Confederacy, Virginia was devastated by the Civil War. More battles were fought there than in any other state. Virginia’s General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865.



*Stamp pictures the state flag and modern replicas of the three ships that brought the settlers to Jamestown in 1607.*



*Stamp pictures the Virginia state bird and flower: the cardinal and flowering dogwood.*

During the 1880s, while still recovering from the Civil War, Virginia began building modern industries. These included cigarette factories, cotton textile plants, and shipbuilding plants. Later, in the 1930s, many synthetic textile factories were built. World War II brought many changes to Virginia. Large numbers of people serving in the armed forces moved to Norfolk and Washington, DC. Many of these people took permanent residence in the state after the war. During the 1960s, the manufacture of chemicals, clothing, electrical equipment, furniture, and transportation equipment increased the state’s economic strength.

Industry’s reliance on coal as a fuel source, as well as increased settlement along the Chesapeake Bay, caused a great deal of pollution in the state. Despite this, Virginia has a strong economy, mainly due to its broad economic base. Manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, and the activities of the federal government keep the economy healthy.