

1,001 events to read and learn about

Right now you are at the end of the most patriotic week of the year.

During this week most of America has been enjoying the exceptional rewards of a democracy. All the choices you have been allowed to make in life have led you to where you are at this moment.

While undoubtedly there are many things that you cannot control, democracy in America has given almost every citizen at least a chance to rise above their circumstances.

The greatest credit to our founding fathers is all the people in this great nation making the most of those chances.

Of course, our freedoms would have meant much less had there been nothing at stake in the first place. The fact that so many citizens have paid the ultimate price creating and protecting America makes democracy that much more important.

A book worth noting is currently available at Pioneer Memorial Library titled "1001 Events that made America: A Patriot's Handbook" by Alan Axelrod. (Find it on the new books shelf with call number 973.02 Ax) This book is a guide to what has shaped America into the country that we



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• Library Link

know and enjoy today. "1001 Events that made America" is organized chronologically by year.

Snippets of information are given about important events that shaped America dating back to 40000 B.C.

Modern American history might have started in 1492 when Columbus sailed the ocean blue. The fact is however, that the first European did not reach the soil of the American continent until approximately 39,000 years after the first Asian migrants.

The first Asian immigrants migrated across the Bering land bridge in 40000 B.C. Leif Eriksson was the first European to finally make it to the American continent around 1000 A.D. at current day Newfoundland.

The first permanent colony was established in 1607 as Jamestown, Va. It wasn't long afterward that the first college in America was

founded. The name was Harvard and the year was 1636. That is 140 years before the Declaration of Independence but only six years after the first capital punishment trial in 1630 during which Pilgrim John Billington was hanged for murder.

In 1638 the log cabin was introduced to America by a group of Swedish colonists. Ironically, log homes have gone from functional housing in the mid-1600's to a fashion trend in recent years.

Fashion was the last thing on everyone's mind in 1776; the most important year in the history of the United States.

Lesser known perhaps, is that Pennsylvania became the first state to abolish slavery in 1780. Three years later Noah Webster published The American Spelling Book. It wasn't until 1891 that words could legally be copyrighted under the International Copyright Act.

Perhaps more notable in 1891 was the invention of a new game. James Naismith nailed up the first peach baskets - not in Kansas as some may think - but at a YMCA in Springfield, Mass. The rules were: no tackling allowed and no running with the ball.

Fast forward to modern nation-shaping events such as Hurricane Katrina and the Terry Schiavo case and it is obvious that we are still maturing as a country. The fact remains however, that we live in the greatest nation in the world. Some events in the history of the United States are dubious at best, but it is only through those events that we have been able to direct the path of this nation into the future.

Enjoy your freedom and have a great day!

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State reports 809 mumps cases so far

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has received reports of 809 mumps, either confirmed or probable) cases in 70 Kansas counties as of Wednesday.

For more detailed information about mumps cases in Kansas, please visit the KDHE Web site at www.kdheks.gov/immunize/mumps.html. The most recent KDHE report on mumps cases by county can be downloaded from that Web page.

Iowa health officials have reported 1,938 cases of mumps as of July 1.

Mumps is usually a relatively mild viral infection. It is transmitted through saliva, coughing, sneezing or being in close contact (within three feet of the person for an hour). Symptoms include fever, swelling and tenderness in glands around the neck and jaw.

Laboratory tests can be useful in diagnosis, especially if the symptoms are not typical, if a person has been vaccinated, or if they had the disease in the past.

Individuals who contract mumps are considered conta-

gious from three days prior to symptoms appearing to four days following the appearance of symptoms. Mumps can be severe, although this is very rare. Severe cases can result in long-term illness including meningitis, deafness and sterility in men.

"Anyone who has not received the MMR vaccine that protects against mumps should do so. Those who have received just one MMR shot should receive a second," said Dr. Howard Rodenberg, KDHE Division of Health Director. "A second dose provides more protection than just one."

KDHE also recommends that people practice good hand washing, avoid sharing drinking cups and eating utensils, and avoid close contact with anyone who has the mumps.

MMR vaccination is required for kindergarten school entry in Kansas.

The first vaccination is given in the first year of life.

The second can be given a few months later, but must be given prior to school entry.

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