

# Back In 1776

## By the Numbers

**U.S. population:** Approx. 2.5 million

**Average height of American men:**  
5'8"

**Life expectancy:** 35-38 years

**Orange peel cordial (20 gallons):**  
3 pounds\*

**Checkerboard with pieces:**  
2 shillings, 6 pence\*

**Double-barreled gun:**  
3 pounds\*



\*Cost in Richmond County, Virginia

## The Founding Fathers

John Adams, Benjamin Franklin,  
Alexander Hamilton, John Jay,  
Thomas Jefferson, James Madison,  
George Washington

## The Thirteen Colonies

- The New England Colonies (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island)
- The Middle Colonies (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania)
- The Southern Colonies (Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia)



## Top News

**Jan. 2** – The Continental Congress publishes the Tory Act, providing guidance for how the colonies should handle Americans who remain loyal to the British and King George.



**Jan. 10** – Thomas Paine anonymously publishes the pamphlet *Common Sense*, reflecting his arguments in favor of American independence.

**March 14** – Alexander Hamilton is named captain of a New York artillery company; he becomes George Washington's personal aide the following year.



**June 15** – The Assembly of the Lower Counties of Pennsylvania declares itself independent of British and Pennsylvanian authority, establishing the state of Delaware.

**Sept. 9** – The Continental Congress adopts the United States of America as the new name for the nation, replacing the previously used United Colonies.

**Oct. 31** – King George III addresses British Parliament in his first speech since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, acknowledging Britain's struggle in the war with the United States.

**Dec. 25** – George Washington and thousands of soldiers begin crossing the Delaware River, leading a surprise attack on Britain's Hessian forces in Trenton, New Jersey.



John Trumbull's 1818 painting, Declaration of Independence

## Did You Know? Declaration of Independence Edition

The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 delegates to the Continental Congress.

Congress formally declared its freedom from Britain on July 2, 1776.

Some delegates who voted for independence did not sign the Declaration, and some signers were not delegates to Congress at the time of the vote.

Although the Colonies approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, most of the actual signing occurred on Aug. 2, 1776.

Signing the Declaration "was believed by many at the time to be our own death warrants," wrote Pennsylvania's representative Benjamin Rush.

John Adams believed that July 2 was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4 events in protest.

Credit: Wiki Commons; Courtesy: Everett Collection

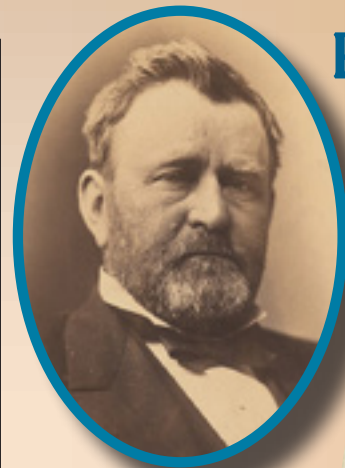
## POSTERS & PINUPS OF THE PAST



# BACK IN 1876

## BY THE NUMBERS

- U.S. population:** Approx. 45.8 million
- World population:** Approx. 1.3 billion
- Average height of 18-year-old American men:** 5'6"
- Train ticket from Philadelphia to Baltimore:** \$3.15
- Ladies' basque jacket:** \$0.25
- Gold (1 oz.):** \$18.94
- Postage (½ oz.):** \$0.03



## POLITICS

**U.S. president:**  
Ulysses S. Grant  
**U.S. vice president:**  
Office vacant



## TOP NEWS

**Feb. 2** – The National League of Professional Baseball Clubs, now known as the National League (NL), is formed.



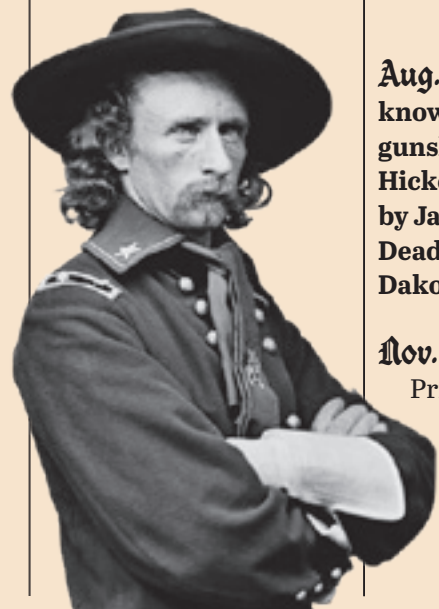
**March 7** – Alexander Graham Bell, at age 29, receives a patent for the telephone.

**April 22** – In the first official National League baseball game, the Boston Red Caps beat the Philadelphia Athletics 6-5.

**June 4** – The first Transcontinental Express train arrives in San Francisco, completing the cross-country journey from New York in a record-setting 83 hours.

**June 25** – Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and his U.S. Army troops are

defeated by the Native American forces led by Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull in the Battle of the Little Bighorn.



**Aug. 2** – Well-known gambler and gunslinger "Wild Bill" Hickok is murdered by Jack McCall in Deadwood, South Dakota.

**Nov. 30** – Yale defeats Princeton 2-0 in Hoboken, New Jersey, in the first collegiate football game played on Thanksgiving.



"A truce - not a compromise, but a chance for high-toned gentlemen to retire gracefully from their very civil declarations of war." By Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly, February 27, 1877.

## ELECTION OF 1876

**Republican Party ticket:** Rutherford B. Hayes and William A. Wheeler

**Democratic Party ticket:** Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks

- Considered one of the most contentious elections in American history
- Massive voter fraud took place in the former Confederate states of South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, and votes were also challenged in Oregon
- Between these four states, 20 electoral votes were contested
- Tilden, the governor of New York, won the popular vote
- The 20 disputed electoral votes were eventually awarded to Ohio Gov. Hayes, who then won the election by a single vote
- While the election took place in November 1876, Hayes wasn't sworn in until March 1877

### Governmental changes following the election of 1876:

- Electoral Commission Act — Legislation passed to create a committee of 15 impartial members who would decide the election's outcome
- Compromise of 1877 — The Electoral Commission's decision, an informal agreement between Southern Democrats and Hayes allies to settle the election result, marked the end of the 12-year, post-Civil War Reconstruction era
- Electoral Count Act — Federal law enacted in 1887 outlining the procedures for counting electoral votes in a presidential election

