

# THE HISTORY CHRONICLE

A GLIMPSE INTO AMERICA'S PAST

## ERIE CANAL TAKES A TOLL ON TRAVEL

By: Gabriella Boyes

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The Erie Canal, Clinton DeWitt's greatest ambition, was completed on October 26, 1825 after eight long years of working to connect the Hudson River with Lake Erie.

**The Idea**

A canal is a manmade river, and the Erie Canal has a fascinating story. The New Yorkers were having a hard time trading with the Midwest. Everybody had to either walk or go on horseback; both were hard. Then a New Yorker named DeWitt Clinton got an idea: build a canal!

**The Plan**

The Bonus Bill, legislation to pay for building the Erie Canal,

was passed by U.S. Congress. But there was a big surprise! In 1816, James Madison vetoed the Bonus Bill. But Clinton persevered and got

the New York State Legislature to support the building of the Erie Canal. They would then get their money back by collecting toll money from people using the Canal.

**Breaking Ground**

On the fourth of July in 1817, hundreds of people clustered to see the ground breaking of the Erie Canal. No one knew that it would



take eight years to build. The long building period was a good thing for hungry Ireland. Ireland was having a famine, and America needed workers. Therefore, when the Irish heard this, many of them packed up their important belongings and set off for America.

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## JEFFERSON DEFEATS ADAMS

By: Benjamin Kinard

Thomas Jefferson defeated John Adams in the recent presidential election of 1800. Jefferson received 61 percent of the popular vote, and Adams received 39 percent.

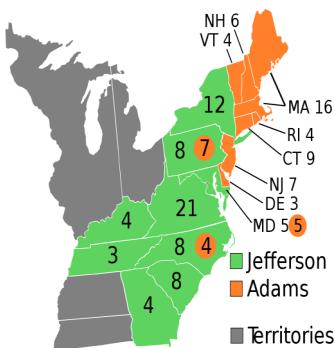
Jefferson and Adams had lots of arguments during the

election. They had been good friends before, but they disagreed about how to stop France and Great Britain from attacking their ships.

Jefferson and his party, the Democratic-Republicans, wanted to side with France, but Adams and the Federalists wanted to stay

neutral. Adams was afraid the United States would be destroyed by the stronger countries. Jefferson wanted to support France and the ideas behind the French Revolution.

Jefferson will be inaugurated on March 4, 1801, in the city of Washington.



## LEWIS AND CLARK EXPLORE THE WEST

By: Sarah Rathert

President Thomas Jefferson asked Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to go on an expedition to explore the west. He asked them to make new maps, to trade with Indian tribes, and to report on new plants and animals they discovered. Now, over two years later, they are home to share what they learned with us.

On May 14, 1804 the Corps of Discovery began their trip up the Missouri

River. They traded with the Missouri and Oto tribes before meeting with the Mandan and Hidasta tribes. Lewis and Clark met a French-Canadian fur trader

named Charbonneau and his wife Sacagawea, a young Indian girl, who helped them on their journey.

They saw many animals along the way. On the

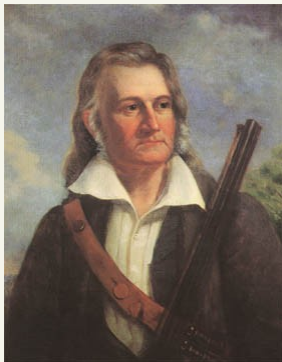


Great Plains, Clark came face-to-face with a grizzly bear! After spending a month getting around Great Falls, Meriwether Lewis finally saw the Rocky Mountains.

The Nez Perce Indians helped the Corps survive in the cold winter on the mountains. And this tribe helped the men get to the Columbia

River.

Finally, on November 15, 1805, the men saw the Pacific Ocean. It was a cold winter, so the Corps members stayed at Fort Clatsop. They drew sketches of animals that they discovered and they made maps of the land they had seen. On September 23, 1806, they returned to St. Louis to tell our nation about all the plants and animals that they had written about in their journal and to tell about the land they had explored. Lewis and Clark are our heroes.

J. J. AUDUBON:  
BIRDMAN OF AMERICA

By: Luke Peyton

John James Audubon was a naturalist who lived in America during the early nineteenth century.

He drew pictures of all kinds of birds like swifts, woodpeckers, and trumpeter swans that made him famous.

His paintings were three feet tall.

He liked hunting. He hunted the birds he drew so he could get a close-up of what the bird looked like.

Audubon had several unusual experiences. He experienced one of the biggest earthquakes in all of North America. He saw flocks and flocks of passenger pigeons which do not even exist today. He found about 9,000 swift nests hidden inside one hollowed out tree.

I think Audubon was a great artist who lived an interesting life.



**S**tolen from home when only a girl  
**A**n Indian squaw from the Shoshoni tribe  
**C**harbonneau's bride, from slave to wife  
**A**wesome at doing things she knew how to do, like finding places to hunt elk and deer  
**G**uided men through places unknown  
**A** valuable jewel who earned no reward  
**W**alked on the long, hard, rugged path  
**E**ven though little Pomp was on her back  
**A** solemn, hardworking, courageous Indian girl

Maddie Peyton



By Luke & Maddie Peyton

William Wilberforce was a member of Britain's Parliament who helped stop the slave trade in Great Britain. One of the reasons Wilberforce spent most of his life in Parliament working to stop the slave trade is that he became a Christian. After he became a Christian, he wanted to become a preacher and leave the government, but his friends said not to. They thought he could use all the power he had to accomplish good in the world. He agreed with his friends to re-

## WILLIAM WILBERFORCE STOPS THE SLAVE TRADE

main a government official.

He stood up in Parliament and introduced a bill to stop the slave trade in 1789, which did not pass. He showed people how bad slavery was by showing a diagram of a slave ship, which showed slaves lying down being crowded. The bunks they were in were close together, and their arms were shackled up against the walls. Wilberforce convinced other government leaders to support The Slave Trade Act of 1807, which made it against the law to put slaves in any British ships. Eighteen years after he first introduced the bill, it finally passed.

Our investigative reporter, Maddie Peyton, interviewed Mr. Wilberforce about what he thought about the slave trade to Britain.

MP: Why did you get involved in stop-

ping the slave trade to Britain, Mr. Wilberforce?

WW: First, I became a Christian. My friends showed me how bad slavery was. A freed slave showed me the conditions on a slave ship.

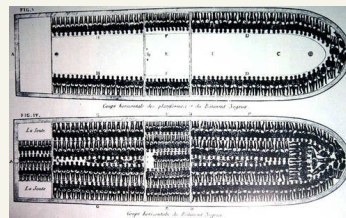
MP: What were the conditions on a slave ship?

WW: The slaves were crowded together. They laid down in rows close together on levels. Their arms were stretched out above their heads and their legs were stretched out also.

MP: What did you do to get the slave trade act passed?

WW: I got regular people all over England to sign a petition supporting the bill. I also showed people a slave ship.

William Wilberforce was a special man. His life was devoted to God and freeing slaves.



## ERIE CANAL TAKES A TOLL

(Continued from page 1)

### Jobs to be Done

The hard and long project had just begun. There were many jobs that needed to be done, including stake-setters, soil-borers, underbrush-grubbers, tree chopper-downers, stump-pullers, root-cutters, ditch-diggers, and dirt movers. The entire Erie Canal would end up being over 360 miles, making it the longest canal in the western world. It would rise 568 feet all the way from the Hudson River to Lake Erie and include 83 locks and 18 aqueducts. The pro-

ject would be extremely challenging and seem as if it would never be done.

### Trouble for Clinton

Suddenly there came a problem. Clinton's term as governor ended. He ran for office again but lost because "Clinton's Big Ditch," also known as the Erie Canal, was taking so long. But work continued on the Canal even though Clinton was not governor. In 1824, he ran again for governor and won. The very next year, the Erie Canal was finished. Finally, the celebration came.

### The First Ride

Hurrah! Hurray! They were the sounds heard that day as the lead packet

began its first journey with DeWitt Clinton, the Father of the Erie Canal, on it. At last the "Amazing, Impossible Erie Canal" was finished. It had been first proposed in 1724 by General Cadwallader Golden, but not started until 1817; it had been a long journey.

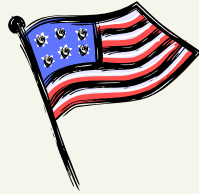
The trip, that used to take two or three months, now took Clinton only one week. Starting at Lake Erie, Clinton's packet set off toward the Atlantic Ocean. The Erie Canal was completed, connecting the waters of the West with the East. Clinton's dream had come true.

# READERS' CHOICE

## STARS AND STRIPES FLYING HIGH

By: Sarah Bruns

The following is the story of Francis Scott Key's writing of our National Anthem...



*Knock, knock, knock!*

"Coming!" Francis Scott Key called out as the banging on the door continued.

Francis Scott Key lived in Georgetown, which is a small town near Washington, DC. He ran down a flight of steps and flung open the door. Before Francis had any time to greet his friend, Richard, his friend began to talk.

"Francis, Dr. Beanes has been arrested by the British!" he exclaimed.

Francis was furious. "What?! What?!" he exploded. "How come?"

"Well, the good doctor was helping the wounded British soldiers. After the army left, three troublemakers started making a commotion. He had them arrested. The British were outraged!" Richard told him.



"Something must be done! I will ask the President's permission to order the Redcoats to let Beanes go," Francis Scott Key said determinedly.

"Polly!" he called to his beloved wife after Richard left. "Polly, I need to leave to visit the President at the French Minister's house since the Capitol was burned to the ground," Francis told his wife. "John! Saddle

up Fireball!" Francis ordered his son.

Later that day around seven in the evening, Francis was rapping on the French Minister's door. A maid answered and said, "Come right this way."

President Madison looked pale and worried when Francis entered the parlor.

"With your permission, Sir, I would like to rescue Dr. Beanes from the claws of the infernal Redcoats!" he asked.

"You may, you may," Madison confirmed.

Francis Scott Key galloped toward his home in Georgetown.

"Polly," Francis called when he reached his home.

"Oh, Darling! Home so soon?" Polly asked as they hugged.

"Polly, tomorrow, take the children to our estate in Western Maryland," he told her. He sniffed and then asked, "What smells so delicious?"

"Only our leftovers from supper."

"May I have them?"

"Why, it's eleven o'clock. Did you have any supper?"

"Well, no," he admitted.

"Why, you must be starved!"

Polly gasped as she scooped the remains of the chicken stew into a trencher for her husband.

Francis could barely stay awake as he finished his supper and dressed for bed.



The next morning, Francis rode off to Baltimore in the stifling heat. He found his friend, Colonel

Skinner. Colonel Skinner had letters from wounded British soldiers saying how Dr. Beanes had kindly tended their wounds.

On September fifth, Francis Scott Key and Colonel Skinner headed for the British ships. They spent two miserable days searching for the massive fleet,



but without success. Finally, they reached Admiral Cochrane's eighty gun flagship, the H.M.S. *Tonnant*. They climbed aboard. Skinner and Key greeted the admiral, showed him the letters, and asked for the release of Dr. Beanes.

The admiral was polite but firm, "No, I cannot, will not, and shall not. But, if you would like to consult the general, he is right down those steps."

Francis thanked him, and he and Colonel Skinner stepped into General Ross' cabin. There they found General Ross and Admiral Cockburn leaning over a map.

"Who are you? And what's your business?" Admiral Cockburn barked.

"My name is Francis Scott Key, and this is my friend, Colonel Skinner. We are here to ask you to release Dr. Beanes. Look, here are some letters from your wounded men telling how Dr. Beanes compassionately dressed their wounds."

"Nonsense! A pack of lies! We are taking Dr. Beanes to Halifax, Nova

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(Continued from page 4)

Scotia, to see that he is severely punished!" Admiral Cockburn yelled. "Punished, I tell you..."

"Be quiet! These letters are quite moving. We will release Dr. Beanes. However, you three will have to stay here until after the attack of Baltimore we're planning. Make yourselves comfortable. Guard, show these men to Dr. Beanes," the General called out.

"Dr. Beanes, How are you my friend?" Colonel Skinner cried out when he saw him.

Francis explained everything. Dr. Beanes was horrified.

"We must witness the attack of our country," he moaned. Then, the same admiral who had

shown them to the general told them they were to stay on a different ship, named the *Surprise*. For three tedious days the British ships crept up the Chesapeake Bay.

On Saturday, the fleet anchored just off North Point. Sunday morning, Baltimore's church bells seemed to ring, "*The British are here, the British are here!*" Francis watched grimly. Things looked gray for the Americans. The British landed some troops while the rest of the fleet crept closer and closer. The next night was spent restlessly by Dr. Beanes, Colonel Skinner, and Francis as the fleet moved closer to Fort McHenry.



**BOOM!!!!**

It was early in the morn-

ing. The bombardment had begun. Hour after hour the bombs rained down on Fort McHenry. Dusk fell, and Dr. Beanes called to Francis, "Can you spot the flag?"

Francis squinted into the night, "I see it!"

The bombardment continued through the night, and in the morning Francis Scott Key strained his eyes to see the Stars and Stripes flying high and true. Francis pulled out some old paper and wrote our national anthem --anthem of the home of the brave!



## AMERICA,

Land of...

Delightful, dazzling seashores,

Majestic, glorious forests,

Marvelous, massive mountains,

Refreshing, clean rivers,

Colorful, pleasant plains.

## America, land of...

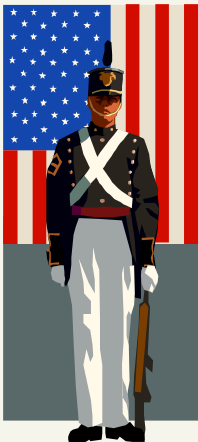
Strong people who desperately wanted freedom.

Courageous people who fought for their lives.

"The free and the brave."

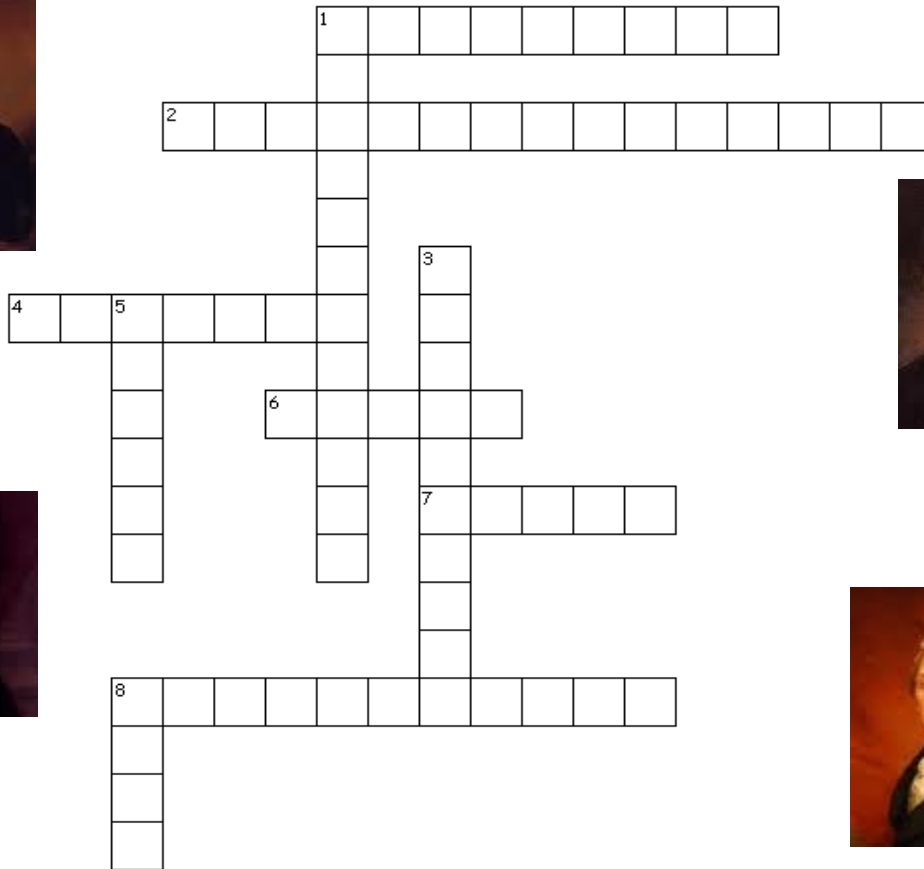
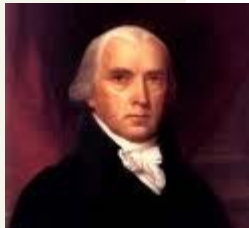
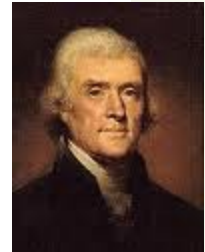
"God Bless America,  
My Home Sweet Home."

Alex Bruns  
2009-2010



# US PRESIDENTS FROM 1800 TO 1825

Contributed by: Rachel Bruns



## Across

1. Second president of the United States
2. Wrote the Declaration of Independence
4. Louisiana and \_\_\_\_\_ were added to the Union during James Madison's presidency.
6. James Monroe was the \_\_\_\_\_ president of the United States.
7. Thomas Jefferson appointed Lewis and \_\_\_\_\_ to explore the West.

## Down

1. President during the War of 1812
3. Thomas Jefferson's estate is called \_\_\_\_\_.
5. James Madison's wife's name was \_\_\_\_\_.
8. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on the Fourth of \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE SHINING MOUNTAINS

Illustrated by: Benjamin Kinard

