

OLLI AT UNT — ROBSON RANCH

Miracles of the American Revolution

Providence, Courage, and the Improbable Birth of a Nation

Dory Wiley · September 24, 2026

Primary source: Larkin Spivey



George Washington

Commander-in-Chief
First President

THE QUESTION ON THE TABLE

"The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition were such as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving."

— George Washington



King James I

King of England
1603–1625

THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS — 1609

"Kings are not only God's lieutenants upon earth, but even by God himself they are called gods."

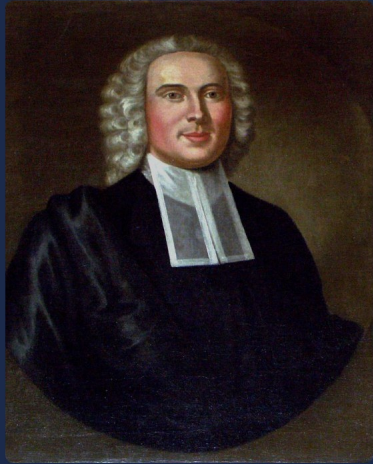
— King James I, Speech to Parliament, 1609

His son Charles I took the doctrine to its extreme — and lost his head for it in 1649.

THE CROWN'S WEAPON — ROMANS 13

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

— Romans 13:1–2 · Wielded by the Crown for 125 years



**Rev. Jonathan
Mayhew**

West Church, Boston
1720–1766

THE MORNING GUN — 1750

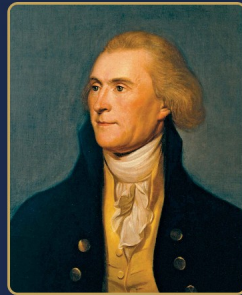
*"It is blasphemy to call tyrants and oppressors
God's ministers."*

— Jonathan Mayhew, *Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission*, 1750

John Adams kept 13 copies. Called it "the morning gun of the Revolution."

PROPOSED MOTTO — GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES, 1776

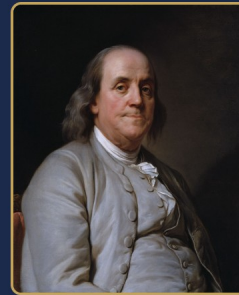
*"Resistance to tyrants
is obedience to God."*



Thomas Jefferson

Had it engraved on
his personal seal

&



Benjamin Franklin

Proposed it jointly
for the Great Seal

Rooted in Mayhew's tradition · 1776



**Rev. John Peter
Gabriel Muhlenberg**

Woodstock, Virginia
January 1776

THE BLACK REGIMENT

"There is a time to preach and a time to pray. But those times have passed away. There is a time to fight — and that time has now come."

He removed his robes. Beneath them: a Continental Army uniform.
300 men walked down the aisle behind him.



George Whitefield

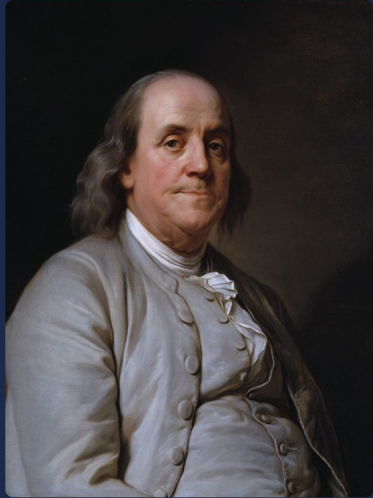
The Great Awakening
1730s–1770

THEY CARRIED THE AWAKENING INTO BATTLE

Whitefield preached to 30,000 in open fields — no microphone, no amplification. Franklin went to calculate how far the voice could carry. He ended up emptying his pockets into the collection plate.

Before departing for Quebec in 1775, Revolutionary soldiers opened his tomb in Newburyport. They cut pieces of his collar and wristbands — and carried them into battle next to their skin.

Benedict Arnold was there. Daniel Morgan was there.



Benjamin Franklin

Constitutional Convention
June 28, 1787 · Age 81

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, 1787

"All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending providence in our favor."

"God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

Carried in by prisoners. Spoke rarely. When he rose, the room went still.

THE THIRD REVOLUTION — WHY 1776 SUCCEEDED

1649

Got the **principle** right.
Cromwell became the disease.

1688

Got the **mechanism** right.
But never answered: where do
rights come from?

1776

Got the **foundation** right.

"A king can repeal what a king grants. A parliament can repeal what a parliament grants. No king and no parliament can repeal what the Creator ordains."



George Washington

Age 23 · 1755
4 bullets through his coat
2 horses shot under him

BRADDOCK'S MASSACRE · 1755

"Seeing you were under the special guardianship of the Great Spirit, we immediately ceased to fire at you."

— Native American war chief, 1770

"The Great Spirit protects that man and guides his destinies — he will become the chief of nations."

Every other mounted officer was killed or wounded. He alone survived.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS · AUGUST 29–30, 1776

"At this time a very dense fog began to rise, and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner over both encampments. I recollect this peculiar providential occurrence perfectly well. I could scarcely discern a man at six yards' distance."

— Major Ben Tallmadge, Washington's Chief of Intelligence

9,000 men escaped in broad daylight. Washington was the last man off the last boat.

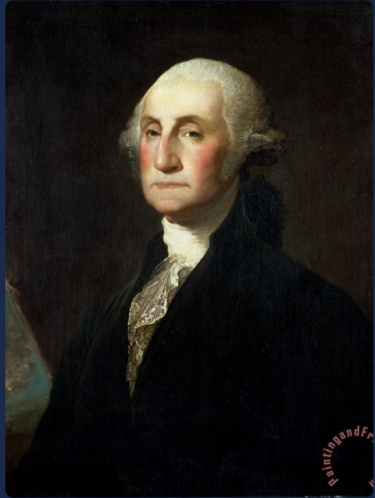
Three Miracles · One Night

1. Howe stops
inexplicably

2. Wind shifts · 5
warships can't
advance

3. One-sided fog ·
covers only the
Americans

Odds: 1 in 12,000



George Washington

After Brooklyn Heights
August 1776

"The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations."

— George Washington, after Brooklyn Heights, 1776



Robert Morris

Financier of the Revolution
Signed all 3 founding documents

PHILADELPHIA · DECEMBER 1776

"What security canst thou give?"

"My note and my honor."

"Robert, thou shalt have it."

\$50,000 in hard currency — roughly **\$1.6 million today** — delivered the next morning. The Quaker's name was never recorded.

Odds: 1 in 500

TRENTON · FIVE LAYERS · DECEMBER 25–26, 1776

1. The Spy

Honeyman convinces
Rall the Americans
aren't coming

2. The Card Game

Abraham Hunt keeps
Rall up drinking all night

**3. Warning
Turned Away**

Loyalist farmer arrives
with urgent note —
turned away at the door

**4. The
Unread Note**

Rall pockets it unread.
Found in his coat after he
was shot.

*Written in English. He
couldn't read English.*

**5. Princeton
Freeze**

Overnight freeze lets
Washington escape
Cornwallis silently

948 prisoners taken. Not a single American killed in combat. · Odds: 1 in 5,000

YORKTOWN · OCTOBER 1781 · THE END OF THE WAR

The French Fleet

Admiral de Grasse arrives at the Chesapeake in exactly the right three-week window — sealing Cornwallis from the sea. Yale's President Stiles:

"Who but God could have ordained the critical arrival of the Gallic fleet?"

Odds: 1 in 150

The Squall

Cornwallis attempts a nighttime river escape. First wave crosses. A sudden violent squall drives the second wave miles downriver. Breakout collapses.

"Thus expired the last hope of the British army."

— British colonel, October 1781 · Odds: 1 in 60

Providence opened a door in 1776. It slammed one shut in 1781.

WEATHER AS PROVIDENCE — SIX EVENTS, SAME SIDE, EVERY TIME

OLD TESTAMENT PATTERN

- **Red Sea** — east wind parts the waters for Israel
- **Jordan River** — waters stop at the moment Israel needs to cross
- **Sisera's Army** — flash floods destroy the enemy at battle's peak
- **Spanish Armada, 1588** — "God blew and they were scattered"

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- **Brooklyn Heights** — wind stops the fleet; one-sided fog covers 9,000
- **Dorchester Heights** — nor'easter wrecks Howe's counterattack
- **Trenton** — storm blinds Hessians; tailwind for Washington
- **Princeton** — overnight freeze, silent escape around Cornwallis
- **Yorktown** — squall drives Cornwallis's escape boats downriver

Six weather events. Six American victories. Every one favoring the same side. · Odds: 1 in 300,000

JULY 4, 1826 — THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Bitter enemies for 12 years. Reconciled through 158 letters — the great correspondence of American history. Benjamin Rush called them *"the North and South Poles of the American Revolution."*

"Thomas Jefferson survives."

— John Adams · Last words · July 4, 1826

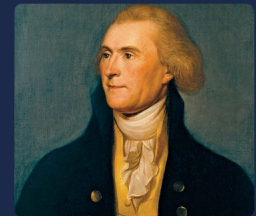
He was wrong. Jefferson had died hours earlier. Adams died that evening.

Both men. Same day. Fiftieth anniversary. · Odds: 1 in 1,200



John Adams

d. July 4, 1826 · Age 90



Thomas Jefferson

d. July 4, 1826 · Age 83

THE ACCOUNTING

The Great Awakening	1 in 25	Robert Morris / Unknown Quaker	1 in 500
The Third Revolution	1 in 30	Trenton / Princeton (5 layers)	1 in 5,000
Washington at Braddock	1 in 500	Yorktown	1 in 9,000
Brooklyn Heights	1 in 12,000	Adams and Jefferson, July 4, 1826	1 in 1,200
Six Weather Miracles	1 in 300,000		

1 in 146,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

One in 146 sextillion



George Washington

Commander-in-Chief
First President

WHETHER YOU CALL IT PROVIDENCE, MIRACLE, OR FORTUNE —

*"I was but the humble agent of a favoring
Heaven, whose benign influence was so often
manifested in our behalf."*

— George Washington

It is, by any honest accounting, a true miracle.