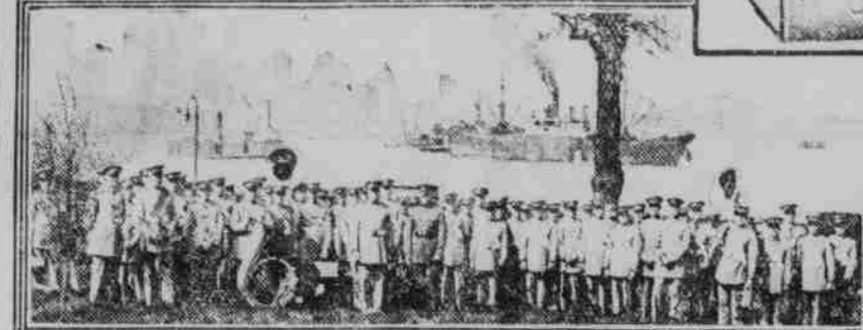


# INDEPENDENCE DAY, 1925



DAWES (1925) AND DAWES (1775)



NEW YORK AFTER 150 YEARS



CONTINENTAL ARMY IN 1775

U.S.S. CALIFORNIA

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

THIS year and next should be full years for that great American institution, the Fourth of July orator. For 1925 is the sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Revolution and 1926 is the centennial of the Declaration of Independence.

Moreover, it seems likely that Independence day—in part this year and more fully in 1926—will take on an added importance from a practical viewpoint by association with it of Defense day, which is now struggling for recognition as a national annual event with a fixed date. It was held for the first time September 12, the anniversary of the Battle of St. Mihiel, in which the A. E. F. won a great offensive in the World war. Defense day is in effect a "muster" and trying-out of the various military agencies for national defense. If it is approved by the people, theoretically Independence day is a fitting date for it, for the Fourth of July was the day of local muster all over the country in early times.

Doubtless Independence day of 1926 will be the more exciting, for there is to be a nationwide celebration under the auspices of the "Sesquicentennial Commission of Independence of the United States" to consist of nineteen members. The President and vice president and the speaker of the house are ex-officio members. The President appoints eight members, the vice president four senators and the speaker four representatives. It is the duty of the commission to promulgate to the American people an address and to prepare plans for a celebration program in co-operation with the officers of all state, city, civic and patriotic committees appointed for the occasion, even asking international participation, if it sees fit.

Moreover, Philadelphia is to have a celebration of its own in the form of an exposition to open June 1 and last until the close of the year. It is a part of the plan to demonstrate in a graphic manner the progress made in the United States in the last half century—since Philadelphia's famous centennial exposition. Other nations are expected to take part. The main purpose back of the display is to encourage more intimate commercial relationships, "and so hasten the coming of universal peace." The exposition is to occupy the entire 200 acres of League Island park in South Philadelphia and 400 additional acres adjoining. The city has provided for the building in the park of a stadium which will have a seating capacity of more than 100,000. Nine industrial buildings are planned, as well as structures to be erected by scientific and other associations. It should be a good show, for the United States has advanced tremendously in a thousand ways since 1876.

President Coolidge has recommended to congress favorable consideration of a request by Mayor Kendrick of Philadelphia, that the federal government participate in this sesquicentennial celebration. Mayor Kendrick asked for the designation of the secretaries of states and commerce to represent the national government at the exposition; the appointment of an advisory commission of 108 members composed of two representatives of each state and territory; authorization of the coinage of 500,000 \$150 special gold pieces; 1,000,000 50 cent silver pieces, and a new one dollar bill depicting the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Nevertheless, 1925 as a Fourth of July year has all sorts of thrills for the good American. First on the list was the celebration of the Lexington and Concord fights of April 19. Boston and its environs made much of it. Vice President Dawes and General Pershing were central figures. General Dawes is the great-grandson of William Dawes, Jr., who shared with Paul Revere the glory of the "Midnight Ride." One rode one way and the other another, spreading the alarm and meeting at Lexington to go together to Concord. It was an inspiring sight—when the Dawes of 1925 and the Dawes of 1775 met and exchanged greetings. The stirring scenes of one hundred and fifty years ago were re-enacted; there were patriotic addresses galore on historic spots and the radio carried it all to the people.

Then there were these one hundred and fiftieth anniversaries to attract attention: May 10, the capture of Ticonderoga by Allen and Arnold; May 20, the Mecklenburg Declaration at Charlotte, N. C.; June 1, the beginning of Kentucky under Daniel Boone; June 17, Bunker Hill. It was on July 3 that Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental armies at Cambridge, Mass., as commander in chief by virtue of appointment of congress; the anniversary is to be made much of by Boston.

In addition, the American Farm Bureau federation, through its 35 state federations and 4,800 county farm bureaus, has planned for the nation "an old-fashioned Fourth of July, with a big chicken dinner, flags, bands and speeches."

Wrote President Coolidge in a letter to G. E. Bradford, president of the American Farm Bureau federation:

"It was with great satisfaction that I learned of the plans of the farm bureau to take the lead in stimulating an organized, nation-wide celebration on the Fourth of July. The gathering together of our farmers and our townspeople in these country-wide celebrations will give a new significance to the day. Probably no activity is of more importance than the encouragement and development of our community life. In the early days in this country the church was the center of community life. Time and conditions have changed. We are in need of social, moral and spiritual as well as economic community action. I truly think these Fourth of July celebrations will play an important part in the encouragement of such community spirit."

President Bradford has this to say regarding the farmers' celebration:

It is particularly fitting that American farmers should take the lead through their own organization in stimulating a great national, uniform celebration on the Fourth of July. For it was just 150 years ago that a group of American farmers gathered at Concord bridge in Massachusetts and fired the first shot in the great battle for American independence. From that day to this the American farmer has been the bulwark of our national independence. More than one million farm families are enrolled as members of county farm bureaus. And we are not limiting this celebration to farmers. We are asking each county farm bureau to invite the co-operation and participation of every individual and every organization within the county. And the national organization is asking for the assistance and co-operation of many national organizations.

As to the union of Independence day and Defense day, the original proposition was to have Armistice day made Defense day.

When the army general staff recommended in May that Defense day and Armistice day be combined, President Coolidge was found to be opposed to the plan. Armistice day, it was declared at the White House by a spokesman for the President, was one that should be dedicated above all else to consideration of peace. Being the anniversary of the day on which hostilities ceased in the most destructive war the world has ever known, Armistice day, President Coolidge thinks, should not be linked with official action of any kind suggestive of war.

The President, it was recalled by his spokesman, had just appealed forcibly to the nations of Europe to give a sincere demonstration of a will to peace and to rebuild their war-torn resources. He has repeatedly, since assuming charge of the destinies of the United States, proclaimed this government to be most covetous of world peace and anxious that America take the lead in pointing the way to peace and the material prosperity which accompanies it. This being so, the prospect of America choosing Armistice day for a demonstration of its military arm is regarded by Mr. Coolidge as most inconsistent with his policy of international relations.

Defense day last year was held in September in the best of the national political campaign, and quite a furor was raised concerning it by pacifist organizations at the time. The President was not opposed to taking stock of the nation's military resources as was done on that occasion in co-operation with the states, it was said by the spokesman, and he probably will not oppose an annual inventory of that kind if it is not proposed to combine it with Armistice day.

Another objection to the plan is the fact that it calls for voluntary action of the people in re-

sponding to the muster call and the further fact that there is no provision in the law for the Defense day program at any time. If such a military stock-taking of resources provided under the national defense act is to be undertaken annually, President Coolidge thinks congress should be consulted and should approve it by providing appropriate legislation.

Another thing that bothers the President is that the proposed program necessitates the expenditure of considerable money by the government and imposes upon the states a great direct expense, not to mention the indirect cost involved through the interruption of business that would be entailed in carrying out the proposal.

The President does not want to appear as in any way discouraging adequate preparedness. He is an earnest advocate of that, but he is just as earnest in his advocacy of government economy.

The President would have the governors of states consulted as to their wishes in the matter. The states must co-operate, of course, and are relied upon by the War department to do their share in making Defense day a success.

The result was that the President expressed a preference for July 4 as the day on which the proposed national defense test could be most appropriately held. Then the question arose in the War department whether plans could be reconstructed in time to utilize July 4 this year. Many officers connected with the test last September felt that it would be better to abandon the plans this year rather than attempt to arrange the test in the short time available. They believed that rather than risk a failure, it would be preferable to postpone the holding of a defense test until July 4, 1926.

It was pointed out also that the regular army, National Guard, reservists and the citizens' military training camps would be engaged in July in their regular training programs, and these would be seriously interfered with if a defense test was held at that time. To assure an organized and successful demonstration, it is said to be vital that the personnel of these four branches be in their respective home communities at the time the plans are made, so that they can co-operate with the national leaders in charge.

So at this writing it seems impossible to say just what figure the Defense day test will cut in the Independence day celebration. It was quite a large performance last year, according to War department reports. These show that there were 6,535 local demonstrations, and that more than 10,000,000 people participated in one way or another. The regular army turned out 92,581 officers and men, the National Guard 169,633, and the organized reserves 50,168.

Fourth of July orators this year in search of a theme have a wide choice. They might do worse than to speak of some of the changes that 150 years have made. The Star-Spangled Banner of 1925 as compared with the Bunker Hill flag is a gorgeous theme, suggestive of the political progress of the nation. In 1775 we had nothing but little privateers under sail to fight our battles on sea. Today we have a proud navy, of which the California is a fine sample. The increase in population and material wealth is suggested by the picture showing the little book of the second census as compared with the big volumes of the fourteenth. When Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental armies July 3 at Cambridge a fife and drum corps furnished the martial music. By way of contrast the army band of today—with the New York of 1925 looming high in the background! All these suggest the growth of the United States of America from the thirteen colonies of 1775 to the wealthiest and most powerful nation of earth—the one nation dedicated to liberty, equal rights and the pursuit of happiness.

## BLAST AND FIRE WRECK THEATER

UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF PEOPLE PROBABLY DEAD IN KANSAS CITY.

Kansas City.—An unknown number of persons which may range from a few to more than a score, were believed to have met death when an explosion and fire destroyed the Gillis theater building here while an audience of fewer than 100 was witnessing motion picture.

Scores of persons in the building at the time of the blast were injured. Some estimates of the number of dead run as high as 30 to 50.

Officials declared there was no way to estimate the number of lives lost, until a search of the ruins is completed.

Firemen, policemen and volunteers entered the debris as soon as the flames were quenched, but with no hope of finding alive any who were trapped following the explosion.

Paul Schultz, of Waldron, Mo., estimated that between 75 and 100 persons were in the theater a few minutes before the blast. Schultz left the playhouse five minutes before the explosion and later ran back into the building in an effort to rescue a brother. He said the small audience appeared panic-stricken and unable to reach his brother, he made his way out.

The cashier of the theater said between 35 and 50 persons were in the audience when the blast blew off the roof. She believed none escaped.

The explosion, which apparently occurred in a restaurant underneath the theater caused a portion of the main floor to collapse and blew off the roof, and soon afterwards portions of the walls caved in, burying several persons.

Only a small audience was in the theater when the blast occurred. Flames swept the building immediately.

The walls soon crumbled and 1/2 stores located in the building and adjoining structures also were destroyed.

Several hours after the theater was reduced to ruins it was impossible to gain definite information as to the number of persons trapped.

John Hogan, a fireman, was killed and two others were injured seriously when a fire truck on the way to the scene crashed into a telephone post.

Thirty minutes after the explosion the south wall of the theater caved in, crushing adjoining store rooms.

Due to the confusion and flames enveloped the structure, it was impossible to determine whether there had been any deaths.

It was known one fireman and a chorus girl were injured.

### Shooting Affray on Train

Greenville, S. C.—An unidentified man is dead and W. F. Flindt, Atlanta, is badly wounded, as the result of a shooting affray on Southern railway train No. 135, just as it pulled into Greenville.

Officers arrested O. R. Magasen, 32, said to be a native of Spain and reported to have deserted from the United States army four days ago, in connection with the shooting. Eye-witnesses said Magasen began firing promiscuously as the train was about five miles from Greenville.

Reports from the hospital to which he was rushed were that Flindt's condition was "very serious."

Magasen told reporters that he remembered nothing of the shooting. He admitted having deserted from the army, and said he was going home, but apparently could not tell where his home was.

The unidentified man died as he was being taken from the train.

### Three Killed, 35 Injured

Jersey City.—Three persons were killed and 35 injured, several seriously, when a Pavonia avenue trolley car out of control, ran down a steep hill and crashed into another trolley at the head of Ninth street. The dead are B. Paulson, negro, Bosford, Pa., and two unidentified men. Edward Olsky, 13, and William Burns, 68, both of Jersey City, were critically injured. Few of the passengers of either car who were for the most part factory workers returning home, escaped injury.

### Kiwanians Meet 1926 at Montreal

St. Paul, Minn.—Montreal was chosen for the 1926 convention of Kiwanis International at the closing session of the convention.

John H. Moss, Milwaukee, Wis., was elected president of the international at the final session.

All officers were chosen unanimously and included J. Walter Taylor, Montreal, vice president; Henry C. Heinz, Atlanta, treasurer and James P. Neal, Walla Walla, Wash., vice-president Taylor and Heinz are incumbents.

### Steamship Crew Highly Praised

Providence, R. I.—In a report forwarded to Washington United States steamboat inspectors here command the officers and members of the crew of the freighter Quantico for their seamanship during a fire in the vessel's hold off the Rhode Island Coast recently. After the fire was discovered in the cargo of cotton which the Quantico was bringing here from Norfolk, the vessel raced here under full steam while the crew battled the flames.

### Squeak in Doc's Motor Turns Out to Be Cat

Chicago.—Dr. Simon Stern, 3025 South Michigan avenue, couldn't get his car started one morning. Every time he tried the starter the engine let out ear-splitting yowls.

In spite of the rain the doctor had to get out and look at last. As he lifted the hood something that seemed as large as a horse and proved as active as a cyclone jumped off the engine into his face and shot down the street in a streak.

When the doctor recovered he found the tip of a black cat's tail and some scraps of black fur on the engine. He remembered then that he had left the hood up all night.

### DROWNS AS SISTER ATTEMPTS RESCUE

#### Little Girl Is Saved On Friend's Heroism

Chicago.—Ten-year-old Ruth made a desperate effort to save her brother and a girl chum drowning in the lake at the foot of forty-fourth street. She succeeded in dragging the girl to shore, but her six-year-old brother sank beneath the surface before she could swim to where he was struggling in the water.

Bertha Batmas, eight years old, 3343 Lowe avenue, who was saved by Ruth's heroism, was uninjured as a result of her narrow escape from drowning.

The two girls and the little boy were playing on the shore. The boy began to fling stones in the water, standing on the piling. He lost his balance and fell into the water which was deep at that point.

Bertha screamed and leaning over, attempted to extend a helping hand to the boy in the water. She, too, toppled in. Ruth, the oldest of the trio, was the only one who knew how to swim. She leaped in, seized Bertha by the hair and helped her to climb out.

Then she turned to help her brother. He had sunk beneath the surface and though she dived twice in frantic efforts to find his body the girl was forced to give up the search. Exhausted, she was barely able to climb upon the piling.

### Murder Confession Bared After 80 Years

Ithaca, N. Y.—The fate of a woman who disappeared some eighty years ago became known by a statement made public by Miss Amelia Crum explaining the disappearance of Mrs. Edward H. Ruloff, wife of a man who was hanged in Binghamton for the murder of a store clerk. It was always understood that Ruloff died on the gallows denying that he could explain his wife's disappearance. But the criminal, prior to his execution, did confess to his lawyer that he had murdered his wife and had sunk her body in Cayuga lake, near Taughanock falls. He placed the body in a chest and weighted it with iron. It was never found.

Ruloff's lawyer, on his deathbed, related the confession to Landon D. Crum, a cousin to Mrs. Ruloff and father of Miss Amelia Crum.

Interest in the mystery was recently aroused by the discovery of a woman's skeleton by excavators near the new State Agriculture college. The theory that it was that of Mrs. Ruloff was disproved when several other skeletons were found, indicating a forgotten graveyard. However, the talk induced Miss Crum to make her statement, clearing up the ancient mystery, all the parties concerned in it being now dead.

A daughter of Ruloff, who disappeared at the same time her mother did, had been given away by the unnatural father, he confessed. She was brought up in Philadelphia, and later married a government employee in Washington.

### Prince Sleeps in Park; Hopes to Win Rich Wife

Budapest.—Police seized an old man in rags who passed the night sleeping on a bench, and when he was found he was identified as Prince Alexander Hohenzollern.

He had been wandering in a cheap place to another, where he received help from a woman who gave him food and shelter. Meanwhile he had become a rich wife for a prince.

Ex-Prince Hohenzollern, who formerly served as a cavalry regiment, announced his family's name. The marriage was dissolved during the war. He left the German army and married in Vienna a second time, but his wife left him, it is alleged, in consequence of his having squandered her money.

### Born With Teeth

New Rochelle, N. Y.—Grace Agnes Hecker was born here with two well-developed teeth in her lower jaw, front and center. She weighs eight pounds, is normal and passed her first day voicing disappointment of the world in general. Grace is the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Hecker.