

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Heather St. Clair

American History @ your library

The Fourth of July celebrates the day when our founding fathers declared independence from Great Britain and King George III. On July 4, 1776, early in the American Revolution, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. The Columbus Public Library has some interesting books on the founding of the United States of America and other significant events and people that made America what it is today.

“Declaration,” by William Hogeland, details the nine weeks leading up to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Read about America’s lesser known, but still significant events in “A Nation Rising,” by Kenneth C. Davis. This book covers multiple stories, such as Aaron Burr’s trail and the media frenzy surrounding it, Indian uprisings and the ensuing massacres, and mutiny aboard a slave ship.

If you want to know more about the battles in the Revolution, “A Guide to the Battles of the American Revolution,” by Theodore Savas and J. David Dameron, details more than seventy battles. Both the British and American perspectives are included along with the commanders and details about each battle’s length, casualties, outcome and more.

From the first Europeans to arrive in America to the leaders of the Revolution, Edmund S. Morgan tells us about the people who formed early America, in the book “American Heroes.” Learn about those who conquered the New World, those accused of witchcraft during the Salem Witch Trials, and the founding fathers of the United States.

Certain significant events in our history are often accompanied by important documents. In “Great American Documents” learn about important American documents and the associated events, in addition to being able to read the transcriptions of the documents. Some of these documents are the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Louisiana Purchase, the Gettysburg Address, the surrender of Germany and Japan in World War II. The last entry in this book is about the missing persons message board resulting from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The National Archives collects and retains images, films, documents, and maps relating to American history. They have compiled a small sample of some of these items in the book “Records of Our National Life.” See images of the documents stored in the Archive, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and other documents related to the American Revolution. Also see documents and photos from the Civil War, the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, World War II, up to the official tally of the electoral voters for the 2008 Presidential election. Many, many other events and important moments in American history are represented in this book, as well.

Other books that may be of interest are “1776,” by David McCullough, “American Creation,” by Joseph J. Ellis, and “Liberty!: The American Revolution,” by Thomas Fleming.

If you need help or have any questions about these or other materials, please feel free to stop in

the library, call us at 564-7116, or email us at library@columbusne.us.