

Starting With 2001 and Going Back in Time With Twenty Year Leaps

Every once in awhile I like to take a peek back in time just to see what happened on certain dates. Let's put on our twenty league boots and check out a few:

The year is young, of course, but already we have sworn in our 43rd president, George W. Bush; Colebrook is building a new fire station in Robertsville, and we have witnessed the passing of dairy farms in town.

In 1981, Ronald Regan became president, and the 80s ushered in the era that saw personal computers become commonplace.

Forty years ago, in 1961, John F. Kennedy became our president. One year earlier, the flood gates closed for the first time at Hogback Dam, flooding the valley that had held the community of Colebrook River. Our flag contained 50 stars.

Going back 60 years to 1941, we see that Pearl Harbor, Hawaii is bombed, catapulting the U.S. (and the world) into WWII. Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews, a Colebrook resident, made several visits during the 1940s to the Colebrook Center School and regaled the students with stories of his adventures when he was exploring the Gobi Desert in China and Mongolia. I'm sure that none of the students ever forgot seeing and touching (the glass case at least) the world's first identified dinosaur egg. Through the broken shell, embedded in the red sand of the Gobi Desert, was the skeletal remains of an embryonic Triceratops.

Eighty years back in time, 1921, we find Warren G. Harding becoming president, and one year prior to that, the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote, became law.

The beginning of the Twentieth Century saw Theodore Roosevelt become president in 1901. 1902 was the year that U. S. Army uniforms changed from blue to olive drab. The average wage for shop girls in Boston was \$5.00 to \$6.00 per week.

One hundred and twenty years ago, in 1881, James A. Garfield became president. The very first summer camp in the United States for city children is established at Squam Lake, New Hampshire.

One hundred and forty years have gone by since Abraham Lincoln was first elected president. The Civil War began on April 12, 1861. The U. S. flag contained 34 stars.

1841 – William Henry Harrison was elected president, although he died in office after having served for one month. His vice president, John Tyler, succeeded him. Henry Sawyer built his cotton mill in Colebrook River in 1840. This was to prove to be the largest source of employment ever seen in Colebrook, and remained in operation until 1890. Also that year, the first picture of the moon was taken.

In 1820, Lambert Hitchcock began manufacturing chairs in what is now called Riverton. Our flag contained 23 stars.

Two hundred years ago, in 1801, Thomas Jefferson was elected president. 4-tined dinner forks came into common use; before that, they had either 2 or 3 tines.

And finally, in 1781, two hundred and twenty years ago, the War of Independence was winding down to its conclusion. On Sept. 5th, the British fleet was forced out of Chesapeake Bay by the French, on Sept. 8th, New London Connecticut was seized and burned by the British under Benedict Arnold, and on October 19th, Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown, Virginia. Our flag contained 13 stars.

Going back through history this way gives the same feeling as watching your children grow up; it doesn't seem possible that they can be all grown up already. We all too soon find ourselves asking the question, "Where in the world did the time go?"