

The Expansion of Fourth of July

Growth of the American Sentiment and Territorial Growth of the United States from 1776 to 1902.



FOURTH OF JULY stands for that sentiment dearest to the hearts of the typical Americans. It is the sentiment that made the struggling colonies "free and independent states;" it is the sentiment that fortified our forefathers to withstand the hardships and trials of the long war with England, that their land, and our land, might be free from the tyranny of King George III. With all of our distinctively national holidays there is a sentiment; it is a sentiment that makes them possible; that sets them apart as memorial days in each year of our history; but the sentiment to which we give expression with such evidences of joy as the boom of the firecracker, the whizz of the rocket, is the sentiment that will outlive all other of our national sentiments.

And this Fourth of July sentiment has proven to be an expanding sentiment. It has followed the flag, and wherever "Old Glory" has been unfurled there has July 4 been a holiday, dear to the hearts of the people. When the old liberty bell at Philadelphia proclaimed to the anxious populace that their chosen representatives had set their names to that document which proclaimed forever our separation from England, and made of them a nation among nations, it aroused within the hearts of the colonists a new love of freedom. Before that day they had been fighting only for their rights as colonists, after that they fought for their rights as men—as a people. It instilled a new sentiment in the hearts of the American people, a sentiment that has pushed steadily westward with advancing settlement. The hardy pioneers who crossed the Allegheny mountains carried the sentiment with them into the valley of the Ohio; they planted it on the west banks of the Mississippi when the Louisiana territory became ours; they carried it into Texas, California and the northwest as new acquisitions broadened our territorial area.

And wherever this sentiment has been planted in the past it has flourished. It has attained as vigorous a growth west of the Mississippi as it has east of it; it is to-day as much an institution, as much a part of the year's life of the people of California, once Mexican soil, in Washington, once English soil, in Florida, once Spanish soil, as it is at its birthplace in Philadelphia.

The sentiment grew until it had stretched as a great blanket of American patriotism, from ocean to ocean. The trappers and gold seekers have carried it into the northern wilds of Alaska, where it flourishes with as much vigor as in old New England, in the tropical south, in the fertile prairie states of the middle west, or in sun-kissed California. And now it has extended beyond the bounds of the continent to the islands of the sea, and the roar of the cannon, the boom of the cracker, the whizz of the rocket that proclaim the birthday of American freedom, are to be found in the far-away Philippines, in beautiful Hawaii, in little Guam and in patriotic Porto Rico.

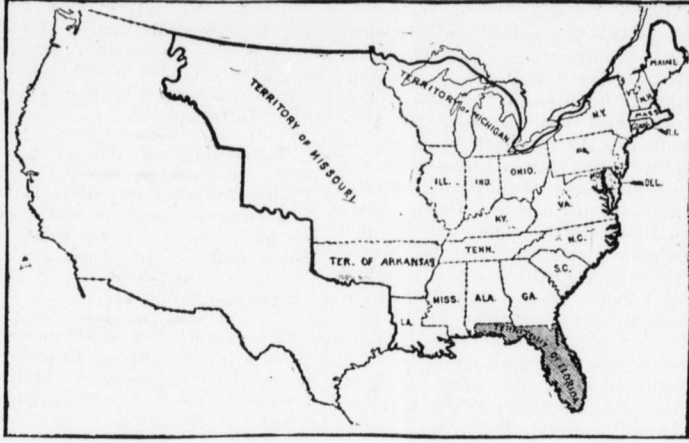
Today Fourth of July is a sentiment that extends more than half way around the world; it follows the sun from its rising on the islands of the Atlantic to its setting on the islands clear across the broad Pacific. So long as the day remains upon the calendar of the year the sun never sets upon it, and the boom of the cracker is heard round the world.

When our illustrious forefathers affixed their names to the Declaration of Independence they were the representatives of less than 4,000,000 people. The area included within the boundaries of the colonies which they declared "free and independent states" was but 827,844 square miles. But their efforts and thoughts were not only for the time, but for posterity, and to-day the Fourth of July sentiment is known throughout a territory embracing 3,285,115 square miles, in which reside very close to 100,000,000 people.

It is the expansion of this Fourth of July sentiment that has caused the nation to grow from the struggling colonies of 1776 to the world power of to-day. As we, as a nation, have grown in power, in prestige, in territorial area and population, so has the sentiment of Fourth of July grown and expanded until it has invaded and affected conditions in all continents. It is the expansion of this sentiment that has driven from the world the ancient fallacy of the divine rights of kings. It has instilled the love of political freedom into foreign peoples. Its power is not confined to the territorial limits of these United States.

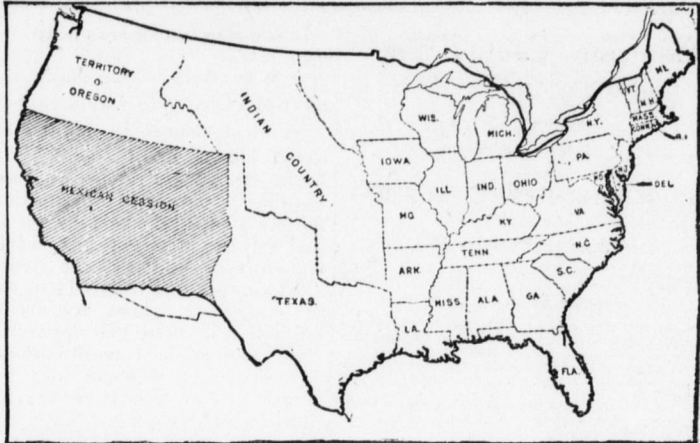
The series of maps printed herewith illustrate in a practical way the expansion of the Fourth of July sentiment so far as it applies to our own country, and serve as a lesson in American history.

WRIGHT A. PATTERSON.



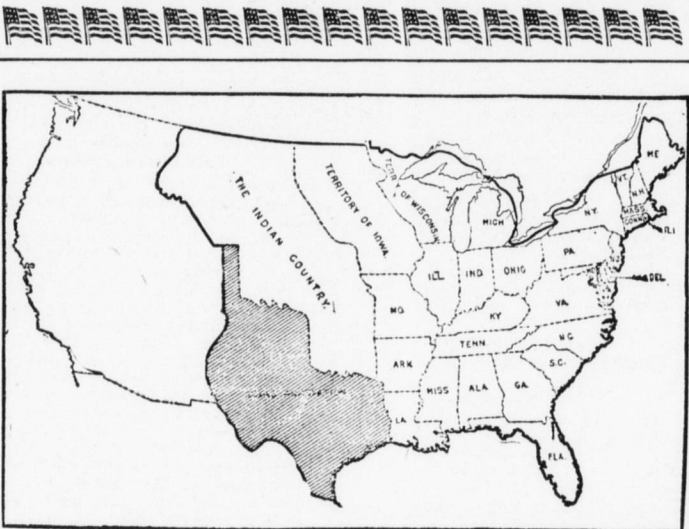
July 4, 1819.

It was on February 22, 1819, that the treaty transferring Florida from Spain to the United States was signed in Washington, the consideration being the payment by the United States of claims held by Americans against the Spanish government for spoliation to the amount of \$5,000,000. The transfer was hailed with joy by a large number of people living in the territory at that time, and it is recorded that July 4 of that year was quite generally celebrated in the different settlements, though it was not until early in 1821 that the treaty of transfer was ratified by Spain, and the actual transfer to this country took place. The purchase of Florida added 59,368 square miles to the territory in which the natal day of the United States was celebrated, making the total extent of territory at that time 2,639,932, and the total population at that time 3,623,322. This ended Spanish rule on the North American continent, as at the same time that they relinquished Florida to us they also waived whatever claims they may have had to territory in the northwest, leaving the future settlement of that boundary difficulty between England and the United States.



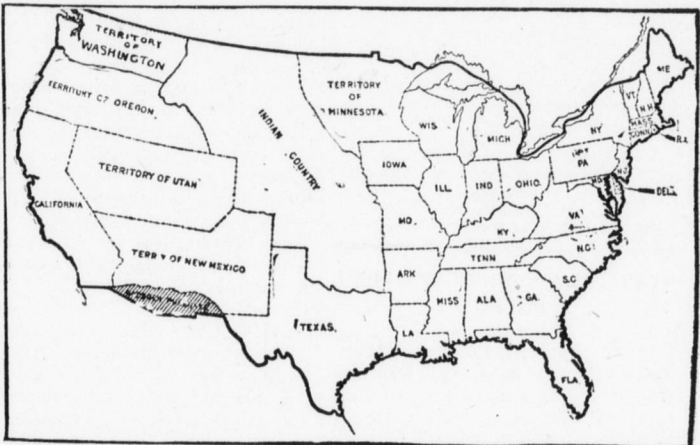
July 4, 1848.

By the cession by Mexico of all that great stretch of territory known in our history as the Mexican cession, and which came to us at the signing of the peace treaty on February 2, 1848, following the war with Mexico, the significance of the Fourth of July spread over a new area of 545,783 square miles, for which this government paid \$15,000,000 besides the assumption by the government of claims against Mexico by American citizens amounting to \$3,250,000. But in reality the privilege of scattering firecrackers over this wide area had cost us much more than this, for we paid for it the millions of treasure and thousands of lives that were sacrificed in the war with Mexico. The population at that time was 165,524. To-day the population of the same territory is about 2,200,000.



July 4, 1845.

In reality it was not until July 4, 1846, that Texas celebrated its first Fourth of July as a part of the American union, though on the date given it celebrated the date, if not in sentiment, effectively by approving the proposition for annexation to the United States as passed by the law-making bodies at Washington in March of the same year. This proposition, as approved by the Texas convention, was again acted upon by congress on December 29, 1845, when Texas was admitted as a state in the American union. The annexation of Texas added 371,063 square miles to the total territory in which the Fourth of July was celebrated, and in Texas it was celebrated with as much fervor as in New England, for the large majority of the people were former citizens of the states. Of this territory there was later ceded back to the union 96,707 square miles, for which the national government paid the state \$10,000,000. Out of this territory was later constructed portions of the states of Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico.



July 4, 1854.

The Gadsden Purchase, so named because of the fact that the treaty between the United States and Mexico that resulted in its becoming a part of the United States was negotiated by Hon. James Gadsden, then United States minister to Mexico, was added to the area of this nation late in 1853, and it was not until 1854 that July 4 became one of its legal holidays. By this purchase the demonstrations of joy that mark each recurring natal day of the nation was extended over a territory of 45,338 square miles in extent, for which we paid to Mexico the sum of \$10,000,000.



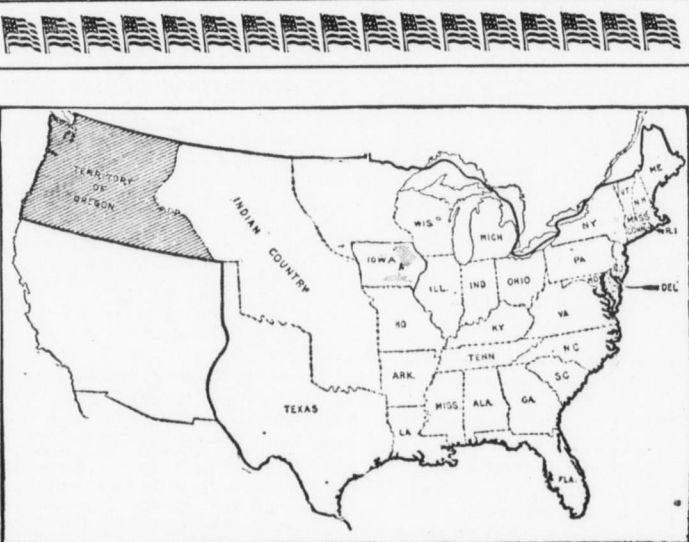
July 4, 1776.

When on July 4, 1776, that most historic of all days in the life of the American republic, the continental congress in session in Philadelphia, declared "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states," they spoke for less than 4,000,000 people. The territory covered by the original 13 colonies, in which the first Fourth of July was celebrated, was about 700,000 square miles in extent, though scarcely one-fifth of this could be said to be inhabited other than by savages, and much of it had never been visited by white men. It extended from the Atlantic on the east to the Mississippi on the west, to Florida on the south, and to Maine on the northeast, and to a little north of the present northern boundary of Illinois, on the northwest. The map shows the political divisions as claimed by the different colonies.



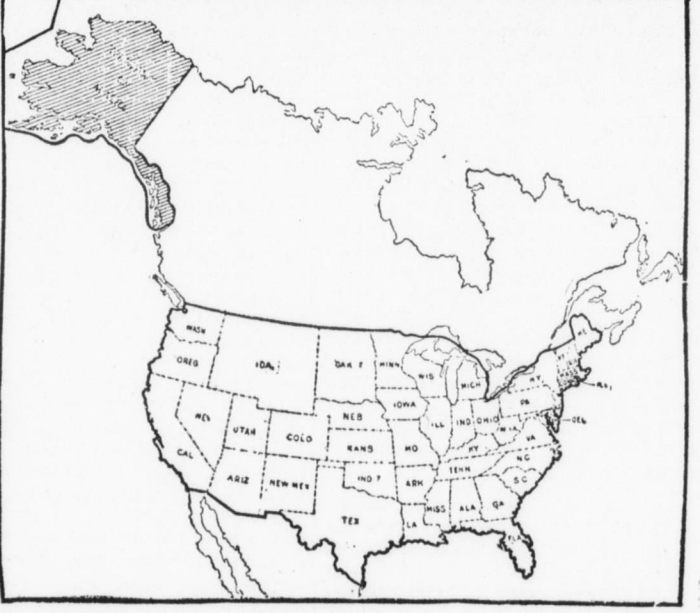
July 4, 1784.

The peace treaty between the United Colonies and Great Britain, signed at Paris, September 3, 1783, gave to the nation all the territory claimed by it, and included more than previously acknowledged to be in dispute by Great Britain. The boundary lines in the northwest were extended so as to include what is now the greater part of Wisconsin, all of the upper peninsula of Michigan, and that part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi. In the south a long, narrow strip of territory was added to the southwest corner of Georgia. The exact amount of territory included within these concessions cannot be given, as the exact area of the colonies previously is not known, but in 1784, the territory in which July 4 was a holiday, amounted to 827,844 square miles. The exact population at this time is not known, but emigration had already set in toward the west, and the day was appropriately observed in a much wider territory than it had been in 1776. Hardly pioneers had carried it westward into the Ohio valley.



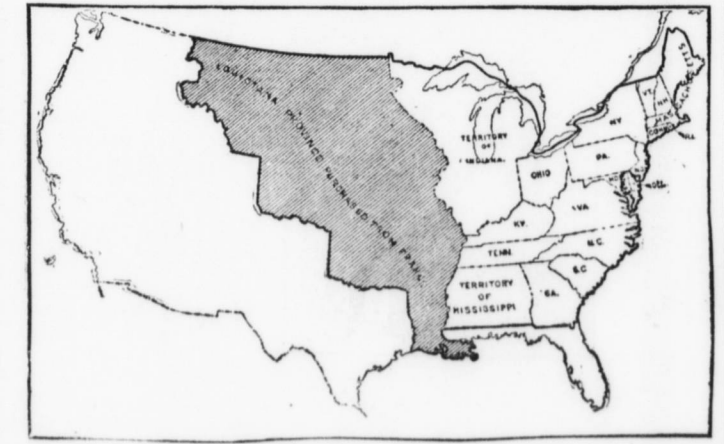
July 4, 1846.

It can scarcely be said that this was the first date upon which that great stretch of territory known as the Oregon territory knew the Fourth of July. John Jacob Astor had planted the American flag at Astoria, on the Columbia river, as early as 1811, but England had captured the place and laid claim to the country. After the exercise of considerable diplomacy both nations agreed to a joint occupancy until June 15, 1846, when a new treaty was ratified, fixing the boundary at the straits of Puca and the forty-ninth parallel, and the territory became wholly American, and the Fourth of July a fixed institution within its boundaries.



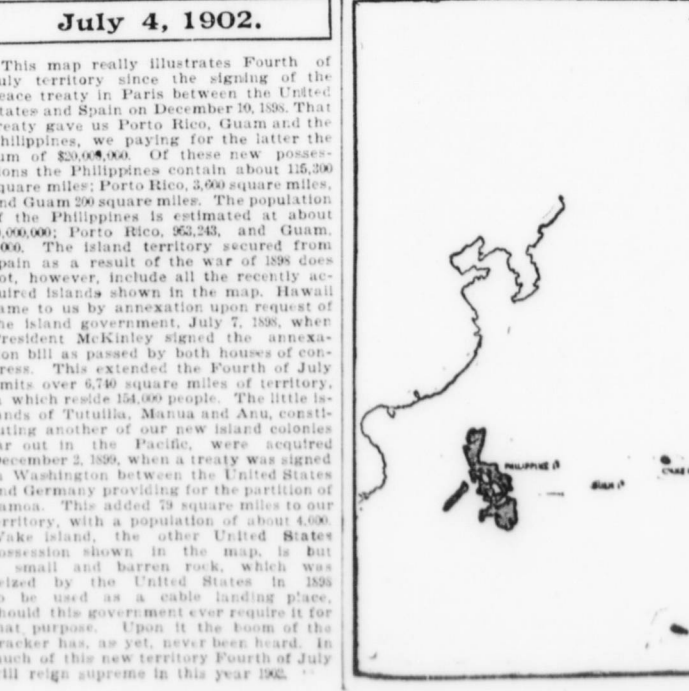
July 4, 1867.

When on March 30, 1867, the treaty between the United States and Russia ceding Alaska to us was signed, there was added to our territory the modest area of 577,330 square miles, for which it was going to be necessary to provide July 4 festivities. The cost of this vast stretch of territory, from which we have since taken enough gold to furnish us with Fourth of July celebrations for the next century, was \$7,200,000.



July 4, 1803.

On April 13, 1803, James Monroe and Robert R. Livingston signed in Paris the treaty that transferred the Louisiana territory from France to the United States, for the sum of \$10,000,000. This more than doubled the area of the original 13 colonies, and while it may not be correct to say that July 4, 1803, was really celebrated, for it was some months before the people knew of the transfer of sovereignty, yet its celebration was permissible in a territory embracing 1,399,775, of which 501,344 square miles were included in the Louisiana purchase. The population of this vast territory was at the time of purchase estimated at 50,150 whites, 23,850 blacks, 10,350 mulattoes, total, exclusive of Indians, 100,350. The present population of the same territory is 14,708,616. To the Louisiana purchase was added on October 27, 1810, a small stretch of territory east of the mouth of the Mississippi which had been claimed by Spain as a portion of Florida. The people of this territory, now a part of Mississippi and Alabama, declared their independence of Spain, in September, 1810, and the following month it was added to the territory of the United States by proclamation of President Monroe.



July 4, 1902.

This map really illustrates Fourth of July territory since the signing of the peace treaty in Paris between the United States and Spain on December 10, 1898. That treaty gave us Porto Rico, Guam and the Philippines, we paying for the latter the sum of \$20,000,000. Of these new possessions the Philippines contain about 15,300 square miles; Porto Rico, 3,900 square miles, and Guam 200 square miles. The population of the Philippines is estimated at about 16,000,000; Porto Rico, 662,243, and Guam, 9,000. The island territory secured from Spain as a result of the war of 1898 does not, however, include all the recently acquired islands shown in the map. Hawaii came to us by annexation upon request of the island government, July 7, 1898, when President McKinley signed the annexation bill as passed by both houses of congress. This extended the Fourth of July limits over 6,740 square miles of territory, in which reside 154,000 people. The little islands of Tutuila, Manua and Anu, constituting another of our new island colonies far out in the Pacific, were acquired December 2, 1899, when a treaty was signed in Washington between the United States and Germany providing for the partition of Samoa. This added 79 square miles to our territory, with a population of about 4,000. Wake Island, the other United States possession shown in the map, is but a small and barren rock, which was seized by the United States in 1899 to be used as a cable landing place, should this government ever require it for that purpose. Upon it the boom of the cracker has, as yet, never been heard. In much of this new territory Fourth of July will reign supreme in this year 1902.

