

February 12th

Stuff I never heard in history classes through college, yet are highly significant, some connect to Christianity.

Eyeglasses were an oddity until about 1800. Lenses were costly to grind. That 1660 German church Bible our church possesses is about a 20-point font so no doubt an elderly or impaired pastor could read it during worships. Reading to oneself was almost never done until after 1800. When Thomas Jefferson did this, he was constantly asked, "What are you staring at?" Women had little **choice in marriage** before 1760. Marriages were simply arranged and parents or elders hoped that love developed. Love happened about 1/3 of the time. Another third of marriages were aloof, and the final third fought like cat and dog. Luther married Kate and it was very unusual in that it was love first, no parents involved. By 1790, happiness of a daughter was considered important in Western Europe and love became a consideration. **Europeans were richer** than Americans except just after WW II, but often had fewer consumer products and there was not much business freedom. Colonial **America's big draw** was Free Land and Much Meat. The first Pilgrims wrote home exclaiming that their children were 3 inches taller than they were. The reason was they were well fed. Meat consumption of males was 10-12 ounces a day, about the same as today compared with an almost vegan diet of commoners in England. In the era before 1900 **kissing** a lady's hand or neck was considered more appropriate than hugs or cheek kisses. Make-up was fragile, easy to rub off, oily and sometimes like paint. (Consult pictures of Queen Elizabeth I in pasty white make-up.) Powdered **wigs** were worn originally to fight head lice. The head was shaved; wigs can be washed and re-powdered. This method was used since ancient Egyptian times. If you got **lice** in the Middle East (hot dry country, perfect to spread lice) the home remedy was to sprinkle ants in your hair. Ants ate the lice as they crawled over your body. Thus Jesus must have had ants in his pants at times. Until the Moravian-Lutherans arrived in the 1740s with skills in stringed instruments and organs, there were **few musical instruments** and they came from Europe. This transformed church singing. People in the 17th century **bathed** only monthly because they thought disease came from 'opening the pores' during a bath. Squanto told the Pilgrim Edward Winslow to jump in the creek. "You people smell!"

Romans did not get paid in **salt**. Nobody records this as happening. Had this been the case, a soldier would have received about 100 lbs. per week, a lot to store! *Salarium*. "Stipend" sounds like *salaria*, "salt". **Wine**, in the days before Pasteur discovered yeast in 1863, only turned out well about 1/3 the time, even for good vintners. Bacteria turned the slurry of fruit into vinegar or a vinegary wine called gall, the stuff they offered Jesus on the cross. That is what most people drank for everyday mixed with water. There are **30-something domestic animals and about 100 crops** that were domesticated by 4000 BC. This comprises almost all agriculture, even today. Nothing much has been domesticated since, though Russians have succeeded in domesticating foxes for research and Canadians are working on Caribou. Animals like Elephants and cheetahs must breed in the wild, so technically are "captive and tamed" Most of the crops

and domestic animals arose around the Fertile Crescent of Iraq-Syria-Israel. Thus Israel really was a land ‘flowing with milk and honey.’

No **diabetic or gout** remedies arrived until 1922 with the first **insulin**. Diet was the only remedy. Prior to 1871 when **quinine** was discovered to fight **malaria**, Europeans could not live long in Africa. Britain tried to build a fort in Guinea and within a year 98% of the soldiers had died. Portuguese and Spanish found lots of uninhabited islands offshore with scant vegetation and almost no mosquitoes thus were inhabitable. **Canary Islands** had a few blonde indigenous people of unknown origin. They didn’t speak a language anything like Norse or other Europeans and were spirited off to Puerto Rico by the Spanish. Thus Puerto Ricans often come dark-skinned (Native American and Spanish) and light-skinned (Canary Islanders and Indian and other Europeans). We’ve always had a few **centenarians**, tough people who died very old. But when life spans were 27 years (Middle Ages) many died in infancy and few lived to see 50. 3 soldiers of Washington’s Revolutionary War army lived to write memoirs and lived 100+ years. Colonial America had labor shortages (Need it done? Do it yourself.) Many items were unavailable. **Hogs** are great scavengers and took little space on a boat, thus a favorite of explorers. Spanish, Dutch New Yorkers and Polynesians took them along to free range on islands. Wittenberg, population 214 in 1512, was a recently founded town in uninhabited forests of Thuringia when Duke Frederick established a college there and Luther became its first Chancellor. When he arrived they had a sign to tell people to please keep their pigs off the streets since they wanted to be a progressive city.

Taxation without representation was not so much of a motivator of the American Revolution. (only 1 of 27 articles in Declaration of Independence mentions taxes) But **atrocities** were—killings by royal troops, seizure of residences to serve as barracks, kangaroo court trials, and worst of all, an edict that settlers couldn’t convert Indians or give them Bibles. Christian Indians made good and peaceful neighbors. **Jefferson**, often said to be a Deist, was no such thing. He was head of the Virginia Bible Society and wanted to publish a New Testament with only the words of Jesus, as a short, easy-print version for natives. He may have been a non-Trinitarian but historians are not sure. **Colonial era roads** were hideous, hardly trails through the woods. Thus the teamsters were heroic and highly thought-of men who could deliver the goods. **Canada** became British, not because of Britain, but because Upper Canada (Toronto area) was quickly populated by about 100,000 shamed Loyalist refugees after the Revolutionary War. Loyalists often sold out, moved and went to another section of America to avoid being persecuted. Quebec had never developed with 60,000 French inhabitants. The Canadian Loyalists thus became a proud English colony, overwhelming the fewer French. France was the origin of the **auto industry** with 18,000 cars on the road by 1905. USA had only 4000, many homemade. By 1915 France had 175,000 cars but, USA had 2.3 million despite pitiful roads. America truly fell in love with the automobile, truck, tractor and motorcycle.