

HISTORY OF AMERICA

- Heritage Jewelry Collection -



“It’s not just jewelry, it’s history”



You are in possession of an original piece from '*The History of America Jewelry collection*'.

This jewelry has been inspired by America's wide-ranging historical and cultural legacy. Its land is rich in natural beauty and majestic landscapes where many explorers and generations of immigrant nationalities contribute and thrive.

America is a "melting pot" of diverse, resolute and patriotic people living under a general principal and philosophy adopted by its founding fathers and written into the Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson. The declaration states, "*We hold these Truths to be self-evident: that all Men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.*"

It is with great pride that this unique jewelry has been created commemorating America's defining ideals and its journey thus far.



NATIVE AMERICANS

It is not known exactly when the Native Americans first settled in the Americas, but evidence suggests that hunter-gatherers crossed the Bering Strait from Eurasia into North America over a land bridge, Beringia, which existed between 45,000–12,000 BCE. This is now referred to as The Bridge to the New World.

These Native American people later became known as "Indians", upon Christopher Columbus mistakenly making landfall in the Caribbean instead of India, which was his intended destination and believing the people he came into contact with were indeed Indians. Despite this mistake, the name remained in use. Similarly, the islands in Central America came to be called the "West Indies", as opposed to the "East Indies." The Native American or Indigenous Americans and their descendants were in North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean Islands when Europeans arrived.

They are an important part of the culture of the United States. They had lived on the land for thousands of years with little disruption or discourse until the arrival of the Europeans. Many lost their lives after contracting diseases from them due to living conditions related to slavery, or in battle with settlers who took their land and forced them out of their homeland.

Today, there are approximately 567 federally recognized Native American tribes within the United States. Many Native American reservations are independent of state law. The Indian Appropriations Act 1872 preserves a large degree of tribal sovereignty and tribal citizens on these reservations are subject only to tribal courts and federal Law.



DISCOVERY

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451. Three countries refused to back his voyages but eventually, on August 3, 1492, under the auspices of the Catholic Monarchs of Spain, he and his crew set sail from Palos with three sailing vessels, the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María, to find a direct western sea route to China, India, and the gold and spice islands of Asia.

On the first voyage, they ventured to the islands of the Bahamas, Cuba and Haiti, encountering many difficulties and losing one ship. Over the course of three more voyages in 1493, 1498 and 1502, they visited the Caribbean islands of the Antilles as well as Venezuela and Central America, establishing settlements on Hispaniola, present-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic. It is generally accepted that the name America derives from Amerigo Vespucci, the Italian explorer, who explored the new continents in the following years.

Although not the first European explorers to reach the Americas, having been preceded by the Viking expedition led by Leif Erikson in the 11th century, these voyages initiated centuries of exploration and exploitation of the New World.

It has been argued that Columbus should not be honored for discovering North America, as he never made landfall on the mainland, coupled with the wake of devastation that he, the "conquistadors" and his fellow explorers inflicted on the native populations.

In response to this history, several cities and states in the U.S. have elected not to celebrate Columbus Day, replacing it with holidays to commemorate their indigenous populations.



THE FIRST SETTLERS

In 1602, Bartholomew Gosnold, a Mariner and Privateer, considered to be the "prime mover of the colonization of Virginia" led a brief colonization of the Elizabeth Isles before returning to England. It was he who gave Cape Cod its name after the plentiful cod fish he found there. He also discovered a nearby island, much of which was covered with wild grapes and named it Martha's Vineyard after his deceased infant daughter Martha. Gosnold's experiences along the New England coast informed his views on organizing and establishing the Virginia colony.

On December 6, 1606, Christopher Newport, on behalf of the Virginia Company of London, set sail from England in command of three ships, the *Susan Constant*, the *Discovery* and the *Godspeed*, captained by Gosnold, bound for North America. The plan was to reward investors by locating gold and silver deposits and by finding a river route to the Pacific Ocean for trade with the Orient.

They reached Chesapeake Bay on April 26, 1607, and on May 14 chose Jamestown, located near present-day Williamsburg, Virginia, for their settlement. It was named after their King James I. The Jamestown Colony was established and gave England its first foothold in the European competition for the New World. Edward-Maria Wingfield, Gosnold's Cousin, became the colony's first President of the Governing Council. In 1620, The Mayflower, an English ship, transported the first English settlers, known today as the Pilgrims, to the New World. They landed at Provincetown before settling at Plymouth and established a colony where they could practice their separatist religion freely. It was here, in the fall of 1621, the first thanksgiving took place with the Pilgrims and the Native Squanto, Patuxet and Wampanoag people taking part in the English custom of giving thanks and prayers for a bountiful harvest and other blessings.



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

In the years 1775-83, The American Revolutionary War (also known as the U.S. War of Independence) saw American Patriots in thirteen of Great Britain's North American colonies win political independence from the British Crown and its Loyalists, resulting in the formation of the United States of America.

Up to 1778, the conflict was a civil war within the British Empire, but then became an international war as France, Spain and the Netherlands joined the colonies against Britain from 1778-1780.

The War followed more than a decade of growing estrangement between the British Crown and a large influential segment of its North American colonies, caused by British attempts to assert greater control over colonial affairs.

Members of American colonial society rejected the British Parliament's authority to tax them because they lacked representation in Parliament ("*no taxation without representation*"). The Protests steadily escalated into the Boston Massacre in 1770, the burning of the Gaspee in Rhode Island in 1772, followed by the Boston Tea Party in 1773, where patriots destroyed a consignment of taxed tea.

Among the significant results of the Revolution was the creation of a new Constitution of the United States, which established a relatively strong federal national government that included an executive, a national judiciary, and a bicameral Congress that represented states in the Senate and the population in the House of Representatives.



THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Declaration of Independence was a statement adopted by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. It stated the principles on which the American government and the identity of the American people are based.

On June 11, 1776, the Congress appointed a Committee of Five, consisting of John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Robert R. Livingston of New York and Roger Sherman of Connecticut (now known as "The Founding Fathers") to draft the Declaration of Independence.

After discussing the general outline of the document, John Adams persuaded the committee to select the then 33-year-old Thomas Jefferson to compose the original draft.

This statement adopted by the Second Continental Congress (meeting at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776) announced that the thirteen American colonies, then at war with Great Britain, now regarded themselves as independent sovereign states and no longer under British rule. With this Declaration, these states formed a new nation – the United States of America.

Abraham Lincoln stated that Jefferson had introduced "*into a merely revolutionary document, an abstract truth, applicable to all men at all times*" which would be "*a rebuke and a stumbling-block to ... tyranny and oppression.*"

It continues to inspire people around the world to fight for freedom and equality. Abraham Lincoln made it the centrepiece of his famous Gettysburg Address speech of 1863.



THE TREATY OF PARIS

The Treaty of Paris, 1783, named for the city in which it was negotiated, was signed between the United States and Great Britain, officially ending the revolutionary war and recognizing the independence of the United States and simultaneously destroying the colonial empire of Great Britain in North America. The Continental Congress had named a five-member commission to negotiate the peace treaty - John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson and Henry Laurens.

The United States would gain its independence but be confined to the area east of the Appalachian Mountains. The Americans realized that they could get a better deal directly from London. John Jay promptly told the British that he was willing to negotiate directly with them, cutting off France and Spain. The British Prime Minister Lord Shelburne agreed. He was in full charge of the British negotiations and he now saw an opportunity to split the United States away from France and make the new country a valuable economic partner.

Shelburne foresaw a highly profitable two-way trade between Britain and the rapidly growing United States that indeed came to pass.

The preliminary Articles of Peace were signed by Adams, Franklin, Jay and Henry Laurens for the United States, and Richard Oswald for Great Britain on November 30, 1782. The final treaty was signed on September 3, 1783 and ratified by the Continental Congress early in 1784.



AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The U.S. Constitution established America's national government and fundamental laws and guaranteed certain basic rights for its citizens. It was signed on September 17, 1787, by delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, presided over by George Washington.

At the Convention, delegates devised a plan for a stronger federal government with three branches - executive, legislative and judicial - along with a system of checks and balances to ensure no single branch would have too much power. The Bill of Rights' first ten amendments guaranteed clear limitations on the government's power in judicial and other proceedings; basic individual protections such as freedom of speech and religious freedom became part of the Constitution in 1791.

The result of the Convention was the creation of the Constitution of the United States, placing the Convention among the most significant events in the history of the U.S. and ultimately of worldwide historical, political and social influence.

To date, there have been a total of 27 constitutional amendments to meet the changing needs of a nation now profoundly different from the eighteenth-century world in which its creators lived.



GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington, 1732 - 1799, was born into the provincial gentry of Colonial Virginia to a family of wealthy planters who owned tobacco plantations and slaves, which he inherited. He was widely admired for his strong leadership qualities as a politician and a soldier. Being conflicted about the principle of slavery, he requested in his Will that his more than 123 slaves be set free, after his wife's death.

One of the Founding Fathers of the United States, he served as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, and later presided over the 1787 convention that drafted the United States Constitution. He was unanimously elected President by the Electoral College 1789 to 1797 in the first two national elections.

He worked to unify rival factions in the fledgling nation. He supported Alexander Hamilton's programs to satisfy all debts, federal and state, established a permanent seat of government, implemented an effective tax system and created a national bank. He is popularly considered the driving force behind the nation's establishment and came to be known as the Father of the Country. He was revered in life and in death; scholarly and public polling consistently ranks him among the top three presidents in American history.



THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Since the late 1780s, Americans had been moving westward into the Ohio River and Tennessee River valleys. These settlers were highly dependent on free access to the Mississippi River and the strategic port of New Orleans. U.S. officials feared that France, resurgent under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte, would soon seek to dominate the Mississippi River and access to the Gulf of Mexico. New Orleans was an established and important port for the shipping of agricultural goods to and from the areas of the United States.

Prior to 1803, Louisiana had been under Spanish control for forty years. However, in 1800, Spain ceded the Louisiana territory back to France as part of Napoleon's secret Third Treaty of San Ildefonso.

Thomas Jefferson felt that if America did not purchase New Orleans from France, it could lead to war.

The Louisiana Purchase Treaty, called by some "*the letter that bought a continent*", was signed by Robert Livingston, James Monroe and Barbé Marbois in Paris on April 30, 1803. Stretching from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains (828,000 square miles) the purchase doubled the size of the United States.

The Louisiana Purchase was by far the largest territorial gain in U.S. history. New Orleans, the largest city included in the purchase is known for its French Colonial influence to this day.



LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

President Thomas Jefferson commissioned the Corps of Discovery Expedition 1804-06, to explore the territory acquired in the Louisiana Purchase, among other objectives.

The Expedition spanned 8,000 miles and three years. Starting near St Louis, it made its way westward down the Ohio River, up the Missouri River, across the Continental Divide and to the Pacific Ocean.

It was the first American expedition to cross what is now the western portion of the United States. The Corps of Discovery comprised a selected group of U.S. Army volunteers under the command of Captain Meriwether Lewis, an American explorer, and his close friend, Second Lieutenant William Clark, who served as the field scientist, chronicling botanical, zoological, meteorological, geographic and ethnographic information.

Sacagawea, a near-legendary figure of the Native American Shoshone people, played an indispensable role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Chosen as an interpreter to travel with the expedition, she was instrumental in establishing cultural contacts with Native American populations, in addition to her contributions to natural history. In 2001, she was given the title of Honorary Sergeant, Regular Army, by then president Bill Clinton.



THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War is the central event in America's historical consciousness. While the Revolution of 1776-1783 created the United States, the Civil War of 1861-1865 determined what kind of nation it would be.

The war resolved two fundamental questions left unresolved by the revolution: whether the United States was to be a dissolvable confederation of sovereign states or an indivisible nation with a sovereign national government; and whether this nation, born of a declaration that all men were created with an equal right to liberty, would continue to exist as the largest slaveholding country in the world.

When Abraham Lincoln won the election in 1860 as the first Republican president on a platform pledging to keep slavery out of the territories, seven slave states in the deep South seceded and formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America. The incoming Lincoln administration and most of the Northern people refused to recognize the legitimacy of secession. They feared that it would discredit democracy and create a fatal precedent that would eventually fragment the no-longer United States into several small, squabbling countries.

Northern victory in the war preserved the United States as one nation and ended the institution of slavery that had divided the country. Over 625,000 lives were lost, nearly as many American soldiers that died in all the other wars in which this country has fought, combined.



WORLD WAR I

World War I, "The Great War", was a global war originating in Europe from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918, triggered by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. The U.S. was an independent power at the time and did not officially join the Allied powers (Britain, France and Russia) until April 6, 1917 after reports of atrocities in Belgium in 1914, and following the sinking of the British passenger liner *RMS Lusitania* in 1915 by a German submarine where 1,198 passengers, including 128 Americans lost their lives. America's involvement was critical in military operations, which led to the final conclusion of WW1. In 1919, America was one of the nations which achieved the establishment of the intergovernmental League of Nations at the Paris Peace Conference, that ended the First World War.

WORLD WAR II

In 1939, Germany invaded Poland, which led Britain and France to declare war on Hitler's Nazi state. Since 1929, the U.S. had been engulfed by the Great Depression, its end came about in 1941 with America's entry into World War II after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. America sided with Britain, France and the Soviet Union against Germany, Italy, and Japan. The European part of the war ended with Germany's surrender in May 1945. Japan surrendered in September 1945, after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. World War II created a new world in the U.S. and abroad and brought prosperity to the United States consolidated its position as the world's richest country.



PEARL HARBOR

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory, on the morning of December 7, 1941. Hundreds of Japanese fighter planes descended on the base, where they managed to destroy or damage 19 American naval vessels and over 300 airplanes. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack, including civilians, and another 1,000 people were wounded. This surprise attack struck a critical blow against the U.S. Pacific fleet and drew the U.S. irrevocably into World War II. The day after the assault, President Franklin D Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.

VIETNAM WAR

Vietnam War, 1954–75, was a protracted conflict that pitted the communist government of North Vietnam (the Viet Minh) and its allies in South Vietnam (the Viet Cong) against the government of South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. The North Vietnamese army was supported by the Soviet Union, China and other communist allies and the South Vietnamese army was supported by the United States, South Korea, Australia, Thailand and other anti-communist allies.

In the U.S. and the Western world, a large anti-Vietnam War movement developed as a part of a larger counterculture and peace movement.

It was the first of the modern social movements in Europe and America. The anti-war movement consisted of a number of independent interests, often only vaguely allied and contesting each other on many issues, united only in opposition to the Vietnam War.



CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Nearly 100 years after the Civil War, the civil rights of African Americans were still limited by state laws and discrimination. In 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, African American Rosa Parks refused to surrender her seat to a white male passenger. Like courageous women before her, namely Harriet Tubman, a symbol of freedom against slavery, and Susan B. Anthony, a leading figure in the women's rights movement, Parks' act led to what would become known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This ultimately redirected the course of American black history.

A Baptist minister and social activist, Martin Luther King Jr, helped lead the boycott. The most visible spokesperson of the civil rights movement, he believed in non-violent protest. He wanted people to fight back using peaceful actions. In 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was illegal.

In 1963, the massive protest gathering called the "March on Washington" got Americans to pay attention to the civil rights movement. One of the most famous examples of non-violent mass action, Martin Luther King Jr, standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial, delivered his historic "*I Have a Dream*" speech in which he called for an end to racism. On October 14, 1964, King received the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance. On April 4, 1968 Dr Martin Luther King was assassinated by James Earl Ray in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1963 and to honor the memory of President John F. Kennedy, President Lyndon B. Johnson worked with Congress to pass the Kennedys proposal bill for Civil Rights reform, a landmark Civil Rights Act and labor law, which banned segregation in schools, at work and in public places. This bill laid the groundwork for The Voting Rights Act of 1965, amongst others, and guaranteed citizens of all races and ethnic backgrounds the right to vote.



NATIONAL SYMBOLS

The Statue of Liberty is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. The copper statue, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and built by Gustave Eiffel. The statue was dedicated on October 28, 1886.

The White House, in the U.S. Capital of Washington, is the official residence and workplace of the President of the United States and has been since President John Adams in 1800. The residence was designed by Irish-born architect James Hoban in the neoclassical style. His original design was modelled after Leinster House in Dublin, Ireland. Construction took place between 1792 and 1800 using Aquia Creek sandstone painted white.

The National Flag of the United States of America is popularly nicknamed The Stars and Stripes, Old Glory or The Star-Spangled Banner. The 13 stripes represent the thirteen British colonies that declared independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain and became the first states in the U.S. The 50 stars represent the current fifty states of the United States of America.

The Bison become the official national mammal of the United States under legislation signed into law by President Barack Obama on Monday May 9, 2016. They are a type of even-toed ungulate bovine and are the biggest mammals in North America. They were chosen as they symbolize hope, strength and determination. The Native Americans regard them as sacred and symbols of abundance. They are often called buffalo, but are not closely related to African buffalo or water buffalo.



NATIONAL SYMBOLS

The Bald Eagle is the national bird and emblem of the United States and is the only eagle unique to North America. The bald eagle's scientific name signifies a sea eagle with a white head, (at one time, the word "bald" meant "white," not hairless). It was chosen to symbolise long life, great strength and majestic looks. Bald eagles are found throughout most of North America, from Alaska and Canada to northern Mexico.

The Liberty Bell is an iconic symbol of American independence, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Originally commissioned in 1751, was used to summon lawmakers to legislative sessions and to alert citizens about public meetings and proclamations. It speaks of the rights and freedoms valued by people the world over.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is a massive iconic sculpture in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. It took fourteen years to carve and was completed in 1941 under the direction of Gutzon Borglum and his son Lincoln. The granite faces depict U.S. presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. Borglum selected these four presidents because from his perspective, they represented the most important figures in the history of the United States.

The National Flower. On November 20, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation certifying the rose as the National Flower in a ceremony at the White House Rose Garden. The rose grows naturally throughout North America.



"Liberty Enlightening the World" is the Statue of Liberty's official name. President Grover Cleveland accepted and dedicated the Statue of Liberty on behalf of the United States on October 28th, 1886.

"We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home; nor shall her chosen altar be neglected."

She was given to the U.S. by France to celebrate America's first 100 years as a nation and commemorates the alliance between France and the U.S. during the Revolutionary War, a sign of their mutual desire for liberty. Over the years she has become to mean much more to so many. She is a universal symbol and represents the United States itself, stirring the desire for freedom in people all over the world.

Seen as the Mother of Exiles and embodying hope and opportunity for those seeking a better life in America, she greeted over twelve million immigrants from 1892 to 1954, who entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor. Today, over 100 million Americans can trace their ancestry back to this former gateway.

This heritage jewelry is symbolic of a nation's journey and to the soul of this nation, giving inspiration to the rest of the world and the road ahead.



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