

The 2015 Rex Procession: "Wars That Shaped Early America"

**Tuesday, February 17, 2015
New Orleans, Louisiana**

1. Rex, King of Carnival, Monarch of Merriment Rex's float carries the King of Carnival and his pages through the streets of New Orleans each Mardi Gras. In the early years of the New Orleans Carnival Rex's float was redesigned each year. The current King's float, one of Carnival's most iconic images, has been in use for over fifty years.

2. His Majesty's Bandwagon From this traditional permanent float one of the Royal Bands provides lively music for Rex and for those who greet him on the parade route. One of those songs will surely be the Rex anthem: "If Ever I Cease to Love," which has been played in every Rex parade since 1872.

3. The King's Jesters Even the Monarch of Merriment needs jesters in his court. Rex's jesters dress in the traditional colors of Mardi Gras – purple, green and gold. The papier mache' figures on the Jester float are some of the oldest in the Rex parade, and were sculpted by artists in Viareggio, Italy, a city with its own rich Carnival tradition.

4. The Boeuf Gras The Boeuf Gras ("the fat ox") represents one of the oldest traditions and images of Mardi Gras, symbolizing the great feast on the day before Lent begins. In the early years of the New Orleans Carnival a live Boeuf Gras, decorated with garlands, had an honored place near the front of the Rex Parade.

5. The Butterfly King Since the earliest days of Carnival, butterflies have been popular symbolic design elements, their brief and colorful life a metaphor for the ephemeral magic of Mardi Gras itself. The 1882 Rex Ball invitation combined the butterfly image with that of the King of Carnival, creating the enduring image of "The Butterfly King." The Butterfly King float, introduced in 2012, is the first new permanent float to join the Rex Procession in many decades.

6. Title Float: "Wars That Shaped Early America" America was forged as a nation through many battles and wars, only a few of them remembered today. Many preceded the defining War of Independence, and some followed that titanic struggle for freedom. The 2015 Rex Procession describes many of those wars, beginning more than a century before the War of Independence, and culminating in the War of 1812 and the Battle of New Orleans, fought two centuries ago. The School of Design dedicates this parade to the men and women who, over nearly four centuries, struggled to establish and defend America.

7. Pequot War (1636-37) The Pequot Indians, allied with the Dutch, inevitably came into conflict with the English members of the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colonies. In a series of battles and skirmishes the English, and their Monhegan Indian allies were able to defeat the Pequot. Some historians claim that Thanksgiving originally was a celebration of the settlers' victory over the Pequot.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pequot_War
<http://www.colonialwarsct.org/1637.htm>

8. Pueblo Revolt (1680) As Spain's occupation of Pueblo lands expanded, their rule became increasingly harsh. In 1680, a Pueblo leader named Pope' organized a rebellion to drive the Spaniards out. A knotted rope was sent to each Pueblo village, with instructions to untie one knot each day; the revolt was to begin on the day the last knot was untied. The revolt was successful, Santa Fe' was besieged, and the Spaniards were not able to return until 1692.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pueblo_Revolt
<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/early-settlements/essays/pueblo-revolt>

9. Queen Anne's War (1702-13) When France and Queen Anne's England went to war over who would be the new King of Spain the conflict also played out in their colonies. British forces pushed across Maine toward French Acadia, eventually capturing the capital, Point-Royal. British control of Acadia resulted some years later in the expulsion of French-speaking Acadians, some of whom settled in South Louisiana.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Anne's_War
<http://colonialwarsct.org/1702.htm>

10. The Streetcar Named Desire Streetcars are an important New Orleans symbol, and this permanent float honors the best known of all of New Orleans' streetcar lines. The Streetcar Named Desire, made famous by the playwright Tennessee Williams, is recalled by this iconic float, the only Rex float not pulled by a tractor.

11. Father Rale's War (1722-25) Father Sebastien Rale, a French Jesuit priest, worked among the Abenaki Indians, both converting them to Christianity and encouraging them to fight alongside the French as English settlers pushed inward and Northward across Maine toward Nova Scotia. He was killed in 1724 in one of these battles. He compiled an Abenaki/English dictionary, now in the Harvard library.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father_Rale's_War
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sébastien_Rale

12. Natchez War (1729-31) For many years after de Lasalle explored the Mississippi River in the late 17th Century the French and the Natchez Indians generally got along. In the early 18th Century a series of conflicts culminated in the Natchez War, and the Natchez were able to seize both Fort Rosalie and the French colony of Natchez, killing more than 200 colonists. They encouraged slaves from French plantations to join them in their revolt, and some did so. Within a few years, however, the French had returned and scattering the Natchez.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natchez_people
<http://nativeamericannetroots.net/diary/1110>

13. War of Jenkins' Ear (1739-48) This conflict between England and Spain played out throughout the Americas. Troops from Virginia fought alongside the British in several battles, and American forces in Georgia both attacked the Spanish at St. Augustine, Florida, and were able to repel a Spanish invasion near St. Simon Island, Georgia. The war was named for Captain Robert Jenkins, whose ear (later displayed in Parliament) was severed by the leader of a Spanish boarding party.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_Jenkins'_Ear
<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/war-jenkins-ear>

14. French and Indian War (1754-63) The conflicts between England and France, Europe's great powers, always played out in their North American colonies. Each side recruited Native American allies, and a series of conflicts culminated in a decisive British victory and stripped France of control of many of its former colonies, including French Louisiana, which was ceded to Spain. This war also set the stage for America's War of Independence.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_and_Indian_War
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/frin.htm>

15. Boston Tea Party (1773) On Dec. 6, 1773, protestors, inspired by the Sons of Liberty (some disguised as Indians) boarded boats in Boston Harbor and threw an entire shipment of tea into the sea. This act of defiance targeted the Tea Act, protested "taxation without representation," and was one of the first acts of the American Revolutionary War.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party
<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/revolution/teaparty.htm>

16. Lord Dunmore's War (1774) Named for John Murray, the Fourth Earl of Dunmore and Governor of Virginia, this war was fought in the Ohio Valley between colonial militias and the Shawnee and Mingo tribes. Much of this

territory had been acquired by the British from the Iroquois Nation, but Westward colonization was resisted by tribes that did not recognize British claims.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Dunmore's_War

http://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Lord_Dunmore's_War_and_the_Battle_of_Point_Pleasant?rec=514

17. Don't Tread on Me (1775) The statesman and Revolutionary War General Christopher Gadsden placed the image of a coiled rattlesnake and the legend "Don't Tread on Me" on a bold yellow background to create the first flag of the Continental Marines. The "Gadsden Flag" and the "Liberty Tree Flag" were powerful symbols of America's fight to throw off British rule.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gadsden_flag

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Gadsden

18. Paul Revere's Ride (1775) Longfellow's poem, "Paul Revere's Ride," immortalized Revere's efforts on the night of April 18, 1775, to warn his fellow patriots that British soldiers were on the march. His warnings allowed Samuel Adams and John Hancock to escape and for local militias to prepare to meet the British soldiers at the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Revere#.22Midnight_Ride.22

<http://www.paulreverehouse.org/ride/>

19. Washington Crossing the Delaware (1776) On Christmas night, 1776, General George Washington and his troops quietly crossed the icy Delaware River. The next morning they were able to surprise and defeat Hessian soldiers camped at Trenton, New Jersey. A week later they crossed once again, this time defeating British reinforcements. These were crucial early victories in the long War of Independence.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington's_crossing_of_the_Delaware_River

<http://www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing/>

20. Little Turtle's War (1785-95) When the War of Independence ended the British ceded to America all the lands between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River. Little Turtle was one of the leaders of the Indian Confederacy that resisted settlements in Ohio Country. Little Turtle ultimately supported negotiation, and, before his death, had met with George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Turtle#Little_Turtle.27s_War

<http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Michikinikwa?rec=240>

21. Shays' Rebellion (1786-87) After the War of Independence, Daniel Shays and many other former soldiers rebelled when their properties were seized because they were unable to pay taxes and other obligations. Many had not been paid for their wartime service. The Rebellion, mainly in Massachusetts, was suppressed, but it had a significant influence on the transition from the limited government of the Articles of Confederation to the stronger Federal powers incorporated in the new Constitution.

<http://shaysrebellion.stcc.edu/index.html>
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shays' Rebellion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shays'_Rebellion)

22. Whiskey Insurrection (1794) When the new Federal government imposed a tax on whiskey to help pay debts remaining from the War of Independence many farmers in Western Pennsylvania rebelled. A Federal militia sent by Gen. George Washington suppressed their brief revolt, an early confirmation of newly established Federal powers.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whiskey Rebellion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whiskey_Rebellion)
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/businesshistory/August/whiskeyrebellion.html>

23. Barbary Wars (1801-1815) America fought two wars against the Barbary States (Tunis, Algiers and Tripoli) in an effort to defeat pirates demanding tribute for the safe passage of American vessels. These wars established the American Navy and Marines as effective fighting forces defending the interests of our new nation.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbary Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbary_Wars)
<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1801-1829/barbary-wars>

24. West Florida War (1810) Rebellling against Spanish rule in 1810, mostly English settlers in parts of what is now Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama established the Republic of West Florida. Flying the Bonnie Blue Flag, with one white star, the rebels defeated the Spanish garrison at Baton Rouge. The Republic of West Florida lasted just 90 days before it was annexed by the United States.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West Florida](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Florida)
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-history-of-the-short-lived-independent-republic-of-florida-28056078/>

25. Tecumseh's War (1811) The leader of an alliance of several Native American tribes, Tecumseh led resistance to white settlement in the Indiana Territory culminating in the Battle of Tippecanoe. His alliance with the British helped precipitate the War of 1812.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tecumseh's_War
<http://www.eighteentwelve.ca/?q=eng/Topic/6>

26. War of 1812 Naval Campaign (1812) Naval battles in the Great Lakes and along the Atlantic Coast helped secure victory over the British in what some call “America’s Second War of Independence.” Symbols of national pride from these campaigns include “Old Ironsides” (the USS Constitution) and the “Star Spangled Banner.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_1812#Atlantic_theatre
<http://www.eighteentwelve.ca/?q=eng/Topic/28>

27. Battle of New Orleans (1812) In the last battle of the War of 1812 American forces led by Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated a much larger British force commanded by Gen. Pakenham. A treaty ending the war had already been signed, but the heroic defense of the city of New Orleans provides enduring stories and images of determination, faith and bravery.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_New_Orleans
<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/battleofneworleans.htm>

28. The Royal Barge Reminiscent of a grand Viking ship, and complete with Royal Gryphon, the Royal Barge is one of Rex’s permanent floats. This float is the last remnant of the Royal Navy, once a feature of each Rex Parade.

His Majesty’s Royal Calliope The Calliope provides a lively and traditional musical counterpoint to the brilliant array of bands in the Rex Procession.