

1900

## B059/F45: Swift, Lillie, Entrance Examination: U.S. History, 1900

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Swift, Lillie - Entrance Examination - U.S. History

Folder 45

1900

Box 59

History of the United States.  
Lillie Swift. Ogden, Utah, May 31, 1900.

Select one sub-topic from each of the groups given, and write what you can about it. Be sure to give dates whenever possible.

1. Colonial period.

- (a) Life in the Colony of Massachusetts.
- (b) Life in the Colony of Virginia.
- (c) Life in the Colony of New York.

(a) Life in the Colony of Massachusetts.

In 1620, thirteen years after the settlement of Jamestown in Virginia, a band of Pilgrims came over from England in the Mayflower, their vessel. They landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts in the middle of winter when the ground was covered with snow.

This band consisted of about one hundred women, men, and children, who were called Pilgrims because of their wanderings from place to place. They fled from England to Holland, because of the persecution they suffered there, and because they wanted freedom of religion; but as they were afraid that their generations would forget the English language and customs, and use the Dutch ditto, if they remained

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in Holland, they thence came over to America.

The Pilgrims were a sober and religious people as well as a thrifty and industrious one. Instead of spending their time in the vain search for gold, as the Virginians did, they built houses and tilled farms to make happy and comfortable homes for their children.

As they were kind to the Indians, the dusksies in turn taught them how to plant corn and other occupations, which were profitable.

The ablest man in the Plymouth settlement was Captain Miles Standish, who, being the leader, saved the little colony from savage Indians, and peril from starvation.

During the mild winter many of the settlers perished and hardships were very great. Yet the people strived to pull through and next year beheld them serving the first Thanksgiving dinner among themselves and the Indians, the chief of whom was Massasoit.

Governor Bradford was the first governor of the Plymouth colony. There is a narrative that when the chief of the Narragansett Bay Indians, Canonibus, who was an enemy

of the Pilgrims, sent some arrows bound together with a snakeskin to Governor Bradford as a signal for war. The governor sent back the snakeskin filled with bullets and powder. This showed the Indians how ready and powerful the settlers were, and Canonicus remained at peace.

In 1629 and the year following, other bands of people came over and settled at Salem, Boston and other places along the coast of Massachusetts. These people were called Puritans, because they were very pious as the Pilgrims were, but did not wander as the latter did. They were ill-treated in England, because of their religion, and therefore they left their country and came over to find a place where they could worship God as they pleased. John Winthrop was the leader of these people.

In the course of time the Plymouth Colony and the Massachusetts Bay Colony, as the late settlements of Salem and Boston were called, united under the name of the Massachusetts Colony. The people there did not neglect education, and eighteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims, the great college of Harvard was established.

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The Indians did not remain at peace long, because they were angry to see the whites increasing, and themselves gradually driven back into the wilderness.

After the death of Massasoit, the chief of the Indians of Plymouth, his son, styled King Philip by himself, and an able man of wisdom succeeded him as chief. He had long seen his people's wrong to let the whites take their land, and therefore he stirred up them to make war on the whites. The war began between the years, 1622 and 1644, and was known as Philip's war. Villages were burned, and many massacres in which women and children were carried away prisoners, or scalped. At last after much destruction, Philip, finding himself deserted and his wife killed, fled heart-broken to Rhode Island, where he was killed by one of his fellow men.

After a long time, the terrible scenes of the late war vanished out of the minds of the colonists and they began to prosper. But wars followed between the English and the French. They were King William's, Queen Anne's, King George's and the French and Indian War. The last began in 1754 and lasted in 1763.

During these wars the colonies all along the Atlantic coast united into a league and fought against the French, who always have been bitter enemies of the English.

The first scenes of the Revolutionary War were seen in the Massachusetts Colony, but I am not going to tell about them in this story.

## 2. Revolutionary period.

- (a) Reasons for the rebellion against England.
- (b) Prominent men of the time.
- (c) Most important battles; give particulars of one.

### Reasons for the rebellion against England.

The unjust treatment of the Colonists in the thirteen colonies, by England, their mother country, lies at the bottom of the cause of the Revolutionary War.

For many years the colonies along the Atlantic coast had entered the enterprise of ship-building and in their own ships carried on a splendid trade between themselves and different countries, thus growing to wealth and prosperity. The product of sugar, rice, cotton and tobacco was great and the clamorings for more of them by other countries increased the trade until the merchants had become

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very rich.

On the other hand, England was deep in debt on account of the French and Indian War, and she sought help from the colonists. The colonists were perfectly willing to pay taxes, were it not for her injustice and greediness, which she used in her demand for taxes.

The merchants of England did not feel well satisfied with their incomes and eyed those on the other side of the Atlantic with jealousy. They therefore appealed to the British Parliament to pass a law, then known as the Navigation Act (1765), by which all trade carried on with England should be taken in English ships, commanded by English captains and sailed by English crews. This was severe to the colonists, since it left their ships to rot in idleness, and thousands of brave American sailors were thrown out of work in order that English sailors might have permanent work. But the colonists could still carry on trade, and another complaint was made to Parliament by the English merchants for a new law. This was the Acts of Trade, which forbade trade with any other country by the colonies than England. This led the colonists to



smuggling, in which they secretly carried on trade at the risk of capture by English vessels on high sea. Then the Writs of Assistance were orders or rights given to British officers to look into houses for smuggled goods. These orders excited the owners of the goods in anger, and they drove away the officers whenever they could.

The Stamp Act (1774) followed, by which the people here were required to buy stamps from the British and put them on bonds, deeds, almanacs and newspapers. The people protested against that act and would not buy any. Soldiers were then sent over to restore order, but this brought on the "Mutiny Act" by which the people were demanded help to supply the soldiers with food and clothing. The "Stamp Act" was repealed the next year.

The excitement and clamors of the people against the acts were so great that England proposed to remove all and taxes and levy a small tax on tea. Although small it was large enough to keep up the right to tax the Americans, therefore the colonists refused to buy it or any goods from the British,

S. L. Swift

and factories sprang up in spite of the laws forbidding them in this country.

When the ships filled with tea reached Charleston, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, some of them were sent back untouched. At Charleston the tea was landed, but it was stored in damp cellars, where it moulded and rotted.

At Boston there was a grand "Tea Party", in which men dressed in Indian customs, secretly boarded the ships in the harbor at night, and threw the tea overboard. None but the fishes drank it.

England was angry at this maneuver of the Boston people and ordered the harbor of Boston to be closed. Starvation and pestilence swept through the unfortunate city and people were out of work. This act of starving <sup>their</sup> people into submission excited a feeling of bitter and hatred among the colonists against England. Relief was thrown in heaps upon Boston, and preparation for war began.

The first step of the war began April 19, 1775 at Concord to where Gov. Gage, the royal governor of Mass. sent forces to destroy the military stores of the Americans.

The people declared themselves no longer

colonists but Americans, and they regarded the affairs of England as "Taxations without Representation", since they could not have a voice in making laws in the British Parliament.

Thus far, the beginning of the war had been to gain representation and justice, but while it was going on, the people began to think of severing their country from England. So the Declaration of Independence was adopted July 4, 1776, and the principal object of the war became that for independence and freedom.

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### 3. Civil War.

- (a) Causes of discontent in the South.
- (b) A few of the battles.
- (c) Prominent men on both sides.
- (d) Resulting evils and benefits of this war.

#### A few of the Battles.

The first battle of the Civil War began between Richmond, Va., the Confederate Capital, and Washington, D.C., at Bull Run or Manassas on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 1861. It resulted in the defeat of the Union Army, which fled in disorder to Washington. General M<sup>c</sup> Dowell commanded the

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Union Army, while Gen. Beauregard and Gen. Jackson commanded the Southerners.

The Battle of Shiloh took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1862 between General Grant, and Generals Beauregard and Johnston. During the day the Union Army was driven towards the Tennessee River from their ground at Corinth, Mississippi, but they regained it just as night fell when Gen. Buell came to their relief.

The greatest battle of the War was that of Gettysburg on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 1863 between Generals Grant and Lee. The Union line was broken through by Pickett's forces, and great losses resulted on both sides. At last the Union Army gained the day, but the losses were so great that Gettysburg was turned into a cemetery.

The Siege of Vicksburg on the Mississippi resulted in the separation of the Western Confederacy from the Eastern. After a regular siege by the Union Army under Gen. Grant, Vicksburg was surrendered to it, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1863, the day following the battle of Gettysburg. Port Hudson below Vicksburg surrendered a day later, giving the whole of the

Mississippi river to the Union.

4. Territorial growth of the Nation.

(a) Extent of the Colonies at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

(b) Extent of the United States today.

(b) Extent of the United States today.

The United States, our land, stretches from the boundary of Canada on the north to that of Mexico on the south, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean without a break. In 1867, Alaska was purchased from Russia and added to our possession. In 1898 the Hawaiian Islands were annexed to the U.S., and Porto Rico, and Guam, one of the Ladrome Islands in the Pacific, were ceded to our country the same year. The U.S. is today about half as large as the entire Empire of Russia. The Philippines were also ceded to the U.S. in 1898.

5. Presidents of the United States.

(a) The most able President.

(b) The martyred Presidents.

(c) The most unpopular President, and why?

(b) The Martyred Presidents.

Abraham Lincoln and James A. Garfield

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were the martyred Presidents of the U.S.

It was on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1865, five days after the surrender of Gen. Lee to Gen. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Va., when Abraham Lincoln and his family were sitting in a box in Ford's theatre enjoying the evening after hard work. In the midst of the scenes of the stage, one of the actors, John Wilkes Booth, stole softly behind the President and shot him in the head. He fled from the theatre, but was arrested and hanged soon after. Lincoln died the next day, and left the whole country filled with gloom and grief.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1881, six months after he was inaugurated President James A. Garfield was shot dead at a depot in Washington, <sup>D.C.</sup> by an office-seeker, who was refused work by the President. The assassination led to the reformation of the Civil Service Reform later in Chester Arthur's term.

Garfield was an able man, the just man the country then needed, and his death was a severe shock to our land. Chester Arthur, the Vice Pres. succeeded him.

6. Political parties in the United States.
- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) Whig.       | (c) Republican. |
| (b) Democratic. | (d) Populist.   |

(b) The Democratic Party.

The Democratic Party today is not in favor of expansion or trusts. It regards our country as growing to imperialism, that is - our country is becoming an empire or monarchy.

In expansion, the Democrats opposed and still oppose the cession of Porto Rico, Guam and the Philippines to the U.S. So they are anti-expansionists.

Trusts is a subject in politics favored by the Republicans. By it, an owner of a factory would buy all the factories that make the same things as his does and he thus gets rich quicker. He sells his things at high price.

The Democrats have not the majority or management of Congress this year. They are out-numbered there. They may nominate Wm J. Bryan as their candidate for the presidency in the coming year. Their party will meet at their national convention at Kansas City, Mo. on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1900.

Lillie Swift.

(1) (a) Life in the Colony of Massachusetts.

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This band consisted of <sup>about</sup> one hundred men, women and children, who were called Pilgrims because of their wanderings from place to place. They fled from England to Holland because of the persecution they suffered there, and because they wanted freedom of religion, but as they were afraid their generations would forget the English language and use the Dutch, <sup>if they remained in Holland</sup> they thence came over to America.

The Pilgrims were sober and religious people as well as thrifty and industrious. Instead of spending their time in looking for gold as the unfortunate Virginians did they built houses and tilled farms.

As they were kind to the Indians, the dusky people in turn taught them how to plant corn, and other occupations which were profitable.



The ablest man in the Plymouth settlement was Captain Miles Standish, who saved the little colony from savage Indians and peril from starvation.

During the mild winter many of the settlers perished and hardships were very great. Yet they <sup>strived to</sup> pull through and next year found them serving the first Thanksgiving <sup>dinner</sup> among themselves and the Indians, the chief of whom was Massasoit. Gov. Bradford was the first <sup>of the Plymouth Colony</sup> Governor of

In 1629 and the year following, another band of people came over and settled at Salem, <sup>as Boston</sup> Mass., and other places along the coast of that colony.

These people were called Puritans, because they were very religious as the Pilgrims, but did not wander as the latter did. They were ill-treated in England, and therefore <sup>left England and</sup> came over to find a place where they could worship God as they pleased. John Winthrop the ablest man.

In the course of time the Plymouth Colony, and the other colonies in Mass. united under the name of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The people there did not neglect education and sixteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims the great college of Harvard was established.

The Indians did not remain in peace long because they were jealous and angry to see the whites increasing and they themselves <sup>gradually</sup> driven back into the wilderness.

After the death of Massasoit, the chief of the Indians near Plymouth, his son Philip, <sup>styled King Philip by himself</sup> an able man of wisdom had long seen his people's wrong to let the whites take their land. He therefore stirred up the Indians to make war upon the whites, and this war began <sup>between</sup> in 1622 and 1644 and was known as Philip's War. Villages were burned, and many massacres were made, in which women and children were carried away prisoners or scalped. At last after much destruction, Philip finding himself deserted, and his wife killed, fled to Rhode Island where he was killed by one of his fellow men.

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1754

1763

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Lillian Swift.

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A. L. 1861-1865.

A. J. 1865-1869.

U.S.G. 1869-1877.

Hay 1877-1881

Gar. Ch. 1881-1885.

Clev. 1885-1889

B. H. 1889-1893.

Clev. 1893-1897.

McK. 1897.