



Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government

From *British* America to the *United States* of America

America's story began more than 400 years ago with firm support from the King of England. Less than two centuries later, appeals to ancient English rights were actually used *against* English rule and new country was born – free and independent. America's story is *your* story - it is your *inheritance*.

"From London to Jamestown and the Roots of American Discontent" **March 4 – Jo Ellen Chatham**

"The Die is Cast: The Declaration of Independence" **March 11 – Lisa Matthews**

"The Articles of Confederation: Disunity in the Union" **March 18 – Volker Janssen**

"A New Constitution for a More Perfect Union" **March 25 – Jo Ellen Chatham**

"Ratifying the New Constitution: Why Did Patriot Pat Henry Oppose Ratification?" **April 1 - Bryan Santin**

"The First Congress: Inventing a New Government" **April 8 – Jo Ellen Chatham**

A More Perfect Union: The Constitution of the United States

The Constitution is more than a symbol – it is "the Supreme Law of the Land!" It puts "We the People" in charge. That's us! Are you prepared to play your part?

"The Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land...Until it Isn't" **April 22 – Lisa Matthews**

"Congress: The 'First Branch of Government'" **April 29 – Jo Ellen Chatham**

"Congress: It Can Do This, But Not That!" **May 6 – Jo Ellen Chatham**

"The Presidency...and the President" **May 13 – Robert Robinson**

"The President and All the President's Men" **May 20 – Bryan Santin**

"The Judges and the Constitution: Do They Really Have the Last Word?" **May 27 – Volker Janssen**

The Bill of Rights and Guarantees of Liberty

More than 11,500 amendments to the Constitution have been proposed, but only twenty-seven have been ratified. One was even rescinded! But they protect your freedoms of speech and religion, trial by a jury, voting rights and even how we elect the President. If they changed the Constitution, you need to know why.

“No Bill of Rights - No Constitution! – Did It Matter?” [September 16 – Jo Ellen Chatham](#)

“The First Amendment: Our Freedoms to Speak, Assemble, Print and Petition the Government”
[September 23 – Robert Robinson](#)

“The First Amendment: Our Freedom to Worship, or Not” [September 30 – Bryan Santin](#)

“A Bunch of Other Amendments, But They Count!” [October 7 – Jo Ellen Chatham](#)

- a. Bearing Arms
- b. Quartering Soldiers
- c. Unreasonable Searches and Seizures
- d. Protections in Trials
- e. More Protections in Trials
- f. Even More Protections in Trials

“At Long Last and Great Sacrifice: The Civil War Amendments” [October 14 – Volker Janssen](#)

“Amendment Mania: Expansion of Rights (and One Repeal!)” [October 21 – Jo Ellen Chatham](#)