

## **STATUE OF LIBERTY CHRONOLOGY**

- 1865 Edouard Rene de Laboulaye proposes a memorial to Franco-American Friendship at a dinner party. Frederic Auguste Bartholdi is in attendance.
- 1871 Frederic Auguste Bartholdi conceives the idea for the Statue of Liberty and tours the United States.
- 1875 Franco-American Union formed in Paris, France. It is determined that the French will build the Statue and the Americans will build the pedestal.
- First plaster model of the Statue is completed
- 1876 April 25. Fundraising benefit for the statue held at the Paris Opera.
- May. Bartholdi embarks on his second trip to the United States to sell the concept of the Statue. He arrives in Philadelphia. Statue's torch and torch arm are exhibited at the Philadelphia Science Expo.
- June. Bartholdi speaks at the Offenbach Supper for artists held at the Hotel Brunswick in Manhattan.
- December 20. Bartholdi marries Jeanne Baheux de Puysieux
- 1877 American Committee for the construction of the pedestal is formed.
- Bedloe's Island is chosen as the site for the statue.
- January 2. Fundraiser for the project is held at the century Club in Manhattan.
- February 22. Congress accepts "Liberty Enlightening the World" (the Statue of Liberty's true name) as a gift from France.
- June 27. A lottery is held in France to benefit the statue.
- October 31. Former President Ulysses Grant visits the workshop in Paris, France where the Statue is being built.
- 1878 Head of "Liberty Enlightening the World" is exhibited at the Paris Expo.
- 1881 October 24. Ceremony is held for the first rivet driven in the Statue at the workshop.
- 1883 April 18. Groundbreaking ceremony for the pedestal on Bedloe's Island, New York Harbor.
- November 2. Emma Lazarus writes her famous poem, "The New Colossus," for the pedestal fund.
- 1884 May 21. Banquet held in Paris to celebrate the completion of the Statue. Statue of Liberty fully assembled over the streets of Paris as a test-run of the structure.
- July 4. "Liberty Enlightening the World" officially presented to United States Ambassador to France Morton in Paris.
- August 5. Cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal is laid on Bedloe's Island during a ceremony.
- 1885 Over \$100,000 is raised for the construction of the pedestal due to the editorials in support of the pedestal fund by Joseph Pulitzer in his newspaper, *The World*.
- January. The dismantling of the Statue begins for her journey to America.
- March 16. Joseph Pulitzer vows to print the name of every contributor to the pedestal fund, no matter how small the amount, in his newspaper.
- April 1. Announcement is made that "Liberty Enlightening the World" will leave France on May 8.

- May 3. Benefit concert by the Columbia Mannenchoir, a German singing ensemble, at Steinway Hall, Manhattan.
- May 21. Actual departure of Statue from France aboard the warship *Isere* in 214 crates
- June 17. The *Isere* arrives in New York Harbor with the disassembled Statue inside her hold.
- June 19. Parade and numerous celebrations held for the arrival of the Statue.
- 1886 April 22. Last stone is swung into place on the pedestal designed by the famous American architect, Robert Morris Hunt.
- October 10. President Grover Cleveland places the statue and pedestal structures under the administration of the United States Lighthouse Board as maritime structures. United States War Department maintains control of the island and Fort Wood (the coastal fortification that the Statue and pedestal are atop.)
- October 28. Official dedication of "Liberty Enlightening the World" is held. Bartholdi, his wife, and numerous dignitaries attend ceremony.
- November 1. Fireworks display and illumination of the torch occurs, postponed from October 28 due to bad weather.
- 1901 December 30. Statue is placed under the jurisdiction of the United States War Department since it is not an effective lighthouse. (Lighthouses are built not to sway, something the Statue's structure needed to do, and lighthouses needed to have powerful beacons.)
- 1903 May 6. Emma Lazarus' poem is inscribed on a bronze plaque which is affixed to the interior of the pedestal.
- 1916 July 30. Black Tom Wharf, an ammunitions depot for the WWI European theatre, is sabotaged. The massive explosion damages the Statue, the Ellis Island Immigration Station, and the surrounding harbor area. The torch of the Statue is closed to visitors.
- December 2. President Woodrow Wilson dedicates new floodlight system to illuminate the Statue.
- 1924 October 15. The Statue of Liberty is declared a National Monument by Presidential Decree.
- 1931 Modern floodlighting is installed.
- 1933 July 28. Presidential Executive Order transfers the monument to the Department of Interior National Park Service. War Department does not relinquish control over the island for several more years.
- 1936 October 28. President Franklin Roosevelt presides over the celebration for the Statue's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the shores of America.
- 1942-1945 Statue's torch extinguished under the blackout laws during WWII to protect ships from U-boat activity in the harbor.
- 1982 Committee formed to restore the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island under joint effort of the federal government and the private sector.
- 1984 July. Statue is closed for a \$100 million restoration, including construction of a new torch.
- 1986 July 4. Statue of Liberty National Monument reopened to the public after restoration.
- 2001 Sept 11. Liberty Island closed indefinitely due to the attack on the World Trade Center.
- 2001 Dec. 20. Liberty Island grounds re-open after a 100-day closure. Statue of Liberty remains closed indefinitely to public.
- 2004 August 3. Visitors may again go inside the pedestal, visiting the museum and enjoying views of the New York Harbor from the observatory level, and the promenade level. The crown of the Statue is not accessible.