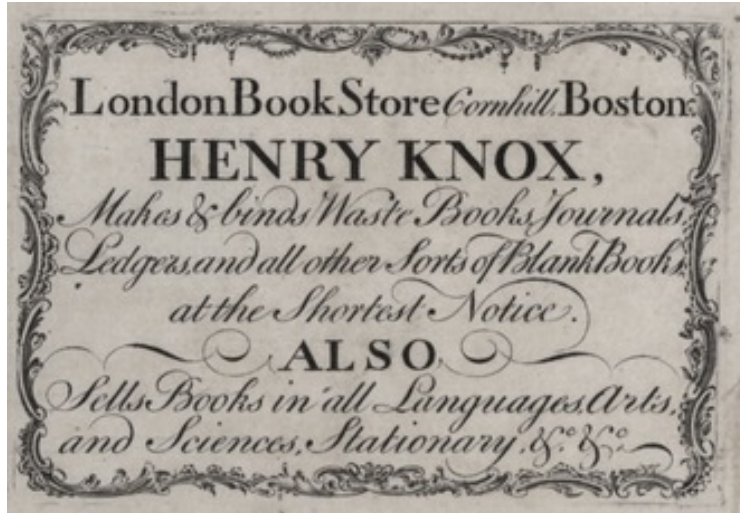


American Minute with Bill Federer

Henry Knox moved cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights in "one of the most stupendous feats of logistics"

William Knox had emigrated from Scotland to Ireland; then to the West Indies; then to Boston in 1728.

He helped establish the **Church of the Presbyterian Strangers.**



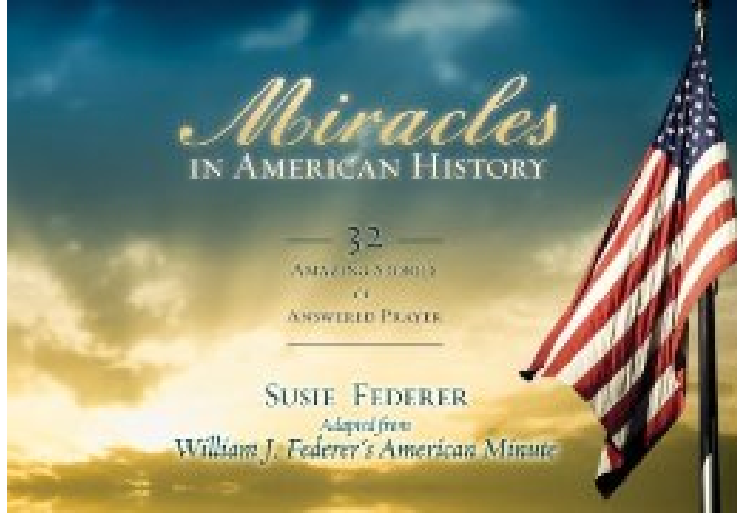
William Knox died in 1762 while on business in the West Indies.

His 12-year-old son, **Henry Knox**, began supporting the family by working as a **bookbinder** at Wharton and Bowe's Book Store.

In 1771, at the age of 21, **Knox** opened his own **bookstore in Boston.**

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At age 23, while hunting birds on Noddle Island, his fowling piece misfired, **taking off two fingers of his left hand**. From then on, when in public, he covered that hand with a handkerchief.



A young woman who frequented **Henry's** book shop was **Lucy Flucker**, whose father was **Thomas Flucker**, the **Royal Secretary of the Province of Massachusetts**.

To her father disapproval, **Henry and Lucy fell in love**,

Her parents considered **Henry** in a lower class, and were put off by him associating with **patriotic rebels**.

They tried to entice **Henry** to take a commission serving the King in the **British Artillery**, but **he refused**.

When **Henry and Lucy** were **married**, June 16, 1774, her parents **disowned her**.

Henry Knox witnessed the **Boston Massacre** in 1770.



During the **Boston Tea Party** in 1773, **Henry**, who was six feet tall and over 250 pounds, served on guard duty to make sure no tea was unloaded from the ship *Dartmouth* until the night **Sam Adams** and the **Sons of Liberty** arrived.



On May 13, 1774, **British General Thomas Gage** arrived as **Military Governor of Massachusetts**.

a blockade of Boston's Harbor by British ships.

On June 1, 1774, **Gage** commenced

Thomas Jefferson drafted a **day of fasting** for sister colony of Virginia to be **observed the same day the blockade began**.

Knox experienced the city's deprivation.





With **4,000 British troops**, Gage imposed a military occupation, **confiscating over 2,000 muskets from the citizens.**

He prohibited town hall meetings, complaining that "democracy is too prevalent in America."

Gage had Knox's name put on a list of the most dangerous persons.

Gage made Boston a prison.

No one was permitted to leave.

The British looted **Henry's bookshop** and used his home to lodge soldiers.



On night in the spring of 1775, 25-year-old **Henry**, and his 19 -year-old wife, fled on horseback out of Boston. **Lucy** had sewn his sword inside her cape.

In March of 1775, **Parliament** replaced **Thomas Gage** with **British Commander William Howe.**

Howe filled Boston with 4,500 more troops,

The **Battle of**



Bunker Hill soon followed on June 17, 1775.

Henry Knox volunteered to serve in the American military.



General George Washington, age 43, made **Henry Knox** a colonel.

On December 1, 1775, **General Washington** sent **Colonel Henry Knox** to **Fort Ticonderoga** in upstate New York near Canada to bring **59 cannons to Boston** to drive out the British.

Knox and his men arrived at **Fort Ticonderoga**, put the cannons on big flat-bottomed boats, and rowed them through freezing weather to the southern end of **Lake George**.



Knox dragged the cannons across the snow, as he reported to Washington,



December 17,
1775:

"I have had made 42 exceedingly strong sleds and have provided 80 yoke of oxen to drag them as far as Springfield where I shall get fresh cattle to carry them ...

I hope in 16 or 17 days to be able to

present your Excellency a noble train of artillery."

They arrived at the **Hudson River**, but the ice was not thick enough to support the sleds and one sank.



On January 8, 1776, **Knox** wrote in his diary that **local pastors** organized farmers to help:

"Went on the ice about 8 o'clock in the morning and

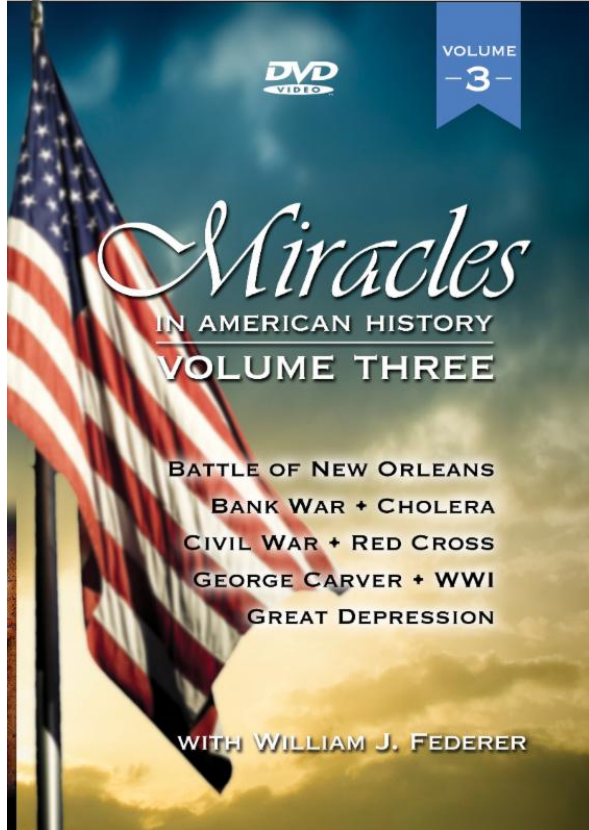


proceeded so carefully that before night we got over 23 sleds and were so lucky as to get the cannon out of the River, owing to the assistance the good people of the city of Albany gave."

The 3 month endeavor of dragging the **cannons** over **300 miles** from **Ft. Ticonderoga** to **Boston** was called by historian Victor Brooks "**one of the most stupendous feats of logistics.**"



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Knox arrived at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

On the night of March 4th, a **diversionary attack** was made to distract the

British, while **Washington's men wrapped wagon wheels with straw to muffle the noise** and frantically moved the **cannons** up to a strategic point on **Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston Harbor.**



To make it appear even more impressive, they **painted some logs to look like cannons.**



The next morning an astonished **British General William Howe** looked up at **Dorchester Heights** and remarked:

"The rebels did more in one night than my whole army would have done in one month."



On March 6, 1776, from his Cambridge Headquarters, **General Washington** ordered:

"Thursday, the 7th ... being set apart by this Province (Massachusetts) as a **Day of Fasting, Prayer and Humiliation,**

'to implore the



Lord and Giver of all victory to pardon our manifold sins and wickedness, and that it would please Him to **bless the Continental army with His divine favor and protection,**'

all officers and soldiers are strictly enjoined to pay all due reverence and attention on that day to the **sacred**

duties to the Lord of hosts for His mercies already received, and for those blessings which our holiness and uprightness of life can alone encourage us to hope **through His mercy obtain."**

Coincidentally, on that **Day of Fasting**, March 7, 1776, **General Howe** was assembling 3,000 troops to land and charge up **Dorchester Heights**, but a violent **snowstorm** arose causing the **sea to be too turbulent for the attack.**



General Washington wrote his younger brother, John Augustine Washington, March 31, 1776:

"Upon their discovery of the **works (cannons**

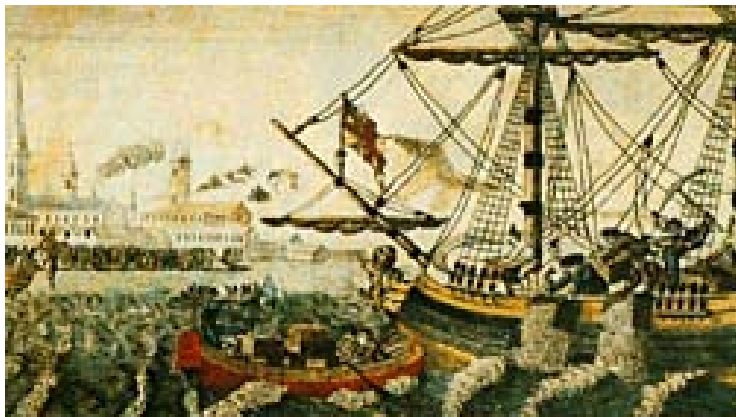
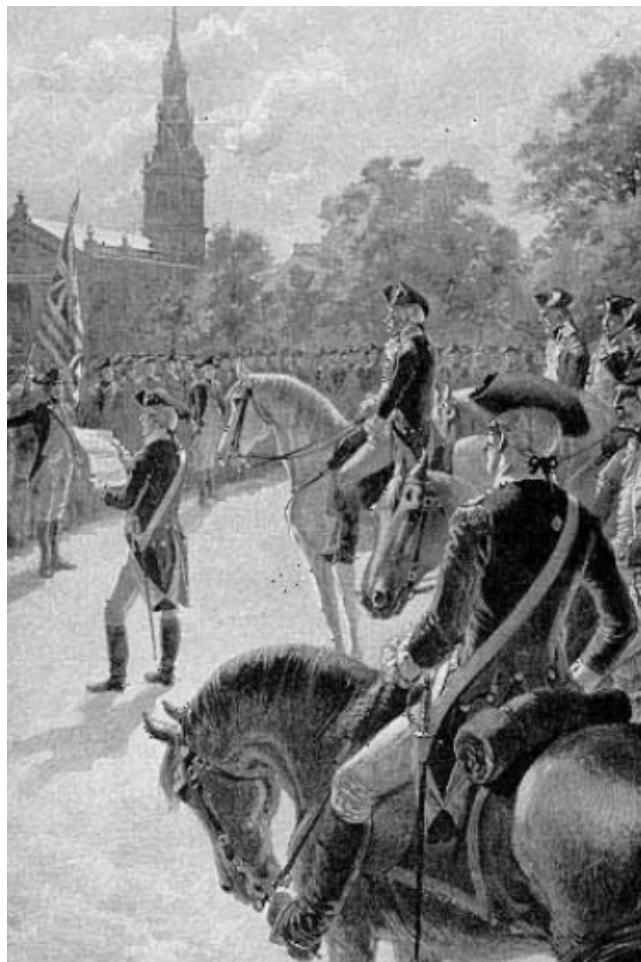
on Dorchester Heights) next morning, **great preparations were made for attacking them**; but not being ready before the afternoon, and **the weather getting very tempestuous**, much blood was saved and **a very important blow ... prevented.**

That this **most remarkable Interposition of Providence** is for some wise purpose, I have not a doubt."

Rev. Alexander MacWhorter, who was a **chaplain** with **Henry Knox's brigade**, wrote December 12, 1799:

"General Washington ... attended **divine services** with his brigades ...

He ... considered the distinction of the great **denominations of Christianity** rather as shades of differences, than anything substantial or essential to salvation."



On March 8, **General Howe** sent word to **Washington** that if the British were allowed to leave Boston unmolested, **they**

would not burn the city on their way out.

Eights days passed, and on March 16, 1776, the **Continental Congress** approved without dissent a **Day of Fasting** resolution by General William

Livingston:

"Congress desirous ... to have people of all ranks and degrees duly impressed with a solemn sense of **God's superintending providence**, and of their duty, devoutly to rely ... on his aid and direction ... do earnestly recommend ... **a Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer;**



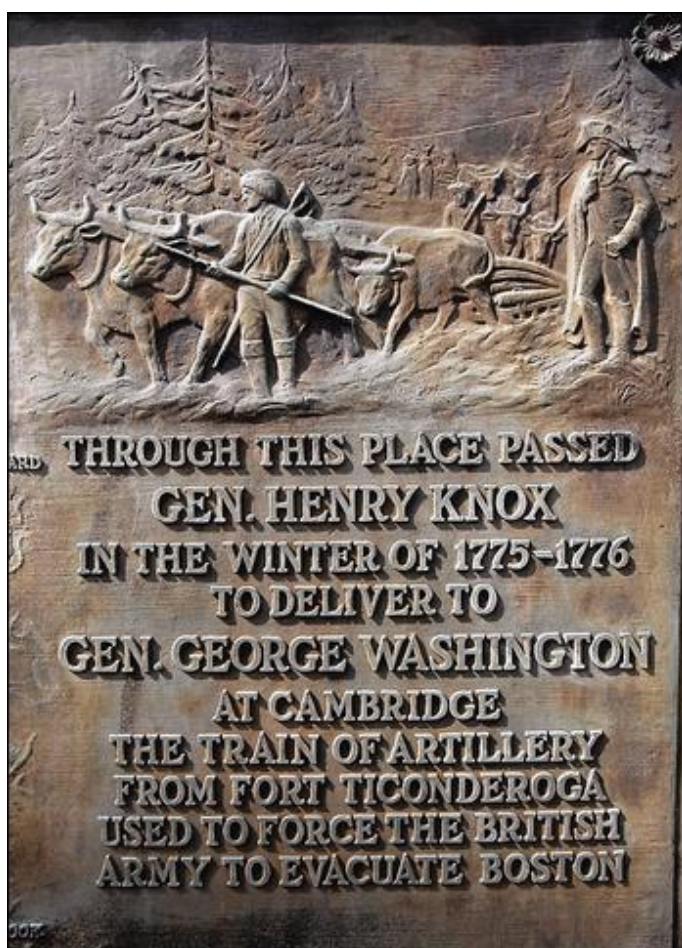
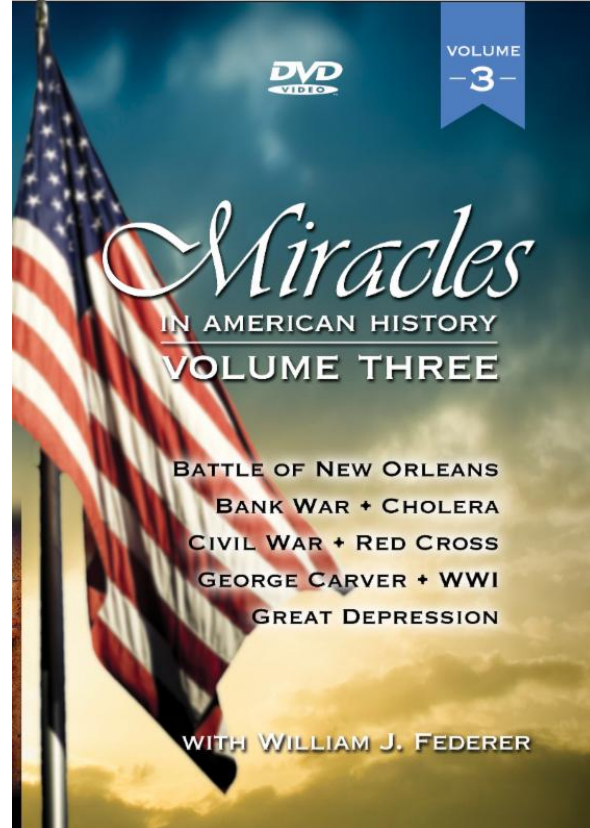
that we may, with united hearts, confess and bewail our manifold sins and transgressions, and, by sincere repentance and amendment of life, **appease God's righteous displeasure,**

and, **through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain this pardon and forgiveness."**



The next day, March 17, 1776, **British General Howe** finally gave the order to his troops to board their ships and **evacuate Boston.**

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Sailing away with the British forces were nearly a **thousand British loyalists**.

Among them were **Lucy Knox's parents, the Fluckers**.

She never saw them again.

Being newlyweds when the war started, **Henry** was separated from his wife, **Lucy**, for months at a time. He wrote to

her:

"I maledict ... this war only because it separates me from my Love ..."

"No man on earth separated from all that he holds Dear on earth has ever suffer'd more than I have suffer'd in being absent from (my Love) whom I hold dearer than every other object ..."



"I think of rarely any thing else. Indeed, my dear Girl, I love you too well to be separated from you at all."



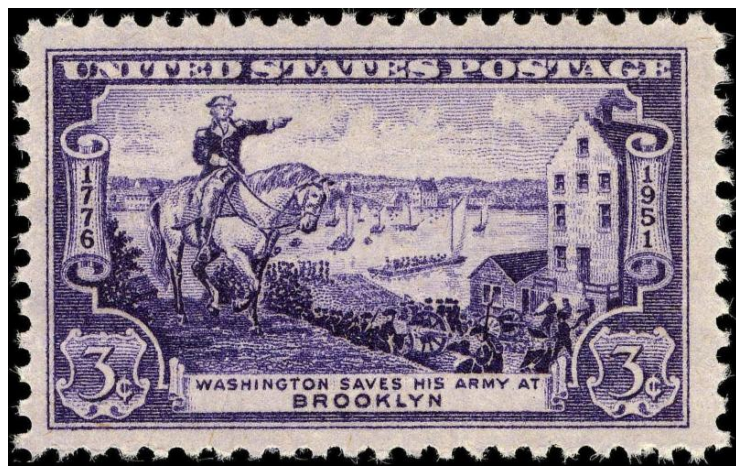
Henry wrote to **Lucy**, August 25, 1777:

"I shall reserve myself ... until I have the ineffable pleasure of seeing you,

When that will be I can't say, but please **God** at all events before Christmas ...

May God soon bring us together again and I sincerely beg Him to bless you ... your affectionate husband ... H Knox."

Henry Knox went on to fight in the **New York**, where Washington told his army after receiving a copy of the **Declaration of Independence**, July 1776:



"This important event will serve as a fresh incentive to every officer, and soldier, to act with fidelity and courage, as knowing that now, the peace and safety of his country depends, **under God**, on the success of our arms."



Knox fought in the **New Jersey** campaign.

He arranged **Washington's** crossing of the **Delaware River** with **John Glover's** seamen

from **Marblehead, Massachusetts**, rowing the boats.

It was **Knox's** artillery that helped defeat the **Hessian** mercenaries at the **Battle of Trenton**.

Knox as promoted to **Brigadier General**, and fought at **Princeton**, in the **Philadelphia** campaign, **Germantown**, **Monmouth**, and



Yorktown.



George Washington wrote to **Henry Knox**, March 2, 1797:

"It is not for man to scan the wisdom of **Providence**.

The best he can do, is to submit to its decrees. - Reason, **Religion &** Philosophy teaches us to do this, but 'tis time alone that can

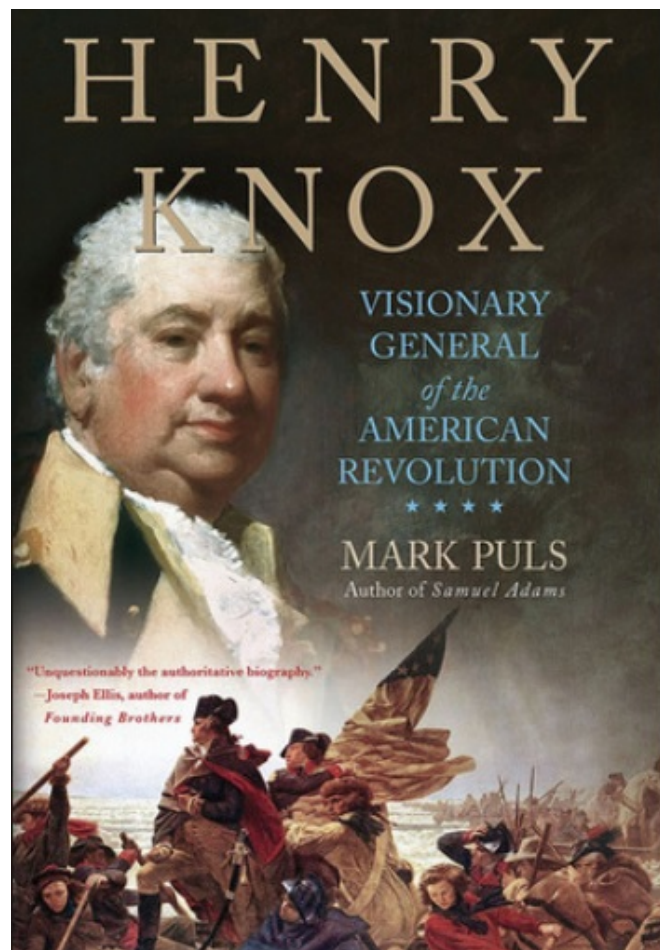
ameliorate the pangs of humanity, & soften its woes."

In 1782, **Knox** was promoted to be the **army's youngest major general**.

In 1785, he was chosen as the nation's **second Secretary of War**.

Named for him are:

- **Knoxville, Tennessee, Knox County,**
- **Knoxville, Illinois, Knox County,**
- **Knoxville, Maryland,**
- **Knoxville, Iowa,**



- Knox, Maine;
- Knox, Indiana,
- Knox Place, Bronx, New York,
- Knox County, Indiana,
- Knox County, Kentucky
- Knox County, Maine,
- Knox County, Missouri
- Knox County, Nebraska,
- Knox County, Ohio,
- Knox County, Texas.



In 1985, the **U.S. Post Office** issued a **stamp** honoring **Henry Knox**.

For nearly 20 years, **Henry and Lucy** did not have a home of their own, living in military encampments and army bases.

In the midst of the Revolution, **Knox** wrote to his wife, **Lucy**:

"We want great men, who when fortune frowns will not be

discouraged. **God** will I trust in time give us these men."

--

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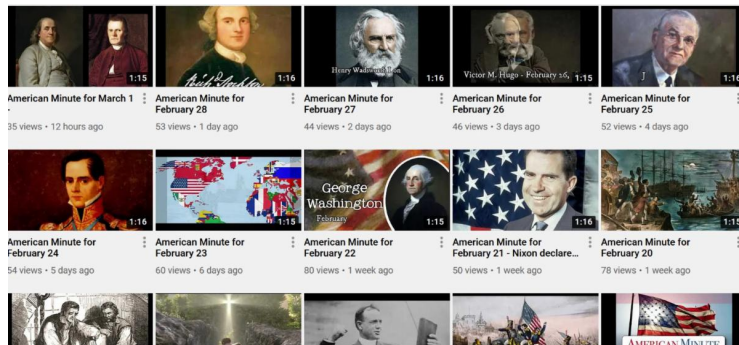
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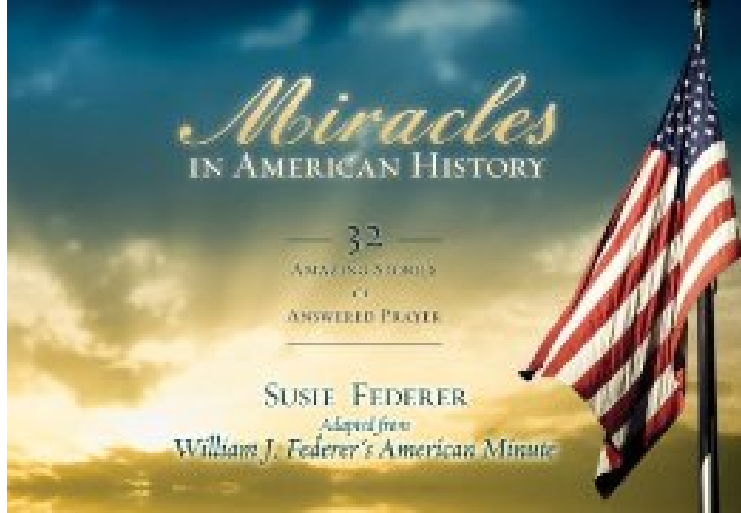
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