**Important Dates in American Literature**

**Periods in American Literature**

1607-1776 Colonial Period

1776-1820 Early National Period

1820-1865 Romantic Period

1865-1900 Realist Period

1900-1945 Modern Period

1945-Present Contemporary Period

**Other Notable Periods/Sub-Periods**

1850-1855 American Renaissance

1880’s-1890’s High Point of Regionalism and Local Color Writing

1890’s High Point of American Literary Naturalism

1920’s Harlem Renaissance

1920’s Beginning of Southern Renaissance

1960’s-1970’s High Point of Post-Modernism

**Historical Dates (emphasis on pre-1900 dates)**

1607 Jamestown

1620 Plymouth Colony/*Mayflower*/Bradford

1630 Mass Bay Colony/Winthrop

1636 Harvard Founded

1640 Bay Psalm Book

1675-1676 King Philip’s War

1692 Salem Witch Trials

1704 Boston Newsletter (first newspaper)

1765 Stamp Act (repealed 1766)

1770 Boston Massacre

1773 Boston Tea Party

1774 First Continental Congress (prompted by passage of “Intolerable Acts”)

1775 Start of Revolutionary War (Lexington/Concord)

1776 Declaration of Independence

1783 End of Revolutionary War (Treaty of Paris)

1803 Louisiana Purchase

1804 Lewis and Clark

1812-1815 War of 1812 (ends with Treaty of Ghent)

1820 Missouri Compromise

1823 Monroe Doctrine

1827 First Railroad Completed

1831 William Lloyd Garrison prints “The Liberator”

1841 Brook Farm founded by George Ripley in West Roxbury, Mass

1844 Telegraph Line

1850’s Underground Railroad

1856 Civil War in Kansas

1857 Dred Scott Decision by Chief Justice Taney

1859 John Brown’s Raid on Harper’s Ferry

1861-1865 Civil War

1863 Emancipation Proclamation

1865 13th Amendment Abolishing Slavery

1865-1877 Reconstruction

1869 Transcontinental Railroad

1876 Bell Patents the Telephone

1877 Phonograph Invented

1890 Susan B. Anthony establishes the National American Woman Suffrage Association

1914-1919 World War I (U.S. enters in 1917; Treaty of Versailles in 1919)

1939-1945 World War II (U.S. enters in 1941)

**Some Important Ante-Bellum Publication Dates**

1770 Brackenridge and Freneau, *Father Bombo’s Pilgrimage to Mecca*

1798 Charles Brockton Brown, *Wieland*

1799 Charles Brockton Brown, *Edgar Huntly*

1819-1820 Washington Irving, *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon*

1821 James Fennimore Cooper, *The Spy*

1821 William Cullen Bryant, *Poems*

1826 James Fennimore Cooper, *Last of the Mohicans*

1828 Noah Webster’s, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*

1836 Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*

1838 Edgar Allan Poe, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*

1840 Edgar Allan Poe, *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*

1846 Herman Melville, *Typee*

1850 Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

1851 Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*

1851 Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*

1852 Herman Melville, *Pierre*

1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

1854 Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

1855 Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, First Edition