

STUFF THAT HAPPENED (half hour history-themed sketch comedy series, most suitable for Comedy Central, HBO, or The History Channel) Pilot Episode: "Early America"

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rodney3399@gmail.com

INT. STUFF THAT HAPPENED SET - DAY

NARRATOR

America. How did we become the country that we ended up becoming? Let's take a look at how the country came to be, on today's episode of *Stuff That Happened*. So here's what happened. In the 1760s, the British told America...

INT. ROOM - DAY

A traditionally dressed BRITISH MAN tells an AMERICAN MAN man wearing a US flag shirt:

BRITISH MAN

Here's a message from King George. "Give us money. A lot of money. Dolla dolla bill, y'all. Cheery cheerio, chaps."

INT. RESTROOM - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Then in 1773, some Americans in Boston told the British...

The American Man tells the British Man

AMERICAN MAN

Tell your stupid King that if he wants to eat Cheerios, we ain't paying for them. OK? Now welcome to the Boston Tea Party.

Zoom out to reveal that both men are standing in a bathroom stall. The American Man throws a teabag into a toilet, and then flushes it down.

AMERICAN MAN

USA! USA!

INT. ROYAL PALACE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "Three years later"

King George is sitting on his thrown, eating a bowl of Cheerios.

BRITISH GOVERNOR
King George. We received a letter
from the Americans.

KING GEORGE
The Americans? What the hell do
they want?

BRITISH GOVERNOR
Well, uh--they sent us a
declaration.

KING GEORGE
A declaration of what? Their
gayness?

A BRITISH FRATBOY next to him says:

BRITISH FRATBOY
Good one, bro.

The Fratboy drinks from a bottle of jagermeister.

BRITISH GOVERNOR
No, your highness. They sent us a
declaration of independence.

KING GEORGE
Independence? Oh really? So what
does is say in their gay
declaration of independence?

The British governor begins reading from a document.

BRITISH GOVERNOR
Let's see. "July 4th, 1776. The
Declaration of Independence.
Listen, Georgie Boy."

KING GEORGE
Listen, Georgie Boy? Are you sure
it doesn't say "To his highness,
King George?"

BRITISH GOVERNOR
Uh... No. It says, "Listen, Georgie
Boy. All dolla dolla bills are
gonna stay right here in our
American pant pant pockets. We
declare independence. We're the
land of the free, home of the
brave, land of the brave, home of
the free, home of the land of the

(MORE)

BRITISH GOVERNOR (cont'd)
 free and the brave, we have guns,
 and

(in redneck accent)

this is America! Piss off!

(back to British accent)

Sincerely, Thomas Jefferson, George
 Washington, John Hancock, and A Few
 Dozen Other Wig Wearing, Beer
 Drinking, Soccer Hating, Pissed Off
 Patriots.

KING GEORGE

Hm. Well. I suppose we should send
 them back a letter.

An hour later, The British Governor is using a quill to
 finish up a letter that, for some reason, he's writing on a
 sheet of paper in a Trapper Keeper. He tears off the sheet
 and tells King George:

BRITISH GOVERNOR

OK. So here's our letter. "Dear
 Americans. Firstly, we'd like to
 compliment Mr. Hancock on his
 impressive penmanship. We
 especially enjoyed the swirly
 business at the end of his K. Very
 nice. Kudos to him and his K. And
 secondly, it appears as if we have
 ourselves a bit of a disagreement.
 The thing is, we're Great Britain.
 We're *great*. Are you guys great?
 No! You're not great! *We're great!*
 You guys aren't even good. You're
 not Good America, or even OK
 America. You're just America.
 Therefore, we, Great Britain,
 refuse to piss off. Now give us our
 cash and get back to work!"

INT. STUFF THAT HAPPENED SET - DAY

NARRATOR

Alright. Now it's time for some
 commentary from our good friend
 Johnny. Johnny--what do you have to
 say about the Declaration of
 Independence?

JOHNNY

Well--it reminds me of the time I was in England, and I watched a football match on the tele. For those of you who aren't familiar with British terminology, that means I watched some guys kicking a ball on TV. Later, I whipersnapped a malifinon. That means I stopped watching a football match on the tele. Then I had a debate with some British idiot who said, "British English came first, hence the fact that it's proper English. British English is for true gentleman. American English is for cads, brutes, tallywags, and ruffians." And I said, "First of all, if you're trying to talk shit, you're doing a terrible job of it. Tallywag? What kind of a douchebag calls people tallywags? When the Pilgrims were sailing to Plymouth Rock, they filtered out all the dumb shit that's in your version of English. They went through the list, and they were like, 'Tallywag? No. We're gonna get rid of that, and go with douchebag instead.' Then the day they got off the Mayflower, Ezekiel told Jebediah, 'Dude--the butter's not churned enough.' And Jebediah was like, 'Bro--the butter's fine. Stop being such a douchebag.'"

NARRATOR

Douchebag?

JOHNNY

Yeah. Douchebag. So anyways, I said to the British guy, "Let me tell you something, mate. Just because something is original, that doesn't mean it's better. Have you ever heard the world's original love song? It's about clubbing a woman over the head and having sex with her unconscious body. British English is the equivalent of that song. It's not British English so much as it is Caveman Rapist English." And then he told me,

(MORE)

JOHNNY (cont'd)

"Your language is absurd, as is your culture. We play football in England. It's a beautiful sport, and aptly named, being that it's a combination of foot and ball. You Americans have a bastardized version of that sport that you have the nerve and poor taste to also call football. Your football is a stupid sport where you don't even strike the ball with your feet." And I said, "Well you guys have a city called Liverpool. Let me ask you this. Do the people there swim in a pool of livers? No. They play that ridiculous sport you call football, even though it's actually soccer. When the Pilgrims left Liverpool and sailed to Plymouth Rock, they got rid of that soccer crap, and invented actual football. When they got off the Mayflower, they played the first Super Bowl. Ezekiel beat Jebediah 17 to 10. They didn't play a freaking World Cup tournament. Super Bowl. We have a Bowl. You guys have a Cup. In football, the only thing we use a cup for is to cover our testicles. America is better than your horseshit Kingdom in every way. We don't honor the Queen and watch BBC--like a bunch of sheep. Instead, we watch Storage Wars and Duck Dynasty, and we call the President an idiot. America's the greatest country in the world. Our only mistake was not continuing the Revolutionary War after we gained independence. That's the one thing I don't like about George Washington. He should've extended the Revolutionary War, and then eliminated British English from England, and made you assholes pay taxes on your tea and crumpets, you tallywag sons of bitches."

NARRATOR

Alright. Thanks for that, Johnny.

JOHNNY

No problem. You want me to give some more commentary?

NARRATOR

Um. I don't know. I mean, do you have anything in mind?

JOHNNY

Well. You want some more reasons why I hate the British?

NARRATOR

Not really. This is more of a history show.

JOHNNY

Well. Do you want the history of me hating the British?

NARRATOR

No. This episode is about the history of early America.

JOHNNY

Right. Um. Well. You know how Obama is the first black President?

NARRATOR

Right.

JOHNNY

Well. I was just wondering. How come no one ever talks about how George Washington was the first *white* President? I mean, he broke some racial ground, too. You know. Before him, there were no white Presidents.

NARRATOR

Well, um. I suppose there weren't.

JOHNNY

I mean, like, what happened when the economy got bad under Washington? Did the economy get bad under Washington? I don't know. But if it did, I'll bet some black people were all like, "These damn white Presidents. That's what they do. When you put a white guy in power, pretty soon there are no

(MORE)

JOHNNY (cont'd)
jobs, and gas is like five dollars
a gallon."

NARRATOR
Um. OK. I guess that counts as
commentary. On early American
history.

JOHNNY
Oh yeah. I forgot to mention this.
My great great great great great
great grandfather lived in Boston,
and he was like a famous critic of
the British.

NARRATOR
Really?

JOHNNY
Yeah. And he almost signed the
Declaration of Independence. But
after he read the first few
paragraphs in front of Thomas
Jefferson, he was like, "Boooring."
And he said, "What is this shit? I
like the basic idea--but the whole
thing is putting me to sleep. Why
didn't you get Bob Hope to spruce
it up with a few punchlines or
something? You know what,
Jefferson? The hell with you and
your Life, Liberty and the pursuit
of Happiness sleepfest. I challenge
you to a duel!"

NARRATOR
Alright. Anyways,
(turns to camera)
After the colonies declared
independence, they won the
Revolutionary War and passed the
Constitution.

ext. founding fathers' meeting room - day

GEORGE WASHINGTON
Are you finished with the
Constitution, Thomas Jefferson?

THOMAS JEFFERSON
Yes, George Washington. I am.
Here's what it says.

He begins reading from the document.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

(in a redneck accent)

"This is America! Alright? Now let's get to the crux of the matter. Around here, we don't pay tea taxes. And we don't watch foreign movies. We Americanize them. 'Cause George Washington doesn't want to watch Frenchmen eating croissants. He wants to see Americans drinking gravy straight out of a gravy boat. USA! USA!

He drinks some beer out of a bottle, and continues.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Also, around here, we don't believe in all that king and queen bullshit. We go with the *people's* bullshit. So we're gonna vote, and be represented by a President and Congress.

he turns the page over and continues.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

But wait. There's more. Americans have the right to say shit, not say shit, vote for shit, keep their shit, shoot shit, and drink shit.

He takes another drink of beer, and continues.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

And they can't be punished for shit before they're convicted of it, tried for shit after they've been acquitted of it, or whipped and tarred and feathered for shit after they've been convicted of it."

(back to normal, non-redneck voice)

So there you go. The Constitution.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

That's good. Isn't that good, Alexander Hamilton?

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Yeah. It's good. Isn't it good, Benjamin Franklin?

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Yeah. It's good. Isn't it good,
George Lopez?

GEORGE LOPEZ

Uh. I'm not really into it.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Oh really? Well then why don't you
take your Mexican ass out of here,
and go back to Mexico, homes!

GEORGE LOPEZ

Oh. Well. What I meant to say was,
it's good. Isn't it good, James
Madison?

JAMES MADISON

Yeah. It's good. Isn't it good,
Jennifer Lopez?

JENNIFER LOPEZ

Yeah. It's good.

INT. DEN - DAY

Two GUYS are sitting on a sofa, and watching this show
(Stuff That Happened) on TV.

GUY 1

The Founding Fathers are awesome.

GUY 2

I don't know. I like most of
them--but not Benjamin Franklin and
George Lopez.

GUY 1

What do you have against them?

GUY 2

I don't like how George Lopez
always says "orale!" And I don't
like Benjamin Franklin's book of
sayings.

GUY 1

What did Benjamin Franklin say?

GUY 2

He was all like, "An apple a day
keeps the doctor away," and "Beans,

(MORE)

GUY 2 (cont'd)

beans, good for your heart, the more you eat, the more you fart." Ludicrous! There's no medical science behind any of those statements. They're not FDA approved. They just rhyme. You might as well take health advice from Dr. Seuss. "You should detox in a box. Eat these apples with my socks." Some of Ben Franklin's advice was even crazier than that. He said, "If you want to get rid of your herpes, soak your genitals in apple flavored Slurpees. If you want to eliminate your AIDS, fire all of your Mexican maids." Not only is that inaccurate, it's also racist. Not to mention the fact that 7-11 doesn't have any apple flavored Slurpees. Ben Franklin was a lunatic. He was known for it. But for some reason, his insane rhyming ramblings became proverbial. And now we have all of these people running around firing Mexican maids, eating apples, and soaking their genitals outside of a 7-11.

INT. STUFF THAT HAPPENED SET - DAY

NARRATOR

Welcome back to Stuff That Happened. This is the segment of the show where we discuss some aspect of history that very few people know about. And I have here with me, none other than Professor Samuel Myers, Chairman of the History Department at Harvard University. Professor Myers, thank you so much for joining us.

SAMUEL

My pleasure.

NARRATOR

Now, you just wrote a biography of our seventh President, Andrew Jackson. He's not a guy people really know much about.

SAMUEL

Yes, Absolutely, I've found that most people are very ignorant when it comes to Jackson--and they're just very ignorant in general. They don't really know anything. Unlike me. I have a PhD from Harvard. I chair a Department at Harvard. Most people don't even read books. Most people know maybe one or two percent of what I know.

NARRATOR

OK. So, tell us something we don't know about Andrew Jackson.

SAMUEL

Well, I'm not done talking about most people. Most people really don't know anything at all. Even billionaires are like that. I've met four billionaires. All of them were ignorant. They didn't know a damn thing. Full bank accounts, empty heads. People are idiots.

NARRATOR

OK. So now let's talk about Andrew Jackson. Tell us something we don't know about him.

SAMUEL

Well, since you guys know nothing about him, that means anything I say about him is something you don't about him. But here's the main thing I want to emphasize. When you study Andrew Jackson, one thing you learn quickly is that our culture hasn't stayed the same. The Presidency of Andrew Jackson really gives you a sense of how shit done changed. It done changed a lot. I mean, when Bill Clinton delivered his farewell address in 2001, he talked about how grateful he was for getting to serve us, and then he thanked Al Gore, his cabinet, and everyone else he worked with. But when Andrew Jackson gave his farewell address in 1837, he said, "After 8 years as president, I have only two regrets. That I have not

(MORE)

SAMUEL (cont'd)
 shot Henry Clay or hanged John C. Calhoun." Yeah. That's an actual quote of his. Now, you're probably wondering, "Who the hell were Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun? Were they like terrorists or bank robbers or reality TV stars?"

NARRATOR
 Yeah. Who were they?

SAMUEL
 Well, Henry Clay was a Senator that Andrew Jackson didn't like. That's the guy he said he wanted to hang. And then there's the guy he wanted to shoot: John C. Calhoun. He wasn't a Senator. He was Andrew Jackson's Vice President. So back in 1831, the President let everyone know how he wanted to kill two distinguished men in his field. He even specified how he wanted to kill each one of them. Nowadays, the only people who do things like that are gangsta rappers. As in, "Jay-Z--I should've shanked your ass when I had the chance, nigga! After all, I completely disagree with your stances on ho's, healthcare, and affirmative muthafuckin action."

NARRATOR
 Interesting. So uh, is there anything else you want to tell us about Jackson?

SAMUEL
 Sure.

He opens a copy of his book to a book marked page.

SAMUEL
 I have here in my book, a selection from Jackson's third State of the Union Address. I think you'll find this interesting and educational. December 6th, 1831. Jackson started the speech by telling the nation, "Unemployment is up to 9.3%. Because you faggots
 (MORE)

SAMUEL (cont'd)
 are a bunch of lazy pieces of
 shit!" And then Jackson walked into
 the crowd, and started punching
 people in the face. So that was the
 speech. December 6th, 1831.

NARRATOR
 OK. I guess that was interesting
 and educational. Uh. Thank you for
 that, Professor Myers.

SAMUEL
 Hey. I'm just doing my part to make
 the world less ignorant. It's very
 ignorant right now. People don't
 know anything. Even the other
 people at Harvard. They really
 don't know as much as I do.

NARRATOR
 OK. So, now we're gonna close the
 show with our final segment, on
 historical myths. There's a lot of
 false information about Christopher
 Columbus's 1492 voyage. We're gonna
 clear some of that up, by
 presenting one of Columbus's
 journal entries during that voyage.

EXT. SHIP - DAY

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS is on a ship, writing with a quill pen
 into a piece of paper contained in a Trapper Keeper. As he
 writes, he hear his voice narrating.

COLUMBUS (V.O.)
 A while ago, the governor mentioned
 how some geographer said the earth
 is round. So I told the governor,
 "Oh. Round, huh? Not flat? OK.
 Well, then how about we sail west
 to the Far East, or dig a hole to
 China?" And for some reason, that
 schmuck didn't realize I was
 joking. When I saw him the next
 day, he told me, "We got you three
 ships and a crew. Go west. And when
 you get to the Far East, send me a
 postcard." At least that asshole
 didn't say, "We got you a lamp and
 a shovel. Start digging. Go down.

(MORE)

COLUMBUS (V.O.) (cont'd)
 And don't stop until you can smell
 the lo mein in Shanghai." Anyways,
 I delayed the trip for a while by
 saying, "Listen. It's 1491. That
 doesn't rhyme with ocean blue. How
 about I leave in 1492?" Then 1492
 came around, and I was like,
 "Listen. It's 1492. That doesn't
 rhyme with giant blue sea. How
 about I leave in 1493?" And he
 said, "92. Ocean blue. It's time
 for you. To get on that ship. And
 start your trip. Or I'll punch you
 in the lip. You Christopher
 Columbitch!" So I got on that ship.
 Here's a recap of our trip so far.
 We sailed west, and saw water. We
 sailed west some more, and
 encountered some additional water.
 And then we sailed west--and lo and
 behold, we spotted a shitload of
 water! Right now our coordinates
 are Water and Water. I just sent
 the governor a postcard where I
 wrote. "Wish you were here. Not on
 our ship, but at the bottom of the
 sea. By the way, you were wrong
 about the Atlantic Ocean.
 Apparently it's not the size of a
 kiddie pool, you dumb shit."

INT. DEN - DAY

The same two guys from before are watching this show.

GUY 2

Wow. I never knew there was a guy
 named Columbus.

GUY 1

Well, heaven't you ever heard of
 Columbus Day?

GUY 2

Yeah. But I thought Columbus Day
 was just an excuse for department
 stores to advertise 30% off
 housewares.

GUY 1

No, man. Columbus. He's a guy and a holiday. But I don't think he really deserves a holiday. All he did was sail west, stop when he spotted land, and then rob everyone there.

GUY 2

Maybe instead of giving him a holiday, we should take a day away from him. On the second Monday of October, we should say, "This definitely isn't Columbus Day. Columbus was an asshole--so today, we're gonna charge you 30% extra for picture frames."

THE END