

# The Time Machine

By Dan Hoffman

Part one

One warm summer evening, I was at my grandparents' farm in Canton, Ohio, and was walking through the back woods of their property. I had never walked back in their woods as far as I was this day when I suddenly saw a phone booth with a sign on it that said Police Box. I was confused and wondered why this would be in their woods. I slowly walked up to it and reached out and turned the key to unlock its door. I cautiously opened its door and peered inside. I saw that there were many different controls and switches. These had dials that I could adjust to any date, time, and location of my choice so it would take me to any place and time I could want to travel. I suddenly realized to my amazement that what I had discovered was a time traveling machine! I was both thrilled and immediately nervous about my special discovery, so I looked around but saw I was entirely alone. I knew that I would need to come back tomorrow when I would have more time after school to investigate all that this time machine could do, so I stepped back out of the machine, locked the door and placed its key safely into my front pocket. Tomorrow would not come soon enough for me to learn all that my discovery could offer.



I really enjoyed learning about history in school, so I decided that I would travel back in time to learn more than what we had been taught. I would enter a date, place, and time from



history into the time machine, so I could travel back in time and witness the actual events we had learned about today. After school, I changed into colonial style clothes so I would look like the other Colonists when I arrived. Also, I had brought my history book home from school and took it with me as I ran to the time machine. I quickly took out the key, unlocked the door, and stepped inside. I checked the date in my book and adjusted the dials to: April 18, 1775; Boston, MA; 11:55 PM. This was the time Paul Revere took his midnight ride to tell everyone whether the British would be attacking them on land or the sea. The machine sprang to life and within seconds I landed in the woods near the road just in time to see Paul Revere ride past me with his lantern in hand. Upon my return, I knew that I should share my knowledge of this time machine with others but, at the same time, wanted it all to myself for a while longer.

I knew the next thing I wanted to witness was the signing of the Declaration of Independence. No one would be able to believe how excited I was now that I had a working time travel machine! I looked up the date, time, and place in my history book. My book said twelve of the colonies had voted to



approve the [Declaration of Independence](#), and it was adopted on July 4, 1776 at [Independence Hall](#), in [Philadelphia](#). The actual signing of the United States Declaration of Independence occurred primarily on August 2, 1776. I carefully adjusted the dials and soon found myself in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at noon on August 2, 1776. I was very careful and located myself just outside the window of Independence Hall and watched as each man signed the document before passing the quill pen to the next delegate. I was so thrilled when I stepped back into the "Police Box" to travel back home. I stepped out and locked the door behind me before walking back through the woods to my grandparents' home. As I ate dinner, I paused and gently patted my pocket. After I felt the key resting safely in my pant pocket, I was able to relax. As I was finishing my delicious dinner, I decided I would wait until tomorrow and think a little more about where I would travel next through time with this wonderful machine.

The next morning, I thought about the Attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and decided I wanted to know more than just what I was able to read about it in my history book, so I dressed as a navy sailor and went back to the time machine. After carefully unlocking the door, I stepped inside and set the date, time, and location dials to: Pearl Harbor. HI; December 7, 1941; 8:00 AM.



The time machine placed me down at the hospital, so that I would not be harmed by the bombs that were landing all around. I was horrified and shocked by everything I witnessed happening around me. I wanted to witness what happened that day to see if I could figure out why Japan did what they did; however, I quickly realized I would need more time and studies to understand this war. President Roosevelt declared, "December 7, 1941, A Date Which Will Live in Infamy." He was correct and formally declared war on Japan. That date will never be forgotten. These time travels have taught me the importance of understanding history in order to learn about who we are, where we come from, and our potential future.