

plan. It became an enduring part of American cuisine and is still quite popular today, providing a healthier snack option for both children and adults.

5. John Paul Jones

John Paul Jones was born on July 6, 1747, in Scotland. He is famous for being a naval hero during the American Revolutionary War and is credited with many successful campaigns against British warships along the Atlantic coast. Jones began his sea career at age twelve as an apprentice to John Younger, a Scottish merchant shipper. He became a ship master at age 21. In 1775, Jones joined his older brother William in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Shortly after settling in North America, he left for Philadelphia to volunteer his services in the newly-founded Continental Navy. As the American navy and marines were being formally established, there was a great demand for experienced and skillful ship's officers and captains. Upon the recommendation of Richard Henry Lee, Jones was assigned a vessel. One of his most noteworthy battles took place while he commanded the *Bonhomme Richard*. His crew intercepted a British merchant fleet. The fleet's escort ship, the *Serapis*, had them outgunned and demanded their surrender. Jones responded with his now famous statement, "I have not yet begun to fight!" In the end, it was the *Serapis* that surrendered following a fierce battle. Jones was the first man to be assigned the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the Continental Navy on December 7, 1775, onboard the *Alfred*. He retired to France in 1790.

6. National Hot Dog Month and National Picnic Month

July is National Hot Dog Month, according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council. The Council estimates that Americans eat over seven billion hot dogs between Memorial Day and Labor Day, with July 4th weekend being the biggest hot dog holiday of the year. Annually, approximately 155 million hot dogs are consumed on July 4th alone. Allegedly, the hot dog got its name from a sports cartoonist named Tad Dorgan. He was at a 1901 baseball game at the Polo Grounds in New York. Vendors began selling hot dachshund sausages in rolls. Dorgan could hear the vendors calling, "Get your dachshund sausages while they're red hot!" He quickly drew a cartoon of the scene but didn't know how to spell dachshund in the caption, so he shortened it to "hot dogs" instead, and the name stuck. July is also National Picnic Month and a perfect time to grill a few hot dogs and enjoy some outdoor fun with family and friends.

7. George Eastman

George Eastman was born on July 12, 1854, in the village of Waterville in upstate New York. His family moved to Rochester when he was five years old, and shortly after that his father died unexpectedly, leaving the family with financial challenges. Eastman had to quit school and find employment at age fourteen to help pay the bills. He started as a messenger for an insurance company and went on to be a junior clerk at Rochester Savings Bank. At age 24, he planned a trip to Santo Domingo and wanted to take along photographic equipment. He was disappointed to learn that nothing easily portable existed at that time. As a result, Eastman became passionate about photography and sought to develop a simpler process. This eventually led to his invention of the Kodak camera and the first rolled film. It was a long journey through many trials, but his creative genius and hard work empowered him to found the internationally recognized Eastman Kodak Company. He is quoted as saying that he and his company were able "to make the camera as convenient as the pencil." Eastman revolutionized the camera industry.