OUR DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

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This year, we observe the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Why call it the diamond anniversary, a name normally applied to a 60th or 75th anniversary?

There is a reason: a logological reason, naturally. Many of the terms connected with the founding of the United States of America have been enshrined as the centers of word forms called diamonds: tilted squares, lozenges, or rhombuses, if you prefer alternate designations. A few simple examples, using FREEDOM, AMERICA, and LIBERTY as centers:

F
A R C
E
M U
L
R
I
P
A H E A D
E L E N A
R O B E S
F R E E D O M
A M E R I C A
L I B E R T Y
C A D E T
U N I T E
P E R K Y
D O T
A C E
S T Y
M
A
Y

These diamonds are "regular", in the sense that each word consists of an odd number of letters, so that the completed figures end in four 1-letter points. It is possible to place two words consisting of the same even number of letters at the center, building outward until the figure ends in four blunted 2-letter "points". A diamond of this kind is known as a Boston diamond. However, such diamonds are much more difficult to construct, and are esthetically unappealing. As a result, only a handful of Boston diamonds has been devised since the appearance of the first one in 1888.

Quite a few of the words and names logically associated with our bicentennial celebration are spelled with an even number of letters: INDEPENDENCE, FOURTH OF JULY, REVOLUTION, PHILADELPHIA, (PAUL) REVERE, (GEORGE) WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES, and others. This eliminates the possibility of constructing regular diamonds around them. Nevertheless, a somewhat haphazard survey of past puzzle literature has brought to light a dozen diamonds worth publishing here. The diamonds are numbered, and the sources from which they were copied are listed at the end of the article.

To start the ball rolling, two diamonds have been constructed utilizing the word ANNIVERSARY, celebrating the title of this article in both word and form:
The Declaration of Independence was a PRONOUNCEMENT by the colonists of their NATIONALITY, or political independence as a nation:

It was a PATRIOTICAL declaration, one that LIBERATED the American colonies:

George Washington, a VIRGINIAN by birth, took the Hessian mercenaries by surprise on Christmas night, 1776, when he crossed the DELAWARE RIVER in an action that netted him 1,000 prisoners and much matériel:

A year late... lutionary Wh... at VALLEY...
A year later marked the low point of colonial fortunes during the Revolutionary War, with the Continental Army under Washington encamped at VALLEY FORGE:

Eventually, the American colonists triumphed and formed a united nation. The American motto, E PLURIBUS UNUM -- "one out of many" -- reflects that fact:
This has, quite obviously, been a one-sided presentation. To soothe the ruffled feelings of all Royalist and Tory readers, we conclude with the title of what has been regarded as a British national anthem, RULE BRITANNIA:

12
R
CUT
CELED
VALERIC
CANEBREAK
CELEBRITIES
RULEBRITANNIA
TERRITORIAL
DIETARIAN
CAINIAN
KENAN
SIL
A

Credits

1. Poly, in The Ardmore Puzzler, August 4, 1900
2. Kee Pon, in The Enigma, January, 1945
3. Xiphias, in The Enigma, December, 1927
4. Mar N. R., in The Enigma, August, 1927
5. Ker, in The Enigma, August, 1938
6. Real Puzzles (Baltimore: The Norman, Remington Company, 1925) by Boyer, Strohm, and Pryor, p. 188
7. Billy Goat, in The Enigma, November, 1941
8. Ralph, in The Enigma, December, 1939
9. L. D. R., in The Enigma, March, 1953
10. Sherlock Holmes, in The Enigma, August, 1958
11. Sherlock Holmes, in The Enigma, June, 1964
12. Pat, in The Enigma, March, 1938

All dates given for magazine items are dates on which solutions were published.