**Father’s Day - Trivia**

**For his efforts in obtaining their independence from Spain, Simon Bolivar is known as “The Father” of Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Bolivia, the latter being named for the great soldier-statesman. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 54)***

**Desire comes from a French word, desiree, meaning of the Father. *(Foster McClellan)***

**Father’s Day is always held on the third Sunday in June. The first one was celebrated in 1910 in Spokane, Washington. It was started by Sonora Dodd. Her mother had died when Sonora was a child, and she was raised by her father. Mrs. Dodd thought there should be a special day to honor fathers. After all, there was already a special day to honor mothers. She wanted Father’s Day to be held on June 5, her father’s birthday. But the year of the first Father’s Day, the ministers in Spokane were not able to get their sermons written in time for that day. So the third Sunday in June was chosen instead. Mrs. Dodd died in 1978, but she lived to see Father’s Day become a special day across the country. *(Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**The official flower on Father's Day is the dandelion, because the more it is trampled upon, the better it grows. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 433)***

**In Norway, all of November is Father’s Month. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When Mrs. John Bruce Dodd went to church on Mother's Day, she was not inspired. Though mothers were extolled, fathers were not even mentioned. For Mrs. Dodd, that just wouldn't do. She thought of her own father who sacrificed and worked to raise six children. Her dad, William Smart was left with children aged three to 16 years when his wife died. Father deserved a special day too, she decided, and she was going to do something about it. In 1910 she spoke to the Spokane Ministerial Alliance to present her idea, and on June 19, the first Father's Day was celebrated. Local newspapers publicized the new holiday, and stores featured gifts appropriate for father. Young men wore roses to church that day, a red rose for a living father, or a white rose in memory of a deceased father. Mrs. Dodd spent the day in and out of her horse-drawn carriage as she distributed gifts to shut-in fathers. By the time Mrs. Dodd's father died in 1919, the day his daughter started in his honor was celebrated throughout the United States. By 1922, it was a nationwide observance in the U.S. and widely celebrated in Canada. *(Christian Clippings)***

**Both “The Father of His Country,” George Washington, and “The Father of the Constitution,” James Madison, were childless. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Sonora Smart Dodd was listening to a sermon on self-sacrifice when she decided that her father, a widower who had raised six children, deserved his very own national holiday. Almost a century later, people all over the world spend the third Sunday in June honoring their fathers with ritual offerings of aftershaves and neckties. *(Daniel Gilbert, in Time)***

**Father’s Day is a pleasant occasion, all right, but it’s not significant in human history. George Washington, the Father of His Country, and Alfred the Great, the Father of the English language, and Izaak Walton, the Father of Angling, not one of these got a call on Father’s Day.
*(L. M. Boyd)***

**George Washington, the “Father of Our Country,” had no children. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 90)***

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