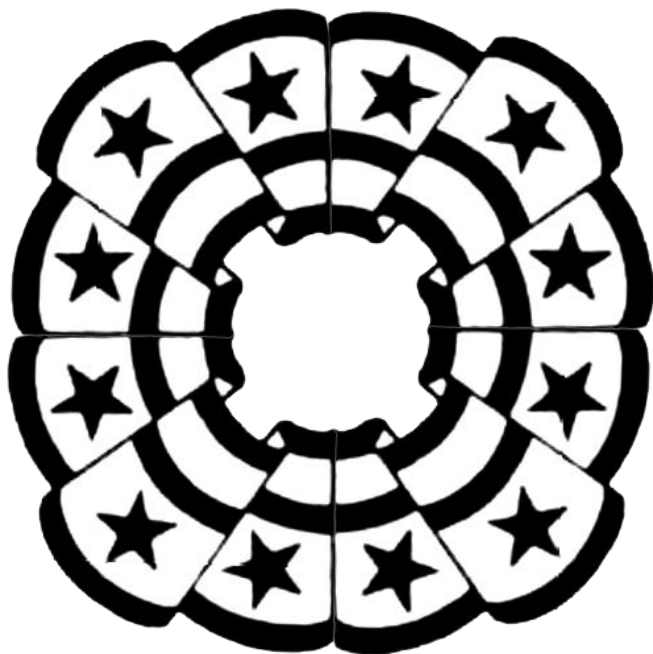


Contents

15.Special ■ Independence 250 Years, 1776-2026

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On The Cover



The 13 colonies in North America declared independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776. The year 2026 celebrates 250 years, the Semiquincentennial, since that independence! Prior celebrations were the Jubilee in 1826, Centennial in 1876, the Sesquicentennial in 1926, and the Bicentennial in 1976.



We live in the 2020s, not the 1920s! Wherever a web link is like below, click it to go to the webpage it references! (Click it now!)

www.destolfe.com



Comments By RG

Happy Semiquincentennial!

The United States turns 250 years old on July 4th! Many of us were around when the country celebrate its 200th, or bicentennial, birthday in 1976. Likewise, many of us will be around for the Tricentennial of the United States in 2076.

This special issue contains the foundational details of what created this country, the Declaration of Independence. The British monarchy at the time were none too pleased with this "rebel act", and it resulted in a

revolutionary war for separation and independence from Britain. It actually took two wars, along with the War of 1812, to firmly secure that independence. For us, July 4th marks the foundational date of the United States, even though there would be many more changes to happen later to form the country into what we are more familiar with today.

Have a great day!

RG



RG de Stolfe, Founder



ginkgo biloba



Declaration of Independence

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation. — We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Resentment hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. — But when a long Train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Tyranny, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. — Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People. — He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their Exercise; the State remaining in the mean Time exposed to all the Dangers of Anarchy and Confusion within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Strangers; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. — He has made Judges dependant on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large Bodies of armed Troops among us: — For quartering them, by a mock Trial, upon Persons seized for any Misdemeanors which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For taking away our Trade with all Parts of the World: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Trade in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Powers to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. — He is at this Time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun with Circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic Violence among us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction of all Age, Sex and Conditions. In every Stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Relief in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People. Nor have We been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Migration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of our Amity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Barton, Quinticks
Lyman Hall
Geo. Walton.

John Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

Samuel Adams
John Adams
Charles Carroll of Carrollton

John Hancock

Robt Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin
John Morton

George Wythe
John Jay
Lewis Morris

Joseph Bartlett
Wm Whipple
Sam Adams
John Adams
Rat Treat Prince
Wm George

Edward Rutledge

John Jay
Thomas Lynch
Arthur Middleton

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Th Jefferson
Wm Harrison
John Wilson
Charles Braxton

Geo. Smith
Geo Taylor
James Wilson
G. W. Parson
Casar Rodney
Thom Mifflin

Rich Jackson
Wm Hooper
Thos Clapton
John Kent
Abra Clark

Step Hopkins
William Ellery
Roger Sherman
Saml Huntington
M^{rs} Mifflin
Oliver Wolcott
Northwell Thomson

U.S. ARCHIVE COPY

Declaration of Independence

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will

dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing

importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

Declaration of Independence

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

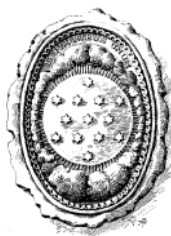
He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions

have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.



Seal of the President of the Continental Congress

A large, elegant cursive signature of John Hancock, written in black ink.

7th President, Continental Congress (1775-1777)

Declaration of Independence

Signers of the Declaration of Independence

Georgia

Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
George Walton

North Carolina

William Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

South Carolina

Edward Rutledge
Thomas Heyward, Jr.
Thomas Lynch, Jr.
Arthur Middleton

Massachusetts

John Hancock

Maryland

Samuel Chase
William Paca
Thomas Stone
Charles Carroll of
Carrollton

Virginia

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Harrison
Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carter Braxton

Pennsylvania

Robert Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin
John Morton
George Clymer
James Smith
George Taylor
James Wilson
George Ross

Delaware

Caesar Rodney
George Read
Thomas McKean

New York

William Floyd
Philip Livingston
Francis Lewis
Lewis Morris

New Jersey

Richard Stockton
John Witherspoon
Francis Hopkinson
John Hart
Abraham Clark

New Hampshire

Josiah Bartlett
William Whipple

Massachusetts

Samuel Adams
John Adams
Robert Treat Paine
Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island

Stephen Hopkins
William Ellery

Connecticut

Roger Sherman
Samuel Huntington
William Williams
Oliver Wolcott

New Hampshire

Matthew Thornton

Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
Geo. Walton

John Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

Edward Rutledge, Jr.

Thos. Heyward, Jr.
Thos. Lynch, Jr.
Arthur Middleton

John Hancock

Samuel Chase
Wm. Paca
Thos. Stone
Charles Carroll of Carrollton

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Th. Jefferson
Benjamin Harrison
Th. Nelson, Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carter Braxton

Robt. Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin
John Morton
Geo. Clymer
James Smith

Geo. Taylor
James Wilson
Caesar Rodney
George Read
Thomas McKean

New York

William Floyd
Philip Livingston
Francis Lewis
Lewis Morris

New Jersey

Richard Stockton
John Witherspoon
Francis Hopkinson
John Hart
Abraham Clark

New Hampshire

Josiah Bartlett
William Whipple

Massachusetts

Samuel Adams
John Adams
Robert Treat Paine
Elbridge Gerry

Wm. Floyd
Philip Livingston
Francis Lewis
Lewis Morris

Richard Stockton
John Witherspoon
Francis Hopkinson
John Hart
Abraham Clark

Josiah Bartlett
Wm. Whipple
Sam. Adams
John Adams
Robt. Treat Paine
Elbridge Gerry
Step. Hopkins
William Ellery
Roger Sherman
Sam. Huntington
Wm. Williams
Oliver Wolcott
Matthew Thornton



WE HOLD these truths to be self-evident,
that all men are created equal, that they
are endowed by their Creator with cer-
tain inalienable rights, that among these are
Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That
to secure these rights, Governments are instituted
among Men, deriving their just powers from the
consent of the governed, that whenever any
form of government becomes destructive of these
ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to
abolish it, and to institute new Government, lay-
ing its foundation on such principles and organ-
izing its powers in such form, as to them shall
seem most likely to effect their Safety and Hap-
piness.

Independence History

Independence High Lights From 1926 By J. Carroll Mansfield!

I was feeling *swell* to come across this *cat's pajamas* of history tutorial about United States Independence found in the pages of the Rocky Mountain News from 1926, which at that time was the Sesquicentennial celebration of Independence. The history in the form of comics spanned six days from July 5 to 10, 1926 of a

segment of High Lights of History by visual artist, James Carroll Mansfield of Baltimore, Maryland, and distributed by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate. Mansfield *knew his onions* when drawing out the frames and provided a nice summary of the founding of independence to form the United States that is such a *sockdollager*!

Read Mansfield's biography here:

<https://comicstriphistory.com/2025/05/j-carroll-mansfield-creator-of-high-lights-of-history.html>

Swell:
great or excellent

Cat's pajamas:
really cool

Know onions:
Well informed on a subject

Sockdollager:
an event or action of great importance



James Carroll Mansfield



Sources

The following pages of High Lights Of History about the Revolution comes from these sources:

- Rocky Mountain News. Monday, July 5, 1926. Page 5.
- Rocky Mountain News. Tuesday, July 6, 1926. Page 14.
- Rocky Mountain News. Wednesday, July 7, 1926. Page 12.
- Rocky Mountain News. Thursday, July 8, 1926. Page 10.
- Rocky Mountain News. Friday, July 9, 1926. Page 8.
- Rocky Mountain News. Saturday, July 10, 1926. Page 11.

Independence History

HIGH LIGHTS OF HISTORY

The Story of the Declaration of Independence—Part 1

BY J. CARROLL MANSFIELD



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UNIL EARLY IN 1776 THE EMBATTLED AMERICAN COLONISTS WERE NOT FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM GREAT BRITAIN, BUT IN DEFENSE OF THEIR RIGHTS AS LOYAL BRITISH SUBJECTS. THE DETERMINATION TO SEPARATE FROM THE MOTHER COUNTRY WAS THE RESULT OF A NUMBER OF EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR HAD BEGUN.



IN JANUARY, 1776, THOMAS PAINE PUBLISHED A REMARKABLE PAMPHLET ENTITLED "COMMON SENSE," IN WHICH HE DECLARED WITH CONVINCING ARGUMENTS THAT THE ONLY HOPE OF THE AMERICANS LAY IN RENOUNCING THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE ENGLISH CROWN. THIS PAMPHLET WAS WIDELY READ AND CONVERTED THOUSANDS TO THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY.



THIS CHANGE OF SENTIMENT BEGAN WITH GEORGE THIRD'S CONTEMPTUOUS REFUSAL OF THE FINAL APPEAL FOR JUSTICE ADDRESSED HIM BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN THE SUMMER OF 1775. THEN FOLLOWED THE KING'S PROCLAMATION DENOUNCING THE COLONISTS AS REBELS, AND THE WANTON BURNING OF FALMOUTH (PORTLAND), MAINE, AND NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, BY THE BRITISH.



FLAG OF THE UNITED COLONIES.

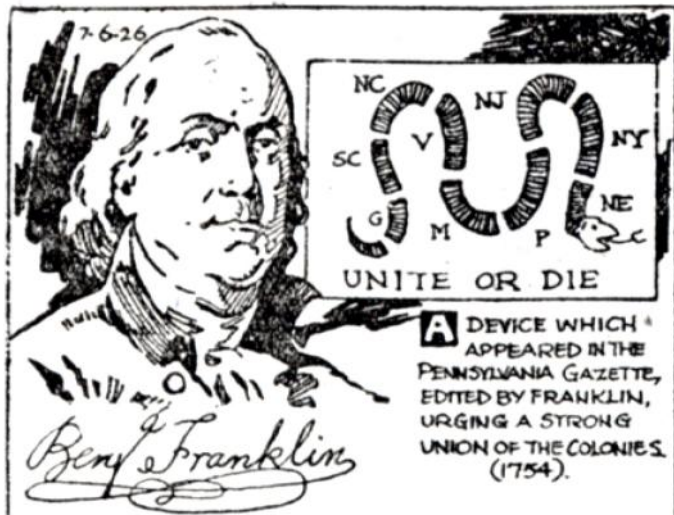
GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, EXPRESSED THE FEELINGS OF COUNTLESS PATRIOTS IN 1776 WHEN HE SAID, "WHEN I TOOK COMMAND OF THE ARMY (JULY 3RD, 1775), I ABHORRED THE IDEA OF INDEPENDENCE. NOW, I AM CONVINCED, NOTHING ELSE CAN SAVE US."

CONTINUED TOMORROW.

Independence History

HIGH LIGHTS OF HISTORY BY J. CARROLL MANSFIELD
The Story of the Declaration of Independence—Part 2



7-6-26

NC NJ NY
SC VA MD PA
G M P

UNITE OR DIE

A DEVICE WHICH APPEARED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE, EDITED BY FRANKLIN, URGING A STRONG UNION OF THE COLONIES. (1754).

Benjamin Franklin

© McClure Newspaper Syndicate

IN 1775, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN RETURNED FROM LONDON, WHERE HE HAD SPENT MUCH TIME IN THE INTEREST OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES. HIS RETURN WAS A CONFESSION THAT NOTHING MORE WAS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY DIPLOMACY.

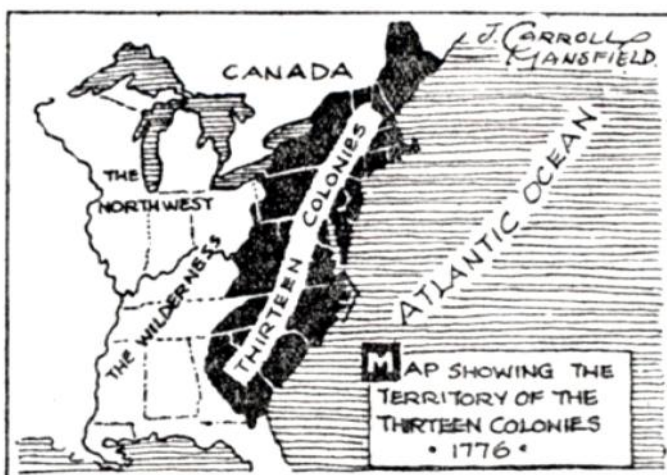


TO THE COLONISTS THE IDEA OF THE BRITISH CROWN EMPLOYING FOREIGN MERCENARIES TO MAKE WAR ON ENGLISH PEOPLE LIVING OVER THE SEA WAS THE LAST STRAW AND MULTITUDES OF AMERICANS WHO HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO BREAK WITH ENGLAND WERE NOW CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY OF INDEPENDENCE.



HESSAINS.

IN THE FALL OF 1775, STARTLING NEWS REACHED THE COLONIES. THE ENGLISH KING HAD HIRED 20,000 GERMAN SOLDIERS FROM THE PRINCES OF HESSE, ANHALT AND BRUNSWICK AND WAS SENDING THEM TO AMERICA TO REDUCE HIS REBELLIOUS SUBJECTS TO SUBMISSION.



CANADA

THE NORTHWEST

THE WILDERNESS

THIRTEEN COLONIES

ATLANTIC OCEAN

J. CARROLL MANSFIELD

MAP SHOWING THE TERRITORY OF THE THIRTEEN COLONIES • 1776 •

IN THE SPRING OF 1776 THE HOPE OF THE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT FOR SOME FORM OF HOME RULE UNDER BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY SEEMED FUTILE AND THE LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA BEGAN A MOVEMENT TOWARD INDEPENDENCE. VIRGINIA AND THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES FELL INTO LINE, THE FORMER TAKING THE FIRST ACTION IN CONGRESS.

CONTINUED TOMORROW.

Independence History

HIGH LIGHTS OF HISTORY

The Story of the Declaration of Independence—Part 3

BY J. CARROLL MANSFIELD



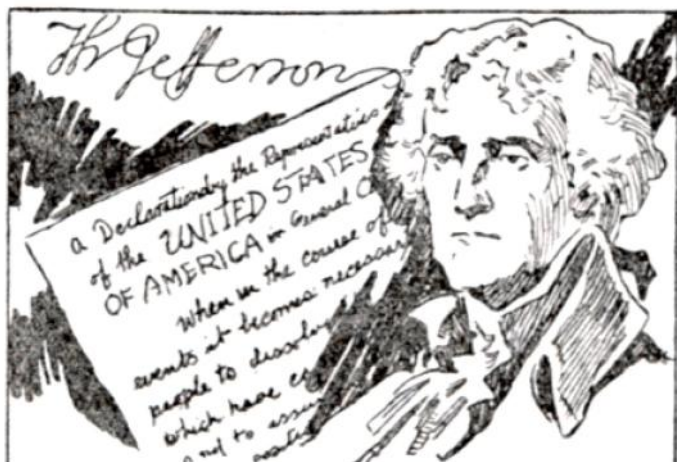
ON JUNE 7, 1776, RICHARD HENRY LEE, OF VIRGINIA, ACTING UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS STATE CONVENTION, AROSE IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AND PROPOSED A RESOLUTION "THAT THESE UNITED COLONIES ARE, AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES." LEE ALSO ADVOCATED A CONFEDERATION OF THE NEW STATES AND ALLIANCES WITH FOREIGN NATIONS.



IN THE MEANTIME, A COMMITTEE OF FIVE WAS APPOINTED TO FRAME A FITTING DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN CASE THE RESOLUTION SHOULD BE ADOPTED. THIS COMMITTEE WAS COMPOSED OF THOMAS JEFFERSON, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, JOHN ADAMS, ROGER SHERMAN AND ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.



JOHAN ADAMS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED LEE'S RESOLUTION AND THE MEASURE WAS DEBATED FOR TWO DAYS. PROMINENT MEMBERS URGED ITS IMMEDIATE ADOPTION, BUT OTHERS HESITATED TO VOTE FOR IT WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING THEIR CONSTITUENTS. THE VOTE WAS THEREFORE POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 1.



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THOMAS JEFFERSON, OF VIRGINIA, WROTE THE ROUGH DRAFT OF THIS DECLARATION IN A FERVOR OF PATRIOTIC ENTHUSIASM "WITHOUT REFERENCE TO BOOK OR PAMPHLET." THIS IMMORTAL DOCUMENT SETS FORTH THE FOUNDATIONS OF LIBERTY AND FREE GOVERNMENT.

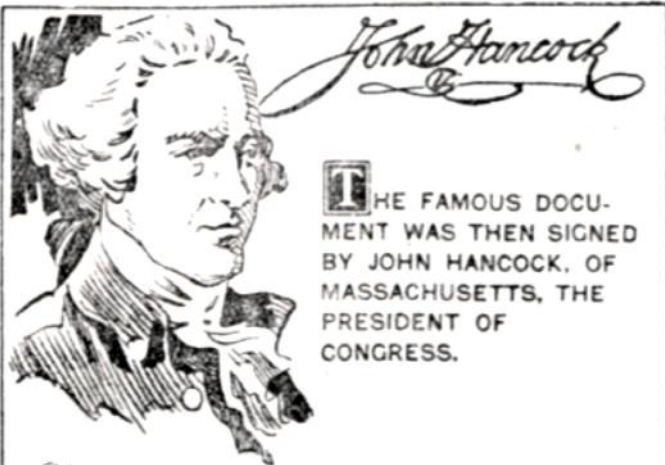
CONTINUED TOMORROW.

Independence History



John Adams
WHO CHAMPIONED THE
DECLARATION. —

ON JULY 1, 1776, THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AGAIN TOOK UP THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE. THIS TIME THE MINDS OF THE MEMBERS WERE MADE UP, LITTLE DISCUSSION WAS NECESSARY AND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY (JULY 2) CONGRESS VOTED IN FAVOR OF DECLARING THE AMERICAN COLONIES FREE AND INDEPENDENT.



THE FAMOUS DOCUMENT WAS THEN SIGNED BY JOHN HANCOCK, OF MASSACHUSETTS, THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

© McClure Newspaper Syndicate

HANCOCK WROTE HIS NAME IN A LARGE, BOLD HAND, AND, IT IS SAID, AS HE PUT DOWN THE PEN, EXCLAIMED: "THERE, JOHN BULL SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ THAT WITHOUT SPECTACLES!"



JEFFERSON'S DECLARATION WAS THEN BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEMBERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND, AFTER SOME SLIGHT CHANGES HAD BEEN MADE IN THE WORDING, WAS FORMALLY ADOPTED BY CONGRESS ON THE FOURTH OF JULY.

HIGH LIGHTS OF THE DECLARATION.

.... "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."

THAT TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN, DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.

THAT WHENEVER ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT BECOMES DESTRUCTIVE OF THESE ENDS, IT IS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO ALTER OR ABOLISH IT."

.... THEN FOLLOWS A LIST OF 27 GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE ENGLISH KING.....

... AND IN CONCLUSION....

"WE THEREFORE SOLEMNLY PUBLISH AND DECLARE THAT THESE UNITED COLONIES ARE, AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES;

AND FOR THE SUPPORT OF THIS DECLARATION WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES, AND OUR SACRED HONOR."

CONTINUED TOMORROW.

Independence History

HIGH LIGHTS OF HISTORY BY J. CARROLL MANSFIELD
The Story of the Declaration of Independence—Part 5



THE JOYOUS NEWS OF THE ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE WAITING, ANXIOUS THROUG BY THE RINGING OF THE BELL (THE "LIBERTY BELL") IN THE STATE HOUSE IN PHILADELPHIA.



IN THE LARGE CITIES THE DECLARATION WAS READ AND CELEBRATED WITH HUGE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. IN NEW YORK BY THE LIGHT OF BON-FIRES A CROWD OF PATRIOTIC CITIZENS PULLED DOWN THE STATUE OF GEORGE III IN BOWLING GREEN AND LATER MELTED IT INTO BULLETS FOR WASHINGTON'S ARMY.



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COPIES OF THE DECLARATION WERE MADE AND BORNE BY SWIFT RIDERS TO ALL THE COLONIES. EVERYWHERE THE GLORIOUS NEWS WAS HAILED WITH DELIGHT. ALL THE CHURCH BELLS WERE SET A-RINGING AND CANNON BOOMED A SALUTE TO THE NEW NATION.



WASHINGTON WAS THEN IN NEW YORK, WHITHER HE HAD MOVED AFTER FORCING THE BRITISH UNDER HOWE TO EVACUATE BOSTON (MAY 17, 1776). ON JULY 9TH HE CAUSED THE DECLARATION TO BE READ TO HIS TROOPS, WHO NOW BECAME THE NATIONAL ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

CONTINUED TOMORROW.

Independence History

HIGH LIGHTS OF HISTORY BY J. CARROLL MANSFIELD
The Story of the Declaration of Independence—Part 6

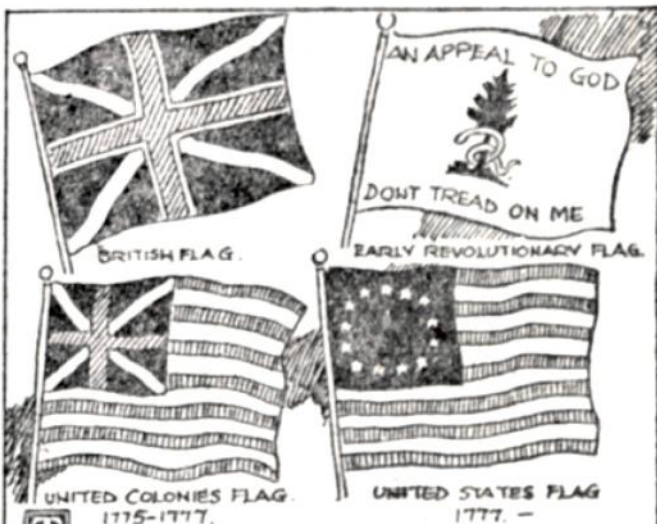


ALTHOUGH THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS FORMALLY ADOPTED ON JULY 4 (1776), IT WAS NOT UNTIL AUGUST 2 THAT A COPY OF THIS FAMOUS PAPER ENGROSSED ON PARCHMENT WAS SIGNED BY FIFTY-SIX MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REPRESENTING THE THIRTEEN COLONIES. EACH SIGNER RISKED HIS LIFE, FOR IF THE BRITISH HAD BEEN ULTIMATELY VICTORIOUS THE SIGNERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXECUTED FOR TREASON.



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THE DECLARATION COMPLETELY CHANGED THE STATUS OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES. NO LONGER WERE THEY REBELLIOUS PROVINCES RESISTING THE SOLDIERS OF THEIR KING, BUT A NEW, FREE NATION ENGAGED IN A WAR TO DRIVE A FOREIGN INVADER FROM THEIR SHORES.



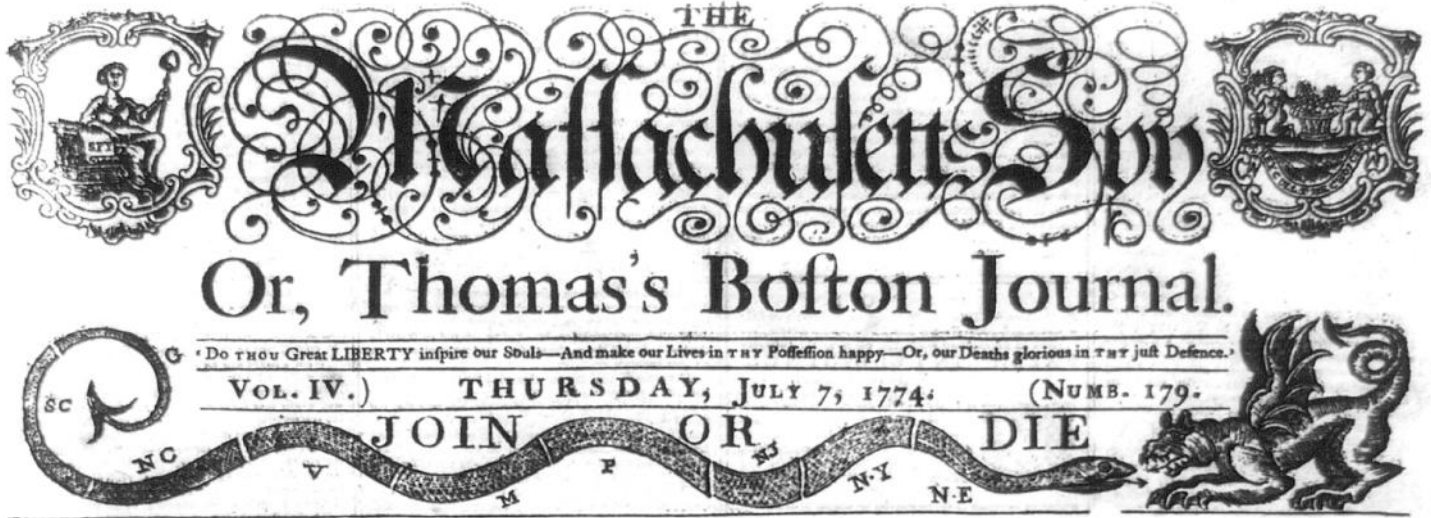
THERE WERE THOUSANDS LIVING IN AMERICA WHO REMAINED LOYAL TO KING GEORGE AND THESE TORIES, AS THEY WERE CALLED, HAD GIVEN THE PATRIOTS MUCH TROUBLE. AFTER THE DECLARATION, HOWEVER, THE TORIES WERE TREATED AS TRAITORS—THEIR PROPERTY WAS CONFISCATED AND THEIR CONDUCT REGULATED BY SEVERE LAWS.



THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WHICH MADE THE NATURAL RIGHTS OF MAN ITS CORNER-STONE, WAS THE LINK THAT BOUND AMERICA TO FREEDOM AND MARKED THE DAWNING OF A NEW ERA FOR THE WORLD.

Independence History

Additional Information

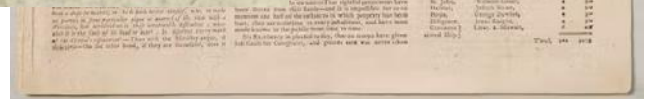


Massachusetts Spy Or, Thomas's Boston Journal. Vol. IV, Numb. 179. Thursday, July 7, 1774.

While there were 13 original colonies, these snake political cartoons only show 9 names: Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and "NE". The other colonies not explicitly mentioned are Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Delaware. The "NE" is not an actual colony, but a region. I don't think Delaware is technically part of New England, though!

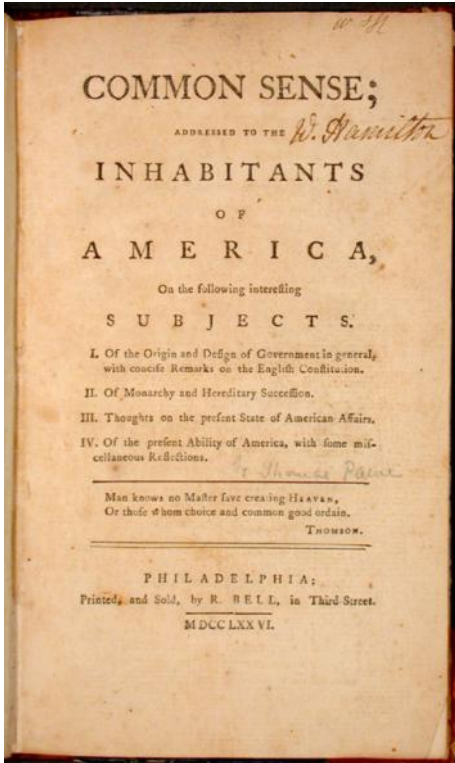


The Pennsylvania Journal; and the Weekly Advertiser. Numb. 1675. Wednesday, January 11, 1775. Page 1.



Independence History

Additional Information



Common Sense. Read more at: <https://oll.libertyfund.org/pages/1776-paine-common-sense-pamphlet>



*Flag of Great Britain (England & Scotland)
Photo by RG*



*Yankee Doodle (also, The Spirit of '76)
Oil, Archibald MacNeal Willard, 1875.
Painted for the Centennial Exposition in 1876.*



First Flag Resolution on June 14, 1777:
Resolved, that the Flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation.

Other than this description, there was no specific detail of how to arrange the new flag, especially the stars. Many flag designs were created in 1777. Legend states by decedents that Betsy Ross created the flag with the circle of stars. It is hard to know, but plainly most flags since independence have been rows of five pointed stars representing the total number of states at the time.

*Liberty Bell (also, State House Bell or Old State House Bell)
originally placed in the steeple of Pennsylvania State House,
now called Independence Hall.*

Independence History

Map Of The Original Thirteen Colonies

SETTLEMENT of the THIRTEEN COLONIES

1607	Virginia	by the English.
1612	New Jersey	by the Dutch.
1618	New York	by the Dutch.
1620	Massachusetts	by the Puritans.
1624	New Hampshire	by the English.
1627	Delaware	by the Swedes.
1633	Connecticut	by the English.
1634	Maryland	by the English Catholics.
1636	Rhode Island	by Roger Williams.
1663	North Carolina	by the English.
1670	South Carolina	by the English.
1682	Pennsylvania	by W ^m Penn.
1732	Georgia	by James Oglethorpe.

Settlement of the Thirteen Colonies

1607	Virginia	by the English.
1612	New Jersey	by the Dutch.
1618	New York	by the Dutch.
1620	Massachusetts	by the Puritans.
1624	New Hampshire	by the English.
1627	Delaware	by the Swedes.
1633	Connecticut	by the English.
1634	Maryland	by the English Catholics.
1636	Rhode Island	by Roger Williams.
1663	North Carolina	by the English.
1670	South Carolina	by the English.
1682	Pennsylvania	by William Penn.
1732	Georgia	by James Oglethorpe.

POPULATION OF CITIES IN 1776.

Philadelphia	21,767
New York	23,194
Richmond	1,800
Baltimore	6,140
Boston	17,260
Savannah	2,760
Charleston	2,000
Trenton	1,200
Concord	700
Hartford	2,000
Albany	2,907
Providence	4,140

Population of Cities in 1776.

Philadelphia	Pennsylvania	21,767
New York City	New York	23,194
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Albany	New York	2,907
Providence	Rhode Island	4,140

Estimated Population of the United States in 1876
44,000,000

Estimated population of the United States in 1876 [Independence Centennial]: 44,000,000



FAC-SIMILE OF THE FIRST MONEY COINED BY THE UNITED STATES.



Continental Currency

Independence History

Map Of The Original Thirteen Colonies

POPULATION IN 1776.	Population in 1776	Troops Furnished During The Revolution	TROOPS FURNISHED DURING THE REVOLUTION
<i>New Hampshire</i> 103,220	New Hampshire 103,220	12,979	12,979
<i>Massachusetts</i> 263,146	Massachusetts 263,146	67,907	67,907
<i>Rhode Island</i> 60,200	Rhode Island 60,200	5,908	5,908
<i>Connecticut</i> 200,691	Connecticut 200,691	31,959	31,959
<i>New York</i> 273,330	New York 273,330	17,781	17,781
<i>New Jersey</i> 125,460	New Jersey 125,460	19,726	19,726
<i>Pennsylvania</i> 309,201	Pennsylvania 309,201	25,678	25,678
<i>Delaware</i> 18,344	Delaware 18,344	2,386	2,386
<i>Maryland</i> 257,000	Maryland 257,000	13,912	13,912
<i>Virginia</i> 587,498	Virginia 587,498	26,678	26,678
<i>North Carolina</i> 320,293	North Carolina 320,293	7,253	7,253
<i>South Carolina</i> 221,117	South Carolina 221,117	6,417	6,417
<i>Georgia</i> 70,414	Georgia 70,414	2,689	2,689
Total 2,839,914	Total 2,839,914	240,783	240,783

IMPORTANT BATTLES OF THE REVOLUTION			
<i>Lexington</i>	<i>April 19th</i> 1775.	<i>Red Hook</i>	<i>Oct. 22nd</i> 1777.
<i>Bunker Hill</i>	<i>June 17th</i> 1775.	<i>Monmouth</i>	<i>June 25th</i> 1778.
<i>Flatbush</i>	<i>Aug 12th</i> 1776.	<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>Aug 29th</i> 1778.
<i>White Plains</i>	<i>Aug. 26th</i> 1776.	<i>Briar Creek</i>	<i>Mar. 30th</i> 1779.
<i>Trenton</i>	<i>Dec. 25th</i> 1776.	<i>Stony Point</i>	<i>July 15th</i> 1779.
<i>Princeton</i>	<i>Jan. 5th</i> 1777.	<i>Camden</i>	<i>Aug. 16th</i> 1779.
<i>Hubbardstown</i>	<i>Aug. 17th</i> 1777.	<i>Kings Mountain</i>	<i>Oct 1st</i> 1780.
<i>Bennington</i>	<i>Aug. 16th</i> 1777.	<i>Cowpens</i>	<i>Jan. 17th</i> 1781.
<i>Brandywine</i>	<i>Sep. 11th</i> 1777.	<i>Guilford C.H.</i>	<i>Mar. 15th</i> 1781.
<i>Stillwater</i>	<i>Sep. 17th</i> 1777.	<i>Hobkarks Hills</i>	<i>Apr. 25th</i> 1781.
<i>Germantown</i>	<i>Oct. 5th</i> 1777.	<i>Butaw Springs</i>	<i>Sep. 8th</i> 1781.
<i>Saratoga</i>	<i>Oct. 17th</i> 1777.	<i>Yorktown</i>	<i>Oct. 19th</i> 1781.

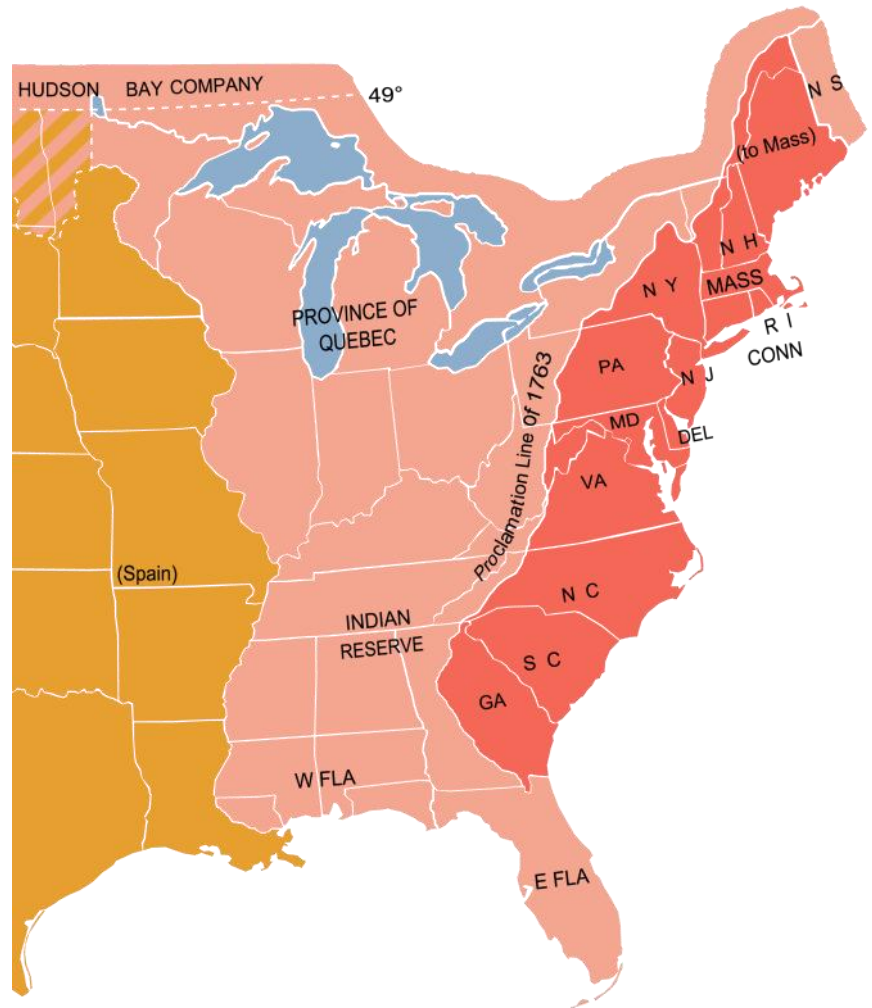
Important Battles of the Revolution

Lexington	April 19, 1775	Red Hook	October 22, 1777
Bunker Hill	June 17, 1775	Monmouth	June 25, 1778
Flatbush	August 12, 1776	Rhode Island	August 29, 1778
White Plains	August 26, 1776	Briar Creek	March 30, 1779
Trenton	December 25, 1776	Stony Point	July 15, 1779
Princeton	January 5, 1777	Camden	August 16, 1779
Hubbardstown	August 17, 1777	Kings Mountain	October 1, 1780
Bennington	August 16, 1777	Cowpens	January 17, 1781
Brandywine	September 11, 1777	Guilford CH	March 15, 1781
Stillwater	September 17, 1777	Hobkarks Hills	April 25, 1781
Germantown	October 5, 1777	Butaw Springs	September 8, 1781
Saratoga	October 17, 1777	Yorktown	October 19, 1781

States Added To Union

Chronological List of State Admissions To The Union

1	Delaware	December 7, 1787
2	Pennsylvania	December 12, 1787
3	New Jersey	December 18, 1787
4	Georgia	January 2, 1788
5	Connecticut	January 9, 1788
6	Massachusetts	February 6, 1788
7	Maryland	April 28, 1788
8	South Carolina	May 23, 1788
9	New Hampshire	June 21, 1788
10	Virginia	June 25, 1788
11	New York	July 26, 1788
12	North Carolina	November 21, 1789
13	Rhode Island	May 29, 1790
14	Vermont	March 4, 1791
15	Kentucky	June 1, 1792
16	Tennessee	June 1, 1796
17	Ohio	March 1, 1803
18	Louisiana	April 30, 1812
19	Indiana	December 11, 1816
20	Mississippi	December 10, 1817
21	Illinois	December 3, 1818
22	Alabama	December 14, 1819
23	Maine	March 15, 1820
24	Missouri	August 10, 1821
25	Arkansas	June 15, 1836
26	Michigan	January 26, 1837
27	Florida	March 3, 1845
28	Texas	December 29, 1845
29	Iowa	December 28, 1846
30	Wisconsin	May 29, 1848
31	California	September 9, 1850
32	Minnesota	May 11, 1858
33	Oregon	February 14, 1859
34	Kansas	January 29, 1861
35	West Virginia	June 20, 1863
36	Nevada	October 31, 1864
37	Nebraska	March 1, 1867
38	Colorado	August 1, 1876
39	North Dakota	November 2, 1889
40	South Dakota	November 2, 1889
41	Montana	November 8, 1889
42	Washington	November 11, 1889
43	Idaho	July 3, 1890
44	Wyoming	July 10, 1890
45	Utah	January 4, 1896
46	Oklahoma	November 16, 1907
47	New Mexico	January 6, 1912
48	Arizona	February 14, 1912
49	Alaska	January 3, 1959
50	Hawai'i	August 21, 1959



Boundary between Mississippi River and 49th parallel uncertain due to misconception that source of Mississippi River lay further north

1775

The 13 original colonies with modern state lines superimposed. The colonies were:

Connecticut

Delaware

Georgia

Maryland [DC did not exist yet]

Massachusetts [modern Maine was part of MA]

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New York [modern Vermont was part of New York]

North Carolina

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

South Carolina

Virginia

Civil War Statehood

Civil War Secessions And Readmissions Through Reconstruction

South Carolina	1	December 20, 1860 -	6	June 25, 1868
Mississippi	2	January 9, 1861 -	9	February 23, 1870
Florida	3	January 10, 1861 -	4	June 25, 1868
Alabama	4	January 11, 1861 -	7	July 14, 1868
Georgia	5	January 19, 1861 -	11	July 15, 1870
Louisiana	6	January 26, 1861 -	3	June 25, 1868
Texas	7	February 1, 1861 -	10	March 30, 1870
Virginia*	8	April 17, 1861 -	8	January 26, 1870
Arkansas	9	May 6, 1861 -	2	June 22, 1868
North Carolina	10	May 20, 1861 -	5	June 25, 1868
Tennessee	11	June 8, 1861 -	1	July 24, 1866



*Flag of Confederate States of America
(1861–1863)*

*Originally part of Virginia, West Virginia broke off from Virginia and was admitted as a Union state on June 20, 1863.

While not formally seceded, the Confederate States of America also claimed Missouri, Kentucky, Indian Territories (Oklahoma), West Virginia, and Arizona Territory**. Some would argue that they also wanted Maryland and Delaware.

**The Confederate Arizona Territory comprised of the southern halves of modern day New Mexico and Arizona, from El Paso to Yuma.

West Virginia broke off from Virginia and became a Northern state in 1863.



United States Wars Since 1776

Major Wars of The United States

**Formal Declarations of War by the United States*

- **American Revolutionary War**
(against United Kingdom)
(April 19, 1775 - September 3, 1783)
- **Northwest Indian War**
(United Indian Nations/Northwestern Confederacy)
(April 15, 1786 - August 3, 1795)
- **Quasi-War**
(against French First Republic)
(July 7, 1798 - September 30, 1800)
- **War of 1812***
(against United Kingdom)
(June 18, 1812 - February 17, 1815)
- **Mexican-American War***
(against Mexico)
(April 25, 1846 - February 2, 1848)
- **Pig War**
(against United Kingdom, no actual fighting)
(June 15 - October 1859)
- **American Civil War** (internal)
(April 12, 1861 - May 26, 1865)
- **Spanish-American War***
(against Spain)
(April 21 - August 13, 1898)
- **World War I***
(against Germany and Austria-Hungary)
(July 28, 1914 - November 11, 1918)
- **World War II***
(against Japan, Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania)
(1 September 1, 1939 - September 2, 1945)
- **Cold War** (March 12, 1947 - December 26, 1991)
 - **Korean War**
(June 25, 1950 - July 27, 1953)
 - **Vietnam War**
(November 1, 1955 - April 30, 1975)
 - **Gulf War** [Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf]
(August 2, 1990 - January 17, 1991)
- **War on terror** (September 14, 2001 - August 30, 2021)
 - **War in Afghanistan**
(October 7, 2001 - August 30, 2021)
 - **Iraq War**
(March 20, 2003 - December 18, 2011)
- **War on cartels**
 - **Operation Southern Spear**
(September 1, 2025 - present)
- **Iran War**
(February 28, 2026 - present)

The **Quasi War** was an undeclared war 1798-1800 between the United States and the French First Republic. It was fought almost entirely at sea in the Caribbean.



*Painting showing combat between the USS Constellation by Captain Thomas Truxtun and the French frigate L'Insurgente on February 9, 1799 off Saint Kitts and Nevis Island in the West Indies (Caribbean).
Oil, Rear Admiral John William Schmidt, 1950s?
[What a wonderful painting!]*



*The **Pig War** was about a disagreement in 1859 between the United States and Great Britain about where to draw the line between Washington and Vancouver regarding the San Juan islands. No fighting happened.*

Note About Headwear

Probably the most iconic visual of the 1700s and of the Revolutionary War is the tricorne hat. While not specific to the colonies, the hat became a great visual of that war until fading away for other hat styles soon after. A common feature of those hats worn by the soldiers starting in 1775 was a detail called a cockade, from the French word *cocarde* meaning vain or cocky, that is basically a rosette. According to the Revolutionary War Journal:

As the war progressed and the Continental Army

took on a more professional look, at least with officers' dress, [General George] Washington demanded that officers attend to their uniform in meticulous detail. He particularly emphasized this standard whenever a commander was in the presence of his men. He believed that, if an officer were to garnish respect and devotion from his men, then he must present himself as one worthy of receiving such approbation. The most common headgear, both civilian and in the military of the time period

encompassing the American Revolutionary War was the cocked hat or tricorne hat. It was a round hat with three sides brought up and attached to the crown, "like a mince pye", to term the vernacular of the time.

Washington's issuance of colored cockades to distinguish rank was unusual. Historically, cockades served as a symbol of unity, or proclaiming alliance to a faction or cause. The colors of the cockade were the colors of the house, dynasty, or national flag under which the soldier

served. At times military buttons, ribbon braids, or national symbols were added to the rosette. England and the Hanoverian dynasty (King George III) favored black cockades...

Throughout the American Revolutionary War, the rebel colonists tended to use black cockades that they inherited from the English.

Today, we might wrongly assume the cockades were red, white, and blue. However, those colors were used in the rosettes of the French Revolution.

www.revolutionarywarjournal.com/cockades/



Black silk cockade used by officers during the Revolutionary War.



The American army was founded on June 14, 1775 by order of the Continental Congress. A few weeks later, George Washington was named the first Commander in Chief of the Army.

George Washington And Lafayette At Valley Forge, Dunsmore, 1907.

Note About Headwear

Thanks and appreciation goes to Jon Townsend of James Townsend & Son for his gracious allowance of me using his photos on the previous page for this special issue of the de Stolfe Journal!

They are located in Pierceton, Indiana. Take a look at their online store: www.townsend.us

"Jas. Townsend & Son Inc. is a manufacturer and retailer of quality reproduction 18th and early 19th Century clothing and personal accessories. We service the living history community, historic sites, museums, and theatrical, motion picture, and television production companies. Skillfully made, reasonably priced, satisfaction guaranteed."

The screenshot shows the Townsend's website homepage. At the top, there is a search bar and a cart icon labeled 'MY CART 0'. Below the search bar, a promotional message reads: 'Free Shipping Over \$75* | 1-800-338-1665 Have a need date? Please note it in the comment section in the cart as you place your order.' The main navigation menu includes: CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES, FOOD & DRINK, CAMPING, DIY, GIFTS & DEALS, BOOKS, DVDS, and MERCH STORE. The main banner features two men in 18th-century attire in a forest. A callout box labeled 'Josh' points to the man on the left, and another callout box labeled 'Jon Townsend' points to the man on the right. Below the banner is a carousel of product images, including a white coat, a grey hat, a man drinking, a fountain pen, and tea tins.

The YouTube channel banner for Townsend's features a scenic background of a 18th-century settlement with a large white 'Townsend's' logo overlaid. Below the banner, the channel name 'Townsend's' is displayed with a verified checkmark. The channel information shows '@townsend's • 2.96M subscribers • 617 videos'. A description reads: 'A channel dedicated to exploring the 18th Century lifestyle. ...more'. There are links for 'townsend.us and 3 more links'. The channel is marked as 'Subscribed' and has a 'Join' button.

Visit the Townsend's YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@townsend's>

The United States

is a

Constitutional Federal Republic
(NOT a Democracy as many believe)

Constitution Day
9.17.2026

Constitution

A system of fundamental principles according to which a nation, state, corporation, or the like, is governed. Also, the document embodying these principles.

Federal

Pertaining to or of the nature of a union of states under a central government distinct from the individual governments of the separate states.

Executive Branch
(President, Vice President, Cabinet)

Carries Out Laws



Republic

A state in which the supreme power rests in the body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by representatives chosen directly or indirectly by them.

Democracy

A government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system.

Three Branches of Government
(Separation of Powers)



Judicial Branch
(Supreme Court & Federal Courts)

Evaluates Laws



Legislative Branch (Congress)
~ House (Speaker)
~ Senate (Vice President)

Makes Laws

Liberty Plaza

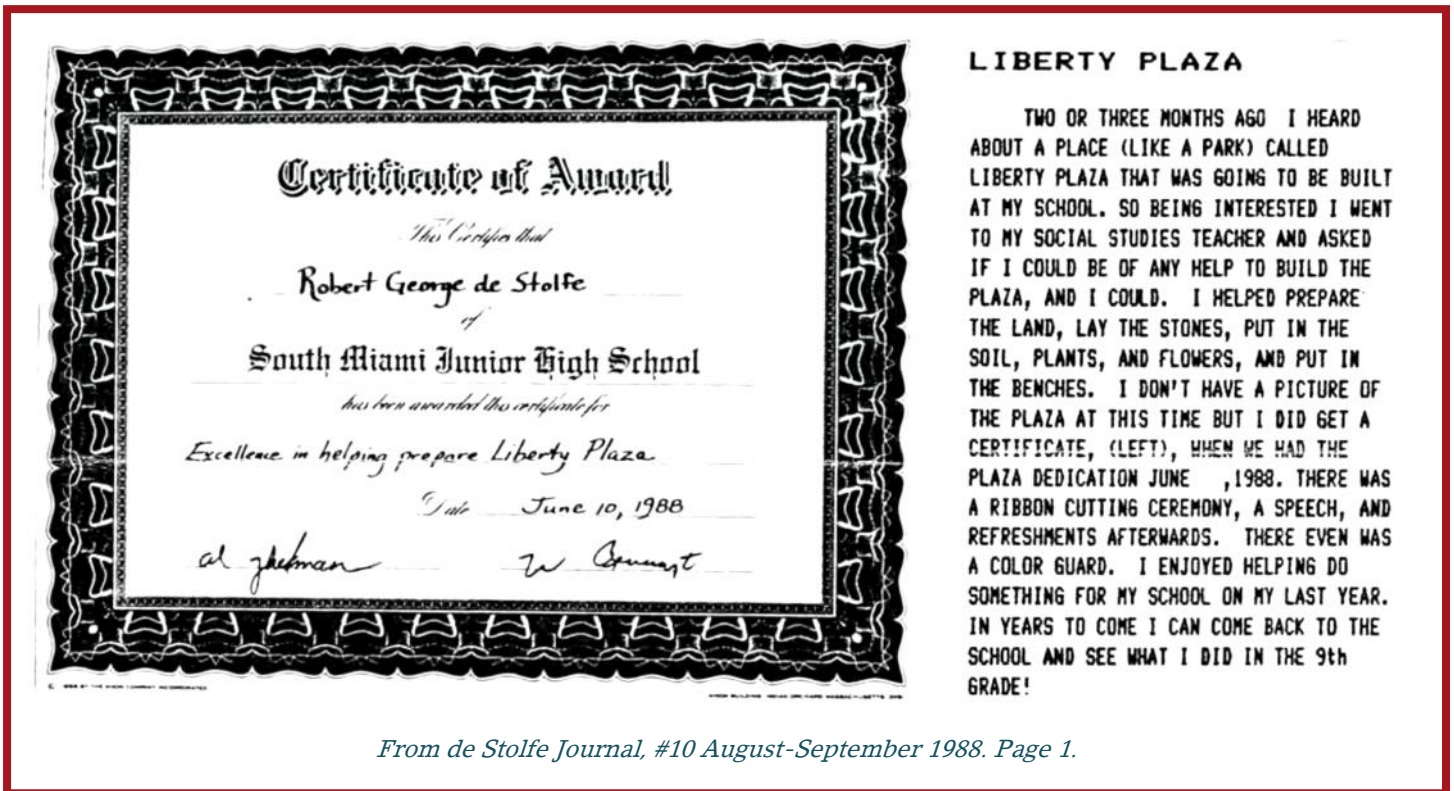
My Involvement In the Creation Of Liberty Plaza

Back in my August-September 1988 issue of the de Stolfe Journal, I included on the front page a certificate and a short article talking about the certificate. It was about

the creation of a space at the South Miami Junior High called Liberty Plaza. I don't know much about the planning to execution that went from idea to the finished plaza, but I did

help with parts of the coming together of it. The article itself will provide that detail. Also, at the time I included the article in the journal, I had not yet developed the film

with the photos I took. But now, 38 years later after the plaza dedication, I show you the photos!



From de Stolfe Journal, #10 August-September 1988. Page 1.

Liberty Plaza

Two or three months ago, I heard about a place (like a park) called Liberty Plaza that was going to be built at my school. So, being interested, I went to my social studies teacher and asked if I could be of any help to build the plaza, and [he said] I could [be of help]. I helped prepare the land, lay the stones, put in the soil, plants, and flowers, and put in the benches. I

don't have a picture of the plaza at this time, but I did get a certificate, [above], when we had the plaza dedication June 10, 1988. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony, a speech, and refreshments afterwards. There even was a color guard. I enjoyed helping do something for my school on my last year. In years to come, I can come back to the school and see what I did in the 9th grade!

[Understand that I was 15 years old at the time of putting the plaza together, and all of that "labor" I mentioned of what we did would be more accurately described as "light labor" on my part! I was only 15 after all! The social studies teacher was Alan Glickman, whose signature is on the certificate. I did some searching in recent months for this article and found a photo where the Liberty Plaza was. It was

clear in the photo that the plaza had long disappeared by the 2020s! Now, south Florida had a devastating hurricane in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew hit further south of where this school is. It is possible that the storm did major damage to the plaza, as well as the point that it was nearly 40 years ago!]

Liberty Plaza

My Involvement In the Creation Of Liberty Plaza—Photos



These are the photos of the finished Liberty Plaza at South Miami Junior High, June 1988.



This is the same area in the 2020s of the now called South Miami Middle School, Center For The Arts.



Google Maps



The photos in this box show the overhead view where in the school the plaza was.

Liberty Plaza

My Involvement In the Creation Of Liberty Plaza—Photos



The principal William Renuart



The dedication ceremony. I think Mom took these photos with my camera.



This is an essay I had to do in 8th grade for my U.S. history class, probably in 1987.

THIS IS AN ESSAY I HAD TO DO IN 8th GRADE FOR MY U.S. HISTORY CLASS.

WHAT INDEPENDENCE MEANS TO ME?

INDEPENDENCE MEANS TO BE FREE, TO DO WHAT YOU WANT, TO BE ABLE TO GO TO THE CORNER DRUG STORE WITH NO PROBLEM. INDEPENDENCE IS TO GOTO THE PARK, SUPERMARKET, PLAY GAMES, HAVE FUN, GOTO THE LIBRARY, TO DO ANYTHING. INDEPENDENCE MEANS TO ME TO GOTO DIFFERENT PLACES, TO TRAVEL IN FAR AWAY COUNTRIES AND IN THE U.S., AND MOST OF ALL TO BE LOVED BY PARENTS AND FRIENDS. FREEDOM IS TO HAVE A GARDEN, BUY A HOUSE, HAVE STOCK, TALK TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, GOTO SCHOOL, TO WORK, HAVE A JOB, MEET THE PRESIDENT OR SOME FAMOUS PERSON, HAVE A HOBBY, AND ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF. BUT INDEPENDENCE ALSO MEANS TO FOLLOW LAWS AND TRY NOT TO BREAK THEM OR YOU WILL BE PUT IN JAIL OR FINED AND MOST OF YOUR FREEDOM WILL BE TAKEN AWAY. SO INDEPENDENCE HAS FREEDOM, THE RIGHT TO DO THINGS, AND IF LAWS ARE BROKEN YOU CAN BE PUT IN JAIL, SO BE GOOD, HAVE FUN, FOLLOW LAWS, AND MOST OF ALL, BE FREE.

What Independence Means To Me

Independence means to be free, to do what you want, to be able to go to the corner drug store with no problem. Independence is to go to the park, supermarket, play games, have fun, go to the library, to do anything. Independence means to me to go to different places, to travel in far away countries and in the U.S., and most of all, to be loved by parents and friends. Freedom is to have a garden, buy a house, have stock [as in the stock market], talk to friends and neighbors, go to school, to work, have a job, meet the president or some famous person, have a hobby, and anything you can think of. But, independence also means to follow laws and try not to break them, or you will be put in jail or fined and most of your freedom will be taken away. So, independence has freedom, the right

to do things, and if laws are broken, it [you, a person] can be put in jail. So, be good, have fun, follow laws, and most of all, be free.

[The "follow laws" part seems to be under attack in the 21st century! Many just ignore the laws or twist them to suit their own selfishness. And traffic laws are the most egregiously violated to where people think they have the right to ignore traffic laws as a nuisance!]



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US History teacher, Alan Glickman

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