



Declaration of Independence Exhibit—See Insert

AMERICANS *Becoming* TODAY

NO. 1 IN COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG



Interpretation—See Page 4

SUMMER 1776

Newsline

June 7:
In accordance with his instructions from the Virginia Convention, Richard Henry Lee moves in Congress "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."

June 12:
After several weeks of discussion, the Virginia Convention in Williamsburg passes the first Declaration of Rights adopted in America. Based on a draft by George Mason of Fairfax County, it contained ringing statements of individual liberty and the right of self-government...

June 29:
After more than a month of debate, the Virginia Convention adopts a constitution for the new commonwealth. George Mason's initial proposals are much modified in committee and on the floor. From Philadelphia, Thomas Jefferson, who first protested that there should be a special convention to write the constitution, sent several drafts that arrived late and primarily influenced the preamble and those sections relating to the judiciary and the western lands. The constitution as adopted establishes a republican government for Virginia, composed of a governor with sharply restricted powers elected annually by the legislature, an executive council, a bicameral legislature in which the lower house is to be predominant, and a separate judiciary.

June 29:
The Convention chooses Patrick Henry to be the first governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Henry was reelected in 1777 and 1778, and again in 1784 and 1785. He declined reelection in 1786.

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FREEDOM ON THE LINE: RISK OF REBELLION



"Advance of the Enemy" By A.W. Thompson

"Every spot of the old world is overrun with oppression. Freedom hath been hunted round the globe. Asia and Africa have long expelled her. Europe regards her like a stranger, and England hath given her warning to depart. O! Receive the fugitive, and prepare in time an asylum for mankind."

Source: Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

RISKY BUSINESS

Upon signing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson's final words required everyone to "mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." So—was this hyperbole?! No, it was not, because the signers knew full well that once they had put pen to paper they had committed treason. In essence these men had actually created their own black list for the British government. Perhaps Benjamin Franklin summed it up best when he said, "We must all hang together. Or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

In an effort to protect the signers from retaliation, it was not until Jan. 18, 1777—in the wake of George Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton—that Congress authorized the printing of the Declaration with the signers' names included.

The men in Philadelphia certainly were not naïve enough to believe that independence was gained through a piece of parchment. Independence would be won only through a long, bloody battle of winters and summers of despair and starvation.

John Adams spoke for many when he said "I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states. Yet through all the gloom I see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is worth all the means. This is our day of deliverance."

[Submitted by Nancy Milton and Phil Shultz]

In a few short weeks during the early summer of 1776 colonists asserted their independence from the British Empire and defined their own freedoms. On June 12, 1776 the Virginia Convention passed the first Declaration of Rights adopted in America, drafted by George Mason, and on July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress accepted Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence.

As historian John Selby argues, "the Virginia Declaration had wide-reaching influence on similar constitutional provisions in other states, and on the subsequent federal Bill of Rights and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen in the early days of the French Revolution. It also was a partial basis for the Statement on Human Rights appended to the charter of the United Nations."

And as Gordon Wood states, the Declaration of Independence "remained a brilliant expression of Enlightenment ideals—ideals that still reverberate powerfully in the lives of Americans and other peoples today."



THE REVOLUTION IN NORTH AMERICA

June/July/August 1776

June 4: Two thousand British troops under General Clinton and nine warships under Admiral Sir Peter Parker arrive off Charleston, S.C.

June 8-9: After retreating from Quebec, Americans attack heavily reinforced Three Rivers, halfway between Montreal and Quebec, and are defeated, ending American hopes of controlling the St. Lawrence valley.

June 12: Congress resolves to establish the Board of War and Ordnance.

June 25: Gen. William Howe arrives off Sandy Hook, N.J., with a small British force. By Aug. 12, however, it would be the single largest military force in America during the Revolution, with 32,000 men camped on Staten Island, N.Y.

June 28: Attempts by British forces to gain control of Charleston are defeated. This ended the British effort to launch a southern invasion for nearly three years.

July 2: General Howe lands unopposed on Staten Island, N.Y. with about 9,000 troops.

Aug. 22: The British disembark 15,000 troops on Long Island, N.Y. Over the next several days, Washington sends reinforcements to Long Island.

Aug. 27: Some 20,000 British forces attack about 10,000 Continental troops on Long Island, N.Y. in the Battle of Long Island. British casualties were about 400, compared to the Continentals' 1,300. Two American generals were captured. The Americans were pushed to Brooklyn Heights.

Aug. 29-30: Washington preserves the remainder of his troops on Long Island by a night withdrawal to New York City.

VIRGINIA TODAY SNAPSHOT

TOTAL AMERICAN POPULATION [1776]

2.5 million people

One Fifth—500,000 enslaved men, women, and children

Virginia had the most slaves: 40% of population

Most slaves were held by Southerners

BUT

New York's population: 14% enslaved

New Jersey's population: 8% enslaved

Rhode Island's population: 6% enslaved

"Slavery was a national institution, and nearly every white American directly or indirectly benefited from it."

[Gordon Wood. *The American Revolution: A History*, pg. 56-57]



Political satires were forerunners of today's editorial cartoons. They often critiqued political leadership and conveyed either pro-British or pro-American sentiments. This particular satire comments upon the plight of America in relation to Great Britain. America is depicted as a woman being engulfed in flames. Lord Bute and Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, British politicians, float in the clouds above America pumping bellows over the fire. Mansfield's bellow, "Massachusetts Bay," refers to the colony's resistance to the Tea Act. To the right, Lord North, the British Prime Minister, holds the Boston Port Bill. A pot spilling tea has rolled down the steps beneath America.

America in Flames
Engraver unknown;
published in *Town and Country Magazine*
England, December 1774

NEWS

PATRICK HENRY
ELECTED GOVERNOR

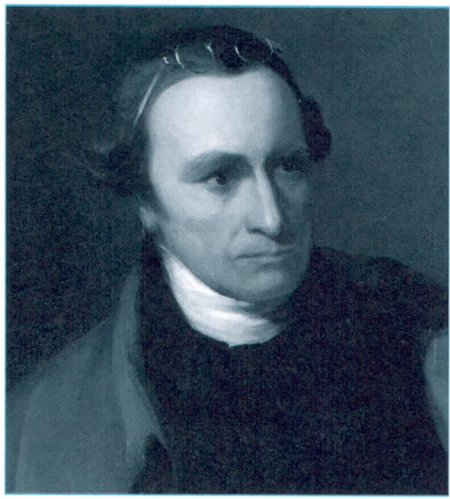
On June 29, 1776 the Fifth Virginia Convention elected Patrick Henry the first governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Virginia Constitution that had just been adopted established a republican form of government with a bicameral legislature and a separate judiciary. The legislature was charged to elect a governor annually who would have greatly reduced powers.

On July 6 Henry was inaugurated governor when he took the following oath:

I A. B. elected governor of Virginia, by the representatives thereof, do solemnly promise and swear, that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, execute the said office diligently and faithfully, according to law, without favour, affection, or particularly, I will to the utmost of my power, support, maintain, and defend the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the constitution of the same, and protect the people thereof in the secure enjoyment of all their rights, franchises, and privileges, and will constantly endeavour that the laws and ordinances of the commonwealth be duly observed, and that law and justice, in mercy, be executed in all judgments. And lastly, I do solemnly promise and swear, that I will peaceably and quietly resign the government, to which I have been elected, at the several periods to which my continuance in the said office is or shall be limited by law and the constitution. So help me God.

Hemmings Statutes, 9, vii, 119.

Shortly thereafter he retired to his home at Scotchtown in Hanover County to recover from a severe bout of malaria. John Page, as lieutenant governor (President of the Council), took over his responsibilities. Henry, however, did proclaim the Declaration of Independence on July 25, 1776.



Newline

Continued from page 1

July 4:

On July 4 the Continental Congress accepted the Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson. The official news reached Williamsburg on July 18 or 19, and the new governor, Patrick Henry, proclaimed the Declaration on July 25.

July 6:

Patrick Henry is inaugurated as the first governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

July 9:

American gunners take only a little more than an hour to drive the British and Lord Dunmore's loyalist adherents off Gwynn's Island, only 200 yards from the mainland. For the next month Dunmore's fleet cruised the Potomac River, burning one plantation and terrorizing the area in search of water and provisions... He sailed through the Virginia Capes on Aug. 5 and reached New York by Aug. 14.



VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS made by the good people of Virginia in the exercise of their sovereign powers, which rights do pertain to them and their posterity, as the basis and foundation of government.

Article I. That all men are by Nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent Rights, of which, when they enter into a State of Society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive, divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

Article II. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people, that magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them.

Article III. The Government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common Benefit, Protection, and Security of the People, Nation, or community, of all the various Modes and Forms of Government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest Degree of Happiness and Safety, and is most effectually secured against the Danger of Maladministration, and, whenever any Government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a Majority of the Community hath an indubitable, inalienable, and indefeasible Right to reform, alter, or abolish it, in such Manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public Weal.

Article IV. That no Man, or set of Men, is entitled to exclusive or separate Emoluments or Privileges from the Community, but in Consideration of Public Services, which not being descendible, neither ought the Offices of Magistrate, Legislator, or Judge to be hereditary.

Article V. That the legislative, executive and Powers of the State should be separate and distinct from the Judicative; and that the Members thereof may be restrained from Oppression, by feeling and participating the Burthens of the People, they should at fixed Periods, be reduced to a private Station, return into that Body from which

they were originally taken, and the Vacancies be supplied by regular Elections, in which all or any Part of the former Members to be again eligible, or ineligible, as the Laws may direct.

Article VI. That Elections of Members to serve as Representatives of the People, in Assembly, ought to be free; and that all Men, having sufficient Evidence of permanent common Interest with, and Attachment to, the Community, have the Right of Suffrage, and cannot be taxed or deprived of their Property for public Uses without their own Consent or that of their Representatives so elected, nor bound by any law to which they have not, in like Manner, assented, for the public Good.

Article VIII. That in all capital or criminal Prosecutions a Man hath a Right to demand the Cause and nature of his Accusation, to be confronted with the Accusers and Witnesses, to call for Evidence in his Favour, and to a speedy Trial by an impartial Jury of his Vicinage, without whose unanimous Consent he cannot be found guilty, nor can he be compelled to give Evidence against himself; that no Man be deprived of his Liberty except by the Law of the Land, or the Judgment of his Peers.

[Note: These protections were not given to enslaved people in Virginia as they would continue to be tried in lesser Courts of Oyer and Terminer without the benefit of a jury.]

Article XII. That the Freedom of the Press is one of the greatest Bulwarks of Liberty and can never be restrained but by despotic Governments.

Article XVI. That Religion, or the Duty which we owe to our Creator, and the Manner of discharging it, can be directed only by Reason and Conviction, not by Force or Violence; and therefore, all Men are entitled to the free Exercise of Religion, according to the Dictates of Conscience; and that it is the mutual Duty of all to practice Christian Forebearance, Love, and Charity, toward each other.

WHEEL HORSE OF REVOLUTION

If Patrick Henry's fiery temper helped fix his name in posterity, one can wonder why irascibility didn't do the same for Archibald Cary, burgess from Chesterfield County, whose name is commemorated on Cary Street in Richmond today. Born 1730 into the Cary family of builders or "undertakers" of Williamsburg, and later resident at "Ampthill," his Southside plantation downriver from Richmond, Archibald Cary served on important legislative committees from the time of the Stamp Act. His name appears in the index of the revolutionary Journal of the House of Burgesses 10 times more frequently than that of Jefferson, Henry, or Mason. In 1773 he became a member of the committee of correspondence. As chairman of the committee of the whole at the Fifth Virginia Convention in 1776, Cary reported the resolutions instructing the Virginia delegates in Philadelphia to propose independence. He also chaired the committee to write a constitution and a declaration of rights for the new commonwealth. At the convening of the new legislature in the fall of 1776, Cary's colleagues unanimously elected him president of the Senate, a position he held until his death in 1786.

Besides enjoying the great respect of his contemporaries, Archibald Cary was known for his short fuse. It was he who erected Williamsburg's "liberty pole" in front of the King's Arms Tavern during the November 1774 Williamsburg meeting of Virginia merchants, and threatened with tar and feathers those who were loath to sign the Continental Association. Outraged residents of the city, fearing loss of the business of the season, insisted that Cary remove the tar, feathers, and pole.

Patrick Henry's biographer, William Wirt, recounted an altercation between Archibald Cary and Patrick Henry's step-brother, John Syme, during the first meeting of the new legislature in Williamsburg in the fall of 1776. In response to a whispered suggestion by some legislators that the new governor Henry be given emergency, dictatorial powers, Cary is said to have accosted Colonel Syme in the lobby of the House of Delegates with the following: "I am told your brother wishes to be Dictator. Tell him from me that the day of his appointment shall be the day of his death—for he shall feel my dagger in his heart before the sunset of that day."

[Submitted by Robert Doares]

NEWS

VIRGINIA'S CONSTITUTION;
JUNE 29, 1776

THE CONSTITUTION OR FORM OF GOVERNMENT WAS AGREED TO AND RESOLVED BY THE DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES AND CORPORATIONS OF VIRGINIA.

Whereas George the third, King of Great Britain and Ireland, and elector of Hanover, heretofore intrusted with the exercise of the kingly office in this government, hath endeavoured to prevent, the same into a detestable and insupportable tyranny, by putting his negative on laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good . . .

We, the delegates and representatives of the good people of Virginia, having maturely considered the premises, and viewing with great concern the deplorable conditions to which this once happy country must be reduced, unless some regular, adequate mode of civil polity is speedily adopted, and in compliance with a recommendation of the general Congress, do ordain and declare the future form of government of Virginia to be as followeth:

The legislative, executive, and judiciary department, shall be separate and distinct, so that neither exercise the powers properly belonging to the other: nor shall any person exercise the powers of more than one of them, at the same time; except that the Justices of the County courts shall be eligible to either House of Assembly

The legislative shall be formed of two distinct branches, who, together, shall be a complete Legislature. They shall meet once, or oftener, every year, and shall be called, The General Assembly of Virginia. One of these shall be called, The House of Delegates, and consist of two Representatives, to be chosen for each county, . . . annually, of such men as actually reside in, and are freeholders of the same, or duly qualified according to law, and also of one Delegate or Representative, to be chosen annually for the city of Williamsburgh, and one for the borough of Norfolk, and a Representative for each of such other cities and boroughs. . . .

The other shall be called The Senate, and consist of twenty-four members, of whom thirteen shall constitute a House to proceed on business; for whose election, the different counties shall be divided into twenty-four districts; and each county of the respective district, at the time of the election of its Delegates, shall vote for one Senator, who is actually a resident and freeholder within the district, or duly qualified according to law, and is upwards of twenty-five years of age; and the Sheriffs of each county, within five days at farthest, after the last county election in the district, shall meet at some convenient place, and from the poll, . . .

The right of suffrage in the election of members for both Houses shall remain as exercised at present; and each House shall choose its own Speaker, appoint its own officers, settle its own rules of proceeding, and direct writs of election, for the supplying intermediate vacancies.

All laws shall originate in the House of Delegates, to be approved of or rejected by the Senate, or to be amended, with consent of the House of Delegates; except money-bills, which in no instance shall be altered by the Senate, but wholly approved or rejected

A Governor, or chief magistrate, shall be chosen annually by joint ballot of both Houses (to be taken in each House respectively) deposited in the conference room; the boxes examined jointly by a committee of each House, and the numbers severally reported to them, that the appointments may be entered (which shall be the mode of taking the joint ballot of both Houses, in all cases) who shall not continue in that office longer than three years successively, nor be eligible, until the expiration of four years after he shall have been out of that office. An adequate, but moderate salary shall be settled on him, during his continuance in office; and he shall, with the advice of a Council of State, exercise the executive pow-

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EXHIBIT

PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Pat and Jerry B. Epstein American History Document Collection is an important set of historical documents that furthers the understanding of the founding principles that shaped this nation. Highlights include a rare surviving parchment facsimile of the Declaration of Independence by William J. Stone (1823), a set of autographs of all the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and a collection of documents signed by presidents of the United States up to, and including, Ronald Reagan.

This exhibition would not be possible without the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Epstein of Los Angeles, Ca.

THE STONE DECLARATION: HOPE BEHIND THE HYPE

Now that the Dewitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum has opened "Principles of Freedom," Jan K. Gilliam, Manager of Exhibit Planning, shares some thoughts with us about the exhibit. The exhibit features a sampling of documents that bear the signatures of signers of the Declaration of Independence, artifacts such as a "No Stamp Act" teapot, and examples of weapons that played a role in bringing the need for the declaration to a climax, and most importantly a rare 1823 parchment facsimile for the Declaration of Independence by William J. Stone. All are put into context and supported by text panels that provide the history and legacy of one of the primary icons of American history.

When asked what the exhibit's biggest impact on guests might be, Gilliam expanded on several levels of meaning:

"First, seeing the document itself is important. Then there is how the Stone copy figures into the story. There's also the trivia around it. People are fascinated by the trivia of things like this. Who signed it? When was it signed? How many signatures are there? People also want to know why our nation has this document."

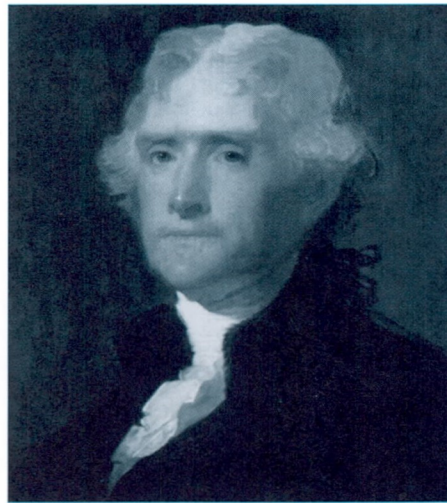
Considering the diversity of individuals who will be viewing the exhibit, Gilliam knows they have all sorts of backgrounds, "the least of which will be people who know the history of it. Feature films such as *National Treasure*, although it's fiction, stir interest in the facts behind the stories." (The movie's premise involves clues to a buried treasure written on the back of the Declaration of Independence.)

This exhibit helps place the document in a context that has been lost. "It was a treasonous act to sign this document. People were going out on a limb, and isolating themselves by making this statement." Signing the Declaration was a deliberate act that took months to accomplish. A few delegates disagreed with the document and refused to sign. A bogus email has circulated for years regarding the supposed "heavy price" paid by signers of the declaration. Although the truth is not quite as melodramatic as the urban legend, excerpt from the exhibit's text panels speaks to the very real risk delegates faced.

The other portion of the Pat and Jerry B. Epstein American History Document Collection on display includes a dozen individual signatures that show a range of perspectives for signing. All the documents were received in fairly good condition, and have been prepared and displayed in acid-free environments that uses a new, low-level lighting technique that achieves clear visibility while protecting these valuable originals from the fading and deterioration cause by brighter light.

Gilliam's enthusiasm for this exhibit is obvious and contagious. She spoke of the evolution of the original declaration, and the evolution and distribution of the Stone copies, but ultimately she came back to her earlier statement about the one thing she hopes guests will take away from this exhibit. "The 'why' behind the words. I hope they get the context back."

[Submitted by Todd Norris]



THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776
The unanimous Declaration of
the 13 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 . . .

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 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 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.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM: THE DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The celebrated phrase "all men are created equal" did not imply the Founding Fathers believed all Americans should have equal rights. In 1776, women did not enjoy the same political or civil status as men, the vast majority of African Americans remained enslaved, and most Native Americans were considered separate peoples outside the new republic.

Yet, if the declaration did not create the grounds for a free and equal society at the nation's birth, it has served to

inspire those excluded from their rights ever since. In 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution ended slavery in the United States. In 1920, women won the right to vote, and in 1924 the Citizenship Act allowed Native Americans to vote in federal elections, (the right to vote in state elections was decided by individual states).

In this country and around the world, the language of equality expressed in the declaration has become the universal credo of freedom.

EXHIBIT

THE DECLARATION

The Declaration of Independence has been described as the most important document in human history. Here, in the memorable language of the famous preamble, 110 words fatally undermined the political basis of the old order and proclaimed a new era in which free people would henceforth govern themselves:

Written to explain why the American people had taken the extraordinary step of declaring independence from Great Britain and forming a new nation, the declaration's universal message of equality spoke to the founding fathers' generation as well as future generations and people around the world struggling to overcome oppression. Its words inspired Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," the abolitionist movement against slavery, women seeking the vote, Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, the shipyard workers of Gdansk, protestors in the streets of Prague opposed to the Soviet Union, and Chinese students confronting communist tanks in Tiananmen Square.

[Exhibit: Title Wall]

PUBLICIZING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

After weeks of drafting, editing, and debate, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Congress then ordered that it immediately be printed in the form of broadsides—single-sided, printed sheets—and distributed throughout the nation. Late that afternoon a copy of the document was taken to the nearby print shop of John Dunlap, Congress' official printer. Now called "Dunlap Broadside," the copies were delivered the next morning. In the days that followed, John Hancock sent copies to state assemblies, councils, and safety committees with the request that it be proclaimed "in such a Mode, as that the People may be universally informed of it." Among those distributed was a copy was sent to Williamsburg.

On Friday, July 19, 1776, the *Virginia Gazette* briefly noted the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by Congress. On Saturday, July 20, the Council of the State of Virginia ordered that the full text be published, and it appeared on the second page in John Dixon and William Hunter's *Virginia Gazette* that same day. Dixon and Hunter had established the newspaper a year earlier with the motto: "Always for Liberty and the Public Good." The declaration was proclaimed publicly in Williamsburg, where it was "received with universal applause" on July 25.

On July 19, 1776, Congress also ordered the declaration to be printed on parchment and signed by every member of Congress. On Aug. 2 it was recorded in the journal of the Continental Congress that "the declaration of independence being engrossed and compared at the table was signed."

Following the War of 1812 and with the approaching 50th anniversary in 1826, a fresh appreciation of the Declaration swept across the nation, where it was viewed as a symbol of patriotism for a new generation. Several facsimiles of the declaration were produced between 1818 and 1823; chief among them was the official government copy by William J. Stone.

[Submitted by Robert Doares]

EXHIBIT



SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Continental Congress was the government of the 13 colonies and, later, of the new nation, from 1775-1788. The 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence were well educated, prosperous, and respected in their communities. Merchants, planters, doctors, and lawyers, most were aged between 30 and 50 years of age. The youngest was 26; the oldest was 70. All knew that by attaching their names to what the British considered a treasonable document, they risked their lives, liberty, and property.

Only John Hancock of Massachusetts, as President of the Continental Congress, and Secretary Charles Thomson signed the first copy on July 4. This was sent immediately to the official printer for Congress to be produced for wide distribution. What subsequently happened to the original is unknown.

A majority of the delegates in Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia on Aug. 2, 1776. Those who were not present on that day signed the document during the following months.

What did the delegates sign with? Quill pens were the choice. Quills were taken from large fowl, such as geese, and shaped with a knife into pens. One hundred 'best quills' were sold for 5s. 0d. at the Williamsburg Printing Office. Writing equipment, including the quill, ink, and sand to blot the ink, could be arranged in small cases convenient for carrying in a pocket.

If the patriots were successful, they would be heroes. If the war was lost, they might well suffer the fate of rebels and traitors. As Benjamin Franklin famously remarked to his fellow delegates, "We must all hang together or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

While none was destined to hang as a traitor, some did suffer for the cause. Francis Lewis' New York home was burned, and his wife, Elizabeth, imprisoned in the autumn of 1776, an ordeal that contributed to her death less than three years later. In December 1776, John Hart of New Jersey fled his home shortly before the British seized it. The 63-year-old man sent his children to relatives and hid in the wilderness. The town and country homes of Lyman Hall of Georgia were burned and his property confiscated by the British in 1778. Hall and his family fled to Connecticut for the duration of the war. South Carolina delegates, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Edward Rutledge, and Arthur Middleton, were imprisoned after the fall of Charleston in 1780. Thomas Nelson of Yorktown, Va., depleted his fortune supporting the Revolutionary War. When asked where to direct the bombardment of the town in 1781, Nelson suggested American troops fire on his own home, which he suspected the British were using as headquarters.

Most of the members of Congress formally signed the Declaration, but three did not sign at all. Robert R. Livingston (a member of the Committee of Five) urged postponement possibly because New York had not authorized her delegates to vote for independence. He left Philadelphia to participate in the formation of the New York state government. Subsequently, he was elected chancellor of New York and, in 1789, he administered the presidential oath of office to George Washington. Believing the colonies were not yet ready to fight a successful war, John Dickinson of Pennsylvania opposed the Declaration of Independence. Nevertheless, as a colonel of the First Philadelphia Battalion, he led troops to fight the British in northern New Jersey. Thomas Willing, also from Pennsylvania, voiced similar reasons. He was no loyalist, however, and refused to take the oath of allegiance to King George III when the British took Philadelphia months later.

Why didn't George Washington sign the Declaration of Independence?

Washington was a delegate to the First Continental Congress in 1774. When fighting broke out in 1775, Congress appointed him commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, and he was with the army when the Declaration was adopted.

Richard Henry Lee (Virginia) 1733-1794

Lee was typical of those colonial gentry who made the transition from Loyalist to conservative Revolutionary. Throughout his career as a burgess in the General Assembly of Virginia, member of Congress, and United States senator, he was often at the center of controversy. In response to instructions from the Virginia Convention, Lee introduced the resolution for independence in Congress on June 7, 1776. He returned to Williamsburg before the Declaration was adopted to help lay the foundation for Virginia's new government and did not sign the document until late August.

John Adams (Massachusetts) 1735-1826

After learning of the battles at Lexington and Concord, John Adams saddled his horse and went to view the ravages of war. These painful images were still in his mind a month later, when he departed for Philadelphia and the Continental Congress. Within months he was informed of the death of his brother, Elihu, a captain in the Massachusetts militia. Even though personally aware of the consequences of war, Adams' commitment to independence did not falter. He persuaded Congress of the need for a Declaration of Independence on the practical grounds it would unite the colonies, divide Britain, stimulate support for the Revolution, and attract European allies. He was appointed to the Committee of Five to draft the document. "He supported the Declaration with zeal and ability, fighting fearlessly for every word of it," Jefferson wrote to James Madison in 1783.

Thomas Jefferson (Virginia) 1743-1826

Thomas Jefferson was appointed to the five-man committee to draft the Declaration of Independence. John Adams later recounted three reasons why he proposed Jefferson should write the Declaration. His first reason—"You are a Virginian and a Virginian ought to appear at the head of this business." Congress much amended his draft before it was adopted, but the document still bears the stamp of his genius. Though frustrated with the edits made by Congress, he signed the document on Aug. 2 with his colleagues.

John Hancock (Massachusetts) 1737-1793

Boston-raised and Harvard-educated, John Hancock was the wealthiest merchant in New England before the war. He was drawn into political rebellion because he resented British taxation. Although Hancock's fortune suffered as a result of the Sugar and Stamp Acts, he still lived in luxury. He was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress, and then was chosen as its president. The first to sign the Declaration of Independence, Hancock is said to have remarked, "I write so that George III may read without his spectacles." Bitterly disappointed by not being chosen to command the army, he nevertheless supported the military effort by helping to raise troops "for the Defence of American Liberty."

Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania) 1706-1790

At 70, Franklin was the oldest delegate to Congress and an American celebrity. His journey from loyal servant of the Crown to American patriot took place in England, where he had been trying to reconcile the government with its American colonies. He gave up his quest, returned to Philadelphia, and took a seat in the Continental Congress in 1775. He was appointed to the Committee of Five and to support Jefferson in drafting and defending the Declaration.

AMERICAN PARADOX: FREEDOM AND SLAVERY

Part I—Introduction

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.

At the moment the North American colonies declared their independence from British rule, one out of every five Americans was enslaved and the institution itself was legal in each of the newly established United States. The incongruity of maintaining slavery in a society founded upon freedom and liberty was quickly recognized, harshly criticized, and ultimately justified by the founders of this new nation.

When Thomas Jefferson penned the above words in the Declaration of Independence, he was fully aware of the paradox created by a slaveholding society demanding its freedom. As early as 1764, James Otis noted in *The Rights of the British Colonies* that "the Colonists are by law of nature free born, as indeed all men are, white or black." In May 1774, several enslaved men from Boston brought a petition to Governor Gage and the General Court that stated "your petitioners apprehend we have in common with all other men a natural right to our freedoms without being deprived of them by our fellow men.... We therefore beg your Excellency and Honors will. . . . cause an act of the legislation to be passed that we may obtain our natural right, our freedoms, and our children to be set at liberty."¹

Justifying the American paradox was a difficult, but not impossible, task. Revolutionary leaders used the ubiquity of enslavement in America to bolster their demands for independence. "The crisis is arrived," wrote George Washington in August, 1774, "when we must assert our rights or submit to every imposition that can be heaped upon us till custom and use make us tame and

abject slaves, as the blacks we rule over with such arbitrary sway."² Some quickly recognized the slippery slope of this argument. In 1775, Thomas Paine asked how Americans can "complain so loudly of attempts to enslave them while they hold so many hundreds of thousands in slavery."³ Most, however, realized that to define freedom (and gain grassroots support for independence) one needed to have a readily available and universally understood concept of un-freedom. The moral and ideological conundrum of maintaining a system of oppression in a free country was less important than the motivational factor that symbolized enslavement as the end result of continued British rule.

[*Enslaving Virginia Resource Book*]

¹ Jordan, *White Over Black*, p. 292; Kaplan and Kaplan, *The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution*, pp. 13-15.

² Jordan, *White Over Black*, p. 292.

³ Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone*, p. 220.

Thomas Jefferson wrote his last public letter on June 24, 1826, in response to an invitation from the mayor of Washington to attend a celebration in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. His farewell to the nation, Jefferson's letter represents a supreme example of his vision of the American Revolution and its message of hope. Americans were the first people to throw off the shackles of oppression, but in time other peoples would also "assume the blessings and security of self-government." It is an eloquent expression of Jefferson's belief that the people are fully capable of governing themselves.

Thomas Jefferson to
Roger C. Weightman, mayor of
Washington, D. C.
Monticello, June 24, 1826
Thomas Jefferson Papers. Series I.
General Correspondence, 1651-1827,
Courtesy, Library of Congress

Arthur Middleton (South Carolina) 1742-1787

Born into one of the wealthiest families in the South Carolina Low Country, Arthur Middleton was an ardent patriot who, from the beginning of the imperial crisis, advocated a complete break from Britain. Middleton served in the Continental Congress from 1776-77, and was present on Aug. 2 to sign the Declaration. He served in the defense of Charleston against a siege by British forces in the spring of 1780. Captured with the rest of the patriot garrison, Middleton refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Crown, and was incarcerated at St. Augustine, Fla., with 64 others.

Benjamin Harrison (Virginia) 1726?-1791

Born at Berkeley, his father's plantation in Charles City County, Virginia, Benjamin Harrison was the fifth of that name in direct line. He held a seat in the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1749 to its dissolution in 1775, and in the subsequent Virginia House of Delegates until his death in 1791, frequently serving as Speaker. Moreover, he represented Virginia as a delegate to the Continental Congresses from 1774 to 1778, signed the Declaration of Independence, and presided over its debates in Congress. When the British Army invaded Virginia in 1780, his home on the James River was plundered.

George Wythe (Virginia) 1726?-1806

Wythe rose to prominence as a lawyer in Williamsburg. Elected to the House of Burgesses, he resigned upon becoming clerk of the House. At the Continental Congress he was effective behind the scenes in support of independence. Having returned to Virginia to help prepare a state constitution, Wythe missed the vote for independence and approval of the Declaration. He might have

signed when he returned to Philadelphia in the fall, although it is possible that he authorized someone else to sign for him.

Button Gwinnett (Georgia) 1735? - 1777

Gwinnett became a delegate to Congress in 1776. He supported the resolution for independence and signed the Declaration on Aug. 2. Returning home later that month, Gwinnett was elected Speaker of the Georgia Assembly, headed the committee that drafted the state's first constitution, and was given command of the state militia. His expedition to capture St. Augustine failed, partly from lack of cooperation with Lachlan McIntosh's Continental troops. A legislative investigation cleared Gwinnett, but McIntosh denounced him publicly. Both were wounded in the ensuing duel, McIntosh not seriously but Gwinnett mortally. Gwinnett's short career and early death make his signatures the rarest of all signers.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton (Maryland) 1737-1832

The only Roman Catholic signer, Charles Carroll of Carrollton was a wealthy Maryland landowner and businessman. Although educated in Europe, his sympathies were firmly with American independence. Carroll actively participated in many political groups devoted to organizing and governing the colonies as they became a new country. He was present in Congress on Aug. 2, 1776, to sign the Declaration of Independence. In recognition of his war service, Carroll was elected to honorary membership in the Society of the Cincinnati, a group composed of former military officers. The same year America marked the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Carroll, as the last surviving signer, celebrated his 90th birthday.

(Submitted by Rose McAphee)

FORUM



Gordon Wood, *The American Revolution: The History*

New York. *A Modern Library Chronicles Book*, The Modern Library, 2002

It was a strange revolution that Americans had begun, one that on the face of it is not easily comprehended. A series of trade acts and tax levies do not seem to add up to a justification for independence. There was none of the legendary tyranny of history that had so often driven desperate peoples into rebellion. Yet by 1776 most Americans agreed with John Adams that they were "in the very midst of a Revolution, the most compleat, unexpected, and remarkable of any in the History of nations." How then was it to be explained and justified?

Those Americans who looked back at what they had been through could only marvel at the moderation and rationality of their Revolution. It was, said Edmund Randolph of Virginia, a revolution "without an immediate oppression, without a cause depending so much on hasty feeling as theoretic reasoning." Because the Americans, as Edmund Burke pointed out in one of his famous speeches in 1775, "augur misgovernment at a distance and snuff the approach of tyranny in every tainted breeze," they anticipated grievances even before they actually suffered them. Thus the American Revolution has always seemed to be an unusually intellectual and conservative affair—carried out not to create new liberties but to preserve old ones.

A Review of 1776 By David McCullough [The New Yorker, May 23, 2005, p. 87]

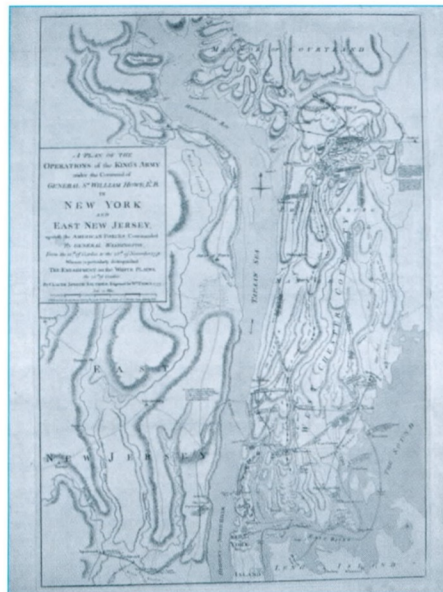
"As scenes of heroism go, it was an odd one. In the third week of July 1776, only days after Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, His Excellency General George Washington, commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, was involved in a fastidious exchange with his British counterpart, Lord Richard Howe. On July 14th, as the Royal navy sent ship after ship into New York harbor, Howe dispatched a young lieutenant, Philip Brown, with a letter addressed to 'George Washington, Esq.' Brown arrived on Manhattan Island under a flag of truce, and on the shore to meet him were three of Washington's most trusted officers. Hearing that he had brought a letter from 'Lord Howe to Mr. Washington,' they rebuffed him, declaring that there was no person in our army with that address.' Three days later, Howe's emissary returned with a new copy of the letter—this one addressed to 'George Washington, Esq., etc., etc.,'—only to receive the same rebuff. . . ."

After a second foiled attempt by Howe's emissary Lt. Col. James Paterson, the meeting with Washington "swiftly reached an impasse. But Howe received the message that Washington had intended to send. Soon after hearing Paterson's report, he informed the King's ministers that there was little hope of a settlement short of war. 'Washington had performed his role to perfection,' David McCullough writes in 1776 (Simon & Schuster; \$32). The whole encounter amounted to a bit of playacting. Yet it was playacting of a serious sort, especially for a newborn country that, for all its bluster, wasn't quite sure it really was a country and had plenty of reason to fear, as the combined Army and Navy of the world's only superpower descended upon it, that it wouldn't remain one for long. Washington engaged in this brief drama not only to let Howe know whom he was dealing with but to show his own men that he could stand up to anybody George III sent against them. Washington's young deputy, Henry Knox, later recounted that Paterson had looked "awe-struck as if before something super-natural," while the General sat unfazed and spoke the language of liberty and republicanism as if he had sprung from the pages of Roman history."

PREPARING FOR WAR IN NEW YORK

By July 3, about 9,000 troops led by Gen. William Howe had landed on Staten Island, where hundreds of Tories were on hand to welcome them. Howe himself had gone ashore on July 2, the very day that Congress had voted for independence, and in the days following, up the Narrows between Staten Island and Long Island, came ever more British sails, including an armada of 130 warships and transports from England under command of the general's brother, Adm. Richard Lord Howe. By mid-August, 32,000 fully equipped, highly trained, thoroughly professional British and German (Hessian) soldiers—more than the entire population of Philadelphia—went ashore on Staten Island, supported by 10 ships-of-the-line and 20 frigates, making it the largest, most costly British overseas deployment ever until that time.

By contrast, the American army, gathered in defense of New York and dug in on Manhattan and Long Island, was optimistically thought to number 20,000 troops. These were nearly all poorly equipped amateurs led by Washington, who in his year as commander and chief had yet to fight a battle. From Long Island, one of Washington's ablest divisional commanders, Nathanael Green, wrote to tell John Adams that in reality the American force might number 9,000; and as Adams knew, they had no naval support. When, on July 12, with the wind and the tide in their favor, the British sent two men-



of-war up the Hudson River to demonstrate who had control, there was nothing to stop them. As the huge ships passed upstream, American militia stood onshore gawking, "which evoked an angry general order from Washington, declaring such "unsoldierly conduct" could only give the enemy a low opinion of the American army.

[Source: David McCullough, *John Adams*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 2001]

CONDEMNED SLAVE TO HANG

At a Court of Oyer and Terminer held at the Courthouse of York County in the Town of York the 19th day of August 1776 for the trial of James a Negro Slave belonging to John Mayo for Felony and Burglary.

Present

David Jameson, Starkey Robinson, William Digges Junr, Augustine Moore and William Reynolds Gent Justices.

The said James being set to the bar Edmund Randolph Esqr attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia comes into the Court of the said County before the Justices of the said Court and gives them to understand and be informed that he the said James a Negro Slave belonging to John Mayo of the County of Cumberland on Tuesday the thirteenth day of this Instant August between the Hours of ten and twelve in the night of the same day with force and arms at the Parish of Bruton in the said County of York the Dwelling House of one Serafino Formicola in the said Parish and first mentioned County scituate feloniously and burglariously did break and enter and one [g]uinea of the value of twenty six shillings and three golden rings of the Value of twenty shillings each of the Goods and Chattels of the said Serafino Formicola in the said Dwelling House then and there being found feloniously and burglariously did steal take and carry away against the Peace and Dignity of the said Commonwealth And the said James being thereof arraigned he said he was not thereof Guilty and for trial put himself upon the Judgment of the Court Whereupon divers witnesses were sworn and Examined and the said James was heard in his defence On Consideration whereof It is the opinion of the whole court that the said James is guilty in manner and form as in the Information above against him is alledged and it being demanded of the said James if he had any thing to say why the Court should not proceed to pronounce Sentence of death against him upon the conviction aforesaid He said he had nothing besides what he had before said Therefore It is Considered by the Court that he be hanged by the Neck until he be dead and It is Ordered that Execution be done by the Sheriff of this County on Friday the 20th day of September next and the Goal of the County being insufficient the said James is remanded to the keeper of the

Public Goal in Williamsburgh there to be safely kept until the time of his Execution aforesaid. The said James is valued by the Court at fifty five pounds Current money. The minutes of these Proceedings were signed David Jameson.

Source: York County Order Book 4 (1774-1784) 125.

Virginia Gazette (Dixon & Hunter), July 20, 1776

RUN away from the Subscriber, a Negro Man named BAGLEY, about 20 Years of Age, 5 Feet 5 or 6 Inches high, black Complexion, and well made; had on, when he went away, a white Russia Drab Coat, brown Linen Breeches, with Waistband, of a lighter Colour, and a Dowlas Shirt much worn. He has several Relations in Gloucester County, and it is probable he may be gone that way. Whoever delivers the said Slave to me in Williamsburgh shall have TEN SHILLINGS Reward.

NICHOLAS SCOUVEMONT

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS AND RELIGION

Well into the 1770s, the majority of petitions referred to the House of Burgesses' Committee for Religion came in from Church of England parishioners, vestries, and clergymen seeking redress of grievances. The committee also fielded several petitions from dissenters seeking relief from church tax payments, for example. The adopting on June 12, 1776 of the Virginia Declaration of Rights by the Fifth Virginia Convention included "free exercise" of religion in article 16, but not the absolute disestablishment of the old state church. A congregation of Prince William County Baptists petitioned the Convention on June 20, indicating their willingness to make common cause "against...a powerful enemy" [Great Britain], provided they be permitted to maintain their own ministers and no others, and that they could be married and buried without paying the clergy of other denominations. The fabled flood of dissenters' petitions, inspired by article 16's "free exercise" wording, did not become apparent until October, when the new House of Delegates of the independent Commonwealth of Virginia met in Williamsburg for the first time.



LIFE

SUMMER FARMING

Tobacco: Plant and replant, weed, manure, worm, top and sucker. In August top, gather seed, begin cutting

Corn: Plow and hoe ground, plant and replant, weed with plows and hoes, and cart last year's crop to town

Wheat: Cart last year's crop to ships or town, cut, bind and stack, sell straw in town, thresh for seed, tread and sow, plow and harrow in

Vegetables: Sow turnips, plant peas and potatoes, sow vegetables, weed peas and pumpkins

Orchard: August: Make cider, gather peaches, make peach brandy

Livestock: June: Shear sheep, kill muttons for sale, wean calves, kill veal for sale, make butter

July: Kill beef for sale to ships, kill muttons and veal for sale, wean calves, make butter

August: Kill beef for sale to ships, kill muttons, veal, and shoats for sale, sell wool, separate sheep, choose cattle for fattening, make butter; go fishing

HOUSEKEEPING/ GARDENING/FOOD PRESERVATION SUMMER

Housekeeping

Doors and windows kept open for most ventilation. Mosquito netting added to bedsteads for protection from insects. Gauze covers to protect looking glasses and expensive pictures. Carpets and window curtains removed and stored. Furniture often moved to passage to enjoy cross ventilation.

Gardening and Food Preservation

Make wine, sugar-preserve fruits, dry fruits in oven because of humidity; picking and drying of beans, carrots, onions, melons, artichokes, etc.

In hot weather, raw meat spoils rapidly and so must be cooked and eaten up quickly, thus only smaller cuts of meat are served in summertime, unless the whole animal will be eaten in a day or two.

Seasonality in Building

Brickmaking: Making and burning brick; problem with wet weather during drying of green bricks; in rural areas bricks made in late summer

Bricklaying: Good months to work; bricks need to be kept moist when laying

Mortar Manufacture: keep mortar wetter to keep from drying out

Plastering: Need to keep surfaces wet during dry season

Carpentry and Joinery: If working by day, longer hours; 15 hours sun, 13 hours work

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INTERPRETATION

WARNING!

REBELLION MAY BE INJURIOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

CONSIDER YOUR INTERPRETATIONS FOR JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 1776

From May 6 to July 5 the Fifth Virginia Convention meets in Williamsburg with few changes in its leadership. After two days of vigorous debate the Convention, on May 15 a resolution for independence is introduced, and a committee is appointed to draft a constitution for a new state government. On June 12 the Virginia Convention passes the Virginia Declaration of Rights with its great statements of individual liberties and rights of men to govern themselves. The Virginia Convention adopts the new Constitution on June 29 and elects Patrick Henry as the first governor of the commonwealth.

- Are all Virginians now free and equal?
- Do all Virginians enjoy the protection of their natural rights?
- What about women?
- Is slavery abolished?
- What happens to enslaved people and free blacks?
- Are Virginia Indians embraced as equals?
- Who participates in the new government?
- Has Virginia's leadership changed?
- How has the practice of religion changed?

At the same time, the Continental Congress is meeting in Philadelphia. On June 7 Richard Henry Lee moves in Congress "That these united Colonies are, and ought to be free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiances to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

Thomas Jefferson is selected to draft the declaration, and after debate the Continental Congress accepts Jefferson's revised draft on July 4, 1776. News of its passage reached Williamsburg on July 18 or 19, and Governor Patrick Henry proclaims the Declaration on July 25.

- How are people's lives changed as Virginians are no longer subjects of the king and some become citizens in a rebellious country now governed by the Continental Congress?
- Will Loyalists be persecuted by the new government?
- Will families have split allegiances?
- What are the consequences of treason for Patriots if Britain wins?
- Who is now considered a citizen in the new republic?

The summer of 1776 in this town and commonwealth is tumultuous. Virginians face radical personal and public changes in their lives as Virginia is being transformed from a colony to a commonwealth and all the colonies are in open rebellion against the most powerful empire in the world.

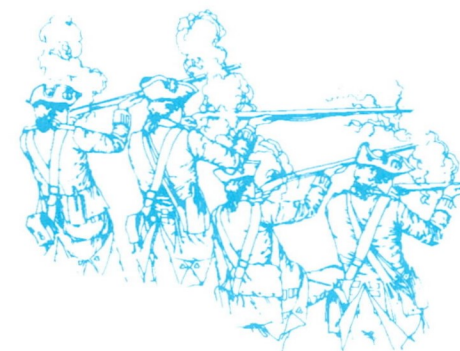
- How do individuals feel about the move to independence?
- Does everyone support rebellion?
- Who is still loyal to the Crown?



Since the battles of Lexington and Concord in the spring of 1775 colonists have been at war with the Empire. In the summer of 1776, Sir William Howe sailed into New York Harbor with a force of 30,000 men.

After July 9, when Lord Dunmore is driven off Gwynn's Island, his fleet cruised the Potomac River in search of provisions and water, terrorizing Virginians until his fleet sails for New York on Aug. 9.

- How would the action of the war affect Virginians?
- Where will the war be fought?
- Who will fight in the war? How many dead or injured will there be?
- How will the war effort be supported?
- What kind of a military commander is Washington?
- How will the necessary gunpowder, flint, musket balls, weapons, and salt be secured?



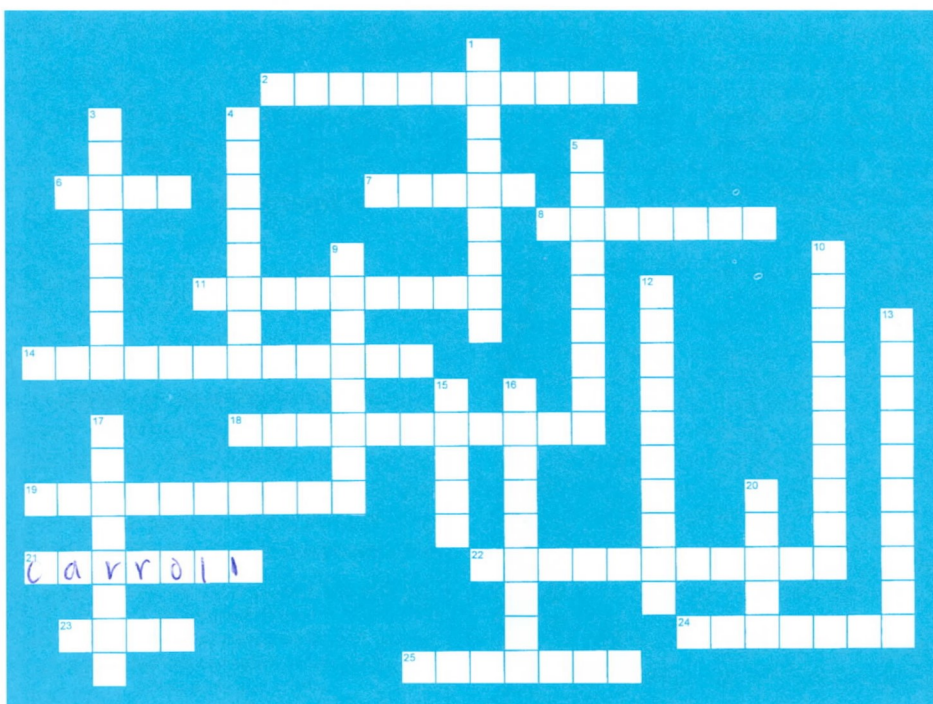
As it became more apparent that war was inevitable and that Virginians would support the action individuals and families face many challenges.

- How will families manage as husbands, sons and fathers leave to fight the awesome forces of the Empire?
- What will happen to the crops in the fields?
- How will families support themselves?

Trade and commerce are disrupted. Ways of earning a living change during this period of crisis.

- How will commodities and goods be marketed?
- How will essential goods be imported into Virginia?
- Where can European goods now be purchased?
- Will the war enhance my business or trade?
- What will happen to my indebtedness to English merchants?
- How stable will my investments in land and slaves be?
- Will there be inflation?

QUIZ YOURSELF ON INDEPENDENCE



ACROSS

- Open doors and windows facilitate this during summer
- First president of the Virginia senate
- Virginia signer
- Dunmore's ships cruised this river in July 1776
- Drafted Declaration of Independence
- This Virginia document adopted June 29, 1776
- These powers are separate from legislative and judicial
- New York signer
- Maryland signer
- Proclaimed in Williamsburg July 25, 1776
- Brothers were British general and admiral
- Signers of the Declaration risked charges of this
- Significant patriot victory in 1776

DOWN

- Formal copy of Declaration engrossed on this material
- Pennsylvania signer
- Georgia signer
- Dunlap version of Declaration of Independence
- Article 16 of the Virginia Declaration of Rights supports this freedom
- Virginian who couldn't sign the Declaration of Independence
- Declaration of Independence inspired this address by President Lincoln
- This body chose Henry as first Governor
- Drafted Virginia Declaration of Rights
- New Virginia constitution restricted power of this office
- Author of "Common Sense"

INTERPRETATION

Virginia Constitution

Continued from page 2

ers of government, according to the laws of this Commonwealth; and shall not, under any presence, exercise any power or prerogative, by virtue of any law, statute or custom of England. But he shall, with the advice of the Council of State, have the power of granting reprieves or pardons, except where the prosecution shall have been carried on by the House of Delegates, or the law shall otherwise particularly direct: in which cases, no reprieve or pardon shall be granted, but by resolve of the House of Delegates.

Either House of the General Assembly may adjourn themselves respectively. The Governor shall not prorogue or adjourn the Assembly, during their sitting, nor dissolve them at any time; but he shall, if necessary, either by advice of the Council of State, or on application of a majority of the House of Delegates, call them before the time to which they shall stand prorogued or adjourned.

A Privy Council, or Council of State, consisting of eight members, shall be chosen, by joint ballot of both Houses of Assembly, either from their own members or the people at large, to assist in the administration of government. They shall annually choose, out of their own members, a President, who, in case of death, inability, or absence of the Governor from the government, shall act as Lieutenant-Governor . . .

The Delegates for Virginia to the Continental Congress shall be chosen annually by joint ballot of both Houses.

The present militia officers shall be continued, and vacancies supplied by appointment of the Governor, with the advice of the Privy Council, on recommendations from the respective County Courts; but the Governor and Council shall have a power of suspending any officer, and ordering a Court Martial, on complaint of misbehaviour or inability, or to supply vacancies of officers, happening when in actual service.

The two Houses of Assembly shall, by joint ballot, appoint Judges of the Supreme Court of Appeals, and General Court, Judges in Chancery, Judges of Admiralty, Secretary, and the Attorney-General, to be commissioned by the Governor, and continue in office during good behaviour

The Governor shall appoint Justices of the Peace for the counties . . . The present and future Clerks shall hold their offices during good behaviour, to be judged of, and determined in the General Court. The Sheriffs and Coroners shall be nominated by the respective Courts, approved by the Governor, and commissioned by the Governor. The Justices shall appoint Constables; and all fees of the aforesaid officers be regulated by law.

The Governor, when he is out of office, and others, offending against the State, either by mal-administration, corruption, or other means, by which the safety of the State may be endangered, shall be impeachable by the House of Delegates . . .

If all or any of the Judges of the General Court should on good grounds (to be judged of by the House of Delegates) be accused of any of the crimes or offences above mentioned, such House of Delegates may, in like manner, impeach the Judge or Judges so accused, to be prosecuted in the Court of Appeals; and he or they, if found guilty, shall be punished . . .

The territories, contained within the Charters, erecting the Colonies of Maryland, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, are hereby ceded, released, and forever confirmed, to the people of these Colonies respectively . . . The western and northern extent of Virginia shall, in all other respects, stand as fixed by the Charter of King James I. in the year one thousand six hundred and nine, and by the public treaty of peace between the Courts of Britain and France, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three; unless by act of this Legislature, one or more governments be established westward of the Alleghany mountains. And no purchases of lands shall be made of the Indian natives, but on behalf of the public, by authority of the General Assembly.