

GO TO MASTER INDEX OF WARFARE

BEFORE THE VARIOUS DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCY



"I know of no country in which there is so little true independence of mind and freedom of discussion as in America."

— Alexis de Tocqueville



"I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the [Declaration of Independence](#)."

— Abraham Lincoln



"We want a country which shall not brand the [Declaration of Independence](#) as a lie."

— Frederick Douglass



"There has never been a document of culture, which is not simultaneously one of barbarism."

— [Walter Benjamin's THESES ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY](#) (1955)



»Es ist niemals ein Dokument der Kultur, ohne zugleich ein solches der Barbarei zu sein.«

— [THESEN ÜBER DEN BEGRIFF DER GESCHICHTE](#) (1940)

**"NARRATIVE HISTORY" AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**



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1637

Middle of May: The two white girls who had been captured in the raid on Wethersfield, Connecticut were released by their captors, sexually intact. (In general, the red people of the Eastern Seaboard had the reputation among the white colonists of being undersexed and “cool,” in opposition to the general attitude among these white colonists that their black slaves were oversexed and “hot,” so we really do not know how worried anyone had actually been that these girls had been captured for purposes of lust. It turned out that these Pequot warriors had merely hoped against hope that the girls would know how to make gunpowder — a subject of course in regard to which they were entirely ignorant.)



“...the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.”

— Declaration of Independence



THE TASK OF THE HISTORIAN IS TO CREATE HINDSIGHT WHILE INTERCEPTING ANY ILLUSION OF FORESIGHT. NOTHING A HUMAN CAN SEE IS EVER TO BE SEEN THROUGH THE EYE OF GOD.

End of June: More than anything else, the English wanted the Pequot grand sachem, Sassacus. Thomas Staughton landed at Pequot Harbor with 120 men. Finding the Pequot forts abandoned, he started west in pursuit. John Mason joined him at Saybrook with 40 men plus Uncas and his Mohegan scouts. With the Mohegan pointing the way, they followed the slow-moving band of Sassacus west. Intent on capturing Sassacus, other Pequot they encountered enroute were offed at the detection of the slightest reluctance to cooperate — one Pequot sachem near Guilford Harbor was beheaded and his head placed in a tree as a warning (the location is still known as Sachem Head). The English finally caught up with him at Sasqua, a Pequannock (Mattabesic) village near Fairfield, Connecticut. The Pequot retreated to a hidden fort in a nearby swamp but were surrounded when John Mason’s men were able to reach Mystic undiscovered. Some 700 Pequot were trapped inside while most of their warriors were absent on a raid against the Connecticut settlements. After negotiations, 200 Pequannock (mostly women and children) were allowed to leave, but the Pequot were well aware what awaited them and refused to surrender. Mason and his men set the fort afire, and began to kill all who attempted to escape. Sassacus gathered 80 warriors and managed to break free, and 180 Pequot were captured to be sold as slaves to the West Indies, the remainder evidently being incinerated.



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"...the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions."

— Declaration of Independence



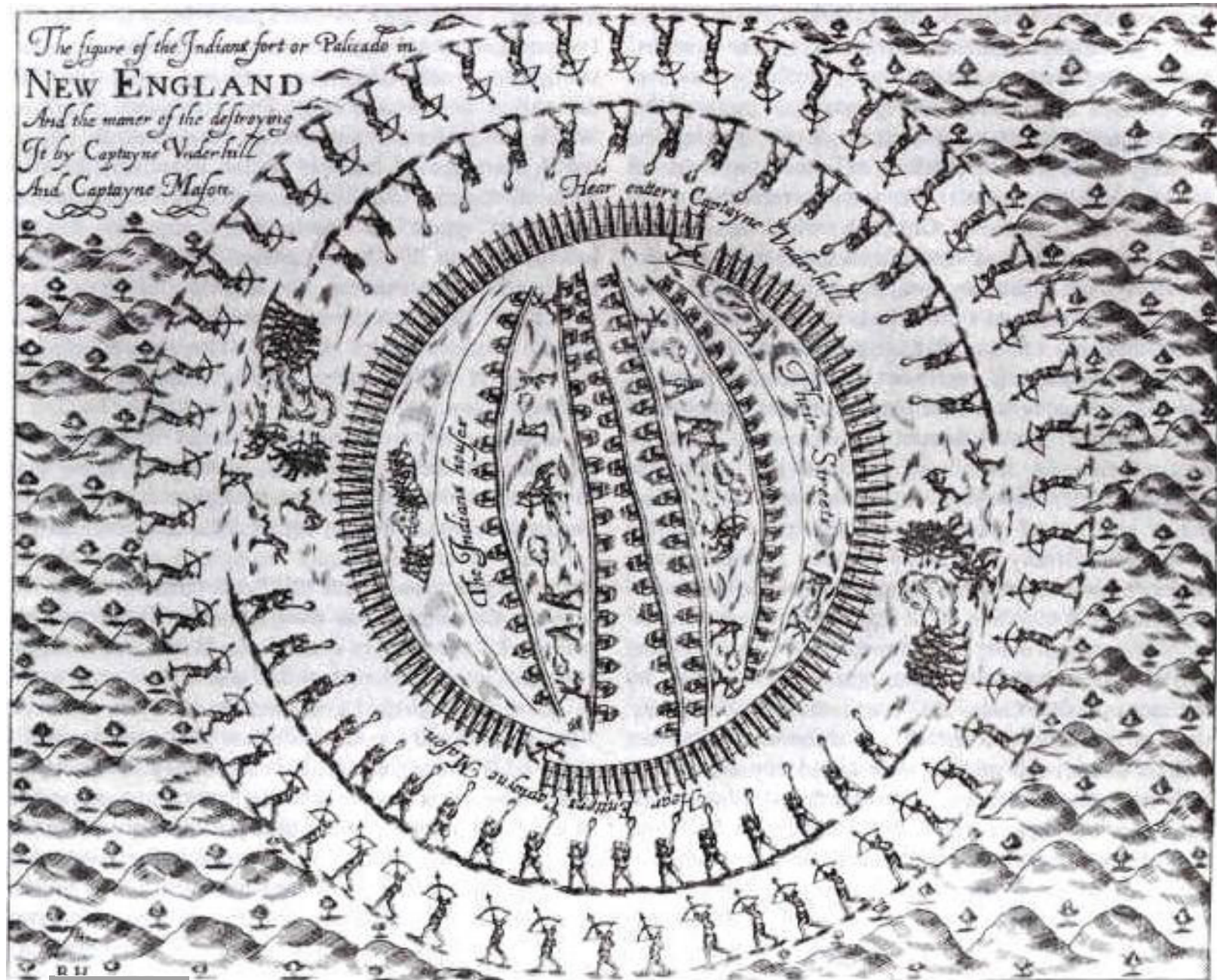
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The others were killed: "It was a fearful sight to see them frying in the fire and the streams of blood quenching the same, and horrible was the stink and scent thereof; but the victory seemed a sweet sacrifice, and they gave praise therof to God, who had wrought so wonderfully for them."



Sassacus and his escort fled west to the [New York](#) area. His logical choice for refuge should have been the Mahican (Dutch allies and close relatives), but the Mahican were subject to the Mohawk at the time, so Sassacus was forced to turn for refuge to some old enemies. The Mohawk had never forgotten who the Pequot were, and no sooner had the sachem reached the Mohawk village, than, without being allowed to speak in council, he and most of his warriors were killed. The few who escaped joined the Mahican at Schaghticoke.



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The Mohawk cut off Sassacus's head and sent it to Hartford as a token of friendship.

THE MARKET FOR HUMAN BODY PARTS

Since the General Court in Hartford levied a heavy fine on any tribe providing refuge to the Pequot, there was no place for them to go. The remaining Pequot were hunted down by the English, Mohegan, and [Narragansett](#), and the war ended in a series of small but deadly skirmishes. The remaining Pequot sachems surrendered asking to be spared.

The whites had soon grown dissatisfied with their red allies, warriors who strangely seemed not to have any concept of the agenda of such war, "to conquer and subdue enemies" but instead regarded fighting as "more for pastime." With the Pequot defeat, English settlement filled in Connecticut Valley and by 1641 would extend down the coast of western Connecticut as far as Stamford. The shame of the genocide would become so great that eventually it would be made a criminal offense in the Bay Colony to so much as mention that the Pequot had ever existed!



"Denial is an integral part of atrocity, and it's a natural part after a society has committed genocide. First you kill, and then the memory of killing is killed."

— Iris Chang, author of *THE RAPE OF NANKING* (1997), when the Japanese translation of her work was cancelled by Basic Books due to threats from [Japan](#), on May 20, 1999.



"Historical amnesia has always been with us:
we just keep forgetting we have it."

— Russell Shorto





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1638

February: At the end of the war upon the Pequot of Connecticut, what had been known as the Pequot River was renamed the Thames, the village of Pequot was renamed New London, and the bulk of the surviving redskins were distributed as [slaves](#) among the tribes that had allied with the English. The English did receive a share of the slaves, fifteen Pequot boys and two women, and Captain William Pierce took them to Providence Island and there traded them off for some salt, some [tobacco](#), some cotton, and some black slaves.

INTERNATIONAL SLAVE TRADE



"...the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions."

— Declaration of Independence



W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: The rigorous climate of New England, the character of her settlers, and their pronounced political views gave slavery an even slighter basis here than in the Middle colonies. The significance of New England in the African slave-trade does not therefore lie in the fact that she early discountenanced the system of slavery and stopped importation; but rather in the fact that her citizens, being the traders of



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the New World, early took part in the carrying slave-trade and furnished slaves to the other colonies. An inquiry, therefore, into the efforts of the New England colonies to suppress the slave-trade would fall naturally into two parts: first, and chiefly, an investigation of the efforts to stop the participation of citizens in the carrying slave-trade; secondly, an examination of the efforts made to banish the slave-trade from New England soil.

W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: In the individual efforts of the various colonies to suppress the African slave-trade there may be traced certain general movements. First, from 1638 to 1664, there was a tendency to take a high moral stand against the traffic. This is illustrated in the laws of New England, in the plans for the settlement of Delaware and, later, that of Georgia, and in the protest of the German Friends. The second period, from about 1664 to 1760, has no general unity, but is marked by statutes laying duties varying in design from encouragement to absolute prohibition, by some cases of moral opposition, and by the slow but steady growth of a spirit unfavorable to the long continuance of the trade. The last colonial period, from about 1760 to 1787, is one of pronounced effort to regulate, limit, or totally prohibit the traffic. Beside these general movements, there are many waves of legislation, easily distinguishable, which rolled over several or all of the colonies at various times, such as the series of high duties following the Assiento, and the acts inspired by various Negro "plots."

Notwithstanding this, the laws of the colonies before 1774 had no national unity, the peculiar circumstances of each colony determining its legislation. With the outbreak of the Revolution came unison in action with regard to the slave-trade, as with regard to other matters, which may justly be called national. It was, of course, a critical period, – a period when, in the rapid upheaval of a few years, the complicated and diverse forces of decades meet, combine, act, and react, until the resultant seems almost the work of chance. In the settlement of the fate of slavery and the slave-trade, however, the real crisis came in the calm that succeeded the storm, in that day when, in the opinion of most men, the question seemed already settled. And indeed it needed an exceptionally clear and discerning mind, in 1787, to deny that slavery and the slave-trade in the United States of America were doomed to early annihilation. It seemed certainly a legitimate deduction from the history of the preceding century to conclude that, as the system had risen, flourished, and fallen in Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania, and as South Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland were apparently following in the same legislative path, the next generation would in all probability witness the last throes of the system on our soil.

To be sure, the problem had its uncertain quantities. The motives of the law-makers in South Carolina and Pennsylvania were dangerously different; the century of industrial expansion was slowly dawning and awakening that vast economic revolution in which American slavery was to play so prominent and fatal a



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rôle; and, finally, there were already in the South faint signs of a changing moral attitude toward slavery, which would no longer regard the system as a temporary makeshift, but rather as a permanent though perhaps unfortunate necessity. With regard to the slave-trade, however, there appeared to be substantial unity of opinion; and there were, in 1787, few things to indicate that a cargo of five hundred African slaves would openly be landed in Georgia in 1860.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



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1676

September 4, Monday (Old Style): The Boston Court of Assistants heard the case of the four [Concord](#) race murderers. There was no questioning the evidence which was presented as to the murders or their circumstances, nor was there even any attempt on anyone's part to question any part of it. The witnesses included Thomas and John Wilder, Thomas Goble, Sr., Thomas Goble, Jr., William Keene, Stephen Matcock, Philip Negro, two illegible names, and the Concord resident Daniel Deane. The concerned father, and attorney, [John Hoar](#) may also have testified. Instead of challenging any element of the evidence, the four defendants simply pleaded innocent — on the ground that they had, in offing these three defenseless women and these three defenseless children, in fact violated no law. Guilty? —Please advise us, guilty of precisely what?

“KING PHILLIP’S WAR”

WHITE ON RED, RED ON WHITE



“...the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.”

— [Declaration of Independence](#)



~~REDACTED~~



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1712

In a New-York that at this point had reached a population of 5,840, one of the blacks who had been taught to read and write by the [Huguenot](#) catechism instructor Ellis Neau was charged with involvement in a slave plot. Did this mean that it was demonstrably unwise to teach American [slaves](#) to read and write, even barely enough to be able to receive the gospel of Christ? Defenders of the agenda of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts would be able to point out that although this black had indeed been taught to read and to write up to a certain level as part of their class, in preparation for a baptismal ceremony, in fact after his execution –guess what– he had been discovered to have been quite innocent of any involvement in that slave plot.

SERVILE INSURRECTION

In the year 1712 a considerable number of negroes of the Carmantee and Pappa Nations formed a plot to destroy all the English, *in order to obtain their liberty*; and kept their conspiracy so secret, that there was no suspicion of it till it came to the very execution. However, the plot was by God's Providence happily defeated. The plot was this. The negroes set fire to a house in York city, and Sunday night in April, about the going down of the moon. The fire alarmed the town, who from all parts ran to it; the conspirators planted themselves in several streets and lanes leading to the fire, and shot or stabbed the people as they were running to it. Some of the wounded escaped, and acquainted the Government, and presently by the firing of a great gun from the fort, the inhabitants were called under arms and pretty easily scattered the negroes; they had killed about 8 and wounded 12 more. In their flight some of them shot themselves, others their wives, and then themselves; some absconded a few days, and then killed themselves for fear of being taken; but a great many were taken, and 18 of them suffered death. This wicked conspiracy was at first apprehended to be general among all the negroes, and opened the mouths of many to speak against giving the negroes instruction. Mr. Neau durst hardly appear abroad for some days; his school was blamed as the main occasion of this barbarous plot. On examination, only two of all his school were so much as charged with the plot, and on full trial the guilty negroes were found to be such as never came to Mr. Neau's school; and what is very observable, the persons, whose negroes were found to be most guilty, were such as were the declared opposers of making them Christians. However a great jealousy was now raised, and the common cry very loud against instructing the negroes.



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Of course, if it were going to be allowed that some slaves might read and write, then it would be necessary to institute some sort of program to ensure that whatever reading materials became available to them would include **nothing having any problematic ideas**. For instance, it would be exceedingly unwise to allow a slave access to such opinion pieces as the [Declaration of Independence](#) (when events would work their way around to that document getting written), with its rank celebration of the notion of personal “freedom.

AN INFORMED CITIZENRY

In the colony of New York in this year, it was being made more difficult for a white slavemaster to legally [manumit](#) his black slaves.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



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1716

December: A suggestion was made by a society of Gentlemen, that for the benefit of the People of England, rather than making [paper](#) from the perennially inadequate supplies of linen and cotton rags, it might be possible to fashion it of the hempen fibers used for cordage.

(Eventually the American [Declaration of Independence](#)—which would originate as a mere broadside roughly



printed on newspaper-quality paper stock— would for ceremonial purposes be inscribed in ink on such [hempen](#) paper.)



WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF



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1727

December 22, Friday (Old Style): [William Ellery](#)¹ was born at [Newport, Rhode Island](#), a son of Elizabeth Almy Ellery and the merchant [William Ellery](#), Sr., who among other activities engaged in the [international slave trade](#). The father, a product of [Harvard College](#), would provide substantially all of his namesake son's early education:

In regard both to the Reverend [William Ellery Channing](#) and to the poet [Ellery Channing](#) of Thoreau's time period in Concord, bear in mind, as everyone else did during this period, that this name was a most famous name, for regardless of whoever gets credit for creating the [Declaration of Independence](#), a [William Ellery](#) (1727-1820) later cosigned it on behalf of [Rhode Island](#):

[New Hampshire](#): Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

Massachusetts: John Hancock, 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 York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris

New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark

Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Dr. Benjamin Rush, [Benjamin Franklin](#), John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross

Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean

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

[North Carolina](#): William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn

South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton

1. [William Ellery](#), grandfather both of the Reverend [William Ellery Channing](#) and of Richard Henry Dana, Sr.



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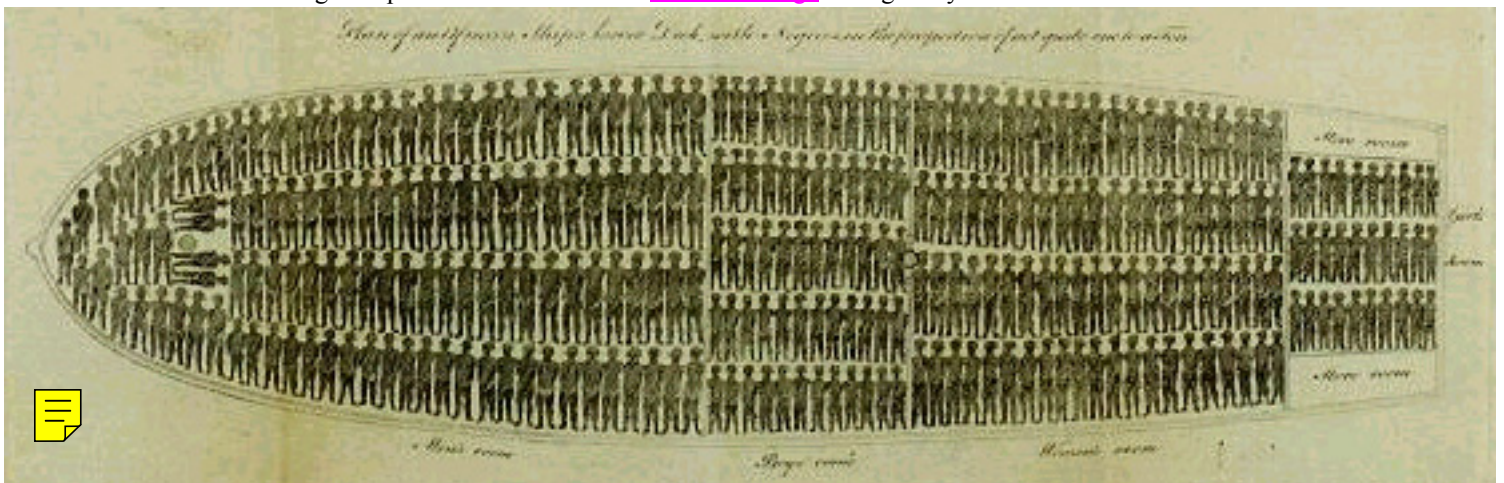
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1735



In [Rhode Island](#) harbors alone, during this year alone, it has been estimated by Alexander Boyd Hawes, some 9 [negreiros](#) were being fitted out for the [international slave trade](#). If an average cargo of [slaves](#) was 109—as we have estimated on the basis of a number of known cargos—then a total of something like 981 souls would have been being transported over the dreadful [Middle Passage](#) during this year in Rhode Island bottoms alone.



In approximately this year a person named [Cudgoe](#) was born. We don't at this point know whether he was born in [Rhode Island](#) or in Africa, but we know what his life trajectory would be — he would be used all his life by American white men as a useful object of labor, in 1768 he would be passed from hand to hand as a piece of property, he would almost be present for the signing of our [Declaration of Independence](#) in 1776 (almost but not quite), and then in extreme old age in 1806 he would finally again come to the white man's attention (but, only as a needy neglected object of charity).

Also during this year the slave cargo aboard the *Dolphin*, a London vessel on the coast of Africa, attempted unsuccessfully to take control of their lives. Not being able to proceed any further than seizing control of the powder room, they blew up themselves, the crew, and the vessel.

SERVILE INSURRECTION

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT



Before Declaring War

"Stack of the Artist of Kouroo" Project



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1738

June 4, Sunday (Old Style): [George](#), son of Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, was born in London. George was not intelligent; he would be unable to read until he was 11. However, his tutors would of course praise him for the amount of effort he put into solving whatever academic problems he was able to solve. George would be but 12 when his father would die, and his mother's friend the Earl of Bute would become an important influence on his future development. He would become King George III — the one we would mention unapprovingly in our [Declaration of Independence](#). He didn't yet look like this:



NEVER READ AHEAD! TO APPRECIATE JUNE 4TH, 1738 AT ALL ONE MUST APPRECIATE IT AS GEORGIBUS APPRECIATED IT, AS A TODAY (THE FOLLOWING DAY, TOMORROW, IS BUT A PORTION OF THE UNREALIZED FUTURE AND IFFY AT BEST).



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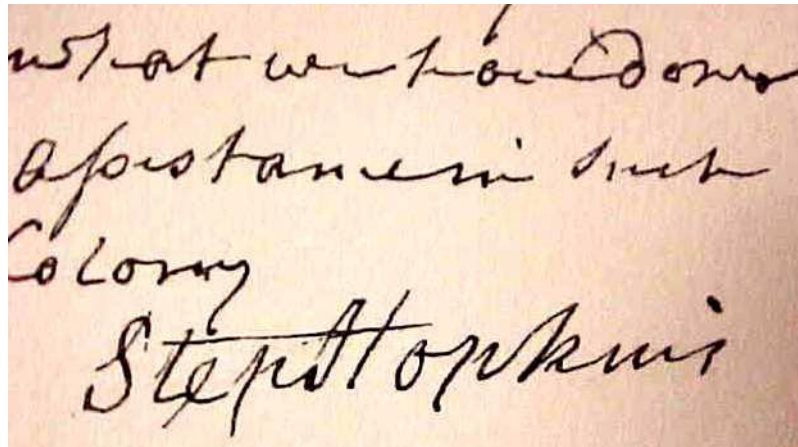
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1755

[Hercules](#), who would be one of [George Washington](#)'s personally owned [slaves](#), was presumably born in approximately this year. He would grow up at [Mount Vernon](#).

On [Nantucket Island](#), [Friend](#) Benjamin Coffin was almost disowned by the [Quakers](#) for dragging his feet in regard to the [manumission](#) of his three [slaves](#). He would manage to avoid disownment, but eventually the former governor of [Rhode Island](#), [Friend Stephen Hopkins](#), more recalcitrant, would indeed eventually be disowned for such continued slaveholding. (Looking up the inside of his nose: this Hopkins dude, later, would be a signer of our [Declaration of Independence](#) — which means that he apparently was willing to tolerate freedom, justice, and the pursuit of happiness at least for **some** of us at least **some** of the time.)



"The capacity to get free is nothing; the capacity to be free, that is the task."

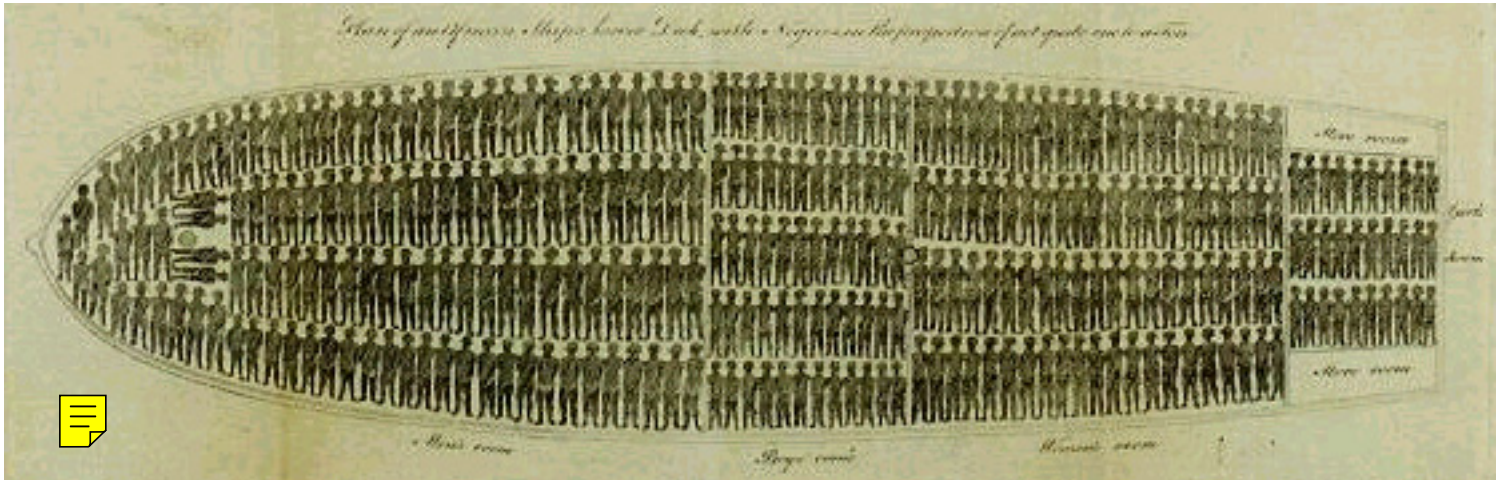
— André Gide, *THE IMMORALIST*
translation Richard Howard
NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970, page 7



LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT'S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN'S STORIES.
LIFE ISN'T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.

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In [Rhode Island](#) harbors during this year, it has been estimated by Alexander Boyd Hawes, some 8 vessels were being fitted out for the [international slave trade](#). If an average cargo of [slaves](#) was 109—as we have estimated on the basis of a number of known cargos—then a total of 872 souls were transported during this year in Rhode Island bottoms alone. Examples from this year include the Rhode Island sloop *Dolphin*,² carrying a cargo of 80 slaves, the sloop *Gambia*, carrying a cargo of 140, the schooner *Sierra-Leone*, carrying 70, the snow *Two Brothers*, carrying 150, and a brig of unknown name, carrying 70.



A Quaker clerk turned over the blank volume in which the Friends Monthly Meeting of [South Kingstown](#) had been keeping since 1740 a record of its white births, white deaths, white marriages, and white removals, and upside down and backward in the back, began something very different from all that white stuff. What was begun upside down and backward at the end of the volume was — a record of the [manumissions](#) of the black slaves of these white [Rhode Island](#) Quakers. We learn that the 1st local [Quaker](#) to manumit a slave was Friend

2. Thomas Robinson was part owner of the [negrero](#) *Dolphin*. He was a [Quaker](#) in good standing, of [Newport](#).



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Richard Smith of Groton, Connecticut, who in this year manumitted an 18-year-old named Jane.

Name of slave	Owned by	Date of emancipation
Jane	Richard Smith	1757
Pegg	Stephen Richmond	27th 12th mo 1773
Phillis and her two children	John Knowles	1st 11th mo 1773
Casper and Judith		
Richard	Jeremiah Browning	27th 9th mo 1773
Israel	William Robinson	15th 1st mo 1780
Dick	John Congdon	29th 12th mo 1783
Luce	William Congdon	29th 3d mo 1784
Jack		
Fan		
Cuff, otherwise Cuff Knowles	Barshebe Knowles	24th 7th mo 1783
	Robert Knowles	
	Joseph Knowles	
	John Congdon	
	Charles Congdon	
Job	Hannah Knowles	
	William Peckham	4th 8th mo 1786
	William Peckham	24th 8th mo 1786

Friend Richard explained that the “Negrow Girl” in question had been become the property of his wife, Friend Abigail Gardner Smith, by the will of her father Stephen Gardner, “in Order to be a Slave all her Days According to the common Custom of Slavery.” The document is so totally eloquent in its lengthy expression of antislavery sentiments that I will copy it all here:

I Richard Smith of Groton³ in the County of New London and Colony of Connecticut upon Consideration and Knowing it Required of me I have written this in Order to Shew the reason and make it manifest to mankind why that I Discharge & Sett free my Negrow Girl named Jane at Eighteen Years of Age Daughter of Sarah which is now in Slavery with her Other Children among the Heirs of Stephen Gardnor of Norwich Deceased this Girl Jane was Given to my Wife Abigail⁴ by her Father Stephen Gardnor by will in order to be a Slave all her Days According to the common Cufdom of Slavery. But the falling into my hand by my Wife and the Lord by his free Goodnefs having Given me a clear Sight of the Cruelty of makeing a Slave of one that was by Nature as free as my Own Children and no ways by any Evil She had Committed brought her Self into Bondage and Slavery and therefore can no ways be Gilty of Slavery, and to argue because her Mother was made a Slave being by force and Violence brought Out of her Own Land against her mind and Will and Deprived of What She had there & made a Slave of her Should be a Sufficent Reason that her posterity Should be oprest in bondage with Slavery. I see no Justice for it nor mercy in so Doing but Vi^Olent Opprefsing the

3. Friend Richard Smith of Groton deceased 28 of 8 mo 1800 “in the 96th year of his age.”

4. Friend Abigail Smith of Groton deceased 15 of 6 mo 1799.



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Inocent without Cause For this thing of Servants it hath pleased God to Sett before me in a Clear manner the case of Servants and Especially the Unreasonableness of these matters and mistresses who profess to be the followers of Christ how they will buy & Sell and be partakers in making merchandize in Great Babylon of the Slaves that in the bodies of men and women and of these Strangers as Indians & Negroes that are taken Out of their Own Country

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Country or taken in War one among a nother and Sent out which when brought here [word marked out] in Sed of being Released

are Sold into Slavery all there Days and their Posterity after them they being never so Innocent in Ronging of any and these masters and mistresses that buy them or other ways by their parents have them, all this while profess them selves to be the followers of Christ or Christians and yet how they will plead the Reasonables of Keeping them in Slavery and their posterity after them But when they have pleaded all they can and used the best arguments they have, it is Only to have there work done with ease & they to be great and to be Lord over there fellow Creatures, Because they have power & authority to oppress the helpless by a Customary Law of the Nations to keep them in Bondage under Slavery, Quite Renouncing and Rejecting and Hating to obey the Law & command of there great Lord and Master Christ as they call him who charge them saying Therefore all things whatsoever Ye would that man should do to You do ye even so to them for this if the Law and the prophets said Our Great Lord Matt. 7 & 12. Now if it should be asked of any of these masters or mistresses if they in like Manner with these Children should be carried away unto any Strange People in the world and be sold into Slavery whether they would be willing to serve a strange nation in Slavery & their Children after them and be Deprived of what they Injoyed in there own Country (for this is the Case) I suppose there answer would be no nor any of our Children upon any acc^t: no not if it were in a Christian Land as they call this well then how can any of them plead the Reasonables of Keeping of any of them in Slavery with there Posterity and would set^{them} free in a Reasonable Time as they themselves with their Children would be willing to be done by according to Christs words above mentioned for by Nature all nations are free one from the other and the apostle Saith God is no Respector of persons, the apostle Likewise Saith that God hath made of one Blood all Nations of men to Dwell on all the face of the Earth Acts 17 & 26

So

[new page]



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So that by Nature & blood wee are no better in Gods Sight than they and it is plain that Chrifft taught a Doctrine that was to Releive Oppreffed and to Unbind heavy Burdens and let the Innoſent priſoner go free, and hath commanded us to love our Enemy, and to entertain Stranger, & not to oppreſs them in Bondage with Slavery and ſaid, he came not to Deſtroy mens Lives but to ſave them Luke 9 & 56 So that the way that brings them into Slavery is forbidden by Chrifft for by war violence & ſtealth and tradeing in them is the way by which they are firſt Ordered to go into Slavery, and they that buy them or other ways have them and keep them in Slavery as they do there Beaſts, for to do there Labour & not to Releive them and ſet them free, are partakers of the ſame evil, Therefore I Leave this as a faithfull Teſtimony in the fear of the living God againſt all ſuch wicked proceedings, and upon true Conſideration of what is above written I hereby Declare that now at this Time that my Negrow Girl Jane hath arrived to Eighteen Years of Age that ſhe Shall now go out Free from Bondage and Slavery as free as if ſhe had been free born and that my Heirs Executors or Administrators ſhall have no power over her to make a Slave of Her or her poſterity no more than if ſhe had been [word lined out] free born, for I freely give her her freedom now at the arrival of the aforeſ^d age which is now fullfilled in this preſent Year 1757 as witneſs my hand

Richard Smith

Some time after I had written this Diſcharge I had it in Conſideration which way was proper to make it manifeſt & ſecure and it appeared to me very proper to lay it before Friends at the preparative meeting, as buifineſs to the Monthly Meeting, to ſee if the Monthly Meeting would think proper that it might be put on Record or would forward Untill I might Know what might be done by Friends on this acc^t for this thing hath had weight on my mind ever ſince this

Girl

[new page]

Girl was put into my hands to prove me in this part of Self Denial whether I would be faithfull or not [flourish] Now my Friends to tell you plainly ſome Years before this my Intent was to have bought ſome negrow Slaves for to have done my work to have ſaved hireing of help But when I was about buying them I was forbidden by the ſame power that now cauſes me to ſet this Girl at Liberty for the matter was ſet before me in a Clear manner more Clear than what mortal man Could have done, and Therefore I believe it is not write for me to Think or hide in a thing of ſo great Concernment as to give my Conſent to do to others Contrary to what we our ſelves would be willing to be done unto our ſelves if we were in Slavery as many of



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*them are at this day & under such masters and
mistresses too as would be willing to be called Christs
true followers and make a large profession of some
of his Truths but if we truly Consider God will have
no part kept back for he call for Justice and mercy
and his Soul Loathes the Oppressing of the Inocent
and poor & helpless and such as have none to help
and will assuredly avenge their cause in Righeousness
These things I have found on my mind to lay before
Friends as a matter worth due [word lined out] Consideration
and so lay it before this meeting as Buifiness [flourish]
Richard Smith [flourish]*

We note that the 1st draft of the [Declaration of Independence](#), in taking the King of England to task for having insisted on the continuation of the international slave trade (“He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, capturing and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur a miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian King of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where men should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce.”⁵), may be better understood by referring back to the debate in this year over banning the importation of [slaves](#) into [Virginia](#). In this year, the question of a ban on the further importation of new slaves did come before the House of Burgesses, and it was not a debate over benevolence or over human rights. The primary sponsors of such a ban were the large planters of the Northern Neck region of Virginia, including the family of Richard Henry Lee, while the main opposition to it came primarily from smaller planters closer to the frontier, many of them affiliated with the John Robinson faction. Not long after this debate began, the legislators abandoned the possibility of a total ban and the discussion turned toward imposing a 10% tariff or head tax on newly imported Africans as a means of raising revenue to defray Virginia’s expenses for the Seven Years’ War. We do have some evidence that this situation in Virginia was then discussed with the British government, for after Francis Fauquier would become governor of [Virginia](#), the topic would come up in his correspondence with the Board of Trade. Fauquier would on June 2, 1760 mention that this proposal had been made by some “old settlers who have bred large quantities of slaves and who would make a monopoly of them by a duty which they hoped would amount to a prohibition.” In council on December 10, 1770, [King George III of England](#) would direct them not to thus interfere with the importation of new slaves from Africa — but this was not cruelty offsetting a colonial benevolence, for in this debate, the first consideration had been the business of making money, the second consideration had been the business of making money, and the third consideration had been the business of making money.

INTERNATIONAL SLAVE TRADE

5. Although the sentences in question are confidently asserted to have been authored by [Jefferson](#), and confidently asserted to have been stricken from the draft by others, I know of no evidence to support any such speculation.



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1764

September: At [Newport](#) on [Aquidneck Island](#) occurred the first meeting of the new governing body for the proposed new [Rhode Island](#) institution of higher education. Among the 24 officials was Governor [Stephen Hopkins](#), later to become a signer of the [Declaration of Independence](#), who was named as the institution's first chancellor, his political opponent Samuel Ward, who would serve several terms as the state governor, and [Nicholas Brown](#) (grandfather of the [Nicholas Brown, Jr.](#) after whom the [College of Rhode Island](#) eventually would be renamed [Brown University](#)). The Reverend [James Manning](#), the originator of the idea, was settling in as pastor of a new [Baptist](#) church in [Warren](#), and opening a Latin school there.



Since there is a story floating around to the effect that Rhode Island College was founded “by an assorted group of Revivalist Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, and Anglicans,” I will mention that not only was the first college president and sole instructor a Baptist minister, but also, later on, when one of his successors as college president would come to be suspected of not believing in each and every tenet of the Baptist faith — the man would be driven out.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1768

January 14, Thursday: Isabel Marchant sold a “Negro Man Slave named Cajoe aged about Thirty three Years” to Governor Samuel Ward of [Rhode Island](#). ([Cudgoe](#) would accompany this slavemaster to Philadelphia when this white man would journey there in 1776 to assist in the deliberations of the other white men assembled there in regard to preparation of a [Declaration of Independence](#) for these American colonies, and Cudgoe would attend at the deathbed of his slavemaster there in 1776. In 1806, a certificate from the Town Council of [Westerly](#), Rhode Island would name “Cuggo” and “Pegg” as being “in want” and as requiring “some speedy support” from the heirs of Governor Samuel Ward. If Cudgoe had been 33 in 1768, this slave would have reached the age of 71 or 72 in 1806, so it is apparent that Cuggo and Pegg, since as [slaves](#) they had never been allowed wages during their working lives, would have needed at that point some assistance, from the community if not from the heirs of their former slavemaster.)

NO-ONE’S LIFE IS EVER NOT DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY HAPPENSTANCE





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1770

Initially, in their internal political debates, Americans seem to have referred more frequently to Mason's draft Virginia Declaration of Rights, which began by asserting "that all men are born equally free and independent," than to the [Declaration of Independence](#) which we now have come to emphasize as having a certain primacy in our national system. It would be Mason's formulations, in most cases by use of the verb "born," rather than [Thomas Jefferson](#)'s formulations, that would be incorporated into various state bills of rights and, by way of the Pennsylvania Declaration of Rights, into the French Declaration of the Rights of Man. After [the Constitution](#) and Bill of Rights had included no statement of basic revolutionary principles, it would be later generations of Americans, not this initial generation, who would find those principles useful in national politics and would gradually be transforming the Declaration from a revolutionary or "external" manifesto into a standard for established "internal" governance akin to a bill of rights. In a sense the Declaration had to be rescued from an initial obscurity before the Americans of the Early Republic began to be able to made their internal political appeals on its basis.

During this period of revolutionary turmoil, in which there would be a whole lot of talk about human rights and a whole lot of taking of human life, a total of 34 Friends would need to be "dealt with" in Pennsylvania, and a total of 9 Friends would need to be "dealt with" in New Jersey, on account of their refusing to give up all involvement in public affairs. That is, a number of [Quakers](#) would refuse their society's demand that they "withdraw from being active in civil government" during a period so preoccupied with "the spirit of wars and fighting." They would either continue to hold public office, or would continue to attend town meeting, or would continue to cast votes for persons to hold public office, all of which activities were being proscribed by the Religious Society of Friends as morally unacceptable:

Friends being in any ways active in government [in the present commotions of public affairs] is inconsistent with our principles [against wars and fightings].



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For the duration of the war, no Quaker would be allowed to even serve as an overseer of the poor, without being “dealt with” on account of this implicit involvement in violence by his meeting.

In Virginia, [Jefferson](#) was building [Monticello](#) on the backs of slave laborers.



“The United States of America had human slavery for almost one hundred years before that custom was recognized as a social disease and people began to fight it. Imagine that. Wasn’t that a match for Auschwitz? What a beacon of liberty we were to the rest of the world when it was perfectly acceptable here to own other human beings and treat them as we treated cattle. Who told you we were a beacon of liberty from the very beginning? Why would they lie like that? [Thomas Jefferson](#) owned slaves, and not many people found that odd. It was as though he had an infected growth on the end of his nose the size of a walnut, and everybody thought that was perfectly OK.”

– [Kurt Vonnegut](#), FATES WORSE THAN DEATH, page 84





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1772

[Thomas Jefferson](#), Patrick Henry, Lee, and other leading men of the [Virginia](#) colony were desiring to “get rid of the great evil” represented by the presence of black people in America. “The interest of the country,” it was said in a discussion in the [Virginia](#) House of Burgesses –by “interest of the country” meaning of course not the interests of people in general but merely the interests of the white male propertied citizens of that colony– “manifestly requires the total expulsion of them” — by “them” meaning of course not merely slaves but black people in general. The governor of [Virginia](#), Francis Fauquier, had in correspondence with the Board of Trade on June 2, 1760 mentioned that some “old settlers who have bred large quantities of slaves and who would make a monopoly of them by a duty which they hoped would amount to a prohibition” had proposed the difficulties be placed in the way of the importation of new Africans. The [Virginia](#) Assembly needed to address [King George III of England](#) on this because, in council on December 10, 1770, he had warned them not to interfere with the importation of slaves. They pleaded with him on April 1, 1772 to remove his restraints upon their efforts to stop the importation of [slaves](#), which they referred to for some reason as “a very pernicious commerce” (we don’t know, they may have meant that it was damaging the lives of black people, or perhaps they may have meant that it was damaging the lives of white people). The monarch who “stood in the path of humanity and made himself the pillar of the colonial slave-trade” made no reply to this appeal of the Virginians (we don’t know, he may have desired to damage the lives of black people, or he may have simply desired that he and his friends continue to make inordinate profits on their participation in the international slave trade). The conduct of the King would cause the initial draft of the [Declaration of Independence](#) to contain a complaint that “He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, capturing and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur a miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian King of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where men should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce.” (This embarrassing paragraph would of course need to be

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stricken from a succeeding draft the Declaration!⁶⁷



[George Washington](#) was a member of the [Virginia](#) House of Burgesses during this year while it drafted a petition to the English throne, labeling the importation of [slaves](#) into the colonies from the coast of Africa “a trade of great inhumanity” that would endanger the “very existence of your Majesty’s American

6. Although the sentences in question are confidently asserted to have been authored by [Jefferson](#), and confidently asserted to have been stricken from the draft by others, I know of no evidence to support any such speculation.

7. For this and other such maps: <http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/search.html>

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dominions.”



Maybe this did or maybe this didn't reflect his personal viewpoint (we know that in this very year the guy was purchasing five additional slaves for labor on his plantations), but we know that a couple of years later he would be personally involved in the composition of the July 1774 "Fairfax Resolves," one of which was that slaves not be imported into British colonies. He would be one of the signatories "declaring our most earnest Wishes to see an entire Stop forever put to such a wicked cruel and unnatural Trade." One resolution to this conundrum would be simply that he was one of those who were in favor of slavery and also in favor of restricting fresh imports — because this would effectively protect the market value of slaves already here, and their saleable future progeny.⁸

INTERNATIONAL SLAVE TRADE

W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: Next to South Carolina, Virginia had probably the largest slave-trade. Her situation, however, differed considerably from that of her Southern neighbor. The climate, the staple tobacco crop, and the society of Virginia were favorable to a system of domestic slavery, but one which tended to develop into a patriarchal serfdom rather than into a slave-consuming industrial hierarchy. The labor required by the tobacco crop was less unhealthy than that connected with the rice crop, and the Virginians were, perhaps, on a somewhat higher moral plane than the Carolinians. There was consequently no such insatiable demand for slaves in the larger colony. On the other hand, the power of the Virginia executive was peculiarly strong, and it was not possible here to thwart the slave-trade policy of the home government as easily as elsewhere.

Considering all these circumstances, it is somewhat difficult to determine just what was the attitude of the early Virginians toward the slave-trade. There is evidence, however, to show that although they desired the slave-trade, the rate at which the

8. In this year, it has been estimated by Alexander Boyd Hawes, a record number of ships, 28, were sailing from Rhode Island for the coast of the continent of Africa to obtain fresh bodies for the [international slave trade](#). If an average cargo of slaves was 109 — as we have estimated on the basis of a number of known cargos — then a total of well over 3,000 souls were being transported in [Rhode Island](#) bottoms alone.



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Negroes were brought in soon alarmed them. In 1710 a duty of £5 was laid on Negroes, but Governor Spotswood "soon perceived that the laying so high a Duty on Negros was intended to discourage the importation," and vetoed the measure.⁹ No further restrictive legislation was attempted for some years, but whether on account of the attitude of the governor or the desire of the inhabitants, is not clear. With 1723 begins a series of acts extending down to the Revolution, which, so far as their contents can be ascertained, seem to have been designed effectually to check the slave-trade. Some of these acts, like those of 1723 and 1727, were almost immediately disallowed.¹⁰ The Act of 1732 laid a duty of 5%, which was continued until 1769,¹¹ and all other duties were in addition to this; so that by such cumulative duties the rate on slaves reached 25% in 1755,¹² and 35% at the time of Braddock's expedition.¹³ These acts were found "very burthensome," "introductive of many frauds," and "very inconvenient,"¹⁴ and were so far repealed that by 1761 the duty was only 15%. As now the Burgesses became more powerful, two or more bills proposing restrictive duties were passed, but disallowed.¹⁵ By 1772 the anti-slave-trade feeling had become considerably developed, and the Burgesses petitioned the king, declaring that "The importation of slaves into the colonies from the coast of Africa hath long been considered as a trade of great inhumanity, and under its present encouragement, we have too much reason to fear *will endanger the very existence of your Majesty's American dominions....* Deeply impressed with these sentiments, we most humbly beseech your Majesty to remove *all those restraints* on your Majesty's governors of this colony, *which inhibit their assenting to such laws as might check so very pernicious a commerce.*"¹⁶ Nothing further appears to have been done before the war. When, in 1776, the delegates adopted a Frame of Government, it was charged in this document that the king had perverted his high office into a "detestable and insupportable tyranny, by ... prompting our negroes to rise in arms among us, those very negroes whom, by an inhuman use of his negative, he hath refused us permission to exclude by law."¹⁷ Two years later, in 1778, an "Act to prevent the further importation of Slaves" stopped definitively the legal slave-trade to Virginia.¹⁸

Spring: The [Boston](#) poet [Phillis Wheatley](#) "went for her orals," so to speak:¹⁹

9. LETTERS OF GOVERNOR SPOTSWOOD, in VA. HIST. SOC. COLL., New Ser., I. 52.

10. Hening, STATUTES AT LARGE OF VIRGINIA, IV. 118, 182.

11. Hening, STATUTES AT LARGE OF VIRGINIA, IV. 317, 394; V. 28, 160, 318; VI. 217, 353; VII. 281; VIII. 190, 336, 532.

12. Hening, STATUTES AT LARGE OF VIRGINIA, V. 92; VI. 417, 419, 461, 466.

13. Hening, STATUTES AT LARGE OF VIRGINIA, VII. 69, 81.

14. Hening, STATUTES AT LARGE OF VIRGINIA, VII. 363, 383.

15. Hening, STATUTES AT LARGE OF VIRGINIA, VIII. 237, 337.

16. MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1672-1865, in VA. HIST. SOC. COLL., New Ser., VI. 14; Tucker, BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES, I. Part II. App., 51.

17. Hening, STATUTES AT LARGE OF VIRGINIA, IX. 112.

18. Importation by sea or by land was prohibited, with a penalty of £1000 for illegal importation and £500 for buying or selling. The Negro was freed, if illegally brought in. This law was revised somewhat in 1785. Cf. Hening, STATUTES AT LARGE OF VIRGINIA, IX. 471; XII. 182.



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One bright morning in the spring of 1772, a young African girl walked demurely into the courthouse at Boston to undergo an oral examination, the results of which would determine the direction of her life and work. Perhaps she was shocked upon entering the appointed room. For there, gathered in a semicircle, sat eighteen of Boston's most notable citizens. Among them was John Erving, a prominent Boston merchant; the Reverend Charles Chauncey, pastor of the Tenth Congregational Church; and John Hancock, who would later gain fame for his signature on the Declaration of Independence. At the center of this group would have sat His Excellency, Thomas Hutchinson, governor of the colony, with Andrew Oliver, his lieutenant governor, close by his side.



6 3/4 inches, \$75, on the internet

Why had this august group been assembled? Why had it seen fit to summon this young African girl, scarcely eighteen years old, before it? This group of "the most respectable characters in *Boston*," as it would later define itself, had assembled to question closely the African adolescent on the slender sheaf of poems that she claimed to have written by herself. We can only speculate on the nature of the questions posed to the fledgling poet. Perhaps they asked her to identify and explain -for all to hear- exactly who were the Greek and Latin gods and poets alluded to so frequently in her work. Perhaps they asked her to conjugate a verb in Latin, or even to translate randomly selected passages from the Latin, which she and her master, John Wheatley, claimed that she "had made some progress in." Or

19. Gates, Henry Louis, Jr., ed. Editor's Introduction "Writing 'Race' and the Difference It Makes" in "RACE," WRITING, AND DIFFERENCE. Chicago IL: U of Chicago P, 1986, pages 1-20. He quotes initially from the prefatory material "To the Publick" for Wheatley's POEMS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS, RELIGIOUS AND MORAL. London, 1773; New York, 1985, page vii.



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perhaps they asked her to recite from memory key passages from the texts of [John Milton](#) and Alexander Pope, the two poets by whom the African claimed to be most directly influenced. We do not know.

We do know, however, that the African poet's responses were more than sufficient to prompt the eighteen august gentlemen to compose, sign, and publish a two-paragraph "Attestation," an open letter "To the Publick" that prefaces Phillis Wheatley's book, and which reads in part:

We whose Names are underwritten, do assure the World, that the poems specified in the following Page, were (as we veribly [*sic*] believe) written by Phillis, a young Negro Girl, who was but a few Years since, brought an uncultivated Barbarian from Africa, and has ever since been, and now is, under the Disadvantage of serving as a Slave in a Family in this Town. She has been examined by some of the best judges, and is thought qualified to write them.

So important was this document in securing a publisher for Phillis Wheatley's poems that it forms the signal element in the prefatory matter printed in the opening pages of her POEMS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS, RELIGIOUS AND MORAL, published at London in 1773.

LITERACY

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT



April 1, Wednesday: The House of Burgesses sent a petition to [King George III of England](#), asking that no more new black [slaves](#) be shipped from Africa to [Virginia](#), referring to the [international slave trade](#) for some reason as "a very pernicious commerce." (We might be tempted to suppose that these white-guy Virginia [slavemasters](#) were having an attack of human benevolence or of indigestion, unless we hark back to their debate of 1757



in which the primary consideration had been that possibly they could make better profits by breeding slaves locally than by shipping them in, and in which the secondary consideration had been that possibly a tariff on these imports would be a good source of income for their colonial government, and in which there had been no tertiary consideration whatever of humanity or human benevolence.)

"Stack of the Artist of Kouroo" Project

Before Declaring War



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" ... The importation of slaves into the colonies from the coast of Africa hath long been considered as a trade of great inhumanity, and under its *present encouragement*, we have too much reason to fear *will endanger the very existence* of your majesty's American dominions....

Deeply impressed with these sentiments, we most humbly beseech your majesty to *remove all those restraints* on your majesty's governors of this colony, *which inhibit their assenting to such laws as might check so very pernicious a commerce.*" JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES, page 131; quoted in Tucker, DISSERTATION ON SLAVERY (repr. 1861), page 43.



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1774

[New Hampshire](#) made itself the 1st state to declare itself independent from England.

The ladies of Edenton, [North Carolina](#), led by Mistress Penelope Barker, confronted British rule by putting away their teapots — this would become known as the “Edenton [Tea](#) Party.”



“Thanks, but no thanks.”

During this year one of the Virginia [slaveholders](#), [Thomas Jefferson](#), was preparing an anonymous tract SUMMARY VIEW OF THE RIGHTS OF BRITISH AMERICA, by which of course he meant the rights of white men of property and of proper English culture in the British colonies of North America. All and only white. All and only men. All and only propertied. All and only of proper English culture. —No others need apply.



Jefferson had not been asked to draft these instructions — he had a way of producing documents in the hope they might be adopted, which in this case did not happen. His friends nevertheless published his text.



A list of some of the slaves that our hero-of-freedom TJ was holding on his plantation [Monticello](#) is shown on the following screen, as a way graphically to illustrate the sad fact that indeed he did mean, and only mean, the rights of white men of property and of proper English culture in the British colonies of North America. All and only white. All and only men. All and only propertied. All and only of proper English culture. —No others



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need apply. (You will search in vain on this list for the name of dashing [Sally Hemings](#), although she had been born a slave in the previous year.²⁰)

We say that in this year [Jefferson](#) unsuccessfully planted olive cuttings at Monticello — we do not mean to imply by that, however, that he ever had or ever would hold a spade or hoe in his own hand. (Unaware that the Padres who had established missions along the coast of California were already cultivating olives there by 1769, in 1791 he would have several hundred cuttings sent from France to South Carolina, only to be disappointed when they wouldn't bring in a lot of money.)

PLANTS

Word that he was the author of such a treatise would be spread by the Virginia legislature, and the reputation which he would achieve in this manner would help him, in a few years, gain appointment to the drafting committee of the Continental Congress for the writing of a [Declaration of Independence](#). Samuel Ward, representative from [Rhode Island](#) to the convention, would describe Jefferson, on the basis of this pamphlet, as “a very sensible spirited fine Fellow,” and one may suppose that indeed he was a very sensible spirited fine Fellow —he certainly did possess the ability and energy to beget [slave](#) children, offspring with whom he then was too busy about our nation's business to spend very much of his quality time with. For the remainder of his life this founding father would be able to use his past membership on this committee, and his skills as a scribe assembling draft material for the consideration of others, as his main claim to immortality.

March 21, Monday: [Winthrop Emerson Faulkner](#) was born in [Acton](#), Massachusetts. His father [Francis Faulkner](#), as the Town Clerk, would copy the entire [Declaration of Independence](#) into the town record book in order to make this declaration of war permanently accessible to all the residents of the town.



[Phillis Wheatley](#) wrote from London to a fellow black domestic in Newport, [Rhode Island](#), Obour Tanner. (Miss Obour Tanner, besides being a dear friend who had made the journey aboard the Phillis from Africa with Miss Wheatley, had evidently like her been granted manumission and was working in Newport as a domestic; from the late 1770s onward Miss Tanner would be acting as Miss/Mrs. Wheatley's literary agent.)

20. And why was that, we wonder? Why would Dashing Sally, as an infant, not be listed in Jefferson's FARM BOOK?
—Was it, perchance, that since this little almost-white girlie was not yet old enough to perform work and not yet old enough to be marketed and not yet old enough to be sexually entered, she was of no particular interest? —Or would there be some more benign explanation for this neglect?

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A Roll of the proper slaves of Thomas Jefferson. Jan. 31. 1774.

Monticello.

* { Goliath.
 * { Hercules.
 + { Jupiter. 1743.
 * { Gill.
 * { Fanny
 + { Ned. 1760.
 Suckey 1765.
 Franky. 1767.
 Gill. 1769.

* { Quash
 * { Nell.
 * { Bella. 1757.
 * { Charles. 1760.
 Lenny. 1768.

* Betty

- { Juno
 * { Toby junr. 1753.
 - { Luna. 1758.

* { Cate. about 1747.
 Hannah 1770.
 Rachael. 1772.

Monticello.

+ { George
 + { Ursula.
 George.
 Bagwell.
 Archy. 1773.
 + Frank 1757.
 + Bett. 1759
 + Scilla. 1762.

* denotes a labourer in the ground.



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To Miss Obour Tanner, Newport.

Boston, March 21, 1774.

Dear Obour, – I rec'd your obliging letter enclos'd in your Revd Pastor's & handed me by his son. I have lately met with a great trial in the death of my mistress; let us imagine the loss of a parent, sister or brother, the tenderness of all these were united in her. I was a poor little outcast & a stranger when she took me in: not only into her house, but I presently became a sharer in her most tender affections. I was treated by her more like her child than her servant; no opportunity was left unimproved of giving me the best of advice; but in terms how tender! how engaging! This I hope ever to keep in remembrance. Her exemplary life was a greater monitor than all her precepts and instruction; thus we may observe of how much greater force example is than instruction. To alleviate our sorrows we had the satisfaction to see her depart in inexpressible raptures, earnest longings, & impatient thirstings for the upper courts of the Lord. Do, my dear friend, remember me & this family in your closet, that this afflicting dispensation may be sanctify'd to us. I am very sorry to hear that you are indispos'd, but hope this will find you in better health. I have been unwell the greater part of the winter, but am much better as the spring approaches. Pray excuse my not writing to you so long before, for I have been so busy lately that I could not find leisure. I shall send the 5 books you wrote for, the first convenient opportunity; if you want more, they shall be ready for you. I am very affectionately your friend,

July 12, Tuesday: On what would become [Henry Thoreau](#)'s birthday, the citizens of Carlisle, Pennsylvania voted in favor of a [Declaration of Independence](#).

August 16, Tuesday: The [Reverend Samuel Dunbar](#), known as the "Son of Thunder," having made himself an influential supporter of the Patriot cause in the Revolution, was instrumental in arranging the meeting between Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, and Joseph Warren to write the Suffolk Resolves, believed to be the precursor to the Declaration of Independence. Attired in gown and bands, he offered a prayer at this meeting that was describes by one of those in attendance as "the most extraordinary liberty-prayer that I ever heard; he appeared to have a most divine, if not prophetically, enthusiasm in favor of our rights." The meeting took place in a retired inland location, the tavern of Colonel Thomas Doty in Canton, Massachusetts. Before said meeting would adjourn, the following would be voted:

Whereas, It appears to us that the Parliament of Great Britain, to the Dishonor of the King, in Violation of the faith of the Nation, Have, in Direct Infraction of the Charter of this Province, Contrary to Magna Charta, the Bill of Rights, the National & constitutional claims of British subjects, by an act Called the Boston Port Bill, a Bill for Amending the Charter of this Province, and another Bill for the Impartial administration

HDT

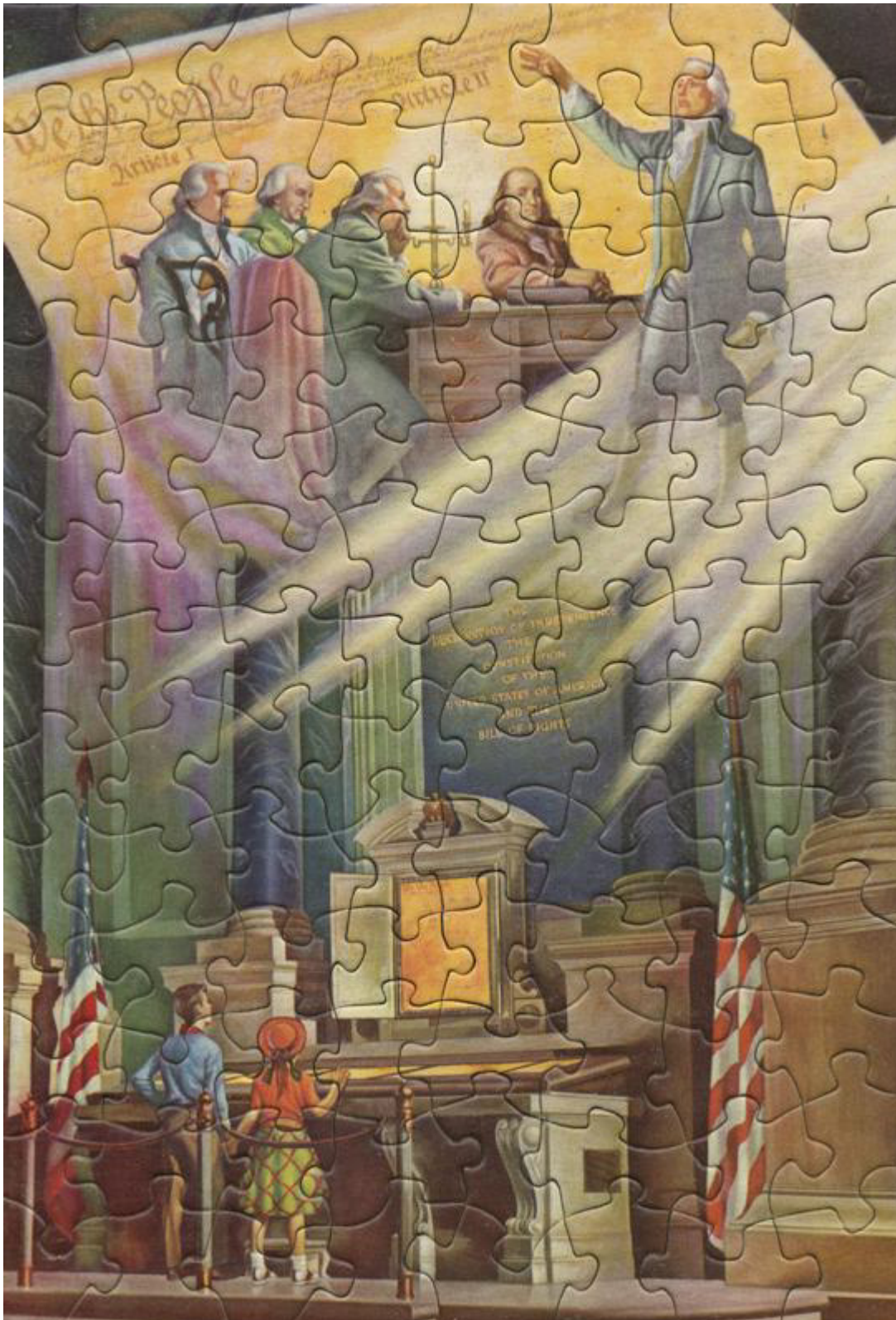
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of Justice, with all the Parade and administration of law and justice, attempted to Reduce this Colony to an Unparalleled State of Slavery.

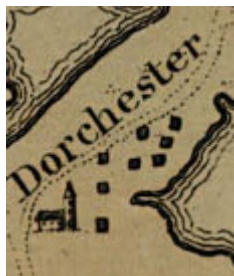
Whereas, the Several Colonies Being Justly and Properly alarmed with this Lawless and Tyrannical Exertion of Power, Has Entered into Combination for our Relief, and have Published Sundry Resolutions which they are Determined to abide by, in support of Common Interest, We Earnestly Recommend to our Brethren in the Several Towns and Districts in this County, to appoint Members for to attend a county convention for Suffolk at the house of Mr. Woodward, Innholder in Dedham, on Tuesday, the sixth day of September next, at ten o'clock before noon, to Deliberate and Determine upon Such Matters as the Distressed Circumstances of this Province may require.

Sam Adams and Dr. Joseph Warren had selected Doty's Tavern in Old Stoughton for the first formal meeting or County Congress where delegates would on this date reduce to writing the principles of American Independence, a formulation which would become known as the "Suffolk County Resolves" but which in fact amounted to a [Declaration of War](#).



When the draft document was read to the congress by Peyton Randolph, it was approved without a single alteration. The Reverend [Samuel Dunbar](#) was among those speaking in favor of the document's approval. All the Coercive Acts were declared unconstitutional and hence not to be obeyed. The people of Massachusetts were urged to form a government of their own to collect taxes and withhold them from the Royal authorities until the Acts had been repealed. They were advised to gather arms for their own militia. Heavy economic sanctions were recommended. This document would be carried on horseback by [Paul Revere](#) after a final meeting at Vose's Tavern in Milton and would electrify the discordant Continental Congress at Philadelphia with the boldest statement as yet made. Thus Dorchester now boasts that it was the birthplace of American liberty.

DUNBAR FAMILY



CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

At a meeting of the delegates of every town & district in the county of Suffolk, on tuesday the 6th of Septr., at the house of Mr. Richard Woodward, of Deadham, & by adjournment, at the house of Mr. [Daniel] Vose, of Milton, on Friday the 9th instant,



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Joseph Palmer, esq. being chosen moderator, and William Thompson, esq. clerk, a committee was chosen to bring in a report to the convention, and the following being several times read, and put paragraph by paragraph, was unanimously voted, viz.

Whereas the power but not the justice, the vengeance but not the wisdom of Great-Britain, which of old persecuted, scourged, and exiled our fugitive parents from their native shores, now pursues us, their guiltless children, with unrelenting severity: And whereas, this, then savage and uncultivated desert, was purchased by the toil and treasure, or acquired by the blood and valor of those our venerable progenitors; to us they bequeathed the dearbought inheritance, to our care and protection they consigned it, and the most sacred obligations are upon us to transmit the glorious purchase, unfettered by power, unclogged with shackles, to our innocent and beloved offspring. On the fortitude, on the wisdom and on the exertions of this important day, is suspended the fate of this new world, and of unborn millions. If a boundless extent of continent, swarming with millions, will tamely submit to live, move and have their being at the arbitrary will of a licentious minister, they basely yield to voluntary slavery, and future generations shall load their memories with incessant execrations.--On the other hand, if we arrest the hand which would ransack our pockets, if we disarm the parricide which points the dagger to our bosoms, if we nobly defeat that fatal edict which proclaims a power to frame laws for us in all cases whatsoever, thereby entailing the endless and numberless curses of slavery upon us, our heirs and their heirs forever; if we successfully resist that unparalleled usurpation of unconstitutional power, whereby our capital is robbed of the means of life; whereby the streets of Boston are thronged with military executioners; whereby our coasts are lined and harbours crouded with ships of war; whereby the charter of the colony, that sacred barrier against the encroachments of tyranny, is mutilated and, in effect, annihilated; whereby a murderous law is framed to shelter villains from the hands of justice; whereby the unalienable and inestimable inheritance, which we derived from nature, the constitution of Britain, and the privileges warranted to us in the charter of the province, is totally wrecked, annulled, and vacated, posterity will acknowledge that virtue which preserved them free and happy; and while we enjoy the rewards and blessings of the faithful, the torrent of panegyrists will roll our reputations to that latest period, when the streams of time shall be absorbed in the abyss of eternity.--Therefore, we have resolved, and do resolve,

1. That whereas his majesty, George the Third, is the rightful successor to the throne of Great-Britain, and justly entitled to the allegiance of the British realm, and agreeable to compact, of the English colonies in America--therefore, we, the heirs and successors of the first planters of this colony, do cheerfully acknowledge the said George the Third to be our rightful sovereign, and that said covenant is the tenure and



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claim on which are founded our allegiance and submission.

2. That it is an indispensable duty which we owe to God, our country, ourselves and posterity, by all lawful ways and means in our power to maintain, defend and preserve those civil and religious rights and liberties, for which many of our fathers fought, bled and died, and to hand them down entire to future generations.

3. That the late acts of the British parliament for blocking up the harbour of Boston, for altering the established form of government in this colony, and for screening the most flagitious violators of the laws of the province from a legal trial, are gross infractions of those rights to which we are justly entitled by the laws of nature, the British constitution, and the charter of the province.

4. That no obedience is due from this province to either or any part of the acts above-mentioned, but that they be rejected as the attempts of a wicked administration to enslave America.

5. That so long as the justices of our superior court of judicature, court of assize, &c. and inferior court of common pleas in this county are appointed, or hold their places, by any other tenure than that which the charter and the laws of the province direct, they must be considered as under undue influence, and are therefore unconstitutional officers, and, as such, no regard ought to be paid to them by the people of this county.

6. That if the justices of the superior court of judicature, assize, &c. justices of the court of common pleas, or of the general sessions of the peace, shall sit and act during their present disqualified state, this county will support, and bear harmless, all sheriffs and their deputies, constables, jurors and other officers who shall refuse to carry into execution the orders of said courts; and, as far as possible, to prevent the many inconveniencies which must be occasioned by a suspension of the courts of justice, we do most earnestly recommend it to all creditors, that they shew all reasonable and even generous forbearance to their debtors; and to all debtors, to pay their just debts with all possible speed, and if any disputes relative to debts or trespasses shall arise, which cannot be settled by the parties, we recommend it to them to submit all such causes to arbitration; and it is our opinion that the contending parties or either of them, who shall refuse so to do, ought to be considered as co-operating with the enemies of this country.

7. That it be recommended to the collectors of taxes, constables and all other officers, who have public monies in their hands, to retain the same, and not to make any payment thereof to the provincial county treasurer until the civil government of the province is placed upon a constitutional foundation, or until it shall otherwise be ordered by the proposed provincial Congress.

8. That the persons who have accepted seats at the council board,



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by virtue of a mandamus from the King, in conformity to the late act of the British parliament, entitled, an act for the regulating the government of the Massachusetts-Bay, have acted in direct violation of the duty they owe to their country, and have thereby given great and just offence to this people; therefore, resolved, that this county do recommend it to all persons, who have so highly offended by accepting said departments, and have not already publicly resigned their seats at the council board, to make public resignations of their places at said board, on or before the 20th day of this instant, September; and that all persons refusing so to do, shall, from and after said day, be considered by this county as obstinate and incorrigible enemies to this country.

9. That the fortifications begun and now carrying on upon Boston Neck, are justly alarming to this county, and gives us reason to apprehend some hostile intention against that town, more especially as the commander in chief has, in a very extraordinary manner, removed the powder from the magazine at Charlestown, and has also forbidden the keeper of the magazine at Boston, to deliver out to the owners, the powder, which they had lodged in said magazine.

10. That the late act of parliament for establishing the Roman Catholic religion and the French laws in that extensive country, now called Canada, is dangerous in an extreme degree to the Protestant religion and to the civil rights and liberties of all America; and, therefore, as men and Protestant Christians, we are indispensably obliged to take all proper measures for our security.

11. That whereas our enemies have flattered themselves that they shall make an easy prey of this numerous, brave and hardy people, from an apprehension that they are unacquainted with military discipline; we, therefore, for the honour, defence and security of this county and province, advise, as it has been recommended to take away all commissions from the officers of the militia, that those who now hold commissions, or such other persons, be elected in each town as officers in the militia, as shall be judged of sufficient capacity for that purpose, and who have evidenced themselves the inflexible friends to the rights of the people; and that the inhabitants of those towns and districts, who are qualified, do use their utmost diligence to acquaint themselves with the art of war as soon as possible, and do, for that purpose, appear under arms at least once every week.

12. That during the present hostile appearances on the part of Great-Britain, notwithstanding the many insults and oppressions which we most sensibly resent, yet, nevertheless, from our affection to his majesty, which we have at all times evidenced, we are determined to act merely upon the defensive, so long as such conduct may be vindicated by reason and the principles of self-preservation, but no longer.

13. That, as we understand it has been in contemplation to apprehend sundry persons of this county, who have rendered



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themselves conspicuous in contending for the violated rights and liberties of their countrymen; we do recommend, should such an audacious measure be put in practice, to seize and keep in safe custody, every servant of the present tyrannical and unconstitutional government throughout the county and province, until the persons so apprehended be liberated from the bands of our adversaries, and restored safe and uninjured to their respective friends and families.

14. That until our rights are fully restored to us, we will, to the utmost of our power, and we recommend the same to the other counties, to withhold all commercial intercourse with Great-Britain, Ireland, and the West-Indies, and abstain from the consumption of British merchandise and manufactures, and especially of East-Indies, and piece goods, with such additions, alterations, and exceptions only, as the General Congress of the colonies may agree to.

15. That under our present circumstances, it is incumbent on us to encourage arts and manufactures amongst us, by all means in our power, and that be and are hereby appointed a committee, to consider of the best ways and means to promote and establish the same, and to report to this convention as soon as may be.

16. That the exigencies of our public affairs, demand that a provincial Congress be called to consult such measures as may be adopted, and vigorously executed by the whole people; and we do recommend it to the several towns in this county, to chuse members for such a provincial Congress, to be holden at Concord, on the second Tuesday of October, next ensuing.

17. That this county, confiding in the wisdom and integrity of the continental Congress, now sitting at Philadelphia, pay all due respect and submission to such measures as may be recommended by them to the colonies, for the restoration and establishment of our just rights, civil and religious, and for renewing that harmony and union between Great-Britain and the colonies, so earnestly wished for by all good men.

18. That whereas the universal uneasiness which prevails among all orders of men, arising from the wicked and oppressive measures of the present administration, may influence some unthinking persons to commit outrage upon private property; we would heartily recommend to all persons of this community, not to engage in any routs, riots, or licentious attacks upon the properties of any person whatsoever, as being subversive of all order and government; but, by a steady, manly, uniform, and persevering opposition, to convince our enemies, that in a contest so important, in a cause so solemn, our conduct shall be such as to merit the approbation of the wise, and the admiration of the brave and free of every age and of every country.

19. That should our enemies, by any sudden manoeuvres, render it necessary to ask the aid and assistance of our brethren in the country, some one of the committee of correspondence, or a select man of such town, or the town adjoining, where such



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hostilities shall commence, or shall be expected to commence, shall despatch couriers with written messages to the select men, or committees of correspondence, of the several towns in the vicinity, with a written account of such matter, who shall despatch others to committees more remote, until proper and sufficient assistance be obtained, and that the expense of said couriers be defrayed by the county, until it shall be otherwise ordered by the provincial Congress.



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1775

May 20, Saturday: The Mecklenburgh Resolves were adopted in Charlotte. This was in effect the initial [declaration of independence](#) from the authority of the British parliament (that is, the first such that had real teeth, rather than being just a lot of mouth). The Resolves suspended Royal officials from office in [North Carolina](#), established a militia, and provided that all public income was to flow only to the revolutionary Resolves Committee.

READ THE FULL TEXT



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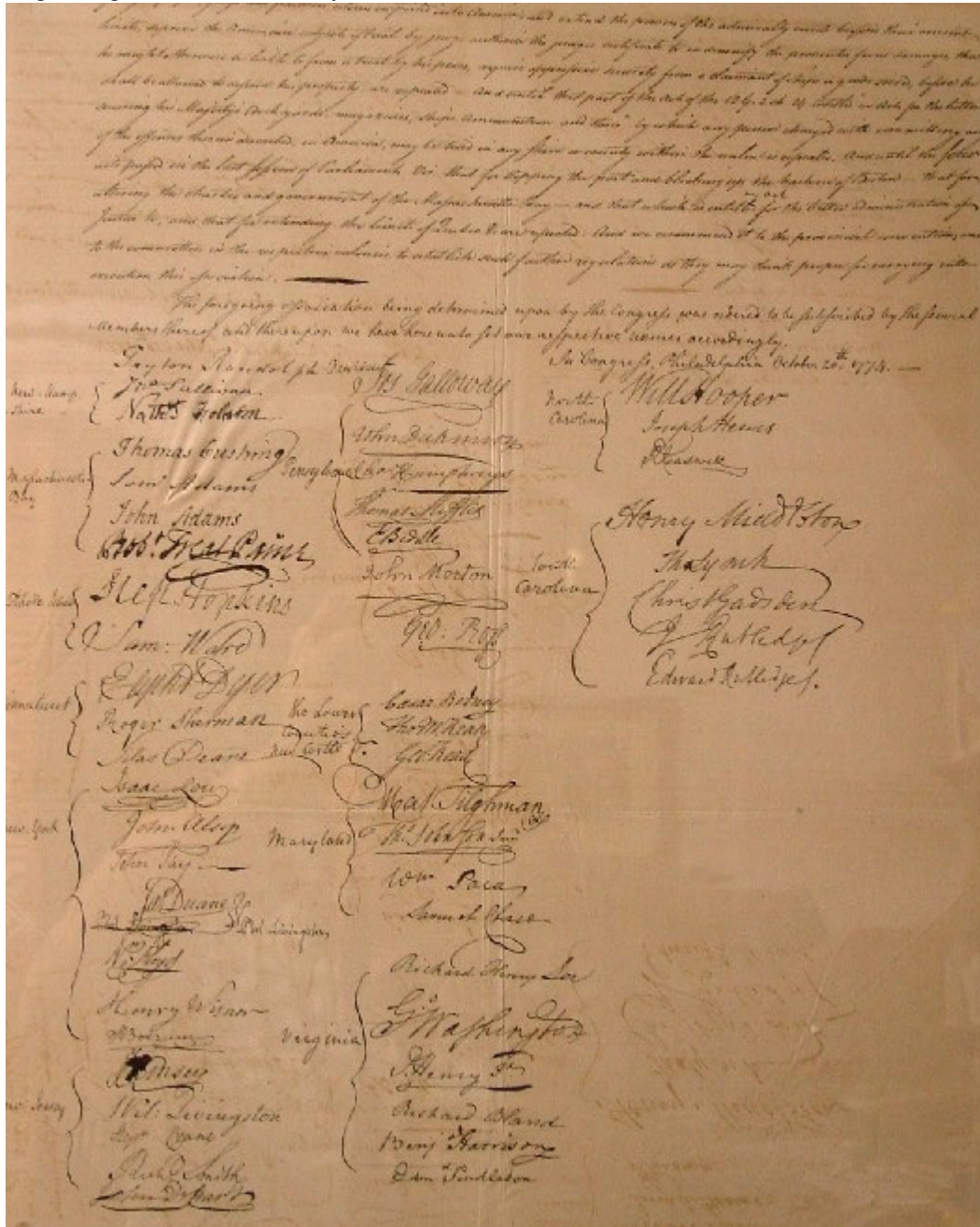
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November 9: People were trying to kill each other at Phipps' Farm, Massachusetts. The members of the Continental Congress signed an oath of secrecy.



CONTINENTAL CONGRESS



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1776

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Elbridge Gerry served in t and financial matters.²¹



CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

An American invasion of [Canada](#) failed, and in late December 1775 and early January 1776 the American troops would be surrendering at Québec, to the British troops.

Of the 56 approvers of the [Declaration of Independence](#) resolution, it is suspected that 52 were Master Freemasons.²²(On the basis of the above stamp, it would appear that of the 55 signers, 55 were able to hang by their heels from the ceiling.)

21. Incidentally, Elbridge Gerry may have been the originator of the monicker “the United States of America.” Contrary to what you might have supposed, this monicker was not created by [Thomas Jefferson](#) for use in his “[Declaration of Independence](#)” document (a document which anyway we do not actually know to have been of his creation, other than on the suspect basis of his own self-attesting sayso). We have a letter written by Gerry while he was a member of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia to General Horatio Gates, promising that execution would be the fate of internal “enemies of the United States of America.” The date he put on that letter was June 25th, three days prior to the appearance of the Declaration’s phrase “the representatives of the United states of America, in General Congress Assembled” on June 28th.

22. For instance, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Joseph Hewes, William Hooper, Robert Treat Payne, Richard Stockton, George Walton, William Whipple, Elbridge Gerry, Lyman Hall, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Nelson Jr., John Penn, George Read, Roger Sherman, etc. In this statistic I will of course defer to whatever Stephen C. Bullock’s painstaking investigations reveal in his meticulously documented REVOLUTIONARY BROTHERHOOD: FREEMASONRY AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIAL ORDER, 1730-1840 (Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 1996).



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Publication, in London, of a book a copy of which would wind up on the shelves of Henry Thoreau's library, and then in Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library: A CODE OF GENTOO LAWS, OR, ORDINATIONS OF THE PUNDITS, FROM A PERSIAN TRANSLATION, MADE FROM THE ORIGINAL, WRITTEN IN THE SHANSCRIT [*sic*] LANGUAGE.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In this year but 60 tons of [opium](#) were produced in all of [India](#) (primarily in and around Patna and Benares).

Although the distribution copies of the [Declaration of Independence](#) would be sent out as a mere broadside roughly printed on newspaper-quality paper stock, as soon as it would become more or less safe for the delegates to set their names to this anonymous document, presentation holographic copies would be inscribed for the purposes of posterity on [cannabis](#) (hemp) paper.



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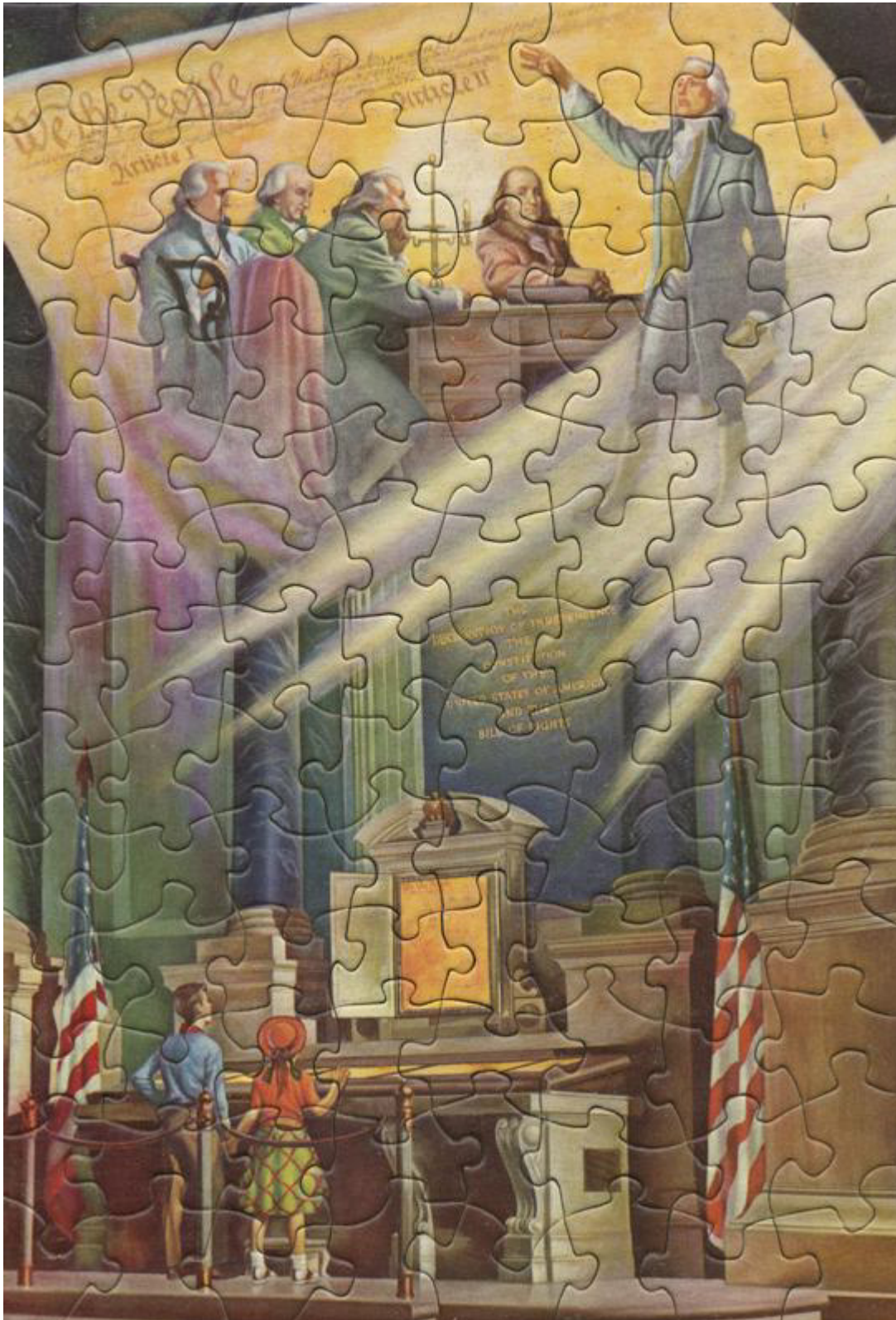
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March 25, Monday: Governor Samuel Ward of [Rhode Island](#) had died of the [small pox](#) in Philadelphia just three months prior to the [Declaration of Independence](#), which would have included his signature. Attending him at his deathbed was his [slave Cudgoe](#), whom he had purchased in 1768. His place at the Continental Congress had been taken on March 17th by the newly elected attorney [William Ellery](#) of [Newport](#). His remains would be interred in the graveyard of the 1st Baptist Church in Philadelphia (in 1860 they would patriotically be relocated to the Common Burial Ground in Newport).

JOHN TRUMBULL



You'll notice instantly that neither Samuel Ward nor Cudgoe are anywhere in this picture.

In regard both to the Reverend [William Ellery Channing](#) and to the poet [Ellery Channing](#) of Thoreau's time period in Concord, bear in mind, as everyone else did during this period, that this name was a most famous name, for regardless of whoever gets credit for creating the [Declaration of Independence](#), a [William Ellery](#) (1727-1820) later cosigned it on behalf of [Rhode Island](#):

[New Hampshire](#): Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

[Massachusetts](#): John Hancock, 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 York](#): William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris

[New Jersey](#): Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark

[Pennsylvania](#): Robert Morris, Dr. Benjamin Rush, [Benjamin Franklin](#),



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John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross

Delaware: *Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean*

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*

North Carolina: *William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn*

South Carolina: *Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton*

Georgia: *Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton*

April 10, Wednesday: Publication of the 2d of [Thomas Paine](#)'s "The Forester's Letters."



May: Panic swept [Charleston, South Carolina](#) when a British armada carrying more than 3,000 British regulars was sighted offshore. Oh, this is bad, this is very bad.

A call for American independence from Britain, the [Virginia](#) Declaration of Rights was drafted by George Mason (1725-1792) and amended by Thomas Ludwell Lee (*circa* 1730-1778) and by the Virginia Convention. Mason wrote "*That all men are born equally free and independant [sic], and have certain inherent natural right, of which they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; among which are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the Means of acquiring and possessing Property, and pursuing [sic] and obtaining Happiness and Safety.*" [Thomas Jefferson](#) would draw from this document when a month later he worked over an early draft of the [Declaration of Independence](#). In 1789 it would be accessed not only by [James Madison, Jr.](#) in drawing up the Bill of Rights to the US Constitution but also by the *Marquis de Lafayette* in drafting the French Declaration of the Rights of Man.



But that was in [Virginia](#) and applied to people who were safely pro-war. For people who were anti-war



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there weren't all that many rights available in America:



Pennsylvania Quakers ... experienced significant harassment for their pacifism and neutrality. Their numbers were already greatly reduced by the disciplinary renaissance of the 1750s, and they faced a real schism from "Free Quakers," who both supported the Revolution and rejected pacifism. As a result "orthodox" Friends found themselves hunted down in a colony they had founded and long governed. In May 1776 a stone-throwing mob forced Philadelphia Friends to observe a fast day that the Continental Congress had proclaimed. A Berks County mob shackled and jailed Moses Roberts, a Quaker minister, until he posted a \$10,000 bond guaranteeing his "good" behavior. Philadelphia patriots also exiled seventeen Friends to Virginia in 1776 for nearly two years so they would not interfere with revolutionary activities. Patriots celebrating the surrender of Cornwallis in October 1782 ransacked Quaker homes that had not displayed victory candles.

Clearly, there were in [Rhode Island](#) a few Quaker men who were attempting to avoid persecution by the usual coterie of Those-Who-Aren't-With-Us-Are-Against-Us "patriots." For, at the men's meeting for business of the [Religious Society of Friends](#) at [Smithfield](#), "*Two of the Committee to labour with Stephen & Jephtha Wilkinson for attending Training etc. report that they have labored with them and they appear to have frequented Trainings for Military service and endeavour to justify the same, and seldom attended friends meetings, and gave but very little satisfaction for their said conduct. Therefore this Meeting puts them from under their care, until they shall condemn said conduct to the Satisfaction of friends, which we desire they may be enabled to do — Jona Arnold is desired to inform them of their denial, Right of appeal and report to next monthly Mtg. to which time the drawing of a Testimony of their deniels [sic], in order to be published, is referred. — L. Lapham, Clerk.*"

QUAKER DISOWNMENT

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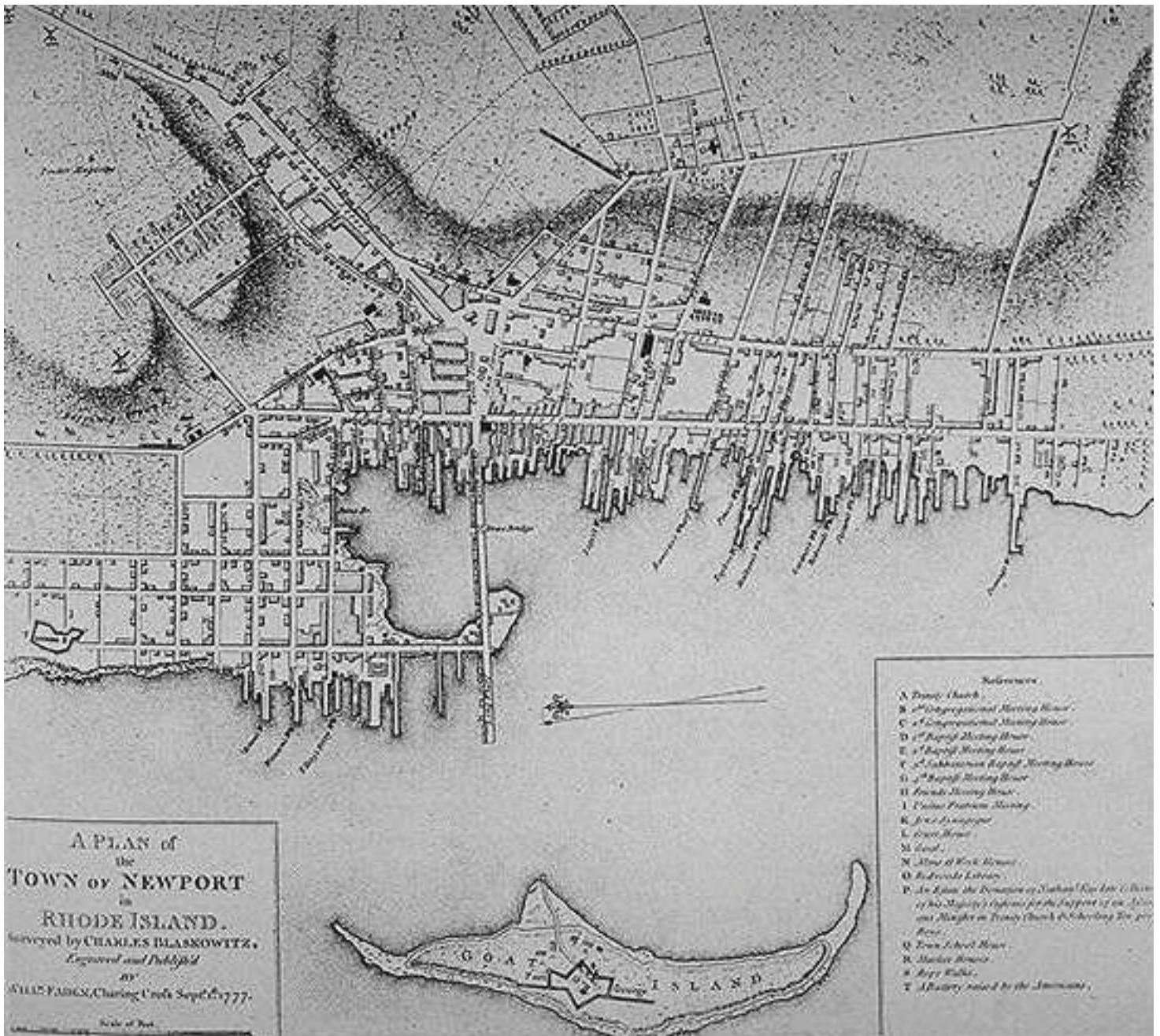
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May 4, Monday: The [Rhode Island](#) General Assembly made it the first of the English colonies in America to renounce allegiance to [King George III of England](#). In December the British navy would occupy [Newport](#) and all of [Aquidneck Island](#), where they would remain until they would voluntarily shift their base of operations toward the south in October 1779.²³



23. In Algonquian, “Aquidnet” means “a place of security or tranquility,” from “aquene” or “aquidne” meaning secure or peaceful, and “et” meaning place.



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Fearful that the guns of the warships anchored nearby had been aiming in directly at his Second Congregational Church, the Reverend [Ezra Stiles](#) had in March gone to live in [Dighton](#). Aquidneck never would recover its commercial prosperity after this occupation, as too many of the state's commercial operatives had already shifted their headquarters to [Providence](#).





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July 4, 1776	Declaration of Bellingham, Massachusetts
July 4, 1776	Declaration of Winchendon, Massachusetts
(undated) 1776	Declaration of Eastham, Massachusetts
July 6, 1776	Maryland 's "A Declaration"

May 10, Friday: [John Paul Jones](#) assumed command of the [USS Providence](#) with a temporary rank of Captain. Upon its return after a voyage to New-York returning to the Continental Army about 100 soldiers whom [George Washington](#) had lent to [Esek Hopkins](#) to help man the American fleet, the *Providence* was hove down at [Providence, Rhode Island](#) for a cleaning of its bottom.

The 2nd Continental Congress delegated John Adams, Richard Henry Lee, and Edward Rutledge to prepare the wording of a resolution, that the North American colonies were severing themselves from British crown rule. Note: this was a resolution, a political act, rather than a declaration; the [Declaration of Independence](#) would be thought of later on, not as a political act but as a mere printed broadside, a piece of street theater, public propaganda (the distinction being suggested here is a distinction between what is internal to government, the decision, and what is external to government, the publicity).²⁴

In a later period the document created by the 2nd Continental Congress would be awarded by our nation an almost religious iconic significance. This would be accomplished, in part, by suppressing the fact that in actuality the document had not stood alone. There had in fact been at least ninety such declaration documents, issued at various times by various bodies.²⁵ It was almost an art form of the period. On the following screen are some of the salient examples which have survived in our memory:



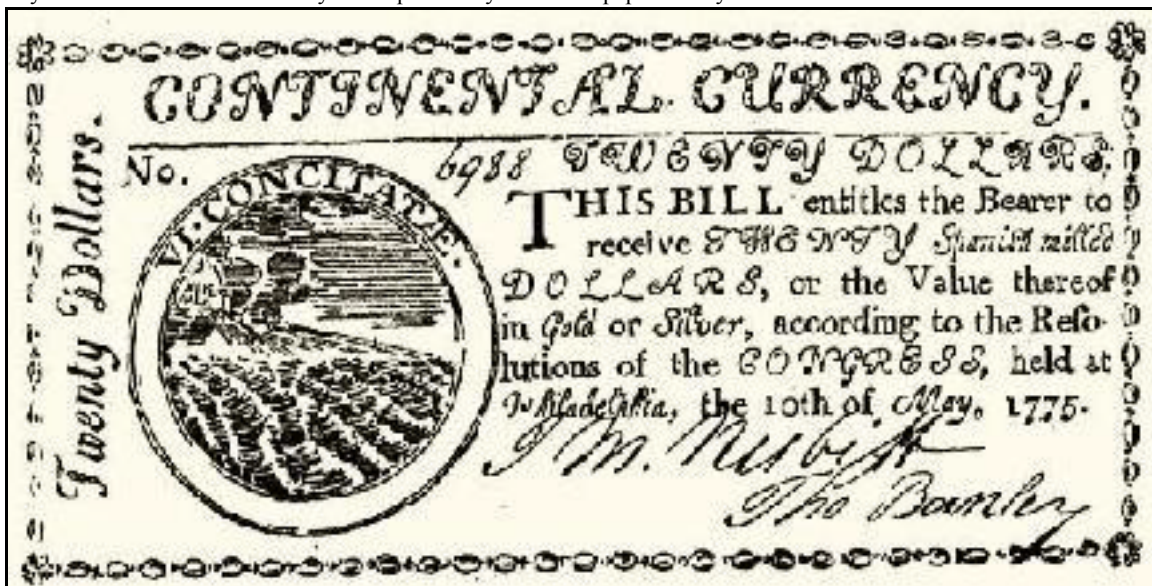
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April 12, 1776	North Carolina Instructions
April 22, 1776	Cumberland County, Virginia Instructions to Provincial Convention or Assembly
April 23, 1776	Charleston, South Carolina, Judge Drayton's charge to the Grand Jury
April 23, 1776	Charlotte County, Virginia Instructions to Provincial Convention or Assembly
April 24, 1776	James City County, Virginia Instructions to Provincial Convention or Assembly
May 4, 1776	Rhode Island Act repealing another securing allegiance
May 6, 1776	Georgetown, South Carolina presentment to the Grand Jury
May 13?, 1776	Buckingham County, Virginia Instructions to Provincial Convention or Assembly
May 13?, 1776	Declaration of Chelmsford, Massachusetts
May 15, 1776	Virginia Instructions
May 20, 1776	Cheraws District, South Carolina presentment to the Grand Jury
May 20, 1776	Declaration of Plymouth, Massachusetts
May 20, 1776	Declaration of Watertown, Massachusetts
May 20, 1776	Declaration of Brookline, Massachusetts
May 21, 1776	Declaration of Lynn, Massachusetts
May 22, 1776	Declaration of Rowley, Massachusetts
May 23, 1776	Declaration of Plympton, Massachusetts
May 23, 1776	Declaration of Billerica, Massachusetts
May 23, 1776	Declaration of Boston, Massachusetts
May 27, 1776	Declaration of Dedham, Massachusetts

24. This wasn't the only piece of paper issued on this day. On this day also the Continental Congress began to issue paper money that they backdated to the 10th of May of the previous year. That's paper money as in "Not worth a Continental":



CONTINETAL CONGRESS



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May 27, 1776	Declaration of Malden, Massachusetts
May 29, 1776	Declaration of the New-York Mechanics in Union
May 31, 1776	Declaration of Brunswick, Massachusetts
May 31, 1776	Declaration of Newburyport, Massachusetts
May 31, 1776	Declaration of Newbury, Massachusetts
(undated) 1776	Declaration of Stockbridge, Massachusetts
(undated) 1776	Declaration of Pittsfield, Massachusetts
June 3, 1776	Declaration of Taunton, Massachusetts
June 4, 1776	Declaration of Scituate, Massachusetts
June 5, 1776	Declaration of Wrentham, Massachusetts
June 6, 1776	Declaration of Hanover, Massachusetts
June 7, 1776	Declaration of Tyringham, Massachusetts
June 7, 1776	Declaration of Alford, Massachusetts
June 7, 1776	Declaration of Norwich, Massachusetts
June 8, 1776	Pennsylvania Instructions to Assembly
June 10, 1776	Declaration of Ipswich, Massachusetts
June 10, 1776	Declaration of the Associators, 1st Battalion (militia) of Chester County PA
June 10, 1776	Declaration of the Associators of Colonel Crawford's Battalion, Lancaster County PA
(undated) 1776	Declaration of the Associators, Elk Battalion Militia of Chester County, Pennsylvania
June 10?, 1776	Declaration of Associators, 4th Battalion (militia), City and Liberties of Philadelphia
June 10?, 1776	Declaration of Associators, 5th Battalion (militia), City and Liberties of Philadelphia
June 12, 1776	Declaration of Salem, Massachusetts
June 12, 1776	Declaration of Andover, Massachusetts
June 13, 1776	Declaration of Beverly, Massachusetts
June 13, 1776	Declaration of Amherst, Massachusetts
June 14, 1776	Connecticut Instructions
June 14, 1776	Declaration of Acton, Massachusetts
June 14, 1776	Declaration of Hubbardston, Massachusetts
June 14, 21, 1776	Declaration of Topsfield, Massachusetts
June 15, 1776	New Hampshire Instructions
June 15, 1776	Delaware Instructions
June 17, 1776	Declaration of Palmer, Massachusetts
June 17, 1776	Declaration of Bedford, Massachusetts

25. In addition, there is at least one instance in which such a Declaration of Independence document failed of acceptance, in Barnstable, Massachusetts on June 25, 1776. You will interrogate many Barnstable citizens before you find anyone with any awareness of this episode in their town's history.



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June 17, 1776	Declaration of Murraysfield, Massachusetts
June 17, 1776	Declaration of Marblehead, Massachusetts
June 17, 1776	Declaration of Boxford, Massachusetts
June 17, 1776	Frederick County, Maryland Instructions to Provincial Convention or Assembly
June 18, 1776	Declaration of Weston, Massachusetts
June 18, 1776	Declaration of Leverett, Massachusetts
June 18, 1776	Declaration of Danvers, Massachusetts
June 19, 1776	Declaration of Gageborough, Massachusetts
June 20, 1776	Declaration of Natick, Massachusetts
June 20, 1776	Declaration of Bradford, Massachusetts
June 21, 1776	Declaration of Southampton, Massachusetts
June 22, 1776	New Jersey Instructions
June 22, 1776	Anne Arundel County, Maryland Instructions to Provincial Convention or Assembly
(undated) 1776	Charles County, Maryland Instructions to Provincial Convention or Assembly
(undated) 1776	Talbot County, Maryland Instructions to Provincial Convention or Assembly
June 24, 1776	Declaration of the Town of King's District, New York
June 24, 1776	Pennsylvania Instructions to Provincial Congress
June 24, 1776	Declaration of Spencer-Town [Albany], New York
June 24, 1776	Declaration of Gloucester, Massachusetts
June 24, 1776	Declaration of Williamstown, Massachusetts
June 25, 1776	Declaration of Northbridge, Massachusetts
June 25, 1776	Declaration of Haverhill, Massachusetts
June 27, 1776	Declaration of Sturbridge, Massachusetts
June 28, 1776	Maryland Instructions
June 28, 1776	Declaration of Ashburnham, Massachusetts
June 29, 1776	Preamble, Virginia constitution
June 30, 1776	Declaration of Hanover, Massachusetts
July 1, 1776	Declaration of Amesbury, Massachusetts
July 1, 1776	Declaration of Fitchburg, Massachusetts
July 1, 1776	Declaration of Ashby, Massachusetts
July 1, 1776	Declaration of Greenwich, Massachusetts
July 2, 1776	Preamble, New Jersey constitution
July 4, 1776	Declaration of Bellingham, Massachusetts
July 4, 1776	Declaration of Winchendon, Massachusetts
(undated) 1776	Declaration of Eastham, Massachusetts
July 6, 1776	Maryland 's "A Declaration"



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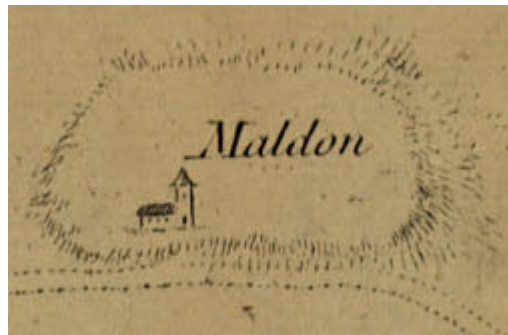
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May 13, Monday: The drafting committee made up of John Adams, Richard Henry Lee, and Edward Rutledge submitted their draft resolution to the 2nd Continental Congress, that the North American colonies were severing themselves from British crown rule. Note: this was a resolution, a political act, rather than a declaration; the creation of a [Declaration of Independence](#) document would be thought of later on, not as a political act but as a mere printed broadside, a piece of street theater, public propaganda (the distinction being suggested here is a distinction between what is internal to government, the decision, and what is external to government, the publicity, the subornation of support).

CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

May 27, Monday: The occupants of [Malden, Massachusetts](#) declared their independence from the crown of Britain.





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June 5, Wednesday: Robert Morris had decided by this point that we needed not only to decide to become an independent nation, but also to issue to the general public some sort of “[declaration of independency](#).”

[Patrick Henry](#), a delegate to the Virginia Conventions, would be Governor of Virginia until June 1, 1779.





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June 7, Friday: Richard Henry Lee introduced, and John Adams seconded, a motion that “these United colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States,” and that a “plan of confederation” be prepared for the political union of these free and independent entities — a motion that would carry.

READ THE FULL TEXT

On this basis the Continental Congress would appoint a committee consisting of Adams of Massachusetts, [Benjamin Franklin](#) of Pennsylvania, [Thomas Jefferson](#) of Virginia, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut to compose a public-propaganda broadside declaring the sentiment of the convention.

*Son of so-and-so and so-and-so, this
so-and-so helped us to gain our independence,
instructed us in economy,
and drew down lightning from the clouds.*

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

This would come to be known as the Committee of Five despite the fact that Franklin’s gout had at this point gotten so bad that he had stopped coming to the meetings of the Congress a week before he was stuck onto this drafting committee. We believe that he did not make his appearance again until after the drafting committee had completed its work. We have no reason to presume that he attended even a single one of its meetings.

Later on Jefferson would make apparently false claims as to his sole authorship of the document, through minimization of the contributions of other, deceased members of the committee.



The committee Congress appointed to draft a declaration of Independence left no minutes of its proceedings, and the account of its work written nearest the event, Thomas Jefferson’s “Notes of Proceedings in the Continental Congress,” is succinct to a fault. Members of the committee, Jefferson said, “desired” or asked him to prepare it; “it was accordingly done, and being approved by them, I reported it to the house on Friday the 28th. of June when it was read and ordered to lie on the table.” Both Jefferson and John Adams later helped flesh out that bare-bones story. However, most of the testimony on the drafting process was written between a quarter and a half century later, which even at the time raised questions about its accuracy, and, it turns out, for good reason. What they said contains one mistake after another. Fortunately, Adams’s statements can be compared to Jefferson’s, and both can be measured against shards of evidence that have survived from the 1770s. Piecing together the story demands sifting through contradictory clues with the care of a shrewd detective; indeed, a good part of the story involves evaluating evidence. So do detective stories, but they at least reveal by their endings exactly who did what and when, which is not the case here. Learning how the [Declaration of Independence](#) was written is more like assembling an immensely complex jigsaw puzzle in which some pieces are “teases,” serving only to mislead, while others necessary to complete the picture have probably been



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lost forever. Whenever a new piece of the puzzle does appear, as still happens occasionally, it fills out the picture, adding or changing some details, which can affect interpretations of the document. Despite those problems, the picture's subject -or the story of how the Declaration was written- is reasonably clear. It includes not a single talented writer but a group of men working under tight time constraints to complete this one of many assignments the Continental Congress gave them. Adams and Jefferson dominate the scene in part because they lived long enough to tell the story to a generation of interested younger Americans, but also because they in fact played central roles in the Declaration's development.... In the end, considering its complex ancestry and the number of people who actively intervened in defining its text, the Declaration of Independence was the work not of one man, but of many.... [W]hat Jefferson later called "the original rough draft" of the document ... was in fact not an "original rough draft," but a copy Jefferson made from earlier compositional fragments to show members of the drafting committee.... [W]hen Jefferson sent the draft to Franklin ... he attached a note whose significance seems to have gone virtually unnoticed ... "The inclosed paper has been read and with some small alterations approved of by the committee," it began.... "The paper having been returned to me to change a particular sentiment or two, I propose laying it again before the committee tomorrow morning...." That description of the drafting procedure contradicts Jefferson's 1823 account, by which he showed the draft to Adams and Franklin before submitting it to the committee, and the committee did nothing between appointing him draftsman and approving the text he submitted with two or three "verbal" adjustments suggested by Adams and Franklin. In fact, the committee met not only at the beginning and end of the drafting process, but in between.

HDT

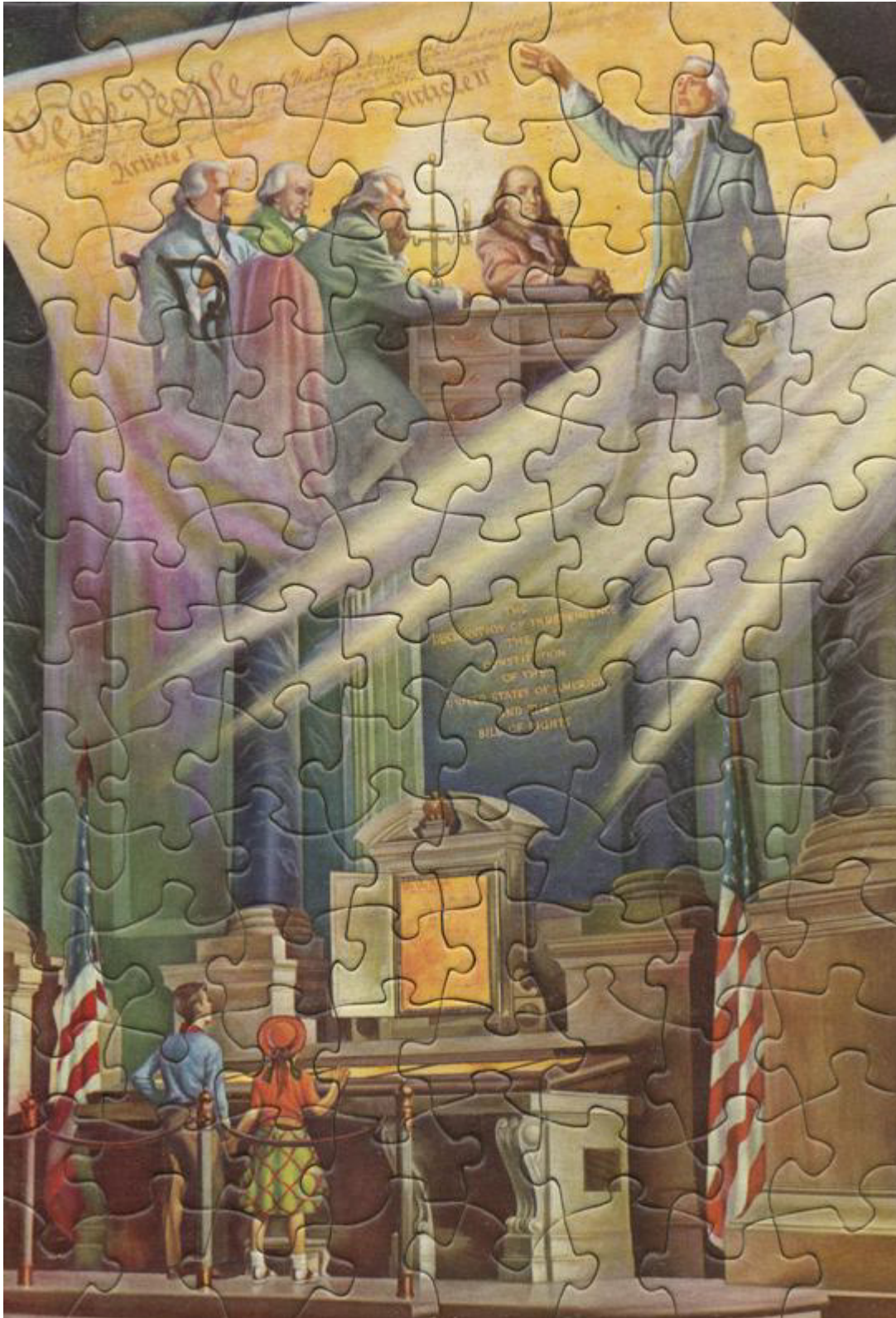
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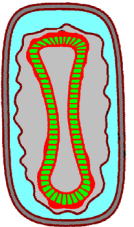
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June 10, Monday: The Declaration of [Ipswich](#), in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

On the recommendation of the Congress, a census of [Rhode Island](#) was initiated (the population would turn out to number 55,011).

Hospitals for inoculation for the [small pox](#) were ordered to be established in each county of [Rhode Island](#).

There was continued debate in the 2d Continental Congress at Philadelphia and a “committee of five” was appointed to draft a subdued declaration of war, to wit, a “statement of independence” for the colonies. Since there were a couple of northerners –John Adams of Massachusetts and Roger Sherman of Connecticut– plus a couple of men from the Middle Colonies –[Benjamin Franklin](#) of Philadelphia and Robert R. Livingston of New York (refer to the guy in the middle, on the back of the \$2 bill)– for political correctness they would need to incorporate one or another southerner — and so they picked out a junior delegate, redheaded [Thomas Jefferson](#) of Virginia.



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



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June 11, Tuesday: The 2d Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a [Declaration of our independency upon the British crown](#).

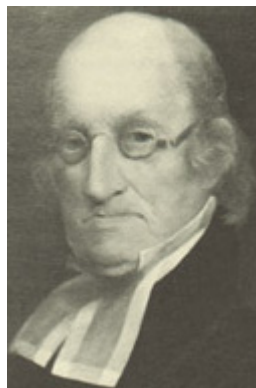
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

John Constable, who would become a landscape painter, was born.

With the army having evacuated and with [Boston](#) safely in the hands of revolutionary authorities, it was possible for the board of governors of [Harvard College](#) to instruct “That the President, tomorrow after Prayers, adjourn the College [from [Concord](#)] to Cambridge, there to meet & attend the usual exercises on Fryday [*sic*] the 21st Instant.”



The departing class consisted of 43 seniors. The Harvard overseers paid individual homeowners for windows that had been broken in the town by students, and in addition voted a sum of £10 to the town itself. Some of “Concord’s” Class of ’76 would go on to distinction: one state governor, two state Chief Supreme Court justices, Harvard’s 1st professor of chemistry and materia medica, Isaac Hurd who would become a medical doctor; Jonathan Fay who would become an attorney at law — and in 1778 student [Ezra Ripley](#) would return to be the minister of 1st Parish.



While at Harvard, student Ripley was being referred to as “Holy Ripley,” although he did not yet look much like the divine pictured above. After working as a schoolteacher in Plymouth, Massachusetts for about a year, he would study for the ministry with Jason Haven, the pastor in Dedham, Massachusetts, before returning to [Concord](#)’s 1st Parish Church as a Reverend — and marrying the Reverend [William Emerson](#)’s widow [Phoebe](#).²⁶



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June 12, Wednesday: The [Virginia](#) Convention adopted the Declaration of Rights as drafted by George Mason (1725-1792) and amended by Thomas Ludwell Lee (*circa* 1730-1778) and other delegates.

READ THE FULL TEXT

Mason had written “*That all men are born equally free and independant [sic], and have certain inherent natural rights, of which they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; among which are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the Means of acquiring and possessing Property, and pursueing [sic] and obtaining Happiness and Safety.*” [Thomas Jefferson](#) would draw from Mason’s draft while working over an early draft of the [Declaration of Independence](#). In 1789 it would be accessed not only by [James Madison, Jr.](#) in drawing up the Bill of Rights to the US Constitution but also by the *Marquis de Lafayette* in drafting the French Declaration of the Rights of Man.

The president of [Harvard College](#) directed an open letter to the citizens of the town of [Concord](#) as his institution began its temporary relocation to interior safety and turned its campus in Cambridge over to temporary use by General [George Washington](#)’s revolutionary soldiers.

Concord, June 12, 1776. At a meeting of the President, Professors, and Tutors of Harvard College, voted, that the following address of thanks be presented by the president to the Selectmen, the gentlemen of the Committee, and other gentlemen and inhabitants of the town of Concord, who have favored the college with their encouragement and assistance, in its removal to this town, by providing accommodations.

Gentlemen, – The assistance you have afforded us in obtaining accommodations for this society here [Concord], when Cambridge was filled with the glorious army of freemen, which was assembled to hazard their lives in their country’s cause, and our removal from thence became necessary, demands our grateful acknowledgments.

We have observed with pleasure the many tokens of your friendship to the college; and particularly to thank you for the use of your public buildings. We hope the scholars while here [Concord] have not dishonored themselves and the society by any incivilities or indecencies of behaviour, or that you will readily forgive any errors which may be attributed to the inadvertence of youth.

May God reward you with all his blessings, grant us a quiet re-settlement in our ancient seat to which we are now returning, preserve America from slavery, and establish and continue religion, learning, peace, and the happiest government in these American colonies to the end of the world.

SAMUEL LANGDON, President Per Order.

26. A Scotsman, Archibald Campbell, had sailed into Boston harbor just after the British evacuated Boston, and he and all his men had been arrested. With the prisons in Boston already full, Campbell and one of his officers were held for a time in Concord. He complained to General Washington about the condition there. Later he would be exchanged for a British prisoner, Ethan Allen.



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Karl Marx would express, in his *THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE*, 1848-1850, the sentiment that “The origin of states gets lost in a myth, in which one may believe, but which one may not discuss.” On the 1st page of Theodore W. Allen’s introduction to his 1st volume,²⁷ this independent scholar asks our “indulgence for only one assumption, namely, that while some people may desire to be masters, all persons are born equally unwilling and unsuited to be slaves.” I find that remark remarkable indeed! When in our [Declaration of Independence](#) we said to ourselves “All men are created equal,” we were of course writing as lawyers and in a lawyerly manner.



We were purposing to level others, such as those overweening overbred British aristocrats, down to our own lay level, but meanwhile it was no part of our purpose to level others, such as our wives and slaves, up to our own exalted situation—we were doing this to benefit ourselves at the expense of others, and not doing this for the benefit of others. What we meant back there in Philadelphia several centuries ago, by such a trope as “All men are created equal,” was “We want, 1st, to sound almost as if we were saying that while some people may desire to be masters, all persons are born equally unwilling and unsuited to be slaves, and we want, 2dly, to sound as if we were struggling to express **something** like that without actually declaring **anything** like that — because it is essential that in this new nation of ours (based as it is upon human enslavement) we avoid any such issue. Our equality here is to be founded upon the inequality of others, and this grand-sounding trope ‘All men are created equal’ is being provided so that it can function as our cover story, enabling such viciousness to proceed unhindered.” As [Edmund Burke](#) expressed on February 16, 1788 during the impeachment trial of Warren Hastings for maladministration of the British rule in [India](#), “There is a sacred veil to be drawn over the

27. Allen, Theodore W. *THE INVENTION OF THE WHITE RACE, VOLUME ONE: RACIAL OPPRESSION AND SOCIAL CONTROL*. London: Verso, 1994



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beginnings of all government.”



The African Association was founded in England to explore the interior of Africa.

In the usage of the trope “peculiar institution” that is today ordinary or usual, this trope is deployed of course in oblique reference to the unmentionable crime of human chattel bondage. It is nowadays used in implicit criticism of enslavement. Not so originally! In its initial usages, to refer to slavery as “peculiar” was not to attack it but proclaim it to be defensible. “Peculiar,” in this archaic usage, indicated merely that the legitimacy of the system was based not upon any endorsement by a higher or more remote legal authority, but based instead upon the “peculiar conditions and history” of a particular district of the country and a particular society and a particular historically engendered set of customs and procedures and conventions. This trope went hand in hand with the Doctrine of States Rights, and went hand in hand with the persistence of the English common law. What Allen, however, refers to by use of this trope “peculiar institution” is, instead, the invention of the so-called “white race” which has here been used to legitimate our local version of thus unmentionable crime, our local version of a solution to the problem of social control. It is for him this biologicistic cover story, itself, which constitutes the quintessential “Peculiar Institution” we have been forced to construct. “Only by understanding what was peculiar about the Peculiar Institution can one know what is exceptionable about American Exceptionalism” (Volume I, page 1). In this he acknowledges that he is following a seed that had been planted by W.E.B. Du Bois in his BLACK RECONSTRUCTION.

Allen’s 1st volume is made up of an elaborate parallelization of the [Irish](#) and Scottish experience under English colonialism, and the American antebellum experience:



Every aspect of the Ulster Plantation policy aimed at destroying the tribal leadership and dispersing the tribe is matched by typical examples from Anglo-American colonial and United States policy toward the indigenous population, the “American Indians” – a policy we clearly recognize as racial oppression of “the red man.”



I have been looking into an Irish mirror for insights into the nature of racial oppression and its implication for ruling-class social control in the United States.

SCOTLAND



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June 14: The General Assembly for the Colony of Connecticut proclaimed a:

Declaration of Independence

At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America, holden at Hartford, in said Colony, by special order of the Governor, on the 14th day of June, A. Dom. 1776.

Whereas the King and Parliament of Great Britain, by many acts of said Parliament have claimed and attempted to exercise powers incompatible with, and subversive of the ancient, just and constitutional rights of this and the rest of the English Colonies in America, and have refused to listen to the many and frequent, humble, decent and dutiful petitions for redress of grievances and restoration of such their rights and liberties, and turning from them with neglect and contempt to support such claims, after a series of accumulated wrong and injury, have proceeded to invade said Colonies with Fleets and Armies, to destroy our towns, shed the blood of our countrymen, and involve us in the calamities incident to war; and are endeavoring to reduce us to an abject surrender of our natural and stipulated rights, and subject our property to the most precarious dependance [*sic*] on their arbitrary will and pleasure, and our persons to slavery, and at length have declared us out of the Kings protection, have engaged foreign mercenaries against us, and are evidently and streanously [*sic*] seeking our ruin and destruction.— These and many other transactions, too well known to need enumeration; the painful experience and effects of which we have suffered and feel, make it evident, beyond the possibility of a doubt, that we have nothing to hope from the justice, humanity or temperate counsels [*sic*] of the British King or his Parliament, and that all hopes of a reconciliation, upon just and equal terms are delusory and vain. In this state of extreme danger, when no alternative is left us but absolute and indefinite submission to such claims as must terminate in the extreme of misery and wretchedness [*sic*], or a total separation from the King of Great Britain, and renunciation of all connection with that nation, and a succesful [*sic*] resistance to that force which is intended to effect our destruction. Appealing to that God, who knows the secrets of all hearts, for the sincerity of former declarations of our desire to preserve our ancient and constitutional relation to that nation, and protesting solemnly against their oppression and injustice, which have driven us from them, and compelled us to use such means as God in his providence hath put in our power, for our necessary defence and preservation—

Resolved unanimously by this Assembly, that the Delegates of this Colony in General Congress, be, and they are hereby



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instructed to propose to that respectable body, to declare the United American Colonies, free and independent States, absolved from all allegiance to the King of Great Britain, and to give the assent of this Colony to such Declaration, when they shall judge it expedient and best, and to whatever measures may be tho't [sic] proper and necessary by the Congress, for forming foreign alliances, or any plan of operations for necessary and mutual defence: and also that they move and promote, as fast as may be convenient, a regular and permanent plan of union and confederation of the Colonies for the security and preservation of their just rights and liberties, and for mutual defence and security—saving that the administration of Government and the power ought to be left and remain to the respective Colonial Legislatures; and that such plan be submitted to the respective Legislatures for their previous consideration and assent. Finis.

June 21, Friday: The Constitutional Convention resolved to require two loyalty oaths:

I _____ do declare that I do not hold myself bound to bear allegiance to George the Third King of Great-Britain, &c. and that I will steadily and firmly at all times promote the most effectual means, according to the best of my Skill and Knowledge, to oppose the tyrannical Proceedings of the King and Parliament of Great-Britain against the American Colonies; and to establish and support a Government in this province, on the Authority of the People only, &c. That I will oppose any measure that shall or may in the least interfere with or obstruct the Religious Principles or Practices of any of the good People of this Province, as heretofore enjoyed.

I _____ do profess faith in God the Father and Jesus Christ his eternal Son, the true God, and in the Holy Spirit, one God blessed for evermore; and do acknowledge the Holy scriptures of the Old Testament to be given by Divine Inspiration.

June 28, Friday: In the initial major naval battle of the Revolution, a fleet of 11 British warships and 1,500 troops under Admiral Sir Peter Parker attacked Ft. Moultrie on Sullivan's Island. They were repulsed because the fort had been constructed of palmetto logs that were too spongy to be much damaged by cannonballs, and because British attackers attempting to wade across from Long Island found the water to be too deep.

CHARLESTON

The drafting committee presented its recommended draft for a [declaration of independency](#), thus stopping the clock on the deadlines which had been imposed on its work. The draft, however, was merely tabled rather than picked up and immediately processed by the congress acting as a Committee of the Whole. Pauline Maier says of this draft:

No doubt it was a promising text, one that would have been easily improved if the author could have put it aside for two weeks,





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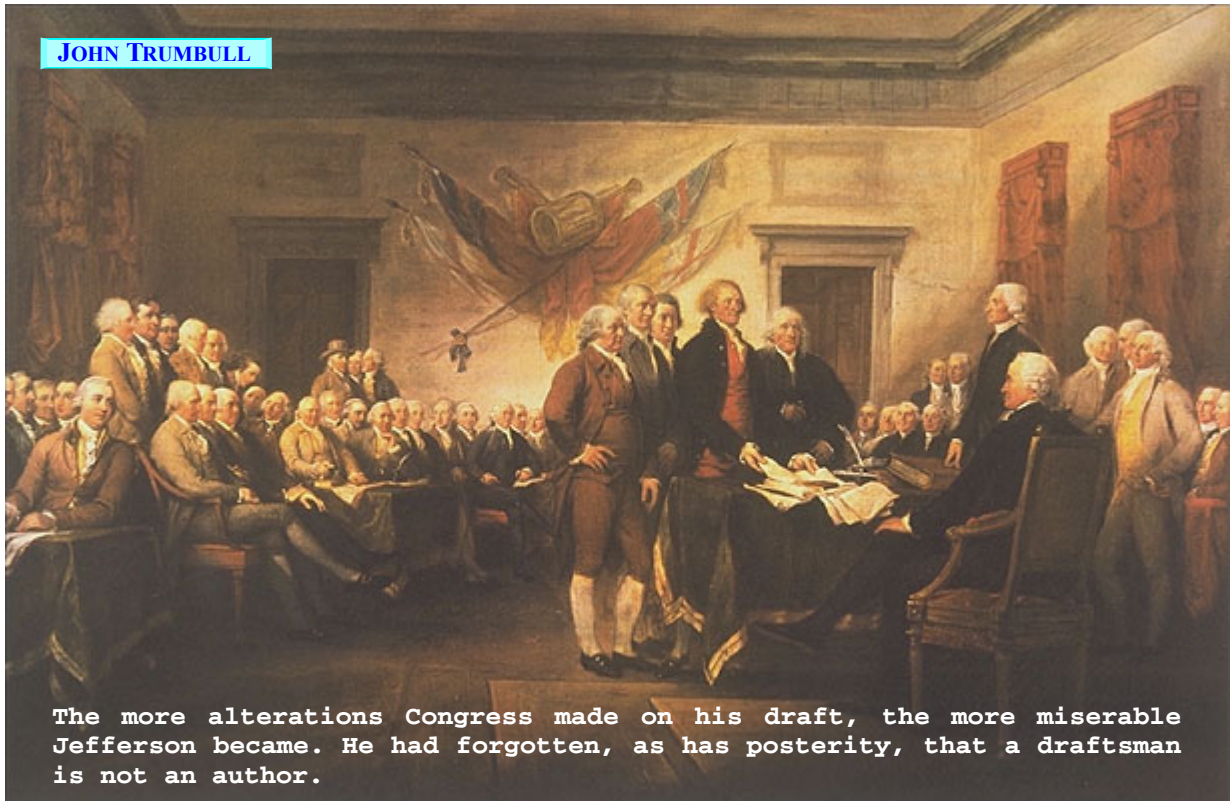
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then looked at it afresh. Jefferson didn't have two weeks. He had, however, the next best thing: an extraordinary editor.

She is referring of course to the Congress acting collectively to improve the script:

JOHN TRUMBULL



The more alterations Congress made on his draft, the more miserable Jefferson became. He had forgotten, as has posterity, that a draftsman is not an author.

According to John Adams's 1805 autobiography, Jefferson's drafting contribution amounted to merely "a day or two," and came after the five members of the committee had not only outlined the document desired but also decided at least in general terms what its various "Articles" should say. These instructions to the draftsperson according to Adams had been issued in writing, as "minutes," so they might be in a form which the draftsperson could take with him to his lodgings.



Whatever written directions or "minutes" the Committee of Five gave Jefferson have long since disappeared.

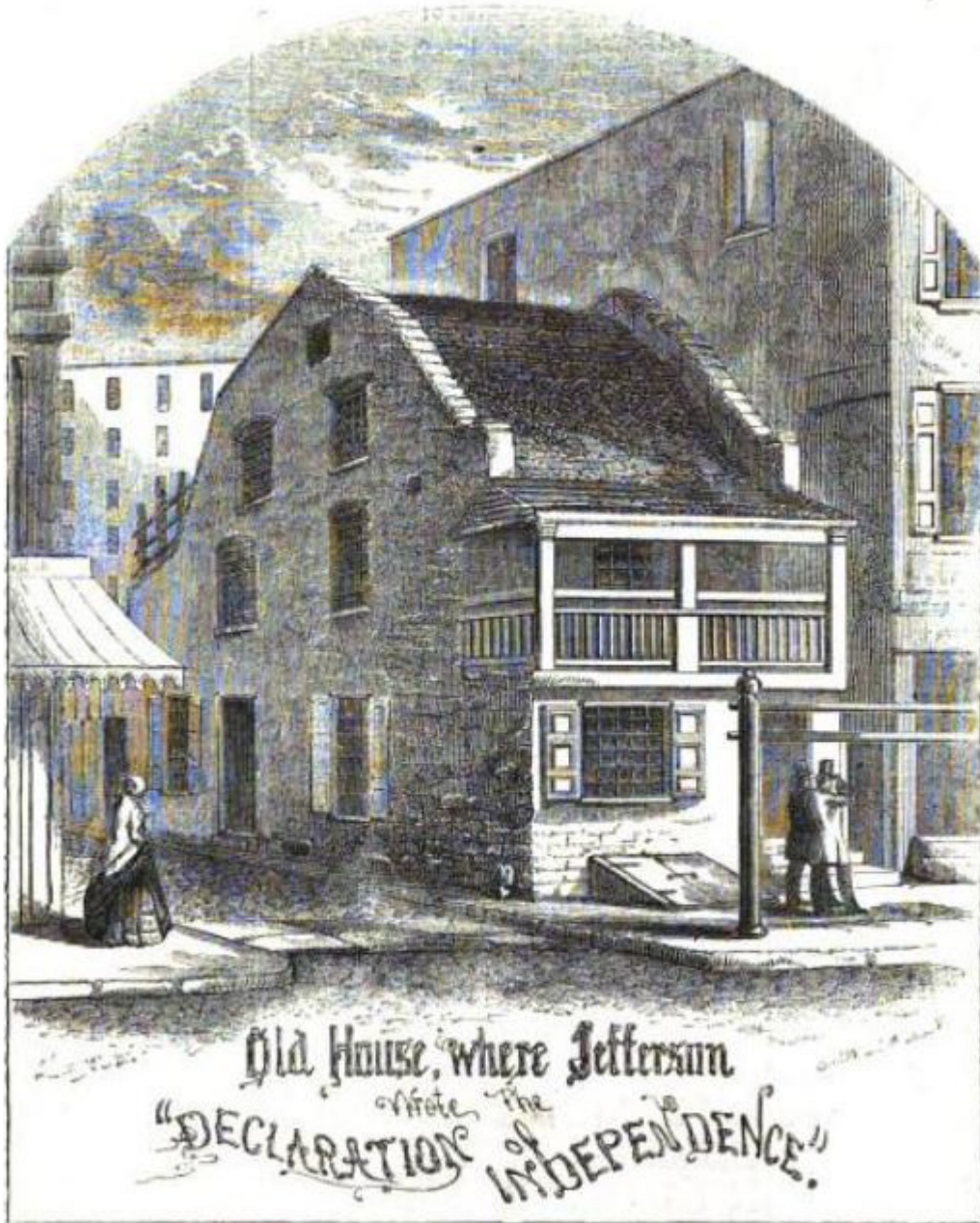
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Unless and until we have those instructive written “minutes” which Jefferson the scribe took with him to his lodgings, we have no way to determine the extent to which his subsequent “day or two” of work as a “draughtsman” amounted to more than a copying job, one of sheer elaboration.



Drawn by Devereux, from an Original Sketch. for the New York Journal.

ENGRAVED BY S. H. WALLIN



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Jefferson would make the old age claim that he had in his possession “written notes, taken by myself at the moment and on the spot,” but such materials are not now of record and there is every appearance that Jefferson, at age 80, was lying. Furthermore, be it noted that the words he used, “written notes, taken by myself at the moment and on the spot,” are entirely ambiguous in that they might indicate that he was writing down the instructions of others under dictation, might indicate that he was jotting down his own thoughts and plans, or might indicate anything in between these two extremes. However that may be, Pauline Maier, on her page 100, concurs that he was “likely” lying when he made this assertion.

When, in 1852, Frederick Douglass would deliver an address in Rochester NY about our national [Declaration of Independence](#), he would be forced to repudiate it since it had been a foundational document of, by, and for only those Americans who have the good fortune to be all white. He would need to take that tack because although this text about human freedom, which had originally been reported to “the representatives of the United states of America, in General Congress Assembled” as of this June 28, 1776, had in its originary version contained the following valid declaration in regard to slaves by King George III of England, and as to our right to free ourselves from such treatment —

he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where Men should be bought & sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce. And that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering the people on whom he also obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the Liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.



INTERNATIONAL SLAVE TRADE

— that portion had been omitted by the white delegates in their process of reconsideration of the document!

(Had they not expunged such a peroration, the representatives obviously brought themselves to recognize, it would render this new continental government liable to the same course of action in the future, on the part of its own black slaves, which these white men were contemplating in their initial honorific rebellion against their white king. This clause of the document would have been able to become a perfect legitimation for further rebelliousness, available to such a personage as Frederick Douglass: a war between the enslaved and enslaving races constructed in our originary document as being quite as legitimate as that earlier revolution of the whites against their white overlord. But no, they would be **careful** not to leave in the document a section useful to a later generation of freedom fighters of another hue!)

Now, it has ever been presumed that the above challenging paragraph about human freedom was something that was being created by [Thomas Jefferson](#) the believer in freedom, during his midnight-oil musings, and it has ever been presumed that the above challenging paragraph about human freedom was something that some



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cabal of other delegates of lesser audacity and benevolence at the congress would then have needed to voided in its entirety because they were not so firm in their belief in human freedom as was our Founding Father Jefferson the sole author of this [Declaration of Independence](#) writ.

But my intent here is to inquire as to **how we know** this to be the correct reconstruction of the course of events. Bear in mind, Jefferson was the guy who would become so horrified at the idea of miscegenation between the races, that he would be ready to contemplate the killing of white women in [Virginia](#) who were guilty of bearing racially tainted children — and of such racially tainted children with them. Bear in mind, this is the Jefferson who later, as President, when later faced by a 2d American revolution, a revolution by black slaves on the Caribbean Island of Haiti, would become so horrified as to place that sugar island under an absolute embargo, directly transforming it by US fiat from the richest “Pearl of the Antilles” into the sort of pesthole it is today.

Had this [Virginia](#) slavemaster been the delegate who actually espoused the attitudes shown in the paragraph included above, from the draft for the document?

It seems that the document we frequently see reproduced, that is on display in our nation’s capital under heavy green glass, is not only not in the hand of this [Thomas Jefferson](#), but does not even date all the way back to July 4th, 1776, let alone to this earlier June 28th. Instead, what we display for our corporate self-worship is a mere prettified copy that we are officiously passing off as if it had been that foundational writ. The Continental Congress would actually have its originary document set up in ugly moveable metal type and printed off at a job print shop, rather than penned onto foolscap. If we ask the interesting question, how is it that this prettified late copy on foolscap is now being passed off as the original, the answer seems to be that such an anonymous piece of calligraphy, since it approximates handwriting, appears to be the work of one hand, and, appearing as a hand product, better supports one of the myths we have come to embrace: the myth of Sole Authorship.

We know very well that Jefferson was not actually having quite as much to do with the drafting of the [Declaration of Independence](#), as his posterity now chooses to pretend to recall. For instance, on the wall of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC we have carved a truncated version of the grandiloquent last paragraph of the Declaration and yet as we are well aware those were words that would be inserted primarily only during the general revision process, as a generally accepted replacement for other text which Jefferson had sponsored. Jefferson’s “autobiography,” written in 1820 when he was 77 after most of the other witnesses were out of the way, included an annotated version of his overnight draft showing the changes made by others subsequent to its submittal, **and in that commentary what we have chiseled into the wall of his memorial is carefully exegeted as having been primarily the contribution of others**. Also, we know that at the point at which Jefferson would begin to take sole credit for the Declaration, he would have become an old gent whose desire it was to be remembered for this creation of this foundational document, with the following eventually to be inscribed on his (replacement) tombstone²⁸ at his slave plantation [Monticello](#) in [Virginia](#):

**Here was buried Thomas Jefferson,
author of the Declaration of American Independence,
of the statute of Virginia for religious freedom,
and father of the University of Virginia.**

At that point he would have become an octogenarian survivor whose grand claims could no longer readily be contested. He would have become able conveniently to forget that, at the time of enactment, he had been protesting that the other delegates were “mutilating” his work. He would have become able conveniently to forget how much editorial guidance he had been receiving, beforehand, from other members of the drafting

28. In what year was this replacement grave marker with its inscription prepared, after the original marker had been chipped away by visitors? Had the original cenotaph been a blank stone?



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committee, and elide this in his uncorroborated and entirely self-serving late narrative. He would in this late reconstruction neglect to make any similar record of the detailed instructions from other committee members which he had taken back to his lodgings with him for the preparation of that overnight draft — would choose to remember instead that these others had subsequently made but “two or three” minor changes in his draft!

Well, if this is to be suspected to be an exaggeration, was it typical, or atypical, of Jefferson, to exaggerate? Jefferson was in fact frequently guilty of what John Quincy Adams, who knew the man, carefully referred to as “prodigies.” For instance, Jefferson once gratuitously insisted that for six weeks the thermometer had been below zero, when that was egregiously false. Also, he once claimed he had taught himself Spanish, when that, also, was a considerable exaggeration. Adam’s comment on this tendency was:

“He knows better, but he wants to excite wonder.”

The actual origin of the document seems to have been in a draft of a “Declaration of Rights” which George Mason had prepared for Virginians, a draft which ran afoul of the delegation because it spoke of human slavery as “disgraceful to mankind.” Mason, when it came time to sign the original printed-up form of the [Declaration of Independence](#) as amended and approved, would decline to add his name at the foot of that document. He refused, ashamed, because he knew that in this form it would be made to apply only to white Americans. It was this which would free [Thomas Jefferson](#), who never in his life saw anything problematic about American racism, later into his dotage, to claim to have been the Sole Author of that repudiated document.²⁹

I would like to suggest that we may be quite mistaken in presuming it to have been Jefferson who wrote the above paragraph about freedom for slaves, and in presuming that the better judgment of the other delegates over-rode his convictions in this area. It may well have been, instead, that this paragraph about the horror of slavery reflects instructions given by other drafters to Jefferson, which this slavemaster and other slavemasters would finally succeed in overcoming. —That alternate, unconsidered interpretation is a possibility which is definitely more compatible with a [Jefferson](#) who would later express such a horror of miscegenation, and demonstrate such mistrust in the processes of freedom in Haiti.

Thus, actually, the claim that [Jefferson](#) wrote the [Declaration of Independence](#) is a claim which rests merely upon his own late-life assertion, and not upon any other evidence. At first none of us really had cared who had written up that document. It had no legal standing. It had been brought into existence only as pro-revolution propaganda, which is to say, material considered to be of temporary and topical relevance. It had taken quite a long time for it to become more than a pamphlet of the times, to become instead a popular part of our history, an extra-legal foundational document of sorts.

The hard evidence which we presently have is consistent with A.) the story Jefferson created for himself in his old age. However, this hard evidence is **also** B.) consistent with another story altogether: that in fact for his own aggrandizement in history he vastly exaggerated not only the original importance of that particular document but also his own impact upon the document. As he was wont to do, even in regard to his knowledge of foreign languages and even in regard to the temperature. “He knows better, but he wants to excite wonder.”

We know he was sent home overnight by the drafting committee with a list of instructions as to what to prepare for the next day. We know he returned the next morning with a draft, of which we have the text. What we decidedly **do not know** is, how much of that draft he brought back in to the committee the next morning had

29. Incidentally, contrary to what you might have supposed, the moniker “the United States of America” was not created by [Jefferson](#) for use in this document. Such a moniker was already in existence. For instance, we have a letter written by Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts as a member of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, to General Horatio Gates, promising that execution would be the fate of internal “enemies of the United States of America,” and the date on that letter is June 25th, three days prior to the appearance of the phrase “the representatives of the United states of America, in General Congress Assembled” on June 28th.



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already existed, in the list of instructions which he had been given by the committee. His claim was that this list of instructions had been perfunctory. We do not know that that was true. For all we actually know, the list of instructions might well have been, all but a jot here and a tittle there and a little perfunctory scribal improvement in handwriting and/or wording, identical with what he brought back in the next morning.

Story B.) is consistent with everything else we know of Jefferson and his life.

Story A.) is generally inconsistent with many of the details of Jefferson's other work, such as with his eagerness to outlaw, and thus legally sanction the murder of, any white woman who bore a child not entirely white — and her child with her.

W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: The Declaration of Independence showed a significant drift of public opinion from the firm stand taken in the "Association" resolutions. The clique of political philosophers to which Jefferson belonged never imagined the continued existence of the country with slavery. It is well known that the first draft of the Declaration contained a severe arraignment of Great Britain as the real promoter of slavery and the slave-trade in America. In it the king was charged with waging "cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of *infidel* powers, is the warfare of the *Christian* king of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where *men* should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce. And that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering the people on whom he also obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the *liberties* of one people with crimes which he urges them to commit against the *lives* of another."³⁰

To this radical and not strictly truthful statement, even the large influence of the Virginia leaders could not gain the assent of the delegates in Congress. The afflatus of 1774 was rapidly subsiding, and changing economic conditions had already led many to look forward to a day when the slave-trade could successfully be reopened. More important than this, the nation as a whole was even less inclined now than in 1774 to denounce the slave-trade uncompromisingly. Jefferson himself says that this clause "was struck out in complaisance to South Carolina and Georgia, who had never attempted to restrain the importation of slaves, and who, on the contrary, still wished to continue

30. Jefferson, WORKS (Washington, 1853-4), I. 23-4. On the Declaration as an anti-slavery document, cf. Elliot, DEBATES (1861), I. 89.



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it. Our northern brethren also, I believe," said he, "felt a little tender under those censures; for though their people had very few slaves themselves, yet they had been pretty considerable carriers of them to others."³¹

As the war slowly dragged itself to a close, it became increasingly evident that a firm moral stand against slavery and the slave-trade was not a probability. The reaction which naturally follows a period of prolonged and exhausting strife for high political principles now set in. The economic forces of the country, which had suffered most, sought to recover and rearrange themselves; and all the selfish motives that impelled a bankrupt nation to seek to gain its daily bread did not long hesitate to demand a reopening of the profitable African slave-trade. This demand was especially urgent from the fact that the slaves, by pillage, flight, and actual fighting, had become so reduced in numbers during the war that an urgent demand for more laborers was felt in the South.

Nevertheless, the revival of the trade was naturally a matter of some difficulty, as the West India circuit had been cut off, leaving no resort except to contraband traffic and the direct African trade. The English slave-trade after the peace "returned to its former state," and was by 1784 sending 20,000 slaves annually to the West Indies.³² Just how large the trade to the continent was at this time there are few means of ascertaining; it is certain that there was a general reopening of the trade in the Carolinas and Georgia, and that the New England traders participated in it. This traffic undoubtedly reached considerable proportions; and through the direct African trade and the illicit West India trade many thousands of Negroes came into the United States during the years 1783-1787.³³

Meantime there was slowly arising a significant divergence of opinion on the subject. Probably the whole country still regarded both slavery and the slave-trade as temporary; but the Middle States expected to see the abolition of both within a generation, while the South scarcely thought it probable to prohibit even the slave-trade in that short time. Such a difference might, in all probability, have been satisfactorily adjusted, if both parties had recognized the real gravity of the matter. As it was, both regarded it as a problem of secondary importance, to be solved after many other more pressing ones had been disposed of. The anti-slavery men had seen slavery die in their own communities, and expected it to die the same way in others, with as little active effort on their own part. The Southern planters, born and reared in a slave system, thought that some day the system might change, and possibly disappear; but active effort to this end on their part was ever farthest

31. Jefferson, WORKS (Washington, 1853-4), I. 19.

32. Clarkson, IMPOLICY OF THE SLAVE-TRADE, pages 25-6; REPORT OF THE LORDS OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL, etc. (London, 1789).

33. Witness the many high duty acts on slaves, and the revenue derived therefrom. Massachusetts had sixty distilleries running in 1783. Cf. Sheffield, OBSERVATIONS ON AMERICAN COMMERCE, page 267.



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from their thoughts. Here, then, began that fatal policy toward slavery and the slave-trade that characterized the nation for three-quarters of a century, the policy of *laissez-faire*, *laissez-passer*.

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"It behooves the United States, therefore, in the interest both of scientific truth and of future social reform, carefully to study such chapters of her history as that of the suppression of the slave-trade. The most obvious question which this study suggests is: How far in a State can a recognized moral wrong safely be compromised? And although this chapter of history can give us no definite answer suited to the ever-varying aspects of political life, yet it would seem to warn any nation from allowing, through carelessness and moral cowardice, any social evil to grow. No persons would have seen the Civil War with more surprise and horror than the Revolutionists of 1776; yet from the small and apparently dying institution of their day arose the walled and castled Slave-Power. From this we may conclude that it behooves nations as well as men to do things at the very moment when they ought to be done."

— W.E. Burghardt Du Bois, 1896



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THE 1ST STILL EXTANT DRAFT

OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE³⁴

This is what Jefferson alleged to be his "original rough draft" as submitted by him as his writing before it was modified by others. Pauline Maier has pointed out that actually "what Jefferson later called 'the original rough draft' of the document ... was in fact not an 'original rough draft,' but a copy Jefferson made from earlier compositional fragments to show members of the drafting committee...." In other words, this is not Jefferson's creation but the Committee of Five's creation, falsely claimed by Jefferson after most of the people who could expose him were safely deceased.

The falsehood is still being proclaimed by the Library of Congress, which has totally bought into the fiction that Jefferson was the sole and originary author.

A Declaration of the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for a people to advance from that subordination in which they have hitherto remained, & to assume among the powers of the earth the equal & independent station to which the laws of nature & 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 change.

We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable; that all men are created equal & independent, that from equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, & liberty & the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these ends, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government shall become destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, & to institute new government, laying it's foundation on such principles & organizing it's powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & transient causes: and accordingly all experience hath shown 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 & usurpations, begun at a distinguished period, & pursuing invariably the

34. Original manuscript held and owned by the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia PA.



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A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

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 position~~ ^{assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal} station to which the laws of nature & 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 ~~that~~ ^{the} separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal & independent; that they have certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, & 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, & to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles & organizing it's powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & 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 & usurpations [beginning at a distinguished period] pressing 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

to provide new means for their future security, such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies. & such is now the necessity which constrains them to exchange ^{their} former systems of government, the history of ^{the} present ^{King of Great Britain} ~~is~~ ^{is} a history of unmitigated injuries and usurpations, [among which, ~~appears no solitary fact~~ ^{appears no solitary fact} to contradict the uniform tenor of the rest, ~~in all of which~~ ^{in all of which} have in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states, to prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith



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same object, evinces a design to subject them to arbitrary power, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government & to provide new guards for their future security. such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; & such is now the necessity which constrains them to expunge their former systems of government. the history of his present majesty, is a history of unremitting injuries and usurpations, among which no one fact stands single or solitary to contradict the uniform tenor of the rest, all of this, let facts be submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith yet unsullied by falsehood.

he has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary of the public good:

he has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate & pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has neglected utterly to attend to them.

he has refused to pass laws for the accommodation of large districts of people unless those people would relinquish, the right of representation; a right inestimable to them, & formidable to tyrants alone:

he has dissolved Representative houses repeatedly & continually, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people:

he has refused for a long space of time 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, & convulsions within:

he has endeavored 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; & raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands:

he has suffered the administration of justice totally to cease in some of these colonies, refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers:

he has made our judges dependant on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and amount of their salaries:

he has erected a multitude of new offices by a self-assumed power, & sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people & eat out their substance:

he has kept among us in times of peace standing armies & ships of war.

he has affected to render the military, independent of & superior to the civil power:

he has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitutions and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their pretended acts of legislation, for quartering large bodies of armed troops among us; for protecting them by a mock-trial from punishment for any murders they should commit on the inhabitance 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 of the benefits of trial by jury; for



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transporting us beyond the seas to be tried for pretended offenses: for taking away our charters, & altering fundamentally the forms of our governments; for suspending our own legislatures & declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

he has abdicated government here, withdrawing his governors, & declaring us out of his allegiance & protection:

he has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns & destroyed the lives of our people:

he is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation & tyranny already begun with circumstances of cruelty & perfidy unworthy the head of a civilized nation:

he has endeavored 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, & conditions of existence: he has incited treasonable insurrections in our fellow-subjects, with the allurements of forfeiture & confiscation of our property.

he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither.

this piratical warfare, the opprobrium of **infidel** powers, is the warfare of the CHRISTIAN king of Great Britain. determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce: and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which **he** has deprived them, by murdering the people upon whom **he** also obtruded them; thus paying off former crimes committed against the **liberties** of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the **lives** of another. in every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered 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 people who mean to be free. future ages will scarce believe that the hardiness of one man, adventured within the short compass of 12 years only, on so many acts of tyranny without a mask, over a people fostered & fixed in principles of liberty. 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 a jurisdiction over these our states. we have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration & settlement here, no one of which could warrant so strange a pretension: that these were effected at the expense of our own blood & treasure, unassisted by the wealth or the strength of Great Britain: that in constituting indeed our several forms of government, we had adopted one common king, thereby laying a foundation for perpetual league & amity with them: but that submission to their parliament was no part of our constitution, nor ever in idea, if history may be credited: and we appealed to their native justice & magnanimity, as well as to the ties of our common



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kindred to disavow these usurpations which were likely to interrupt our correspondence & connection. they too have been deaf to the voice of justice & of consanguinity, & when occasions have been given them, by the regular course of their laws, of removing from their councils the disturbers of our harmony, they have by their free election re-established them in power, at this very time too they are permitting their chief magistrate to send over not only soldiers of our common blood, but Scotch & foreign mercenaries to invade & deluge us in blood. these facts have given the last stab to agonizing affection and manly spirit bids us to renounce forever these unfeeling brethren. we must endeavor to forget our former love for them, and to hold them as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends. we might have been a free & a great people together; but a communication of grandeur & of freedom it seems is below their dignity. be it so, since they will have it: the road to glory & happiness is open to us too; we will climb it in a separate state, and acquiesce in the necessity which pronounces our everlasting Adieu!

We therefore the representatives of the United States of America in General Congress assembled do, in the name & by authority of the good people of these states, reject and renounce all allegiance & subjection to the kings of Great Britain & all others who may hereafter claim by, through, or under them; we utterly dissolve & break off all political connections which may have heretofore subsisted between us & the people of parliament of Great Britain; and finally we do assert and declare these colonies to be free and independent states, and that as free & independent states they shall hereafter have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, & to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, & our sacred honor.

July 1, Monday: The 2d Continental Congress (acting for the day as a committee of the whole in order to loosen things up a bit parliamentarily) took under consideration the draft of a [Declaration of Independence](#) document that had been submitted on schedule by its drafting "committee of five." Debate began, with it appeared nine colonies for issuance of the document, two against, and two split, with New York abstaining — and, again acting only as a committee of the whole, the congress adopted this draft, for purposes of presentation at the next meeting and formal debate.



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 gress assembled, do, in the name & by authority of the good people of these states,
 reject & renounce all allegiance & subjection to the king of Great Britain
 & all others who may hereafter claim by, through, or under him; we utterly
 dissolve & break off all political connection which may have heretofore sub-
 sisted between us & the people or parliament of Great Britain; and finally
 we do assert and declare these colonies to be free and independent states,
 and that as free & independent states they shall hereafter have ^{full} power to levy
 war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, & to do all other

HDT

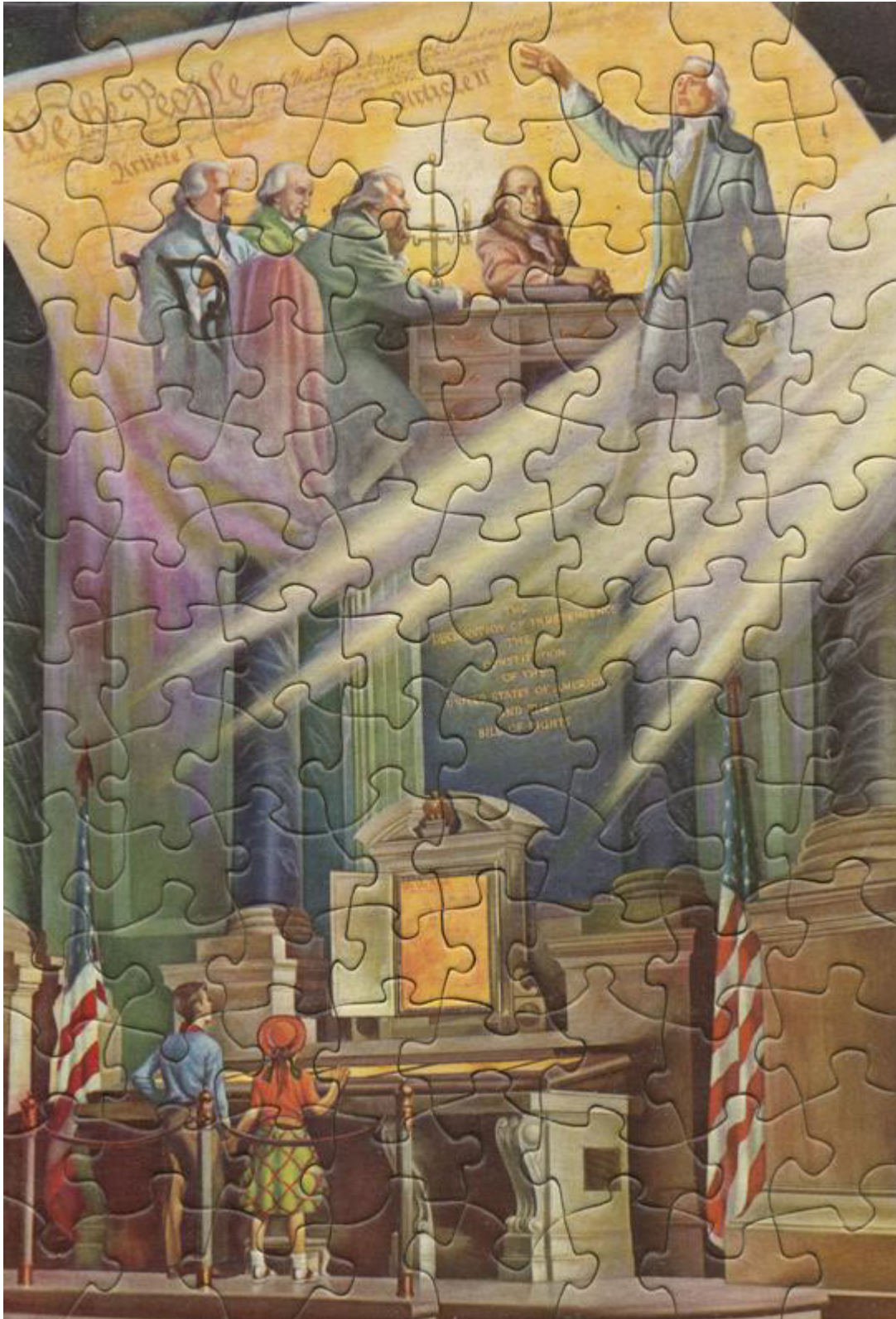
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He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

he has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate & 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
invaluable to them. I know of no instance in which a people have been so ordered
to surrender their legislative power at places unusual, unin-
congenial to their public wants, to the sole purpose of fitting
with the measure.

time, after said 3^d Session &
himself, he has refused for a long space of time to cause others to be elected,
whom 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 & convulsions within.
has endeavored 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, & raising the conditions of new ap-
propriations of lands:

He has supported the administration of justice totally to some of them
~~assented~~ ^{assented} refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made four judges dependant on his will alone, for the tenure of their office,
the ⁺ & payment
and amount of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices [by a self-assumed power] & sent his
-then swarms of officers to harass our people & eat out their substances.

he has kept among us in times of peace, standing armies ^{without the} [& ships of war] ^{consent of}
he has affected to render the military independent of & superior to the civil power:

has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our rights

tion and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their ^{act} pretended
legislation, for quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

for protecting them by a mock-trial from punishment for any murder.

they should commit on the inhabitants of these states;

for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

for improving taxes on us without our consent;
in many cases

for depriving us of the benefits of trial by jury;



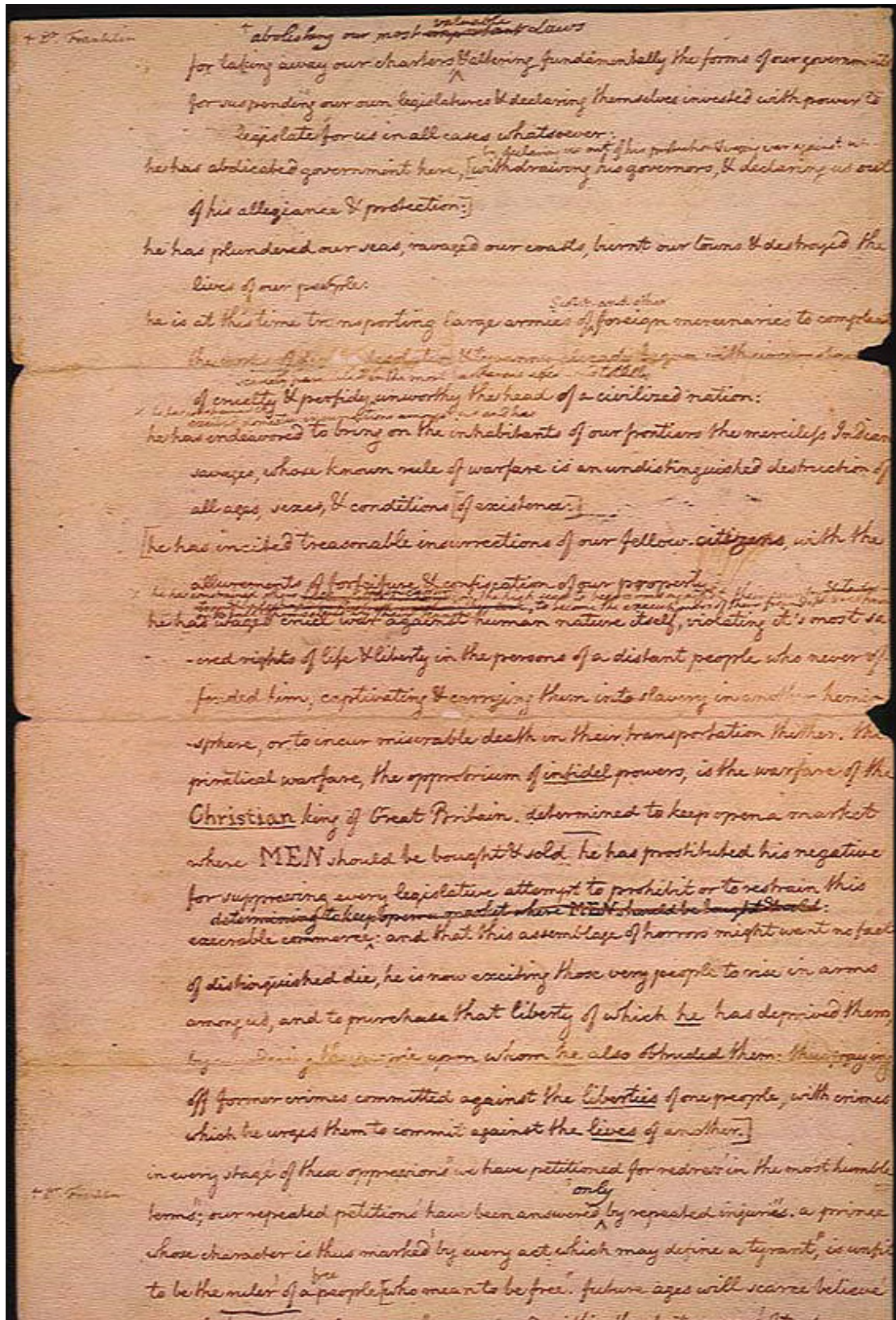
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July 2, Tuesday: The Constitution of New Jersey.

READ THE FULL TEXT

When the 2nd Continental Congress prepared to take up the draft declaration of Independency that had been submitted for their consideration by the “committee of five” on June 28th, presumably during the intervening days any number of clerical copies of that draft had been made so that each delegate would be able to mark up, whenever possible in the press of the war business, his own personal copy with his own thoughts as to what such a declaration-of-war document ought to contain and how it ought to be worded. Since none of such copies have survived, a good hypothesis is that they were carefully gathered up and destroyed at the conclusion of the deliberations in order to quite obliterate any suspicious signs of internal dissent. The initial vote was 12 for, with New York abstaining. However, the press of urgent war-related business would prevent any real general discussion of the draft by the assembled delegates from being initiated until the 4th.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



From time to time one sees a question being uneasily raised as to which of our Founding Fathers, while striking this blow for nationhood and liberty, were themselves the holders of slaves. Typically, the folks who produce this question, and the folks who attempt to respond to it, are concerned about being considered unpatriotic (Heaven knows why). Here for what it is worth is an attempt at a list of known culprits as generated by PhD candidate Rob Parkinson of the University of Virginia for H-SHEAR on November 18, 2004:

Carter Braxton (Virginia)
Charles Carroll of Carrollton (Maryland)
Samuel Chase (Maryland)
William Ellery (Rhode Island)
Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania)
Button Gwinnett (Georgia)
John Hancock (Massachusetts)
Benjamin Harrison (Virginia)
Thomas Heyward, Jr. (South Carolina)
Francis Hopkinson (New Jersey)
Thomas Jefferson (Virginia)
Francis Lightfoot Lee (Virginia)
Richard Henry Lee (Virginia)
Francis Lewis (New York)
Thomas Lynch, Jr. (South Carolina)
Arthur Middleton (South Carolina)
Robert Morris (Pennsylvania)
John Morton (Pennsylvania)
Thomas Nelson (Pennsylvania)
George Read (Delaware)
Caesar Rodney (Delaware)
Benjamin Rush (Pennsylvania)
Edward Rutledge (South Carolina)
Richard Stockton (New Jersey)
George Walton (Georgia)
William Whipple (New Hampshire)
James Wilson (Pennsylvania)
John Witherspoon (New Jersey)
George Wythe (Virginia)



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July 3, Wednesday: In Cambridge, Massachusetts, [George Washington](#) assumed command of the main American army besieging British occupied Boston.



On this day and the following one, the 2d Continental Congress was revising the wording of its Declaration of Independency.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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July 4, Thursday: It was a cloudy day, and the temperature was but 76 degrees Fahrenheit. In North America, the process that had begun when a crafty old politician named [Benjamin Franklin](#) had been placed on a Constitutional Committee of Pennsylvania to draft a declaration of the independence of the former North American seacoast colonies of Great Britain was brought to fruition, in that a broadside to that effect was on this date roughly printed off in Philadelphia.

JOHN TRUMBULL



The more alterations Congress made on his draft, the more miserable Jefferson became. He had forgotten, as has posterity, that a draftsman is not an author.

[READ THE FULL TEXT](#)



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This date saw, also, the publication of [Adam Smith](#)'s AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS.



The point at which Professor Smith writes about pin-manufacture (Chapter 1, page 3), as the basis for division of labor and therefore for the wealth of nations, is displayed on a following screen.

An extract from its section "The cost of Empire" is on subsequent screens:

[see following]

Certain American business types would come to regard this latter document, possibly on account of its publication date and possibly for some other reason, as their real [Declaration of Independence](#), although by 1844 Friedrich Engels would be challenging such an attitude toward freedom in his THE CONDITION OF THE WORKING MAN IN ENGLAND and by 1855 [Herman Melville](#) would be challenging such an attitude toward freedom in his BENITO CERENO.



Only John Hancock, president of the assembly, and Charles Thomson, secretary of the assembly, signed the draft of "A Declaration by the representatives of the United states of America, in Congress assembled" accepted on this day, which was declaring itself as being issued "in the name and by the authority of the good people of these ... free and independent states." That draft incorporated markup of the changes made by the delegates, along with symbols inserted by Jefferson to indicate the points at which a person reading it orally ought to pause for rhetorical effect. The printer who typeset this document inserted quotation marks to

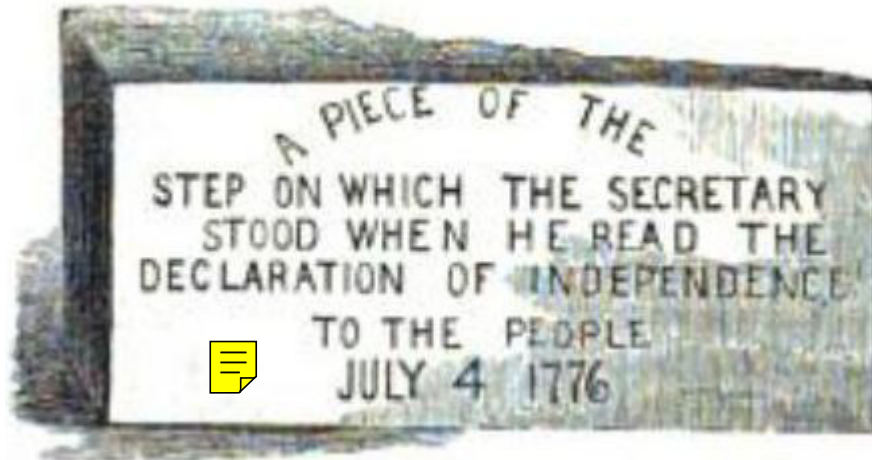


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represent Jefferson's symbol, and then found he had to pull them out in general replacing them by extra spaces.



This draft was not preserved and, it seems, nobody made any particular effort to preserve any copies of this original printing. Of the 25 copies that by the sheerest chance have survived, the 25th was to be discovered as the paper backing of a painting that had been bought at a flea market in Pennsylvania in 1989 for \$4, and this copy seems now to be worth more than \$8,000,000 on the open market as it has become the sole copy not owned by an institution. It would not be until after the delegation from the colony of New York had belatedly received instructions to cast their vote also for independence and thus render the vote of the Continental Congress unanimous, that the delegates would be able to insert the word "unanimous" into this title. At the same time they would delete the reference to mere "representatives," thus strengthening the affirmation of colonial consensus. Although the JOURNALS OF CONGRESS did identify the members of the committee that had prepared the draft for this Declaration document and thus listed the name of [Thomas Jefferson](#) among the others, there was no mention made at this time of his having provided a contribution that was being considered unique. —In fact Jefferson himself would make no such public claim, until the year prior to his death.



July 6, Saturday: Second Continental Congress, DECLARATION OF THE CAUSES AND NECESSITY OF TAKING UP ARMS.

The Pennsylvania Evening Post was the first newspaper to print the [Declaration of Independence](#).





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Adam Smith on “The cost of Empire,” from AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS:

The last war, which was undertaken altogether on account of the colonies, cost Great Britain ... upwards of ninety millions. The Spanish war of 1739 was principally undertaken on their account; in which, and in the French war that was the consequence of it, Great Britain spent upwards of forty millions, a great part of which ought justly to be charged to the colonies. In those two wars the colonies cost Great Britain much more than double the sum which the national debt amounted to before the commencement of the first of them. Had it not been for those wars that debt might, and probably would by this time, have been completely paid; and had it not been for the colonies, the former of those wars might not, and the latter certainly would not have been undertaken. It was because the colonies were supposed to be provinces of the British empire, that this expense was laid out upon them. But countries which contribute neither revenue nor military force towards the support of the empire, cannot be considered as provinces. They may perhaps be considered as appendages, as a sort of splendid and showy equipage of the empire. But if the empire can no longer support the expense of keeping up this equipage, it ought certainly to lay it down; and if it cannot raise its revenue in proportion to its expense, it ought at least, to accommodate its expense to its revenue. If the colonies, notwithstanding their refusal to submit to British taxes, are still to be considered as provinces of the British empire, their defence in some future war may cost Great Britain as great an expense as it ever has done in any former war. The rulers of Great Britain have, for more than a century past, amused the people with the imagination that they possessed a great empire on the west side of the Atlantic. This empire, however, has hitherto existed in imagination only. It has hitherto been, not an empire, but the project of an empire; not a gold mine, but the project of a gold mine; a project which has cost, which continues to cost, and which, if pursued in the same way as it has been hitherto, is likely to cost, immense expense, without being likely to bring any profit; for the effects of the monopoly of the colony trade, it has been shown, are, to the great body of the people, mere loss instead of profit. It is surely now time that our rulers should either realise this golden dream, in which they have been indulging themselves, perhaps, as well as the people; or, that they should awake from it themselves, and endeavour to awaken the people. If the project cannot be completed, it ought to be given up. If any of these provinces of the British empire cannot be made to contribute towards the support of the whole empire, it is surely time that Great Britain should free herself from the expense of defending those provinces in time of war, and of supporting any part of their civil or military establishments in time of peace, and endeavour to accommodate her future views and designs to the real mediocrity of her circumstances.

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ten be collected into the same workhouse, and placed at once under the view of the spectator. In those great manufactures, on the contrary, which are destined to supply the great wants of the great body of the people, every different branch of the work employs so great a number of workmen, that it is impossible to collect them all into the same workhouse. We can seldom see more, at one time, than those employed in one single branch. Though in such manufactures, therefore, the work may really be divided into a much greater number of parts, than in those of a more trifling nature, the division is not near so obvious, and has accordingly been much less observed.

To take an example, therefore, from a very trifling manufacture, but one in which the division of labour has been very often taken notice of, the trade of a pin-maker: a workman not educated to this business (which the division of labour has rendered a distinct trade), nor acquainted with the use of the machinery employed in it (to the invention of which the same division of labour has probably given occasion), could scarce, perhaps, with his utmost industry, make one pin in a day, and certainly could not make twenty. But in the way in which this business is now carried on, not only the whole work is a peculiar trade, but it is divided into a number of branches, of which the greater part are likewise peculiar trades. One man draws out the wire; another straightens it; a third cuts it; a fourth points it; a fifth grinds it at the top for receiving the head; to make the head requires two or three distinct operations; to put it on is a peculiar business; to whiten the pins is another; it is even a trade by itself to put them into the paper; and the important business of making a pin is, in this manner, divided into about eighteen distinct operations, which, in some manufactories, are all performed by distinct hands, though in others the same man will sometimes perform two or three of them. I have seen a small manufactory of this kind, where ten men only were employed, and where some of them consequently performed two or three distinct operations. But though they were very poor, and therefore but indifferently accommodated with the necessary machinery, they could, when they exerted themselves, make among them about twelve pounds of pins in a day. There are in a pound upwards of four thousand pins of a middling size. Those ten persons, therefore, could make among them upwards of forty-eight thousand pins in a day. Each person, therefore, making a tenth part of forty-eight thousand pins, might be considered as making four thousand eight hundred pins in a day. But if they had all wrought separately and independently, and without any of them having been educated to this peculiar business, they certainly could not each of them have made twenty, perhaps not one pin in a day; that is, certainly, not the

two hundred and fortieth, perhaps not the four thousand eight hundredth, part of what they are at present capable of performing, in consequence of a proper division and combination of their different operations.

In every other art and manufacture, the effects of the division of labour are similar to what they are in this very trifling one, though, in many of them, the labour can neither be so much subdivided, nor reduced to so great a simplicity of operation. The division of labour, however, so far as it can be introduced, occasions, in every art, a proportionable increase of the productive powers of labour. The separation of different trades and employments from one another, seems to have taken place in consequence of this advantage. This separation, too, is generally carried furthest in those countries which enjoy the highest degree of industry and improvement; what is the work of one man, in a rude state of society, being generally that of several in an improved one. In every improved society, the farmer is generally nothing but a farmer; the manufacturer, nothing but a manufacturer. The labour, too, which is necessary to produce any one complete manufacture, is almost always divided among a great number of hands. How many different trades are employed in each branch of the linen and woollen manufactures, from the growers of the flax and the wool, to the bleachers and smoothers of the linen, or to the dyers and dressers of the cloth! The nature of agriculture, indeed, does not admit of so many subdivisions of labour, nor of so complete a separation of one business from another, as manufactures. It is impossible to separate so entirely the business of the graier from that of the corn-farmer, as the trade of the carpenter is commonly separated from that of the smith. The spinner is almost always a distinct person from the weaver; but the ploughman, the harrower, the sower of the seed, and the reaper of the corn, are often the same. The occasions for those different sorts of labour returning with the different seasons of the year, it is impossible that one man should be constantly employed in any one of them. This impossibility of making so complete and entire a separation of all the different branches of labour employed in agriculture, is perhaps the reason why the improvement of the productive powers of labour, in this art, does not always keep pace with their improvement in manufactures. The most opulent nations, indeed, generally excel all their neighbours in agriculture as well as in manufactures; but they are commonly more distinguished by their superiority in the latter than in the former. Their lands are in general better cultivated, and having more labour and expense bestowed upon them, produce more in proportion to the extent and natural fertility of the ground. But this superiority of produce is seldom much more than in pro-



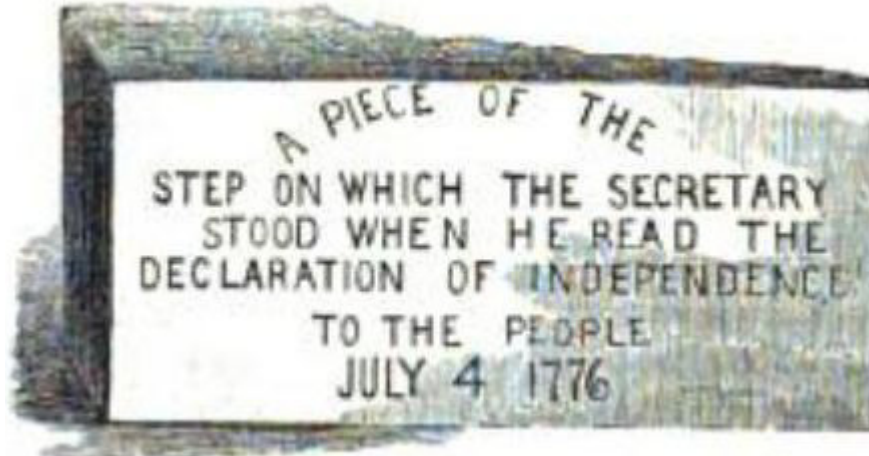
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 July 8, Monday: [Thomas Jefferson](#) sent to Richard Henry Lee and to Edmund Pendleton “a copy of the [Declaration of Independence](#) as agreed to by the House, and also, as originally framed” asking them to “judge whether it is better or worse for the Critics.”³⁵

Standing on the steps to the Observatory in State House Yard, John Nixon read the document to the public. This was to be the very most famous declaration of war ever issued!



Meanwhile a public reading was being given the document in Trenton.



35. John Lind would write “Of the preamble I have taken little or no notice. The truth is, little or none does it deserve.” (It is said that Governor [Thomas Hutchinson](#) likewise paid little attention to this “All men are created equal...” boilerplate.) Boyd, Julian P., et al., eds., THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON, 27 vols. to date (Princeton NJ, 1950 -), Volume I, pages 455-6



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Adam Smith on “The cost of Empire,” from AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS:

The countries which possess the colonies of America, and which trade directly to the East Indies, enjoy, indeed, the whole show and splendour of this great commerce. Other countries, however, notwithstanding all the invidious restraints by which it is meant to exclude them, frequently enjoy a greater share of the real benefit of it. The colonies of Spain and Portugal, for example, give more real encouragement to the industry of other countries than to that of Spain and Portugal.... After all the unjust attempts, therefore, of every country in Europe to engross to itself the whole advantage of the trade of its own colonies, no country has yet been able to engross to itself anything but the expense of supporting in time of peace, and of defending in time of war, the oppressive authority which it assumes over them. The inconveniencies resulting from the possession of its colonies, every country has engrossed to itself completely. The advantages resulting from their trade it has been obliged to share with many other countries.

At first sight, no doubt, the monopoly of the great commerce of America naturally seems to be an acquisition of the highest value. To the undiscerning eye of giddy ambition, it naturally presents itself amidst the confused scramble of politics and war, as a very dazzling object to fight for. The dazzling splendour of the object, however the immense greatness of the commerce, is the very quality which renders the monopoly of it hurtful, or which makes one employment, in its own nature necessarily less advantageous to the country than the greater part of other employments, absorb a much greater proportion of the capital of the country than what would otherwise have gone to it.... It is not contrary to justice that ... America should contribute towards the discharge of the public debt of Great Britain.... a government to which several of the colonies of America owe their present charters, and consequently their present constitution; and to which all the colonies of America owe the liberty, security, and property which they have ever since enjoyed. That public debt has been contracted in the defence, not of Great Britain alone, but of all the different provinces of the empire; the immense debt contracted in the late war in particular, and a great part of that contracted in the war before, were both properly contracted in defence of America.... If it should be found impracticable for Great Britain to draw any considerable augmentation of revenue from any of the resources above mentioned; the only resource which can remain to her is a diminution of her expense. In the mode of collecting, and in that of expending the public revenue; though in both there may be still room for improvement; Great Britain seems to be at least as economical as any of her neighbours. The military establishment which she maintains for her own defence in time of peace, is more moderate than that of any European state which can pretend to rival her either in wealth or in power. None of those articles, therefore, seem to admit of any considerable reduction of expense. The expense of the peace establishment of the colonies was, before the commencement of the present disturbances, very considerable, and is an expense which may, and if no revenue can be drawn from them ought certainly to be saved altogether. This constant expense in time of peace, though very great, is insignificant in comparison with what the defence of the colonies has cost us in time of war.

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July 9, Tuesday: A provincial congress in the Hudson Valley declares itself to be the legitimate legislature of [New York](#) State. [New York](#) voted to endorse the [Declaration of Independence](#). Here is the first public reading aloud in Philadelphia, on this day, as imagined by Brumidi on a wall of our federal capitol:



The equestrian statue of King George III in New-York's Bowling Green was toppled by citizens gathered to hear the reading of the Declaration there.

[George Washington](#) led an American Independence celebration in New-York, reading the [Declaration of Independence](#) to his troops and sending a copy of it to each of his generals.



Here is one of the earliest broadsides, printed in Salem:



John Beaton, a Scotsman who earned in [Concord](#) both a respectable estate as a merchant and a reputation for personal integrity, died at the age of 47 and left money for the support of the [Town School](#) and of the town poor.

The town of Concord has also a fund of \$833.33 given by John Cuming, Esq., for the benefit of the "private schools," in the language of his Will, which has been distributed in all the districts but the centre one. Another donation now [1835] amounting to \$744.92 was given by John Beaton, Esq., for the support of schools and the poor.³⁶



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July 10, Wednesday: The new [Declaration of Independence](#) document was read to the general public of New-York.

It was published by the Pennsylvania [Gazette](#).

July 11, Thursday: The Annapolis, [Maryland Gazette](#) and New-York's [Packet and Journal](#) published the [Declaration of Independence](#).

July 18, Thursday: The [Declaration of Independence](#) was read publicly in Boston and in Portsmouth, [New Hampshire](#).

36. [Lemuel Shattuck](#)'s 1835 [A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CONCORD;...](#) Boston: Russell, Odiorne, and Company; Concord MA: [John Stacy](#)
(On or about November 11, 1837 [Henry Thoreau](#) would indicate a familiarity with the contents of at least pages 2-3 and 6-9 of this historical study.)



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July 19, Friday: The 2nd Continental Congress decided that the [Declaration of Independence](#) ought to be signed by all the delegates as an indication of their unity. In fact not all the delegates initially subscribed their names to this dangerous piece of paper; missing signatures would be supplied over the months ahead. (In fact, by August 2, 1776, only 50 signatures had been applied to the parchment document, and there were still six more signatures to obtain.) This didn't really matter, as anyways the parchment version and its signatures were for safety for the time being held utterly secret:



They were not, however, given to throwing their fate into God's hands needlessly. Only on January 18, 1777, after the long, disastrous military campaign of 1776 was over and the Americans had won victories at Trenton and Princeton, did Congress send the states authenticated copies of the Declaration of Independence "with the names of the members ... subscribing the same."



July 20, Saturday: Dr. Benjamin Rush became a member of the Continental Congress, to February 1777. He would be among those signing the [Declaration of Independence](#).

July 22, Monday: The Boston [Gazette](#) carried, in addition to its usual advertisements for [slaves](#), the initial distributed printing of the [Declaration of Independence](#), minus of course the incriminating personal signatures which were being collected in the strictest secrecy.



July 25, Thursday: There were three separate public readings of the [Declaration of Independence](#) in Williamsburg.



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July 29, Monday: The Dominguez-Escalante expedition began.

Giovanni Paisiello left [Naples](#) for St. Petersburg, where he would take up duties as *maestro di cappella* to the Russian court.

Daliso e Delmita, an azione pastorale by Antonio Salieri to words of De Gamerra, was performed for the initial time, in the *Burgtheater* of Vienna.

There was a public reading of the [Declaration of Independence](#) in Baltimore, [Maryland](#).

August: The regular army defeated the militia irregulars under [George Washington](#) on Paumanok Long Island. It was just as well that those incriminating signatures were being added to the [Declaration of Independence](#) document not in public but in the strictest secrecy!



August 2, Friday: On July 19th, the 2d Continental Congress had decided that the [Declaration of Independence](#) ought to be signed by all the delegates as an indication of their unity. In fact not all the delegates had initially subscribed their names to this dangerous piece of paper; and missing signatures needed to be supplied over the following months. At this point only 50 signatures had been applied to the parchment document, and there were still six more to obtain. The last signature would be affixed sometime in November. This didn't really matter, as anyways the parchment version and its signatures were for safety for the time being held utterly secret:



They were not, however, given to throwing their fate into God's hands needlessly. Only on January 18, 1777, after the long, disastrous military campaign of 1776 was over and the Americans had won victories at Trenton and Princeton, did Congress send the states authenticated copies of the Declaration of Independence "with the names of the members ... subscribing the same."





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August 5, Monday: The [Declaration of Independence](#) arrived at [Charleston, South Carolina](#). Maj. Barnard Elliot read it aloud under the Liberty Tree near present-day 80 Alexander Street.

August 17, Saturday: At a convening of the convention in Annapolis there was a public reading of the [Declaration of Independence](#). A record was made that the document received “unanimous” support from the assembly.

August 23, Friday: The [Frankfurter Oberpostamtszeitung](#) published portions of the [Declaration of Independence](#) in German.

August 24, Saturday: The [Hamburgischen Correspondenten](#) published portions of the [Declaration of Independence](#) in German. (The first full English-to-German translation in Europe would be made by Isaak Iselin of Basel during October 1776.)

August 28, Wednesday: People were trying to kill each other at Jamaica (Brookland) on Long Island. The regular army finished defeating the militia irregulars under [George Washington](#) on that island. It was just as well that those incriminating signatures were being added to the [Declaration of Independence](#) document in the strictest secrecy!

September 6, Friday: A peace conference was held at the Tottenville home of Loyalist Colonel Thomas Billopp, on Staten Island near New-York. General Howe demanded that the [Declaration of Independence](#) be revoked and the American commissioners –John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and John Rutledge– refused.

Captain [John Paul Jones](#)’s [USS Providence](#) captured the brigantine *Favourite* carrying sugar from Antigua to Liverpool (however, the HMS *Galatea* would recapture this prize before it could be brought into an American port).





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October: Isaak Iselen of Basel, Switzerland provided a full German translation of the American [Declaration of Independence](#).

[James Madison, Jr.](#) was a member of the newly convened Virginia House of Delegates, and met [Thomas Jefferson](#) for the 1st time.

“NARRATIVE HISTORY” IS FABULATION: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY

AFTER THE DECLARATION OF 1776



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“It’s all now you see. Yesterday won’t be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago.”

– Remark by character “Garin Stevens”
in William Faulkner’s INTRUDER IN THE DUST





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Prepared: June 10, 2015



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ARRGH AUTOMATED RESearch REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a



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BEFORE DECLARING WAR

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request for information we merely push a button.

Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.

Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.