



Our Founding Fathers on our Republic, Freedom and Governance

Includes: Founding Father Quotes,
our four Founding Documents and
some Interesting Facts & Trivia

by
Scott B. Welch
Patriot

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Preface

There have been countless volumes written about our Founders, their lives and history, their words and actions, and what all of that has meant to the creation of the greatest country on Earth.

Before continuing, I wanted to establish the guidelines of those individuals whom I refer to as our Founding Fathers, as there are various terms used to describe people during different periods of time who were working on establishing our country.

It is common to refer to those who signed our Declaration of Independence as “the Signers.” Those who signed our U.S. Constitution are commonly known as “the Framers,” as in framing the manner in which we are to be governed.

There are a fair number of Americans who refer only to the Signers and the Framers as our Founders.

Founding Fathers, as used here, deals with all those who signed any one, or more, of our *four* Founding Documents, not just those two.

Okay. Why another book about our Founders?

This particular book was compiled and written by a Patriot who has numerous direct family ties to Colonial America and their fight for our freedom. The emphasis is on our Founders principles and the documents they crafted that achieved and established – through wild dissention to ultimate agreement – our incredible country, including how it would be formed, how it should operate and their very opinions of how best to keep America free. What they accomplished had never been done. They were blazing new trails in a world that had been dominated by rulers, monarchs and tyrants.

In terms of quotes, there will be more from some Founders and very few or none from most of the others. This is not a slight on anyone as the quotes have been selected and limited according to the topics contained in the book.

The quotes are, in each section, in no particular order, and do not come close to being a complete, definitive collection. They have all been checked against source references.

Included in this book, following the quotes, are the four Founding Documents of our great nation: the Articles of Association (1774), the Declaration of Independence (1776), the Articles of Confederation (1777), and the United States Constitution (1787), including the Bill of Rights (1791), which, technically, is part of our Constitution but written and ratified, not signed, at a different time.

Additionally, there are some interesting, perhaps even little-known, facts and trivia concerning Colonial America and our founding.

Before closing, I wanted to take up another point.

There are those who believe that the Treaty of Alliance (1778), making America and France allies against the tyrant King George III and Great Britain, and the Treaty of Paris (1783), which effectively ended the Revolutionary War and set boundaries between America and Great Britain, should be included as founding documents. That discussion could potentially take ages and still perhaps come to no definitive conclusion. Maybe they should be, but the documents will not be in this edition.

I hope you enjoy this work and are able to glean some useful information about the thoughts, hopes and aspirations of our Founders and why they pledged to each other their lives, fortunes and sacred honor in order to establish America.

Scott D. Welch, Patriot
December 2019



**“In 200 years will people remember us as traitors or heros?
That is the question we must ask.” Benjamin Franklin
(Letter to Thomas Jefferson, 16 March 1775)**



Benjamin Franklin - John Adams - Thomas Jefferson



George Washington

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Thomas Jefferson

FREEDOM & LIBERTY

Quotes & Writings

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Thomas Jefferson (Declaration of Independence, 1776)

"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Patrick Henry (Second Virginia Convention, 23 March 1775)

"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

Benjamin Franklin ("Reply to the Governor," 11 November 1755)

"A general Dissolution of Principles & Manners will more surely overthrow the Liberties of America than the whole Force of the Common Enemy."

Samuel Adams (Letter to James Warren, 12 February 1779)

"Since the general civilization of mankind, I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpations."

James Madison (Virginia Convention to ratify the Federal Constitution, 6 June 1788)

"A Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."

John Adams (Letter to Abigail Adams, 17 July 1775)

"What country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance?"

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to William Stephens Smith, 13 November 1787)

"There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism."

Alexander Hamilton (The Farmer Refuted, 1775)

"Not a single instance can be selected from our history of a law favourable to liberty obtained from government, but by the unanimous, steady, and spirited conduct of the people."

Charles Carroll (Letter to Daniel Dulany, 1 July 1773)

"Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined."

Patrick Henry (Virginia Ratifying Convention, 5 June 1788)

"That no free government, nor the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people, but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue; by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles; and by the recognition by all citizens that they have duties as well as rights, and that such rights cannot be enjoyed save in a society where law is respected and due process is observed."

George Mason (Virginia Declaration of Rights, Article 14, 1776)

"The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil constitution, are worth defending against all hazards: And it is our duty to defend them against all attacks."

Samuel Adams (Essay, written under the pseudonym "Candidus," 14 October 1771)

"Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

Benjamin Franklin (Letter to the Abbés Chalut and Arnaud, 17 April 1787)

"We have all one common cause; let it, therefore, be our only contest, who shall most contribute to the security of the liberties of America."

John Hancock ("Boston Massacre Oration," 5 March 1774)

"Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness*." (* - lacking legal or moral restraints)

George Washington ("Circular to the States," 8 June 1783)

"Our liberty can never be safe but in the hands of the people themselves."

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to George Washington, 4 January 1786)

"It is only when the people become ignorant and corrupt, when they degenerate into a populace, that they are incapable of exercising their sovereignty. Usurpation is then an easy attainment, and an usurper soon found. The people themselves become the willing instruments of their own debasement and ruin."

James Monroe (First Inaugural Address, 4 March 1817)

"If ever the Time should come, when vain & aspiring Men shall possess the highest Seats in Government, our Country will stand in Need of its experienced Patriots to prevent its Ruin."

Samuel Adams (Letter to James Warren, 24 October 1780)

"Show me that age and country where the rights and liberties of the people were placed on the sole chance of their rulers being good men, without a consequent loss of liberty?"

Patrick Henry (Virginia Ratifying Convention, 5 June 1788)

"I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty, than those attending too small a degree of it. "

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to Archibald Stuart, 23 December 1791)

Sons of Liberty



Established 1765



James Madison

REPUBLIC vs DEMOCRACY

Quotes & Writings

When Benjamin Franklin left the final meeting of the convention on Sept 17, 1787, the Philadelphia mayor's wife asked what the new government would be. His reply was short and to the point, "A republic, madam. If you can keep it."

(A note by Dr. James McHenry following the Constitutional Convention, 1787)

"Democracy is the most vile form of government. ... democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property: and have in general been as short in their lives as the have been violent in their deaths."

James Madison (The Federalist #10)

"There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide. It is in vain to say that democracy is less vain, less proud, less selfish, less ambitious, or less avaricious than aristocracy or monarchy."

John Adams (Letters to John Taylor, 1814)

"We are now forming a Republican form of government. Real liberty is not found in the extremes of democracy, but in moderate governments. If we incline too much to democracy we shall soon shoot into a monarchy, or some other form of a dictatorship."

Alexander Hamilton (Constitutional Convention debates, 26 June 1787)

"The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

George Washington (First Inaugural Address, 30 April 1789)

“Remember democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself.”
John Adams (Letters to John Taylor, 1814)

“A democracy is a volcano, which conceals the fiery materials of its own destruction. These will produce an eruption, and carry desolation in their way.”
Fisher Ames (Massachusetts Convention, 15 January 1788)

“The republican is the only form of government which is not eternally at open or secret war with the rights of mankind.”
Thomas Jefferson (Letter to William Hunter, 11 March 1790)

“The known propensity of a democracy is to licentiousness, which the ambitious call, and the ignorant believe to be, liberty.”
Fishers Ames (The Dangers of American Liberty, 1805)

“We are a Republic. Real Liberty is never found in despotism or in the extremes of Democracy.”
Alexander Hamilton (Constitutional Convention debates, 26 June 1787)





Patrick Henry

The U.S. CONSTITUTION & GOVERNANCE

Quotes & Writings

"Our legislators are not sufficiently apprized of the rightful limits of their power; that their true office is to declare and enforce only our natural rights and duties, and to take none of them from us."

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to Francis W. Gilmer, 27 June 1816)

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

John Adams (to Massachusetts Militia, 1798)

"The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government, are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce."

James Madison (Federalist #45)

"Constitutions should consist only of general provisions; the reason is that they must necessarily be permanent, and that they cannot calculate for the possible change of things."

Alexander Hamilton (Elliot's Debates, volume 2, p. 364, 28 July 1788)

"In all our associations; in all our agreements let us never lose sight of this fundamental maxim — that all power was originally lodged in, and consequently is derived from, the people."

George Mason (Remarks on Annual Elections for the Fairfax Independent Company, April 1775)

"A sacred respect for the constitutional law is the vital principle, the sustaining energy of a free government."

Alexander Hamilton (Essay in the American Daily Advertiser, 28 August 1794)

"A wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."

Thomas Jefferson (First Inaugural Address, 1801)

"The end of the government being the good of mankind points out its great duties: it is above all things to provide for the security, the quiet, the happy enjoyment of life, liberty, and property."

James Otis Jr. ("The Rights of British Colonists Asserted and Proved," 1764)

"The establishment of our new government seemed to be the last great experiment for promoting human happiness by a reasonable compact in civil society."

George Washington (Letter to Catharine Macaulay Graham, 9 January 1790)

"All power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; [...] magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them."

George Mason (Virginia Declaration of Rights, Article I, 1776)

"I cannot undertake to lay my finger on that article of the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents."

James Madison (3rd Congress, 1st Session, 10 January 1794)

"Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

Benjamin Franklin (Letter to Jean-Baptiste Le Roy, 13 November 1789)

"The form of government which communicates ease, comfort, security, or, in one word, happiness, to the greatest number of persons, and in the greatest degree, is the best." -

John Adams ("Thoughts on Government," 1776)

"If the representatives of the people betray their constituents, there is then no recourse left but in the exertion of that original right of self-defense which is paramount to all positive forms of government."

Alexander Hamilton (Federalist #28)

"There is danger from all men. The only maxim of a free government ought to be to trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty."

John Adams (Notes for an oration at Braintree, Spring 1772)

"Charity is no part of the legislative duty of the government."

James Madison (Speech, House of Representatives, 10 January 1794)

"When the representative body have lost the confidence of their constituents, when they have notoriously made sale of their most valuable rights, when they have assumed to themselves powers which the people never put into their hands, then indeed their continuing in office becomes dangerous to the state, and calls for an exercise of the power of dissolution."

Thomas Jefferson (Rights of British America, 1774)

"The Legislative has no right to absolute, arbitrary power over the lives and fortunes of the people."

Samuel Adams (The Rights of the Colonists, 20 November 1772)

"The rights of conscience, of bearing arms, of changing the government, are declared to be inherent in the people."

Fisher Ames (Letter to George Richards Minot, 12 June 1789)

"History has informed us that bodies of men as well as individuals are susceptible of the spirit of tyranny."

Thomas Jefferson (Rights of British America, 1774)

"Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt."

Samuel Adams (Essay published in The Advertiser, 1748)

"The policy of American government is to leave its citizens free, neither restraining them nor aiding them in their pursuits."

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to M. L'Hommande, 1787)

"And that the said Constitution be never construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press, or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms..."

Samuel Adams (Massachusetts' U.S. Constitution ratification convention, 1788)

"The Constitution of the United States asserts that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that it is their right and duty."

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to Justice William Johnson, 1823)

"First, That there be prefixed to the constitution a declaration, that all power is originally rested in, and consequently derived from, the people."

James Madison (First Congress, 1st Session, 1789)



John Adams

The FIRST AMENDMENT

Quotes & Writings

"If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."

George Washington (to Officers of the Army, 15 March 1783)

"We hold it for a fundamental and inalienable truth that religion and the manner of discharging it can be directed only by reason and conviction not by force and violence. The religion, then, of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate."

James Monroe (Address to the Virginia Assembly, 20 June 1785)

"A declaration that the Federal Government will never restrain the presses from printing anything they please will not take away the liability of the printers for false facts printed."

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to James Madison, 1788)

"Freedom of speech is a principal pillar of a free government; when this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved, and tyranny is erected on its ruins."

Benjamin Franklin ("On Freedom of Speech and the Press", Pennsylvania Gazette, 17 November 1737)

"It is true, we are not disposed to differ much, at present, about religion; but when we are making a constitution, it is to be hoped, for ages and millions yet unborn, why not establish the free exercise of religion as a part of the national compact."

Richard Henry Lee (Federal Farmer, 12 October 1787)

"The press is impotent when it abandons itself to falsehood."

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to Thomas Seymour, 1807)

“Congress should not establish a religion, and enforce the legal observation of it by law, nor compel men to worship God in any Manner contrary to their conscience.”

James Madison (Constitutional Convention, 1787)

“When all men of all religions...shall enjoy equal liberty, property, and an equal chance for honors and power...we may expect that improvements will be made in the human character and the state of society.”

John Adams (Letter to Dr. Price, 8 April 1785)

“I am for freedom of religion, & against all manoeuvres to bring about a legal ascendancy of one sect over another.”

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to Elbridge Gerry,

“The liberty enjoyed by the people of these States of worshipping Almighty God, agreeable to their consciences, is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights.”

George Washington (to the Society of Quakers, 13 October 1789)

“To preserve the freedom of the human mind ... and the freedom of the press, every spirit should be ready to devote itself to martyrdom; for as long as we may think as we will, and speak as we think the condition of man will proceed in improvement.”

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to William Green Mumford, 18 June 1799)

THE FIRST AMENDMENT
CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECT-
ING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR
PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF;
OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR
OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE
PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE
GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.
PROTECT THE FIRST AMENDMENT, SUPPORT THE CBLDF



Samuel Adams

The SECOND AMENDMENT

Quotes & Writings

"That the people have a Right to mass and to bear arms; that a well regulated militia composed of the Body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper natural and safe defense of a free state, that standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and therefore ought to be avoided."

George Mason (Virginia Declaration of Rights, Article 12, 1776)

"The Constitution shall never be construed... to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms."

Samuel Adams (Convention of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1779)

"...the Citizens of America (with a few legal and official exceptions) from 18 to 50 Years of Age should be borne on the Militia Rolls, provided with uniform Arms, and so far accustomed to the use of them, that the Total strength of the Country might be called forth at Short Notice on any very interesting Emergency."

George Washington (Letter to Alexander Hamilton, 2 May 1783)

"Congress has no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birth-right of an American... The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people."

Tench Coxe (Pennsylvania Gazette, 20 February 1788)

"The Constitution preserves the advantage of being armed which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation where the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms."

James Madison (Federalist #46)

"Little more can reasonably be aimed at with respect to the people at large than to have them properly armed and equipped..."

Alexander Hamilton (Federalist #29)

"To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them..."

Richard Henry Lee (Additional Letters From The Federal Farmer, 1788)

"The right of self defence is the first law of nature: in most governments it has been the study of rulers to confine this right within the narrowest limits possible."

St. George Tucker (Blackstone's Commentaries, 1803)

"The militia, who are in fact the effective part of the people at large, will render many troops quite unnecessary. They will form a powerful check upon the regular troops, and will generally be sufficient to over-awe them."

Tench Coxe (21 October 1787)

"Are we at last brought to such an humiliating and debasing degradation, that we cannot be trusted with arms for our defense? Where is the difference between having our arms in possession and under our direction, and having them under the management of Congress? If our defense be the real object of having those arms, in whose hands can they be trusted with more propriety or equal safety to us, as in our own hands?"

Patrick Henry (Virginia Ratifying Convention, 9 June 1788)

"No freeman shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

Thomas Jefferson (Draft Constitution for Virginia, 1776)

"A militia when properly formed are in fact the people themselves...and include all men capable of bearing arms...To preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them..."

Melancton Smith (Letters from the Federal Farmer to the Republic," 1788)

"Wherever standing armies are kept up, and the right of the people to keep and bear arms is, under any color or pretext whatsoever, prohibited, liberty, if not already annihilated, is on the brink of destruction."

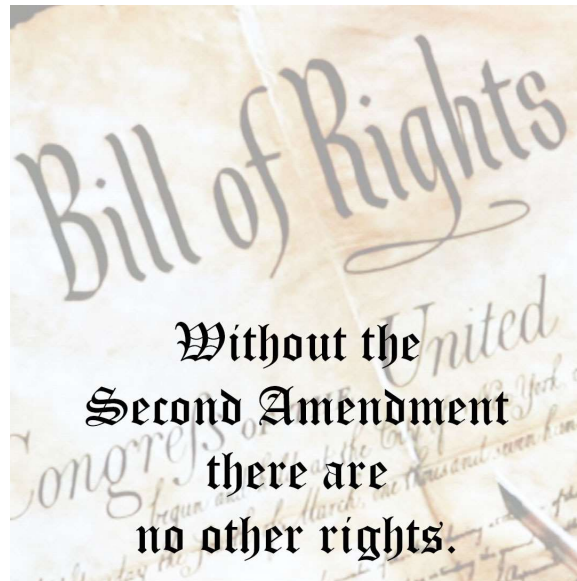
St. George Tucker (Blackstone's Commentaries, 1803)

"A militia when properly formed are in fact the people themselves...and include all men capable of bearing arms. The Constitution ought to secure a genuine militia and guard against a select militia, by providing that the militia shall always be kept well organized, armed, and disciplined, and include...all men capable of bearing arms."

Richard Henry Lee (Additional Letters From The Federal Farmer, 1788)

"For a people who are free, and who mean to remain so, a well organized and armed militia is their best security."

Thomas Jefferson (Eighth State of the Union Address, 8 November 1808)





Alexander Hamilton

EDUCATION & FREEDOM

Quotes & Writings

"Liberty cannot be preserved without general knowledge among the people."

John Adams (A Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law, 1765)

"Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to James Madison, 1787)

"If Virtue & Knowledge are diffused among the People, they will never be enslav'd. This will be their great Security."

Samuel Adams (Letter to James Warren, 12 February 1779)

"A diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty."

James Madison (Letter to George Thompson, 1825)

"Freedom can exist only in the society of knowledge. Without learning, men are incapable of knowing their rights, and where learning is confined to a few people, liberty can be neither equal nor universal."

Benjamin Rush (Essay, 1786)

"The preservation of the means of knowledge among the lowest ranks is of more importance to the public than all the property of all the rich men in the country."

John Adams (A Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law, 1765)

"Experience hath shewn, that even under the best forms, those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny; and it is believed that the most effectual means of preventing this would be, to illuminate, as far as practicable, the minds of the people at large."

Thomas Jefferson ("Bill for the More General Diffusion of Knowledge," 1778)

"Every child in America should be acquainted with his own country. He should read books that furnish him with ideas that will be useful to him in life and practice. As soon as he opens his lips, he should rehearse the history of his own country."

Noah Webster ("On the Education of Youth in America, 1788)

"If the children are untaught, their ignorance and vices will in future life cost us much dearer in their consequences than it would have done in their correction by a good education."

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to Joseph C. Cabell, 1818)

"Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom."

John Adams (A Defence of the Constitutions of Government, 1787)

"Enlighten the people generally, and tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of the day."

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to Éleuthère Irénée du Pont de Nemours, 24 April 1816)

*Only 35% of the 600 college students who responded
knew the first three words of the US Constitution.
National Constitution Center survey*





Benjamin Franklin

COURTS & JUSTICE

Quotes & Writings

“At the establishment of our constitutions, the judiciary bodies were supposed to be the most helpless and harmless members of the government. Experience, however, soon showed in what way they were to become the most dangerous; that the insufficiency of the means provided for their removal gave them a freehold and irresponsibility in office; that their decisions, seeming to concern individual suitors only, pass silent and unheeded by the public at large; that these decisions, nevertheless, become law by precedent, sapping, by little and little, the foundations of the constitution, and working its change by construction, before any one has perceived that that invisible and helpless worm has been busily employed in consuming its substance. In truth, man is not made to be trusted for life, if secured against all liability to account”

Thomas Jefferson (Letter to A. Coray, 1823)

“That general warrants, whereby any officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places without evidence of a fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, or whose offense is not particularly described and supported by evidence, are grievous and oppressive and ought not to be granted.”

George Mason (Section 10, Virginia Declaration of Rights, 12 June 12 1776)

“And that the said Constitution be never construed to authorize Congress...to subject the people to unreasonable searches and seizures of their persons, papers or possessions.”

Samuel Adams (Massachusetts' U.S. Constitution ratification convention, 1788)

“A Government is instituted to protect property of every sort...This being the end of government, that alone is a just government, which impartially secures to every man, whatever is his own.”

James Madison (on Property, 29 March 1792)

"The Constitution, on this hypothesis, is a mere thing of wax in the hands of the Judiciary, which they may twist and shape into any form they please."

Thomas Jefferson

"Now, one of the most essential branches of English liberty is the freedom of one's house. A man's house is his castle; and whilst he is quiet, he is as well guarded as a prince in his castle."

James Otis ("Against the Writs of Assistance, 1761)

"Trial by jury cannot be considered as a natural right, but a right resulting from the social compact which regulates the action of the community, but is as essential to secure the liberty of the people as any one of the pre-existent rights of nature."

James Madison (First Congress, 1st Session, 1789)

"The Courts were designed to be an intermediate body between the People and the Legislature, in order, among other things, to keep the latter within the limits assigned to their authority."

Alexander Hamilton (Federalist #78)



**“The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the
blood of patriots and tyrants.” Thomas Jefferson
(Letter to William Stephens Smith, 13 November 1787)**





Quick Facts & Interesting Trivia about Colonial America and the Founding of the United States of America



1) What were the original 13 Colonies?

There were 13 original settlements that were created by Great Britain in the “New World.” At the establishment of the United States of America they were: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia.

2) What does the term "the Signers" refer to?

“The Signers” refers to the 56 delegates who attended the Second Continental Congress and who signed the United States Declaration of Independence.

3) What does the term "the Framers" refer to?

“The Framers” refers to the 55 individuals who attended the 1787 Constitutional Convention, though only 39 of the 55 actually signed that establishment document.

4) What does the term "Founding Fathers" mean?

The term Founding Fathers encompasses all those who participated in the creation and/or signing of the above two milestone documents along with those who worked on the Continental Association and the Articles of Confederation. Together the four could be referred to as our Founding Documents.

5) What was the first of our Founding Documents?

The first of the four documents was the Continental Association, which was created by the First Continental Congress at Carpenter’s Hall in Philadelphia, PA, on Oct 20, 1774 (effective Dec 1, 1774) in response to the Intolerable Acts. Those acts, which the British Parliament referred to as the Coercive Acts, were specifically designed to punish the

Colony of Massachusetts in the aftermath of the Boston Tea Party but also affected the freedom and liberty of all of the colonies. There were a total of 56 delegates who ultimately participated in and signed the petition to King George III for redress of their grievances. Of the 13 original colonies, all were represented except Georgia.

6) What was the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?

Next was the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Second Continental Congress at Independence Hall (formerly the Pennsylvania State House), in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. That document lays out a bill of particulars that spells out the king's "repeated injuries and usurpations" of the Americans' rights and liberties and announced that the 13 American colonies that were at war with Great Britain regarded themselves as 13 independent and sovereign states that would no longer be under British rule. The 13 states thus formed a new nation – the United States of America.



7) What was the "Committee of Five"?

The Committee of Five of the Second Continental Congress was formed with the purpose to draft and present to the Congress the document that would become the Declaration of Independence. This committee met from Jun 11, 1776, until Jul 5, 1776, the day it was published. The members were John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman.

8) Who was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence?

Founding Father and third president Thomas Jefferson is noted as the principal author of the Declaration of Independence.

9) What was the original title of the Declaration of Independence?

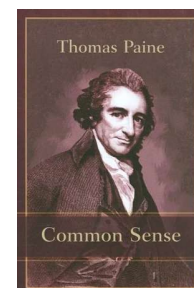
The Declaration of Independence was presented to "The Committee of the Whole" Congress, and was originally titled "A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled." This is the first time that the formal term "The United States of America" was used.

10) Who are the only two future presidents who signed the Declaration of Independence?

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson are the only two presidents who signed the Declaration of Independence.

11) What was one of Thomas Paine's greatest contributions?

Thomas Paine's pamphlet "Common Sense" was published in Jan 1776, and, in it, he argued in favor of colonial independence, specifically deriding monarchy and hereditary rule. Public support for separating ties with Great Britain grew as Paine's pamphlet spread throughout the colonies.



12) Where did General George Washington read the Declaration to a large crowd?

General George Washington read the Declaration of Independence to a large, cheering crowd in front of New York's City Hall. Later that day, several Colonialists toppled a statue of the tyrant British King George III and subsequently melted it, providing enough lead to produce more than 42,000 musket balls for the Continental Army.

13) What was our original constitutional document?

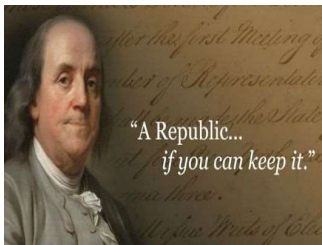
The third document was the first constitutional document of the U.S. The Articles of Confederation (formerly the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union) held, at its core, a guiding principle to preserve the independence and sovereignty of the states. The Second Continental Congress approved it, after five months of debate, on Nov 15, 1777. It came into force on Mar 1, 1781, after being ratified by all 13 states. It formed a confederation of states during war-time and called for an extremely limited central (national) government.

14) What was the name of the governing body that created the Articles of Confederation?

The body that created the Articles of Confederation was renamed the Congress of the Confederation (formally referred to as the United States in Congress Assembled), and it existed as the governing body of the states from Mar 1, 1781, until Mar 4, 1789 (the date the U.S. Constitution became effective).

15) Why was the Constitutional Convention originally called?

The Confederation Congress that was established by the Articles began to see too many limitations in the Articles dealing with a growing country and the diversity and arguments between the 13 states. Many states became interested in changing the Articles and a Constitutional Convention was called and scheduled to meet on May 14, 1787, in Philadelphia. Early on, in the nearly four-month long convention, it became apparent that "fixing" the Articles was not what would be required to meet the demands and so they developed the Constitution of the United States, the fourth of our Founding Documents. It was voted on and approved by the delegates on Sep 17, 1787, ratified on Jun 21, 1788, and became effective on Mar 4, 1789.



16) How did Benjamin Franklin describe our new form of government?

When Benjamin Franklin left the final meeting of the convention on Sept 17, 1787, he was asked by the Philadelphia mayor's wife what the new government would be. His reply was short and to the point, "A republic, madam. If you can keep it."

17) What prompted the creation of the Bill of Rights?

During the often-bitter ratification process of the U.S. Constitution the group known as

Anti-Federalists continuously called for limitations to be placed on the federal government and that there be guarantees for various individual rights and liberty. The proposed and adopted first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution became known as the Bill of Rights. They were created on Sep 25, 1789 and ratified on Dec 15, 1791.

18) What cities served as capital during the Congress of the Confederation?

The Congress of the Confederation did not meet in a fixed capital location. The locations that served as U.S. capitals during that time were: the Old Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall), in Philadelphia, PA (Mar 1, 1781 - Jun 21, 1783); Nassau Hall, in Princeton, NJ (Jun 30, 1783 - Nov 4, 1783); the Maryland State House, in Annapolis, MD (Nov 26, 1783 - Aug 19, 1784); the French Arms Tavern, in Trenton, NJ (Nov 1, 1784 - Dec 24, 1784); and, City Hall of New York (later Federal Hall), in New York City, NY (Jan 11, 1785 to late 1788).

19) Which two states were the first to show up for the Constitutional Convention?

On May 14, 1787, only delegates from Virginia and Pennsylvania were present for what was to be the start of the Constitutional Convention. It began on May 25, after five more states arrived. A total of 12 of the 13 states were represented.

20) Who is the Father of the Bill of Rights?

George Mason, plantation owner and one of three Virginia delegates to the U.S. Constitutional Convention, is deemed the Father of the United States Bill of Rights. It was he who principally authored the Virginia Declaration of Rights and that document became the basis for the Bill of Rights.



21) Where was George Washington sworn in as our first president?

After the U.S. Constitution was ratified the capital of the United States was New York, at the NY City Hall, where George Washington was sworn in as our first president. It was the capital from Mar 4, 1789 through Aug 12, 1790.

22) Who is the only person to have signed all four Founding Documents?

There was only one person who signed all four of our Founding Documents, Connecticut delegate Roger Sherman.

23) Who is considered as the Father of the Constitution?

James Madison is considered the "Father of the Constitution" as he was instrumental in drafting the document and he also had a pivotal role in drafting and promoting the Bill of Rights.

24) Which two Founding Fathers are the only to have signed the Constitution and were then later elected president?

George Washington and James Madison were the only Founding Fathers who signed the U.S. Constitution and later were elected presidents.



25) Why did Patrick Henry oppose ratification of the U.S. Constitution?

Patrick Henry, who led the opposition to the Stamp Act 1765, is best remembered for his dynamic "Give me liberty, or give me death!" speech. He refused appointment to the Constitutional Convention due to various actions taken by the national government under the Articles of Confederation, making him fear we were creating too

strong of a federal government. After the Convention Washington sent him a copy and he opposed ratification of the document as written. He declared that the Constitution, proposed without a Bill of Rights, did not protect individual rights.

26) How many delegates signed the Constitution?

Thirteen of the 55 original delegates to the Constitutional Convention were absent at the time the document was signed and three (Edmund Randolph, George Mason, and Elbridge Gerry) refused to sign it because it contained no Bill of Rights to protect individual freedom and liberty. The remaining 39 all signed.

27) Who were the oldest and youngest delegates to sign the Constitution?

The oldest person to sign the Constitution was Pennsylvania delegate Benjamin Franklin at 81, while the youngest was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey, who was 26.

28) Why didn't Thomas Jefferson attend the Constitutional Convention?

Thomas Jefferson did not attend the Constitutional Convention because he had been appointed as Minister to France, serving from Jul 1784 through Sep 1789. Upon his return, he was appointed as the first Secretary of State by President George Washington.



29) Why didn't John Adams attend the Constitutional Convention?

Likewise, John Adams did not attend. He was in the United Kingdom, serving as the first American Ambassador to Great Britain, from Apr 1, 1785 until Mar 30, 1788. After his return, he became the first vice president, under George Washington.

30) How long did it take to construct the White House?

Construction of the White House in Washington DC commenced on Oct 13, 1792, and was completed on Nov 1, 1800.

31) Who was the first president to occupy the White House?

John Adams was the first President to occupy the White House, beginning in Nov,

1800. However, he only lived there for four months because he lost the 1800 election to Thomas Jefferson.

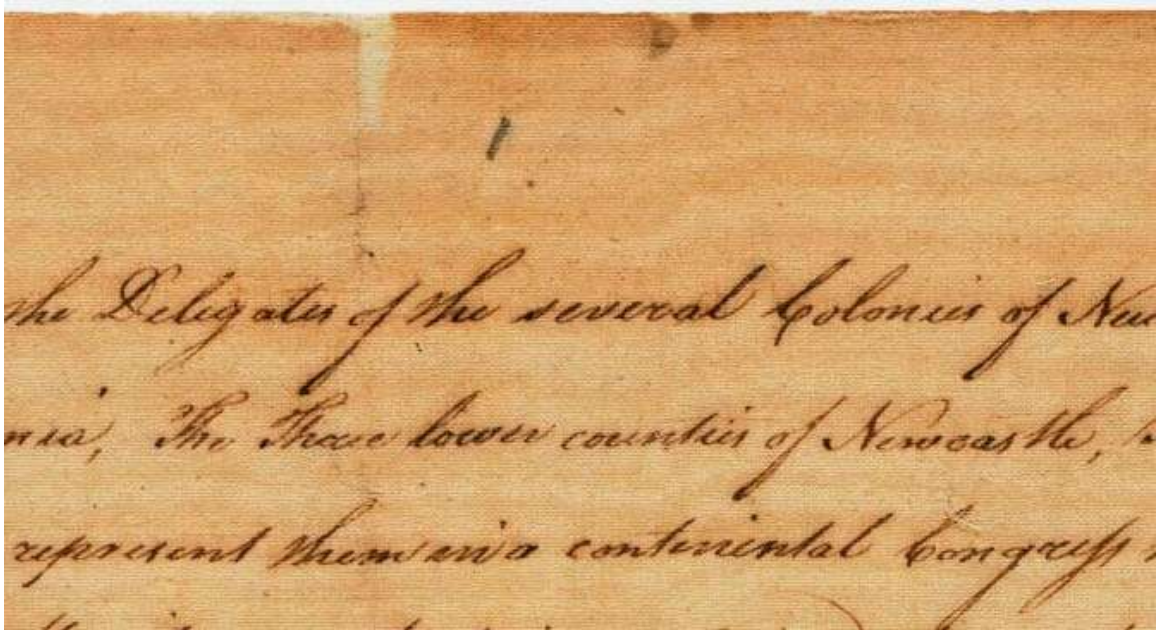


32) Which two Founding Fathers both died on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence?

Founding Fathers and presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

**“Enlightened statesmen will not always be at the helm.”
James Madison (Federalist #10)**





[1774 Articles of Association](#)

[The First Continental Congress responded to the Intolerable Acts that were imposed by King George III and Great Britain on the Colonies with a Declaration of Rights and Grievances. Six days later, on October 20, 1774, the delegates signed the Articles of Association.]

We, his majesty's most loyal subjects, the delegates of the several colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex, on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, deputed to represent them in a continental Congress, held in the city of Philadelphia, on the 5th day of September, 1774, avowing our allegiance to his majesty, our affection and regard for our fellow subjects in Great Britain and elsewhere, affected with the deepest anxiety, and most alarming apprehensions, at those grievances and distresses, with which his Majesty's American subjects are oppressed; and having taken under our most serious

deliberation, the state of the whole continent, find, that the present unhappy situation of our affairs is occasioned by a ruinous system of colony administration, adopted by the British ministry about the year 1763, evidently calculated for enslaving these colonies, and, with them, the British empire. In prosecution of which system, various acts of parliament have been passed, for raising a revenue in America, for depriving the American subjects, in many instances, of the constitutional trial by jury, exposing their lives to danger, by directing a new and illegal trial beyond the seas, for crimes alleged to have been committed in America: and in prosecution of the same system, several late, cruel, and oppressive acts have been passed, respecting the town of Boston and the Massachusetts Bay, and also an act for extending the province of Quebec, so as to border on the western frontiers of these colonies, establishing an arbitrary government therein, and discouraging the settlement of British subjects in that wide extended country; thus, by the influence of civil principles and ancient prejudices, to dispose the inhabitants to act with hostility against the free Protestant colonies, whenever a wicked ministry shall choose so to direct them.

To obtain redress of these grievances, which threaten destruction to the lives, liberty, and property of his majesty's subjects, in North America, we are of opinion, that a non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation agreement, faithfully adhered to, will prove the most speedy, effectual, and peaceable measure: and, therefore, we do, for ourselves, and the inhabitants of the several colonies, whom we represent, firmly agree and associate, under the sacred ties of virtue, honor and love of our country, as follows:

1. That from and after the first day of December next, we will not import, into British America, from Great Britain or Ireland, any goods, wares, or merchandise whatsoever, or from any other place, any such goods, wares, or merchandise, as shall have been exported from Great Britain or Ireland; nor will we, after that day, import any East India tea from any part of the world; nor any molasses, syrups, paneles, coffee, or pimento, from the British plantations or from Dominica; nor wines from Madeira, or the Western Islands; nor foreign indigo.
2. We will neither import nor purchase, any slave imported after the first day of December next; after which time, we will wholly discontinue the slave trade, and will neither be concerned in it ourselves, nor will we hire our vessels, nor sell our commodities or manufactures to those who are concerned in it.
3. As a non-consumption agreement, strictly adhered to, will be an effectual security for the observation of the non-importation, we, as above, solemnly agree and associate, that, from this day, we will not purchase or use any tea, imported on account of the East India company, or any on which a duty has been or shall be paid; and from and after the first day of March next, we will not purchase or use any East India tea whatever; nor will we, nor shall any person for or under us, purchase or use any of those goods, wares, or merchandise, we have agreed not to import, which we shall know, or have cause to

suspect, were imported after the first day of December, except such as come under the rules and directions of the tenth article hereafter mentioned.

4. The earnest desire we have, not to injure our fellow subjects in Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies, induces us to suspend a non-exportation, until the tenth day of September, 1775; at which time, if the said acts and parts of acts of the British parliament herein after mentioned are not repealed, we will not, directly or indirectly, export any merchandise or commodity whatsoever to Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies, except rice to Europe.

5. Such as are merchants, and use the British and Irish trade, will give orders, as soon as possible, to their factors, agents and correspondents, in Great Britain and Ireland, not to ship any goods to them, on any pretense whatsoever, as they cannot be received in America; and if any merchant, residing in Great Britain or Ireland, shall directly or indirectly ship any goods, wares or merchandise, for America, in order to break the said non-importation agreement, or in any manner contravene the same, on such unworthy conduct being well attested, it ought to be made public; and, on the same being so done, we will not, from thenceforth, have any commercial connection with such merchant.

6. That such as are owners of vessels will give positive orders to their captains, or masters, not to receive on board their vessels any goods prohibited by the said non-importation agreement, on pain of immediate dismissal from their service.

7. We will use our utmost endeavors to improve the breed of sheep, and increase their number to the greatest extent; and to that end, we will kill them as seldom as may be, especially those of the most profitable kind; nor will we export any to the West Indies or elsewhere; and those of us, who are or may become overstocked with, or can conveniently spare any sheep, will dispose of them to our neighbors, especially to the poorer sort, on moderate terms.

8. We will, in our several stations, encourage frugality, economy, and industry, and promote agriculture, arts and the manufactures of this country, especially that of wool; and will discountenance and discourage every species of extravagance and dissipation, especially all horse racing, and all kinds of gaming, cock fighting, exhibitions of shows, plays, and other expensive diversions and entertainments; and on the death of any relation or friend, none of us, or any of our families, will go into any further mourning-dress, than a black crape or ribbon on the arm or hat, for gentlemen, and a black ribbon and necklace for ladies, and we will discontinue the giving of gloves and scarves at funerals.

9. Such as are vendors of goods or merchandise will not take advantage of the scarcity of goods, that may be occasioned by this association, but will sell the same at the rates we have been respectively accustomed to do, for twelve months last past. And if any

vendor of goods or merchandise shall sell any such goods on higher terms, or shall, in any manner, or by any device whatsoever violate or depart from this agreement, no person ought, nor will any of us deal with any such person, or his or her factor or agent, at any time thereafter, for any commodity whatever.

10. In case any merchant, trader, or other person, shall import any goods or merchandise, after the first day of December, and before the first day of February next, the same ought forthwith, at the election of the owner, to be either re-shipped or delivered up to the committee of the county or town, wherein they shall be imported, to be stored at the risk of the importer, until the non-importation agreement shall cease, or be sold under the direction of the committee aforesaid; and in the last-mentioned case, the owner or owners of such goods shall be reimbursed out of the sales, the first cost and charges, the profit, if any, to be applied towards relieving and employing such poor inhabitants of the town of Boston, as are immediate sufferers by the Boston port-bill; and a particular account of all goods so returned, stored, or sold, to be inserted in the public papers; and if any goods or merchandises shall be imported after the said first day of February, the same ought forthwith to be sent back again, without breaking any of the packages thereof.

11. That a committee be chosen in every county, city, and town, by those who are qualified to vote for representatives in the legislature, whose business it shall be attentively to observe the conduct of all persons touching this association; and when it shall be made to appear, to the satisfaction of a majority of any such committee, that any person within the limits of their appointment has violated this association, that such majority do forthwith cause the truth of the case to be published in the gazette; to the end, that all such foes to the rights of British America may be publicly known, and universally condemned as the enemies of American liberty; and thenceforth we respectively will break off all dealings with him or her.

12. That the committee of correspondence, in the respective colonies, do frequently inspect the entries of their custom houses, and inform each other, from time to time, of the true state thereof, and of every other material circumstance that may occur relative to this association.

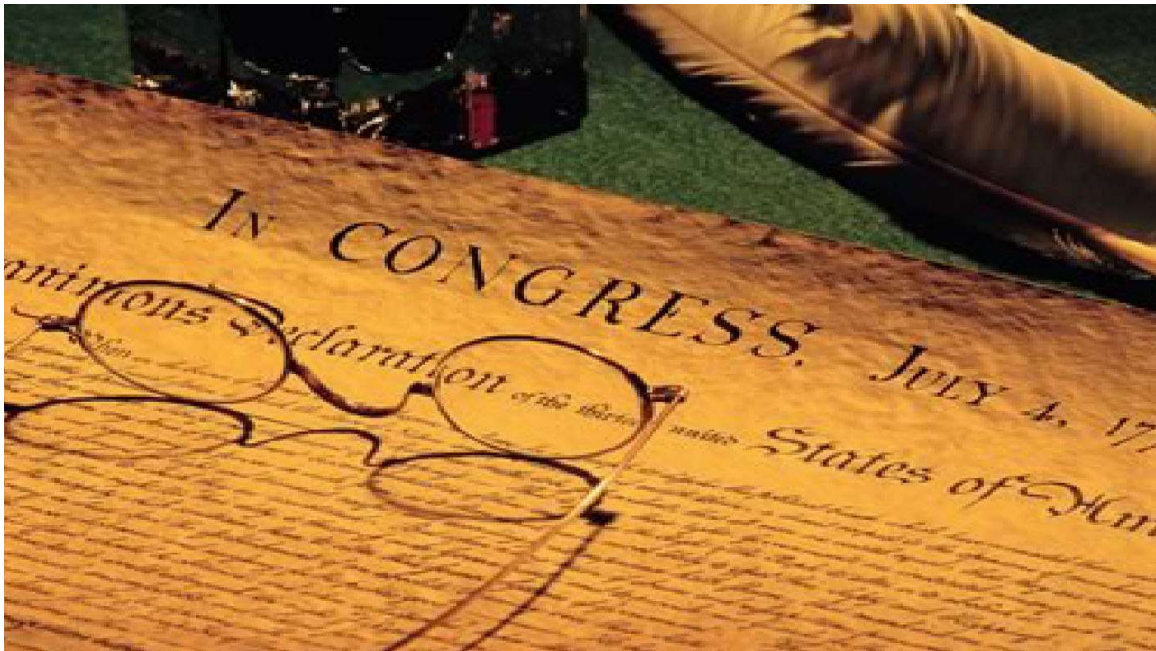
13. That all manufactures of this country be sold at reasonable prices, so that no undue advantage be taken of a future scarcity of goods.

14. And we do further agree and resolve, that we will have no trade, commerce, dealings or intercourse whatsoever, with any colony or province, in North America, which shall not accede to, or which shall hereafter violate this association, but will hold them as unworthy of the rights of freemen, and as inimical to the liberties of their country.

And we do solemnly bind ourselves and our constituents, under the ties aforesaid, to adhere to this association, until such parts of the several acts of parliament passed since the close of the last war, as impose or continue duties on tea, wine, molasses, syrups, paneles, coffee, sugar, pimento, indigo, foreign paper, glass, and painters' colors, imported into America, and extend the powers of the admiralty courts beyond their ancient limits, deprive the American subject of trial by jury, authorize the judge's certificate to indemnify the prosecutor from damages, that he might otherwise be liable to from a trial by his peers, require oppressive security from a claimant of ships or goods seized, before he shall be allowed to defend his property, are repealed. And until that part of the act of the 12 Geo. 3. chapter 24, entitled "An act for the better securing his majesty's dock-yards, magazines, ships, ammunition, and stores," by which any persons charged with committing any of the offenses therein described, in America, may be tried in any shire or county within the realm, is repealed and until the four acts, passed the last session of parliament, viz. that for stopping the port and blocking up the harbor of Boston — that for altering the charter and government of the Massachusetts Bay — and that which is entitled "An act for the better administration of justice, etc." — and that "for extending the limits of Quebec, etc." are repealed. And we recommend it to the provincial conventions, and to the committees in the respective colonies, to establish such farther regulations as they may think proper, for carrying into execution this association.

The foregoing association being determined upon by the Congress, was ordered to be subscribed by the several members thereof; and thereupon, we have hereunto set our respective names accordingly.

In Congress, Philadelphia, October 20, 1774.



[The Declaration of Independence](#)

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

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

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the

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

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

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

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

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

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

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

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

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

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

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

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

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

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

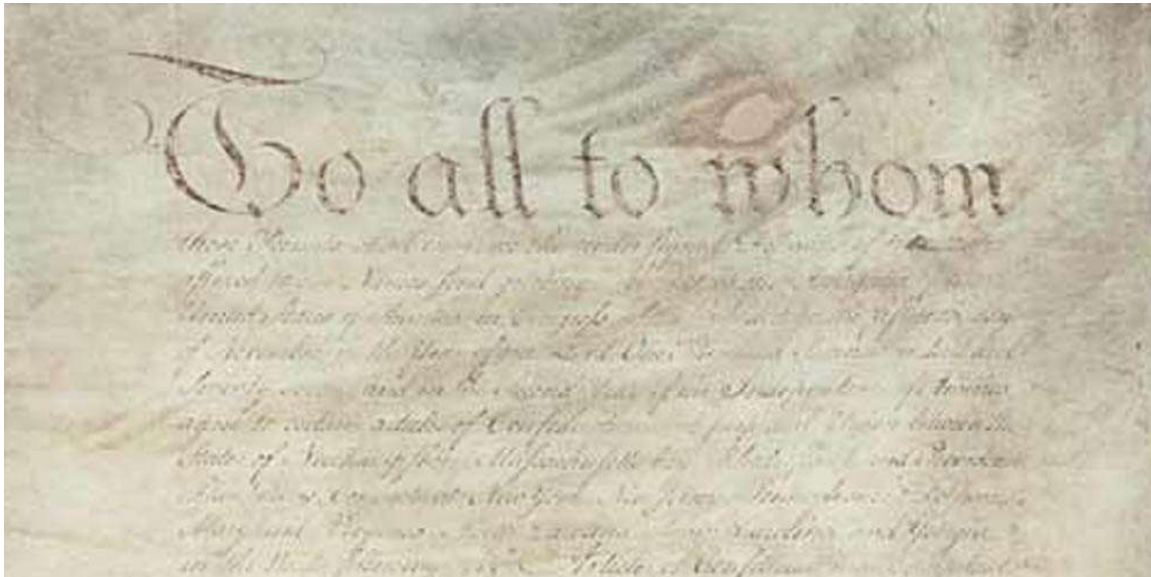
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

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

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

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

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



Articles of Confederation

To all to whom these Presents shall come, we the undersigned Delegates of the States affixed to our Names send greeting.

Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-bay Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

- I. The Stile of this Confederacy shall be "The United States of America".
- II. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.
- III. The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and

general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.

IV. The better to secure and perpetuate mutual friendship and intercourse among the people of the different States in this Union, the free inhabitants of each of these States, paupers, vagabonds, and fugitives from justice excepted, shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of free citizens in the several States; and the people of each State shall free ingress and regress to and from any other State, and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and commerce, subject to the same duties, impositions, and restrictions as the inhabitants thereof respectively, provided that such restrictions shall not extend so far as to prevent the removal of property imported into any State, to any other State, of which the owner is an inhabitant; provided also that no imposition, duties or restriction shall be laid by any State, on the property of the United States, or either of them.

If any person guilty of, or charged with, treason, felony, or other high misdemeanor in any State, shall flee from justice, and be found in any of the United States, he shall, upon demand of the Governor or executive power of the State from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the State having jurisdiction of his offense.

Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these States to the records, acts, and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other State.

V. For the most convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislatures of each State shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power reserved to each State to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead for the remainder of the year.

No State shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor more than seven members; and no person shall be capable of being a delegate for more than three years in any term of six years; nor shall any person, being a delegate, be capable of holding any office under the United States, for which he, or another for his benefit, receives any salary, fees or emolument of any kind.

Each State shall maintain its own delegates in a meeting of the States, and while they act as members of the committee of the States.

In determining questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each State shall have one vote.

Freedom of speech and debate in Congress shall not be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Congress, and the members of Congress shall be protected in their persons from arrests or imprisonments, during the time of their going to and from, and attendance on Congress, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace.

VI. No State, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, shall send any embassy to, or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement, alliance or treaty with any King, Prince or State; nor shall any person holding

any office of profit or trust under the United States, or any of them, accept any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever from any King, Prince or foreign State; nor shall the United States in Congress assembled, or any of them, grant any title of nobility.

No two or more States shall enter into any treaty, confederation or alliance whatever between them, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, specifying accurately the purposes for which the same is to be entered into, and how long it shall continue.

No State shall lay any imposts or duties, which may interfere with any stipulations in treaties, entered into by the United States in Congress assembled, with any King, Prince or State, in pursuance of any treaties already proposed by Congress, to the courts of France and Spain.

No vessel of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any State, except such number only, as shall be deemed necessary by the United States in Congress assembled, for the defense of such State, or its trade; nor shall any body of forces be kept up by any State in time of peace, except such number only, as in the judgement of the United States in Congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to garrison the forts necessary for the defense of such State; but every State shall always keep up a well-regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed and accoutered, and shall provide and constantly have ready for use, in public stores, a due number of filed pieces and tents, and a proper quantity of arms, ammunition and camp equipage.

No State shall engage in any war without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, unless such State be actually invaded by enemies, or shall have received certain advice of a resolution being formed by some nation of Indians to invade such State, and the danger is so imminent as not to admit of a delay till the United States in Congress assembled can be consulted; nor shall any State grant commissions to any ships or vessels of war, nor letters of marque or reprisal, except it be after a declaration of war by the United States in Congress assembled, and then only against the Kingdom or State and the subjects thereof, against which war has been so declared, and under such regulations as shall be established by the United States in Congress assembled, unless such State be infested by pirates, in which case vessels of war may be fitted out for that occasion, and kept so long as the danger shall continue, or until the United States in Congress assembled shall determine otherwise.

VII. When land forces are raised by any State for the common defense, all officers of or under the rank of colonel, shall be appointed by the legislature of each State respectively, by whom such forces shall be raised, or in such manner as such State shall direct, and all vacancies shall be filled up by the State which first made the appointment.

VIII. All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred for the common defense or general welfare, and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled, shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several States in proportion to the value of all land within each State, granted or surveyed for any person, as such land and the buildings and improvements thereon shall be

estimated according to such mode as the United States in Congress assembled, shall from time to time direct and appoint.

The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several States within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled.

IX. The United States in Congress assembled, shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war, except in the cases mentioned in the sixth article -- of sending and receiving ambassadors -- entering into treaties and alliances, provided that no treaty of commerce shall be made whereby the legislative power of the respective States shall be restrained from imposing such imposts and duties on foreigners, as their own people are subjected to, or from prohibiting the exportation or importation of any species of goods or commodities whatsoever -- of establishing rules for deciding in all cases, what captures on land or water shall be legal, and in what manner prizes taken by land or naval forces in the service of the United States shall be divided or appropriated -- of granting letters of marque and reprisal in times of peace -- appointing courts for the trial of piracies and felonies committed on the high seas and establishing courts for receiving and determining finally appeals in all cases of captures, provided that no member of Congress shall be appointed a judge of any of the said courts.

The United States in Congress assembled shall also be the last resort on appeal in all disputes and differences now subsisting or that hereafter may arise between two or more States concerning boundary, jurisdiction or any other causes whatever; which authority shall always be exercised in the manner following. Whenever the legislative or executive authority or lawful agent of any State in controversy with another shall present a petition to Congress stating the matter in question and praying for a hearing, notice thereof shall be given by order of Congress to the legislative or executive authority of the other State in controversy, and a day assigned for the appearance of the parties by their lawful agents, who shall then be directed to appoint by joint consent, commissioners or judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question: but if they cannot agree, Congress shall name three persons out of each of the United States, and from the list of such persons each party shall alternately strike out one, the petitioners beginning, until the number shall be reduced to thirteen; and from that number not less than seven, nor more than nine names as Congress shall direct, shall in the presence of Congress be drawn out by lot, and the persons whose names shall be so drawn or any five of them, shall be commissioners or judges, to hear and finally determine the controversy, so always as a major part of the judges who shall hear the cause shall agree in the determination: and if either party shall neglect to attend at the day appointed, without showing reasons, which Congress shall judge sufficient, or being present shall refuse to strike, the Congress shall proceed to nominate three persons out of each State, and the secretary of Congress shall strike in behalf of such party absent or refusing; and the judgement and sentence of the court to be appointed, in the manner before prescribed, shall be final and conclusive; and if any of the parties shall refuse to submit to the authority of such court, or to appear or defend their claim

or cause, the court shall nevertheless proceed to pronounce sentence, or judgement, which shall in like manner be final and decisive, the judgement or sentence and other proceedings being in either case transmitted to Congress, and lodged among the acts of Congress for the security of the parties concerned: provided that every commissioner, before he sits in judgement, shall take an oath to be administered by one of the judges of the supreme or superior court of the State, where the cause shall be tried, 'well and truly to hear and determine the matter in question, according to the best of his judgement, without favor, affection or hope of reward': provided also, that no State shall be deprived of territory for the benefit of the United States.

All controversies concerning the private right of soil claimed under different grants of two or more States, whose jurisdictions as they may respect such lands, and the States which passed such grants are adjusted, the said grants or either of them being at the same time claimed to have originated antecedent to such settlement of jurisdiction, shall on the petition of either party to the Congress of the United States, be finally determined as near as may be in the same manner as is before prescribed for deciding disputes respecting territorial jurisdiction between different States.

The United States in Congress assembled shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating the alloy and value of coin struck by their own authority, or by that of the respective States -- fixing the standards of weights and measures throughout the United States -- regulating the trade and managing all affairs with the Indians, not members of any of the States, provided that the legislative right of any State within its own limits be not infringed or violated -- establishing or regulating post offices from one State to another, throughout all the United States, and exacting such postage on the papers passing through the same as may be requisite to defray the expenses of the said office -- appointing all officers of the land forces, in the service of the United States, excepting regimental officers -- appointing all the officers of the naval forces, and commissioning all officers whatever in the service of the United States -- making rules for the government and regulation of the said land and naval forces, and directing their operations.

The United States in Congress assembled shall have authority to appoint a committee, to sit in the recess of Congress, to be denominated 'A Committee of the States', and to consist of one delegate from each State; and to appoint such other committees and civil officers as may be necessary for managing the general affairs of the United States under their direction -- to appoint one of their members to preside, provided that no person be allowed to serve in the office of president more than one year in any term of three years; to ascertain the necessary sums of money to be raised for the service of the United States, and to appropriate and apply the same for defraying the public expenses -- to borrow money, or emit bills on the credit of the United States, transmitting every half-year to the respective States an account of the sums of money so borrowed or emitted -- to build and equip a navy -- to agree upon the number of land forces, and to make requisitions from each State for its quota, in proportion to the number of white inhabitants in such State; which requisition shall be binding, and thereupon the legislature of each State shall appoint the regimental officers, raise the men and cloath, arm and equip them in a solid-like manner, at the expense of the United States; and the

officers and men so clothed armed and equipped shall march to the place appointed, and within the time agreed on by the United States in Congress assembled. But if the United States in Congress assembled shall, on consideration of circumstances judge proper that any State should not raise men, or should raise a smaller number of men than the quota thereof, such extra number shall be raised, officered, clothed armed and equipped in the same manner as the quota of each State, unless the legislature of such State shall judge that such extra number cannot be safely spread out in the same, in which case they shall raise, officer, cloath, arm and equip as many of such extra number as they judge can be safely spared. And the officers and men so cloathed, armed, and equipped, shall march to the place appointed, and within the time agreed on by the United States in Congress assembled.

The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque or reprisal in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expenses necessary for the defense and welfare of the United States, or any of them, nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United States, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of vessels of war, to be built or purchased, or the number of land or sea forces to be raised, nor appoint a commander in chief of the army or navy, unless nine States assent to the same: nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day be determined, unless by the votes of the majority of the United States in Congress assembled.

The Congress of the United States shall have power to adjourn to any time within the year, and to any place within the United States, so that no period of adjournment be for a longer duration than the space of six months, and shall publish the journal of their proceedings monthly, except such parts thereof relating to treaties, alliances or military operations, as in their judgement require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the delegates of each State on any question shall be entered on the journal, when it is desired by any delegates of a State, or any of them, at his or their request shall be furnished with a transcript of the said journal, except such parts as are above excepted, to lay before the legislatures of the several States.

X. The Committee of the States, or any nine of them, shall be authorized to execute, in the recess of Congress, such of the powers of Congress as the United States in Congress assembled, by the consent of the nine States, shall from time to time think expedient to vest them with; provided that no power be delegated to the said Committee, for the exercise of which, by the Articles of Confederation, the voice of nine States in the Congress of the United States assembled be requisite.

XI. Canada acceding to this confederation, and adjoining in the measures of the United States, shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this Union; but no other colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine States.

XII. All bills of credit emitted, monies borrowed, and debts contracted by, or under the authority of Congress, before the assembling of the United States, in pursuance of the present confederation, shall be deemed and considered as a charge against the United States, for payment and satisfaction whereof the said United States, and the public faith are hereby solemnly pledged.

XIII. Every State shall abide by the determination of the United States in Congress assembled, on all questions which by this confederation are submitted to them. And the Articles of this Confederation shall be inviolably observed by every State, and the Union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every State.

And Whereas it hath pleased the Great Governor of the World to incline the hearts of the legislatures we respectively represent in Congress, to approve of, and to authorize us to ratify the said Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union. Know Ye that we the undersigned delegates, by virtue of the power and authority to us given for that purpose, do by these presents, in the name and in behalf of our respective constituents, fully and entirely ratify and confirm each and every of the said Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, and all and singular the matters and things therein contained: And we do further solemnly plight and engage the faith of our respective constituents, that they shall abide by the determinations of the United States in Congress assembled, on all questions, which by the said Confederation are submitted to them. And that the Articles thereof shall be inviolably observed by the States we respectively represent, and that the Union shall be perpetual.

In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands in Congress. Done at Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania the ninth day of July in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Eight, and in the Third Year of the independence of America.



[The United States Constitution](#)

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the

Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section. 4.

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section. 5.

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section. 6.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section. 7.

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section. 8.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section. 9.

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section. 10.

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article. II.

Section. 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And

they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be encreased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section. 2.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section. 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section. 4.

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III.

Section. 1.

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The

Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section. 2.

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;— between a State and Citizens of another State,—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section. 3.

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article. IV.

Section. 1.

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the

Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section. 2.

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

Section. 3.

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section. 4.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence.

Article. V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or

by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Article. VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article. VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

The Word, "the," being interlined between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, The Word "Thirty" being partly written on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page, The Words "is tried" being interlined between the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word "the" being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

Attest William Jackson Secretary

done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

G°. Washington
Presidt and deputy from Virginia



[The Bill of Rights](#) **Our First 10 Amendments**

Congress of the United States

begun and held at the City of New-York, on

Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three

fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been

committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

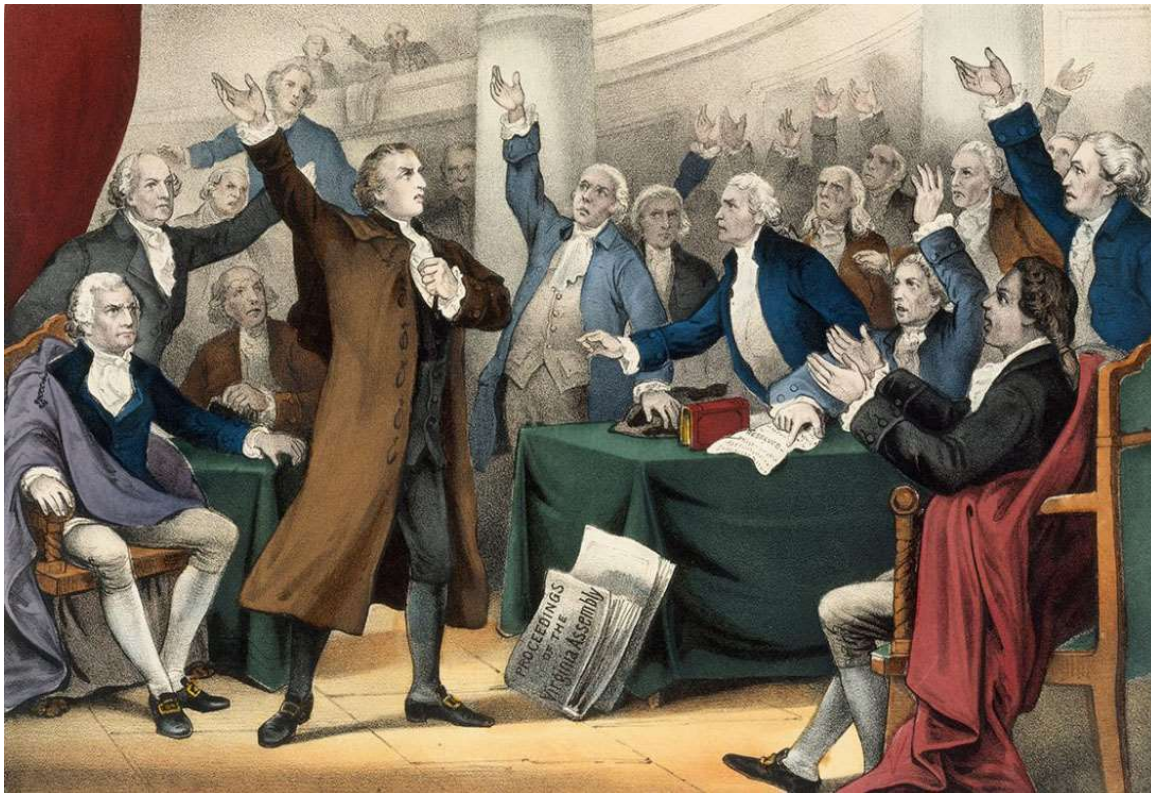
Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

**“Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?
Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take;
but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”
Patrick Henry (Second Virginia Convention, 23 March 1775)**





Roger Sherman

Our Founders

Below is a grid showing all those who signed at least one of our Founding Documents.

#DS – Number of documents signed

CA – The Articles of Association

DI – The Declaration of Independence

AC – The Articles of Confederation

USC – The United States Constitution

Connecticut delegate Roger Sherman was a member of the Committee of Five, those who drafted and presented the Constitution to the full Congress, and the only Founder who signed all four of our Founding Documents.

Name	Province/state	# D S	CA (17 74)	DI (17 76)	AC (17 77)	US C (17 87)
Andrew Adams	Connecticut	1			Yes	
John Adams	Massachusetts	2	Yes	Yes		
Samuel Adams	Massachusetts	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Thomas Adams	Virginia	1			Yes	
John Alsop	New York	1	Yes			
Abraham Baldwin	Georgia	1				Yes
John Banister	Virginia	1			Yes	
Josiah Bartlett	New Hampshire	2		Yes	Yes	
Richard Bassett	Delaware	1				Yes
Gunning Bedford Jr.	Delaware	1				Yes
Edward Biddle	Pennsylvania	1	Yes			
John Blair	Virginia	1				Yes

Richard Bland	Virginia	1	Yes			
William Blount	North Carolina	1				Yes
<u>Simon Boerum</u>	New York	1	Yes			
Carter Braxton	Virginia	1		Yes		
<u>David Brearley</u>	New Jersey	1				Yes
Jacob Broom	Delaware	1				Yes
Pierce Butler	South Carolina	1				Yes
Charles Carroll of Carrollton	Maryland	1		Yes		
Daniel Carroll	Maryland	2			Yes	Yes
Richard Caswell	North Carolina	1	Yes			
Samuel Chase	Maryland	2	Yes	Yes		
Abraham Clark	New Jersey	1		Yes		
<u>William Clingan</u>	Pennsylvania	1			Yes	
George Clymer	Pennsylvania	2		Yes		Yes
John Collins	Rhode Island	1			Yes	
Stephen Crane	New Jersey	1	Yes			
Thomas Cushing	Massachusetts	1	Yes			
Francis Dana	Massachusetts	1			Yes	
Jonathan Dayton	New Jersey	1				Yes
Silas Deane	Connecticut	1	Yes			
John De Hart	New Jersey	1	Yes			
John Dickinson	Delaware	3 ^[a]			Yes	Yes
	Pennsylvania		Yes			
William Henry Drayton	South Carolina	1			Yes	
James Duane	New York	2	Yes		Yes	
<u>William Duer</u>	New York	1			Yes	
<u>Eliphalet Dyer</u>	Connecticut	1	Yes			
William Ellery	Rhode Island	2		Yes	Yes	
William Few	Georgia	1				Yes
Thomas Fitzsimons	Pennsylvania	1				Yes
William Floyd	New York	2	Yes	Yes		
Nathaniel Folsom	New Hampshire	1	Yes			
Benjamin Franklin	Pennsylvania	2		Yes		Yes
Christopher Gadsden	South Carolina	1	Yes			
Joseph Galloway	Pennsylvania	1	Yes			

Elbridge Gerry	Massachusetts	2		Yes	Yes	
Nicholas Gilman	New Hampshire	1				Yes
Nathaniel Gorham	Massachusetts	1				Yes
Button Gwinnett	Georgia	1		Yes		
Lyman Hall	Georgia	1		Yes		
Alexander Hamilton	New York	1				Yes
John Hancock	Massachusetts	2		Yes	Yes	
John Hanson	Maryland	1			Yes	
Cornelius Harnett	North Carolina	1			Yes	
Benjamin Harrison	Virginia	2	Yes	Yes		
John Hart	New Jersey	2		Yes		
John Harvie	Virginia	1			Yes	
Patrick Henry	Virginia	1	Yes			
Joseph Hewes	North Carolina	2	Yes	Yes		
Thomas Heyward Jr.	South Carolina	2		Yes	Yes	
Samuel Holten	Massachusetts	1			Yes	
William Hooper	North Carolina	2	Yes	Yes		
Stephen Hopkins	Rhode Island	2	Yes	Yes		
Francis Hopkinson	New Jersey	1		Yes		
Titus Hosmer	Connecticut	1			Yes	
Charles Humphreys	Pennsylvania	1	Yes			
Samuel Huntington	Connecticut	2		Yes	Yes	
Richard Hutson	South Carolina	1			Yes	
Jared Ingersoll	Pennsylvania	1				Yes
William Jackson	South Carolina	1				Yes
John Jay	New York	1	Yes			
Thomas Jefferson	Virginia	1		Yes		
Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer	Maryland	1				Yes
Thomas Johnson	Maryland	1	Yes			
William Samuel Johnson	Connecticut	1				Yes
Rufus King	Massachusetts	1				Yes
James Kinsey	New Jersey	1	Yes			
John Langdon	New Hampshire	1				Yes
Edward Langworthy	Georgia	1			Yes	

Henry Laurens	South Carolina	1			Yes	
Francis Lightfoot Lee	Virginia	2		Yes	Yes	
Richard Henry Lee	Virginia	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Francis Lewis	New York	2		Yes	Yes	
Philip Livingston	New York	2	Yes	Yes		
William Livingston	New Jersey	2	Yes			Yes
James Lovell	Massachusetts	1			Yes	
Isaac Low	New York	1	Yes			
Thomas Lynch	South Carolina	1	Yes			
Thomas Lynch Jr.	South Carolina	1		Yes		
James Madison	Virginia	1				Yes
Henry Marchant	Rhode Island	1			Yes	
John Mathews	South Carolina	1			Yes	
James McHenry	Maryland	1				Yes
Thomas McKean	Delaware	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Arthur Middleton	South Carolina	1		Yes		
Henry Middleton	South Carolina	1	Yes			
Thomas Mifflin	Pennsylvania	2	Yes			Yes
Gouverneur Morris	New York	2 ^[b]			Yes	
	Pennsylvania					Yes
Lewis Morris	New York	1		Yes		
Robert Morris	Pennsylvania	3		Yes	Yes	Yes
John Morton	Pennsylvania	2	Yes	Yes		
Thomas Nelson Jr.	Virginia	1		Yes		
William Paca	Maryland	2	Yes	Yes		
Robert Treat Paine	Massachusetts	2	Yes	Yes		
William Paterson	New Jersey	1				Yes
Edmund Pendleton	Virginia	1	Yes			
John Penn	North Carolina	2		Yes	Yes	
Charles Pinckney	South Carolina	1				Yes
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney	South Carolina	1				Yes
Peyton Randolph	Virginia	1	Yes			
George Read	Delaware	3	Yes	Yes		Yes
Joseph Reed	Pennsylvania	1			Yes	
Daniel Roberdeau	Pennsylvania	1			Yes	

Caesar Rodney	Delaware	2	Yes	Yes		
George Ross	Pennsylvania	2	Yes	Yes		
Benjamin Rush	Pennsylvania	1		Yes		
Edward Rutledge	South Carolina	2	Yes	Yes		
John Rutledge	South Carolina	2	Yes			Yes
Nathaniel Scudder	New Jersey	1			Yes	
Roger Sherman	Connecticut	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
James Smith	Pennsylvania	1		Yes		
Jonathan Bayard Smith	Pennsylvania	1			Yes	
Richard Smith	New Jersey	1	Yes			
Richard Dobbs Spaight	North Carolina	1				Yes
Richard Stockton	New Jersey	1		Yes		
Thomas Stone	Maryland	1		Yes		
John Sullivan	New Hampshire	1	Yes			
George Taylor	Pennsylvania	1		Yes		
Edward Telfair	Georgia	1			Yes	
Matthew Thornton	New Hampshire	1		Yes		
Matthew Tilghman	Maryland	1	Yes			
Nicholas Van Dyke	Delaware	1			Yes	
George Walton	Georgia	1		Yes		
John Walton	Georgia	1			Yes	
Samuel Ward	Rhode Island	1	Yes			
George Washington	Virginia	2	Yes			Yes
John Wentworth Jr.	New Hampshire	1			Yes	
William Whipple	New Hampshire	1		Yes		
John Williams	North Carolina	1			Yes	
William Williams	Connecticut	1		Yes		
Hugh Williamson	North Carolina	1				Yes
James Wilson	Pennsylvania	2		Yes		Yes
Henry Wisner	New York	1	Yes			
John Witherspoon	New Jersey	2		Yes	Yes	
Oliver Wolcott	Connecticut	2		Yes	Yes	
George Wythe	Virginia	1		Yes		

Additional information about our Founding Fathers and all of those in the charts above can be found at [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Founding_Fathers).

George Washington

Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army
First President of the United States of America
“Father of our Country”



Thomas Jefferson

First United States Secretary of State
Second Vice-President of the United States
Third President of the United States of America
“Principal Author of our Declaration of Independence”



Benjamin Franklin

“The First American”

Scientist, Inventor, Writer, Printer, Etc.

United States Ambassador to France

First Postmaster General of the United States



James Madison

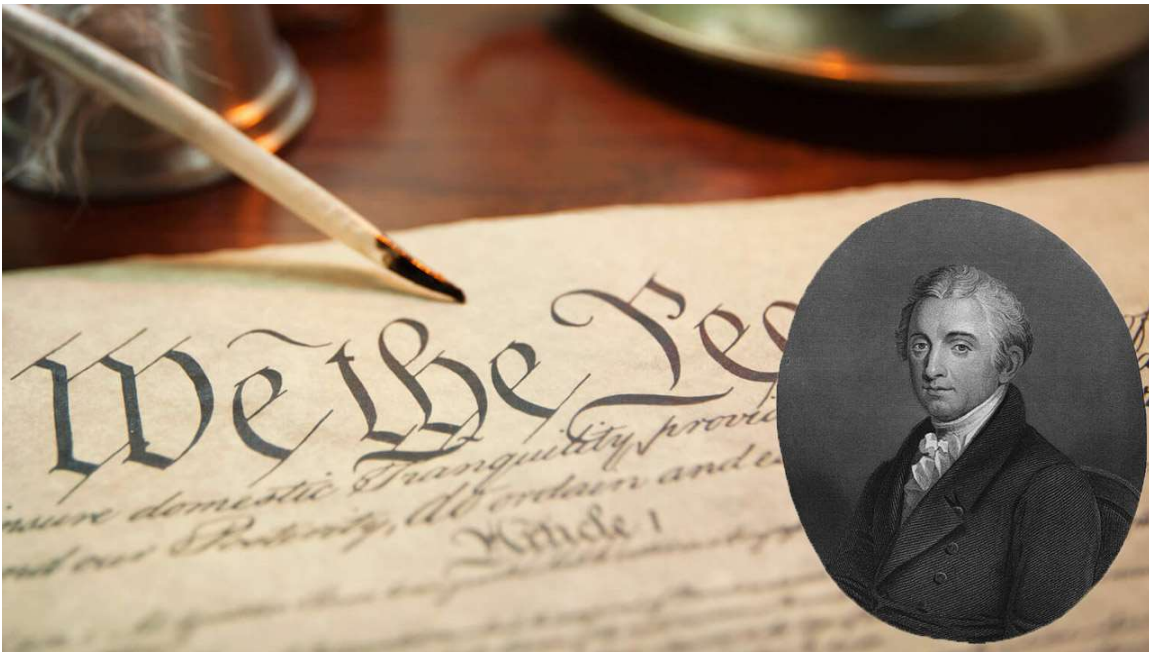
“Father of the Constitution”

Fifth United States Secretary of State

Fourth President of the United States of America



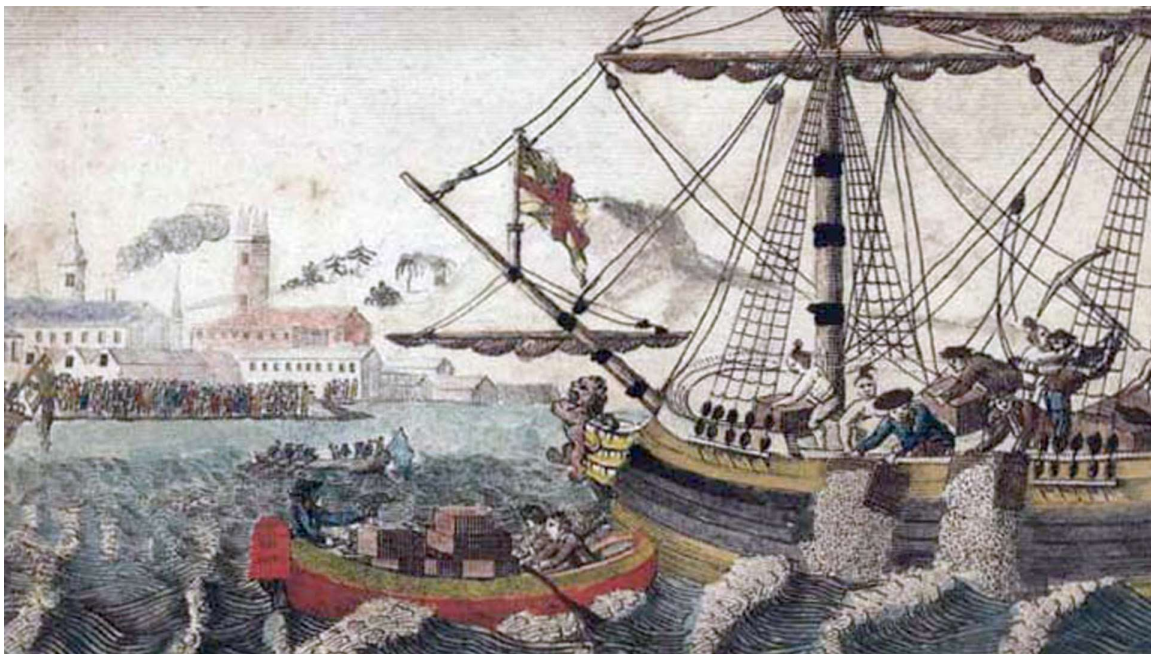
Gouverneur Morris
Author of the Preamble
“Penman of the Constitution”



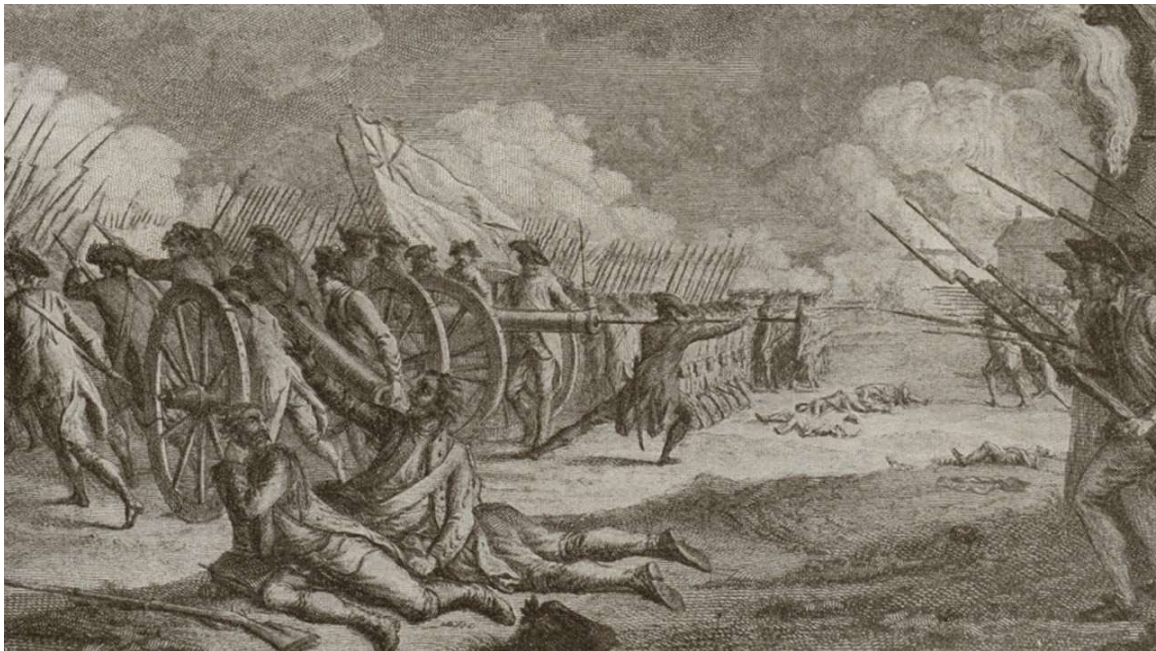
George Mason
Refused to sign the Constitution without a Bill of Rights (1787)
“Father of the United States Bill of Rights” (1789)



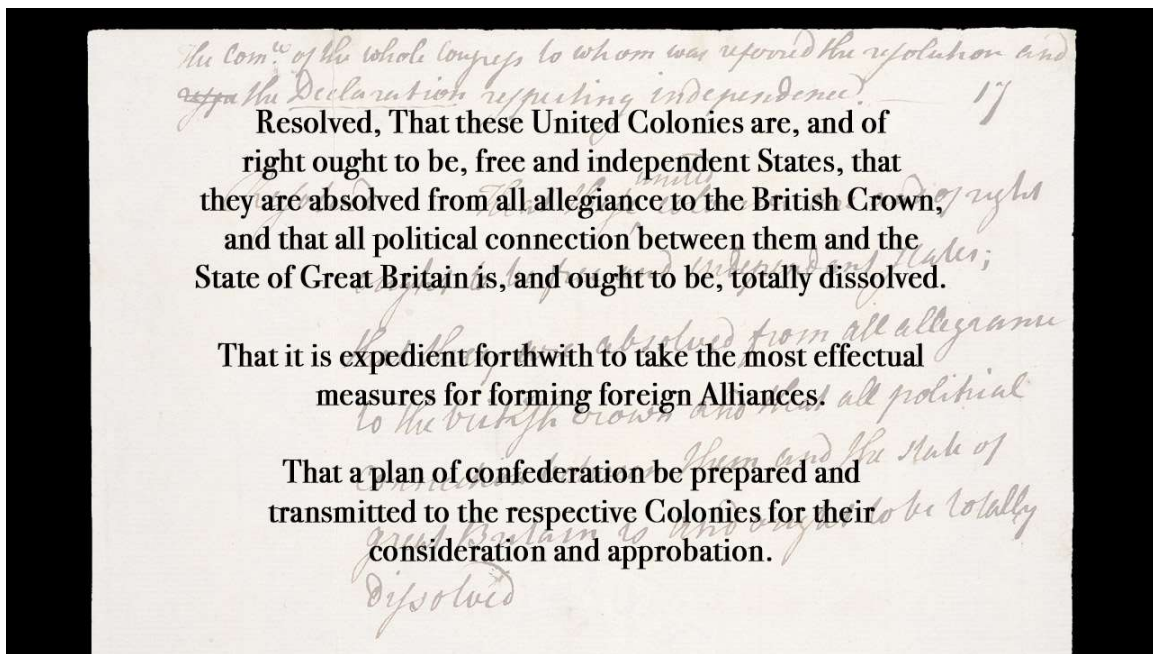
Organized by Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty, the Boston Tea Party was a political and mercantile protest held in Boston, Massachusetts, on December 16, 1773, protesting the Tea Act, which violated their rights as Englishmen, calling it taxation without representation. Britain responded with the Intolerable, or Coercive, Acts, closing the harbor to trade, and ending colonial self-government in Massachusetts. All of this was pivotal in the stages leading to the American Revolution.



Following implementation of the Intolerable Acts and the blockade on Boston Harbor, the colonists gathered at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, for the First Continental Congress (Sept-Oct 1774). The result of the meeting ended in a boycott on British trade and a petition to the tyrant King George III, which drew no response. The first actual military engagements between Great Britain and the colonies were fought on April 19, 1775, and are known as the Battles of Lexington and Concord. The War for Independence had officially begun.



After that first real battle, delegates met again in Philadelphia, on May 10, 1775, for the Second Continental Congress and took on the role of a de facto government for the now uniting colonies. On July 2, 1776, the delegates passed the Lee Resolution (aka The Resolution for Independence), a legislative act that resolved that all 13 colonies were henceforth completely separated from Britain and were now "free and independent states."
Two days later, they voted on and passed our Declaration of Independence.



The rest, as they say, is history.



ABOUT the COMPILER & SCRIBE
Scott D. Welch

Scott D. Welch is a marketer, writer and educator, as well as a published photographer, who provides Certain Points of View™ through words and images.

His background includes a short stint at IBM after college, co-owning a retail store, holding executive positions in both book and newspaper publishing, co-owning a tutoring company, and freelance work including web design, SEO, Social Media and more. Along with that, he worked in post-production and on the marketing of the award-winning feature movie about our U.S. Constitution, *In Search of Liberty*.

In addition, he taught Internet-related classes at an adult school in California while holding a Preliminary Vocational Education Credential in Electronic Publishing, Management and Marketing.

As a direct descendant of at least eight ancestors who fought as Colonials during the American Revolution (4th, 5th and 6th great-grandfathers), a 1st cousin to Patrick Henry (6x removed) and a 2nd cousin to First Lady Dolley Madison (5x removed) it only makes sense that Scott would be a Patriot and an Advocate for Liberty, a staunch supporter of our rights and freedoms, especially as our Founding Fathers had envisioned and intended. We won't discuss here some of his other distant cousins, such as General George Custer, Butch Cassidy or Frank and Jesse James...

More information about Scott can be found at his [website](#).



RESOURCES

Below are a few websites and organizations devoted to educate and inform all Americans about our rights, our freedom, our liberty, to ensure that we will always remain the Land of the Free, the Home of the Brave.

[*In Search of Liberty*](#) – the award-winning Constitution movie (DVD, Blu-Ray)

[*In Search of Liberty Digital HD*](#) – stream the award-winning Constitution movie

[*Building Blocks for Liberty*](#) – providing one-day Constitution Boot Camps

[*Constitution Boot Camp*](#) Home Edition – three hours of Constitution education online

[*Liberty First University*](#) – online education from Constitutional attorney KrisAnne Hall

[*Constituting America*](#) – teaching nonpartisan relevancy of the U.S. Constitution

The [*National Constitution Center*](#) – located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

