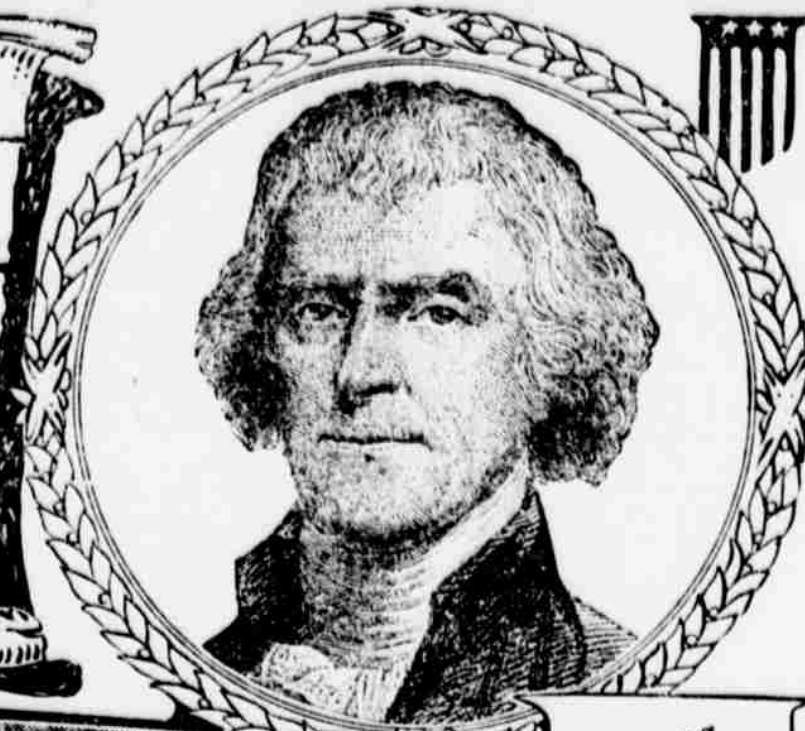


# OUR CHARTER OF FREEDOM

The interesting story of the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence—July 2 or August 2 better entitled to celebration than July 4.



Thomas Jefferson & Co

**P**OPULAR history has fastened upon our impressionable minds a poetic picture of the signing of the Declaration of Independence as a graceful and formal function, taking place July 4, 1776, in a large, handsomely furnished chamber in Independence hall, Philadelphia. To give the necessary touch of vivacity to the picture there is the scene of the small boy darting from the door as the last signer sets his autograph to the precious parchment and dashing down the street, calling to his grandfather, to "Ring! Oh, ring for liberty!"

Our ideal proclamation of the charter of American freedom must be shattered in the cause of truth. The Declaration of Independence was signed behind locked doors, and was not generally signed upon the Fourth of July at all. The city was not breathlessly awaiting the event outside, nor did the Liberty bell peal forth on that day the triumphant note of freedom.

The accredited historian of the United States department of state is Gailard Hunt, Litt. D., LL. D., now chief of the division of manuscripts in the Library of Congress.

"There is really no reason for our celebrating the Fourth of July more than July 2 or August 2," said Doctor Hunt recently to an inquirer. "It was not until the latter date that the document was generally signed."

"The Virginia bill of rights, of which George Mason was also the author, was drawn up and adopted in the last colonial assembly in Virginia prior to the Revolution. The bill of rights is in effect a part of every constitution in the land today. It is beyond doubt that this famous document, of which his elderly friend was author, was largely drawn upon by Thomas Jefferson when he wrote the Declaration of Independence."

"The fundamental principles of government set forth in Mason's bill of rights were the same as those in the English petitions to the king, the acts of the long parliament and magna charta."

"You know, perhaps, that it was another Virginian, Richard Henry Lee, who presented to congress, on June 7, 1776, a set of resolutions containing the words, 'That these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.'"

"It was as a result of the favorable voting upon Lee's resolutions that the well-known committee, composed of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston, was named to draft the document. The committee assigned the task of preparing the instrument to the Virginian. Jefferson's was the master political mind and it was by no mere chance that he was called upon to write the document which has ever come from the pen of an individual."

### Drafting of the Declaration.

"Thomas Jefferson was the personification of method," remarked Doctor Hunt, "and immediately upon receiving his commission to write the declaration he retired to the two rooms he rented as a working place at Seventh and Market place, Philadelphia, and prepared to give his country one of the greatest monuments of human freedom."

"The department of state owns the first draft of the Declaration which Jefferson presented to the committee for its approval. His conferees made a few alterations, which are clearly shown in the text, and Jefferson has written beside each change the name of its author, making the document of inestimable value."

"The fair copy which he made for presentation to congress, and which bears the congressional amendments and alterations, is lost."

"The latter is the formal Declaration of Independence laid before congress on June 28, 1776. It was then read and ordered to lie on the table until July 1. On July 2 a resolution was passed declaring the Independence of the United States, although the exact form of the proclamation as prepared by Jefferson was debated upon until July 4, when, with some alterations and amendments, it was signed by John Hancock, president of the congress, and the signature attested by Charles Thomson, secretary of congress."

"July 2 was actually the date of separation of the colonies from the mother country. On July 3 we find John Adams, whom Jefferson called the 'colossus of the colonies,' writing to his wife, Abigail, in the following words:

"Yesterday the greatest question which was ever debated in America was decided, and a greater perhaps never was nor will be decided among men."

### Great Day Was July 2.

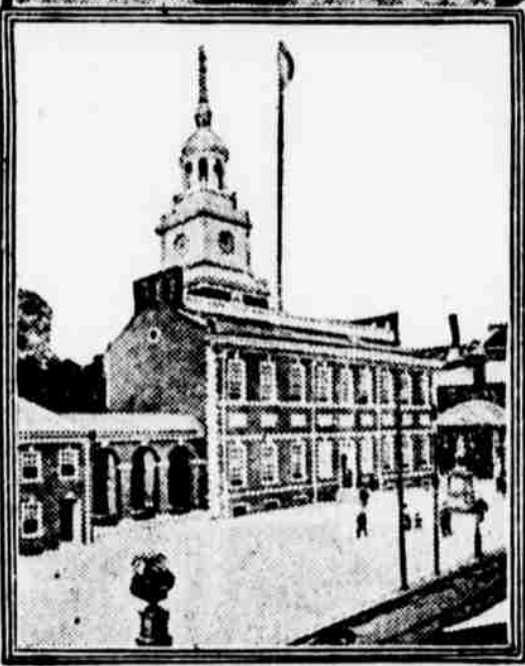
"In a second letter, written the same day, he said: 'But the day is past. July 2 will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.'"

"There is little doubt but that the participants in the event considered July 2 as the true date of independence for the colonies, but popular fancy seized upon the 4th, the date of acceptance of Jefferson's formal and detailed setting-forth as the proper date of celebration."

"John Trumbull's famous painting of the scene, hanging in the rotunda of the capitol, is a poetical piece of work and gives many of the portraits of the signers with faithfulness, but it is somewhat fanciful. No silken hangings draped the windows of that stilling room on July 4, 1776, and the beautiful order in which the men are ranged up for signing the immortal document is also fictional."



Drafting the Declaration of Independence



Independence Hall

"The president of the congress, John Hancock, with the secretary, Charles Thomson, alone signed the autograph Jefferson document on that date. Immediately afterward it was hurried to the official printer for congress, John Dunlap, to put in type and several copies were made. By next morning the printed copies of Jefferson's Declaration of Independence were in Hancock's hands. When he came to write the proceedings for the Fourth of July, 1776, into the Journal of Congress, Charles Thomson, secretary of the congress, left a blank space for the Declaration and it is this broadside which now appears wafered into the space left for it in the Journal."

"This broadside was sent out to the governors of the states, to the Continental army, and it is the paper from which the Declaration of Independence

## THEY BELIEVED IN AMERICA

One hundred and forty years ago some half-hundred men, sent by their communities to concert measures for securing their "rights as Englishmen," became convinced that these could not be obtained save by gesting to be "British subjects" and declaring themselves "American citizens."

Let us look behind the formal phrases of the immortal Declaration to the faith of these men and of the people for whom they spoke. What was the faith that made vital their appeal for the justice of their cause and the righteousness of their undertaking?

They believed in themselves; in their ability to do right and justice. They believed in the competence of stalwart manhood to govern itself and to provide for the common welfare. They believed they could make better arrangements in government than men had made before them. They believed in themselves, in their people, in America.

Americans of late have done a great deal of fault-finding with America. There is not so much now as a year or two ago. The spectacle across the Atlantic tends to hush it, and to give new point to the saying that "other countries" are what make Americans so proud of their own.

In the light of that spectacle and of our own

was read to the people July 8, when the Liberty bell was rung and the first public celebration was made in honor of the event."

### Signed August 2.

"July 19 congress ordered that the Declaration passed the 4th be fairly engrossed. It was very beautifully done on parchment. This is the document which received the signatures of all the members of the Continental congress present in Independence hall, August 2, 1776. By this time, however, the membership had changed slightly, so that the "signers" were not identical with the body of delegates who had declared for independence a month before. Presumably it was at this time that Hancock, making his great familiar signature, jestingly remarked that John Bull could see it without his spectacles. One or two of the signatures were not actually affixed until a later date than August 2."

"This is the treasured Declaration of Independence now in possession of the department of state," said Doctor Hunt. "It is kept in a hermetically sealed case, which is opened only by special order for very special reasons. It is faded, and it would have been better if this engrossed copy had been made on paper rather than parchment. It is so faded that few of the signatures are recognizable. Nothing can now be done which will permanently benefit it."

"I believe the main cause of the fading was the impression taken in 1823, by order of President Monroe. Two hundred facsimiles were then made to give a copy to each of the then living signers and others. Taking the impression removed the ink."

history let all true Americans today highly resolve on a new birth within their own souls of the faiths of those men 140 years ago, of faith in themselves and of faith in America.

### OF GREAT MOMENT IN HISTORY.

The declaration of American independence was of unequalled moment in history. As the result of that fact, the United States of America has risen to a greatness which has changed the face of the world. In a little less than seven score of years it has changed us from a nation of people scattered thinly along the coast of the Atlantic, to a nation of over a hundred millions of people stretching over the whole continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and even into the lands beyond the seas. Moreover, in wealth and in material energy, as in numbers, it now far surpasses the mother country from which it sprang.

### TRIBUTE TO THE DECLARATION.

The historian Buckle was cordial and sweeping in his praise of the Declaration. He said among other things: "That noble Declaration ought to be hung up in the nursery of every king and blazoned on the porch of every royal palace."

If such were the brilliant historian's idea, it was as Professor Tyler remarked, "because the Declaration has become the classic statement of political truths which must at last abolish kings altogether or else teach them to identify their existence with the dignity and happiness of human nature."

**Ancient Gooseberries.**  
Gooseberries canned 25 years ago were eaten with spoons dating back 180 years at a wedding anniversary in Fulton, Mo., recently. It is easy to understand how the spoons could have been handed down from generation to generation for the period named, but it is not so easy to comprehend how the gooseberries got safely through the quarter century.

**Avoiding Discussion.**  
"You must give your wife credit for knowing as much about the political situation as you do?"  
"That's what I want to do," replied Mr. Grovcher. "I want to give her credit for about everything without putting her to the trouble of explaining a single word."

A nut is a mighty important thing—sometimes he is merely self-important.

**Heads and "Tales."**  
When the dynamite trial was held in this city, the name of Charles Miller became a household word. In one small Indiana town the children of a certain family who knew the attorney were fond of acting out Bible scenes. The two older sisters had decided on the story of John the Baptist, and asked little John to take the part of the Bible hero. John was from Missouri and had to be shown. After carefully explaining the importance of his part to him, and the mighty character whom he was to impersonate, John looked up in disgust, and drawled: "Saw! I ain't goin' to be no John the Baptist, I'd rather be somebody great like Charlie Miller." — Indianapolis News.

"Say, how would you class these expert military aviators?"  
"Why, as shooting stars."

## The Effects of Opiates.

**T**HAT INFANTS are peculiarly susceptible to opium and its various preparations, all of which are narcotic, is well known. Even in the smallest doses, if continued, these opiates cause changes in the functions and growth of the cells which are likely to become permanent, causing imbecility, mental perversion, a craving for alcohol or narcotics in later life. Nervous diseases, such as intractable nervous dyspepsia and lack of staying powers are a result of dosing with opiates or narcotics to keep children quiet in their infancy. The rule among physicians is that children should never receive opiates in the smallest doses for more than a day at a time, and only then if unavoidable.

The administration of Anodynes, Drops, Cordials, Soothing Syrups and other narcotics to children by any but a physician cannot be too strongly decried, and the druggist should not be a party to it. Children who are ill need the attention of a physician, and it is nothing less than a crime to dose them willfully with narcotics.

Castoria contains no narcotics if it bears the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. Genuine Castoria always bears the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*



## Shipping Fever

Influenza, Pink Eye, Epizootic, Dystemper and all nose and throat diseases cured, and all others, no matter how "expensive," kept from having any of these diseases with a **SPHON'S DYSTEMPER COMPOUND**. Three to six doses often cure a case. One 50-cent bottle guaranteed to do so. Best thing for brood mares; acts on the blood. 50c a bottle, \$5 dozen bottles. Druggists and harness shops or manufacturers sell it. Agents wanted.

SPHON MEDICAL CO., Chemists, Gothen, Ind., U. S. A.

## RATHER ROUGH ON TOMPKINS

Girls Might at Least Have Chosen Some Other Tune for Their First Rendition.

Mr. Tompkins is a hard-working man at his trade as a shoemaker. By laboring early and late he managed to earn enough to educate and dress his two daughters very well.

Now, he was so proud of these girls that at last he bought them a piano. A few days after the arrival of the instrument a friend saw him.

"Hello, Tompkins!" he said "and how did the piano go off?"

"Beautifully, Smith," replied the shoemaker, "the girls were as grateful as possible, and it's fine to hear them singing and playing. But what do you suppose was the very first tune they learned?"

"Dunno, I'm sure," was the friend's reply.  
"Everybody Works but Father," said Tompkins mournfully. — Pittsburgh Chronicle.

### Some Kicks.

"And you say the mule kicked you, Sam?"

"Indeed, he did, boss."

"How far did he kick you?"

"How far did he kick me?"

"Yes, how far were you from him after he kicked you?"

"Does you mean how far was I from him after he kicked me first or de last time, boss?"

### Nearly the Truth.

"Did your office boy tell you the truth when he said he was obliged to go to a funeral?"

"No. But it was almost as bad as a funeral. The home team suffered a humiliating defeat."

"Where did you get the apples?"

"A nice man gave 'em to me."

"Did he give you one for me?"

### New French Army Helmet.

Sixty-four operations are necessary in making one of the steel helmets that the French soldiers wear. The first step, says Pearson's Magazine, is stamping out disks from great sheets of steel. A machine that exerts a pressure of one hundred and fifty tons, and can cut out five thousand disks a day, does that work.

Each disk is placed under a shaping machine, which presses the disk into the form of a helmet with a broad rim. Polishing and cutting machines remove all irregularities in the helmet, after which holes are punched in the crown—some for ventilation purposes, others for fastening on the regimental crest.

Each helmet is cleaned and dipped in a special mixture that makes it a dull, inconspicuous bluish gray. A lining and leather chin straps are then fastened on, and the helmet is complete. Since the French troops have begun to wear helmets the number of deaths from wounds in the head has decreased to a remarkable extent.

### Real Humorist.

"My nephew, Perry Pert, ought to be writing button busters for the Star-beams column, right now!" said old Isaac Ickery. "He's a whole lot fuller of yummer than the fellers that are writing 'em. Why, just yesterday I handed him a paper with a picture in it of that 'ere big-nosed Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, and says I, 'What do you think of him?' And as quick as a flash he answered right back, 'Goodness only nose! just like that!'" — Kansas City Star.

Suppose we quit assuming that the other fellow is crooked. All that such imagining breeds is hatreds.

To give a relish to tomato sauce, chop a green pepper with onion. This is good served with omelette.



# They Stand Up—

Unlike common corn flakes, the New Post Toasties don't mush down when milk or cream is added.

And they have a charming new flavour—delicious, different, the true essence of the corn—not found in corn flakes heretofore.

The intense heat of the new process of manufacture raises tiny bubbles on each delicious brown flake and these little puffs are the identifying feature.

These new flakes are firmer, crisper, and don't crumble in the package—in comparison, ordinary corn flakes are as "chaff."

Your grocer can send you a package of

## New Post Toasties