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## BIRTH OF THE NATION

### THE TOLD STORY OF AMERICA MADE FREE.

One Hundred and Twenty Years Ago the Gannetlet of Defiance Was Thrown to Britain and This New Republic Was Born.

**Independence for All.**  
One hundred and twenty years ago, namely, on the Fourth of July, 1776, there was born in the western world a new nation—the Republic of the United States. Refusing to pay the taxation imposed upon them at the point of the bayonet by the British crown; failing to move the king and his ministers from their career of haughty and reckless obstinacy, the thirteen American colonies found themselves reduced to the alternative of abject submission or of armed resistance. Already there had flashed throughout the country the electric words of Patrick Henry: "We must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us."  
The sons of liberty shouted their responsive acclaim to this manly summons, and, like the sound of many waters, the spirit of national independence which thus possessed the people came upon the Continental Congress, then in session in the State House at Philadelphia, Pa. It was in this temple of freedom, wherein was sitting as noble and august a legislative body as the world ever saw, that Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution, on the 7th of June, 1776, declaring: "That the United Colonies are and ought to be free and independent States, and



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, 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 shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses 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 system 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.



RISING LIBERTY BELL, JULY 4, 1776.

that their political connection with Great Britain is and ought to be dissolved." Upon this resolution there sprang up at once an earnest and powerful debate. It was opposed, principally, on the ground that it was premature. Its further consideration was accordingly postponed until there was a prospect of greater unanimity. On the 11th of June, a committee was appointed to draft a formal Declaration. This committee consisted of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. On the 28th of June the committee made their report, and presented the Declaration which they had drawn up. On the 2d day of July Congress proceeded to the serious consideration of this momentous paper, which lasted nearly three days, and was extremely earnest. It was known throughout the city that the great event was to be determined, but the closed doors of Congress excluded the populace. From the hour when Congress came together in the forenoon all business was suspended throughout the city, and the old bellman steadily remained at his post in the steeple, prepared to sound forth to the waiting multitudes the expected glad tidings. The bell, manufactured in England, bore upon its ample curve the now prophetic inscription, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

Hours passed on, and fear began to take the place of hope in many a heart; even the venerable and always cheerful bellman was overheard in his despondent soliloquy:

"They will never do it! they will never do it!"

Finally, at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the door of the mysterious hall swung open, and a voice exclaimed:

"Passed!—it has passed!"

The word was caught up by ten thousand glad mouths, and the watch-boy now clapped his hands and shouted, "Ring! Ring!" Seizing the iron tongue of the bell in which he had long felt such a professional pride, the electrified old patriot rang forth such a joyous peal as was never heard before, nor ceased to hurl it backward and forward till every voice joined in its notes of gladness and triumph. The roar of cannon, and illuminations from every house and hilltop, added to these demonstrations of universal rejoicing.

Washington hailed the declaration with joy, for it put an end to all those temporizing hopes of reconciliation which had clogged the military action of the country. On the 9th of July he caused it to be read at the head of each brigade of the army. The troops listened to the reading with eager attention, and at its close broke forth in tumultuous applause.

The excitable populace of New York were not content with the ringing of bells. There was a leaden equestrian statue of George the Third in Bowling Green, in front of the fort. Around this kindly effigy the excited multitude surged, and, pulling it down, broke it into fragments, which were afterward molded into bullets and made to do service against his majesty's troops.

In Boston, that citadel of radical insubordination to "his majesty," the public joy knew no bounds. The town clerk read the solemn declaration to the multitude, at the close of which a shout began in the hall and passed like an electric spark to the streets, which now rang with loud huzzas, the slow and measured boom of cannon and the rattle of musketry. The batteries on Fort Hill, Dorchester Neck, the castle, Nantasket and Long Island, each saluted with thirteen guns, the artillery in the town fired thirteen

## THE DAY WE CELEBRATE.

One year it comes  
With its flags and drums,  
With its cannon loud,  
With its rockets high  
And their straggling crowd  
Filling all the sky.  
Music in the air,  
Powder everywhere,  
Crackers making noise,  
Snapping at your feet,  
For the happy boys  
All along the street.  
Then, hurrah! I say,  
Independence Day  
Comes but once a year,  
With its noise and smoke.  
Let us hold it dear,  
Big and little folk.  
Let us take our part  
With a loyal heart.  
Be our flags unfurled,  
Little maid and man,  
Proudest in the world!  
Free! American!  
—New York Independent.

## HERE HE IS AGAIN.

At about 8:30 o'clock the moon shot up in the sky, blood-red, and the air grew suddenly hotter. The clerk, to whom the sight was a new one, seemed much impressed by it.

## WHEN THE MOON IS RED.

Mawson was the quietest man in the company; lazy and easy-going, and as gentle of speech and manner as a woman. Therefore, what I am about to tell seems all the more inexplicable.

## SWEETHEARTS.

Where are my sweethearts, fond and fair?  
None of the graceful group I see;  
Fitting fairies, they clip the air,  
Or peep from the woods and laugh at me,  
Laugh at the old man moving slow,  
In a circle of dreams of long ago!

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The troops had just been paid at Fort Boland, in New Mexico, and the detail to escort the paymaster to the next station already announced. It consisted of Sergeant Calson, an ex-English soldier who had seen service in India, and six privates, of whom Mawson was one.

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