

# What Really Happened ON FIRST INDEPENDENCE DAY

FROM much that historians have written about the Fourth of July, 1776, an erroneous idea of the happenings of that great day has become a common heritage of the people of our land. Many an American considers it a part of a patriotic duty to muse upon the imaginative picture entitled "The First Fourth of July," which some historical writer has painted upon his vision.

In fancy he sees Independence hall in Philadelphia and the Continental congress with its ruffled shirts, long cloth coats, knee pants, silk stockings and low shoes sitting with dignity, but listening spellbound to a wonderfully strange and entirely new document called "The Declaration of Independence."

In fancy he even hears the popular acclaim of "That is just what we all say!" and "It is well worded, Mr. Jefferson." Then the mind pictures the various delegates to congress hastening forward, eager for the honor of fixing their signatures to a sheepskin document.

The scene changes to the ringing of the great liberty bell, to the assembling of the people at Philadelphia who applauded the reading of this bill of rights and to the final closing of the day with every man, woman and child in Philadelphia happy because he is no longer a British subject, having become a free American in a single day.

Such a vision pictures a heroic scene; but the true record of events does not affirm that these so-called happenings took place on that memorable day. By blotting out the imperfect details of the picture the Fourth of July is in no way robbed of any of its glory.

An authentic account of what transpired at that time changes the meaning of the Fourth of July from one day to about sixty in which the whole history of our national liberty is told and the heroic heart-throbs of the sorely tried colonists are keenly felt.

The day itself properly symbolizes the liberty for which the patriots of that time stood ready to sacrifice their lives in order to launch the United States as a national craft which should be anchored by no weight of foreign despotism.

It was a time of danger when brother, friend and neighbor became estranged by reason of political opinion. Some colonists still loved the mother country with true English pride, while others were so embittered by the injustice of the sovereign across the seas that they willingly gave their all to the cause of the people of the new land.

During the latter part of 1774 George Washington himself wrote that no thinking man among the colonists wanted to separate from England, and Franklin ridiculed the idea.

During the early days of the revolution the bluecoats never dreamed of separating from the beloved land of their ancestors. In fact, such a course would have been condemned by Americans themselves as treason. Jefferson declared that prior to April 19, 1776, he had heard no whisper of the disposition of anyone to stand from under the governmental power of Great Britain.

The inevitable, however, came with the spring of 1776, when local assemblies began formal discussion regarding the liberty of colonists. These legislative bodies possessed but little power, but they did a great part in crystallizing the sentiment for independence in many quarters and forcing those opposed to the idea to declare their final attitude.

The good work of these small legislative bodies was reflected and magnified as soon as the delegates were sent to the Continental congress. Then the spirit of liberty permeated the very atmosphere of the national assembly and many an individual received the courage to align himself with the new cause.

If, June 7, 1776, there had been an "extra paper" to have informed the public of the latest political news one might have read the faring headlines "Richard Henry Lee of Virginia the Man of the Hour," for it was he who on that day started the Fourth of July. It was this southerner who introduced the first declaration of independence in congress declaring the American people free.

Good judgment dictated the caution of omitting John Adams' name from the minutes, as the second to that motion, yet the fact is known today, when there is no army of redcoats waiting to seize patriots as rebels.

Too much praise cannot be given to the introduction of Lee's resolution, yet it was to the credit of the Continental congress that action was not forced upon such an important measure at that time. It could not have succeeded until all objections had been silenced, and all were conscientiously convinced that the cause of liberty was just. It was imperative that all should look the Goddess of Liberty squarely in the face with a devotion to follow where she should lead.

As no agreement could be reached on June 7 the resolution was laid over until the next day, when it was again postponed for consideration until July 1.

In order that the cause of liberty should not be retarded during this wait, congress at that



INDEPENDENCE HALL



JOHN ADAMS

time appointed a committee of five to prepare a declaration of independence of the same purport as Lee's resolution, in the hope that the new doctrine would be unanimously accepted when the matter should be again taken up in July.

Policy demanded that a southerner should be chosen to write the declaration in order to increase the probability of its unanimous adoption. Logically, Jefferson was the man to carry this work through, for the mastery style of his pen was well known. With such coworkers, though, it cannot be supposed that he alone was the author of the resolution; for the responsibility had been assigned to all five jointly, and the counsel and advice of all were necessary.

However, the credit of the phrasing is given to Jefferson, while John Adams is said to have given close attention to the revision and the amending of the resolution. The entire committee helped perfect the documents by making it the subject of critical analysis. In allowing the Declaration of Independence to be ready before its assembly on June 28 congress preceded its schedule.

Satisfied that all were acquainted with its contents, the legislature then laid the bill on the table until it should come up for discussion by congress sitting as a committee of the whole.

By trial vote July 1 only nine colonies voted as favorable to the resolution.

Final legislative action was therefore deferred until the next day. That, July 2, was probably the most memorable of all dates of our national history. During the stormy debate at that time the declaration was both attacked and commended.

When the vote of the day was taken it was found that the declaration had been unanimously endorsed by all of the thirteen colonies.

The vote in favor of the declaration was not sufficient to make the adoption of the new resolution complete, for the next day congress sat as a committee of the whole to consider the bill. At that time slight alterations were made, certain clauses censuring England were omitted and others regarding slave trade were left out, while other amendments were added.

On July 4 congress assembled again and immediately resolved itself into a committee for the consideration of the Declaration of Independence.

When John Hancock, as president of the congress, resumed the chair, Mr. Harrison, grandfather of our former president of the United States, reported that his committee had agreed to the declaration, which they desired him to report.

What followed this announcement is largely a matter of surmise, despite the fact that the debate lasted all through the warm day, when delegates either talked or listened swathed in heavy, close-fitting stocks.

If it had not been for a seemingly trivial incident the debates of that day might probably have

lasted over until the next, and so July 5 would have become the birthday instead of July 4.

Toward evening the discomfort of the swarms of flies which came from a nearby livery stable into the hall of legislature. These pests were so audacious in assaults upon the statesmen that Jefferson said their annoyance helped bring the matter to a conclusion, and Harrison reported the declaration to congress as accepted, though in the minutes of that day the declaration was at first left out on account of the vengeance of England.

Today Independence hall, in the old state house in Philadelphia, remains about as it was on that July 4, and so far as the setting of the stage the drama is complete, but the drama itself is left for us to supply.

All that we have left of the record of that memorable day is the text of the Declaration of Independence, and as that represents what all brave American colonists were ready to lay down their lives for and what should be handed down to us and guarded as courageously as it had been won, the Fourth of July has amply served its purpose and deserved its one monument, "The Spirit of Liberty for All."

Whether or not the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, by any but Hancock, as president of the Continental congress, and Thompson, as secretary, is a matter of doubt, for the journal entry records "signed by order of and in behalf of congress." Jefferson himself made conflicting statements regarding this question.

Some contend that the delegates met informally on the morning of July 5 and signed the document. Whether or not the signatures were affixed on July 4, congress' act was official on that day that Jefferson's Declaration of Independence was declared acceptable to every colony. And so it resolved that copies should be sent throughout the new-formed republic.

The general assemblies, conventions, councils, committees of safety and the commanding officers of the Continental army had to be informed of the independence of the United States. These copies were signed by Hancock and Thompson. The Congressional Record of July 19 shows that a resolution was introduced in the national assembly to the effect that the declaration should be engrossed on parchment and presented for the signature of every member on August 2.

This fact, therefore, serves as authority that the parchment copy signed on that day in August, after it had been compared with the fair copy and the latter destroyed, is the copy of the Declaration of Independence which was considered for so many years the original draft of the great bill of rights of the American people. It is said that even this signing was entered into with "fear and trembling."

Satisfied that the signed parchment was a lasting evidence of the birth of the new nation, congress took no further official action regarding the instruments itself until January, 1777.

By that time the new republic began to feel its strength, and congress decided to promulgate the names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence by ordering that printed copies of the document should be made, with the names of the signers added.

Mary Katharine Goddard, a woman who carried on the printing business on Broadside, Baltimore, probably never heard of woman's rights, yet it so happened that it became her right to print these copies of the American bill of rights.

From these copies numerous others were soon made, until before long every home boasted at least one copy of the original document which gave life to our republic.

obtain treatment for those requiring it. Moving pictures, lectures, lantern slides exhibits and 200 special lecturers will be employed in making every tooth clear to them. The remarkable campaign was arranged by Dr. C. Ward Crampton, director of physical training in the public schools, who has long been convinced that neglect of the teeth has been an important factor of illness affecting children and the consequent unsatisfactory attendance at school.

can have one home.—Woman's Home Companion.

Monday was "toothbrush" day, and the beginning of "dental hygiene week" in the public schools, says the New York Times. Seven hundred thousand children heard some of the reasons why 2,000,000 of their teeth are in bad condition, and by the end of the week they will know every detail of how to preserve the others and

## CLOSE RACE CERTAIN

Season in Major Leagues Promises to Be Successful One.

Boston Braves Are Sure to Put Up Bold Front in National League—Boston Red Sox Touted as Winners in American.

Contrary to winter expectation the baseball season in the major leagues now promises to be a very successful one. A great many critics during the off season were full of fearful predictions that baseball was going into a state of desuetude and that public interest was rapidly waning. It is now believed this may have been a wrong diagnosis, for there is more than the average enthusiasm shown, and the sport is evidently in for a big year. The Feds have made practically no inroads on the clubs of organized ball and the strong teams are intact and capable of putting up a hard battle for the flags in the two big leagues. The race in each of the majors promises to be exceptionally close, which will add to the interest.

The fight for the pennant in the National league should be a good one, with the Boston Braves, present world's champions, as the natural favorites. The Braves have been slightly strengthened by the addition of Sherwood Magee in the outfield and are very sure to put up a bold front in their effort to make it two straight championships. They do not, however, appear to outclass the field to any great extent. The Giants seem to be the next best, with the St. Louis Cardinals having quite a chance to come through. These three clubs look to be the best in the league at the get-away. But baseball is full of surprises, as the Braves conclusively proved in 1914, and some dark horse is likely to crop up and set the dope all awry.

The American league is likely to have a much closer race than usual, owing to the break-up of the Athletics, who are no longer considered to have a walk-over, though Connie Mack is pretty sure to have his club right in the fight all the way.

The Boston Red Sox are touted as the most likely winners of the flag. They look very good and should have a fine chance. Most of the strength of the American league seems to lie in the East this season, with the Athletics, Boston and Washington as the best-appearing outfits. Detroit is too weak in the box to make much of a showing, and it is hardly likely that the Chicago White Sox will develop the steadiness to cut in strongly for the highest honors, while both Cleveland and the Browns lack the class.

Conditions in the minor leagues are improving very rapidly. The minors were badly injured by the Feds last year, but that stage is about over, and there is sure to be a big revival of interest in the smaller leagues before long.

All leagues are cutting down on the number of players to be carried, which works hardships on many performers, but which was only a natural result of the activities of the Feds. During the year it is expected that the conditions will settle down to their former substantial basis, and the season is bound to be a great improvement on that of 1914.

## TIRED OF PLAYING ON BENCH

Armando Marsans Wants to Play With St. Louis Cardinals Until Court Ruling is Handed Down.

Armando Marsans is tired of the bench and has asked to be allowed to play somewhere. He is said to have requested that he be permitted to play with the Cardinals until a court ruling



Armando Marsans.

is handed down. He will then go where the court decrees. The Cuban's toll at present consists of an hour's practice every day at the Terriers' park.

Marty McHale's New Wrinkle. Marty McHale has invented a new wrinkle in delivery. He pours a cupful of water on his right knee just before he starts for the rubber, and when he wants to pitch he rubs the ball in the wet spot and gets it good and smooth so that his grip is better. The other teams have protested against the trick, but the umpires see no other way to stop it.

Brainerd is Fast. Brainerd is the fastest man on the New York team, not even excepting George Burns, who is a corking base runner. The young first baseman looks like a very promising performer. He is a second sacker by trade, but is picking up the points of first-base play very rapidly. He seems to be quite a find.

Job for Arthur Devlin. Arthur Devlin, former Giant third baseman, has caught on with the Montreal team. Two other old Giants are looking for jobs—Cy Seymour and Mike Donlin.

Manager Charles Schmidt. Charles Schmidt, the former Detroit catcher, is now the manager of the Mobile team in the Southern league.

## PHILLIES CALLED SENSATION OF 1915



Manager Patrick Moran of the Philadelphia Nationals, regardless of the standing of his team at the finish of the present season, has achieved a reputation as a leader.

With a seemingly mediocre organization that previous to the opening of the league season was destined by critics and expert writers to furnish a sorry exhibition for the National circuit fans, the team has proved the sensation of the new baseball year. Sensations of this sort in baseball are perhaps in a measure largely accountable for its gripping interest.

Moran now parades a team accredited by critics as having the best pitcher in Grover Cleveland Alexander, in the National league, the best defensive infield that has represented the Phillies in years, one of the greatest first basemen in Luderus, and in Cactus Cravath the most dangerous hitter in

the pinch in the whole Tenor circuit. The old axiom that "the race is not always to the swift" still applies. Just a year ago the Pittsburgh Pirates were the sensation of the National league, having won fifteen of the first seventeen games played, the Boston Braves trailing far behind, with three victories in thirteen games. Six months later, however, the Braves had been returned not only the league pennant winners, but the world's champions, and the erstwhile league-leading Pirates had finished one of their most disastrous seasons in seventh place, not far removed from Cincinnati, the cellar champions.

Regardless of the standing of the Phillies next October, Manager Moran, in his first year in that role, has arrived and is deserving of the fulsome praise he is receiving for the rejuvenation.

## DIAMOND NOTES

Line you never see: \*Batted for Cobb in the ninth inning.

The fine work of the Cardinals has enthused the fans of St. Louis.

Just at present the Dodgers are doing great work in the National league.

Manager Tinker is beginning to doubt if he really has a reversible outfield.

George Zabel has a fast side arm curve ball that he uses only in a pinch.

Cub fans are still waiting for Manager Bresnahan to pick up another player.

Jake Stahl denies the rumor that he is to become manager of the Boston Red Sox.

Johnny Evers has bought some stock in the Troy club of the New York league.

Charley Mullen, Yankee first baseman, sits idly by while Pipp takes care of the job.

Charley Herzog of the Cincinnati Reds has picked up a pitcher named "No-Hit" Dougan.

Emil Huhn, now the first baseman of the Newark Feds, is called "Hungle" for a nickname.

They say Guy Morton is the greatest pitcher produced in Cleveland since the days of Addie Joss.

Victor Saier, the peerless first-sacker of the Cubs, is easily the best in the National league, and he still is improving.

Cy Falkenberg pitched his first game against Eddie Plank since the two were rivals in the American league. Cy won, 4 to 3.

The sale of McNally, an infielder, to the Providence club of the International league was announced by the Boston Red Sox.

Whenever the Cleveland club suffers a slump the manager is fired, and right away they begin to win. Other teams might copy.

It is a positive pleasure to watch Deal. He picks up the hot ones as gracefully as he does the easy ones, and never makes haste for waste.

Al Demaree, the former pitcher, now with Philadelphia, is conducting a column as well as drawing cartoons this year. His work appears in a Philadelphia paper each evening.

Weiser, who is playing center field for the Phillies, while Paskert is filling in at first, is only a youngster and comes from Charlotte, N. C. team, where he led the league last year in hitting.

Eastern critics said the Cubs did not look a bit stronger this year than they did last, before they had a chance to watch them perform. Now they agree that they are a very much improved lot of players.

## TWIRLER'S HARD LUCK STORY

Clinton Rogge of Pittsburgh Federals Fanned Four Men in One Inning and All Scored.

Clinton Rogge, a new twirler with the Pittsburgh Feds, lays claim to the distinction of being the only pitcher who struck out four men in one inning and saw every one of the four score a run.

It happened in a college game in Michigan. Rogge is a big chap, with a world of speed. The varsity catcher was a 115-pound mite and couldn't hold Rogge, who struck out three men in a row. Every one went to first when



Clinton Rogge of Pittsburgh Feds.

the catcher failed to clutch the third strike. With the bases loaded, Rogge struck out the fourth batter and the man on third came home with the first tally, while the fanned batter raced to first in safety.

An error and a hit followed, and the three other strike-out victims who had gained the bases through the inability of the catcher to hold Rogge, scooted home with the runs that won the game.

Still Some Ivory. In the Yankee-Red Sox game of April 29 the blundering of Chet Thomas, coaching for the Red Sox, spoiled a Boston rally and a chance to win the game. Thomas stopped McNally as he ran into third base and the runner was called out for coach's interference. One might ask why players who do not know the rules are sent out to coach.

Moriarity Taking it Easy. George Moriarity has been doing little work this season. The veteran infielder was hurt in the early part of the season, and when he did feel ready to work, he found his place at third taken. Oscar Vitt is playing the base for Detroit.

Hard Times Hit Minors. The minor leagues are feeling the pressure of hard times even more than the big leagues this year and are cutting down expenses at every corner.

Aberdeen Signs Joe Ward. The Aberdeen club has signed Joe Ward a St. Louis boy, who was in the Nebraska State league last year and made a great hitting record.

## HOUSE MAY NOT BE HOME

Wide Difference Between the Two Words is a Matter Not Always Recognized.

And what is a home? It is, of course, quite different from a house. It is something which is put inside a house. It is a building not made with hands. It belongs to the things which are seen. A house is a product of human handicraft, a home is a creation of the heart. A house is con-

structed out of matter, a home is such stuff as dreams are made of. A house is four walls with a roof, a home is a complex of memories and associations and affections. A house is built by gold, a home is built by love. A small and shabby home may be set up inside a spacious and costly house. We have all been guests in places where we felt there was more home than home. On the other hand, a palatial home may be erected inside a cottage. A house can be built in a year. To build a home is the work of many seasons. A man

can have numerous houses, he can have but one home.—Woman's Home Companion.

Toothbrush Day. Monday was "toothbrush" day, and the beginning of "dental hygiene week" in the public schools, says the New York Times. Seven hundred thousand children heard some of the reasons why 2,000,000 of their teeth are in bad condition, and by the end of the week they will know every detail of how to preserve the others and