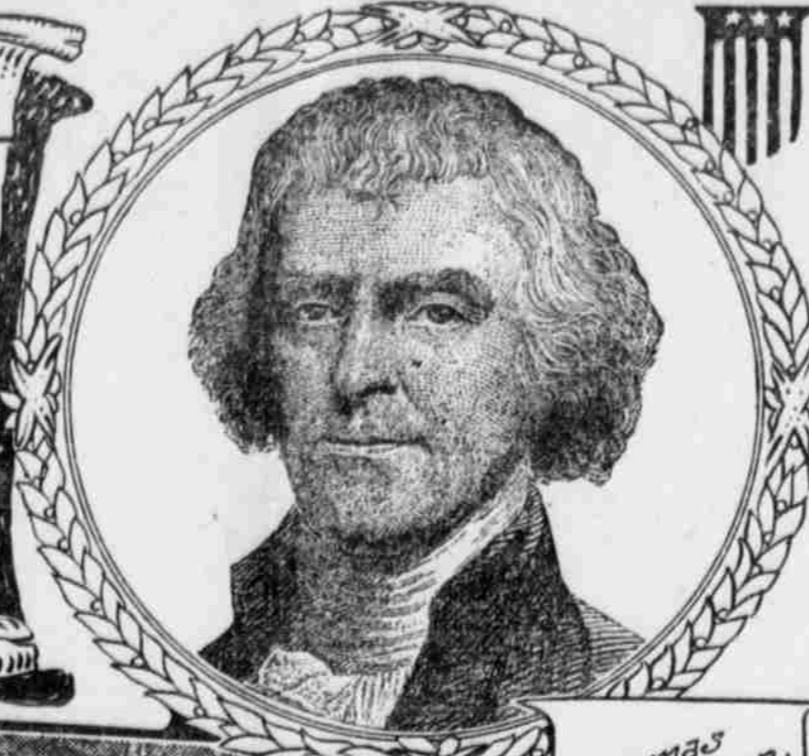


OUR CHARTER OF FREEDOM

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

POPULAR 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 triumphal note of freedom.

The accredited historian of the United States department of state is Gaillard 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 been termed 'the best-known paper that 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.

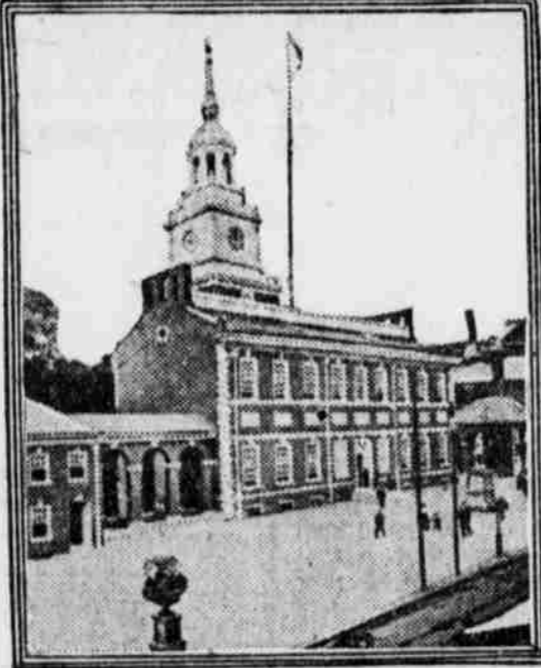
"In a second letter, written the same day, he said: 'But the day is past. July 2 will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn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

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."

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 ceasing 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

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 reach them to identify their existence with the dignity and happiness of human nature."

IN THE LIMELIGHT

RANDLE "MIRACLE MAN OF SEA"

Capt. William G. Randle, dean of American mariners, knighted by the queen of Holland for bravery at sea, a former United States naval officer and a shipbuilder of note, has retired to private life after serving for the last 17 years as marine superintendent of the New York Shipbuilding company's plant at Camden, N. J.

After 66 years of labor, the veteran sea captain, at his home in Chester, Pa., will spend the remainder of his days, surrounded by pictures of his treasured ships, testimonials from those to whom he rendered the greatest service, trophies of war and fond memories. He is now seventy-eight years old.

Captain Randle has been the "miracle man" of the sea in his day. It was he who first guided a steamship across the deep without a rudder. While he was captain of the American line steamship Paris which still runs between Philadelphia and Southampton, the ship lost its rudder when 1,200 miles out at sea early in 1894. He navigated the ship safely back to Queens-town, without any discomfort to the hundreds of passengers on board.

When the Spanish-American war broke out, Captain Randle volunteered. He was commissioned a commander in the United States navy the day war was declared.

Captain Randle was assigned to the St. Louis as its navigating officer. While the ship was under fire many times, and was attached to Admiral Sampson's fleet during the blockade of Santiago, Cuba, it escaped damage.

The biggest and most thrilling rescue at sea in which the veteran mariner ever participated was "the one that won him knighthood. Captain Randle, with the aid of his crew on the St. Louis, saved 212 souls, including the passengers and crew, of the Dutch steamship Veendam, of the Holland-American line, at sea at midnight on February 10, 1898. It required three hours and ten minutes of the most heroic work to get all of the 212 persons safely on board the St. Louis.



IF NEWTON HAD ONLY KNOWN



Byron R. Newton, assistant secretary of the treasury of the United States, was raised on a farm up in western New York. He had a boyhood chum named Orla Willard. A while ago Newton made a journey back to his old stamping ground and visited the little red schoolhouse where he had first coped with such problems as how long it will take a man to perform a piece of work that three men do in four days and a half. On a piece of weatherbeaten siding he discovered the initials of himself and Willard carved there one day at recess a great many years ago. This set Newton to thinking and he wondered what had become of his old friend Willard. On his return to Washington he wrote a letter of inquiry and asked, by way of showing friendly interest, if Willard had any family.

Back came an answer to the letter. Yes, Orla Willard had a family. In fact he had a son named Jess Willard—the Jess Willard. Now, mind you, the last time Newton had seen Orla Willard, father of Jess, was at a period in their young lives when prizefighters ranked well to the top as heroes.

"What a lot more life would have meant to us both," says Newton, "if only Orla and I could have known, when playing about the schoolyard, that he would grow up to be the parent of a heavyweight champion."

BRANDEIS KNOWN AS FIGHTER

Louis D. Brandeis, the newest member of the United States Supreme court, has been known as a fighter throughout his public career. He has been chiefly noted for his arguments before the interstate commerce commission in opposition to the requests of the railroads that they be allowed to increase their freight rates, appearing as counsel for shippers fighting the increased rates, although he also opposed the New Haven monopoly of transportation in New England and served as counsel for individuals in proceedings involving the constitutionality of women's ten-hour labor laws in Oregon and Illinois and a nine-hour law in Ohio.

He took part in the fight in the city of Boston to retain the municipal subway system, in establishing a sliding scale gas system in Boston, and was chairman of the arbitration board in the New York garment workers' strike in 1910. He also played a celebrated part as counsel for Glavis in the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation and has been the author of numerous articles on public franchises in Massachusetts, life insurance, wage earners' problems, the scientific management of labor problems and the trusts.



URGE ASTRONOMER FOR SENATE



Dr. Percival Lowell, who has been a legal resident of Arizona for some years, is being urged by representative Republicans of that state to become a candidate for the United States senate. He has taken an active interest in Arizona politics, and a plank relating to the restriction of immigration, written by him, was unanimously carried by the Coconino county convention and was being favorably received throughout the state.

Doctor Lowell's famous observatory at Flagstaff, maintained at his expense, has made that Arizona community known throughout the scientific world, and the people of the state as a whole have shown their eagerness to recognize his public-spirited services. It is at Flagstaff that the observations on Mars have been made that have furnished a basis for constructive speculation as to the likelihood of animal life on that planet.

For his work on Mars Doctor Lowell has received the Janssen medal of the French Astronomical society and a gold medal from Sociedad Astronomica de Mexico. He is a member of many scientific bodies in various countries, and is the author of numerous books and papers on astronomical subjects.