

Men Who Made Possible the Immortal Declaration that We Celebrate

EACH recurring anniversary of the nation's birth seems to bring onto higher, brighter relief the character, ability and wisdom of the men who signed the immortal Declaration of Independence. The congress of 1776, which assembled in Independence hall, Philadelphia, contained a remarkable proportion of able and distinguished men. The eulogy of those men can never be exhausted. The more thoroughly we study their characters and lives the more deeply graven on every American heart will be their genius, virtues and sacrifices. "If we are not this day wanting in our duty to our country," exclaimed Richard Henry Lee, "the names of the American legislators of 1776 will be placed by posterity at the side of those of Theseus, of Lycurgus, of Romulus, of Numa, of the three Williams of Nassau and of all those whose memory has been and forever will be dear to virtuous men and good citizens."

Popular knowledge of the birthplace, education, pursuits and conditions of life of those who stood sponsor at Liberty's cradle and there pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, cannot but be interesting and instructive. With the exception of eight who had come in youth or early manhood, they were native Americans. John Hancock, whose bold signature as president of the continental congress stood alone with that of Charles Thompson, its secretary, at the foot of the first publication, was born in Massachusetts in 1737. He began life as a clerk in the counting house of his uncle. At the age of 27 he inherited a fortune, which placed him in affluence. Joshua Bartlett was born in Massachusetts in 1720 and was a successful medical practitioner before he entered public life. William Whipple was born at Kittery, now Maine, in 1730. In his youth he followed the sea and later became a merchant at Portsmouth, N. H. Matthew Thornton was born in Ireland in 1714. He was a prominent physician. John Adams, the champion of freedom, was born in Massachusetts in 1735. He was a distinguished lawyer. Samuel Adams was born in Boston in 1722. Intended for the bar by his father, he began life, however, as a merchant's clerk. Robert Treat Paine, born in Massachusetts in 1731, began life as a minister of the gospel, but soon left it for the legal profession.

Men of Varied Occupations

Elbridge Gerry, born at Marblehead, Mass., 1744, educated at Harvard, where he graduated with credit. Entering into mercantile business, he acquired both reputation and property. Stephen Hopkins, born at Scituate, R. I., 1707; his early years were passed in agricultural pursuits. Later he engaged in mercantile business in Providence and almost immediately entered into political life. William Ellery, born at Newport in 1727, graduated at Harvard and practiced law with distinction. Roger Sherman was born at Newton, Mass., in 1721. He began life as a shoemaker's apprentice, and, finding himself at his father's death charged with the support of a large family, he nobly performed his task by following his humble trade. Struggling against difficulties and the want of early education, he mastered all and placed himself high among the framers of the constitution; a perfect type of an American, a noble example of our country's best production, a self-made man. Samuel Huntington was born at Haddam, Conn., 1732, and practiced law at Norwich when first known in public life. William Williams, born at Lebanon, Conn., in 1731, graduated at Harvard and commenced the study of divinity with his father. He subsequently embraced a mercantile career, in which he was most successful. Oliver Wolcott, born at Windsor, Conn., in 1728, graduated at Yale, began life as a captain in the French and Indian wars. At the peace he studied medicine, but soon after entered public life. William Floyd, born at Setauket, L. I., was a prosperous farmer. Philip Livingston, born at Albany, N. Y., 1716, graduated at Yale, and, in affluent circumstances immediately took an active part in politics. Lewis Morris, born in 1716, at the Manor of Morrisania, which he inherited on the decease of his father. He graduated at Yale and became active in politics. Although enjoying a competency, he was a practical farmer. Francis Lewis, born at Llandaf, Wales, in 1713. He was educated at Westminster, apprenticed to a London merchant, and when of age emigrated to this country and entered into mercantile business.

Richard Stockton, born at Princeton, N. J., 1730. Graduated at Princeton college. Was a prominent judge, and from the position of his family and fortune was freed from the early struggle to which many of his colleagues were subjected. Francis Hopkinson, born in Philadelphia, in 1737, of an influential and wealthy family. He was a lawyer, an admiralty judge of reputation and a man of letters. John Witherspoon, born at Tester, Scotland, in 1722; a descendant of John Knox. He graduated at the University of Edinburgh. He was a distinguished and popular preacher. John Hart, a thrifty farmer of Hopewell, N. J., who, though not so well educated as others of the New Jersey delegation, stepped forward and filled his place as firmly and as consistently as did more scholarly and influential men. Abraham Clark, born at Elizabeth, N. J., in 1726. Too feeble to labor, he turned his attention to surveying and the study of law, but his fellow provincials early selecting him as an object of their confidence in public life.

Robert Morris, the financier of the revolution, was born at Lancaster, England, in 1733. He had the advantage of a liberal education, and entering into mercantile life he became the boldest and most prominent operator in the country in goods, stocks and lands. It was to his financial skill and expedients as financial agent and the linking of his own wealth, credit and destiny to that of his country, that the success of the war of the revolution was largely due. Benjamin Rush was born at Berbery, Pa., in 1745, graduated at Princeton and after studying medicine in Philadelphia took his degree of doctor of medicine at Edinburgh. He was one of the most widely known physicians of his day.

Benjamin Franklin, born at Boston, Mass., in 1706, an errand boy, printer, editor of a newspaper, of almanacs and books, author, compiler, inventor, philosopher, economist and ambassador, he stands easily ahead, in the opinion of the world generally, as the foremost and most widely known American of his day. George Clymer, born in Philadelphia in 1739, a merchant, soldier and statesman. John Morton, born in Ridley, Pa., in 1724, was of Swedish descent and an intelligent, well educated surveyor. James Smith, born in Ireland in 1730, and in 1739 emigrated with his parents to this country; was a lawyer and active in military matters. George Taylor, born also in Ireland, in 1716. An emigrant at 20, he was an apprentice in iron works at Durham, Pa., and subsequently erected a large iron works at Lehigh. James Wilson, born in Scotland in 1742, emigrated to this country at 24. Began life as a teacher and lawyer. George Ross, born at Newcastle, Del., in 1730.



Patriotic Partnership

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Liberally educated, he established himself in the practice of law at the age of 21. Caesar Rodney, born at Dover, Del., in 1730, of English descent. George Read, born in Maryland in 1734, of a family of Irish origin, possessed of wealth and position; was prominent as a lawyer. Thomas McKean, born in Pennsylvania in 1734; lawyer and soldier, distinguished, it is said, as the only man who served in the continental congress without intermission during the whole period of the war. Samuel Chase, born in Maryland in 1741, read law at Annapolis and was admitted to practice at 20 years of age.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, born in 1737 of a family of Irish

origin. He was educated in France and pursued the study of law at Bruges, London and Paris. Thomas Stone, born in Maryland in 1743. He read law and entered into practice at Annapolis. William Pacen, born in Maryland in 1739. Graduated at Philadelphia college; was a lawyer. Richard Henry Lee was born in Virginia in 1732, received his education at Wakefield, in Yorkshire. George Wythe, born in Virginia, in 1726. Fully prepared by previous education, he entered the practice of law and from the first showed much ability.

Thomas Jefferson, born in Virginia, in 1743. It is only necessary to say that this, the central figure of the day we celebrate, went to his rest at the age of 84, on the anniversary of the crowning act of his greatness, July 4, 1826, leaving his biography as patriot, statesman, philosopher, author and diplomatist written in the memory of the people. Thomas Nelson, Jr., born in Virginia in 1738. Visited England at 15 and graduated at Trinity college, Cambridge.

Benjamin Harrison, born in Virginia. His ancestors were in Virginia as early as 1640, the year of the breaking out of the English revolution which cost Charles I his crown. He was educated at the College of William and Mary. Carter Braxton, born at Newington, Va., 1736; was educated also at the College of William and Mary. Francis Lightfoot Lee, born in Virginia in 1734. He was carefully educated under Rev. Dr. Craig, a Scottish clergyman, and, like his brother, Richard Henry, was an early and consistent patriot. William Hooper, born in Boston in 1732, graduated at Harvard and read law. He settled in North Carolina and soon stood at the head of the bar. Joseph Hewes, born at Kingston, N. J., in 1730, of a Quaker family. After studying at Princeton and pursuing commercial business in Philadelphia, at the age of 30 he settled at Edenton, N. C.

Noted Professional Men

John Penn, born in Virginia in 1741. Although his opportunities for education were limited, he made such good use of his time as to be admitted to the bar when 21 years of age. Edward Rutledge, of Irish parentage, a soldier and lawyer, born in Charleston, 1749. Thomas Heywood, Jr., born in South Carolina in 1746, was liberally educated, and, like John Laurens, Thomas Lynch, Jr., and others of the sons of wealthy planters, completed his studies in England. Thomas Lynch, Jr., born in South Carolina in 1749; was educated at Eton and at Cambridge. In 1772 he returned to South Carolina to practice law, being described as "a finished gentleman, a thing very rare in this country at that period and since." Arthur Middleton, born in South Carolina, in 1743. Educated in England at Hackney and Westminster schools and graduated at Cambridge. His earliest appearance in public was as signer of the colonial paper money. Lyman Hall, born in Connecticut in 1731, entered Yale college at 18, and after taking his degree studied medicine. On the completion of his studies he removed to South Carolina, but the same year located in Georgia and entered upon a successful practice. Button Gwinett, born in England in 1732. He emigrated from Bristol in 1770 to South Carolina and two years after settled in Georgia. Through the influence of Dr. Hall, it is said, he became an advocate of the colonies. George Walton, born in Frederick county, Virginia, in 1740. From a carpenter's apprentice, seeking knowledge in hours stolen from sleep, by the light of a pine knot, he acquired an eminent position in the Georgia bar and on the bench.

To sum up, it will be seen that nearly one-half of the signers were members of the legal profession; thirteen of them were planters or farmers, nine were merchants, five physicians, two mechanics, one a clergyman, one a mariner and one a surveyor. Many of them were engaged in mingled pursuits and nearly all of them were more or less interested in agriculture. A considerable majority appear to have been professional men. The youngest member of the signers was 27, the eldest 70 years of age. The mass of the signers were in the most vigorous season of life—forty-two out of fifty-six being between the ages of 30 and 50 years. The average age in July, 1776, was 43 years. To this combination of the ardor of youth, has it been said, with the vigor of matured manhood and the caution of experienced age may be ascribed the enterprise, energy and wisdom of those councils which elicited the enjoyment of Chatham, secured for a feeble people the confidence of sovereigns, and founded a nation whose presence occupies nearly half a hemisphere and whose power and influence are felt and respected throughout the world.

It would be a difficult task to collect in public life examples in the face of danger and under tribulations, of lives so illustrious and happy. Not one of all that sacred band died with a stain upon his name. The annals of the world can present no political body the lives of whose members, minutely traced, exhibit so much of the zeal of the patriot, dignified by the virtues of the man. Though we have made some departures from the simplicity and honest zeal for the welfare

of the nation which existed in those days, chiefly, perhaps, by the more general distribution of wealth and consequent growth of luxury and extravagance, though some men delegated with power have forgot right, that many have pursued their own interested views to the detriment of their country and corruption has prevailed, our fathers left to us with this birthright of liberty a corrective which no other people possesses, in the force of public opinion, in the freedom of the press and in the power of the ballot. These are blessings never sufficiently to be esteemed—the day is happy for calling them to remembrance. Let each American today renew within his heart the pledge given by the men of 1776, to the principles which they established; cement his faith to the constitution which they and their compatriots erected and consecrated. Then shall our land take its proper place among the nations of the earth; then shall gather around its altar emancipated millions; then shall its institutions rest on political truth, having pure morals and private worth for its base, and from now to the remotest end of time it shall proclaim to the world the soul-inspiring theme that all men are created free and equal and endowed by their Creator with certain natural and inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The Stars and Stripes—Our Emblem of Patriotism

PATRIOTISM has become the basis of a great American industry. Because of the amazing increase of patriotic sentiment in this country during the last decade the manufacture of American flags has quadrupled. More than 3,000,000 star-spangled banners annually are made of silk and bunting, but these form only a small portion of the total number of United States flags that are born, that live and die between January and January.

In remote farming districts, where ten years ago the national colors were rarely seen, every suitable occasion witnesses a flag display. The flag has been added to the household goods from Maine to California and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian line. So far as individual popularity is concerned, it ranks with the freerack on Independence day, and outranks all else on that day of national patriotic observance, May 30.

While the flagmakers are busy all the year, October, November, December and January are the strenuous months. Sales are greatest in the late winter and in the spring, while the largest deliveries are in April, May and June, June being known as the smallest month of the three. The greatest demand is from the New England, central and western states, the latter being by far the largest consumers. Pennsylvania leads all other states in the number and cost of flags purchased.

One of the more interesting facts in connection with the making and sale of the American flag is that each year shows Memorial day, May 30, to be growing in popularity. It is the strength of the Memorial day spirit in Pennsylvania, for instance, that places that state at the head of the flag purchasing column. The tiny flags that annually make Arlington cemetery at Washington, where so many thousand soldiers sleep, almost gorgeous, is most in evidence. The 6x10 feet banner is markedly in favor at

this time, however, and smaller flags of muslin and silk are used in large numbers.

During the last fifteen years July 4 has slowly been giving way to May 30, so far as the demand for flags is concerned. Not that the spirit of patriotism as regards Independence day is lessening, but that each year sees the number of soldiers' graves increasing and a consequent addition of interest to Memorial day. The Spanish-American war seems to strengthen the popular desire to observe May 30.

Up to 1898 flag sentiment seemed sleeping. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American war came a change. Not only were more flags wanted, but the demand for better materials grew apace. Where, for instance, the tiny paper flags had been used for dinner favors, silk flags were sought. Gradually this feeling has extended, until the silk and the wool bunting flags are chief in favor, the most popular of the larger flags being 5x8 and 6x10 feet. The tendency is toward a long flag, for the economical reason that when the end of such a banner has been whipped into rags by the wind, it can be cut off, hemmed over, and remain in proportion.

The government flags, of which there are many different varieties, are exclusively of silk and of wool bunting. The sizes most in use are 4½x8 and 9x14 feet. More flags are made for the army than for the navy, but the quality of the latter averages higher. The flags flown by the cruiser Olympia when, as Admiral Dewey's flagship, it led the memorable parade in the Hudson river at New York City in 1898, were perhaps as fine silken specimens of the flagmaker's art as ever existed.

The government makes some of its flags in its factory at the Brooklyn navy yard, but the majority are from private establishments. In fact, 85 per cent of the annual output of United States flags is made in New York City, although the western factories

have gained in the last five years.

Throughout the western states the tendency toward a more enthusiastic observance of all patriotic occasions is rapidly growing. Most active among the observers of Independence day, so far as the flag demand indicates, are foreign-born citizens, the majority of whom came to this country in the steerage. This is especially noticeable in the grain growing states—in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska—and then through the southwest, whose vast stretches of virgin soil, touched by the magic wand of irrigation, have within the last three years put forth crops that have given cause for rejoicing. These huge crops apparently have stimulated the flag demand, and the flag distributing houses in Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City have this year sent out 25 per cent more flags than ever before. It would seem, therefore, viewed from the flag sale standpoint, that the majority of immigrants not only readily adopt this country as their own, but develop a genuine spirit of patriotism, one form of which is a lavish display of the nation's flag.

Making the American flag is the work of skilled labor. Girls and women alone possess the degree of ability required to obtain best results. Only the heaviest and least complicated features of the work fall to the men. First, the stripes are cut from huge rolls of red or white silk or bunting. Then they are basted together and later turned over to girls operating sewing machines that stitch at the rate of 2,400 stitches a minute. The lock-stitch is used, and the thread fed from spools, each holding 24,000 yards.

The stripes stitched together, the flag is ready to receive the union. Red is the predominant color in a flag. The union is the blue field which appears in the left upper corner of a flag, and it contains forty-five stars, one for each state. Silk flag stars are of embroidered silk. On wool bunting flags they are of muslin. The union itself is of the same material as

the body of the flag. A star is half the width of the stripes of the flag containing it.

Muslin stars are cut out by machinery at the rate of 3,000 an hour. Embroidered stars are cut out in block form by the use of dies, sewing machines being utilized for the embroidering process. These stars are five-pointed, each point being precisely like its fellow. No hand can become so skilled as to make one point the counterpart of another, so the dies, which never err, are used.

The muslin from which the stars are cut out is folded in forty-five thicknesses and placed beneath a die attached to a press operated by foot power. A sharp pressure of the treadle brings the die down upon the cloth with such force that the sharp steel cuts as cleanly as a surgeon's knife.

After the basting threads and stray pieces of silk and wool are removed the unions are placed in position. Two unions are required for each flag, one on either side. The flag then passes to the finishers, who hem it—that is, sew strong canvas bands across the headings. In the corners of these bands are placed grommets or eyelets. Such flags are not attached to staffs. If the flags are meant for the staff they are not grommeted.

In addition to the flags made in the fashion described, millions of printed flags are manufactured every year. If the material used is cotton or silk, the flags are printed from copper rollers, in the same fashion that print goods are created. Muslin flags and those of paper are printed on an ordinary cylinder press, from iron blocks and heavy electrotypes.

It is plain that flag making holds a place among the great industries of the United States, and that it is certain to extend in exact proportion with the growth of the national patriotic spirit. It really stands, however, in a class by itself, for it is the only industry whose growth, prosperity and position find patriotism their sole basis.—Pearson.