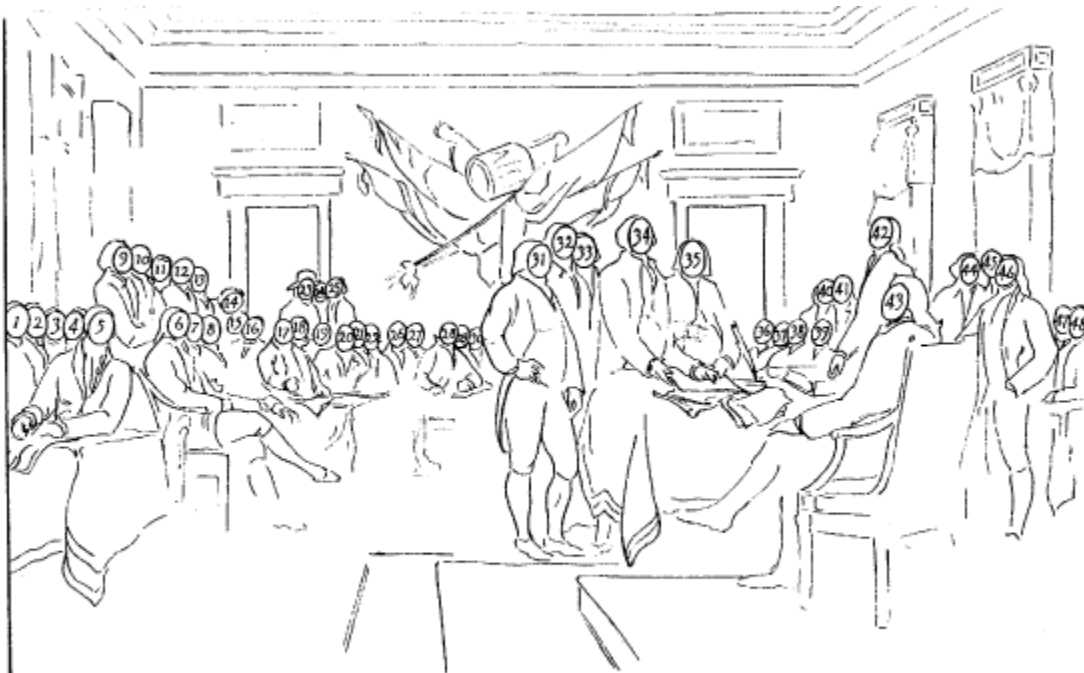


The chronology of the Declaration of Independence, the initial resolution that the "Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States" (still preserved in the handwriting of R. H. Lee) was introduced June 7th, debated on the 8th and 10th and further consideration postponed until July 1st. Meanwhile, a committee to draft a Declaration was appointed consisting of Jefferson, John Adams, Franklin, R. R. Livingston and Sherman. A draft was submitted June 28th, debated by the Congress acting as a committee on July 1st and adopted. The draft was adopted by the full Congress on the 2d; debated again on 2d, 3d and 4th and finally adopted with amendments on July 4, 1776. On July 19th it was ordered to be "engrossed on parchment" and "when engrossed be signed by every member of Congress." The engrossed resolution was not signed until August.

This painting is often criticized because it does not show the actual signing of the constitution in August or the reporting of the Constitution on 28 June.

Our forefathers must have been smarter or more organized than today's congress it took them a little over two months to draft and sign one of the most important documents in the history of the United States.



KEY TO DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

1. George Wythe	13. Wm Floyd	25. George Clymer	37. Francis Lewis
2. William Whipple	14. A. Middleton	26. Joseph Hewes.	38. Witherspoon
3. Joseph Bartlett	15. T. Heyward, Jr.	27. Geo Walton	39. S. Huntington
4. Thomas Lynch	16. Charles Carroll of Carrollton	28. Jas Wilson	40. William Williams
5. Benjamin Harrison	17. Robert Morris	29. A. Clark	41. Oliver Wolcott
6. Richard Henry Lee	18. T. Willing (did not sign)	30. F. Hopkinson	42. Chas. Thomson
7. Samuel Adams	19. Benjamin Rush	31. John Adams	43. John Hancock
8. George Clinton (did not sign)	20. Elbridge Gerry	32. Roger Sherman	44. George Read
9. William Paca	21. Robert Treat Paine	33. Robert R. Livingston (did not sign)	45. John Dickinson (did not sign)
10. Samuel Chase	22. Wm. Hooper	34. Thomas Jefferson	46. Edward Rutledge
11. Rich. Stockton	23. Stephen Hopkins	35. Ben Franklin	47. Thomas McKean
12. L. Morris	24. Wm. Ellery	36. Thomas Nelson, Jr.	48. P. Livingston

The first, largest, and most famous signature is that of John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress. The youngest signer was Edward Rutledge (age 26). Benjamin Franklin (age 70) was the oldest. Two future presidents signed: John Adams (second President) and Thomas Jefferson (third President).

1. Delaware

George Read • Caesar Rodney • Thomas McKean

2. Pennsylvania

George Clymer • Benjamin Franklin • Robert Morris • John Morton • Benjamin Rush • George Ross
James Smith • James Wilson • George Taylor

3. Massachusetts

John Adams • Samuel Adams • John Hancock • Robert Treat Paine • Elbridge Gerry

4. New Hampshire

Josiah Bartlett • William Whipple • Matthew Thornton

5. Rhode Island

Stephen Hopkins • William Ellery

6. New York

Lewis Morris • Philip Livingston • Francis Lewis • William Floyd

7. Georgia

Button Gwinnett • Lyman Hall • George Walton

8. Virginia

Richard Henry Lee • Francis Lightfoot Lee • Carter Braxton • Benjamin Harrison • Thomas Jefferson •
George Wythe • Thomas Nelson, Jr.

9. North Carolina

William Hooper • John Penn • Joseph Hewes

10. South Carolina Arthur Middleton • Thomas Lynch, Jr. • Thomas Heyward, Jr. Edward
Rutledge

11. New Jersey

Abraham Clark • John Hart • Francis Hopkinson • Richard Stockton • John Witherspoon

12. Connecticut

Samuel Huntington • Roger Sherman • William Williams • Oliver Wolcott

13. Maryland

Charles Carroll • Samuel Chase • Thomas Stone • William Paca