

# THE LOCKE SOCIETY

LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION



*Unit*

**American  
Revolution**

*Topic*

**The Signers of the Declaration of Independence**

## *Lesson Plan*

### *Aim*

To identify why the signers of the Declaration of Independence supported independence by evaluating their motivation in the context of economics, geography, and civic responsibility.

### *Rationale*

Entrenched in the philosophy of the radical left, particularly that of the 1619 Project, is the idea that America was founded on slavery. The inaccuracy of this claim not only misleads students through learning a fabricated history of the United States, but will cause the foundation of America to crumble in the hands of our future generations who have been subjected to this anti-American propaganda from such a young age. The assertion that the American Revolution was fought in part to preserve slavery is severely unfounded as there is no evidence that proves this claim. Although minor corrections have been made to the 1619 Project, its promotion of the idea that America was founded as a “slavocracy” is still its main objective, bringing into question the virtues of our Founding Fathers, the legacy of our founding documents, and our enduring commitment to making America “a more perfect nation.” This lesson allows students to determine the motives of going to war with Britain by learning about the men who signed the Declaration of Independence as they were the ones to pen their names, certainly risking their lives, to establish this great country. As the mini-biographies reveal, these men were not perfect. This lesson faces the hard truth that many of the signers owned slaves, but it also recognizes the few who also introduced anti-slavery legislation; a fact that has been conveniently ignored by radical educators. After this lesson, students will be able to identify that the motivation to declare independence was not to preserve slavery, but to form a nation that holds itself accountable to the philosophy of freedom and the will of the people.

### *Student Learning Objectives*

Students will be able to identify the motivations of the signers of the Declaration of Independence by categorizing them into economics, geography, or civic responsibility through logical reasoning based on what is known about their lives and actions.

Students will be able to engage in a discussion of civics by identifying the various examples of how the signers exercised their civic responsibility.

Students will be able to evaluate the role of slavery as a motivation for declaring independence by learning about the motivations of those who signed the Declaration of Independence.



## Civics Connection

- How does one contribute to an evolving political, social, or economic system individually and as a group?
- How do the values of a nation unite its citizens?
- Why is this topic one of particular importance for participation in a democratic society?

\*See the *Civics Connection Through Questioning* guide in *Civics* for more ideas.

## Vocabulary

First Continental Congress	Declaration of Independence	Economics
Second Continental Congress	Loyalist	Geography
Lee Resolution	Patriot	Civic Responsibility

## Materials and Resources

1. Text: *The Signers of the Declaration of Independence* based on the book, *Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed The Declaration of Independence* by Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnesse.

Source: Kiernan, Denise, and Joseph D'Agnesse. *Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed The Declaration of Independence*. Philadelphia, Quirk Books, 2019.

2. Handout: The Signers of the Declaration of Independence: What Motivated Them?

## Procedure

### Do Now:

The last line of the Declaration of Independence is:

“...we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

Explain this quote in your own words. What emotions do you think the signers felt after signing a document that ended with this line?

### Lesson:

The teacher will have a discussion with students centering around the fact that there are many famous patriots who we know from the American Revolution, but many, who we reference all the time are fairly unknown. While Thomas Jefferson and the Committee of Five gave life to the Declaration of Independence, the signers turned it into a real threat to the Crown. It is with their unity and support that America was able to stand up to fight for liberty.

The teacher will introduce the worktime activity to students and read the directions. The teacher will explicitly review the terms: economics, geography, and civic responsibility. (Students should already be familiar with these terms from prior lessons, but will need to understand their use in this lesson.) The teacher will model one example of each term in regard to the activity. The teacher may use the example that a signer who attended the Stamp Act Congress may have been against Britain's severe taxation and wanted to break with Britain for economic reasons. Another example may be someone who practiced their civic responsibility by writing about the plight of the colonists and supported the break with Britain to protest the violation of rights. An example that may



include geography could be someone who lived in Boston whose business was impacted by Britain's closure of Boston harbor.

### **Collaborative/Independent Work:**

Students will work together in groups of four to complete the handout. Together, the group will read about the signers and determine each of their motivations in signing the Declaration. *\*If a motivation is unclear, it can be assumed that civic responsibility is what brought that signer to join the patriot cause.* Students will follow the directions on the handout to complete the worksheet.

### **Share:**

The class will discuss commonalities and differences between the signers, and determine what united them. Students may also share the signer's story they found most shocking or interesting.

### **Close:**

The teacher will pose the question to students to respond on an exit ticket: The signers came from different backgrounds, different regions, and had differing opinions on independence itself. After learning about them what do you think was their greatest point of unity? What do you think was the greatest threat to successfully bringing everyone together to declare independence?

## *Modifications*

- The teacher may provide an organizer that already has some or most of the signers completed to save time and may make this lesson for one day.
- The teacher may provide all text evidence for each signer and ask students to then identify if the evidence is categorized as economics, geography, and/or civic responsibility. This may also make the lesson one day.
- Groups may be assigned the signers they will read about (signers from one colony should be assigned together as information about the colony may overlap.) In this model, students will need to learn about the signers their group did not cover. This can be done with a class review (note that this will take significant time). To shorten time, the teacher may provide a completed organizer to students that has all of the evidence completed for their reference, so they do not need to take notes.
- The teacher may only include select signers to read about in class. If this modification is used, all signers must still be presented to students on the handout for their own reference. The signers recommended to cover in class at a minimum include the following fifteen: William Whipple, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Stephen Hopkins, Francis Lewis, Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Carter Braxton, Thomas Jefferson, Richard Henry Lee, George Wythe, Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward Jr., and Lyman Hall.

## *Extension*

Students may research how the signers are remembered today. They should research which signers have monuments or memorials dedicated to them noting how, where, and when a memorial was constructed, including the builder's reasoning.



## Notes

*\*Use discretion for activities according to what is appropriate for your class.*

This lesson allows for accountable talk and discussion: Whereas one student may say that Whipple had an economic interest in the war due to his profiting from the slave trade, another may argue that he retired from that position in 1759, years before independence was declared.

Some signers have limited research, and historians have not uncovered their exact purpose in joining the patriot cause. If a motivation is unclear, it can be assumed that civic responsibility is what brought that signer join the patriot cause.

The following examples, although not the only ones, may provide evidence of civic responsibility: writing in a newspaper or making speeches to build support for the cause, leading the cause through joining patriot groups such as the Sons of Liberty, or providing funds or fundraising.

Geography as a choice may be limited, but it is included to show that slavery was not a motivation of declaring independence. For example, Georgia, one of the only two states to still have a slave trade, was not at all interested in joining the cause for independence until the battles began.



## The Signers of the Declaration of Independence: What Motivated Them?

Directions: Read the mini-biographies of each of the signers. Determine what motivated each signer by analyzing their lives and actions in regard to their economics, geography, and civic responsibility. Circle either E for economics, G for geography, and/or CR for civic responsibility in identifying each signer's motivation. (Some may have one, two, or three motivations for signing.)

**Economics** – concerned with the production, sale, and transfer of goods and services; relates to money

**Geography** – the study of the physical characteristics of a particular region and how human activity affects and is affected by these features (i.e. population, resources, land use, industry)

**Civic Responsibility** – how one participates in public service to contribute to the common good and uphold democratic values to create a better and more just society

Signer	E = Economics G = Geography CR = Civic Responsibility	Evidence from the text
Joseph Bartlett (New Hampshire)	E G CR	
William Whipple (New Hampshire)	E G CR	
Matthew Thornton (New Hampshire)	E G CR	
John Adams (Massachusetts)	E G CR	



THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

Samuel Adams (Massachusetts)	E G CR	
Elbridge Gerry (Massachusetts)	E G CR	
John Hancock (Massachusetts)	E G CR	
Robert Treat Paine (Massachusetts)	E G CR	
William Ellery (Rhode Island)	E G CR	
Stephen Hopkins (Rhode Island)	E G CR	
Samuel Huntington (Connecticut)	E G CR	



THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

Roger Sherman (Connecticut)	E G CR	
William Williams (Connecticut)	E G CR	
Oliver Wolcott (Connecticut)	E G CR	
Philip Livingston (New York)	E G CR	
William Floyd (New York)	E G CR	
Francis Lewis (New York)	E G CR	
Lewis Morris (New York)	E G CR	



THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

Abraham Clark (New Jersey)	E G CR	
John Hart (New Jersey)	E G CR	
Francis Hopkinson (New Jersey)	E G CR	
Richard Stockton (New Jersey)	E G CR	
John Witherspoon (New Jersey)	E G CR	
John Morton (Pennsylvania)	E G CR	
Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania)	E G CR	





THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

James Wilson (Pennsylvania)	E G CR	
Robert Morris (Pennsylvania)	E G CR	
George Clymer (Pennsylvania)	E G CR	
George Ross (Pennsylvania)	E G CR	
Benjamin Rush (Pennsylvania)	E G CR	
George Taylor (Pennsylvania)	E G CR	
James Smith (Pennsylvania)	E G CR	



THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

Caesar Rodney (Delaware)	E G CR	
George Read (Delaware)	E G CR	
Thomas McKean (Delaware)	E G CR	
Charles Carroll of Carrollton (Maryland)	E G CR	
Samuel Chase (Maryland)	E G CR	
William Paca (Maryland)	E G CR	
Thomas Stone (Maryland)	E G CR	



THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

Carter Braxton (Virginia)	E G CR	
Benjamin Harrison (Virginia)	E G CR	
Thomas Jefferson (Virginia)	E G CR	
Richard Henry Lee (Virginia)	E G CR	
Francis Lightfoot Lee (Virginia)	E G CR	
Thomas Nelson Jr. (Virginia)	E G CR	
George Wythe (Virginia)	E G CR	



THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

Joseph Hewes (North Carolina)	E G CR	
William Hooper (North Carolina)	E G CR	
John Penn (North Carolina)	E G CR	
Thomas Lynch Jr. (South Carolina)	E G CR	
Arthur Middleton (South Carolina)	E G CR	
Edward Rutledge (South Carolina)	E G CR	
Thomas Heyward Jr. (South Carolina)	E G CR	



THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

Lyman Hall (Georgia)	E G CR	
George Walton (Georgia)	E G CR	
Button Gwinnett (Georgia)	E G CR	



# The Signers of the Declaration of Independence

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

Source: Kiernan, Denise, and Joseph D’Agnese. *Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed The Declaration of Independence*. Philadelphia, Quirk Books, 2019.

Name Colony Profession Age Signed	Brief Biography	Interesting Fact
<p><b>Josiah Bartlett</b> New Hampshire Physician 46</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Josiah Bartlett came from humble beginnings. He was the son of a cobbler and learned medicine from a local doctor. <b>Before Signing:</b> He was favored by the royal government for a while, being appointed colonel in the militia and justice of the peace. However, his involvement in the independence movement caused him to lose his titles. Bartlett formed the New Hampshire Provincial Congress with fellow patriots. He was the first man to cast the vote for independence on July 2 and first to sign after John Hancock. <b>After Signing:</b> Bartlett used his medical skills in the New Hampshire militia and Continental Army. He voted for the Articles of Confederation and was highly influential in getting NH to ratify the Constitution. After ratification, he was elected the state’s first senator, but declined and served as “president” of NH, a title that is now called governor. He resigned the governorship due to failing health. He died in 1795 at the age of 65.</p>	<p>Dartmouth College awarded Bartlett an “honorary doctor of medicine degree.” He also founded and was the first president of the New Hampshire Medical Society.</p>
<p><b>William Whipple</b> New Hampshire Sea Captain, merchant, general 46</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Born in 1730, Whipple became a ship’s captain at the age of 21. He was, “at least for a time,” a slaver trader. He retired in 1759 and joined his brothers in a mercantile business until 1775 when he retired. He then devoted himself to public service. <b>Before Signing:</b> In 1775, he was named one of the two commanders of the New Hampshire militia. Whipple was one of the first to help form the new government in NH as they were the first colony to declare independence. He was served at the first Continental Congress. He voted for independence on July 2 and was also one of the first signers after Hancock. <b>After Signing:</b> Whipple fought in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Saratoga, New York. He fought alongside his slave, Prince, who was freed in 1784. Whipple became a judge near the end of his life. He died in 1785 at age 55 from what was likely heart issues.</p>	<p>Whipple’s slave, Prince, who fought beside him in the war and was freed in 1784, is buried in the same cemetery as Whipple, which was considered a high honor at the time. The marker beside Prince’s grave identifies him as a “veteran of the Revolutionary War.”</p>
<p><b>Matthew Thornton</b> New Hampshire Physician About 62</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> He was born in Ireland, and having little religious freedom, his family moved to America when he was 5. He learned medicine from a local physician and set up a practice. He lent his skills as a surgeon to troops in 1745 during a battle of King George’s War. <b>Before Signing:</b> Thornton was appointed by the royal governor as a colonel in the militia and a justice of the peace. Once the Stamp Act was enacted, he became a strong-voiced advocate of independence. In January 1776, NH broke from Great Britain declaring independence from Britain six months before Congress. Thornton was elected the colony’s “president,” leading NH as what was now technically its own little nation. Thornton was appointed to Congress in 1776 and did not sign the Declaration until November 1776.</p>	<p>Thornton and his fellow patriots composed New Hampshire’s constitution in 1783. It is regarded as the first written constitution that was adopted in America.</p>



<p><b>Matthew Thornton</b> (continued)</p>	<p><b>After Signing:</b> Thornton was selected to continue in Congress in 1777, but he was left with weakened eyes from a smallpox inoculation that made it difficult for him to work. He served in the state legislature and as a judge but eventually retired to work on his farm, run his ferry, and do a little writing. He died at 89 years old.</p>	
<p><b>John Adams</b> Massachusetts Lawyer 40</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Adams lived modestly. He had a farm, was married to Abigail for 54 years, and died without debt. <b>Before Signing:</b> Adams is considered one of the leading forces behind the fight for independence. He was clever in garnering support for independence among the colonies. For example, knowing that southern delegates “thought he was dragging them into war,” he moved the spotlight on two Virginians: Richard Henry Lee (proposed the vote on independence) and Thomas Jefferson (wrote the Declaration). He was present at the First and Second Continental Congress and signed the Declaration on August 2. <b>After Signing:</b> In 1777, Adams went to France with Ben Franklin to obtain their support. He also contributed to the peace treaty signed in Paris in 1783. Adams became George Washington’s vice president in 1789 and in 1792. (Until 1800, the second runner up in an election would become the vice president.) The following election year, Adams campaigned against Thomas Jefferson for the presidency. Adams won and Jefferson became his vice president.</p>	<p>Adams wrote summaries of his Congressional peers. For example, of signer Benjamin Rush, he wrote, “an indolent, luxurious, heavy gentleman, of no use in Congress or committee, but a great embarrassment to both.”</p> <p>(Kiernan and D’Agnese, p. 29.)</p>
<p><b>Samuel Adams</b> Massachusetts Merchant, Brewer 53</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Adams inherited the family business, a brewery, when his father died. However, bad with money, Adams lost his inheritance and was in debt. He depended on his popularity and friends in the revolutionary cause for support. He was well respected by his fellow patriots for clinging to his beliefs, not accepting bribes to denounce them. <b>Before Signing:</b> Adams helped start a newspaper, <i>The Public Advertiser</i>. He was vocal about Parliament’s mistreatment of the American colonists and supported their rights. He helped organize the Sons of Liberty and soon found himself a target by the British. He fought back in his writing and speaking. Adams was sent to Congress, voted for independence, and signed the Declaration on August 2. <b>After Signing:</b> After the war, Adams served in the MA state senate and helped write the Articles of Confederation. He refused to sign the Constitution because it did not have a Bill of Rights. Later, he served as lieutenant governor of MA under John Hancock and became the governor in 1793 when Hancock died. Adams died in 1803 at 81.</p>	<p>Adams, with his friend John Hancock, were nearly captured at a home outside of Boston in April 1775. Fortunately, they were warned by Paul Revere on the night of his ride, and they quickly went into hiding.</p>
<p><b>Elbridge Gerry</b> Massachusetts Merchant 32</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Gerry was a successful shipping merchant and importer. Gerry was inconsistent with his views. For example, he said he had a dislike of military men, but was close friends with George Washington. He also denounced war profiteers, but used his knowledge of the military’s needs to benefit his own business. <b>Before Signing:</b> Gerry was sent to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He opposed the idea of democracy and having elections for congressmen at first, but then demanded yearly elections. <b>After Signing:</b> He refused to sign the Constitution without a Bill of Rights, but then two years later said he originally supported it, even though a Bill of Rights had yet to be added. He was sent to France to try to quell tension over war debt repayment, but was called back home after foolishly staying for nearly a year. Federalists were outraged at Gerry’s attempt to make a deal with France and his home was attacked with rocks by an angry mob. Gerry left the Federalist party and went to the Democratic-</p>	<p>On Gerry’s tombstone is inscribed his quote, “It is the duty of every citizen, though he may have but one day to live, to devote that day to the good of his country.”</p> <p>(Kiernan and D’Agnese, p. 41.)</p>



<p><b>Elbridge Gerry</b> (continued)</p>	<p>Republicans. He was nominated for governor of MA, but lost four times until the ninth time when he finally became governor. He supported a plan to “creatively redraw the state senate voting districts to favor his party.” This became known as “gerrymandering.” He lost reelection in 1812, but served only 20 months as James Madison’s vice president. After neglecting his finances for living a luxurious lifestyle, Gerry died nearly broke in 1814 at age 70.</p>	
<p><b>John Hancock</b> Massachusetts Merchant, Shipping 39</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Hancock’s father died when he was just 7 and his mother, unable to keep things going, sent him to live with his rich uncle, a shipping tycoon, who brought him up in privilege. He graduated from Harvard and learned his uncle’s business. When his uncle died in 1764, Hancock inherited his business and wealth. Hancock was known for being incredibly generous and was always first to help those in need. He helped fund his alma mater, paid for community projects, and help his poorer friends, like Sam Adams, put food on the table.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Hancock was severely angered by the Stamp Act. Samuel Adams brought him to meetings with patriots and persuaded him to run for office. Hancock was elected to the MA legislature in 1766. When one of Hancock’s ships, named <i>Liberty</i>, was seized by the British, and he was accused of smuggling. Adams successfully defended him for smuggling, which was common during this time as a protest against taxation, but Hancock’s ship was still taken over as a royal vessel. A riot erupted and the ship was burned. Hancock was elected president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress in 1774 and moved forward the patriots’ cause by raising <b>Minutemen</b>. Hancock was elected the president of the Continental Congress from 1776 through 1777, unifying the debating delegates. Hancock was the very first to sign the Declaration. He, like many others, risked a great fortune when joining the patriots’ cause as he depended on shipping for his living.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> After Hancock resigned as president, he remained in Congress until 1780 when he returned home. He attended the Constitutional Convention and elected Massachusetts’ first governor. The war had made an impact on his finances, but did not leave him at all poor. He died in 1793 while still governor.</p>	<p>General Thomas Gage, a British officer, took over the governorship of Massachusetts. He declared that any colonist who came forward, spoke against the patriot cause, and supported the Crown would be pardoned. All except Hancock and Sam Adams – they were unforgivable.</p>
<p><b>Robert Treat Paine</b> Massachusetts Lawyer 45</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Paine graduated from Harvard and taught school for a teacher for a little while. He studied theology, served as a chaplain during the French and Indian War, and then traveled. Upon returning home from Boston, he decided to go into law.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Following the <b>Boston Massacre</b>, Paine was a prosecutor with what seemed an easy case; the already disliked British soldiers opened fire on an unarmed crowd. However, he was up against John Adams whose wit and clever logic defeated Paine, arguing that the crowd provoked the soldiers who had to respond. This added to the rally cry against the British. Even though he lost, Paine was still considered honorable for his efforts and was sent to the First and Second Continental Congress. Paine was a moderate; he preferred to reconcile with the British rather than declare independence longer than the other delegates. Eventually, he favored independence and signed the Declaration.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Paine became Massachusetts’ first attorney general. He helped write the state’s new constitution. He also sat on Massachusetts’ supreme court at the invitation of John Hancock.</p>	<p>Paine became known as “The Objection Maker” in Congress since he often opposed others’ ideas; however, he rarely proposed any original ideas himself.</p>





THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

<p><b>William Ellery</b> Rhode Island Lawyer, Merchant 48</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Ellery was born into a well-off family and he was a Harvard graduate, but he struggled with finances due to the sixteen children he had to support. He held many jobs including merchant, customs collector, clerk of the general assembly, clerk of the court of common pleas, until he became a lawyer at age 40. <b>Before Signing:</b> Ellery was chosen to go to the Second Continental Congress as a third choice after becoming involved in politics. Although little is known about him, historians claim that he famously chose to watch his fellow delegates sign the Declaration, bearing witness to their signatures. <b>After Signing:</b> Ellery was reportedly well-liked and stayed in Congress until 1784. He worked on a few Congressional committees, that others likely would find boring, including the committees on mail routes, army purchases, and public accounts. In 1778, the British looted and partially burned Ellery's home during their occupation. (At the moment, no evidence suggests that they knew he was a signer.) In 1786, Ellery returned home and continue to work a series of jobs until he was appointed as customs collector for Newport in 1790 by George Washington.</p>	<p>Ellery was one of many Congressmen seen riding on horseback instead of a carriage. (Just because he was a lawyer does not mean he had loads of cash.) Going to Congress impacted the finances of many Congressmen, especially since they were still obliged to support their families at home while neglecting their businesses for the cause in Philadelphia.</p>
<p><b>Stephen Hopkins</b> Rhode Island Farmer, Merchant 69</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Hopkins was as farmer and merchant, and played a crucial role in outlawing the slave trade in Rhode Island. He served his colonies early in his political roles. <b>Before Signing:</b> Hopkins was involved early in the cause for independence, agreeing with Ben Franklin who was speaking about unifying the colonies before others. Hopkins served as a chief justice of the superior court and established the first public library in Providence. For the patriot cause, he helped found the <i>Providence Gazette and County Journal</i> to rival the Tory press. His article, "The Rights of the Colonies Examined," received much attention both at home and in Great Britain. Hopkins served as governor between 1755 and 1768. When some Rhode Islanders lit a British tax collecting ship on fire in 1772, England directed the men to be arrested and sent back to England; Hopkins refused. He became a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1774 and introduced a bill to the legislature of Rhode Island to forbid the importation of slaves there. <b>After Signing:</b> Hopkins tried to fight for anti-slavery laws in Congress, but that fight would come at another time. Hopkins' bill on forbidding the importation of slaves to Rhode Island is considered one of the first anti-slavery laws. He is praised for manumitting most of his own slaves during his lifetime as opposed to only granting them freedom upon his death.</p>	<p>Hopkins' wobbly signature on the Declaration of Independence is said to have been due to his shaking from what is assumed to have been a form of palsy. On August 2, the day he signed, he said, "My hand trembles, but my heart does not!"</p>
<p><b>Samuel Huntington</b> Connecticut Lawyer 45</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Huntington came from humble beginnings and was self-made. Growing up as the oldest of ten children on a farm, he was expected to run it and did not attend school or college. However, he read often and became an attorney. <b>Before Signing:</b> Huntington became a member of the CT legislature and then a judge in his early forties. He was sent to the Continental Congress, voted for independence, and signed. <b>After Signing:</b> From 1779 to 1781, just two years, Huntington held the position of President of Congress when he was elected after John Jay was appointed to be minister to Spain. In 1781, Huntington returned home due to illness. He later continued service as chief Justice of Connecticut's supreme court, lieutenant governor of CT, and governor of CT. He died while governor at 64 years old.</p>	<p>While serving as the President of the Continental Congress, the title of the position changed to "President of the United States in Congress Assembled." Some historians argue that this makes Huntington the first "real" president of the United States. However, since the executive branch did</p>



<p><b>Samuel Huntington</b> (continued)</p>		<p>not exist until the ratification of the US Constitution in 1787, other historians argue that this point is not valid.</p>
<p><b>Roger Sherman</b> Connecticut Cobbler, Lawyer 55</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Sherman came from humble beginnings. He was the son of a farmer and cobbler, and was himself a cobbler with no formal education, but grew knowledgeable from reading and studying with a local reverend who graduated from Harvard. Sherman opened a store with his brother and contributed writings to journals. In the event that he helped a neighbor with legal issues, a lawyer who he spoke with suggested that he pursue law because of his skill. Sherman became a lawyer, a justice of the peace, a county judge, and became a member of the CT colonial legislature.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Sherman opened a bookstore near Yale where he socialized with other "like-minded" individuals. He served as treasurer of Yale who awarded him an honorary degree. Sherman was moderate and was sent to the First and Second Continental Congress focusing mostly on finance. He was wary of printing too much money and proposed higher taxes to avoid financial issues. Sherman was on the Committee of Five that was responsible for drafting the Declaration of Independence.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Sherman was active in Congress, speaking plainly but with everyone's attention. He was elected New Haven's mayor in 1784 until 1786 when he returned to Congress to discuss the Constitution. There, he delivered over 100 speeches. Sherman contributed what became known as the "Great Compromise" to settle disputes over representation. He recommended a dual legislature with a lower house (House of Representatives) determined by population, and an upper house (Senate) that would give each state two seats of representation. Sherman served in the House of Representatives from 1789 to 1791, and as a senator until 1793 when he died.</p>	<p>Sherman is the only individual to have signed the Articles of Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.</p>
<p><b>William Williams</b> Connecticut Merchant 45</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Williams grew up in a privileged family and received education in elite schools including Harvard University. He was the son of a minister, studied theology, and joined the military. He served in the French and Indian War when it is said he started to dislike the British. After, he gave business a try and opened a successful shop in Lebanon where he met many people who convinced him to enter public service. He held a number of positions including posts in the colonial legislature.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Williams wrote articles in various journals explaining the cause of the colonists. In 1775, he donated his own money to Connecticut troops to fight at Fort Ticonderoga. He would continue his generosity throughout the revolution. Williams was sent to Congress in 1776.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Williams knew his possible fate if the British won the war. Others chimed in that they would never have such a fate for not signing anything against the British, but Williams was a proud signer, seeing it his duty to defend liberty. Throughout the war, Williams opened his home to soldiers serving in Connecticut when they were in need. He helped develop the Articles of Confederation, but did not sign them. He helped get the Constitution ratified by Connecticut. He died in 1811 at age 79.</p>	<p>The American traitor Benedict Arnold brought a group with him to burn the city of New London. When Williams heard of this, he rode to the site immediately, but was too late as the city was burning and Arnold had fled. Williams' tombstone reads, "a firm, steady, and ardent friend of his country, and in the darkest times risked his life and wealth in her defense."</p>



<p><b>Oliver Wolcott</b> Connecticut Soldier, Lawyer 49</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Walcott was born the fifteenth child of a royal governor. He studied law at Yale, but it is not likely that he worked formally as an attorney. <b>Before Signing:</b> Walcott was a major general in the Connecticut militia. He fought in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Walcott recruited troops, defended Long Island, negotiated peace treaties with Native American tribes, and helped settle land disputes between states. <b>After Signing:</b> Walcott signed the Declaration in October 1776. He fought in the war, but was able to sign the Articles of Confederation. After Washington received and read aloud the Declaration of Independence to his troops on July 9, 1776, they along with other patriots cheered wildly, and are said to have toppled a statue of King George III. Wolcott saw the fallen statue and collected its pieces to turn them into bullets for the war effort. After the war, Walcott stayed active in politics and became governor of Connecticut in 1796.</p>	<p>He put his wife, children, and some other locals to work melting the lead into bullets for the war effort. They melted over 42,000 bullets for the war.</p>
<p><b>Philip Livingston</b> New York Merchant 60</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Livingston was born into a wealthy family. He became the second Lord of Livingston Manor which, with their enormous estate, meant that his family automatically had a seat on the New York royal legislature and could act as judges. <b>Before Signing:</b> Livingston remained moderate throughout the crisis of the Stamp Act; he had strong business ties to Europe as an importer. However, he grew frustrated with their lack of representation and treatment as solely taxpayers over Englishmen. Livingston was highly opinionated and hated the idea of the fight for independence. In 1774, he clashed with the other signers in Congress. Livingston suggested that a departure from England may cause "civil Wars among ourselves to determine which Colony should govern all the rest." Livingston missed the debates and vote for independence, but nevertheless he signed on August 2. <b>After Signing:</b> Livingston opened his doors to Washington and his officers when they had a brief conference as the British were moving in on New York. As everyone began fleeing, the Livingston's also fled, to Kingston, NY. His homes were seized by the British with one being used as a hospital and the other a barracks. The home serving as the hospital was later burned. Livingston had to sell some property due to his financial losses during the Boycott of British goods, but his family still ultimately thrived; they built forty mansions on the Hudson River.</p>	<p>Despite feeling ill in early 1778, Livingston still made it to Congress feeling it his duty to be there. He, along with his son, joined the other signers in York, PA where they were in hiding. Sadly, Livingston never knew if their attempt at liberty would be successful as he died of heart failure in 1778. Congress attended his funeral and mourned for one month.</p>
<p><b>William Floyd</b> New York Planter, Land Speculator 41</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Floyd's family had been in America since the 1650s. Though he was born into wealth, Floyd was expected to run his family's farm after his parents died, which happened when he was just a teenager. His new responsibilities left no time for schooling. Floyd married Hannah Jones, and with the help of slaves, ran the family farm. <b>Before Signing:</b> Floyd was moderately conservative and wary of declaring independence from Britain; however, he disliked Britain's control. He joined the local militia in 1760 and became active in politics as the colonists' frustration with Britain was continuing to escalate. In 1774, Floyd was sent to the First Continental Congress and he signed the Articles of Association. When returning to Long Island, Floyd led a successful defense against the British at Gardiner's Bay. He was considered a local hero and sent back to the Second Continental Congress.</p>	<p>The New York delegates were kept from voting for independence on July 2, 1776 due to not yet receiving the instructions on how to vote. The colony voted for independence on July 9.</p>



<p><b>William Floyd</b> (continued)</p>	<p><b>After Signing:</b> Floyd is believed to have be the first of the New Yorkers to sign. He signed on August 2. His property on Long Island was damaged as the British began to occupy New York. Floyd warned his wife and children to escape; they were able to cross the Long Island Sound to Connecticut. Hannah died in 1781. After the war, Floyd returned to his home on Long Island which had been used to board cavalry horses, and his crops and livestock had been stolen or destroyed. Evidence suggests that his house was damaged not beyond repair as he was able to renovate it and move forward. Floyd became a member of the first House of Representatives, and a member of the Electoral College. He died at the age of 86 after moving to upstate New York.</p>	
<p><b>Francis Lewis</b> New York Merchant 63</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Lewis was practically near retirement when he joined the patriot cause, and lost nearly everything in just a few months. He was born in Wales, raised by an aunt, and went to the “New World” with goods he invested in to sell upon receiving his small inheritance. Lewis’ risk paid off as his business turned out to be successful.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Lewis worked during the French and Indian War as a supplier to British troops and was among those captured by the French. He was put in a French prison for seven years until the war ended, at which time he was given 5,000 acres as a grant from the Crown for his service. With his business back up and running, Lewis joined groups protesting the injustices of Britain. He attended the Stamp Act Congress in 1765 and was a member of the New York Sons of Liberty.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Lewis signed on August 2 knowing that the British were about to attack Long Island. His home was fired upon by a battleship while his wife and their servants were still inside. The British entered and ransacked the house, and Lewis’ wife was put in a New York prison. At approximately 60 years old, Mrs. Lewis made it through being denied a bed, a change of clothes, and decent food for weeks. It is said that one of her slaves found her and brought her some food, clothes, and letters. In response to her imprisonment, Washington planned to have the wives of two prominent Philadelphia Loyalists put under house arrest to get Mrs. Lewis out of prison. His plan worked, and Mrs. Lewis was released but could not leave New York City. She took care of her slave who had fallen ill and later died. Mrs. Lewis died in 1779 at age 64, just 2 years after she was released from prison. Francis Lewis stayed on the Board of Admiralty until 1781. He never renovated his house after the British destroyed it, and chose to live with his sons until he died at nearly 90 years old.</p>	<p>The Lewis’s had seven children, but only three lived past infancy. Their only daughter married a British naval officer. Francis Lewis refused to give his blessing, so his daughter and the British officer moved to England.</p>
<p><b>Lewis Morris</b> New York Planter 50</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> The Morris family was well established and respected. Lewis’s grandfather was the royal governor of New Jersey; he also had family members that included a chief justice and lieutenant governor. He was the picture of aristocracy and surrounded by Loyalists. However, Lewis Morris’s discontent with the British began with their mistreatment of New Yorkers.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Lewis grew dissatisfied with the British after New Yorkers voted against raising taxes to support the British troops who were there to “protect” the colonies, and the governor requisitioned the money without consent. Morris was outspoken about his grievances with the British. In 1774, he was not selected as a delegate to the Continental Congress as New York still wanted to reconcile with Britain. However, by 1775, after the Battle of Lexington, Morris was sent to Philadelphia. Morris was concerned with having enough munitions for the troops, and he</p>	<p>Benjamin Rush said of Morris that any property lost was overshadowed by the love he had for his country.</p> <p>(Kiernan and D’Agnese, p. 93.)</p>



<p><b>Lewis Morris</b> (continued)</p>	<p>served on the committee that worked to secure them. In June 1776, he left Congress to command the militia in Westchester. Morris helped New York make the decision to support independence, and he signed upon his return to Congress in September.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Morris's house was damaged by the British. They ransacked it, burned trees, or cut them down for firewood, and slaughtered his cattle to feed their troops. After the war, Morris became a judge, a state senator, and supported the ratification of the Constitution. Although Morris's house was attacked during the war, he was still successful and spent time renovating his home.</p>	
<p><b>Abraham Clark</b> New Jersey Lawyer, Surveyor 50</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Clark was more modest than others, being raised on a farm and receiving little formal education. During his work as a local surveyor, many informally sought his advice on legal matters. He was willing to help his peers, often for no payment, but he was very popular and soon found himself in various public offices.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> By 1774, Clark was heavily involved in the patriot cause, attending conventions, and serving on a few committees in New Jersey including one that drafted the New Jersey constitution.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Clark knew the risk of being a written supporter of the revolution. During the war, Clark's two sons were captured by the British. It is believed that his son Thomas was thrown on the prison ship <i>Jersey</i>, known for having the worst conditions. His other son, Aaron, is said to have been dragged into a dungeon in New York known as the Sugar House. Their fate is not known for certain, but historians say Thomas may have been freed upon a retaliation from Congress. Aaron's fate remains unknown, and some historians claim he had a third son, Andrew, who died aboard <i>Jersey</i>. Clark served in Congress until the war ended when he moved to serve on the state legislature. He opposed the Constitution until a Bill of Rights was added. He ended his public service being a representative of New Jersey in the new federal government. He died at age 68.</p>	<p>About knowing the risk of signing the Declaration of Independence, Clark wrote to a friend, "As to my title, I know not yet whether it will be honorable or dishonorable; the issue of the war must settle it. Perhaps our Congress will be exalted on a high gallows...I assure you, Sir, I see, I feel, the danger we are in."</p> <p>(Kiernan and D'Agnesse, p. 96.)</p>
<p><b>John Hart</b> New Jersey Farmer, mill owner 65</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> John Hart was a farmer and owned about 400 acres of land. He also owned a few grist and saw mills. He did not receive an education, but was well-liked and respected by New Jersey's leading citizens.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Before the patriot cause began, Hart served in royal assemblies and congresses, and as a judge. In 1765, Hart, who is said to have the best interests of his country at heart, attended the Stamp Act Congress in New York. Though New Jersey often sided with Crown on issues of taxation, Hart's sentiments of opposing outside taxation and the presence of royal troops in the colonies, made him a better representative of the population. In June of 1776, Hart was sent to the Second Continental Congress, and voted for independence on July 2.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> After signing on August 2, Hart returned to New Jersey and was elected to serve on the first general assembly under the new state constitution. He was also elected the state's first speaker. However, 1776 proved a year of challenges for Hart who lost his wife of 36 years that October. When the British approached his home, Hart sent his children to stay with friends and he fled elsewhere as he may have been a target of the British. It is known that Hart's farm was damaged, but not ruined. In June 1778, he welcomed Washington and 12,000 of his troops to set up camp in his fields. He continued to serve in the assembly and as speaker. He died at age 68 in 1779.</p>	<p>It is said that when Hart had to flee his home, he slept in caves while the British searched for him for a year. However, most historians agree that it is more likely that he may have used a rock formation as shelter but his "run" would have equated to less than a month long.</p>



THE LOCKE SOCIETY

LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

<p><b>Francis Hopkinson</b> New Jersey Lawyer, musician, artist 38</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Hopkinson is called a “Renaissance man” for his various interests. He was a lawyer, but also a mathematician, chemist, physicist, mechanic, musician, and artist. He was among the first graduating class from the University of Pennsylvania, founded by his father Thomas Hopkinson and Benjamin Franklin. <b>Before Signing:</b> Hopkinson served the Crown as a lawyer, but as his resentment grew, he resigned his position. He was sent to the Second Continental Congress, voted for independence, and signed the Declaration. <b>After Signing:</b> Hopkinson was on a committee to design the Great Seal of the United States. His committee contributed the eagle’s stars-and-stripes shield, the six-pointed stars above the eagle’s head, and the olive branch. It is said that he also submitted a design for the United States flag. Although no sketches have been found, an original description of the flag was recovered which detailed “thirteen red and white alternating stripes and thirteen white stars on a field of blue (p. 105).” Historians have concluded that, although Hopkinson did not get paid for his service even at his request, he is the only person credited with having designed a U.S. flag according to the minutes of the Continental Congress. In 1776, Hopkinson’s home was ransacked, but otherwise he did not suffer many damages from the war. Later, he served as a federal judge until he died at the age of 53.</p>	<p>Hopkinson composed the music for the “earliest surviving secular American song” called <i>My Days Have Been So Wondrous Free</i>. He also crafted a keyboard for Benjamin Franklin.</p>
<p><b>Richard Stockton</b> New Jersey Lawyer 45</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Stockton was a somewhat surprising signer of the Declaration. He was brought up privileged and is said not to have thought fondly of public service. He was a lawyer in a prestigious firm and lived in his father’s Princeton mansion. <b>Before Signing:</b> Stockton was impressed with arguments made for declaring independence from Britain. Although originally in favor of governing themselves while still swearing allegiance to the king, his mind was changed after hearing John Adams speak in Congress. <b>After Signing:</b> In 1776, Stockton was among those inspecting troops in upstate New York. He was concerned with the lack of adequate supplies they had and vowed to help. Upon learning that the British were making their way to Princeton, he returned home. He helped supply, feed, and clothe the troops there, then left with his family to stay with a friend 30 miles away. Someone recognized Stockton and betrayed him by giving him up to the enemy. One night, he was taken prisoner by Loyalist militants. He was in jail at first in New Jersey, then in New York City. Evidence suggests that he recanted his war efforts and swore allegiance to the king in order to be released from prison. In December 1777, Stockton swore his allegiance to the United States again. He died at age 50, a few years before the war ended, from what is said to have been cancer.</p>	<p>Stockton’s home may have suffered minor damages, but it remained within the family. In the twentieth century, their home became the official residence of the governor of New Jersey until 1982 when it was turned into a museum.</p>
<p><b>John Witherspoon</b> New Jersey Minister 53</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Witherspoon was a skilled orator and writer from Scotland who became popular with his sermons. Richard Stockton was interested in his success and called on him to serve as the new president at the College of New Jersey (later called Princeton). Witherspoon accepted his proposal and arrived in Princeton in 1768. As president, he increased the endowment and improved the curriculum. Princeton became the study grounds of patriots, including James Madison. <b>Before Signing:</b> Witherspoon’s disdain for the British was already present before he moved to the colonies. In 1774, he published, “Thoughts on American Liberty,” an essay supporting American independence from Britain and deeming themselves a force to be reckoned with should Britain be unaccepting of their</p>	<p>Witherspoon’s wife Elizabeth was hesitant to move to the colonies. Fellow signer Benjamin Rush is the one who convinced Elizabeth to make the move. Years later, Witherspoon would serve as the minister of the marriage between Richard</p>



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>John Witherspoon</b> (continued)</p>	<p>wish. In 1776, he helped in the creation of New Jersey’s constitution. <b>After Signing:</b> Witherspoon served on many committees including the board of war, and the committee of secret correspondence (gathering intelligence overseas). He remained in Congress until 1782. He then went on to serve in the state legislature and helped ratify the Constitution. During the war, Witherspoon lost his son James at the Battle of Germantown. He also had to deal with the ransacking of his college at the hands of the British who burned (some say hundreds, some say thousands) of his books. He worked to rebuild Princeton, but never saw its restoration complete. He died 1794 and is buried in the President’s Lot at the Princeton Cemetery.</p>	<p>Stockton’s daughter, Julia, and Benjamin Rush.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>John Morton</b> Pennsylvania Farmer, Surveyor 52</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Morton was born on a farm in Pennsylvania shortly after his father died. He entered politics when he was 30 and served 18 terms in legislatures over the years on behalf of both Pennsylvania’s original royal government, and the state government that developed later. <b>Before Signing:</b> Morton served as justice of the peace and then as sheriff. In Congress, in 1774, Benjamin Rush was familiar with Morton as a “plain farmer,” but was impressed with his principles and business manners. Morton was a moderate and in between other Pennsylvania signers, John Dickinson who thought it too soon for independence and Benjamin Franklin who had already renounced his allegiance to the Crown. Though Morton supported independence, he knew those he represented were against it. When the time came, two Pennsylvania delegates voted no, the other two voted yes, and Morton was in the middle, putting Pennsylvania in support of independence when he voted yes. <b>After Signing:</b> Morton’s home district was dissatisfied with him and was not afraid to show it as they ostracized him; this upset him greatly. Nine months after signing, Morton became the first to die.</p>	<p>Just before Morton died, he is said to have had a message for those he angered. “Tell them,’ he said, ‘that they will live to see the hour when they shall acknowledge it to have been the most glorious service I ever rendered to my country.” These words appear on the obelisk above his grave.  <small>(Kiernan and D’Agnese, p. 121)</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Benjamin Franklin</b> Pennsylvania Printer, Scientist 70</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Ben Franklin is another man of many talents who is among the most famous of the signers. He was a printer, publisher, writer, scientist, philosopher, inventor, and philanthropist. He was a self-made man who came from very humble beginnings. Franklin was born in Boston, was the youngest of seventeen children and his father was a candlemaker; a trade Franklin was not interested in. He was then made an apprentice to his half-brother James who was a printer and treated Franklin very cruel with harsh beatings. Still, Franklin educated himself with the books he was able to get. He wrote comical opinions about colonial life under the pseudonym “Mrs. Silence Dogood,” and James printed them in his newspaper. When Franklin’s secret was out, he fled to Philadelphia. In Philadelphia, he did very well for himself working for another printer. He traveled to England and returned to print the newspaper, the <i>Pennsylvania Gazette</i>, and a yearly paper called, <i>Poor Richard’s Almanack</i>. Although Franklin became prosperous, he remained sympathetic to simpler men. <b>Before Signing:</b> As a man of wealth, Franklin left his business with his partner and committed his time to philanthropy and building a new nation. He created the first American hospital, library, and volunteer fire department. He contributed to the establishment of the University of Pennsylvania. He even traveled throughout the colonies in effort to better the mail system, leading to his appointment as postmaster general. He lived nearly 30 years in Europe. First when he was a young adult, then between 1757</p>	<p>One of Franklin’s sons, William Franklin, was the royal governor of New Jersey and sided with the British. William was imprisoned by Congress in early 1776 and released in 1778. As Ben neared the end of his life, he and his son reconciled their differences.</p>



<p><b>Benjamin Franklin</b> (continued)</p>	<p>and 1770 when he went to London, and then again between 1776 to 1785 in France. When the colonists expressed their anger over the Stamp Act, Franklin was called to the House of Commons to explain the colonists' discontent. The act was repealed, and Franklin was deemed a hero, but it was just the beginning. He continuously tried addressing the colonists' grievances but did so in vain. Franklin stirred up a scandal when he leaked anti-rebel letters written by the Massachusetts royal governor. In 1774, he was summoned "for disloyalty to the Crown." As a result, his position of postmaster general was revoked. He returned to the colonies in 1775 and became a Congressman. Franklin was appointed to the Committee of Five, and was a key editor of Jefferson's original draft. Franklin is responsible for changing, "We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable," to "We hold these truths to be self-evident." Franklin convinced John Morton to vote yes for independence, bringing Pennsylvania on board with independence.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Franklin was sent on a dangerous and secret mission to request troops and funds from France to fight the war. Franklin was successful and well-liked in France. Congress sent Franklin to check on Washington and his troops in Massachusetts early in the war. Washington sent him back with the message that they were desperate for bullets, troops, and money. In order to get money, Franklin advocated for colonists to be frugal. He also worked with others to raise money and gave 3,000 pounds of his own along with his income as the new American postmaster general. Franklin helped write the Treaty of Paris at the end of the war along with the Constitution. He died at age 84 and is buried in Philadelphia.</p>	
<p><b>James Wilson</b> Pennsylvania Lawyer, judge, land speculator 33</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Wilson was born in Scotland, and studied at three universities before going to Philadelphia. He soon became a lawyer, dealing mostly with land disputes, and became interested in land speculation himself which would eventually cost him.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Wilson was one of the first to argue that Parliament did not have authority over the colonies and that the colonists should see the king as their connection to the British Empire. The patriots liked his legal reasoning and welcomed him to join their cause. After Parliament decided to close the port of Boston, Wilson declared it unconstitutional, even though no such wording existed in Parliament, because the colonists did not have representation. This concept later became known as "judicial review" and would be added to the Constitution. At first Wilson was more moderate but became more conservative as time passed.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Although it was believed Wilson thought that power should rest within the people, he acted as though that was not his belief and attacked the state constitution for giving power to the citizens. This made him unpopular among patriots along with the fact that in the years following the signing, Wilson became a corporate attorney and became friends with Tory merchants in court. During the war, his house was attacked by rebels when money and food was short. After the war, he returned to public service and was a key participant in the creation of the U.S. Constitution. He is known as the second father of the Constitution for his ideas including having a system of checks and balances.</p>	<p>Wilson expected to be the first chief justice of the Supreme Court, but that position went to John Jay and he became an associate justice. Wilson continued buying up land, all on money he borrowed and could not pay back. He was arrested while serving on the supreme court and was placed in debtor's prison. He was released in about 1798 and died about the time he was 56.</p>





<p><b>Robert Morris</b> Pennsylvania Merchant, Land speculator 42</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Morris was a wealthy man who mingled with many of the leading patriots of the cause for independence. He sacrificed his own business and money to support American troops. <b>Before Signing:</b> Morris agreed to boycott the importation of British goods in 1774, even though it was detrimental to his business. After the Battle of Lexington, Morris was even more eager to join the patriot cause. He managed to obtain much needed munitions and arms for the troops by acquiring foreign goods through his involvement with the secret committee of commerce. Morris was a proponent of independence but thought it too soon to declare; he voted against the resolution on July 1, and made himself absent on July 2 for the official vote. Still, he continued to serve in Congress, and even apologized for not being supportive of the timing. <b>After Signing:</b> Morris found it exciting to sign the Declaration, and signed the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution as well. It was fortunate that Morris stayed with Congress because he was able to strongly contribute to financing the war. He used much of his own money, but was also able to convince others to give money as well. With great credit history, he took on loans for Congress in his name. Washington often went to Morris for help with finances, and Morris always came through. It is said that he gave at least one million dollars of his own money to fund the campaign in Yorktown alone. However, when he invested a great sum of money in unsettled land, he ended up losing it all as the value of the land deteriorated with a lack of immigration. He had to sell everything he had, including his houses, to try to pay off his debt; unable to do so, Morris was put in debtors' prison in Philadelphia for just over three years. It is said that Washington remained loyal to his friend, and even dined with him there. Morris lived another five years after his release in a small home with his loyal wife. He died at 72.</p>	<p>Morris played a key role in creating the country's first government-incorporated bank to help retrieve funds for the war. He helped establish the Pennsylvania Bank and the Bank of North America, but turned down Washington's offer to be the Secretary of the Treasury and recommended Alexander Hamilton to the position instead.</p>
<p><b>George Clymer</b> Pennsylvania Merchant 37</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Clymer was orphaned at a young age and raised by his aunt and uncle. His uncle was a close friend of Ben Franklin's and was a wealthy merchant. Clymer followed his uncle's business savvy to make his own name. <b>Before Signing:</b> Clymer was a strong supporter of the patriot cause and ready to break with Britain by 1773. He helped organize the Philadelphia Tea Party, which pressured merchants to stop selling English tea. Clymer also raised money for military supplies, even exchanging his own gold and silver for paper currency knowing the money would become worthless if the war was lost. His financial support led him serve as the Continental treasurer from 1775 to 1776. <b>After Signing:</b> Clymer's contributions went beyond financing. He helped solve problems with food shortages during the war and helped plan how to deal with prisoners of war. Clymer helped draft the Constitution as well. Although evidence is difficult to confirm, historians say he and his family did have their home ransacked by British troops with much of his property destroyed; however, this did not impact his finances or living. Clymer remained a wealthy man even twenty years after signing. He bailed out the University of Pennsylvania and founded banks. He died at 74 years old in 1813.</p>	<p>Although evidence is not confirmed, it is said that the British entered Philadelphia seeking to destroy Clymer's home. They began tearing it apart, until they found out it wasn't actually Clymer's home.</p>
<p><b>George Ross</b> Pennsylvania Lawyer 46</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Ross was a loyalist, and a successful lawyer who served the Crown. He was however elected to attend the first Continental Congress. <b>Before Signing:</b> After the war began around 1775, Ross switched his loyalty to the patriots, though the exact reason why is</p>	<p>George Ross was the uncle of John Ross who married the famous Betsy Ross.</p>



<p><b>George Ross</b> (continued)</p>	<p>unknown. He served as a colonel in the Pennsylvania militia and was elected to attend the Second Continental Congress. <b>After Signing:</b> Ross left the political arena in 1777 due to illness, but later became a judge of the admiralty court. Ross presided over one of the earliest federal legal disputes that involved a reward for the capture of the British sloop <i>Active</i> in 1778. Ross did not agree to Congress's authority to overturn the state's decision to split the reward money between those involved in the capture. This case was not resolved until 1809, after Ross's death, in which they sided with George Olmstead, the leader of the takeover from aboard the ship, who argued that he was owed more money than what he received. Ross died of gout in 1779.</p>	
<p><b>Benjamin Rush</b> Pennsylvania Physician 30</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Rush was raised by his mother, who worked in a grocery to have enough money for Benjamin's schooling, after his father died when he was just a child. They lived on a farm and Rush eventually studied medicine. <b>Before Signing:</b> Rush was an active supporter of the patriot cause. He wrote news articles for the cause which garnered him attention. He wrote about other issues including his area of expertise, the abolition of slavery, temperance, prison reform, philosophy, and even about the other signers. <b>After Signing:</b> Rush's expertise was used on the battlefield where he was surgeon general of the armies. However, he was forced to resign when he criticized the superior doctor and blamed him for the poor conditions. His greatest negative commentary came when he suggested that General Washington be replaced as the Continental Army's leader. This argument became known as the "Conway Cabal," and it ended with Washington remaining leader. After the war, Rush continued treating patients, many for no charge, and he created the Philadelphia Dispensary (the first free clinic in America). In 1793, when many doctors fled Philadelphia due to the yellow fever epidemic, Rush stayed and cared for patients. He wrote the first textbook on mental health and is known as "The Father of American Psychiatry." Rush is also given credit for mending the friendship between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. He died of typhus in 1813.</p>	<p>Although Rush was a sympathetic doctor, he was criticized for his practice with using leeches to extract blood from patients. He was blamed for George Washington's death as the attending physician used this method for Washington on his deathbed. Rush was sued, and though he won the lawsuit, his medical practice suffered. In 1799, John Adams appointed Rush treasurer of the U.S. Mint; he held this position until he died in 1813.</p>
<p><b>George Taylor</b> Pennsylvania Merchant, Ironmaster About 60</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Little is known about George Taylor, but historians do know that he was a self-made man. He was born in Ireland, studied medicine, and at the age of 20 made his way to Philadelphia without any money to his name. According to records, a man named Mr. Savage paid for his passage and Taylor was forced to work for him in his iron business until he repaid his debt (indentured servant). When Mr. Savage died, Taylor took over the ironworks business. He soon built an estate, expanded his business, and joined the assembly in Pennsylvania in 1764. <b>Before Signing:</b> In 1775 he served on the committee that drafted the directions for the Pennsylvania delegates who were attending the Second Continental Congress. <b>After Signing:</b> Taylor served in Congress for less than a year, but was not very active. His greatest contribution to the war effort was with his iron business. Taylor produced cannonballs, cannons, and more weaponry for the war, and was little compensated for it, if at all, and his business suffered.</p>	<p>Loyalist John Galloway owned the lease on Taylor's furnace, and when his forge was confiscated in 1778, Taylor went out of business. Taylor leased a new forge in New Jersey where he worked until he died in 1781.</p>
<p><b>James Smith</b> Pennsylvania Lawyer, Surveyor, Ironmaster About 57</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Smith was born in Ireland and immigrated to the American colonies with his family when he was 10 years old. Though he chose two professions, he did not get much business in either until he decided to buy a forge and enter ironworks. <b>Before Signing:</b> Smith became involved with politics and with his inkling that a war was coming, he recruited a volunteer militia of</p>	<p>Historians do not know for certain Smith's age; a fire in his office destroyed his papers the year before his death.</p>



THE LOCKE SOCIETY

LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

<p><b>James Smith</b> (continued)</p>	<p>which he became the captain. He also became the voice of the western counties of Pennsylvania and called for a boycott of British goods. He was elected to Congress after the July 2 vote. <b>After Signing:</b> While serving in Congress, his iron business failed as the managers he left behind did not tend to their duties. When the British occupied Philadelphia in 1777, Congress retreated to Smith's home in York. After he left Congress, he took the positions of judge, militia general, and advisor of land disputes. In 1785, he felt he was too old for Congress and declined the election.</p>	<p>Most historians believe he died at 86 or 87, but according to his grave he died at 93.</p>
<p><b>Caesar Rodney</b> Delaware Planter 47</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Rodney was the oldest son of a planter. He held many jobs in service to his colony and suffered from health issues including asthma. <b>Before Signing:</b> On July 1, during the unofficial vote on the Lee Resolution, Rodney ran home to deal with Loyalist uprisings. His two colleagues were deadlocked, and without Rodney there to vote, Delaware would not have been a vote for the resolution. Thomas McKean sent a message to Rodney to return to Congress immediately. Rodney rode 80 miles in one night, making it to Congress, exhausted nonetheless, but ready to vote in favor of independence on July 2. <b>After Signing:</b> Delaware was home to a majority of loyalists who disliked Rodney and McKean for their vote supporting independence. Even with his midnight ride, Rodney did not have a seat at Delaware's Constitutional Convention or first legislature. He then became involved in military affairs and recruited troops for Washington's winter of 1776 campaign. In the fall of 1777, Brigadier General Rodney defended Delaware against British invasion, and was soon appointed major general of the local militia by McKean, who was acting governor at the time. From 1778 to 1781, Rodney served as acting and then full governor. His health grew worse and he died in 1784 at age 56. He did not live to see Delaware become the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.</p>	<p>In 1768, Rodney had a surgery on a cancerous lesion that spread from his nose to the left side of his face. This left a scar on his face that he covered with a green silk veil.</p>
<p><b>George Read</b> Delaware Lawyer 43</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Read was a lawyer and a man of reason. He did not favor Britain, but was hesitant to declare independence too soon. <b>Before Signing:</b> Read supported the boycott of British goods, being strongly against their taxation. When Boston was punished by British for the Boston Tea Party, Read's county raised \$900 to help them recover. Read was sent to Congress in 1774, but was not ready to vote yes on the Lee Resolution. Although he voted against independence, he signed the document anyway. <b>After Signing:</b> Read immediately supported the patriots by raising money for supplies and troops, and joining the militia. He did not lose property during the war, but as vice president of the state, he was summoned to take over the governorship of Delaware when John McKinly was taken prisoner by the British. In Philadelphia at the time, Read gathered his family to cross the river in New Jersey but was in sight of a British ship. He was able to get past them by claiming to simply be on his way home with his family. Read held a variety of positions in service to his country. He helped draft the Constitution and as a strong Federalist was able to convince Delaware to ratify the document, making them the first to ratify.</p>	<p>Read's grandson published, <i>The Life and Correspondence of George Read</i>, in which he defended Read for not voting for independence. He pointed out that in hindsight, voting for independence seemed a great idea, but taking on the powerful British empire with no real military and a lack of money made the task a daunting one at the time.</p>
<p><b>Thomas McKean</b> Delaware Lawyer 41-46</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> McKean held a variety of jobs in Delaware's colonial government including sheriff, militia captain, notary, loan office trustee, customs collector, and a judge. He eventually took a seat in the legislature, becoming speaker of the lower house. <b>Before Signing:</b> McKean was vocal about his anger at the Stamp Act. Although he moved to Pennsylvania, McKean still represented Delaware in Congress as the two colonies were seen to be linked in</p>	<p>McKean is said to have told John Adams that he was forced to move his family five times in just a few months due to his being</p>



THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

<p><b>Thomas McKean</b> (continued)</p>	<p>politics before 1776. McKean is the one who hurriedly sent a courier to fetch Caesar Rodney to vote for independence as Delaware was deadlocked. After voting, McKean led a militia to assist George Washington in defending New York City. McKean could not sign the Declaration on August 2 with the others as he was at war. Some historians believe that he may not have signed until 1781 as he was just too busy. <b>After Signing:</b> McKean was often either on the battlefield, working on legislation, or running from the British with his family. When the governor of Delaware was captured by the British, McKean assumed the position until Read arrived from Philadelphia. In 1781, McKean served as president of Congress being one of the few to hold the title “President of the United States in Congress Assembled.” He later served three terms as Pennsylvania’s governor. McKean was an intense governor; he is said to have been demanding, censure opposition, and appoint friends and family to high up positions. He died in 1817.</p>	<p>sought out by the enemy.</p>
<p><b>Charles Carroll of Carrollton</b> Maryland Merchant, Planter 38</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Carroll was born into a very wealthy family, but suffered under religious intolerance as Catholics. In what was established as a colony by Catholics for their religious freedom, it was soon lost to the controlling Crown. Catholics could not vote, hold public office, teach, or practice law among other injustices. However, Carroll’s family were able to overcome these obstacles and sent him to school in France. He returned to America in 1765, and although he could not be a lawyer, he did write. <b>Before Signing:</b> Carroll wrote under the name, “First Citizen,” to express the discontent building up in response to the governor of Maryland raising taxes for the benefit of government officials right after the Stamp Act and Intolerable Acts were passed by Britain. When people learned that “First Citizen” was really Carroll, he became increasingly popular and they supported him. Carroll supported boycotting British goods. He declined an invitation to be a delegate at the first Continental Congress, but still went to Philadelphia as an unofficial member. Carroll helped convince Maryland to support independence, and was chosen to represent Maryland in Congress on July 4, 1776, and his is the only Catholic signature on the document. <b>After Signing:</b> Carroll helped draft the state constitution and served on the board of war. Carroll also visited George Washington at Valley Forge, of whom he was a great supporter. Carroll was asked to serve as President of Congress in 1778, but declined. He also was elected to attend the Constitutional Convention, but did not attend even though he did rally support for the document. From 1789 to 1792, Carroll served as a state senator. Carroll was the last of signers to die; he died at age 95.</p>	<p>Carroll was a slave owner, and like many of the other signers, he began to question the practice. He later manumitted some of his own slaves before he died, but still kept some to run his plantation. Carroll also introduced a bill in 1789 for the “gradual abolition of slavery,” but it was ignored at the time.</p> <p><i>*Although not a signer, John Jay founded The New York Society for Manumission of Slaves in 1785 which worked to end abuse and advocated for the eventual freedom of black New Yorkers.</i></p>
<p><b>Samuel Chase</b> Maryland Lawyer 35</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Chase was a gifted orator and the son of a preacher. He studied law and became a member of the Maryland Assembly. His reputation was that of a staunch anti-British patriot who opposed any decree by the royal governor. <b>Before Signing:</b> Chase was a leader of the Annapolis Sons of Liberty. In 1765, to protest the Stamp Act, he broke into an office where stamps were stored, destroyed the stamps, and burned an effigy of the tax collector. After this act, he was denounced by the Loyalist mayor. In an article, Chase deemed his critics “despicable tools of power.” Chase was sent to the First and Second Continental Congresses. Chase was not in attendance for the July 2 vote because he was in Maryland writing their own declaration of independence. Still, Maryland’s delegates knew to vote in favor of independence when the time came.</p>	<p>Chase is the only Supreme Court justice to have been impeached. He was accused of ruling unfairly with political bias. Chase was acquitted, and his case set the precedent that still holds today that judges cannot be impeached, sued, or removed from office</p>



<p><b>Samuel Chase</b> (continued)</p>	<p><b>After Signing:</b> Chase held a variety of positions in the new nation, but was forced to leave Congress in 1778 when newspapers claimed that he used his position to get information to profit on the flour market during wartime. He returned to Maryland where he made several bad investments, lost his money, and committed himself to growing his legal practice. Chase was later appointed to the Supreme Court by Washington as a reward for his service in war. He died at age 70 and is buried near Francis Scott Key.</p>	<p>due to their own beliefs.</p>
<p><b>William Paca</b> Maryland Lawyer, Planter 35</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Paca was born to a wealthy family who provided him with a classical education. He practiced law at a law firm in Annapolis where he met Samuel Chase and another signer, Thomas Stone. <b>Before Signing:</b> Paca published articles with Chase criticizing Britain's taxation, particularly taxes paid to support the Church of England. Paca and Chase took on the legal dispute when their friend was arrested and fined for refusing to pay the tax. The jury sided with their client and he was awarded 60 pounds for damages; Paca and Chase were heroes. Paca was elected to the First and Second Continental Congresses. <b>After Signing:</b> Paca spent thousands of his family's money to supply troops in Maryland. He helped draft the new state constitution. He served as state senator, and later became Maryland's third governor until 1785. Paca sincerely cared for the veterans of the war and worked to provide aid for them. Paca died in 1799 at age 58.</p>	<p>During the debates over the Constitution, Paca drafted amendments that later served as inspiration for the Bill of Rights.</p>
<p><b>Thomas Stone</b> Maryland Lawyer, Planter About 33</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Stone grew up on a plantation and became a lawyer. He was on the committee of correspondence, setting up communication between the colonies. <b>Before Signing:</b> Stone's reputation began somewhat unfavorably among patriots. In the case of the client who refused to pay taxes towards the Church of England, Stone was the prosecutor and lost the case. Still, he took his seat at the Continental Congress as Maryland was uncertain whether to rush into breaking from Britain in an all-out war. When the time came to vote, Stone voted in favor of independence with everyone else. <b>After Signing:</b> Stone helped draft the Articles of Confederation. He stayed in Congress until 1778 and became a member of the state senate. He was sent to the Second Continental Congress and even acted as president briefly. He was also elected to attend the Constitutional Congress, but when his wife fell ill from a bad smallpox inoculation, he was never able to get over her failing health. The convention began in May 1787 and his wife died in June. Stone died just four months later at 44 years old.</p>	<p>After his wife's death, Stone fell greatly depressed. He gave up his law practice, and planned to go on a trip to England. While waiting for his ship, he suddenly collapsed and died just four months after his wife.</p>
<p><b>Carter Braxton</b> Virginia Planter, Businessmen 39</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Braxton was the son of a wealthy planter who owned 42 plantations. He graduated from the College of William and Mary. Braxton tried to invest money in the slave trade, but was not successful in finding a partner to work with him. <b>Before Signing:</b> Braxton served in Virginia's House of Burgesses who rebelled against the Stamp Act. At this point, Braxton did not favor a break from Britain, but wanted to stop them from imposing unfair taxes. Braxton settled a dispute between the royal governor of Virginia and the patriots. Braxton was able to secure repayment for the patriots after the governor confiscated their gunpowder. His connection to power in Virginia got him sent to the Continental Congress. Braxton still opposed independence; he was particularly uncertain about America's defense without a strong navy. Still, he voted for independence with the others on July 2. <b>After Signing:</b> The patriots were still hesitant to fully trust Braxton, with his aristocratic leaning and reluctance to</p>	<p>Braxton's first wife died after the birth of their second child and he went to England to try to recover from his grief. Braxton returned from England with deep British sentiment. He married another woman and had 16 children, giving him 18 children to support altogether.</p>



THE LOCKE SOCIETY  
LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

	<p>establishing a democracy. He was not sent back to Congress, but served in the Virginia legislature. Throughout the war, Braxton donated a lot of money to the government and to buying supplies for the troops. He articulated the idea that enslaved men should be able to fight in the war, but resistance in the South ended that suggestion. Braxton had some property damage during the war, but his homes were still standing. After the war, Braxton was never repaid the money he put into the effort, and downsized his home where he lived for the rest of his life. He died likely of a stroke, at age 61.</p>	
<p><b>Benjamin Harrison</b> Virginia Planter About 50</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Harrison was born into a wealthy family of planters. He attended the College of William and Mary, but had to leave to take care of his house when his father and two siblings died in a storm. Harrison grew his estate by including eight plantations and a successful shipping business.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Harrison was elected to the House of Burgesses before he was even 21 years old. His views were moderate, but he was sympathetic to the patriots, especially in their fight against the Stamp Act. He involved himself in the cause between 1773 and 1776 by writing letters, attending conventions, and was sent to the First Continental Congress. Harrison was elected to the chair of the Committee of the Whole (presiding over congressional debates). Harrison even presided over morning debates when Hancock yielded his seat as president to Harrison in the morning and returned to it in the afternoon.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Harrison became a speaker in the Virginia legislature in 1778. British Loyalists, led by Benedict Arnold, made their way through Richmond, destroying some of Harrison's possessions. After the war, Harrison was a proponent of the Bill of Rights, arguing for its inclusion in the Constitution before ratification.</p>	<p>Harrison had two descendants become President of the United States: William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison.</p>
<p><b>Thomas Jefferson</b> Virginia Planter, Lawyer, Renaissance Man 33 <i>*More detailed information about Jefferson will be learned in other lessons.</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Jefferson was born into a wealthy family and received private education. When his father died, Jefferson inherited his estate while still in his teens. Jefferson attended the College of William and Mary, and studied law under fellow signer and mentor George Wythe.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Jefferson became a member of Virginia's House of Burgesses when he was 26 years old. He was more popular as a writer than as a speaker. In 1775, he was elected to the Continental Congress and arrived in May 1776. When Congress chose the Committee of Five to oversee the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson was the lead writer who was inspired by the philosopher John Locke. After editing, primarily by Franklin and Adams, the Declaration was submitted to Congress on June 28, 1776. Edits continued until everyone agreed on the language.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Jefferson returned to Virginia and served on the legislature. He also devoted time to working on the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom. Although he served as governor for two years, he later resigned after a British invasion, and suggested a leader with military background take his place. His wife died the following year. Jefferson returned to Congress in 1783 and was soon a minister in France for five years. After the war, Washington named him the first secretary of state. Jefferson lost the next election to John Adams, and as the law was back then, Jefferson became the vice president. In 1800, Jefferson won the presidential election. Under his administration, the U.S. made the Louisiana Purchase and sent Lewis and Clark to explore the new land. In 1809, Jefferson returned to Monticello and committed much of his</p>	<p>Jefferson argued for the emancipation of slaves since his time in the House of Burgesses, though he did not free all of his slaves during his lifetime. The original draft of the Declaration contained language denouncing the "execrable commerce" of slavery. However, delegates from Georgia and South Carolina argued to remove the language; most the credit goes to Edward Rutledge from SC for leaving the debate over slavery to continue.</p>



	<p>time to founding the University of Virginia. Towards the end of his life, Jefferson's finances had deteriorated, and he had to sell his library to the government which became the Library of Congress. Jefferson died on July 4, 1826 just hours before John Adams.</p>	
<p><b>Richard Henry Lee</b> Virginia Planter, Merchant 44</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Lee was born into a privileged and well-known family. He was one of eleven children and lost his parents before becoming an adult. He attended school in England, and after returning home got married and entered public service. <b>Before Signing:</b> Lee started his service as a justice of the peace and was soon a member of Virginia's House of Burgesses. Lee and his friend Patrick Henry formed the Virginia Sons of Liberty; together they crafted nonimportation agreements, organized boycotts of British goods, and outspoken about their patriotism. In 1767, Lee tried establishing a system of communication between the colonies and by 1773, Lee, Henry, and Jefferson started the Virginia committee of correspondence, and asked other colonies to do the same. Lee also became close friends with Sam Adams (Virginia had protested the closing of Boston Harbor). Lee was a gifted orator and grew a reputation as a speaker. On June 7, 1776, Lee introduced his resolution to declare independence from Britain, along with forming foreign alliances and preparing to plan for a confederation. <b>After Signing:</b> Lee fought in Virginia's militia during the war. However, Lee's popularity waned after the war. He got involved in a scandal involving his brother, Arthur, who accused another congressman of improper conduct securing munitions while representing America in France. Richard defended his brother seemingly without knowing the whole story. After his brother protested Lee's exclusion from Congress in 1777, Richard and his brother both returned to Congress. Richard served as Congress's president from 1784 to 1785. In 1789, he declined an election to the Constitutional Convention; Lee was against a document that instilled a strong central government, and he led the cause to include the Bill of Rights. Lee served as a U.S. senator for Virginia and resigned in 1792 due to ailing health.</p>	<p>Richard Henry Lee opposed the slave trade. "It was said that he favored 'so heavy a duty on the importation of slaves, as effectually to put an end to that iniquitous and disgraceful traffic within the colony of Virginia.'"  (Kiernan and D'Agnese, p. 214)</p>
<p><b>Francis Lightfoot Lee</b> Virginia Planter 41</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Francis Lee is remembered for being the younger brother of Richard Henry Lee. Often overshadowed by his brother, Francis Lee was just as much, if not more of a patriot. <b>Before Signing:</b> Francis Lee was a member of Virginia's House of Burgesses. He was present at nearly every patriotic cause, especially opposition to the Stamp Act. Francis Lee was at every protest, assembly, no matter how big or small the gathering. Francis helped formed the Virginia committee of correspondence in 1773 and was elected to the Continental Congress in 1775. While Richard was outspoken in Congress, Francis remained fairly shy and reserved. He worked on the board of war, and the military and marine committees. <b>After Signing:</b> When his brother Richard's involvement in the scandal with their brother Arthur and was not elected back to Congress, Francis resigned his post in protest as did their loyal supporters. This scheme worked and both Richard and Francis made their way back to Congress in 1777. Francis was on the committee to draft the Articles of Confederation and supported the Constitution to replace it, opposing his brother's viewpoint on the document. Virginia ratified the Constitution in 1788, following Francis' opinion. In 1779, Francis Lee served four years in the state senate before retiring. He died in 1797 after living a quiet life in Virginia with his wife.</p>	<p>Mark Twain wrote about Francis Lee in 1877. He stated, "This man's life-work was so inconspicuous, that his name would be wholly forgotten, but for one thing – he signed the Declaration of Independence. Yet his life was a most useful and worthy one... Francis Lightfoot Lee was a gentleman – a word which meant a great deal in his day..."  (Kiernan and D'Agnese, p. 221)</p>



<p><b>Thomas Nelson Jr.</b> Virginia Planter, Merchant 37</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Nelson was raised in a privileged family; he attended school in England, including Cambridge University. He returned to the colonies in 1761, helped his father run their plantation and soon entered the mercantile business. Nelson suffered from asthma his whole life, which he eventually died from because medicine did not exist at the time for the illness.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Nelson was a member of Virginia’s House of Burgesses. His anti-British sentiment surprised many with how much time he spent in England. Nelson sympathized with Boston after their harbor was closed by the British, and even was involved in staging their own tea party in Yorktown. Nelson was elected to the Continental Congress in 1775. In May 1776, Virginia delegates took control of the royal government, and Nelson resolved to declare independence from Britain and brought the news that everyone was on board to Philadelphia.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> In 1777, Nelson was forced to leave Congress due to a health issue, likely of a stroke. Still, he was made brigadier general and in charge of the state’s militia when it was known that a British invasion was highly likely. Nelson used much of his own money to support the patriot war effort. He took loans in his name and promised to take care of debts if the state could not. His funding helped Virginia pay their portion to help the Continental Treasury pay for the French fleet. He assembled a troop of light cavalry to enter Philadelphia to fight the British in 1778, even though by the time he arrived they had already retreated. In 1781, Nelson succeeded Jefferson as Virginia’s governor while still serving as brigadier general. Nelson is said to have allowed his home to be attacked as British officers took residence there. Though his home was damaged, it was not destroyed. After the war, Nelson’s finances were declining, and he had to sell parts of his land to pay his debt. Still, he was able to live the rest of his life on a smaller estate. He died in 1789 from his asthma when he was 50 years old.</p>	<p>When Royal Governor Lord Dunmore learned that Virginia’s House of Burgesses allied themselves with Boston, he disbanded them. This act however did not stop the Virginians one bit as they collected their belongings and moved to Williamsburg’s Raleigh Tavern. Later the same year, they staged the Yorktown Tea Party of 1774 in which they boarded the British ship, <i>Virginia</i>, which brought tea to the colonies, and dumped it all into the York River.</p>
<p><b>George Wythe</b> Virginia Lawyer, Professor About 50</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Wythe was a mentor to many of the Founding Fathers, especially Thomas Jefferson who looked up to him as a father figure. Wythe’s father was a planter who died when George was just 3 years old. His mother taught him at home the best she could until she too died. Wythe was sent to study law in his uncle’s firm and became a lawyer by the time he was 20. He valued honesty and is said to have dropped clients who lied.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Wythe worked as an attorney general for the Crown. He was elected to Virginia’s House of Burgesses in 1754. In the 1760’s two things changed Wythe’s life. First, Thomas Jefferson came to work at his law firm as a student. Second, the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765 which cemented his commitment to the patriot cause. He said to have written such a passionate response to Britain that the Burgesses had to tone it down before sending it. In 1774, Wythe was sent to Congress. There, he suggested that America could be a “separate but equal nation within the British Empire.” He also suggested that the king be held responsible for the injustice in the colonies, not Parliament, and if the king refused, then they would formally break from Britain. Wythe also was the first to suggest forming foreign alliances. Wythe was not present for the July 2 vote, and was said to have signed the Declaration after August 2 (some historians say he authorized a clerk of his to sign for him).</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> In 1776, Wythe left Congress to help Thomas Jefferson set up Virginia’s new government and legal system. He drafted the state constitution and designed the seal. Wythe taught</p>	<p>Wythe was an abolitionist, and after his wife died, he freed his own slaves. In his old age, two of his former slaves took care of him: Lydia and Michael. Both were also given inheritance of part of Wythe’s estate when he died. However, there was a stipulation that if Lydia and Michael were to die before Wythe, his whole estate would go to his sister’s grandson, George Wythe Sweeney. One day, Michael witnessed Sweeney drinking coffee and tossing a paper into the fire.</p>





<p><b>George Wythe</b> (continued)</p>	<p>law at the College of William and Mary, making him the first law professor in the United States. He and his wife allowed some of the poorer students to take up residence in their home and even paid for some of their education. He even offered free classes to anyone who wanted to attend his lectures on the classics. Sadly, George Wythe was murdered in his eighties in a situation separate from the American Revolution.</p>	<p>Later that day, the whole household drank from the same coffee pot and fell ill. Wythe died and investigators pieced together the clues that Sweeney tried to poison the household. George Wythe was poisoned. Michael, witnessing the paper likely to be what the poison was wrapped in, was the key witness; however, blacks could not bear witness against white men at the time and Sweeney got away with the murder.</p>
<p><b>Joseph Hewes</b> North Carolina Merchant, Shipper 46</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> He was born a Quaker on an estate near Princeton, NJ and would later attend college at Princeton. After he graduated, he was an apprentice to a merchant in Philadelphia and soon started his own mercantile business. Hewes moved to North Carolina in 1760 and worked in the shipping industry accumulating even more wealth. Sadly, his personal life was not as fortunate as his fiancé died a few days before their wedding. With that, he threw himself into his work. <b>Before Signing:</b> Hewes was hesitant to support separating from Britain, but advocated for the rights of the colonists. He was elected to the First Continental Congress in 1774 and was part of the committee that drafted a declaration of rights of the colonists. He also contributed to the plan for nonimportation and supported the boycott British goods even though it meant his business would suffer. In 1775, Quakers spoke against the Continental Congress and the idea of revolution which led Hewes to break with his faith. Hewes was persuaded by John Adams’ speech to vote for independence on July 2. <b>After Signing:</b> Hewes served on the marine committee and helped create the Continental navy. He is referred to as the first secretary of the navy, and was responsible for appointing his friend John Paul Jones as an officer who is regarded as a hero of the Revolutionary War. In 1777, Hewes served on the North Carolina legislature and went back to Congress in 1779. Hewes worked twelve-hour days, ignoring food and rest. When he was only 49 years old, he died and is buried in Philadelphia.</p>	<p>Hewes died in 1779 from ill health, just a few years after declaring independence. Congress attended his funeral along with many other dignitaries. The congressmen mourned for a month, wearing a crape around their arms as a sign of mourning.</p>
<p><b>William Hooper</b> North Carolina Lawyer 34</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Hooper was born in Boston and graduated from Harvard when he was still just a teenager. In his early years as a lawyer, he chose to move south. He was a Loyalist sympathizer and married a woman whose family were Loyalists. <b>Before Signing:</b> Around 1773, Hooper supported the patriot cause by writing letters, and he served on North Carolina’s first Provincial Congress. He was known to be a gifted orator and writer. Hooper was elected to the Continental Congress in 1774 and remained there until 1777. He was away on business on July 2</p>	<p>As an attorney general, Hooper became involved in a political uprising in the 1760s when the colonists of NC protested what they believed to be corruption (excessive fees and taxation) by</p>



THE LOCKE SOCIETY

LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION

<p><b>William Hooper</b> (continued)</p>	<p>and could not vote for independence, but he returned in time to sign the Declaration on August 2. <b>After Signing:</b> While serving in Congress, Hooper, like many others, suffered financial losses due to being away from their business, needing to pay for room and board, and still send money back to their families at home. When the British arrived in his home town, they destroyed both of his houses. Hooper was separated from his family and he fled to the backcountry relying on friends to provide him food and shelter. After the British left, he was reunited with his family. His fear of democracy made him a bit unpopular in the new state legislature. Both sides had issues with him; Loyalists hated his anti-British sentiment, and patriots hated that he stopped any reprisals against Loyalists. His support of a strong central government also led some of his fellow statesman to distrust him. He died at age 48 just after the ratification of the Constitution.</p>	<p>the ruling elite and those who enforced their policies (sheriffs). As attorney general, Hooper was attacked for being seen as part of the problem; this experience left him wary of democracy which he did not trust because of this incident.</p>
<p><b>John Penn</b> North Carolina Lawyer 36</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Penn appears to have been born into a wealthy family, but his father did not think much of book learning. At 18 years old, Penn could barely write his own name. Through borrowing books from his cousin who was a lawyer, Penn taught himself how to read and write, and eventually began working in his cousin's law office. <b>Before Signing:</b> Penn did not have doubts about declaring independence, unlike his fellow NC delegates, and encouraged the people to support it. He voted for independence on July 2 and signed the Declaration on August 2. <b>After Signing:</b> Penn remained in Congress until 1780. He signed the Articles of Confederation. Penn also worked on the board of war and helped organize defense against the British as they moved toward Virginia from South Carolina. Penn's ailing health forced him to retire in 1781. He died in 1788 at age 48.</p>	<p>Though Penn was rather reserved in Congress, he did end up in a squabble with Henry Laurens, John Hancock's successor as president of Congress. Laurens challenged Penn to a duel. Both men met for breakfast the morning of the duel, and as they were crossing the road Penn helped Laurens through a deep puddle. Both called it off when they realized the ridiculousness of the situation.</p>
<p><b>Thomas Lynch Jr.</b> South Carolina Lawyer, Planter 26</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Lynch was the son of a rich planter. He studied law in London, like the other signers from South Carolina. The Lynch family, descendants from Ireland, disliked the Crown despite their enormous wealth and property. <b>Before Signing:</b> Lynch's father was sent to Philadelphia in 1774, but after suffering a stroke, his son, at just 26 years old, was sent to take to Congress to vote in his father's stead. Lynch Jr. would relay the debates of Congress to his father at home. Lynch Jr. was sick himself through this time, suffering from malaria he caught during military service. <b>After Signing:</b> Doctors suggested the ill Lynch Jr. take care of himself to get better from his ailment. He and his wife were on their way to the south of France, but their ship likely hit a storm because they were never seen again. Lynch was the youngest of the signers to die around the age of 30.</p>	<p>The South Carolina delegates expected Thomas Lynch Sr. to still sign the Declaration of Independence. If you look closely, you will see that a space is left between Rutledge's and Heyward's signatures for him, but Lynch Sr. never made it to signing the document.</p>
<p><b>Arthur Middleton</b> South Carolina Planter, Lawyer 34</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Middleton was born into vast wealth. His family owned about 50,000 acres and 800 slaves. The Middleton's were supportive of independence; Arthur's father Henry served as president of the First Continental Congress. Arthur Middleton is said to have written under the pen name "Andrew Marvell" when expressing anti-British views.</p>	<p>Arthur and Mary Middleton had nine children to support. Middleton's wife, Mary, had to plead the British</p>



<p><b>Arthur Middleton</b> (continued)</p>	<p><b>Before Signing:</b> Middleton served on many committees and helped arrange defenses for his colony. He very wisely managed to acquire the public store of arms before any royal officers could, including the governor. In 1776, South Carolina drafted a new state constitution, making them the second colony to announce having a government separate from the king. Arthur took his father's place in Congress when he decided not to return.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Middleton served in the militia in May of 1780. He was captured during the siege of Charleston, and was imprisoned with two other signers from SC in St. Augustine, Florida. They were released about a year later through a prisoner exchange. At the end of the war, some thought that Loyalists should have their property confiscated; Middleton (and Rutledge) opposed this viewpoint. Middleton was elected to Congress again and remained until 1782. After, he returned home to the life of a planter. He served on and off in the legislature until 1787. He is said to have contributed to the design of the state seal, incorporating the Roman goddess Spes and the motto, "While I breathe, I hope." Middleton died at 44 years old in 1787.</p>	<p>commissioner to return some of her property so that she could care for her family. The British complied to her request, likely because of her Loyalist family members.</p>
<p><b>Edward Rutledge</b> South Carolina Lawyer, Planter 26</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Rutledge was born into wealth and aristocracy. He grew up on a plantation, and is known to have been particularly concerned with his appearance as a young southern gentleman.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> He attended the First Continental Congress in 1774. He was initially hesitant to vote for independence and is credited with delaying the vote by a month. Rutledge was concerned with the timing of declaring independence and the colonies' lack of resources and allies. Still, he voted yes contributing to the unanimous decision on July 2. Rutledge had a particular issue with Jefferson's original draft in which he wrote of slavery as an "execrable commerce." South Carolina was one of two states (Georgia) to have still permitted the importation of slaves.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> During the war, Rutledge was a captain in the Charleston Battalion of Artillery and helped defend Charleston in 1779 as the British made their way there. Rutledge was taken prisoner by the British with two fellow signers who were released in a prisoner exchange after one year. After the war, Rutledge was able to repair the damage done to his property and finances. He became a member of the state legislature and later became the governor. Rutledge died before the end of his term as governor at the age of 50.</p>	<p>Rutledge's mother was removed from her home and put under house arrest in Charleston where Loyalists and the British could monitor her activities.</p>
<p><b>Thomas Heyward Jr.</b> South Carolina Lawyer, Planter 30</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Heyward was born into wealth as the son of a rich planter. He went to London to study law and returned to the colonies at age 25.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Heyward served on the colonial legislature, focusing on the issue of taxes. After Boston Harbor was closed by the British, South Carolina prepared a plan for if the same should happen to them. They created their own government, got rid of the royal governor, and wrote a new constitution with the intention to keep it this way until differences were resolved with Britain. Heyward was on the committee drafting this new constitution and was sent to Congress to represent South Carolina with three others. At first they were reluctant to declare independence, but knowing that unification among the colonies was crucial, they voted yes on July 2.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Heyward served in the militia and was wounded in an attack in 1779. The following year, his plantation was ransacked by the British and many of his slaves were sold to Jamaican sugar plantations. Heyward was captured by the British in May of 1780 and arrested with fellow signers, Rutledge and</p>	<p>While in London Heyward failed to be impressed by the British. They looked down upon those born in the colonies which upset Heyward; he was proud to be born in South Carolina.</p>



	<p>Middleton. They were released in a prisoner exchange in July 1781. Later, Heyward served as a judge and in the state legislature. After retiring from politics, Heyward devoted his time to rebuilding his plantation. He died in 1809 at age 63.</p>	
<p><b>Lyman Hall</b> Georgia Physician, Minister, Planter 52</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Hall was born in Connecticut and attended Yale with the goal of becoming a minister. In 1749, he began preaching but was disagreeable with the congregation and was let go. He then changed his career to medicine and became an apprentice to a physician. When his family moved to the south, Hall joined a group of New Englanders with whom he founded Sunbury, which became a seaport hub. They set to work planting crops, including rice and indigo. Hall set up his own plantation he named Hall's Knoll. <b>Before Signing:</b> Sunbury became central to the patriot cause. Located in St. John's Parish, it came to be called the "southern cradle of liberty" for being surrounded by Loyalists. Georgia was remote and not highly populated, so their relationship with the Crown was not the same as other colonies. Georgia did not plan to nor did they send delegates to the First Continental Congress, which frustrated Hall. Georgia did not participate in any trade embargo with Britain. In March 1775, St. John's Parish withdrew from Georgia's legislature, held their own convention, and chose to send their own delegate, Hall, to the Continental Congress. Hall was admitted as a nonvoting member due to not having Georgia's consent to be there; but the congressmen liked his passion and knew they needed his voice. Finally, in July 1775, Georgia joined the patriots, likely encouraged by the battles of Lexington, Concord, Fort Ticonderoga, and Bunker Hill. They recognized Hall's presence in Congress and sent other delegates to join him there. Georgia voted for independence and proudly signed the Declaration. <b>After Signing:</b> In 1778, Hall's plantation was attacked and destroyed by the British. He moved his family north for the remainder of the war. After the war, they moved to Savannah, Georgia where he continued his medical practice, hoping to restore his finances. Hall served as governor from 1783 to 1784 where he worked to get Georgia's finances going again. Hall died in 1790.</p>	<p>Hall, frustrated with Georgia's ignorance of the patriot cause, contacted South Carolina to join them in their fight. They did not want to secede from Georgia, but to participate in voicing their opinions against the British. South Carolina did not allow this due to legislative reasons.</p>
<p><b>George Walton</b> Georgia Lawyer About 35</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Walton grew up poor and was uneducated, but he still found a way to educate himself enough to study with a lawyer in Savannah, Georgia. <b>Before Signing:</b> Walton was active in the patriot cause. He wanted to follow Hall's lead in St. John's Parish. In 1774, he helped organize meetings to discuss Georgia's role in the revolution, but had little success in getting Georgians on board with the patriots. Georgia did not send anyone to the First Continental Congress, but soon joined the cause after battles began. Walton was sent to Congress, supported independence, and signed the Declaration. <b>After Signing:</b> Walton left Congress in 1778 to fight in the militia as a colonel. He was shot and fell off his horse during the siege of Savannah. His troops scattered and Walton was captured by the British. The British ranking officer treated him kindly and allowed him to seek medical care for the wound on his thigh. After he was healed, he was put in jail in Sunbury, Georgia. Walton was held a prisoner for about a year when a prisoner exchange released him. After the war, Walton served as Georgia's chief justice, governor, U.S. senator, and held other judicial posts as well. He was a trustee of Franklin College, later known as the University of Georgia. He died in 1804.</p>	<p>Walton was orphaned at a very young age. His uncle took care of him and made him an apprentice to a local carpenter. There are competing stories of the carpenter's treatment of Walton. Some say he was horrible and did not allow him a candle to read, so Walton had to light wood chips to read. Others say, the carpenter treated him kindly and allowed Walton to take off time to work to attend school. The truth is lost to history.</p>



<p><b>Button Gwinnett</b> Georgia Merchant, Planter About 41</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> As a young man Gwinnett borrowed money in England to make a fresh start in the New World; however, he never repaid his debt. In the colonies he borrowed more money, trying to become a merchant in South Carolina, but failed. He tried again in Georgia, but failed there too. He then borrowed more money to purchase land (an island, St. Catherine's just off Georgia's coast) to start a plantation. He only managed to build his debt even more, and his land was seized by his creditors, leaving only the house for him and his family.</p> <p><b>Before Signing:</b> Gwinnett had family connections in England and so he was reluctant to declare independence. His mind may have been changed by Lyman Hall, and he soon was on board with the patriot cause. Gwinnett's political voice got him chosen as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. He voted for independence and signed a few days later.</p> <p><b>After Signing:</b> Gwinnett became the acting governor when Georgia's first governor died, and Georgia put the military direction under the experienced Colonel Lachlan McIntosh; a decision that Gwinnett resented. Gwinnett accused McIntosh's brother of treason, he got rid of Georgia's executive council that supported McIntosh, and he went behind McIntosh's back to mount a military campaign that failed. Gwinnett was summoned to explain his actions, and though he was able to talk his way out of punishment, he was not elected as Georgia's official governor. Gwinnett challenged McIntosh to a duel after McIntosh mocked him in front of his peers. The next day they met for the duel; both were shot but only Gwinnett's wound was deadly. A few days later, he died from the wound in his leg. He died in 1777, but his legacy lives on in Georgia where schools, banks, golf courses, streets, and even a county is named after him.</p>	<p>Gwinnett's signature is very rare; only 30 are known exist. Many are kept in museums or are held in private collections. In 2010, a letter with Gwinnett's signature on it was auctioned for \$722,500.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

