

June 28, 2023 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

**The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,** When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.-- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. continued



Patrick will be away June 26-30.

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He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.  
He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

- For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
  - For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:
  - For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:
  - For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:
  - For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:
  - For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences
- continued

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For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. continued

# IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. 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.

## Music Notes for July 2.

Happy birthday, America! This month opens with a celebration of our nation's 247th birthday. Much of the music will reflect our nation's annual commemoration of our independence.

The prelude was composed by Arthur Foote (1853-1937), a Massachusetts native who studied at the New England Conservatory of Music and what was then Harvard College. Foote also received a Master of Arts degree in music from Harvard, the first such degree conferred in America. He was the first noteworthy American composer to be trained entirely in the United States. Foote was one of the founders of the American Guild of Organists, which he served as president for three years.

The Introit, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, was composed by two brothers. James Weldon Johnson wrote the text in 1900. Five years later, his brother, John Rosamond Johnson, composed the music for the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The other hymns celebrating Independence Day will be AMERICA (*My Country, 'Tis of Thee*) and MATERNA (*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*).



The Johnson brothers.

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# This Week in History.



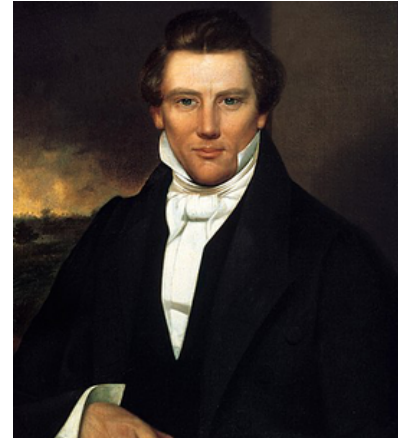
North Korean troops cross the 38th parallel and invade South Korea. Five days later, U.S. ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, formally dividing the country at the 38th parallel into North and South Korea.

**June 25, 1950**



Pearl Comfort Sydenstricker Buck is born in Hillsboro, WV to Presbyterian missionaries. Four months later, her parents would take her to China, where she lived for much of her life. A noted authority on China, she is most famous for her book *The Good Earth*. She would receive a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1938.

**June 26, 1892**



Founder and leader of the LDS church (Mormon) Joseph Smith is lynched while awaiting trial in Carthage, IL. As mayor of Nauvoo, IL, Smith ordered the destruction of a rival sect's newspaper press, leading to civil unrest. After declaring martial law, Smith would be charged along with his brother Hyrum with treason and inciting a riot, but was murdered before trial.

**June 27, 1844**



Flemish painter and diplomat Peter Paul Rubens is born in Siegen, Westphalia. Regarded as the greatest of Flemish painters, he was also skilled in science and politics. Among his works is *The Descent from the Cross* (above).

**June 28, 1577**



In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court rules capital punishment a violation of the Eighth Amendment prohibiting "cruel and unusual punishment." The decision spared the lives of 600 individuals then sitting on death row. Four years later, in another ruling, the Court reversed itself and determined the death penalty was not cruel and unusual punishment. On October 4, 1976, the ban was lifted on the death penalty in cases involving murder.

**June 29, 1972**



The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is enacted, granting the right to vote to American citizens 18 years or older; the move increases potential voters by 11 million people.

**June 30, 1971**



The British colonies Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick are united into the Dominion of Canada. Originally four provinces, it would eventually expand to ten provinces and three territories.

**July 1, 1867**