

quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Morris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more.

Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged "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." This is the final paragraph of

the Declaration of Independence. They gave us a free and Independent America. Some of us take these liberties for granted....we shouldn't. So, take a couple of minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.



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The Sons of the American Revolution are engaged in a variety of programs to promote the patriotic, educational and historical interests resulting from the American Revolution. Programs include Essay Contests for both High School students and Eagle Scouts, presentation of medals to College and High School ROTC students, Poster Contests for Elementary School students, American Revolution presentations to Elementary and Middle School students, presentation of medals to Public Safety officials, Revolutionary War Grave Dedications, Volunteer work with Veterans, presentation of Flag Certificates to deserving organizations and schools, participation in historic battle sites observances and others.

For Information Contact:

The Declaration of Independence



The Bicentennial Quarter

The Delaware Quarter - where one vote counted. In 1776, the Delaware delegation was deadlocked in its vote to declare independence from England. Caesar Rodney had not attended the convention because of severe facial cancer and asthma. When word reached him of the impasse, he rode the 80 miles from Dover to Philadelphia in a raging thunderstorm, arriving just in time to vote for Independence. He was a true hero. Rodney and Delaware are honored on the first Bicentennial State Quarter.

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The Declaration of Independence

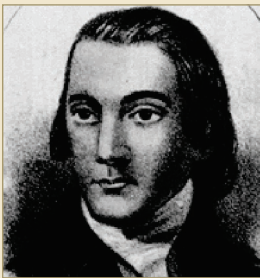
The three signers of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia



Button Gwinnett was born in Yorkshire, England in 1732. His mother's family name was Button. He was a business man and merchant. Button Gwinnett moved to Savannah, Georgia and later bought St. Catherines Island and came under the influence of Lyman Hall. He was a member of the Liberty Boys, was impatient and

overly ambitious. Button Gwinnett succeeded Archibald Bulloch as Governor upon his death, but lost his race for reelection to Adam Treutlen. He later engaged in a duel with Lachlan McIntosh, resulting in his death in 1777 at the age of 45. Button Gwinnett was 44 years old when he signed the Declaration of Independence. He is buried in the Colonial Cemetery in Savannah.

Gwinnett County is named for him. The county seat is Lawrenceville.



Lyman Hall was born in Connecticut, graduated at Yale, first in Theology, then transferred to medicine and became a respected doctor. He was a member of a Unitarian Congregation from Dorchester, Massachusetts. The whole congregation moved down to South Carolina and formed a

colony on the Ashley River known as Dorchester, South Carolina. Later, this whole group moved over to what is now the Midway Church in Liberty County, Georgia. It became the St. John's Parish. Many famous leaders in Georgia came from Midway and its port which was Sunbury on the Midway River. The church at Midway was destroyed by the British at the outbreak of the Revolution and rebuilt in 1790. It still stands. Hall's home was destroyed. He returned to Georgia and was elected Governor at the conclusion of the War. He was

the creator of the public school system in Georgia. He died, and was first buried at Shellman's Bluff. Later on, his body was moved to Augusta, Georgia and is now buried under the Signers Monument. He was 52 years old when he signed the Declaration of Independence and died in 1790 at the age of 67.

Hall County is named for him. Gainesville is the county seat.



George Walton was born in Virginia. He was orphaned at an early age and became a carpenter's apprentice. He worked out his apprenticeship, moved to Georgia and studied law. He was a Savannah lawyer and a member of the Liberty Boys. He signed the Declaration of Independence when he was 27 years old and

died at age 55. Walton was the most active after the Revolution. He was wounded in the leg and captured at the first Battle of Savannah. He was twice Governor; twice Senator; six times Congressman; first Chief Justice of the Court during the Confederacy; was Superior Court Judge of Middle Circuit for six terms. He was a signer of the Articles of Confederation and helped draft them. He died in 1804, at the age of 55 and is buried beside Lyman Hall in Augusta, Georgia.

Walton County is named for him. Monroe is the county seat.

Independence Day celebrates the birthday of the United States of America, founded July 4th, 1776, with the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*.

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

- Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died.
- Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.
- Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army. Another two had sons captured.
- Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means and well educated. But they signed the *Declaration of Independence* knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of **Ellery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton**. At the battle of Yorktown, **Thomas Nelson, Jr.**, noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He

