



0. IMMEDIATE IMPACT - Story Preface

1. A BOY'S LIFE

2. TREASURES ... LOST and FOUND

3. EARLY INFLUENCES

4. TOM'S MOUNTAIN

5. A WRITER not a SPEAKER

6. WE ARE ALL BORN FREE

7. THE DECLARATION HOUSE

8. SLAVERY and the DECLARATION

9. WRITING the DECLARATION

10. DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE

11. IMMEDIATE IMPACT

12. TIME WASTES TOO FAST

13. A MAN of CONTRADICTIONS

14. JEFFERSONIAN QUOTES

15. A SPECIAL 4TH OF JULY

On the 9th of July, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read-aloud to people in New York City. Immediately thereafter, members of the Army wasted no time in pulling-down a statue of King George III located on the Bowling Green (at the foot of Broadway). Online, courtesy Library of Congress.

As soon as Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, John Hancock wrote a letter to George Washington enclosing a copy of the Declaration. It was important for the Commander-in-Chief to know the American colonies were formally separated from Great Britain. He ordered the Declaration to be read to New York's residents.

It was also important for the people to know. The Declaration was read to a crowd on the day it was signed (Thursday, the 4th) and the text was printed immediately. (Follow this link to view one of the earliest printings.)

By the 8th of July it was the lead story in one of the most influential colonial papers: *Dunlap's Pennsylvania Packet*. Six years after the Boston Massacre, citizens of that town heard the Declaration read on July 18, 1776 as they stood in the very place where Crispus Attucks fell.

While George III had prevented the colonies from printing their own money, Congress could now disregard the Currency Act of 1764. The British Parliament no longer governed America.

Three weeks after the Declaration of Independence was signed, "The United Colonies" issued the country's first dollars:

- The Three Dollar Bill, issued on July 22, 1776, has an interesting emblem: An eagle fighting a heron with the motto *Exitus in dubio est* (the outcome is in doubt).
- The emblem on the Seven Dollar Bill is more positive (a storm at sea with the motto *Serenabit* - it will clear up).
- The Thirty Dollar Bill hints at ultimate triumph (a wreath on a tomb with the words *Si recte facies* - if you act righteously).

Of course, as far as George III was concerned, the new dollar bills violated the law while the Declaration was a worthless piece of paper whose signers were guilty of treason. His Majesty would not give in.

The war would drag on for many more years. From June of 1779 to June of 1781, Mr. Jefferson was governor of Virginia. He and his family lived in Williamsburg, in a home - destroyed by fire in 1781 (then recreated in 1930)

- which he had often visited as a student.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/IMMEDIATE-IMPACT-Thomas-Jefferson>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/IMMEDIATE-IMPACT-Thomas-Jefferson>

Media Stream



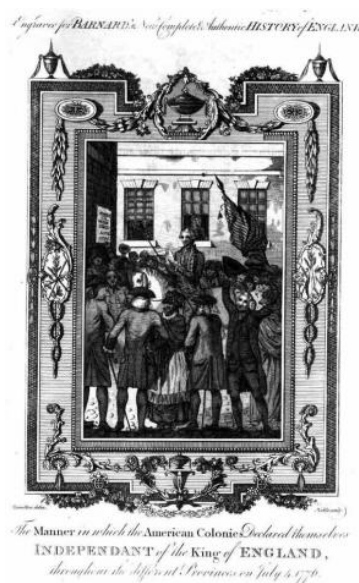
First Reading of Declaration in New York City

Image, described above, online courtesy the Library of Congress.

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Declaration - Read to a Crowd

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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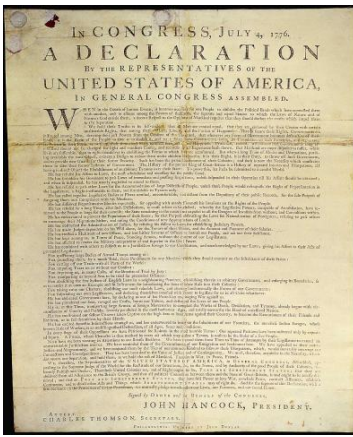


Declaration - Printed Text

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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Declaration - First Printed Version

Image online, courtesy the Library of Congress.

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Boston Massacre

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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Crowd Listening to the Reading of the Declaration

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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Boston Massacre - Killing Crispus Attucks

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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United Colonies - Three Dollar Bill

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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United Colonies - Seven Dollar Bill

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United Colonies - Thirty Dollar Bill

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Governor's Mansion at Williamsburg

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Governor's Mansion at Williamsburg - Grounds

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His Majesty - George III

Image online, courtesy the Clements Library at the University of Michigan.

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Williamsburg, Virginia - Governor's Mansion

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