

The Mythical “The Price They Paid”

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 in the revolutionary army, another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the revolutionary war.

They signed and they 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, 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 McKeam 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 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 his 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 firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot of what happened in the revolutionary war. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

Perhaps you can now see why our founding fathers had a hatred for standing armies, and allowed through the second amendment for everyone to be armed. Frankly, I can't read this without crying. Some of us take these liberties so much for granted. We shouldn't.

The Rebuttal to the document – “The Price They Paid”

Prof. E. Brooke Harlowe

Despite that, I felt compelled to make some attempt myself. Even though I have 13 men defined by only one occupation, and 2 as 'gentlemen', the remaining 41 who had a variety of occupations swelled the list to 141 entries long. The 'single occupation' men were lawyers (6), merchants (5) and 2 public servants that will likely go to either the 'agriculturist' or 'gentlemen' categories. The list is sure to get longer as I read more about each signer, but since I've finally gotten at least one entry for all of them, I thought I'd illustrate why I think the simple claim of "24 lawyers, 11 merchants, and 9 farmers" is both misleading and a clue to the source of all these inaccurate essays.

The longest category in my list is 'public service'. For this category, I only included those who held a public office prior to 1770. Many got involved in 1765, during the Stamp Act years. Others were 2nd or 3rd generation politicians.

Of the 44 who were 30 years old by 1770, I have 31 in my 'Public service' category so far.

First the lawyers. Some of the essays say '24[or 25] lawyers', and others say '24 lawyers and jurists'. There is a difference between an 18th century lawyer, and an 18th century jurist. There was no need to be a lawyer to be a jurist-- as several of the signers prove. [one even sat on the Supreme Court with no legal training]

My numbers so far;

22 lawyers

11 Judges & Justices

28 were either lawyers or Judges or Justices before they signed

Then the merchants. I count 18. Some had retired, but most of the retired merchants still received profits from their business.

The farmers were the toughest ones of all. The only one who I still might consider a farmer in the 20th century sense of the word would be John Hart and he wore several other hats as well..[Mill owner, politician, Justice]

Many of the signers were born into very wealthy families who owned huge estates which supported them. Others built these huge estates themselves. To call them farmers, is akin to calling Bill Gates a software salesman. It's accurate, but misleading.

I can't find a term that applies broadly enough to cover the southern planters like Braxton or Carroll [that isn't a man who plants cotton or rice-- he is a businessman who runs a business], and the northern aristocrats like Morris & Floyd, who essentially did the same thing & are likely counted as farmers in those essays.

Rather than resort to 'farmer', I've used 'agriculturists'. I didn't count those who were interested in farming as a hobby, but only those who derived a substantial income from their properties. [cattle, fruit, produce, lumber, 'renters', etc.] Of them, I counted 16.

This is my tally;

32 'public service' prior to 1770

6 academics

22 lawyers

5 authors

11 Judges & Justices

4 surveyors

[28 were either lawyers or Judges or Justices before they signed]

3 doctors

3 ministers.

18 merchants

2 "gentlemen"

16 planters, farmers, agriculturists

There was also a brewer, a cooper, a couple inventors, a musician, a poet, a printer, a publicist, a couple scientists, a seaman, a shoemaker, and a [land?] speculator.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas. To pay his debts he lost his home and all his properties and died in rags.

He may have died poor, I haven't located a good biography of him yet, or read his will. He died at his spacious estate, Chericoke, so I suspect 'died in rags' might be misleading.

He did lose his ships which were flying the British flag when the Revolution began. They weren't necessarily 'swept from the seas', but more likely retained by his former business partner, the British Government. He did suffer losses in property due to the Revolution. He recouped those losses, though after the Revolution, and his next big setback was 'businesses gone sour' around the end of the 1700's. Though a great Patriot and Statesman, his business practices have met with considerable criticism.

(....)

Thomas McKean of Delaware was so harassed by the enemy that he was forced to move his family five times in five months He served in Congress without pay, his family in poverty and in hiding.

McKean [misspelled McKeam in so many copies floating around the net] was representing DE, but he was born in PA, and lived in Philadelphia. He held dual citizenship in the two colonies, and is the only representative to serve in congress throughout the entire war. [While holding positions of 'President of the State Of Delaware' for 3 years, president of congress for 1, and Chief Justice of Pennsylvania for several years along with other positions.]

He put his name on a list of volunteers to lead militia troops. After the July votes, he headed off to Perth Amboy to take charge of A Battalion of Pennsylvania 'Associators'. He arrived back in Philadelphia after the Aug 2 'Signing', so his name was added much later. Probably shortly after Jan 1777.

Vandals looted the properties of Ellery and Clymer and Hall and Gwinnett and Walton and Heyward and Rutledge and Middleton.

This is a phrase most often repeated in many of the copy-cat essays. Many don't spell Ellery or Rutledge correctly. It is probably true that some of the properties of those men were vandalized. [one of Ellery's homes was burned]

The same can be said for many more of the Signers, and nearly all of the wealthy people in the war-torn areas of our country in those years. Both Armies, the British and the Americans, 'foraged' for food. If a property owner had food, or lumber or livestock or wagons or horses, any army passing through was likely to appropriate them for their use. The most spacious homes were commandeered for billeting soldiers and officers of both sides. Loyalists would vandalize the homes of their Patriot neighbors.

Notable among the homes which were in occupied territory, but were left with little or no damage are homes belonging to; Floyd, Lewis Morris, Hopkinson, Stockton, Middleton, Witherspoon, Hart, Nelson, Jefferson, Harrison, Heyward, both Adams's, Hancock, Rush, Huntington, Wilson, Robert Morris, and the Lee brothers.

And Thomas Nelson, Jr., of Virginia, raised two million dollars on his own signature to provision our allies . . . the French fleet. After the war he personally paid back the loans, wiped out his entire estate. He was never reimbursed by his government.

In the final battle for Yorktown he, Nelson, urged General Washington to fire on his . . . Nelson's . . . own home, which was occupied by Cornwallis.

It was destroyed. He died bankrupt and was buried in an unmarked grave. Thomas Nelson, Jr., had pledged "his life, his fortune and his sacred honor."

The \$2,000,000 figure is repeated often. That *might* be an accurate translation of 30,000 1780 American pounds to 1956 US dollars. 30,000 pounds is what Nelson tried to have reimbursed by the VA government after 1783. The VA government did refuse to pay back the loans, but his estate was never in any danger of being 'wiped out'.

In the battle of Yorktown, Nelson, as Governor of VA, and the head of the VA militia was in command of the American battery which was destroying the headquarters of Cornwallis in Yorktown. The home, however, was not his, but the home of his uncle and namesake, Thomas, The Secretary, Nelson.

Soon after that, Nelson was officer of the day and reviewing the French troops in the center of the American lines. It was on this day that legend says he offered 5 guineas to any *French* artilleryman who could hit his home. [a prominent feature in Yorktown, even today]

The legend, where I've seen it repeated by respected authorities does not mention him seeing Cornwallis near it, and

indications are that Cornwallis was holed up in a root cellar on his uncle's property. His home was damaged, though not beyond repair. It is a National Park site and is visited by thousands every year.

Nelson did pay back all the loans that he could during his lifetime, but all of VA's elite were suffering through a post-war recession. Cash was in short supply. He sold some of his properties in Europe before his death. When he died, though 'cash poor', he was still among the top ten largest landholders in VA. His will allowed for the selling of several properties in VA to raise cash to pay off the rest of his debts. After those debts were settled, the remaining *several* [9or 10] plantations were divided up among his family, a friend, and one of his slaves.

The Hessians seized the home of Francis Hopkinson of New Jersey.

The reason we know that Hessians occupied Hopkinson's home is that one of those Hessians borrowed a book from Hopkinson's personal library, left a message on the flyleaf, and had it returned to the family.

Francis Lewis had his home and everything destroyed, his wife imprisoned. She died within a few months.

Lewis's Long Island home was apparently destroyed. Probably some of his NY City properties were destroyed too. His business, turned over to his son but still a source of income, appeared to survive the war intact.

Mrs. Lewis refused the order given to all Long Islanders to leave Long Island. [Mr. Lewis was in Philadelphia attending to his duties in Congress] She was imprisoned, and later exchanged for the wives of two British officials who the Americans had captured.

Her health, though probably adversely affected by her imprisonment had been failing for years. She died about two years after her exchange in Philadelphia.

Richard Stockton, who signed that Declaration, was captured and mistreated and his health broken to the extent that he died at fifty-one. His estate was pillaged.

Stockton is alone in that he is the only one of the five Signers captured that was not a military prisoner of war. He spent a couple months in prison. His release is reported in various places as being obtained by an exchange, or by his signing of an oath to cease rebellious activities. About a year after his release he began fighting a lip cancer which took his life in two more years.

His estate, Morven, in Princeton, was pillaged by soldiers from both sides as they passed through. One of George Washington's letters asks American soldiers to return any of Stockton's letters or papers that they may have picked up.

Thomas Heyward, Jr., was captured when Charleston fell.

When Charleston fell, all of the officers of the Rebel Army were paroled. Shortly afterward, the British had second thoughts, and ordered them all rounded up. Heyward and Rutledge, and Middleton were all officers.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside while she was dying. Their thirteen children fled in all directions for their lives His fields and gristmill were laid waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves and returned home after the war to find his wife dead, his children gone, his properties gone; he died a few weeks later of exhaustion and a broken heart.

Hart's wife died a month before the British invaded NJ. Their children were grown, there being only two who were still minors. The British occupied that part of NJ for less than 2 months.

After returning to his farm, Hart spent 2 more years serving in congress before taking a leave due to his kidney stones which claimed his life in 1789, nearly 2 1/2 years after his harrowing experiences in the woods.

Lewis Morris saw his land destroyed, his family scattered.

Morris' property was in one of those contested areas of Westchester County, NY. His son, Lewis Morris Jr., wrote to him in 1776;

".....There is a regiment at Morrisania, and your own house is made a barrack of,and there are troops all about us which makes it impossible to prosecute the business of the farm and besides they press your horses; the two coaches horses were pressed this afternoon which Colonel Shee has returned, and I believe unless speedily secured your breeding mares will come next. . . . Your fat cattle are in the hands of the commissary.... Colonel Hand's regiment plunder every body in Westchester County indiscriminately, even yourself have not escaped. Montrasseurs Island

they plundered and committed the most unwarrantable destruction upon it; fifty dozen of bottles were broke in the cellar, the paper tore from the rooms and every pane of glass broke to pieces....."

[Cited as '-MORRIS, "Letters," *N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll.*, VIII, 440-443' in Commager & Morris' "Spirit of Seventy-Six" p478]

Lewis Jr. was speaking of the American Army, and accurately predicted the fall of Morrissania [Morris' home] to the British in coming weeks.

Morris' family was surely scattered. His children were mostly grown, and 3 of his sons served in the Continental Army. His wife, and I assume his younger children, went to live with friends when the Continental Army moved onto his property.

His wife later joined him in Philadelphia. After the war, they returned to Morrissania & rebuilt it to the magnificence which it shows to visitors today. He died there, with his family in 1798.

Philip Livingston died within a few months from the hard ships of the war.

Livingston died in York PA, June 12, 1778 of 'dropsy'. He was attending Congress, but took a months leave for his illness before he died.

John Hancock history remembers best due to a quirk of fate rather than anything he stood for. That great, sweeping signature attesting to his vanity towers over the others. One of the wealthiest men in New England, he stood outside Boston one terrible night of the war and said, "Burn Boston, though it makes John Hancock a beggar, if the public good requires it."

The legend goes that he used those words to affirm his agreement with those in the Committee of Safety who were suggesting burning Boston as a means of saving it from the British. [in 1775]

Of the fifty-six, few were long to survive.

Nine died before the revolution was ended in 1783. Another twelve died in the next decade. Among them was an octogenarian, 2 septuarians, and none under 44. 19 yrs after signing, half were still alive. Most lived longer than their fathers had.

Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died.

Only one was captured because he signed. Richard Stockton was arrested by Loyalists and turned over to the British to be held in prison. The other four were prisoners of war.

There is no record of any Signer being tortured, or mistreated because they signed. The prisons on both sides were hell-holes.

Twelve had their homes ... from Rhode Island to Charleston ... sacked, looted, occupied by the enemy, or burned.

Here Harvey contradicts himself. Above he writes that three of the Georgian Signers' homes were looted, and here he implies that the looting, etc. stretched from Rhode Island to Charleston. Has he missed the Boston home of John Adams that was occupied, or the New Hampshire home of Bartlett which was burned by Loyalists in 1774?

I'll restate my thoughts from above. These homes were treated no differently than those of other wealthy Americans whose properties were in occupied territory. Both Armies took what they needed to fight a war.

Two lost their sons in the army. One had two sons captured.

I'll treat these two together because it is a puzzle I've tried to unravel for some time. James Witherspoon was killed at the battle of Germantown.

Abraham Clark had two sons that were captured.

Historians are in agreement on those two facts. The second son that was killed remains a puzzle that no-one seems to be able to answer. I have two theories.

1. The second son referred to is the son of Henry Laurens. Laurens was a President of Congress during the war, though he was not a member of the 1776 Congress, so he did not sign. But his son was killed in a skirmish near Charleston. If the author meant to include Laurens, however, the number of 'captured' would rise to six, as Laurens himself was arrested on his way to Europe, and spent several months in the Tower of London.

2. Historians agree that Thomas and Aaron Clark, sons of Signer Abraham Clark, were POW's. Most accounts note that Captain Thomas was captured twice and escaped both times. What they aren't in agreement on is a young 19 yr. old Andrew Clark who died as a prisoner on the prison ship 'Jersey'. Even the Abraham Clark society cannot seem to either prove or disprove the connection to the Signer. But if we accept that the author meant the youngest Clark was killed, then he should have said 'one signer had three sons captured'.

3. A third possibility, and one I haven't been able to follow up on yet is John Morton.

I saw this posting on a genealogy mail list ;

"Martin's *History of Chester* (1850) indicates that John MORTON, son of John MORTON, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, died on board the prison ship Falmouth in New York Harbor, during the American Revolution."

I haven't seen it mentioned in the bios I've read about Morton-- but I haven't read a thorough biography and most bios pay little notice to the children of the Signers. The ones that do mention John Morton mention a son named John born about 1755, so he would have been the right age. The Falmouth was described in Barber's history of NY as a Hospital ship, though it made little difference in the mortality onboard.

A promising lead, but yet to be confirmed.

Nine of the fifty-six died in the war, from its hardships or from its more merciful bullets.

Nine died during the war. One died from a bullet; fired in a duel with a fellow officer. None died at the hands of the British, and none died due to 'hardships'. One was lost at sea.

It's easy enough to check to see who died before the war was over. Here they are, and, when available, a cause of death.

Morton, John,PA, died April 1777 aged 53 of ??? (K&BJ give no detail of how)[father died ae41]

Gwinnett, Button,GA, died May 16, 1777 aged 42, from wounds sustained in a duel.

Livingston, Philip,NY, died June 12, 1778 at 62, of "dropsy of the chest" [father died ae63]

Lynch, Thomas Jr.,SC, died [probably] in 1779 ae30. Lost at sea. [father died ae49]

Hart, John,NJ,died May 11, 1779; aged 68[66?], of kidney stones [father died ae63]

Ross, George,PA, died July 14, 1779 aged 49, of gout [father died ae76]

Hewes, Joseph,NC, died Oct 10, 1779, aged 49, according to Bakeless of "overwork and irregular bachelor hours" [father died ae80-90]

Taylor, George,PA, Feb 23, 1781 at 65 yr. old

Stockton, Richard,NJ, died Feb 28, 1781 at 50, of Cancer of the lip. [father died ae86]

I don't know what impression you had of the men who met that hot summer in Philadelphia. But I think it is important that we remember this about them.

They were not poor men or wild-eyed pirates. They were men of means. Rich men, most of them, who enjoyed much ease and luxury in their personal living.

Despite disagreeing with the overall tone of this essay, Harvey and I are nearly in agreement here. With the notable exception of Sam Adams, who was neither rich nor 'calm', and a few of the more radical members of that Congress, most of the Signers were respectable statesmen of great wealth.

Not hungry men. Prosperous men. Wealthy landowners, substantially secure in their prosperity.

But they considered liberty-and this is as much as I shall say of it-they had learned that liberty-is so much more important than security-that they pledged their lives . . . their fortunes . . . and their sacred honor. Much has been written about the motivations of the Signers and the Founders in general. From my study, I believe that as a body they were putting their country above their own personal gains. There is no doubt that they risked their own lives &

property along with that of their countrymen.

I'm not sure whether I admire more the representative that voted no, but signed the Declaration or the representative that personally felt it was a bad idea, but voted yes because his constituents had expressed their wishes that he support independence.

I admire the Congress at large for, when it was inevitable that the vote would pass, doing everything in their power to make a united front. Both the delegates who stayed home and the new appointees, who were unable to take part in much more than a vote that had already been decided, are a tribute to a body who put the country and their countrymen above their personal egos.

And they fulfilled their pledge.

They paid the price.

And freedom was born.

All of the Americans who lived in those times 'paid the price'. John Adams wrote years later that all through the Revolution he would have given anything to have things returned to the way they were. He wasn't lamenting his own losses. Any human who has ever seen the suffering of the soldiers and innocents in a war zone has to wonder if an armed conflict is ever a worthy price for change. But the clock can't be turned back. The deed was done. And from it a glorious country emerged.

Signers of The Declaration of Independence

Name	State	What happened to them after the war?
Adams, John	Massachusetts	Negotiated Treaty of Paris, US Minister to England, Vice President and 2 nd US President
Adams, Samuel	Massachusetts	Lieutenant Governor of Ma under Hancock, Governor of MA
Bartlett, Josiah	New Hampshire	Chief Justice of NH Supreme Court, Governor of NH
Braxton, Carter	Virginia	Virginia House of Burgesses, lost his estate due to losses during the war
Carroll of Carrollton, Charles	Maryland	Maryland Senate, US Senate
Chase, Samuel	Maryland	Chief Justice of the State. Judge of the US Supreme Court
Clark, Abraham	New Jersey	Active in community politics
Clymer, George	Pennsylvania	US Congress, president Philadelphia Bank, negotiated treaty with the Creek Indian Confederacy
Ellery, William	Rhode Island	Supreme Court of RI, first collector of customers for Newport District
Floyd, William	New York	US House of Representatives
Franklin, Benjamin	Pennsylvania	Post Master General – retired wealthy from his inventions and publishing
Gerry, Elbridge	Massachusetts	Governor of MA, Vice President of the US with Madison
Gwinnett, Button	Georgia	Killed in a duel May 17, 1777
Hall, Lyman	Georgia	House of Assembly, Governor, Judge, returned to private life
Hancock, John	Massachusetts	Governor of MA
Harrison, Benjamin	Virginia	Governor of VA
Hart, John	New Jersey	Died of kidney stones & fatigue, May 11, 1779
Hewes, Joseph	North Carolina	Died from overwork, Nov 10, 1779
Heyward Jr., Thomas	South Carolina	Judge
Hooper, William	North Carolina	Private law practice. Involved in local politics.
Hopkins, Stephen	Rhode Island	Member of Rhode Island Legislature, died July 13, 1785
Hopkinson, Francis	New Jersey	Federal District Judge for NJ
Huntington, Samuel	Connecticut	Lieutenant Governor, Chief judge of the Superior Court, and Governor of Connecticut
Jefferson, Thomas	Virginia	VP under Adams, 3 rd US President
Lee, Francis Lightfoot	Virginia	Virginia Senate
Lee, Richard Henry	Virginia	US Senate
Lewis, Francis	New York	Lost his property during the war – returned to private life as a merchant
Livingston, Philip	New York	Died from dropsy of the chest June 12, 1778
Lynch Jr., Thomas	South Carolina	Lost a sea 1779
McKean, Thomas	Delaware	Chief Justice and Governor of Pennsylvania
Middleton, Arthur	South Carolina	Died in 1787. Possibly due to POW conditions at St. Augustine
Morris, Lewis	New York	Worked to rebuild his property after the war. Board of Regents for UNY
Morris, Robert	Pennsylvania	Senator for PA. Lost what was left of estate in land speculation.

Name	State	What happened to them after the war?
Morton, John	Pennsylvania	Died in 1777, cause unknown
Nelson Jr., Thomas	Virginia	Brigadier General, Governor of VA
Paca, William	Maryland	Governor of Maryland, Federal District Judge
Paine, Robert Treat	Massachusetts	Attorney General of MA, Judge Supreme Court of MA
Penn, John	North Carolina	Retired to his law practice and died in 1788
Read, George	Delaware	Judge of the Court of Appeals, state senator, Chief Justice of Delaware
Rodney, Caesar	Delaware	Speaker of the Upper House of Delaware. Died in 1784
Ross, George	Pennsylvania	Died of gout July 14, 1779
Rush, Benjamin	Pennsylvania	Treasurer of the US Mint, Professor of Medical Theory, U of PA, maintained his medical practice
Rutledge, Edward	South Carolina	S.C. Congress, S.C. Senate, Governor
Sherman, Roger	Connecticut	US Senator for Connecticut
Smith, James	Pennsylvania	State Assembly, Judge High Court of Appeals
Stockton, Richard	New Jersey	Died of lip cancer in 1781
Stone, Thomas	Maryland	Maryland Senate
Taylor, George	Pennsylvania	Died Nov 8, 1777 – unnamed illness
Thornton, Matthew	New Hampshire	Physician – wrote a number of political essays
Walton, George	Georgia	Superior Court Judge – retired to farming
Whipple, William	New Hampshire	Brigadier General – active in state politics, died 1785, heart condition
Williams, William	Connecticut	County Court Judge
Wilson, James	Pennsylvania	Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court, finances destroyed.
Witherspoon, John	New Jersey	President of Princeton University
Wolcott, Oliver	Connecticut	Lieutenant Governor & Governor
Wythe, George	Virginia	Professor – College of William and Mary , Judge – High Court of Chancery of VA

Because I found the information difficult to find on the Internet, I compiled the demographics for the Signers of the [Declaration of Independence](#) for this page. It mirrors the data found on a similar page, which has demographics for the [attendees of the Constitutional Convention](#) and another for the signers of the [Articles of Confederation](#).

Signers of The Declaration of Independence

Name	State	Place of Birth	Birth Date	Death Date	Occupation	Religion
Adams, John	Massachusetts	Quincy, MA	10/30/1735	7/4/1826	Lawyer	UN
Adams, Samuel	Massachusetts	Boston, MA	9/27/1722	10/2/1803	Merchant	CO
Bartlett, Josiah	New Hampshire	Amesbury, MA	11/21/1729	5/19/1795	Physician	CO
Braxton, Carter	Virginia	Newington, VA	9/10/1736	10/10/1797	Plantation Owner	EP
Carroll of Carrollton, Charles	Maryland	Annapolis, MD	9/19/1737	11/14/1832	Merchant/Plantation Owner	RC
Chase, Samuel	Maryland	Somerset Co., MD	4/17/1741	6/19/1811	Lawyer	EP
Clark, Abraham	New Jersey	Elizabethtown, NJ	2/15/1741	9/15/1794	Lawyer/Surveyor	PB
Clymer, George	Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA	3/16/1739	1/24/1813	Merchant	QU/EP
Ellery, William	Rhode Island	Newport, RI	12/22/1727	2/15/1820	Lawyer/Merchant	CO
Floyd, William	New York	Brookhaven, NY	12/17/1734	8/4/1821	Land Speculator	PB
Franklin, Benjamin	Pennsylvania	Boston, MA	1/17/1706	4/17/1790	Scientist/Printer	DE
Gerry, Elbridge	Massachusetts	Marblehead, MA	7/17/1744	11/23/1814	Merchant	EP
Gwinnett, Button	Georgia	Down Hatherley, England	1735	5/15/1777	Merchant/Plantation Owner	EP
Hall, Lyman	Georgia	Wallingford, CT	4/12/1724	10/19/1790	Physician/Minister	CO
Hancock, John	Massachusetts	Quincy, MA	1/12/1737	10/8/1793	Merchant	CO
Harrison, Benjamin	Virginia	Charles City Co., VA	4/7/1726	4/24/1791	Plantation Owner/Farmer	?
Hart, John	New Jersey	Hunterdon Co., NJ	1711	5/11/1779	Land Owner	PB
Hewes, Joseph	North Carolina	Kingston, NJ	1/23/1730	10/10/1779	Merchant	EP
Heyward Jr., Thomas	South Carolina	St. Helena Parrish, SC	7/28/1746	3/6/1809	Lawyer/Plantation Owner	?
Hooper, William	North Carolina	Boston, MA	6/17/1742	10/14/1790	Lawyer	EP
Hopkins, Stephen	Rhode Island	Providence, RI	3/7/1707	4/13/1785	Merchant	?
Hopkinson, Francis	New Jersey	Philadelphia, PA	10/2/1737	5/9/1791	Lawyer/Musician	EP
Huntington, Samuel	Connecticut	Windham, CT	7/3/1731	1/5/1796	Lawyer	CO
Jefferson, Thomas	Virginia	Albermarle Co., VA	4/13/1743	7/4/1826	Lawyer/Plantation Owner	DE
Lee, Francis Lightfoot	Virginia	Mt. Pleasant, VA	10/14/1734	1/11/1797	Plantation Owner	?
Lee, Richard Henry	Virginia	Stratford, VA	1/20/1732	6/19/1794	Plantation Owner/Merchant	?
Lewis, Francis	New York	Llandaff, Wales	3/21/1713	12/30/1802	Merchant	?
Livingston, Phillp	New York	Albany, NY	1/15/1716	6/12/1778	Merchant	PB
Lynch Jr., Thomas	South Carolina	Prince George's Parrish, SC	8/5/1749	1779	Lawyer	?
McKean, Thomas	Delaware	Chester Co., PA	3/19/1735	6/24/1817	Lawyer	PB
Middleton, Arthur	South Carolina	Charleston, SC	6/26/1742	1/1/1787	Plantation Owner	?
Morris, Lewis	New York	West Chester Co., NY	4/8/1726	1/22/1798	Plantation Owner	?

Morris, Robert	Pennsylvania	Liverpool, England	1/31/1734	5/8/1806	Merchant/L and Speculator	EP
Morton, John	Pennsylvania	Ridley Township, PA	1724	1777	Farmer	?
Nelson Jr., Thomas	Virginia	Yorktown, VA	12/26/1738	1/4/1789	Merchant/Plantation Owner	?
Paca, William	Maryland	Abington, MD	10/31/1740	10/13/1799	Lawyer/Plantation Owner	EP
Paine, Robert Treat	Massachusetts	Boston, MA	3/11/1731	5/12/1814	Lawyer/Scientist	CO
Penn, John	North Carolina	Carolina Co., VA	5/6/1740	9/14/1788	Lawyer	?
Read, George	Delaware	Northeast MD	9/18/1733	9/21/1798	Lawyer	EP
Rodney, Caesar	Delaware	Dover, DE	10/7/1728	6/29/1784	Plantation Owner/Soldier	EP
Ross, George	Pennsylvania	New Castle, DE	5/10/1730	7/14/1779	Lawyer	?
Rush, Benjamin	Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA	1/4/1746	4/19/1813	Physician	PB
Rutledge, Edward	South Carolina	Christ Church Parrish, SC	11/23/1749	1/23/1800	Lawyer/Plantation Owner	AN
Sherman, Roger	Connecticut	Newton, MA	4/19/1721	7/23/1793	Lawyer	CO
Smith, James	Pennsylvania	Northern Ireland	1719	7/11/1806	Lawyer	PB
Stockton, Richard	New Jersey	Princeton, NJ	10/1/1730	2/28/1781	Lawyer	PB
Stone, Thomas	Maryland	Charles Co., MD	1743	10/5/1787	Lawyer	EP
Taylor, George	Pennsylvania	Ireland	1716	2/23/1781	Merchant	PB
Thornton, Matthew	New Hampshire	Ireland	1714	6/24/1803	Physician	PB
Walton, George	Georgia	Cumberland Co., VA	1741	2/2/1804	Lawyer	AN
Whipple, William	New Hampshire	Kittery, ME	1/14/1730	11/28/1785	Merchant	CO
Williams, William	Connecticut	Lebanon, CT	4/18/1731	8/2/1811	Merchant	CO
Wilson, James	Pennsylvania	Carskerdo, Scotland	9/14/1742	8/21/1798	Lawyer	EP/DE
Witherspoon, John	New Jersey	Gifford, Scotland	2/5/1723	11/15/1794	Minister	PB
Wolcott, Oliver	Connecticut	Windsor, CT	11/20/1726	12/1/1797	Lawyer	CO
Wythe, George	Virginia	Elizabeth City Co., VA	1726	6/8/1806	Lawyer	EP

Religion key:

AN = Anglican CO = Congregationalist DE = Deist EP = Episcopal PB = Presbyterian QU = Quaker RC = Roman Catholic UN = Unitarian

Sources: Birth places, birth and death dates, and occupations: [Declaration Signer's Factsheet](#) from NARA. Religion: [A Note on the Signers of the Declaration of Independence](#) and [God & Country](#).

Note on religion: Pinning down the religion of some people on this list is notoriously difficult. The "Deist" label, in particular, is a difficult one to assign. The best attempt has been made to assign labels accurately - the assignment can be debated, and this fact is readily acknowledged.

25 Lawyers

4 Physicians

13 Merchants