

America's 56 Immortals

John Jefferson, John Hancock, John Adams, John Jay, Robert R. Livingston, Thomas Jefferson, James Smith, John Hancock, James Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry, Josiah Bartlett, John Jay, Matthew Thornton, Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery, Roger Sherman, John Hancock, John Adams, Josiah Bartlett, John Jay, Samuel Huntington, John Hancock, John Adams, Josiah Bartlett, John Jay, Samuel Huntington, John Hancock, John Adams, Josiah Bartlett, John Jay, Samuel Huntington.

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In Congress Nov. 17, 1776
Resolved, That every member of this Congress consider himself under the ties of virtue, honor & love of his Country, not to divulge directly or indirectly any matter or thing agitated or debated in Congress before the same shall have been determined, without leave of the Congress; nor any matter or thing determined in Congress which a majority of the Congress shall think to be secret, and that if any member shall violate this agreement he shall be expelled this Congress & deemed an enemy to the liberties of America & shall be treated as such & that every member signify his assent to this agreement by signing the same.

BY ELMO SCOTT WATSON
AMERICA'S 56 Immortals—who are they?
They were the men whose autographs are shown above, but you don't necessarily have to be a collector of autographs to be interested in them. If you are a real American to whom Independence day means something more than taking a holiday from your everyday job or enjoying the opportunity of engaging in an annual noise-making orgy, so dear to the heart of Young America, you should be interested in them and what they stand for.
They represent a certain handwriting activity which took place 151 years ago and which, it is safe to assert, changed the whole course of human history. For these are the autographs of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence and those signers are America's 56 Immortals, whose deed we commemorate on the Fourth of July.
Considering the importance of what they did, it is a bit strange that we Americans know so little about these signers. Of course, the names of some of them are familiar. From our school histories we know John Hancock, who put down his name in such a "bold handwriting that even King George the Third could read it without his spectacles," and who has given us the by-word of "put your John Hancock on that" as a synonym for "sign on the dotted line." From our school histories, too, we know Thomas Jefferson, the "Author of the Declaration of Independence," whose original draft of it, bearing also the corrections in the handwriting of Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, is one of our most precious national heirlooms. We know the names of some of the others who were prominently connected with the Revolutionary events and with the founding of the new nation—Samuel Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Richard Henry Lee, Robert Morris, Philip Livingston, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Elbridge Gerry, Roger Sherman and Charles Carroll of Carrollton.
We also know Button Gwinnett, but not for the same reason. His rise to fame has been a more modern development and has come about because his signature is one of the greatest rarities known to autograph collectors. Two years ago Button Gwinnett, dead these 150 years, won a place in the newspaper headlines because a New York collector had paid \$22,500 for his autograph. Last November another specimen of his signature was sold for \$28,500, and this fact was widely heralded as the highest price ever paid for an autograph. Then in March, 1927, a new record was established when "the only known example of a letter with a Button Gwinnett signature attached" sold for \$51,000. The fact that the signatures of five other signers of the Declaration of Independence also appeared on this letter may have had something to do with the high price, but the principal reason was the appearance thereon of the handwriting of this Continental congress delegate from Georgia who was killed in a duel a year after he had placed his signature on America's Magna Charta. And this man whose autograph is worth a fortune today, because it is the rarest of all of those of the signers, once saw his property sold to satisfy an indebtedness of \$1,500!
So Button Gwinnett's name at the present time is probably the best known of all the signers, even if many of the others had longer and more distinguished careers. But take out the dozen or more named above and consider the remaining forty. Not only do few of us know their names, but what do we know about the men themselves? More than a hundred years ago a historian set to work to preserve for future generations some of the facts about these men. It is this book, Sanderson's "Biography of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence," published in Philadelphia in nine volumes from 1820 to 1827, which gives us most of our knowledge of them. Here are some of the facts about them:

Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, nine were born in Massachusetts, eight in Virginia, four in Maryland, four in Connecticut, four in New Jersey, four in Pennsylvania, four in South Carolina, three in New York, three in Delaware, two in Rhode Island, one in Maine, three in Ireland, two in England, two in Scotland and one in Wales.
Twenty-one were attorneys, ten merchants, four physicians, three farmers, one clergyman, one printer; sixteen were men of fortune. Eight were graduates of Harvard college, four of Yale, three of New Jersey, two of Philadelphia, two of William and Mary, three of Cambridge, England; two of Edinburgh, and one at St. Omers.
At the time of their deaths, five were over ninety years of age, seven between eighty and ninety, eleven between seventy and eighty, twelve between sixty and seventy, eleven between fifty and sixty, seven between forty and fifty; one died at the age of twenty-seven and the age of two is uncertain. At the time of the signing of the Declaration, the average of the members was forty-four years. They lived to the average age of more than sixty-five years and ten months. The youngest member was Edward Rutledge of South Carolina, who was in his twenty-seventh year. He lived to the age of fifty-one. The next youngest member was Thomas Lynch of the same state, who was also in his twenty-seventh year. He was cast away at sea in the fall of 1776. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest member. He was in his seventy-first year when he signed the Declaration. He died in 1790 and survived sixteen of his younger brethren. Stephen Hopkins of Rhode Island, the next oldest member, was born in 1707 and died in 1785. Charles Carroll attained the greatest age, dying in his ninety-sixth year. William Ellery of Rhode Island died in his ninety-first year. Two of the signers, both of whom later became President, died on the same day exactly fifty years later, July 4, 1826. They were Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.
Interesting as these statistics may be to some persons—at least, they were considered of sufficient moment for some industrious compiler to dig out those facts—they do little more than hint at the real "human interest" that lies in the careers and characters of these men and that "tremendous event" with which their names are associated. The years that have passed since they signed the Declaration of Independence have thrown such a haze of romance around them and their deed that it is difficult for us to see this event in a clear light. We look at Trumbull's painting and see an act in the dramatic pageantry of History Making. But who were these bewigged, white-stockinged patriots shown in that picture? Not diplomats, nor plenipotentiaries nor such men of high degree as the world was then accustomed to think of as being associated with history-making events. Instead they were "twenty-one attorneys, ten merchants, four physicians, three farmers, one clergyman, one printer" and only "sixteen men of fortune." Thus the majority of them were men who worked for their living at some occupation or profession—surely an appropriate group to lay the foundations for a democracy in which "all men are created equal!"
Such were America's Immortals. Perhaps they realized that they were actors in a mighty pageant-drama, but it is doubtful if they regarded it as we are accustomed to think of it. We think of them as coming forward to take their places in the picture, posing for a moment in the historic scene and then stepping forth to receive the plaudits of the world. But how different must it have been for them! What misgivings must have troubled them as they took the decisive step. Remember that the sentiment for

THE KITCHEN CABINET

(© 1927, Western Newspaper Union.)
Oh! If the berry that stains my lips
Could teach me the woodland chat,
Science would bow to my scholarship,
And theology doff the hat.

WINSOME DELICACIES

To dine regally and well, try some of these dishes occasionally:
Ham With Mushrooms, Shrimps and Peas.—Fry a half-lb. slice of ham for about ten minutes over a slow fire. Turn the ham and cover the cooked side with a dozen shrimps which have been boiled and cleaned and one-half dozen mushrooms cut into thin slices. As soon as the second side of the ham is cooked (about seven minutes) take it out and place on a warm dish in the oven. Cook the shrimps and the mushrooms about two minutes in the hot fat, then turn them onto the ham and surround the whole with cooked fresh peas.

Coddled Steak.—Take about two pounds of round steak cut an inch thick, season well with salt and pepper and flour. Have ready one small onion chopped fine, two tablespoonsfuls of butter or beef drippings heated very hot. Put the meat into a hot pan to brown evenly on both sides, then add enough water to cover well. Season with salt and pepper and Worcestershire sauce to taste. Cover tightly and simmer steadily until the steak is tender. The meat must be basted and turned frequently. Serve on a hot platter with some of the gravy. Garnish with parsley or water-cress.

Iron Mountain Muffins.—Take one-fourth of a cupful of sugar, one third of a cupful of butter, two cupfuls of flour, four teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one egg well beaten, three-fourths of a cupful of milk and one-half teaspoonful of salt. Cream the butter and sugar. Add the well-beaten yolk, the flour mixed and sifted with the baking powder, then add the milk and the egg white beaten stiff. Bake in a quick oven. This makes one dozen muffins.

Salmon Souffle.—Take one can of salmon, remove the skin and bones and flake, add the yolks of two eggs, one cupful of rich milk or cream, then season with desired and fold in the stiffly beaten whites of the eggs. Bake 20 minutes in a well-buttered pan set in hot water. Serve at once when nicely puffed.

Something to Eat.

It is the everyday food which we are most interested in, as that is a daily problem. For the occasions when we entertain are countless good things which are limited only by the purse.

Those who enjoy the palatable eggplant may like to try this method of cooking and serving it:

Eggplant Pot Pourri.—Boil an eggplant, without peeling, for 20 minutes, or until nearly done. Drain, cut into half lengthwise and scoop out the centers and chop fine. Simmer one-third of a cupful of chopped green pepper and one cupful of chopped onion in two tablespoonfuls of butter about 12 minutes. Add one cupful of chopped fresh tomatoes and the egg plant. Season well and cook for ten minutes, add one egg yolk well beaten, stir and cook until thick. Fill the eggplant shells, sprinkle with buttered bread crumbs and brown under the broiler flame. This dish is rich in vitamins A, B and C, and can be eaten by one wishing to reduce or to maintain weight. It is also a good laxative because of the vegetable fiber.

New Carrots.—Wash and scrape carrots and cut into finger-sized pieces. Put on to cook in a thick aluminum dish tightly covered with no water. Add butter, a tablespoonful or two, seasoning of salt and pepper and cook for an hour. Serve as a garnish for mutton steak. This dish is rich in iron and vitamins.

Lemon Sauce.—Cook together one tablespoonful of cornstarch well mixed with one cupful of sugar, then add two cupfuls of boiling water. Cook slowly ten minutes, then add the grated rind and juice of a lemon; lastly one tablespoonful of butter.

Pineapple Salad With Honey Dressing.—Arrange slices of fresh pineapple on lettuce and pour over the following: Beat together three tablespoonfuls of olive oil, two tablespoonfuls of honey, a tablespoonful of lemon juice, a dash of salt and cayenne. Serve at once.

Bermuda Salad.—Cut into fine cubes a small southern onion, add twice the quantity of tart apple also cubed, season well with salt and add a little minced green pepper. Mix well with salad dressing and serve on lettuce.

Stuffed Dates Salad.—Stuff dates with nuts and cover with finely cubed apple on a nest of lettuce. Serve with a mayonnaise dressing.

Coconut, Apple and Onion Salad.—Prepare two cupfuls of cubed apple, add a tablespoonful or two of finely chopped onion and a tablespoonful of finely minced fresh red pepper, mix with a cupful of grated, fresh coconut and add enough dressing of any kind to moisten. Serve on lettuce.

Nellie Maxwell

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- "What is my present car worth?"**
Answer: Your used car has only one fundamental basis of value: that is what the dealer who accepts it in trade can get for it in the used car market.
- "Why should dealers in different makes of cars offer me allowances that differ materially?"**
Answer: Your used car has seemingly different values because competitive dealers are bidding to sell you a new car.
- "Is it true that the largest allowance offered means the best deal for me?"**
Answer: The largest allowance is not necessarily the best deal for you. Sometimes it is; sometimes it is not. An excessive allowance may mean that you are paying an excessive price for the new car in comparison with its real value.

First judge the merits of the new car in comparison with its price, including all delivery and finance charges. Then weigh any difference in allowance offered on your used car. Remember that after all you are making a purchase, not a sale.

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