

LIVES OF THE SIGNERS:

- 2 were wounded in direct battle.
- 19 had a military training/commission.
- 12 lost their homes
- 13 evacuated their homes under duress
- 8 died during the revolution (7 due to natural causes), 1 of a bullet wound from a co-officer in a duel. Stockton had his health damaged in deplorable conditions while imprisoned by the British, but died several years after his release.

wives died during revolution. (1 after a lengthy and cruel confinement that damaged her health) and 1 of natural causes.

child of a signer died. (John Whitherspoon's son killed in battle at Germantown)

Proof of British Plan to Capture Sam Adams and John Hancock:

“In a letter dated April 23, from an officer at Boston, who served in the late expedition to Concord, though totally silent about scalping the soldiers and cutting off their ears, there is an acknowledgment of two extraordinary facts:

1. “Tuesday evening, the 18th infantry, the grenadiers and light infantry of the army received private orders to move from Boston at ten o'clock at night. They were passed over part of the harbor in boats; and on their landing proceeded on the road to Concord, a country town at the distance of twenty miles from hence. Our business was to seize a quantity of military stores, and – the bodies of Mess. Hancock and Adams, who are both attainted and were at that place enforcing, by all their influence, the rebellious spirit of the provincial congress.”

2. “On the road, in our rout home, we found every house full of people and the fences lined as before. - Every house from which they fired was immediately forced, and every soul in them put to death.”

-*The London Chronicle* (London: June 15-17, 1775), p. 2.

Declaration Signers Wounded in Battle

(2 Total)

George Walton (GA): Was a Colonel and a commander of militia at the Battle of Savannah. He was wounded and captured by the British.

“Colonel Walton hastened to join his regiment, and was there in time to enter the battalion of General Howe,* at Savannah, when Colonel Campbell, from New York, landed there and besieged it. In that engagement he received a severe shot wound in his thigh, and he fell from his horse. In this condition he was taken prisoner, but was soon afterward exchanged.*”

Benjamin Lossing, *Biographical Sketches of the Signers of the Declaration of American Independence* (New York: George F. Cooledge & Brother, 1848), pp. 236-237.

Thomas Heyward, Jr. (SC): Wounded in battle near Port Royal Island, SC. He recovered and later participated in the siege of Charleston.

Referencing the battle of Port Royal, SC:

“In the engagement that took place, Mr. Heyward received a gunshot wound; the mark of which, as an honorable testimony of his devoted patriotism, he carried though life. Although the victory at that time was on the side of the Americans, yet the town was destined to fall; and then, Heyward and Rutledge, with others, were made prisoners. As being peculiarly obnoxious to the enemy, they were sent to St. Augustine, in Florida, then in possession of the British. After some time they were sent to Philadelphia.”

N. Dwight, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (New York: A.S. Barnes & Burr, 1860), p. 345.

Declaration Signers with Military Training/Commission (19 Total)

Thomas McKean (Delaware):

Beginning in 1774 he attended the Continental Congress where he served on the national council throughout the Revolutionary War. He also served on the committee to draw up the Articles of Confederation, was commissioned a colonel in the New Jersey militia, and served as President of the newly independent Delaware.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/mckean.htm>"

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/mckean.htm>

“On the 5th of July, it was agreed by several public committees in Philadelphia, to dispatch all the associated militia of the state to the assistance of Washington, where they were to continue, until ten thousand men could be raised to relieve them. Mr. McKean was at this time colonel of a regiment of associated militia. A few days following the declaration of independence, he was on his way to Perth Amboy, in New Jersey, at the head of his battalion. In a letter, dated at head quarters, Perth-Amboy, July 26th, 1776, he describes the narrow escape which he had in executing an order of the commander-in-chief, which required him to march his battalion into the town. Having put his troops in motion, under Lieutenant Colonel Dean, he mounted his horse, and proceeded to wait upon the general for more particulars orders. At this time, the enemy’s batteries were playing along the road which it was necessary for him to take Amidst balls, which were flying in every direction around him, he proceeded to the general’s head quarters. An order had just been issued to prevent the battalion from proceeding into the town. It became necessary therefore, for him to follow them, in order to stop them. As he turned to execute the order, a horse at a short distance from him was shot through the neck by a cannon ball, and such was the incessant discharge from the enemy’s batteries along the road, over which he passed, that it appeared impossible that he should escape. A merciful providence, however, protected him on his return. He executed his order, and safely marched his troops to the camp.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p.331.

Caesar Rodney (Delaware): Military service to state and country, suffered from cancer while President of the state of Delaware.

Rodney was a leading patriot in his colony, a member of the Stamp Act Congress in 1765, a formative member of the Delaware Committee of Correspondence, a military leader in the colonial militia, and a delegate to the Continental Congress from formation until 1777. The following year he was elected President of the State of Delaware for a three year term, a duty that he assumed even as he served as Major-General of the Delaware Militia. In this office he played a crucial part not only in the defense of his own colony but in support of Washington's Continental Army, for Delaware had a record of meeting or exceeding its quotas for troops

and provisions throughout the revolutionary conflict.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/rodney.htm>"
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In the autumn of this year [1777], Mr. Rodney was again appointed as a delegate from Delaware to Congress, but before taking his seat he was elected President of the state. Mr. Rodney continued in the office of President of the state for about four years.[I]n the year 1782, he felt himself obliged, on account of arduous nature of his duties, and the delicate state of his health, to decline a re-election.

Shortly after retiring from the presidency, he was elected to congress, but it does not appear that he ever after took his seat in that body. The cancer which had for years afflicted him, and which for a long time previously had so spread over his face as to oblige him to wear a green silk screen to conceal its ill appearance, now increased its ravages, and in the early part of the year 1783, brought him to the grave.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 319.

James Smith (Pennsylvania):

In 1782 he was appointed Brigadier General of the Pennsylvania militia.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/smith.htm>"
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/smith.htm>

George Ross (Pennsylvania):

In 1776 he was again elected to the Continental Congress, while serving as a provincial legislator, and a Colonel in the Continental Army.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/ross.htm>"
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/ross.htm>

Josiah Bartlett (New Hampshire):

He was a member of a Committee of Safety, and served as commander of a militia regiment in 1775.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/bartlett.htm>"
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/bartlett.htm>

Matthew Thornton (New Hampshire):

He became a physician, and in 1745 was appointed surgeon to the New Hampshire troops in the expedition against Louisburg. He later held royal commissions as justice of the peace and colonel of militia.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/thornton.htm>"
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/thornton.htm>

William Whipple (New Hampshire):

In 1775 he was elected to represent his town at the provincial congress. The following year New Hampshire dissolved the Royal government and reorganized with a House of Representatives and an Executive Council. Whipple was made a Council member, a member of the Committee of Safety, and was promptly elected to the Continental Congress. He served there through 1779, though he took much leave for military affairs. In 1777 he was made Brigadier General of the New Hampshire Militia. General Whipple lead men in the successful expedition against General Burgoyne at the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/whipple.htm>"
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/whipple.htm>

Lewis Morris (New York):

He served on committees for the defense of New York, one for provisioning colonial forces, and another for Indian affairs. These tasks carried him throughout New England in the first few years of the war. He also served as a brigadier-general in the New York militia and so was often torn between his duties in congress and those to the defense of his own colony.

- HYPERLINK "http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/morris_1.htm"
http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/morris_1.htm

William Floyd (New York):

He was a member of the Suffolk County Militia in the early conflict with Britain. He attained the rank of major general, though at this late date he spent most of his time in the Continental Congress.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/floyd.htm>"
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/floyd.htm>

Button Gwinnett (Georgia):

In 1776 he was appointed commander of Georgia's continental militia (a post that he was forced to decline, owing to political faction), and also elected to attend the Continental Congress.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/gwinnett.htm>"
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/gwinnett.htm>

George Walton (Georgia):

In 1778 Walton was commissioned a Colonel of the First Regiment of the Georgia Militia. He was injured in Battle and taken prisoner. He gained his freedom in 1779 through a prisoner exchange.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/walton.htm>"
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/walton.htm>

Richard Henry Lee (Virginia)- not sure if this is technically military experience:

He attended a private school in England, returning to Virginia in 1751. That being the era of the French and Indian War, Lee formed a militia troop of young men in his neighborhood, was elected the leader, and marched his troop to a council in Alexandria where General Braddock was preparing a campaign on the Ohio river. The young men were rebuffed by the General and returned home.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/rhlee.htm>"
<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/rhlee.htm>

Thomas Nelson Jr. (Virginia):

He was a member of the Virginia provincial convention in 1775, and there he undertook the creation of the Virginia Militia. He then assumed duty as its first Commander. Shortly thereafter he was elected to the Continental Congress. Nelson began suffering health problems in 1777 and thought best to retire to his native state. He resumed his military service, much to the benefit of both Virginia and his health. He was reelected to Congress in 1779 but his health again declined and he returned to Virginia several months later.

Once again he resumed service, as commanding General of the Lower Virginia Militia, at a time when British forces began aggressive campaigns against the southern colonies.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/nelson.htm>"

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/nelson.htm>

Benjamin Harrison (Virginia):

In 1777 he returned to Virginia to a seat in the House of Burgesses and also to serve as a lieutenant in his county militia.

- HYPERLINK "http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/harrison.htm"

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/harrison.htm>

Edward Rutledge (South Carolina):

He took leave of Congress in November of 1776 to join the defense of his colony. He was a member of the Charleston Battalion of Artillery, engaged in several important battles, and attained the rank of Captain. The colonial legislature sent him back to Congress in 1779 to fill a vacancy. He took his leave again in 1780 when the British conducted a third invasion of South Carolina. He resumed his post as Captain in the defense of Charleston, was captured and held prisoner until July of 1781.

- HYPERLINK "http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/rutledge.htm"

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/rutledge.htm>

“Mr. Rutledge was again appointed to congress, in the year 1779; but in consequence of ill health he was unable to reach the seat of government, and returned home. In 1780, during the investment of Charleston by the British, Mr. Rutledge was taken prisoner by the enemy, and sent to St. Augustine as a prisoner by the enemy, and sent to St. Augustine a prisoner, where he was detained nearly a year before he was exchanged. Soon after his exchange was effected, he landed at Philadelphia, near which he resided, until a short time before the city of Charleston was evacuated by the British, when he returned to the place of his nativity, and to the enjoyment of the society of his friends and relations.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), pp. 438-439.

Thomas Lynch, Jr. (South Carolina):

He...was commissioned a company commander in the South Carolina regiment in 1775.

- HYPERLINK "http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/lynch.htm"

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/lynch.htm>

Thomas Heyward Jr. (South Carolina):

He was taken prisoner by the British while in command of a Militia force during the siege of Charleston.

- HYPERLINK "http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/heyward.htm"

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/heyward.htm>

William Williams (Connecticut):

He attended Harvard and graduated in 1751. He then studied theology with his father, Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Lebanon. Four years later, he joined his father's cousin in the French and Indian War at Lake George.

- HYPERLINK "http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/williams.htm"

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/williams.htm>

Oliver Wolcott (Connecticut):

Even before graduating, he was commissioned by Governor Clinton of New York to raise a volunteer militia to assist in the French and Indian War. He did this, graduated Yale, and proceeded as Captain with his volunteer company to serve the crown on the northern frontier.

...In 1771 he rejoined the Militia as revolutionary tensions grew. He was made a Major, and later a Colonel in the Connecticut Militia. Before the course of the war would end, he would become Brigadier General of the entire Connecticut force, under command of the Continental Armies...He spent all of the time between 1776 and 1778 engaged in military affairs.

- HYPERLINK "<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/wolcott.htm>"

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/wolcott.htm>

Declaration Signers Who Lost Estates/Fortunes/Suffered Financial Loss/Evacuated their Home due to Military Incursion

(12 Lost Their Home), (13 evacuated their homes under duress)

Josiah Bartlett (NH): Home Burned, though it was burned in 1774 likely by Tory supporters due to discontent with Mr. Bartlett's pro-Whig activities in the Assembly. 2 years later Mr. Bartlett signed the Declaration of Independence as a delegate for New Hampshire.

"By 1774, the aggressions of the Governor, and the policy of the British Ministry which he was trying to carry out, had grown so burdensome to the people that Dr. Bartlett and a few other leaders found themselves in almost open opposition. He was still a member of the Legislature and in that year we find him at the head of a "Committee of Correspondence," which was in constant communication with Samuel Adams and other patriots of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Then Dr. Bartlett was elected delegate to "a general congress to be held in Philadelphia." This brought down upon him the wrath of Governor Wentworth and his Tory adherents. His appointment as Justice of the Peace was revoked and his commission as Colonel of militia was taken from him. Soon afterward his house was set on fire and burned to the ground, after he had received warning to cease his "pernicious activity."

Wives of the Signers, The Women Behind the Declaration of Independence, pp. 11-12.

William Ellery (RI): Home burned, other losses of property.

"During the year that the British army under General Piggott took possession of Newport, where they fortified themselves, and continued their head quarters for some time, the inhabitants sustained much injury in their property. Mr. Ellery shared in the common loss, his dwelling house being burned, and other destruction of property occasioned."

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 156.

William Floyd (NY): Lost his home and estate to British occupation of Long Island.

"It was the lot of not a few, while thus devoted to the public good, to experience the destructive effects of the war upon their property, or the serious inconveniences arising from it in relation to their families. In both these respects Mr. Floyd suffered severely. While at Philadelphia, attending upon congress, the American troops evacuated Long Island, which was taken possession of by the British army. On this latter event, the family of Mr. Floyd were obliged to flee for safety to Connecticut. His house was occupied by a company of horsemen, which made it the place of their rendezvous during the remainder of the war. Thus, for nearly seven years, Mr. Floyd and his family were refugees from their habitation, nor did he, during this long period, derive any benefit from his landed estate."

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), pp. 185-186.

George Wythe (VA): Lost money and property.

During the revolution, Mr. Wythe suffered greatly in respect to his property. His devotion to public services left him little opportunity to attend to his private affairs. The greater part of his slaves he lost by the dishonesty of his superintendent, who placed them in the hands of the British. By economy and judicious management, however, Mr. Wythe was enabled, with the residue of his estate, and with this salary as chancellor, to discharge his debts, and to preserve his independence.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 369.

Francis Lewis (NY): Home, library and personal property looted and destroyed. Wife captured by British, held in deplorable conditions.

“In 1775, Mr. Lewis removed his family and effects to a country seat which he owned on Long island. This proved to be an unfortunate step. In the autumn of the following year, his house was plundered by a party of British light horse. His extensive library and valuable papers of every description were wantonly destroyed. Nor were they contented with this ruin of his property. They thirsted for revenge upon a man, who had dared to affix his signature to a document, which proclaimed the independence of America. Unfortunately Mrs. Lewis fell into their power, and was retained a prisoner for several months. During her captivity, she was closely confined, without even the comfort of a bed to lie upon, or a change of clothes.

In November, 1776, the attention of congress was called to her distressed condition, and shortly after a resolution was passed that a lady, who had been taken prisoner by the Americans, should be permitted to return to her husband, and that Mrs. Lewis be required in Exchange. But the exchange could not at that time be effected. Through the influence of Washington, however, Mrs. Lewis was at length released; but her sufferings during her confinement had so much impaired her constitution, that in the course of a year or two, she sunk into the grave.

Of the subsequent life of Mr. Lewis, we have little to record. His latter days were spent in comparative poverty, his independent fortune having in a great measure been sacrificed on the altar of patriotism, during his country’s struggle for independence.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), pp. 196-197.

Lewis Morris (NY): Home plundered, acreage and timber destroyed, cattle taken. He incurred a very large monetary loss.

“He was at this time in possession of an extensive domain, within a few miles of the city of New-York. A British army had already landed from their ships, which lay within cannon shot of the dwelling of his family. A signature to the Declaration of Independence would insure the devastation of the former, and the destruction of the latter. But, upon the ruin of his individual property, he could look with comparative indifference, while he knew that his honor was untarnished, and the interests of his country were safe. He voted therefore for a separation from the mother country, in the spirit of a man of honor, and of enlarged benevolence.

It happened as was anticipated. The hostile army soon spread desolation over the beautiful and fertile manor of Morrisania. His tract of woodland of more than a thousand acres in extent, and, from its proximity to the city, of incalculable value was destroyed; his house was greatly injured; his fences ruined; his stock driven away; and his family obliged to live in a

state of exile. Few men during the revolution were called to make greater sacrifices than Mr. Morris; none made them more cheerfully.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 202.

Richard Stockton (NJ): Financial loss of home, cattle and fortune.

On the thirtieth of November he was unfortunately taken prisoner by a party of refugee royalists. He was dragged from his bed by night, and carried to New-York. During his removal to the latter place he was treated with great indignity, and in New-York he was placed in the common prison, where he was in want of even the necessaries of life. The news of his capture and sufferings being made known to congress, that body unanimously passed the following resolution:

“Whereas congress hath received information that the honorable Richard Stockton, of New-Jersey, and a member of this congress, hath been made a prisoner by the enemy, and that he hath been ignominiously thrown into a common goal, and there detained—*Resolved*, that General Washington be directed to make immediate inquiry into the truth of this report, and if he finds reason to believe it well founded, that he send a flag to General Howe, remonstrating against this departure from that humane procedure which has marked the conduct of these states to prisoners who have fallen into their hands; and to know of General Howe whether he chooses this shall be the future rule for treating all such, on both sides, as the fortune of war may place in the hands of either party.”

Mr. Stockton was at length released; but his confinement had been so strict, and his sufferings so severe, that his constitution could never after recover the shock. Besides this, his fortune, which had been ample, was not greatly reduced. His lands were devastated; his papers and library were burnt; his implements of husbandry destroyed; and his stock seized and driven away. He was no obliged to depend, for a season, upon the assistance of friends, for even the necessaries of life. From the time of his imprisonment his health began to fail him; nor was it particularly benefited by his release, and a restoration to the society of his friends. He continued to languish for several years, and at length died at his residence, at Princeton, on the 28th of February, 1781, in the fifty-third year of his age.

His death made a wide chasm among the circle of his friends and acquaintance. He was, in every respect, a distinguished man; an honor to his country, and a friend to the cause of science, freedom, and religion, throughout the world.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), pp. 207-208.

Francis Hopkinson (NJ): His house was ransacked and plundered by Hessian mercenaries. His wife died during/shortly before the invasion. He died in 1780 before the war was over.

“Sometime during the revolutionary war, Bordentown, the place where Mr. Hopkinson and family resided, was suddenly invaded by a party of Hessians. The family had hardly time to escape before the invaders began the plunder of the house.”

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 225.

JOHN HART (NJ): His house was ransacked by Hessian mercenaries when British and Hessian troops swept through NJ in 1776. It is believed Mr. Hart and his children fled their home in mid to late November of that year. He spent anywhere from 6-18 weeks hiding out in the mountainous wooded area near his home. He stayed with friends and moved constantly

during this process, at times he hid in the woods or slept in the forest. His house had been ransacked and looted but was still standing. His mill and crops were destroyed as was most of his farm. His 13 children fled and were later reunited with their father after a few months. John Hart's wife died either shortly before the Hessian/British forces arrived on his farm or shortly after. Mr. Hart, by some accounts, was forced to flee his dying wife's bedside, while others suggest she died in mid October, before the invading troops arrived.

“Sometime during the later part of year 1776, New-Jersey became the theatre of war. The distress which the people suffered in consequence, was very great; and a wanton destruction of property was often occasioned by the enemy. In this destruction of property was often occasioned by the enemy. In this destruction, the property of Mr. Hart largely participated. His children were obliged to flee, his farm was pillaged, and great exertions were made to secure him, as a prisoner. The situation of Mrs. Hart was at the time peculiarly distressing. She was afflicted with a disease, which prevented her removal to a place of safety, and eventually caused her death. Mr. Hart continued by her side, until the enemy had nearly reached the house, when he made his escape, his wife being safer alone than if he were present. For some time, he was hunted and pursued with the most untiring zeal. He was scarcely able to elude his enemies, was often in great want of food, and sometimes destitute of a comfortable lodging for the night. In one instance, he was obliged to conceal himself, during the night, in the usual resting place of a large dog, who was his companion for the time. In one instance, he was obliged to conceal himself, during the night, in the usual resting place of a large dog, who was his companion for the time.

The battles of Trenton and Princeton led to the evacuation of New-Jersey by the British. On this event, Mr. hart again collected his family, and began to repair the desolation of his farm by the hand of the enemy. His death occurred in the year 1780.”

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 228-229.

Abraham Clark (NJ): Son's held prisoner after capture in battle, both were mistreated and abused during their confinement.

“Two or three of the sons of Mr. Clark were officers in the army, during the revolutionary struggle. Unfortunately they were captured by the enemy. During a part of their captivity, their sufferings were extreme, being confined in the notorious prison ship, Jersey. Painful as the condition of his sons was, Mr. Clark scrupulously avoided calling the attention of congress to the subject, excepting in a single instance. One of his sons, a captain of artillery, had been cast into a dungeon, where he received no other food than that which was conveyed to him by his fellow prisoners, through a key hole. On a representation of these facts to congress, that body immediately directed a course of retaliation in respect to a British officer. This had the desired effect, and Captain Clark's condition was improved.”

George Clymer (PA): Almost killed during the revolution. His family narrowly escaped harm and had their home ransacked and pillaged. His other residence was briefly attacked but only partially destroyed by British soldiers.

“In 1777, Mr. Clymer was again a member of congress. His duties during this session were particularly arduous, and owing to his unremitting exertions, he was obliged to retire for a season, for the recovery of his health.

During the fall of this distressing year, the family of Mr. Clymer, which, at that time resided in the county of Chester about twenty-five miles from Philadelphia, suffered severely, in consequence of an attack by a band of British soldiers. The furniture of the house was

destroyed, and a large stock of liquors shared a similar fate. Fortunately, the family made their escape. Mr. Clymer was then in Philadelphia. On the arrival of the British in that place, they sought out his residence, and were proceeding to tear it down, and were only diverted from their purpose by the information, that the house did not belong to him.

During this year, Mr. Clymer was appointed a commissioner, in conjunction with several other gentlemen, to proceed to Pittsburg, on the important and confidential service, of preserving a good understanding with several Indian tribes in that county, and particularly to enlist warriors from the Shawnee and Delaware Indians into the service of the United States. During his residence at Pittsburg, he narrowly escaped death from the tomahawk of the enemy, having, in an excursion to visit a friend, accidentally and fortunately take a route which led him to avoid a party of savages, who murdered a white man at the very place where Mr. Clymer must have been, had he not chosen a different road.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), pp. 286-287.

Thomas Jefferson (VA): Evacuated Monticello with his family and very narrowly escaped a British attempt to capture him.

“On the twenty-fourth of May, the legislature was to meet at Charlottesville. They were not formed for business, however, until the twenty-eighth. A few days following which, the term for which Mr. Jefferson had been elected expired, when he again found himself a private citizen.

On leaving the chair of state, Mr. Jefferson retired to Monticello, when intelligence was received, two days after, that a body of troops under command of General Tarlton were rapidly hastening to Charlottesville, for the purpose of surprising and capturing the members of the assembly. They had only time, after the alarm was given, to adjourn to meet at Staunton, and to disperse, before the enemy entered the village. Another party had directed their course to Monticello to capture the ex-governor. Fortunately, an express hastened from Charlottesville, to convey intelligence to Mr. Jefferson of their approach. Scarcely had the family time to make arrangements, indispensable for their departure, and to effect their escape, before the enemy were seen ascending the hill, leading to the mansion-house. Mr. Jefferson himself, mounting his horse, narrowly escaped, by taking a course through the woods. This flight of Mr. Jefferson, eminently proper, and upon which his safety depended, has unwarrantably excited in times gone by the ridicule and censure of his enemies.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), pp. 390-391.

Arthur Middleton (SC): His home was pillaged and it's contents destroyed or stolen. He lost an extensive painting collection and his family was forced to flee the British as they overtook his house. He was made a prisoner of war.

“During the year 1779, the southern states became the principal theatre of the war. Many of the plantations were wantonly plundered, and the families and property of the principal inhabitants were exposed to the insults and ravages of the invaders. During these scenes of depredation, Middleton place did not escape. Although the buildings were spared, they were rifled of every thing valuable. Such articles as could not easily be transported were either wantonly destroyed, or greatly injured. Among those which were injured, was a valuable collection of paintings belonging to Mr. Middleton. Fortunately, at the time the marauders visited Middleton place, the family had made their escape a day's journey to the north of Charleston.

On the investment of the latter place, in the following year, Mr. Middleton was present, and

actively engaged in the defense of the city. With several others, on the surrender of this place, he was taken prisoner, and was sent by sea to St. Augustine, in East Florida, where he was kept in confinement for nearly a year. At length, in July, 1781, he was exchanged, and proceeded in a cartel to Philadelphia.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 450.

Lyman Hall (SC): His family evacuated and lost all their property and possessions to the British occupation of Georgia.

“Among the delegates thus appointed, Dr. Hall was one. To this station he was annually re-elected until 1780, at the close of which year he finally retired from the national legislature.

At length, Georgia fell temporarily into the power of the British. On this event, Doctor Hall removed his family to the north, and suffered the confiscation of all his property by the British government established in the state. In 1782, he returned to Georgia, and in the following year was elected to the chief magistracy of the state.”

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 457.

Declaration Signers Who Died During Revolution

(8 Total) – All died of Natural Causes, none were killed in direct battle. 1 of these died due to a bullet wound, however this was in a duel over a matter of honor. 1 died after cruel mistreatment in prison and a degrading of his health that likely occurred because of this.

Philip Livingston (NY): Chosen to represent NY in the Continental Congress in May of 1778, was in poor health and died of natural causes in June of 1778.

At this time, the health of Mr. Livingston was exceedingly precarious. And such was the nature of his complaint, which was a dropsy in the chest, that no rational prospect existed of his recovery. Indeed, he was daily liable to be summoned from the active scenes of life to his final account. Yet, in this dubious and anxious state, his love to his country continued strong and unwavering. For her good he had made many sacrifices; and, now that her interests seemed to require his presence in congress, he hesitated not to relinquish the comforts of home, and those attentions which, in his feeble and declining state, he peculiarly needed from a beloved family.” On the fifth of May, he took his seat in congress, from which time his decline was rapid. On the twelfth of June, he ended his valuable life. Although deprived of the consolations of home, he was attended, during the few last days of his illness, by his son, Henry, who was at that time a member of General Washington’s family.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), pp. 191-192.

Richard Stockton (NJ): Died after being held captive in cruel and deplorable conditions for a lengthy period of time.

On the thirtieth of November he was unfortunately taken prisoner by a party of refugee royalists. He was dragged from his bed by night, and carried to New-York. During his removal to the latter place he was treated with great indignity, and in New-York he was placed in the common prison, where he was in want of even the necessaries of life. The news of his capture and sufferings being made known to congress, that body unanimously passed

the following resolution:

“Whereas congress hath received information that the honorable Richard Stockton, of New-Jersey, and a member of this congress, hath been made a prisoner by the enemy, and that he hath been ignominiously thrown into a common goal, and there detained—*Resolved*, that General Washington be directed to make immediate inquiry into the truth of this report, and if he finds reason to believe it well founded, that he send a flag to General Howe, remonstrating against this departure from that humane procedure which has marked the conduct of these states to prisoners who have fallen into their hands; and to know of General Howe whether he chooses this shall be the future rule for treating all such, on both sides, as the fortune of war may place in the hands of either party.”

Mr. Stockton was at length released; but his confinement had been so strict, and his sufferings so severe, that his constitution could never after recover the shock. Besides this, his fortune, which had been ample, was not greatly reduced. His lands were devastated; his papers and library were burnt; his implements of husbandry destroyed; and his stock seized and driven away. He was no obliged to depend, for a season, upon the assistance of friends, for even the necessaries of life. From the time of his imprisonment his health began to fail him; nor was it particularly benefited by his release, and a restoration to the society of his friends. He continued to languish for several years, and at length died at his residence, at Princeton, on the 28th of February, 1781, in the fifty-third year of his age.

His death made a wide chasm among the circle of his friends and acquaintance. He was, in every respect, a distinguished man; an honor to his country, and a friend to the cause of science, freedom, and religion, throughout the world.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), pp. 207-208.

John Morton (PA): Mr. Morton died of a fever/illness in 1777.

In the following year, he assisted in organizing a system of confederation, and was chairman of the committee of the whole, at the time it was finally agreed to, on the 15th of November, 1777. During the same year, he was seized with an inflammatory fever, which, after a few days ended his mortal existence, in the 54th year of his age.

His only enemies were those who would not forgive him because of his vote in favor of independence. During his last sickness [in 1777], and even on the verge of the eternal world, he remembered them, and requested those who stood around him, to tell them, that the hour would yet come, when it would be acknowledged, that his vote in favor of American independence was the most illustrious act of his life.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 284.

George Taylor (PA): Signer of the Declaration. No harm done to him, his possessions or family. He died of natural causes at the age of 66 in February of 1781, 7 months before the battle of Yorktown.

“Mr. Taylor retired from congress in 1777, from which time we know little of his history. Mr. Taylor died on the 23d of February, 1781, in the sixty-sixth of his age.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 300.

George Ross (PA): Died of natural causes during the revolution in 1779.

“In the year 1779, Mr. Ross was appointed a judge of the court of admiralty for the state of

Pennsylvania. This was on the 14th of April. He was permitted to enjoy, however, the honorable station which he now filled but a short time. In the month of July following, he was suddenly and violently attacked by the gout, which terminated his useful life, in the fiftieth year of his age.”__

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 312.

Joseph Hewes (NC): Died of natural causes in 1779, while a member of Congress.

“The last time that he appeared in congress was on the twenty-night of October, [1779] of the year last mentioned, after which, an indisposition under which he had labored for some time confined him to his chamber, and at length, on the tenth of November, terminated his life, in the fiftieth year of his age.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 432.

Button Gwinnett (GA): Led a failed military incursion against the British in east Florida. He later died in a duel with one of his own officers after a verbal spat.

“This failure [of the military incursion against the British in Florida] blasted the hopes of Mr. Gwinnett, and brought his political career to a close. In the disappointment and mortification of his adversary, General McIntosh foolishly exulted. The animosity between these two distinguished men, from this time, continued to gather strength, until Mr. Gwinnett, unmindful of the high offices which he had held of his obligations to society, and of his paramount obligations to the author of his being, presented a challenge to General McIntosh. They fought [dueled] at a distance of only 12 feet. Both were severely wounded. The wound of Mr. Gwinnett proved mortal; and on the 27th of May, 1777, in the forty-fifth year of his age, he expired.

JOHN HART (NJ): His house was ransacked by Hessian mercenaries when British and Hessian troops swept through NJ in 1776. It is believed Mr. Hart and his children fled their home in mid to late November of that year. He spent anywhere from 6-18 weeks hiding out in the mountainous wooded area near his home. He stayed with friends and moved constantly during this process, at times he hid in the woods or slept in the forest. His house had been ransacked and looted but was still standing. His mill and crops were destroyed as was most of his farm. His 13 children fled and were later reunited with their father after a few months. John Hart’s wife died either shortly before the Hessian/British forces arrived on his farm or shortly after. Mr. Hart, by some accounts, was forced to flee his dying wife’s bedside, while others suggest she died in mid October, before the invading troops arrived.

“Sometime during the later part of year 1776, New-Jersey became the theatre of war. The distress which the people suffered in consequence, was very great; and a wanton destruction of property was often occasioned by the enemy. In this destruction of property was often occasioned by the enemy. In this destruction, the property of Mr. Hart largely participated. His children were obliged to flee, his farm was pillaged, and great exertions were made to secure him, as a prisoner. The situation of Mrs. Hart was at the time peculiarly distressing. She was afflicted with a disease, which prevented her removal to a place of safety, and eventually caused her death. Mr. Hart continued by her side, until the enemy had nearly reached the house, when he made his escape, his wife being safer alone than if he were present. For some time, he was hunted and pursued with the most untiring zeal. He was

scarcely able to elude his enemies, was often in great want of food, and sometimes destitute of a comfortable lodging for the night. In one instance, he was obliged to conceal himself, during the night, in the usual resting place of a large dog, who was his companion for the time. In one instance, he was obliged to conceal himself, during the night, in the usual resting place of a large dog, who was his companion for the time.

The battles of Trenton and Princeton led to the evacuation of New-Jersey by the British. On this event, Mr. Hart again collected his family, and began to repair the desolation of his farm by the hand of the enemy. His death occurred in the year 1780.”

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 228-229.

Declaration Signers – Family Deaths (Wife or Children): **(3 Total)**

Francis Lewis (NY):

“In 1775, Mr. Lewis removed his family and effects to a country seat which he owned on Long Island. This proved to be an unfortunate step. In the autumn of the following year, his house was plundered by a party of British light horse. His extensive library and valuable papers of every description were wantonly destroyed. Nor were they contented with this ruin of his property. They thirsted for revenge upon a man, who had dared to affix his signature to a document, which proclaimed the independence of America. Unfortunately Mrs. Lewis fell into their power, and was retained a prisoner for several months. During her captivity, she was closely confined, without even the comfort of a bed to lie upon, or a change of clothes.

In November, 1776, the attention of Congress was called to her distressed condition, and shortly after a resolution was passed that a lady, who had been taken prisoner by the Americans, should be permitted to return to her husband, and that Mrs. Lewis be required in exchange. But the exchange could not at that time be effected. Through the influence of Washington, however, Mrs. Lewis was at length released; but her sufferings during her confinement had so much impaired her constitution, that in the course of a year or two, she sunk into the grave.

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), p. 196.

Rev. John Whitherspoon (NJ): His son died in battle.

At the time of his emigration to America, he had three sons and two daughters. James, his eldest son, was killed in the battle of Germantown.

William Paca (MD): His wife died of natural causes, during the revolution.

“Mr. Paca was twice married. The first time to a daughter of Samuel Chew, in the year of 1761, while he was pursuing the study of law. The second time in 1777, to a daughter of a respectable gentleman of Philadelphia, by the name of Harrison. By the former lady he had five children, one of whom only survives. By the latter he had a son, who died shortly after his mother, whose decease occurred in 1780.”

Rev. Charles A. Goodrich, *The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Hartford: R.G.H. Huntington, 1842), pp. 350-351.