

What is it?



The Declaration of Independence was one of our nation's most important foundational documents signed on July 4, 1776, it told the dictating British that America was jaded and fed up. It stated in its introduction, the preamble, the people who wish for freedom should explain their motives. This flowed to the body of the declaration which pointed out the rights the colonists believed they should have had and listed their complaints toward the British ruling. It finishes to say or proclaim America's new identity as a new nation.



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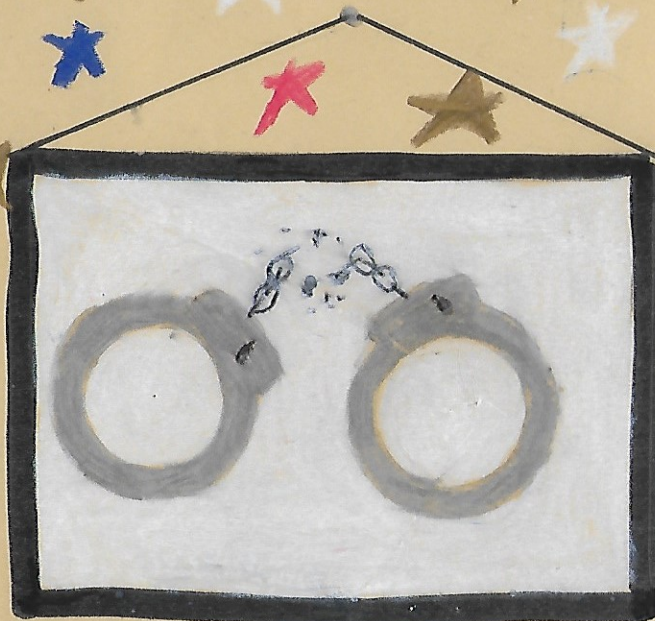
Declaration

of

IN CONGRESS
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES
UNITED
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
1776
W

Independence

Independence Gallery



These are broken handcuffs. They represent what America wanted, freedom from GB.

Broken cuffs
1776

Background

Tensions between the American colonies and the British grew. Both sides prepared for war. The first shots were fired on April 19, 1775 in Lexington, Massachusetts. War rumbled. On May 10, 1775, well known leaders such as John Adams and Richard Henry Lee gathered in the second Continental Congress. Actions to kick start the economy were put in place, however the war was still raging. Independence was an idea always sitting in

everyone's minds, they didn't know what to do with it though. Many advocates for freedom like Thomas Paine and Richard Henry Lee helped motivate those to act upon their ideas through their writing like *Common Sense* and Lee's resolution for independence. Many delegates debated these ideas, but a committee to

write the declaration was still formed. It consisted of John Adams, Robert Livingston, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson wrote the majority of the declaration. Many of his proposals for it sprouted from John Locke's idea of certain natural rights to life, liberty, and property. His draft was edited by delegates and approved July 4, 1776. This was the start to the end of the British rule.

"That these United Colonies are, and ought to be, free independent States."
—Richard Henry Lee

Without It?

Without this document, where would we be today? Possibly still under British rule. This declaration was the beginning of a new evolution to today's world. It shows America's main driving factor for a difference in their nation.