9. From the Colony of Maryland:

Charles Carroll of Carrollton as descended from Irish ancestry.

His grandfather, Daniel Carroll, was a native of Littemourna in Ireland and was a clerk in the office of Lord Pōwis in the reign of James the Second. Under the patronage of Lord Baltimore, the principal proprietor of Maryland, Mr. Carroll emigrated to that colony toward the close of the seventeenth century and became the possessor of a large plantation. His son Charles, the father of the subject of this memoir, was born in 1702 and lived to the age of eighty years, when he died and left his large estate to his eldest child, Charles, who was then twenty-five years old.

Charles Carroll, the Revolutionary patriot, was born on the twentieth of September 1737. When he was only eight years of age, his father took him to France and entered him as a student in the Jesuit College at St. Omèr's. There he remained six years and then he entered the College of Louis le Gränd,[4] whence he graduated at the age of seventeen years and then commenced the study of law at Bourges \Bürzh\.

[4] King Louis XIV of France (1643–1715). Edict of Nantes (April 13, 1598–October 18, 1685): under King Henry IV of France granted religious liberty to Protestants that remained in force until it was revoked by Louis XIV. His reign was the longest in European history and France flourished under his rule. When he revoked the Edict, over 400,000 Huguenots emigrated—to England, Prussia, Holland, and America—depriving France of its most industrious commercial class.

He then went to London for the purpose of continuing his law studies there where he remained until 1765 and then returned to Maryland a most finished scholar and well-bred gentleman.

He at once espoused the cause of the American patriots and became associated with (Samuel) Chase, (William) Pāca, (Thomas) Stone,[5] and others in the various patriotic movements of the day.

Mr. Carroll early foresaw that a resort to arms in defense of Colonial rights, was inevitable, and this opinion he fearlessly expressed. His decided character, his stern integrity, and his clear judgment, made him an umpire in many momentous cases, and in every step he ascended higher and higher the scale of popular favor.

His known sentiments in favor of independence were doubtless the cause of his not being sooner sent to the General Congress, for, as we have already seen, the Maryland Convention were opposed to that extreme measure.

Anxious to witness the men and their proceedings in the Continental Congress, he visited Philadelphia for the purpose, early in 1776, and so favorably was he known there, that Congress placed him on a committee, with Doctor Franklin and Samuel Chase, to visit Canada on an important mission. On his return, finding Mr. (Richard Henry) Lee's motion[6] for independence before Congress, he hastened to Maryland to endeavor, if possible, to have the restrictive instructions which governed her delegates in the National Assembly, removed. In this he was successful and when the prohibition was removed, he was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress. Mr. Carroll proceeded to Philadelphia where he arrived on the eighth of July, too late to *vote* for the Declaration of Independence, but in ample time to affix his signature to the parchment.

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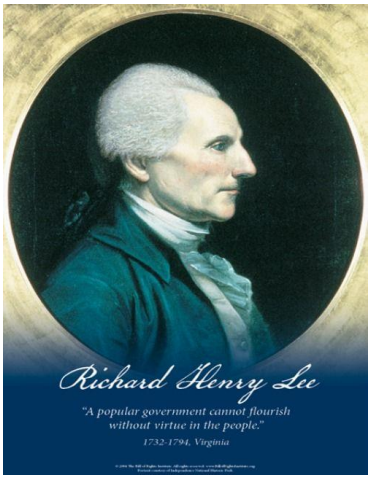
[5] These three men joined Carroll as the four Maryland signatories of the Declaration of Independence.
[6] Lee's famous resolution is discussed in the following essay on the delegate from Virginia.

Mr. Carroll continued a member of Congress until 1788 when he relinquished his seat and devoted himself to the interests of his native State. He was elected to the Senate of Maryland in 1781 and continued a member of that body until the adoption of the Federal Constitution. In December 1788, he was elected a member of the United States Senate for Maryland where he continued until 1801.

He then retired from public life, being sixty-four years of age; and he spent the remainder of his days amid the quiet pleasures of domestic retirement, where his children's children, and even their children, grew up around him like olive plants. He lived, honored and revered by the Republic with whose existence he was identified until 1832 and was the last survivor of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence. He died at Baltimore on the fourteenth day of November 1832 in the ninety-sixth year of his age.[7]

[7] The question naturally arises, Why did Mr. Carroll append to his signature the place of his residence, "Carrollton"? It is said that when he wrote his name, a delegate near him suggested that as he had a cousin of the name of Charles Carroll in Maryland, the latter might be taken for him and he (the signer) escape attainder [guilt of treason], or any other punishment that might fall upon the heads of the patriots. Mr. Carroll immediately seized the pen, and wrote "of Carrollton" at the end of his name, exclaiming, "They cannot mistake me now!"

10. From the Colony of Virginia:



Richard Henry Lee was a scion of the noblest stock of Virginia gentlemen. He was born in the county of Westmoreland, Virginia, within a month of time, and with a few miles space of the great Washington. According to the fashion of the time in the "Old Dominion," his father sent him to England at an early age to be educated.

He was placed in a school at Wakefield, in Yorkshire, where he soon became marked as a thoughtful and industrious student. Ancient history, especially that part which treats of the republics of the old world, engaged his close attention; and he read with avidity every scrap of history of that character which fell in his way. Thus he was early indoctrinated with the ideas of republicanism, and before the season of adolescence had passed, he was warmly attached to those principles of civil liberty, which afterward he so manfully contended for.

Young Lee returned to Virginia when nearly nineteen years of age and there applied himself zealously to literary pursuits. In 1757, he was elected a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, although then only twenty-five years old. He was too diffident to engage in the debates, and it was not until sometime afterward that he displayed those powers of oratory, which distinguished him in the General Congress.

The first time he ever took part in a debate, sufficiently to make a set speech, was in the House of Burgesses, when it was proposed to "lay a heavy duty on the importation of slaves, as effectually to stop that disgraceful traffic." His feelings were strongly enlisted in favor of the measure and the speech which he made on the occasion astonished the audience and revealed those powers of oratory which before lay concealed.

Mr. Lee fearlessly expressed his sentiments of reprobation of the course pursued by the British Government toward the colonies, and he organized the first association in Virginia for opposing British oppression in that colony, when it came in the form of the "Stamp Act." He was the first man in Virginia who stood publically forth in opposition to the execution of that measure, and although by birth, education and social station, he ranked with the aristocracy, he was foremost in breaking down those distinctions between the wealthy class and the "common people."

Associated with him was the powerful Patrick Henry, whose stormy eloquence strongly contrasted with the sweet-toned and persuasive rhetoric of Lee, but when they untied their power the shock was always irresistible.

When he heard of the "Boston Port Bill," he drew up a series of condemnatory resolutions to present to the Virginia Assembly. The Governor heard of them, and dissolved the Assembly before the resolutions could be introduced. This act of royal power greatly exasperated the people and instead of checking the ball that Mr. Lee had put in motion, it accelerated its speed. The controversy between the Governor and representatives here begun, continued, and the breach grew wider and wider, until at length, in August 1774, a convention of delegates of the people assembled at Williamsburgh, in despite of the Governor's proclamation, and appointed Richard Henry Lee, Patrick Henry, George Washington, and Payton Randolph to the General Congress called to meet in Philadelphia of the fifth of September, following.

In that Congress, Mr. Lee was one of the prime movers and his convincing and persuasive eloquence nerved the timid to act and speak out boldly for the rights of the colonists. His conduct there made a profound impression upon the public mind and he stood before his countrymen as one of the brightest lights of the age.

Mr. Lee was elected a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia as soon as he returned home from Congress and there his influence was unbounded. He was again elected a delegate to the General Congress for the session of 1775 and the instructions and commission to General Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental army were the productions of his pen. He was placed upon the most important committees, and the second "Address" of Congress to the people of Great Britain, which created such a sensation in that country, was written by him.

Mr. Lee was a delegate in Congress of 1776 and on the seventh of June of that year, pursuant to the dictates of his own judgment and feelings, and in obedience to the express instructions of the Assembly of Virginia, he introduced the resolution so often referred to in these memoirs, for a total separation from the mother country:

> **The resolution was as follows: "*Resolved*, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown; and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is, and ought to be totally dissolved."[8]**

The consideration of the resolution was made the special order of the day for the first Monday in July and a committee of which Thomas Jefferson was chairman was appointed to draw up a Declaration of Independence. This document was presented to Congress on the first day of July and after several amendments made in committee of the whole, it was adopted on the fourth, by the unanimous votes of the thirteen United Colonies.

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[8] This resolution was penned by Lee. It appears in the peroration of the Declaration and leaves no doubt that the Colonies have declared their independence.

Mr. Lee continued an active and indefatigable member of Congress until 1779, when, as lieutenant of the county of Westmoreland, he entered the field at the head of the militia, in defense of his State.

Mr. Lee was again chose a delegate to Congress in 1783. Although not a member of any legislative assembly when the Federal Constitution was submitted to the several States for action, he wielded a powerful influence, in connection with Patrick Henry and others, in opposing its ratification by Virginia, without amendments. But when it was finally adopted and became the organic law of the Union, he cheerfully united in carrying it into effect and was chose the first Senator from Virginia under it.

His last days were crowned with all the honor and reverence which a grateful people could bestow upon a benefactor, and when death cut his thread of life, a nation truly mourned. He sunk to his final rest on the nineteenth day of June 1794, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

Mr. Lee was a sincere practical Christian, a kind and affectionate husband and parent, a generous neighbor, a constant fried, and in all the relations of life, he maintained a character above reproach.

11. From the Colony of North Carolina:

John Penn was born in the county of Carolina, Virginia, on the seventeenth of May 1741. His father, Moses Penn, seemed to be utterly neglectful of the intellectual cultivation of his son and although he possessed the means of giving him a good English education, he allowed him no other opportunity than that of two or three years' tuition in a common country school his neighborhood afforded. Mr. Penn died when his son was about eighteen years of age and left him the sole possessor of a competent, though not large estate.

It has been justly remarked that the comparative obscurity in which the youth of Penn was passed, was, under the circumstances, a fortunate thing for him, for he had formed no associates with the gay[9] and thoughtless which on his becoming sole master of an estate would have led him into scenes of vice and dissipation that might have proved his ruin. His mind, likewise, was possessed of much vigor and he was naturally inclined to pursue an honorable and virtuous course.

Young Penn was a relative of the celebrated Edmund Pendleton and resided near him. That gentleman kindly gave him the free use of his extensive library and this opportunity for acquiring knowledge was industriously improved.

[9] "Given to social pleasures or indulgence; hence, loose; licentious" (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, 2d ed. (1953), s.v. "gay."

He resolved to qualify himself for the profession of the law and strong in his faith that he should be successful, he entered upon a course of legal study.

He succeeded admirably and at the age of twenty-one years he was admitted to the bar in his native county. His profession soon developed a native eloquence, before inert and unsuspected, and by it he rapidly soared to eminence. His eloquence was of that sweet persuasive kind which excites all the tender emotions of the soul and possesses a controlling power at times irresistible.

In 1774, Mr. Penn moved to North Carolina and commenced the practice of his profession there. So soon did his eminent abilities and decided patriotism become known there that in 1775 he was elected a delegate from that state to the Continental Congress and he took his seat in that body in October of that year. He remained there three successive years and faithfully discharged the duties of his high station. Acting in accordance with the instruction of his state convention, he voted for the Declaration of Independence and joyfully placed his sign to the parchment.

When in 1780, Cornwallis commenced his victorious march northward from Camden, in South Carolina, the western portion of North Carolina, which lay in his path, was almost defenseless. Mr. Penn was a resident of that portion of the State and the legislature, unable to act efficiently in its collective capacity, conferred upon him almost absolute dictatorial powers and allowed him to take such measures for the defense of the State, as the exigency of the case required. This was an extraordinary evidence of great public confidence, but in no particular did he abuse the power thus conferred. He performed his duties with admirable fidelity and skill and received the thanks of the Legislature and the general benedictions of the people.

Mr. Penn retired from public life in 1781 and returned to the practice of his profession. He did not again appear in public life and in September 1788, he died in the forty-seventh year of his age.

The life of John Penn furnishes another example of the high attainments which may crown him who, though surrounded by adverse circumstances, by persevering industry cultivates mind and heart, and aims at an exalted mark of distinction. If young men would, like him, resolve to rise above the hindrance of adverse circumstances and push boldly on toward some honorable goal, they would seldom fail to reach it and the race would be found to be far easier than they imagined it to be when girding for its trial.

12. From the Colony of South Carolina:

Arthur Middleton was born at Middleton Place, the residence of his father, in South Carolina in 1743. His father, Henry Middleton, was of English descent, and a wealthy planter and he gave his son every opportunity for mental and moral culture which the Province afforded until he arrived at a proper age to be sent to England for a thorough education. This was a prevailing custom among the men of wealth in the southern provinces, previous to the Revolution, and their sons consequently became political and social leaders on account of their superior education.

Arthur Middleton was sent to England when he was about twelve years of age, and was placed in a school at Hackney. At fourteen he was transferred to a school in Westminster where he remained four years and then entered the University of Cambridge. While there he shunned the society of the gay and dissipated and became a very close and thoughtful student. He remained at Cambridge four years and, at the age of twenty-two, he graduated with distinguished honors.

Young Middleton remained in England sometime after leaving Cambridge, for the twofold purpose of self-improvement and of forming acquaintances with the branch of his family that remained there. He then went to the continent and for two years he traveled and made observations of men and manners and things in southern Europe.

He passed several months in Rome where his highly-cultivated mind became thoroughly schooled in the theory of the fine arts and made him quite proficient as a painter.

Mr. Middleton returned to South Carolina in 1768 and very soon afterward married an accomplished young lady named Izard. About a year after this event, he took his young wife, made a second tour on the continent of Europe, and spent some time in England. They returned in 1773 and by the indulgence of his father he took the family seat for his residence. There in the possession of wealth and every domestic enjoyment, he had a bright prospect of worldly happiness. But even then the dark clouds of the Revolution were gathering and in less than two years the storm burst upon the South. Men could not remain neutral, for there was no middle course, and Arthur Middleton, as well as his father, laid their lives and fortunes upon the altar of patriotism. When the decision was made and the die was cast, Mr. Middleton laid aside domestic ease and entered at once upon active life.

He was a member of one of the committees of safety of South Carolina, appointed by the Provincial Congress in 1775. In that body he was firm and unyielding in principle, and when, soon afterward, Lord William Campbell was appointed governor, and it was discovered that he was acting with duplicity, Mr. Middleton laid aside all private feeling and recommended his immediate arrest. This proposition was too bold to meet the views of the more timid majority of the committee and the governor was allowed to flee from the State.

In the winter of 1776, Mr. Middleton was one of a committee appointed to form a government for South Carolina and, early in the spring of that year, he was elected by the Provincial Legislature a delegate to the General Congress at Philadelphia. There he was an active promoter of the measures tending toward a severance of the Colonies from Great Britain, and voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Middleton continued as member of Congress until the close of 1777 when he returned to South Carolina. In 1778, the Assembly adopted a State Constitution and Arthur Middleton was elected first governor under it which he declined to accept.

When, in 1779, South Carolina was invaded by the British, Mr. Middleton's property was exposed to their ravages. Yet he heeded not the destruction that was wrought, but joining Governor Rutledge in his attempts to defend the State, he left his estate entirely unprotected and only wrote to his wife to remove with the family a day's journey from the scene of strife. In this invasion a large portion of his immense estate was sacrificed. The following year, after the surrender of Charleston to the British, he was one of the many influential men who were taken prisoners and sent to St. Augustine in Florida. There he remained about one year and was then sent as an exchanged prisoner, to Philadelphia. He was at once elected by the Assembly of South Carolina as a representative in Congress and he remained there until November 1782 when he returned to his family.

He was a representative in his State Legislature until near the close of 1787 when disease removed him from his sphere of usefulness. By exposure, he contracted an intermittent fever when he neglected until it was too late to check its ravages upon his constitution. He died on the first day of January 1788. He left his wife a widow with eight children. She lived until 1814 and had the satisfaction of seeing her offspring among the honored of the land.

13. From the Colony of Georgia:

George Walton was descended from parentage quite obscure and the glory that halos his name derives not a gleam from ancestral distinction—it is all his own. He was born in the county of Frederick in Virginia in the year 1740. His early education was extremely limited and at the age of fourteen years he was apprenticed to a carpenter. He was possessed of an inquiring mind and an ardent thirst for knowledge, but his master's authority hung like a millstone about the neck of his aspirations. He was an ignorant man and looked upon a studious boy as an idle one, considering the time spent in reading as wasted. With this feeling, he would allow young Walton no time to read by day, nor lights to study by night, but the ardent youth overcame these difficulties and by using torchwood for light, he spent his evening in study. Persevering in this course, he ended his apprenticeship with a well-stored mind.

Mr. Walton commenced the practice of law in the year 1774, a time when the colonies were in a blaze respecting the various acts of the British Parliament which invaded colonial rights. But George was either very apathetic or very timid, for the people, although induced by active patriots to meet together in convention at Savanah, did not so far approve of the call for a General Congress, as to appoint delegates thereto, and Georgia was the only colony unrepresented there.

Soon after commencing the practice of his profession, Mr. Walton became acquainted with some of the leading patriots in that province, among whom was Dr. Hall; and they found in him an apt pupil in the school of patriotism. His law tutor was an ardent patriot also, and these influences, combined with his own natural bias, made him espouse the republican cause with hearty zeal.

He labored assiduously to have the whole province take the road toward freedom, yet his labor seemed almost fruitless. But at length the fruits of the zeal of himself and others began to appear and in the winter of 1776, the Assembly of Georgia declared for the patriot cause and in February appointed five delegates to the Continental Congress. Of these delegates, Mr. Walton was one.

Mr. Walton was favorable to the proposition for independence and he used all his influence to bring about that result. He voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence and the fortune and honor he there pledged, were freely devoted to its support.

In October 1779, the Legislature of Georgia appointed Mr. Walton governor of the State. He did not hold that office long for in January 1780, he was elected to a seat in Congress for two years, but in October following he withdrew from that body and was again elected governor of his State which office he then held a full term. Near the close of the term, he was appointed by the Legislature as Chief Justice of the State and he retained that office until his death.

His useful life was terminated in Augusta, Georgia, on the second day of February 1804 when he was in the sixty-fourth year of his age. Judge Walton was universally beloved by those who knew him intimately and the carpenter's apprentice became the most exalted citizen of the Commonwealth in which he resided. Even at this late day, the remembrance of his services and exalted character is fresh in the hearts of the people.

Addendum:

Beginning on July 4, 1776 and following over the next six months, fifty-sex men wrote their signature on the Declaration of Independence with representatives from all thirteen colonies participating. On September 17, 1787, forty men signed the Constitution of the United States with signatories representing twelve of the original thirteen colonies participating with the State of Rhode Island excepted.

Of the fifty-six men who signed the Declaration, only six affixed their name to the Constitution: Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert Morris, Benjamin Franklin, George Clymer, and James Wilson of Pennsylvania, and George Read of Delaware.

Information about each of the thirteen men referenced in this study are excerpted from a book first published in 1848 and reprinted in 1995. Publication data of the book *Signers of the Declaration of Independence* and a source for its purchase are noted below.

> **Benson J. Lossing, Biographical Sketches of the Signers of the Declaration of American Independence (New York: George F. Cooledge & Brother, 1848; repr., Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, WallBuilder Press, 1995).**

Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence may be purchased from the following link to Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Signers-Declaration-Independence-Benson-Lossing/dp/0925279455/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1467312728&sr=1-1&keywords=lives+of+the+signers+of+the+declaration+of+independence+1848

(End J416-01: Men of the Declaration)