

ARKANSAS SUPPLEMENT



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Photos from Philadelphia

T.J. Henwood



These pictures of Independence Square in Philadelphia were taken by TJH in July, 2008.



Note Sunburst detail in back of Washington's chair.



Signing Room in Independence Hall.
 Foreground: Thomas Jefferson's desk with his cane.
 Background: Secretary's desk with silver inkwell used to sign Declaration of Independence. George Washington's chair behind desk.

Right, for "Nat'l. Treasure" fans: The "timely shadow" does indeed fall on the western wall at 3:20 PM.



**R.: E.: Grand Commander
 Burt F. Lee**



Greetings, Sir Knights:

Again this year, our Grand Commander is asking his officer line to write these articles, in turn. This month's article is from our Grand Capt. General, ESK Thomas Liles. *Editor*

Independence Day

Independence Day is the national holiday of the United States of America commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

At the time of the signing the US consisted of 13 colonies under The rule of England's King George III. There was growing unrest in the colonies concerning "Taxation without Representation". In 1774 the 13 colonies sent delegates to Philadelphia Pennsylvania to form the First Continental Congress. The delegates were unhappy with England, but were not yet ready to declare war. The battle of Concord and its "shot heard round the world" would mark the unofficial beginning of the colonies was for Independence. A committee was formed in June 1776 to compose a formal declaration of independence. After various changes a vote was taken late in the afternoon of July 4th. Of the 13 colonies, 9 voted in favor of the Declaration, 2 – Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted no, Delaware undecided and

New York abstained. To make it official John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. It is said that John Hancock signed his name "with a great flourish" so "King George can Read that without spectacles!"

During the War for American Independence, many American lodges lost contact with their mother Grand Lodge in England. When the war ended in 1783, primary attention was given to establishing Grand Lodges in the United States. Conferral of the associated degrees and orders tended to lapse while Constitutions, Statutes and Rituals were devised to govern Symbolic Freemasonry in the new Country. After Grand Lodges had been established in the various states, those Organizations were in a position to develop without conflicting with The new Masonic Laws.

The first Grand Encampment to be formed in the United States was in Pennsylvania when the two Philadelphia Encampments met in Convention with the Encampment from Harrisburg and Carlisle in Philadelphia on May 12, 1797. This grand body soon became dormant and no records of their activities have survived.

Tom Liles
 Grand Capt. General