

## Declaration of Independence

### Creating the Declaration of Independence

[http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/creatingtheus/DeclarationofIndependence/ExhibitObjects/INT\\_Declaration.aspx](http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/creatingtheus/DeclarationofIndependence/ExhibitObjects/INT_Declaration.aspx)

The "original Rough draught" of the Declaration of Independence, one of the great milestones in American history.

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trt001.html>

This is the only surviving fragment of the broadside of the Declaration of Independence printed by John Dunlap and sent on July 6, 1776, to George Washington by John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. General Washington had this Declaration read to his assembled troops on July 9 in New York, where they awaited the combined British fleet and army.

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trt024.html>

The Declaration of Independence was the defining moment of Jefferson's life. He envisioned a utopian political arena of continuous revolution, where each generation remade its laws and constitutions. In his letter to Roger Weightman, the mayor of Washington, Jefferson continued to espouse his vision of the Declaration and the nation as signals to the world of the blessings of self-government in an ever-evolving society.

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trt005.html>

### Jefferson's "original Rough draught" of the Declaration of Independence

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/declara/ruffdrft.html>

Drafting the Declaration of Independence in 1776 became the defining event in Thomas Jefferson's life. Despite Jefferson's desire to return to Virginia to help write that state's constitution, the Continental Congress appointed him to the five-person committee for drafting a declaration of independence.

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/jefferson/jeffdec.html>