

WHO SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?

The Declaration of Independence was a document written by the American patriots in the summer of 1776. It announced to the world that the American colonies were now their own country, the United States of America. Starting on July 4, 1776, 56 men from all 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence. Three of the men were from New Hampshire.



JOSIAH BARTLETT

Age in 1776: 46
Lived in: Kingston
Job: Doctor

Josiah Bartlett traveled to Philadelphia to meet with other patriot leaders in 1775. In the spring of 1776, Josiah was the first person in the Continental Congress to vote for independence for the American colonies. After the congress wrote the Declaration of Independence, Josiah was the second person to sign it.

Josiah Bartlett



MATTHEW THORNTON

Age in 1776: 62
Lived in: Londonderry
Job: Doctor

By the time the American Revolution started, Matthew Thornton was too old to fight. Instead, he helped write the New Hampshire Constitution before traveling to Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence. He was the last person to sign the declaration. He didn't make it to Philadelphia until November 1776!

Matthew Thornton



WILLIAM WHIPPLE

Age in 1776: 46
Lived in: Portsmouth
Job: Merchant

William Whipple owned lots of ships and was a rich businessman. He was elected to the Continental Congress in 1776. He signed the Declaration of Independence right below Josiah Bartlett. After William signed it, he became a brigadier general in the New Hampshire state militia and fought in the Revolutionary War.

Wm Whipple

A REPRESENTATIVE IS SOMEONE PICKED TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR A BIGGER GROUP OF PEOPLE. THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS WAS A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL 13 COLONIES WHICH BECAME THE FIRST GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. Compare the information about the signers of the Declaration of Independence from New Hampshire. Who entered the state militia after signing? Who voted for independence for the American colonies first?
2. Why do you think the signers were doctors and merchants instead of politicians?
3. Do you think it's important that representatives from all 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence? Why or why not?