

Dear Lasse,

9/28/91

Please do me a favor and include your return address on the letter or envelope because with my problem from standing still, the more damaged leg swelling rapidly, getting into files is a bit awkward. In the past you have, which I appreciate.

Wrone is a dear friend and I'm glad he was helpful to you. He always is. And he is a fine teacher, a popular professor at his university.

Paul Hoch and I have been friends for 25 years, from when he was a student. While he and I agree that what Oliver Stone is up to will be bad, will misinform and mislead many, many people, there are some things on which we do not agree. Like his support for some of the conspiracy theories. He is a very good and a very bright person. The book he coauthored is along that line and I think of no real value. If still available.

Garrison is not easy to characterize. I'm sure he is serious and I'm sure he is happy with the publicity but the former does not mean that what he believes is true or that what he writes is accurate. Everything from him has to be questioned because he just made so much of it up. And that is what Oliver Stone just loved and is filming, ~~XXX~~ Or by now has. He is editing it now... No serious scholars pay any attention to him or have any hope for the Stone production being any good.

I am sorry if I confused you about Caesar Rodney. He was dead by the civil war. He did have that mad dash to Philadelphia by road today that is about 80 miles and in those days without any real roads ~~much~~ have been longer. I'm surprised that TIME says he did that in a day. He and the horse must have been exhausted! But it is over him that ~~Delaware~~ Delaware calls itself the first state and Wilmington, where I was raised, the first city of the first state.

On TIME, under its founder, Henry Luce, it was quite conservative and angled its news that way. His wife, Claire Booth Luce, was of his beliefs and also was influential. I started reading TIME faithfully about 1930 or so but finally stopped because so much was angled to support Luce's view of the world. I no longer see it. But over the years it has to have changed much. Its Washington bureau chief, who I see on TV, remains a Reaganite reactionary.

I also no longer see Newsweek or US News and World Report but I have the impression that both are more or less like TIME, Newsweek perhaps a little liberal on some issues and the other more right-wing.

Before he was President and for at least the first part of his Presidency I believe that Luce would have approved of him and what he did, as you seem to suggest.

If I did not tell you, the public square in the center of Wilmington, which the city hall faces, is Rodney Square. In its center is a large statue of him on a rearing horse, as is popular for military figures.

Best regards,

Harold

Publisher Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
R.d.Frederick  
M.D.21701  
U.S.A.

Dear Harold.

Dragør 18/9-91

I have received your letter of august the 29th, and as you know have I also received a kind letter and some copies of his book, from your good friend David Wrone. I appreciate your efforts in getting me this material.

At the same time I received the latest "Newsletter" from Mr.Paul Hoch "Echoes of Conspiracy" so together with the book from David Wrone, it makes a lot of reading for me the next many days.

In that connection, I haven't quite understand before what reputation Garrison had among the serious investigators like you and Paul Hoch in the JFK-case. I have never read some of his work, because when you read so many books where Garrison is mentioned, is it very confusing to find out whether he is serious or just seeking publicity.

Therefore I have decided not to take him to seriously. But as I see it. Paul Hoch and many other investigators are not among his fans. I can understand if you and Paul Hoch, if I am not mistaken, are watching on the sideline with dismay, when all the serious work that have been done by serious scolars through the years, now is been turned around in this commercial project by Oliver Stone and Jim Garrison.

To get back to another part of the american history. Your remarks in your letter on the american civil war, and your familiarity with some of the historic places from that time, gave me some more work. I have been studying the civil war before, but have never heard of Caesar Rodney. That gave me a chance to look through my old copies of "Time Magazine". I have been a subscriber of this magazine from 1975, and keep all the editions for historical purposes. Among this I came across an edition they published on the fourth of july 1976, and was edited as the magazine would have been on the same date in 1776. Among this articles I found Caesar Rodney mentioned.

Speaking of "Time". I have never found out where they stand in their opinion of John Kennedy from the time he became President and after. I believe that the founder of the magazine Henry Luce, was a great admirer of Eisenhower and Nixon before 1960, but thereafter became convinced that Kennedy was not so bad as President. You may correct me if I am wrong. But anyway, I like to read the magazine, because it gives me a chance to follow up on what happens in the world, and especially in the United States.

It is always a pleasure to receive your letters, and I am very grateful for that you take some of your time to write to me.

Yours

Lasse Larsen

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lasse", written in dark ink below the typed name.

SPECIAL 1776 ISSUE

# TIME



Thomas  
Jefferson

# INDEPENDENCE!

ONE DOLLAR

JULY 4, 1776

AMERICAN NOTES

Tyrant Transmuted

Apparently all things will have their uses in this war, even a statue of scepter-wielding, toga-robed King George III. The 2-ton equestrian figure of gold-leafed lead was installed at New York's Bowling Green just six years ago to symbolize a "deep sense of the eminent and singular benefits received from him." This week, after the Declaration of Independence was officially read to the populace on the Common in the presence of General George Washington, a huge crowd surged down Broad Way to wreak vengeance on the statue. Having drunk plenty of rum and ale, the crowd first pulled the royal horse from its pedestal, then hacked off the King's head, fired a musket shot into it, pounded away the nose and pried off the laurel wreath. With fife and drums playing *The Rogue's March*, the crowd carried off the mangled head, which eventually disappeared. The carcass is to be cut up and shipped to Connecticut, where patriotic women plan to melt the lead down into ammunition. Estimated result: more than 42,000 bullets with which to drive out the fallen King's lobsterbacks.

The Last Governor

England and her colonies (now to be known as states) have come to a parting, but not everything need end in bloodshed and hatred. That was well demonstrated by Maryland's Governor Robert Eden, who stayed at his post long after his fellow Governors had fled. For his safety, he relied primarily on the af-

fection he had earned during his seven years in office. He had traveled widely throughout Maryland, entertained handsomely,\* organized the building of a theatre, and consistently tried to reconcile London and the Colonies. This enraged General Charles Lee, Continental commander for the southern region, who demanded last month that the Maryland Council "get rid of their damn'd government." The Baltimore Committee of Observation sent a band of men to kidnap Eden, but the Annapolis authorities repelled them. Only in May did the Maryland State Convention finally request that Eden "depart peaceably with all his effects." Eden agreed. A fortnight ago, the entire Annapolis Council of Safety went to take what one witness called "an affectionate leave of their late supreme magistrate." As he boarded a British warship, the citizenry presented him with several sheep, lambs and baby hogs. His well-wishers hoped he would return "whenever we shall happily be restored to peace."

A Vote for Every Man?

As the 13 states continue working out a series of new constitutions, they seem to hold widely differing views on a fundamental question: Who shall vote? Most states restrict the franchise to adult white males, but North Carolina permits Negro freeholders to vote, and New Jersey does not specifically ban women (although no women have actually voted there). Maryland excludes

\*The Governor's love of comfort hardly exceeds that of his predecessor, Horatio Sharpe, whose mansion, Whitehall, contains the only water closet in the Colonies.

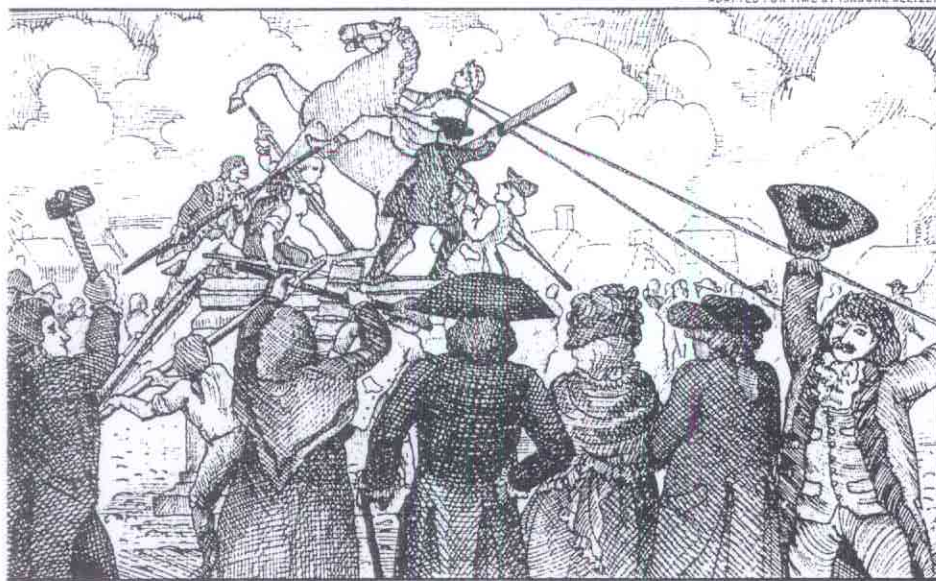
all "Papists," the original settlers, who are now only 8 percent of the population, while New York also has passed a resolution to bar Jews (a tiny group numbering only about 250). Among the most important restrictions are the property requirements that exist in twelve states, ranging from Georgia's rule that a voter must own 50 acres to South Carolina's granting a vote to anyone who has paid 10 shillings in taxes.

Such restrictions have a notable effect. According to recent figures, only about 8 percent of New York's citizens are eligible to vote, and only 3 percent of Bostonians actually do vote. But while the arguments for a limited franchise may seem self-evident in a Europe that is ridden with paupers, it is far less justifiable among the prosperous citizens of America. Indeed, the slogan "No taxation without representation" can reasonably be applied to American legislatures as well as to Parliament. And there are signs that an increasing number of people realize it. New Hampshire, which used to require £50 worth of property, now demands only that every voter be a taxpayer, male, white and 21. This is a change that should be encouraged. For as Benjamin Franklin has said, "the franchise is the common right of free men."

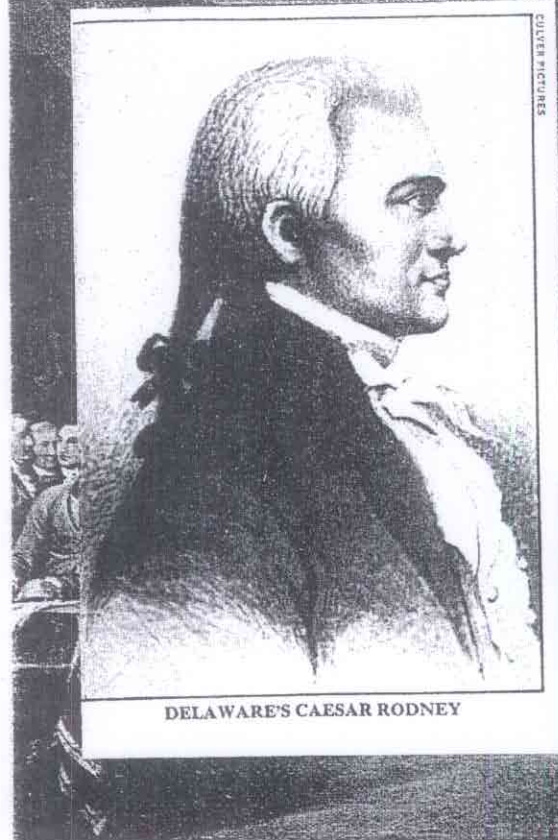
Beyond the Wilderness

It is customary for Americans to think of this continent mainly in terms of the Atlantic settlements and the wilderness to the west, but another process of settlement is also taking place on the distant coast of the Pacific. Just the week before last, a weary band of 193 Spanish colonists and their families arrived at a large bay on the coast and pitched their tents. This sixth and northernmost Spanish installation in Upper California is on what the Spaniards have named the Bay of San Francisco.

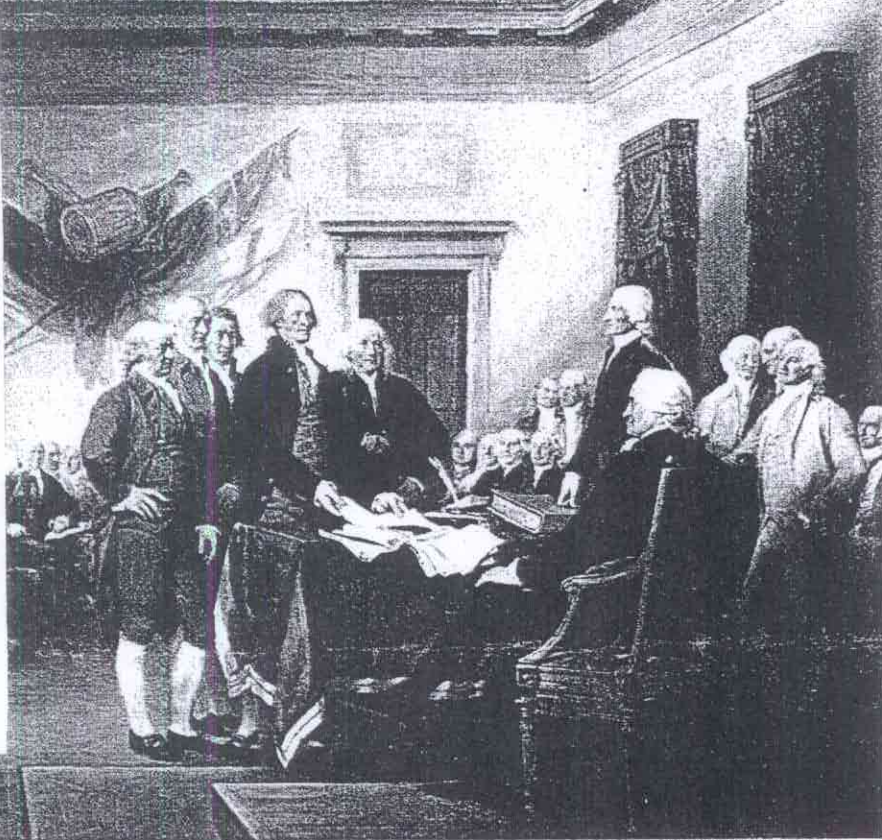
The colonists, who come from earlier settlements in Mexico, include both soldiers and priests; their plan is not just to subdue the Indians but to convert them to Catholicism. This is not always successful. Only last November a band of Indians attacked the mission at San Diego and killed three settlers. At the Bay of San Francisco, however, Missionary Father Francisco Palóu reports that the colonists so far have been "well received by all the heathen whom we met. They brought their gifts of mussels and wild seeds, which were reciprocated with beads. . . . And they were astonished at the cattle, which they had never seen before." Apparently it is chiefly the Spaniards' missionary fervor that drives them into these wilds, for there is no gold in California, and by most accounts it is a rough and desolate place, hardly worth settling at all.



NEW YORK CROWD TAKING VENGEANCE ON STATUE OF KING GEORGE III  
They chopped off the monarch's head and then shot at it.



DELAWARE'S CAESAR RODNEY



JOHN TRUMBULL'S VERSION OF PHILADELPHIA SCENE: JEFFERSON & COMMITTEE PRESENT DECLARATION TO HANCOCK

YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

THE DECLARATION/COVER STORY

# INDEPENDENCE:

## The Birth of a New America

At 6 o'clock last Tuesday morning in Philadelphia, Virginia Delegate Thomas Jefferson looked out at the gray sky and then noted that his thermometer registered 70°. Soon afterward, there came a crack of lightning and a sudden deluge. By 9 o'clock, the city was awash. Nearly 50 delegates to the Second Continental Congress slowly filled the ground-floor meeting room of the State House on Walnut Street. They conversed quietly but kept a watchful eye on everyone who came through the door. The room steamed. The only consolation in keeping the windows closed against rain was that they also excluded the horseflies from a nearby stable.

The day before, a preliminary vote on Virginian Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence showed nine of the colonies in favor, two (South Carolina and Pennsylvania) opposed, New York abstaining and Delaware deadlocked. To decide such momentous business—cutting much of a continent and its 2.5 million inhabitants free from the British Empire—the Congress hoped for virtual unanimity. Anything less might poison the enterprise with disunity. Hence the delegates' anxiety on the morning of July 2.

A rumor passed through the hall

that Pennsylvania would come over. South Carolina's Edward Rutledge entered smiling—his colony, too, would vote for independence. New York's men still awaited instructions from home, but they would not dissent. That left only Delaware stalemated—one delegate in favor, one opposed, and one back home on business. Bostonian John Hancock, President of the Congress, rapped his gavel. Secretary Charles Thomson began rereading the resolution aloud prior to a vote.

Then over the cobblestones outside came a rattle of horse's hoofs. Soaking wet and mud-splattered, his face gray with fatigue, Delaware's third delegate, Farmer Caesar Rodney, had ridden all night from Dover after an express rider informed him of his colony's stalemate. He wore a green silk handkerchief, now nearly black with road dirt, to cover the lower part of his face, which is afflicted by a cancer. "The thunder and rain delayed me," Rodney said matter-of-factly as he entered the hall.

There, without dissent, the disparate colonies of America at last took the step

that severed their 169-year-old political ties with the mother country, proclaiming that they "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." Independence—the process as painful and bloody as birth—represents a unique historic experiment, a visionary gamble that a various people can literally will themselves into a separate political being on a new continent. Boston's John Adams is already predicting exultantly: "The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epocha in the history of America."

Although independence had been months, even years, in coming, the week's events seemed startling in their sudden finality. July 2 declared the fact of separation. In another two days, on July 4, the Congress endorsed an extraordinary document, a Declaration that stated the Colonies' numerous reasons for leaving the imperial embrace. That date and that document may eventually loom larger in the American mind than what happened on July 2, for the Declaration,

# Editing the Declaration

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE underwent numerous changes, mostly minor but some major, before Congress approved it last week. The editing process is illustrated in key excerpts. The words that are crossed out and replaced in roman type are alterations made after Thomas Jefferson consulted with John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. The bracketed words were cut and the italicized words were added by the Congress.

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one <sup>to</sup> dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to <sup>advance from that subordination in which they have hitherto remained, & to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal</sup> ~~equal & independent~~ station to which the laws of nature & of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to <sup>the separation.</sup> ~~the change.~~ <sup>self-evident;</sup>

"We hold these truths to be <sup>sacred & undeniable;</sup> that all men are created equal & independent; that <sup>they are endowed</sup> from that equal creation they derive in rights <sup>certain</sup> [inherent &] inalienable\* among which <sup>these</sup> are the preservation of life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these <sup>rights</sup> ends, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government shall become <sup>s</sup> destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it. . ."

The Declaration then lists 27 specific charges against King George III. Among the most important:

"he has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good: . . .

"he has dissolved, Representative houses repeatedly [&

continually], for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people: . . .

"he has [suffered] *obstructed* the administration of justice [totally to cease in some of these <sup>states</sup> colonies]. . .

"he has made [our] judges dependent on his will alone. . .

"he has kept among us in times of peace standing armies [& without the consent of our legislatures: ships of war] <sup>^</sup>

"he has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitutions and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their <sup>acts of</sup> pretended acts of legislation. . . for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world; for imposing taxes on us without our consent; for depriving us in many cases of the benefits of trial by jury. . ."

The Declaration concludes:

"We therefore the representatives of the United states of America in General Congress assembled *appealing to the supreme judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions*, do, in the name & by authority of the good people of these [states, reject & renounce all allegiance & subjection to the kings of Great Britain . . . & finally we do assert & declare these colonies to be free & independent states.] *colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United colonies are, and of right ought to be, free & independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown . . .* & that as free & independent states they shall hereafter have <sup>full</sup> power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, & to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes & our sacred honour."

\*This word was changed — to "unalienable" — apparently by the first printer, John Dunlap of Philadelphia.

