



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

The Real Independence Day



JOHN HANCOCK



WISSEF COONWALLIS SUPERINTENDENT



INDEPENDENCE HALL

SINCE we bent over our childhood histories we have always had an idea that our fathers severed the ties with Great Britain on the Fourth of July, 1776, and we have had the word of no less authority than Thomas Jefferson, the author of that hallowed instrument, that the Declaration was signed on that date, on whose anniversary the great father of democracy died. But William H. Michael, chief clerk and historian of the department of state, says no, and for years he has toiled for his country beneath the same roof which shelters the sacred document; has had the nation's archives at his fingers' ends.

"The independence of the United States was declared by resolution on the 2nd of July, and the adoption of the form of declaration on the 4th of July was a secondary matter," says Mr. Michael. "It is a little strange that more importance was not attached to the 2d of July in connection with the Declaration of Independence. The resolution introduced by Richard Henry Lee, which declared our independence, was passed on that day (July 2, 1776). This was really the vital point—the crucial juncture."

The real act of independence, which Mr. Michael has had reproduced in fac-simile, was, then, the Lee resolution, declaring:

"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."

Concerning the actual date of the Declaration's signing, Mr. Michael says: "Mr. Jefferson in his account states that all the members present, except Mr. Dickinson, signed the Declaration in the evening of the Fourth of July. The journal shows that no one signed it that evening except Mr. Hancock and Mr. Thomson. The journal entry is: 'Signed by order and in behalf of Congress, John Hancock, President. Attest, Charles Thomson, Secretary.' . . . On August 2 the Declaration, as engrossed under the order of Congress, was signed by all of the members of Congress present."

What really did happen on July 4 of that year of years was the final adoption of a draft of the "form of announcing the fact to the world" that independence had been decreed two days before. Jefferson had written this draft in his Philadelphia apartments, consisting of a ready-furnished parlor and bedroom in the new brick house of Hyman Gratz at the southwest corner of Seventh and Market streets, "on the outskirts of the city." The Penn national bank, now occupying the site of this dwelling, is in the very business heart of Philadelphia.

Jefferson's disgust at the changes made in his draft is described by Mr. Michael. The Continental Congress struck out the language charging the king with inciting "treasonable insurrections with out fellow-citizens," by promising them confiscated property; with carrying on the slave trade and refusing to allow American legislatures to suppress it. While these and many other clauses were being stricken out of his draft "Jefferson sat in his seat without raising his voice in defense of his own work, notwithstanding he writhed in agony as he saw some of his most cherished paragraphs and sentences eliminated from the document." The historian, John Adams, otherwise a critic of the Declaration, complained that some of the draft's best parts, particularly that indicting the king for continuing the slave trade, should not have been stricken out. "Yet it will be well to remember," Mr. Michael says, "that Georgia and South Carolina were both carrying on the slave trade at this time as energetically as they were able, and other colonies had profited largely by the traffic. Hence it was ridiculous to arraign the king for doing the same thing."

After very heated discussions of this form of announcing Congress' real stroke of independence, on July 2—discussions which kept Independence Hall, Philadelphia, in a whirl of excitement throughout the next two days—this form of announcement, the Declaration of Independence, was adopted on the night of July 4. At the close of that evening's session Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress, went to the shop of John Dunlay, the official printer, and had the corrected draft set up. Copies of this first "broadside print" were sent to the assemblies, conventions and councils of safety throughout the colonies and to the commanding officers of the Continental troops. It is probable that it was one of these printed copies, bearing the names of Hancock and Thomson only, that George Washington ordered proclaimed at the head of the Continental regiments.

But the "original Declaration," which all pilgrims to Washington formerly gazed upon in awe and reverence, was not ordered written for more than two weeks after that long but unjustly halloved July 4. On July 19 Congress ordered that the Declaration be "fairly engrossed on parchment," and that "the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of Congress." Some time within the next two weeks the beautiful penwork which thousands of Americans have since

marveled at and admired was executed upon the great strip of sheepskin now locked away in the department of state, Washington.

On August 2, 1776, just a month after the real stroke of independence, this great sheepskin was unrolled in the presence of the Continental Congress, in Independence Hall. With the wording of the corrected draft it was carefully "compared at the table." This formality gone through with, it was spread out upon a desk and signed by all of the members of Congress present. Fifty of these fathers of the republic signed on that day. Six of the revered "signers" did not affix their signatures until later dates: George Wythe of Virginia signed about August 27. Richard Henry Lee, Virginia; Elbridge Gerry, Massachusetts; and Oliver Wolcott, Connecticut, did not affix their signatures until some time in September. Matthew Thornton of New Hampshire did not add his name until November, and Thomas McKean of Delaware probably did not affix his, the final signature, until five years later, or 1781. Matthew Thornton, by the way, was not appointed to Congress until November—four months after the adoption of the Declaration. Other signers who were not members of Congress on July 2 or 4, but were allowed to sign on August 2, the general signing day, were Benjamin Rush, James Wilson, George Ross, George Clymer and George Taylor.

Why two Georgia members did not sign is explained by Mr. Michael. One of these, Rev. John Joachim Zubly of Savannah, as soon as it became apparent that independence was to be declared, had fled post haste from Philadelphia to Georgia with the intention of apprising Sir James Wright, the crown governor of Georgia, of what was going on behind the closed doors of independence Hall. Zubly's conduct having excited suspicion, he had been closely watched, and one of his letters to the British governor had been seized. It appearing beyond doubt that he was divulging the secrets of the executive sessions, then so zealously planning the stroke for liberty, he had been accused of his perfidy on the floor of the Congress by Samuel Chase, member from Maryland. Zubly had denied these charges, and challenged proof. It had been the furnishing of this proof that had caused his flight. Congress directed John Houston, another Georgia delegate, to follow Zubly and circumvent his evil purposes. By the time both members reached Georgia, however, the crown governor had been deposed by the people, and had taken refuge in an armed British vessel lying in Savannah harbor. Thus Zubly's treachery came to naught, but it cheated Houston out of his opportunity to sign the Declaration, and left Georgia with only three instead of five signers. Why Houston did not sign with the other tardy members is not discussed in the history, but his name should be as endeared to the hearts of Americans as any of the actual signers. Zubly, by the way, after being banished from Georgia, with the loss of half of his estate, was allowed to return to his pastoral work in Savannah, which city honors him by allowing two highways to bear his name—Joachim and Zubly streets.

Twenty-four of the signers were lawyers, fourteen agriculturists, four physicians, nine merchants, one a manufacturer, one a clergyman and three had prepared for the calling of clergymen, but had chosen other vocations, according to Mr. Michael. Heaven seems to have rewarded them generally with long life, for three lived to be over 90, ten over 80, eleven over 70, fourteen over 60, eleven over 50, and six over 44, although one, Thomas Lynch, Jr., was accidentally drowned at sea when only 30. Thus the average age of the signers was over 62 years.

What has happened to the famous Declaration since its signing is recounted by Mr. Michael. In 1789, Congress authorized "the secretary for the department of foreign affairs" to take charge of it, along with other records, books and papers of the Continental Congress. The same year the department of foreign affairs became the department of state, which has, to all intents and purposes, remained the depository of the Declaration ever since. The great document was from 1841 to 1877, however, deposited in the patent office, for many years a bureau of the department of state, and was allowed to remain there after the patent office was placed under the interior department, the old department of state not being fireproof, while the patent office building was believed to be so. After the present fireproof state, war and navy building was finished the declaration was returned to its legal depository.

Until 1804 the Declaration was framed and displayed in a steel cabinet in the library of the department of state, where all visitors might see it, but in that year it was hermetically sealed in a frame and placed in a drawer of another steel cabinet constructed to protect also the original signed copy of the Constitution. Here the Declaration still remains, locked and sealed by order of Secretary Hay, and it is no longer shown to any one, except by his direction.

A complete collection of biographies and artistic portraits of the signers of the Declaration has been made by Mr. Michael for his work, which will be distributed only through members of Congress. Only by dint of correspondence extending over many years and great personal effort has Mr. Michael obtained the portraits of Button, Gwinnett, John Hart and Thomas Lynch, of whom it was hitherto believed there were no likenesses in existence. Most of the portraits are after Trumbull and the one of Benjamin Harrison, by this artist, had to be painted after Harrison's death from minute personal descriptions furnished by relatives and friends who approved the finished likeness.

The Sage of Monticello

"The Sage of Monticello" is the nickname that was applied to Thomas Jefferson for the same reason and in much the same manner as Daniel Webster was given the title "The Sage of Marshfield." Jefferson won the title of "sage" for the many glorious truths he uttered, and as Webster loved every inch of the ground of the beautiful Cape Cod village of Marshfield, and its calm scenery he believed gave him just such inspiration as he needed, so at Monticello, Jefferson's Virginia estate, the great statesman found the most delightful retreat from his labors, and the essence of contentment, which inspired him to larger, greater and more beneficial things for the betterment of his country.

Jefferson was born at Shadwell, the homestead of the family, near Charlottesville, Va. When that estate was destroyed by fire in 1770, along with its furniture, books and his law papers, he sought out another location which was even more attractive to him. About two miles from the Shadwell house was a hill named by Jefferson, Monticello (little mount). This eminence commanded a view of surprising beauty, and he chose this place as the site for a mansion that should embody his ideas of architecture—an art upon which he expended much thought and in which he was more than an amateur. After the fire the building of a new house upon his "little mount" was pushed rapidly, and in something more than a year a section was made ready for occupancy.

In 1772 Jefferson married and brought to his new mansion Martha Skelton, a childless widow of 22. In a letter written from Paris in 1786 to Mrs. Maria Conway, Jefferson, referring to his home, said: "And our own dear Monticello, where has nature spread so rich a mantle under the eye? Mountains, forests, rocks, rivers. With what majesty do we there ride above the storms. How sublime to look down into the workhouse of nature, to see her clouds, hail, snow, rain, thunder, all fabricated at our feet! And the glorious sun when rising as if out of a distant water, just gilding the tops of the mountains, and giving life to all nature."

Jefferson's public life began in 1769, when he took his seat as a member of the Virginia house of burgesses. He was twenty-six years of age at the time. This was only a little more than two years previous to his occupancy of Monticello, which he called his home during the remainder of his life.

Therefore all the great things in the life of this great American were centered about this "little mount," and next to the home of Washington at Mount Vernon, the home of Jefferson at Monticello, both in the same state, is one of the great American shrines.

CONTROL OF INJURIOUS PEAR SLUG IS DIFFICULT PROBLEM

Hellebore, Lead Arsenate and Paris Green Among Least Expensive of Sprays for Eradication of Pest Which Common in Several States in Central Part of Country.

(By R. L. WEBSTER.)
Nearly every year cherry and plum trees in the central states suffer a large amount of damage on account of the common pear slug, or cherry slug. While the control of this insect has not been considered a very difficult problem, yet it often happens that foliage is greatly damaged before the owner is aware that any slugs are on his trees.

The pear slug, or cherry slug, is a dark, almost black, silmy slug, about two-fifths of an inch long when full grown, which feeds on cherry, pear and plum leaves.

These slugs feed on the upper sides of the leaves, eating out all the tissue except the veins and the lower surface. The injured leaves become dry and brown and fall from the trees, which are sometimes left entirely bare of foliage in midsummer.

Trees are often killed as a result of repeated defoliation. A short crop of fruit follows a severe attack by this

Paris green, one pound in 150 gallons of water, is also effective. Some quicklime, about a pound to each 50 gallons of water, should be added to the spray, to prevent burning of the leaves.

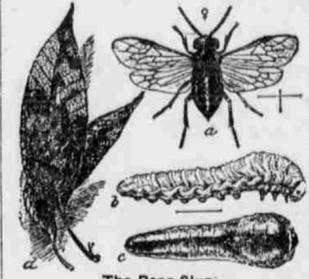
Kerosene emulsion—kerosene, two gallons; hard soap, one-half pound; water, one gallon—is good. The soap is dissolved by boiling in water and is then churned up with the kerosene until the two are emulsified into a white, creamy mixture. The stock solution is then diluted with water, while still warm, to the required amount. To obtain a ten per cent. solution one part of the stock solution, prepared as stated, should be diluted with 6 2-3 parts of water.

Wheal oil soap, one pound to two gallons of water; white laundry soap and Ivory soap, one ten-ounce bar to two gallons of water, have proven effective. The soap is merely dissolved in water by boiling, and sprayed while still warm.

Hellebore, lead arsenate and paris green are the least expensive of these treatments. If a spraying is necessary while there is fruit on the trees, hellebore or some other material than arsenical should be used.

Cultivation under infested trees is of value, since it disturbs the cocoons in the soil there.

Since the slugs spend the greater part of the year in the ground under the trees infested in the summer it follows that a thorough stirring of the soil would tend to break up the cocoons containing the slugs, and so expose them to the elements. Berlese has suggested this measure against this insect in Italy. This cultivation would be most effective in the fall so that the cocoons might be exposed during the winter. Spring cultivation



The Pear Slug.

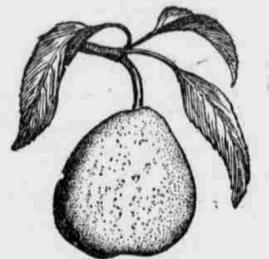
insect, on account of the weakened condition of the tree.

Trees that have been damaged by the slugs appear as if they had been damaged by fire. The leaves turn brown, curl up and finally fall. Cherry trees, under such conditions, are forced to put out a new growth of leaves, weakening the tree and reducing the crop of fruit the following year.

The slugs appear twice during the year, and trees should be sprayed as soon as they appear. They first make their appearance about the middle of June, and the second appearance is about the third week in July.

Insect powder can be used against these slugs by merely dusting it over the leaves.

Hellebore may be used either in a dry or liquid form. It must be fresh for effective use. For a dry applica-



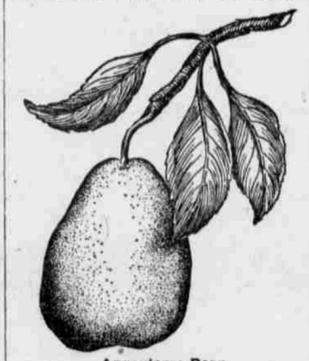
Easter Beurre Pear.

would also be of value in disturbing the cocoons.

According to Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the bureau of entomology at Washington, the slugs may be easily washed off of small trees by a strong stream of water applied from a garden hose under heavy pressure. When washed to the ground they are unable to regain their places on the leaves. Such a measure as this would be quite feasible on a small scale in cities, or where water pressure is available.

Spraying is undoubtedly the best remedy for the pear slug. Of the two generations the first is the harder to combat, especially on cherry trees, since the fruit is present on the trees at about the same time that the slugs are abundant. Consequently due care must be taken in the use of arsenical poisons at that time. Arsenical poisons may be used freely for the second generation in the late summer.

The pear slug is rarely destructive in any locality for many years at a time. This alternating abundance and scarcity of the insect is due for the most part to the activity of its natural enemies, the most abundant of which are two small egg parasites.



Angouleme Pear.

tion use hellebore, one pound to five pounds of air-slaked lime. For a liquid application use it one pound to a barrel of water.

Lead arsenate (prepared), two pounds in 50 gallons of water, is effective.

TEACH COLT TO BE HALTER-WISE

Young Horses Should Be Taken in Hand When Little Fellows and Quite Easily Handled.

(By M. COVERDELLE.)

You often see a man kick and cuff the colt around every time it happens to get in the way.

After a while you will notice this same fellow with the family out helping him to hem up a two-year-old colt while he can put a halter on him.

And for the first two or three times they get the halter on they have a regular circus in teaching the animal to lead and be halter-wise. It's mighty hard and dangerous work, too, this breaking in big, strong, two-year-old colts.

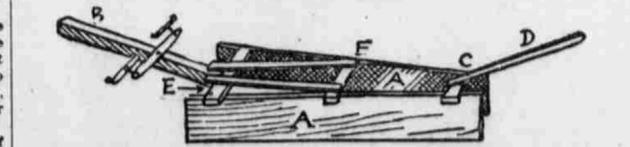
Why not take the little fellows in

hand when they are small, easily handled and quick to learn? Slip the halter on the colt occasionally. By slow degrees get it accustomed to leading up when the lead-strap is tightened and you move.

But don't get in a hurry. The colt has been used to going ahead of you so don't expect it to follow too soon. A lump of sugar or a few oats held in the hand just in front of the little fellow are much better trainers in teaching it to lead than dragging it by the lead strap and having someone behind it with a club or a fishing pole to "shoo" it along.

Vegetables in China. In China the natives preserve vegetables by coating them with salt and drying them in the sun. Hams are cured by means of an alkaline earth and common salt. Pickled eggs are preserved with a compound of common mud, salt, saltpeter and soy bean sauce.

COVERING AND RIDGING POTATO



An implement for covering and ridging potatoes is shown in the illustration. The runners, A, A, are of hard wood, 6 feet long, six inches high and 2 inches thick, with iron plates on bottom. Front crosspiece E is 3 feet long and rear crosspiece C is 1 foot. One man drives while another holds rear end in place by the handle D. The device is handy and inexpensive.