By Arrangement with The Knapp Company, Inc.

1. Benjamin Harrison
2. John Hancock
3. John Adams
4. Thomas Jefferson
5. Josiah Bartlett
6. Benjamin Franklin
7. Roger Sherman
8. Robert Livingston
9. Philip Livingston
10. Lewis Morris
11. Samuel Adams
12. Richard Henry Lee
13. George Clymer
14. George Walton
15. Charles Carroll
16. Samuel Huntington
17. John Witherspoon
18. Robert Treat Paine
19. Thomas Stone
20. Oliver Walcott
21. Arthur Middleton
22. Elbridge Gerry
23. Edward Rutledge
24. Richard Stockton
25. Francis Lewis

The Signing of the Declaration of Independence

Painted by Sarah Paxton Ball Dodson

While the Fourth of July is accepted as the day of the signing, it is known that the document was not signed by some of the delegates until near the end of the year. On July 3d the Declaration was read and the convention voted in favor of it and authorized the presiding officer, John Hancock, and the Secretary to sign the document. Only a portion of the delegates affixed their signatures during July. There was no single hour during which all signed. The days of the convention were filled with hours of eager, anxious debate and of great excitement. The cause of democracy has moved swiftly forward during the years since these sterling Colonial patriots welded the thirteen original colonies into the free and independent United States of America.