

**Declaration of Independence Collection**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2015**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83018135>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016002>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016  
Revised 2021 September

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Declaration of Independence Collection

**Inclusive Dates:** 1776-1942

**ID No.:** MSS18135

**Extent:** 60 items

**Extent:** 1 containers plus 11 oversize

**Extent:** .4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83018135>

**Summary:** Miscellaneous copies of documents, mostly photostats, relating to the creation of the Declaration of Independence and its Virginia antecedents.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826.

Stone, William James, 1798-1865.

### Organizations

United States. Continental Congress.

United States. Declaration of Independence.

Virginia. Constitution (1776)

Virginia. Declaration of Rights.

### Places

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

United States--Politics and government--1775-1783.

Virginia--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

Virginia--Politics and government--1775-1783.

## Acquisition Information

The Declaration of Independence Collection consisting of miscellaneous copies of documents, mostly photostats, relating to the creation of the Declaration of Independence and its Virginia antecedents was obtained through various acquisitions and institutional sources, including the New York Public Library, University of Virginia Library, Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Department of State.

## Processing History

The collection was compiled and described in 1978 and revised in 2015.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings in the Declaration of Independence Collection in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## **Access and Restrictions**

The Declaration of Independence Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Declaration of Independence Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Declaration of Independence Collection, dating from 1776 to 1942, consists of miscellaneous copies of documents, mostly photostats, relating to the creation of the Declaration of Independence and its Virginia antecedents. Originals are at the Library of Congress, New York Public Library, University of Virginia Library, Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Department of State. Also in the collection are nineteenth and early twentieth-century printed copies of the Declaration of Independence. Of note are photostats of the Virginia Constitution and Declaration of Rights, 1776; photostats of the Resolution for Independence passed by the Continental Congress on June 7, 1776; photostats of Thomas Jefferson's record of debates in the Continental Congress, July 1-12, 1776 (originals in the Thomas Jefferson papers at the Library of Congress); and two copies of William James Stone's facsimile edition of the Declaration of Independence, published for the U.S. Secretary of State in 1823, and one later edition of Stone's facsimile. It is possible that some of these documents were assembled for a 1943 exhibition at the Library of Congress, "Genesis of the Declaration of Independence."

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged largely in chronological order.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1 FOLDER 1	"Ordinances Passed at a General Convention of Delegates and Representatives . . ." Williamsburg, May 6, 1776. Williamsburg: Alexander Purdie, 1776. Photostat.
BOX 1 FOLDER 2	"Instructions Given by the Convention of Virginia to their Delegates, May 15, 1776." Photostat. Signed by John Tazewell and Edmund Pendleton. Original at Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	Virginia Declaration of Rights
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	Ms draft, copy, George Mason. Photostat. Original at Library of Virginia.
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	Ms draft, copy, George Mason (not in Mason's hand). Photostat. Original in Emmet Collection, New York Public Library.
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	Ms draft, George Mason and Thomas Ludwell Lee. Photostat. Original in George Mason Papers, Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	"A Declaration of Rights," <i>Virginia Gazette</i> , June 1, 1776. Photostat.
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	"In Convention, June 12, 1776. A Declaration of Rights," <i>Virginia Gazette</i> , Postscript, June 14, 1776. Photostat.
BOX 1 FOLDER 4	Thomas Jefferson, Virginia Constitution, Notes
BOX 1 FOLDER 4	"Constitution of Virginia, first ideas of Th. J. Communicated to a member of the Convention." Ms. Photostats. Original in Thomas Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 4	"A Bill for new modelling the form of government and for establishing the Fundamental principles of our future Constitution." Ms., incomplete. Photostats. Original in Thomas Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress. With transcript.
BOX 1 FOLDER 5	Continental Congress, Richard Henry Lee, Resolution for Independence, undated [June 7, 1776]. Ms. Photostat. Original in Continental Congress Papers, Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 5	Continental Congress, Committee of the Whole, Resolution for Independence and the Appointment of a Committee to draft a Declaration of Independence, June 10, 1776. Photostat. Original at Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 6	William Fleming to Thomas Jefferson, Williamsburg, June 15, 1776. Photostat. Original at Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 6	William Fleming to Thomas Jefferson, Williamsburg, June 22, 1776, with enclosure: "A plan laid before a committee appointed to prepare a form of government," annotated. Photostats. Originals at Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 7	Virginia Constitution, 1776
BOX 1 FOLDER 7	James Madison, comparison of the Virginia Constitution as adopted, June 29, 1776, undated Photostat. Original at Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 7	Virginia Constitution, adopted June 29, 1776, printed.
BOX 1 FOLDER 8	Thomas Jefferson, record of debates in the Continental Congress, July 1-12, 1776, written in 1825 for his autobiography. Photostats. Originals at Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 9	Continental Congress, Resolution for Independence, July 2, 1776
BOX 1 FOLDER 9	Resolution for Independence, Committee of the Whole, July 2, 1776. Photostat.
BOX 1 FOLDER 9	<i>Philadelphia Evening Post</i> , July 2, 1776, first mention. Photostat.
BOX 1 FOLDER 10	Declaration of Independence, 1776. Miscellaneous photostats, facsimiles, printed copies
BOX 1 FOLDER 10	Thomas Jefferson, Rough Draft, [June 29, 1776]. Photostat. Original at Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 10	Printed facsimile, undated
BOX 1 FOLDER 10	Ms copy, July 4, 1776, Emmet Collection, New York Public Library.
BOX 1 FOLDER 10	Ms copy, July 4, 1776, Washburn Collection, Massachusetts Historical Society.
BOX 1 FOLDER 10	Dunlap copy, July 4, 1776, wafered into the Journal of the Continental Congress, 4 July 1776.

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BOX 1 FOLDER 10	Dunlap copy, July, 1776.
BOX 1 FOLDER 10	Facsimile pages of signatures of signers of the Declaration of Independence.
BOX 1 FOLDER 11	Miscellaneous Documents Relating to the Declaration of Independence, Copies
BOX 1 FOLDER 11	Letter, Committee on Secrecy to John Ross, Sept. 27, 1776.
BOX 1 FOLDER 11	Letter, George Mason to Col. William Cabell, 6 May 1783, Emmet Collection, New York Public Library.
BOX 1 FOLDER 11	Letter, Thomas Jefferson to James Madison on debates, 1 June 1783. Library of Congress.
BOX 1 FOLDER 11	Cabinet card photograph of stenographic copy of the Declaration of Independence, George Hawley, 1882.
BOX 1 FOLDER 11	"How the Declaration was Received in the Old Thirteen," in <i>Harper's Magazine</i> , July, 1892.
BOX 1 FOLDER 11	"Genesis of the Declaration of Independence," typed item list of Library of Congress exhibit, February 12, 1931.
BOX OV 1	John Binns edition
BOX OV 1	4 Nov. 1818, autographed by John Q. Adams, James Porter, printer, 19 Apr. 1819.
BOX OV 1	Reproduced by Henry Sartain, 1876.
BOX OV 1	Reproduced by H. J. Toudy and A. J. Stone, published by H. J. Toudy Co., 1876.
BOX OV 2	Holland Studio edition, autographed by John Hay, 8 Nov. 1902.
BOX OV 3	James McBride issue, autographed by James G. Blaine, 18 Dec. 1891.
BOX OV 4	Department of State issue, undated
BOX OV 4	Department of Interior issue, undated
BOX OV 4	National Archives issue, undated
BOX OV 4	Bureau of Engraving and Printing issue, 1939.
BOX OV 4	Ohman Co. reproductions of William J. Stone edition, 1942 (3 copies).
BOX OV 5	P. F. Collier & Son Co. issue, 1934.
BOX OV 5	C. A. Elliott issue, undated
BOX OV 5	Ohman Co. issue, 1942.
BOX OV 5	A. G. Gilney issue, 1883.
BOX OV 5	Leggo Bros. & Co. issue, 1876.
BOX OV 5	James D. McBride issue, 1874, with local advertisements (2 copies).
BOX OV 5	Thomas Morrison, 1832, with advertisements.
BOX OV 5	H. Phelps, 1834(?), with advertisements.
BOX OV 5	B. D. Rising Paper Co., undated
BOX OV 5	G. R. Russell issue, 1856.
BOX OV 5	Swander & Bishop Co. issue 1865.
BOX OV 5	Tanner, Valance, Kearney & Co., undated
BOX OV 5	West Publishing Co. issue, 1920(?).
BOX OV 5	William Woodruff issue, published by O. Rogers, with photocopy, undated
BOX OV 5	American Bank Note Co. issue, 1876.
BOX OV 6	Unknown (2 items), undated
BOX OV 6	National Liberty Insurance Co. issue, undated
BOX OV 6	New York <i>Times</i> issue, 4 July 1897.
BOX OV 6	Applebaugh-Jones Co. issue, undated
BOX OV 6	John Hancock Insurance Co. issue, undated
BOX OV 6	Norris Peters issue, 1873.
BOX OV 6	Daughters of the American Revolution issue, undated
BOX OV 6	Photograph of the Department of State copy, undated
BOX OV 7	Unidentified issue of Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence, undated

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BOX OV 7	Centennial Offering Co. issue, reproduction by Schaefer, Waeschle and Kohner, 1876.
BOX OV 7	<i>Baltimore Sun</i> issue, 4 July 1887.
BOX OV 7	A. F. Jayne issue, 1869.
BOX OV 7	Ensign, Brielman and Fanning issue, 1860.
BOX OV 7	Photographs by L. C. Handy (3), 1903.
BOX OV 7	Photograph by Library of Congress, with 4 photographs of signatures, 1941.
BOX OV 7	Baldwin & Gleason engraved miniature, undated
BOX OV 8	Reproduced by Norman H. Chance, 1923.
BOX OV 8	Benjamin Owen Tyler edition, autographed by Richard Rush, engraved by Peter Maverick, 10 Sept. 1818.
BOX OV 9	William J. Stone facsimiles, engraved for the Department of State by order of J. Q. Adams, secretary of state, July 4, 1823.
BOX OV 9	Copy 1
BOX OV 10	Copy 2
BOX OV 11	Copy 3, from the later edition struck from the same plate with the legend, lower left: "W.J..Stone SC, Washn."