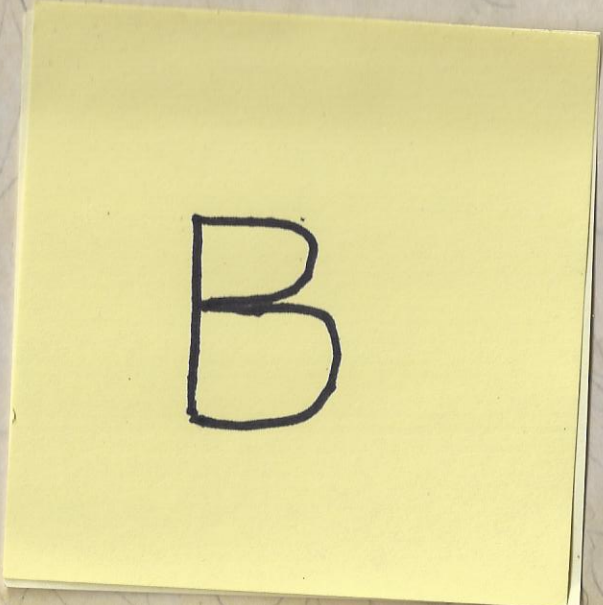


IN CONGRESS July 4, 1776
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, in the long Run, will always oblige us to prefer a Republic to a Monarchy, and a Republic to an Aristocracy. We therefore the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, do hereby declare that these United States 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 with them is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as Free, independent and sovereign States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, enter into Commercials, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do. In Witness whereof, the Representatives of the said States have hereunto set their hands and seals, the fifth Day of July, in the second Year of the said Declaration of Independence.

The Dunlap Broadside

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence. A number of copies were printed by John Dunlap that night. They are known as the "Dunlap Broadside". These copies are important to our history because they represented the voice of the people and brought our nation together.



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE





John Dunlap

1747 - 1812

Printer and Patriot

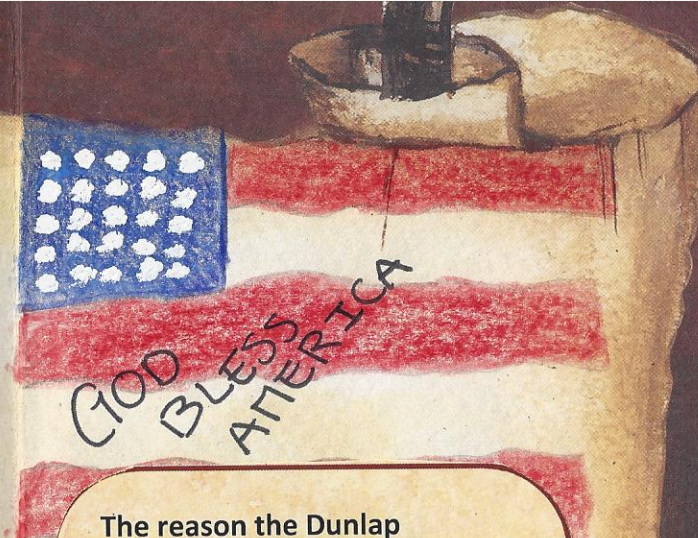
John Dunlap was born in Strabane, Ireland in 1747. As a boy he apprenticed for his uncle, William Dunlap, a printer and publisher in Philadelphia. He was appointed printer to congress, and first printed the "Declaration of Independence" He was an officer in the first troop of the Philadelphia cavalry, which became the body-guard of Washington at Trenton and Princeton.

The Voice of the People

Thomas Jefferson is known to everyone as the author of the Declaration of Independence but not too many people know that his words were made known to thousands of people because of the work of one man, who worked through the night, to print copies of these famous words: *We hold these truths to be Self-evident, that all men are created equal.*

Thomas Jefferson wrote drafts of the Declaration of Independence by request of a committee of the Second Continental Congress in late June, 1776. The Congress revised Jefferson's official rough draft from July 1 to July 4, 1776. Finally, on July 4, Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Later that day, John Dunlap began printing what are now called the Dunlap BroadSides. Twenty-six of them have been found, but there are thought to be at least 200 that were actually printed.

John Hancock dispatched the first set of Dunlap BroadSides to the legislatures of New Jersey and Delaware to be read there. On July 6, 1776 the Pennsylvania Evening Post printed the first version of the Declaration of Independence. The first public reading of the Declaration took place in Philadelphia on July 8. The next day, General George Washington ordered it read to the American army troops. Finally, on August 2, the Declaration of Independence was officially signed.



The reason the Dunlap BroadSides were created was so the Declaration of Independence could be shared with the people. We were at war with Britain and our founding fathers felt they needed to give the people encouragement, and they wanted them to know that they had a voice. John Dunlap turned one piece of paper into a real declaration for the entire country! This was important because it brought our nation together and gave us a new perspective of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness which still holds true today.