

THE DISCOVERY PAPERS

July 2, 1776 - America's Independence Day



No, it is not a typo. The actual day the Continental Congress voted for Independence from Great Britain was July 2, 1776. John Adams predicted that July 2 would be remembered with fireworks and celebrations, although that didn't happen until after most of the Founding Fathers and Mothers had passed away. After the vote, a committee was appointed to draft a document to explain to the colonists on what the Continental Congress had voted. The Committee of Five were John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. It took two days for the document to be drafted and edited. On July 4, 1776, Congress approved the actual Declaration of Independence. 200 copies of the Declaration were printed with

Of the original 200 printed copies, only 26 copies remain of the Declaration of Independence.

John Hancock's name printed at the bottom. Hancock was the President of the Congress.

"In Congress, July 4, 1776" is at the top because that is the day the approved version was signed in Philadelphia.

The printed Declaration was read to the public for the first time on July 8, 1776, in Philadelphia.

The written Declaration was actually signed on August 2, 1776. The first to sign was John Hancock. Fifty-six delegates eventually signed the document. (Not all the delegates are present on August 2.) An official copy with the names attached was authorized in January 1777.

On July 3, 1777, the Continental Congress remembered that it had been a year since they had declared their independence from Great Britain and decided that July 4 seemed a date to mark the occasion.

How to best celebrate was argued between the Republicans of Thomas Jefferson) and the Federalists of John Adams. Resulting in no wide spread celebrations until the Federalists faded away after 1812.

Adams and Jefferson differed greatly on the powers of the federal government and the rights of the states. The two were often at odds in the early years of the republic. After both had served as president they renewed their friendship out of mutual respect for one another.

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both passed on July 4, 1826.

In 1826, in the last letter he ever wrote, Thomas Jefferson spoke of Independence Day: *"For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them."*

On July 4, 1826, at the age of 90, Adams lay on his deathbed while the country celebrated Independence Day. His last words were, "Thomas Jefferson still survives." He was mistaken: Jefferson had died five hours earlier at Monticello at the age of 83.



The Declaration stayed at Fort Knox during World War II.

Adventures with Amelia

This month's newsletter will be a little short as I am off to the UFDC Convention in St. Louis. I am pictured here with the UFDC 1st Vice President Connie Reynolds. She has told me that there will be lots of people to meet and lots of opportunities for adventures!

Connie and I were attending the fabulous Over the Rainbow Doll Club Doll Show on July 9th in historic Lawrence, Kansas.



This is a picture of the Over the Rainbow Doll Club Club Dolls. Aren't they gorgeous? They are Robert Tonner Ellowyn Wilde dolls. I'm the little one in the middle.

There's a rumor that Mr. Tonner will be attending the convention! Maybe I'll get to meet him! I will be going to at least one workshop where I will be getting a new outfit.



If you are on Facebook be on the lookout for two new pages. One is the "Youth Engagement Collective" and the other is "Possum Trotters at Port Fonda." The first is for museums, cultural organizations, and family-oriented sites in the Kansas City area. It's being organized by the Westport Historical Society. The other is the new home for all the fun activities happening at the Westport Historical Society.



JULY

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Heritage Day



Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site • Pleasanton
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday, August 6, 2022

Highlighting Civil War era skills including:

- Artillery, cavalry, and infantry demonstrations
- Artifact display
- Blacksmith
- Dutch oven cooking
- Medical tent
- Weaving
- Basket making
- Broom making
- Leather works
- Spinning

Plus, an activity table for children.

Admission is \$5 adults, \$2 students. Kansas Historical Society members and children four and younger admitted free.

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**KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**MINE CREEK
CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD
STATE HISTORIC SITE**

20485 Kansas Highway S2 • Pleasanton
913-352-8890 • kshs.org/mine_creek

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Fun Stuff to Do



The Westport Historical Society invites you to the third annual doll exhibit

“A Tale As Old As Time...”

June 11 - August 11, 2022

Harris-Kearney Historic House and Museum
4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, Missouri 64111
816-561-1821/westporthistorical.com

You could win your very own
Ellowyne Wilde doll!



RAFFLE!!

Tonner Ellowyne Wilde
“Divine Inspiration”

Donated by Virtual Doll Convention

\$20 per ticket (3 for \$50)

Proceeds to Education Program

**The Myrtle Hardcastle Detective Society
and
fun and fellowship for doll lovers of all ages!**

**Look for more information when you visit the
exhibit!**



You can have your very own "Lia" (our mascot doll) dressed as Myrtle Hardcastle, the star of our new detective society. Check us out at the doll exhibit at the Westport Historical Society.

The Time Traveler Program and *The Discovery Papers* are part of the
Westport Historical Society / Harris-Kearney Historic Home
4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, Missouri 64111
[816-561-1821 / timetravelwestport@gmail.com](mailto:816-561-1821/timetravelwestport@gmail.com)

Our Sponsors include:

The United Federation of Doll Clubs, Inc. Doll Museum
10900 N. Pomona Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64153
[816-891-7040 / info@ufdc.org](mailto:816-891-7040/info@ufdc.org)

The Doll Cradle
19010 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, Kansas 66203
913-631-1900 / www.dollcradle.com