



How realistic is John Trumbull's painting, *Declaration of Independence*?

Who was actually in Congress on June 28, 1776?

Key:



Present on June 28



Absent on June 28



Signer of the Declaration

JOHN ALSOP ☒ ☒
 CARTER BRAXTON ☒ ☒
 BUTTON GWINNETT ☒ ☒
 LYMAN HALL ☒ ☒
 JOHN HART ☒ ☒
 CHARLES HUMPHREYS ☒ ☒
 FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE ☒ ☒
 JOHN MORTON ☒ ☒
 THOMAS NELSON, JR. ☒ ☒
 JOHN PENN ☒ ☒
 CAESAR RODNEY ☒ ☒
 JOHN ROGERS ☒ ☒
 GEORGE ROSS ☒ ☒
 JAMES SMITH ☒ ☒
 THOMAS STONE ☒ ☒
 GEORGE TAYLOR ☒ ☒
 MATTHEW THORNTON ☒ ☒
 HENRY WISNER ☒ ☒

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TIMELINE

JUNE 28: Committee of Five Presented Draft to the Continental Congress
JULY 2: Continental Congress Voted in Favor of Independence
JULY 4: Continental Congress Approved Declaration of Independence
AUGUST 2: Signing of the Engrossed Parchment Began

SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION WHO WERE ABSENT ON JUNE 28

Samuel Chase	Caesar Rodney
Abraham Clark	Richard Stockton
John Hart	George Walton*
Richard Henry Lee	William Williams
William Hooper	John Witherspoon
Philip Livingston	Oliver Wolcott
Lewis Morris	George Wythe

DELEGATES WHO WERE PRESENT ON JUNE 28, BUT ARE NOT IN THE PAINTING

John Alsop	Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Carter Braxton	John Penn
Button Gwinnett	John Rogers
Lyman Hall	Thomas Stone
Charles Humphreys	Henry Wisner
Francis Lightfoot Lee	
John Morton	

DELEGATES WHO WERE PRESENT ON JUNE 28, BUT DID NOT SIGN THE DECLARATION

John Alsop	Thomas Willing
George Clinton	Henry Wisner
John Dickinson	
Charles Humphreys	
Robert R. Livingston	
John Rogers	

SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION WHO WERE NOT YET DELEGATES ON JUNE 28

Charles Carroll of Carrollton
George Clymer
George Ross
Benjamin Rush
James Smith
George Taylor
Matthew Thornton

SOME OF THE STORIES LEFT UNTOLD BY TRUMBULL'S PAINTING

Trumbull left out three Virginia delegates who were present, but included both **Richard Henry Lee** and **George Wythe**, who left Congress in mid-June and returned in the fall.

On July 9, John Adams assured **Samuel Chase** that, even though he was absent, he would still have "the Opportunity you wish for, of transmitting your Name, among the Votaries of Independence."

George Walton was the only Georgia delegate Trumbull included, even though he was the only one who was likely absent.

On July 20, the Pennsylvania Assembly chose five new delegates to replace the men who had voted against independence, yet Trumbull included two of these new delegates (**George Clymer** and **Benjamin Rush**) in his June 28 scene.

Robert R. Livingston was a member of the Committee of Five, but he returned to New York in July and never actually signed the Declaration of Independence.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the last living signer of the Declaration, was not selected as a delegate until July 4.

How realistic is John Trumbull's painting, *Declaration of Independence*?

Who was actually in Congress on June 28, 1776?

President John Hancock
Secretary Charles Thomson
NH: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple
MA: John Adams, Samuel Adams, Elbridge Gerry, Robert Treat Paine
RI: William Ellery, Stephen Hopkins
CT: Samuel Huntington, Roger Sherman
NY: John Alsop, George Clinton, William Floyd, Francis Lewis, Robert R. Livingston, Henry Wisner
NJ: Francis Hopkinson*
PA: John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, Charles Humphreys, Robert Morris, John Morton, Thomas Willing, James Wilson
DE: Thomas McKean, George Read
MD: William Paca, John Rogers, Thomas Stone
VA: Carter Braxton, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Jefferson, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Thomas Nelson, Jr.
NC: Joseph Hewes, John Penn
SC: Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton, Edward Rutledge
GA: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall

* Most Likely

Image Credit: John Trumbull, *Declaration of Independence*, 1819, United States Capitol (Public Domain)