

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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LINES FOR LIBERTY

No newspaper editor, when the Fourth of July rolls around, could possibly write a better or more timely editorial than the Declaration of Independence itself.

Because it was penned, signed and adhered to, all New Bernians past and present have been part and parcel of a way of life that mortals in other lands can only hope and pray for.

That boy of yours who died on some far-away battlefield, or the kid next door or just around the corner who made the supreme sacrifice, was preserving the great assurance of this document. He couldn't recite it, and perhaps had never read it, but he knew what it said was important and worth giving your life blood for.

Let us pause, in a world where liberty is challenged and assailed by today's evil forces, to peruse and ponder some of the passages that brave and dedicated men fashioned in Philadelphia 183 years ago.

"When in the the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect for the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

"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 Governmen, 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, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

"But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security."

Thus, did the signers of the Declaration of Independence adequately explain for all posterity their position. They did it through the medium of sound reasoning, knowing full well that the justification of their act would in no way prevent the agony and bloodshed that was bound to follow.

Liberty didn't come cheaply in 1776—nor is the preservation of it an easy row to hoe. Every generation has its tyrants who seek to enslave the world, and force upon others not only bondage but humiliation that is contrary to the dignity of man.

Even within the boundaries of our own beloved land—and alas, within our own town's limits—there are those who are dictators at heart. Only the limitations of their power prevent them from forcing upon fellow mortals beliefs and restrictions that are contrary to human freedom.

Let us never forget that our freedom of speech, freedom of religion and all of our other liberties are in constant jeopardy. The fact that you have them, and take them for granted, is no guarantee that you will continue to possess them in the midst of complacency.

Much to the contrary, our complacency can be our undoing. No amount of searching would have turned up a complacent patriot at Independence Hall, and it is doubtful that complacency existed in the snow at Valley Forge.

Liberty is not only something to die for—as New Bern boys have died in all of our tragic wars. It is also something to live for and live by. All of us can strengthen America by respecting the rights of our neighbors, and appreciating our own.

Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE
and
ELIZABETH MOORE

PATENTS GRANTED BY NORTH CAROLINA

1782. Daniel West, 280 acres on East side of Upper Broad Creek, beginning at John Edmondson's corner . . . to Samuel Roberts'. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. Samuel Lawson, 50 acres on East side of Goose Creek, beginning at James Brinson's line. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. Avery Bouden, 130 acres on East side of Upper Broad Creek beginning at Solomon Edwards. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. James Brinson, 300 acres on East side of Upper Broad Creek, beginning at Solomon Edwards corner post, to Goose Creek. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. Joshua Fulcher, 400 acres on East side of Beard's Creek, beginning at head of Cedar Branch, to Pamlico Road. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. Cason Brinson, 150 acres on East side of Upper Broad Creek, Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. Thomas Walker, 200 acres on East side of Upper Broad Creek, beginning at North side of Laurel Pond. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. William Gatlin, 150 acres on West side of Upper Broad Creek, beginning at Tarkill Bed in the edge of the Gallberry. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. John Carruthers, 250 acres on East side of Wayne's Creek, beginning on West side of Long Pond, to an oak on North side of Ditch Creek, to Swan Creek. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. John Carruthers, 100 acres, beginning at the mouth of small bay on the East side of Table of Pines on the North side of Bonner's Bay. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. Abell McKay and John Carruthers, 150 acres between Piney Point and Green's Creek, beginning oak river side corner of Furnifold Green's patent in small live oak hammock, Joshua Fulcher's corner above Piney Point. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. James Clayton, 500 acres on the sound. Beginning to the north of Dead Woman's Hammock at Chinquapin stake, head of a small bay south end of Solomon Leath's line, to the sound, along the sound to the beginning. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. Thomas De La Mare, 160 acres on South side of Broad Creek beginning at Anthony Moore's. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. William Hall, 100 acres on West side of Goose Creek, beginning at a pine on the North side of Balahack. Alexander Martin. P1.

1782. George Carpenter, 3 acres on the East side of Dawson's Creek in the pocosin. Alexander Martin. P2.

1783. John Banks, 100 acres on the North side of Beard's Creek, beginning at Vendrick's Savannah in Joshua Fulcher's line. Alexander Martin. P2.

1783. James Perkins, 30 acres on East side of Beard's Creek near Mill Dam, beginning at Henry Hoover's, to John Vendrick, to Daniel Vendrick. Alexander Martin. P1.

1783. William Hall, 100 acres on West side of Upper Broad Creek, beginning at a tree in John Bedscott's patent, to a pine in Juniper Swamp. Alexander Martin. P1.

1784. John Tillman, 300 acres on South side of Bonner's Bay, beginning stake by water side and right against Carruther's and McCotter's. Alexander Martin. P1.

1784. John Tillman, 840 acres on North side of Bonner's Bay, beginning pasture fence at head of Coxes Creek, to an oak on the Youpon Hammock, down river 3 live oaks on Round Hammock, head of Fishing Bay, Cages Point at the mouth of Bay River, along the sound side to the mouth of Maw Bay, to the mouth of Maw Creek. Alexander Martin. P1.

1785. Thomas Graves Fonvielle, 90 acres on the South side of Goose Creek, beginning corner of Furnifold Green's land. Richard Caswell.

Village Verses

SPEAKING OF THE WEATHER

Here it is, the first of July,
And the weather's still hotter than hot;
This heat wave seems endless, no breeze in the sky,
And nary a cool, shady spot.
All over town, where ever folks meet,
They pause and complain that they can't stand the heat;
It's the favorite topic for most conversation,
But talk brings us nothing save more perspiration.
We fling our arms in a manner dramatic,
While moaning our plight with words quite emphatic;
Humans have done thus, since time began,
I'm sure it was true of the very first man.
Down thru the ages, even wise guys of old,
Wanted it hot, when the weather was cold;
And when it was hot, well, they wanted it cool,
For a mortal at best is a finicky fool.
Whatever we have, we pine for a change,
Never contented, now isn't it strange?
We find little joy in the blessings we share,
'Cause we figure that things are much better elsewhere.
We covet the gold our neighbor makes,
Contending that Fate gives him all the best breaks;
Well, maybe Fate does, yet I've found thru the years,
That sooner or late, we all get our tears.
We all get our joys, and a few heartaches too,
Life evens things up, for me and for you;
The king and the peasant, the master, the slave,
Take the same one way street to the same six foot grave.
Until finally we're planted down under the sod,
And our souls journey forth to be measured by God;
The rich and the poor, in a chorus together,
Are bound to complain about hot and cold weather.
—JGMcd.

P2.

1786. John Beasley, 100 acres on the West side of Goose Creek. Richard Caswell. P2.

1786. John Carruthers, 200 acres, on the North side of Lower Broad Creek, beginning dogwood, Benjamin Whitaker's and Joshua Fulcher's corner on the East side of Spicer's Swamp. Richard Caswell. P2.

1786. John Carruthers, 400 acres on the south side of Bonner's Bay, and East side of Wain's Creek, beginning lightwood stump at William Carruthers' and John Carruthers' and McCotter's corner, Mall's Gut, that makes out of Wain's Creek, then down said Creek to live oak at mouth of said Creek and Bonner's Bay. Richard Caswell. P2.

1786. Thomas Clayton, 100 acres in the fork of Bay River, beginning at a pine stump in the North prong of said River, to Cornelius Bell's patent, to Bay River Bridge. Richard Caswell. P2.

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1786. William Clayton, 260 acres at the head of Swan Creek, beginning at Tillman's corner, to the (Continued on Page 5)

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