

## **July of 1775**

### **July 3. 1775**

At Cambridge, Massachusetts, George Washington takes command of the Continental Army and 17,000 troops in the Boston area.

### **July 5. 1775**

The Continental Congress adopts the Olive Branch Petition which expresses hope for a reconciliation with Britain, appealing directly to the king for help.

### **July 8. 1775**

Congress adopts a petition to King George III offering reconciliation.

### **July 18. 1775**

Congress requests that all of the colonies establish minuteman units

### **July 2. 1776**

Congress formally adopts Lee's resolution for independence, asserting that the "United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved." The vote is unanimous with only New York abstaining.

### **July 3. 1776**

In a letter to his wife Abigail, John Adams writes: "Yesterday the greatest Question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men..."

During the same day, Congress considers Jefferson's "Declaration" for independence, and decides to continue their examination at the next session.

### **July 4. 1776**

In Philadelphia, Jefferson's Declaration of Independence is adopted and signed by the appropriate parties.

### **July 22. 1776**

Congress, sitting as a committee of the whole, considered the printed draft of John Dickinson's "Articles of Confederation." They would be adopted in November, 1777.

### **July 29. 1776**

In his letter to Abigail of this day, John Adams, remarking on his wife's love of "picking a political Bone," posed this question "If a Confederation should take Place, one great Question is how shall we vote. Whether each colony shall count one? Or whether each shall have a Weight in Proportion to its Numbers, or Wealth, or Exports and Import, or compound Ration of all?"

### **July 30. 1776**

Debate on the "Articles of Confederation" continued. On the subject of voting in Congress, Dr. Franklin believed that for the smaller colonies to have an equal vote, they should have to give equal money and men." John Witherspoon (NJ), however, feared that "smaller states will be oppressed by the great ones."