



Collins

Garden

Happy 4th of July



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## U. S. History

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/>

In June 1776, as Thomas Jefferson composed a draft of the Declaration of Independence from a second floor parlor of a bricklayer's house in Philadelphia, the largest invasion force in British military history was headed for New York Harbor. By the time the last of the fifty-six signers had affixed their names to the final, edited document months later, an invading force of British soldiers had landed at Staten Island, the British had taken New York City, and the American patriots had committed themselves to a long and bloody struggle for liberty and independence.

The Declaration announced to the world the separation of the thirteen colonies from Great Britain and the establishment of the United States of America. It explained the causes of this radical move with a long list of charges against the King. In justifying the Revolution, it asserted a universal truth about human rights in words that have inspired downtrodden people through the ages and throughout the world to rise up against their oppressors.

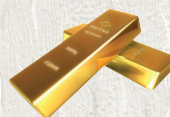
Jefferson was not aiming at originality. The Declaration articulates the highest ideals of the Revolution, beliefs in liberty, equality, and the right to self-determination. Americans embraced a view of the world in which a person's position was determined, not by birth, rank, or title, but by talent, ability, and enterprise. It was a widely held view, circulated in newspapers, pamphlets, sermons, and schoolbooks; but it was Thomas Jefferson, the 33-year-old planter from Virginia, who put the immortal words to it.

On July 4, 1776, Congress completed its editing of the document that reduced the text by 25 percent ('mutilations' is what Jefferson called it) and formally adopted the Declaration; on July 19, Congress ordered that a formal copy of the Declaration be prepared for members to sign; and on August 2, the final parchment—the one presently displayed in the nearby case—was presented to Congress and the signing began.

# Freedom through Grace

I hope this commemorative card stirs up the blessing that it is to belong to this great country, this great city, this great neighborhood. Today's Holiday Theme is Independence. Did you know that God also has set aside a day of independence for every individual in our neighborhood.

Here is a wonderful story based on a little book that has no words and no pictures. Enjoy!



In this story the **Gold page** represents Heaven and what Revelations 21:21 calls the streets of Gold. In heaven there will be no suffering, sorrow or death. Although that sounds great, the greatest benefit to us is that is where the Father, Son and Holy Spirit reside



The **Clean page** represents the Perfection we need to get to Heaven. The only thing you and I must be is perfect, never having sinned. Wow that is a major problem! Have you ever said a lie? That's all it would take.



The **Dark page** represents our Darkened hearts as a result of sin. It is this condition that all of us as sinners find ourselves. The Bible states... *Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* So you may say then... Thanks a lot. You tell about this place called Heaven, then tell me we must be perfect to enter and then finish off with we're all sinners and because of it we can't get in.



**The Good News is that the story doesn't end here!**



The **Red page** represents the shed blood of Jesus.

The Bible gives us the answer to our problem:

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

*1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

The **Green page** represents Growth of the believer.

*1 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

Notice that there was no mention of Denominations in any of the story. The gift of God is for all people who are willing to put their trust in one person Jesus for their salvation. It starts with a simple prayer:

*Dear Jesus, I know I'm a sinner and because of that I will be eternally separated from you for eternity in a place called Hell. I now understand that you paid for my sins making it possible to have a personal relationship with you. I believe that you died on the cross, was buried and then resurrected after 3 days to prove that you indeed are God and that you ascended into heaven and now sit at the right hand of the Father. I now put all my trust in you and thank you for loving me enough to die for me.*

*Here's wishing you a blessed Independence Day!*



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