







The Mecklenburg  
Declaration  
of Independence

May 20, 1775



Done on the Occasion  
of the Visit of  
PRESIDENT DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER  
on  
FREEDOM CELEBRATION DAY  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
May 18, 1954



Charlotte - town, N. Carolina. May 20th 1775

1<sup>st</sup> Resolved, that whosoever directly or indirectly abetted, or in any way, form or manner, countenanced the unchartered and dangerous invasion of our rights, as claimed by Great Britain, is an enemy to this country, to America, and to the inherent and inalienable rights of man.

2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved, that we the citizens of Mecklenburg county, do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us to <sup>the</sup> another country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, and endure all political connection or association, with that nation, who have wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanely shed the blood of American patriots at Lexington.

3<sup>rd</sup> Resolved, that we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people; we, and of right ought to be ~~sets~~ a sovereign and self governing Association, under the control of the Congress, to the independence of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual cooperation, aid, and our fortunes, and our most sacred honor.

4<sup>th</sup> Resolved, that as we now acknowledge the existence and control of no law or legal officer civil or military, within this county, we do hereby resolve, and do as a rule of life, all each and every of our personal laws, whosoever, nevertheless, the Crown of Great Britain never can be considered as holding rights, privileges, immunities, or authority thereon.

5<sup>th</sup> Resolved, that it is further agreed, that each and every military officer in this county, is hereby authorized to the personal command and authority, as to the compliance with these regulations, and that every citizen, without protest of his obligation, shall remain a civil officer in the pursuit of the Peace, in the character of a Committee man to some process, here and elsewhere, to maintain all matters of order, unity, according to said accepted laws, and to preserve peace, union, and harmony in said county, and, use every exertion to spread the love of equality and, fire of freedom throughout America, until a more general and organized government be established in this province.

6<sup>th</sup> Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by express to the President of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia, to be laid before that body.

Jos. McKim	John Alexander	John Brown
Thos. Polk	Adam Alexander	John Ayer
David Rice	Wm. W. W. W.	Robt. Jones
Benjamin Patton	John Pease	William Kenner
John Baynes	William Graham	Wingfield Gray
John Plunkin	Charles Richards	James Harris
Henry Donno	Robt. Harris	
John Alexander	Neill Monaghan	
	Lich. Perry	

This engraving is a reproduction of one of several copies of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence made at the time of signing, or shortly thereafter; the original having been burned when the Alexander home was destroyed by fire on April 6, 1800. This facsimile must be very similar to the original in spacing, proportions, handwriting and general appearance.

(Copy for engraving courtesy Miss Dorothy Knox, Charlotte, N. C.)



## THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Charlotte-town No Carolina May 20th 1775

1st Resolved that whosoever directly or indirectly abetted or in any way, form or manner countenanced the unchartered and dangerous invasion of our rights, as claimed by Great Britain, is an enemy to this county, to America, and to the inherent and inalienable rights of man.

2nd Resolved that we the citizens of Mecklenburg county, do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us to the Mother country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, and, adjure all political connection or association, with that nation, who have wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanely shed the blood of American patriots at Lexington.

3rd Resolved that we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people; are, and of right ought to be a sovereign and self governing association, under the control of no power other than that of our God and the general government of the Congress; to the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual cooperation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor.

4th Resolved that as we now acknowledge the existance and control of no law or legal officer civil or military, within this county, we do hereby ordain and adopt as a rule of life, all, each and every of our former laws, wherein, nevertheless, the Crown of Great Britain never can be considered as holding rights, privileges, immunities, or authority therein.

5th Resolved that it is further decreed, that all each and every military officer in this county, is hereby reinstated in his former command and authority, he acting conformably to these regulations, and that every member present of this delegation, shall henceforth be a civil officer—a Justice of the Peace in the character of a Committee man to issue process, hear and determine all matters of controversy, according to said adopted laws, and to preserve peace, union and harmony in said county—and use every exertion to spread the love of country and, fire of freedom throughout America until a more general and organized government be established in this province.

6th Resolved that a copy of these recolutions be transmitted by express to the President of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia, to be laid before that body.

John McKnitt	Alexander	Ephraim Brevard
	Abraham Alexander	
Thos. Polk	Adam Alexander	John Phifer
David Reese	Hezekiah Alexander	
		Will Kennon
Benjamin Patton	John Ford	Robert Irwin
John Davidson	William Graham	Waightstill Avery
John Flennigen	Charles Alexander	James Harris
Henry Downs		Richard Harris
Ezra Alexander		Neil Morrison
		Richard Barry

*Names torn off lower R. H. corner*

Hezekiah J. Balch	Zaccheus Wilson
John Queary	Matthew McClure