

between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

*[The 56 signatures on the Declaration were arranged in six columns:]*

[Column 1]

**Georgia:**

Button Gwinnett  
Lyman Hall  
George Walton

[Column 2]

**North Carolina:**

William Hooper  
Joseph Hewes  
John Penn

**South Carolina:**

Edward Rutledge  
Thomas Heyward, Jr.  
Thomas Lynch, Jr.  
Arthur Middleton

[Column 3]

**Massachusetts:**

John Hancock

**Maryland:**

Samuel Chase  
William Paca  
Thomas Stone  
Charles Carroll of Carrollton

**Virginia:**

George Wythe  
Richard Henry Lee  
Thomas Jefferson  
Benjamin Harrison  
Thomas Nelson, Jr.  
Francis Lightfoot Lee  
Carter Braxton

[Column 4]

**Pennsylvania:**

Robert Morris  
Benjamin Rush  
Benjamin Franklin  
John Morton