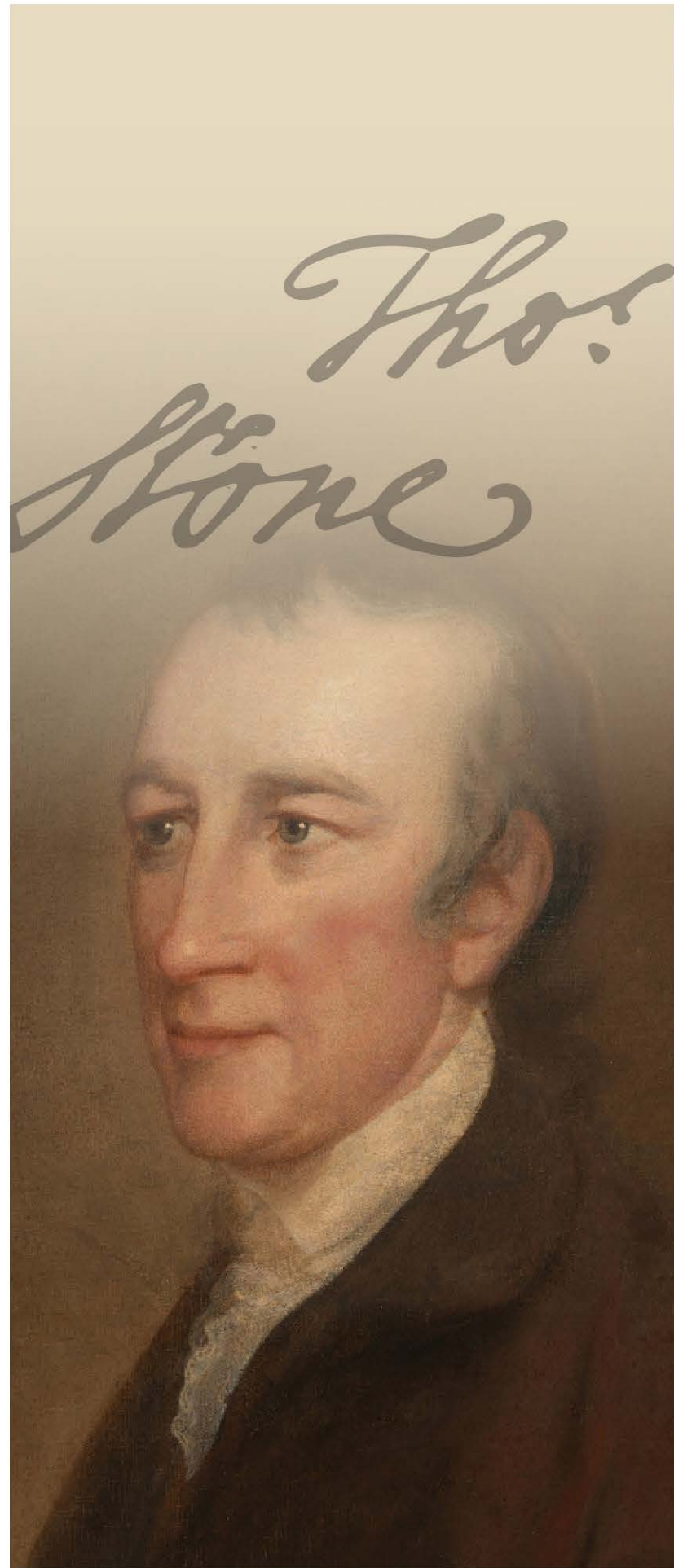




with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our arms and laws; — For protecting them, by a more than proportionate force, our Trade with all parts of the world; — For imposing taxes on us without our consent, and for taking away our Lives, Liberties and Properties without trial for pretended offences; — For abolishing the free Election of Members of the Legislature, and for rendering it at once an unrepresentative and an unaccountable body.

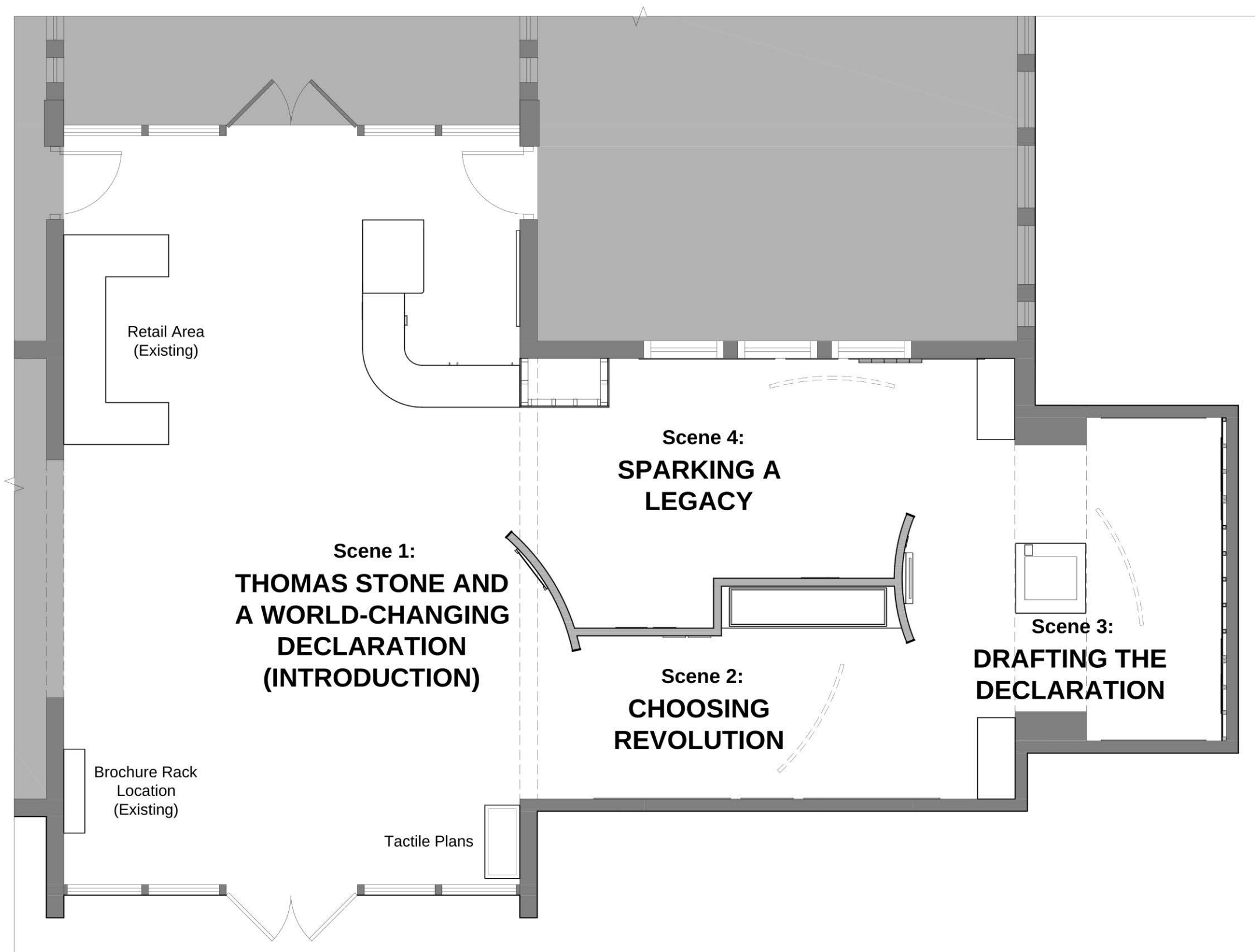
THOMAS STONE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

PRODUCTION DOCUMENTS 2 REVISED: GRAPHIC LAYOUT PACKAGE

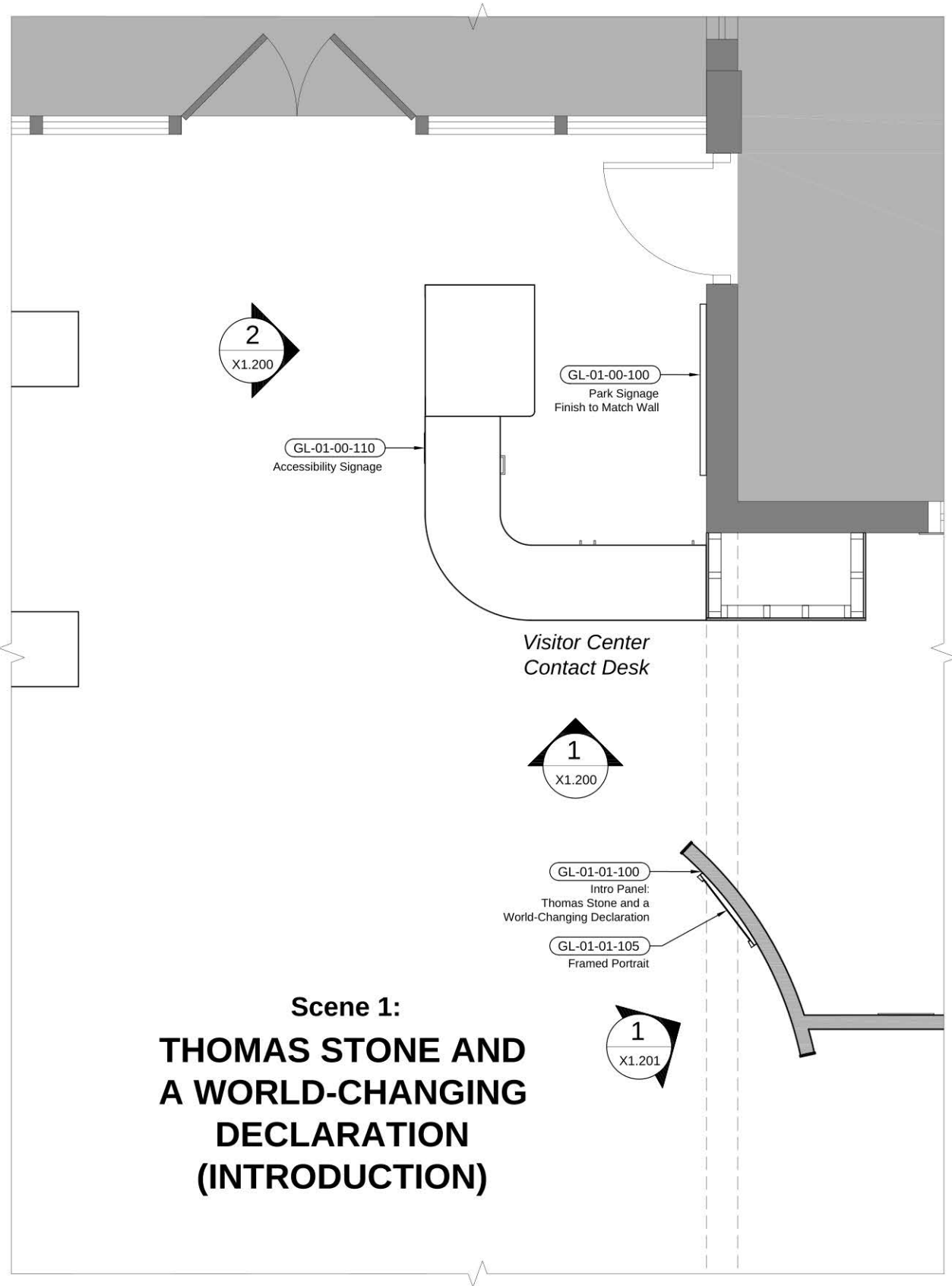
PORT TOBACCO, MARYLAND

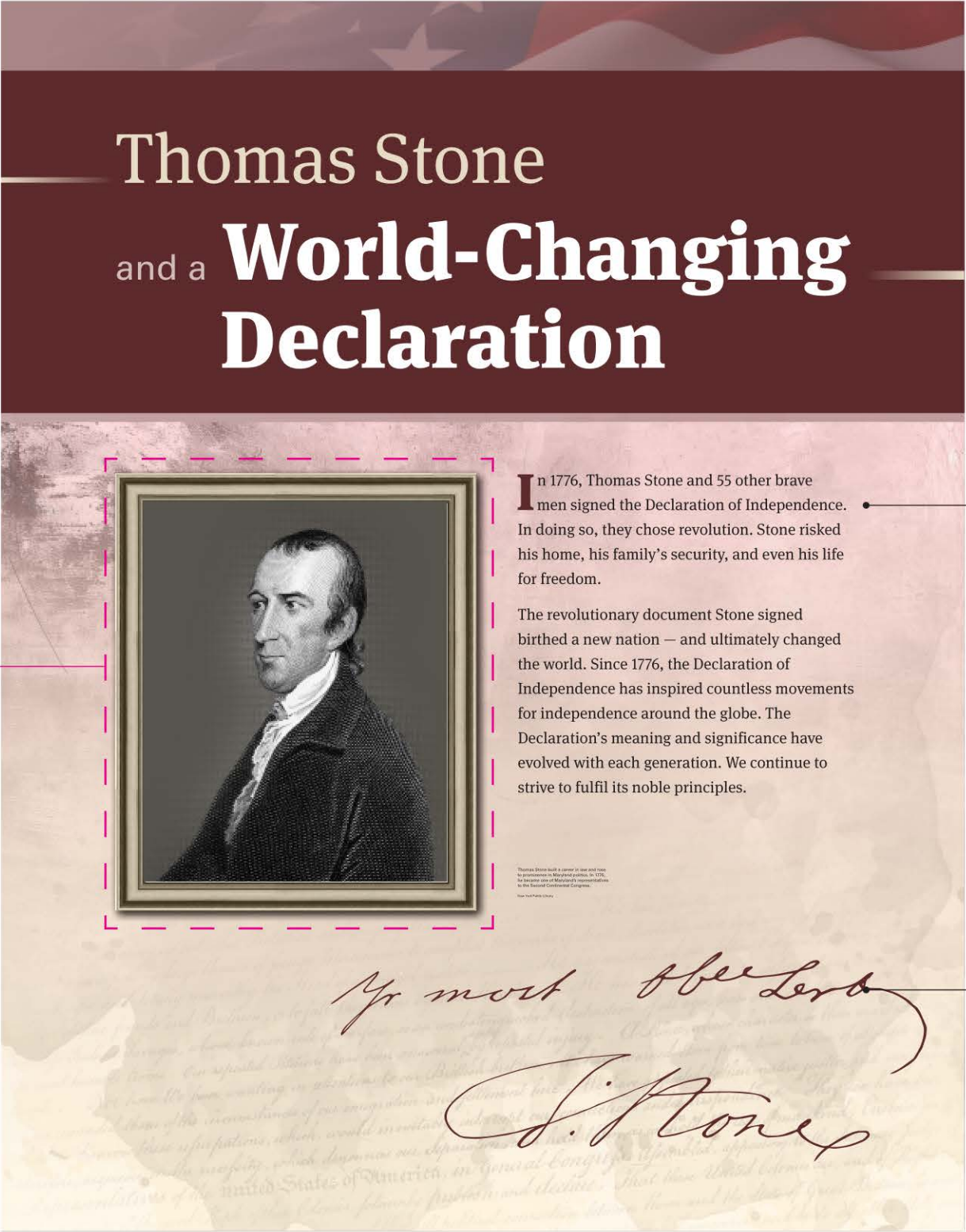
SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

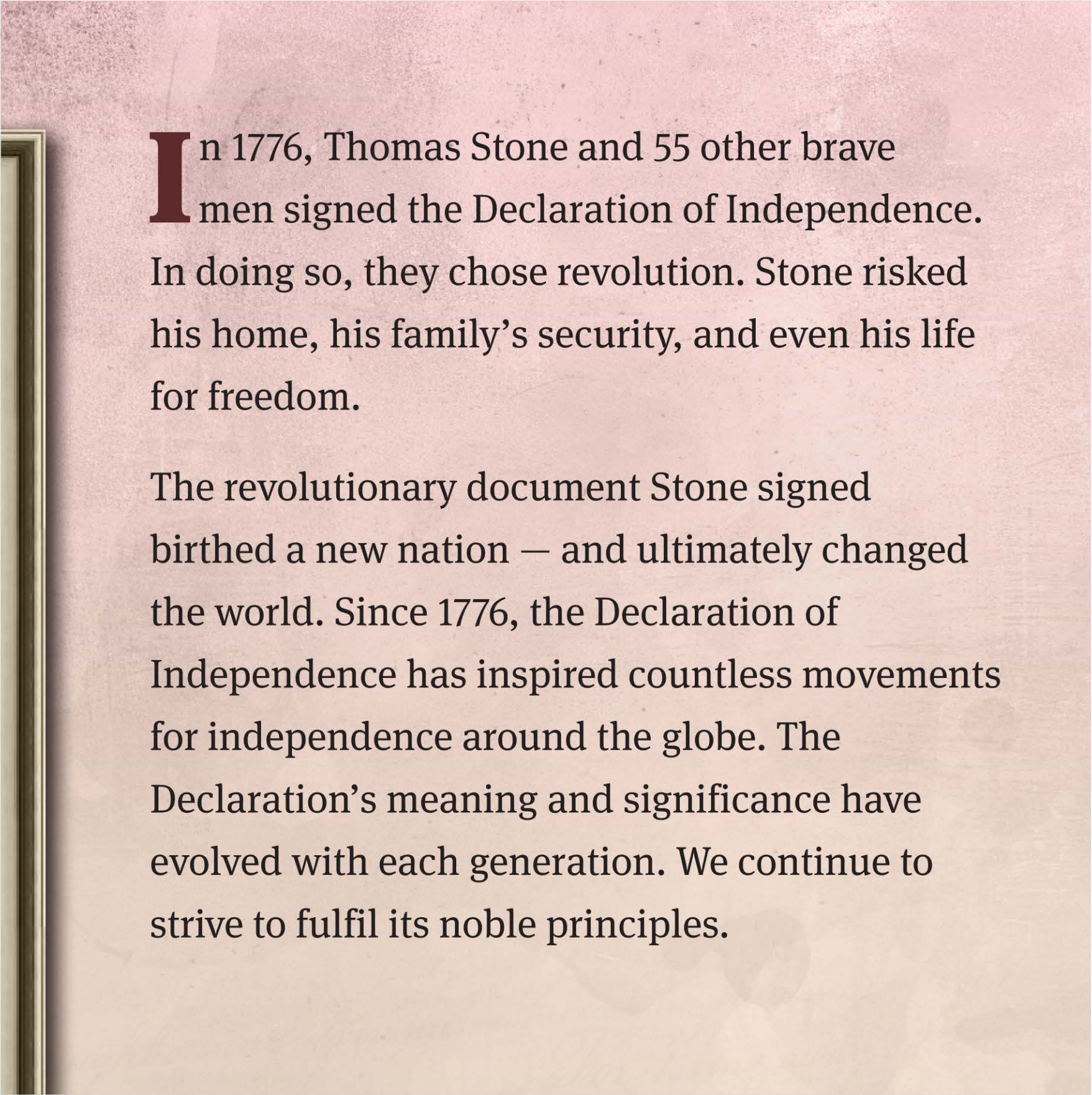
in general Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the redress of our grievances, and that these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States, that they have full Power to declare War, to conclude Peace, to enter into all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do, and to send and receive Ambassadors and Consuls, and to perform all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do.



NOTE: IMAGES IN THIS PACKAGE ARE SHOWN FOR CONTENT, COMPOSITION, AND PLACEMENT. HIGH RESOLUTION VERSIONS THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ACQUIRED ARE DESIGNATED WITH AN “FPO” NOTE. THIS STANDS FOR “FOR PLACEMENT ONLY.”

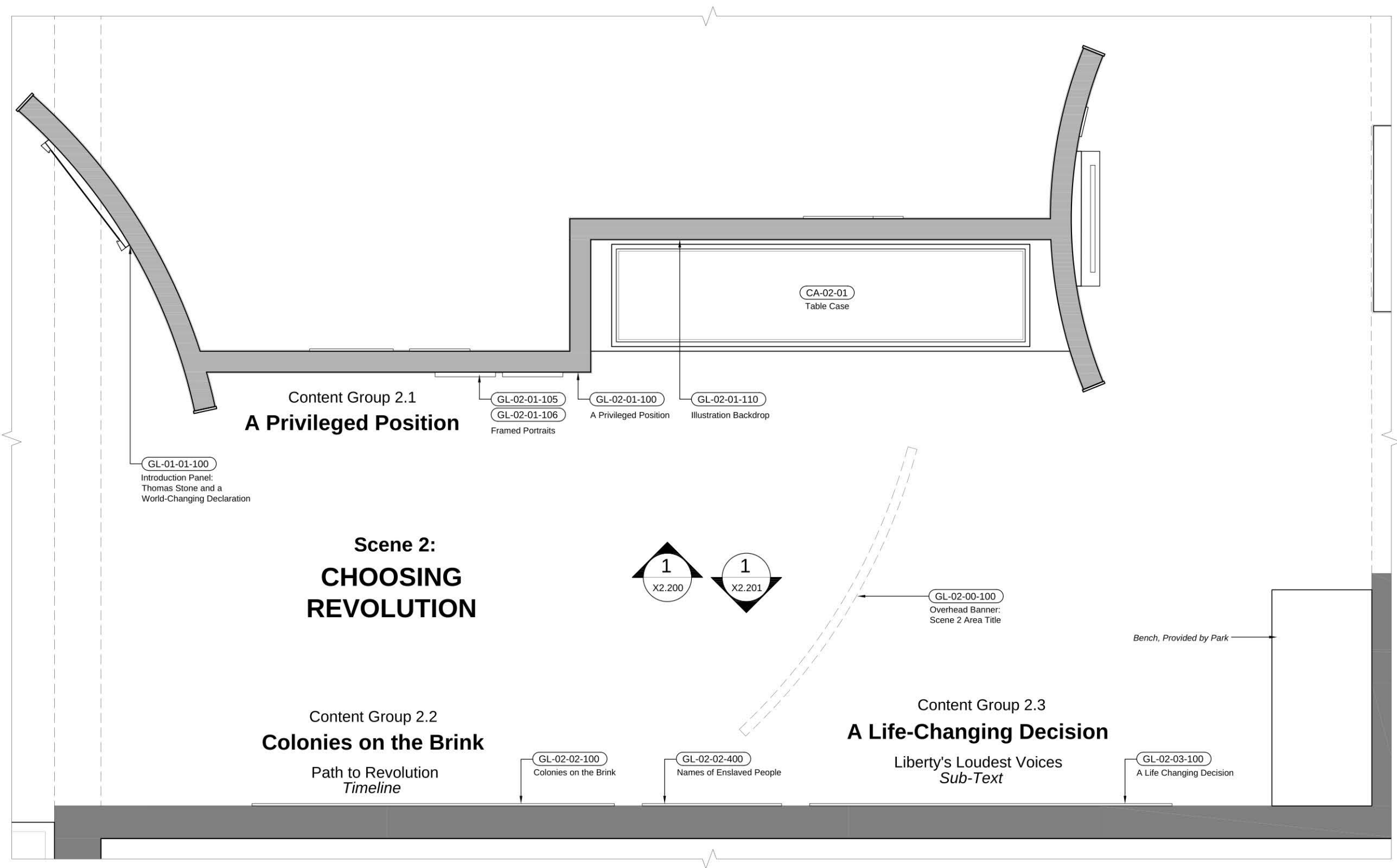






In 1776, Thomas Stone and 55 other brave men signed the Declaration of Independence. In doing so, they chose revolution. Stone risked his home, his family’s security, and even his life for freedom.

The revolutionary document Stone signed birthed a new nation — and ultimately changed the world. Since 1776, the Declaration of Independence has inspired countless movements for independence around the globe. The Declaration’s meaning and significance have evolved with each generation. We continue to strive to fulfil its noble principles.



IM-02-01-205

IM-02-01-207

GL-02-01-105
GL-02-01-106

IM-02-01-206

IM-02-01-203

LA-02-01-200

IM-02-01-204

A Prominent Person

Born in Charles County in 1743 to an influential family, Stone studied to be a lawyer. He married Margaret Brown — the daughter of a well-known local physician — in 1768. In 1770, he purchased 442 acres from his uncle and began to build his home here on the plantation he called Habereventure. The Stones owned multiple properties on which an unknown number of enslaved individuals lived and labored.

Known for his thoughtful deliberation, Stone soon became involved in local politics. But a much larger, national stage awaited.

Stone's enslaved people labored on the plantation, including his wife, who was enslaved to the 1770s and 1780s.

By the time of his death in 1805, Stone owned more than 2,000 acres, mostly around Port Tobacco. He also owned one of the largest houses in the area.

Margaret Stone was the daughter of a well-known local physician. She died in 1807 at age 36.

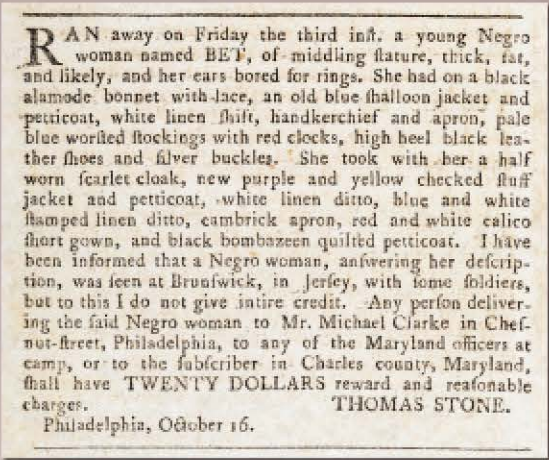
Stone's plantation was an important center for the local community. It was a place where people from all over the area came to do business and to live.

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Known for his thoughtful deliberation, Stone soon became involved in local politics. But a much larger, national stage awaited.



Some enslaved people liberated themselves, including Bet, whose escape is detailed in this 1776 ad.

Courtesy American Antiquarian Society

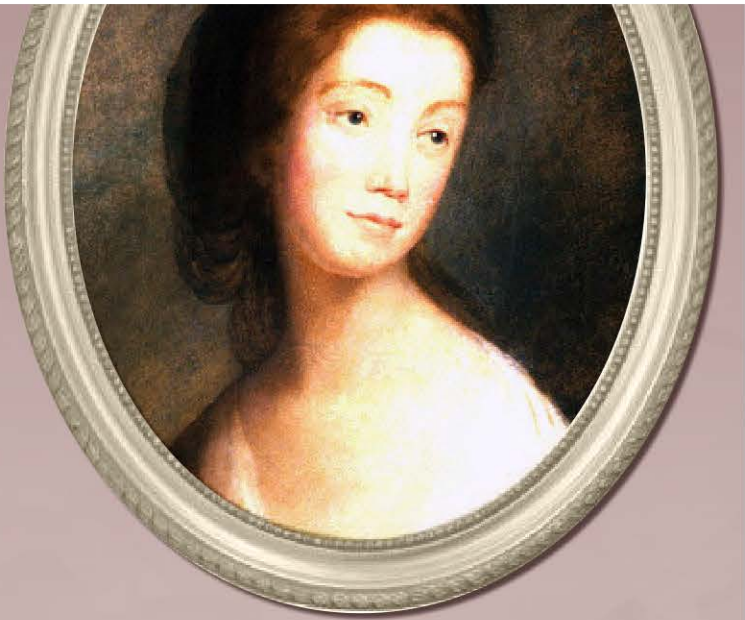
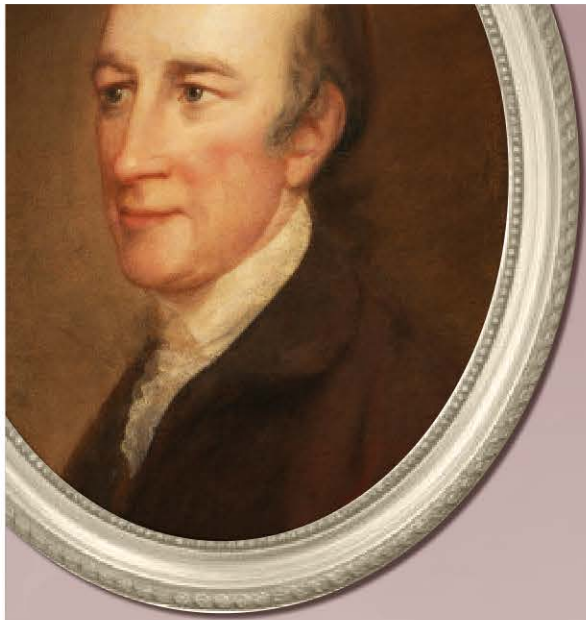
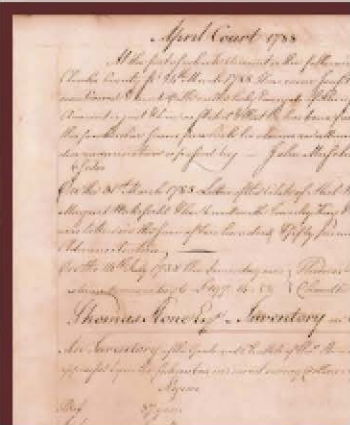
Haberdeventure means to "dwell in or of the wind." Built of brick, a costly building material at the time, the house was a symbol of the Stone family's status and wealth.

New York Public Library



Port Tobacco was an important, bustling port in the 1770s. This 1775 map shows the road between Port Tobacco and Annapolis, which Thomas Stone frequently traveled for his legal and political career.

Library of Congress



By the time of his death in 1787, Stone owned more than 2,000 acres, mostly around Port Tobacco. He also operated one of the region's busiest grist mills.

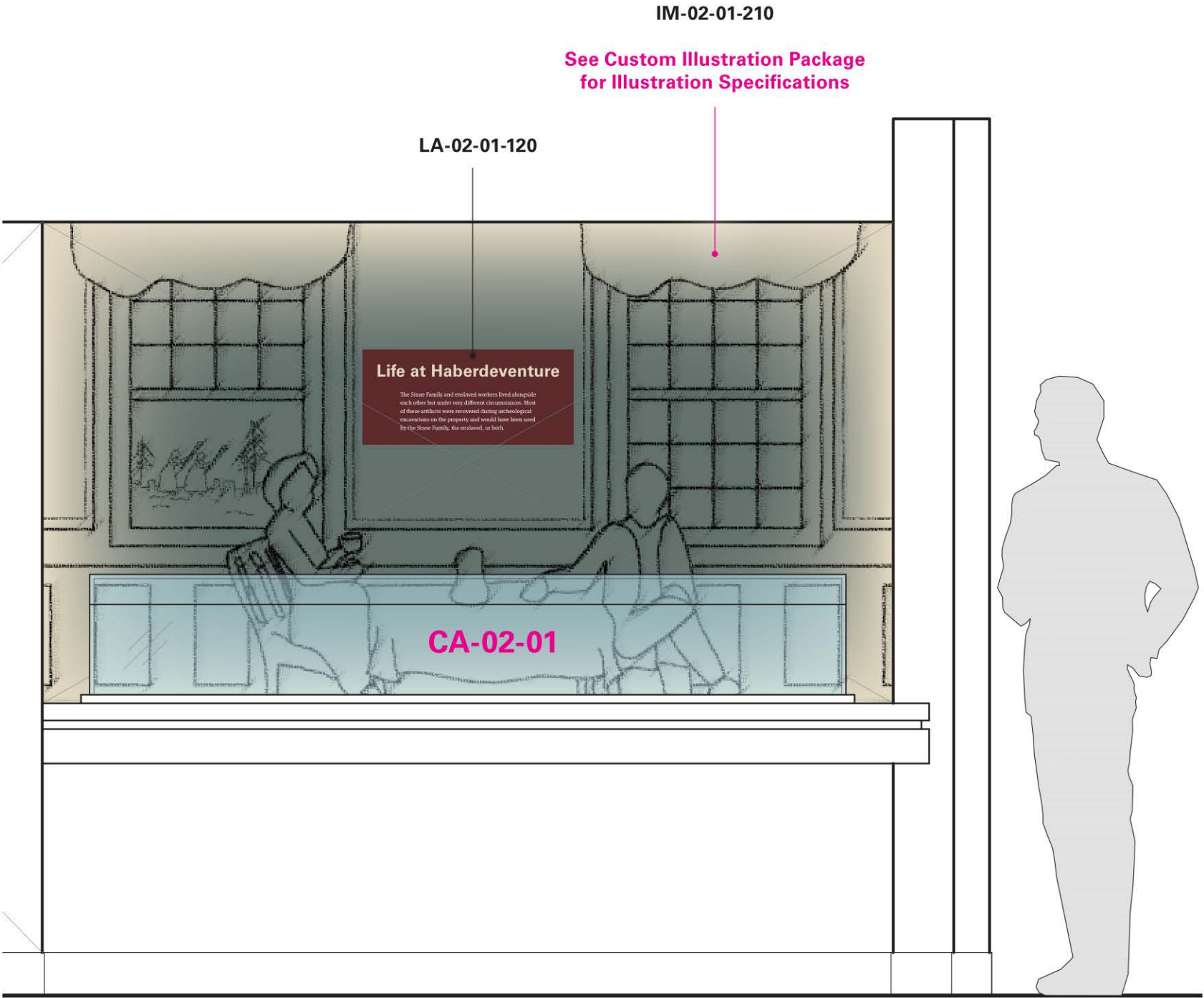
National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of Judith March Clement

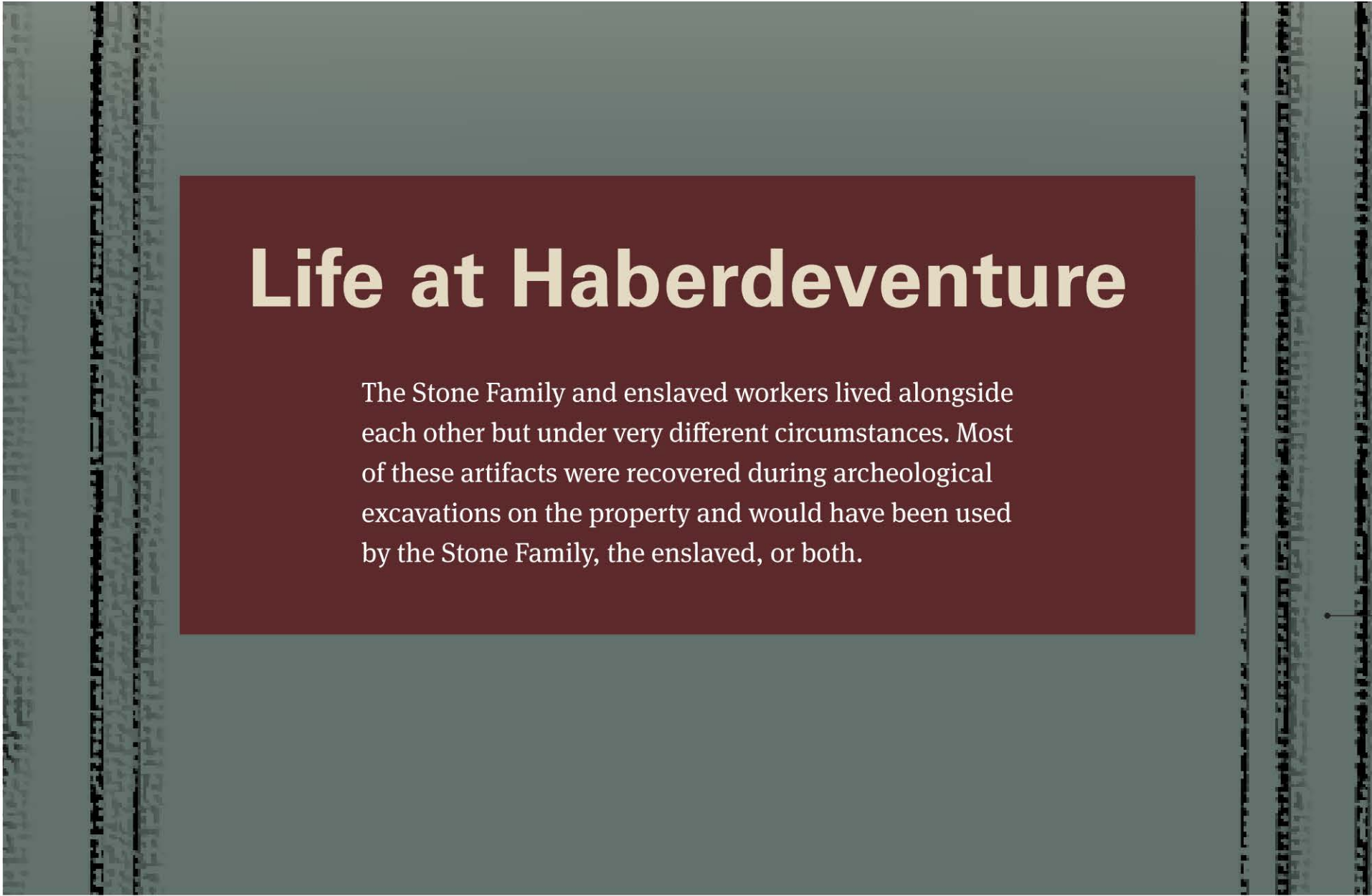
Margaret Stone ran the household and raised three children. She died in 1787 at age 36.

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of Judith March Clement

Thomas Stone's 1788 Inventory.

Maryland Archives





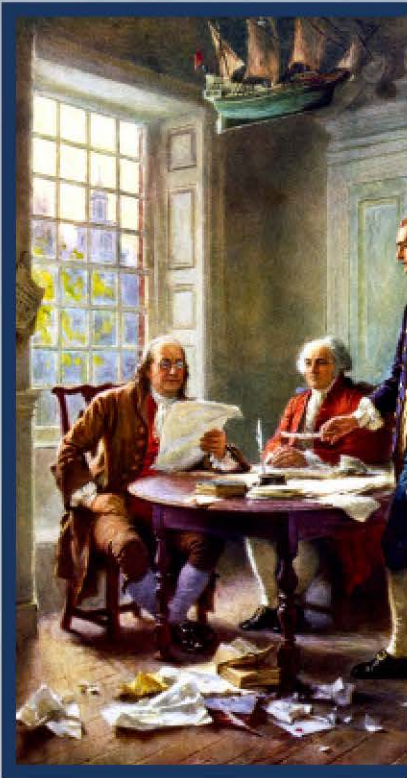
Reference

Background color
represents
custom illustration
(to be developed)

Important documents can take a long time to write.

The Declaration of Independence needed to justify revolution to the world. Thomas Jefferson, a talented lawyer from Virginia, wrote the first draft. He borrowed from Enlightenment ideas on natural law, liberty, and reason. He later explained that he was not “striving for originality” but hoped to create an “expression of the American mind.”

Jefferson reviewed the draft with a five-person committee. They then presented a revised version to the Second Continental Congress. After days of debate and dozens of changes, Congress ratified the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.



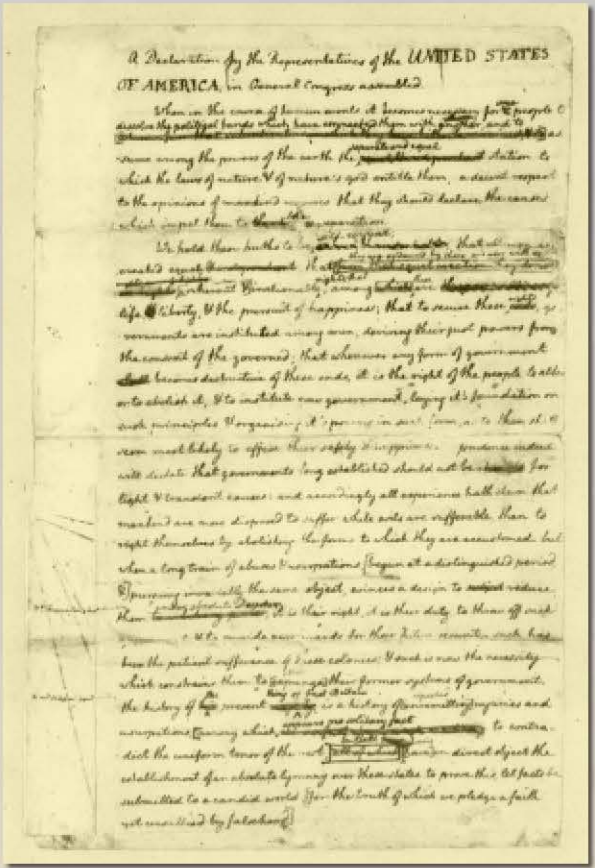
Thomas Jefferson reviews the first draft with Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. The three men were part of the committee tasked with writing the Declaration.

Library of Congress

The original draft of the Declaration included a clause blaming King George III for violating “sacred rights of life and liberty” by forcing “a distant people” into slavery. After heated discussion, Congress cut this clause. The final Declaration makes no direct mention of slavery.

John Trumbull’s famous painting showing Thomas Jefferson presenting the Declaration to John Hancock on June 28, 1776.

Architect of the Capitol



This rough draft of the Declaration includes changes from the five-person committee and Congress. In total, Jefferson made 86 edits to the original draft.

Library of Congress

Size: 60" x 60"

IM-03-03-204

IM-03-03-203

IM-03-03-207

LA-03-03-200

IM-03-03-201

IM-03-03-202

IM-03-03-206

IM-03-03-205

A Celebrated Document

Copies of the Declaration of Independence soon circulated around the world. For many Americans, the document was an inspiration. For the British, it was a revolt. "A more impudent, false and atrocious Proclamation was never fabricated by the Hands of Man," wrote one British officer.

The young Republic was fragile after the United States defeated Great Britain in 1781. Amid political strife, many Americans thought the Declaration could spark future revolution within the United States. But as the nation grew stronger after the War of 1812, the Declaration became a source of pride. Peace restored and grievances forgotten, Americans held up the Declaration as central to their unique national identity.

After the Declaration was adopted on July 4, 1776, Congressional printer John Dunlap worked through the night to set the Declaration in type and print 200 copies. News of the Declaration reached Britain in August.

After all the colonies had approved independence, delegates began gathering to sign the official parchment version on August 2, 1776.

Since the 1810s, many people have created commemorative versions of the Declaration. How do these versions reflect Americans' changing view of the Declaration — and themselves?

Library of Congress

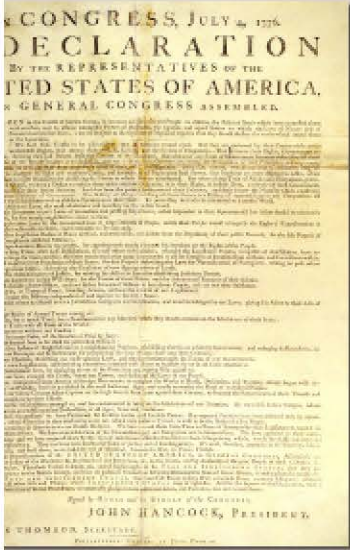
Library of Congress

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Library of Congress

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Library of Congress



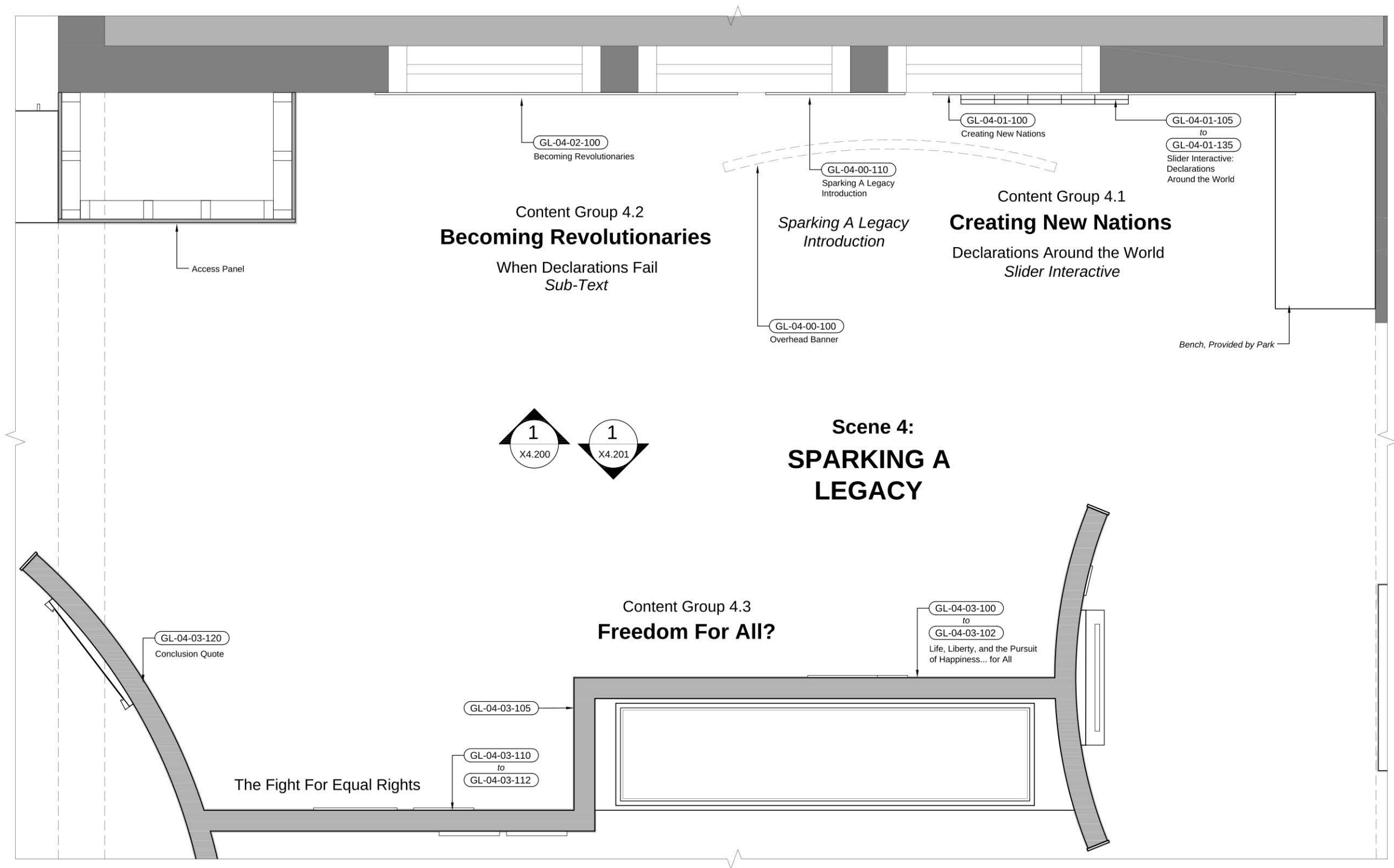
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Library of Congress



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Library of Congress







Polish-born artist Arthur Szyk became an American citizen in 1948. He dedicated this 1950 print to his fellow Americans, calling the Declaration the “immortal heritage of our forefathers.”

The signers of the Declaration of Independence knew they were making history. But they could not have predicted how widespread and lasting the Declaration’s impact would be. Subsequent generations looked to it for inspiration, and other nations used it as a model for their own declarations of independence. As the Declaration’s words became repeated, reused, and debated, new meanings emerged. The Declaration of Independence has influenced political, social, and cultural change around the world. Its legacy continues today.

The Declaration had a profound impact on France, the United States’ first ally. This painting by Jacques-Louis David shows the National Assembly gathering in 1789. They signed the Declaration of the Rights of the Man and of the Citizen two months later.

Musée de la Ville de Paris, Musée Carnavalet, Paris, France / Bridgeman Images



IM-04-01-204

LA-04-01-201

“Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.”
George Washington, 1788

LA-04-01-210

The Declaration of Independence is a worldwide inspiration. These excerpts come from declarations of independence from around the globe. Can you guess each country?

GL-04-01-105 to GL-04-01-135

“The territory... is whole and indivisible, and the constitution of no other State is valid on it.”



“We recognize in all men, certain natural and inalienable rights: among these are life, liberty, and the right to acquire, possess, enjoy and defend property.”



“All the peoples on earth are equal from birth, all the peoples have a right to live, to be happy and free.”



“We demand the evacuation of our country by the English Garrison.”



“We therefore declare that the political connection between us and the Mexican nation is forever ended...”



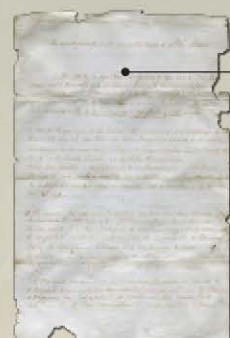
LA-04-01-200

The Declaration of Independence boldly claimed the right of a new nation to join the community of nations. After the success of the American Revolution, waves of nations declared independence. Political revolutions swept Western Europe, Central America, and South America in the 1800s. Several Eastern European states emerged in the early 1900s. After World War II, many African and Asian nations broke away from European colonizers. Like the United States, these new countries wrote declarations asserting their right to exist.

IM-04-01-203

In 1835, Maori chiefs wrote the He Whakaputanga or Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand. The British recognized the chiefs' authority, but only to sign with them the Treaty of Waitangi, which solidified British colonial rule in 1840.

Archives of New Zealand



Venezuelan representatives declare independence from Spain, 1811. Venezuela's declaration borrowed from the American model, asserting the power to act "in like manner as other free and independent states."

Juan Loreta, Círculo de julio de 1811, Wikimedia Commons



IM-04-01-202



Creating New Nations

Declarations Around the World

Thomas Stone National Historic Site
Port Tobacco, MD

Scene 4
Graphic Layout

Phase
PDII Revised

Date
09.19.2025

Scale
1-1/2" = 1'-0"

G.27

LA-04-01-210

**“The territory...
is whole and
indivisible, and
the constitution of
no other State is
valid on it.”**

Lithuania

With the fall of the Soviet Union, many Eastern European countries declared sovereignty. In 1990, Lithuania reasserted the independence it first claimed in 1918.



GL-04-01-105

**“We recognize in all
men, certain natural
and inalienable
rights: among these
are life, liberty, and
the right to acquire,
possess, enjoy and
defend property.”**

Liberia

Liberia was founded as a colony for free African Americans. Virginia-born journalist Hilary Teague wrote Liberia's declaration in 1847, establishing the colony as an independent state.



GL-04-01-106

**“All the peoples on
earth are equal from
birth, all the peoples
have a right to live, to
be happy and free.”**

Vietnam

Vietnam proclaimed its independence from France in 1945 and directly quoted the Declaration of Independence and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.



GL-04-01-107

**“We demand the
evacuation of our
country by the
English Garrison.”**

Ireland

This 1919 declaration declared sovereignty of the entire island of Ireland. The 26-county Irish Free State — later Republic of Ireland — won independence from Great Britain three years later.



GL-04-01-108

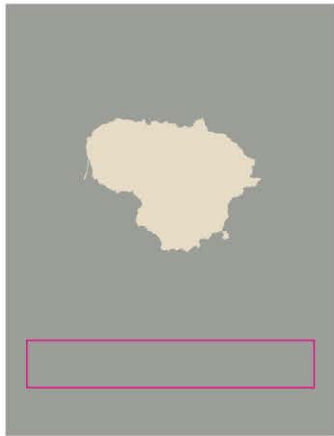
**“We therefore
declare that the
political connection
between us and the
Mexican nation is
forever ended...”**

Texas

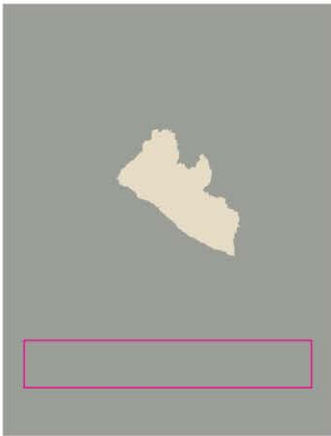
Once part of Mexico, Texas declared independence in 1836 and was a sovereign nation, The Republic of Texas, before joining the United States in 1845.



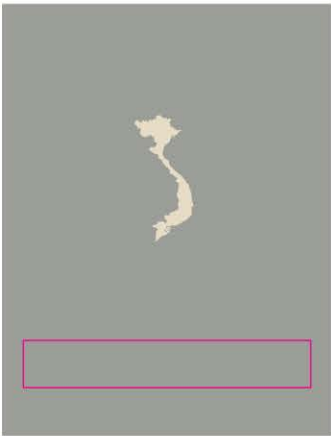
GL-04-01-109



GL-04-01-115



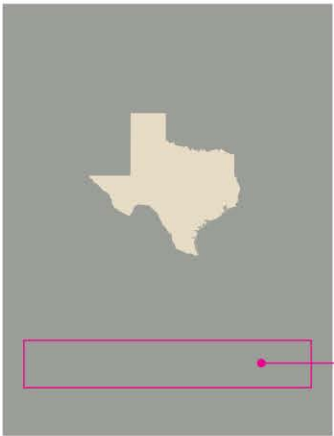
GL-04-01-120



GL-04-01-125



GL-04-01-130



GL-04-01-135

Door Handles

GL-04-01-105 – 109

Sliders (Backs)

Scene: 4

Content Group: 1

Size: 6.125" x 18"

GL-04-01-115 – 135

Sliders (Fronts)

Scene: 4

Content Group: 1

Size: 6.875" x 9"

GL-04-01-110 – 111
Sliders (Backs)
Scene: 4
Content Group: 1

Size: 6.125" x 18"

GL-04-01-140 – 145
Sliders (Fronts)
Scene: 4
Content Group: 1

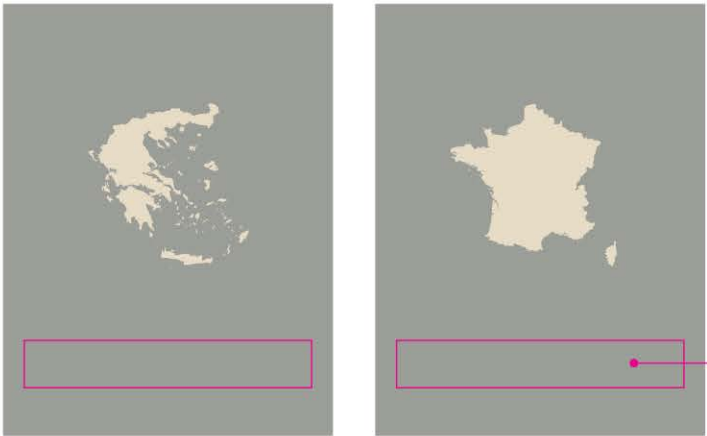
Size: 6.875" x 9"

**Alternate Panels



GL-04-01-110

GL-04-01-111



GL-04-01-140

GL-04-01-145

Door Handles

Size: 78" x 60"

IM-04-02-206

LA-04-02-201

IM-04-02-207

IM-04-02-208

LA-04-02-200

IM-04-02-203

IM-04-02-204

IM-04-02-202

LA-04-02-205

Becoming Revolutionaries

“We have it in our power to begin the world over again.”
Thomas Paine, 1776

When Declarations Fail

Declarations alone are often not enough to win independence. The international community never recognized declarations from Rhodesia, Crimea, and others. Sometimes recognition comes after a long delay. The United States did not acknowledge Haiti’s 1804 independence until 1862.

International recognition is complicated. To survive, a new nation must have both internal stability and external support. Often, successful declarations are backed by winning a war — with many lives lost.

Revolutions shook the world’s monarchies in the 1800s. Colonies cast off external authority, and enslaved people fought for freedom. But revolution does not always mean independence. In 1860 for example, South Carolina borrowed the Declaration’s language in its declaration of secession from the United States, which was a prelude to the American Civil War.

In 1965, Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith signed a Unilateral Declaration of Independence for the self-governed British colony of Rhodesia — today Zimbabwe. However, the international community never recognized Rhodesia.

During the Texas revolution of 1835–1836, Texans wrote a declaration “severing our political connection with the Mexican people.” The Republic of Texas joined the United States in 1846.

Haitian and French troops clash in this illustration by French illustrator Auguste Raffet. The Haitian Revolution ended slavery in Haiti and led to Haitian independence in 1804.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
OF THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS
IN GENERAL CONGRESS,
AT WASHINGTON, D.C.,
MAY 1, 1836.

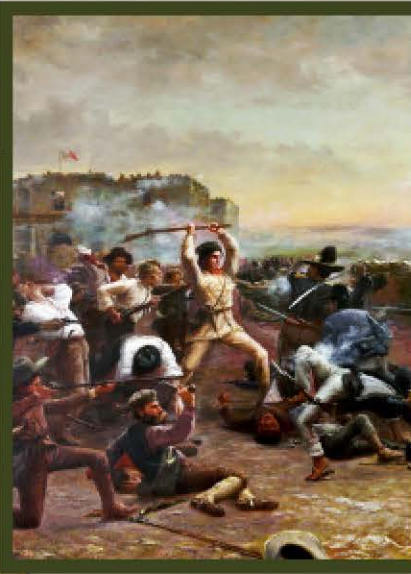
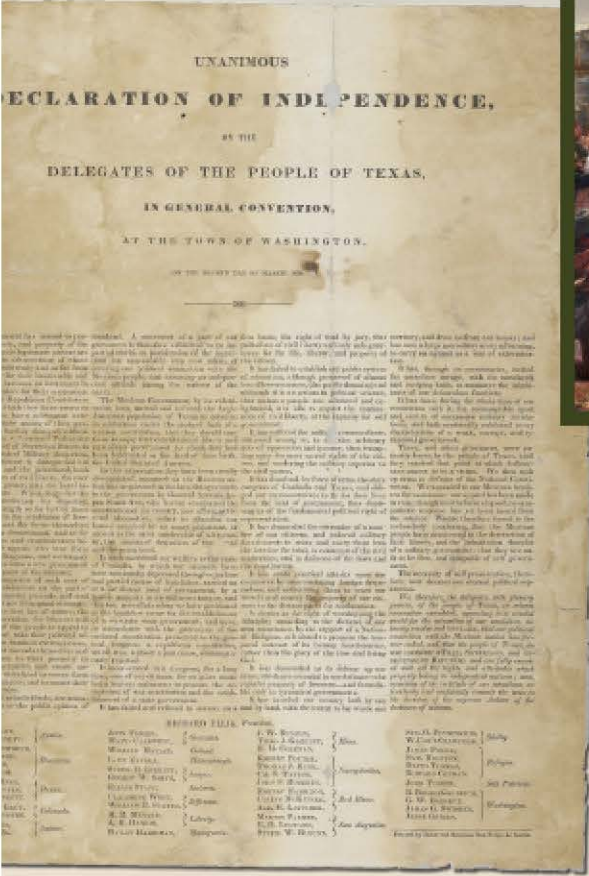
Friends of the Governor’s Mansion, Austin

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

W

Photo: G. Auerbach / Bridgeman Images

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Texas State Library and Archives Commission



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Courtesy of Window on Rhodesia (www.rhodesia.me.uk)

Pictorial Press Ltd / Alamy Stock Photo



Friends of the Governor's Mansion, Austin



Haitian and French troops clash in this illustration by French illustrator Auguste Raffet. The Haitian Revolution ended slavery in Haiti and led to Haitian independence in 1804.

Photo © Aunaies / Bridgeman Images

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4.3 COMPOSITE

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness...for All

The Declaration of Independence serves as a powerful reminder of the values that define the spirit of America. The iconic phrase "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" encapsulates the foundational principles on which our nation was built and has also been a profound inspiration for generations of Americans striving to fulfill these principles in their own lives.

In practice, the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness extends beyond mere rhetoric; it invites us to confront our past, contemplate our present, and shape our future. From seeking independence, to contemporary struggles for rights, Americans throughout our nation's history have sought to create the future they envision.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal."

Declaration of Sentiments, 1848



"If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

Abigail Adams to John Adams, 1776

"If one minute's freedom had been offered to me, and I had been told I must die at the end of that minute, I would have taken it."

Elizabeth Freeman, circa 1800

The Fight for Equal Rights

1791	1865	1920
The Bill of Rights is added to the Constitution.	The 13th Amendment abolishes slavery. Subsequent amendments guarantee citizenship to formerly enslaved people and give Black men the right to vote.	All women gain the right to vote with the 19th Amendment.

"The fight for freedom is not won by the acquisition of rights but by the recognition of them."

Ida B. Wells



"When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir...."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream," 1963

1924	1943	1964	1965	1990
The Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to Native Americans, although the right to vote is determined by the states.	Congress repeals the Chinese Exclusion Act, paving the way for immigration reform.	The Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.	The Voting Rights Act outlaws voting practices such as poll taxes and literacy tests.	The Americans with Disabilities Act guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities in all areas of public life.









GL-04-03-100

GL-04-03-105

GL-04-03-110

IM-04-03-206

IM-04-03-208

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness...for All

LA-04-03-200

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GL-04-03-101

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal."

Declaration of Sentiments, 1848

"If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

Abigail Adams to John Adams, 1776

IM-04-03-209

"If one minute's freedom had been offered to me, and I had been told I must die at the end of that minute, I would have taken it."

Elizabeth Freeman, circa 1800

IM-04-03-207

"The fight for freedom is not won by the acquisition of rights but by the recognition of them."

Ida B. Wells

The Fight for Equal Rights

1791 The Bill of Rights is added to the Constitution.	1865 The 13th Amendment abolishes slavery. Subsequent amendments guarantee citizenship to formerly enslaved people and give Black men the right to vote.	1920 All women gain the right to vote with the 19th Amendment.
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IM-04-03-204

GL-04-03-105

GL-04-03-100
Freedom for All?
Scene: 4
Content Group: 3

Size: 103.5" x 85"

GL-04-03-105
Freedom for All? (Cont.)
Scene: 4
Content Group: 3

Size: 28.5" x 85"

Thomas Stone National Historic Site Port Tobacco, MD	Scene 4 Graphic Layout	Phase PDII Revised	Date 09.19.2025	Scale 1" = 1'-0"	G.34
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IM-04-03-201

GL-04-03-101 – 102
Dimentional Graphics
Scene: 4
Content Group: 3

GL-04-03-101
Size: 15"x18.5"

The Declaration of Independence serves as a powerful reminder of the values that define the spirit of America. The iconic phrase "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" encapsulates the foundational principles on which our nation was built and has also been a profound inspiration for generations of Americans striving to fulfill these principles in their own lives.

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above, left
Elizabeth Cady Stanton advocates for women's suffrage in front of a Senate committee, 1878. In 1848, Stanton and other activists wrote the Declaration of Sentiments, a document that outlined women's grievances in a country where they could not vote.

Library of Congress

Abigail Adams is perhaps best known for her early advocacy for women's rights. In a famous letter to her husband John Adams, dated March 31, 1776, she urged him to "remember the ladies" when formulating new laws for the fledgling nation.

Stock Montage/Archive Photos via Getty Images



Known as the "Moses of her people," Tubman was an escaped slave who helped hundreds of enslaved people reach freedom.

Library of Congress,
LC-DIG-ppmsca-54232

An escaped slave who became a powerful orator, writer, and advocate for abolition, Douglass founded the abolitionist newspaper "The North Star" and wrote several autobiographies detailing his experiences.

Library of Congress,
LC-DIG-ppmsca-69250

The Fight for Equal Rights

1791

The Bill of Rights is added to the Constitution.

1865

The 13th Amendment abolishes slavery. Subsequent amendments guarantee citizenship to formerly enslaved people and give Black men the right to vote.

1920

All women gain the right to vote with the 19th Amendment.

“The fight for freedom is not won by the acquisition of rights but by the recognition of them.”

Ida B. Wells



Suffragists picketing in Washington D. C., 1917.

Library of Congress

IM-04-03-203

GL-04-03-112

GL-04-03-102

GL-04-03-111

IM-04-03-205



IM-04-03-204

GL-04-03-111 – 112
Dimentional Graphics
Scene: 4
Content Group: 3

GL-04-03-111
Size: 12"x18"

GL-04-03-112
Size: 13"x20"

GL-04-03-102
Size: 16"x12"

IM-04-03-211



GL-04-03-111

IM-04-03-212



GL-04-03-112

IM-04-03-202



GL-04-03-102

A few months after her arrest for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a segregated city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks was arrested again on February 22, 1956 for helping organize a boycott of the city's bus system. This photo shows her being fingerprinted by a Sheriff's deputy.

AP Photo/Gene Herrick



A participant at the Gay Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco, 1977.

Vincent Maggiora/San Francisco Chronicle via AP



Protestors advocate for Native American rights ahead of the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta, 2007.

AP Photo/John Bazemore

“When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.... ”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “I Have a Dream,” 1963



In 2019, Chicago teachers demonstrated to improve the educational environment, smaller class sizes, and resources for homeless students.

Ashlee Rezin Garcia/Chicago Sun-Times via AP

1943

Congress repeals the Chinese Exclusion Act, paving the way for immigration reform.

1964

The Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

1965

The Voting Rights Act outlaws voting practices such as poll taxes and literacy tests.

1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities in all areas of public life.

Demonstrators march down New York City's Fifth Avenue in the Silent Protest Parade, held to condemn racial violence toward African Americans, 1917.

New York Public Library

Disability rights activists stage a sit-in in San Francisco, 1977.

Anthony Tusler, About Disability