

The celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
The "Daughters of the American  
Revolution" rejoice to heart to  
add their feeble efforts, in  
advancing the love of Patriotism  
in our growing generation, and  
in bringing back to them the  
causes which brought forth the  
foundation of so glorious a country

Oh may not be amiss to  
go back only a half century,  
fifty years that does not seem  
so long - and speak of how  
this day was celebrated then.

We will take Frederick May-  
land an old town settled in  
1745, principally by well to do

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Germans, who could read well  
and write, and brought with  
them many articles of furniture  
of value; and in those days of  
few books, they all possessed  
books of devotion, and large  
illustrated Bibles, with German  
silver clasps and hinges, and  
a moderate book case full of  
general reading. These Germans  
had a great deal of good judg-  
ment: they fixed upon Monacay  
valley as being rich, & fertile, the  
mountains around it being to them  
a great attraction. After settling  
their farms, they thought of their  
Churches, & being principally Luth-  
erans, & German Reformers, they  
built each a stone church, both

Of which stand<sup>3</sup> to this day.  
Five bells announced to the  
surrounding farmers, the time  
of service, and as it was de-  
sires to have uniformity of  
time, on Saturday afternoon at  
five o'clock the bells rang out  
a joyful peal to announce  
the coming Sabbath day, which  
custom is still kept up. The  
Lutherans have bells, with pure  
silver, and the sound is so clear  
it can be heard many miles.

The Reformed ~~now~~ have a  
chime of bells.

After the Germans had been  
well settled, and began carrying  
their produce down to the lower  
counties of Maryland, the



English before to come, and  
see how much more healthy  
it was among the mountains  
and they soon began, to bring  
their families and fill up  
the vacant places, & they  
soon had a church, & so we  
see that, they feared God and  
tried to serve Him I hope...  
All this was some time  
before the Revolutionary war,  
and when that trying time  
came, these sturdy farmers  
were ready to take their part,  
and history shows, how many  
were sent out of this county and  
what have, self sacrificing men  
they were.

But to return to our subject -  
The 4<sup>th</sup> of July a half century  
ago - fifty years has celebrated  
by a generation who have heavily  
passed away. In those days  
our Court House was enclosed  
by a high brick wall with a  
iron railing in that, very much  
after the French fashion and no  
doubt suggested by the Marquis  
de La Fayette whose very name  
is so dear to every American heart,  
and whose visit to our Town  
in 1824, is a pleasure never to be  
forgotten.

Then within that walled in yard  
we celebrated our Nation's Birthday  
The entrance steps to the Court  
House forming the platform

and and covered with flags  
made a substantial & fitting  
costume for the Grator of the day.  
The yard was filled with all  
the uncomfortable benches from  
halls, & lecture rooms, and there  
a goodly number assembled to  
hear the "Declaration" read and  
an oration, (and not a short one)  
delivered by one chosen for the  
occasion. This oration in those  
days was something which seems  
to have passed away with that  
generation: such men as Frank  
Thomas and Thomson Brooke  
with their silvery voices, and bursts  
of eloquence seemed to enchain their  
hearers, who sat breathlessly listening  
with patriotic enjoyment, to what  
would seem in this fast age meaningless



It may be profitable to us to go back far more than a half century, counting the full 120 years of our existence, as a nation & bring to memory a few facts of which we as Marylanders and Frederick Counties have just cause to be proud.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1776 the Continental Congress to the Colonies generally recommended as a -  
abolishment of the oaths of alle-  
-giance to the Crown, the total  
suppression of authority under  
the English government & the  
establishment of permanent con-  
-stitutions.

The Maryland Convention with its  
ancient pride & jealousy of rights, re-  
garded this recommendation as an

attempt at interference with the  
internal regulations of the Colonies  
and a remonstrance was put  
forth by the Maryland Convention  
of May 21st at which, the exclu-  
sive right of the people of Md  
to regulate its internal govern-  
ment was asserted. With a  
sense of political independence  
which seems native to Md. Soil;  
the Convention of that Colony de-  
clared, the independence of the  
Province, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July  
1776. The final action of the  
Continental Congress had not  
been learned then, for "the Declara-  
tion of Independence, had been  
fully ratified at Philadelphia  
two days before, but it took a  
longer time for news to travel  
in those days.



The prevailing sentiment of the people might have been ascertained in June had it not been delayed by the irresolution on the part of Maryland & Pennsylvania.

Why was this irresolution on the part of Maryland? The whole atmosphere of the state was pervaded by a rational liberty, which respected differences of opinion as a right belonging to every citizen. And no one was more fully impressed with the sacredness of this right, than our own representative from this County of Frederick of whom Mr. Mahan says in his history treating of this discussion, 'No one had a prouder record,

His reputation does not rest alone upon the Memorials of our Colonial history, he has a prouder record in the history of his state, and in the Councils of the American nation, & as one of her ablest representatives in the Continental Congress, his efforts in this more provincial controversy, are admitted to; not as evidences of his character, but as the earnest of those virtues, afterwards so conspicuous in the discharge of his arduous and dangerous duties, during the darkest hours of the Revolution. So may we give honor where honor is due and teach the coming generation to reverence the memory of the men, who in Maryland's struggling

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days, did so many deeds of valor  
and sacrifice, furnishing material  
for her history.

It may not be known to some  
of our young patriots, what a prom-  
inent part the leading minds  
of Maryland took in this impor-  
tant step. Samuel Chase, William  
Pace, Charles Carroll of Carrollton  
were signers from Maryland, &  
Thomas Johnson would have been  
one, but was detained at home by  
the continued illness of his family;  
but he had the honor done after-  
wards of nominating Col. George  
Washington, his early, intimate and  
valued friend, to be Commanded  
in Chief of the American Army.



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The printed journals of Congress  
make it appear that the Declaration  
was adopted & signed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of  
July - that is incorrect - not one sig-  
nature was affixed until the 2<sup>d</sup>  
of August. The idea of signing  
does not appear to have immedi-  
ately occurred to them, for on reference  
to the secret journals, it was on  
the 19<sup>th</sup> of July a resolution was  
passed, directing the "Declaration"  
to be engrossed on parchment.  
This was done on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of  
August following, & when the engrossed  
copy was prepared, and not before  
the "Declaration of Independence"  
was signed, by the members who  
on that day were present in Congress.

July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776  
Anna Graham Ross -  
Regent of Acady Chap. N. H. R.