



Kathryn A. Toomey
Register of Deeds

Interesting Facts about the Declaration of Independence and the Fourth of July

- ★ Did you know that the Continental Congress voted for Independence on July 2, 1776. We celebrate on July 4th because it was the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted.
- ★ Fifty-six men signed the document from the thirteen colonies.
- ★ Edward Rutledge was the youngest person to sign the Declaration of Independence at age 26
- ★ Ben Franklin was the oldest signer, at 70 years old.
- ★ The most ironic 4th of July facts. These two famous signers of the Declaration of Independence both died on its 50th anniversary. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson on July 4, 1826 within hours of each other.
- ★ James Monroe, our fifth President of the United States also died on the Fourth of July, 1831.

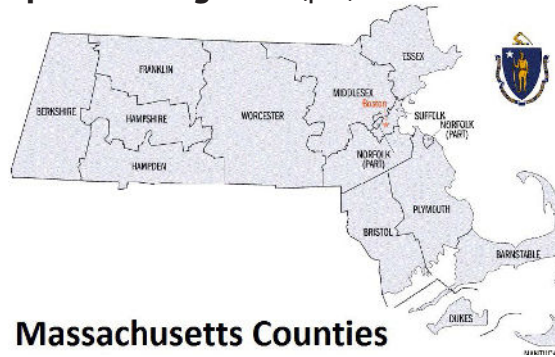
Worcester Registry of Deeds

Newsletter

July 2023 ~ Issue #23 ~ Facts about Independence Day

What's Inside?

- ★ **Spotlight:** July 4, 1776 (p. 1 and 2)
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Massachusetts Counties

- ★ Calvin Coolidge the thirtieth was the only United States President born on the Fourth of July, 1872.
- ★ Bristol, Rhode Island was the first place to hold a 4th of July parade in 1785.
- ★ In 1781, Massachusetts was the first state to declare July 4th an official state holiday. Despite an early adoption as a state holiday, July 4th was declared a Federal holiday in 1941.
- ★ There have been 27 versions of the U.S. flag. The original flag featured thirteen stars and stripes for the thirteen colonies. The flag we see today was adopted in 1960 with the 50th star, representing Hawaii.
- ★ In 1776 there were 2.5 million people living in the United States of America. Today we have approx. 339 million people.
- ★ Americans now spend over \$1 billion dollars on fireworks for 4th of July celebrations. That number includes both personal and public displays. It is illegal to use or purchase personal fire-works in Massachusetts.

Community Statistics

Worcester South District

- 9,657** Number of Recordings in May 2023
- \$315K** Median Home Value
- 65.7%** Homes Owned vs. Rented
- 349,131** Total Housing Units
- 231** Density (Houses per Square Mile)



Spotlight

Declaration of Independence

The Old South Meeting House was built in 1763, in Worcester, MA. It was located on 20 acres of land designated as the town common, it was the center for civil government. Public readings of the newly minted Declaration of Inde-

pendence took place in taverns, churches, town greens, or any other place people could gather. In 1776, Isaiah Thomas delivered the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Massachusetts. Thomas secured a copy from a mes-

senger delivering it from Philadelphia to the Provincial Army in Boston. Thomas, a Bostonian printer who resettled in Worcester at the beginning of the war, read it to a large crowd from the roof of the portico of the Worcester Meeting House

(later known as Old South Church). Thomas published in his newspaper, *The Massachusetts Spy*, coverage of a larger event on July 22, 1776 regarding a reading of the Declaration of Independence

Symbols of Freedom



The Bald Eagle is America's national bird and is a symbol of freedom and power.





On Independence Day, Americans will enjoy 150 million hot dogs, enough to stretch from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles more than five times.

The Statue of Liberty, one of the most recognizable symbols of freedom and democracy across the world, was a gift of friendship to America from France.



Magic Number Puzzle

Follow Numbers 1 through 55

		4	9	6	18	17	16	35	34	32
		3	8	5	20	40	15	21	23	45
1	1	2	3	4	21	23	18	20	30	46
3	2	9	8	13	12	31	30	19	48	47
9	3	6	7	8	20	12	17	18	19	31
8	4	5	22	9	10	11	16	40	20	32
10	5	26	23	10	42	41	15	39	21	33
14	6	25	24	11	12	13	14	39	22	47
8	7	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	23	46
21	34	33	32	31	40	27	26	25	24	55
23	35	18	19	30	29	28	27	28	29	54
24	36	30	32	31	5	2	50	51	52	53
38	37	38	39	46	47	48	49	44	55	54
39	20	33	44	45	29	52	53	45		
40	41	42	43	46	47	53	54	55		

Puzzle answer on page 4

Bayda Asbridge

Bayda is a Syrian/American artist residing in Worcester, Massachusetts. She is a multi-disciplinary artist, who works in a wide range of mediums. Bayda was trained by Sharon Viles as an Asian Brush painter then she moved on to teach that art form at Worcester Art Museum. She has a vast knowledge in painting, drawing, printmaking, Japanese weaving (Saori), mixed media, sculpture, installation, and basketry.

We are in our newly renovated space in the Mercantile Building and Bayda has graciously allowed us the honor of displaying her artwork.

Come in and see us and make sure you take the time to admire her work. We have 3 closing rooms available to use here and plenty of work stations for the public to do your research.



Recipe: Fruit Flag Pizza



Ingredients:

- 1 lb Package pre-made sugar cookie dough
- 1-8 oz Package cream cheese, at room temperature
- 3-4 tbsp Granulated sugar
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract
- 10 oz Raspberries
- 6 oz Blueberries
- 8 oz Cool Whip at room temperature

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a round glass pizza pan or 9x13-inch pan, or use a 9x13-inch pan lined with parchment paper, so you could pull it out to decorate at the end.
2. Press the dough into the pan, about 1/8 inch thick. Pierce the dough several times with a fork.
3. Bake 10 to 15 minutes, or until edges are lightly golden and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Be careful not to brown. Let cool completely.
4. In a large bowl, beat together the cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla with an electric mixer. Using a rubber spatula, fold in softened cool whip.
5. Place the remaining frosting in a piping bag fitted with a 1M tip. Pipe the frosting in between the fruit stripes.

Puzzle Solution

		4	9	6	18	17	16	35	34	32
		3	8	5	20	40	15	21	23	45
1	1	2	3	4	21	23	18	20	30	46
3	2	9	8	13	12	31	30	19	48	47
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8	4	5	22	9	10	11	16	40	20	32
10	5	26	23	10	42	41	15	39	21	33
14	6	25	24	11	12	13	14	39	22	47
8	7	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	23	46
21	34	33	32	31	40	27	26	25	24	55
23	35	18	19	30	29	28	27	28	29	54
24	36	30	32	31	5	2	50	51	52	53
38	37	38	39	46	47	48	44	44	55	54
39	20	33	44	45	29	52	53	45		
40	41	42	43	46	47	53	54	55		