



# **Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the Declaration of Independence**

*Denise Kiernan, Joseph D'Agnese*

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In the summer of 1776, fifty-six men risked their lives and livelihood to defy King George III and sign the Declaration of Independence--yet how many of them do we actually remember?

*Signing Their Lives Away* introduces readers to the eclectic group of statesmen, soldiers, slaveholders, and scoundrels who signed this historic document--and the many strange fates that awaited them. Some prospered and rose to the highest levels of United States government, while others had their homes and farms seized by British soldiers.

Signer George Wythe was poisoned by his nephew; Button Gwinnett was killed in a duel; Robert Morris went to prison; Thomas Lynch was lost at sea; and of course Sam Adams achieved fame as a patriot/brewer.

Complete with portraits of the signers as well as a facsimile of the Declaration of Independence, *Signing Their Lives Away* provides an entertaining and enlightening narrative for history buffs of all ages.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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"An extraordinarily fascinating study of America's lesser-known founding fathers alongside the more well-known ones, *Signing Their Rights Today* is a welcome and enthusiastically recommended contribution to public and college library shelves." -- Midwest Book Review (Reviewer's Choice)

"[The authors]...maintain a refreshing reverence for the Constitution itself. Rather than ask readers to believe that an 'assembly of demigods' (Jefferson's words) wrote the Constitution, Ms. Kiernan and Mr. D'Agnese challenge the notion that the group that crafted this document of enduring genius was uniquely brilliant or visionary. If this raises the question of how exactly the miracle was accomplished, it should at least give readers some hope for our own seemingly uninspired political era." -- *The Wall Street Journal*

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