The Merkelenburg Recharation of Judependences May 20= 1775

Resolved — That whosever directly or indirectly abets or in any way form or manner, countenances the invasion of our rights, as altempted by the Parliament of Great Britain, is an enemy to his country, to America, and the rights of man.

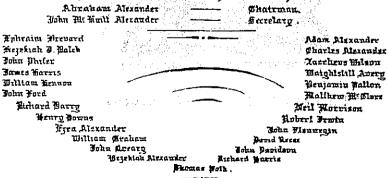
Resolved — That we, the citizens of Mecklenburg county do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us with the mother country, and absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British crown, abjuring all political connection with a nation that has wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanly shed the innocent blood of Americans at Lexington.

Hesolved — That we do hereby iterlare overselves a free and independent people, that we are and of right ovokel to be, a sovereign and self-governing people under the power of God and the general Congress, to the maintenance of which independence we solemaly pledge to each other our motival cooperation our lines, our fortunes and our most sacred homor. Resolved — That we do hereby ordain and adopt as rules of conduct all and each of our

desolved — Chal we do hereby ordain and adopt as roles of conduct all and each of we former laws, and the crown of Great Britain cannot be considered hereafter as holding any rights, privileges, or immunities amongst vs.

Resolved — Chat all officers both rivil and military in this county, be entitled to exercise the same powers and arthorities as herefolore, that every member of this delegation shall henceforth be a rivil officer, and exercise the powers of a justice of the peace issue process, hear and determine controversies according to law, preserve peace, union and training in the county, and use every exertion to spread the love of liberty and of country, valid a more general and belter organized system of government be established.

Resolved — That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by express to the Pres ident of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia to be laid before that body.



The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence May 20, 1775

Alarmed by rumors of action by the British Parliament which would suppress the colonies, Colonel Thomas Polk, on May 1, 1775, called for a meeting of Mecklenburg County Militia Delegates for May 19 to determine a course of action.

Twenty-seven delegates were meeting in the Mecklenburg County Courthouse on that date when a courier rode into Charlotte-town with news of the Battle of Lexington. His electrifying news so united the assembly that at 2:00 a.m. on the morning of May 20, 1775, a unanimous vote approved the Declaration which was then signed by all delegates as representatives of the people.

At noon the Mecklenburg Declaration was read before several thousand people from the

steps of the Courthouse.

The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence is one of the nation's most controversial documents. It has never been authenticated — the original was lost — and, if authentic, would have preceded the July 4, 1776 Philadelphia Declaration of Independence by more than a year.

It remains as the cornerstone of the fierce pride of Mecklenburg County in independence and patriotism. If not accepted by the nation, its authenticity is believed in by all those who love Charlotte and Mecklenburg

County.



NEWS OF THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON

prepared by The Charlotte Chamber of Commerce