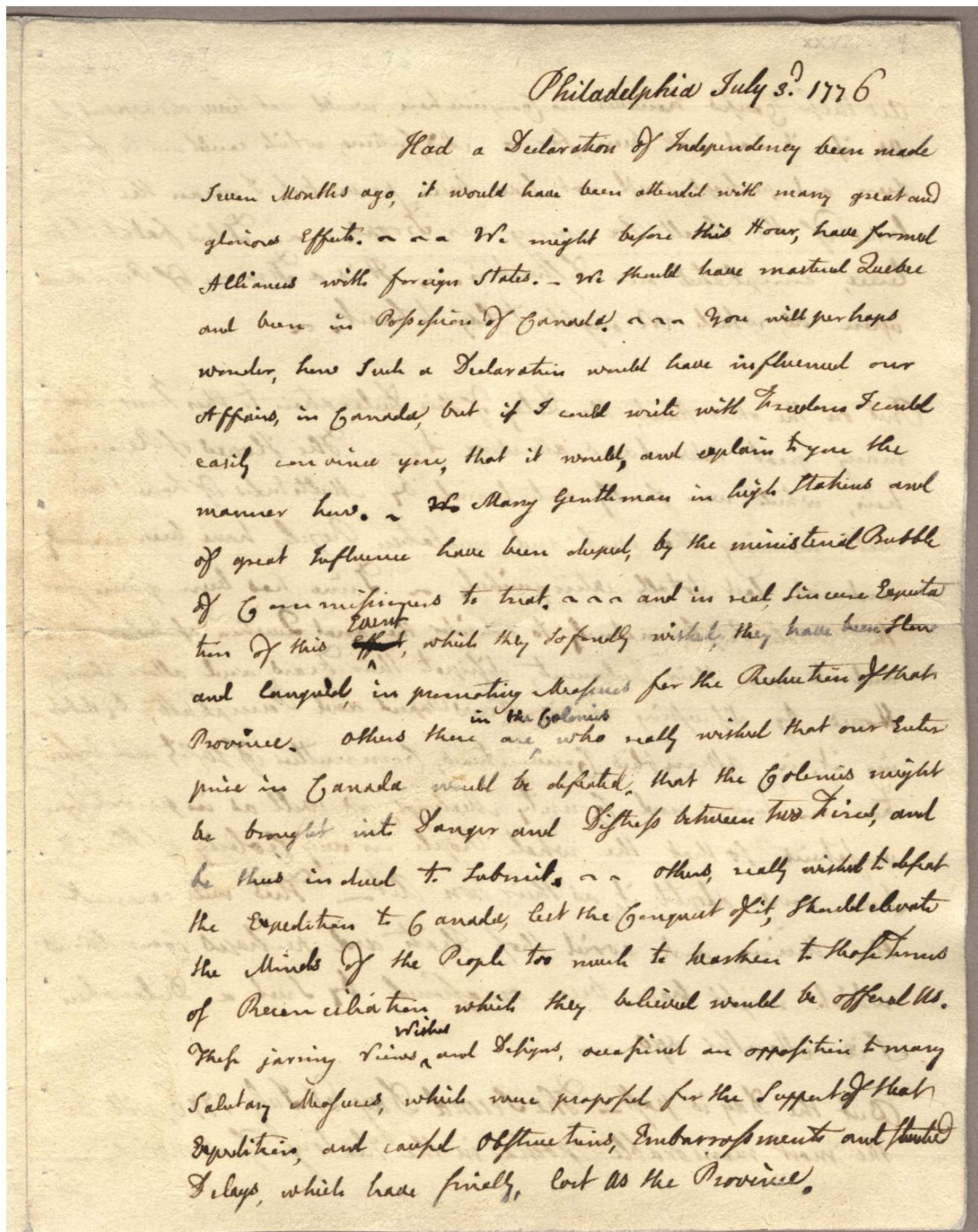


## Appendix C: John Adams to Abigail Adams Letter 2, July 3, 1777 [1]

The following images were scanned from a letter written by John Adams to his wife, Abigail Adams, on July 3, 1776.



All these Events however in Guyane this would not have disappoited us, if it had not been for a Misfortune, which could not be foreseen, and perhaps could not have been prevented, I mean the Prevalence of the Small Pox among our Troops. & ~~aa~~ This fatal Pestilence, compleateth our Destruction. & It is a Token of Providence upon us, which we ought to lay to heart. &

But on the other Hand, the Delay of this Declaration to this Time, has many great Advantages attending it. — The Hopes of Reconciliation, which were finely entertained by Multitudes of honest and well meaning tho' weak and mistaken People, have been gradually and at last totally extinguished. — Time has been given for the whole People, maturely to consider, the great Question of Independence and to open their Judgment, dissipate their fears, and allay their Horres, by diffusing it in News Papers and Pamphlets, by publishing it, in all the Towns, Committees of Safety and Inspectors in Towns and County Meetings, as well as in private Families, so that the whole People in every Colony of the 13. have now adopted it, as their own Act. — This will cement the Union, and avoid those heats and perhaps Contentions which might have been occasioned, by such a Declaration Six Months ago. —

But the Day is past. — The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epoch, in the History of America. —

I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by suc-  
ceeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival.  
It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance  
by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It  
ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade  
with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires  
and Illuminations from one End of this Con-  
tinent to the other from this Time forward  
forever more.

You will think me transported with enthusiasm  
but I am not — I am well aware of the Toil  
and Blood and Suffering, that it will cost Us to  
maintain this Declaration, and support and de-  
fend these States. — Yet through all the gloom  
I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and  
Glory. I can see that the End is more than  
worth all the Means. And that posterity will  
triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho'  
we should see it, which I doubt no God wifholt  
not. —

From the Adams Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society.  
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[4]

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