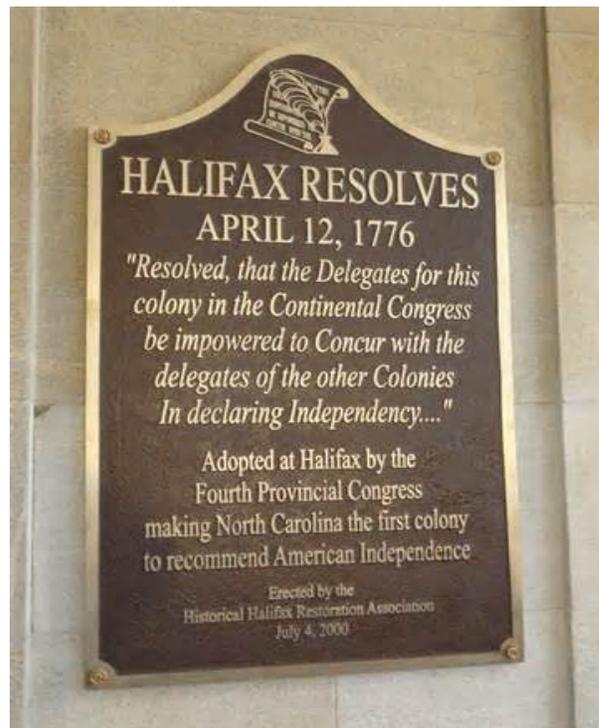


The Halifax Resolves – passed by the Fourth Provincial Congress of N.C. on April 12, 1776

Background

The fighting had already started between the British and the Colonists, and the idea of being independent from Britain was starting to take shape and became the topic discussions. One particular battle that took place in February 1776 was at Moore's Creek Bridge; this was the first battle in North Carolina. This battle resulted in a victory for the Patriots, which helped the movement of independence move towards fruition. The members of North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress met in Halifax, North Carolina in April, just a short time after the Patriot's victory at Moore's Creek Bridge. At this meeting, it was decided to create a committee to investigate various options as to how to protect North Carolina from any future British attacks. The men appointed with this task devised the Halifax Resolves which declared North Carolina's desire to be independent from Britain. The Resolves also expressed North Carolina's desire to join with other colonies in declaring their independence. The Provincial Congress approved the Resolves. William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, Richard Caswell represented North Carolina in the Continental Congress where they presented the Halifax Resolves which also allowed these men to vote for independence on behalf of North Carolina. The Resolves helped catapult the idea of all colonies uniting in their fight for freedom. This led to the decision to devise the Declaration of Independence. North Carolina was the first colony to express their desire to separate from Britain.



Questions to consider when reading this document:

1. What was the purpose of the Halifax Resolves?
2. Explain the meaning of the "Plan concerted by the British Ministry for subjugating America" in the second paragraph. Describe some of the actions taken by Britain against the colonies as listed in the Halifax Resolves.
3. Explain how the Halifax Resolves led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence. What are the similarities of the two documents?

Essential Standards

In reading this primary source students will:

- Construct charts, graphs, and historical narratives to explain particular events or issues (8.H.1.1)
- Summarize the literal meaning of historical documents in order to establish context (8.H.1.2)
- Use primary and secondary sources to interpret various historical perspectives. (8.H.1.3)
- Summarize how leadership and citizen actions influenced the outcome of key conflicts in the U.S. (8.H.2.2)
- Explain how individuals and groups have influenced economic, political and social change in NC and the US (8.H.3.3)
- Evaluate the degree to which democratic ideals are evident in historical documents from NC and the US (8.C&G.1.2)

Halifax Resolves, Adopted April 12, 1776, Fourth Provincial Congress of North Carolina, Halifax, North Carolina

The Select Committee taking into Consideration the usurpations and violences attempted and committed by the King and Parliament of Britain against America, and the further Measures to be taken for frustrating the same, and for the better defence of this province reported as follows, to wit,

It appears to your Committee that pursuant to the Plan concerted by the British Ministry for subjugating America, the King and Parliament of Great Britain have usurped a Power over the Persons and Properties of the People unlimited and uncontrouled; and disregarding their humble Petitions for Peace, Liberty and safety, have made divers Legislative Acts, denouncing War Famine and every Species of Calamity against the Continent in General. That British Fleets and Armies have been and still are daily employed in destroying the People and committing the most horrid devastations on the Country. That Governors in different Colonies have declared Protection to Slaves who should imbrue their Hands in the Blood of their Masters. That the Ships belonging to America are declared prizes of War and many of them have been violently seized and confiscated in consequence of which multitudes of the people have been destroyed or from easy Circumstances reduced to the most Lamentable distress.

And whereas the moderation hitherto manifested by the United Colonies and their sincere desire to be reconciled to the mother Country on Constitutional Principles, have procured no mitigation of the aforesaid Wrongs and usurpations, and no hopes remain of obtaining redress by those Means alone which have been hitherto tried, Your Committee are of Opinion that the house should enter into the following Resolve to wit,

Resolved that the delegates for this Colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to concur with the delegates of the other Colonies in declaring Independency, and forming foreign Alliances, reserving to this Colony the Sole, and Exclusive right of forming a Constitution and Laws for this Colony, and of appointing delegates from time to time (under the direction of a general Representation thereof) to meet the delegates of the other Colonies for such purposes as shall be hereafter pointed out.

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Explain how the Halifax Resolves leads to the writing of the Declaration of Independence. What are the similarities of the two documents?

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