

# *“The Unfinished Work”*

*The United States of America —  
a Mercury retrograde phenomenon*

First presented on May 18, 2008, in Denver Colorado, at the United Astrology Congress

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident...”*

# Course Description

---

- The Declaration of Independence was agreed to with Mercury retrograde. Formalizing an agreement while Mercury is retrograde is typically interpreted as implying that there are factors that have not been adequately thought through or may be somehow hidden. This lecture will explore the impact of the United States' retrograde Mercury on the development of political structures, national parties, law, and even the changing meaning of the seminal phrase "all men are created equal."

# Introduction

---

- What would our expectations for a retrograde Mercury lead us to expect about the likely course, and ultimate success or failure, of a prospective business, marriage, or, indeed, political revolution begun under it?
- How many of you would strongly advise your clients and friends to avoid beginning anything under a retrograde Mercury?
- How many in today's audience had even made note of the fact that Mercury is retrograde in any July 2nd or July 4th 1776 chart before reading the description for the course material presented in this lecture?

# Tradition Dispelled or Illuminated?

---

- The undeniable fact: a nation begun under Mercury retrograde two hundred and thirty-two years ago not only survived, but flourished - becoming among the most prosperous and powerful nations in the history of the world
- It's unlikely rise and ultimate flowering confounded contemporary expectations, especially in Great Britain
- And yet the course that the American Revolution followed was anything but predictable or orderly. It left many Americans, including some of those who physically fought the British during the War for Independence, outside of the circle of protection that both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are commonly thought to have established

# History Viewed the Astrologer's Lens

---

- This obvious discrepancy has led to a spirited debate among historians
- Did the American Revolution end in 1801, as historians like Joseph Ellis and Peter C. Mancall prefer to argue, with the first peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another
- Or is the American Revolution, rather, an ongoing historical process?
- And...could the key to best understanding and resolving the many strands of this crucial political and historical issue lie with the people in this room – and their unique insight into the prototypical manifestation of a retrograde Mercury?

# My Goals for this Talk

---

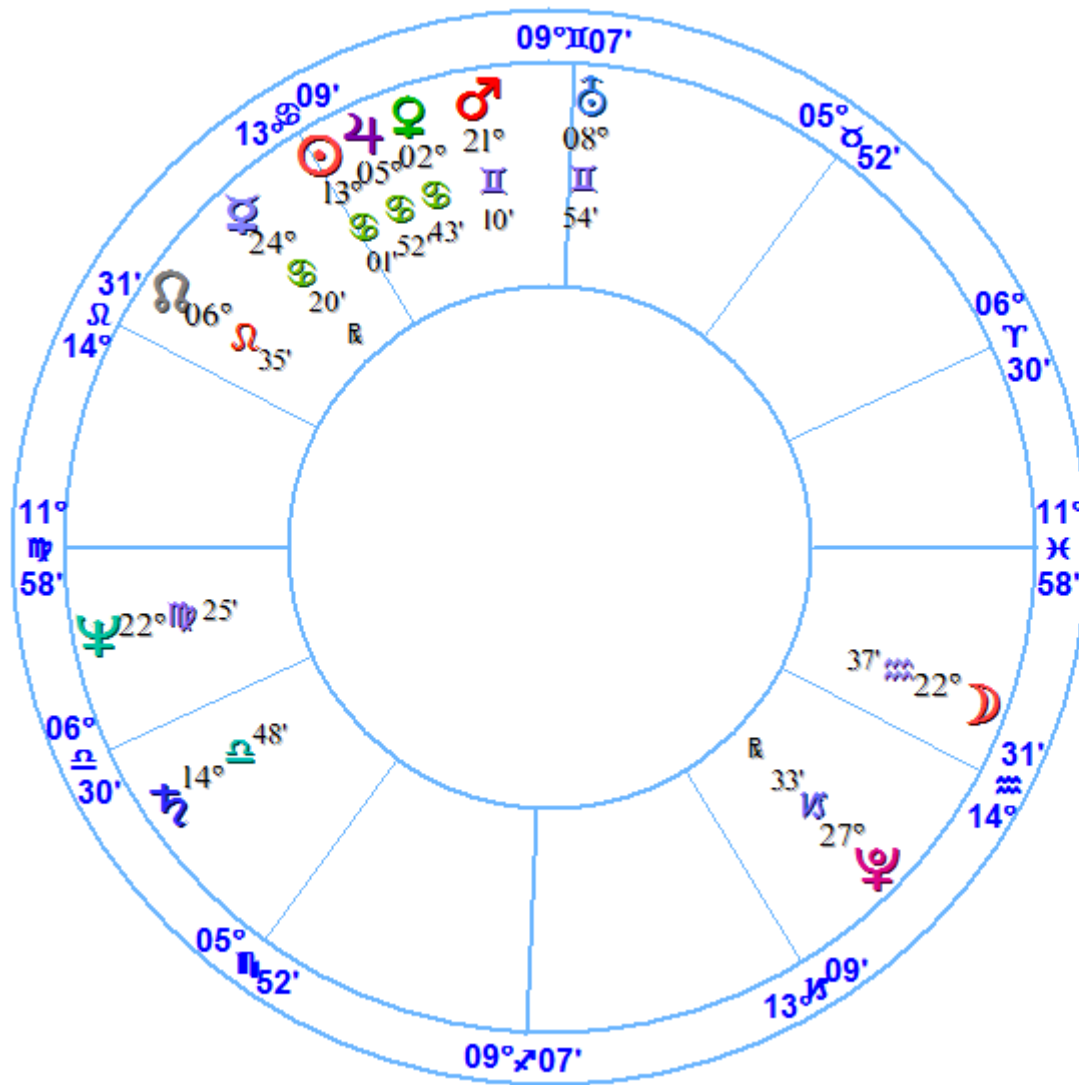
- To challenge astrologers to reexamine their attitudes about the potential for success or failure for any future event that might emerge under a retrograde Mercury
- To briefly sketch the often confused and contradictory course of the early American political experience
- To illustrate how absolutely characteristic of the archetypal expectations for a retrograde Mercury the American experience is

# An Uncertain Birth

---

- We will likely never know for certain when the “United States” came into existence as a national entity
- John Adams writes that July 2<sup>nd</sup> should be day that posterity celebrates
- But should July 2<sup>nd</sup> be seen as more a vote for ‘a bill of divorce’ than a vow of a thirteen states to go forward, united?
- Was not at least one potentially deal-breaking issue hotly debated on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, during the process of editing Jefferson’s draft of the Declaration of Independence?
- When was the text of the Declaration finally approved – late on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, or between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM on July 4<sup>th</sup>, or even later in the day (2:00 pm, 5:14 pm, etc.)?
- What might it imply esoterically, if anything, that only John Hancock and his secretary actually signed the document after it was ratified by the Continental Congress – and that the other delegates did not add their names to a printed copy of the Declaration until August 2<sup>nd</sup>?
- Or that New York abstained – and hence approval of the Declaration by the entire Congress was not completed until a later date? If you argue that the signing of the Declaration marks the moment of American Independence, what must it imply that one of the original 13 colonies did not sign until November 1776?

# United States of America



NATAL CHART

**United States**

July 4, 1776

9:37 AM

Local Mean Time

Philadelphia, PA

39N57'08" 75W09'51"

Time Zone: 0 hours West

Geocentric

Tropical Placidus

Matthew Carnicelli

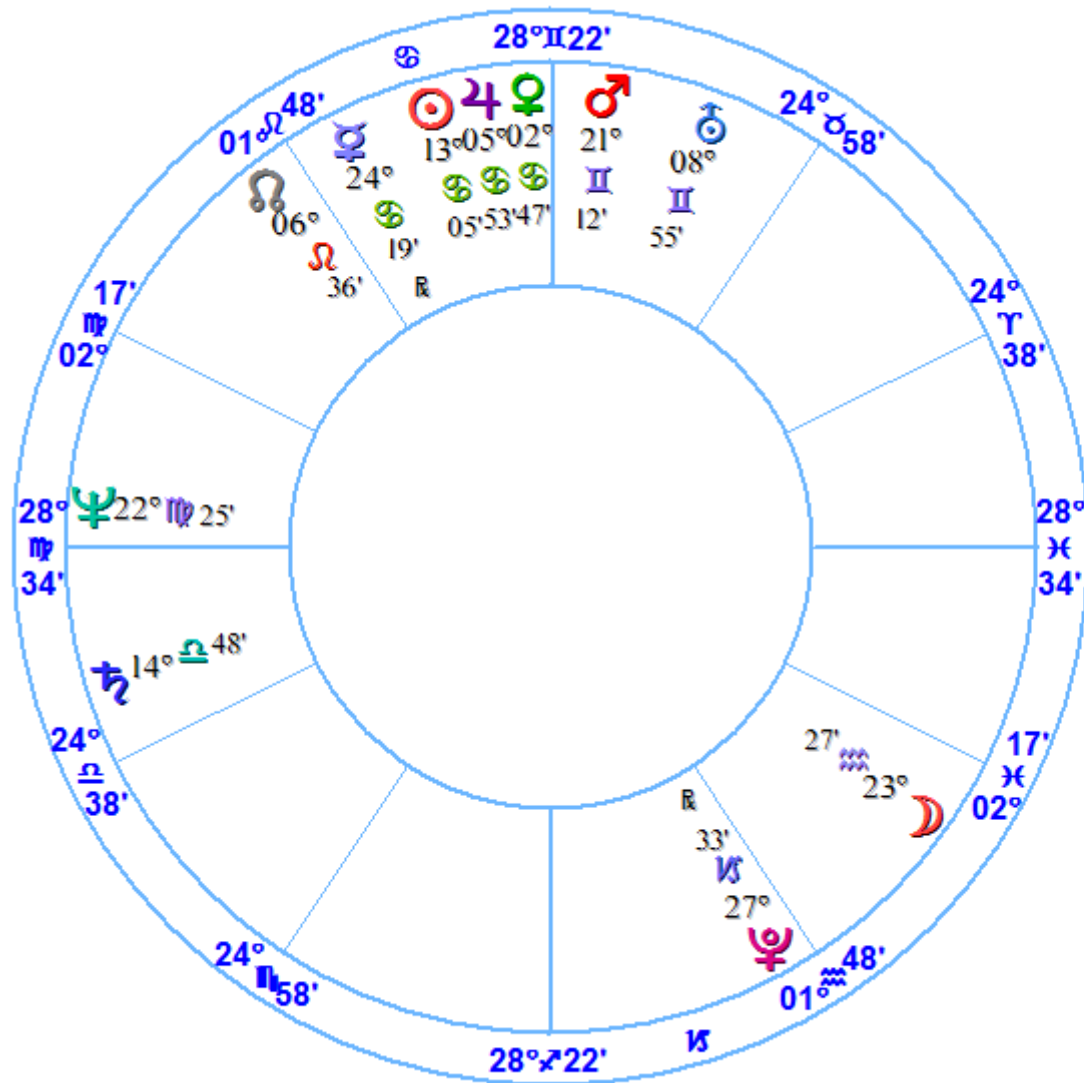
Human Potential Left

[www.hpleft.com](http://www.hpleft.com)

[matt@hpleft.com](mailto:matt@hpleft.com)



# United States - McCullough



NATAL CHART

**US-McCullough**

July 4, 1776

11:00 AM

Local Mean Time

Philadelphia, PA

39N57'08" 75W09'51"

Time Zone: 0 hours West

Geocentric

Tropical Placidus

Matthew Carnicelli

Human Potential Left

[www.hpleft.com](http://www.hpleft.com)

[matt@hpleft.com](mailto:matt@hpleft.com)

# The Odd Course of War

---

- George Washington, “the Father of his Country”, and perhaps the greatest hero of the Revolutionary War, was a General who lost more battles than he won. His greatness as a leader had less to do with a sheer grasp of strategy than with a unique ability to stoically endure – as during that bitter winter in Valley Forge
- Washington initially advocated confronting the British in the traditional European manner – on an open field – believing this approach was a matter of honor, and erroneously believing that the virtue of their cause would allow his inexperienced and ill-equipped soldiers to hold their own against the best trained and equipped military in Europe
- After the disastrous battle of New York, he was reluctantly persuaded to adopt a “Fabian” strategy (named after the Roman senator / general who eventually defeated Hannibal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War) – or a defensive / guerilla strategy.
- Washington’s brilliantly exploited the element of surprise in his two early victories – the post-Christmas 1776 morning raid on the Prussian camp in Trenton, and subsequent rear-guard action against British forces in Morristown, on January 3, 1777.

# The Odd Course of the War (cont'd)

---

- By the war's climax, the British occupied every important city outside of New England – including New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston. But, as in any guerrilla war, especially one being waged against a distant occupying power with challenging re-supply lines, control of cities did not equal with control of the war
- Civilian allegiances in the war often shifted depending on which force was in control of their region. British efforts at using force to insure the Colonists' loyalty would ultimately backfire on them – and often led to aggrieved civilians joining Patriot militia
- When an astonished Lord Cornwallis finally surrendered at the conclusion of the siege of Yorktown (a few months after the discover of Uranus in the spring of 1781), he instructed his regimental musicians to play a then familiar, and aptly named English ditty entitled “The World Turned Upside Down”

# Paranoia Strikes Deep...

---

- Not only is Mercury retrograde in any July 2<sup>nd</sup> or July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776 chart, but it is also opposite Pluto
- All things being equal, a Mercury in Cancer would, at best, tend towards emotional, rather than cleanly rational, thinking. It would prefer the familiar to the foreign. Add in the complication of a retrograde, and we might expect an even more introspective, crab-like orientation. Factor in a tight opposition to Pluto in Capricorn, and might we further extrapolate a suspicion of government, of institutions, and of anyone who might possibly be seen as upsetting the proverbial apple cart?

# “The Paranoid Style in American Politics”

---

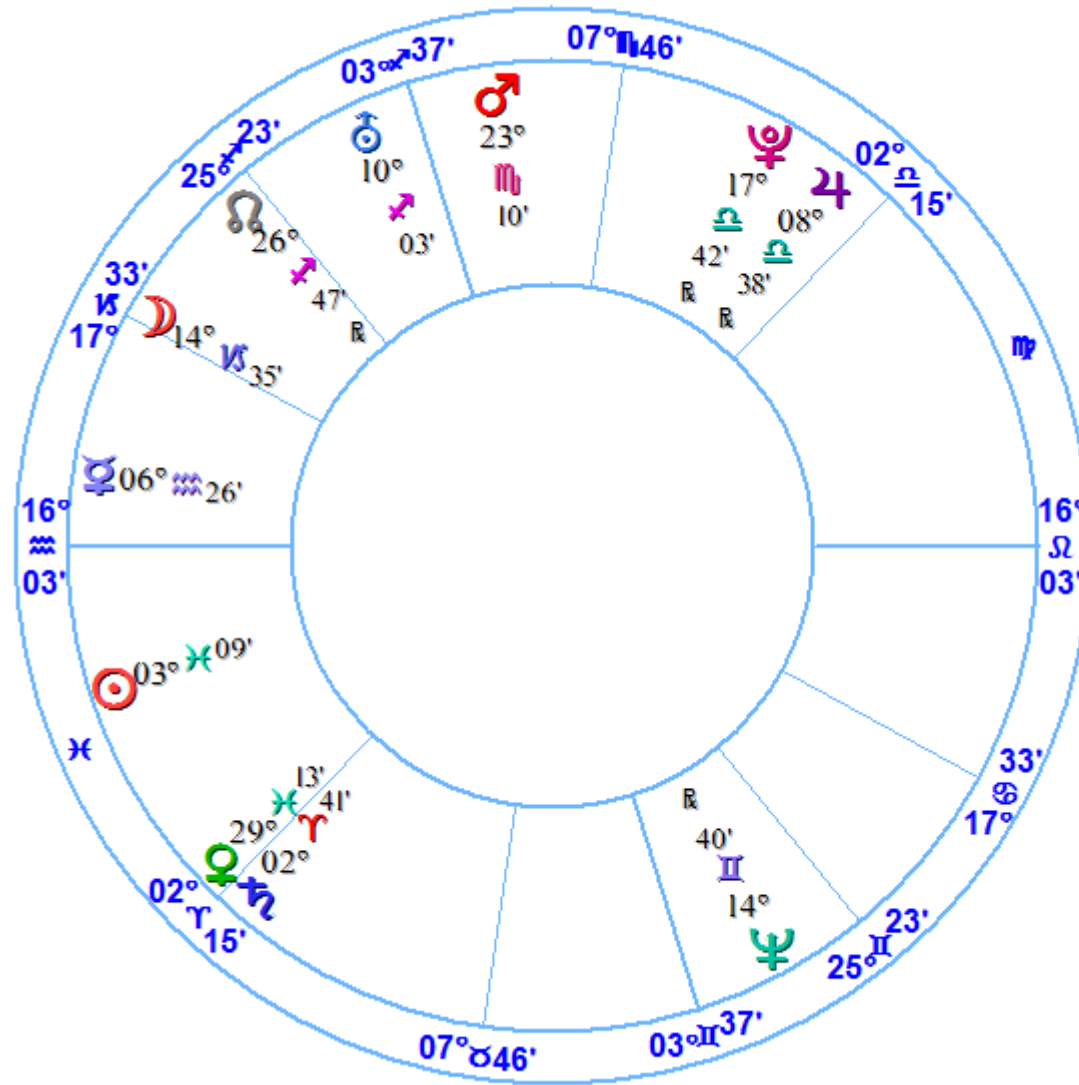
- This retrograde Mercury-Pluto configuration has had the effect of emphasizing a trait that Richard Hofstadler described in a famous 1964 essay, “The Paranoid Style in American Politics”
- *“American politics has often been an arena for angry minds. In recent years we have seen angry minds at work mainly among extreme right-wingers, who have now demonstrated in the Goldwater movement how much political leverage can be got out of the animosities and passions of a small minority. But behind this I believe there is a style of mind that is far from new and that is not necessarily right-wing. I call it the paranoid style simply because no other word adequately evokes the sense of heated exaggeration, suspiciousness, and conspiratorial fantasy that I have in mind.”*

# Suspicion Runs Even Deeper...

---

- Clearly, many Americans tend towards a conspiratorial mindset, seeing webs of intrigue where others see only autonomous actors. Illustrations of this mindset can be found throughout our history
- According to Joseph Ellis, in “Founding Brothers”, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison had become so caught up in the party wars of the late 1790s that they began to harbor fantasies of John Adams selling out the American Revolution to the British
- Gore Vidal, in his “Inventing a Nation”, opines that Alexander Hamilton was an actual British spy – rather than, for instance, simply the reckless military adventurer that Adams accuses him of being
- George Washington became so alarmed by the waves of unfettered revolutionary energies that continued to sweep the young nation in the aftermath of the recent war, culminating in Shay’s Rebellion in Western Massachusetts, that it led him to support James Madison’s top secret plan to dramatically revise the Articles of Confederation

# George Washington's Chart



## NATAL CHART

### George Washington

February 22, 1732

6:00 AM

Local Mean Time

Popes Creek Landing, VA

38°N 11' 29" 76°W 54' 16"

Time Zone: 0 hours West

Geocentric

Tropical Placidus

- Moon in Capricorn square Pluto in Libra
- Sun in Pisces square Uranus

Matthew Carnicelli  
Human Potential Left  
[www.hpleft.com](http://www.hpleft.com)  
[matt@hpleft.com](mailto:matt@hpleft.com)

# The First Great American Conspiracy

---

- The Constitutional Convention was, strictly speaking, the first great American conspiracy – but unlike so many other instances in this genre of imagined collaborations, the proceedings that took place in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787 were an authentic conspiracy!
- The participants had been in no way authorized by their State Governments to draw up a new Constitution – but only to revise the old, loose-fitting Articles of Confederation
- Participants in the Convention were literally sworn to secrecy – inasmuch as what they were doing was, technically speaking, illegal
- Whereas the old Articles of Confederation required unanimity to be achieved before almost anything could be accomplished, the Framers of the Constitution completely undermined this core principle of what historians describe as the Spirit of '76 by allowing the new document to go into effect once a mere 2/3 of the States had ratified it
- Also, in harsh contrast to the “Spirit of 76”, which valued “liberty”, and the autonomy of the States above all else, “the Spirit of '87” enshrined a strong central government at the heart of the new system



# The First Great American Conspiracy (cont'd)

---

- Died in the wool New England patriots like Sam Adams and Mercy Otis Warren saw this new Constitution as a fundamental betrayal of the principles that the American Revolution was fought over
- And even some Convention participants, like Virginia's George Mason, refused to sign the Constitution, and became an outspoken opponent of ratification
- The Anti-Federalists, as the group opposing the ratification of The Constitution were called, were a driving force in the creation of The Bill of Rights – which constitutes the first Ten Amendments to the Constitution
- James Madison, the author of the Bill of Rights, and one of the three principal authors of the Federalist Papers, initially opposed their creation
- He resisted the idea on the grounds that by specifically “enumerating” certain rights, you might be conveying the unintended notion that only these liberties specifically listed were somehow protected, and all other areas of human conduct were thus unprotected, and therefore subject to the whim of government. He eventually accommodated his concerns through the language of the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Amendments
- 9<sup>th</sup> Amendment: *The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people*
- 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment: *The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people*

# The First Great American Conspiracy (cont'd)

---

- The tensions around “enumerated” powers would explode during George Washington’s First Term, when Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton clashed over the legality of the proposed First Bank of the United States
- Jefferson, who was in Paris when the Constitution was being written, but in correspondence with Madison, first adopted the position that only those powers specifically enumerated in the document were legal
- Hamilton, on the other hand, who along with Madison and John Jay was one of the principal authors of The Federalist Papers, argued that the Constitution also established “implied” powers, powers without which Government could not function. Implied powers are
- Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: *To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.*

# The First Great American Conspiracy (cont'd)

---

- Hamilton argued that the sovereign duties of a government implied the right to use means adequate to its ends. Although the United States government was sovereign only as to certain objects, it was impossible to define all the means which it should use, because it was impossible for the founders to anticipate all future exigencies. Hamilton noted that the "general welfare clause" and the "necessary and proper" clause gave elasticity to the constitution.
- As is typical with Mercury retrograde, both men owned philosophical agendas that at least partly shaped their position in this debate. Jefferson, the sage of Monticello, held to an Agrarian vision of economy (Plantations, land ownership, and so forth), and was deeply suspicious of banks, money men, and manufacturing



# The First American Conspiracy (cont'd)

---

- Hamilton, on the other hand, held a commercial vision for America – of a nation where virtuous men of industry (as opposed to owners of plantations and large tracts of lands – i.e., men like Jefferson) would accumulate capital, and then use it to modernize / transform the young nation. You might say that Hamilton was the very first “supply-sider” in American history
- You might also say that both men’s positions in this initial debate was at least partly determined by the ax they were seeking to grind. For instance, Jefferson was forced during his first term as President to acknowledge the utility of Hamilton’s implied powers. The Framers had created no provision for land purchases in the Constitution – and without resorting to a kind of implied powers argument, his potential purchase of the Louisiana territory from Napoleon would have been a non-starter

# Fog of Words

---

- Contemporary Americans often assume that they know, with perfect certainty, what important phrases in our founding documents were meant to imply
- But as is entirely appropriate given this retrograde Mercury, these assumptions often prove quite erroneous
- For instance, consider...

# A Separation of Church & State?

---

- The First Amendment to the United States Constitution contains the phrase “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”
- What exactly was the Framers emphasis here?
- Do we moderns accurately understand the context in which these words were written – and should it even matter?
- Was there, in fact, a “Separation of Church and State” when Jefferson first used the phrase?

# Religious Freedom in Massachusetts

---

“In late 1820, at age eighty-five, Adams found himself chosen as a delegate to a state convention called to revise the Massachusetts constitution that he drafted some forty years before.”

“But in what was to be his last public effort, in a speech considered “very remarkable”, Adams boldly offered an amendment guaranteeing religious freedom in the commonwealth. As he believed that all were equal before for God, so he believed that all should be free to worship God as they pleased. In particular, he wanted religious freedom for Jews, as he had written earlier to a noted New York editor, Mordecai Noah, who had sent him a discourse delivered at the consecration of a synagogue in New York.”

“On arrival at the convention, Adams had received a standing ovation. But his amendment failed to pass.”

- “John Adams”, p. 631, David McCullough

# Jefferson's Letter to the Danbury Baptists

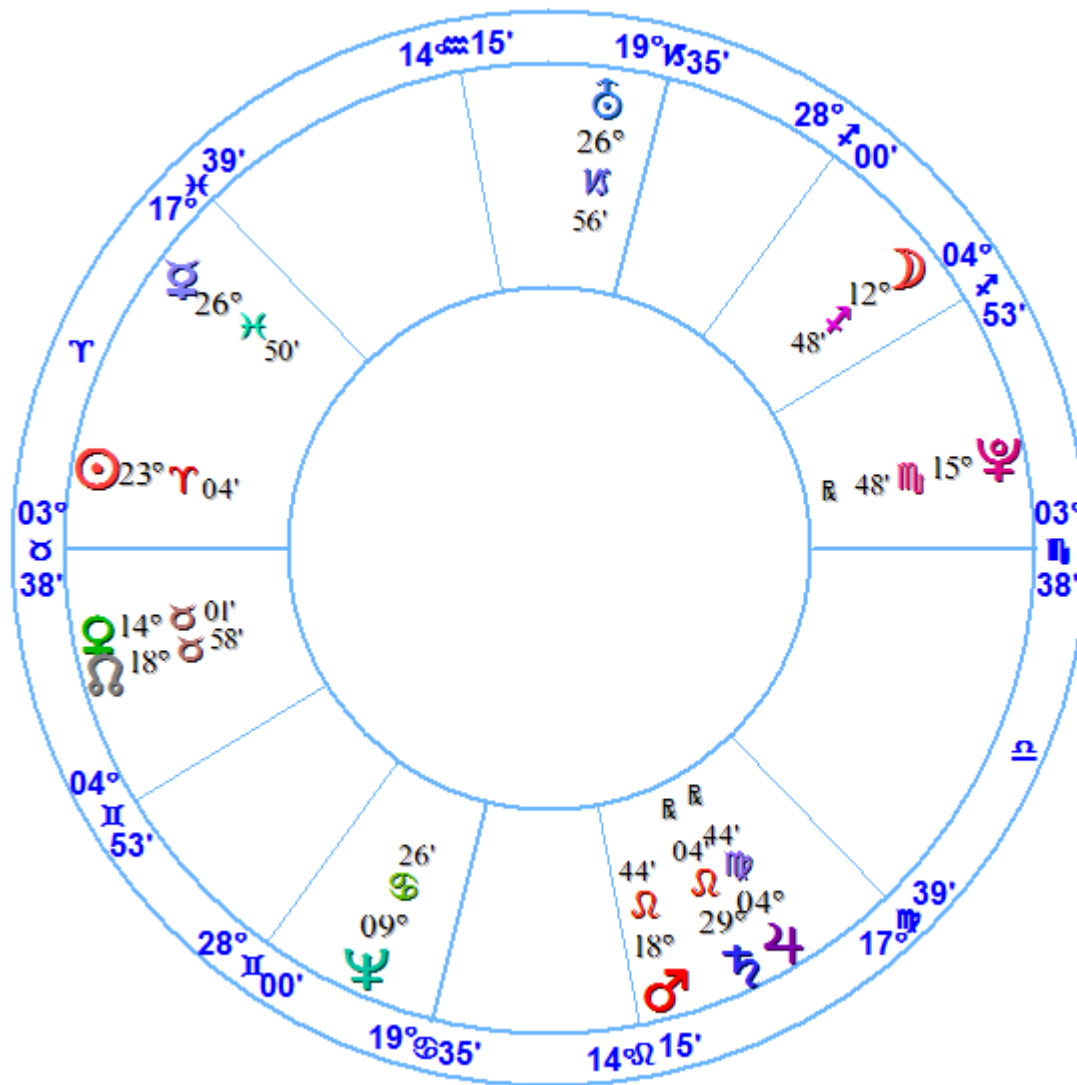
---

- "Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," **thus building a wall of separation between church and State**. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

*– Thomas Jefferson, 1802*



# Thomas Jefferson's Chart



## NATAL CHART

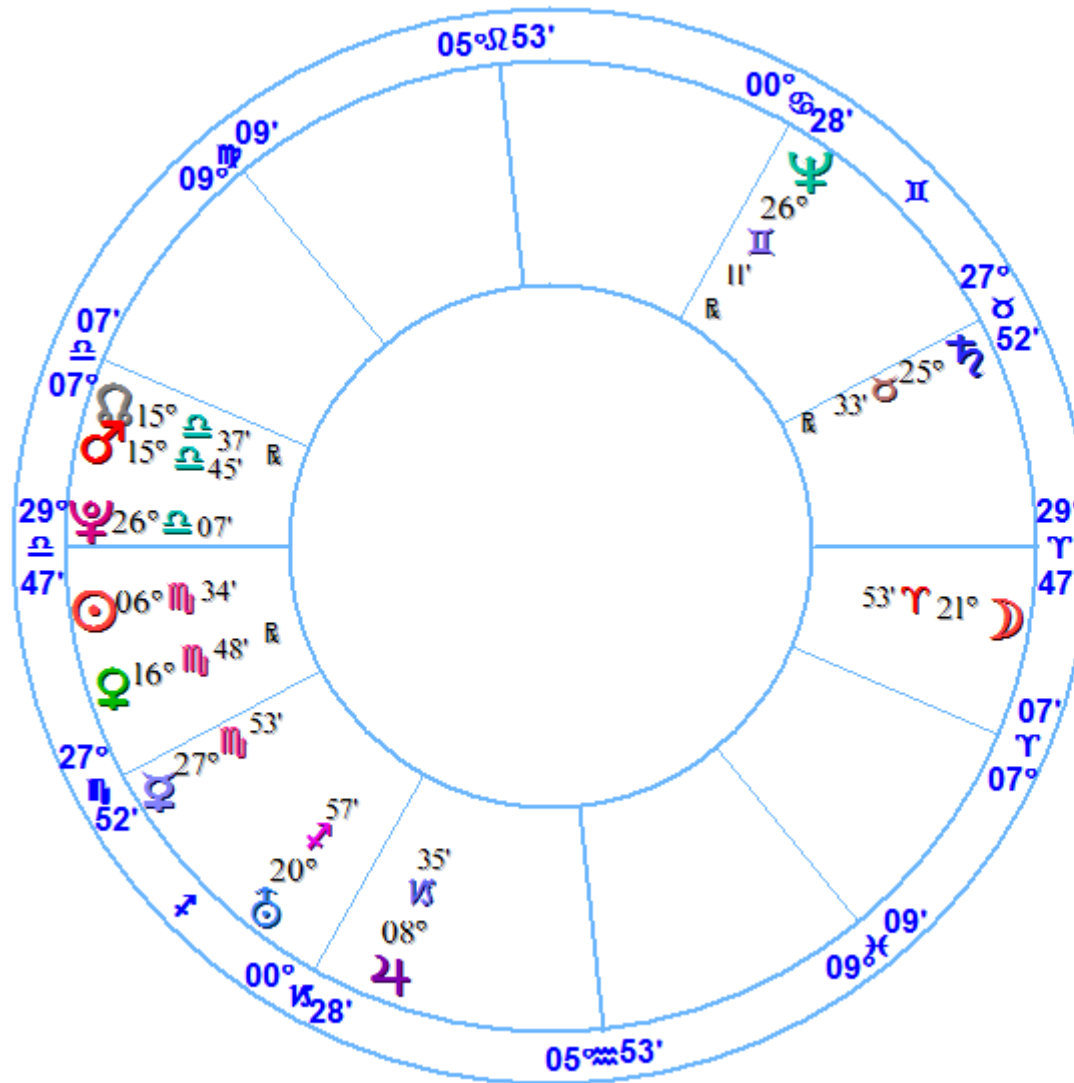
### Thomas Jefferson

April 13, 1743  
6:00 AM  
Local Mean Time  
Shadwell, Virginia  
38N00'46" 78W23'45"  
Time Zone: 0 hours West  
Geocentric  
Tropical Placidus

- Sun in Aries square Uranus in Capricorn
- Moon in Sag semi-square Uranus
- Mercury sextile Uranus
- Uranus conjunct the US Pluto

Matthew Carnicelli  
Human Potential Left  
www.hpleft.com  
matt@hpleft.com

# John Adams' Chart



## NATAL CHART

### John Adams

October 30, 1735

6:00 AM

Local Mean Time

Quincy Center, MA

42N14'45" 71W00'30"

Time Zone: 0 hours West

Geocentric

Tropical Placidus

- Moon in Aries opposed Pluto
- Moon trine Uranus
- Sun semi-square Uranus

Matthew Carnicelli  
Human Potential Left  
www.hpleft.com  
matt@hpleft.com

# Incorporation of the “Establishment” Clause

---

**"The 'establishment of religion' clause of the First Amendment means at least this: Neither a state nor the Federal Government can set up a church.**

Neither can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions or prefer one religion over another. Neither can force nor influence a person to go to or to remain away from church against his will or force him to profess a belief or disbelief in any religion. No person can be punished for entertaining or professing religious beliefs or disbeliefs, for church attendance or non-attendance. No tax in any amount, large or small, can be levied to support any religious activities or institutions, whatever they may be called, or whatever form they may adopt to teach or practice religion. Neither a state nor the Federal Government can, openly or secretly, participate in the affairs of any religious organizations or groups and vice versa. **In the words of Jefferson, the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect 'a wall of separation between Church and State.'" 330 U.S. 1, 15-16."**

*– Justice Hugo Black, February 10, 1947  
Everson v. Board of Education*

# Schools of Judicial Interpretation

---

- Textual or Strict Construction
- Originalist
- Doctrinalist
- Developmentalist
- Contextualist
- Structuralist
- Living Constitutionalist
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional\\_interpretation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_interpretation)
- The current United States Supreme Court includes advocates for several of these schools of interpretation, with the so-called “conservative” Justices, such as Scalia, Thomas, and Alito and Roberts representing to varying degrees the “strict construction” or “originalist” positions, and the “liberal” and “moderate” justices advocating more of a “living constitution” orientation; but even these generalizations can prove misleading, as can popular assessments of which side, if either, is most guilty of judicial activism
- The perspective of Judicial Realism

# Fog of War

---

## ■ Article I, Section 8 - Powers of Congress

- To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;
- **To declare War**, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
- To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
- To provide and maintain a Navy;
- To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
- To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
- To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

## ■ Article II, Section 2 – Powers of the Executive

- **The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States;** he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to Grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

# To the shores of Tripoli...

---

- Thomas Jefferson, the first United States President to launch a formal military campaign using his authority as Commander-in-Chief, is often thought of as an avowed advocate of “strict construction”. Not only did Jefferson not seek Congressional authorization for his military campaign against the Barbary Pirates, he gave the order so early in his Presidency, the next Congress had yet to even convene!

# The War Powers Act of 1973

---

- *Within sixty calendar days after a report is submitted or is required to be submitted pursuant to section 4(a)(1), whichever is earlier, the President shall terminate any use of United States Armed Forces with respect to which such report was submitted (or required to be submitted), unless the Congress (1) has declared war or has enacted a specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces, (2) has extended by law such sixty-day period, or (3) is physically unable to meet as a result of an armed attack upon the United States. **Such sixty-day period shall be extended for not more than an additional thirty days** if the President determines and certifies to the Congress in writing that unavoidable military necessity respecting the safety of United States Armed Forces requires the continued use of such armed forces in the course of bringing about a prompt removal of such forces.*

# The Unforeseen Rise of Political Parties

---

- “If I could not go to heaven but with a party, I would not go there at all.” - Thomas Jefferson, letter to Francis Hopkinson, March 13, 1789
- The Framers of the Constitution did not foresee the emergence of political parties – even though party divisions (Tory & Whig) existed in England that they had just parted company with
- As fate would have it, given that pesky Mercury retrograde, within a decade of the Constitution’s ratification, national unity had utterly fractured – and two political parties, the Federalists and the Jeffersonian Republicans had emerged



# A Nation of Immigrants Becomes a Nation of Nativists

---

- We think of America today as a nation of immigrants. But from the beginning of the Republic, Americans have harbored strong anti-immigrant feelings
- The earliest instance of this type of sentiment in the post Revolutionary War era we can cite must be the anti-French sentiments that consumed Federalists during the mid-1790s
- This anti-French fervor became an epidemic in the aftermath of, first, the Citizen Genet incident, and then the Federalist-Jeffersonian Republican dispute over American neutrality in the never ending hostilities between France and England. These tensions, some of which were inescapable, led to the passage of the Alien Act – which significantly increased the number of years that an immigrant needed to reside in America before gaining citizenship.

## A Nation of Nativists (continued)

---

- Although immigrants were vital to the growth of the American nation, and the eventual **re-settlement** of the vast North American continent, nativist sentiment continued to assert itself throughout our history
- For instance, as lavishly portrayed in Martin Scorsese's Academy Award nominated period piece, *Gangs of New York*, the nativist rabble of New York went to great lengths to keep arriving Irish immigrants "in their place"
- The period portrayed in the film saw the creation of several political parties dedicated to immigrant bashing
- The most famous of these is perhaps the "No Nothing" or "American Party". This hatred of the Irish was later transferred to the next waves of non-Protestant immigrants to America, which included Italians, Poles, both of whom were also predominantly Catholic, as well as Chinese
- A group like the Klu Klux Klan was not only virulently racist, but also anti-immigrant. They saw Southern European immigrants and Catholics as little better than the former negro slaves that they took great patriotic pains to torment

## A Nation of Nativists (continued)

---

- In the modern era, this overpowering fear of foreigners was projected beyond racial and ethnic minorities on to adherents of so-called “un-American ideas” – as in the McCarthy Hearings
- It was also present in the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII – few, if any, of which could reasonably be considered a threat to the nation’s war effort (a fact that the racist general who pushed the idea readily admitted in his private correspondence)
- As with the Alien Act of the Quasi-War period, there are times in a nation’s life when precautions must be taken. But as this astrologer’s study of America’s problematic Mercury has suggested, it has more often been paranoia and outright prejudice, not psychologically astute prudence, that has shaped our national dialogue on this issue
- As astrologers, we bring a unique ability to understand, frame, and ultimately help dissipate the toxic dynamics that drive these imperfect expressions this Mercury-Pluto configuration

# Eternally Vigilant or Eternally Obsessed?

---

- Authorship of the phrase, “eternal vigilance is the price of liberty”, is often attributed to Thomas Jefferson. In fact, authorship of that quotation belongs to an Irish orator by the name of John Philpot Curran. Chalk up another misconception to Mercury retrograde!
- Characteristically, Andrew Jackson, who considered himself Jefferson’s protégé, and whose biography offers many illustrations of the dark side of this polarity, employs a similar phrase in his Farewell Address
- At what point does eternal vigilance surrender to something closer to eternal hatred, paranoia and mistrust. And through what psycho-spiritual process can the prisoner of this archetypal signature find their way across the River Styx
- That’s the challenge we collectively face as a nation with a retrograde Mercury in Cancer opposed Pluto – knowing the difference between the times when deep thinking about our ever-evolving national identity is essential, and those times when our fears and resentments threaten to block out the light in our political life

# Words to Live By?

---

- On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1776, the Continental Congress voted for independence from Great Britain. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, they debated the words of Jefferson's Declaration. And at some moment on the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, the final version of the document was agreed to
- Then, after pledging their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the enterprise that they they had just begun, they promptly became confused about the meaning of the words that they had just agreed to – specifically:
- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”
- Given America's Mercury retrograde, perhaps this confusion is understandable. When we read the phrase “all men are created equal”, we do not typically distinguish between the sexes or even between men of property and men with none. But clearly, they did
- If a retrograde Mercury in Cancer opposite Pluto has proven to be the signature of endemic confusion, paranoia, nativism, and a tendency to selectively apply ideals, might there be yet another, more empowering, model that might be embraced?
- I submit that there is, and it is also illustrated in the pages of American history.

# The Resurrected Word

---

- A bare bones astrological argument for “The Resurrected Word”
  - Mercury is in Cancer, the sign ruled by the Moon;
  - The principle of cyclicity, grounded in the symbolism of the lunar cycle – and the dying and resurrection of the Moon every 29 days – is an essential component of the Cancerian archetype
  - Add to this the symbolism of Pluto, a planet / planetoid that:
    - Richard Tarnas has associated with the archetype of Dionysius – who is alternately thought to been resurrected, or (like the mythological Odysseus and Aeneas) to have visited and returned from the Underworld;
    - Robert Hand (in Horoscope Symbols) has associated with Shiva, the creator and destroyer of worlds

# The Resurrected Word (cont'd)

---

- A “Resurrected Word” ethos is at the heart of the “Living Constitution” school of judicial interpretation – first advocated by Justice John Marshall, (John Adams’ last appointment to the Supreme Court), in *McCulloch v. Maryland*, where he described the Constitution as “intended to endure for ages to come, and, consequently, to be adapted to the various crises of human affairs”
- Even Marshall’s frequent adversary, Thomas Jefferson, who as I mentioned previously is often cited as an advocate of strict construction, would come to argue for this view later in life
- “I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors.”
- Let us turn to two events, replete with memorable words, that further demonstrate this point

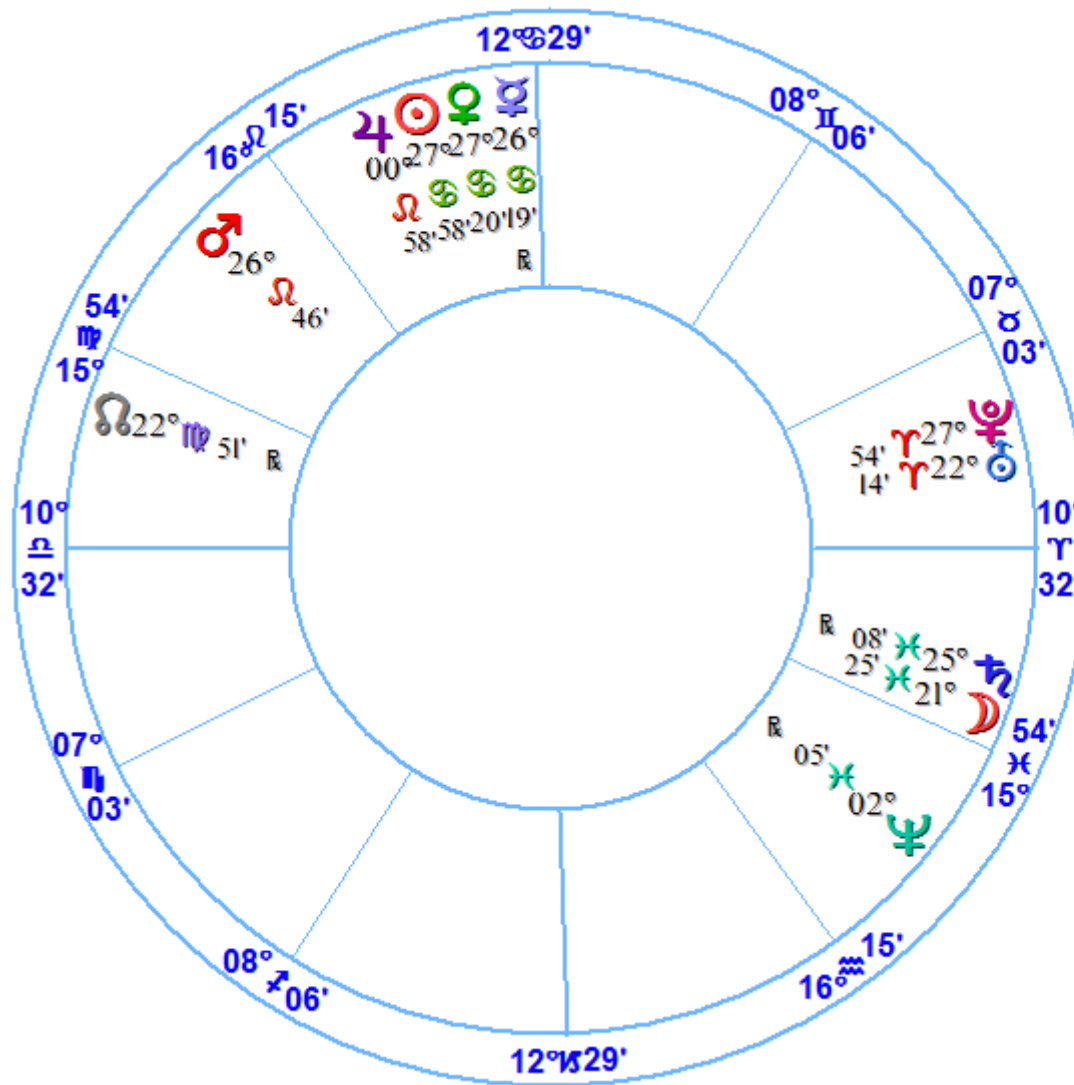
# I desire you would remember the ladies...

---

- In a March 1776 letter, Abigail Adams addressed her husband, then in Philadelphia, with these words:
- “I long to hear that you have declared an independency - and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire that you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation”
- Abigail desired this, and John did what he could, given his society’s attitudes – according to Joseph Ellis, going so far as to make his trusted friend his chief Presidential advisor during his Administration. In that sense, Abigail’s position in 1798 illustrated the ultimate Mercury retrograde contradiction – the 2<sup>nd</sup> most influential person in the nation at that moment in time was unable to even cast a vote in the next Presidential election
- But the cause of equal rights would emerge again and again in American history



# In the beginning was the word...

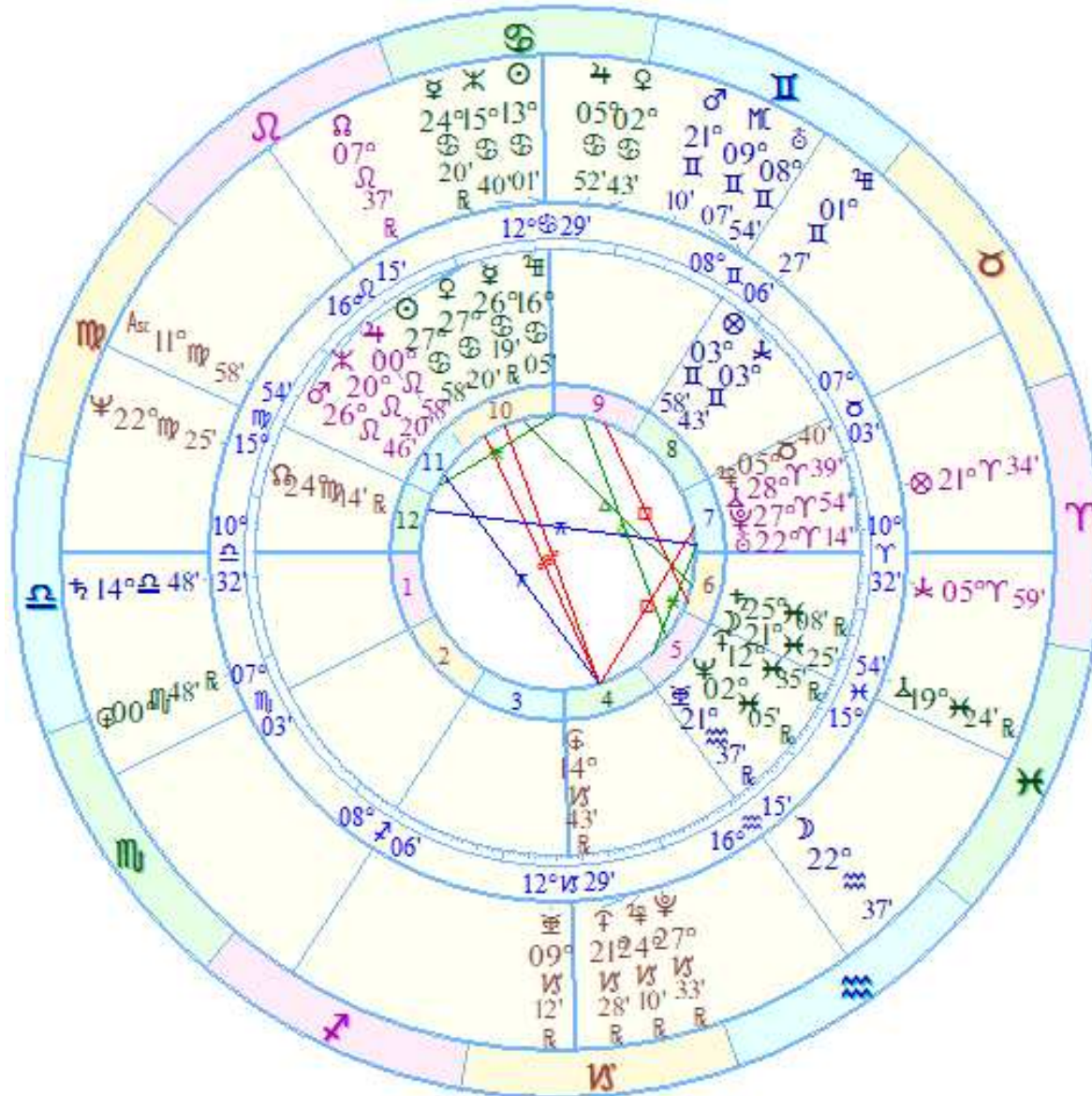


NATAL CHART

July 20, 1848  
11:00 AM  
Local Mean Time  
Seneca Falls, New York  
42N54'38" 76W47'49"  
Time Zone: 0 hours West  
Geocentric  
Tropical Placidus

Matthew Carnicelli  
Human Potential Left  
www.hpleft.com  
matt@hpleft.com

# A Tale of Two Declarations



- Sun conjunct Venus conjunct Mercury square Pluto
- All in hard aspect to any July 4<sup>th</sup> Mercury-Pluto
- Moon conjunct S Node, square July 4<sup>th</sup> Mars

# The Declaration of Sentiments

---

“When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one portion of the family of man to assume among the people of the earth a position different from that which they have hitherto occupied, but one to which the laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that impel them to such a absolution.”

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance to it, and to insist upon the institution of a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

# The Declaration of Sentiments (cont'd)

---

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they were accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their duty to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of the women under this government, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to demand the equal station to which they are entitled.

The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world."

- July 20, 1848 (Seneca Falls, NY)

# The Ghost at the Banquet

---

- Racial inequality, both in the South, where Africans served as slaves, and throughout much of the North – where slavery was less present, but where discrimination was just as endemic – has been described as America’s original sin
- One of items that was hotly debated on July 3, 1776 was Jefferson’s condemnation of the slave trade. That passage was ultimately removed from the Declaration of Independence.
- Joseph Ellis has described the exclusion of a condemnation of slavery, and its tacit acceptance in both the Declaration and the Constitution (where slavery was not explicitly cited, but accommodated in various sections, most notably in the document’s original 3/5th clause) as “The Ghost at the Banquet”.

# The Ghost at the Banquet (cont'd)

---

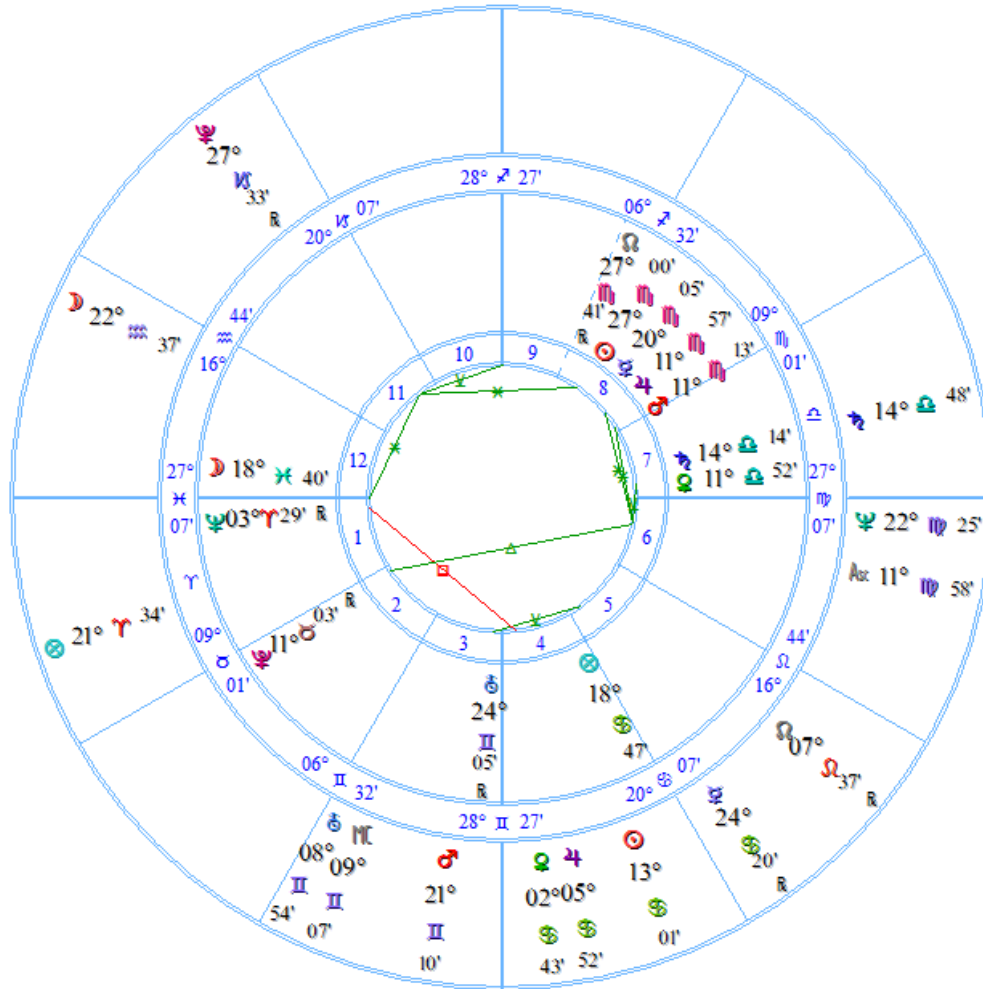
- Jefferson hoped, although he did little in his lifetime to further that hope, that this peculiar institution, as slavery was called, would eventually fade away. But that was not to be case. The tensions between an agricultural South and a commercial, wage-based North would build in the decades to come, and culminate in a bloody Civil War.
- They would also lead to Abraham Lincoln's decision, at an opposition of Saturn and Neptune in fall of 1862, to begin the process of emancipation; and a year later, to an act that Gary Wills has described as Lincoln's "reincorporation of the Declaration of Independence". That act was *The Gettysburg Address*
- Abraham Lincoln is best described as one in a long line of American Deists. As Richard Tarnas points out in *Cosmos and Psyche*, he was an Aquarian, born the same exact day as Charles Darwin.
- Lincoln was a freethinker with regard to religion, but still held to a notion that God, at least at certain moments in history, interceded in the affairs of man. He believed that the Civil War was the Almighty's retribution for the sin of slavery. As viewed through an astrologer's lens, little did this Aquarius know how close to the truth he was

# The Archaic Meets the Astrological

---

- Lincoln begins his famous address with the words, “Four score and seven years ago”. Through this reference, Lincoln is asking his listeners to think back to the day that the language in Jefferson’s Declaration was finalized, and to its vision of universal human rights
- Four score and seven years is equal to 87 years
- The first shot at Ft. Sumter, and the start of the American Civil War, was fired **literally within days** of the United States’ Uranus return
- Uranus’s cycle describes the cosmic impulse to “liberty”, individuation, and “enlightenment”
- 87 years is equal to three complete cycles of Saturn, the cycle of accountability in space and time
- Lincoln gave this speech **within days** of the United States’ third Saturn return
- In this speech, Lincoln fittingly rededicates his nation to the words, so long repeated, but so often only selectively applied

# Lincoln at Gettysburg



Inner Ring:  
 Lincoln at Gettysburg  
 November 19, 1863  
 2:00 PM  
 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
 39N49'51" 77W13'53"  
 Local Mean Time  
 Time Zone: 0 hours West  
 Tropical Placidus  
 NATAL CHART

Outer Ring:  
 United States  
 July 4, 1776  
 9:37 AM  
 Philadelphia, PA  
 39N57'08" 75W09'51"  
 Local Mean Time  
 Time Zone: 0 hours West  
 Tropical Placidus  
 NATAL CHART

- Transiting Saturn conjunct natal Saturn
- Transiting Sun conjunct N Node, sextile natal Pluto, trine natal Mercury
- Transiting Uranus exactly semi-sextile July 4<sup>th</sup> Mercury
- Transiting Mars exactly conjunct Jupiter exactly opposed Pluto, trine July 4<sup>th</sup> US Sun, tightly sextile 9:37 am ASC

Matthew Camicelli  
 Human Potential Left  
[www.hpleft.com](http://www.hpleft.com)



# The Gettysburg Address

---

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

“Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that this nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.”

# The Gettysburg Address

---

“But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to [the unfinished work](#) which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.”

“It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- [that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom](#) -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

*– Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863*

# The Unfinished Work

---

- Begun by Jefferson, then subsequently shaped, first by Franklin, Adams, Roger Livingston and Roger Sherman, and finally, on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, by the hand of the entire Congress, the words of the Declaration of Independence must be thought of as the inceptual vow for the entire American experiment
- In support of this agreement, the participants pledge their “lives”, their “fortunes”, and their “sacred honor”
- It’s completion and ratification at perhaps two unique and distinct astrological moments on July 4<sup>th</sup>, moments that we likely will never identify for certain, completed the process of separation from Great Britain that began on July 2<sup>nd</sup>
- The Declaration of Independence electrified the world when it was issued in 1776
- It continues to inspire revolutionaries of every persuasion to this day
- But more than even this, it initiated the birth of a new age in human history; after America’s Declaration nothing would ever be same

# The Unfinished Work (cont'd)

---

- More than the Hebrew Bible or the New Testament, as Abraham Lincoln best understood, its bold vision of universal human rights necessarily frames the moral universe that governs the American political experience
- That vision continues to have implications for every aspect American domestic and foreign policy
- In the darkest moment of our national life, the words that constitute the Declaration's preamble, so often repeated but so rarely taken to heart, serve as a brilliant beacon
- I began this lecture with several questions; let me reprise them here:
- Did the American Revolution end in 1801, with Jefferson's election as President, and the first peaceful transfer of political power from one party to another?
- Or, is the American Revolution a continuing historical process?
- Does the astrological perspective offer a unique insight for further exploration of this question?
- Finally, the fashion today in America is to ask what Jesus would do; but given our retrograde Mercury, Pluto's return to Capricorn, and with it the likely onset of a new era of rebellion and revolution, how much better would it be if Americans instead this question:

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

[illegible]

Helen Jewett  
 Lynch Mass.  
 Grafton

3<sup>rd</sup> June  
 1845  
 1845

Edward (called Ed)

The foregoing I feel  
 I have signed for  
 Arthur K. Ketchum

Arthur Middleton

2.

John Hancock

Annual Salary

Don't know

Chas. Sumner of Fayette Co.

George Wythe

Richard Thompson  
M. B. 1822

Wm. Harrison

The History of  
James Oglethorpe and  
the Founding of Georgia

Not known

By *Handwritten*

John A. Foster  
Catharine D.

W. J. Smith

W. Taylor  
June 18-22 1882

Mr. Webb

Dear George,

London Nov 1891

8

John North  
to Mr. [unclear]

1. *Chrysomela*  
 2. *Chrysomela*  
 3. *Chrysomela*  
 4. *Chrysomela*  
 5. *Chrysomela*  
 6. *Chrysomela*  
 7. *Chrysomela*  
 8. *Chrysomela*  
 9. *Chrysomela*  
 10. *Chrysomela*  
 11. *Chrysomela*  
 12. *Chrysomela*  
 13. *Chrysomela*  
 14. *Chrysomela*  
 15. *Chrysomela*  
 16. *Chrysomela*  
 17. *Chrysomela*  
 18. *Chrysomela*  
 19. *Chrysomela*  
 20. *Chrysomela*  
 21. *Chrysomela*  
 22. *Chrysomela*  
 23. *Chrysomela*  
 24. *Chrysomela*  
 25. *Chrysomela*  
 26. *Chrysomela*  
 27. *Chrysomela*  
 28. *Chrysomela*  
 29. *Chrysomela*  
 30. *Chrysomela*  
 31. *Chrysomela*  
 32. *Chrysomela*  
 33. *Chrysomela*  
 34. *Chrysomela*  
 35. *Chrysomela*  
 36. *Chrysomela*  
 37. *Chrysomela*  
 38. *Chrysomela*  
 39. *Chrysomela*  
 40. *Chrysomela*  
 41. *Chrysomela*  
 42. *Chrysomela*  
 43. *Chrysomela*  
 44. *Chrysomela*  
 45. *Chrysomela*  
 46. *Chrysomela*  
 47. *Chrysomela*  
 48. *Chrysomela*  
 49. *Chrysomela*  
 50. *Chrysomela*  
 51. *Chrysomela*  
 52. *Chrysomela*  
 53. *Chrysomela*  
 54. *Chrysomela*  
 55. *Chrysomela*  
 56. *Chrysomela*  
 57. *Chrysomela*  
 58. *Chrysomela*  
 59. *Chrysomela*  
 60. *Chrysomela*  
 61. *Chrysomela*  
 62. *Chrysomela*  
 63. *Chrysomela*  
 64. *Chrysomela*  
 65. *Chrysomela*  
 66. *Chrysomela*  
 67. *Chrysomela*  
 68. *Chrysomela*  
 69. *Chrysomela*  
 70. *Chrysomela*  
 71. *Chrysomela*  
 72. *Chrysomela*  
 73. *Chrysomela*  
 74. *Chrysomela*  
 75. *Chrysomela*  
 76. *Chrysomela*  
 77. *Chrysomela*  
 78. *Chrysomela*  
 79. *Chrysomela*  
 80. *Chrysomela*  
 81. *Chrysomela*  
 82. *Chrysomela*  
 83. *Chrysomela*  
 84. *Chrysomela*  
 85. *Chrysomela*  
 86. *Chrysomela*  
 87. *Chrysomela*  
 88. *Chrysomela*  
 89. *Chrysomela*  
 90. *Chrysomela*  
 91. *Chrysomela*  
 92. *Chrysomela*  
 93. *Chrysomela*  
 94. *Chrysomela*  
 95. *Chrysomela*  
 96. *Chrysomela*  
 97. *Chrysomela*  
 98. *Chrysomela*  
 99. *Chrysomela*  
 100. *Chrysomela*

1864. Jan. 10.  
 Air Mail.

Don't

1874

William C. Jones

John Hunter  
1793

Black Green Robin

© 2004 Blackwell Publishing Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 255: 105–112

100

mine

Take a

Sept-5

18

11

100

# What Does Our Declaration Say?

# Source Materials That Contributed to this Presentation

---

- The History of the United States, Editions 1 & 2 (TTC) – Patrick C. Allitt, Gary W. Gallagher, Allen Guelzo, Louis Masur, Darren Staloff & James Shenton
- Inventing America; Lincoln at Gettysburg – Gary Wills
- Brotherhood of the Revolution (MS); Founding Brothers; His Excellency, George Washington – Joseph Ellis
- Mr. Lincoln (TTC) – Allen Guelzo
- Great Presidents (TTC) – Allan Lichtman
- The Paranoid Style in American Politics – Richard Hofstadler
- “John Adams”; 1776 – David McCullough
- American Ideals: Founding a Republic of Virtue (TTC) – Daniel Robinson
- Inventing a Nation: Washington, Adams, Jefferson – Gore Vidal
- Benjamin Franklin (MS) – H.W. Brands
- Tocqueville and the American Experience (TTC) – William R. Cook
- Cycles of American Political Thought (TTC) – Joseph F. Koblka
- History of the Supreme Court (TTC) – Peter Irons
- Origins and Ideologies of the American Revolution (TTC) – Peter C. Mancall
- Thomas Jefferson: American Visionary (TTC) – Darren Staloff
- Supreme Court: The Law of the Land (MS) – Kermit Hall
- Cosmos and Psyche – Richard Tarnas

TTC = The Teaching Company; MS = Modern Scholar

## *Appendix*

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident...”*

# Links to Archival Materials

---

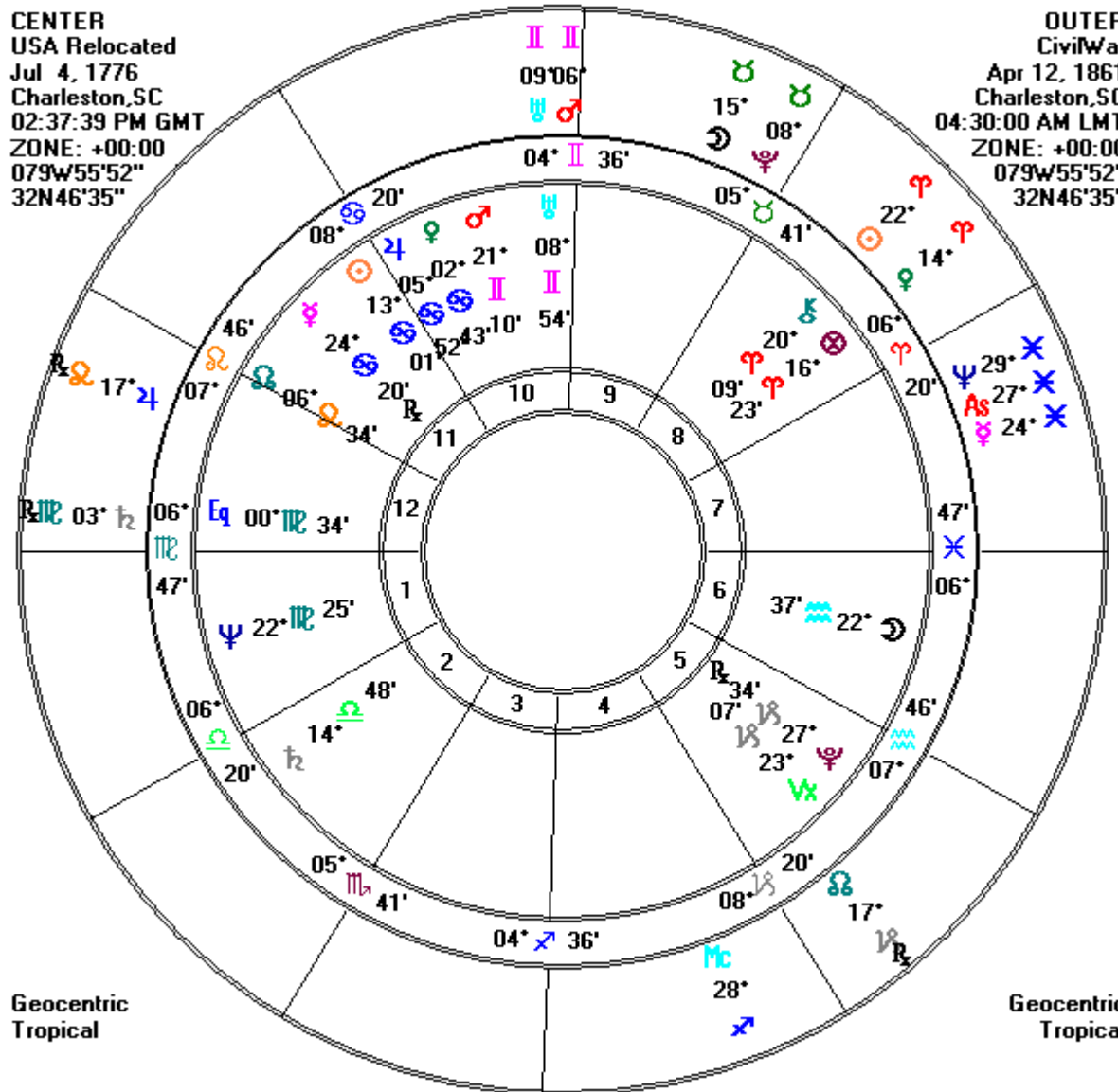
- The Declaration of Independence:  
<http://www.usconstitution.net/declar.html>
- The Declaration of Sentiments:  
<http://www.nps.gov/archive/wori/declaration.htm>



# The Civil War Begins

**CENTER**  
 USA Relocated  
 Jul 4, 1776  
 Charleston, SC  
 02:37:39 PM GMT  
 ZONE: +00:00  
 079W55'52"  
 32N46'35"

**OUTER**  
 Civil War  
 Apr 12, 1861  
 Charleston, SC  
 04:30:00 AM LMT  
 ZONE: +00:00  
 079W55'52"  
 32N46'35"



# Republicans or Democrats?

---

- Did the Framers intend the creation of a democracy or a republic?
- Our assumption is that The Framers believed in the people – but if this is true, their belief was evidently tepid
- For instance, citizens voted directly only for their State and House representatives; there were no direct elections for either the Senate or the Presidency.
- Senators continued to be selected by State Legislatures until 1912
- In early Presidential Elections, voters cast their ballots for electors pledged to a candidate – who still remained entirely free to vote their “conscience”
- The first changes in the electoral system in the United States do not take place until after the Financial Panic of 1819 – which led to a widespread sense of disillusionment with the Republican ideals of the Framers. This sense of disillusionment with Republican virtue also spurred a revived interest in religion, during a period that historians describe as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening