

## The Declaration of Independence - Roger Sherman

Many of the men who helped write and sign the Declaration of Independence were not acknowledged enough as those who were more well-known throughout the young nation, the United States of America. Amongst these famous men, was an individual who played a prominent role throughout the history of the united States. This individual was Roger Sherman himself. Roger Sherman was a member of the Committee of Five, a team of five men who have been appointed by officials to draft and present the Declaration of Independence. Not only was he apart of this group of intelligent men, he was the only person to sign the four most influential papers in American history; the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.

Sherman's high position was achieved through his hard work and dedication as he was born into a farm family. His education did not pass those of basic grammar classes and his father's library. Despite not having a formal education, Sherman was very intelligent, as he taught himself how to do complicated math, and was often described as a "voracious reader". Shockingly, without any formal education in law, he passed the bar exam in 1754, marking the start of his political career that would drive him to become one of the most significant, sadly underrated, figure in the history of the United States.

Roger Sherman's political career started when he began to hold many political titles between 1755 and 1761. His life changed when his family decided to move to the state of Connecticut, where he was involved with Yale College, here he became treasurer for a year and was awarded a Master of Arts degree. During this year of being involved with this college, Sherman wrote and published an almanacs, which included many topics ranging from literature to astronomy. Sherman became more involved in his political career when he began to play an

active role in America's mission to be free from British rule. From that moment, his career flourished as he became more well-known. The climax of his career was when he was appointed to, "...many committees...those charged with drafting the Declaration of Independence..." (Hall 10). Due to his active roles as one of the Founding Fathers, he was able to make a name for himself as he had many great effects on the creation of the American Republic, "...he played important roles of debates over the Bill of Rights, the assumption of state debts, and the creation of the national bank," (Hall 10). Although he had many great achievements, he was overshadowed by the larger figures of the Committee of five when there was a team effort involved during the writing of the Declaration of independence, "...it's original creation was not an individual but a collective act..." (Maier 16).

Although being apart of many important committees and high positions, Roger Sherman's name has been forgotten and is not as well-known as those he had worked with, for example, Thomas Jefferson. Although overshadowed, Sherman never felt as if he was looked down upon as he was also known to be a federalist and supported the ideas of Alexander Hamilton, "Sherman was a Federalist who supported...national bank and protective tariffs," (Biography.com Editors). Since he had supported these idea, never had jealousy towards the other well-know men, and was very humble, he was well liked amongst them, "...John Adams described him as "one of the most sensible men in the world"," (Biography.com Editors). Later in his life after all the accomplishments and signing of papers, Sherman also had a spot in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate before he died in 1793.

Throughout history, Roger Sherman was dominated by others in the political aspects of the United States. However, Sherman was the one known as the 'dark horse' overall due his participation in creating the American Republic and assuring that the state that he was mayor for

made decisions that would not just benefit themselves but the whole nation. His contribution to the four major papers in U.S. history allowed many historians to further acknowledge Sherman for his accomplishments and recognize him as one of the most important figures in American history. This acknowledgement allowed many people in modern time to understand that there were many more important people that are overshadowed and clouded with the success of those who are more famous and well-know throughout the nation. Roger Sherman is one of these unlucky men to be overshadowed by those above him, but through his hardwork and dedication, he proved to be an intellect and a true genius in politics. There may have been times in his life, especially his childhood that had caused him to lose hope into becoming what he aspired to be, however, he still pursued this with thought of benefiting the nation for the future.