

# Irish Signers

*of the Declaration of Independence*

The Declaration of Independence itself, as we have it today, is in the hand-writing of an Irishman, Charles Thompson, the Secretary of Congress: and was first printed by another, Captain Dunlap, and was first read to the public by yet another Irishman, Captain Nixon.

There were eight Irish signers to the Declaration

## **Three born in Ireland:**

James Smith            born in Northern Ireland 1719

Matthew Thornton born in Ireland 1714

George Taylor        born in Ireland came to America as indentured servant

## **Five were born in America.**

Edward Rutledge, Father came from Co. Cavan

Charles Carroll III, Only Roman Catholic signer

Thomas Lynch, Jr., Died younger (30 yrs) than any other signer

George Read        Father was from Dublin

Thomas McKean. Last person to sign the Declaration.

**“Americans of Irish descent have played a vital role in shaping our history and culture. Nineteen Presidents of the United States, have claimed Irish heritage. One-third to one-half of the American troops during the Revolutionary War, and eight of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence were Irish American. Irish Americans explored our frontiers, built many of our nations bridges, canals, and railroads, and their proud record of public service helped to fortify our democracy”**

**President George W. Bush.**