

Timothy Matlack: Scribe of the Declaration of Independence

The first three pioneer settlers on the land now Maple shade, NJ were John Roberts, William Matlack and Timothy Hancock and their families. Their lands were surveyed in 1682 between the two branches of the Pennsauken Creek. None of them settled here probably until 1684.

William Matlack was married to Timothy Hancock's sister Mary. Their grandson Timothy Matlack wrote out the Declaration of Independence.

From the <https://unchartedlancaster.com> website-

On July 19, 1776, the Continental Congress ordered the Declaration of Independence to be engrossed—or written out in a large, legible hand. Timothy Matlack was the scribe charged with this task. He completed the work in just two days. Delegates signed the finished document on August 2, 1776.

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_Matlack webpage-

Timothy Matlack (March 28, 1736 – April 14, 1829) was an American politician, military officer and businessman who was chosen in 1776 to inscribe the original United States Declaration of Independence on vellum. A brewer and beer bottler who emerged as a popular and powerful leader in the American Revolutionary War, Matlack served as Secretary of Pennsylvania during the conflict and a delegate to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1780. Matlack was known for his excellent penmanship, and his handwritten copy of the Declaration is on public display in the Rotunda of the Charters of Freedom at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.

Matlack became one of Pennsylvania's most provocative and influential political figures. He was removed from office by his political enemies at the end of the Revolutionary War, but returned to power in the Jeffersonian era.

Matlack was born in Haddonfield, New Jersey, on March 28, 1736, to Elizabeth Martha Burr Haines and Timothy Matlack. His grandparents were William Matlack and Mary Hancock, and Henry Burr and Elizabeth Hudson.

-Maple Shade Historical Society