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Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Charles Carroll was a devout Catholic, and the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence. Carroll did many great things for his faith and country, and was the longest lived signer of the Declaration of Independence. Charles Carroll was born on September 19, 1737, in Annapolis, Maryland. When he was young, he attended Bohemia Manor Preparatory school to study Jesuit teachings. In the year 1748, he was sent to France to continue with his schooling and eventually moved on to St. Omer collage. After finishing college, he went to Lyce'e Louis-le-Grand to study law. Following his studies at Law school, he returned home to Maryland in 1765, after spending 16 years in France.

Three years later, in the year 1768, he married his cousin Mary Darnall and they had 7 children. Charles' father gave the young family 10,000 acres, the land was called Carrollton . Charles then added the word Carrollton to his signature to distinguish him from other Carroll's. Soon, with the land Charles became one of the wealthiest men in the colony.

Charles was Roman Catholic, and in those days Catholics weren't allowed to enter politics or vote, but the majority of the time his religion was overlooked . In 1789 Carroll became one of Maryland's first two U.S. Senators, but shortly after was elected into the United States Senate. Unfortunately in 1792, a law was passed that you can not serve in the United States Senate and the State Senate. Charles loved Maryland so much that he resigned from the United State Senate to serve his state.

Around the year 1772, he grew very interested in political unrest surrounding his life and began to publish a series of faithful writings. Once people found out that he was the author of the books, his popularity grew immensely until Carroll was elected to be a member of the Maryland Committee of Correspondence in 1774. Again his religion was overlooked, and in 1776, he was asked to go as a delegate of Maryland to the Continental Congress. Carrollton had arrived a little too late to vote for independence, but he did have the opportunity to sign the Declaration of Independence. That is how he ended up as the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of independence.

In 1801 Charles retired from all public work and dabbled in local political issues. In 1822 the first Catholic Church in Annapolis, called St. Mary's, was built on his property. He spent the rest of his years at his home and sadly passed at the age of 95 on November 14, 1832. Carroll was the longest lived signer of the Declaration of Independence. Carroll had left a remarkable impact on our country and our Catholic faith .

Bibliography

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