



## The Virginia Declaration of Rights, Article One, 12 June 1776

Wednesday June the 12th 1776.  
1. The Declaration of Rights having been fairly  
transcribed was read a third time and passed as follows  
~~namely~~ <sup>namely</sup> ~~contradictedly.~~  
That all Men are by nature equally free and  
Independent and have certain inherent Rights of which  
whett

when they enter into a state of Society they cannot  
by any compact deprive or divest their Posterity namely  
the enjoyment of Life and Liberty with the means of  
acquiring and possessing property and pursuing and  
obtaining happiness and Safety.

Citation: Virginia. Convention (1776 : May 6-July 5). Proposed amendments to the Declaration of Rights, 1776 June 12. Accession 30003, State government records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

**The Virginia Declaration of Rights, Article One, 12 June 1776**

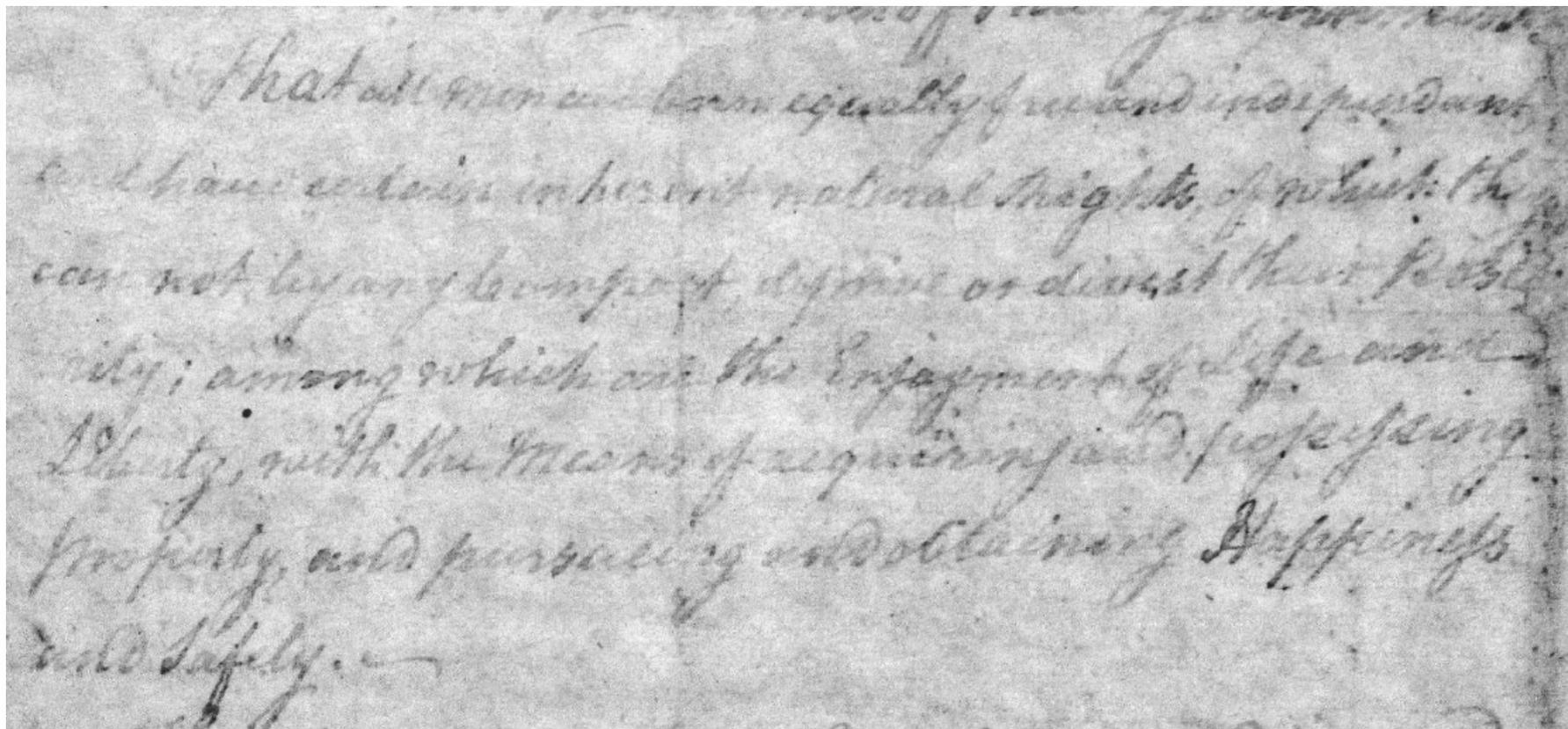
**Transcription**

“That all Men are by nature equally free and Independent and have certain inherent Rights of which when they enter into a state of society they cannot by any compact deprive or divest their Posterity namely the enjoyment of Life and liberty with the means of acquiring and possessing property and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.”

***Citation: Virginia. Convention (1776 : May 6-July 5). Proposed amendments to the Declaration of Rights, 1776 June 12. Accession 30003, State government records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.***



## Thomas Ludwell Lee draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, Article One, 1776



**Citation:** Thomas Ludwell Lee. *Virginia Declaration of Rights, 1776*. Accession 21539. Personal papers collection. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

**The Virginia Declaration of Rights, Article One, A draft by Thomas Ludwell Lee,**

**1776**

**Transcription**

“That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent natural rights, of which they cannot by any compact deprive or divest their Posterity; among which are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety.”

*Citation: Thomas Ludwell Lee. Virginia Declaration of Rights, 1776. Accession 21539. Personal papers collection. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.*



## The Virginia Declaration of Rights, Article One, A draft by George Mason, 1776

1. . . . That all men are created equally free, and independent, & have certain Inherent Rights, of which they cannot, by any Compact, deprive or divest their Posterity; among which, are the Enjoyment of life and Liberty, with the means of acquiring and Possessing Property, & pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety. —

Citation: George Mason. Declaration of Rights, 1776. Accession 21512. Personal papers collection. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

**The Virginia Declaration of Rights, Article One, A draft by George Mason, 1776**

**Transcription**

“That all men are created equally free, and independent, and have certain Inherent Rights, of which they cannot, by any Compact, deprive or divest their Posterity; among which, are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the means of acquiring and Possessing Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety.”

*Citation: George Mason. Declaration of Rights, 1776. Accession 21512. Personal papers collection. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.*