

The National Chart for the US... Is Sibley Correct?

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I am intrigued! Why is a declaration of intent a birth? I have several business clients and they consult with me on the affairs of their businesses. How does one cast a chart for a business? Is it when the owners first conceive the idea and declare their intent? The answer is no! For businesses, the chart is cast for the moment they open their doors for business.

I think we can safely say that the astrological community, by large, has accepted the signing of the Declaration of Independence as the "birth of the US". What is usually disputed is the time of its signing. However, there are several very important things that really "shook my tree" in my recent historical readings and they are connected to some of the discussions I have had about accurate birth times for nations.

The first thing I will point out is that the majority of secular political scientists do not consider a declaration of independence as the beginnings of any nation. The Declaration of Independence issued by the colonies was in fact only the united intention of 13 independent entities, each which had their own constitution or charter. If by definition, the natal ascendant is the "body", fully formed and functioning independently, then why does the astrological community accept the date and time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence as the birth? Was a nation born then?

The ascendant of any nativity is that degree which rises on the horizon at the moment in which a native first enters the world and draws his first breath. That is the commencement of life. At that point, the native is fully formed and functional with a head and body, limbs and all the internal and external organs. In fact, one can say that from conception until the foetus is born, it has at certain stages of foetal development, certain functions in order, so that while still in the womb it is semi-functional but it is the birth process, which activates the remaining functions like breathing. In the uterus, the foetus even has a heartbeat and circulation and brain functions and even internal organ functions that are complimented by the umbilical connection to the mother. In the foetal stages, we can say it is a living organism but it is not a truly independent organism until it takes that first breath on its own and the umbilical cord is cut and it either survives or dies under its own functions.

In truth it was to be a long process of development until the fully formed "body" of the United States of America, as a nation, was to emerge and take its first breath and 'open' its doors for business. In his autobiography, Jefferson writes of the period following their declaration;

*"Our first essay in America to establish a federative government had fallen, on trial, very short of its object. During the war of Independence, while the pressure of an external enemy hooped us together, and their enterprises kept us necessarily on the alert, the spirit of the people, excited by danger, was a supplement to the Confederation, and urged them to zealous exertions, whether claimed by that instrument, or not. But when peace and safety were restored, and every man became engaged in useful and profitable occupation, less attention was paid to the calls of Congress. The fundamental defect of the Confederation was that Congress **was not authorized to act immediately on the people, &***

by its own officers. Their power was only requisitory,¹ and these requisitions² were addressed to the several legislatures, to be by them carried into execution, without other coercion than the moral principle of duty. This allowed in fact a negative to every legislature, on every measure proposed by Congress; a negative so frequently exercised in practice as to benumb the action of the federal government, and to render it inefficient in its general objects, & more especially in pecuniary and foreign concerns. The want too of a separation of the legislative, executive, & judiciary functions worked disadvantageously in practice. Yet this state of things afforded a happy augury of the future march of our confederacy, when it was seen that the good sense and good dispositions of the people, as soon as they perceived the incompetence of their first compact, instead of leaving it's correction to insurrection and civil war, agreed with one voice to elect deputies to a general convention, who should peaceably meet and agree on such a constitution as 'would ensure peace, justice, liberty, the common defence & general welfare.'

Notice his use of the terms like rendering it inefficient, benumbed, confederation, and happy augury of the future! There is a big difference between the meanings of the words, confederation and united. Confederation means, being united in a league or alliance, specifically – independent nations or states joined in a league or confederacy whose central authority is usually confined to common defence and limited political cooperation such as the situation with the United States of America (1781-89) under the Articles of Confederation. United, means to be made one! Jefferson is writing specifically here of the time period around 1787 – 88! Eleven years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence there still was no "united" but a "confederation" of 13 independent states each with their own constitution! There was as yet, no "United" States of America but a "Confederation" of the Colonies. There was no constitution! There was no head! It was at this time an incomplete body, incapable of functioning on its own. Again as Jefferson writes,

"The fundamental defect of the Confederation was that Congress was not authorized to act immediately on the people, & by its own officers. Their power was only requisitory, and these requisitions were addressed to the several legislatures, to be by them carried into execution, without other coercion than the moral principle of duty."

How can it be a nation when it could not even govern immediately nor did it wield the authority to do so? Instead, decisions of a confederate congress had to first be voted upon in each independent state government. A nation has a central government functioning on behalf of the body!

There is no 'nation' called the EU! There are certainly those that wish it so but the fact remains that there is only a confederation of fully independent nations. And you can easily see the weakness of such a confederation when decisions about a pandemic or money must be made. Currently there is such in fighting between EU member nations that one might say that their confederation is most definitely in peril. There is no central government that has the authority to makes decisions for its member nations. For example, they cannot treat with foreign nations on behalf of the body, they cannot decide a military question *etc*; there are hundreds of things they cannot do that a sovereign nation can do! It's a myth to sit and cast charts for the EU as a 'nation'! It is not a nation! It is simply a confederation that member nations can leave if they want. Something the UK demonstrated recently.

¹ making a requisition

² An official form on which a **request** is made

I would like to submit that this period from the signing of the Declaration of Independence to 1789 is only the foetal period, the foetus in development. I would like to propose, that the nation was in fact born when the first "head" made his debut into the light of the world and the now united body took its first breath; and that was at the inauguration of George Washington! The final act making it a functioning body whose members had all ratified and accepted the new Constitution was the ascension of George Washington as the first elected President.

It should be made very clear that not everyone was for a United States! In many of the colonies, the affirmative ratification of the proposed constitution was by very narrow margins! New York, for example, was 30 for and 27 against! Only three of the independent colonies were unanimous! They had all already agreed that for there to be a united consensus and acceptance, then 9 colony 'states' had to ratify the constitution in their colonial governments. The ninth state was New York which signed and ratified the constitution on July 26, 1788! North Carolina did not enter the Union until after the new government was well on its way. In North Carolina's first convention (July, 1788), the Union was rejected by a vote of 184 to 84. They refused to ratify the Constitution because of the lack of a Bill of Rights and in the fear that the strong National government would in time overbear State authority. Rhode Island, which did not send delegates to the Constitutional Convention, and which long refused to ratify, knocked at the door for admission after the new government began to deal with it as a foreign country and subjected it to taxes on its exports.³

The "birth" of anything carries the implication that it functions on its own as an entity. These early forefathers, like Jefferson, did not perceive the nation to be a nation until it was functioning as a nation. Just as a business is not a business until it opens its doors for business! Only after the ascension of Washington as president was it a complete and whole form, an infant granted, but a whole and complete form. And it is this form that is recognised by the world, not that foetal form which was post-Declaration of Independence. That was only the conception.

On July 2, 1788, Congress received word that the ninth State had ratified the proposed constitution. In September, it fixed the first Wednesday in January, 1789, for the choice of electors, the first Wednesday in February for balloting for a President and a Vice President, and the first Wednesday in March for the commencement of the new government and that date, March 4, 1789 has remained the official date until 1933. That was their perspective, so how can people come along now and say it is not so, it is otherwise.

Astrologers are supposed to see history objectively. It is a purely subjective choice to take the Declaration of Independence! It wasn't the founders' choice since they saw the government as commencing as a functioning entity March 4, 1789! That is because Washington was supposed to be inaugurated March 3, but he was broke and had to borrow the money (100\$) from a friend so he could go. He was almost a month late! Instead, Washington was inaugurated April 30th 1789! Their opinion was that the government was a functioning government **after** Washington should have been inaugurated. So when did the US government commence (that means begin)? When did this confederation of states become one nation? Jefferson is clear in his opinion! Nonetheless, we blithely go along believing what we will. As I just said and I will reiterate, it is the astrologers' duty to see things through the

³ in May 1790!

perspective of those who were there, an objective perspective. It is our forefathers “recollections” that matter, not our subjective opinion of them!

I cannot accept popular opinion that the Declaration of Independence is the birth of America. It was only its conception in idea. To accept that proposition is like me saying the birth of my children was a fact when my wife and I decided to have sex to have them. My wife had two miscarriages and though we conceived the idea of having those two children, they were never born. A child isn't born, until he is born – not before!

Just because the Declaration of Independence is a popular opinion does not make it correct, it certainly is not supported by the facts! The facts are that these forefathers of America said that it would be "open for business" after the inauguration of Washington. I have no problem accepting that! Wishful thinking does not make it otherwise!

In the earliest texts we have concerning the revolution of the years of a nation, two things were of importance in discussing that year, a Lord of the Year representing the people of that nation, and the significator of the King or head of that nation. We are told in Māshā'allāh's treatise on the Revolutions of the Years that if the significator of the King handed his disposition to the Lord of the Year then the Kings state of being was determined by the state of the Lord of the Year. And the reverse was also possible that the Lord of the Year handed its disposition over to the significator of the King and the condition of the people of the nation was determined by the condition of the significator of the King.

“if the Lord of the Year [were] having testimony in the Midheaven, or if the Lord of the exaltation of the Midheaven committed his own disposition and strength to [the Lord of the Year], or if the Lord of the Midheaven were in his domicile, aspecting him. For if it were so, the Lord of the Year will be the significator of the king. And if you knew this in a revolution of years, know even the significator of the king from the Lord of the Year, and know his condition from the condition of the rustics.... if the Lord of the Year committed disposition to the significator of the king. It will send in difficulties upon [the rustics] on account of the acquisition of substance, if their commingling were from the square aspect or the opposition; but if it were from the trine or sextile aspect, it signifies the rendering of the census without the coming of difficulty upon the rustics. And if it committed its own disposition without an aspect, this will be without the king's knowledge. And if it aspected the Lord of its domicile, the king will extract substances in that same year; and if it did not aspect, he will extract substance without bad intentions.”⁴

The point is this, the nation and the head (king) were both necessary to judge the state of the nation. When George Washington ascended to the Presidency of the US, the US became a nation.

If we are to find a ‘national chart’ then it must be a chart that is either the ascension of George Washington as president or I think I would rather choose the chart of the Revolution of the World for the year he took office. That is because the exact time of the inauguration has not been preserved.

There is the recorded account of one Henry Livingstone (Chancellor of the State of New York) who was present at the inauguration.

⁴ Chapter 19 (p.338) – On the Revolution of the Years of the World by Māshā'allāh from the book *The Works of Sahl & Māshā'allāh* – translated by Benjamin Dykes PhD Cazimi Press 2008

*"...the procession was formed under the immediate direction of Colonel Morgan Lewis, in Cherry street, opposite the President's house, at twelve o'clock.... The procession having marched through Queen, Great Dock, and Broad streets, until opposite Federal Hall, the troops formed a line on each side of the way, through which the President, with his attendants, was conducted to the chamber of the Senate, where the members of the House of Representatives had a few minutes before assembled, and at the door the Vice President received him and waited upon him to the chair... The Vice President then said, "Sir, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United states are ready to attend you to take the oath required by the Constitution, which will be administered by the **Chancellor** of the State of New York."*

The President answered, "I am ready to proceed."

The Vice President and the Senators led the way, and, accompanied by the Chancellor, and followed by the Representatives, and other public characters present, he then walked to the outside gallery, from which Broad street and Wall street, each way, were perceived to be filled, as with a sea of upturned faces, but as silent as if the immense concourse had been statues instead of living men..... A gesture of the Chancellor arrested the attention of the immense assembly, and he pronounced slowly and distinctly the words of the oath. The Bible was raised, and as the President bowed to kiss its sacred pages, he said audibly, "I swear," and added, with fervor, his eyes closed, that his whole soul might be absorbed in the supplication, "So help me God!"

Federal Hall is now a museum in the Wall Street district in Manhattan. It is indeed difficult to determine the exact time of the inauguration. I haven't been able to determine just how far it is from Washington's residence on Cherry Street to the Federal Hall. One could conceivably come to a close approximation using a "processional" rate of speed in a carriage drawn by horses, ca. 3 mph, and calculate from the distance and formalities at the Federal Hall (which appeared to be rather direct and perfunctory). I would imagine that it was very close to 12:30 +/- . We could perhaps even rationalise that the time of the inauguration was 12 noon as that is when the actual ceremony began with the procession to the Federal Hall.

To help clarify this doubt, there is one more testimony that I came across in the Journal of **William Maclay** who was a Senator from Pennsylvania present during the inauguration of George Washington.

*"30th April, Thursday — This is a great, important day. Goddess of etiquette assist me while I describe it. **The Senate stood adjourned to half after eleven o'clock.** About ten dressed in my best clothes; went for Mr. Morris' lodgings, but met his son, who told me that his father would not be in town until Saturday. Turned into the Hall. The crowd already great. **The Senate met.** The Vice-President rose in the most solemn manner. This son of _Adam_ seemed impressed with deeper gravity, yet what shall I think of him? He often, in the midst of his most important airs — I believe when tie is at loss for expressions (and this he often is, wrapped up, I suppose, in the contemplation of his own importance) — suffers an unmeaning kind of vacant laugh to escape him. This was the case to-day, and really to me bore the air of ridiculing the farce he was acting. "Gentlemen, I wish for the direction of the Senate. The President will, I suppose, address the Congress. How shall I behave? How shall we receive it? Shall it be standing or sitting?"*

Here followed a considerable deal of talk from him which I could make nothing of. Mr. Lee began with the House of Commons (as is usual with him), then the House of Lords, then the King, and then back again. The result of his information was, that the Lords sat and the Commons stood on the delivery of the King's speech. Mr. Izard got up and told

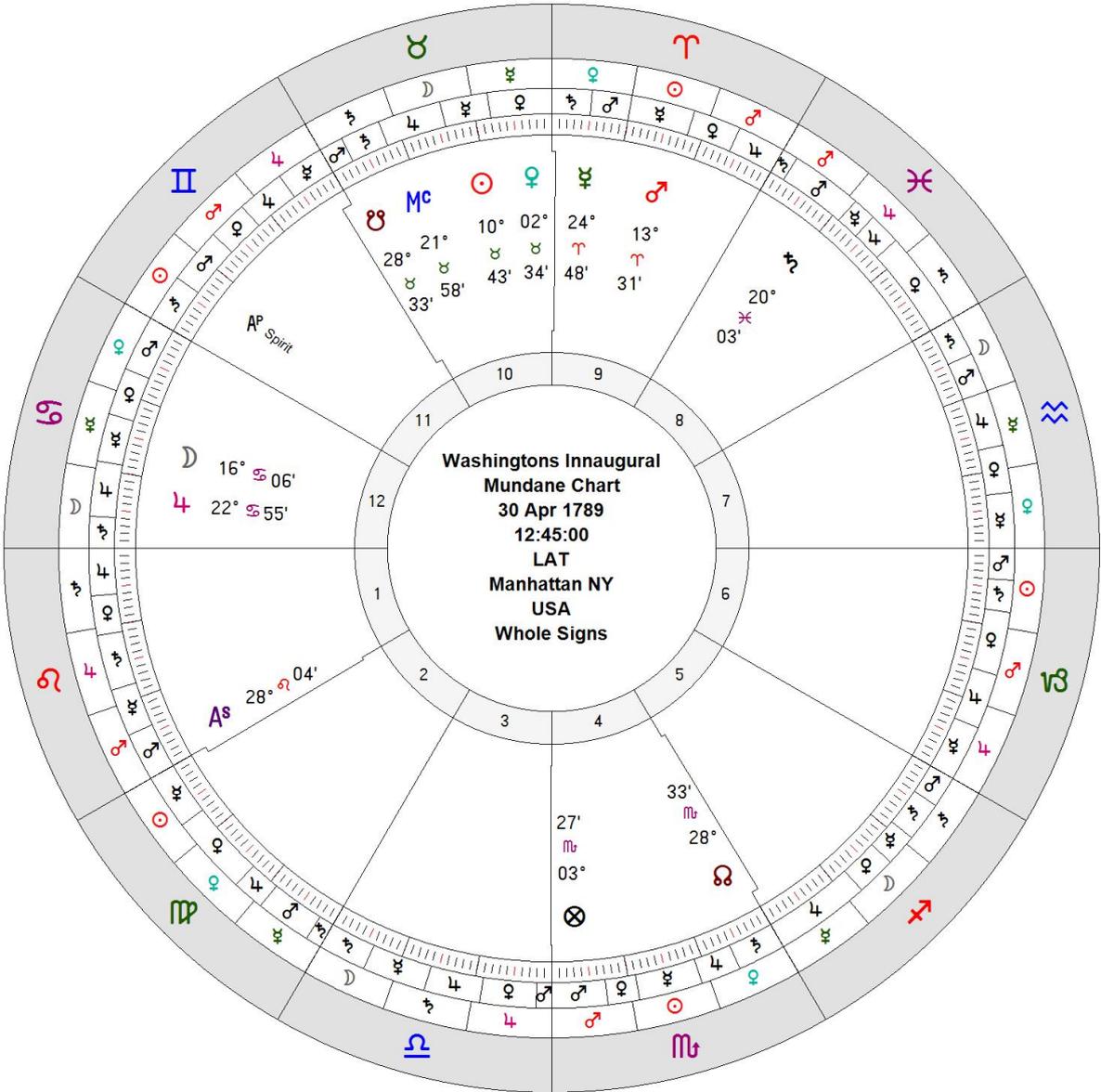
how often he had been in the Houses of Parliament. He said a great deal of what he had seen there. [He] made, however, this sagacious discovery, that the Commons stood because they had no seats to sit on, being arrived at the bar of the House of Lords. It was discovered after some time that the King sat, too, and had his robes and crown on.

Mr. Adams got up again and said he had been very often {8} indeed at the Parliament on those occasions, but there always was such a crowd, and _ladies along_, that for his part he could not say how it was. Mr. Carrol got up to declare that he thought it of no consequence how it was in Great Britain; they were no rule to us, etc. But all at once the Secretary, who had been out, whispered to the Chair that the Clerk from the Representatives was at the door with a communication. Gentlemen of the Senate, how shall he be received? A silly kind of resolution of the committee on that business had been laid on the table some days ago. The amount of it was that each House should communicate to the other what and how they chose; it concluded, however, something in this way: That everything should be done with all the _propriety_ that was _proper_. The question was, Shall this be adopted, that we may know how to receive the Clerk? It was objected [that] this will throw no light on the subject; it will leave you where you are. Mr. Lee brought the House of Commons before us again. He reprobated the rule; declared that the Clerk should not come within the bar of the House; that the proper mode was for the Sergeant-at-Arms, with the mace on his shoulder, to meet the Clerk at the door and receive his communication; we are not, however, provided for this ceremonious way of doing business, having neither mace nor sergeant nor Masters in Chancery, who carry down bills from the English Lords.

Mr. Izard got up and labored unintelligibly to show the great distinction between a communication and a delivery of a thing, but he was not minded. Mr. Elsworth showed plainly enough that if the Clerk was not permitted to deliver the communication, the Speaker might as well send it inclosed. Repeated accounts came [that] the Speaker and Representatives were at the door. Confusion ensued; the members left their seats. Mr. Read rose and called the attention of the Senate to the neglect that had been shown Mr. Thompson, late Secretary. Mr. Lee rose to answer him, but I could not hear one word he said. The Speaker was introduced, followed by the Representatives. **Here we sat an hour and ten minutes before the President arrived — this delay was owing to Lee, Izard, and Dalton, who had stayed with us while the Speaker came in, instead of going to attend the President.** The President advanced {9} between the Senate and Representatives, bowing to each. He was placed in the chair by the Vice-President; the Senate with their president on the right, the Speaker and the Representatives on his left. The Vice-President rose and addressed a short sentence to him. The import of it was that he should now take the oath of office as President. He seemed to have forgot half what he was to say, for he made a dead pause and stood for some time, to appearance, in a vacant mood. He finished with a formal bow, and the President was conducted out of the middle window into the gallery, and the oath was administered by the Chancellor. Notice that the business done was communicated to the crowd by proclamation, etc., who gave three cheers, and repeated it on the President's bowing to them.

He states in his journal that he met with all the other Congressmen and Senators at 11:30 AM in Federal hall where they then waited 1 hour and 10 minutes and only then did Washington arrive. The Vice-president then said a few words, just a couple of short sentences with an uncomfortably pause according to Maclay, and then Washington was sworn in. This gives a little more accurate time of somewhere between 12:40 and 12:50 PM! In those 10 minutes there is very little change in a chart cast for 12:40. Even if it took 10 minutes there are no significant changes to the Ascendant, Midheaven or Moon. In that 10 minutes the Ascendant only moves 2 degrees, the Midheaven a little more than 2 and a half degrees, and the Moon 6 minutes of arc. The only thing worth noticing is that after 5 minutes the

Midheaven moves from the terms of Jupiter to the terms of Saturn. Here is the chart cast for the median of 12:45PM:



One possibility to be sure!