

First Congregational Church of Marshfield was gathered in 1632.

In 1633, Galileo was convicted of "grave suspicion of heresy" based on his book, *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*, which was then placed on the Index of Forbidden Books. Galileo dared to prove that the Sun was at the center of our solar system, moreover he was found guilty of independently interpreting the scriptures and was placed under house arrest, at which time our church was then well established by those who dared to follow Galileo's freedom of mind and spirit.

Today we thank our forefathers for our independence and the duty free gift.

Town Of Marshfield
Declaration of Independence
June 19, 1776

The King of Great Britain has become a tyrant... he has wantonly destroyed the property of Americans...he has passed acts of Parliament calculated to subjugate the Colonies... Alliance with him is now treason to our country, but we wait patiently till Congress, in whose council we confide shall declare the colonies independent of Great Britain. The inhabitants of this town, therefore, unanimously instruct and direct you that, if the Continental Congress shall think it necessary for the safety of the United Colonies to declare them independent of Great Britain, the inhabitants of this town with their lives and fortunes will support them in the measure...

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Extract from Marshfield Meeting Records, June 19, 1776

This document was delivered to the General Court by Deacon Nehemiah Thomas, Representative; thus making Marshfield one of the first towns to publicly declare for independence, preceding by fifteen days the national Declaration.

It should be remembered that in 1776 the church and the government were one. The meeting house held both church services and town meetings. "In spite of this" our forefathers were able to build the free-est nation in the history of the world.

May we ever remember those who fought and died for our freedoms and defend the same for our successors to come. The church has always been under attack by those who wander through the world seeking the rule of soul.