

**THE CHRONICLES OF AMERICA
SERIES. THE EVE OF THE
REVOLUTION: A CHRONICLE
OF THE BREACH WITH ENGLAND**

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CARL LOTUS BECKER & ALLEN JOHNSON

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TEXTBOOK EDITION

**THE CHRONICLES
OF AMERICA SERIES**

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FRANKLIN JOHN ADAMS JEFFERSON

WRITING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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BREACH WITH ENGLAND
BY CARL BECKER



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PREFACE

IN this brief sketch I have chiefly endeavored to convey to the reader, not a record of what men did, but a sense of how they thought and felt about what they did. To give the quality and texture of the state of mind and feeling of an individual or class, to create for the reader the illusion (not *delusion*, O able Critic!) of the intellectual atmosphere of past times, I have as a matter of course introduced many quotations; but I have also ventured to resort frequently to the literary device (this, I know, gives the whole thing away) of telling the story by means of a rather free paraphrase of what some imagined spectator or participant might have thought or said about the matter in hand. If the critic says that the product of such methods is not history, I am willing to call it by any name that is better; the point of greatest relevance being the truth and effectiveness of the

illusion aimed at—the extent to which it reproduces the quality of the thought and feeling of those days, the extent to which it enables the reader to enter into such states of mind and feeling. The truth of such history (or whatever the critic wishes to call it) cannot of course be determined by a mere verification of references.

To one of my colleagues, who has read the entire manuscript, I am under obligations for many suggestions and corrections in matters of detail; and I would gladly mention his name if it could be supposed that an historian of established reputation would wish to be associated, even in any slight way, with an enterprise of questionable orthodoxy.

CARL BECKER.

ITHACA, NEW YORK,
January 6, 1918.

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