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CARROLL, CHARLES (Sept. 19, 1737–Nov. 14, 1832), Revolutionary leader, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and United States senator from Maryland, is said by his biographers to have been descended from the “old Irish princely family of the Carrolls of Ely O’Carroll, Kings County, Ireland.” He was born at Annapolis, the son of Charles Carroll of Annapolis and Elizabeth (Brooke) Carroll. His early education was almost entirely in the hands of the Society of Jesus, at first in the school on Bohemia Manor in Maryland, then for six years following 1748 in the Collège de St. Omer in French Flanders. After finishing at Rheims and at the Collège de Louis le Grand in Paris, he spent the years 1753 to 1757 at Bourges and Paris, whence he went to London for the beginning of a residence of several years during which he continued the studies in civil law begun in France, though not with the intention of making professional use of his acquirements. At the age of twenty-eight, he returned to Maryland, prepared to take up the development of the ten-thousand-acre tract in Frederick County located at the mouth of the Monocacy and known as Carrollton Manor, which his father made over to him at this time. He took no part in the politics of the next few years, but lived the life of a gentleman of property, debarred from political activity by his legal disability as a Roman Catholic. On June 5, 1768, he married his cousin, Mary Darnall. In the Assembly of 1770 the question of regulating officers’ fees and the stipends of the clergy of the Established Church reached such a point of bitterness between the two houses that Gov. Eden prorogued the session and issued a proclamation reaffirming the old table of fees which the lower house had been trying to reform. The bitterness aroused by this action came to a head two years later when the

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Maryland Gazette, on Jan. 7, 1773, published a letter in defense of the government signed "An-tilon," a pseudonym which it was generally understood concealed the identity of Daniel Dulany [q.v.]. This letter, in the form of a dialogue in which the arguments of "First Citizen" against the government's position were overcome by Dulany speaking as "Second Citizen," gave Carroll his opportunity. Dramatically enough he stepped into the clothes of the straw man Dulany had knocked down and under the signature of "First Citizen" reopened the argument. The controversy was carried on in the *Maryland Gazette* until July 1, 1773, and when it was over Carroll had become indeed something like the First Citizen of the province. He was active in the non-importation proceedings of 1774, and this year and the next saw him successively a member of the local Annapolis Committee of Correspondence, of the first Maryland Convention, of the provincial Committee of Correspondence, and of the Committee of Safety. In February 1776, the Continental Congress appointed a commission to visit Canada "to promote or form a union" between Canada and the colonies, naming as its members, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Chase, and Charles Carroll. Though Carroll was not a member of Congress at this time, his standing among American Catholics and his knowledge of French fitted him peculiarly for the mission. The story of that abortive attempt, foredoomed to failure, is found in Carroll's journal of the mission. As a delegate to the Maryland Convention of 1776, he was instrumental in bringing about the passage of the resolution of separation from England that put the province into line with the other colonies on this absorbing question of the hour. Elected a delegate to the Continental Congress on July 4, Carroll went almost immediately to Philadelphia, voted for the engrossment of the Declaration of Independence on July 19 and put his name to the instrument on Aug. 2. The romantic story that he added "of Carrollton" to his name on this occasion for the first time in response to the suggestion that King George would probably hang one of the other Charles Carrolls by mistake is without foundation. He had assumed this designation first on his return to Maryland in 1765, and had used it ever since as his invariable signature to distinguish him from his father and cousins of the same name. From this time on Carroll took a prominent part in the Assembly of his state and in the Continental Congress. He was intimately concerned in the drawing up of the Maryland Constitution, and he opposed the confiscation of British property and other measures that seemed to him as tyrannical as those

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from which the country was endeavoring to escape. He served in Congress from 1776 to 1778 and was appointed to the Board of War and to other important committees. In 1787 he was elected to the Constitutional Convention, but did not accept the election, though when the question of adoption was before the Maryland Senate, he allied himself with the party for adoption and remained a Federalist for the rest of his days. He represented Maryland as senator in the first federal Congress, 1789, and continued in this capacity until his resignation in 1792. His political career ended when he left the Maryland Senate in 1800 and devoted himself to the development of an estate that counted between seventy and eighty thousand acres of land in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York. In common with his party as a whole, he was opposed to the War of 1812, and, when the office of the *Federal Republican* of Baltimore was sacked by a mob, he contemplated moving from the state. He was a member of the Potomac Company, with its dream of a water route to Ohio and the West, and of its successor, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company, organized in 1823. He was on the first board of directors of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and laid its corner-stone on the 4th of July 1828. His property increased with the years and when he died on Nov. 14, 1832, he was envied by many as the wealthiest citizen of the United States and revered by every one as the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence.

[Kate Mason Rowland, *The Life of Chas. Carroll of Carrollton, 1737-1832* (2 vols. 1898), in which are reprinted as appendices to vol. I, "Letters of the First Citizen," and the Canada "Jour. of Chas. Carroll of Carrollton," and as appendices to vol. II his will and the genealogy of the family.] L.C.W.