On August 12, 1776, a reading of the Declaration of Independence took place on the steps of the Loudoun County Courthouse. On that day, Josias Clapham, George West, Francis Peyton, Thomas Lewis, and Samuel Love were given the official Oath as Justices for Loudoun County, Commonwealth of Virginia, in the United States of America. After the Oath was administered, the Declaration of Independence was read by the Sheriff on the Courthouse steps in accordance with an Order from the Governor and Council of Virginia.