



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

*"You may be buried only once, but you could die twice."*

## Two Forgotten Signers' Died, With One Buried Twice

There were fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. One of the signers, James Smith was a lawyer from York. He had attended a provincial assembly in 1774, where he presented his paper on boycotting all British goods. That year, he formed a militia in York, which soon grew to battalion size. In 1775, he was elected to be a delegate to the state convention. There he made a name for himself as a supporter of the causes of American freedom. May 1776, Pennsylvania elected new delegates to the Continental Congress, one of which was James Smith. A few weeks later he signed, the most important document in America history. On the evening of July 6, he brought a printed broadside copy of the document to be read in the York town square. He served Congress until 1778, became a Brigadier General of the state Militia and after the war resumed his law practice and lived at 266 East Market Street in York. He died in York on July 11, 1806 and was buried in York's First Presbyterian Church yard. He had no children. Source: [Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence](#). I was privileged to have seen his grave and his [PA history marker](#).

Another signer was [Philip Livingston](#). When New York established the New York Provincial Congress in 1775, he was the President. They also selected him as one of their delegates to the Continental Congress that year. In 1778, he died suddenly while attending Congress, while it was in York. He was buried in the German Reformed Church Cemetery on West Market Street. However, in the early 1900's the church was razed for a new building and his body was dug up and moved. (His plot was then occupied by a Woolworth's store where shoppers could see a marker for him on the wall [source [York Town Square](#)]. In 1997, the Woolworth's company closed and the marker was then moved several times.) History books do not record it, but the burial at Prospect Hill Cemetery in York was his second. I was privileged to have seen his grave and his [PA history marker](#).

We may not be buried twice like Philip Livingston but some of us will die twice. "But the fearful, and unbelieving... shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev 21:8 Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said unto him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, You must be born again" John 3:16

There are no buildings, no statues, and almost no honor is held for our own James Smith. Then Philip Livingston was dishonored when his body was moved and replaced with a discount store. But God cares and respects you so much that He has provided a way for you not to die twice, and for you to declare your independence from the sin nature. Will you believe and accept Him on this July 4<sup>th</sup>?



Born once, die twice.

*Charles L Stambaugh Mt Wolf, PA.  
York County but Heaven bound*

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16



Born twice, die once.

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