

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1774

Newsline

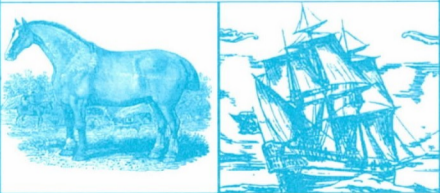
- January 5, 1774
Twelfth Night: "Spend the night in enjoyment and reveling" with dinners, balls, or a special cake
- January 6, 1774
Epiphany or Twelfth Day
- January 6, 1774
The *Duchess of Gordon* arrives in New York with Lady Dunmore on board
- January 7, 1774
Williamsburg Hustings Court meets
- January 8, 1774
Hillary Term begins at the College of William and Mary
- January 14, 1774
James City County Court meets
- January 21, 1774
York County Court meets
- January 30, 1774
King Charles I, martyr: Commemoration of the king's execution
- Anniversary of the Capitol fire in 1747
- February 1, 1774
Merchants from Norfolk and the lower parts of the "country" state they will meet in Williamsburg and stay four days
- February 2, 1774
Purification of the Virgin Mary/ Candlemas
- February 14, 1774
St. Valentine's Day
- February 27, 1774
Shrove Tuesday: The day before the beginning of Lent and fasting, marked by the tradition of feasting on pancakes
- February 28, 1774
Ash Wednesday: First day of the Lenten Season
- April 14, 1774
Easter Sunday and the end of Lent

VIRGINIA TODAY SNAPSHOT

The Party's Over?

Colonies Await Britain's Reaction To The Boston Tea Party

- *December 16, 1773:
The Boston Tea Party
- *December 22, 1773
Ship leaves Boston for England
- *January 19, 1774
News Arrives in Dover, England
News Arrives in London



"No human being, no manufactured item, no bushel of wheat, no side of beef, no letter, no information, no idea, order, or instruction of any kind moved faster" than the speed of a horse over land or a ship over the seas. [Stephen E. Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage*, 52]

AMERICANS TODAY
Becoming

NO. 1 FOR COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TEASE MEN'S SOULS



Dateline: Boston December 1773

Visiting in this New England port city, your narrators of the news happened upon a most extraordinary occurrence! At Griffin's Wharf on the evening of the 16th of December, we witnessed Boston Harbor being transformed into a giant teapot expressly for the brewing of 45 tons of Ceylon and Darjeeling tea. This tea, belonging to the East India Company, steeped in the cold waters of Boston Harbor and provided drink only for the fishes.

We were fortunate to make the acquaintance of a member of the band of "Indians" that boarded the tea ships. We joined his story at the point where the group made its way to the ships.

I immediately dressed myself in the costume of an Indian . . . we arrived at the wharf . . . and were immediately ordered by the respective commanders to board all the ships (Dartmouth, Eleanor, Beaver) at the same time, which we promptly obeyed. . . . as soon as we were on board the ship . . . the commander of the division . . . ordered me to go to the captain and demand of him the keys to the hatches and a dozen candles. . . . We then were ordered . . . to open all the hatches and take out all the chests of tea and throw them overboard, and we immediately proceeded to execute his orders, first cutting and splitting the chests with our tomahawks, so as thoroughly to expose them to the effects of the water. In about three hours from the time we went on board, we had thus broken and thrown overboard every tea chest to be found on the ship, while those in the other ships were disposing of the tea in the same way, at the same time. (From a Memoir of George Hewes)

(These reporters have been told that no other property on board the three ships was destroyed or even damaged save the tea.)

But just what occasioned such a destructive outburst on the part of these Bostonians?

Well, to hear the colonists tell the story, it was all about taxes. In the fall of this year 1773, Boston's North End Caucus, an organization led by silversmith Paul Revere, voted to oppose the sale of the tea with "their lives and fortunes."

It started with the Townshend Duties back in '67, in which Parliament levied import duties on glass, paint, lead, paper, and tea. After heated protests from the colonists, Parliament rescinded the Townshend Duties, except the tax on tea. Why was the tea tax retained? To make a point: Parliament still has the authority to tax the colonies whether the Americans like it or not.

And what about the Tea Act? By early 1773, the East India Company was on the

verge of bankruptcy because of mismanagement and corruption among its employees. With the Americans' refusal to buy British products because of the Stamp Act and the Townshend Duties, the crisis only worsened for the company. It had a staggering 17 million pounds of unsold tea in its London warehouses, and the colonists weren't buying any of it, rather preferring the cheaper smuggled tea from the Dutch and Danish West Indies. The crown was predisposed to save the East India Company from going under because of the company's valuable influence in India.

Enter the Tea Act of May 1773, which granted the East India Company a monopoly to sell tea to the colonies at a rate that would undersell even the smuggled tea. This is good, right? India tea at bargain rates! Cheaper in America than in England!

So, what's the problem with these provincials? Well, the problem, according to some of the colonists, was the retention of the three-penny tax per pound of tea that was originally part of the Townshend Duties.

First minister Lord North was aware that Americans are great tea drinkers. He counted on this addiction and their thrift to sweep away any minor scruples they might have about paying a token tax. Was he wrong!

That is why those "Mohawks" (purportedly organized by Sam Adams) in Boston took matters into their own hands and destroyed the tea with the dreaded tax. The next day, John Adams (Sam's lawyer cousin) wrote in his diary that

3 Cargoes of Bohea Tea were emptied into the Sea. This is the most magnificent moment of all. There is a Dignity, a Majesty, a Sublimity, in this last Effort of the Patriots, that I greatly admire. The people should never rise, without doing something notable and striking. This Destruction of the Tea is so bold, so daring, so firm, so intrepid and inflexible, and it must have so important Consequences, and so lasting, that I can't but consider it as an Epocha in History.

Perhaps so, Mr. Adams, but just how will Parliament respond to this destruction of property? As Mr. Adams asked himself:

What measures will the Ministry take, in Consequence of this?—Will they resent it? Will they dare to resent it? Will they punish Us? How? By quartering Troops upon Us?—by annulling our Charter?—by laying on more duties? By restraining our Trade? By Sacrifice of Individuals, or how?

We don't yet know, Mr. Adams, what Britain's reaction will be to Boston's tea party but you may find the response "intolerable." [Submitted by your roving reporters Phil Shultz and Nancy Milton]

RAISING MILITIA

RAISES CAIN!



DREADFUL FIRE!

NEW YORK, December 30, 1773
MR. Douglas, and the American Company of Comedians, are all arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, where they have a very favorable Prospect of Success in a new and elegant Theater.

Last night, about eleven o'Clock a dreadful Fire broke out at Fort George in this City.

It was so sudden, and raged with such amazing Violence, that His Excellency the Governor, His Lady and Daughter, being in bed, barely escaped with their Lives. So rapid was the Destruction, that every Article of Property fell a Sacrifice to the insuperable Ranging of the Flames, which for a considerable Time threatened the Safety of the whole City.

Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon), Thursday, January 27, 1774

TRAVEL WARNING: BLACK SEA TURNS RED

CONSTANTINOPLE, September 17.
THE Sublime Porte, although known to be a pacific Disposition, and although the Reports from the Turkish Armies are not very favorable, yet is immoveably determined to carry on the War as long as possible, rather than comply on a single Article proposed by Russia concerning the Independency of the Crimea, or even to admit Russia to have any part thereof in her Possession; for if this was allowed Russia would soon be Mistress of the Black Sea, in Consequence of which the Ottoman Throne in Constantinople would be as unguarded as that of Warsaw, if not as that of Corsica. Thus, Russia insists upon what the Porte will not comply with; so that another Campaign is resolved upon, which, by all Appearances, will finish the Struggle on one Side or the other.

Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon), Thursday, January 27, 1774

EARTH SHAKES IN VIRGINIA!

WILLIAMSBURG, February 24.
LAST Monday, about two o'Clock, a smart Shock of an Earthquake was felt at Westover, the Seat of the Honourable William Byrd, Esq; which shook the Dwelling House very much. It was likewise felt in this City the same Day by a few People, and on Wednesday Night following there was a violent Tremour of the earth. And by a Gentleman from Richmond we learn that the shock was severely felt in that Town, at the same Time it was observed at Westover, accompanied by a loud Noise like Thunder; and at Petersburg and Blandford the Motion of the Earth was still greater, many Houses have been moved considerably off their Foundations, and the Inhabitants so much alarmed as to run out of Doors. The same Gentleman says, that the Earthquake, he heard, had been much greater up the Country.

Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon), Thursday, February 24, 1774

NEWS

BOUNDARY DISPUTE

January 24

When Dunmore's representative, Dr. John Connolly, attempts to raise militia at Pittsburgh under a Virginia commission, Pennsylvanians arrest him. Released shortly afterward, he returned with a force to take over Fort Pitt, which he renamed Fort Dunmore. The Virginia governor and Council authorized military support for him, and in April 1774 he appeared with an armed band to defy the Westmoreland County Court of Pennsylvania. He agreed, however, not to interfere with the court's routine operations if it did not bother him. Alarmed, Governor John Penn immediately sent commissioners to negotiate with Dunmore at Williamsburg, but they reached no agreement.

John E. Selby, *A Chronology of Virginia and the War of Independence, 1763-1783* (Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1973).

BOSTON TEA PARTY

Boston, December 17, 1773

YESTERDAY we had a greater Meeting of the Body than ever, the Country coming in from twenty Miles round, and every Step was taken that was practicable for returning the Teas. The Moment it was known, out of Doors, that Mr. Rotch could not obtain a Pass for his Ship by the Castle, a Number of People huzzaed in the Street, and in a little Time every Ounce of the Teas on Board the captains Hall, Bruce and Coffin, was immersed in the Bay, without the least Injury to private Property. The Spirit of the People on this Occasion surprised all Parties, who viewed the Scene. We conceived it our Duty to afford you the most early Advice of this interesting Event by Express, which, departing immediately, obliges us to conclude.

By order of the Committee
Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon),
Thursday, January 6, 1774



"TEA! how I tremble at the baneful Name!
Like Lethe, fatal to the Love of Fame."

Dr. Young

Can Posterity believe that the constitutional Liberties of North America were on the Point of being given up for Tea? Is this exotick Plant necessary to Life? Or does our Health depend upon it? Just the reverse. It was ushered into Europe, A.D. 1679, by the extravagant Encomiums of Cornelius Benetekoe, a Dutch Physician. The Tyranny of Fashion spread it with amazing Rapidity, though the general State of Health has undergone a great Revolution by it; so that our Race is dwindled, and become puny, weak, and disordered, to such a Degree, that were it to prevail a Century more we should be reduced to meager Pigmies.

PHILO-ALETHEIAS
Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon),
Thursday, January 13, 1774



The Whitehall Pump, *unknown maker, black and white line engraving (England, 1774)*. Printed in *Westminster Magazine* shortly after the Boston Tea Party, this print has Lord North and his supporters trying to revive Britannia's vitality. John Wilkes, as a friend to the colonies, protests North's attempts at reprisals for the Tea Party. Colonial Williamsburg collections.

Driving Evolution in the Colonies 1770

Jon Butler

Becoming America: The Revolution before 1776 (Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, Harvard University Press, 2000), 2.

By 1770 Britain's mainland settlements contained a polyglot population of English, Scots, Germans, Dutch, Swiss, French, and Africans, although in 1680 most European settlers were English. By 1770 slavery had profoundly reshaped colonial life everywhere, whereas it cast only curious shadows in the mainland colonies as late as 1670. As early as 1720 cities of real urban complexity emerged from the meanest and simplest of towns. Modest as well as prosperous farmers increasingly thrust themselves into international market economies, some happily, some less so. Eighteenth-century colonial merchants and planters created and inherited wealth so vast that their predecessors scarcely could have comprehended it. Complex, sophisticated politics replaced the rudimentary political mechanisms typical of the seventeenth-century colonies. New patterns of production and consumption accompanied the rise of refined crafts and trades. A vigorous religious pluralism overran the old orthodoxy of the

Puritans in Massachusetts and Anglicans in Virginia. Here, then, was an America already modern in important ways.

Britain's eighteenth-century mainland colonies were not completely modern, of course. Two characteristics of modern society never appeared in the colonies. Britain's mainland settlements never were overwhelmingly urban, and they were not driven by or beset with the massive technological change that transformed nineteenth-century America and Europe. But the colonies emerged as surprisingly modern in five important ways. They became ethnically and nationally diverse, not homogeneous. They developed transatlantic and international economies that supported a vigorous domestic trade and production. Their politics looked ahead to the large-scale participatory politics of modern societies. They exhibited the modern penchant for power, control and authority over both humanity and nature that brooked few limitations or questions about their propriety. And they displayed a religious pluralism that dwarfed the mild religious diversity found in any early modern European nation.

BENEZET SUGGESTS SOLUTION FOR ENDING SLAVERY

FEBRUARY 2, 1774—ROBERT PLEASANTS TO ANTHONY BENEZET

In this letter, Pleasants, a Quaker and the president of the Virginia Abolition Society, discusses the fact that the other 12 colonies were also faced with the problem of how to end slavery, with Benezet, a resident of Philadelphia.

I think the Phisition has handled the subject of Slavery in a masterly manner, altho I suppose he may have very little reason to expect to share with his antagonist the thanks of the Affrican Company, but let that be as it may, he will receive what I expect will be more agreeable to him, the approbation of Judicious sencible men. I highly approved and sincerely wish the several petitions to the King and Parliament may have the desired effect, but I fear there is not virtue and resolution sufficient to forgo or withstand a present (tho false and imaginary) interest in the continuation of a wicked and destructive Trade. I have sent one of the papers containing the address and advice to those Mercht., to the



Printer, and doubt not they will shortly appear in our *Gazette* and as it seems the attempts of our Assembly to prohibit the further Importation of Slaves by an imposition of high Dutys, has been frustrated (as I find is the case in N. York) does thou not think that Acts of the Colonys making all free after a certain term of Servitude like other foreigners taking place at a future period so as that all concerned in the Trade might have notice of such law, would not be (when accompanied with pertinent reasons) more effectually to put an end to it, and be more likely to be approved by the King and Council than a prohibition by Duties for I have been told our Governor (and its not unlikely others also) has instructions to pass no such laws. I just drop this hint for thy consideration.

Elizabeth Donnan, ed.,
Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America (Buffalo, N.Y.: William S. Hein & Co., 2002), 4: 161.

Becoming AMERICANS TODAY
is a publication of the Department of Interpretive Training

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MONEY



COMMERCE

Entered in the Upper District of
JAMES RIVER

January 17. *Britannia*, George Rapall, from Salem, with 20 Casks of Raisins, Six Casks of Spanish Wine, 180 Weight of Coffee, 17 Hhds. of New England Rum, 3 Dozen of Axes, 4 Barrels of Mackerel, and 9 Quintals of Fish.

Polly, John Gillason, from Salem, with 1 Hhd. And 1 Tierce of Molasses, 11 Hhds. and 8 Barrels of New England Rum, 4 Dozen Axes, 50 Weight of Pot Iron, 15 Hhds. of Salt, and sundry Wooden and Earthen Ware.

Cleared Outwards

January 17. *Virginia*, Alexander Thompson, for Glasgow, with 473 Hhds. of Tobacco, and 15,500 Staves.

Donald, Thomas Ramsey, for Glasgow, with 538 Hhds. of Tobacco, and 15,500 Staves.

18. *Canadian*, William Abbott, for Fal-mouth, with 7766 Bushels of Wheat, and 428 Barrels of Flour.

John and Bella, Andrew Green, for London, with 308 Hhds. of Tobacco, 8000 Staves, and 800 Feet of Plank.

Elizabeth, John Sampson, for Bristol, with 459 Hhds. of Tobacco, 2 Pipes of Wine, and 6800 Staves.

William and John, William Langdell, for Salem, with 118 Bushels of Wheat, 550 Bushels of Corn, and 40 Bushels of Beans.

Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon),
Thursday, January 6, 1774

BUILDING TRADES

Brickmaking: Clay dug and left to break up with frost, no burning.

Bricklaying: Difficult to work in cold and damp weather; threat of frost in bricks and improper binding of mortar; bricks should be covered to prevent freezing.

Mortar Manufacture: Mortar should be harder in winter (mixed with less water), but good bonding difficult.

Plastering: Difficult to work in winter months because of moisture, often no work in winter.

Timbering: Trees felled during this time thought to be stronger.

Carpentry and Joinery: Fewer daylight hours; if working by day, less work done.

Painting: Rain and snow of winter put an end to painting outdoors.

AGRICULTURAL CALENDAR

Gather, husk, and cart corn

Clear, manure, and plow fields

Thresh wheat and cart to town

Clean, grub, and ditch meadows

Sow early vegetables

Cart cider to town

Plant fruit trees

Calves and lambs born

Pen and feed cattle

Kill hogs and fatten beeves

Haul out manure

Hunt ducks and seine fishing

Stem and prize tobacco

Prepare beds and sow tobacco seeds

Ditch and fence fields

Cut firewood and cart to town

Build roads and saw timber

Slaves hired out



FORUM



Gordon S. Wood, *The American Revolution: A History, Modern Library Edition, 2002, 37-38.*

In 1773, Parliament provided the occasion for a confrontation by granting the East India Company the exclusive privilege of selling tea in America. Although the North government intended this Tea Act only to be a means of saving the East India Company from bankruptcy, it set off the final series of explosions. For the act not only allowed colonial radicals to draw attention once again to the unconstitutionality of the existing tax on tea, but it also permitted the company to grant monopolies for selling tea to favored colonial merchants—a provision that angered those American traders who were excluded. The Tea Act spread an alarm throughout the colonies. In several ports colonists stopped the ships from landing the company's tea. When tea ships in Boston were prevented from unloading their cargoes, Governor Thomas Hutchinson, whose merchant family had been given the right to sell tea, refused to allow the ships to leave without landing the tea. In response, on December 16, 1773, a group of patriots disguised as Indians dumped about £10,000 worth of tea into Boston harbor. "This is the most magnificent movement of all," exulted John Adams, an ambitious young lawyer from Braintree, Massachusetts. "This destruction of the tea is so bold, so daring, so firm, intrepid, and inflexible, and it must have so important consequences, and so lasting, that I can't but consider it an epocha in history."

Adams was right. To the British the Boston Tea Party was the ultimate outrage. Angry officials and many of the politically active people in Great Britain clamored for a punishment that would squarely confront America with the issue of Parliament's right to legislate for the colonies. "We are now to establish our authority," Lord North told the House of Commons, "or give it up entirely." In 1774, Parliament passed a succession of laws that came to be known as the Coercive Acts. The first of these closed the port of Boston until the destroyed tea was paid for. The second altered the Massachusetts charter and reorganized the government: members of the Council, or upper house, were now to be appointed by the royal governor rather than elected by the legislature, town meetings were restricted, and the governor's power of appointing judges and sheriffs was strengthened. The third act allowed royal officials who had been charged with capital offences to be tried in England or in another colony to avoid hostile juries. The fourth gave the governor power to take over private buildings for the quartering of troops instead of using barracks. At the same time, Thomas Gage, commander in chief of the British army in America, was made governor of the colony of Massachusetts.

These Coercive Acts were the last straw. They convinced Americans once and for all that Parliament had no more right to make laws for them than to tax them.



WINTER 1774 IN WILLIAMSBURG

Winter weather in the colonies complicated and shaped family life and life's activities. All but the wealthy struggled for protection from winter's blast and watched anxiously as their supply of firewood dwindled. In Williamsburg, as elsewhere in the colony, the citizens resigned themselves to monotonous diets of fresh meat, corn, and root vegetables and adjusted to long, dark, cold nights. Tradesmen had a difficult time of it with shorter daylight hours and bitter cold.

Death was more prevalent in winter months and families were haunted by respiratory and other illnesses. Dr. de-Sequera's Diary describes the illnesses of Winter 1774: "The Winter produced some Colds, & Biliious Peripneumonies; After the Inflammation was removed gentle Purges were of Service, but when attended with Expectorations; the Purges were left, & drinking plentifully Pectoral Decoctions was of service."

In Williamsburg there was no hospital for the ill and dying; therefore, all people were cared for at home by family members if they were available. Families often had several members sick at the same time, making care most hard in cold and unlighted places that were difficult to keep clean. Prudent wives and mothers prepared

herbal medicines from their gardens and woods, while the apothecaries in town sold various European remedies. Without antibiotics, many people suffered and sometimes died of secondary infections. The threat of infection from injuries was also a constant threat.

Travel from plantations to town was difficult on icy roads, limiting supplies coming into Williamsburg. Commercial trade continued as long as the James and York rivers were unfrozen. Ships from Britain and New England entered and sailed back to the ports of London, Bristol, Glasgow, Salem, and Falmouth.

During the cold January of 1774, Williamsburg residents pondered their political future. News of the Boston Tea Party reached Williamsburg on January 6, 1774, when the *Virginia Gazette* announced the news three weeks after it occurred on December 16, 1773. Concern about future trade and relationships with Britain consumed merchants and government officials as they discussed Britain's possible reactions. At the same time there were great excitement and curiosity among adults and children in town about Lady Dunmore's anticipated arrival in Williamsburg with her six children.

[Submitted by Anne Willis]

WEATHER

January 1774

- 11th Still a good deal of ice upon the flats. Wind at south west, fresh & cold all day—at night shifted to north west again & grew very cold. (George Washington)
- 12th River almost close froze—day cold, wind fresh at northwest. (Washington)
- 13th River entirely closed in the morning, but free from ice afterwards except upon the flats. Day cloudy but little wind. (Washington)
- 28th Snowing until the afternoon but not fast covered 2 inches. Very cold river quite shut up. Wind northerly. (Washington)
- 30th Very stormy this morning with rain and hail which instantly freezes; the trees hang bending with ice, & the ways are all glassy & slippery. . . . Through this whole day it storms but the evening is terrible! Almost an inundation of rain; the wind violent at northeast; The snow, hail, and rain freezing together on the ground. (Philip Fithian)

ACROSS

- 1 Eat 'em on Shrove Tuesday
- 7 Parliament responds to "tea party" with these acts
- 9 Governor of Massachusetts after "tea party"
- 11 Tea tossing instigator
- 12 Governor of Massachusetts at time of "tea party"
- 17 Tea tax relic of these duties
- 18 End of Christmastide
- 19 Rocks Virginia in late February
- 20 Will meet on first day of February

DOWN

- 2 This English legal case inspires some American slaves to seek freedom
- 3 This institution increasingly in question
- 4 'Tis the season to sow these seeds
- 5 One way slaves consume corn
- 6 Virginia has border dispute with this colony
- 8 Food staple introduced by Indians
- 10 Winter causes challenges for these trades
- 12 Requires weeks of salt and smoke to prepare these
- 13 This weekday begins Lent
- 14 Granted to East India Company
- 15 Turkish dynasty
- 16 Quaker leader of Virginia abolitionists

LIFE

COOK'S CORNER

Food has been associated with celebrations since ancient times and has spawned a "subspecies" of cookbooks devoted to holiday cooking. In the United States, these holiday traditions are a reflection of the ethnic "melting pot" that is unique to American society. In Southern cuisine, these traditions can be traced to their predominantly English roots with the added influence of the cooking styles of Native Americans and African slaves.

. . . Native Americans introduced the early settlers to the cultivation and preservation of corn and, while the colonists never gave up their preference for wheat as a grain source, the abundance of corn made it an easily obtained, inexpensive food staple. Cattle and hogs brought from England joined the variety of indigenous game found in fields and forests. . . .

African influence is seen in the use of spices and in cooking techniques. Slaves were truly creative cooks, combining a few ingredients to produce what is now part of traditional Southern cuisine. Slave cornmeal rations were turned into hoecakes, and dried corn became hominy or was combined with dried beans to make a form of succotash. Fish stews and thick, meat-based soups were flavored with spices from Africa as well as native herbs. Consider a holiday dinner in Tidewater Virginia to help understand how the earliest cooks combined the cooking traditions they brought from England with the necessity of adapting to available, often unfamiliar foodstuffs and the new methods needed to prepare them.

- Crab Gumbo
- Virginia Ham
- Roast Turkey with Cornbread Stuffing
- Gravy
- Scalloped Oysters
- Candied Sweet Potatoes
- Mashed Potatoes
- Corn Pudding
- Cranberry Sauce
- Pickles and Relishes
- Brandied Peaches
- Sally Lunn Bread and Sweet Potato Muffins
- Pumpkin Pie
- Lemon Chess Tarts

Fewer than half the dishes are English in origin, which is a tribute to the influence of the Native Americans whose land was usurped and the African slaves whose labor guaranteed the success of the Southern agrarian economy.

Laura Arnold, *The Interpreter*, Fall 1988.

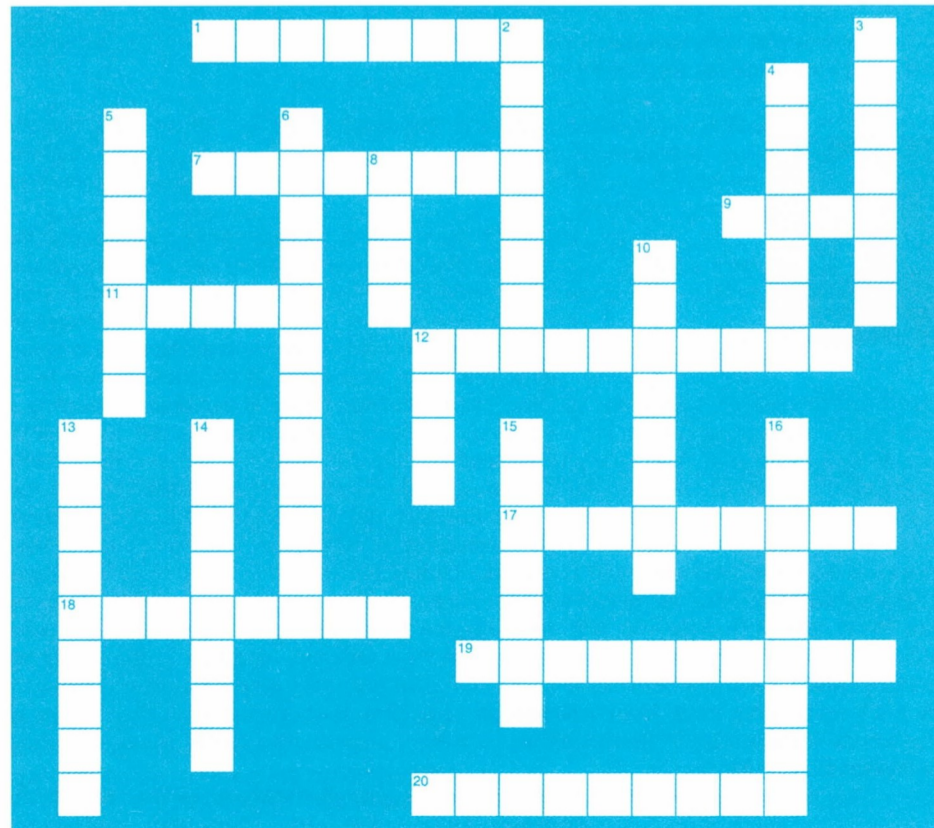
February 1774

- 15th Clear & cold with but little wind, & northerly. River quite shut up again. (Washington)
- 21st Morning lowering, but clear calm & pleasant afterwards. (Washington)
- 21st Earthquake felt at Williamsburg, Westover, and Richmond.

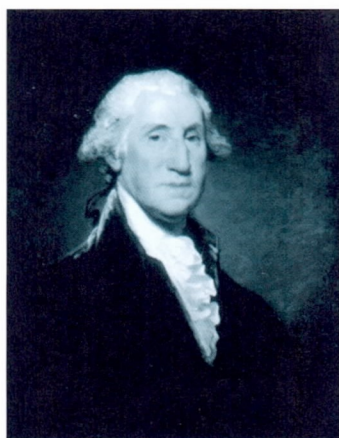
HEARTH AND HOME

Gardening and food preservation: Slaughtering in cold weather, so large cuts of fresh meats for the table. Hams to be salted for 6-8 weeks and then smoked.

Make sausages, pickle, or pot smaller cuts of meat as well as fish, fowl, and game. Vegetables include spinach, cauliflower, cabbage, and root vegetables (carrots, turnips, potatoes, etc.). Stored items such as apples and pumpkins on hand. By February eggs become plentiful for Lenten dishes as well as to hatch.



PRESIDENTS WEEKEND



Presidents Weekend, February 18–20, 2006

Presidents Weekend is our yearly opportunity to commemorate the lives of the first three presidents who called Virginia home and to interpret the special relationship that each had with Williamsburg.

George Washington obtained his surveyor's license from the College of William and Mary and was a burgess and part-time resident of Williamsburg from 1759 through 1774. Washington had a warm friendship with the last royal governor, Lord Dunmore, in the years just before the Revolution.

Thomas Jefferson's association with Williamsburg dates back to 1760, first as a student at William and Mary, then as a law student under George Wythe. He practiced law in the General Court, served as a burgess and delegate to the Virginia Assembly from 1769 through 1778, and was governor in Williamsburg from May 1779 through March 1780. Jefferson was a cousin to the Randolphs.

James Madison's relationship with the capital began with his entrée into colonial politics in May 1776 as a delegate to the Virginia Convention that adopted the Resolutions for Independence. As a member of the new government, Madison contributed to the drafting of the Virginia Constitution and the Declaration of Rights and served as a member of the Governor's Council in Williamsburg until March 1780.

[Submitted by Bill Weldon]

WASHINGTON, GEORGE (1732–1799), soldier, public official, and first U.S. president. Born on February 22, 1732, in Westmoreland County, Virginia, Washington grew up on the family plantation. . . .

On April 30, [1789], he was inaugurated at Federal Hall in New York City. As the first president of a new and unsure government, not the least of his responsibilities was to avoid creating potentially harmful precedents. He constructed his cabinet with an eye to sectional and ideological balance, strove to maintain cordial relations with and among all his officers, and conducted himself with republican decorum and restraint. His first term without major crisis, but his second witnessed a heated and inevitable clash between Jefferson and Hamilton, the resignation of the former, and the polarization of politics into party camps. While seeking to steer a middle course, he more often than not found himself aligned with the Hamiltonian Federalists particularly in issuing his proclamation of neutrality upon the outbreak of the Anglo-French War in 1793, in sending troops under Hamilton to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania in 1784, and in signing the Jay Treaty with England in 1795. The treaty provoked a particularly bitter attack from the opposition, and the president resisted an attempt by the House of Representatives to gain a share of the treaty-making power. In 1796, he firmly rejected pleas that he accept a third term (setting a precedent that endured for 144 years and that was later made law), and in September he delivered before Congress his "Farewell Address," which owed much to Hamilton, and in which he advised his country on its future course. In March 1797, he returned once again to Mount Vernon. . . . He has remained in the century and three-quarters since his death, in the words of Henry Lee's famous eulogy, "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

JEFFERSON, THOMAS (1743–1826). Public official, public leader, philosopher, and third U.S. president. Born on April 13, 1743, on his father's plantation Shadwell in Goochland County on the western fringe of settlement in Virginia. . . .

In the election of 1800, the Republican candidates for president, Jefferson and Aaron Burr, defeated the Federalists but were themselves tied in the electoral college. In the House of Representatives, Jefferson was chosen and was the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C. There soon followed a controversy over federal appointments as, though his actions were greatly exaggerated by the Federalists, Jefferson first introduced something like a spoils system. His first administration was signaled, however, by the Louisiana Purchase, an action that, in the irony of practical affairs, violated Jefferson's political principles in having no constitutional authority behind it. Nonetheless, he demonstrated his freedom from doctrinaire policy on France's financial difficulties to acquire a vast new territory for American expansion. Soon after his reelection in 1804, he was faced with the almost impossible problem of maintaining neutrality in the war between England and France. Determined to avoid war, he resorted finally to the Embargo Act of 1807, which, though based on firm constitutional grounds, was again a great extension of federal power and was widely criticized. In 1809, he retired permanently to Monticello and remained there for the rest of his life.

MADISON, JAMES (1751–1836), political philosopher, public official, and fourth U.S. president. Born in Port Conway, King George County, Virginia, on March 16, 1751, Madison was of a moderately wealthy family of Virginia planters. . . .

In 1808, he [Madison] was the clear successor to the presidency. He won a strong victory over his Federalist opponent and continued the policies of Jefferson unaltered. The difficulties with Britain and France continued and worsened, particularly with the former; Madison was apparently deceived by Napoleon into issuing a nonintercourse proclamation against Great Britain in November 1810, making war with that country virtually inevitable. In June 1812, war was formally declared, beginning a painful and dangerous period for the nation, which was totally unprepared and part of which—New England—was totally unsympathetic. Military disasters fostered the growth of popular discontent. New England seriously considered secession, great areas of the Northwest were lost to British forces from Canada, and Washington, D.C., was burned. Nevertheless, Madison managed to win reelection in 1812. The war was ended by the Treaty of Ghent in December 1814, with the United States having failed to gain a single one of its war aims and having had to bargain from weakness simply to regain its territory. But the mere fact that the war was over, coupled with a few spectacular though belated victories—notably by Gen. Andrew Jackson at New Orleans—restored to the president much political favor. The remainder of his administration was marked most prominently by his brief backing away from Jeffersonian principles in approving both the charter of the second Bank of the United States and a system of protective tariffs. Madison retired to Montpelier in 1817.

Source: *Webster's Guide to American History* (Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriman Company, 1971), 1304–1306, 1048–1049, 1109–1110.



In recognition of Black History Month, Colonial Williamsburg will feature its fourth annual Black History Month Week-end programs on February 24–26, 2006.

These programs will explore how a diverse enslaved community used, survived, resisted, and influenced the events of the American Revolution. Programs will be performed in the Historic Area and the Henne Auditorium.

The weekend events will begin with a presentation of the history of Colonial Williamsburg's African American interpretation. A special walking tour through Historic Area houses and outbuildings will explore the lives of free black and enslaved people and their clashing interests and shared values.

Other programs will provide insight into master-slave relationships as well as the enslaved communities' perspectives on the crisis of the American Revolution. Re-enactments of oyer and terminer trials of accused slave felons and a religious gathering will illustrate how Virginia's formative institutions attempted to control the enslaved people and how slaves attempted to make sense of the world in which they lived.

Evening programs such as "Remember Me When Freedom Comes" and "Jumpin' Jonkonnu" underscore the survival of African culture and values within enslaved communities.

[Submitted by Harvey Bakari]

Enslaving Virginia Time Line

1772

James Somerset, a slave taken to England by his master, sues for his freedom in the British court system and wins. Word of the case encourages a number of slaves in British North America to run away in attempts to reach Great Britain. Between 1773 and 1776, blacks in Boston write several petitions to the governor in hopes of attaining freedom.

1775

April 14: First abolitionist society in British North America established in Philadelphia.

Thomas Paine's "African Slavery in America" published; denounces slavery and demands that "Negroes" be given land.

November: Lord Dunmore proclaims the colony in rebellion and offers freedom to slaves and indentured servants of rebel masters who will fight for the king. As a result 800–1,000 blacks run away to the British.

December 9: Dunmore is defeated at Great Bridge.

December 13: Hoping to entice runaway slaves away from Dunmore's control, the Virginia Convention promises to pardon all slaves who return to their masters within 10 days. Few accept the pardon. Many of the loyalist slaves evacuate with Dunmore when he retreats from Virginia.

1776

Samuel Hopkins publishes "A Dialogue Concerning the Slavery of the Africans," which appeals to the Continental Congress to abolish slavery.

1777

Self-proclaimed state of Vermont's constitution makes slavery illegal. Several other states will follow suit during and after the American Revolution.

1782–84

An estimated 20,000 blacks—loyalists who fought for the crown during the American Revolution—evacuate the U.S. from New York, Savannah, and Charleston, bound for the British West Indies, Canada, and England. Some are relocated to Freetown, Sierra Leone.

1782

Virginia passes a manumission bill encouraging private manumission of slaves.

1783

Virginia enacts legislation for the emancipation of certain slaves who had served as soldiers in the Revolution.

Large-scale migration of Virginians to Kentucky begins. Migration from Virginia will continue throughout the first half of the 19th century, during which slave owners will take the institution of slavery with them into the new territories.

1784

Congress votes against Thomas Jefferson's proposal to prevent slavery from expanding into the western counties after 1800.

Quakers and others establish the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery, for the Relief of Free Negroes and for Improving the Condition of the African Race.

1787

July: Northwest Ordinance bans slavery from the Northwest Territories (north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi rivers).

September: U.S. Constitution adopted. The "three-fifths compromise" allows Southern states to count three-fifths of their slave populations in determining representation in the House of Representatives.

1791

Kentucky becomes the first new slave state admitted to the Union.

1793

Congress passes the first fugitive slave law, compelling judges to return runaway slaves to their owners.

Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin makes large-scale production of cotton profitable. Cotton plantations proliferate throughout the Upper South, Southwest, and Deep South, expanding the use of slave labor. Forced migration disrupts slave families and communities.

1806

The Virginia legislature reverses the major provisions of the 1782 Manumission Law, requiring all slaves manumitted in the future to leave the state within one year.

1808

January: U.S. Constitutional ban on the importation of slaves goes into effect, as does the British Abolition Act prohibiting British participation in the Atlantic slave trade.

1832

Nat Turner's Rebellion. In response, the Virginia legislature votes against gradual emancipation, makes the slave code stricter, prohibits the education of slaves, and places limits on black preaching.

1833

American Anti-slavery Society founded in Philadelphia.

1834

August: Parliament abolishes slavery in the British Caribbean colonies.

1851

Slavery abolished in Columbia, and over the next few years, in Argentina, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia.