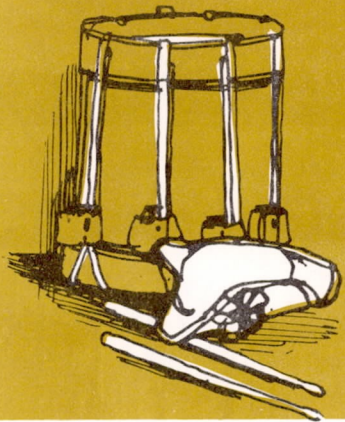


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“These Boisterous Times...” THE WEEK IN '76

*Alexander Purdie, *Virginia Gazette*,
January 1, 1776

JUNE 1976

June 1-5, 1976



PAMPHLET FILE

June 1, 1776

I will give 7d½ per lb. for Bacon, and 4 l. per Barrel for Pork, delivered in Williamsburg, or at the College or Capitol Landings; and 6d½ per lb. for Bacon delivered any where within 100 miles of Williamsburg, provided I have 2000 Weight delivered at any one Place. I shall continue to give these prices till I give Notice to the Contrary in the Gazette.

John Hawkins.

The Virginia Committee of Safety appointed John Hawkins commissary of provisions for the Virginia troops in September 1775. He traveled about the state in October 1775 and contracted with suppliers for beef, pork, and flour to be delivered at Williamsburg to supply the large number of troops stationed there. Hawkins performed his work so well that in April 1778 he was appointed commissary for the Continental Army. When Washington heard of the appointment he wrote: "I have heard so good an account of his Character that I hope the most salutary effects will ensue." Unfortunately, Hawkins died in May, within a month of his appointment. Jefferson believed that no man with Hawkins's abilities could be found. He wrote: "His eye immediately pervaded the whole state, it was reduced at once to a regular machine, to a system, and the whole put into movement and animation by the fiat of a comprehensive mind."

June 6-12, 1976

June 7, 1776

Now selling by the subscriber, in Williamsburg, for ready money, at the corner store of doctor William Carter's brick house, the following articles, viz. Rum, geneva, cordials of different sorts, Philadelphia steel, sole leather, calf skins, fine and coarse hats, fine and coarse linens, brown do. coarse woolen cloths, and coffee.

Adam Ekart.

Dr. William Carter usually rented to shop-keepers the eastern room of his house, now called the Brick House Tavern, on Duke of Gloucester Street. In 1771 a milliner, Margaret Hunter, rented the space, and it was later occupied by James Nichols, wigmaker. Thomas Brend, bookbinder and stationer, operated his shop in the corner store in 1780. Adam Ekart, a merchant, rented the store for several years. Ekart was one of many people who suddenly appear in the local records and disappear just as suddenly. The advertisement above is the only record of Ekart in Williamsburg. He died in Loudoun County in 1792.

Dr. William Carter was the brother of John Carter, who owned a store next to the Raleigh Tavern, and of Dr. James Carter, who operated an apothecary shop at the sign of the "Unicorn's Horn." They were the sons of John Carter, keeper of the public jail in Williamsburg. William Carter died in Richmond in 1799.

June 12, 1776

The Convention meeting in Williamsburg passed the first Declaration of Rights in America. The sixteen-part declaration was essentially the work of George Mason. The declaration was the model for other such documents, including the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution.

June 13-19, 1976

June 14, 1776

Honey & Harrocks, cabinetmakers, Williamsburg, beg leave to acquaint the publick, that they carry on the said business in all its branches; they likewise make Flax Wheels and Check Reels, and also Stock Guns in the neatest manner. As materials cannot be procured at this time upon credit, they expect ready money for their work.

*** Good encouragement will be given to a couple of Journeymen, who will be liked the better if they are acquainted with Turning. An Apprentice is also wanted.

James Honey and Richard Harrocks established their cabinetmaking business in Williamsburg in 1776. During the Revolution they repaired furniture in the Governor's Palace and provided cabinet work for some of the state's naval vessels. The business prospered. In August 1776 Honey and Harrocks again advertised for journeymen cabinetmakers and "likewise three or four Journeymen who are acquainted with making Flax Wheels." After the Revolution Harrocks disappeared from the records, but Honey announced in 1782 that he had "on hand a large quantity of Mahogany, Walnut, and other materials, fit for carrying on his business more extensively than ever." James Honey died in Williamsburg in 1787.

Compiled by Harold B. Gill, Jr.



Colonial Williamsburg Foundation