

"The Revolutionary City"

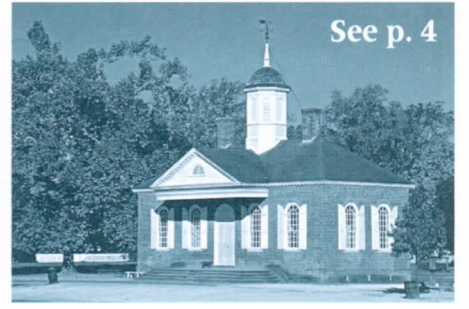


See p. 2

AMERICANS
Becoming **TODAY**

COLLAPSE OF ROYAL GOVERNMENT: 1774 TO 1776

Historic Area



See p. 4

JUNE 1774 TO JUNE 1776

Newsline

- 1774
 March 31–June 22: Parliament passes the Coercive Acts and the Quebec Act
 *May 26, 1774: *Enemies of Government: Governor Dunmore Dissolves the Assembly*
 September 5–October 26: First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia
 *October 26, 1774: *Raise High the Liberty Pole!*
- 1775
 *April 15, 1775: *A House Divided!*
 April 18: Paul Revere's ride
 April 19: Battles of Lexington and Concord
 *April 29, 1775: *The Gale from the North!*
 May 10: American forces capture Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain
 May 10: Second Continental Congress convenes
 May 15, 1775: *The Citizen Soldier!*
 June 15: George Washington is appointed commander of the Continental Army
 June 17: Battle of Bunker Hill
 Aug. 23: King George III declares the colonies in open rebellion
 *November 17, 1775: *Dunmore's Proclamation: Liberty to Slaves!*
 Dec. 31: Colonists are defeated at Quebec
- 1776
 Jan. 10: Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*
 Mar. 17: British troops evacuate Boston
 May 15, 1776: *Resolved: Free and Independent States!*
 July 4, 1776: Continental Congress approves the Declaration of Independence
 * "The Revolutionary City" programs

[Chronology from Gordon Wood, *The American Revolution*, pp. xiv–xv]

VIRGINIA TODAY SNAPSHOT
SIZE OF WASHINGTON'S ARMY

New England Militia and Volunteer Troops Boston, July 1775
16,000 Men
Fewer than 14,000 fit for duty
More than 1,500 were sick
1,500 were absent

[from David McCullough, 1776]



"THE REVOLUTIONARY CITY"



The Liberty Pole

Collapse of Royal Government

News of the Boston Port Act, which punished Boston for the Tea Party, reached Virginia by May 19, 1774. To show Virginia's support for Boston, the burgesses called for a day of fast and prayer on June 1. After Dunmore dissolved the assembly for that action, the burgesses reassembled at the Raleigh Tavern and agreed to boycott East India Company goods and called for a general convention to meet on August 1.

During June and July, a number of counties held open meetings of freeholders and inhabitants to decide how best to protest the closing of Boston Harbor. They also elected delegates to the convention. At the convention an association was formed to withhold exports after August 1775 and to stop all British imports on November 1. Seven delegates were elected to attend the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in September 1774.

The Continental Congress declared Parliament had no role in the internal affairs of the colonies and adopted a Continental Association modeled on Virginia's. The Congress authorized cities, counties, and towns to create committees to enforce the association.

By late November, most Virginia counties had established committees of safety to police the association. They employed intimidation to ensure compliance. The winter months of 1774 and 1775 were generally quiet, but some voiced opposition to the committees' strong-arm tactics.

In March 1775, Patrick Henry electrified the Second Virginia Convention when he called on it to allow counties to create their own independent militia companies. Hearing that the convention had approved Henry's proposal, Governor Dunmore grew alarmed. He set into motion the events that led to the removal of gunpowder from the Magazine in Williamsburg on April 21, 1775.

Colonists were immediately outraged, so much so that Dunmore threatened to free slaves unless things quieted down. When news of the events in Lexington and Concord reached Virginia the next week, a conspiracy was suspected, and the response was again immediate. Patrick Henry, with a company of 150 men, marched toward Williamsburg, and the governor fortified the Palace. Payment for the lost powder was arranged and Henry retreated.

But the truce was short. On June 1, 1775, Dunmore opened the General Assembly. The assembly was to consider Lord North's peace proposal. Then, in the early morning hours of June 8, Dunmore and his family fled and took refuge on HMS *Fowey* moored off Yorktown. Royal government in Virginia had come to an end.

The burgesses lingered awhile in Williamsburg before returning to their homes.

The flight of the governor forced those Virginians still loyal to the king to reconsider their options. Many felt they had to go into exile. When the Third Virginia Convention met in Richmond on July 17, 1775, their main business was to put Virginia on war footing.

The convention passed ordinances establishing a professional army and restructuring the militia. It created a central Committee of Safety to manage the colony between the meetings of the conventions. The third convention authorized printing £350,000 in treasury notes to pay for a possible war. The convention ended on August 26, 1775.

Most of the fall of 1775 was spent readying the colony for war. Streams of new recruits marched into Williamsburg. The various county committees gathered war provisions and tried to procure scarce items such as salt. The *Virginia Gazette* regularly reported news of Dunmore's raids in the Norfolk region. After one such raid at Kemps Landing, Dunmore issued his proclamation that offered freedom to rebel-owned slaves. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of slaves joined Dunmore's forces. Dunmore was forced to abandon Norfolk, but he would remain in Virginia waters until August 1776. By the end of 1775, the Continental Congress had incorporated a number of Virginia regiments into the continental service.

In early 1776, Virginians had to decide what they were fighting for. Liberty and freedom, naturally, but also for their right to own property (both land and slaves). They wanted the right to elect their legislative representatives. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* made a powerful case that King George was America's oppressor. To ensure the continuation of their rights and liberties the colonies needed to win the war, and that would take allies. But no European country would openly support rebels. If the goal was to create an independent nation, maybe a country like France would back the new united colonies.

A second reason many Virginians supported independence was that Virginia would become a constitutional state. As it was, the conventions and the Committee of Safety lacked real legitimacy. There were troubling signs in the spring of 1776. Slaves still ran to Dunmore. Tenant farmers on the Northern Neck were restless. Many Virginians put self-interests above the common good. But others believed that a government based on a written constitution that clearly spelled out its power and limits could reclaim order. When delegates to the Fifth Virginia Convention wrote "finnis" in the old house journal on May 5, they knew a new age had been born.

Submitted by Kevin Kelly

Colonies and plantations in America have been, are, and of right ought to be subordinate unto, and dependent upon the imperial crown and Parliament of Great Britain.
 (Declaratory Act, 1766)

The New England colonies are in a state of rebellion. Blows must decide whether they are subject to this country, or independent
 (King George III, 1774)

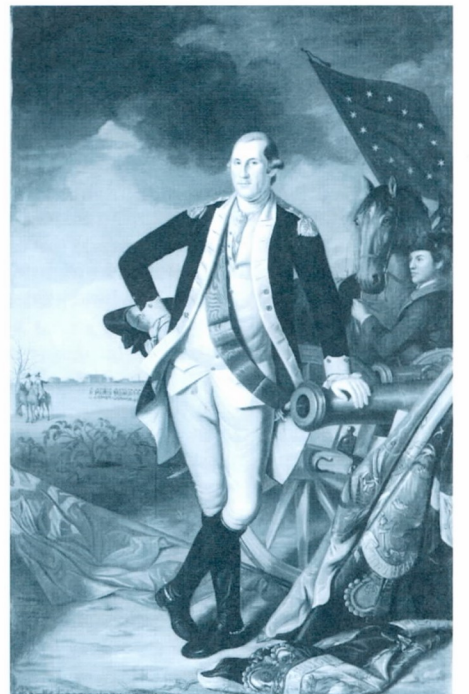
We are fighting for the subjection, the unconditional submission of a country infinitely more extended than our own, of which every day increases in wealth, the natural strength, the population. Should we not succeed. . . we shall be considered as their most implacable enemies, an eternal separation will follow, and the grandeur of the British empire pass away.
 (John Wilkes, Parliament, October 26, 1775)

TWO SIDES OF THE CONFLICT!!!

Every British subject born on the continent of America, or in any other of the British dominions, is by the law of God and nature, by the common law, and by the act of parliament. . . entitled to all the natural, essential, inherent, and inseparable rights of our fellow subjects in Great Britain.
 (James Otis, "The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved," 1764)

Kings are the servants, not the proprietors of the people.
 (Thomas Jefferson, *A Summary Review of the Rights of British America*, 1774)

The reflection upon my situation and that of this army produces many an uneasy hour when all around me are wrapped in sleep. Few people know the predicament we are in.
 (General George Washington, January 14, 1776)



THE NEW GENERAL WASHINGTON

"He [Washington] carried himself like a soldier and sat a horse like the perfect Virginia gentlemen. It was the look and bearing of a man accustomed to respect and to being obeyed. He was not austere. There was no hint of arrogance. "Amiable" and "modest" were words frequently used to describe him, and there was a softness in his eyes that people remembered. Yet he had a certain distance in manner that set him off from, or above others.

"Be easy. . . but not familiar," he advised his officers, "lest you subject yourself to a want of that respect, which is necessary to support a proper command."
 [David McCullough, 1776, pp. 42–43.]

THE CENTER DOES NOT HOLD!

DISSOLVING . . .



Photograph by Dana Metheny

The Scene:

May 26, 1774:

Enemies of Government:

Governor Dunmore Dissolves the Assembly

Lord Dunmore, the royal governor, announces to townspeople that he has dissolved the House of Burgesses for protesting the closing of Boston Harbor by the British government. The burgesses announce their plans to intensify their protests by drafting an "Association," an agreement to boycott East India Company goods.

"Make Way for your Governor, Make Way!"

The dismissal of the House of Burgesses by Lord Dunmore marks the midpoint of a series of events that occurred in Williamsburg over a ten-day period in late spring of 1774. Placed in its historical context, the dissolution of the House portrayed in this scene was a response to decisions—some private, some public—taken in the preceding days. As in any good play, the dramatic tension of this climax spawned subsequent actions on the part of the real-life players, culminating in a grand, final act staged at Bruton Parish Church on June 1.

That day the British navy was to blockade Boston Harbor, cutting off the city from its trade. Parliament passed the "Coercive Acts," which called for this measure (the colonists called them "Intolerable Acts") in retaliation for the destruction of East India tea by Boston patriots disguised as Indians in their "tea party" of mid-December 1773. On May 19, the Virginia General Assembly was in spring session when the Williamsburg newspaper reported the British ministry's intentions toward Boston. Burgesses' plans to hold public manifestations of support for the citizens of Massachusetts on the day the blockade began prompted Dunmore to exercise his prerogative to dissolve the colony's only elected body of representatives.

The chronology of events that follows shows what a difference ten days can make!

On **Monday, May 23**, a group of radical burgesses, called together by Thomas Jefferson and including Richard Henry Lee, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Patrick Henry, and several others (perhaps George Mason among them) met secretly at night in the Council chamber to plan a resolution for a day of fasting and prayer on June 1, the effective date of the Boston port closing.

Jefferson and the others felt they needed to justify the calling of such an event by the legislature, since the proclamation of public fasting days was the prerogative of the crown. Among the books in the Council chamber, John Rushworth's history of the 17th-century English Civil War provided plenty of precedents for national days of fasting proclaimed by the Puritan Parliament under Oliver Cromwell. In the absence of a monarch (Charles I had been beheaded) the Puritan legislators made frequent use of fasting proclamations to admonish the British nation to pray for its safe passage through the turbulent times. The language of these Puritan proclamations was decidedly more revolutionary in flavor than that of earlier such decrees made to rally the people behind the monarch in times of danger, such as during the French and Indian War. The revolutionary fervor of the Puritans suited the radical burgesses. Based on these precedents, the burgesses "cooked up" their resolution, as Jefferson put it.

On **Tuesday, May 24**, the conferees had colonial treasurer, Robert Carter Nicholas (known for his piety), introduce in the House their proposal for a solemn Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer, including a procession from the Courthouse to the Church. The resolution seems to have passed with perhaps one dissenting voice, though Jefferson later called the vote unanimous.



Wednesday, May 25 probably saw the appearance of the printed broadside announcing the fasting measure. Governor Dunmore had a copy of it in hand on **Thursday, May 26**, when he summoned the burgesses to the Council chamber to disband them. He said: "Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses, I have in my hand a Paper published by Order of Your House, conceived in such Terms as reflect highly upon his Majesty and the Parliament of Great Britain; which makes it necessary to dissolve you; and you are dissolved accordingly."

In a letter to Lord Dartmouth he composed over the following weekend, Dunmore explained the reasons for his action. He suspected that the burgesses intended to inflame the populace with their resolution, making the people receptive to further damaging measures in future. Although he didn't say so explicitly, it must have galled him that the House had taken an action usually taken by the crown, the crown's representative, or the Church.

Barred from meeting in the Capitol, the burgesses met the next day, **Friday, May 27**, in extralegal session in the Apollo Room at the Raleigh Tavern. There they pledged themselves to a nonimportation association against tea and other East India commodities. They also wrote "That an attack on one of our sisters colonies, to compel submission to arbitrary taxes, is an attack made on all British America, and threatens ruin to the rights of all, unless the united wisdom of the whole be applied. And for this purpose it is recommended . . . appointing deputies from the several colonies of British America, to meet in general congress . . . to deliberate on those general measures which the united interests of America may from time to time require."

This call would be answered when the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in the fall of 1775. Meanwhile, the burgesses planned to meet in Convention in Williamsburg in August to formalize the Association, which specified that nonimportation of goods and slaves would begin November 1, 1774, and that nonexportation of goods would begin August 10, 1775. The delay in implementing nonexportation would allow Virginians time to prepare for cutting off trade. Though it is not certain, we think that the First Virginia Convention met in the Capitol building, taking advantage of Dunmore's absence during his western campaign against the Shawnee.

Ironically, **May 27**, the day of the burgesses' meeting at the Raleigh Tavern, had earlier been picked for a ball at the Capitol in honor of Lady Dunmore, who arrived in Williamsburg in February. Despite events of the week, the ball took place. Oh, to have been able to eavesdrop on the conversations that Friday night, as the Governor and his wife stepped their minuet in the hall of the House in the presence of the burgesses who had been ejected from it just the day before!

By **Saturday, May 28**, many burgesses were back in their own locales spreading the word about events in Williamsburg. On **Sunday, May 29**, ministers across Virginia announced from their pulpits the resolution for the Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer scheduled for the coming Wednesday. On **Monday and Tuesday, May 30 and 31**, organizers in the capital city and in the counties finalized their plans.

On the morning of **Wednesday, June 1**, the burgesses who were in town and most of the citizens of Williamsburg and the surrounding countryside assembled at ten o'clock at the Courthouse, from whence Speaker Peyton Randolph "and the Mace" led them in solemn procession to the Bruton Parish. In the church, Thomas Price, chaplain of the House, addressed the assembly. Thomas Gwatkin, Tory master of the grammar school

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RUNNING . . .



The Scene:

November 17, 1775:

Dunmore's Proclamation:

Liberty to Slaves!

Enslaved people gather to consider the royal governor's offer of freedom to slaves who will take up arms with him against their rebel masters. Should they leave their homes and families and endanger their lives for this one chance of freedom? Will the governor honor his offer? What will happen if they are captured and returned to their masters?

"What ya'll gon do when we all free?"

In his Proclamation, Lord Dunmore argues that in order to restore peace and order in the colony it is now necessary for him to "execute martial law." He orders "every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His MAJESTY'S STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offences; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &c. And I do hereby further declare all indented Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops . . ."

For enslaved people belonging to "rebels," Dunmore offers freedom if their masters are patriots and they "are able and willing" to bear arms. Not since Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 has such an offer been made. Except through the Governor's Council's rare actions of freeing individual slaves from petitions who had demonstrated "meritorious service," it had been impossible for enslaved people to be freed in Virginia since 1723 when legislation passed prohibiting all manumissions.

Now only slaves with patriot masters were given the opportunity to make the choice of uncertain freedom at the risk of capture and loss of life while leaving families and loved ones behind.

Woody Holton, in *Forced Founders*, points out that ninety-nine percent of Virginia's slaves who did not accept Dunmore's offer found that the proclamation "was in many ways a disappointment" for them. Before Dunmore's Proclamation the great majority of runaway slaves were men, but interestingly Holton states that half the slaves that actually ran were women and children.

For white Virginians the fear of being seized as patriots and having a black regiment made up of their "runaway" slaves serving with the British army as well as the loss of their own slave property terrified them. Holton argues that "As early as spring 1775, free subjects had begun literally to demonize their governor. Throughout Virginia, Holton argues, Dunmore's Proclamation "turned neutrals and even loyalists into patriots." Richard Henry Lee said "Lord Dunmore's unparalleled conduct in Virginia, has, a few Scotch excepted, united every Man in that large Colony." Archibald Cary agreed. "The Proclamation from L[ord] Dunmore, has had a most extensive good consequence," he wrote; white "Men of all ranks resent the pointing a dagger to their Throats, thru the hands of their Slaves."

Following Dunmore's actions two loyalist members of the Governor's Council, Robert Carter and William Byrd III, joined the patriots. [See Woody Holton, *Forced Founders*, pp.156-160]

[Submitted by Anne Willis]

ENLISTING . . .



Photograph by Dana Metheny

ENLISTING

The Scene:

May 15, 1776:

A Citizen Soldier!

Alexander Hoy, a 30-year-old carpenter who has fallen on hard times, and his wife, Barbry, engage in a public argument about his enlisting in the Army. His wife is concerned that he is too old and that the family can't survive without him.

"Mr. Hoy. No! I'll not be giving you to the army. You is all we have."

The scene "A Citizen Soldier" is intensely personal and represents the plight of families in war time in every generation. Women—rich, middling, and poor—faced separation from loved ones, unaccustomed responsibility for family sustenance, food shortages, high prices, and outright danger when the fighting brought armies close to towns and farms. "A Citizen Soldier" focuses on the Hoy family that had fallen on hard times even before the war. Although Alexander Hoy is a carpenter of some skill and is known in the community, he has accumulated debt that makes it increasingly difficult for him to make ends meet. At the same time that he seeks a way to provide a living for himself, his wife, and two young daughters, Alexander senses that he is shirking his responsibility if he leaves the fighting to other men. In spite of the dangers to which it will expose the Hoys, enlistment could place much needed cash in Barbry's hands and give Alexander a renewed sense of purpose in the fight to secure independence, a cause which he supports.

Back Story: With prices spiraling upward, shortages of household necessities such as salt, and the absence of the family member or members who customarily brought in crops, ran shops, or did the piecemeal and odd jobs that sustained families in peace time, women left on their own, especially ones in already straightened circumstances, faced bleak prospects. A war on home ground meant armies on the move and battlegrounds close to farms and towns. Confiscation and destruction of property, not to mention bodily harm to wives and daughters left alone, only added to the distress of the possibility of death, capture, or serious injury to fathers, husbands, and sons. A war on the home front brought women face to face with the sheer horror of battlefield carnage for the first time.

For poorer women like Barbry, the political beliefs and passions that took their husbands and sons off to war sparked considerable resentment. Barbry was not alone in her lament on this score, as is evident in the words of another woman in similar circumstances who was "troubled to think that he should love to be going so much in the war and leave me with helpless children in very poor circumstances." Many women railed against recruitment officers, accusing them of luring their husbands away, which is precisely what recruiting was designed to do!

Nonetheless, Barbry bravely accepts Alexander's decision to enlist once she understands that he has made up his mind. She sends him off with words of affection and encouragement even as her apprehension mounts over how she will provide for herself and her two young daughters. We are left to wonder how she will fare, but we can suppose that she might continue to find work that taps her skills as mistress of her own household, simple though it may have been. Women wove cloth, altered and repaired uniforms, made bandages, and nursed sick and injured soldiers. Armies on the move usually had a few paid positions for women that made use of these same

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FORUM



Letter from Rex Ellis

It's good to see so many of our guests on the street. First and foremost let me thank all of you for what has been a sea of changes in the direction of our visitation so far this year. Our attendance this year is sixteen percent above last year at this time and the numbers are consistently high. Your professionalism and your support for the new programming throughout the Historic Area, including "The Revolutionary City," have been wonderful and I am extremely grateful.

Extensive research into what our guests want from a Colonial Williamsburg experience has told us that today's audiences crave experiences that take them on journeys and connect them to human stories passionately presented and provocatively told in an atmosphere that encourages them to be active participants in their learning. We have all worked hard to do exactly this, and we have instituted a very successful start. But we all need to sustain our momentum, and intensify our focus on presenting programming that appeals to the changing expectations of our guests. We must build on the creation of a dynamic, interactive environment that elevates our guest experience to a new level of engagement, authenticity, and excellence.

Thank you for being an integral part of this exciting, interpretive adventure.

Letter from Margot Crévieux-Gevertz

Now that "The Revolutionary City" is up and running, and complementary programming spanning the years from 1774 through 1781 is taking place throughout the Historic Area, it's time to take a fresh look at *Becoming Americans Today* and align the content with our new offerings.

The first revised issue is really made up of two—a blue one for Day One, "Collapse of Royal Government" and a red one for Day Two, "Citizens at War." You will find articles that take you into the heart of scripted scenes of "The Revolutionary City," providing background and content to enrich our understanding of the people and events being portrayed. We will also focus on Historic Area interpretation, highlighting the programming in various sites and offering suggestions for helping guests connect the dots from one end of the Historic Area to another.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions for making *Becoming Americans Today* a relevant and useful tool for our interpreters.

Have a great summer!

WASHINGTON'S ARMY IN SUMMER OF 1775

"It was an army of men accustomed to hard work, hard work being the common lot. They were familiar with adversity and making do in a harsh climate. Resourceful, handy with tools, they could drive a yoke of oxen or 'hove up' a stump or tie a proper knot as readily as butcher a hog or mend a pair of shoes. They knew from experience, most of them, the hardships and setbacks of life. Preparing for the worst was second nature. Rare was the man that had never seen someone die . . ."

It was the first American army and an army of everyone, men of every shape and size and makeup, different colors, different nationalities, different ways of talking, and all degrees of physical condition. Many were missing teeth or fingers, pitted by smallpox or scarred by past wars or the all-too-common hazards of life and toil in the eighteenth century. Some were not even men, but smooth-faced boys of fifteen or less.

[David McCullough, 1776, p. 25 and 34]



The Able Doctor Swallowing the Bitter Draught

VIRGINIA'S SHADOW GOVERNMENT

"When Lord Dunmore dismissed the assembly for declaring a day of fast in support of Boston after that city's famous Tea Party the previous December. . . again members of the House of Burgesses thwarted the governor by adjourning to the Raleigh Tavern, where they formed another association against British imports and called for an annual meeting of colonial delegates in a 'general congress. . . to deliberate on those general measures which the united interests of America may from time to time require.'

This resolution was one of the earliest proposals for a Continental Congress. . .

A few days after the meeting in the Raleigh Tavern, a circular letter arrived from Boston urging a halt to exports to Great Britain as well as imports. Twenty-five burgesses still in the vicinity summoned a convention to meet in Williamsburg on August 1, 1774, to consider the proposal. The call received enthusiastic response from the rest of the colony. In towns and about two-thirds of the counties meetings of 'Freeholders and other inhabitants' endorsed Boston's cause as Virginia's own and hailed, albeit with some differences in detail, the idea of restrictions on trade. Some meetings voted funds and supplies for the beleaguered northern city and, when the Council persuaded Dunmore to convene a new assembly in early August, held elections for it as well. Again the governor inadvertently handed his opponents an advantage by proroguing the new session before it met. Since local meetings had generally chosen the same representatives for both the convention and the assembly—most of whom, moreover, had been members of the previous legislature—the extralegal convention gained legitimacy.

A shadow government began to form to circumvent royal authority on one issue after another until the old regime became the shadow. The assembly had established a committee to correspond with other colonies in moments of crisis, especially

between sessions, but otherwise the opposition in Virginia had needed little formal organization aside from the legislature itself until the call for a ban on British trade arrived. Virginia's port towns acted first, having received the circular letter about the same day as Williamsburg. Alexandria, Dumfries, Fredericksburg, Norfolk, and Portsmouth, followed by some of the county meetings, formed committees of correspondence to communicate "their sentiments on the present. . . Alarming situation of America" and "to take such steps for. . . the establishment of the rights of the colonies, as. . . shall appear most expedient and effectual," as one committee explained. By the time the convention met, at least five counties—Dunmore, Fairfax, Frederick, Norfolk, and Stafford—had also given their committees the responsibility of enforcing a boycott as sentiment for once more adopting that strategy against the British grew."

John E. Selby, *The Revolution in Virginia 1775-1783*, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1989.

"By the end of 1774, in many of the colonies local associations were controlling and regulating various aspects of American life. Committees manipulated voters, directed appointments, organized militia, managed trade, intervened between creditors and debtors, levied taxes, issued licenses, and supervised or closed the courts. Royal governors stood by in helpless amazement as new informal governments gradually grew up around them. These new governments ranged from town and county committees and the newly created provincial congresses to a general congress of the colonies—the First Continental Congress, which convened in Philadelphia in September 1774."

Gordon Wood, *The American Revolution: A History*, A Modern Library Chronicles Book, The Modern Library, New York, 47-48.

Enlisting

skills, and other women opted to travel along with the units in which their husbands served performing similar tasks in camp. (Women of greater means at home spearheaded clothing drives and collected funds toward the war effort. Martha Jefferson, wife of Governor Jefferson, was too ill to undertake a fund drive in Virginia herself, but she saw to it that the effort was undertaken by others in her stead.)

The Continental Congress and the individual states were mindful of the price of enlistment for those left at home while their menfolk served out their enlistments. Officials also sought to provide for survivors of soldiers killed in the war and for injured men returning home. The first pension law following the Declaration of Independence was passed by the Continental Congress on August 26, 1776. It provided for half-pay for officers and enlisted men injured during the war for the duration of their disabilities. During the war payment of these pensions was left mainly to the individual states, and not until 1789 were they picked up by the newly created federal government. More specific for Barbry Hoy's situation, the Virginia General Assembly sought to sweeten the pot for potential enlistees in order to meet the quota of troops to be raised by Virginia. For example, in May 1777 an act of Assembly said that the several county courts could, at "publick expense, provision and all other necessaries for the support and comfortable subsistence of the wives, children, and

aged parents, of all poor soldiers who cannot by their own industry support themselves during their absence," draw on the state Treasurer for those funds. The act did not specify an amount nor did it cap claims, leaving county justices to match support to apparent need. Sally Ashby, mother of John Ashby (nephew of free black Mathew Ashby) who enlisted in the Sixth Virginia Regiment, collected £12 from York County Court. With such an amount Barbry could pay a year's rent with a little left over, although inflation inevitably reduced real buying power.

The Virginia legislature reconsidered its generous offer in October 1779. Noting that provisions for the support of the wives, parents, and families of the soldiers of the state and of the United States "have created an expenditure greatly exceeding the expectations of the legislature, and must prove very burdensome to the good people of this commonwealth, if longer admitted," repealed most of the former acts. Thereafter county courts "upon proof to them made" by the wives, parents, and families of "any soldier now in actual service" that they cannot maintain themselves were authorized to provide only "such allowance not to exceed one barrel of corn and fifty pounds of net pork for each person, annually."

Barbry and women like her would need all their ingenuity to maintain themselves and their children as the Revolution ran its course.

[Submitted by Linda Rowe]

MONEY

It is interesting to note the shipping activity for the Upper District of James River from March 11 to April 4, 1774. Consider how the economy of Virginia will radically change once the Association of 1774 takes affect on December 1, 1774 when imports from Britain are now longer permitted and the next year when all exports to Britain from Virginia will be disallowed.



SHIPPING

Entered in the Upper District of JAMES RIVER

- March 11. Brigantine *Jackie*, Dudley Thompson, from Liverpool with European Goods
25. Ship *Jean*, James Young, from Pottowack, in Ballast.
26. Ship *Venus*, John Wilson from Port Lewis, with 2500 Bushels of Salt.
April 4. Brigantine *Lark*, John Fulton from Piscataway, in Ballast.

Cleared Outwards

- March 11. Brigantine *Innermay*, William Laughton, for Cadiz, with 7700 Bushels of Wheat.
23. Ship *Bowman*, Humphery Taylor, for Glasgow, with 459 Hbds. Of Tobacco, 2 Hbds. Of Rum, and 12000 Staves.
23. Schooner *Richmond*, Eppes Greenough, for Piscataway with 13 Barrells of Pork, 8 Barrells of Flour, 800 Bushels of Indian Corn, 30 Bushels of Wheat, 35 Bushels of Pease, 4 Hides of Leather, 12 Kegs of Rum, 1 Pipe of Maderia Wine, and 4 Hbds. of Tobacco.
24. Sloop *Virginia Packet*, Charles Jones, for Antiqua, with 2700 Bushels of Indian Corn.
28. Ship *Speirs*, John Dusk, for Cadiz, with 4287 Bushels of Wheat and 1400 Staves.
April 4. Sloop *Savage*, Francis Haynes, for St. Vincent's, with 700 Bushels of Corn, 35 Barrells of Flour, 13 Barrells of Bread, a Hbd of Bacon, 103 Barrells of Oatmeal, and 35,000 Shingles.
Brigantine *Rogers*, Robert Benson, for Cadiz, with 5367 Bushels of Corn, and 1000 Staves.
Ship *Royal Exchange*, John Stevens, for London, with 488 Hhds. of Tobacco, 2 Hhds. and 2 barrels of Ginseng, 1 cask of Drugs, 1 Cask of Snakeroot, 9900 Staves, 140 Handspikes, and 8 Hhds. and 4 Cask of Deerskins.

Virginia Gazette [Purdie & Dixon], April 7, 1774



INTERPRETATION

Dissolving

Continued from page 2

and tutor to the governor's eldest son, had been asked to do the sermon but excused himself, citing a "disorder of the breast." Price's words do not survive, but the Journal of the House record that the minister based his sermon on Genesis 18, verses 23 and 32: "Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" And he answered, "I will not destroy it for ten's sake." George Washington's diary for that day noted simply: "Went to Church and fasted all day."

Of the people across Virginia, it was reported that they "met generally, with anxiety and alarm in their countenances, and the effect of the day thro' the colony was like a shock of electricity, arousing every man and placing him erect and solidly on his center." Thus Dunmore's attempt to quash the burgesses' act of solidarity with Boston by sending them home had the unintended consequence of transforming what began as a Williamsburg happening into a colony-wide manifestation of civil disobedience.

An extract of a letter purportedly written on June 1 by a "Lady of Williamsburg" who participated in the Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer was reprinted in a Manchester, England, newspaper on July 19: "Never since my Residence in Virginia have I ever seen so large a Congregation as was this Day assembled to hear Divine Service. What will be the event, God knows. . . We expect there will be a Stop put to Importation and Exportation, which may fall heavy on England, as she depends chiefly on her Trade. America has every thing within herself that is necessary and convenient. . . and can do much better without England, than England can without her. You see, my Sister, I talk like an American, as well I may; she has been kinder to me than my native Country; to her I owe every thing I possess, and I will most cheerfully comply with whatever may be thought for the General Good, though it will be considerably to my disadvantage. So much for public Affairs, I fear I shall turn Politician, a character I always dislike in a Female."

[Submitted by Bob Doares]



THE COLLAPSE OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT

The Historic Area before "The Revolutionary City"



Talk to anyone these days and you are likely to think that the only thing happening in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area is "The Revolutionary City." That is sad since the programming that goes by that name takes place only between 2:30 and 4:30 each afternoon. Or does it? Williamsburg is big enough and its history broad enough to encompass many acres, years, and styles of interpretation. "The Revolutionary City" is the hook upon which the whole of the Historic Area hangs its hat, but there are MANY different hats on the hook. Let's take a look at what is happening outside "The Revolutionary City" and inside the sites on the day that royal governance collapses.

At the **Governor's Palace**, Lord Dunmore is none too pleased with the burgesses, who have proclaimed a Day of Fasting and Prayer. Guests realize the predicament in which he found himself when, following instructions from the British ministry, he removed the gunpowder from the Magazine. They come to understand why he removed himself and his family from the Palace on June 8, 1775. Despite his living on board a ship in the waters off Norfolk, he was still the governor and making decisions that affected the lives of every resident of Virginia. They learn of the family that came from England "just this past winter" and the lifestyle that they enjoyed at this official residence. On occasion guests may find Lord Dunmore or a member of his council in discussion, but the main thrust of the interpretation is to put the royalist or loyalist view into perspective.

The **Everard House** staff interprets Mr. Everard's role in the political crisis of 1774-1775. Through the use of primary documents guests share the concerns he has about this "unhappy dispute," about his brother John back in England and what it could mean if war breaks out, and how Dunmore's Proclamation affected the

household slaves. On one day of the week, volunteers lead young guests in an interactive program: Trading Spaces—How will you decorate this original home?

At the **Wythe House** guests are introduced to one of the quiet patriots whose voice was nonetheless heard in local, colonial and continental halls. The Wythe House staff interprets the personal life stories of members of the Wythe household and how the ideas of the day in law, science, and government influenced their lives. Guests will understand how the English lifestyle changed because of events that Mr. Wythe was directly connected to including being a member of the Committee of Safety, Clerk of Virginia's First and Third conventions, and delegate to the Continental Congress.

The **Geddy House** staff interprets the nature and scope of a silversmith's business and the social advancement of this tradesman's family. The house interpretation adds depth to this story by highlighting James Geddy's personal involvement in those citizen movements within the city preceding the fall of royal governance. James Geddy, a patriot, is the focus of this interpretive orientation. In this particular site we are admonished to 'remember the children' and junior interpreters return to the site to engage with children of all ages.

The **Magazine** staff interprets the militia system and the development of independent companies. Guests are invited to participate in the program in the role of "recruits," drill in formation, and witness demonstrations of musket or cannon firings. Third-person interpretation of events such as the Second Virginia Convention's authorization of arming the militia of each county in defense of the colony and the Gunpowder Incident are offered.

The **Courthouse** presents several sessions of "Order in the Court," a thirty-minute interactive first person presentation of court cases casting several members of the audience as court officials, plaintiffs, or defendants. This programming demonstrates the function of the courthouse as a government and community center based on the English system of law and participation of ordinary citizens. It is this system that patriots seek to protect even as the rule of royal governance falters.

Guests to the **Randolph House** will experience the story of enslaved African-Virginian's ethical dilemmas, their choices, decisions and consequences in 1775 during Dunmore's Proclamation by understanding how the dynamics of their master and slave relationships and their domestic work activities changed during the crisis of the American Revolution. Concepts of political slavery and chattel slavery clashed, creating the American paradox of liberty and slavery for the twenty-four enslaved people and widow Elizabeth Randolph.

At **Great Hopes Plantation** the multidisciplinary staff interprets the impact of the events of fall 1775, such as slave unrest, the Gunpowder Incident, and Dunmore's Proclamation, from the perspective of rural enslaved people and their middling plantation owner Benjamin Valentine and how their decisions affected the interdependent relationship of master and slave and the Revolutionary struggle for freedom. Their relationship is contrasted against the gentry's appeal to middling farmers like Benjamin Valentine to join the Revolutionary movement with promises, including property rights such as slave ownership. Guests experience the daily activities of a rural Virginia plantation and the necessity of land and slave labor through experiencing the work of agriculture, gardens, carpentry, livestock, and the ongoing construction on the site.

The story of how Benjamin Powell rose to prominence as a building contractor and how he made his reputation on public government contracts is the backbone of the interpretation at the **Powell House**. He was named keeper of the Keys of the Capitol and Gaol. He married one daughter in the powerful Burwell family before difficulties began and the other daughter married a man who sat in the Hall at the Capitol. Her husband was present in the Capitol the day Virginia declared herself a free and independent state. Guests learn that the day-to-day, season-to-season realities and responsibilities of running a household must still be met. Junior interpreters invite guests young and old to participate in the activities that keep the household together.

The interpretations, activities, and stories in the whole of the Historic Area presage the events that are carried forward in "The Revolutionary City."

[Submitted by the Historic Area Revolutionary City Team]

INTERPRETATION



SUMMER FARMING

- Tobacco: Plant and replant, weed, manure, worm, top, and sucker.
- In August top, gather seed, begin cutting
- Corn: Plow and hoe ground, plant and replant, weed with plows and hoes, and cart last year's crop to town
- Wheat: Cart last year's crop to ships or town, cut, bind, and stack, sell straw in town, thresh for seed, tread and sow, plow and harrow in
- Vegetables: Sow turnips, plant peas and potatoes, sow vegetables, weed peas and pumpkins
- Orchard: August: Make cider, gather peaches, make peach brandy
- Livestock: June: Shear sheep, kill muttons for sale, wean calves, kill veals for sale, make butter
- July: Kill beeves for sale to ships, kill muttons and veal for sale, wean calves, make butter
- August: Kill beef for sale to ships, kill muttons, veals and shoats for sale, sell wool, separate sheep, choose cattle for fattening, make butter
- Fishing

Housekeeping/Gardening/
Food Preservation
Summer

Housekeeping

Doors and windows kept open for most ventilation. Mosquito netting added to bedsteads for protection from insects. Gauze covers to protect looking glasses and expensive pictures. Carpets and window curtains removed and stored. Furniture often moved to passage to enjoy cross-ventilation.

Gardening and Food
Preservation

Make wine, sugar-preserve fruits, dry fruits in oven because of humidity; picking and drying of beans, carrots, onions, melons, artichokes, etc.

In hot weather, raw meat spoils rapidly and so must be cooked and eaten up quickly, thus only smaller cuts of meat are served in summertime unless the whole animal will be eaten in a day or two.

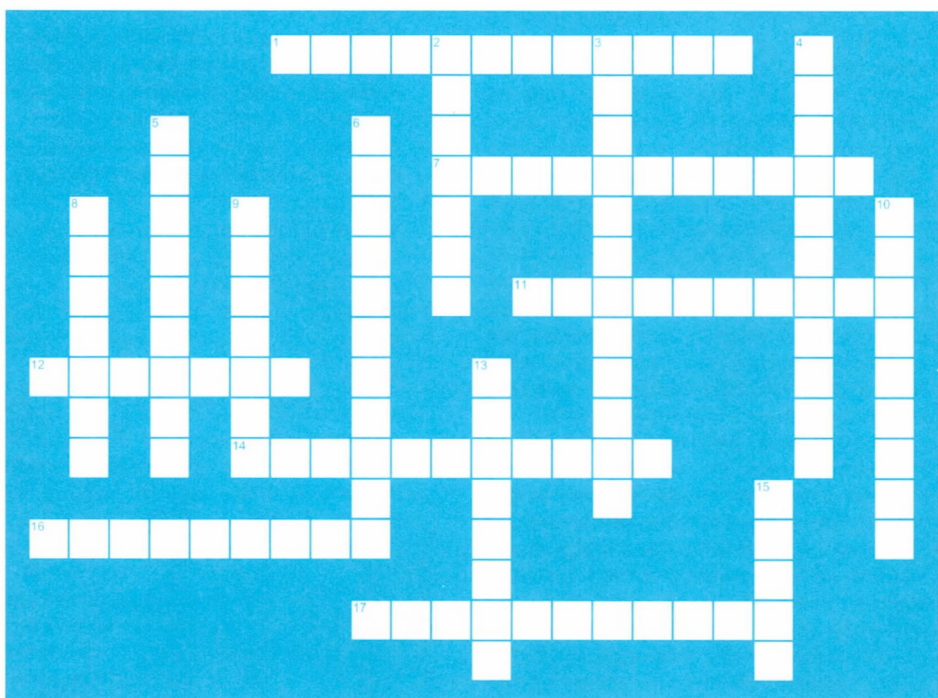
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ACROSS

- 1 Congress met here
- 7 Congress adopted Virginia's model for this
- 11 These began to replace the royal government
- 12 Independent companies
- 14 Archaic usage for "humility"
- 16 Epicenter of the "shot heard round the World"
- 17 Britain's Coercive Acts were this to colonists.

DOWN

- 2 Word used to describe General George Washington

- 3 This offered freedom to slaves
- 4 Americans captured this fort on Lake Champlain
- 5 Printed notice of Day of Fasting
- 6 This act of liberation was outlawed in Virginia in 1723
- 8 This was intended by Congress to assist injured soldiers
- 9 The dissolved House of Burgesses met here
- 10 17th-century English historian
- 13 Scourge of army life
- 15 Number of Virginia delegates to 1st Congress