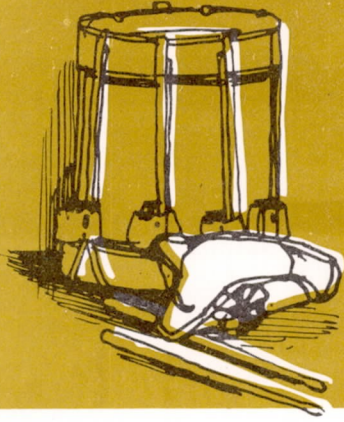


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“These Boisterous Times...” THE WEEK IN '76

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

APRIL 1976

April 1-10, 1976



PAMPHLET FILE

April 1, 1776

Williamsburg, April 6

On Monday last Edmund Randolph, Esq; was elected to represent this city in Convention, in the room of George Wythe, Esq; one of our Delegates at the Congress.

This notice in the *Virginia Gazette* provides an interesting insight on the electorate of Williamsburg during the unsettled times at the beginning of the Revolution. It is significant that the voters chose the twenty-three-year-old Randolph to replace George Wythe as Williamsburg's representative in the Convention.

Wythe, fifty years old in 1776, had served as mayor of Williamsburg, as clerk and member of the House of Burgesses, and as a delegate to the Continental Congress. His outstanding abilities were widely recognized.

Wythe's replacement in the Convention was a young man of little experience in government, but the voters of the city must have recognized his capabilities. Edmund Randolph's father, John, attorney general of Virginia, remained loyal to the king and left the colony in 1775. Edmund feared that the loyalism of his father would "tend to lessen him in the esteem of his countrymen." But his countrymen recognized his abilities and, convinced of his patriotism, started him on a successful governmental career. With the establishment of the state government in June 1776, Randolph was appointed attorney general, a position for which he was well-qualified since he had studied with his father. He went on to become governor of Virginia, the first attorney general of the United States, and succeeded Jefferson as secretary of State in 1794.

April 5, 1776

Any person in or about this city who will undertake to pasture for a gentleman in the lower parts of the county, about to move higher up, upwards of 200 head of CATTLE, of all sorts, and to sell out of the stock, next summer and fall, what may be fit for market, is desired to lodge his terms with the PRINTER.

At this time many people who owned plantations adjacent to navigable waters moved further inland because of the danger of raids by the British. Virginia had no navy and the British men-of-war had free run of the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers.

The person who inserted the above advertisement in the *Virginia Gazette* was trying to avoid driving his herd to his new home, because he would have to drive them back to Williamsburg when they reached a marketable stage. Demands on the Williamsburg livestock market, always active, greatly increased when the town became the military headquarters for the Virginia forces.

Williamsburg, April 12, 1776

Taken out of a drawer in my store, on Sunday the 24th of March, a red morocco instrument case, with a plain lock, containing upwards of 200 l. paper currency, many of the bills marked on the back with the number of pounds, also a promissory note of John Hatley Norton, esqr's, for 150 l. sterling, a bond filled up in James Pride's name, for 181 l. 1 s. 6 d. with sundry other papers. Whoever will deliver the said instrument [case] and contents safe to me shall have a reward of 40 dollars, and 10 l. on conviction of the thief. Col. Mason, col. Blackburn, mr. David Ross, and mr. Robert Matthews, will greatly oblige me by informing me of the numbers of the 21 l. and 8 l. bills I received from them.

M. Dickinson.

N. B. I have a couple of Young Negroes to dispose of, a boy and a girl, which have been brought up to household work; the girl is an excellent sempstress. Whoever inclines to purchase may know the terms by applying as above.

Mary Dickinson operated millinery shops in Annapolis and Williamsburg from about 1770 to 1776 when she disappeared from the records. Like other Williamsburg business people, she generally inserted her advertisements in the *Virginia Gazette* during the times when the General Court was in session. She tempted the country people who came to town for the court sessions with "A very elegant Assortment of Millinery, Jewellery, and other Goods, well chosen, and of the latest Fashions."

Williamsburg, April 13, 1776

Those gentlemen who are still indebted to the estate of Mrs. Clementina Rind, deceased, and Mr. John Pinkney, for Gazettes, etc. are desired to be so obliging as to send their respective balances by the hands of those gentlemen who are chosen delegates for the respective counties, as they are expected to meet here the beginning of next month. This will be acknowledged as a particular favour, as there are many large debts still due from the said estate. Proper accounts and receipts will be delivered to the persons who settle with their very humble servant,

Jacob Bruce, for the administrator.

***Thirteen months Gazette due Mrs. Rind's estate, 13 s. 6 d. Sixteen ditto due Mr. John Pinkney, 16 s. 8 d.

On the death of her husband, William, Clementina Rind took on the publication of his *Virginia Gazette* which he had started in 1766 at the request of some Virginia liberals who found Royle's *Gazette* too much "under influences as to be obliged to Print what he is directed and *nothing else*." Clementina managed the paper for about a year until her death in 1774. It was continued by her kinsman, John Pinkney, until 1776 when publication ceased, probably because of financial setbacks.

In June 1777 Pinkney moved to North Carolina when he was appointed public printer for that state. He left his Williamsburg affairs in the hands of Jacob Bruce.

