

Dunmore's Proclamation See Page 3



AMERICANS *Becoming* TODAY

NO. 1 FOR COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG



King and Parliament See Page 2

MARCH 25 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1775

Newsline

March 23: Second Virginia Convention meets at St. John's Church, Richmond, to avoid interference by British forces. Patrick Henry delivers his famous "Give me liberty or give me death" speech. The Convention accepts a committee report calling for the organization of a volunteer company of cavalry or infantry in every county.

April 19: Battle of Lexington and Concord ensues in Massachusetts near Boston, the first bloodshed of the war.

April 21: Acting under Dunmore's orders, sailors led by Lieutenant Henry Collins of *H.M.S. Magdalen* anchor at Burwell's Landing on the James River near Williamsburg, then take 15 half-barrels of powder from the Magazine in the capital during the early morning hours. Drums beating the alarm bring most of the population to Market Square, but Peyton Randolph, Robert Carter Nicholas, and Mayor John Dixon persuade the crowd to send a delegation to the Governor's Palace to protest peacefully rather than turn to violence. Another mob gathers in the evening, when it is rumored that the marines are returning. The next day the enraged governor publicly threatens to arm the slaves, but peace prevails.

April 28: News of the Battles of Lexington and Concord arrives in Fredericksburg; three horsemen depart on a hectic ride to Williamsburg. In response to a call from Hugh Mercer, commander of the Fredericksburg volunteer company, about 600 men rendezvous there on April 29, intending to march on the capital. By morning, the horsemen have returned from Williamsburg, bringing a plea from Peyton Randolph to avoid violence. In addition, three other congressional delegates—George Washington, Edmund Pendleton, and Richard Henry Lee—send appeals to the men to remain quiet.

May 10: Second Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia. Peyton Randolph again is elected president.

June 1: First session of the General Assembly since May 1774 meets in Williamsburg. Dunmore had summoned it in response to news of Lord North's conciliatory proposal of February 27, which promised not to tax the colonists if they would agree to tax themselves in accordance with quotas sent from London.

June 3-4: Several young men break into the Magazine in Williamsburg late Saturday or early Sunday and are greeted by a shotgun blast triggered by a spring. Two are slightly wounded. An outraged public condemns Dunmore as a would-be assassin, and on Monday a mob storms the Magazine. The governor and Assembly exchange recriminations over the incident. When it is rumored that the marines are coming again, Williamsburg's volunteer company is mobilized.

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REVOLUTIONARY TIMES FOR COLONISTS



Autumn 1775 is an unsettling time not only for Virginians but for all colonists. Armed conflict had already broken out at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, followed by the bloody conflict at Bunker's Hill on June 17. The British remained under siege in Boston and were running out of food and supplies. At the meeting of the second Continental Congress on June 15, George Washington had been named the commander in chief of the Continental forces and was now building his army.

Decisions reached at a July 26 cabinet meeting in London ordered that 2,000 reinforcements be sent to Boston immediately, with 20,000 regulars to follow by the spring of 1776. On August 23, George III proclaimed the American colonies in open rebellion and asked his subjects to suppress the colonists. Later, on October 27, Parliament, after some heated debate, strongly supports the king, who declares in his address in the upper house that the "rebellious war . . . is manifestly carried on for the purpose of establishing an independent empire." To defeat the colonists, George III plans to increase sea and land forces, including mercenaries, greatly. War on the American continent is now inevitable.

Loyalists and patriots are forced to make difficult choices about their allegiance to the Crown or to the loosely structured "shadow" governments in the 13 colonies. Committees of safety often harass and persecute those they consider disloyal to the

colonists' cause. These choices tear families and communities apart. In Williamsburg on September 15, John Randolph, former attorney general of the colony, chooses to return "home" to England with his family, leaving his "rebellious" son Edmund and his brother, Speaker of the House of Burgesses Peyton Randolph, in Virginia.

War inevitably changes families and communities. Husbands, fathers, and sons willingly or unwillingly join the Continental forces, leaving families incomplete and the labor force on farms and in shops much reduced. Anxiety and hardship follow.

Troops in the field often lack the equipment or ammunition they need. Conditions in the camps are often unclean and the troops undisciplined, resulting in illnesses from highly infectious diseases such as typhus, dysentery, or typhoid fever.

The economy is in turmoil. The Association of 1774 halted imports of English manufactured goods into the colonies in December 1774 after late frosts in spring 1774 destroyed apple and peach crops, and a summer drought devastated wheat and tobacco fields. Now supplies of salt and gunpowder are in short supply. Under the Association of 1774, by September 1, 1775, the colonists, could not "directly or indirectly, export Tobacco, or any other Article whatever, to Great Britain." How are Virginia planters going to market their tobacco crops? The impact on both small farms and large plantations is daunting as

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1775 Colonies in Armed Conflict with Britain	2005 U.S. in Armed Conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan
Indian Threat to the West	Threat of Terrorism
Horrendous Hurricane	Threatening Hurricane Season



THE PRODIGIOUS WIND OF 1775: PATRICK HENRY?? NO, A HURRICANE!

The first hurricane-force winds began lashing the seaport town of Norfolk mid-morning on September 2. It was a Saturday that many Virginians would not soon forget. In four hours the storm slammed into the Northern Neck, leaving untold destruction in its wake. Trees were uprooted and shingles ripped from rooftops and hurled about the landscape as if shot from a cannon. Chimneys were toppled and bridges swept away. Entire fields of tobacco and corn were flattened. Tobacco stored in some warehouses fared little better at the hands of this storm. Near to 25 ships were driven hard aground at Norfolk and on the Hampton Roads shoals.

Colonel Landon Carter of Sabine Hall on the Northern Neck recorded on that Saturday, "About half after 3 the much suspected Gust began; it has now struck 6, and I wish I could say there were any signs of its abating. The Wind is from North to Northeast and sometimes to Northwest with prodigious flows that drive vast sheets of rain before it, and makes everything shake almost to their foundations. . . . Half past 9, a dreadful time, Gust harder and all the weather side of my house in a float. I am obliged to get up. If the window sand bags or some such thing had been thought of before night this leaking might in a great measure be prevented. The violent Gust began to abate about 2 in the night. It cost me my Mill dam again, to rebuild waist-gates and all, a vast damage." Carter also discovered his "fodder all gone, corn quite flat, tobacco leaves all broke off and drove about, all the fences down everywhere. In short—one general destruction except my houses People and cattle."

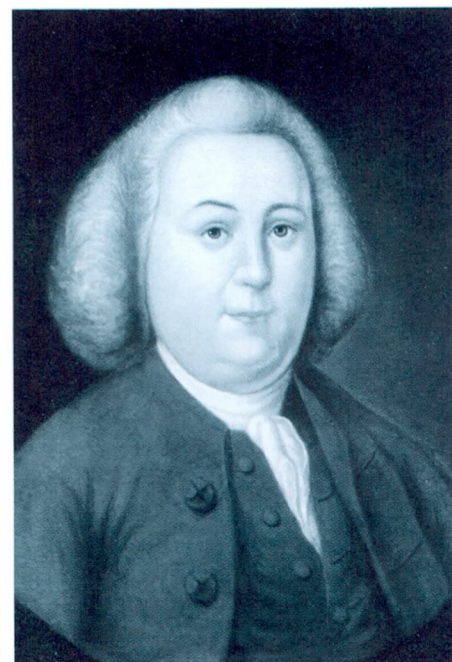
John Harrower, Scottish tutor for Colonel William Daingerfield of Fredericksburg, wrote in his journal on September 2 that he "returd. Home by Sundown; At which time came on one of the hardest gales of wind & rain I have seen since I have been in the Country. It has tore many trees & brocke down a deall of Corn & Tore all the Fodder to Pieces."

Much mischief was done by the hurricane in this colony, but the *Maryland Gazette* reported that, as the storm barreled north through Annapolis, "a great quantity of the copper on the state-house was torn up, and the market-house blown down; [also] the damage sustained in different parts of the province, we are told, is very considerable."

The worst, however, was yet to come. By September 11 the storm had taken dead aim at the province of Newfoundland.

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HIS LAST DEBT TO NATURE



Word has been received from Philadelphia of the death of our most beloved Speaker, the Honorable Peyton Randolph. "Designed by nature for business, of an affable, open and majestic deportment, large in size, though not out of proportion, he command[ed] respect and esteem by his very aspect, independent of the high character he sustains." (Silas Deane to Mrs. Deane, 1774) On October 23, in this year of our Lord 1775, "our first venerable president" paid his last debt to Nature when "he was seized at Table . . . in an Apoplectic Fit." "He died in the Evening, without ever recovering his senses after the first Stroke. As this Gentleman Sustained very deservedly One of the first American Characters, as he was the first President of the united Colonies, and as he was universally esteemed for his great Virtues and shining Abilities, the Congress have determined to shew his Memory and Remains all possible Demonstrations of Respect. . . . Mr Randolph was as firm, stable and consistent a

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VIRGINIA TODAY SNAPSHOT

YOUTHFUL REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS: 1775

- George Washington: Commander in Chief of the Continental Army** 43 Years
- John Adams** 40 Years
- John Hancock: President of the Continental Congress** 39 Years
- Nathanael Greene: General of the Rhode Island Regiment** 33 Years
- Thomas Jefferson** 32 Years

NEWS

LORD DUNMORE'S STRATEGY FOR WAR

By mid-September 1775, Lord Dunmore had developed a strategy to secure Virginia for the Crown. The plan called for two armies—one from the west, one from Hampton Roads—to campaign against the rebels and converge at Alexandria. A string of posts from Fort Pitt (Dunmore) would be maintained and, with British control of the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River, the rebellion would be checked. The main British force would then return to base at Hampton Roads.

Dunmore appointed Dr. John Connolly to command the western army. Connolly and his Loyal Foresters Regiment would be supported by Native American allies and detachments from British regiments in Canada. Dunmore commanded the larger army, which began assembling in late June 1775. The governor obtained 140 men from the 14th Regiment. Later he created the Queen's Own Loyal Virginians under Jacob Ellegood, which contained almost 250 men by mid-November 1775. Dunmore also created the Royal Ethiopian with himself as colonel and eventually Thomas Byrd (son of William Byrd III) as major commanding. By mid- to late November, this unit numbered almost 300. Dunmore appointed John Brown to head a unit collectively known as the Norfolk militia, which numbered about 50. Dunmore commissioned "little" Jimmy Parker as "master of works"—chief military engineer—to prepare roads and fortifications. He would requisition slaves or those troops from other units as necessary.

In mid-November Dunmore, as vice admiral in Virginia, nominally commanded H.M.S. *Oter*, 14; H.M.S. *King Fisher*, 14; 5 armed tenders, and 12 requisitioned vessels, including his flagship, the 406 ton *Dunmore* (ex-*Eilbeck*). A civilian "floating town" of about 16 vessels, some armed, anchored, and ready, supported Dunmore's efforts.

[Submitted by Pete Wrike]

Report from . . . Continued from page 1

Local reports claimed that a tremendous tidal wave carried boats up against the cliff and some even up into the woods. More than 300 men perished in Northern Bay. And according to Robert Duff, the colonial governor, "a considerable number of boats with their crews have been totally lost. Several vessels wrecked on the shores." Ocean levels rose to heights "scarcely ever known before and caused great devastation." [John] *Boyle's Journal* recorded in December 1775 "that a violent storm of September last killed 4,000 persons in the several harbours of Newfoundland."

Mother Nature truly spent her fury on the coast of British North America in September 1775.

[Submitted by Phil Shultz and Nancy Milton]

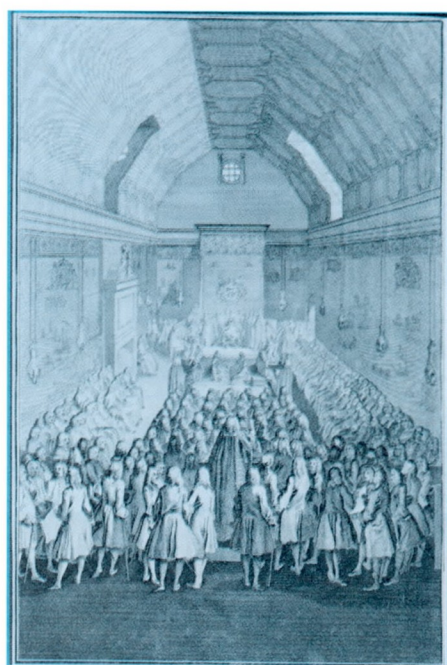
Revolutionary Times Continued from page 1

incomes are greatly reduced in these difficult times. And on September 2, 1775, a horrific hurricane hits Virginia with its full fury, destroying homes and crops.

Closer to home, Virginia's patriots concern themselves over Lord Dunmore's whereabouts and actions. His raids on plantations along Virginia's waterfronts and his activities in Norfolk are threatening. The siege at Hampton as well as the Battles of Great Bridge and Kemp's Landing bring open armed conflict to Virginia.

Dunmore's repeated threats to free slaves and indentured servants of all rebel masters weigh heavily on Virginians, whose wealth and security depend upon possession and control of their slaves. Fears of slave unrest and rebellion during these critical times heighten anxiety. On November 15, 1775, Lord Dunmore issues a proclamation formally offering freedom to slaves of all "rebel masters," striking again at the heart of free Virginians' sense of independence and security.

[Submitted by Anne Willis]

BRITAIN'S DETERMINATION:
KING GEORGE and PARLIAMENT

The King's procession departed St. James at two o'clock [October 26, 1775], proceeding at walking speed. By tradition, two Horse Grenadiers with swords drawn rode in the lead to clear the way [an estimated 60,000 people turned out], followed by gleaming coaches filled with nobility, then a clattering of Horse Guards, the Yeomen of the Guard in red and gold livery, and a rank of footmen, also in red and gold. Finally came the King in his colossal golden chariot pulled by eight magnificent cream-colored horses (Hanoverian Creams), a single postilion riding the left lead horse, and six footmen at the side. . . . Three gilded cherubs on top—symbols of England, Scotland and Ireland—held high a gilded crown, while over the heavy spoked wheels, front and back, loomed four gilded sea gods, formidable reminders that Britannia ruled the waves. Allegorical scenes on the door panels celebrated the nation's heritage, and windows were of sufficient size to provide full view of the crowned sovereign within.

It was as though the very grandeur, wealth, and weight of the British Empire was rolling past—an empire that by now included Canada, that reached from the seaboard of Massachusetts and Virginia to the Mississippi and beyond, from the Caribbean to the shores of Bengal. London, its population at nearly a million souls, was the largest city in Europe and widely considered the capital of the world. [p. 4]

For the opening of Parliament, King George III took his place on the throne in the House of Lords with the peers of the realm dressed in their crimson robes, and members of the House of Commons standing at the rear of the hall. He argues that the Americans "have raised troops, and are collecting a naval force . . . seized the public revenue, and assumed to themselves legislative, executive, and ju-



Boston Harbor

SEIZURE OF THE NORFOLK PRESS

The brief existence of Norfolk's first newspaper, the *Virginia Gazette*, or *Norfolk Intelligencer*, came to an end in early fall 1775. William S. Duncan first published the four-page weekly in June 1774. In April 1775, John Hunter Holt, an ardent patriot and son of public printer John Holt of Williamsburg, became the publisher.

In June 1775 Dunmore fled Williamsburg for British warships in Norfolk-area waters, making his base of operations there because of the large tory element in the port city. Holt's paper immediately began a steady, merciless needling of the governor. Among other barbs, the September 27 issue alleged treasonous actions by Dunmore's father in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. At noon on Saturday, September 30, Dunmore sent an officer and a detachment of British sailors and soldiers ashore to "the dirty little Borough of Norfolk" to capture Holt and confiscate his press. The landing party met no resistance as it marched to the shop and seized Holt's "press, types, paper, ink, two of the printers, and all of the utensils." Holt's bookbinder, Cumming, was also taken. Holt, said to have been hiding in the building, was not captured.

Several hundred people witnessed the raid with inaction, though a "few spirited gentlemen . . . ordered the drum to beat

dicial powers, which they already exercise in the most arbitrary manner. . . . And although many of these unhappy people, may still retain their loyalty . . . the torrent of violence has been strong enough to compel their acquiescence till a sufficient force shall appear to support them." [William Cobbett, *The Parliamentary History of England from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803*, London: T.C. Hansard, 1813, 696.]

Strong debate ensues in both Houses. The House of Lords debates the issue until midnight when the majority sides with the King by a vote of 69 to 29.

Members of the House of Commons retire to their own chamber where there is heated debate until four in the morning. About twenty members of the House speak out in full support of the colonies' position arguing against the use of foreign troops and questioning why the colonists seek independence. Former Prime Minister Henry Fitzroy proposes repealing all acts passed in Parliament since the Stamp Act. The Lord Mayor of London, John Wilkes, argues prophetically that "We are fighting for the subjection, the unconditional submission of a country infinitely more extended than our own, of which every day increases the 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." [William Cobbett, *The Parliamentary History of England from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803*, London: T.C. Hansard, 1813, 696.]

Edmund Burke spoke for two hours followed by James Fox who called Lord North a "blundering pilot," and concluding that "Lord Chatham, the King of Prussia, nay, Alexander the Great, never gained more in one campaign than the noble lord has lost—he has lost a whole continent." [William Cobbett, *The Parliamentary History of England from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803*, London: T.C. Hansard, 1813, 696.]

Despite the strong rhetoric on each side, the concluding vote strongly supports the king by a vote of 278 to 108. By the early morning of October 27 about three-quarters of the members of Parliament support the king in his proposed actions against the colonists.

Source: David McCullough, 1776 (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2005), p. 3-19
[Submitted by Anne Willis]

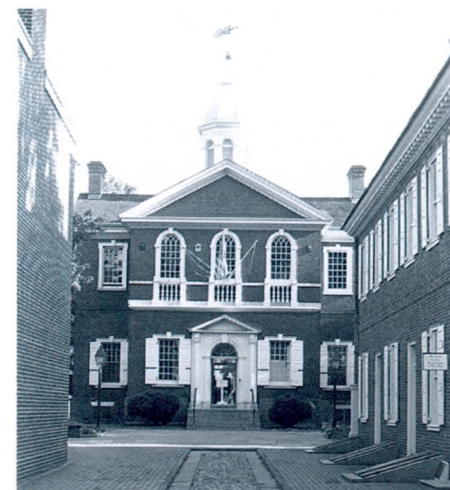
to arms, but were joined by few or none; so that it appears Norfolk is at present a very insecure place for the life or property of any individual, and is consequently deserted daily by numbers of the inhabitants, with their effects." Immediately afterward, Norfolk mayor Paul Loyall protested the raid as "illegal and riotous." Dunmore told the mayor he had done Norfolk a favor by "scotching the printed viper that was pouring its poison in their midst."

Dunmore's seizure of the Norfolk press caused the Williamsburg papers to step up their campaign against him, even charging that he "dared offer violence to the chastity of a poor innocent girl" from the Norfolk poorhouse and that he kept a mistress in Williamsburg—accusations for which no evidence was offered. Meanwhile, the governor used Holt's equipment to print a short-lived paper of his own aboard ship. The burning of Norfolk at the beginning of 1776 thwarted Holt's intention to reestablish his newspaper. He joined the Revolutionary army and, after Yorktown, partnered with John Dixon to publish a Richmond newspaper.

(Adapted from *Norfolk Highlights, 1584–1881* by George Holbert Tucker)

[Submitted by Bob Doares]

NEWS



A REPORT FROM THE GRAND CONGRESS NOVEMBER 27, 1775

Your correspondent, having been lately elected once again to serve the freeholders of Virginia, has returned to Philadelphia to attend to the Grand Congress along with the rest of the delegation, Mr. Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson Jr., and Mr. Speaker Peyton Randolph, lately lost to us. At the beginning of our present session "there never appeared a more perfect unanimity among any set of men," but it has not been long since that it has become clear that our councils are "heavily clogged with . . . shamefully interested proprietary people," who have now seen fit to brand Mr. John Adams, his cousin Sam, and myself, along with our allies Thomas Jefferson and George Wythe, as "The Lee-Adams Junta," while referring to themselves as the "moderate Men." I shall leave it to you, dear reader, to discern the truth.

Our early debates were twofold: the status of trade and foreign alliance and the assumption of governmental powers and confederation of the several colonies. On the former, in light of the passage by Parliament of the "Restraining Acts," which seek to divide these United Colonies by prohibiting all of them except Delaware, Georgia, North Carolina, and New York from trading with any nation except Great Britain, Ireland, and British West Indies, I did offer a motion on the 12th of October that Custom Houses in all these Colonies be shut up and the officers of the Crown who man them be turned out. I further offered that all of our Ports should be laid open to trade with foreign Nations. It is my hope to thwart the designs of Parliament to formant "Jealousies and Dissention" and thereby render us a "rope of sand." Congress did see fit to do no more than to recommend that New York, Delaware, North Carolina, and Georgia "ought not to avail themselves of the benefit allowed them by the late Restraining Acts." On the subject of opening our ports to Foreign Trade, the Congress was Mute.

On the matter of the assumption of government by the various colonies, the Congress has recommended, in response to their request for advice, that both New Hampshire and South Carolina set up their own Governments. On Confederation between the several colonies Congress was, top my dismay, once again mute.

Not long after, on the 9th of November, Congress was informed, by a letter from our agents in Great Britain, my brother Arthur Lee, Esq., and Richard Penn, that the King had refused to receive our "Olive Branch Petition," and that he had seen fit to proclaim that these colonies are in "Open Rebellion" and outside the "Protection of the Crown." While this is indeed a most melancholy and disconcerting development, it is my hope that it will serve to "arouse America from the fatal lethargy into which the feebleness, folly, and interested views of the proprietary Governments with the aid of Tory Machinations have thrown her, most unhappily." So that she may see that the specter of Tyranny "hangs like a flaming sword over their heads." If it does then Congress will no doubt adopt the declaration lately authored

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NEWS

DUNMORE'S PROCLAMATION

Odds and Ends

Lord Dunmore, royal governor of Virginia, issued any number of proclamations during his tenure in Virginia. But when we hear someone refer to *the* proclamation, we all know it is the one made public at Kemp's Landing, on November 15, 1775. Yes, the proclamation offering freedom to indentured and slaves (of rebels) who would take up arms for the Crown. So what else can we make of the document?

Politically it was an effort to identify clearly who was who. By declaring martial law, Lord Dunmore made it clear: come to the King's standard and pledge loyalty or be marked as a traitor to the Crown and suffer the consequences. Unfortunately for the British, in some cases, this action pushed some who may have been wavering right into the patriot camp.

Obviously, the proclamation was a military document. His lordship was having precious little, if any success, obtaining the services of British Regulars. With the scale of slavery in Virginia, near to 210,000 enslaved persons, there was the hope of drawing large numbers of recruits (able and willing to bear arms) to the King's standard. Of course, making their way to Norfolk was problematic.

With the colony so dependent on bond labor, there was a distinct financial aspect to the proclamation. If large numbers of slaves and indentured went to Dunmore, there would be a direct and detrimental impact on Virginia's economy. But loyalists were spared, as Lord Dunmore did not offer freedom to their slaves or indentured. Eighty-eight years later, President Lincoln would also proclaim freedom *only to those slaves held by masters in states in rebellion.*

Finally, the proclamation was certainly a psychological statement to Virginians and slave owners in surrounding colonies. Slave insurrections were the nightmare of any slave society. In the Carolinas and Maryland as well as Virginia, slave uprisings could be a real threat; now here was a document that encouraged slaves and other bound labor to take up arms against their masters for the good of the Crown. And this proclamation was issued by the very man who in 1772 had written to Lord Hillsborough, secretary for the colonies, that if he (Dunmore) had his way, he would expel every slave from Virginia. The slaves were so numerous, he

DUNMORE OFFERS FREEDOM TO SLAVES OF "REBEL MASTERS"!



By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His MAJESTY'S Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia and Vice Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION.

AS I have ever entertained Hopes, that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed men unlawfully assembled, firing on His MAJESTY'S Tenders, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack His MAJESTY'S Troops and destroy the well disposed Subjects of this Colony. To defeat such reasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purposes be obtained, I do in Virtue

told Hillsborough, and someday an enemy of England, such as France or Spain, would offer them the opportunity to take vengeance on their masters, and the slaves would be eager to do so. In an irony of history, it was not France nor Spain but the royal governor himself who made the offer. [Submitted by Phil Shultz]

of the Power and Authority to ME given, by his MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony: and to the end that Peace and good Order may the sooner be restored, I do require 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. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indentured Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require, all His MAJESTY'S Leige Subjects, to retain their Quitrents, or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own Custody, till such Time as Peace may be again restored to this at present most unhappy Country, or demanded of them for their former salutary Purposes, by Officers properly authorised to receive the same.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the Ship WILLIAM, off NORFOLK, the 7th Day of November, in the SIXTEENTH Year of His MAJESTY'S Reign.

DUNMORE (GOD save the KING.)
Source: Holton, "Rebel against Rebel," 183

FORUM

DAVID BRION DAVIS,
SLAVERY AND HUMAN PROGRESS,

(New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984), 107-108

In the 1760s, as for many decades to come, black slavery was sanctioned by Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Reformed churchmen and theologians. No modern church or sect had sought to discourage its members from owning or even trafficking in black slaves. From Canada (under both French and British rule) to the southern limits of Spanish America, colonial governments took the legality of black slavery for granted. The governments of Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, and Denmark all openly supported the African slave trade.

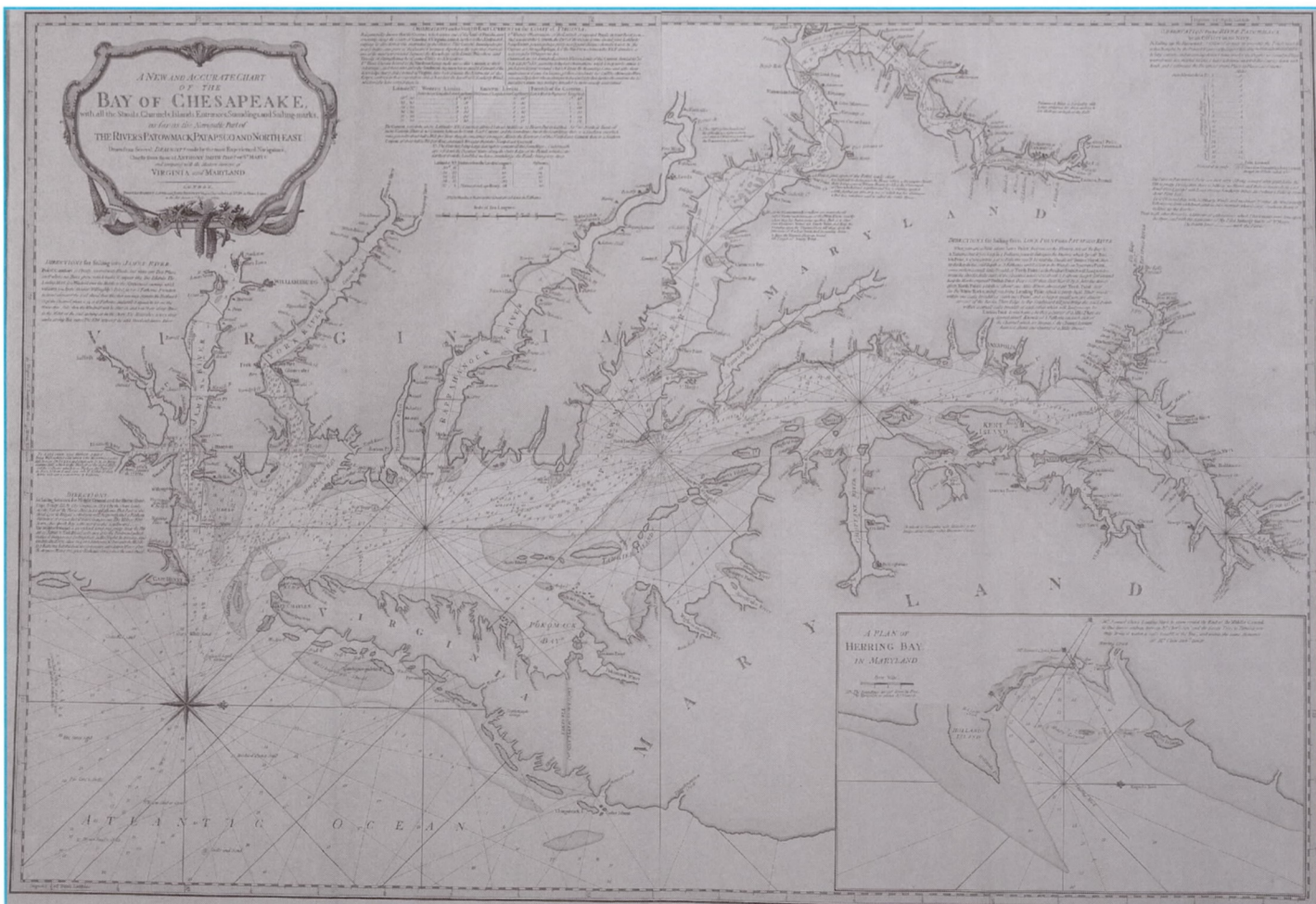
By the 1750s to be sure, the classical justifications for slavery, already discredited by Montesquieu and Hutcheson, were being demolished by the arguments of Rousseau, Diderot, and other philosophes, to say nothing of the calculations of Hume and Franklin regarding the effects of slavery on population growth and productivity of labor. On the level of abstract political philosophy, John Locke, a shareholder in the Royal African Company, was the last major thinker to seek justifications for enslaving foreign captives. And Locke's strained arguments were more than counterbalanced by his more famous and influential celebration of human liberty. Yet the Enlightenment's indictments of slavery were scattered and desultory. Often they left loopholes for a defense of colonial slavery on grounds of expediency and public interest. As late as the 1770s, when the Quaker initiative finally led to a rash of militant antislavery publications on both sides on the Atlantic, no realistic leader could seriously contemplate the abolition of New World Slavery—except, on the analogy with European slavery and serfdom, over a span of centuries.

Williamsburg: November 1775

A FEW ANONYMOUS REMARKS ON LORD DUNMORE'S PROCLAMATION

A copy of the above proclamation has fallen into my hands. It may be proper to address a few remarks upon this proclamation; and as part of the proclamation respects the negroes, and seems to offer some very flattering and desirable to join them, it may be doing them, as well as the country, to give them a just view of what they are to expect should they be so weak and wicked as to comply with what lord Dunmore requires. Those, then, who are afraid of being stiled *rebels*, I would beg to consider, that although lord Dunmore, in this proclamation, insidiously mentions his having till now entertained hopes of an accommodation, yet the whole tenor of his conduct, for many months past, has had the most direct and strongest tendency to widen the unhappy breach, and render a reconciliation more difficult. For what other purpose did he write his false and inflammatory letters to the ministers of state? Why did he, under idle pretenses, withdraw himself from the seat of government, where alone he could, had he been willing, have done essential service to our country? . . . Do not believe his words, when his actions so directly contradict them. If he wished for an accommodation, if he had a desire to restore peace and order, as he professes, it was to be on terms which would have been disgraceful, and in the end destructive of everything dear and valuable. Consider again the many attempts which have been made to enslave us. Nature gave us equal privileges with the people of Great Britain. We are equally, with them, entitled to the disposal of our own property; and we have never resigned to them these rights, which we derived from nature. . . . We pe-

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NEWS

COLONIAL LEADERS
USE THE PRESS TO
DISCOURAGE SLAVES

The following excerpts from John Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette* indicate that the colony's leaders used the newspaper to deter slaves from joining the British. They hoped that enslaved men, women, and children would hear about the poor treatment that slaves received from Dunmore when their masters read the paper, when they read the paper themselves, and when slaves shared the details with other slaves.

Enslaving Virginia Resource Book

Lord Dunmore's cruel policy begins at length to be discovered by the blacks, who have lately deserted from him to a considerable number. When his lordship first went down to Norfolk he gave great encouragement to unwary negroes, but, such was his baseness, some of them, it is confidently said, he sent to the West Indies, where these unfortunate creatures were disposed of to defray his lordship's expences; and others, such as he took any dislike to, he delivered up to their masters, to be punished. Since the troops under colonel Woodford's command began their march, lord Dunmore issued a proclamation inviting the [dirty] of rebels, as he is pleased to say, to repair to [] rd. A considerable number at first went to him, but upon their masters taking the oath of allegiance they were immediately told they ma [] return. Some runaways, however, remained, but these were kept constantly employed in digging trenchments in wet ground, till at length the severity of their labour forced many of them to fly. Those that were left behind have made several attempts to get off, but such is the barbarous policy of this cruel man, he keeps these unhappy creatures not only against their will, but intends to place them in the front of the battle, to prevent their flying, in case of an engagement, which, from their utter ignorance of fire arms, he knows they will do.

An honest negro (Caesar, the famous barber of York) being asked what he thought of lord Dunmore's setting negroes free, said, that he did not know any one foolish enough to believe him, for if he intended to do so, he ought first to set his own free.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Pinkney), November 30, December 9, 1775

HENING'S STATUTE

December 1775—ACT VII. *An ordinance for establishing a mode of punishment for the enemies to America in this colony*

And be it farther ordained, That if any slave, or slaves, shall be hereafter taken in arms against this colony, or in the possession of an enemy, through their own choice, the committee of safety shall have full power and authority to transport such slave, or slaves, to any of the foreign West India islands, there to be disposed of by sale, and the money arising from such sale to be laid out in the purchase of arms and ammunition, or otherwise applied to the use of this colony, as the committee of safety shall judge most proper; and in case such slaves, so taken in arms, or in the possession of an enemy, cannot be transported with convenience to this colony, the same shall be disposed of for the use of this colony, or returned to the owner or owners of such slaves, or otherwise dealt with according to an act of assembly for punishing slaves committing capital offences, as the committee of safety may judge most proper.

Provided always, and be it farther ordained, That the owner, or owners, of such slaves, shall be paid, by the treasurer of this colony for the time being, the full amount of such sale, or value of such slaves, after deducting the expenses and charge of transportation; which said valuation shall be made by the commissioners in each county aforesaid, and certified to the committee of safety, who shall thereupon grant their warrant, directed to the treasurer for payment of the value of such slave as aforesaid.

Source: Hening, ed., *The Statutes at Large*, 9:101, 106.



LORD DUNMORE'S SLAVES

Dunmore's opinion that slaves were property can also be seen in the proclamation he issued in November 1775. The governor carefully worded the document to offer freedom only to those slaves who belonged to his political opponents and who were able bodied. Under the terms of the proclamation, Dunmore's own slaves could not join his "Ethiopian Regiment." An entry in Purdie's January 12, 1776, issue of the *Virginia Gazette* noted that Dunmore's slaves at his Berkeley County plantation did not know about the proclamation:

NOTWITHSTANDING lord Dunmore's late proclamation for emancipating such slaves as should repair to his standard, we are informed, by a correspondent, that two of his own negroes, with an overseer, passed through Fredericksburg, one day last week, on their way to his Berkeley plantation; so that it should seem his lordship has not been so very generous to his own bondmen as he wished to be to those who were the property of others, but whom neither he, nor even his august master, have the smallest right to intermeddle with.

At least five of Dunmore's slaves, however, ran away in 1775. It is possible that Robin took advantage of the turmoil caused by the Gunpowder Incident in April 1775 to run in August of the same year. William Mitchell described him as "a likely negro man named ROBIN, 5 feet 7 inches high,

Anonymous Remarks Continued from page 3

tioned once and again, in the most dutiful manner; we hoped that the righteousness of our case would appear, that our complaints would be heard and attended to; we wished to avoid the horrors of a civil war, and so long proceeded in this fruitless track that our not adopting a more vigorous opposition seemed rather to proceed from a spirit of weakness and fear than of peace and loyalty; and all that we gained was to be more grievously oppressed. . . . If it be rebellion to take up in such a cause as this, rebellion then is not only justifiable, but an honourable thing. But let us not be deceived with empty sounds. They who call us rebels, cannot make us so. Rebellion is open and avowed opposition to lawful authority; but it is usurped and arbitrary power which we have determined to oppose. . . . If this doctrine then be right, which no one, I believe, will venture to deny, we, my countrymen, are the dutiful members of society; and the persons who endeavor to rob us of our rights, they are the rebels, rebels to their country and to the rights of human nature.

The second class of people, for whose sake a few remarks upon this proclamation seem necessary, is the negroes. They have been flattered with their freedom, if they are able to bear arms, and, will speedily join lord Dunmore's troops. To none, then, is freedom promised but to such as are able to do lord Dunmore service. The aged, infirmed, the women, and children, are still to remain the prop-

A Report from . . . Continued from page 2

by a committee made up of myself, James Wilson, and Wm. Livingston in answer to the King, which states in part:

We are accused of forgetting we owe to the power that has protected and sustained us

. . . What allegiances is it that we forget? Allegiance to Parliament? We never owed it. Allegiance to our King. Our words have ever avowed it—our conduct has ever been consistent with it. We condemn, and with arms in our

AM I NOT
A MAN
AND A
BROTHER?

slender made, has on an osnabrug shirt, blue breeches, and a blue jacket, and says he ran away from the palace at Williamsburg." The account of Robin's clothing indicates that he worked in the fields at one of Dunmore's plantations.

In December 1775 John Pendleton "Ordered that Colonel [Patrick] Henry be at Liberty to give direction to the Keeper of the public Gaol for the discharge of James a Mulatto slave belonging to Lord Dunmore." It is not known if James ran to join Dunmore or not. Entries in the Black Loyalist Directory indicate that three of the governor's slaves were evacuated with the British from New York in 1783. Sarah stated that she left the Palace in 1776. Roger Scott claimed that Dunmore freed him before he left Williamsburg, and Catherine Scott did not note when she left the governor.

Purdie's July 14, 1775, *Virginia Gazette* noted that "All his Lordship's domesticks have now left the palace, and are gone, bag and baggage, to his farm at Porto Bello, about six miles from town." The rest of Dunmore's slaves were at the Palace in early January 1776, when the colony's leaders moved to secure the property that he left at the Governor's Palace. They decided "that no person be allowed to make reprisal on the property of lord Dunmore, in this colony, for their property seized by him, or the navy, without the order of this Convention." [See *Enslaving Virginia Resource Book*, 356–359]

erty of their masters, of masters who will be provoked to severity, should part of their slaves desert them. Lord Dunmore's declaration, therefore, is a cruel declaration to the negroes. He does not pretend to make it out of any tenderness to them, but solely upon his own account; and should it meet with success, it leaves by far the greater number at the mercy of an enraged and injured people. But should there be any amongst the negroes weak enough to believe that lord Dunmore intends to do them a kindness, and wicked enough to provoke the fury of the Americans against their defenceless fathers and mothers, their wives, and children, let them only consider the difficulty of effecting their escape, and what they must expect to suffer if they fall into the hand of the Americans. Let them also consider what must be their fate should the English prove conquerors. If we can judge of the future from the past, it will not be much mended. . . . Be not then, ye negroes, tempted by this proclamation to ruin yourselves. I have given you a faithful view of what you are to expect and declare before GOD, in doing it I have considered your welfare, as well as that of the country. Whether you will profit by my advice I cannot tell, but this I know, that whether we suffer or not, if you desert us you most certainly will.

Virginia Gazette (Pinckney), November 23, 1775

[Submitted by Rose McAphee]

hands—a resource Freeman will never part with—we oppose the claim and exercise of unconstitutional powers, to which neither the Crown nor Parliament were entitled.

With this I end this dispatch. I remain your humble and Obedient Servant.

Richard Henry Lee

[Submitted by Frank Magargee]

Source: John E. Selby, *A Chronology of Virginia and the War of Independence, 1763–1783* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1973), 17–25.

NEWS

SLAVES AT
THE PUBLIC
GAOL

December 4, 1775

The Negroes we have divers quarters found going over to the Governor and secured, are become too numerous as our Gaol [Hampton] is at present very insufficient; We therefore wish they may be sent for—there are 14 in Confinement.

December 13, 1775

Ordered, that the Slaves taken and confined at the Town of Hampton be sent to the publick Gaol in the City of Williamsburg.

December 14, 1775

Ordered, that the slaves taken and confined at the Town of Hampton be sent to the publick Gaol in the City of Williamsburg.

Ordered, that the Committee of Safety do cause so many of the Captive Slaves as they shall think necessary to be employed in working in the lead Mines.

December 1775

Ordered that Colonel [Patrick] Henry be at Liberty to give direction to the Keeper of the public Gaol for the discharge of James a Mulatto slave belonging to Lord Dunmore.

December 24, 1775

Mr. Edmund Ruffin [Jr.] appeared [before the Committee of Safety] & claimed a negro man named Joe, now in the public Jail, who with 5 others belonging to himself & father went off in a boat to go to Lord Dunmore, but before they reached him, this Slave as he declared repented of the expedition & found means to make his escape leaving the others at Mulberry Island, & was soon after taken up on land & brought to this City; Mr. Ruffin thinks him Sincerely penitent & wishes to have him restored, which the Committee allow of upon his paying charges of Imprisonment. Mr. Ruffin also claims another negro man in the public Jail named Dick, but as he appears incorrigible the Committee cannot consent to his being delivered at present, & as Mr. Ruffin does not desire him to be delivered, he is to remain in the public Jail till further orders.

[Note: According to Ruffin, the committee of safety "refused to discharge" Dick, "intending as a Terrour to others to send the said Slave to the West Indies or Lead Mines." That design was frustrated by the death of Dick "before such Step was taken."]

December 29, 1775

Last Monday night arrived in town, from Hampton, under a strong guard 33 black and white prisoners, coupled together, who were committed to the publick jail.

Sources: Scribner and Tarter, eds., *Revolutionary Virginia*, 5 (Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia for the Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission), 46, 127, 140, 144, 239, 240; *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie), December 29, 1775, supplement



NEWS

Newsline Continued from page 1

June 8: Although appearing to be on the verge of apologizing to the Assembly for the spring-gun incident, Dunmore slips out of town with his family about 2 A.M. and boards *H.M.S. Fowey* at Yorktown. Dunmore's flight angers and alarms Virginians, who interpret it and Governor Josiah Martin's recent departure from New Bern, North Carolina, as indications that a British invasion is imminent.

June 10: General Assembly rejects Lord North's conciliatory proposal.

June 15: Because of his military renown in the French and Indian War and to strengthen colonial unity, Congress unanimously names George Washington commander in chief of the Continental Army. He accepts the next day.

June 17: Battle of Bunker Hill is fought and proclaimed a British victory, although General Howe's forces suffer more than 1,000 casualties. British troops remain under siege in Boston.

June 24: General Assembly adjourns until October.

June 29: Lady Dunmore and her children sail to England aboard the *Magdalen* while Dunmore takes up quarters on board ship near Norfolk.

July 2: Washington arrives in Cambridge.

July 17–August 26: Fearing Dunmore would attack Williamsburg, the third Virginia Convention again meets at St. John's Church, Richmond. The Convention provides for the annual election of its delegates and local county committees and establishes an 11-member committee of safety to act as an executive body between sessions under the chairmanship of Edmund Pendleton.

July 26: British Cabinet meets at 10 Downing Street and decides to dispatch 2,000 reinforcements to Boston immediately and to send 20,000 regulars to America by spring.

July 31: Continental Congress rejects Lord North's conciliatory proposal.

August 23: King George III proclaims the American colonies in rebellion and calls on loyal subjects to help suppress the insurrection.

August 29–September 2: Hurricane rages from North Carolina to Newfoundland.

September 1: Exports to Great Britain cease under the terms of the Association of 1774.

September 30: Squad of men from *H.M.S. Otter* seizes the press of Norfolk printer John Holt. Dunmore then uses the press to publish his own *Gazette* until spring.

October 12: General Assembly meets in Williamsburg but, with only 37 members in attendance, adjourns for lack of a quorum until March 1, 1776.

October 23: Peyton Randolph dies in Philadelphia.

October 26: Addressing Parliament in the House of Lords, King George III declares the American colonies in rebellion and pledges that land and sea forces and mercenary troops will be dispatched to secure the colonies' pacification. The House of Lords supports the measures by a vote of 69 to 29, the House of Commons by a vote of 278 to 108.

October 12–21: In a series of raids based on information from loyalists, units of the British 14th Regiment capture and destroy more than 70 cannon hidden by the rebels around Norfolk. On October 12, Captain Samuel Leslie leads a sortie into the country near Norfolk and five days later dashes to Kemp's Landing, where the Virginians barely have time to remove a large supply of powder. On October 19, the British sally out again in the vicinity of Norfolk, conducting other raids on October 20 and 21.

October 24: Determined to move against Dunmore, the committee of safety decides to send Colonel William Wood-

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WILLIAMSBURG, Sep. 9, 1775.

I intend to leave the Colony

for.

JOSHUA HARDCASTLE.

WILLIAMSBURG LOYALISTS IN 1775

By the fall of 1775, the ever-increasing drumbeat of discontent between Virginia and Great Britain had caused some residents of the colony to remove themselves from the hostile environment of Williamsburg to the security of the mother country. Whether the reasons were for their own safety or to maintain their allegiance to the Crown, more and more loyalists (including the ones listed below) posted advertisements like the one shown above in the *Virginia Gazette*.

Samuel Henley
Place of Birth: England
Date of Birth: ca. 1740
Arrived in Virginia/Williamsburg: 1770
Occupation: Professor of moral philosophy and college chaplain, College of William and Mary
Departed Virginia/Williamsburg: May 24, 1775

John Murray, Fourth Earl of Dunmore
Place of Birth: Scotland
Date of Birth: 1730
Arrived in Virginia/Williamsburg: September 1771
Occupation: Royal governor
Departed Virginia/Williamsburg: June 1775 (Williamsburg), August 1776 (Virginia)

ford's Second Virginia Regiment into action instead of Patrick Henry's First Regiment, largely because of Henry's military inexperience. Gradually most of Henry's troops are detached from the First Regiment and assigned to Woodford for the assault on Norfolk.

October 25–27: Encouraged by the success of his recent raids, Dunmore sends Captain Matthew Squire with five ships to burn Hampton. A barricade of sunken vessels before the town delays them long enough to allow reinforcements from Williamsburg to arrive and drive off the attackers.

November 10: Purdie's *Virginia Gazette* prints King George's proclamation declaring the colonies in rebellion.

November 12: Dunmore's Proclamation offers freedom to slaves willing to desert owners who are in rebellion against the Crown and to fight for the king; about 800 enslaved persons in Virginia accept the offer in late 1775 and 1776.

November 15: Dunmore and his army defeat several hundred militiamen at Kemp's Landing.

Thomas Gwatkin
Place of Birth: Hereford County, England
Date of Birth: 1741
Arrived in Virginia/Williamsburg: January 1770
Occupation: Professor of natural philosophy and language, College of William and Mary; private tutor
Accosted by armed men at the college
Departed Virginia/Williamsburg: June 1775

Robert Miller
Place of Birth: Scotland
Date of Birth: ca. 1730
Arrived in Virginia/Williamsburg: 1749
Occupation: Merchant; treasurer of the College; member of Williamsburg Common Council; comptroller of the port of Williamsburg
Received daily threats and insults for being outspoken and a revenue officer
Departed Virginia/Williamsburg: June 1775

James Menzies
Place of Birth: Scotland
Date of Birth: ca. 1745
Arrived in Virginia/Williamsburg: 1763
Occupation: Private secretary to Lord Dunmore; deputy auditor in Auditor General's Office
Departed Virginia/Williamsburg: June 1775 (Williamsburg), August 1776 (Virginia)

Richard Corbin, Jr.
Place of birth: Virginia
Date of birth: 1751
Occupation: private secretary to his father, Richard Corbin Sr., receiver general
Nearly tarred and feathered before leaving Virginia
Departed Virginia/Williamsburg: August 1775

Joshua Hardcastle
Place of Birth: Unknown
Date of Birth: Unknown
Arrived in Virginia/Williamsburg: By 1770
Occupation: Unknown
Named a loyalist in *Virginia Gazette*; subjected to a mock court-martial by independent companies encamped around Williamsburg in early September 1775
Departed Virginia/Williamsburg: After September 9, 1775

George Pitt
Place of Birth: Worchester, England
Date of Birth: 1724
Arrived in Virginia/Williamsburg: 1744
Occupation: Surgeon/apothecary; keeper of the public Magazine; muster master general

MONEY

AUTUMN FARMING

Tobacco: Worm, sucker, top, cut and hang; strike and strip at night; tie in hand at night; pack and prize; hoe hills for next year and sow seed

Corn: Gather tops and blades for fodder; cart to town; gather and husk; clear new fields; plow fields for next year

Wheat: Tread, thresh, and clean; sow and harrow in winter wheat; cart wheat and straw to town; plow and sow other grains

Vegetables: Gather peas and beans; dig potatoes, carrots, and turnips; pull pumpkins

Orchard: Make cider and peach brandy; cart cider and brandy to town; gather apples and grapes; plant grapes and sow apple seed

Livestock: Fatten hogs and beeves; build shelter for cattle; sell mutton, hogs, and steers; butcher hogs (December)

Other: Hire overseers for next year (September); cut firewood and cart to town; ditch fields, grub, and fence

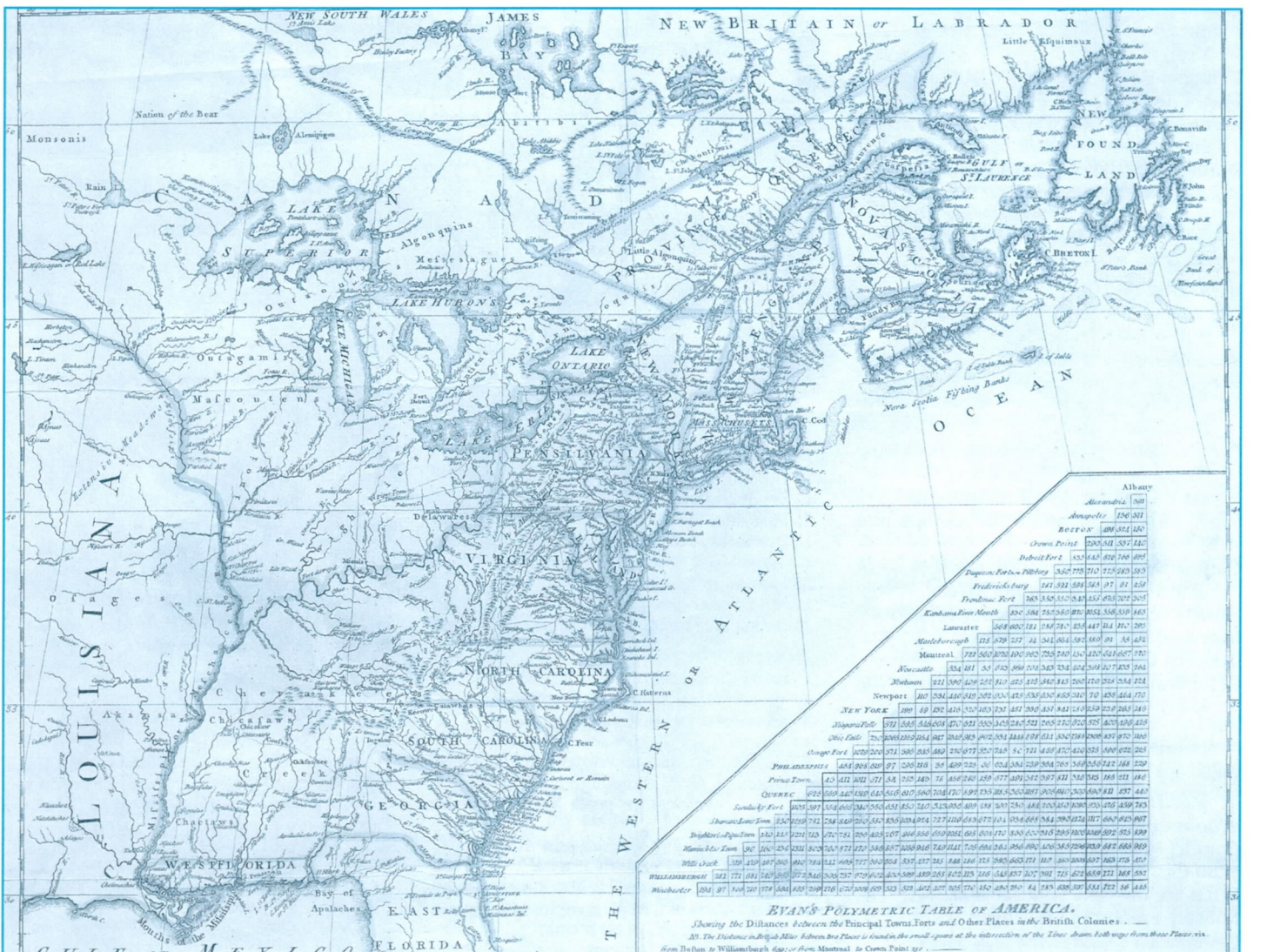


Refused to give key to the Magazine to the rebels

Richard Floyd Pitt
Place of Birth: Virginia
Date of Birth: November 15, 1754
Son of George Pitt
Departed Virginia/Williamsburg: August/September 1775

John Randolph
Place of Birth: Virginia
Date of Birth: ca. 1727
Occupation: Barrister; attorney general and judge, vice admiralty court
Brother of Speaker Peyton Randolph; leading Virginia loyalist
Departed Virginia/Williamsburg: September 1775

(Based on Kevin Kelly, "White Loyalists of Williamsburg," *Colonial Williamsburg Interpreter* [Summer 1996], submitted by Nancy Milton and Phil Shultz, with graphics by Todd D. Norris)



INTERPRETATION

This page has been developed to suggest some interpretive ideas for you to consider. The autumn of 1775 offers many interpretive opportunities for us to create the conflict and tension that was evident in this community as the thirteen colonies became more embroiled in the economic and armed conflict with Britain. How did the capital of Virginia look and feel in this time of impending conflict and sacrifice? Consider the power of the times that radically changed the lives of all Americans as we moved closer to Revolution.

We have organized topics to consider under interpretive areas. We hope you find this helpful. Please contact us with your suggestions to make this feature of *Becoming Americans Today* more helpful to you. [Submitted by Frank Megargee, Kathleen Williams and Anne Willis]

School and Groups Interpreters

Stresses in Family and Community Life in the Autumn of 1775
Siege of Boston by the British Continues
George Washington Named Commander and Chief of Continental Army
Affect of the Association on Family Life
Concern for Future of Personal Safety and Economic Well Being
September Hurricane Destruction
Enlistments of Family Members for Virginia Regiments
Fears of Military Action and Conditions in the Camps
Dunmore's Absence from Williamsburg
Political Choices and Consequences
Committee of Safety's Authority and Discrimination
Substantial Military Presence in Town with Patrick Henry
Peyton Randolph's Death
Dunmore Proclaims Martial Law
Dunmore's Proclamation and Fears of Slave Runaways and Unrest

Orientation Interpreters

Destructive Force of the Hurricane in the Community
Change in the Look and Feel of the Town
A Royal Governor is No Longer in Williamsburg
Independent Companies in Town with Patrick Henry's Presence
Men Marching Up and Down the Streets
Forming of the First and Second Regiments at College Camp [1,100 To 1,200 Men]
Culpeper Rifle Battalion Arrives in Town
Magazine Was Being Fortified
Committee of Safety Actions Against Individuals
Dunmore Declares Martial Law
Dunmore's Proclamation

Domestic Site Interpreters

Changes in Daily Life For Families and Individuals
Affect of the Association on Citizen's Economic Well Being
Who is in Charge Now?
Fear of the Committee of Safety Actions
Life Changing Decisions of Commitment: Patriot or Loyalist?
Family Members And Enlistments of Husbands, Sons and Fathers
Concern Over Length of Enlistments
Fears Of Conditions in the Camps and Presence of Disease
Concern About Safety for Families With British Ships in Virginia Rivers
Anxiety About Slaves and Dunmore's Actions
Increased Supervision of Slaves
Concern Over Loss of Property
Complicated Presence of Troops in the Town

Public Site Interpreters

Effect of Second Continental Congress Meeting in Philadelphia
Who is in Charge Now?
Conflict of Patriots and Loyalist
Who Can Be Trusted?
What are the New Political Alliances?
Military Presence in the Town
Continuation of Interpretive Suggestions



Will We Ever See This Again?

Fall 2005

Fall 1775—The Sword is Drawn

Williamsburg brings to life critical events of September, October and November of 1775. Since the spring, events bode ill for reconciliation of North American colonies with Great Britain. The removal of gunpowder from the Magazine by the royal governor Lord Dunmore shocked and angered many. The governor's offer to pay for the powder did little to appease them. Dunmore and his family fled the palace in June, abandoning the reins of government to the hands of the Virginia Committee of Safety. In the third week of August, King George III proclaimed that subjects of his English-speaking provinces of the North American mainland were in a state of rebellion. This came as no great surprise, for war was already apparent. During their summer meeting in Richmond, the delegates to the Virginia Convention elected Patrick Henry commander in chief of Virginia forces and colonel of the First Virginia Regiment. In the fall, Virginia delegates, now including Thomas Jefferson, who had replaced George Washington when he took command of the Continental forces, and delegates from the 12 other colonies again convene in Philadelphia.

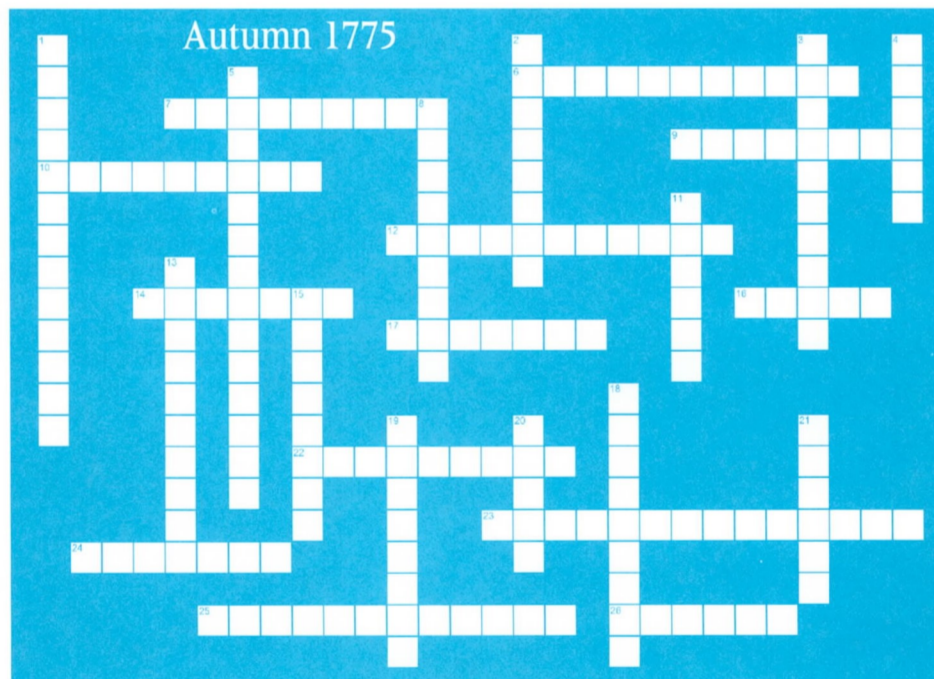
African Americans, tradesmen, middle families, women, yeoman farmers, gentry, and Native Americans all were affected by the rapidly accelerating events of September through November 1775. During the fall, Lord Dunmore and his followers raided up and down the waterways of

Hampton Roads. Meanwhile, negotiations with Indian nations continued with limited success. A peaceful conclusion to frontier unrest was of the utmost importance so that limited resources could be applied to the mounting conflict in the East.

The community of Williamsburg is brought to life in the drama of political, economic, and social change in the midst of the American Revolution. At the same time, aspects of day-to-day work, slavery, family life, religion, and leisure are woven into the experiences in trade shops, taverns, homes, slave quarters, places of worship, and government buildings.

Military contributions of African Americans in the American Revolution are featured during Columbus Day Weekend's Brothers-in-Arms. The first week of November, we step back to 1774 to bring the delegates to the first congress and Virginia merchants to the city for The Revolution Comes Home. Veterans' Day weekend will include military encampments throughout the town. In the third week of November, patriots are outraged when Lord Dunmore's Proclamation offers freedom to slaves, apprentices, and servants belonging to rebel masters.

These are just a few examples of events—both extraordinary and everyday—in Williamsburg during the fall of 1775. All will engage and challenge our guests to compare and contrast this place and period in history with their own.



Across

6 Halts trade with Britain
7 Prodigious wind
9 Second Virginia Convention meets here
10 In sort supply
12 Helps discredit justifications for slavery
14 Second President of Congress
16 Dunmore seizes this in Norfolk
17 Sends reinforcements to Boston
22 First shots of Revolution
23 Dunmore's Proclamation makes this virtually impossible
24 Loyalist professor
25 Mr. Speaker dies there
26 Dunmore proclaims freedom for slaves of these

Down

1 Locke philosopher of this
2 Brings seamen to Burwell's landing
3 Serve as shadow governments
4 Editor of one of the three Virginia Gazettes
5 Volunteers to march on Williamsburg from there
8 Dunmore's slaves could not join this regiment
11 This leader pleads for peace after gunpowder stolen
13 Supports King's actions against America
15 Commander of western army
18 Plagues soldiers in the field
19 Editor of one of the three Virginia Gazettes
20 Murrays find refuge on board
21 Under siege this summer

Peyton Randolph's Death Continued from page 1

Patriot as any here—the Loss must be very great to Virginia in Particular and the Continent in general." (John Adams to James Warren, Oct. 24, 1775)

The funeral was conducted with great solemnity at Christ Church, Philadelphia, "where an excellent sermon on the mournful occasion was preached . . . after which, the corpse was carried to the burial ground and deposited in a vault till it can be conveyed to Virginia." (Journals of the Continental Congress)

(In 1776 at the request of his Aunt Betty, Edmund Randolph escorted his uncle Peyton's body back to Williamsburg. There it was interred beneath the Chapel at the College of William and Mary. "Every spectator paid their last tribute of tears to the memory of their departed and much honored friend . . . to whom he was a father, and able counselor and one of their firmest patriots.")

(*Virginia Gazette* [Purdie], November 29, 1776)
[Submitted by Nancy Milton]

INTERPRETATION

Independent Companies in Town With Patrick Henry
Regiments At College Camp With 1,100 To 1,200 Men
Seizure Of The Norfolk Gazette Press By Dunmore
Consequences Of Peyton Randolph's Death?
General Assembly Meets October 12, 1775 But Adjourns For Lack Of Quorum
Dunmore's Raids Along The Rivers
Dunmore's Actions In Hampton
Reaction To King George's Proclamation Declaring The Colonies In Rebellion
Dunmore Declares Martial Law
Dunmore's Proclamation Offering Freedom To Slaves Of Rebel Masters
Slaves Deserting Masters: Gaol Or Lead Mines?
Concern With Maintaining Peace And Order In The Colony
Recruiting Troops And Purchasing Supplies

African American Interpreters

How Do Slaves Define Freedom?
What Opportunities Were There For Slaves In This Conflict?
Concern For Protection And Safety Of Family Members
Is My Master A Loyalist Or Patriot?
What Opportunities Were There For Slaves To Get News?
Actions Of The Committees Of Safety
Activities Of The Slave Patrol
News Of Dunmore's Proclamation
Slaves' Reactions To The Proclamation
Difficult Decisions: To Run Or Stay?
Challenges And Consequences For Family Members
How Can I Get To Norfolk?
Dunmore's Demands From Slaves Who Bear Arms
Consequences If Captured On The Way To Norfolk
Future Fate Of Slaves In Norfolk
Fate Of Slaves Imprisoned Or Sent To The Lead Mines?

Trades

Affect Of The Association On Trade Production
Securing Raw Materials
Demand For More Finished Goods
Smuggling
Actions Of The Committees Of Safety
Demands Of The Troops And War On Certain Trades
Filling The Needs Of The Troops
Wartime Opportunities For Trades
Problems Getting Labor
Concern Over Slaves Leaving From Dunmore's Offer For Freedom



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Editors:

Margot Créviaux-Gevertz
Anne Willis

Contributors:

Bob Doares, Frank Magargee,
Rose McAphee, Nancy Milton,
Linda Rowe, Phil Shultz,
Lorena Walsh, Bill Weldon,
Kathleen Williams, Pete Wrike

Production:

Print Production Services,
Copy editor
Diana Freedman, Production artist

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