Volume 3 No. 4: Autumn 2004

Autumn 1774

THE INTERPRETER'S NEWSPAPER

Dunmore's War See Page 2.

Becoming AMERICANS TODAY

NO. 1 IN COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

Slave Trial See Page 3.

Autumn 1774

Newsline

August 1–6, 1774
The first Virginia Convention meets in Williamsburg. Newly elected and former members of the House of Burgesses protest the Intolerable Acts by drafting an association that forbids the importation of British goods and slaves after November 1, 1774, and the exportation of all goods to Great Britain after August 10, 1775.

September 5–October 26, 1774
First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia. Peyton Randolph is elected president. Delegates from Virginia: Richard Henry Lee, George Washington, Patrick Henry, Richard Bland, Benjamin Harrison and Edmund Pendleton.

October 1774
Liberty Pole is erected in Williamsburg

October 10, 1774
General Court is canceled for the fall

October 10, 1774
Col. Andrew Lewis of Augusta County defeats the Shawnee Indians under Chief Cornstalk in the Battle of Point Pleasant at the mouth of the Great Kanawha

October 19, 1774
Chief Cornstalk accedes to Treaty of Camp Charlotte, ending Dunmore's War. Terms negotiated by Lord Dunmore recognize Virginia's claims in the upper Ohio River Valley.

November 1774
Burgesses arrive in Williamsburg but do not convene because of Dunmore's absence

November 7, 1774
Irate Yorktown citizens celebrate with a "tea party." Two half chests are thrown into the York River from the deck of the *Virginia*. The tea, shipped by John Norton and Sons of London, was headed to John Prentis in Williamsburg.

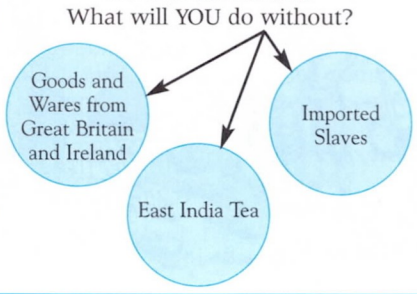
November 9, 1774
Four to five hundred merchants gather in Williamsburg to sign the Continental Association and present it to Peyton Randolph and other congressional delegates at the Capitol

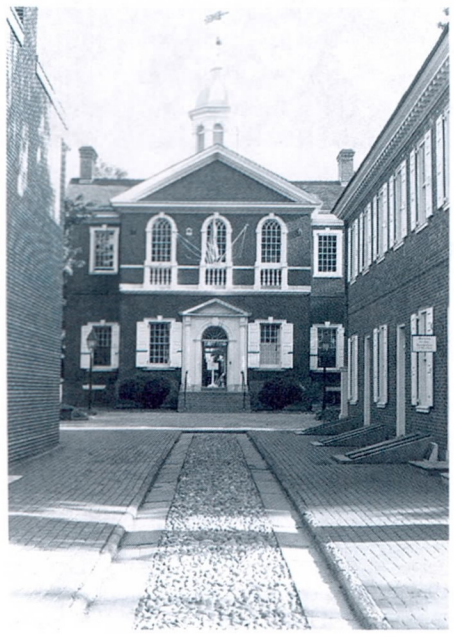
November 25, 1774
James City County elects its Committee of Safety

November 30, 1774
Williamsburg elects John Dixon mayor

VIRGINIA TODAY SNAPSHOT

The Continental Association
Takes Effect
December 1, 1774
NO IMPORTATION!
What will YOU do without?





Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, setting for first Congress.

CONGRESS ACTS

Congress Adopts a Continental Association

Most members of the First Continental Congress hope that a commercial embargo will induce the British Government to accede to their demands. On October 20, 1774, the Congress voted for nonimportation, nonconsumption and nonexportation, virtually cutting off trade with Britain. It is hoped that this economic maneuver will bring about repeal of the Intolerable Acts. The nonintercourse agreement differs from previous colonial embargoes inasmuch as it derives from the people, working through committees, rather than from the merchants. . . .

- That from and after the 1st day of December next, we will not import into British America from Great Britain or Ireland any goods, wares, or merchandise whatsoever, or from any other place, any such goods, wares, or merchandise, as shall have been exported from Great Britain or Ireland. Nor will we, after that day, import any East India tea from any part of the world.
- We will neither import nor purchase any slave imported after the 1st day of December next; after which time, we will wholly discontinue the slave trade. . . .
- We will, in our several stations, encourage frugality, economy, and industry, and promote agriculture, arts, and the manufactures of this country, . . . and we will discountenance and discourage every species of extravagance and dissipation, especially all horse racing, and all kinds of gaming, cockfighting. . . .
- That a committee be chosen in every county, city, and town by those who are qualified to vote for representatives in the legislature, whose business it shall be attentively to observe the conduct of all persons touching the association.

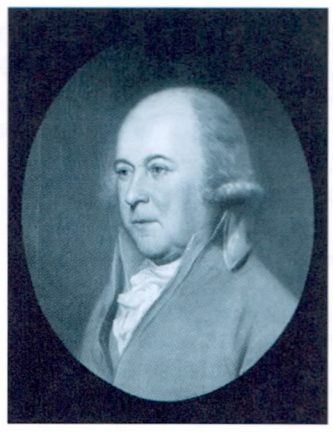
Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. I.

VIRGINIA greatly influenced the deliberations and actions of the first Continental Congress that convened in Philadelphia on September 5, 1774. The Virginia delegates carried with them the outline of the association that 89 members of the dissolved House of Burgesses had adopted on May 27 that called for "an end of the importation of tea and other East India goods except saltpeter and spices." The Continental Congress, representing all of the colonies, strengthened the Virginia resolution by adding saltpeter and medicines to the list, thus stopping the importation of all British goods, including slaves, by December 1, 1774. The colonies had acted together in a powerful protest of Britain's actions.

"In Congress, Nibbling and Quibbling as Usual"

Philadelphia, September and October 1774

Peyton Randolph



John Adams—Courtesy of Independence National Historic Park Library

Traveling from Williamsburg in the colony of Virginia to this City of Brotherly Love, we narrators of the news happened upon a most distinguished delegate from that poor, beleaguered colony of Massachusetts Bay, Mr. John Adams. We took this opportunity to pose some queries to him concerning the happenings of the "Congress" now convened at Carpenters' Hall.

Mr. Adams, has the Congress chosen a chairman?

Mr. Adams: "Mr. Thomas Lynch of South Carolina proposed that the Honorable Peyton Randolph, Esquire, should be appointed chairman, and he doubted not it would be unanimous."

Huzzah! Mr. Randolph is late the speaker of our House of Burgesses! Good news for our Virginia readers!

Well, Mr. Adams. What about Mr. Patrick Henry, another of our number? Has he spoken in your assembly? He forever has something to say in ours!

Mr. Adams: Mr. Henry spoke quite passionately that "government is dissolved. Fleets and armies and the present state of things show that government is dissolved. We are in a state of nature, sir. The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are no more. I am not a Virginian, but an American."

Indeed, sir. Did anyone rebut Mr. Henry?

Mr. Adams: Most certainly. No sooner had Mr. Henry finished his oration than Mr. John Jay of New York countered by saying, "Could I suppose that we came to frame an American Constitution, instead of endeavoring to correct the faults in an old one—I can't yet think that all government is at an end. The measure of arbitrary power is not full, and I think it must run over, before we undertake to frame a new Constitution."

We are certain that all debates don't evoke such a warmth of passion. Can you cite for us a clear and present example of the occasional tedium of the Congress?

Mr. Adams: Most assuredly! I think back recently to a day "in Congress, nibbling and quibbling as usual. There is no greater mortification than to sit with half a dozen wits, deliberating upon a petition, address, or memorial. These great wits, these subtle critics, these wise statesmen, are so fond of showing their parts and powers, as to make their consultations very tedious."

It sounds as though it can also be rather rancorous at Carpenters' Hall.

Mr. Adams: Certainly you have the right of it. Saturday last, however, "was one of the happiest days of my life. In Congress we had generous, noble sentiments, and manly eloquence. This day convinced me that America ***will*** support Massachusetts or perish with her."

Good sir. What company have you kept in the city?

Mr. Adams: "I spent an evening at home, with Colonel Lee, Colonel Washington, and Dr. Shippen, who came in to consult with us. . . . I have dined with Mr. [John] Dickinson at his seat at Fair Hill. . . . Mr. Dickinson is a very modest man, and very ingenious as well as agreeable. He is full and clear for allowing to Parliament the regulation of trade, upon principles of necessity, and the mutual interest of both countries."

Mr. Adams! Are there none against Parliament regulating the colonial trade?

Mr. Adams: Mr. Christopher Gadsen of South Carolina "is violent against allowing to Parliament any power of regulating trade, or allowing that they have anything to do with us. 'Power of regulating trade,' he says, 'is power of ruining us; as bad as acknowledging

Cont. on page 2

The Association of 1774

In 1774 and 1775, there were a number of factors which led colonial leaders to propose abolishing the slave trade. To be sure, concerns about slave revolts and the widespread belief that the institution was in imminent danger of economic collapse combined with the challenge that emerging ideals of liberty and natural rights offered to chattel slavery to raise serious doubts about its future. Yet, as W.E.B. Du Bois argued in 1896, the most immediate issue was the fact that banning further imports of slaves might force the business-minded British government to the bargaining table once again. "The movement was not a great moral protest against an iniquitous traffic;" Du Bois wrote, "although it undoubtedly had a strong moral backing, it was primarily a temporary war measure." The leaders of the Virginia resistance were particularly prominent in pushing the end to the slave trade, resolving in August of 1774 that, "We will neither ourselves import, nor purchase any slave or slaves imported by any other person, after the first day of *November* next, either from *Africa*, the *West Indies*, or any other place." It was the Virginians as well who were the instigators and leaders within the Continental Congress of that body's measures against the slave trade. In September of 1774, Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee proposed a resolution in favor of non-importation, and the Continental Congress responded with a declaration on October 12 which included this provision: "We will neither import, nor purchase any Slave imported after the First Day of *December* next; after which Time, we will wholly discontinue the Slave Trade, and will neither be concerned in it ourselves, nor will we hire our Vessels, nor sell our Commodities or Manufactures to those who are concerned in it." This clause, along with the rest of the non-importation agreement, appears to have been upheld by the citizens of the new nation, at least in the beginning. In Norfolk, for example, the vigilance committee publicly censured a merchant named John Brown who had imported slaves from Jamaica on several occasions.

Enslaving Virginia Resource Book, 278.

Yorktown Tea Party

The Inhabitants of York after having been informed that the *Virginia*, commanded by Howard Esten, had on Board two Half Chests of Tea, shipped by John Norton, Esq; and Sons, Merchants in London, by Order of Mess[re]. Prentis and Company, Merchants in Williamsburg, assembled at 10 o'Clock this Morning, and

Cont. on page 3

NEWS

Dunmore's War: A Native Perspective

In 1763, the Crown instituted the Royal Proclamation line to serve as the demarcation between Indian and white settlement, though it proved only a paper barrier as frontier Virginians and land speculators increasingly pressed their settlements and interests west of the mountains. The 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix, in which the Iroquois confederacy sold Ohio lands to the Crown, released a deluge of settlers onto the frontier, bringing them into increased contact and conflict with the Indians of the Ohio Valley.

For these Indians—Shawnee, Delaware, Mingo—frontier Virginians posed an immediate threat to their livelihood, security and sovereignty. Ohio Indian resources became threatened as encroaching "longhunters" killed game important in trade for European goods. These often unscrupulous men along with frontier "banditti," such as the "Augusta Boys" of southwest Virginia, were more than willing to waylay and murder Indians they encountered. Frustration ensued as Indians seeking justice found none as the last vestiges of royal authority in the west left in 1772 with the removal of regular troops from Fort Pitt.

Adding to the tension were waves of speculators engulfing western regions. When a heated territorial dispute between Pennsylvania and Virginia was added to the mix, "race hatred and competition for resources turned the borderlands into a powder keg" (Michael N. McConnell, *A Country Between: The Upper Ohio Valley and Its Peoples, 1724–1774* [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992], 269). That keg received a spark in April 1774 when frontier whites murdered Indians related to the Mingo chief Logan, whose retaliation further inflamed the already volatile frontier. The increasing alarm of the frontier convinced Lord Dunmore that he must raise a body of men and send them directly into the Shawnee country to bring the Indians to terms. After their defeat at the Battle of Point Pleasant, the Shawnee agreed to stop hunting on or even visiting the land south of the Ohio River except to trade.

Dunmore's War began a 40-year "war for independence" for Ohio Indians, particularly the Shawnee. An entire generation would know nothing but conflict. Not all would choose to fight, as two divisions of the Shawnee split from the nation, choosing to move west rather than confront the "long-knives" any further. Their nation divided, their lands invaded, the Shawnee continued to fight for their land and sovereignty until the death of Tecumseh in 1813.

[Submitted by Travis Henline]

TIME TO PACK IT IN! Lord Dunmore's War

My Dear Sir [Col. William Preston.]—About 7 Oclock this morning Cap' Floyd & myself got there [here] on our return from the Indian Country.

This day 3 weeks ago [Oct. 18] our Army about 1150 in number marched from the Ohio, and on the Monday evening following we encamped within about 3 miles from a Shawnese Town where their greatest force were Assembled. His Lordships Camp was then about 7 miles from us & about 6 miles from the Town. We intended for his Camp but passed the path that took off to our right hand expecting he had encamped nearer the Towns. That day we were met by several expresses from his Lordship, the last one informing us that he had concluded a peace. As we went on further than was expected The Indians who watched every motion of our army, informed the Gov' that we had not stopt but were pushing strait for their Towns & would be in that day which we could have done). His lordship with the Interpreter M' Gibson & an Indian Chief & 50 men came to our Camp at Dusk. The next day he called the Captains together, told what he had [done] & desired us to return home. We began our March that day, all but about 50 Fincastle men who went to the other Camp. . . . .

The Mingoes refused to comply with the terms of the Treaty, when his Lordship was at our Camp he had about 8 of their men under confinement. Tuesday night after he returned to his own Camp he detached 250 men who reached a Mingo Town the following night, killed 5 & took 14 prisoners chiefly Women & Children the rest escaping under Cover of the Night. . . .

The Shawnese proposed laying themselves at the Gov mercy & told him to make the Terms & they should be compiled with. He proposed their delivering up all the Prisoners & paying for what Stores &c they had taken since last war. And never more to make war or disturb us. For the Two first he takes two of their Chiefs with him to Wmburg & for the last four Chiefs or the Sons of such. I don't know ab' the other articles but Knox & howe tells me that there is something about their never coming over to our settlements but to Trade. . . .
I am Sir as usual Yours Ever Wm Christain

Reuben Gold Thwaites and Louise Phelps Kellogg, eds., *Documentary History of Dunmore's War, 1774* (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society, 1905), 221–227, 269–277, 301–307.

PHILADELPHIA ATTRACTIONS

If delegates to the Congress became bored with their sessions, there was always a seemingly endless variety of goods and services to be had as well as public buildings and churches to visit. In this provincial capital of almost 30,000 souls, there were the following:

- Twenty-three printing establishments
- By 1776 seven newspapers (more even than in London)
- Thirty bookshops
- Sixty taverns and coffeehouses with names like Blue Anchor, Bunch of Grapes, Conestoga Wagon, Rising Sun, Half Moon, London Coffee House, Indian King, and the new larger City Tavern (a great gathering place for members of Congress)
- Distilleries and breweries
- The Grand Market on Market Street
- Churches (the "noble Christ Church") and meeting houses of many denominations such as Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Quaker, German Moravian, Catholic
- The new hospital with its "cells of lunaticks"
- College of Philadelphia
- America's busiest port
- The State House
- The new poor house
- America's first fire company
- The first medical school
- A library
- The first botanical garden in America, created by John Bartram, west of town on the banks of the Schuylkill River

David McCullough, *John Adams* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001), 80–81.

"In Congress, Nibbling and Quibbling as Usual"

Cont. from page 1

them a supreme legislature in all cases whatsoever; a right of regulating trade is a right of legislation, and a right of legislation in one case is a right in all; this I deny.'"
Dear Readers: Control of trade between Great Britain and the colonies will, if this Congress has its way, be regulated by a strictly enforced continental association. However, given the avowed belief by Americans that "English goods are ever the best," the association might be a moot point!
We heard from a reliable source 'twas much debate, "particular" over the method of voting—whether it should be done by colonies with one vote each or whether the more populous of the colonies should have greater voting power.

Mr. Adams: Samuel Ward, governor of Rhode Island, observed that "there are a great number of counties, in Virginia, very unequal in point of wealth and numbers, yet each has a right to send two members [to the House of Burgesses]." Maj. John Sullivan of New Hampshire argued "that a little colony had its all at stake as well as a great one." Mr. Lynch "thinks that it ought to be a compound of numbers and property that should determine the weight of the colonies."
Note, dear readers, that a compromise was reached that each colony would have one vote regardless of size or wealth.
How have you found your exercise with the knife and fork?

Mr. Adams: We New Englanders dined with Mr. Miers Fisher, a young Quaker lawyer. "This plain Friend, and his plain, tho pretty wife with her Thee's and Thou's, provided us the most Costly Entertainment—Ducks, Hams, Chickens, Beef, Pigg, Tarts, creams, custards, Gellies, fools, Trifles, floating Islands [a custard with floating masses of whipped cream or white of eggs], Beer, Porter, Punch, wine." Even grander was our visit to the townhouse of Chief Justice Benjamin Chew. "About four o'clock we were called to dinner—Turtle and every other Thing—Flummery, Jellies, Sweetmeats of 20 sorts, Trifles, Whip'd Syllabubbs, floating Islands, fools [a dish composed of fruit stewed, crushed and mixed with milk, cream or custard], etc., and then a Desert of Fruits, Raisins, Almonds, Pears, Peaches—wines most excellent and admirable. I drank Madeira at a great Rate and found no inconvenience in it."
It's obvious that in this fair city, as in Virginia, good food, good wine and good conversation weave a subtle but powerful web among the affections, binding men into a unity of spirit and a bond of concord. Indeed, the chief success of this Congress, we venture to say, is the simple fact that it was able to convene at all!
Mr. Adams, of all the rhetoric and eloquence that found your ear, what might you share with us as this Congress winds down?

Mr. Adams: When the "whole Congress dined together, at city tavern, at the invitation of the House of Representatives of the province of Pennsylvania . . . making near 100 guests in the whole; a most elegant entertainment. A sentiment was given: 'May the sword of the parent never be stained with the blood of her children.' Two or three broad-brims [Quakers] were at table; one of them said 'this is not a toast, but a prayer. Come let us join in it.'"
Sir, as you take your leave of this city, we understand you have found much conviviality and pleasant entertainment here.

Mr. Adams: Good sirs, 'tis true, but "Philadelphia with all its trade and wealth and regularity . . . is not Boston."

Adams Family Papers, John Adams Diary, September 4–November 9, 1774.
[Submitted by your traveling correspondents, Nancy Milton and Phil Shultz]

MONEY

SHIPPING

The major export items in the colonial coastal trade and Virginia's transatlantic, Caribbean, Mediterranean and Wine Islands trade include tobacco, grains (corn and wheat) and lumber (staves and shingles). Transatlantic carriers are generally ships and brigs that transport more than 150 tons. Schooners, usually carrying less than 100 tons, ply the coastal and Caribbean waters.

VIRGINIA'S TRADE CALENDAR

September–October: Convoy of imported goods arrives in Virginia from Britain; makes return trip with Virginia tobacco
October: Wheat from Virginia is exported to the West Indies
October–June: Prime period for grain cargoes exported to southern Europe
Number of ships entering the Lower Chesapeake: September, 20; October, 30; November, 40
Number of ships cleared from the lower Chesapeake: September, 20; October, 40; November, 28

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 corn; clear new fields; plow fields for next year
Wheat: Tread, thresh and clean wheat; 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: Overseers hired for next year (September); cut firewood and cart to town; ditch fields, grub and fence

BUILDING TRADES

Making and burning of bricks: through November. Sometimes in rural areas, bricks are burned after crops are brought in.
Building: good working months through October

FORUM

Letter from . . .
Margot Crévieaux-Gevertz

The summer of 1774 sizzled with anger as news of Parliament's "intolerable acts" swept the colonies, fanning heated debate and gestures of protest. By fall, the colonists were determined to regulate various aspects of their lives through establishing of local associations as "Royal governors stood by in helpless amazement" at the changes taking place around them. On September 5 the first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, leading to the association that virtually cut off trade with Britain.

This edition of *Becoming Americans Today* takes a look at that Congress and at some of the conflicting views of the times. Just read our "interview" with John Adams (see "In Congress") to get a glimpse into the debates and other goings-on that took place in the City of Brotherly Love in the fall of 1774.

In this issue, we also provide a look at Dunmore's War from the native Indian perspective (see "Dunmore's War"). It is a very different view than the one that prompted Lord Dunmore to take advantage of unrest in the Ohio Valley "to secure absolute possession of the region." Economics and politics dictated his actions then, as they did when he promised slaves that they would be given their freedom if they served in the Ethiopian regiment in 1775 (see "Brothers-in-Arms"). It appears that putting the right spin on events of the day was as much a part of swaying public opinion then as it is in our own time.

Then as now, as the heat of summer subsides, we look forward to the crisp, cooler days ahead and a gentle transition into the warm colors of autumn in Williamsburg. Enjoy!

APPROACH TO INDEPENDENCE

The Coercive Acts of 1774 provoked open rebellion in America. Not only had the abuses of the English government aroused the Americans' principles, but repeated expressions of English arrogance had finally worn out their tempers. Whatever royal authority was left in the colonies now dissolved. Many local communities, with a freedom they had not had since the seventeenth century, attempted to put together new popular governments from the bottom up. Mass meetings that sometimes attracted thousands of aroused colonists endorsed resolutions and called for new political organizations. Committees of different sizes and names—committees of safety, of inspection, of merchants, of mechanics—competed with one another for political control. In the various colonies royal government was displayed in a variety of ways, depending on how extensive and personal previous royal authority had been. In Massachusetts, where the crown's authority had reached into the villages and towns through the royally appointed justices of the peace, the displacement was greater than in Virginia, where royal influence had scarcely touched the control of the counties by the powerful landowners. But everywhere there was a fundamental transfer of authority that opened new opportunities for new men to assert themselves.

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 the 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 S. Wood, *The American Revolution: A History* (New York: Modern Library, 2002), 47–48.

A JUMBLE OF PEOPLES
Diversity in the Colonies

"An unprecedented jumble of peoples typified the colonies from New York to Georgia in 1760. Most colonies from New York south could form a cultural majority only by grouping together all white settlers, and then sometimes only barely. In the 'middle' colonies of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, English settlers constituted only 30 to 45 percent of all residents (45 percent in New York, 40 percent in New Jersey, and about 30 percent in Pennsylvania). New York's 1760 population clustered into four principal groups: English (about 52,000) Germans and Dutch (22,000), Africans (16,000), and Scots, Scots-Irish, and Irish (15,000). In Pennsylvania, German and Dutch settlers roughly equaled English residents (approximately 63,000 each), while Scots, Scots-Irish, and Irish accounted for about 42,000 residents; Africans numbered about 4,500 persons.

The southern colonies proved equally heterogeneous, but in different ways. In 1760 Africans constituted the region's most numerous people, slightly outnumbering the English; Scots, Scots-Irish, and Irish made up another 15 percent of the population. Even in Maryland and North Carolina, the least diverse southern colonies, English settlers comprised only about 45 percent of the population, while in Virginia they comprised about 35 percent of the population. Africans outnumbered the English in South Carolina by a ratio of 2-1 in 1760, and this ratio climbed to 10-1 in South Carolina's rural counties. Africans then dramatically outnumbered overseers and neighboring yeoman farmers—a configuration unparalleled in any other mainland colony…

Jon Butler, *Becoming Americans: The Revolution before 1776*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2000, pp. 10-11.

JOURNAL OF NICHOLAS CRESSWELL

Nicholas Cresswell was an Englishman who came to America hoping to acquire land and settle in the colonies. His journal recorded his experiences and observations as he traveled in Barbados, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and New York before he returned home.

Alexandria, Va Tuesday, November 1st, 1774

This evening went to the Tavern to hear the resolves of the Continental Congress Read a Petition to the Throne and an address to the people of Great Britain Both of them full of duplicity and false representation. I look upon them as insults to the understanding and dignity of the British Sovereign and people. Am in hopes their petitions will never be granted I am sorry to see them so well received by the people and the sentiments so universally adopted. It is plain proof that the seeds of rebellion are already sown and have taken very deep root, but am in hopes they will be eradicated next summer I am obliged to act the hypocrite and extol these proceedings as the wisest productions of any assembly on Earth, but in my heart I despise them and look upon them with contempt.

Alexandria, Va Thursday, November 3rd, 1774

Saw the Independent Company exercise. The Effigy of Lord North was shot at, then carried in great parade into the town and burnt.

Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia—Sunday, November 27th, 1774

Got to Leesburg, 40 miles from Alexandria. The Land begins to grow better. A Gravelly soil and Produces good Wheat but the roads are very bad, Cut to pieces with the Waggons, number of them we have met to day. Their method of mending the roads is with poles about 10 Foot long layd across the road close together they stick fast in the mud and make an excellent Causeway. Very thinly peopled along the road almost all Woods. Only one Publick house between this place and Alexandria.

Monday, December 5th, 1774

Set out in co[mpany] with Captn. Buddecomb and Mr. Moffit. Crossed the Blue Ridge. This is a High Barren Mountain, producing nothing but Pines. It runs North and South through Virginia and Maryland, Carolina's and Pennsylvania. Crossed the Shanandoe River on the West Side of the Mountain. Here is some of the Finest Land I have ever seen. This is calld Keys Ferry. Got to Whitheringtons Mill. Lodged at a Poor house. The land is exceedingly fine From the Shan do River to this place—80 miles from Alexandria.

Frederick County, Virginia—Tuesday, December 6th, 1774

Went from the Mill to a place called Hopewell, a fine Plantation belonging to Mr. Jacob Hite. Here is some of the Finest Land I ever saw either for the plow or pasture. Got to Mr. Wm. Gibbs, an acquaintance of Mr. Kirks. We have traveled over some as fine land to day for about 25 Miles as I would wish to see. Limestone in general. Abounds with Shumack, Wallnut, and Locust trees which are certain indications that the Lands are rich, pretty level, it is Rocky in some places, but affords excellent pasturage and well watered. Produces good Wheat and Barley. The people appears to be more industerous in this part of the Country than they are on the other side of the Blueridge.

Lincoln MacVeagh, ed., *The Journal of Nicholas Cresswell, 1774–1777* (New York: Dial Press, 1924), 45–49.

Yorktown Tea Party

Cont. from page 1

went on Board the same Ship, where they waited some Time for the Determination of the Meeting of several Members of the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg, who had taken this Matter under Consideration. A Messenger was then sent on Shore to inquire for a Letter from the Meeting; but returning without one, they immediately hoisted the Tea out of the Hold and threw it into the River, and then returned to the Shore without doing Damage to the Ship or any other Part of her Cargo.

William J. Van Schreeven, comp., and Robert L. Scribner, ed., *Revolutionary Virginia: The Road to Independence*. Vol. 2, *The Committees and the Second Convention, 1773–1775* (Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1975), 164.

CRIME

JOHN RANDOLPH, Esqr's SLAVE TO BE HANGED

"Ned, the Negro Man Slave belonging to John Randolph, Esqr," was tried for "Felony and Burglary" at the Court House in Yorktown on November 15, 1774.

Five Gentlemen Justices of York County were empowered to try Ned in a Court of Oyer and Terminer designed to try accused slave felons without the benefit of a jury such as all free accused felons were guaranteed.

Ned was led to the bar by the Sheriff and accused of breaking into "with force and arms the dwelling house [and tavern] of Christiana Campbell widow situate . . . in the county of York between the Hours of nine and twelve in the Night" of October 30, 1774. The indictment stated that he "did take Steal and Carry away . . . 2 trunks valued at 20s, 9 shirts valued at £6, 6 pair of stockings valued at £6, 6 handkerchiefs valued at 20s, and pieces of cut silver valued at £12.10s of the Goods and Chattels of Simon Fraiser, Merchant and 9 shirts valued at £9, 6 pairs of stockings valued at £3 and 6 handkerhiefs valued at 20s of Bennett Brown, Merchant."

Thus charged, Ned "Pleaded not Guilty and for Trial put himself upon the Judgement of the Court." The Gentlemen Justices then proceeded to examine the witnesses, determine guilt and pass sentence. The Justices determined that Ned was guilty of the felony and burglary and "demanded of the said Ned if he had anything to say why the court should not pronounce the Sentence of Death against him. . . . [H]e [Ned] said he had nothing beside what he had said Whereupon It is considered by the Court that he be hanged by the Neck until he be dead." The Sheriff was ordered to carry out the execution on "Tuesday the twenty-ninth day of this Instant November." The Court set the value of Ned at "Eighty Pounds curt Money" that John Randolph, Esqr., would collect from the General Assembly.

York County Court Order Book, 1774–1778, 4: 60–61.

September 29, 1774

COMMITTED to the Publick Jail, on the 3d Instant, a Negro Man named CHARLES, who told me he belonged to the Doctor Corbin Griffin, of York, which I have repeatedly notified to the Doctor; but no application having been made from him for the said fellow, it is probable he has told me a Falsity. From his own Story, he was lately the Property of Mr. James Pride, from whom Doctor Griffin received him last February, and kept him in Possession till the July following, at which Time he eloped. He is about 25 years old, five Feet nine inches high, slim made, well dressed, and fit to act in the Capacity of a Waiting Man. His owner is desired to take him away, and pay charges.

PETER PELHAM.
Virginia Gazette

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WEATHER

DEVASTATING DROUGHT

Hurricane Season

September 1774

19th The morning fine, cool, & produces in our school at last our first fine fire! Evening after school with Mrs. Carter, & the girls I took a walk thro the pumpkin & potato vines. The air is clear, cold & healthful. We drank our coffee at the great house very sociably, round a fine fire, the house and air feels like winter again. (Philip Fithian)

October 1774

9th Foggy and yet dry. I saw so much in my yesterday ride out that without rain soon a great deal of wheat sown will be destroyed even that which is come up, more then of what is not come up. (Landon Carter)

11th Neither dew, nor rain; the very grass plats seems quite burnt up. . . . Rode out this day. It is inconceivable how detrimental the dry weather has been to almost everything. (Carter)

20th Quite dry as usual but no frost as there was the 18 and 19, which as yet have hurt nothing. . . . As to rain, it is agreed on all hands there never was a drier time, even the mills hardly go round but a very few hours in any day. (Carter)

November 1774

18th Hard wind all day from the northwest and very cold. Weather clear. (George Washington)

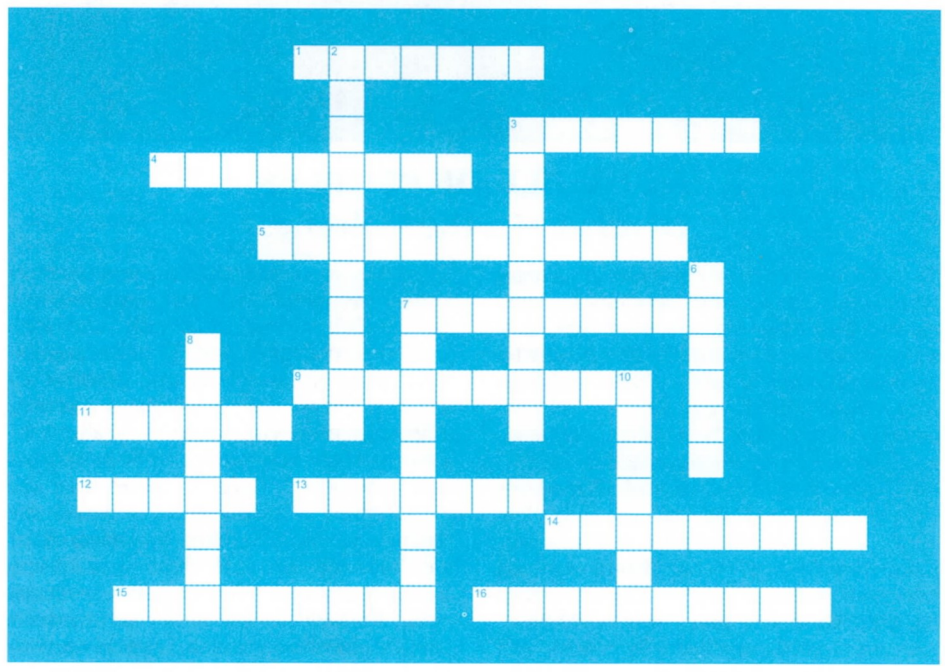
21st Snowing and raining all day and the greatest part of the night. Wind at No. Et. & fresh. (Washington)

30th It continued raining on & off till noon then a close & wet snow till night. (Washington)

HEALTH

Dr. Sequeyra's *Account* notes, "In the Fall some remitting and intermittent Fevers." [OED definition of *remitting fevers:* "A type of fever, the symptoms of which undergo at intervals a marked abatement or diminution (without disappearing entirely as in the *intermittent* type)." Malaria would have produced a remittent fever.]

AUTUMN REVIEW



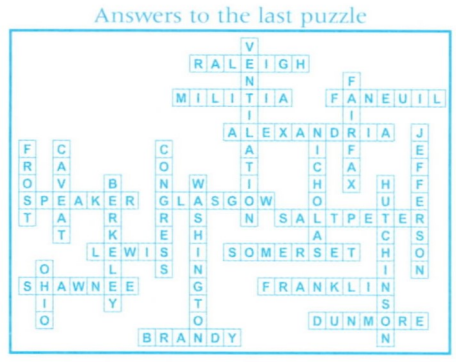
ACROSS

1 Created first botanical garden in America near Philadelphia
3 Extreme in October 1774
4 Treaty ending Shawnee war signed at this camp
5 Meeting place of Congress
7 Left very useful journal of the period
9 These sought to fill local power void after collapse of royal authority
11 Slave felons tried in these courts
12 New mayor of Williamsburg
13 Loses tea at Yorktown
14 Failure of this plot commemorated on Guy Fawkes Day
15 Dunmore's African-American regiment
16 Meets in Williamsburg first week of August

DOWN

2 Forbids the importation of British goods to Virginia after November 1, 1774
3 What Jon Butler calls "jumble of peoples"
6 Congress bans their importation after December 1, 1774
7 Celebrated on Sunday closest to Michaelmas
8 President of first Continental Congress
10 Cornstalk their leader

Answers to the last puzzle



LIFE

GETTING READY FOR FALL!

Housekeeping/Gardening/ Food Preservation

Mosquito netting and gauze covers from the summer removed. Chimney boards removed, making fireplaces active for wood or coal burning. Carpets and window curtains reinstalled for more warmth. Additional blankets and bed rugs added to bed coverings.

Second sowing of such cool-weather crops as greens and peas. Apples gathered and stored in cellars, sliced and dried or made into cider or jelly.

Depending on the humidity, beans and other foods might be air-dried into the fall. Some years, gardens continue producing food for the table well into December. Firewood supplies brought to town and stacked for winter use.

RECEIPTS

Charlotte

Stew any kind of fruit, and season it in any way you like best; soak some slices of bread in butter; put them in while hot, in the bottom and round the sides of a dish, which has been rubbed with butter—put in your fruit, and lay slices of bread prepared in the same manner on the top; bake it in a few minutes, turn it carefully into another dish, sprinkle with some powdered sugar, and glaze it with a salamander.

To Pot Beef

Take six pounds of the buttock of beef, cut it in pieces as big as your fist, season it with large spoonful of mace, a spoonful of pepper, with 25 or 30 cloves, and a good race of ginger; beat them all very fine, mix them with salt, and put them to the beef, lay it in a pot, and upon it two pounds of butter; bake it three or four hours, well cover'd up with paste; before it is cold take out the beef, beat it fine, putting in the warm butter as you do it, and put it down close in pots, if you keep it long, keep back the gravy, and if it wants seasoning, add some to the beating; pour on clarified butter.

Mary Randolph, *The Compleat Housewife* (1742).

1775–1776

BROTHERS-IN-ARMS WEEKEND
October 8–10, 2004

This Columbus Day weekend, October 8–10, Colonial Williamsburg presents the story of African Americans in the American Revolution with the presentation of the eighth annual Brothers-in-Arms. Brothers-in-Arms explores the compelling stories of the thousands of free and enslaved African Americans who were active participants in the war as soldiers, sailors, camp followers, pioneers, spies and laborers. Brothers-in-Arms underscores the importance of self-determination as free and enslaved men and women transformed their personal lives and the future of the nation.

The weekend events begin on Friday with the presentation of "Revolutionary Promise" in the Hennage Auditorium. Characters from the past, an African-American soldier, a Founding Father and military officers share their conflicting perspectives on the troubling issue of slavery, freedom and the American Revolution.

Saturday, the experienced and battle-tested soldiers of the Continental Army's Rhode Island Regiment take the field in an encampment on the grounds of Bassett Hall. The Rhode Island Regiment represented one of the many "speckled troops" (integrated) of the American Revolution. Through vignettes and interactions with the soldiers and officers, you can explore the experiences and stories of this diverse group of men of African, American-Indian and European descent as they prepare for the siege of Yorktown in the fall of 1781.

Sunday, the encampment represents the first officially armed regiment of former slaves who joined the British army, Dunmore's Royal Ethiopian Regiment. In 1775 Virginia's Governor Dunmore offered freedom to slaves of rebel masters. Hundreds of enslaved men, women and children flocked to Norfolk to join the British. Through vignettes and interactions with the soldiers, officers and camp followers, learn what happened to the thousands of African Americans during and after the War of Independence.

On Saturday and Sunday, experience encampment activities such as cooking, military life, drills and firing demonstrations. Participate in mock military marching drills as you learn about soldiers' camp life. Each day a military miniature display will illustrate the battles that each regiment fought in. You are encouraged to experience the encampment and interact with the soldiers, officers and camp followers. You will learn about the difficult decisions, sacrifices and aspirations of the thousands of free blacks and slaves during the American Revolutionary era.

1775 to 1776—The Experiences of "Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment"

While some slaves were suspicious of Dunmore because of his limited offer of emancipation and his unwillingness to free his own slaves, an estimated 800 or more slaves decided to join him. Male slaves who escaped in response to Dunmore's Proclamation contributed to the British war effort in Virginia for about eight months. To try to minimize the number of slaves who might make themselves available to Dunmore, Virginia authorities collected and guarded potential escape vessels and required owners in some Tidewater counties to remove their slaves to the interior. Officials also tried to discourage slaves from joining Dunmore by selling those who were captured to the West Indies or purchasing them and putting them to work in the lead mines. Other runaways ended up in the public gaol in Williamsburg, where several died awaiting trial in 1776, leading the Virginia convention to order that sanitary measures be improved at the gaol.

When the fighting returned to Virginia between 1779 and 1781, slaves bolted to the British in even greater numbers than they had earlier in the war. British raids along the James and Potomac Rivers in 1781 caused widespread desertion of slaves from the plantations. Numerous slaves also joined General Cornwallis as he made his way from North Carolina to Yorktown. In all, thousands are estimated to have taken a chance on gaining their freedom. While some of the men among the runaways had the opportunity to fight, especially at sea, most served as military laborers or as body servants. Like many of Dunmore's troops, large numbers of the new recruits suffered horribly from disease and famine.

In the following selection from his classic work, *The Negro During the American Revolution,* Benjamin Quarles describes some of the military experiences of black men who joined Dunmore as soldiers, pilots, and foragers. He also notes the terrible toll that disease took on the troops.

> The Negroes who reached the British were generally able-bodied men who could be put to many uses. It was as soldiers, however, that Dunmore envisioned them, and from the beginning he enlisted them in his military forces. By early December [1775] he was arming them "as fast as they came in." Negro privates took part in a skirmish at Kemp's Landing in which the colonials were routed; indeed, slaves captured one of the two commanding colonels. In the encounters preceding the action at Great Bridge, two runaways who were taken prisoner testified that the garrison was manned by thirty whites and ninety Negroes, and that "all the blacks who are sent to the fort at the great Bridge, are supplied with muskets, Cartridges &c strictly ordered to use them defensively & offensively." By the first of December the British had nearly three hundred slaves outfitted in military garb, with the inscription, "Liberty to Slaves," emblazoned across the breast of each. The Governor officially designated them "Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment."
>
> The first and only major military action in which Dunmore's forces engaged was the battle of Great Bridge. Of the Governor's troops of some six hundred men, nearly half were Negroes. Of the eighteen wounded prisoners taken by the Virginians in this rout, two were former slaves. One of them, James Anderson, was wounded "in the Forearm—Bones shattered and flesh much torn." The other one, Cesar, was hit "in the Thigh, by a Ball, and 5 shot—one lodged." After the fiasco at Great Bridge, the Governor was forced to operate from his ships. Taking aboard the hardiest of his Negro followers and placing them under officers who exercised them at small arms, he sanguinely awaited recruits.

Enslaving Virginia Resource Book, 170–171.