



BB
JD
AH
PH
SR
ST

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

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

American Revolution Bicentennial

JANUARY 1976

The fourth Virginia Convention met in Richmond for a day and then adjourned to Williamsburg on December 2. Joseph Prentis represented Williamsburg in the place of George Wythe who was a delegate to the Continental Congress. The Convention met every day except Sunday at the Capitol from January 1 through January 20.



PAMPHLET FILE

January 1-3, 1976

January 1, 1776

Alexander Purdie, publisher of the *Virginia Gazette*, announced that he would require half of the money in advance for new subscriptions because of increased expenses and his need for cash.

Williamsburg, Jan. 1, 1776

Considering the great rise in the price of Paper, the high expense attending the transportation of it to this place from Philadelphia, and the difficulty there is to procure it almost on any terms, the Printer is reduced to the necessity of demanding half the year's subscription money from every new subscriber to his Gazette, and begs that those who owe him for the last 11 months (from Feb. 3, 1775, to Dec. 31) which is 11s. 6d. would send in their subscriptions, and those that subscribed later to pay in to Dec. 31st, at the rate of 12d. halfpeny per month, that he may begin a new account, this New Year, with all his customers, whom he shall endeavour to serve to the utmost of his abilities, and hopes to be able to furnish them always with pleasing intelligence, even in these boisterous times.

***Those indebted to me, likewise, for Advertisements, Books, Stationary, &c. will exceedingly oblige me by paying off their accounts; as I have some debts of my own to discharge, which I would willingly settle as soon as I am able.

I am the Publick's obliged
And devoted servant,
Alex. Purdie

By 1776 the paper mill in Williamsburg, founded by William Parks about 1744, had apparently ceased operations and printing paper was being imported from Philadelphia by water. Colonial ships were now fair game for British men-of-war off the coast, so transporting goods from Philadelphia by ship became risky and uncertain, and higher prices resulted.

January 4-10, 1976

January 5, 1776

In response to the burning of Norfolk by Lord Dunmore on January 1, 1776, "An American" wrote in the *Virginia Gazette* advocating independence: "Most freely would I cut the Gordian knot which has hitherto formerly bound us to Britain, and call on France and Spain for assistance against an enemy who seem bent on our destruction."

About 30 British prisoners captured at the Battle of Great Bridge (December 9, 1775) arrived in Williamsburg.

Williamsburg, Jan. 6, 1776

Yesterday were brought to this city, from the Great Bridge, Lieutenant Batut and five or six privates of the 14th regiment, who were wounded at the late battle at that place; also several Tories, sailors, and negroes, prisoners, in the whole about 30.

January 6, 1776

Pictures of the Battle of Bunker Hill and a map of the "present Seat of Civil War" were advertised for sale at Dixon and Hunter's printing office in Williamsburg.

Just come to Hand, and to be Sold at the Printing-Office, A large and exact View of the late Battle at Charlestown, Elegantly coloured, Price one Dollar.

Also an accurate Map of the present Seat of Civil War, Taken by an able Draughtsman who was on the Spot at the late Engagement. Price one Dollar.

January 11-17, 1776

January 16, 1776

To be Sold before Robert Nicholson's store, on Tuesday the 16th instant, A Great variety of cabinetmakers tools, mohogany, walnut, and pine plank, likewise new walnut book cases, desks, tables, &c. belonging to the estate of mr. Peter Scott, deceased. Six months credit will be allowed for all sums about 5£. the purchasers giving bond with good security.

All persons indebted to the said estate, by bond or open account, are requested to pay off as soon as possible; and those to whom the estate are indebted are desired to call and receive payment, from

Alexander Craig,
Robert Nicholson, Executors.

Peter Scott, a well-known Williamsburg cabinetmaker, had died in November 1775 at the age of 81 and the goods remaining in his shop were sold at auction. Scott operated his shop on Duke of Gloucester Street across from Bruton Parish Church for 43 years and had served on the Common Council of the City of Williamsburg for about 40 years. He made desks, bookcases, and tables of mahogany and walnut, but no extant pieces of his cabinet work are known to exist.

Alexander Craig, one of Peter Scott's executors, died sometime during the week of January 12-19. Each of Williamsburg's three newspapers published notices of his death.

Deaths] Mr. Alexander Craig, than whom a more honest, friendly, and obliging man, does not exist; and whose memory will be always dear to his family, his friends, and numerous acquaintances. He was a committeeman, and one of the common-hall of this city, and carried on the saddling business, in all its branches, to a greater extent than any one ever did before in this colony.

Craig, a saddler, had been a resident of Williamsburg at least from 1748. He carried on an extensive leatherworking business, which included a tannery on Capitol Landing Road, and owned a shop next to the Raleigh Tavern and other property on York Street and in York County.