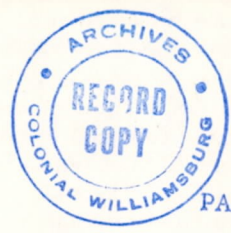


# “These Boisterous Times...”\* THE WEEK IN '76

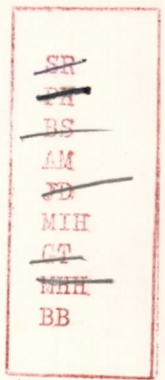
Alexander Purdie, *Virginia Gazette*,  
January 1, 1776

## OCTOBER 1976

October 17-23, 1976



PAMPHLET FILE



### October 18, 1776

Strayed or Stolen out of the governour's pasture, the night of the 14th instant (October) a bay mare neither dockt nor branded, about 14 hands and a half high, 6 or 7 years old, her back scalded on each side, she is in good order, yet rather low necked, and is supposed to be near this place. Whoever brings the said mare to the subscriber at the palace shall have 10s reward, and more if brought 10 miles distance.

John Farquharson.

John Farquharson acted as gardener at the Palace from the beginning of 1776 and may have worked there earlier. By 1779 his duties had been expanded to managing the gardens at the Public Hospital, which he continued to do until 1780, when the capital moved to Richmond. Farquharson remained in Williamsburg, where he died about 1784.

### October 23, 1776

The House of Delegates passed Thomas Jefferson's bill to abolish entail, and the Senate concurred on November 1. While the practice of entail, the rule by which the descent of real property is fixed on specified descendants, was never widely employed in Virginia, Jefferson regarded the bill as a radical action and the first blow against the entrenched aristocracy. He considered it one of his most significant achievements.

Jefferson objected to the old ruling group, not because it governed badly, but because he disliked the essential irrationality and injustice of the existing system. Jefferson later wrote that under the old system there was no acceptance of liberal ideas. Even though the bill abolishing entails simplified the exceedingly complicated situation of land descent, its primary importance was its break with a tradition that extended back to the Middle Ages.

## October 24-31, 1976

### October 25, 1776

The Council of Virginia, on October 25, paid Mary Camp over £15 "for supplying three Indian Captives and an Interpreter with Liquors, Boarding, Washing, and Lodgings for seventeen days." On November 13 she was paid for accommodating the prisoners for an additional fifteen days by order of the governor.

At one time Mary Camp operated a tavern near the College, but by 1776 she had moved to a farm just outside of town where she continued to provide accommodations for travelers. Her establishment was a favorite of military officers. Mrs. Camp's farm in Bruton Parish comprised 310 acres, and she had a fine herd of cattle.

Mrs. Camp died in 1784 and her estate, consisting, among other things, of "two good work horses, the stock of cattle hogs, &c. all the household and kitchen furniture, [and] a good many beds," was sold at auction.