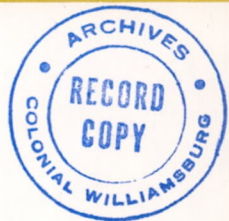


“These Boisterous Times...” *
THE WEEK IN '76

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

NOVEMBER 1976

November 14–20, 1976



PAMPHLET FILE

November 15, 1776

Deaths. Dr. Andrew Anderson, of New Kent county; who was an agreeable companion, a stead friend, and an HONEST MAN.

Andrew Anderson, son of Andrew Anderson, a Williamsburg barber, served as an apprentice with Dr. James Carter, who operated an apothecary shop at the Sign of the Unicorn's Horn. After he had completed his term of apprenticeship, Anderson studied medicine in London for several years. When he returned to Williamsburg in 1768, Anderson purchased, in partnership with Dr. Carter, the druggist shop of William Biers. Anderson evidently neglected the shop and ran the business deeply into debt. Carter managed to gain complete control of the shop, and Anderson moved to New Kent County in 1771. In November 1771 Carter announced in the *Virginia Gazette*:

Whereas the Shop lately kept by Mr. Andrew Anderson, in this City, is become the sole Property of the Subscriber, as also the Debts due to the said Shop, I do hereby give Notice that all Balances which remain unpaid by the last Day of next December will have Suits commenced against them, without Respect of Persons, or any further Notice. I have added the above mentioned Shop to my own, which is kept by Mr. James Russell, the same person that kept the other; where all Gentlemen, Practioners and others, may be supplied at the same low Rates, for ready Money only.
James Carter.

Carter observed that Anderson “behaved himself during the apprenticeship and served me well,” and added, “I hope he will do well as he is out of the way of young company of which he had too much in Town.”

November 21–30, 1976

November 26, 1776

On this day the Council of Virginia paid Samuel Blews “fifty pounds ten shillings for fourteen Guns furnished the fourth and fifth Regiments.”

Samuel Blews was a whitesmith living in Norfolk before the Revolution. He advertised in 1775:

Samuel Blews, from Birmingham. At his Shop, in Church-Street, Norfolk, Makes and Sells all sorts of Locks, Hinges, large Press Screws for Clothiers, &c. He has lately engaged able Tradesmen from London, whom he employs in finishing Cheaps and Tongues for Buckles, in the most elegant, fashionable and compleat manner; in general he performs every thing belonging to the White-Smiths business. The Public may be assured that what the Subscriber undertakes, he will be punctual in executing, and studious to give Satisfaction; and they may depend on being reasonably charged.
Samuel Blewes.

N. B. He makes Strong Locks for Prisons or Stores, that cannot be pick'd; from four Dollars, to five Pounds.

Blews was captured after the Battle of Great Bridge and was charged with assisting Dunmore. With other prisoners, he was sent to Williamsburg as a prisoner of war. The Convention, on January 15, 1776, resolved that he ought to be detained a prisoner but allowed the Committee of Safety to discharge him "as they think proper." The Committee of Safety apparently discharged him and employed him as an independent gunsmith. He was paid on several occasions for firearms and for repairing firearms for the navy. Blews died in Norfolk in 1799.

November 26, 1776

On November 26, 1776, twenty-five members of the Masonic Lodge in Williamsburg met and "agree'd on the form of the procession of our late Worthy Brother Peyton Randolph Grand Master of Virginia Deceas'd, and then repairing to the Colledge Chappel, after the Corps was inter'd, returned to the Lodge and Adjourned till a Lodge in Course."

Peyton Randolph, who had been president of the first Continental Congress, died in Philadelphia in October 1775. His body was not returned to Williamsburg until November 1776. In its edition of November 29, 1776, the *Virginia Gazette* reported:

On Tuesday last the remains of our late amiable and beloved fellow citizen, the Hon. Peyton Randolph, esq. were conveyed in a hearse to the Colledge chapel, attended by the worshipful brotherhood of Freemasons, both Houses of Assembly, a number of other gentlemen, and the inhabitants of this city. The body received from the hearse by six gentlemen of the House of Delegates, who conveyed it to the family vault in the chapel, after which an excellent oration was pronounced from the pulpit by the reverend Thomas Davis, in honour of the deceased, and recommending it to the respectable audience to imitate his virtues. The oration being ended, the body was deposited in the vault, when every spectator payed their last tribute of tears to the memory of their departed and much honoured friend—may we add, to whom he was a father, an able counsellor, and one of the firmest patriots. The remains of this worthy man were brought thither from Philadelphia by Edmund Randolph, esq. at the earnest request of his uncle's afflicted and inconsolable widow. They were, when united a perfect pattern of friendship, complacency, and love. No wonder, then, when separated, that the survivor should deeply bewail her irreparable loss.

Compiled by Harold B. Gill, Jr.



The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation