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 COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION
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 IS Williamsburg, Virginia 23187
 OVER!
 In° Greenhow

AMERICANS
Becoming
TODAY
 NO. 1 IN COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG



PALACE POSTING
 See p. 4

Spring 1774

Newsline

- March/April 1774
 Committee of Correspondence meets
- March/April 1774
 Report of tithables due
- March 1774
 County levy collected
- April 10, 1774
 General Court meets one to three days. Last known meeting of the General Court
- April 20, 1774
 Governor's Council meets
- April 25-26, 1774
 Governor's Council meets
- May 3, 1774
 Governor's Council meets
- May 5-26, 1774
 General Assembly meets
- May 17, 1774
 General Gage lands in Boston as governor and commander in chief of the British army in America
- May 19, 1774
 News of the Boston Port Act arrives in Virginia
- May 24, 1774
 The House of Burgesses resolves that June 1, 1774, is to be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer
- May 26, 1774
 Governor's Council meets
- May 26, 1774
 Lord Dunmore dissolves Assembly
- May 27, 1774
 Eighty-nine members of the House of Burgesses meet at the Raleigh Tavern to form "a shadow government." Call for an end to the import of tea.
- May 27, 1774
 Ball held at the Capitol in honor of Lady Dunmore's arrival
- May 29, 1774
 May 13 letter from Boston Committee of Correspondence arrives proposing end of all trade with Great Britain
- May 30, 1774
 The 25 burgesses who remain in Williamsburg agree to summon a convention on August 1 to discuss the trade restrictions

DUNMORE FIRES BURGESSES
Or, Whose Government Is It Anyway?



Boston Harbor, Massachusetts

Drama in Three Acts: Plot Summary

On May 19 disquieting news arrived in this colony in the midst of the General Assembly session. It is NOW OFFICIAL. Parliament has passed the Boston Port Act, which is to take effect June 1. How our Assembly should respond was problematic. The burgesses, faced with enacting legislation essential to the operation of Virginia's business, including the continuation of the fee bill and the militia bill, did not wish to provoke Lord Dunmore into dissolving the Assembly. At the same time many did not want to be perceived by the other colonies as endorsing British policy by remaining silent.

Toward that end several members including Mr. Jefferson, Albemarle, Mr. Henry, Hanover, Mr. Francis Lightfoot Lee, Richmond, Mr. Richard Henry Lee, Westmoreland, and several others met to determine how to respond diplomatically to the closing of the Port of Boston. These several burgesses devised a scheme wherein the House would call for a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer in support of their beleaguered brethren in Boston. Robert Carter Nicholas, "a grave and religious character" and burgess from James City County, introduced the resolution.

The burgesses HAVE DONE IT! On May 24 they unanimously designated a "day devoutly to implore the divine Interposition for averting the heavy calamity which threatens Destruction to our civil Rights." Gentle reader, do you think we Virginians can actually pray our way into His Majesty's heart?

If the burgesses thought they could support the Bostonians without raising the ire of the governor, they were soon to be sorely disappointed. Like schoolboys being summoned to the headmaster, members of the house were called to the council chamber on May 26. Lord Dunmore realized that calling for this day of fasting might well be a portent of even more extreme actions by the burgesses. Therefore, holding a copy of their proclamation in his hand, the governor summarily dissolved the Assembly. By so doing he deprived them of their official public position hoping to prevent the radicals from stirring a warmth of passion among more moderate Virginians.

If Dunmore thought that upon being dissolved, the burgesses would dutifully and humbly return to their plantations, he was soon to be sorely disappointed. For in troth [truth] the dissolved House simply continued meeting the next day down the street at the Raleigh Tavern. These 89 "late representatives of the people" called for a halt to the importation of East India Company goods, including, of course, TEA! and exempting only saltpeter and spices. Perhaps of more import was a call for delegates from all the colonies to meet in a yearly general congress.

On May 29, a letter from the Boston Committee of Correspondence reached our fair city. The crux of the letter, proposing the cessation of both imports and exports with the mother country, was the cause of consternation among some of the former burgesses. As only 25 of them were still in the capital city, they concluded that they did not have the authority to act on the Boston proposal and, instead, called for delegates to be elected to a convention to be held on August 1 in Williamsburg. What can we expect from that "august" body speaking for the populace of Virginia? Will this shadow government claim a legitimacy of its own in the eyes of its constituents?

[Submitted by Nancy Milton and Phil Shultz]

Act 1
On the Waterfront . . . NOT!

LONDON
 The following Act of parliament, passed in the present Sessions, and which takes Place on the 1st of June next, is printed for the Information of the Merchants of Great Britain and Ireland trading to North America. [And by the Printer of this Paper for the Information of his Customers.]

An Act to discontinue, in such Manner, and for such Time, as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping of Goods, Wares, and Merchandise at the Town and within the Harbour of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay in North America.

Whereas dangerous Comotions and Insurrections have been fomented and raised in the Town of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, by divers ill affected Persons, to the Subversion of his Majesty's Government, and the utter Destruction of the public Peace and good Order of the said Town, in which Comotions and Insurrections certain valuable Cargoes of Tea, being the Property of the East India Company, and on Board certain Vessels lying within the Bay or Harbour of Boston, were seized and destroyed; and whereas, in the present Condition of the said Town and Harbour, the Commerce of his Majesty's Subjects cannot be safely carried on there, nor the Customs payable to his Majesty's duty collected . . . May it please your majesty that it may be enacted . . . that from and after the first day of June 1774 it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons whatever to lade or put, or cause or procure to be laden or put, off or from any Quay, Wharf, or other Place within the said Town of Boston, or in or upon any part of the Shore of the Bay commonly called the Harbour of Boston . . . into any Ship, Vessel, Lighter, Boat, or Bottom, any Goods, wares, or Merchandise whatsoever, to be transported or carried into any Country, Province, or Place whatsoever . . . upon Pain of the Forfeiture of the said Goods, Wares, and Merchandise.

*Virginia Gazette (P&D),
 Thursday, May 26, 1774*

Act 2
Seeking Divine Intervention
"May the Force Be with You"

WILLIAMSBURG, May 26.
 On Tuesday last the Honourable the HOUSE OF BURGESSES came to the following Resolution, which was directed to be forthwith printed and published: "This House being deeply Impressed with Apprehension of the great Dangers to be delivered to British America, from the hostile Invasion of the City of Boston, in our Sister Colony of Massachusetts Bay, whose Commerce and Harbour are on the 1st Day of June next to be stopped by an armed Force, deems it highly necessary that the said first day of June be set apart by the Members of this House as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer, devoutly to implore the Divine Interposition for averting the heavy Calamity which threatens Destruction to our Civil Rights, and the Evils of that War; to give us one Heart, and one Mind, firmly to oppose by all just and proper Means, every Injury to American Rights, and that the Minds of his Majesty, and his Parliament, may be inspired from above with Wisdom, Moderation, and Justice, to remove from the loyal People of America all Cause of Danger from a continued Pursuit of Measures pregnant with their Ruin.

Ordered, therefore, that this House do attend in their Places at the Hour of ten in the Forenoon, on the said 1st Day of June next, in Order to proceed with the Speaker and the Mace to the Church in this City for the Purposes aforesaid; and that the Reverend

cont. on page 2

VIRGINIA TODAY
SNAPSHOT



STOP
IMPORTS OF
EAST INDIA
GOODS!

EXCEPT



SALTPETER
 for
Gunpowder
Medicines



SPICES
 for
Tastier Food

The Wild, Wild West

A report has been received from the west that two frontiersmen named Baker and Greathouse have murdered an undisclosed number of family members of the Mingo Indian John Logan. This massacre occurred at Yellow Creek, a tributary of the Ohio River, 50 miles below Fort Pitt. It seems certain that Logan will seek a terrible retribution for this depredation. This event is sure to fan the flames of an already tense situation betwixt and between the white settlers and the tribes of the Ohio region.

In an effort to stem the tide of discord, the officials representing the governor of Virginia shall take council with the Mingo, Shawnee, Delaware and the Six Nations. It is thought this confab could last until early June and, if successful, might avert war on the frontier.

To add to this irritation, the border dispute between Virginia and Pennsylvania continues unabated as each colony maintains its claim to the land at the confluence of the three rivers. His Excellency, Lord Dunmore, is determined to maintain Virginia's claim to the disputed territory and has made this position quite clear in his correspondence with the governor of Pennsylvania. It is our governor's firm opinion that Fort Pitt and the district thereof are within the government of Virginia. Moreover, all residents are required to pay His Majesty's quitrents and all public dues to such officials as designated by His Excellency until the king's pleasure is known.

On May 11 Governor Lord Dunmore delivered a special message to the General Assembly describing the border dispute and the Shawnee threat in the Ohio territory. The Assembly has chosen not to raise regular troops to chastise the Shawnee, but rather has informed the royal governor that the Invasion Law—enacted in 1757 to give the governor authority to "levy, raise, arm, and muster such a number of forces of the militia to repeal an invasion or insurrection"—must be the basis for defense against the Indians. Colonel Washington, burgess from Fairfax County, is quoted as saying that this solution is "by no means adequate."

[Submitted by Nancy Milton and Phil Shultz]

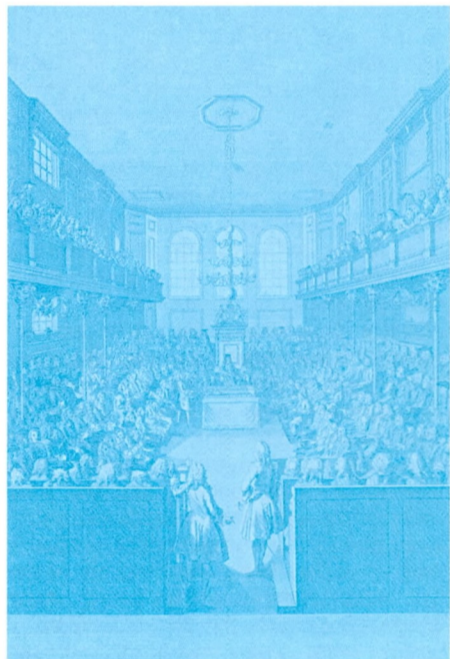
NEWS

cont. from page 1

Mr. Price be appointed to read the Prayers, and the Reverend Mr. Gawtkin to preach a Sermon suitable for the Occasion."

Upon the Reverend Mr. Gawtkin petitioning to be excused from complying with his Appointment, the Reverend Mr. Price, Chaplain of the House was directed to preach in his Stead.

Virginia Gazette (P&D), Thursday, May 26, 1774



House of Commons, London

Act 3

House Dissolves: "Read My Lips"

FRIDAY, May 27.

Yesterday, between three and four P.M. the Right Honourable the Earl of Dunmore sent a Message to the Honourable the House of Burgesses, by the Clerk of the Council, requiring their immediate Attendance in the Council Chamber, when his Excellency spoke to them as follows:

Mr. **Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,**

I Have in my Hand a Paper, published by Order of your House, conceived in such Terms as reflect highly upon his Majesty and the Parliament of Great Britain, which makes it necessary for me to dissolve you, and you are dissolved accordingly—

And this Day, at ten o'Clock, the Honourable Members of the late House of Burgesses met, by Agreement, at the long Room in the Raleigh Tavern in this City, called the Apollo, when the following Agree-



House of Burgesses Revived: The Apollo Room

ment was unanimously entered into by that patriotick Assembly, in Support of the constitutional Liberties of **AMERICA**, against the late oppressive Act of the British parliament respecting the Town of Boston, which, in the End, must affect all the other Colonies.

"We his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the late Representatives of the good People of this Country, having been deprived, by the sudden Interposition of the executive Part of this Government, from giving our Countrymen the Advice we wished to convey to them in a legislative Capacity, find ourselves under the hard Necessity of adopting this, the only Method we have left, of pointing out to our Countrymen such Measures as, in our Opinion, are best fitted to secure our dearest Rights and Liberty from Destruction, by the heavy Hand of Power now lifted against North America. With such Grief we find that our dutiful Applications to Great Britain, for Security of our just, ancient, and constitutional Rights, have been not only disregarded, but that a determined System is formed, and pressed, for reducing the Inhabitants of British America to Slavery, by subjecting them to the Payment of Taxes, imposed without the Consent of the People or their Representatives; and that, in Pursuit of the System, we find an Act of the British Parliament, lately passed, for stopping the Harbour and Commerce of the Town of Boston, in our Sister Colony of Massachusetts Bay, until the People there submit to the Payment of such unconstitutional Taxes, and which Act most violently and arbitrarily deprives them of their Property, in Wharfs erected by private Persons, at their own great and proper Expense; which Act is in our Opinion, a most dangerous Attempt to destroy the constitutional Liberty and Rights of all North America. . . . and do accordingly recommend it strongly to our Countrymen, not to purchase or use any Kind of East India Commodity whatsoever, except Saltpetre and Spices, until the Grievances of America are redressed. We are further clearly of Opinion, that an Attack made on one of our Sister Colonies, to compel Submission to arbitrary Taxes, is an Attack made on all British America and threatens Ruin to the Rights of all, unless the united Wisdom of the Whole is applied. And for this Purpose it is recommended to the Committee of Correspondence, that they communicate, with their several corresponding Committees on the Expediency of appointing Deputies from the several Colonies of British America, to meet in general Congress.

Virginia Gazette (P&D), Friday, May 27, 1774



James City County Courthouse

TO FEE OR NOT TO FEE: COURT IS THE QUESTION!

On April 12, 1774, the statute fixing fees for Virginia's court officers expired by its own limitation, with serious implications for all courts in the colony. The expiration of the fee bill happened to coincide with a popular movement to close all courts of justice in the colony, in order to hinder the collection of debt owed to British creditors. Controversy arose when some local courts, including that in James City County, followed the General Court's lead in adopting, as a temporary operating measure, the usual schedule of fees from the expired bill. In Rind's

Virginia Gazette, "A Querist" inquired: "Now I ask by what authority these courts have established these ordinances? And whether they have not taken upon them the power of legislation?" Governor Dunmore inadvertently dealt the final blow to the old court system when he dissolved the Assembly on May 26 before it had a chance to enact a new fee bill. The ensuing confusion provided the opportunity for local Committees of Safety to fill the void and assume political control.

[Submitted by Bob Doares]

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

To be SOLD, on the 3rd of May ensuing, for ready money, at public auction, if not sold before, the houses and lot where I live, situated on the back street, next to Mr. Blovet Pasteur's in Williamsburg, and was formerly the residence of the late Nathaniel Walthoe, Esq.: with the household and kitchen furniture, a cart, mare and colt, &c. Any of the above articles may be purchased separately, before the day of sale, by applying to the subscriber. As I intend to leave the colony early in the spring, I beg the favor of all those who have accounts unsettled to come and adjust them immediately; such as fail, may depend that they will be put into a lawyer's hand, as longer indulgence neither can or will be given.

ELIZABETH BOLSAMS
N.B. The above place is deemed exceedingly convenient for any gentleman in want of private lodgings.

Virginia Gazette (Rind), Thursday, March 10, 1774

Just arrived the Justitia, Capt. Gray, with upwards of 150 healthy **SERVANTS**, men, women, and boys; among whom are smiths, cabinetmakers, carpenters, and joiners, shoemakers, tailors, bricklayers, perukemakers, hairdressers, bakers, weavers, schoolmasters, mantuamakers, sempstresses, a printer, a copperplate printer, a gardener, a surveyor, a dyer, a tanner, and many other tradesmen; there are also many farmers and other country labourers. The sale will commence at Leedstown on Wednesday the 16th instant of March, and continue until sold. A reasonable credit will be allowed, giving bond, with approved security to

THOMAS HODGE

Virginia Gazette (Rind), Thursday, March 10, 1774

WEATHER

March 1774

11th The finest morning we have had yet: the robins and bluebirds singing all around us. (Philip Fithian)

28th The day is warm & vastly mild; it is the first day we have in all our rooms without any fire. (Fithian)

April 1774

10th This morning is extremely pleasant the country full of flowers & the branches full of lovely singing birds. (Fithian)

29th Warm in the forepart of the day with showers. Cool in the afternoon with wind blowing violently hard from the northwest which again moderating it set in to raining & rained all night. (George Washington)

May 1774

4th Very cold. Yesterday noon we had several showers, hasty and cold, and in the night it rained and so it did this morning so much to stop my hoes; and my overseer assures me it had been snowing. (Landon Carter)

5th I said yesterday there would be a frost. . . . the ice was hard enough for a dog to walk on it; hard down 6 inches deep and icicles 5 or 6 out of the ground. All the fruit killed. Apples, peaches, everything and abundance trees even black jacks turnt quite black with frost. (Carter)

14th Again misting in the morning with showers in the afternoon accompanied in some places with violent hail. (Washington)

25th A shew of rain yesterday noon made me cut off all my hills for planting should it rain. No rain yet but a sprinkle of about 10 minutes, very fine to lay the dust, yet, as it is in May and ever cool, so my hills were cut off last night. I set into planting about 12 o'clock. (Carter)

WILLIAMSBURG, April 7

Marriages. Mr. EMMANUEL JONES, Preceptor of the Brafferton, to Miss MOLLY MACON of Gloucester; and ["an"?] agreeable and very sensible Lady, with a handsome Fortune.

Virginia Gazette (P&D), Saturday, April 23, 1774

WILLIAMSBURG, March 17

By a gentleman just arrived from New River, in Fincastle county, we are informed that About forty families were lately murdered on the Okoncos by the Indians. Captain Russell, from The same county, who a few days ago came to This city, reports, that the people are in a most Dreadful consternation, on account of the outrages Committed by those savage people.

Virginia Gazette (Rind), Thursday, March 17, 1774

MONEY

A FOOL AND HIS MONEY

Mrs. Rind,
Please to give the following a place in your paper, and oblige A Constant Customer

TREASURY OFFICE,
March 16, 1774

THE several Inspectors, and all other Persons whatever, who are Arrear to the Treasury, are desired to discharge their Respective Balances in the Course of the Approaching General Court, **without fail**, As no Indulgencies can be given.

RO. C. NICHOLAS, Treasurer
Virginia Gazette (Rind), March 17, 1774

Thirst of Wealth too oft bewitches
The deluded parent's heart:
But can worldly pomp, or riches,
Real happiness impart?
Love's the sweetest, dearest pleasure
To the human heart convey'd:
Those who give up love for treasure,
Quit the substance for the shade.

Virginia Gazette (Rind), March 10, 1774



SHIPPING

Entered in the Upper District of
JAMES RIVER

March 11. Brig *Jackie*, Dudley Thompson, from Liverpool with European Goods
25. *Jean*, James Young, from Potowack, in Ballast
26. *Venus*, John Wilson from Port Lewis, with 2500 Bushels of Salt
April 4. Brigantine *Lark*, John Fulton from Piscataway, in Ballast

Cleared Outwards

23. Ship *Bowman*, Humphery Taylor, for Glasgow, with 459 Hhds. of Tobacco, 2 Hhds. of Rum, and 12,000 Staves.
24. Schooner *Richmond*, Eppes Greenough, for Piscataway with 13 Barrells of Pork, 8 Barrells of Flour, 800 Bushels of Indian Corn, 30 Bushels of Wheat, 35 Bushels of Pease, 4 Hides of Leather, 12 Kegs of Rum, 1 Pipe of Maderia Wine, and 4 Hhds. of Tobacco.
28. Ship *Speirs*, John Dusk, for Cadiz, with 4287 Bushels of Wheat and 1400 Staves.
April 4. Sloop *Savage*, Francis Haynes, for St. Vincent's, with 700 Bushels of Corn, 35 Barrells of Flour, 13 Barrells of Bread, a Hhd. of Bacon, 103 Barrells of Oatmeal, and 35,000 Shingles.
Ship *Royal Exchange*, John Stevens, for London, with 488 Hhds. of Tobacco, 2 Hhds. and 2 barrells of Ginseng, 1 cask of Drugs, 1 Cask of Snakeroot, 9900 Staves, 140 Handspikes, and 8 Hhds. and 4 Casks of Deerskins.

Virginia Gazette (P&D), Thursday, April 7, 1774

SPRING FARMING

Tobacco: Prepare beds, sow seed, make and manure hills, weed and water beds
Corn: Cut and burn brush, lay out fields, make hills, manure, plant, weed, replant
Wheat: Thresh and glean, plow fallow, cart wheat to ships or town
Vegetables: Prepare garden, plow and manure, sow carrots, peas, beans, cabbages, potatoes, pumpkins, turnips
Orchard: Plant peach seed, nut and fruit trees, grapevines, graft fruit trees, cart cider to town
Livestock: Heap and turn manure, kill beeves, deliver calves and lambs, sell lambs, castrate lambs, seine fish, make butter, shear sheep, kill mutton for sale, breed horses, fish for sturgeon, wean calves and tend young
Other: Fence and fill gullies, clean ditches, build roads, cart wood to town

FORUM

Letter from . . .

Margot Créviaux-Gevertz

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Most of the significant activity taking place in the spring of 1774 occurred during the month of May. As soon as news of the decision to close the Port of Boston reached Williamsburg, things begin to heat up!

The "diplomatic" response to this turn of events on the part of the burgesses resulted in the reaction from Lord Dunmore to dissolve the Assembly. By refusing the colonists the right to dissent within the existing system, the governor unwittingly provoked the burgesses into creating another outlet to do so that was completely beyond his control, further undermining his position and authority. As we engage our guests in discovering 1774 during the spring, this event can be used to lead into a discussion of how people during that time chose to manifest disagreement with government policy by comparing the dedication of a day of "fasting, humiliation and prayer" in 1774 to the antiwar demonstrations we have seen in our own time.

In this issue of *Becoming Americans Today*, we have introduced Jupiter, Thomas Jefferson's first manservant. In considering how you might be able to use this article to enrich your interpretation, think about how important this man was to Jefferson on both a personal and economic level. What role did he have in Jefferson's life and how vital was he to his success? How would Jupiter have felt about Jefferson and how would he have seen himself in relation to other slaves? Conveying the importance and essential contributions that men like Jupiter made to the successes of their masters will further a true understanding of the life and times of Colonial Williamsburg for our guests.

All of us in the Department of Interpretive Training hope you enjoy the warm, balmy days of spring!



From the Spring Program Planning Team

PRESENTING SPRING 1774 IN 2003

On the verge of revolution, Virginia is an agricultural colony and home to a diverse population. In the springtime, as farmers and planters in the countryside sow their crops, the city sees the return of the legislators, the reconvening of the General Court and the meeting of the merchants. As the governmental, religious and social center of Virginia, Williamsburg is in the forefront of many events that led to our independence and the establishment of a new, democratic, pluralistic, distinctly American society that continues to evolve to this day. Tradition gives way to new choices and opportunities—some freely made and some imposed—redefining free and enslaved Virginians' relationships to God, their government, their environment, their communities and each other.

Guests visiting Colonial Williamsburg in the spring—primarily school children and families—will experience a community of tradesmen, statesmen, slaves, gentry and laborers in the process of great change. They will leave with a sense of having stepped back in time to a world very different from their own, but with challenges that are hauntingly familiar.

Gordon Wood

The American Revolution: A History (New York: Modern Library, 2002), 44.

By 1774 the leading colonists, including Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, were arguing that only the separate American legislatures were sovereign in America. According to this argument, Parliament had no final authority over America, and the colonies were connected to the empire only through the king. The most the colonists would concede was that Parliament had the right to regulate their external commerce only "from the necessity of the case, and a regard to the mutual interest of both countries," as the *Declarations and Resolves of the First Continental Congress* put it. But the British government remained committed to parliamentary sovereignty embodied in the Declaratory Act, which no American leader could any longer take seriously.

It was now only a matter of time before these irreconcilable positions led to armed conflict.

David Ammerman

In Common Cause: American Response to the Coercive Acts of 1774 (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1974), 5–6.

That response [to the Boston Tea Party], when it arrived in early May 1774, was so harsh as to surprise even those who had condemned the destruction of the tea. The Boston Port Act, first of the so-called Coercive Acts adopted by parliament in answer to the tea party, arrived along with the newly appointed governor of Massachusetts Bay, General Thomas Gage. The act closed the city's harbor with a blockade to go into effect on June 1 and forbade the export of goods to any foreign port "or any province or place whatever." Boston could ship no products out of the harbor and could import only provisions for the king's troops and such fuel and victuals necessary to sustain the inhabitants as might be carried by vessels trading along the coast. Parliament had decreed that the harbor should remain closed until the king decided that the colony was prepared to obey the law and that British trade could once again enter the port safely. However, not even the king could relieve the city until full satisfaction had been made "by or on behalf of the inhabitants" of Boston to the East India Company for the destroyed tea. Clearly the ministry intended to punish Boston by depriving the city of its main industry and to bring home to the citizens of all America the potential power of the empire. One advantage of the act, from Parliament's point of view, was that enforcement lay primarily in the hands of the British navy, a factor obviating the possibility of effective colonial resistance. . . .

Perhaps most important, at least outside Massachusetts Bay, was the widespread belief that Great Britain had intended the act as a warning to the rest of the continent. Thomas Wharton, Sr., a moderate Quaker merchant in Philadelphia who later turned tory, concluded that "all this Extensive Continent Considers the port Bill of Boston as striking Essentially at the Liberties of all North America." From Norwich, Connecticut, Ebenezer Baldwin wrote that the inhabitants felt a "deeper Concern . . . than in the time of the Stamp Act. The present Measures tis thot [sic] forbode something more dreadful to the Colonies than that detested Act so pregnant with Mischief."

SERVANT PLAYS DEAD THEN PRETENDS TO BE DOCTOR

This is to inform the public that a select Company of Comedians will be, in the coming year, presenting that most delightful farce by Mr. Edward Ravenscroft, titled *The Anatomist, or: The Sham Doctor*. As many of the town may recall, this play served as the afterpiece following *The Merchant of Venice* when it was given in this city by the London Company of Comedians in 1752—perhaps the first performance by a professional troupe given anywhere in these Colonies. *The Anatomist* concerns wealthy, decrepit Mr. Gerald, who courts the daughter of Monsieur Le Medecin. Mr. Gerald's son is secretly in town as well, and it is the son's servant, Crispin, who must pretend to be first a corpse, and then a doctor, in order to protect Young Gerald's secret. Will Crispin escape dissection and discovery alike?

N.B. The Company has tentatively set the date of March 29th for their opening night, and this farce shall play on alternate Saturdays, opposite *The Clandestine Marriage*.

Tus Mundus Agit Histrionem (All the World Acts the Player)

[For more information, contact Diane Elliott at ext. 8439, or the Department of Theatrical Interpretation at ext. 8398.]

[Submitted by Sam Miller]

SACRED and SECULAR CALENDAR

February 16–April 2, 1774

Lent. A 40-day period of solemnity and abstinence commemorating Jesus' fast of 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. For many centuries, the Lenten season included strict abstinence from red meat, milk, eggs, butter, cheese and lard.

March 25, 1774

Lady Day/Annunciation of Mary. Set apart as a memorial of the annunciation by the Angel Gabriel to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus.

March 26, 1774

End of Hillary term (named for St. Hillary) at the College of William and Mary that began January 18, 1774.

March 27, 1774

Palm Sunday. Commemorates Jesus' last and fatal journey to Jerusalem. As he entered the city, the populace spread their garments and branches from palm trees in his path.

March 31, 1774

Maundy Thursday. Thursday before Easter, remembered as the day Jesus instituted the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and demanded its celebration in perpetuity.

April 1, 1774

Good Friday. Set aside as a memorial of the crucifixion of Jesus. Called *good* because of the beneficial effects of Jesus' sufferings, namely the carrying away of the sins of the penitent by his death and resurrection.

James Blair holds divine service and sermon at Bruton Parish on this day.



April 3, 1774

Easter Sunday (first Sunday after the full moon on or next after the vernal equinox). Festival commemorating Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

One of the four times a year the Lord's Supper was administered at Bruton Parish. Philip Fithian observed that "this being Easter-Sunday, all the Parish seem'd to meet together High, Low, black, White all come out."

On Easter Monday 1774, Fithian referred to the two-day Easter holiday, during which the slaves enjoyed cock-fights.

April 11, 1774

Easter term at the college begins.

May 12, 1774

Ascension Day. Commemorates Jesus' ascension into heaven 40 days after Easter.

May 14, 1774

End of Easter term at the college.

May 22, 1774

Whitsunday or Pentecost (seventh Sunday after Easter).

May 29, 1774

Trinity Sunday.

May 30, 1774

Trinity Term at the college begins.

Source: Linda Rowe, *The Colonial Williamsburg Interpreter* (Spring 2002)

WILLIAMSBURG, March 10

THE following melancholy Accident happened last Saturday night: As two valuable Negro Men, belonging to Mrs. Cocke, at Swan's Point, were putting a Negro Woman of Mr. William Brown's Jr., over Gray's Creek, to Cobham in Surry, in a small Canoe, they were either overset or sunk, and all of them drowned; for the Canoe was found on Monday full of water, and the two men taken up by dragging but the woman is not yet got.

Virginia Gazette (P&D), Thursday, March 24, 1774

WILLIAMSBURG, March 31

Marriages. Mr. Miles Selden, to Miss Betsey Armistead of this City

Deaths. Mr. Thomas Hay, one of the young Gentleman in the Secretary's Office, after a lingering and painful illness. Being a Member of the Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in this City, his Corps will be attended this afternoon by the Brotherhood, in the proper Insignia of their Order.

Virginia Gazette (P&D), Thursday, March 31, 1774

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

1774, April.

Michael Wheatley of Williamsburg tried for grand larceny during the April 16–20 session of the General Court at the Capitol; guilty and burnt in the left hand [granted benefit of clergy]

1774, March 8.

At a Court of Oyer and Terminer held at the Courthouse in the town of York the eighth day of March 1774 for the trial of Hannibal a Negro man slave belonging to James Shields for felony

Present: Dudley Digges, Thomas Nelson Jr., David Jameson, Jaquelin Ambler, and William Reynolds gent justices

The sd Hannibal was set to the bar and Benajmin [Benjamin?] Waller attor for our Lord the King comes into ct and gives the justices aforesd to understand and be informed that the sd Hannibal the thirteenth day of February last w/force and arms at the Psh of Bruton in the cnty of York eight Turkeys of the value of twenty five shillgs of the goods and chattels of the right Honourable John Earl of Dunmore his Majestys Lieutenant and Governor General of Virginia then and there found feloniously did take steal and carry away agt the peace of our Lord the King his crown and Dignity to wch the sd Hannibal upon his arraignment pleaded not guilty and of his trial put himself upon the judgmt of the ct whereupon divers witnesses were sworn and examined and the sd Hannibal was heard in his defence on consideration whereof it is the opinion of the whole ct that the sd Hannibal is guilty of the felony aforesd in manner and form as above agt him is alledged and it appearing that the sd Hannibal was at a ct of Oyer & Terminer held in James City Cnty the 4th day of Dec. last convicted of felony and burnt in the hand for the same the record of wch conviction was produced in ct he is now denied the benefit of the act and it being demanded if he had any thing further to say he sd he had nothing. Therefore it is considered by the ct that he be hanged by the neck until he be dead and he is thereupon remanded to goal and it is ordered that the sherif [sheriff?] cause execution of this judgment to be done on Tuesday the twenty second day of this instant March. The sd Hannibal is valued by the ct at seventy five pds. current money. The minutes of these proceedings were signed Dudley Digges. Source: York County Judgments and Orders (1772–74), 529.



1774, February 25

Run away from the subscriber, on Friday the 25th of February, a half Indian fellow who calls himself JACK BROWN, and was formerly the property of Colonel John Bolling of Goochland; he is about 40 years old, 5 feet 6 inches high, is pretty light of sort, his nose is crooked, which appears to have been done a blow, has lost some of his teeth before, which seem to be rotted out, is extremely fond of liquor, speaks very plain and bold, and I imagine will endeavour to pass for a free man, as he once made an elopement for three years, and went under that character. He had on a Negro cotton jacket and breeches, an indifferent shirt, and rappers of blue a stripped saddlecloth. All matters of vessels are hereby forewarned from taking him out of the colony. Whoever brings him to me, or confines him, in his Majesty's gaols, so that I get him Shall be handsomely rewarded, besides what the law allows.

AUGUSTINE LONGAN
Virginia Gazette (Rind),
Thursday, March 10, 1774



LIFE

POLITICS IS POLITICS
BUT
DANCE IS DIVERSION

Friday, May 27.

The General Assembly is this evening to give a ball and entertainment at the Capitol on account of the arrival of the right honorable the Countess of Dunmore and her family in Virginia. It is reported that among the eminent guests who have paid their subscription price of 20 shillings are Colonel Washington and Mr. Jefferson. One might very well see a bit of irony in their attendance, as these two prominent gentlemen are members of the House of Burgesses, which was dissolved just yesterday by his Lordship on account of political wrangling. Leave it to the provincials never to let politics interfere with a grand evening of dance and diversion!

[Submitted by Nancy Milton and Phil Shultz]

Cook's Corner: Spring Receipts

Traditional Easter foods, like Christian religious symbols for Easter, have their roots in the Jewish celebration of Passover. The components of the seder meal—lamb, parsley, bitter herbs and roasted egg—are foods available in the spring in the Middle East, Europe and North America.

In colonial Virginia holiday customs evolved from those practiced in Great Britain. In the 18th century hot cross buns, a popular Lenten food, were eaten only on Good Friday. James Boswell's *Life of Johnson* includes several references to baking buns that support the English superstition that it was good luck to bake on Good Friday.

Philip Fithian, the tutor of Robert Carter's children at Nomini Hall, left a record of an Easter feast in Virginia. Lamb was noticeably absent from the menu.

April 3, 1774, Easter Sunday . . . we had an elegant dinner; Beef & Greens; roast-Pig; fine boil'd Rock-Fish, Pudding, Cheese etc.—Drink; good Porter-Beer, Cyder, Rum & Brandy Toddy.

Rockfish were served frequently at the Governor's Palace. Mary Randolph's method of preparing boiled rock fish is simple and delicious.

TO BOIL A ROCK FISH.

The best part of the rock is the head and shoulders—clean it nicely, put it into the fish kettle with cold water and salt, boil it gently and skim it well; when done, drain off the water, lay it in the dish, and garnish with scraped horse-radish; have two boats of butter nicely melted with



Health

Dr. John de Sequeyra noted in his *Diary*, "In the Spring a few intermittent Fevers & Colds, but were easily cured."

Get Ready for Spring!

Housekeeping/Gardening/
Food Preservation

Spring cleaning: A thorough washing down of all household furnishings and textiles. Blankets and bed rugs are stored. Fireplaces can be covered with chimney boards.

Harvesting of early crops such as green peas and asparagus. Fruits, herbs and vegetables can be dried. (Lower humidity makes spring drying preferable to summer drying.) Some bottling of fruits and vegetables as well as making of syrups, ketchups, marmalades, jellies and jams and candying flowers.

Building Trades

Making and burning bricks: problem drying green bricks during wet weather.

Carpentry and Tanning: much easier to remove bark from trees felled in spring, especially from oak; easier to rive wood; bark used in tanning process.

chopped parsley, or for a change, you may have anchovy butter; the roe and liver should be fried and served in separate dishes. If any of the rock be left, it will make a delicious dish next day;—pick it in small pieces, put it in a stew pan with a gill of water, a good lump of butter, some salt, a large spoonful of lemon pickle, and one of pepper vinegar—shake it over the fire till perfectly hot, and serve it up. It is almost equal to stewed crab.

The Virginia Housewife (1824)

The puddings eaten by Dr. Johnson and the Carter family were 18th-century versions of a 20th-century one-crust pie. Fruit puddings were popular when cherries, apples, peaches and plums were in season, but bread puddings and rice puddings could be prepared any time of the year. The ingredients in Mary Randolph's rice pudding guarantee a dish that will surprise skeptics who have childhood memories of an unappetizing dessert.

RICE PUDDING

Boil half a pound of rice in milk, until it is quite tender; beat it well with a wooden spoon to mash the grains; add three quarters of a pound of sugar, and the same of melted butter; half a nutmeg, six eggs, a gill of wine, and some grated lemon peel; put a paste in the dish, and bake it. For a change, it may be boiled, and eaten with butter, sugar, and wine.

The Virginia Housewife

[Source: Laura Arnold, *The Interpreter*, Spring 1998.]

Who's Who

JUPITER

Most people have heard of Thomas Jefferson but fewer individuals are familiar with his first manservant, Jupiter. He was Jefferson's companion as a boy and remained in his service until Jupiter's death in 1799. But what do we really know about him?

Jupiter was born in 1743, the same year as Jefferson. The names of his parents are not recorded. He is probably the same Jupiter listed in the estate of Peter Jefferson (Thomas Jefferson's father) with a value of £32.10.00. Peter Jefferson assigned a personal servant to each of his children, as was the custom. Jupiter was Jefferson's first body servant and later served at Monticello as hostler and coachman. While Jefferson's manservant, he accompanied Jefferson as he traveled and acted as personal servant while Thomas studied law at William and Mary. In addition, Jupiter performed "the ordinary duties of a valet, which Jefferson later described as to 'shave, dress and follow me on horseback.'" Lucia Stanton writes, "In Williamsburg, he [Jupiter] walked down Duke of Gloucester Street to buy Jefferson's books, fiddlestrings, and wig powder and to pay the bills of the baker, shoemaker and washerwoman. When Jefferson was short of change, Jupiter lent him money to provide tips for other slaves, the domestic servants of his Williamsburg friends."



As early as 1774, Jupiter's position had changed from personal servant to hostler and coachman. Young Robert Hemings became Jefferson's personal servant, and Jupiter became responsible for Jefferson's stables. That same year, Jupiter and Suck (Jefferson's cook) appear for the first time as husband and wife. Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson had just inherited Suck from her father's Charles City County plantation, the Forest.

Thus, after 1774, Jupiter would have accompanied Jefferson to Williamsburg only when he served as coachman for the Jefferson family's visits to the capital city. On one special occasion in July 1774, illness prevented Jefferson from attending the Virginia Convention. Jupiter was tasked with bringing copies of *A Summary View of the Rights of British America* to Williamsburg. It was Jupiter who "carried the words: 'The abolition of domestic slavery is the great object of desire in those colonies where it was unhappily introduced in their infant state.'"

Jupiter and Suck had their first child, Aggy, in 1777. Unfortunately, she didn't survive past two months. Their second child, Philip Evans, was born in 1790 and did survive to adulthood. In fact, Philip became the personal servant of Jefferson's grandson, Thomas Jefferson Randolph. Randolph later recorded that Philip, "small, active, intelligent, much of a humorist, was my companion in childhood and friend through life."

About Jupiter and Jefferson's relationship Stanton explains,

Jupiter and Philip Evans, by uniting industry and honesty with loyalty and trustworthiness, epitomized the ideal slave of Jefferson's and other southern slaveholders' expectations. And they were not unique. Jefferson's records contain frequent references to other "trustworthy" who were sent on important errands or consulted on the whereabouts of runaways. Those who earned or cultivated the master's trust were the most likely to retain their positions close to Jefferson and his family members and thus are most often mentioned in surviving records.

Jupiter even left a permanent mark on the face of Monticello. Stanton reveals: Jefferson had his male servants trained in a second trade, so that they could fill every hour with useful work. Jupiter learned stonecutting from William Rice, an indentured servant whose remaining term of service Jefferson had purchased in Philadelphia in 1775. Jefferson's 1778 account with Rice, by then a free man, reveals that Jupiter "worked on" Monticello columns.

Of all the slave men, at Monticello, Jupiter was one of the closest to Jefferson. Jefferson's daughters often asked about him in letters to their father and affectionately referred to him as "Unckin Juba." At Jupiter's death, Jefferson lamented, "I am sorry for him, . . . as well as sensible he leaves a void in my administration which I cannot fill up."

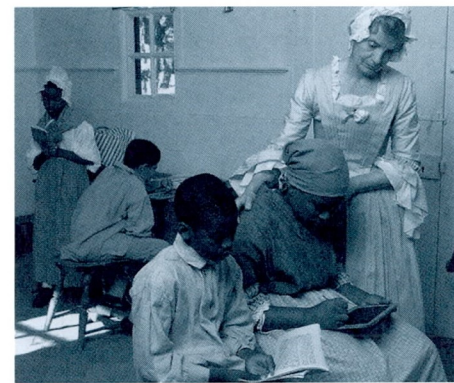
[Submitted by Rose McAphee]

SCHOOL

Negro School in Its
Fourteenth Year

Schoolmistress Ann Wager and about 30 pupils, most of whom are slaves in Williamsburg households, although a few are free blacks, continue to meet daily at her house beginning at six o'clock in the morning. The students learn "the true Spelling of Words" and "to pronounce & read distinctly." As their studies progress, the boys and girls read the Bible and take instruction in the "Principles of the Christian Religion according to the Doctrine of the Church of England." On the practical side, the girls learn to knit and sew. Mrs. Wager is expected to conduct her charges to Bruton Parish Church, "so often as divine Service is there performed." Open since 1760, the school is funded by the Associates of Dr. Bray in London and administered locally by Mr. Treasurer. Some while ago, Mrs. Wager was in poor health, but Mr. Nicholas's recent letter to the Rev. John Waring of the Associates reveals nothing amiss:

Williamsburg in Virginia
5th. January 1774.



Revd. Sir.

I have given Messrs. Norton & Son my annual Bill on you for £25 sterling on Acct. of the Negro School in the City, which you, no doubt, will duly honor. The Situation of the School is much as it was when I wrote you last; the Number of Scholars between 20 & 30 & I believe the Mistress gives them proper Attention. Your Letter to the Revd. Mr. Josiah Johnson, our late Minister, did not arrive till his last Illness, of which he died. He is succeeded in the Parish by the Revd. Jno. Bracken, a very worthy Gentleman; it might be of Service to the School, if you, by Letter, would engage his Patronage to it.

I sincerely wish you & the other Associates a Series of happy Years & am very respectfully, Revd. Sir, Your most obedient Servant.

Ro. C. Nicholas

The Associates read Nicholas's letter on 19 May 1774 and "Agreed that the Revd. Mr. Bracken's Assistance in inspecting the School be requested."

[Submitted by Linda Rowe; quotations taken from John C. Van Horne, *Religious Philanthropy and Colonial Slavery*, 316.]

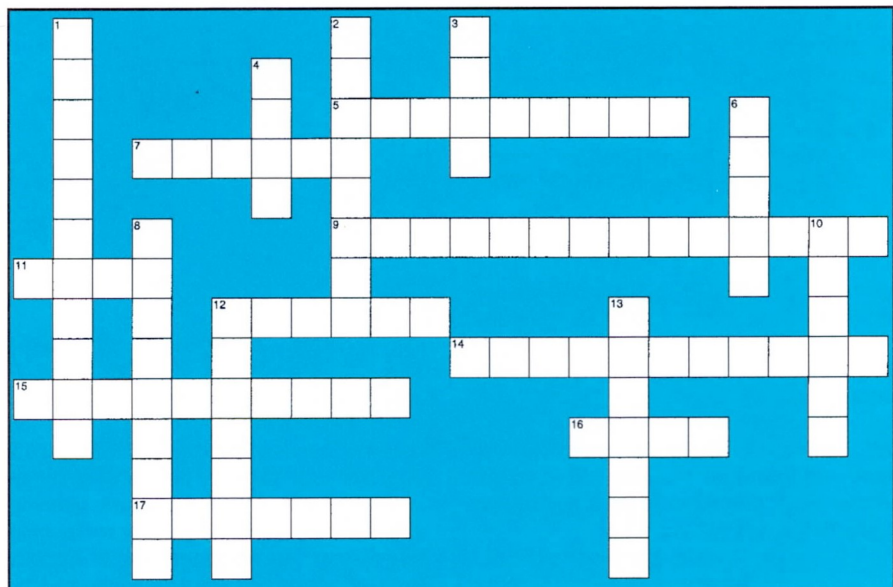
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Editors:
Margot Créviaux-Gevertz
Anne Willis

Contributors:
Bob Doares, Kevin Kelly
Carl Lounsbury, Sam Miller
Rose McAphee, Nancy Milton
Lou Powers, Linda Rowe
Phil Shultz, Lorena Walsh

Production:
Mary Ann Williamson,
copy editor
Diana Freedman, production

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Test Your Knowledge

ACROSS

- 5 may still be imported from Britain
7 may still be imported from Britain
9 committees of _____
11 commands British at Boston
12 committees of _____
14 act claims supremacy of Parliament
15 act condoning religious dissent
16 40-day season before Easter
17 official who led June 1 procession

DOWN

- 1 variant of "humility" for penitence
2 Mingo Logan's family suffered this.
3 area near this fort disputed by Virginia and Pennsylvania
4 a favorite fish at the Palace
6 mistress of the Negro school
8 seventh Sunday after Easter
10 no fees to run these after April 12
12 Governor fears this threat to Ohio
13 disbanded burgesses meet here

Answers to the last puzzle

