

Rolling Toward Revolution... May 2024



British Royal Coat of Arms 1771

In London: His Majesty, King George made it official: With his assent on May 30th, Boston's port would close, June 1st. Earlier, on May 20th, Parliament followed the Port Act with the Massachusetts Government Act. The second of laws soon to be called "The Intolerable Acts", it summarily changed the government of the colony, giving the Royal Governor of Massachusetts almost total political power. No more independent town meetings. All judges and town officials would now be royal appointees.

In Boston: The city prepared to receive its new Royal Governor, **General Thomas Gage**. In sending a military man, Bostonians saw the threat of martial law, especially since Gage had referred to Bostonians as "by far the greatest bullies" and stated flatly, "Massachusetts has no government."

In the Colonies: The citizens of Chesterton, Maryland, informed of Boston's predicament via the Committees of Correspondence, enacted a series of "Resolves" banning the importing, selling, or consuming of tea within Chesterton. They followed through with another copy-cat "Tea Party".

In New Jersey: Royal Governor Franklin was now in residence at the recently refurbished Proprietary House, Perth Amboy. Originally built for the East Jersey Proprietors, it was now his official residence and the seat of government of the united New Jersey Royal Colony. The Provincial Assembly, still adjourned, would soon meet there, and Hendrick Frisher was paid this month for transporting the Assembly's documents from Burlington to Perth Amboy. The New Jersey Committee of Correspondence reacted to the news from Boston with "almost universal indignant remonstrance" (Snell, p 26). They regard it as tyranny. Clueless, Franklin opposed the forming of NJ's Committee. It was one of the last formed, so he felt was it organized only because New York had one. He didn't realize that it was "the last straw".

In the Raritan Valley: Surveyors checked the Van Veghten Bridge and the Freeholders agree to new stone pillars. Fredrick Frelinghuysen, age 21, was admitted to the Somerset County Bar.

Sources

Massachusetts Government Act: [https://www.statutesandstories.com/blog_html/the-massachusetts-government-act/\(Accessed online, April 2024\);](https://www.statutesandstories.com/blog_html/the-massachusetts-government-act/(Accessed online, April 2024);) [https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/massachusetts-government-act-may-20-1774;](https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/massachusetts-government-act-may-20-1774) American Battlefield Trust. *The Intolerable Acts*. (Accessed online, February 2024). <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/intolerable-acts>

Boston Evening Post May, 1774 issues (Accessed on line, April 25, 2024). <https://www.masshist.org/dorr/volume/4/sequence/571>

Proprietary House. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proprietary_House

Today in American History --On this day <https://www.onthistoday.com/today/american-history.php>

Snell, J. P. (1881) *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*. Philadelphia: Lippincott.