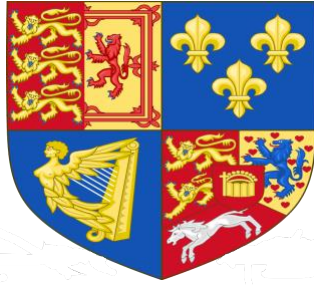


Rolling Toward Revolution... September 1773



Coat of Arms of King George III of Great Britain

In London: Ben Franklin, mercantile representative of the colonies in London and prolific writer of letters completed and published his satiric essay, entitled *“Rules by Which A Great Empire May Be Reduced to a Small One”*, in *The Public Advertiser of London* in early September. *It quickly sold out*. Franklin began: *In the first Place, Gentlemen, you are to consider that Great Empires are most easily diminished at the Edges. Turn your Attention, therefore to your remotest Provinces; that as you get rid of them, the next may follow in Order.*

Then he pretended to advocate the very policies of the royal government that were incensing the colonists: Never incorporate them with the Mother Country; be sure they do not share the same common rights, enact more severe laws by legislators in whom they had no share in election. He also suggested that to keep colonies under control *“...quarter troops among them, who by their insolence may provoke rising of mobs”*. No one in the Parliament was amused.

In New Jersey: Counterfeiting of New Jersey’s currency was an ongoing problem and was a capital crime. A group of four counterfeiters was apprehended in Morris County and one, David Reynolds who distributed the fake bills and supplied the type for the printing press, was hanged on September 17 on Morris Town Green in front of a large crowd.

On September 29th, the Pennsylvania and New York gazetteers printed Governor William Franklin’s summons of the New Jersey General Assembly to meet in Burlington on November 10th. Though East and West Jersey were one royal colony under Franklin, assembly sessions continued to alternate between Burlington and Perth Amboy, former West and East Jersey capitals respectively, and both busy port towns.

In the Raritan Valley: John Lafferty, John Vandike, and Thomas Berry were quietly serving out their terms as justices of Somerset County. McDonald’s Mill, standing on the ravine above Chambers Brook, near where the old Pluckemin Road running north from Tunison’s Tavern crossed it, still marked the northern boundary of Bridgewater Township. Branchburg, Somerville, and Raritan did not yet exist, except as “The Rariton Lots”.

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