

Rolling Toward Revolution... July 1773



Coat of Arms of King George III of Great Britain

In London:

Ben Franklin, mercantile representative of the Colonies in London, was a prolific writer of letters, of which he kept copies. He was a political moderate at this time. We know this, because he left his papers and correspondence from this time period with a friend, Joseph Galloway of Philadelphia. Letters from London in 1772-1773 are known as the Craven Street Letterbook. Brilliant and witty, Franklin also began writing a tongue-in-cheek essay, partly to critique the London foreign secretaries who were, he believed, making the political situation worse and partly to identify areas where policy changes would help. He adopted the guise of Machiavelli, giving advice on how to be an effective tyrannical ruler.

In the Colonies:

Since Virginia colony called for an intercolonial network traction back in March. There was enough anxiety that more of the thirteen were establishing groups to communicate between the colonies. Each colony's Committee of Correspondence were for sharing of news of any future royal moves against local rights and liberties and to provide means to seek mutual support. Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and South Carolina had all acted quickly. With the fall legislative sessions of the remaining colonies soon to begin, more were likely to comply. New Jersey's provincial assembly would not be called into session by Royal Governor William Franklin until November.

In the Raritan Valley: If political tensions were rising, they did not interfere with bringing in the harvest from Somerset County Farms. Rev. Hardenbergh, a Trustee of Queens College was looking forward to a banner year and its very first commencement in the Spring. Enrollment had swelled to 20 students and his stepson Frederick Frelinghysen, its only instructor, was studying law and would soon be elected to the state bar.

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Sources:

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The New Jersey Committee of Correspondence. NJ State Library.

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

Wallace House archives. Courtesy, Paul Soltis, Interpretive Specialist.