

Rolling Toward Revolution... May 1773



In London:

- ◆ On May 10, after *HRH George III* gave his royal approval, the Tea Act of 1773 went into effect. It was the culmination of Prime Minister Lord North's effort to help the [East India Company](#) sell 17,000,000 pounds of tea stored in England. Excise regulations were rearranged so the company could pay the required duty to the crown and still undersell its competitors. It also sent a message to the Colonies: Parliament had every right to tax the Colonists, who would learn of the Act in the weeks ahead.

In Boston:

- ◆ Late in March, the intercepted letters of Governor Hutchinson, forwarded to the colonies by Benjamin Franklin, had arrived in Boston where they came into the hands of *Sam Adams*, current clerk of the Massachusetts Assembly and a member of *The Sons of Liberty*. Although Franklin had specifically requested that they not be published and only be circulated among select leadership, leaks about the letters' contents began to make the rounds in Massachusetts political meetings and in the press.

In the Raritan Valley:

- ❖ The Courthouse at Millstone was being repaired by Cornelius Lott. Col. Ten Eyck and Matthias Ten Eyck along with Col. McDonald were appointed managers of the all-important Bridge at Raritan Landing. This was the main river crossing that farmers from the western areas of the county crossed to be able to ship their products to markets beyond the valley. Jacob Ten Eyck and John Boylan were appointed tax collectors.

Benjamin Franklin: A Quick Biography. Accessed online Dec. 2022. <https://www.ushistory.org/franklin/info/index.htm>

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