

# *Rolling Toward Revolution... January 1775*



*British Royal Coat of Arms 1771*

**In London:** Lord Chatham, William Pitt, made one last pitch to Parliament to suspend the Coercive Acts on the 25<sup>th</sup>. He lost the vote. Benjamin Franklin packed for his return to Philadelphia. He would travel as soon as weather permitted the Atlantic crossing.

**In New England:** The port of Boston had been closed for eight months. The Sons of Liberty meeting in taverns and other places plan for the worst. A doggerel from the Stamp Act Days, 10 years earlier, was resurrected:

Rally the tomahawks; Bring out your axes.

Tell King George-- We'll pay no taxes.

**In New Jersey:** There was much anxiety in the colony due to the uncertain times. Despite this, Hendrick Fisher, John Roy of Somerset County, and other elected colonial Assembly delegates journeyed to Perth Amboy when reluctantly called into session by the Royal Governor. Formal sessions began on the 12<sup>th</sup> once a quorum was achieved and they conducted routine business. First, they requested and received a *Writ from the Crown* to refill of the seat of one of Middlesex's representatives who had recently died. It was granted. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, they heard the report of the NJ delegates to the *Continental Congress* and unanimously endorsed its actions. They also endorsed the same delegates' participation in the proposed second session to meet in May. They also were addressed by Governor Franklin himself.

The Governor noted the "alarming Transactions in this and neighboring colonies" and urged the Assembly to prevent those "Mischiefs". He further stated that it was not his job to decide the "Merits of the Dispute" nor to censure those "aggrieved", but he made it clear that he discouraged "that destructive Mode of Proceeding" ... "unhappily adopted in Part by some..." The Provincial Council (the Governor's advisors directly appointed by the Crown) endorsed this message. The Assembly waited to issue a response...

## *Sources*

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