

Rolling Toward Revolution... July 2024



British Royal Coat of Arms 1771

In London: Parliament may have expected quieting of unrest in the colonies and concessions from the Colonies regarding Parliamentary authority. They couldn't have been more wrong.

In Boston and the Colonies: The word went out via the Committees of Correspondence about the impact on New England and broader ramifications of the Coercive/Intolerable Acts. Response to the news was mixed. There was a consensus that the tea should be paid for but that the enacted measures were draconian and their reach beyond New England shocking. While the Committees were discussing a coordinated, formal response, some colonists took direct action locally. On July 4, in Tappan New York, the Orangetown Resolutions passed by the Orange County freeholders formally protested the Acts while still professing loyalty to the King. On July 12, farmers met at their First Presbyterian Church at Carlisle, PA to protest the Port Act and passed their own resolution. Charlestonians held seized tea arriving in port. Although the Captain of the ship escaped tar and feathers, the tea was seized, its fate unknown. Presumably, it was neither dumped nor taxed.

In New Jersey: New Jersey's 9-man Committee of Correspondence, headed by Hendrick Fisher had received the news from Paul Revere in late May and had replied by July 2 in sympathy and had resolved to request that Royal Governor Franklin re-call the colonial assembly in August. Meanwhile, local county meetings within the state were held throughout June and July. Somerset's committee met **July 4** at a location lost to history (but likely a tavern, a typical place of local assembly), Hunterdon on **July 8th** at Ringo's Tavern in Amwell. The general Committee again met in New Brunswick on **July 21** with 72 most, but not all counties represented, to discuss the formal call by the Massachusetts's House for a Continental Congress to meet in Philadelphia in September. *John Sargeant of Somerset County* was elected clerk and *Stephen Crane of Essex*, chaired the meeting. After a few days of discussion, they resolved to send relief to the citizens of Boston, appointing individuals to organize this. They also appointed the following provincial representatives to the Congress: *William Livingston (Somerset)*, *John DeHart (Union)*, *Stephen Crane (Essex)*, and *Richard Smith (Burlington)*, if they could attend. They charged them to support a general non-importation, non-consumption agreement at that time, should Congress deem it advisable. Held back until now by its Royal Governor, New Jerseymen were preparing to move forward in a coordinated response with their sister colonies.

Sources

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