

Rolling Toward Revolution... March 2024



British Royal Coat of Arms 1771

In London: Passed by Parliament at the end of March, the Boston Port Act was sent this month to King George. His Majesty did not give his royal assent until May 30th. So, perhaps he was thoroughly briefed on its provisions and possible consequences before it was to go into effect on June 1st. Only provisions for the British Army, fuel, and wheat could be landed at Boston. The port was closed to all commerce until the East India Company was paid in full for the destroyed tea and the King was satisfied that goods shipped to Boston were safe and customs laws obeyed. If not, the port was to remain closed indefinitely. It was like being put in debtors' prison, but this was a whole town... Ben Franklin noted ruefully that the colonies had lost what few friends they had in London.

In Boston: On April 4, the *Evening Post* printed Royal Governor Hutchinson's proclamation dissolving the Courts and elected Assembly which was had been scheduled to meet on the 16th. He too was asserting control.

In New Jersey: On the 28th, a young lawyer named **John Jay** married well-connected **Sarah Livingston**, daughter of **William Livingston** and **Susan French** (a relative of **Mrs. Van Horn** of Bridgewater). Jay would in a few years' time preside as president of the Continental Congress. Sarah's father would become NJ's post-colonial governor.

In the Raritan Valley: Peter Dumont was serving as Sheriff of Somerset County and Gisbert Lane, his first of two years as County Freeholder (i.e., he owned land and met the qualifications for voting). The Spring *freshets* were flooding the fertile fields of the Valley.

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