

## *Rolling Toward Revolution...*

### *June, 1772: Tea wasn't the beginning.*

#### ❖ **June 9-10<sup>th</sup> : The Gaspee Incident**

*HMS Gaspee*, a customs schooner attempting to enforce the Stamp Act and the Townsend Acts, gave chase to the *Hannah*, a colonial sloop departing Newport. *The Hannah* had cleared customs and had been given leave to sail. *The Gaspee* challenged and pursued the merchant ship, which refused to stop, into the shallow waters of Narragansett Bay near Warwick, RI where it ran aground (today Gaspee Point). Angry Sons of Liberty from Providence attacked and boarded *Gaspee* before it could be refloated on the next tide. A British officer was shot. They set fire to the ship which sank when its powder magazine exploded.

No one was arrested although the Royal Governor offered a reward of 100 pounds. Unsatisfied with the report he received, King George formed a Royal Commission to investigate the incident. It would include Chief Justice Frederick Smythe of New Jersey *To be continued...*

- ❖ Meanwhile, in Somerset County, future patriots John Berrien and Hendrick Fischer had begun their 3-year term in the 22nd New Jersey Provincial Assembly. The Assembly allocated funds for the maintenance of a bridge at Landing Lane, assessing Bridgewater and Hillsborough Townships a portion of the upkeep.