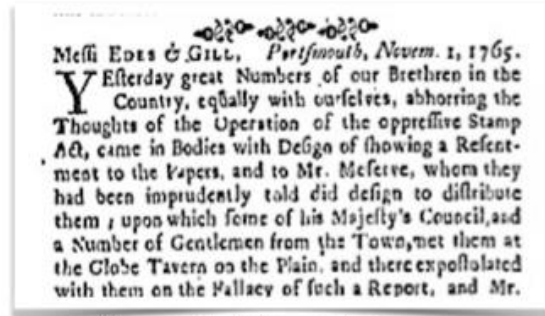


The News of the Day

News was very important in colonial times.



Newspapers, gazettes, broadsides (announcements), all were eagerly read. News became even more important when the British decided to impose taxes on the Americans to help pay for British wars. The colonists resented these taxes and protested.

Ten pieces of news are presented here, dated from 1765 to 1773. The news relates to the Americans' problems with the Stamp Act (1765), then the Act's repeal (1766), followed by the Declaratory Act (1766), and the Townshend Acts (1767). These imposed taxes on the American colonists. The Townshend Acts not only imposed taxes on glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea, all of which had to be imported from England, but were accompanied by quartering soldiers in Boston. A result was the Boston Massacre, in which five citizens were shot by British soldiers.

How to Read: In images of old writing, both print and hand-written, the letter that looks like an "f" where an "s" should be is an archaic form of the "s," called the "long s." It was used to replace the single "s" or the first "s" in a word with a double "s." Read these just as you would an "s."

Activities follow this slide show and on the downloadable handout. Read and think like an American of these tumultuous colonial times!

SlideShow by Jean O'Connor

SUPPLEMENT to the *Newport* MERCURY,

Of October 28, 1765.

AS the great Wisdom of the Astronomers and Astrologers at W-----r, some Months past, did predict the Exit of NORTH-AMERICAN LIBERTY would happen at Twelve o'Clock, on Thursday Night, the 31st of this Instant; some few of his Friends went a few Days ago to wait upon the poor old Gentleman, and found him indeed gasping his last, and now find him reduced to a Skeleton, and begin to pay great Deference to the Augury, and have made proper Preparations for the venerable Gentleman's Interment, which is to be performed on Friday the 1st

of November next: The Procession to begin, from the Crown-Coffee-House, at half after Eleven in the Forenoon----where all his true Sons are desired to repair; but if there is any Bastard-kin, it is desired they would not sully his Memory with their Company.

His Children inform the whole World, that they will take proper Notice of every Motion of Disorder and Riot, either before, at, or after the Funeral, and prosecute the Offenders.

A MOURNER.

October 28, 1765. *Supplement to the Newport Mercury*. A satirical piece published when the Stamp Act was passed in which the writer mourns the death of North American Liberty. The last sentence promises that any disorder or riots will be punished.

Do you think the writer really means that?

From the VOTES of the House of Representatives
of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay,
MARTIS, 29 Die OCTOBRIS, A. D. 1765.
In the House of REPRESENTATIVES.

ACCORDING to the Order of the Day, there
being a very full House, the following
Draft, which had been laid on the Table
was particularly considered, and thereupon
Voted,

Whereas the just Rights of His Majesty's Subjects
of this Province, deriv'd to them from the *British*
Constitution, as well as the *Royal Charter*, have been
lately drawn into Question: In order to ascertain the
same, this House do UNANIMOUSLY come into the
following Resolves,

1. *Resolved*, That there are certain essential Rights
of the *British* Constitution of Government which are
founded in the Law of God and Nature, and are the
common Rights of Mankind---Therefore

2. *Resolved*, That the Inhabitants of this Province
are *unalienably* entitl'd to those essential Rights in
common with all Men: And that no Law of Society
can, consistent with the Law of God and Nature, di-
vest them of those Rights.

3. *Resolved*, That no Man can justly take the Pro-
perty of another without his Consent: And that up-
on this original Principle the Right of Representation
in the same Body, which exercises the Power of ma-
king Laws for levying Taxes, which is one of the
main Pillars of the *British* Constitution, is evidently
fourth.

Resolved, That this *inherent* Right, together
with all other essential Rights, Liberties, Privileges
and Immunities, of the People of *Great Britain*, have
been fully confirm'd to them by *Magna Charta*; and
by former and later Acts of Parliament.

Boston Gazette, Nov. 4, 1765.

On October 29, 1765, the
House of Representatives of
Massachusetts Bay votes
that they are entitl'd to
certain rights that derive to
them from the British
Constitution, so they
resolve that no one can take
their property without their
consent.

Who do they say does have
the right to tax them?

Glorious News,

Just received from *Boston*, brought by Messrs.
Jonathan Lowder, and *Thomas Brackett*.

BOSTON, Friday 11 o'Clock, 16th May, 1766.

THIS Instant arrived here the Brig *Harrison*, belonging to *Jchn Hancock, Esq;* Captain *Shubael Coffin*, in 6 Weeks and 2 Days from LONDON, with important News, as follows.

From the London Gazette.

Westminster, March 18th, 1766.

THIS day his Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in his royal robes seated on the Throne with the usual solemnity, Sir *Francis Molineux*, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, his Majesty was pleased to give his royal assent to

An ACT to REPEAL an Act made in the last Session of Parliament intituled, an Act for granting and applying certain Stamp-Duties and other Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations in America, toward's further defraying the Expences of defending, protecting and securing the same, and for amending such parts of the several Acts of Parliament relating to the trade and revenues of the said Colonies and Plantations, as direct the manner of determining and recovering the penalties and forfeitures therein mentioned.

Also ten public bills, and seventeen private ones.

Yesterday there was a meeting of the principal Merchants concerned in the American trade, at the King's Arms tavern in Cornhill, to consider of an Address to his Majesty on the beneficial Repeal of the late Stamp-Act.

“Glorious News.”
From the *London Gazette*, March 18,
1766.

In Boston, on May 16,
1766, the brig
Harrison brought the
news of the repeal of
the Stamp Act.

See the last sentence.
What kind of address
are the merchants
likely to prepare for
the king?

IMPORTED from LONDON,
By Abigail Whitney,
AND TO BE SOLD at her Shop in Union-Street,
A large Assortment of Goods,
among which are the following Articles, quite
low for the Cash :

BLUE, green, and cloth-coloured English Damasks,
newest fashion striped and flowered Lutestrings,
Mantua Silks, cloth-coloured changeable, and green
Mantua Silks, rich Tobine Lutestrings, rich cloth co-
lour Ducapes, plain and sprigg'd, rich Broglies, Mes-
sings and Crape, sprigg'd and plain Poplins, plain and
striped Camblets, best double Camblets, figured Stuffs,
Taffeties, Persians, Bengals, Alamode, figured Modes,
lace & snail Trimming, handsome Assortment Patches,
Chints and Callico, Furniture Callicoes Lawns, Cam-
bricks, Irish Linens and Sheeting, silk Gloves and
Mitts, best Bath Lamb Gloves and Mitts, sprigg'd and
plain Gauze, Fans, Necklaces, fine Bag hollards, 3-qr.
and 7 8 hs Garlix, white Lace, a variety Broadcloths,

March 24, 1768. *Supplement
to the Massachusetts Gazette.*

This advertisement states
that Abigail Whitney has
for sale in her shop a large
assortment of goods
imported from London,
including cloth, silks,
poplins, calicoes, as well as
necklaces, lace, thread, and
many other items.

**What must this shop owner
do because of Non-
Importation agreements?**

The true Sons of Liberty

And Supporters of the Non-Importation
Agreement,

ARE determined to resent any the least
Insult or Menace offer'd to any one or
more of the several Committees ap-
pointed by the Body at Faneuil-Hall, and
chastise any one or more of them as they
deserve; and will also support the Printers
in any Thing the Committees shall desire
them to print.

☞ **AS** a Warning to any one that shall
affront as aforesaid, upon sure Infor-
mation given, one of these Advertise-
ments will be posted up at the Door
or Dwelling-House of the Offender.

True Sons of Liberty –
Broadside. 1768. The
Sons of Liberty posted
this broadside to
declare they support
the committees
appointed by the town
and the printers.

**What do the Sons of
Liberty say will happen
to any offenders?**

From the *Massachusetts Gazette*, May 3, 1770.

we will keep our money. Thank God we have a glorious country; we can subsist independent of the whole world. We have sufficient to feed our bodies, and clothe them with our own fleeces. A spirit of œconomy and industry has wonderfully diffused itself through this whole province; it is scarce credible how many females of all ranks have in this town learned to spin, and all the branches both in linen and woollen. I have ten children, one a daughter, 14 years old; the rest are all boys, except an infant. This daughter is constantly employed in spinning; both myself and wife, and all my children, wear of her industry alone all our stockings and gloves. My girl spins, and my wife assists her in knitting. These things are rare in any sea-port towns in England; but they are common in Boston, where such a spirit of prudence prevails.

In this personal letter, a proud father explains that his daughter spins enough yarn that his whole family can wear stockings and gloves knitted from it. **What effect on British merchants would this practice have if many people did the same? Would it be effective against British policy?**

Last Thursday, agreeable to a general Request of the Inhabitants, and by the Consent of Parents and Friends, were carried to their Graves in Succession, the Bodies of Samuel Gray, Samuel Maverick, James Caldwell, and Crispus Attucks, the unhappy Victims who fell in the bloody Massacre of the Monday Evening preceding!



Boston Gazette, March 12, 1770. Article showing four coffins of those who died on March 12, 1770. One more died later from the shooting called the Boston Massacre. **How would those in Boston have felt about the event?**

BOSTON-GOAL, Monday, 12th March 1770.
Messieurs EDES & GILL,
PERMIT me thro' the Channel of your Paper, to return
my Thanks in the most publick Manner to the Inhabi-
tants in general of this Town— who throwing aside all
Party and Prejudice, have with the utmost Humanity and
Freedom set forth Advocates for Truth, in Defence of my
injured Innocence, in the late unhappy Affair that happened
on Monday Night last: And to assure them, that I shall
ever have the highest Sense of the Justice they have done
me, which will be ever gratefully remembered, by
Their much obliged and most obedient humble Servant,
THOMAS PRESTON

Boston Gazette, Mar. 12, 1770. Thomas Preston, the Captain of the British soldiers accused of shooting five citizens in the street, writes a statement from the Boston Goal (Jail).

Why is he thanking the citizens of Boston?

B O S T O N, June 3.

L A T a Meeting of the Merchants and others in Trade, on Monday last, a Letter received by Express from the Merchants at New-York was read, proposing some Relaxation in the Non-importation Agreement: The Subject-Matter of this Letter was maturely considered and debated; and it was thereupon Resolved still to adhere to the Non-importation Agreement, without the least Deviation until the Revenue Act imposing a Duty on Tea, &c. was totally repealed: And the Trade further Voted, That the standing Committee should immediately inform the Merchants of New-York of this their RESOLUTION; and the Express returned on Tuesday last with this Resolution.

Massachusetts Gazette, June, 1770. Meeting of Merchants, Boston. The merchants agree to stick to their Non-Importation agreements. **What is their goal?**

BOSTON, DECEMBER 1, 1773.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Committee of Correspondence for this Town had just prepared their Letter covering the Proceedings of the Town at their two late Meetings of the 5th and 18th ultimo, when a Ship arrived from London with Part of the East-India Company's Teas : This induced us to forbear sending the Letters until we could procure some further Intelligence. On Monday last this and the neighbouring Towns as one Body convened at Faneuil-Hall, 'till the Assembly were so numerous as occasion'd an Adjournment to the Old South Meeting-House, where it was computed there was upwards of 5000 Persons, and then came into a Number of Votes and Resolves unanimously ; a Copy of which being handed to us by a Committee of that Body, we now forward to you, and are with great Esteem your Friends and humble Servants.

By Order of the Committee of Boston.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "William Cooper Plecker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the letter's text area.

December 1, 1773. A Letter from the Committee of Correspondence, deliberating what to do with shipments of tea. Thousands of people met at the Old South Meeting House about the shipments of tea sent by the British in the harbor. What does this tell you about the decision to throw the tea into the water, known as the Boston Tea Party?

Activities: Choose one of the articles shown here. Do one of the following:

- ◆ Draw a political cartoon illustrating its meaning. Write a caption for the cartoon.
- ◆ Write a short speech to be delivered at a meeting that presents the ideas of the article.
- ◆ Choose ten important words from the article and write a poem, rhymed or free verse, including the words.
- ◆ Create a poster presenting the main ideas of the article. Include the date.

Download the handout of this show if you like.

References

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6. "True Sons of Liberty." Broadside, 1768. *Early American Imprints*, Boston Public Library. From NewsBank, inc. and the American Antiquarian Society. All Rights Reserved.
7. "Thank God we have a glorious country." *Massachusetts Gazette*, May 3, 1770. *Early American Imprints*, Boston Public Library. From NewsBank, inc. and the American Antiquarian Society. All Rights Reserved.
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9. "Permit me through the channel of your paper." *Boston Gazette*, Mar. 12, 1770. *Early American Imprints*, Boston Public Library. From NewsBank, inc. and the American Antiquarian Society. All Rights Reserved.
10. "At a Meeting of the Merchants." *Massachusetts Gazette*, June, 1770. *Early American Imprints*, Boston Public Library. From NewsBank, inc. and the American Antiquarian Society. All Rights Reserved.
11. "Letter from Committee of Correspondence." December 1, 1773. *Early American Imprints*, Boston Public Library. From NewsBank, inc. and the American Antiquarian Society. All Rights Reserved.