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Jamestown Journey: England and Virginia, the Bands that Break I

Lead: Angry at a series of what they considered oppressive parliamentary acts, Virginians in the early 1770s, began to resist.

Intro.: Dan Roberts and *A Moment in Time with Jamestown - Journey of Democracy*, tracing the global advance of democratic ideals since the founding of Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.

Content: Two-Penny, Stamp, Declaratory, Townshend. All names of parliamentary revenue statutes that gradually set colonial blood to

boil. In 1769 the Virginia House of Burgesses protested the plan to try in England those colonists accused of treason, the Royal Governor dissolved that body. This prompted an alarmed George Mason to write of England “these are the bands, which, if not broken by oppression, must long hold us together, by maintaining a constant reciprocity of interests.” These bands were stretching to the breaking point.

In 1770, the House of Burgesses petitioned George III pleading with the King to prevent Parliament from taxing America. He ignored the petition. That same year the revered Lord Botetourt, Governor of Virginia, died. His diplomatic skills

had been able to keep Virginian dissatisfaction from growing into armed rebellion for years. His successor, Lord Dunmore, would not prove as skilled.

In 1773, Virginians established the Committee of Correspondence to maintain regular communication with the other colonies as war clouds gathered. That year also brought the Tea Act, which allowed Britain's East India Company to appoint its own agents in America, curtailing the profits of colonial tea merchants and tea smugglers. Virginians also stormed a tea-laden freighter, the *Mary and Jane*, in Norfolk harbor, forcing the ship to return to England fully loaded with tea.

Next Time: open rebellion.

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Resources

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<http://www.history.org/History/teaching/tchcrtme.cfm>

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