

### **The Proclamation of 1763**

This act banned the colonization of British subjects west of the Appalachian mountains. It also ordered the colonist that had already colonized the Ohio Valley and beyond to abandon their homes and move back east.

### **The Sugar Act 1764**

England decided that since it had fought in America during the French Indian War, then the Americans should help pay for the cost of the war. This would tax any sugar or molasses that came into the colonies. Because many of the colonist were now being born in the Americas many of them considered themselves less British and more as citizens of their colonies. This first tax helped to foster these feeling.

### **What happen in between?**

Two other actions by the British also lead to hard feelings in the colonies:

The Currency Act- Parliament banned the colonies from printing their own money which would make it easier for them to pay off their debts.

The British also changed the legal status for many crimes in the colonies to guilty until proven innocent in the Vice-Admiralty court.

### **What is taxation without representation?**

James Otis was a Lawyer from Boston who began to push the idea that the British had no right to tax the colonies since the colonies had no direct representation in Parliament. There was representation in the form of the Parliament as a whole representing all of the colonies though. The American colonist had been on their own for so long and self governed for so long they felt that without representation of their choosing, all taxation was illegal.

### **The Stamp Act 1765**

When the British hear the complaining of the colonies about the Sugar act Parliament asked the colonies what would work for them. When no answer came back to the Prime Minister, he sent to Parliament the Stamp Act: This act forced anyone who bought the following items to pay a tax and have that item stamped to show the tax had been paid. Newspapers, pamphlets, licenses, legal documents, and playing cards. Because many Americans boycotted stamped items it hurt British merchants and that meant money so the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766.

### **The Townshend Acts 1767**

These acts put duties on the following items: imported glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea.

### **Writs of assistance**

To fight the smuggling of the items covered by the Townshend acts, the British customs agents used the writs. These are like search warrants today. This meant the British could search any home for smuggled goods and confiscate any items they deemed necessary. The colonist felt this was a huge abuse of power by the crown.

### **Trouble in Boston!**

When the merchant ship *Liberty* was seized, which was owned by Samuel Adams who was against the Townshend Act, violence erupted in Boston harbor and a group of men known as the Sons of Liberty attacked the homes of British customs agents and the Governor of Massachusetts had to request British troops to restore order. They occupied the city in a move that was sure to lead to conflict.

### **Boston Massacre**

On March 5<sup>th</sup> 1770 an argument between a colonial and a British soldier led to a group of boys throwing stones and snowballs at the British soldiers guarding a customs house. Soon more troops came to back up the lone soldier, as the tempers rose eventually the British soldiers fired into the crowd killing 5 men. This small skirmish was named the Boston Massacre by Samuel Adams and his friends and used as propaganda by them against the British.

### **The Tea Act 1773**

The colonist continued to boycott English goods and smuggled huge amounts of tea into the colonies to keep from paying the British taxes. So the East India Company worked out a deal with Parliament to sell

tea directly to the colonist at the lowest price ever with the tax included. The colonist saw this as a power grab by the East India Company to force small colonial tea merchants out of business. The colonist continued to fight against all of taxes from Britain.

### **The Boston Tea Party**

In 1773 three ships arrived in Boston Harbor loaded with tea. The Sons of Liberty demanded that the ships leave without unloading cargos. The British governor, Thomas Hutchinson, ordered the tea to be unloaded but the Captains were afraid of both the colonist and the Governor. So they decided to just anchor the ships in Boston Harbor. On the night of December 16<sup>th</sup> a group of patriots dressed as Indians snuck aboard the ships and dumped 90,000 pounds of tea into Boston Harbor. When one of the men was caught trying to steal some tea he was stripped of his clothing and sent home with nothing.

### **The Intolerable Acts 1774**

To punish the colonist for dumping the tea, the British passed the Coercive Acts which the colonist called The Intolerable Acts. These acts came in four parts:

Close Boston Harbor until the tea is paid for.

Cancelled Massachusetts charter and made it illegal for the local government to meet unless the Governor called for the meeting.

Moved all Loyal British trials to England to ensure a favorable outcome.

The Quartering Act which required colonist to house British soldiers and feed them in their homes.

### **The first Continental Congress**

In September of 1774 this group of 56 men meet to decide how to work something out with the King. They sent a resolution to King George III declaring what they thought were their rights and how they were being mistreated. Instead of working with the demands, the King ordered the troops to prepare to take the colonist weapons.

### **Lexington and Concord 1775**

The British marched to these towns to take colonial arms and gunpowder. In Lexington the British were meet by less than 70 Minutemen and they tried to stop them. Someone opened fire 8 colonist were killed and 10 were wounded. By the time the British arrived in Concord the Patriots had moved the guns and powder to another place. The British began to burn buildings and the Patriots attacked, by the time the British arrived back in Boston, they had lost over 250 men compared to the Minutemen's less than 100.

### **Second Continental Congress**

In May 1775 men representing the 13 colonies meet in Philadelphia to raise an army to help protect the colonies and try on more time to reconcile with the King. The Olive Branch Petition failed and the Revolutionary war began in earnest.

Page:

2

### **Early battles**

1. Fort Ticonderoga- The colonist launch a surprise attack early on the morning of May 10<sup>th</sup> during a rainstorm. They captured a large British supply of weapons.
2. Bunker / Breed's Hill- The British attack Patriot emplacements near Charlestown overlooking Boston. The British launched a full frontal attack against the Patriots who were low on ammunition. The Patriots were told to hold their fire till the see the whites of the British eyes. The British did defeat them, but they lost over 1000 men compared to the 400 for the Patriots.
3. Dorchester Heights- The Patriot army sets up cannons above the city of Boston and began shelling the town. In one day they drove the British out of Boston back to Canada and retook Boston.

### **Common Sense**

In January of 1776 Thomas Paine produced a pamphlet that called for the colonist to leave the British and form their own governments that are ruled by the people. This is the most important document leading toward independence because it sold over 120,000 copies to the people of the colonies and became Americas first best seller.