



The Loudoun Resolves

June 14, 1774¹

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the County of Loudoun, in the Colony of Virginia, held at the Court-house in Leesburg, the 14th June, 1774-F. Peyton, Esq.,² in the Chair—to consider the most effectual method to preserve the rights and liberties of N. America, and relieve our brethren of Boston, suffering under the most oppressive and tyrannical Act of the British Parliament, made in the 14th year of his present Majesty's reign, whereby their Harbor is blocked up, their Commerce totally obstructed, their property rendered useless—

LORD DUNMORE dissolved the House of Burgesses on May 26, 1774, after it proclaimed a day of prayer and fasting in support of Boston. The Burgesses then met at Williamsburg's Raleigh Tavern to organize a non-importation Association (boycott), propose a Continental Congress, and call the first Virginia Convention. The Convention was set for August 1 to allow delegates "an Opportunity of collecting the sense of their respective Counties." As Thomas Jefferson recalled, "We returned home, and in our several counties invited the clergy to meet assemblies of the people..., to perform the ceremonies of the day, and to address to them discourses suited to the occasion." County committees formed to enforce the Association and instruct delegates. At least 45 counties adopted resolutions or "resolves." Others issued resolves after the Continental Association was adopted in Philadelphia.

Resolved, That we will always cheerfully submit to such prerogatives as his Majesty has a right, by law, to exercise, as Sovereign of the British Dominions, and to no others.

Resolved, That it is beneath the dignity of freemen to submit to any tax not imposed on them in the usual manner, by representatives of their own choosing.

Resolved, That the Act of the British Parliament, above mentioned, is utterly repugnant to the fundamental laws of justice, in punishing persons without even the form of a trial; but a despotic exertion of unconstitutional power designedly calculated to enslave a free and loyal people.

Resolved, That the enforcing the execution of the said Act of Parliament by a military power must have a necessary tendency to raise a civil war, and

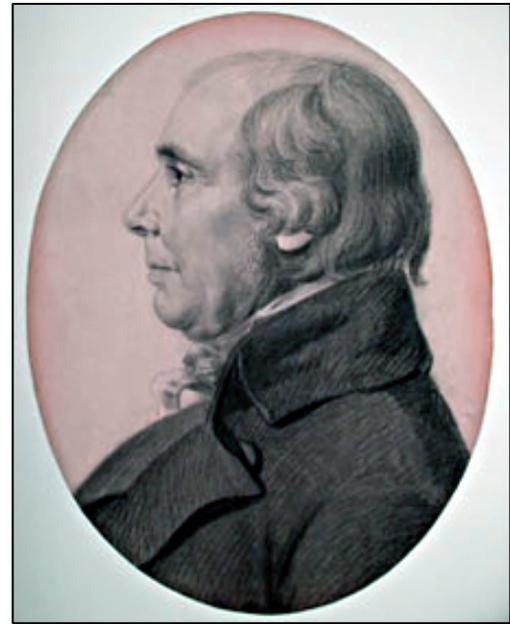
¹ The Loudon Resolves were not published at the time but were preserved in the papers of Leven Powell, first published in a newspaper in the 1870s, and reprinted in the *William & Mary College Quarterly*, series 1, 12:4 (1904), 231-236.

² Francis Peyton (1733–ca. 1815) was an original member of the Loudoun County Court (local government) in 1757 and frequently represented the county as burgess and delegate from 1769 through his death.



with our lives and fortunes, assist and support our suffering brethren, of Boston, and every part of North America that may fall under the immediate hand of oppression, until a redress of all our grievances shall be procured, and our common liberties established on a permanent foundation.

Resolved, That the East India Company, by exporting their tea from England to America, whilst subject to a tax imposed thereon by the British Parliament, have evidently designed to fix on the Americans those chains forged for them by a venal ministry, and have thereby rendered themselves odious and detestable throughout all America. It is, therefore, the unanimous opinion of this meeting not to purchase any tea—or other East India commodity whatever, imported after the first of this Month.



The Loudoun Resolves were probably co-authored by Leven Powell. (Wikimedia Commons)

Resolved, That we will have no commercial intercourse with Great Britain until the above mentioned Act of Parliament shall be totally repealed, and the right of regulating the internal policy of N. America by a British Parliament shall be absolutely and positively given up.

Resolved, That Thompson Mason and Francis Peyton, Esqs., be appointed to represent the County at the general meeting to be held at Williamsburg on the 1st day of August next, to take the sense of this Colony at large on the subject of the preceding resolves, and that they, together with Leven Powell,³ William Ellzey, John Thornton, George Johnston,⁴ and Samuel Levi, or any three of them, be a committee to correspond with the several committees appointed for this purpose.

Signed by,

John Morton
Thomas Ray

Thomas Drake
William Booram

Benj. Isaac Humphrey
Samuel Mills

³ Leven Powell (1737-1810) was major of the Prince William District Minute Battalion in 1775 and appoint lieutenant colonel of the "16th regiment of Virginia Continentals." (Robert C. Powell, ed., *A Biographical Sketch of Col. Leven C. Powell Including His Correspondence During the Revolutionary War* (G.H. Ramey & Son, 1877), 5). This was probably Charles Mynn's Thruston's Additional Continental Regiment, which never formed. He served in the Virginia House of Delegates, the Virginia Ratification Convention, and the U.S. House of Representatives. The manuscript is partially in Leven Powell's hand, suggesting he was a co-author with George Johnston.

⁴ George Johnston (1752-1777) became captain of the Prince William District musket company of the 2nd Virginia Regiment in 1775 and was promoted to major of the 5th Virginia Regiment in 1776. General Washington chose him as an aide de camp early in 1777 and he died of illness a few months later. Part of the manuscript is in Johnston's hand, suggesting he and Powell were co-authors.



Joshua Singleton	Wm. Finnekin	Robert Combs
Jonathan Drake	Richard Hanson	Stephen Combs
Matthew Rust	John Dunker	Samuel Henderson
Barney Sims	Jasper Grant	Benjamin Overfield
John Sims	Thomas Williams	Adam Sangster
Samuel Butler	James Noland	Bazzell Roads
Thomas Chinn	Samuel Peugh	John Wildey
Appollos Cooper	William Nornail	James Graydey
Lina Hancock	Thomas Luttrell	Joseph Bayley
John McVicker	James Brair	John Reardon
Simon Triplett	Poins Awsley	Edward Miller
Thomas Awsley	John Kendrick	Richard Hirst
Isaac Sanders	Edward O'Keal	James Davis
Thos. Williams	Francis Triplett	
John Williams	Joseph Combs	
Henry Awsley	John Peyton Harrison	

Sources and Additional Reading

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- Glanville, Jim, The Fincastle Resolutions, *The Smithfield Review* 14 (2010).
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