American Experience

History Interactive

EXPERIENCE THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

Fighting between Patriots and the British did not begin until 10 years after the Stamp Act caused an uproar in the colonies. In 1765, not many colonists wanted independence from Britain. Over the next decade, a few organizers rallied colonists to join the Patriots. These printers, merchants, and lawyers used the language of the Enlightenment to attract converts to the cause of independence.

In response to British taxes, early Patriots began organizing the resistance. Samuel Adams created committees of correspondence in Massachusetts to inform the colony about events in Boston. Other colonies quickly followed. Later, Sons and Daughters of Liberty employed the masses of people in their anti-British actions.

Prominent Patriots joined the Sons and Daughters of Liberty and committees of correspondence.

WILLIAM JACKSON,
an IMPORTER; at the
BRAZEN HEAD,

North Side of the TOWN-HOUSE

and Opposite the Town-Pump

Corn-bill, BOSTON.

It is defired that the Sons and DAUGHTERS of LIBERTY, would not buy any one thing of him, for in so doing they will bring Difgrace upon themselves, and their Pasterity, for ever and ever, AMEN.

BOSTON, September, 27. 1774-

GENTLEMEN.

Telle committees of correspondence of this and feveral of the neighbouring soons, having taken into conditionation in an explosuring soons, having taken into conditionation in the control of the conditional properties of the conditional properties of the conditional provides and bring under a meeting soon their condition of conditional and bring under a meeting story fasting the conditional days on the conditional conditions are required an annihily in all our measures in this day of correctional conditional conditio

We are,

Your Friends and Fellow Countrymen.

Signed by Order of the Joint Commerce,



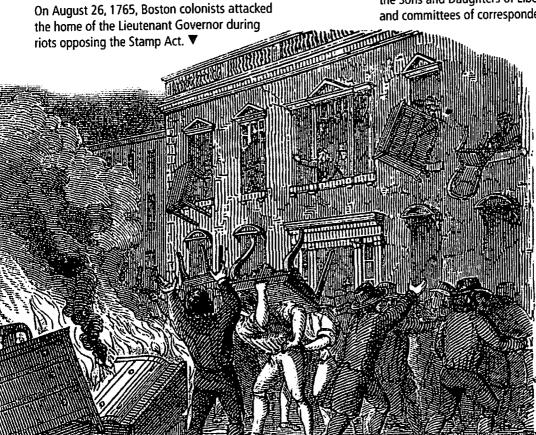
▲ James Otis was a leader of the Massachusetts committee of correspondence.



△ Joseph Reed joined the Philadelphia committee of correspondence.

June 29, 1767

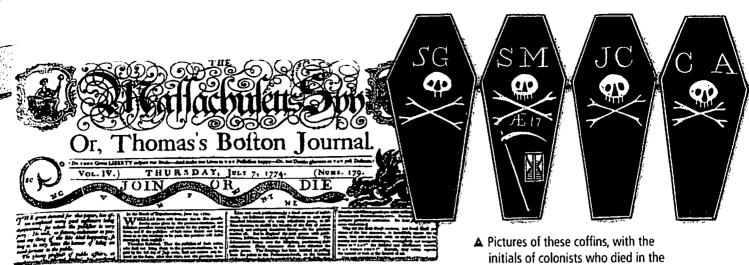
Passage of the Townshend Acts leads to colonial nonimportation agreements.



April 5: 1764

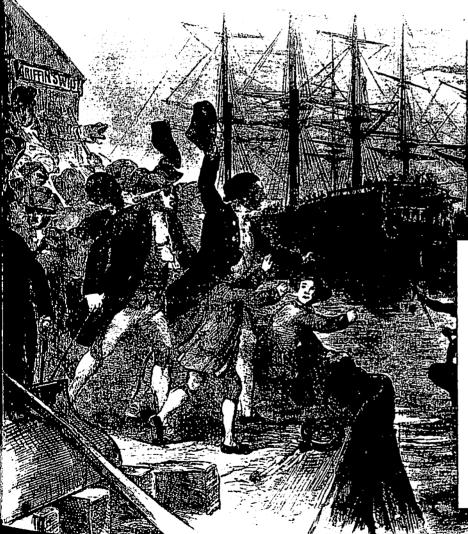
The Sugar Act lowers the tax on molasses, but increases penalties for smuggling, denying a jury trial to accused smugglers.

Passage of the Stamp Act results in riots and the formation of the Sons of Liberty.



▲ Printing presses were powerful tools for Patriots. The press for this paper had to be slipped out of Boston to prevent the British from destroying it. ▲ Pictures of these coffins, with the initials of colonists who died in the Boston Massacre, were printed in newspapers throughout the colonies.

In response to the Tea Act, Boston Patriots dressed as Indians and dumped British tea into the harbor.



Thinking Critically

1. Recognize Propaganda How did newspapers win support for the Patriots?

2. Identify Point of View How would Parliament have interpreted the colonists' reactions?

Connect to Today Research a group that is working to gain support for a specific cause today. Write a report evaluating the tactics they use to spread their message.

History Interactive

For: Experience the Road to Revolution activities Web Code: ncp-0403

March 5, 1770

The Boston Massacre results in greater support for the Patriots, who use newspapers to advance their cause.

April 27, 1773

Parliament passes the Tea Act, leading to the Boston Tea Party in December. April 1, 1774

Parliament closes the port of Boston; Virginia calls for every colony to create committees of correspondence.