

# RALEIGH REGISTER

## AND NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace, unwarped by party rage, to live like brothers."

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### Incidents of the Revolution.

From the Old Colony (Massachusetts) Memorial.

Great and important events should ever  
be kept in memory, and also to be often  
spoken of, and also to be instilled into  
the minds of our children and by them  
transmitted to their children and handed  
down from generation to generation to  
the latest posterity.

The American Revolution, taking into  
view the importance of its object, the in-  
justice of the British claims that gave oc-  
casion to it, the unprepared state of the  
colonists to engage in such an important,  
such a difficult, such a dangerous enter-  
prise, is an event that stands alone in the  
pages of history; and which ought never  
to be forgotten, but should be among the  
first things implanted in the minds of our  
children. It is true that they can never  
have the same sensations in contemplating  
the subject as those who lived at the  
time of the event, and participated in the  
efforts, the toils and the dangers of the  
enterprise; yet they may have some lively  
ideas of the exertions, the toils, the  
dangers and the successes of their pre-  
decessors in obtaining for them the high  
and dignified situation in which they  
stand in the scale of nations, and of the  
blessings they enjoy, of which all the  
residue of the world do not participate,  
but are ignorant.

I was led to these reflections by taking  
a review of old times, particularly of  
an event which took place in the year  
1774, sixty years ago last September,  
which is probably now forgotten, or per-  
haps was never known but to a very few,  
whose lives have been lengthened out  
to this time. This was the first open  
act done in the face of day, without dis-  
guise, (in the controversy with Great  
Britain) which, according to the British  
jurisprudence, would be called Treason.  
This originated and was consummated  
in the Old Colony. The British Parlia-  
ment in their mad career had assumed a  
right to mutilate the Charter of Massa-  
chusetts, which was a solemn contract  
between the King on one part, and the  
Province on the other; but a thing to  
which the Parliament was not a party,  
nor was it made under any authority from  
them, or with any reference to them;  
and with which they had no more right  
to intermeddle than the Bongas of Japan.  
But this authority they assumed; and by  
an act took from the House of Represen-  
tatives the right to choose the Council  
(granted to them by charter) and au-  
thorized the King to appoint the Council  
by his *manibus*; and authorized the  
Sheriffs of the several counties to appoint  
the Juries, instead of being drawn out  
of the jury-box by the Selectmen, as was  
provided by law. This gave an universal  
alarm, and involved the great body  
of the people, in the most perplexing ag-  
itation and perplexity. They were not  
insensible of the dangers attending an  
opposition; and at the same time could  
not for a moment endure the idea of sub-  
mitting to this notorious violation of their  
rights. They viewed the matter in every  
point, and considered that nothing  
could be so bad as tame submission; and  
as the Court of Common Pleas was to  
be held at Barnstable, the first Tuesday  
in September, they determined to begin  
with that first, and prevent that Court  
from doing any business.

Accordingly a considerable body of men  
from Middleborough, more from Roches-  
ter, and many from Wareham, on the  
Monday preceding marched to Sandwich.  
Here they were joined by a considerable  
part of the population of Sandwich. The  
latter part of the day and the evening  
were spent in organizing the body and  
establishing rules and regulations. Dr.  
Nathaniel Freeman was unanimously  
chosen the conductor in chief of the enter-  
prise, and officers of lower grade were  
appointed. FREEMAN (afterwards a  
Brigadier General) was a fine figure of a  
man; between 50 and 40 years of age.  
He had a well made face, a florid coun-  
tenance, a bright, dignified eye, a clear  
and majestic voice; he wore a handsome  
black lapped coat, a tied wig as white  
as snow, a set-up hat with the point  
inclined a little towards the right hand. In  
short he had the appearance of fortitude  
personified. On Tuesday morning, the  
body marched to Barnstable and were  
there joined by a considerable part of the

population of that town; making in the  
whole about 1500 as was estimated.—  
They took possession of the ground in  
front of the Court-House in a solid con-  
densed body. The conductor took his  
stand on the steps of the Court House  
door. Commissioners were appointed to  
ferret out the disaffected, and to bring  
them to a relinquishment in writing of  
their torjism; & if any refused, to bring  
such before the body. All signed recanta-  
tions, though some did it reluctantly.  
These recantations were afterwards pret-  
ty well imitated by Trumbull in his Mc  
Fingal.

"I now renounce the Pope—the Turk,  
"The King—the Devil and all his work!  
"And if you will see me at ease,  
"Turn Whig—or Christian—what you please."

But soon the Court made its appear-  
ance, led on by the high sheriff (Stone)  
with a broad cockade on his hat, a long  
white staff in his left hand, and a drawn  
sword in his right. The Court (Otis,  
Winslow and Bacon) as the body did not  
give way, halted about an arm's length  
from the assemblage. Col. Otis, the Ch.  
Justice, a very venerable looking old  
gentleman, addressed them and said—  
"Gentlemen, what is the purpose for  
which this vast assemblage are collected  
here?" He was answered by Dr. Free-  
man, standing on the door steps, with a  
loud and clear voice, as it was some dis-  
tance to where the Court stood: "May  
it please your Honor—Oppressed by the  
dangers by which we are surrounded,  
& terrified with the horrible black cloud  
which is suspended over our heads and  
ready to burst upon us; our own safety,  
and what is dear to us, and the welfare  
of unborn millions has dictated this move-  
ment to prevent the Court from being  
opened or doing any business. We have  
taken all the consequences under consid-  
eration, we have weighed them all and  
have formed this resolution, which we  
shall not rescind." The Chief Justice  
calmly but firmly replied: "This is a  
legal and a constitutional Court; it has  
suffered no mutations; the juries have  
been drawn from the boxes as the law  
directs, and why would you interrupt our  
proceedings? why make your leap before  
you get to the hedge?" Dr. Freeman  
replied—"All this has been considered;  
we do not appear here out of any disre-  
spect to this Hon. Court, nor do we ap-  
prehend that if you proceed to business  
that you will do any thing that we could  
censure. But, sir, from all the decisions  
of this Court of more than forty shillings  
amount an appeal lies—an appeal to what?

to a Court holding their office during the  
King's pleasure; a Court over whom we  
have no control or influence; a Court  
who is paid out of the revenue which is  
extorted from us by the illegal and un-  
constitutional edict of foreign despotism  
—and where the Jury will be appointed  
by the Sheriff. For this reason we have  
adopted this method to stop the avenue  
through which business can pass to that  
tribunal; knowing that if they have no  
business, they can do us no harm."

The Chief Justice then said, as it is my  
duty, I now in His Majesty's name, order  
you immediately to disperse and give the  
Court an opportunity to perform the busi-  
ness of the county. Dr. Freeman re-  
plied: we thank your Honor for having  
done your duty—we will now continue  
to perform ours. The Court then turned  
round and repaired to the house where  
they had put up.  
A Committee was then chosen, of which  
Dr. Freeman was the Chairman, to wait  
on the Chief Justice in the name of the  
assemblage, and request him to attend at  
Boston at the time the Governor had or-  
dered a new General Court to meet, and  
demand his seat at the Council Board,  
he being one that was chosen that year  
according to the provision of the Charter.  
The Chief Justice answered in writing,  
that he thanked them for putting him in  
mind of his duty; that he had thought  
on the subject, and had concluded to at-  
tend and demand his seat, though he did  
not expect it would have any effect.—  
However, the Governor for some reason,  
issued another Proclamation, forbidding  
the members of the General Court to meet.

I thought then, and I still continue of  
the same mind, that I never had seen or  
have I since seen any man whatever who  
felt quite so cleverly and happy as Dr.  
Freeman did during the whole of this  
time; and I think no man was better  
qualified to preside on such an occasion.  
Dr. Freeman then resigned his post, and  
at his recommendation, Major Otis, the  
Clerk of the Court, and son of the Chief  
Justice, was chosen his successor. The  
rest of the day was spent in receiving  
the recantations of the disaffected in-  
habitants, and in raising their Liberty  
pole; and the next day they returned to  
Sandwich. It is a duty I owe to the in-  
habitants of the town of Barnstable to  
say, that such was their urbanity, that  
few, if any of them, would receive any  
compensation for the board, &c. of those  
visitors.  
On the return to Sandwich some out-  
rages had been committed by the disaf-  
fected, the liberty pole had been cut down,  
&c. &c. This caused some little trouble;  
the perpetrators were arrested and bro't  
coram nobis, and after having received

a severe reprimand, and paying the just  
value of the liberty pole, signing recanta-  
tions and renouncing  
"The Pope—the Turk,  
"The King—the Devil, and all their work"  
they were liberated. This was the first  
act of the kind; and I believe there was  
never a Court of Common Pleas holden  
under the King's authority after this in  
the Province, except in the town of Bos-  
ton, where Governor Gage with his troops  
had it in his power to control all things  
of this nature.

This retrospection of those olden times  
resuscitates all the feelings, sensations  
and animations of 1774: feelings, sensa-  
tions and animations which none can feel  
to the same degree, who did not live at  
the time and participate in the fears and  
the hopes, and in the toils and the dan-  
gers of those times. The contemplation  
of those events gives me a satisfaction  
unknown to the miser in counting his  
boards of cash—the Agriculturalist when  
his corn and his wine and his oil increas-  
eth, or the Merchant, when his ship re-  
turns laden with the riches of the East.

Population like the human body is in  
a constant state of mutation; we never  
see them twice in all respects the same.  
There may be some who took a part in  
this adventure, beside myself, who still  
live, but I know of none; there certainly  
is not one in the town of Rochester;  
and it is probable that a large majority  
of the population of the county of Barns-  
table never so much as heard of the trans-  
action. Strange as it may appear, I am  
acquainted with gentlemen who can talk  
very intelligibly of the history of Eng-  
land and even of Greece and Rome, who  
know but little of the history of their own  
country.

Rochester, March 11, 1837.

\* In seventeen hundred and seventy-six,  
On March the 11th the time was fixt,  
Our forces march'd over to Dorchester neck,  
Made fortifications against an attack.  
And early next morning when Howe did spy  
The works they'thrown up were so copious and  
high,  
Said he all my men in six months with their  
might,  
Could not make such forts as they've made in one  
night.

### THE IRISH SQUIRE'S PAGE.

'Ride into the town, and see if there's  
a letter for me,' said the Squire, one day  
to our hero. 'Yis, sir.'

'You know where to go?'—'To the town,  
sir.'

'But do you know where to go in the  
town?'—'No, sir.'

'And why don't you ask, you stupid  
thief?'—'Sure I'd find out, sir.'

'Didnt I often tell you to ask what  
you're to do, when you don't know?'—  
'Yis, sir.'

'And why don't you?'—'I don't like to  
be troublesome sir.'

'Confound you!' said the squire; though  
he could not help laughing at Andy's ex-  
cuse for remaining in ignorance.

'Well,' continued he, 'go to the post  
office. You know the post office, I sup-  
pose?'—'Yis, sir; where they sell gun-  
powder.'

'You're right for once,' said the squire;  
for his Majesty's postmaster was the per-  
son who had the privilege of dealing in  
the aforesaid combustible. 'Go then to  
the post office, and ask for a letter for  
me. Remember,—not gunpowder, but  
a letter.'

'Yis, sir,' said Andy, who got astride  
of his hack, and trotted away to the post  
office. On arriving at the shop of the  
post-master, (for that person carried on  
a brisk trade in groceries, gimlets, broad  
cloth and linen drapery,) Andy presented  
himself at the counter and said,

'I want a letter, sir, if you please.'

'Who do you want it for?' said the  
postmaster, in a tone which Andy con-  
sidered an aggression upon the sacred-  
ness of private life; so Andy thought the  
coolest contempt he could throw upon the  
prying impertinence of the postmaster  
was to repeat his question.

'I want a letter, sir, if you please.'

'And who do you want it for?' repeated  
the postmaster.

'What's that to you?' said Andy.

'The postmaster, laughing at his sim-  
plicity, told him he could not tell what  
letter to give him unless he told him the  
direction.'

'The directions I got was to get a let-  
ter here—that's the directions.'

'Who gave those directions?'—'The  
master.'

'And who's your master?'—'What con-  
cern is that o' yours?'

'Why you stupid rascal! if you don't  
tell me his name, how can I give you a  
letter?'—'You could give it if you liked;  
but you're fond of axin' impident ques-  
tions, because you think I'm simple.'

'Go long out o' this. Your master  
must be as great a goose as yourself, to  
send such a messenger.'—'Bad luck to  
your impudence!' said Andy; 'is it  
squire Egan you dar to say goose to?'

'Oh, Squire Egan's your master then?'

'Yis; have you any thing to say agin  
it?'

'Only that I never saw you before.'

'Faith, then, you'll never see me agin if  
I have my own consent.'

'I won't give you any letter for the  
squire, unless I know you're his servant.  
Is there any one in the town knows you?'

'Plenty,' said Andy, 'it is not every  
one is so ignorant as you?'

Just at this moment a person entered  
the house to get a letter, to whom Andy  
was known; and he vouched to the post-  
master that the account he gave of him-  
self was true. 'You may give the squire's  
letter to him.' Have you one for me?  
'Yes sir, Yes sir,' said the postmaster,  
—producing one, 'four pence.'

The new comer paid the four pence  
postage, and left the shop with the letter.

'Here's a letter for the squire,' said  
the postmaster. 'You've to pay me e-  
leven pence postage.'

'What 'ud I pay eleven pence for?—  
For postage.'

'To de devil wid you! Didnt I see you  
give Mr. Delany a letter for four pence  
this mornin, and a bigger letter than this;  
and now you want me to pay eleven pence  
for this scrap of a thing. Do you think I'm  
a fool.'

'No, but I'm sure of it, said the post-  
master. 'Well you're welkum to think  
what you please; but don't be delaying me  
now; here's four pence for you, and gi' me  
the letter.'

'Go along, you stupid thief,' said the  
postmaster, taking up the letter, and go-  
ing to serve a customer with a mousetrap.

While this person, and many others were  
served, Andy lounged up and down the  
shop, every now and then putting his head  
in the middle of the customers and saying,  
'will ye gi' me the letter?'

He waited for above half an hour in de-  
fiance of the anathemas of the postmaster,  
and at last left, when he found it was im-  
possible to get common justice for his mas-  
ter, which he thought he deserved as well  
as another man; for under this impression,  
Andy determined to give no more than the  
four pence.

The squire in the mean time was get-  
ting impatient for his return, and when  
Andy made his appearance, asked if there  
was a letter for him.

'There is, sir,' said Andy.

'Then give to me?'—'I hav'nt, sir.'

'What do you mean?'—'He wouldnt  
give it to me, sir.'

'Who wouldn't give it to you?'—'That  
old chait beyant in town,—wanting to  
charge double for it.'

'May be it's a double letter. Why the  
devil didn't you pay what he asked, sir?'

'Arrah, sir, why would I let you be chea-  
ted. It's not a double letter at all, not a-  
bove half the size o' one Mr. Delany got  
before my face for four pence.'

'You'll provoke me to break your neck  
some day, you vagabond! Ride back for  
your life, you omadhaun, and pay what e-  
ver he asks, and get me the letter.'

'Why, sir, I tell you he was sellin' them  
before my face for four pence a-piece.'

'Go back, you scoundrel, or I'll horse-  
whip you; and if you are longer than an  
hour, I'll have you ducked in the horse-  
pond!'

Andy vanished, and made a second visit  
to the post office. When he arrived, two  
other persons were getting letters, and the  
postmaster was selecting letters for them  
from a large parcel that lay before him on  
the counter; at the same time many shop  
customers were waiting to be served.

'I'm come for that letter,' said Andy.

'I'll attend to you by and by.'

'The master's in a hurry.'

'Let him wait till his hurry's over.'

'He'll murder me if I'm not back soon.'

'I'm glad to hear it.'

While the postmaster went on with such  
provoking answers to these appeals for  
despatch, Andy's eye caught the heap of  
letters that lay on the counter; so, while  
certain weighing of soap and tobacco was  
going forward, he contrived to become pos-  
sessed of two letters from the heap; and,  
having effected that, waited patiently en-  
ough until it was the great man's pleasure  
to give him the missive directed to his mas-  
ter.

Then did Andy bestride his hack, and,  
in triumph at this trick upon the postmas-  
ter, rattled along the road homeward as  
fast as his hack could carry him. He came  
into the squire's presence, his face beam-  
ing with delight, an air of self-satisfied  
superiority in his manner, quite unaccount-  
able to his master, until he pulled forth his  
hand, which had been grubbing up his  
prizes from the bottom of his pocket, and  
holding three letters over his head, while  
he said, 'Look at that!' he next slapped  
them down under his broad fist on the ta-  
ble before the squire, and said,

'Well if he did make me pay eleven  
pence, by gor, I brought your honor the  
worth of your money, any how.'

'FIRE FROM ASHES.'

The following explanation of the cause  
of so many accidents resulting from ashes  
being placed in wooden vessels, is by  
Professor SMITH, of New Haven, Conn.,  
and contains information which should  
be generally diffused.

Perhaps there are few people who are  
acquainted with the fact, that ashes made  
by burning hard wood, such as oak, ma-  
ple, &c. in a fire place, and taken up  
dry, are capable of producing spontaneous  
combustion, simply by receiving a degree  
of moisture, or by coming in contact with  
a wet board or stove, or being exposed

to a very damp atmosphere. It is gene-  
rally believed when fire is kindled by  
ashes, that it is caused by coals being  
put away with the ashes while on fire; but  
this is a mistake. The coals if they were  
on fire, when buried in atmospheric air,  
would soon be extinguished; or if they  
were not, they could not kindle a fire  
when the air was excluded. The sponta-  
neous combustion of ashes proceeds  
from a very different principle.

Hard wood ashes when first-made, and  
while they are kept dry, contain a metal  
called potassium, which is the basis of  
potash. This metal is very combustible,  
and has so strong an affinity or attrac-  
tion for oxygen, the supporter and causes  
of combustion, that it takes the oxygen  
from water the moment it touches it, and  
burns with a vivid flame; and the pro-  
duct of this combustion is potassium sa-  
turated with oxygen, or what may be  
called the oxyde of potassium. It should  
be noticed too, that water is a compound  
of oxygen and hydrogen, and that when  
the potassium comes in contact with wa-  
ter, it takes the oxygen from it, and the  
hydrogen being set free increases the  
combustion. The simple explanation then  
is this:—dry ashes when first burnt, con-  
tain in them a metallic substance which  
is highly inflammable, and which is set  
on fire by moisture. Quick lime and  
water produce heat sufficient, in some in-  
stances, to set wood on fire, but ashes  
and water produce a much more intense  
heat. In adding water to ashes there is  
a real combustion of the metal contained  
in the ashes, the metal being a combusti-  
ble substance, requiring nothing but the  
oxygen of the water to set it on fire.

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of combustion, that it takes the oxygen  
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the potassium comes in contact with wa-  
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is this:—dry ashes when first burnt, con-  
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is highly inflammable, and which is set  
on fire by moisture. Quick lime and  
water produce heat sufficient, in some in-  
stances, to set wood on fire, but ashes  
and water produce a much more intense  
heat. In adding water to ashes there is  
a real combustion of the metal contained  
in the ashes, the metal being a combusti-  
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oxygen of the water to set it on fire.

Hard wood ashes when first-made, and  
while they are kept dry, contain a metal  
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