

ORIGINAL

Note by Charles Morris

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CONGRESS HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 1775.

Article 7 of the Suffolk County Resolutions adopted in Milton, September 9, 1774, recommended the retention of public moneys by local collectors until "the Civil Government of the province is placed upon a constitutional foundation or until it is otherwise ordered by the proposed provincial congress." The proposed provincial congress is urged by article 16. Having been organized as recommended the provincial congress appears to legalize the retention of public moneys as voted by delegates to the fourth Suffolk County Congress.

John Pitts, who signed the report as ~~secretary~~ "Clerk pro tempore", had been a Boston delegate to previous Congresses. a man of large influence and a zealous patriot, he served as a member of the Provincial Congress and as a Selectman of Boston, from 1773 to 1775. He was among the signers of a congratulatory letter to General Washington, following the evacuation of Boston in 1776. He was also one of the several graduates of Harvard College active in the Independence movement.

By raising money to finance the delegates sent from Massachusetts to the First Continental Congress ~~cannot~~ by appealing directly to the towns, Samuel Adams cunningly outwitted Governor Gage, as shown by this resolve.

The transference of the Power to Tax is often the sign of an emerging national consciousness. The fact of taxing implicit in this "Resolve", dated Salem, June 17, 1774, and summarized in Article seven of the Suffolk Resolves, dated September 9, 1774, which was put in final form in Milton at the Fourth meeting of the Suffolk County Congress, February 28, 1775, is therefore ~~highly~~ significant. The Resolves shown here and signed by "Sam Adams Clerk" were sent to Milton. The only other copy known to exist ^{AND known as THE} ~~is the~~ so-called "Templeton Document" ^{IT IS} now in the possession of the Archives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Shown here is a photocopy of the Milton original now owned by the American Antiquarian Society. ~~The money assessed was to finance the Massachusetts delegates to the First Continental Congress.~~ ^{was sent to Templeton Massachusetts}

The significant part of the Resolves reads:

And whereas this House did Resolve, That there be paid to said Committee out of the public Treasury, the Sum of FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS, to enable them to ~~discharge~~ discharge the important Trust to which they are appointed; they upon their return to be accountable for the same.- And said Resolve was sent up to the honorable Board for their Concurrence, who accordingly concurred the Resolve of the House, but his Excellency the Governor declined his Consent to the same - Wherefore this House would Recommend, and they do accordingly recommend to the several Towns and Districts within this Province, that each Town and District, raise, collect, and pay, to the Honorable Thomas Cushing, Esq; of Boston, the Sum of FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS by the Fifteenth Day of August next, agreeable to a List herewith exhibited, being each Town's and District's Proportion of said Sum, according to the last Province Tax, to enable them to ~~discharge~~ discharge the important Trust to which they are appointed; they upon their Return to be accountable for the same.

The "last Province Tax" of the Town of Milton is ~~shown~~ shown on the tax bill signed by the King's Treasurer, "H. Gray" and dated May 25, 1774.

In other words, the Massachusetts House of Representatives, having been refused by ~~the~~ Governor Gage, arrogates to itself the right to raise money to finance the Massachusetts delegates to the First Continental Congress.

It is signed by Harrison Gray, who remained loyal to the Crown. He was grandfather of the famous Federalist statesman, Harrison Gray Otis (1765-1848), one of whose residences (a Bulfinch house) still survives on Cambridge street in Boston. It is the home of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

At a meeting of the Delegates from the several Towns & Districts
in the County of Suffolk, upon adjournment, at Milton, this 28th
Day of Feb^r. A.D. 1775:

Whereas the said Delegates at a former meeting Resolved
That it be recommended to the collectors of taxes, constables,
and all other officers who have publick monies in their
hands, to retain the same, & not make payment thereof to
the province or county treasurers, untill the civil Govern-
ment of the Province is placed upon a constitutional founda-
tion, or untill it shall be ordered otherwise by the proposed
provincial Congress:— And whereas the civil Government
of the Province is not yet placed upon a constitutional founda-
tion, and the provincial Congress have taken into consi-
deration the payment of the provincial monies only—
And it now appearing to the Delegates aforesaid that there is a
necessity for all the monies which have been raised by the
several Towns & Districts in the said County of Suffolk, by war-
rant from the Justices of the court of general Sessions of the
peace for said County, & which have not been paid into the
hands of the said County treasurers, should be immediately
paid him:

It is therefore Resolved, That it be recommended & it
is accordingly hereby earnestly recommended to the several
Towns & Districts in said County of Suffolk that they cause

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JOHN PITTS,
Clerk pro-tempore.
23, 1874. D. T. V. H.

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several Towns & Districts in the said County of Suffolk by war-
rant from the Justices of the court of general Sessions of the
peace for said County, & which have not been paid into the
hands of the said County Treasurer, should be immediately
paid him.

It is therefore resolved, That it be recommended, & it
is accordingly hereby earnestly recommended to the several
Towns & Districts in said County of Suffolk that they cause
the monies respectively raised by them for the use of the said
County as aforesaid, & which have not been paid to the Treas-
urer thereof, to be paid him without delay, He removing
his office at least ten miles distant from the Town of Boston
& every other Sea-Port Town in said County.

Resolved That when this meeting ^{shall} be adjourned, it be adjourned
to the 26th Day of April next at ten o'clock A.M. then
to meet at the House of Mr. Daniel Vose, in Milton when
those Towns & Districts which may not then have Dele-
gates for a county Convention, be earnestly desired to
choose Delegates to represent them at said adjournment.

The chairman declared it adjourned accordingly
Attest John Pitts Clerk pro-tempore

Where, should the... meeting... to the... all other... in their... make pay... County... of the Province... constitutional foundation... Provincial Congress... and whereas the civil government of the Province is not yet placed upon a constitutional foundation... and the Provincial Congress have taken into consideration the payment of the Provincial monies only, and it now appearing to the delegates aforesaid that there is a necessity for all the monies which have been raised by the several towns and districts in the said County of Suffolk by warrant from the Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for said County, and which have not been paid into the hands of the said County Treasurer should be immediately paid him.

It is, therefore, Resolved, That it be recommended, and it is accordingly hereby earnestly recommended to the several towns and districts in said County of Suffolk, that they cause the monies respectively raised by them for the use of the said County aforesaid, and which have not been paid to the Treasurer thereof, to be paid him without delay. He removing his office at least ten miles distant from the Town of Boston, and every other seaport town in said County.

Voted—That when this meeting shall be adjourned, it be adjourned to the twenty-sixth day of April next, at ten o'clock A. M., then to meet at the house of Mr. Daniel Vose, in Milton, when those towns and districts which may not then have delegates for a County Convention be earnestly desired to choose delegates to represent them at said adjournment.

The Chairman declared it adjourned accordingly.

Attest: JOHN PITTS,
Clerk pro-tempore.
Canton, Sept. 23, 1874. D. T. V. H.

the... until the civil Govern... a constitutional found... by the proposed... and whereas the civil Government of the Province is not yet placed upon a constitutional foundation, and the Provincial Congress have taken into consideration the payment of the Provincial monies only— And it now appearing to the Delegates aforesaid that there is a necessity for all the monies which have been raised by the several Towns & Districts in the said County of Suffolk by warrant from the Justices of the Court of general Sessions of the Peace for said County & which have not been paid into the hands of the said County Treasurer should be immediately paid him.

It is therefore Resolved, That it be recommended, & it is accordingly hereby earnestly recommended to the several Towns & Districts in said County of Suffolk that they cause the monies respectively raised by them for the use of the said County aforesaid & which have not been paid to the Treasurer thereof to be paid him without delay, He removing his office at least ten miles distant from the Town of Boston & every other Sea-Port Town in said County.

Resolved That when this meeting shall be adjourned, it be adjourned to the 26th Day of April next at ten O'clock A.M. then to meet at the House of Mr. Daniel Vose in Milton, when those Towns & Districts which may not then have Delegates for a County Convention, be earnestly desired to choose Delegates to represent them at said Adjournment.

The Chairman declared it adjourned accordingly.

Attest John Pitts Clerk pro tempore

A Leaf from Norfolk Co. History

In place of the article on the Episcopal Church, we give the resolves which were passed in Suffolk County about five months after the passing of the "Suffolk Resolves." The delegates assembled at the house of Daniel Vose, in Milton, and this is a record of their proceedings:—

At a meeting of the delegates from several towns and districts in the County of Suffolk, upon adjournment, at Milton, this 28th day of February, A. D. 1775.

Whereas the said delegates at a former meeting, Resolved That it be recommended to the Collectors of Taxes, Constables and all other officers who have public monies in their hands, to retain the same and not make payment thereof to the Province or County Treasurers until the civil government of the Province is placed upon a constitutional foundation, or until it shall be ordered otherwise by the Provincial Congress; and whereas, the civil government of the Province is not yet placed upon a constitutional foundation, and the Provincial Congress have taken into consideration the payment of the Provincial monies only, and it now appearing to the delegates aforesaid that there is a necessity for all the monies which have been raised by the several towns and districts in the said County of Suffolk by warrant from the Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for said County, and which have not been paid into the hands of the said County Treasurer should be immediately paid him.

It is, therefore, Resolved, That it be recommended, and it is accordingly here- by earnestly recommended to the several towns and districts in said County of Suffolk, that they cause the monies respectively raised by them for the use of the said County aforesaid, and which have not been paid to the Treasurer thereof, to be paid him without delay. He removing his office at least ten miles distant from the Town of Boston, and every other seaport town in said County.

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The Chairman declared it adjourned accordingly.

And it now appears to the delegates aforesaid that there is a necessity for all the monies which have been raised by the several towns and districts in the said County of Suffolk by warrant from the Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for said County, and which have not been paid into the hands of the said County Treasurer should be immediately paid him: It is therefore accordingly recommended to the several towns and districts in said County aforesaid, and which have not been paid to the Treasurer thereof, to be paid him without delay. He removing his office at least ten miles distant from the Town of Boston, and every other seaport town in said County.

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At a meeting of the delegates from several towns and districts in the County of Suffolk, upon adjournment at Milton this 28th day of February, A. D. 1775.

Whereas the said delegates at a former meeting, *Resolved* That it be recommended to the Collectors of Taxes, Constables, and all other officers who have public monies in their hands, to retain the same and not make payment thereof to the Province or County Treasurers until the civil government of the Province is placed upon a constitutional foundation, or until it shall be ordered otherwise by the Provincial Congress; and whereas, the civil government of the Province is not yet placed upon a constitutional foundation, and the Provincial Congress have taken into consideration the payment of the Provincial monies only, and it now appearing to the delegates aforesaid that there is a necessity for all the monies which have been raised by the several towns and districts in the said County of Suffolk by warrant from the Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for said County, and which have not been paid into the hands of the said County Treasurer should be immediately paid him.

It is, therefore, *Resolved*, That it be recommended, and it is accordingly hereby earnestly recommended to the several towns and districts in said County of Suffolk, that they cause the monies respectively raised by them for the use of the said County aforesaid, and which have not been paid to the Treasurer thereof, to be paid him without delay. He removing his office at least ten miles distant from the Town of Boston, and every other seaport town in said County.

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The Chairman declared it adjourned accordingly.

Attest: JOHN PITTS,
Clerk pro-tempore.
Canton, Sept. 23, 1874. D. T. V. H.

At a meeting of the delegates of the County of Suffolk, held at the house of Daniel Vose, in Milton, on the 28th day of February, 1775.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Collectors of Taxes, Constables, and all other officers who have public monies in their hands, to retain the same and not make payment thereof to the Province or County Treasurers until the civil government of the Province is placed upon a constitutional foundation, or until it shall be ordered otherwise by the Provincial Congress; and whereas, the civil government of the Province is not yet placed upon a constitutional foundation, and the Provincial Congress have taken into consideration the payment of the Provincial monies only, and it now appearing to the delegates aforesaid that there is a necessity for all the monies which have been raised by the several towns and districts in the said County of Suffolk by warrant from the Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for said County, and which have not been paid into the hands of the said County Treasurer should be immediately paid him.

It is therefore accordingly recommended to the several towns and districts in said County of Suffolk, that they cause the monies respectively raised by them for the use of the said County aforesaid, and which have not been paid to the Treasurer thereof, to be paid him without delay. He removing his office at least ten miles distant from the Town of Boston, and every other seaport town in said County.

Resolved That when this meeting shall be adjourned, it be adjourned to the 26th day of April next, at ten o'clock A. M., then to meet at the house of Mr. Daniel Vose, in Milton, when those towns and districts which may not then have delegates for a County Convention be earnestly desired to choose delegates to represent them at said adjournment.