Resource Sheet #3

Peggy Stewart Broadside

ANNAPOLES, (Maryland) 1774

The brig Peggy Stewart, Captain Jackson, from London, having on board seventeen packages, containing 2,530 lbs, of that deleterious weed tea, arrived here on Friday last. The tea was consigned to Thomas Charles Williams and company, merchants in this city. Thoes of the committee for Anne-Arundel county who were in town, hearing of the arrival of said vessel, met in the afternoon, and were informed the said vessel had been entered in the forenoon of that day and the day on the rent paid to the collection by Mr. Anthony Stewart, one of the owners of said brig. Four only of the committee being present, it was thought advisable to call a meeting of the people. Notices was therupon immediately given. Many of the inhabitants, together with a number of gentlemen from Anne-Arundel, Baltimore, and other counties, who were attending the provincial court, met, and having called before them the importers and the Captain of the ship, together with the deputy collector—the question was moved and seconded, whether the tea should be invaded in America or not; and the question being put, was unanimously determined in the negative. A committee of twelve persons was therupon appointed to attend landing the said goods on board said vessel, and to prevent landing the tea. After which the meeting adjourned to Wednesday the 19th, at 11 o'clock. At which time the members of the committee, and other the inhabitants of the county, were requested to attend at that place. In consequence of this adjournment, a great number of very respectable gentlemen from Anne-Arundel, Baltimore, and Prince George's counties met here, and among others, eight of the committee for Anne-Arundel county. Thoes of the committee proceeded to examine into the affair, calling before them Mellers, James and Joseph Williams, and Anthony Stewart, and also took into consideration, an offer made by said Williams's and Stewart, to destroy the tea, and make such concessions as might be satisfactory to the committee and the people assembled. The committee were of opinion, if the tea was destroyed by the voluntary act of the owners, and proper concessions made, that nothing further ought to be required. This their opinion being reported to the assembly, was not satisfactory to all present. Mr. Stewart then voluntarily offered to burn the vessel and the tea in her, and that proper acknowledgments should be made and published in the Maryland Gazette. Those acknowledgments were accordingly made, and are as follows:

[Text continues with the details of the event and its aftermath]
were accordingly made, and are as follows:

In the name of the same James Williams, and Joseph Willsams, and Anthony Stewart, do hereby acknowledge, that we have committed, by taking and landing, and all of the tea provisions, according to the direction of the committee of the Harford of America, and the said Williams is the owner of the tea, and said Stewart in paying the duty thereon, and thereby averredly incurred the displeasure of the people, and were convicted, and all others interested in the preservation of the constitutional rights and liberties of the people, and do hereby declare, for the future, that we never will suffer any regulation formed by the people for the protection of their rights, nor will we do any act that may be injurious to the liberties of the people, and to support our actions of leaving the country, and the said committee to execute their authority, and the people may choose, the decisive article which has been the cause of the present conduct.

ANthony Stewart.

Joseph Williams.

James Williams.

After which Mr. Stewart, and Medan, James and Joseph Williams, owners of the tea, were on board the ship with the others, and on the 9th day of January, 1774, the whole, together with the tea, was sold at the public market, in the presence of a great number of spectators.

Annapolis, Oct. 18th, 1774.

The Committee for Annapolis county received information from Baltimore, that a considerable quantity of tea was expected on board the ship with the tea, which arrived on Saturday evening the 15th inst. and on examination, it did not appear by the cheque, or entry at the collector's office, that any tea had been on board. It appeared by a letter to Mr. Hodgkin, that the cheques of tea had been shipped, and that Captain Naimes refused to land it, and the tea was re-landed, for which conduct Captain Naimes had the thanks of the committee.

By Order,

John Ducket, Clerk.