

Chester Town Resolutions From the Gazette, May 21, 1774

These resolutions were passed by a group of gentlemen after meeting in a public house in Chester Town. A shipment of English tea had been discovered in a British ship, *Geddes*. After discussing what they should do about the tea, they passed the following resolutions.

1st. RESOLVED, that we acknowledge his majesty George III. King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, to be our rightful, and lawful sovereign to whom we owe and promise all dutiful allegiance and submission.

2nd. RESOLVED, that no duty or taxes can constitutionally be opposed on us, but by our own consent given personally, or by our own representatives.

3rd. RESOLVED, that the act of the British parliament of the 7th of George III, chapter 46, subjecting the colonies to a duty on tea, for the purpose of raising revenue in America, is unconstitutional, oppressive, and calculated to enslave the Americas.

4th. RESOLVED, therefore, that whoever shall import, or in any way aid or assist in importing, or introducing from any part of Great Britain, or any other place whatsoever, into this town or country, any tea subject to the payment of a duty imposed by the aforesaid act of Parliament; or whoever shall willingly and knowingly sell, buy, or consume, in any way assist in the sale, purchase, or consumption of any tea imported as aforesaid subject to a duty, he, or they, shall be stigmatized as enemies to the liberties of America.

5th. RESOLVED, that we will not only steadily adhere to the foregoing resolves, but will endeavor to excite our worthy neighbors to a like patriotic conduct, and to whoever, amongst, shall refuse his concurrence, or after complying, shall desert the cause, and knowingly deviate from the true spirit and meaning of these our resolutions, we will mark him out as an inimical to the liberties of America, an unworthy member of the community, and a person not deserving our notice or regard.

6th. RESOLVED, that the foregoing resolves be printed, that our brothers in this and other colonies may know our sentiments as therein contained.

*Signed by order of the Committee,
W. Wright, Clerk*