

A Colonial Crowd Destroys the Stamp Collector's House

Creator: Boston Gazette

Date: August 19, 1765

Published in: Boston Gazette

Source type: Newspaper Article (Adapted)

Introduction: This newspaper article about an attack on the office and home of Andrew Oliver, Boston's stamp collector, appeared in the patriot newspaper the *Boston Gazette*. The day after the protest, Oliver resigned his position.



...Towards dark some thousands proceeded to Oliver's Dock, where there was a new brick building just finished; and because they thought it was a "Stamp Office," instantly set about demolishing it, which they thoroughly **effected** in about half an hour. In the meantime the high sheriff, being **apprehensive** that the Stamp-Master and his family might be in danger from the **tumult**, went and advised them to **evacuate** the house.

The **multitude** set about pulling down a section of fence upwards of 15 feet high, which enclosed the bottom of the garden. They stripped the trees of their fruit, ruined some of them by breaking off the limbs, broke the windows in the rear part of the house, entered the same, went down to the cellar, and helped themselves to the liquor which they found there...

Governor Thomas Hutchinson Describes an Attack on His Home

Creator: Thomas Hutchinson

Date: August 30, 1765

Source type: Letter (Adapted)

Introduction: As the royal Governor of Massachusetts, appointed by the British king, Thomas Hutchinson became a focus of Bostonians' outrage over the passage of the Stamp Act. Hutchinson's home, like Andrew Oliver's office, was a target of the crowd. The following is Hutchinson's description of what happened when the crowd arrived at his home, written in a letter to a member of British Parliament.



After dinner it was whispered in town that there would be a mob at night and that the **custom-house** and **admiralty officer's** houses would be attacked. I went with my family to a neighboring house, and was there for a few minutes when the hellish crew **fell upon** my

house with the rage of devils. In a moment, they split down the doors with an axe and entered. My son was in the entry hall and heard them say "damn him, he is upstairs." They began to take the **slate and boards** from the roof and were prevented only by the approaching daylight from a total **demolition** of the building. Such ruins were never seen in America. They carried off about **£900 sterling** in money and emptied the house of everything whatsoever.

The **encouragers of the mob** never intended matters should go this far and the people in general express the utmost hatred of this **unparalleled** outrage. I wish colonial leaders could be convinced what terrible consequences there are from such **demons when they are let loose** in a government where there is not constant authority at hand to **suppress** them.

John Adams Reacts to the Stamp Act Protests

Creator: John Adams

Date: December 18, 1765

Source type: Diary Entry (Adapted)

Introduction: John Adams was born in colonial Massachusetts and was a successful lawyer in Boston by the time of the Stamp Act crisis. He supported the Patriot cause against the British and would later become a signer of the Declaration of Independence.



The year 1765 has been the most remarkable year of my life. The Stamp Act, has raised and spread—through the whole continent—a spirit that will be recorded to our honor, with all future generations. In every colony, from Georgia to New Hampshire, the **Stamp Distributors and Inspectors** have been **compelled**, by the **unconquerable** rage of the people, to **renounce** their offices. So **universal** has been the **resentment** of the people, that every man who has dared to speak in favor of the Stamps, or to soften the **detestation** in which they are held, has been seen to sink into **universal contempt** and shame.

The people, even to **the lowest ranks**, have become more attentive to their liberties, more **inquisitive** about them, and more determined to defend them, than they ever before had reason to be. Many have been the examples of protests showing wit, humor, learning, spirit, patriotism, and heroism, undertaken in the several colonies and provinces, in the course of this year.