

# Brookline Historical Publication Society

PUBLICATIONS, NO. 17.

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## TOWN PAPERS.

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SELECTED AND COMMUNICATED TO THE SOCIETY BY  
EDWARD W. BAKER, TOWN CLERK.

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I.

Boston, March 7, 1774.

Gentlemen

We think it our duty to acquaint you that a Brigantine Benjamin Gorham Master is just arrived from London with a quantity of Tea on board liable to a duty: We ask the favor of your Company at the Selectmens Chamber in Boston toMorrow afternoon 3. OClock in order for a joint consultation, relative to this matter —

We are with much esteem

Sirs

Your most humble servants

Signed in behalf of the Committee  
of Correspondence for Boston

William Cooper, Clerk.

To  
The Gentlemen the Committee  
of Correspondence for the Town  
of Brookline.

Gentlemen

Boston March 7. 1774

We think it our duty to acquaint you that a Brigantine Buryess in Gotham Market is just arrived from London with a quantity of Tea on board liable to duty; We ask the favor of your presence at the Customers Chamber in Barm to Morrow afternoon 3. o'Clock in order for a joint consultation, relative to this matter —

We are with much esteem

Sirs

Your most humble servant

Signed in behalf of the Committee  
of Correspondence for Barm

To  
The Gentlemen the Committee  
of Correspondence for the Town  
of ~~Brookline~~ Brookline

William Cooper, Clerk  
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## NOTES.

The result of this conference may be inferred from the following note in the Massachusetts Gazette, for March 10, 1774:—

“Monday Evening the Tea that arrived in Captain Gorham from London, belonging to some private Persons, was thrown into the Sea, in the same Manner with that of the East India Company’s in December last.”

As the note given in facsimile (somewhat reduced) is dated March 7th, which was Monday, it is evident that no time was lost in destroying the tea. The newspapers of the time were filled with accounts of like events; that the owners of the brig were uneasy is proved by the two notices which follow, taken from the Gazette for March 10th:—

Mr. DRAPER,

*Boston, March 9, 1774.*

The arrival of the Brig Fortune, Benjamin Gorham, Master, from London, with a quantity of Tea, consigned to several Persons here, having given Rise to many Reports, some of which have been injurious to the Characters of the Owners of said Brig, they beg the Favour of you to inform the Public, in your next Paper, of the following Particulars, namely,

That the Owners of said Vessel, solely with a View and Design to have her sold in London, procured a Freight for her to that Place; that she sailed 21st September last, and having sprang a Leak at Sea, returned into Port 5th October, and being refitted sailed again 16th October, with Instructions to their Friends in London to sell her at so low a Price, that they had not the least Doubt of her being sold; but if the limited Price could not be obtained, and a full Freight could be procured for her to Boston, that she should return; or if they could not procure the greater Part of her Freight, then to ship a Quantity of Hemp on the Owners Account, to fill her up and send her back, yet choosing and urging the Sale of her, if to be effected; that having concluded their Directions, they added in a Postscript the following Words, “P. S. We are informed the India Company intend to ship a Quantity of Tea to this Place in private Ships, . . . If our Brig should come back on Freight, we absolutely refuse to take on board any Tea for that Company, let the Offer be never so advantageous, or our Loss in the Sale of the Vessel never so great.”

The Owners then presumed, that having guarded so effectually against the Brig’s bringing any Tea for Account of that Company if offered, they had preformed the Duty they owed to their Country; and this they did of their own Accord, and without Precedent. No News of this Brig came, from the Time she sailed till she returned into this Port, on Sunday last, the 6th Instant, about 3 o’clock P. M. when to the great Concern of the Owners, they understood a Quantity of Tea had come in her on Freight, which causing a general Uneasiness, they as soon and as often as Opportunity offered readily, cheerfully and publicly declared their Willingness to let the Vessel go back again to London, either with her whole Freight, or with the Tea only; offering to run the Risque of her being seized in England; but as she had brought a Quantity of Gun-Powder, Duck and Hemp, which Articles were much wanted; it was proposed that all the Goods, should be unloaded except the Tea, and a Clearance procured for her to return with that only. And as great Quantities of Tea had been before destroyed, after every Method for sending it back had been tried in vain, and as it might be expected this Tea would share the same Fate; if not permitted to be sent back. . . Mr. Lloyd, to whom 16 Chests of Tea were consigned, Mr. Brom-

field, a principal Freighter in said Vessel, with two of the Owners, applied to the Collector and Comptroller of the Custom, and unitedly requested a Qualification for the Vessel to return with the Tea, and in Order to obtain it, they urged the Known and determined Resolution of the People against all Teas being landed, the Danger of this Tea's being destroyed, the Hardship that event would prove to the Proprietors, the Necessity of yielding to the Pressure of the Times, the little Probability of the said Officers being blamed for complying with so reasonable and necessary a Request, and the Instance of the Tea Ship's returning from Philadelphia: To all which they replied, that it was absolutely contrary to their Duty, and therefore could not give any Papers to qualify the Vessel to go back; and that although no Report had been then made, yet she could not go away without being liable to be seized, and that even if they should give a Clearance, she would inevitably be stopped by the Officers of the King's Ships, who were also Custom-House Officers, and that there was not the least Hope to be entertained of the Vessel's being suffered to depart; moreover that she could not be reported that Day after two o'Clock, and if not reported within 24 Hours the Capt. was liable to a Penalty of £100 Sterling.

This being Known, the Master reported the Vessel, took out a Permit to unlade the Gun-Powder, which being done, the Vessel was brought to the wharf, and what followed is well known.

The whole Quantity of Tea brought in this Vessel was no more than twenty-eight Chests and an Half, as will appear by the Entry made by the Captain at the Custom-House upon Oath, where those who desire to Know to whom it came consigned, may be informed. The Owners of said Vessel flatter themselves that these Circumstances being Known, their Conduct will meet with the Approbation of their Fellow-Citizens and Countrymen.

THOMAS WALLEY,  
PETER BOYER,  
WM. THOMPSON.

WHEREAS a certain William Bowes, Brazier on Dock Square, has industriously propagated (if not invented) a false and scandalous Report, that the owners of the Brigantine Fortune, Benjamin Gorham, Master, lately arrived from London have imported a Quantity of Tea in that Vessel upon their own Account, and has impudently asserted that he Knew it—with a malignant Design as they apprehend to injure their Reputation, and expose them to public Resentment:—The said Owners in vindication of themselves from the vile and groundless Aspersion of that impertinent Medler in other Men's Matters—find it necessary to publish the following Deposition.

We the Subscribers Owners of the Brigantine Fortune, do solemnly Declare, that we neither jointly nor seperately had any Share, Interest or Property directly or indirectly in any Part of the Tea that came from London in said Vessel.

*Thomas Walley,  
Peter Boyer,  
William Thompson.*

*Suffolk, ss.*

*Boston, March 9, 1774.*

*Thomas Walley, Peter Boyer and William Thompson, personally appeared, and made Oath to the Truth of above Declaration by them subscribed, Before me,*

EDM. QUINCY, J. P's.

*(Copy.)*

## II.

This certifies that in the Valuation of the town of Brooklyn taken in 1792 there appears

	Income	Total
303 acres of tillage land . . . . .	24/	363..12..0
713 <i>d</i> English mowing . . . . .	24/	855..12..0
233½ <i>d</i> Salt marsh . . . . .	7/	81..14..6
276 <i>d</i> Fresh meadow . . . . .	6/	82..16—
1137¾ <i>d</i> Pasturage . . . . .	10/	568..17..6
882¾ <i>d</i> Wood & unimproved land		
	£6. £5296.10/	
279 <i>d</i> unimproved <i>do</i>	2 p cent	105..16—
2 <i>d</i> owned by the town		

Secretarys Office  
Boston April 17th 1795

John Avery jun Sec'y

## NOTE.

This copy was obtained, probably, for the town meeting of May 6, 1795, when it was voted "that the collector be directed, and he is hereby directed not to call on the inhabitants for their taxes before the first Monday in November next." At the meeting of October 27th it was voted to take a new valuation of the "Real Estates."

## III.

Mr. *Jacob Barnard* Your Tax

		<i>Poll</i>		<i>Real</i>		<i>Personal</i>		<i>Total</i>	
		<i>D.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>D.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>D.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>D.</i>	<i>C.</i>
<i>State and County</i> }			<i>28</i>						
	<i>Town</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>97</i>						

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Received Payment, *Benj<sup>n</sup> Bradley* Collector

*Brookline, June, 1816*

## IV.

Report of Committee on military Apparatus.

Gentlemen your committee report the following articles to be the property of the Town of Brookline Inspected April 1816.

at the meeting House	}	2140 Cartridges with Balls.
		79 lb. Balls . . . . .
		213 Flints, 5 camp Kettles.
		3/4 Ream Cartridge Paper.
		69 lb. Powder.
In the hands of Capt. Davis	}	3 Guns & Bayonets in order.
		2 old Guns 2 worms.
		4 old Locks & screws.
		3 small Drums, 3 Fifes & one Bass Drum.
Committee	}	Joshua C. Clark.
		Geo. W. Stearns.
		Timothy Corey

## NOTE.

The committee was appointed March 4, 1816, "at the Brick School."

## V.

## NOTIFICATION.

The Male Inhabitants of the Town of Brookline, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, are hereby notified to meet at the Brick School-House, on the *fourth* day of March, being the first Monday in said month, at 2 o'clock, P. M. to act on the following articles, viz. — To nominate and choose persons to serve the Town the ensuing year, as the law directs — To grant a sum of money to repair the Highways — To choose Committees to examine the Town Accounts — To give in their votes for County Treasurer — Whether they will permit neat Cattle, Horses, and Horse kind to run at large within the limits of the Town, without a keeper. —

*Feb. 1822*

*By order of the Selectmen.*

*B. Bradley,* Constable.

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NOTE.

The last question was decided in the negative.