

**JOURNALS OF THE  
HOUSE OF BURGESSES  
OF VIRGINIA, 1773-1776**

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Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1773-1776 by John Pendleton Kennedy

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**JOHN PENDLETON KENNEDY**

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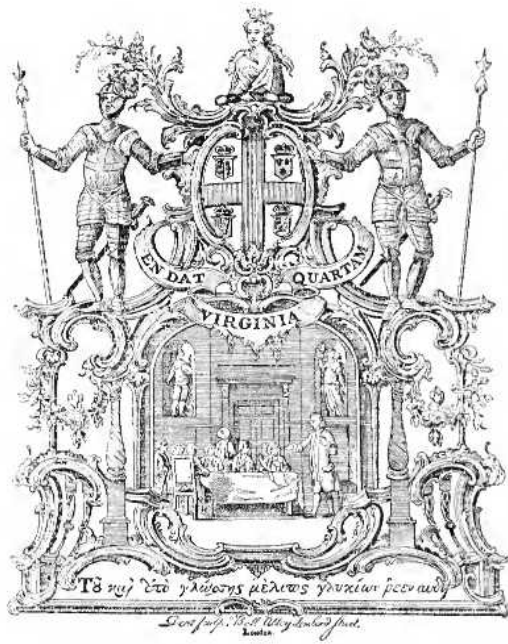


The House of Burgesles  
of Virginia



FIVE HUNDRED COPIES  
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No. 357



Virginia Council Chamber

*Virginia (Colony) House of Burgesses*

JOURNALS  
of the  
HOUSE *of* BURGESSSES  
of  
VIRGINIA  
1773-1776

Including the records of the  
Committee of Correspondence

*Edited by*

JOHN PENDLETON KENNEDY



*RICHMOND, Virginia*

M C M V



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*The Journals of the House of Burgeffes of Virginia,  
are edited and published by authority of the Library Board  
of the Virginia State Library.*



**T**HE original Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, from March 4<sup>th</sup>. 1773, to May 6<sup>th</sup>. 1776, are bound in one volume, which bears the title "Journal 1773 to 1776."

The publication of the Journal for the Session of 1773, was authorized on the 11<sup>th</sup>. of March of that year, when four hundred and fifty pounds was appropriated for general printing. Printed copies of this Journal are preserved in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and in the Library of Congress.

The Journal of 1774, was printed under the resolution of 1773, which set aside an additional four hundred and fifty pounds to be expended for printing during the following year. In the Report of the American Historical Association for 1897, this publication is noted as containing seventy-five pages. An imperfect copy of sixty pages, the last eight being mutilated, is in the Library of Congress.

Hening, in his Preface to the Eighth Volume of the Statutes, states that no Session was held in 1774. It is probable that he intended to convey the fact that no acts passed by the House of Burgesses became laws, owing to the sudden prorogation of that body, though the Session was of unusual length and prominence.

The Journal of 1775 was never printed in full, but an epitome of the Session was published under the following title:

"The | Proceedings of the | House of Burgesses | of Virginia, | Convened in General Assembly, on Thursday, the first day of June 1775, | will fully appear in their Journals, printed at large; but as it was judged | necessary that the most material transactions should be seen in one connected | and distinct point of view, the House ordered that these should be published | in a pamphlet, and they are contained in the following sheets, | Williamsburg, | Printed by Alexander Purdie." | 48 pp.

Copies of this pamphlet are to be found in the British Museum and in the Library of Congress:

No Session of the Burgesses was held in 1776, though attempts were made on Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>., and lastly on May 6<sup>th</sup>., when the Journal reads: "Several Members met, but did neither proceed to business, nor adjourn, as the House of Burgesses: FINIS."

The Minutes and Papers of the Committee of Correspondence, from its formation to the birth of the Committee of Safety, when its labors ceased, are inserted in this volume after the Journal of each Session of the Assembly. The original Minutes are bound with the Journals of the Burgesses, and consist of eighteen pages of closely written matter, while the Papers, which consist largely of letters and resolutions received from other Colonies, were transcribed in a volume which was used for journal purposes in 1781, by the House of Delegates of Virginia. This volume bears two titles, viz: "Journal 1781" and "Letters from April 1773 to May 1775."

The existence of many rare and important papers, bearing directly upon the Journals of the House of Burgesses during Dunmore's Administration, add greatly to the interest in legislation of that period. The purpose therefore, has been to select those of unusual importance, including several original papers bearing on the Committee of Correspondence and contemporaneous enactments of the sister Colonies.

Early