



**TPS Eastern Region Waynesburg University
Director, Barb Kirby**

Professional Development Workshop
February 24, 2018

**If These Monuments Could Talk:
The Whiskey Rebellion, Popular Rights and
the Meaning of the First Amendment**

Primary Source Set

[Transcripts for all newspaper articles will be found on the page that follows the original image.]

The Excise Tax

1792 Meeting in Pittsburgh in opposition to the Excise Tax 2

The Spark

The Burning of Neville's House" July 25, 1794 Newspaper Account 4

"Counsel Before the Attack at Gen. Neville's House" A linocut print by J. Howard Iams 1933 6

The Rebellion

Tarring and Feathering Image: Famous Whiskey Insurrection in Pennsylvania 7

Liberty Pole Sources (Gaddis House and Napoleon Cartoon) 8,9

David Bradford's Letter about Parkinson's Ferry Meeting 10

David Bradford's Letter about Postal Theft and meeting in Braddock's Field 12

Tom the Tinker Notice 14

The Reaction

The Dreadful Night described in Brackenridge's Book 16

"The Terrible Night" A linocut print by J. Howard Iams, 1933 17,18

The Epilogue: Winners and Losers

David Bradford Pardon Announcement 1799 19

Myrtles Plantation Nomination for National Historic Register 21,22

Devens, R.M. (1876). Our First Century. Chapter 14 23-31

1792 Meeting in Pittsburgh in opposition to the Excise Tax

Gazette of the United-States., September 05, 1792, Page 111, Image 3

Gazette of the United-States. (New-York [N.Y.]), 05 Sept. 1792. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030483/1792-09-05/ed-1/seq-3/

At a Meeting of sundry Inhabitants of the Western Counties of Pennsylvania, held at Pittsburgh, August 22, 1792,

The following report of a Committee was unanimously adopted, viz.—

STRONGLY impressed with a sense of the fatal consequences that must attend an Excise, convinced that a tax upon liquors which are the common drink of a nation operates in proportion to the number and not to the wealth of the people, and of course is unjust in itself, and oppressive upon the poor: taught by the experience of other countries that internal taxes upon consumption, from their very nature, never can effectually be carried into operation, without vesting the officers appointed to collect them with powers most dangerous to the civil rights of freemen, and must in the end destroy the liberties of every country in which they are introduced; feeling that the late Excise Law of Congress, from the present circumstances of our agriculture, our want of markets, and the scarcity of a circulating medium, will bring immediate distress and ruin on the Western Country. We think it our duty to persist in our remonstrances to Congress, and in every other legal measure that may obstruct the operation of the law, until we are able to obtain its total repeal.

Therefore, Resolved, That David Bradford, James Marshall, Albert Gallatin, Peter Lisle, and David Phillips, be appointed for the purpose of drawing a remonstrance to Congress stating our objections against the law that imposes a duty upon spirituous liquors distilled within the United States, and praying for a repeal of the same, and that the Chairman of the meeting be directed to sign the same in the name of the meeting, and to take proper measures to have it presented to Congress at their next sessions.

Resolved, That in order that our measures may be carried on with regularity and concert, that Wm. Wallace, [here follow 20 other names] be, respectively appointed committees of correspondence for the counties of Washington, Fayette and Alleghany, and that it shall be their duty to correspond together and with such committee as shall be appointed for the same purpose in the county of Westmoreland, or with any committees of a similar nature that may be appointed in other parts of the United States, and also, if found necessary, to call together either general meetings of the people in their respective counties, or conferences of the several committees.

And whereas some men may be found amongst us, so far lost to every sense of virtue and feeling for the distresses of this country, as to accept offices for the collection of the duty.

Resolved therefore, That in future we will consider such persons as unworthy of our friendship, have no intercourse or dealings with them, withdraw from them every assistance, and withhold all the comforts of life which depend upon those duties that as men and fellow-citizens we owe to each other, and upon all occasions treat them with that contempt they deserve, and that it be and it is hereby most earnestly recommended to the people at large to follow the same line of conduct towards them.

On Motion, Resolved, That the Minutes of this meeting be signed by the chairman, attested by the Clerk, and published in the Pittsburgh Gazette.

JOHN CANON, Chairman.

Attest. ALBERT GALLATIN, Clerk.

Transcript: 1792 Meeting in Pittsburgh in opposition to the Excise Tax

Gazette of the United-States., September 05, 1792, Page 111, Image 3

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Library of Congress.

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And whereas some men may be found amongst us, too far lost to every sense of virtue and feeling for the distresses of this country, as to accept offices for the collection of the duty.

Resolved therefore, That in future we will consider such persons as unworthy of our friendship, have no intercourse or dealings with them, withdraw from them every assistance, and withhold all the comforts of life which depend upon those duties that as men and fellow citizens we owe to each other, and upon all occasions treat them with that contempt they deserve and that it be and is hereby most earnestly recommended to the people at large to follow the same line of conduct towards them.

On Motion Resolved, That the Minutes of this meeting be signed by the chairman, attested by the Clerk, and published in the Pittsburgh Gazette.

JOHN CANON, Chairman, Attest,
ALBERT GALLATIN, Clerk

"The Burning of Neville's House" July 25, 1794

Gazette of the United States and daily evening advertiser. (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 25 July 1794. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026271/1794-07-25/ed-1/seq-2/>

PHILADELPHIA,
JULY 25.

A Gentleman has favored the Editor with
the following interesting account.

*Extract of a Letter from Pittsburgh,
dated July 18, to a Mercantile House
in this City.*

"Two days since, seven miles from
this town, the house of Gen. John Neville
Inspector of the Revenue, was attacked by
about eighty armed men, said to be oppos-
ed to the Excise law. After an engage-
ment of one half hour, the mob left the
house with seven of the party very badly
wounded, two it is said, mortally. The
house was defended by Gen. Neville and
one of his servants. Last night about half
past five o'clock, they again attacked the
house, said to be five hundred in number.
After a very brave defence by Major Kirk-
patrick and eleven soldiers, the house was
taken, five soldiers wounded. A very con-
siderable number of the mob killed and
wounded, the house and all the adjacent
buildings were set on fire and consumed to
ashes.

"There were a number of gentlemen
went from this place, some to assist Gen.
Neville, others to appease the minds of the
factious—Col. Neville, Major Lenox, and
several others, were, on their way to Gen.
Neville's, made prisoners by the mob, af-
ter suffering some abuse, have made their
escape into town—Gen. Neville has also
made his escape, is yet unhurt. The com-
mander of the mob, Major James McFar-
land, was shot dead on the spot.—All is
confusion.—God only knows what will be
the issue. In haste I am, &c.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

Transcript: “The Burning of Neville’s House” July 25, 1794, 1794

Gazette of the United States and daily evening advertiser. (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 25 July 1794. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress.

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PHILADELPHIA, July 25. A Gentleman has favored the Editor with the following interesting account.

Extract of a Letter from Pittsburgh, dated July 18, to a Mercantile House in this City.

“Two days since, seven miles from this town, the house of Gen. John Neville Inspector of the Revenue, was attacked by about eighty armed men, said to be opposed to the Excise law. After an engagement of one half hour, the mob left the house with seven of the party very badly wounded, two it is said, mortally. The house was defended by General Neville and one of his servants. Last night at half past five o’clock, they again attacked the house, said to be five hundred in number. After a very brave defense by Major Kirkpatrick and eleven soldiers, the house was taken, five soldiers wounded. A very considerable number of the mob killed and wounded, the house and all the adjacent building were set on fire and consumed to ashes.

“There were a number of gentlemen went from this place, some to assist Gen. Neville, others to appease the minds of the factious—Col. Neville, Major Lenox and several others, were on their way to Gen. Neville’s made prisoners by the mob, after suffering some abuse, have made their escape into town—Gen. Neville has also made his escape, is yet unhurt. The commander of the mob, Major James McFarland was shot dead on the spot. —All is confusion. —God only knows what will be the issue. In haste, I am, &c.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

Counsel – Before the Attack at Gen. Neville's House 1794. Linocut on Paper.

Click on the link below to view the image.

<http://collection.thewestmoreland.org/Media/images/Collection/JPEG/1984.72.jpg>

Citation:

John Howard Iams

Counsel - Before the Attack at General Neville's House, 1794 , Not Dated

Linocut on paper, 4 1/2 x 6 inches

Collection: The Westmoreland Museum of American Art

Gift of Mrs. J. Howard Iams, 1984.72

Permission to use this print for educational purposes only was given by Doug Evans, Collector Manager at the Westmoreland Museum. It may not be republished on a public website. This image was accessed on February 3, 2018 <http://collection.thewestmoreland.org/Obj322?sid=3635&x=331984>

Tarring and Feathering Image: Famous Whiskey Insurrection in Pennsylvania.

A large mob with tarred-and-feathered tax collector riding on a rail. 1794. Prints and Photographs Division Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002697745/>



FAMOUS WHISKEY INSURRECTION IN PENNSYLVANIA. 1794

declaring, too, that any person who had accepted or might accept an office under government, in order to carry the law into effect, should be regarded as an enemy of his country, to be treated with contempt and total non-intercourse, official and personal. The federal government was scoffed at, its coercive authority disavowed; thus, with the motto, "*Liberty and No Excise!*" the hall of rebellion rolled on.

It was at this stage in the progress of affairs, and only one day preceding the assembling of an important meeting of malecontents of Pittsburgh, that the tax collector for the counties of Alleghany and Washington made his appearance. Aware of his business, a party of men, armed and disguised, waylaid him at a place on Pigeon Creek, in Washington county, seized, tarred and feathered him, cut off his hair, and deprived him of his horse, obliging him to decamp on foot in that ludicrous and painful condition. In attempting to serve legal processes upon the perpetrators of this outrage, the marshal's deputy was also seized, whipped, tarred and feathered; and, after having his money and horse taken from him, the ruffians blindfolded and led him into the depths of the forest, where he was tied and left to his fate. He was fortunately discovered in season, and rescued, by some friends.

#10,860 (1880) Whiskey rebellion

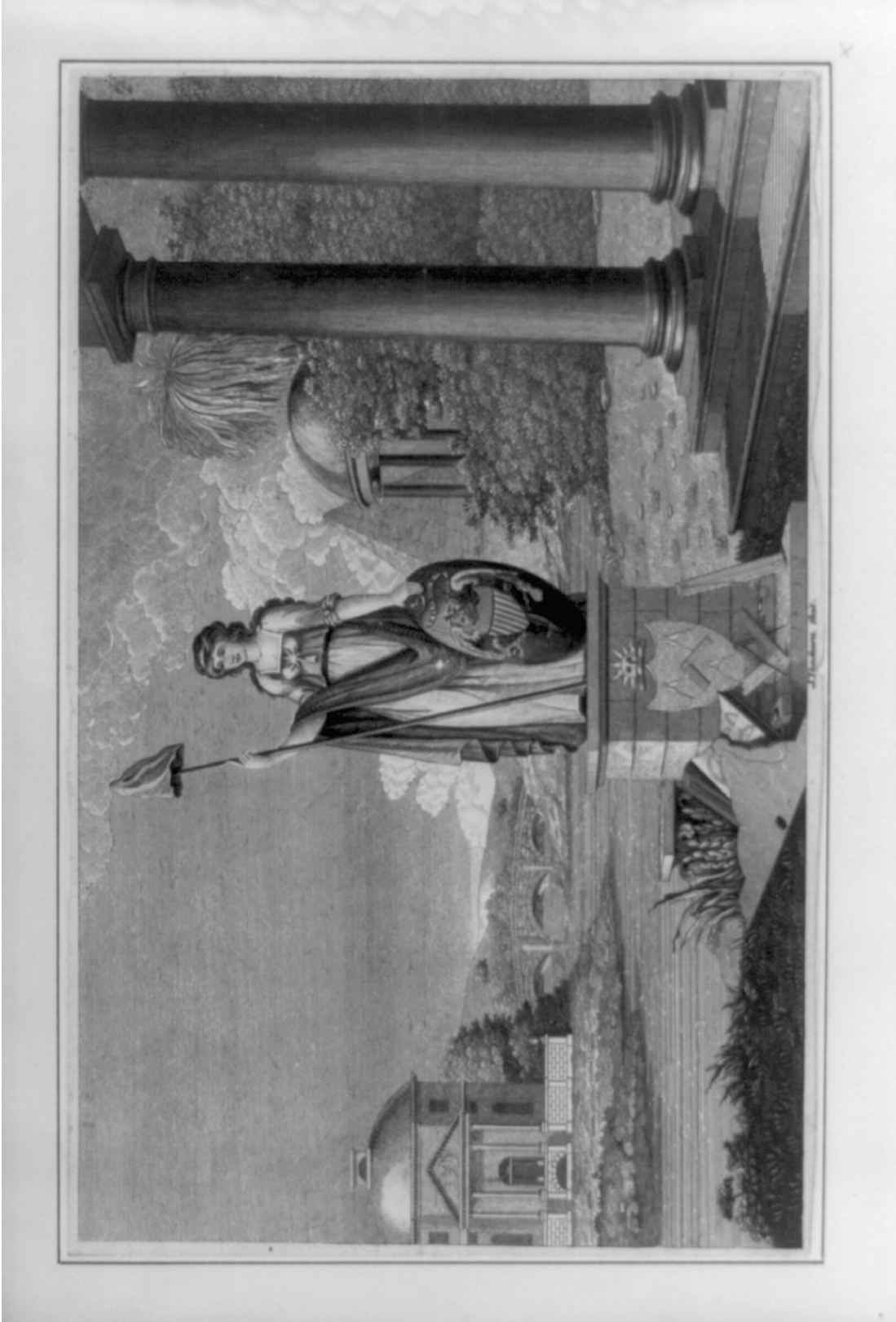
Liberty Pole Sources (1. Gaddis House)

Historic American Buildings Survey, C., Brownfield, B., Gaddis, T., Daughters Of The American Revolution, America'S Industrial Heritage Project, S. & Wallace, K. E., Lowe, J. & Peterson, C. E., photographer. (1933) Thomas Gaddis House, 300 yards east of old U.S. Route 119 near intersection of Route 859, Uniontown, Fayette County, PA. Fayette Fayette County Pennsylvania South Union Township Uniontown, 1933. Documentation Compiled After. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/pa1916/>.



Library of Congress Notes

Significance: Fort Gaddis is the oldest known building in Fayette County and the second oldest log building in western Pennsylvania. It was built ca. 1769-74 by Thomas Gaddis who was in charge of the defense of the region and his home was probably designated as a site for community meetings and shelter in times of emergency, hence the term "Fort Gaddis," probably a 19th century appellation. During the Whiskey Rebellion a Liberty Pole was erected at the house during a rally in support of the Rebel cause. The choice of this site for a political demonstration indicates its importance as a focal point for community expression. The fact that all the additions to the building were removed in the early 20th century in respect for the section contemporary with the Revolution and Rebellion is evidence of the building's long standing and continuing status and power as a community symbol.



Thackara, J. Allegorical Scene Showing Female Figure on Pedestal, Holding Staff With Liberty Cap and Shield. , None. [Between 1787 and 1848] [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/96509546/>.

David Bradford's Letter about Parkinson's Ferry Meeting

Gazette of the United States and daily evening advertiser. (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 09 Sept. 1794. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026271/1794-09-09/ed-1/seq-3/>>

ALEXANDRIA, Sept. 4.

[The following was copied by a gentleman in this town from a letter in the hands of Gen. Morgan :]

Copy of a letter from David Bradford, of Washington, in Pennsylvania, to the Inhabitants of Monongalia.

Washington, August 6, 1794.

Gentlemen,

I presume you have heard of the spirited opposition given to the excise law in this state—matters have been so bro't to pass here, that all are under the necessity of bringing their minds to a final conclusion. This has been the question amongst us some days: "Shall we disapprove of the conduct of those engaged against Nevill, the excise officer, or approve—or, in other words, shall we suffer them to fall a sacrifice to a Federal Prosecution, or shall we support them?" On the result of this business we have fully deliberated, and have determined, with *head, heart, hand, and voice*, that we will support the opposition to the excise law—The crisis is now come: *Submission or opposition*—We are determined in the opposition—We are determined in future to act agreeably to system; to form arrangements, guided by *reason, prudence, fortitude and spirited conduct*—

We have proposed a general meeting of the four counties of Pennsylvania, and have invited our brethren in the neighbouring counties in Virginia to come forward and join us in council and deliberation, on this important crisis, and conclude upon measures interesting to the western counties of Pennsylvania and Virginia. A notification of this kind may be seen in the Pittsburgh paper—Parkinson's Ferry is the place proposed as most central, and the 14th of August the time.

We solicit you by all the ties that an union of interests can suggest, to come forward to join with us in our deliberations—the cause is common to us all—we invite you to come, even should you differ with us in opinion—we wish you to hear our reasons influencing our conduct.

Your's with esteem,
DAVID BRADFORD.

Transcript: David Bradford's Letter about Parkinson's Ferry Meeting

Gazette of the United States and daily evening advertiser. (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 09 Sept. 1794. Page 3 *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

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Your's with esteem,
DAVID BRADFORD

David Bradford's letter about the postal theft and meeting in Braddock's Field

Gazette of the United States and daily evening advertiser. (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 03 Dec.

1794. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026271/1794-12-03/ed-1/seq-3/>

The following Letters were found in a
house in one of the Western Counties.
[VERBATIM.]
Canningsburgh 28 July 1794—
Sir,
Having had suspicions that the
Pittsburgh post would carry with him
the sentiments of some of the people
of this country, respecting our present
alarming situation and the letters by
the post being *now* in our possession by
which certain secrets are discovered *hostile*
to our Interest. It is therefore now
come to that crisis that every citizen
must express his sentiments not by his
words but *by* his actions—Your then
called upon as a citizen of the western
country to render your personal service
with as many volunteers as you can raise
to rendezvouze at your usual place of
meeting on Wednesday next. And
from thence you will march to the *General*
rendizvouze at Braddock's field on
the Monongahly River on Friday the
first day of August next to be there at
9 o'clock P. M. with arms and accu-
trements in good order. If any volun-
teer should want arms and accutrem-
ents bring them forward, and they
shall be supplied as well as possible. Here
Sir is an expedition purposed in which
you will have an opportunity of dis-

playing your military talents and of
rendering services to your country.
Four days provisions will be wanted let
the men be thus supplied—
We are &c
JNO CANNON
B. PARKISON
D. BRADFORD
A FULTON
THOMAS SPEARE
JNO LOUGHTY
JAMES MARSHALL—
with others not present
Dr. Sir,
Upon receiving some late
Intelligence from our runners we have
been informed the ammunition we were
about to seize and put into the hands
of the citizens is designed for Genl.
Scott who is just going out against the
Indians we therefore conclude not to
touch it—
I give you this early notice that your
brave sons of war need not to turn out
till further notice
Yours &c
DAVID BRADFORD
3th July 1794—

Letter from David Bradford about Postal Theft and meeting at Braddock's Field
Gazette of the United States and daily evening advertiser. (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 03 Dec. 1794. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress. Page 3.
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The following Letters were found in a house in one of the Western Counties.

[VERBATIM.]

Canningsburgh 28 July 1794

Sir,

Having had suspicions that the Pittsburgh post would carry with him the sentiments of some of the people in this country, respecting our present alarming situation and the letters by the post being now in our possession by which certain secrets are discovered hostile to our Interest. It is therefore now come to that crisis that every citizen must express his sentiments not by his words but by his actions—You are then called upon as a citizen of the western country to render your personal service with as many volunteers as you can raise to rendezvous at your usual place of meeting on Wednesday next. And from thence you will march to the General rendezvous at Braddock's field on the Monongaly River on Friday the first day of August next to be there at o'clock P.M. with arms and accutrements in good order. If any volunteer should want arms and accutrements bring them forward, and they shall be supplied as well as possible. Here Sir, is an expedition purposed in which you will have an opportunity of displaying your military talents and of rendering services to your country. Some days' provisions will be wanted so let the men be thus supplied. —

WE are &c
JNO CANNON
B. PARKISON
D. BRADFORD
A FULTO
THOMAS SPARE
JNO LOUGHTY
JAES MARSHALL —
With others not present

Dr. Sir,

Upon receiving some late Intelligence from our runners we have been informed the ammunition we were about to seize and put in the hands of the citizens is designed for Gen. Scott who is just going out against the Indians we therefore conclude not to touch it—

I give you this early notice that your brave sons of war need not to turn out till further notice.

Yours & c
DAVID BRADFORD
3th July 1794

Tom the Tinker Notice

Gazette of the United States and daily evening advertiser. (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 01 Aug. 1794. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026271/1794-08-01/ed-1/seq-3/>

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN taking a survey of the troops under my direction in the late expedition against that insolent exciseman John Nevill, I find there were a great many delinquents; even among those who carry on distilling: it will therefore be observed that, I Tom the Tinker, will not suffer any certain class or set of men to be excluded the service of this my district, when notified to attend to any expedition carried on in order to obstruct the execution of the excise law, and obtain a repeal thereof.

And I do declare on my solemn word, that if such delinquents do not come forth on the next alarm, with equipments, and give their assistance as much as in them lies, in opposing the execution and obtaining a repeal of the excise law, he or they will be deemed as enemies, and stand opposed to virtuous principles of republican liberty, and shall receive punishment according to the nature of the offence.

And whereas a certain John Reed, now resident in Washington, and being at his place near Pittsburgh, called Reedsburgh, and having a sett of stills employed at said Reedsburgh, entered on the excise docket, contrary to the will and good pleasure of his fellow citizens, and came not forth to assist in the suppression of the execution of said law by aiding and assisting in the late expedition, have by delinquency manifested his approbation to the execution of the aforesaid law, is hereby charged forthwith to cause the contents of this paper, without adding or diminishing, to be published in the Pittsburgh Gazette, the ensuing week, under the no less penalty than the consumption of his distillery.

Given under my hand this 19th day of July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

Tom the Tinker.

Transcript: Tom the Tinker Notice

Gazette of the United States and daily evening advertiser. (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 01 Aug. 1794. Page 3.
Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.

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Given under my hand this 19th day of July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

Tom the Tinker.

Brackenridge, Henry Marie, 1786-1871. [from old catalog] History of the western insurrection in western Pennsylvania, commonly called the Whiskey Insurrection, 1794. Pittsburgh, Printed by W. S. Haven, 1859.

336 p. Microfilm 01291 reel 78, no. 1 E. Library of Congress Online Catalog.

<https://lccn.loc.gov/mic60007420> and

<http://historicpittsburgh.org/islandora/object/pitt%3A00afh9773m>

Note: This book was written by Henry Marie Brackenridge, the son of Hugh Henry Brackenridge a principle player in the Insurrection in 1794. It is a reprinting of the book Hugh Henry wrote in 1795 with additional notes from Henry Marie.

pages 316-318 A description of the Dreadful or Terrible Night Nov 13, 1794

The following is
the general account given by Mr. Brackenridge :

"The 13th of November was a 'DREADFUL NIGHT' through the western country. Hundreds were arrested; offenders and witnesses together. Though directions were given to discriminate in their treatment, it could not always be done in the first instance. Men were thrown into jail, kept in cold barns or out-houses, or tied back to back in cellars. The officers, in some instances, behaved with mildness; in others, with wanton and unnecessary severity. A Captain Dunlap, of Philadelphia, is said to have conducted a number of prisoners from Washington to Pittsburgh with humanity. A Capt. ——— is said, on the other hand, to have driven a number under his custody like cattle before him, at a trot, in muddy roads, through the Chartiers creek to the middle; then impounded them in a wet stable, and insulted them, by ordering to be thrown into the manger dough and raw flesh to eat! Passing to Washington some time afterward, I examined the stables and collected these facts."

They were dragged out of their beds at two o'clock in the morning, but partly dressed; obliged to march, some of them without putting on their shoes, thus dragged away amid the cries of children and the tears of mothers; treated with language of the most insulting opprobrium, by those apprehending them; driven before a troop of horse at a trot, through muddy roads; seven miles from Pittsburgh, impounded in a pen on the wet soil. The guard baying them, and asking them how they would like to be hanged; some offering a dollar to have the privilege of shooting at them; carried thence four miles toward the town; obliged to lie all night on the wet earth, without covering, under a season of rains, sleet and snows; driven from the fire with bayonets, when some of them, perishing, had crawled, endeavoring to be unseen, toward it; next day impounded in a waste house, and detained there five days, then removed to a newly built and damp room, without fire, in the garrison at Pittsburgh; at the end of ten days brought before the judiciary, and nothing appearing against them—discharged!"

The Terrible Night. Linocut on Paper. [Click on link below to view image.]
<http://collection.thewestmoreland.org/Media/images/Collection/JPEG/1984.75.jpg>

John Howard Iams
The Terrible Night, 1794, Not Dated
Linocut on paper, 4 1/4 x 5 3/4 inches
Collection: The Westmoreland Museum of American Art
Gift of Mrs. J. Howard Iams, 1984.75

Permission to use this print for educational purposes only was given by Doug Evans, Collector Manager at the Westmoreland Museum. It may not be republished on a public website. This image was accessed on February 3, 2018.
<http://collection.thewestmoreland.org/Obj325?sid=3635&x=32729>

Whiskey Rebellion Artist

by Mary Beth Pastorius

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Waynesburg Matters

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Artist-historian J. Howard Iams grew up in the North Ten Mile region of Washington County, near the border with Greene County. In the 1930s, with his brother Lash, he traveled throughout the region, researching and illustrating remnants of the area's colonial past.

He worked five years on his most ambitious project, 40 illustrations that document the sites, events and people of the Whiskey Rebellion. The collection includes three images from Greene County: "Reverend John Corbly Log Cabin," "Colonel John Minor House" and "Old Tavern" at Jefferson.

The Whiskey Rebellion (1791-1794) was the first serious test of authority for the newly formed United States government. It took place in Southwestern Pennsylvania when farmers objected to a new federal tax on one of their principal products, whiskey. They attacked federal agents and tax collectors, prompting President Washington to lead 13,000 troops over the mountains to quell the disturbance.

By the time the army arrived, tempers had cooled. However, some soldiers were frustrated to find the countryside at peace. On "The Terrible Night" of November 13, 1794, they arrested the men most wanted by the government, dragging them out of bed half-clothed and marching them through mud to a cold, make-shift prison. After several days of detention, nearly all were set free for lack of evidence. However, 20 were marched over the mountains to stand trial in Philadelphia.

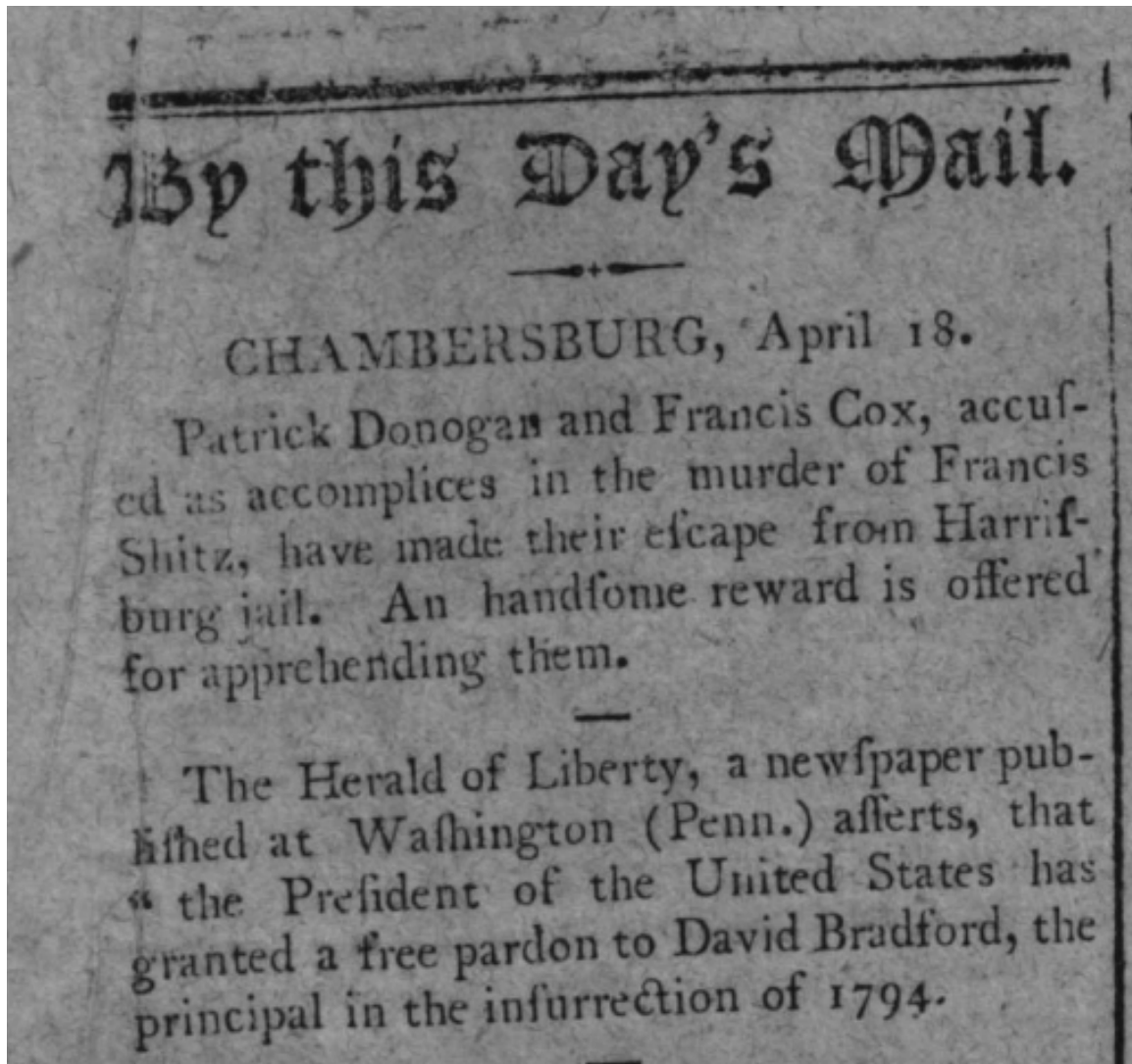
Among them was Reverend John Corbly of Garards Fort who had not been a major actor in the rebellion. However, he was a well-known minister and an ardent patriot who preached political freedom. Corbly's arrest was to be used as an example to deter other citizens from plotting rebellion. At trial, he was exonerated, as were all but two of the Whiskey Rebels.

Howard Iams's depiction of "The Terrible Night" has been used in many articles and books about the Whiskey Rebellion. In stark black-and-white, it shows the terror and brutality of the unfair arrests

David Bradford's Pardon Announcement

Gazette of the United States, & Philadelphia daily advertiser. (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 26 April 1799. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025881/1799-04-26/ed-1/seq-3/>



Transcript
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BY THIS DAY'S MAIL

CHAMBERSBURG, APRIL 18

Patrick Donogan and Francis Cox, accused as accomplices in the murder of Francis Shitz, made their escape from Harrisburg jail. An handsome reward is offered for apprehending them.

The Herald of Liberty, a newspaper published at Washington (Penn.) asserts, that "the of the United States has granted a free pardon to David Bradford, the principal in the insurrection of 1794."



Entrance : The house itself is a broad, low, rambling frame mansion with a clapboard exterior, The main (east) frontal gallery is 107 feet long and the main facade is composed of ten irregular bays. The present house was built in two halves. The first half, which was built in 1796, forms the western six bays of the main facade.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION	
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE	
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE	
—1600-1699	<u>X</u> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	<u>X</u> MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<u>X</u> 1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER	
—1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION	
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		—INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1797

BUILDER/ARCHITECT General David Bradford

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Myrtles Plantation is an outstanding example of the expanded raised cottage form which characterized many Louisiana plantation houses by the mid-19th century. This can be seen in its size (with a 107 feet frontal gallery) and in its handsome detailing, both inside and out. The Myrtles is particularly notable for its unusually fine carved plaster cornices and ceiling medallions.

The Myrtles is also noteworthy as the home of General David Bradford, a wealthy judge and businessman from Washington County, Pennsylvania and a leader in the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. The plantation which was later named "the Myrtles" was built in 1797. With the collapse of the Whiskey Rebellion, Bradford was forced to flee from the Federal Army. In 1796, he arrived by boat at Bayou Sara. The following year he obtained a Spanish land grant of roughly 650 acres by authority of Baron de Carondelet. (Bradford's original application for a land grant in Louisiana was made in 1792.) Evidently, Bradford had been interested in the area several years before the Whiskey Rebellion forced him to flee. He had been to St. Francisville before, and he had been involved in the Whiskey trade in the New Orleans area.

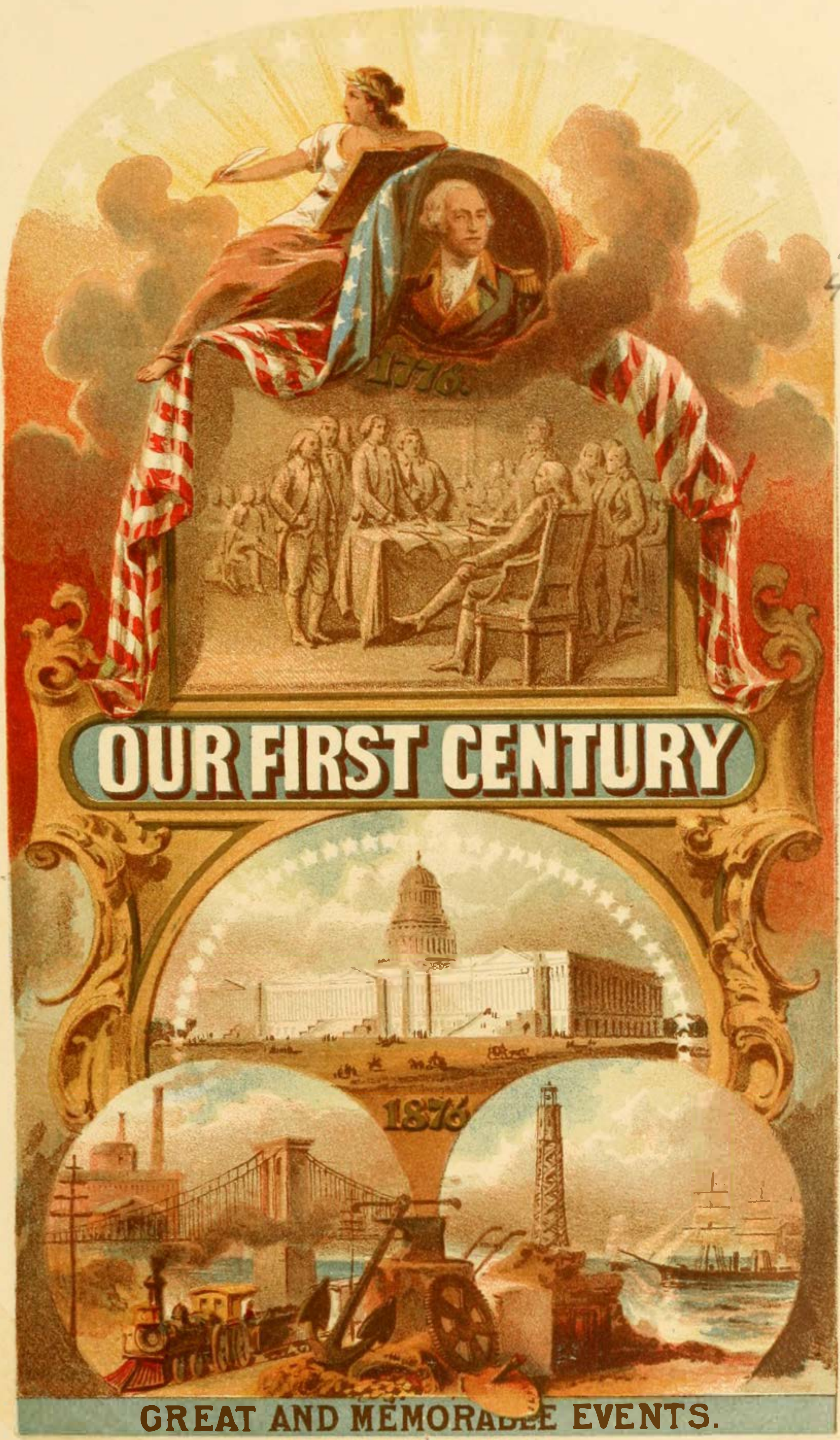
Bradford named his plantation "Richland." He held the property until his death in 1808, when it passed to his widow. In 1826 she sold "Richland" to the family's son-in-law, Clark Woodruff. Like his father-in-law, Woodruff was also a lawyer. He rose to some prominence, and was a friend to many of the powerful of his time. For example, he spent his honeymoon at the Hermitage as a guest of Andrew Jackson.

Shortly after Woodruff bought "Richland", his wife died, and in 1834 he sold the property to Ruffin G. Stirling. The Stirlings were a wealthy family of the first rank in the Louisiana area. They owned several great plantations, as well as a townhouse in Natchez. It was Ruffingray Stirling who renamed "Richland" "The Myrtles", and it was he who made the many renovations in the house which have been described previously.

In 1854, Stirling died and The Myrtles passed to his son, Steven Cobb Stirling. It remained in the Stirling family until 1894, after which it passed through a succession of owners.

The house was not substantially altered, but as the 20th century progressed, it fell into disrepair. In 1975, the present owners purchased The Myrtles and undertook a total restoration which was recently completed.

100
486



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XIV.

THE FAMOUS WHISKEY INSURRECTION IN PENNSYLVANIA.—1794.

Violent Resistance to the United States Excise Laws.—Monster Meetings and Inflammatory Appeals.—Officials and Loyal Citizens Whipped, Branded, Tarred, and Feathered.—Intense Excitement in all the States.—Washington Declares that the Union is in Peril and Heads an Army to Meet the Crisis.—Precipitate Flight of the Armed Rebels.—Congressional Tax on Spirits.—Cry of "Tyranny!" from Distillers.—Western Pennsylvania in a Blaze.—Extent of her Whiskey Interests.—Ambitious Politicians at Work.—A Revolt Incited by Them.—Bradford the Chief Desperado.—Reign of Terror Inaugurated.—Tax-Collectors Roughly Handled.—The Incendiary's Torch.—"Tom the Tinker's" Ruffianism.—Fury of the Factionists.—Firm Courage of Loyal Men.—Perplexity of the United States Government.—Presidential Proclamation.—Law and Order to be Maintained.—Troops Summoned into Service.—Prompt and Patriotic Response.—The Olive Branch vs. the Sword.—Bradford Scorns Conciliation.—Washington's Mind Made Up.—Prevents the Effusion of Blood.

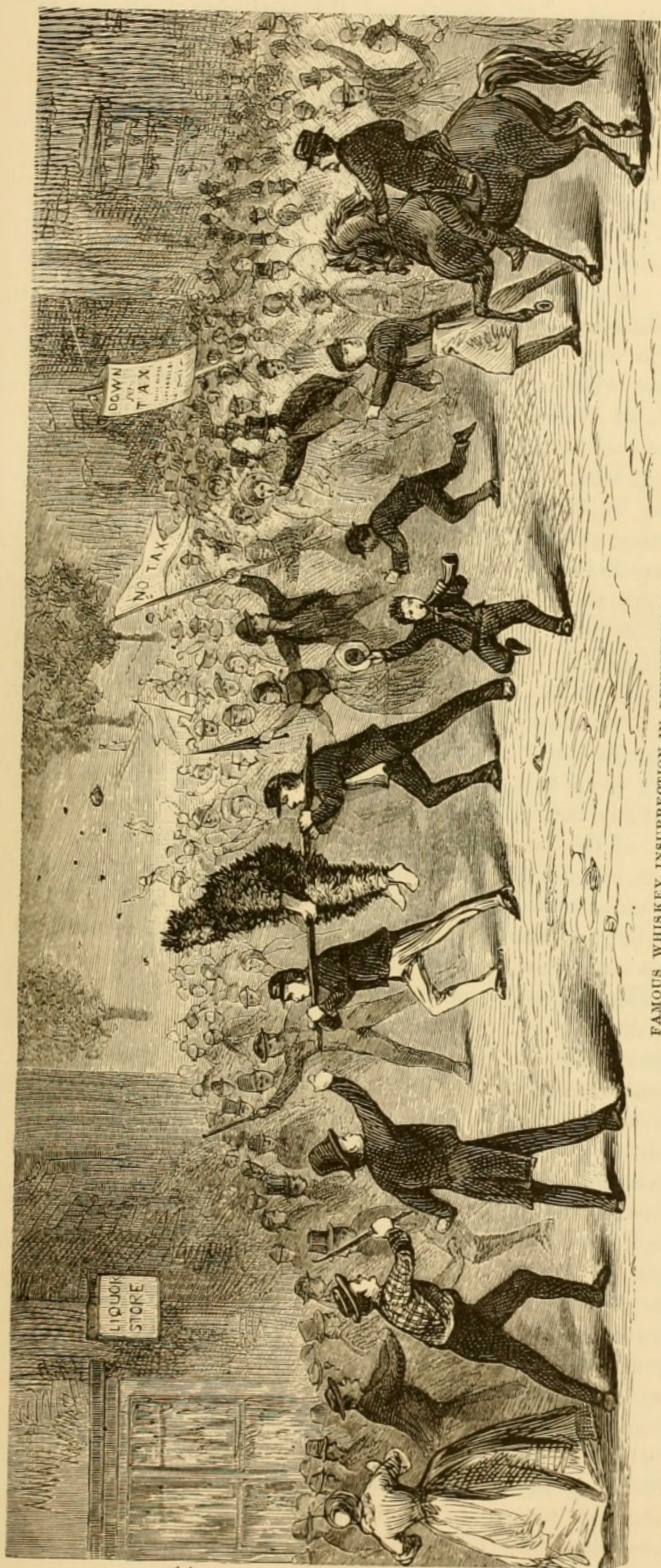
"Here's to your fery goot health,
And tamn ta whusky duty!"—SONG OF THE TIMES.



CAUSES OF THE WHISKEY INSURRECTION IN PENN.

THE year 1794 is distinguished in American history by a remarkable revolt among a portion of the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, and which is known as the Whiskey Insurrection. In 1791, congress had enacted laws laying excise duties upon spirits distilled within the United States. This tax excited great and general opposition, but nowhere else was such violence exhibited in resisting the execution of the law, as in the western counties of Pennsylvania, where the crops of grain were so over-abundant, that, in the absence of an adequate market for its sale, an immense quantity of the cereal was distilled into whiskey,—the far-famed "Monongahela," so called from the name of the principal river of the region where the manufacture was carried on. It was insisted upon, by these people, that an article produced so exclusively, by an isolated community, as their sole and necessary dependence, ought not to be taxed for the support of the federal government; and this opinion they adhered to—as the following pages will be found to show—with a tenacity worthy of a better cause, notwithstanding the day of temperance societies had not then dawned.

Public meetings were held in all the chief towns, at which the action of congress was loudly denounced as oppression to be battled against to the very last extremity;



FAMOUS WHISKEY INSURRECTION IN PENNSYLVANIA.

declaring, too, that any person who had accepted or might accept an office under government, in order to carry the law into effect, should be regarded as an enemy of his country, to be treated with contempt and total non-intercourse, official and personal. The federal government was scoffed at, its coercive authority disavowed; thus, with the motto, "*Liberty and No Excise!*" the ball of rebellion rolled on.

It was at this stage in the progress of affairs, and only one day preceding the assembling of an important meeting of malcontents of Pittsburg, that the tax collector for the counties of Alleghany and Washington made his appearance. Aware of his business, a party of men, armed and disguised, waylaid him at a place on Pigeon Creek, in Washington county, seized, tarred and feathered him, cut off his hair, and deprived him of his horse, obliging him to decamp on foot in that ludicrous and painful condition. In attempting to serve legal processes upon the perpetrators of this outrage, the marshal's deputy was also seized, whipped, tarred and feathered; and, after having his money and horse taken from him, the ruffians blindfolded and led him into the depths of the forest, where he was tied and left to his fate. He was fortunately discovered in season, and rescued, by some friends.

Not long after, a person of the name of Roseberry underwent the humiliating punishment of tarring and feathering, with some attendant aggravations, for having in conversation hazarded the very natural and just, but unpalatable remark, that the inhabitants of a county could not reasonably expect protection from a government whose laws they so strenuously opposed. So great, too, was the audacity of the perpetrators of these outrages, that an armed banditti of them ventured to seize and carry off two persons who were witnesses against the rioters in the case of Wilson, in order to prevent their giving testimony in a court then sitting, or about to sit.

On the part of the executive, such open defiance of the laws, and of the authority of the government, was believed to imperiously require that the strength and efficiency of those laws should be tried, by the governing power. Accordingly, Washington issued his proclamation, emphatically condemning the lawless acts and proceedings, warning all to return at once to their allegiance, and assuring them that the laws should be executed at any hazard. Against the leaders in some of the outrages which had been committed, bills of indictment were found in a court of the United States, upon which process was directed to issue, and, at the same time, process was also issued against a great number of non-complying distillers.

This proclamation not producing the desired effect, President Washington next endeavored to prevent the necessity of having recourse to active military measures, by making it the *interest* of the distillers to pay the duty. To this end, in addition to the prosecutions instituted against delinquents, the spirits distilled in the counties opposing the law were ordered to be seized on their way to market, by the officers of the revenue, and the contractors for the army were directed to purchase only the spirits on which the duties had been paid. But, whatever were the inclinations of the distillers—or some of them,—the fear of an infuriated populace prevented a compliance with these

orders; and the factionists continued to take encouragement from the lenity of the executive, in the expectation of ultimate success. By violent threats they still kept the marshal from serving his precepts, committed numerous outrages upon the friends of government, and perfected their organization into military bands, to resist any force that might be sent to subject them to the laws. They styled their acts, "*mending the still.*"

It is not to be doubted that this inflamed state of the public mind was greatly aggravated by the ambitious designs and intemperate speeches of a few leading men. Conspicuous among the friends of the malcontents were Bradford, Marshall, Smilie, Brackenridge, Husbands, Findley, and Gallatin. The first-named, David Bradford, was the chief agitator, and led in person the desperate bands, in their career of violence. He was an old settler in Washington county, had accumulated a large fortune, and, being bold and unscrupulous in his politics, wielded a powerful influence over a certain class. Those associated with him were men of decided ability, being of Scotch or Irish birth, and possessing their dominant characteristics of nationality.

In the early part of 1794, the hostility of the law-breakers seemed to become more implacable and demonstrative. William Richmond, who had given information against some of the rioters, in the affair of Wilson, had his barn burnt, with all its valuable contents; and the same thing happened to Robert Shawan, a distiller, who had been among the first to comply with the law, and who had always spoken favorably of it. These instances were multiplied. The law-abiding inhabitants were dogged and pursued by disorderly persons, their houses and distilleries broken into, property destroyed, conflagrations kindled, machinery disabled, life threatened.

June being the month for receiving annual entries for stills, endeavors were used to open offices in Westmoreland and Washington, where it had hitherto been

found impracticable. With much pains and difficulty, places were at last procured for the purpose.

That in Westmoreland was repeatedly attacked by armed men, in the night, who frequently fired upon it; but it was defended with so much determination and perseverance, as to have been maintained during the remainder of the month. That in Washington, after repeated attempts, was suppressed.

Charging himself with the service of the processes officially intrusted to him, the marshal repaired in person to the country which was the scene of these disorders. He continued unmolested in the performance of this duty, until, being seen in company with General John Neville, inspector of the county and a zealous advocate of the tax, they were assaulted on the road by a body of armed men, who fired, but without doing any injury. Early the next morning, a party attacked the house of General Neville, the inspector, but he defended himself bravely and successfully.

Apprehending, however, that the business would not terminate here, Neville made application by letter to the judges, generals of militia, and sheriff of the county, for protection. A reply to his application, from John Wilkins, Jr., and John Gibson, magistrates and militia-officers, informed him that the laws could not be executed, so as to afford him the protection to which he was entitled, owing to the too general combination of the people in that part of Pennsylvania to oppose the revenue law; adding, that they would take every step in their power to bring the rioters to justice, and would be glad to receive information relative to the individuals concerned in the attack on his house, that prosecutions might be commenced against them—at the same time expressing regret that, should the citizens of the county be ordered out, in support of the civil authority, very few could be gotten who were not of the party of the rioters.

The day following, the insurgents re-assembled with a considerable augmentation of numbers, amounting to at least

five hundred, and, on the seventeenth of July, renewed their attack upon the house of the inspector, who, in the interval, had taken the precaution of calling to his aid a small detachment from the garrison of Fort Pitt, which, at the time of the attack, consisted of eleven men, who had been joined by Major Abraham Kirkpatrick, a friend and connection of the inspector. The leader of the insurgents was a desperado named John Holcroft, or "*Tom the Tinker*," as he was familiarly called.

There being scarcely a prospect of effectual defense against so large a number as then appeared, and as the inspector had everything to apprehend for his person, if taken, it was judged advisable that he should withdraw from the house to a place of concealment; Major Kirkpatrick generously agreeing to remain with the eleven, intending, if practicable, to make a capitulation in favor of the property, or, if unsuccessful, to defend it as long as possible.

A parley took place, under cover of a flag, which was sent by the insurgents to the house, with a demand that the inspector should come forth, renounce his office, and stipulate never again to accept an office under the same laws. To this it was replied, that the inspector had left the house upon their first approach, and that the place to which he had retired was unknown. They then declared that they must have whatever related to his office; to which, answer was made they might send persons, not exceeding six, to search the house, and take away whatever papers they could find, pertaining to the office. But, not satisfied with this, they insisted, unconditionally, that the armed men who were in the house for its defense, should march out and ground their arms. Major Kirkpatrick peremptorily refused, considering it and representing it to them as a proof of a design to destroy the property; and this refusal put an end to the parley.

Brisk firing now took place between the insurgents and the party in the house, lasting for about an hour, till the assailants, having set fire to the neighboring and adjacent buildings, eight in number,

the intenseness of the heat, and the danger of an immediate communication of fire to the house, obliged the brave Kirkpatrick and his small party to come out and surrender themselves.

Desirous of ascertaining their full strength, and also to discover any secret enemies that might remain unsuspected in the midst of these treasonable movements, Bradford and his comrades proceeded with a high and unsparing hand. Monster meetings of friends and sympathizers were



DAVID BRADFORD.

appointed, to determine the first question; and, to obtain satisfaction in regard to the second, the mail between Pittsburg and Philadelphia was stopped by armed men, who cut it open, and took out the letters which it contained. In some of these letters, a direct disapprobation of the violent measures which had been adopted was openly avowed. Upon acquiring thus the names of their opponents, messengers were sent to Pittsburg, where the writers of the offensive letters resided, demanding the banishment of the offenders. A prompt obedience to these demands was unavoidable. Another plan was, for seizing the United States military stores at Pittsburg, and using them in carrying on the revolt. In order to accomplish this, a mammoth gathering of the anarchists was appointed to be held on Braddock's field, August first. This call was made in the form usual for militia musters, and all were notified to come armed and equipped. *Seven thousand men answered to this call*, and Bradford, assuming the office of major-general, reviewed the dense mass of troops. The main purpose, however, of this assemblage, namely, to march upon Pittsburg,

take possession of Fort Pitt and the United States arsenal, and then form an independent state, or sovereignty, composed of the counties west of the Alleghany range, had been divulged to few, and, upon farther consultation, it was found that the desperation of some of the leaders failed them at this point, and the project was abandoned. But it was determined to march to Pittsburg at any rate,—a march that was attended by a wholesale intimidation of the disaffected, the robbing of houses, and the burning of buildings. But the greatest popular demonstration made of the law-breakers' strength, was the meeting at Parkinson's Ferry, where there assembled representatives of the whole vast region in insurrection, and, in the mad enthusiasm of the hour, *pledged themselves to follow, sixteen thousand strong, under the banner of Bradford*, in resisting and overturning the government. There were at this meeting many able men, but the attendant throng was of a far different class.

The president had now, for three years, patiently awaited the effect of conciliatory measures, but these had only continued to render the opposition more desperate. He therefore had only to choose between the alternative of permitting the prostration of the government, or to call out its force in support of the laws. It was not in the nature of Washington to allow the former.

The subject, in all its momentous consequences, was laid by President Washington before the cabinet, for final action, and General Mifflin, the governor of Pennsylvania, was on this occasion called into the council. Their unanimous desire was to avoid, if possible, a resort to arms and bloodshed, and they therefore advised that commissioners should be sent to the insurgents to warn them of their danger, and to offer a pardon of past offenses, on condition of future obedience to the laws. It was also advised that a proclamation should be issued, in conformity to the act of congress, commanding the insurgents to disperse by a given day. All agreed that a crisis had arrived which was testing

the strength and practicability of republican institutions.

The president did not hesitate to do his duty. He could no longer see the laws prostrated, and the authority of the United States defied, without exerting the means of prevention. He resolved, therefore, to issue the proclamation, which, by law, was to precede the employment of force. This proclamation, issued August seventh, contained a brief but distinct recapitulation of the measures which had been adopted by the government, as well as the proceedings on the part of the insurgents, and the preparatory steps which had been taken to authorize the executive to employ coercion—and which, though with the deepest regret, he had determined to do, in the interests of national preservation and social order; and commanding all persons being in the position of insurgents, and all others whom it might concern, on or before the first day of the ensuing month of September, to disperse and retire peaceably to their homes.

On the same day of this proclamation, a requisition was made on the governors of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, for their several quotas of militia to compose an army of twelve or fifteen thousand men, who were to be immediately organized and prepared to march at a minute's warning.

While the necessary steps were being taken to bring this force into the field, a last attempt was made to render its employment unnecessary. To this end, the attorney-general of the United States, who was also a citizen of Pennsylvania, together with Judge Yates, of the superior court, and Senator Ross of Pennsylvania, who was particularly popular in the western section, were deputed by the government to be the bearers of a general amnesty for past offenses, on the sole condition of future obedience to the laws.

It having been deemed advisable that the executive of the state in which the insurrection was rampant should act in concert with that of the United States, a proclamation, similar in tone and spirit to

that of the president, was now issued by Governor Mifflin, and commissioners were appointed by him to unite with those of the general government.

But Bradford, whose sway over his followers was well nigh despotic, inspiring them with slavish terror, laughed at the government proclamation and measures, claimed that he could marshal an army that would scatter the federal force to the four winds, and, under the banner of "*Liberty and No Excise—No Asylum for Cowards and Traitors!*" the insurgent spirit waxed fiercer and more bold. Attempts were made to embark the adjacent counties of Virginia in their cause, and their violence was extended to Morgantown, at which place an inspector resided, who only saved himself by flight, and protected his property by advertising, on his own door, that he had resigned his office. Similar excursions were made into the eastern counties of Pennsylvania.

The great convention of malcontents at Parkinson's Ferry had, under the advice of Brackenridge, Marshall, Gallatin, and some others, appointed a committee of safety, of sixty members, who chose fifteen of their body to confer with the commissioners of the United States, and of Pennsylvania. This committee was to receive proposals, but neither offer nor accept terms of settlement.

In their report of the conference thus held, the committee expressed themselves in favor of accepting the accommodation offered by the government. But, though many of the insurgents, trembling at the extent of the conflagration they had kindled, were now disposed to yield, a vast number still continued, under Bradford's fiery lead, to go on in their revolutionary violence, and so the last door to reconciliation was shut. Meanwhile, the president's call for troops was being responded to in overwhelming numbers, under the patriotic lead of Governor Mifflin.

The president issued a second proclamation, September 25, describing in terms of great energy the obstinate and perverse spirit with which the government's lenient

propositions had been received, and declaring his fixed determination, in virtue of the high and imperative duty imposed upon him by the constitution to "*take care that the laws be faithfully executed,*" to reduce the refractory to obedience.

On every side, the signals of war were now displayed! The troops of New Jersey and Pennsylvania were directed to rendezvous at Bedford, and those of Maryland and Virginia at Cumberland, on the Potomac. The command of the expedition was given to General Henry Lee, of Virginia; and the governors of New Jersey and Pennsylvania commanded, under him, the militia of their respective states. The president, in person, pushed on for Philadelphia, through deep roads and a three days' drenching rain, visiting, as commander-in-chief, each of the two grand divisions into which he had divided the forces. He had intended to continue to lead the army solely himself; but, ascertaining that this would not be called for, and feeling confident that the force employed must break down all resistance, he left General Hamilton, as his deputy, giving directions to Lee to march each

division across the Alleghany mountains, meet on the other side, and act against the insurgents as circumstances might require. But, as had been sagaciously foreseen, the



GEN. HENRY LEE.

greatness of the force prevented the effusion of blood. The rebellious hordes fled before such a demonstration, the clemency of the government was solicited, and submission to every law freely promised. Some of the more evil disposed were arrested and tried, but pardon was ultimately extended to all. Bradford escaped to Spanish territory. And thus, in the words of Washington, was decided "the contest, whether a small proportion of the United States shall dictate to the whole Union."

Citation

Devens, R. M. (1876). Our first century: being a popular descriptive portraiture of the one hundred great and memorable events of perpetual interest in the history of our country, political, military, mechanical, social, scientific and commercial: embracing also delineations of all the great historic characters celebrated in the annals of the republic; men of heroism, statesmanship, genius, oratory, adventure and philanthropy. Springfield, Mass.: C.A. Nichols & Co. <<https://lccn.loc.gov/02001698>> and <<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008653295/Home>>