

Account of the Stamp Act from Gloucester County Virginia to Bristol England, November 1765

Transcript:

...I am very sorry to acquaint you that the situation in which our Country is at present seems to be truly deplorable. You have no doubt, before now, heard that, in Consequence of an Act passed a few Months ago by the British Parliament, all the English Colonies in America were, from the first Day of this Month, to be subject to the payment of certain Stamp duties on all Writings relating to law proceedings and many others in the mercantile Way, which, I understand, has caused such a Disturbance throughout the whole Continent, that all the Distributors of the stamp Paper have been obliged to resign their Offices, the Court of Justice all shut up, and in short almost all Business at a Stand. How this Matter will terminate, Time alone can discover; and all that I have to say about it is, May the indefinitely wise Disposer of Events so order it as that the legislative Power of our Mother Country may think proper to repeal that Act; for should it take Place, as we are still so burdened with the heavy Taxes from the late War, which it is with the utmost Difficulty that the People can pay, I can see no Prospect but the inevitable Ruin to this Colony. I hope you will pardon my entering upon this melancholy Subject...

My Dear Friend,

Your most affectionate, and very
humble servant,

Thomas Booth.

P.S. My Mother desires me to present you with her Compliments.

Glossary: (in order of appearance)

Acquaint – to make one familiar

Deplorable – deserving contempt

Duties – taxes

Terminate – to come to an end

Disposer of Events – God

Repeal – cancel

Melancholy – depressing

Booth, Thomas. *Letter to Reverend Richard Collinson*. November 1765. Society of Cincinnati Collections, Anderson House Library, Washington, D.C.

All definitions are either quoted or based upon Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary. Springfield, MA: Merriam- Webster, 1986.

Discussion Questions:

1.	What is the Stamp Act?	
2.	Which populations are most affected by the Stamp Act? How have they been impacted?	
3.	What does the author wish would occur to the Stamp Act?	
4.	What are some reasons the author offers for why the Stamp Act should not be enforced?	
5.	What does the author imply will happen to Virginia because of the Stamp Act?	