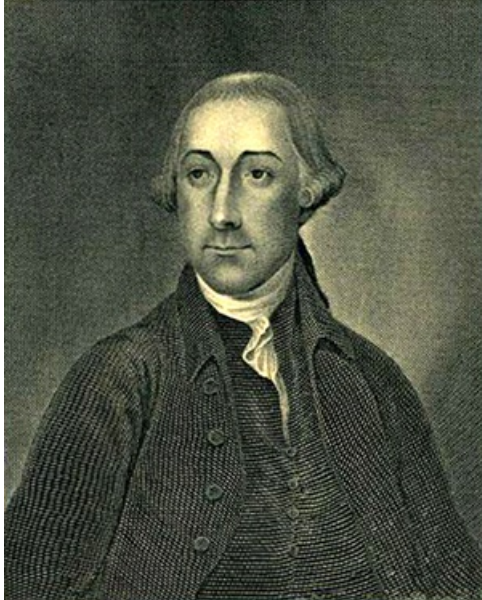


Committees of Correspondence ^[1]

Committees of Correspondence

by Carmen Miner Smith, 2006



Engraving of Joseph Hewes. Image from the North Carolina Museum of History.

^[2]Committees of Correspondence were among the first institutions established by the American colonies ^[3] to maintain communication with each other. In December 1773 the North Carolina Assembly organized its first Committee of Correspondence, consisting of [John Harvey](#) ^[4], [Robert Howe](#) ^[5], [Richard Caswell](#) ^[6], Edward Vail, John Ashe, Joseph Hewes, [Samuel Johnston](#) ^[7], [Cornelius Harnett](#) ^[8], and [William Hooper](#) ^[9]. The committee had instructions to gather early information about acts of the British government regarding the colonies, to correspond with the committees of the other colonies about plans for resistance, and to report their proceedings to the Assembly. The intercolonial cooperation of the Committees of Correspondence was the beginning of the American union, as the First [Continental Congress](#) ^[10], which met in September 1774, evolved from the intercolonial communication established and maintained by the Committees of Correspondence.

References:

Lindley S. Butler, *North Carolina and the Coming of the Revolution, 1763-1776* (1976).

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Additional Resources:

North Carolina Committee of Correspondence. "Letter from the North Carolina Committee of Correspondence to the South Carolina Committee of Correspondence." June 10, 1774. Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr11-0117> ^[11] (November 5, 2012).

North Carolina Committee of Correspondence. Letter from the North Carolina Committee of Correspondence to the Virginia Committee of Correspondence. June 21, 1774. Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr11-0118> ^[12] (November 5, 2012).

"The Committees of Correspondence: The Voice of the Patriots." Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum. <http://www.bostonteapartyship.com/committees-of-correspondence> ^[13] (November 5, 2012).

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"Print, Accession #: [H.1914.198.24](#) ^[2]." 1800-1850. North Carolina Museum of History.

Subjects:

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Authors:

[Smith, Carmen Miner](#) ^[16]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.^[17]

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