

Lineage No.: **WILLIAMSBURG 01**

Group Title: **Virginia Gazette I**

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**Variant 01: The Virginia Gazette**

Publication Data: August 6, 1736 to early June 1750 Weekly

Proprietors: William Parks

IVP Associates: William Parks (321), William Hunter Sr. (230)

Notes: First newspaper published in Virginia; initial number issued at beginning of 1736 Assembly session. Parks died on April 1, 1750 while enroute to England on business trip; his will was entered for probate on June 18, 1750, by which time the publication of *Gazette* had been suspended. His shop foreman and heir Hunter resumed publication on January 3, 1751, after acquiring paper from his estate.

References: LCCN No. 84-024739; Brigham II: 1158-1163.

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**Variant 02: The Virginia Gazette**

Publication Data: January 3, 1751 to August 10, 1761 Weekly

Proprietors: William Hunter Sr.

IVP Associates: William Hunter Sr. (230), John Stretch (407), Joseph Royle (368), Alexander Purdie (345)

Notes: Hunter acquired *Gazette* from estate of William Parks in December 1750, and resumed its publication on first Saturday of 1751. Publication was managed by Stretch during Hunter's absences, especially July 1754 to April 1755 and June 1756 to July 1759; Stretch removed from his office in July 1759, replaced by Royle and Purdie. Hunter died August 14, 1761, making number of August 10, 1761, the last issued under his imprimatur.

References: LCCN No. 84-024739; Brigham II: 1158-1163.

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**Variant 03: The Virginia Gazette**

Publication Data: August 17, 1761 to October 26, 1765 Weekly

Proprietors: Joseph Royle

IVP Associates: Joseph Royle (368), Alexander Purdie (345)

Notes: Royle assumed responsibility for *Gazette* on death of William Hunter on August 14, 1761; he later acquired press and paper in partnership with Hunter's estate. Purdie conducted *Gazette* in Royle's absence from June to November 1765, during height of the Stamp Act crisis; he suspended publication of paper after issue for October 26, 1765, in conformance with continent-wide agreement to suspend all papers in North American when act took effect November 1st. *Gazette* was still in suspension when Royle died January 26, 1766, and did not resume until March 7, 1766, after Purdie had acquired the weekly from his late master's estate.

References: LCCN No. 84-024739; Brigham II: 1158-1163.

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**Variant 04: The Virginia Gazette**

Publication Data: March 7, 1766 to June 13, 1766 Weekly

Proprietors: Alexander Purdie

IVP Associates: Alexander Purdie (345)

Notes: Following death of Joseph Royle on January 26, 1766, Purdie acquired this weekly from his late master's estate; he resumed its publication on March 7, 1766. Purdie continued as its sole proprietor through number issued June 13, 1766, before forming a partnership with John Dixon to acquire Royle's press and office.

References: LCCN No. 84-024739; Brigham II: 1158-1163.

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**Variant 05: The Virginia Gazette**

Publication Data: June 20, 1766 to December 29, 1774 Weekly

Proprietors: Purdie & Dixon

IVP Associates: Alexander Purdie (345), John Dixon Sr. (140), William Hunter Jr. (231), Thomas Nicholson (315), William Prentis (340)

Notes: With issue of June 20, 1766, Purdie formed partnership with Dixon to buy Joseph Royle's press and office from his estate, after having rented those assets for the preceding three months; their agreement was limited to the minority of Hunter Jr., who had an interest in the office as result of wills of both his father and Royle; hence, Purdie & Dixon partnership ended when Hunter reached his majority in December 1774. During life of this concern, Purdie trained both Nicholson and Prentis, who continued with Dixon after 1774.

References: LCCN No. 84-024739; Brigham II: 1158-1163.

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**Variant 06: The Virginia Gazette**

Publication Data: January 7, 1775 to about December 25, 1778 Weekly

Proprietors: Dixon & Hunter

IVP Associates: John Dixon Sr. (140), William Hunter Jr. (231), Thomas Nicholson (315), William Prentis (340)

Notes: After dissolution of his partnership with Purdie, Dixon formed a new arrangement with Hunter Jr., son of his late brother-in-law, to conduct Williamsburg printing office and the Virginia Gazette; he also retained services of Nicholson and Prentis with that office. This new concern was dissolved after number for December 4, 1778 (the last known issue), probably with that for December 25, 1778; Dixon retained both press and paper, but was forced to suspend publication of *Gazette* until February 12, 1779 to complete the complex process, which required settlements of the estates of Hunter Sr. and Joseph Royle as well.

References: LCCN No. 84-024739; Brigham II: 1158-1163.

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**Variant 07: The Virginia Gazette**

Publication Data: February 12, 1779 to April 8, 1780 Weekly

Proprietors: Dixon & Nicholson

IVP Associates: John Dixon Sr. (140), Thomas Nicholson (315), William Prentis (340)

Notes: After dissolution of his partnership with Hunter Jr., Dixon formed a new arrangement with Nicolson. Though he retained both press and paper in that transaction, a suspension of six weeks ensued to allow for settlement of estates of Hunter Sr. and Joseph Royle, which had claims on those divided assets. When publication resumed, the paper evinced a new numbering scheme, starting with no. 1, leading Brigham and others to mistakenly report that the Dixon & Nicolson *Gazette* was an entirely new periodical; however, Dixon held an interest in the *Virginia Gazette* from the 1761 death of William Hunter Sr. onward, making the dissolution of the firm of Dixon & Hunter a division of shared assets in which Dixon simply kept and continued their existing paper. Dixon & Nicolson continued its publication through April 8, 1780, when they suspended publication in order to relocate their office to Richmond, in conjunction with the removal of the seat of the state's government to that town; publication resumed there on May 9, 1780.

References: LCCN No. 84-024739; Brigham II: 1158-1163.

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**Variant 08: The Virginia Gazette**

Publication Data: May 9, 1780 to May 19, 1781 Weekly

Proprietors: Dixon & Nicolson

IVP Associates: John Dixon Sr. (140), Thomas Nicholson (315), William Prentis (340)

Notes: Continuation of the original *Virginia Gazette* after a month-long suspension to move press from Williamsburg to Richmond; publication continued there uninterrupted through April 21, 1781, when a British military incursion compelled another suspension; only one more number was issued by the proprietors (May 19th), before increasing military activity in the state – leading up to the Yorktown siege – forced Dixon & Nicolson to end publication and dissolve their firm (see Richmond 01). Subsequently, Nicolson forged an agreement with co-worker Prentis to publish a new weekly paper in Richmond in December 1781.

References: LCCN No. 84-024739; Brigham II: 1163.

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