



TallShipTuesdays

Historical Context

The British government made Boston pay a high price for destroying the tea in the Boston Tea Party. The busy port of Boston, on which most Bostonians depended, was closed. More **redcoats** arrived. But resistance to British rule kept growing. Many young people followed their parents' example in standing up to the British, although their concerns were not necessarily about taxation. Sometimes they were more concerned with enjoying their favorite sports and other activities. Sometimes, too, the British officers tried to be good neighbors.

Our example of this “good neighbor policy” is described in a letter written on January 29, 1775, by John Andrews of Boston to his brother-in-law in Philadelphia. It tells about a group of boys who complained to British General Frederick Haldimand when his servant ruined their favorite sledding hill by spreading ashes on it. The General listened to them and ordered his servant to repair the damage.

Andrew's letter went on to say that when British General Thomas Gage, who was the governor of Massachusetts, heard about the incident, he observed that “it was impossible to beat the notion of Liberty out of the people, as it was rooted in ‘em from their Childhood.”

Did You Know...?

- “**Coasting**” or “**sledding**” was popular among children in colonial times. Sherburn's Hill in Boston was a favorite of several generations of Americans.
- Colonial children played some games that children still play today—Hide-and-Seek, Blindman's Bluf, lacrosse, hopscotch and jump rope. They also flew kites!
- Most dolls were made of wooden pegs and many were nicely dressed with homemade clothing.
- One favorite game that is no longer played was “**Hoop and Stick.**” The “**hoop**” was about two-and-a-half feet across and the “**stick**” about nine inches long. Children ran alongside the hoop, moving it along with the stick. They also stood still, and use their sticks to pass the hoop back and forth from one to the other.

Resource – the historical context comes from the short story “Soldiers, Sleds, and Sam” by Elizabeth Vollstadt in the book, *Young Patriots: Inspiring Stories of the American Revolution*, by Marcella Anderson & Elizabeth Vollstadt. The story is read by Capt. Jones in the #TallShipTuesdays video, “Soldiers, Sleds, and Sam.”

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