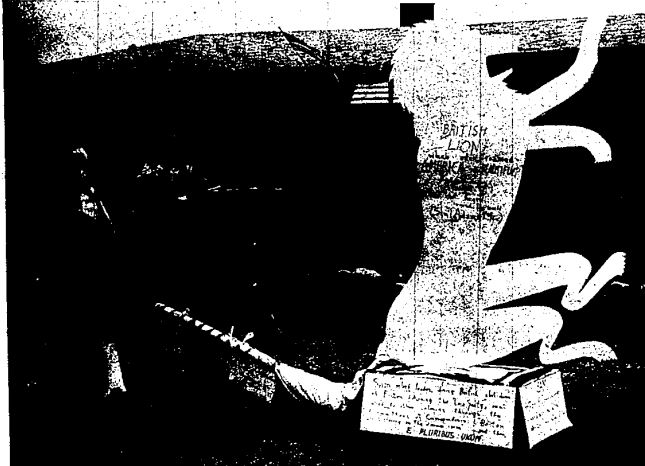


Sam Adams-Unknown Mastermind In Revolt Of '76



LION TAMER - The above float, entered in the 1966 July Fourth Parade in Kendallwood I, depicts Sam Adams dragging the British lion by the tail. The sign beneath the lion reads: "Sam, relief leader during British shut-down of Boston following the 'tee party,' sent word to other colonies through the Committee of Correspondence: 'Boston is suffering in the common cause', and then, E PLURIBUS UNUM."

By EMORY DANIELS

It's not really possible to examine the causes of the American Revolution without tracing the career of that shrewd Boston barrister, Samuel Adams. Some stale history texts, have missed Sam's role and limit their commentary to the fact that he was a cousin of John Adams. Cousin John served as a delegate to the Paris peace talks (which resulted in America's "recognition" by the rest of the world) and was later elected president. Although John at times showed disgust towards the actions of his cousin, he would be the first to admit Sam Adams was the moulder of dissent in the eight years preceding the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

SAM ADAMS NOT only had the British lion by the tail but held the 13 colonies on a leash. He trained his brood of mild pups to first become keen watchdogs and then raving, snarling curs. Sam used his Committees of Correspondence as leashes to keep his bounds at bay until the right time. And then he kept them fed with the Boston Massacre, Malcolm riots, Tea Party, Gaslighting, and that sort of thing. Winston Churchill recognized the genius of Sam Adams when he wrote in Age of Revolution that the Stamp Act of 1765 "exposed and fortified the more violent elements in America and gave them a chance to experiment in organized resistance."

"The revolutionary leaders appeared from obscurity - Patrick Henry in Virginia, Sam Adams in Massachusetts and Christopher Gadsden in South Carolina. The attacks on the homes of the stamp distributors, Churchill wrote, "were the work of a few merchants and young lawyers who were trying their hands at rousing the unfranchised mobs."

INDEED the Stamp Act was the turning point as a place to begin tracing the movements of Sam Adams and his Sons of Liberty. Adams had led opposition in Boston to the Sugar Act of 1764. But that opposition consisted of articles in the Boston Gazette and a few speeches. The mobs were left free to traffic on Pope's Day. During the assault on the sugar Act, Adams expressed his battle strategy: "Put your adversary in the wrong and keep him there." Another bit of Adams' was "Take a stand at the start!"

Opposition to the Stamp Act (1765) saw a shift in strategy from a verbal assault to physical violence with the street gangs unleashed. Use of the mobs was a conscious decision reached by Sam Adams that words alone would not be enough to keep hold of the British lion's tail.

By 1767, Adams became convinced that revolution was inevitable and five years later the doctrine of separatism was appearing openly in the columns of the Boston Gazette. By using the Boston mobs, Adams sought to gain repeal of the Stamp Act by endangering the life and property of those officials administering and enforcing the tax.

The North and South street gangs were shaped by Adams into a deadly political instrument which demonstrated alarming military discipline. The success of mob violence in leading to repeal of the Stamp Act made Sam willing to summon up violence at any time in the future. It was Sam who decided when the gangs would strike, who would be the victims and how much damage would be inflicted.

SAMUEL ELIOT MORRISON, noted historian, writes: "Adams alone of the forerunners of American independence was a typical revolutionary who, except for his Christian piety, reminds one of the Communist agitators of our era."

"He was certainly the western world's first orchestra leader of revolution. He knew that voters are moved by their emotion rather than by logic. As a master of propaganda, he realized that the general run of people prefer drama and ritual, both older than reason, to a well-thought out exposition."

It was Sam Adams who confused the issues by describing England's taxation policy as a conspiracy of oppression by Massachusetts Gov. Bernard and Justice Hutchinson instead of being the brain-child of King George's ministry. The conspiracy explanation gave the colonists a "visible hate figure" and, at the same

time, did not test their loyalty to the monarch before 1770.

DURING 1765, Adams also called out the mobs to stir opposition to the Quartering Act. The mobs frightened Gov. Bernard whose hesitation at asking Gen. Gage for troops in Boston gave the Sons of Liberty more time to create discord among townspople.

In 1767, the Townsend Acts were passed and a board of commissioners established in Boston as an attempt to stop colonial smuggling. The commissioners seized the Liberty, a sloop owned by John Hancock, but were attacked by the mob and forced to obtain refuge abroad in a British frigate (the Romney) in the Atlantic. They did not return to Boston until troops arrived.

The troops were finally sent to help enforce the Townsend Acts and to prevent the mobs from vandalizing and looting the homes of custom commissioners.

IN MARCH, 1770, the so-called Boston Massacre occurred on King Street. In 1770, reconciliation between the 13 colonies and England seemed complete except in Boston.

"Here Sam Adams, fertile organizer of resistance and advocate of separatism, saw that the struggle was now reaching crucial stage," writes Churchill.

"This 'massacre' was just the sort of incident Adams had hoped for." The incident was played up in the Boston Gazette and on the streets of Boston.

To spread the word, Adams in 1772 organized his Committees of Correspondence which grew to the point where Adams was sending letters to some 75 towns in the colonies. Adams made full use of the massacre to stir up hatred against England. Each year, anniversary celebrations were held of the massacre with street dramas performed. (The last massacre observance was held in 1974 when July Fourth found its rightful place on our calendar of national holidays.)

ADAMS MANAGED the Boston Tea Party and deserves credit in history for the significance of that event.

To punish Boston, Parliament passed a bill in 1774 closing the port of Boston. This action was dubbed the "Intolerable Acts." Passage of these acts was announced by Adams through his committees and by a ride of Paul Revere from Boston to Philadelphia.

It was, in part, sympathy for Bostonians which led the other colonies to form the first Continental Congress in 1774. Recognizing the role Adams was playing, London ordered the arrest of Sam Adams and John Hancock.

When Gen. Gage sent troops to arrest Sam, he was met by the embattled farmers on the hills at Concord. The skirmish at Concord and Lexington, precipitated by the attempt to

(Participants in the July 4, 1966, Independence Day parade in Kendallwood I know Sam Adams had the British lion by the tail. Today's article, one in a series examining Boston's contribution to American independence, also notes Sam had 13 puppies on a leash and converted them from loveable puppies to mad curs.)

arrest Sam, signaled the beginning of the Revolution.

Adams served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1765-74 but basically operated behind the scenes during the pre-war era. But after the war Adams moved into public life.

He was among the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1781, was lieutenant

governor of Massachusetts from 1789-93 and governor from 1794-97.

The fact that Sam Adams never gained the presidency is due in large part to the long memories of those who were aware of Sam's behavior before the war.

THE SIGNIFICANCE of an individual's actions in moulding history is best stated by Morrison:

"Rare, indeed, is the community and golden the age where complaints and wishes cannot be found; but they aren't always significant. It is only when some new element is added, or an unusual issue arises, and when able and energetic men are willing to risk their necks to head the cause, that silent grievances become patient and passive causes dynamic."

Receives BA

Martha L. Davidson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Davidson of 28355 Westerleigh, Farmington, has received a bachelor of arts degree with a major in government at Valparaiso University.

Farmington Socially Speaking

By KATHY ZISKA GR. 4-7261

FARMINGTON The play at the Farmington Players Barn, is quite fascinating, with Hope Nabstoll as "Miss Jean Brodie" on stage thru the weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening - call Molinas 474-2873 for ticket reservations). The cast and crew of "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" couldn't and wouldn't have anything but a PRIME pizza party after last Saturday evening's performance at the home of one of the co-stars, Emily Frontczak on Dundak. Some of those attending were: Hope and George

Nabstoll, Marcia Bell, Burke Martin, Maryann Hanson, Zackie Lee, Susan Frontczak, Leslie Dawber John Wilson, Rick Latham, Mr. and Mrs. Don Briggs, Saah Fredericks, Chris Perkins, Bill and Carol Betts, Mrs. Kaman, Mike and Tom Kaman, Karen Kormesser, Kathy Totez, Jari Brenner, Cathy Stevens, Michelle (Shelly) Ziska and of course, host and hostess, Walt and Lenore Frontczak.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rossiter and their two youngsters, visited Farmington the past weekend from Saginaw. They were here for Father's Day. It just so happened that Maggie Rossiter's dad was in Deaconess Hospital for surgery, which Maggie knew about, but thought her dad should be visited anyway, hospitalized or not on Father's Day. Maggie's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Colin MacKay of Orchard Lake Road.

A kitchen shower for Martha Christine Schaeffer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin G. Schaeffer of Drake Road, was given Sunday, June 14, by Mrs. Alexander Kovach and her daughter Judy, at their Rochester, home. Judy Kovach will be Chris' maid-of-honor on June 27 when she weds Paul W. Skog. Guests at the shower included Mrs. Fred A. McClennen, Mrs. David L. Burton, Nancy Reynolds and Pat Sealey of Farmington and Priscilla Howes of Birmingham.

A week earlier, Chris, the bride-to-be was honored with a linen shower hosted by Mrs. John B. Enos of Ann Arbor. He was president of the Connecticut Club, English Department honorary; president of Theta Alpha Pi, national dramatics honorary; president of Phi Mu Alpha, national men's music honorary, and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, national men's honorary. He also sang in the Albion College Choir and Choral Society.

At Albion he held a presidential recognition award.

Plan 12 Mile Paving Project

Twelve Mile Rd. will be resurfaced between Orchard Lake Rd. and Northwestern Highway sometime this summer. Farmington Township supervisor Curt H. Hall told the board of trustees Monday that the county would begin work soon and completion was expected this year.

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