

Town Meeting - October 18, 1765

Since 1629, the Massachusetts Bay Colony had been governed under a Charter granted by the King to the colonists. The governing body was the Great and General Court held in Boston to which Sudbury sent a representative every year. This body was charged with the government of the Mass Bay Colony.

There were rumors of a Stamp Act being imposed as a tax by Great Britain on the Mass Bay Colony for the benefit of Great Britain. In response, Sudbury instructed its Representative, John Noyes, Esq., to “Promote and Readily Joyn in Such Dutifull remonstances and humble Petitions to Our Most Gracious King & Parlament of Great Brittan and Such Other Deacent Measures as May have a Tendency to Obtain a repeal or Suspension of the Stamp Act and Heavy Burdens Imposed on the American Brittish Collinies....”

In other words, do what you can to oppose the taxes that are not imposed by the General Court of Mass Bay “according to the Royal Charter and Constitution of this Government.”

This was perhaps the first stirrings of rebellion in the colony, but the people were still feeling loyal to their “Most Gracious King.”

(Throughout this presentation, the spelling is as it appeared in the original records. Spelling was flexible in the 1700's!)