

## Historical Investigation

### Anthony Stewart: Guilty or Innocent?

**Grades:** 4, 5

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Materials:**

- Graphic organizer, one per student
- Primary source handout, one per student

**Primary Sources:**

*The Burning of the Peggy Stewart* by Francis Blackwell Mayer, 1896. MSA SC 1545-1111. Collection of the Maryland State Archives.

[http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/speccol/sc1500/sc1545/apc\\_website/apcpaintings\\_burningofthepeggystewart.html](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/speccol/sc1500/sc1545/apc_website/apcpaintings_burningofthepeggystewart.html)

October 20, 1774 *Maryland Gazette* (Annapolis) from Peter Force, *American Archives*, 4th series, vol. 1. Washington, D.C.: St. Clair Clarke & Peter Force, 1837, pp. 885-86. An account of the events surrounding the burning of the *Peggy Stewart*. Maryland State Archives, MSA SC 2221-2-11.

<http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2200/sc2221/000002/000011/html/0000.html>

April 10, 1775. *Maryland Gazette* (Annapolis) from Peter Force, *American Archives*, 4th series, vol. 2. Washington, D.C.: St. Clair Clarke & Peter Force, 1839, pp. 809-12. Reprint of an article from the *London Publick Ledger* of January 4, 1775 concerning the burning of the *Peggy Stewart*. Maryland State Archives, MSA SC 2221-2-12.

<http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2200/sc2221/000002/000012/html/0000.html>

Eddis, William. *Letters from America, Historical and Descriptive: Comprising Occurrences from 1769 to 1777 Inclusive*. London, pp. 1792. 174-177. <http://books.google.com/books?id=S-rsuqoNuWwC&pg=PA171&lpg=PA171&dq=williams+co+maryland+gazette+letters&source=bl&ots=1rViXVSDu9&sig=tvAAY-xJkurpULjzViZ6BgWlaWc&hl=en&sa=X&ei=1UfpUda7EYLu8QTP7YCQCA&ved=0CGsQ6AEwCQ#v=onepage&q=williams%20co%20maryland%20gazette%20letters&f=false>

#### **I. Engage the Students**

- Show students the painting, *The Burning of the Peggy Stewart*, by Francis Blackwell Mayer, painted in 1896.
- Ask: What do you think is going on in this painting?
- Ask: Is it a positive or negative portrayal of this event? (Positive) What makes you say that? (The man holding the torch looks proud, triumphant.)

- Explain: Very often historical sources convey attitudes, or perspectives, about the subject being described, whether it is through the way a person is painted or the words the creator uses to describe the subject.
- Ask: This painting was created in 1896. Is it a primary or a secondary source? (Secondary) Why is that information helpful as we conduct our investigation? (We know the painter did not see the event for himself. He is relying on other people’s interpretations of what happened. Also, perspectives on the event over 100 years after it happened might be substantially different from those at the time.)
- Tell students that they are going to be exploring an event that occurred during the Revolutionary Era in Maryland known as “the burning of the *Peggy Stewart*” or the “Annapolis Tea Party.” It was a famous incident, remembered in Maryland much as the Boston Tea Party is remembered nationally.
- Ask: What happened during the Boston Tea Party? (American colonists were angry about the series of taxes that the British had placed on the colonies to help pay for the French and Indian War. One of the taxes that angered them most was the tax on tea, and the colonists made an agreement not to pay that tax or drink tea. In December 1773, three ships carrying British Tea arrived in Boston Harbor. The colonists tried to force the ships to take the tea back to England, as had happened in other colonies, but the royal governor would not allow it. In protest, a group of American patriots, disguised as Native Americans, boarded the ships and dumped the tea into the harbor.)
- Explain: The situation in Annapolis, Maryland involving the *Peggy Stewart* also involved a protest on the tea tax.
- Tell students that they will explore a variety of historical sources about the *Peggy Stewart* incident to find out what really happened during the *Peggy Stewart* incident. They will answer the following **compelling question**:
  - Was Anthony Stewart, owner of the *Peggy Stewart*, treated fairly by the patriots of Annapolis? Why or why not?

## **II. Conduct the Investigation**

- Provide students with the graphic organizer.
- Distribute all sources to all students. Have students fold each source sheet in half vertically so that the Original Version is on one side and the Modern Version is on the other side. Instruct students to always try to read the Original Version first, and to open the sheet to the Modern Version only after they have done their best to read the Original Version.

### ***Guided Practice***

- As students follow along, read aloud the Original Version of the first source, “Article from the Maryland Gazette.” To facilitate student comprehension, be sure to read slowly, with proper phrasing.
- Read the source aloud again in chunks, pausing after each chunk to ask the students to give the explicit meaning of that section.
- Ask students to provide a verbal summary of the entire source. What does the source say explicitly?

- As a class, complete the graphic organizer for this source. Emphasize how the creator of the source affects reliability and credibility.

### ***Independent Practice***

- Direct students to work in pairs to analyze the two remaining sources and fill in the graphic organizer.

### **III. Discussions**

- Share students' findings to complete a class copy of the graphic organizer.
- Conduct a class discussion, prompted by the following questions, to help students crystallize their thinking about the compelling question: Was Anthony Stewart treated fairly by the Patriots of Annapolis? Why or Why not?
  - What do you think really happened during this incident?
  - Did Anthony Stewart purposefully break the non-importation agreement?
  - Did Stewart voluntarily burn his ship, or was he forced to do so?
  - Why do you think the Patriots forced him to burn his ship?
- Discuss student responses to the compelling question: Was Anthony Stewart treated fairly by the Patriots of Annapolis? Why or Why not?

### **IV. Report the Findings**

- Remind students about the painting they viewed at the beginning of the lesson. Point out that the image is a very positive one, celebrating an important success for the Patriots during the Revolution, like the Boston Tea Party.
- Ask students to write a constructed response in which they answer the following question: Was the *Peggy Stewart* incident a positive or negative incident in the fight for American independence?
  - Tell students to provide evidence from the sources to support their view.
  - Tell students to keep in mind their conclusions about whether Anthony Stewart was treated fairly
- *Alternatively*, ask students to assume the identity of a citizen of Annapolis who has not participated in the *Peggy Stewart* incident but who has witnessed it. Direct the students to write a letter to the editor of the *Maryland Gazette*, either supporting or condemning the actions of the Patriots, citing evidence from the sources to support their opinion/argument.

**Article from the *Maryland Gazette*, October 20, 1774**

. . . a great number of very respectable gentlemen . . . met here. . . Those of the Committee proceeded to examine into the affair, calling before them Messrs. James and Joseph Williams, and Anthony Stewart, and also took into consideration an offer made by said Williams's and Stewart to destroy the Tea . . . The Committee were of opinion, if the Tea was destroyed by the voluntary act of the owners. . . that nothing further ought to be required. This, their opinion, being reported to the assembly, was not satisfactory to all present. Mr. Stewart then voluntarily offered to burn the vessel and the Tea in her.

<http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2200/sc2221/000002/000011/html/0000.html>

**Article from *London Public Ledger*, January 4, 1775, reprinted in the *Maryland Gazette*, April 10, 1775**

. . . By the Brigantine [*ship*], Messrs. Williams, the gentlemen to whom the Tea was consigned [*delivered*], had also fortunately received a plentiful supply of other goods from London; this gave umbrage to [*offended*] some of their neighbors who had been disappointed of [*not received*] the goods they intended to lay in [*ship to Annapolis*] before the Association or Non-Importation Agreement . . . Chagrined [*annoyed*] at their own disappointment. . . they resolved to wreck their vengeance on Mr. Stewart. They used every means to inflame [*stir up*] the populace [*people*], not only to prevent the landing of the Tea, but also to procure [*get*] its destruction. . . the minds of the people were so inflamed, that they threatened death to Mr. Stewart, and desolation [*ruin*] to his store and dwelling-house [*home*]. . .

<http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2200/sc2221/000002/000012/html/0000.html>

**Handbill [flyer] from Anthony Stewart, October 17, 1774**

To the Gentlemen of the Committee, the Citizens of Annapolis, and the Inhabitants of Ann Arundel County.

Gentlemen,

. . . so cautious have I been of infringing [*breaking*] in the least, any of the resolutions of America, that I did not order a single farthing's [*unit of money*] worth of goods by that vessel . . . much less should I have thought of ordering any tea, after the disturbance which the importation of that article has occasioned [*caused*] on the continent [*America*]. When the brig [*ship*] arrived, the captain informed me that she was very leaky, and that the sooner she was unloaded the better. I told him to enter [*report and pay taxes on*] his vessel, but not the tea, which I found, on enquiry [*questioning*] of the collector, could not be done. Under these circumstances, the brig leaky, and fifty-three souls [*people*] on board, where they had been near three months, I thought myself bound [*required*], both in humanity [*sympathy*] and prudence [*good sense*], to enter the vessel and leave the destination of the tea to the committee. . .

Eddis, William. *Letters from America, Historical and Descriptive: Comprising Occurrences from 1769 to 1777 Inclusive*. London, pp. 1792. 174-177 <http://books.google.com/books?id=S-rsugoNuWwC&pg=PA171&lpg=PA171&dq=williams+co+maryland+gazette+letters&source=bl&ots=1rViXVSDu9&sig=tvAyy-JkurpULjzViZ6BgWlaWc&hl=en&sa=X&ei=1UfpUda7EYLu8QTP7YCQCA&ved=0CGsQ6AEwCQ#v=onepage&q=williams%20co%20maryland%20gazette%20letters&f=false>

**Historical Investigation: *Was Anthony Stewart Treated Fairly by the Patriots of Annapolis? Why or Why Not?***

	Maryland Gazette article, Oct. 20, 1774	London Public Ledger article, Jan. 4, 1775	Handbill from Anthony Stewart
Does the source suggest Stewart was treated fairly?			
Evidence/details to support your answer.			
Who created the source?			
Do you think the creator would have had a natural bias to support one side or the other? How might the creator's bias or perspective affect the source's reliability?			
Did the creator have first-hand knowledge of these events? How does that affect reliability?			

Article from the *Maryland Gazette*, October 20, 1774

**ORIGINAL VERSION**

. . . a great number of very respectable gentlemen . . . met here. . . Those of the Committee proceeded to examine into the affair, calling before them Messrs. James and Joseph Williams, and Anthony Stewart, and also took into consideration an offer made by said Williams's and Stewart to destroy the Tea . . . The Committee were of opinion, if the Tea was destroyed by the voluntary act of the owners. . . that nothing further ought to be required. This, their opinion, being reported to the assembly, was not satisfactory to all present. Mr. Stewart then voluntarily offered to burn the vessel and the Tea in her.

**MODERN VERSION**

A great number of very respectable gentlemen met here. The members of the Committee began to examine what happened, interviewing Mr. James Williams, Mr. Joseph Williams, and Mr. Anthony Stewart. They considered an offer made by the Williamses and Stewart to destroy the tea. The Committee's opinion was that, if the tea was destroyed voluntarily by the owners, that nothing further should be required. They reported this opinion to the assembly, but it was not satisfactory to all present. Mr. Stewart then voluntarily offered to burn the ship and the tea in her.

Article from *London Public Ledger*, January 4, 1775, reprinted in the *Maryland Gazette*, April 10, 1775

### ORIGINAL VERSION

. . . By the Brigantine [*ship*], Messrs. Williams, the gentlemen to whom the Tea was consigned [*delivered*], had also fortunately received a plentiful supply of other goods from London; this gave umbrage to [*offended*] some of their neighbors who had been disappointed of [*not received*] the goods they intended to lay in [*ship to Annapolis*] before the Association or Non-Importation Agreement . . . Chagrined [*annoyed*] at their own disappointment. . . they resolved to wreck their vengeance on Mr. Stewart. They used every means to inflame [*stir up*] the populace [*people*], not only to prevent the landing of the Tea, but also to procure [*get*] its destruction. . . the minds of the people were so inflamed, that they threatened death to Mr. Stewart, and desolation [*ruin*] to his store and dwelling-house [*home*]. .

### MODERN VERSION

Aboard the ship, Mr. Williams and Mr. Williams, the gentlemen who received the tea, had also received many other goods from London; this offended some of their neighbors who had been disappointed not to receive the goods they hoped to get before the Association or Non-Importation Agreement . . . Annoyed at their own disappointment, they decided to take revenge on Mr. Stewart. They did everything possible to stir up the public, not only to prevent the landing of the tea, but also to get it destroyed. The minds of the people were so agitated that they threatened death to Mr. Stewart and the destruction of his store and home . . .

## Handbill from Anthony Stewart, October 17, 1774

### ORIGINAL VERSION

To the Gentlemen of the Committee, the Citizens of Annapolis, and the Inhabitants of Ann Arundel County.

Gentlemen,

. . . so cautious have I been of infringing [*breaking*] in the least, any of the resolutions of America, that I did not order a single farthing's [*unit of money*] worth of goods by that vessel . . . much less should I have thought of ordering any tea, after the disturbance which the importation of that article has occasioned [*caused*] on the continent [*America*]. When the brig [*ship*] arrived, the captain informed me that she was very leaky, and that the sooner she was unloaded the better. I told him to enter [*report and pay taxes on*] his vessel, but not the tea, which I found, on enquiry [*questioning*] of the collector, could not be done. Under these circumstances, the brig leaky, and fifty-three souls [*people*] on board, where they had been near three months, I thought myself bound [*required*], both in humanity [*sympathy*] and prudence [*good sense*], to enter the vessel and leave the destination of the tea to the committee . . .

### MODERN VERSION

To the Gentlemen of the Committee, the Citizens of Annapolis, and the Inhabitants of Anne Arundel County.

Gentlemen,

. . . I have been so cautious about even slightly breaking any of the resolutions of America that I did not order a single penny's worth of goods aboard the ship. There is no way I would have thought of ordering any tea after the disturbance which the importation of tea has caused in this country. When the ship arrived, the captain informed me that she was very leaky, and that the sooner she was unloaded the better. I told him to report and pay taxes on the ship, but not the tea, which I discovered after asking the collector could not be done. Under these circumstances, the ship being leaky and fifty-three people being on board for almost three months, I believed it was my responsibility, both out of sympathy and good sense, to pay all the taxes and let the committee decide what to do with the tea. . .