

The Quartering Act ordered colonists to provide “quarters” for British soldiers, like the one shown here. This meant that colonists had to allow soldiers to stay in their homes and provide them with food and other supplies. Colonists were upset by this law.

10.4 The Quartering Act

The British government left thousands of soldiers in the colonies to protect the colonists after the French and Indian War. The British were afraid that Native Americans or Spanish settlers in Florida might attack the colonies.

Britain thought that the colonists should help to pay for this army. As a result, in 1765, a new law called the *Quartering Act* was passed by the British **Parliament**. The law was called the Quartering Act because it ordered the colonists to provide “quarters” (places to live) for British soldiers. It also ordered them to supply the soldiers with food, fuel, and candles, and to provide them with transportation.

The colonists were angry about the Quartering Act. They didn’t want to pay for British troops staying in the colonies. Many colonists treated the soldiers badly.

Parliament: The lawmaking part of the British government, similar to the Congress in the United States. The American colonists did not have the right to elect representatives to Parliament.

10.5 The Stamp Act

After fighting the French and Indian War, Britain needed money to pay its debts. Britain also needed to pay for the soldiers who remained in America. British leaders thought that the colonists should help pay for the troops who were protecting them. So, in 1765, Parliament passed a new tax law called the *Stamp Act*.

The Stamp Act said that the colonists would have to pay a tax on printed papers. To prove that the tax was paid, almost every piece of printed paper would have to show a large blue

stamp. Newspapers, pamphlets, marriage licenses, and playing cards were taxed.

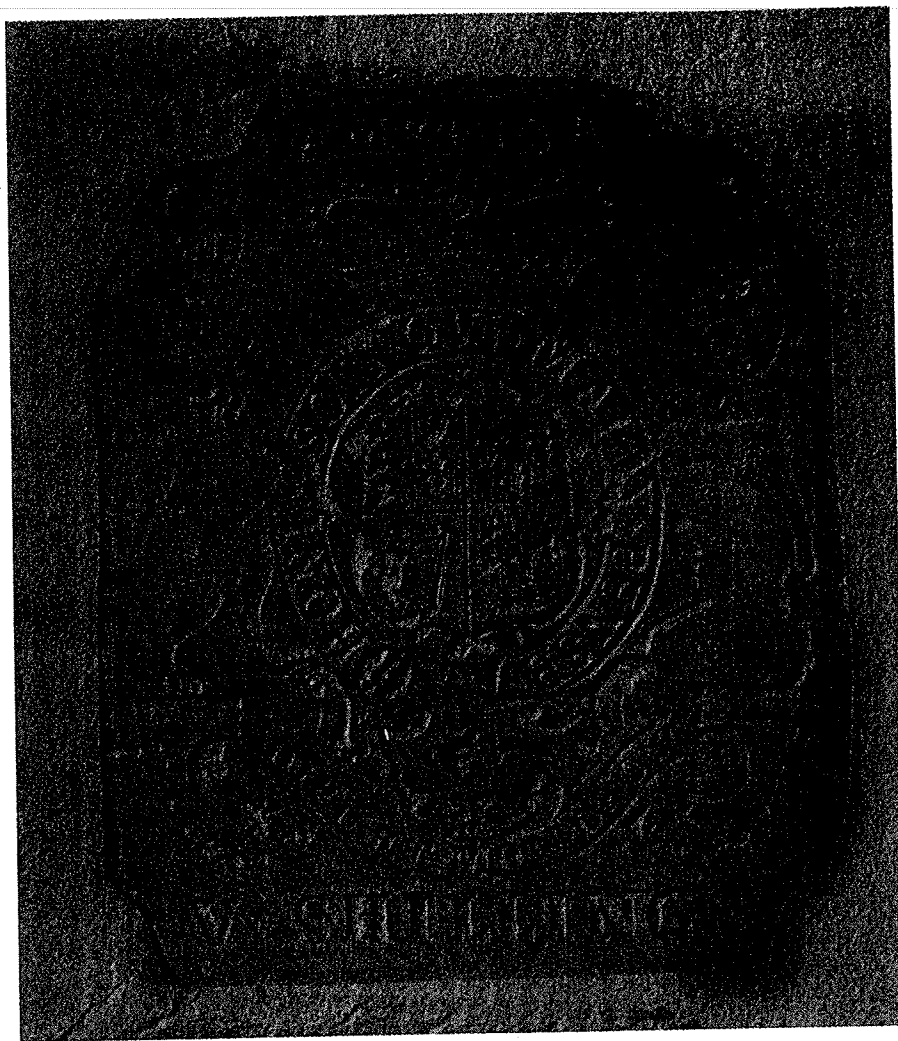
News of this new tax made the colonists furious. They didn't want to pay more money for things they used every day, especially since the money went to the British government. But they were even angrier because they had no say in making the law.

Colonists showed their anger in many ways. Some of them refused to buy the stamps. Some protested in the streets and town squares. And some tried to scare off the tax collectors, at times even attacking them and their homes.

Groups from different colonies also joined together to protest the stamp tax. In several colonies, merchants (shopkeepers and other businesspeople) agreed not to buy British goods. Many women, such as the Daughters of Liberty in Boston, refused to buy British cloth and wove their own cloth instead.

In October 1765, nine of the colonies sent delegates to a special meeting in New York called the *Stamp Act Congress*. The delegates believed that all British subjects had a right to vote on taxes through their representatives. Since the colonies had no representatives in Parliament, the delegates said that it was unfair for Parliament to pass laws like the Stamp Act. They said that passing such laws was "taxation without representation."

The colonists' angry protests surprised the king and the rest of the British government. However, British leaders realized that they had no way to force the colonists to obey the Stamp Act. In March 1766, Parliament **repealed** the law. But Parliament let the colonies know that it still believed in its right to tax them.



The Stamp Act required colonists to pay a tax on printed papers. Here, we see a stamp that was put on printed papers to prove that the tax had been paid. The Stamp Act made colonists furious. Later, it was canceled.

repeal: to take back, or to cancel, a law