

Transcription

N. Carolina Ss.

To the Hon[ora]ble Edmund Porter Esq[ui]r[e] Judge
of the Court of Vice Admiralty of the said
Province.

Joseph Anderson Dep. advocate for Our Sovereign Lord the
King, for and in behalf of Our said Lord the King and his
Excelly Gabriel Johnston Esqr. Captain General and Gover-
nor in chief of the said Province, and Thos. Lovick Esqr.
Collector of Port Beaufort, Informs your honour that
at a Court of Admiralty held at Edenton the first day of March
Last. It was then and there by the said Court, Adjudged, Sen-
-tenced, Decreed & Declared, that the Sloop Midleborough
her hull, sailes, anchors, Riggin, furniture, & appurtenances
whatsoever, together with One hhd. of mellasses under Seizure
and in the Possession of of the said Thos. Lovick and all other
goods Comodities, Effects, Wares, merchandizes Imported &
found on board the said sloop, (???)

(???) ^to be^ forfeited, unless

the Master of the said sloop in Six months after the said first
day of March produce a Coquet or Certificate from the
Custom house of the Port of Boston that the said hhd. of mellasses
was Legally put on board the s[ai]d Sloop, and whereas
the time Limited and Expressed in the said Decree for the
Master of the said sloop to produce such Coquet or Certificate
is now Expired. Therefore ^the s[ai]d Jas. Anderson^ humbly moves your

Reflect & Discuss

The British Empire had a system of Admiralty Courts, which oversaw maritime-related cases specifically. Trials were decided by a judge, not a jury. How could the lack of a jury have influenced verdicts?

The abbreviation *hhd* means hogshead, a large wooden barrel or cask used to store goods.

Notice that even though only a barrel of molasses was allegedly smuggled, the colonial government seized the entire ship and its contents. Why might the penalty for smuggling be so steep?

Economy and Trade: Smuggling Charge, 1735

honour

that a day he assign'd for holding a Court of Admiralty

thereon, and Edward Fuller the master of the said sloop

Midleborough be Call'd to shew Cause. if any he hath or

Ought Can Say, why the aforesaid Decree should not be

Confirmed, and ^the vessel & the goods^ Disposd of according to Law.

Jos[eph] Anderson

Convicted, ordered that this petition

be filed & a Court to be held on the 23d

day of this Instant Sep 1735.

Porter, J.V.Ad.

What sort of impact would smuggling—even between colonies—have on the British colonial government?

How did the monarchy's strict rules on trade play into political unrest in the colonies?

Why might the focus of this document be molasses?

For additional context: The Molasses Act of 1733 was created to tax molasses, sugar, and rum, but it was largely ineffective. This was later revised into the Sugar Act, or the American Revenue Act, of 1764, which North Carolina colonists viewed as taxation without representation. They staged a protest at the General Assembly (source: [NCpedia](#)).