

Gathered in a Grand Room at the Custis home enjoying tea and drinks are several of the Virginia Elite: ROBERT DINWIDDIE and REBECCA, Lord and Colonel Fairfax, William and Sally Fairfax, Daniel, and Martha Custis. The publisher for the Gazette, WILLIAM HUNTER, and a servant, FREDRICK, stand by.

WILLIAM HUNTER

Our readers are waiting for news from the battlefield Governor, tell me, are the French gaining English territory? Are we at war, sir?

William Hunter moves closer, very curious to hear the news.

DANIEL CUSTIS

John, may I introduce you to William Hunter, the publisher of the Virginia Gazette.

WILLIAM HUNTER

I am pleased to make your acquaintance and even more pleased that ye have news of your brother.

The Virginia Elite and William Hunter have now settled around a feast at the Custis's grand table.

DINWIDDIE

Indeed. Even now, King George considers sending a British detachment to our aid - it seems that the war with France is inevitable.

WILLIAM HUNTER

So would it be safe to say we are at war, gentlemen?

COLONEL FAIRFAX

NO, Mr. Hunter. We are not at war.

DINWIDDIE

I tend to side with Lord Thomas. Were the land to be taken by the French, the Ohio Company would be out of business for trade - and thus, England would be out of business. If war is on the horizon, gentlemen, and if we are to maintain our presence in the colonies, 'tis our duty as citizens of the Crown, and for the advancement of our nation, that the King's interests - and our interests - be held at any cost. Nay - at every cost.

WILLIAM HUNTER

So we are at war.