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Volume 1

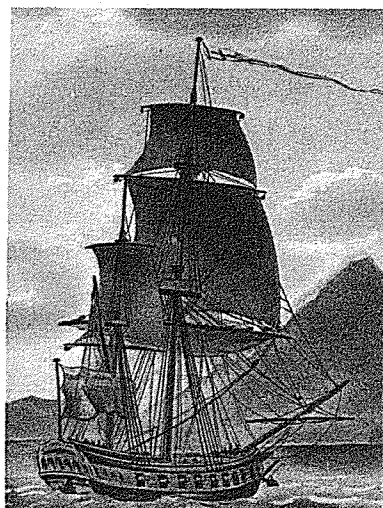
AMERICAN THEATRE: Dec. 1, 1774–Sept. 2, 1775
EUROPEAN THEATRE: Dec. 6, 1774–Aug. 9, 1775

Part 4 of 8

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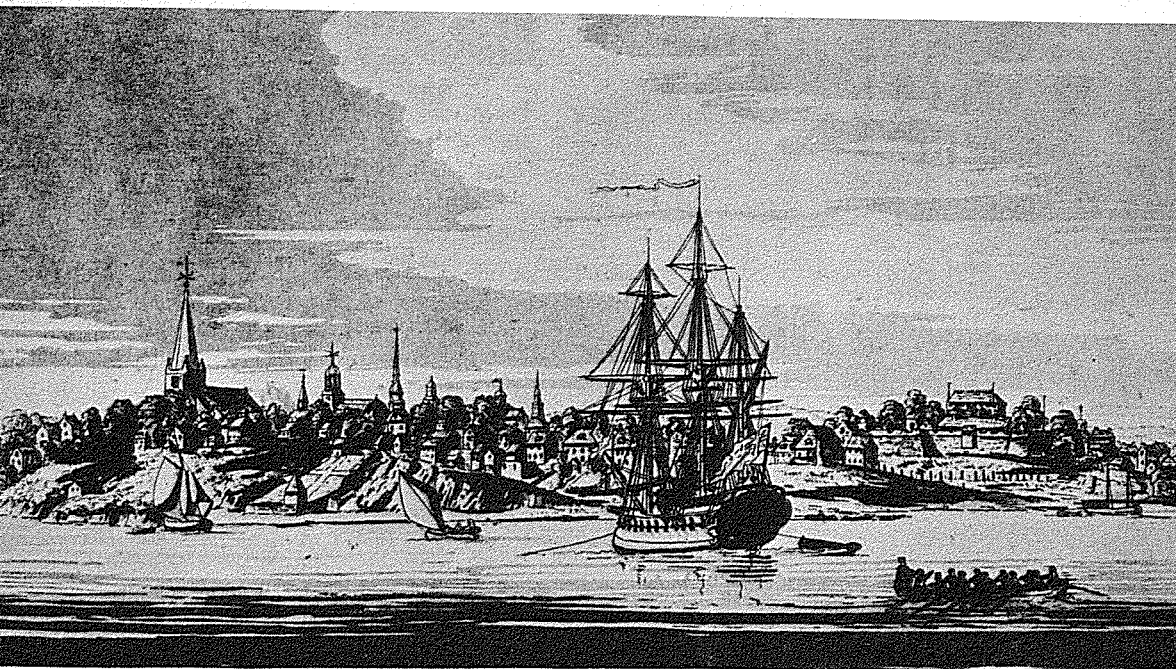
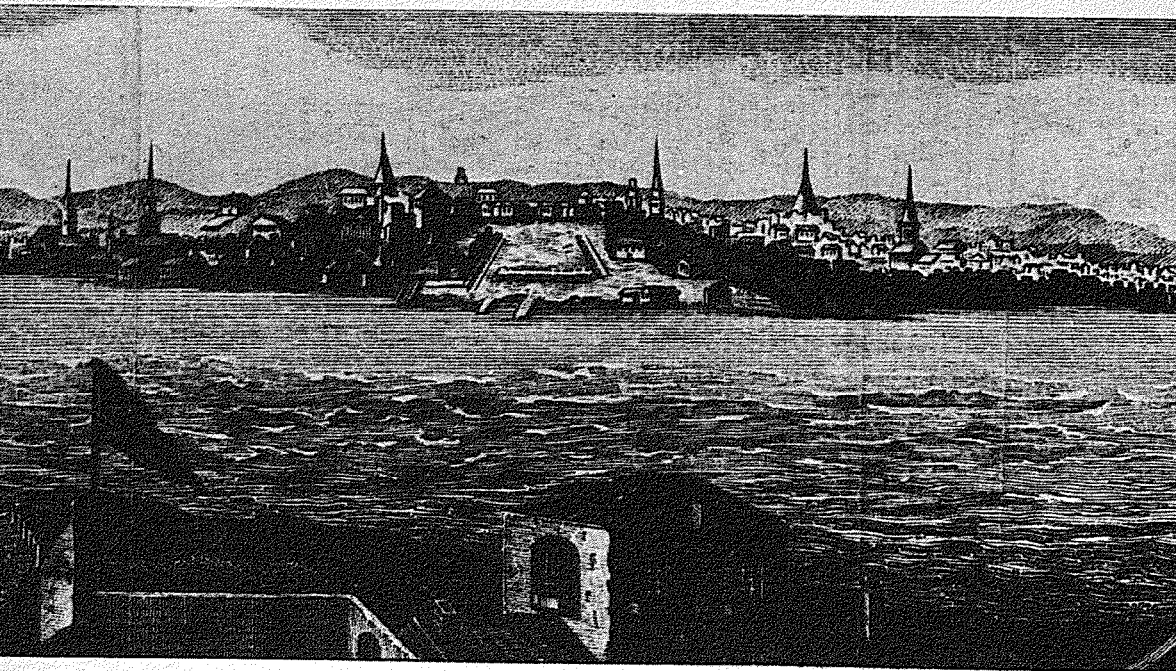
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AMERICAN THEATRE

From May 21, 1775, to Sept. 2, 1775



(Top) Boston, c. 1760. (Bottom) New York, c. 1777.

AMERICAN THEATRE

From May 21, 1775, to September 2, 1775

SUMMARY

Wishful thinking that differences between the Mother Country and her recalcitrant Colonies might find amicable settlement ended with the gunfire on the Lexington Common. While New Englanders were closing in upon Boston, ringing it with redoubts and fortified lines from the Mystic River to Dorchester, the second Continental Congress forgathered in Philadelphia, and resolved itself, day after day, into a committee of the whole "to take into consideration the state of America." That it was critical, every delegate from each of the twelve colonies represented fully realized.

Advice was received on the second day of the session (May 11, 1775) that the British Ministry had declared its intention to enforce obedience to each and every act of the Parliament, objectionable, coercive, restrictive as they were. The army in America was to be reinforced by at least three infantry regiments and some six hundred marines. More vessels of war had been ordered into commission to augment the squadron already based upon Boston. Some of the new troops were to be landed in New York, posing the urgent question; how should they be received? Within a week the Congress heard, in stunned surprise, that a handful of irregulars had taken the fortresses of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, with their numerous military stores.

By May 21 only a few of the problems had found partial solutions. New York should not oppose the troops as long as they proved peaceable, and did not attempt to erect fortifications. The cannon and all other military stores from Ticonderoga and Crown Point should be inventoried and removed to the south end of Lake George, where a strong defensive post should be established. The Continental Association's restrictions upon exportation should be expanded to embrace Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, the two Floridas, and that part of Georgia, which had not yet sent delegates to the Congress.

Meanwhile, the depositions and affidavits proving the British had fired first at Lexington had sped by express through the Colonies. Their contents spread dismay among the merchants, whose fondest hopes had been built upon reconciliation and an abandonment of all restrictions on trade; and among the Tories, who, in many cases, had suffered from the severity of overzealous Committees of Inspection and Correspondence. But they sparked renewed military ardor from Pennsylvania to South Carolina, in every cross-road, hamlet, town or city where the momentous tidings were proclaimed.

In Boston, the British still reeled from the disastrous retreat from Concord. All supplies, except by sea, had been cut off, and many inhabitants had fled for

permission to remove themselves and their effects from the beleaguered town. General Gage, seeing fewer mouths to feed, had considered approval of their desires, if firearms would be delivered up. But a great clamor arose from those loyal to the Crown. Only the disaffected would leave, and then Boston would be set on fire by the Rebels.

Rumors were rife of attacks to be made upon the town, upon Castle William, upon the shipping, before reinforcements could arrive. Armed boats from the British squadron were patrolling the rivers and the harbor, day and night, and the troops literally slept on their arms as the May days passed along.

21 May (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 21st May, 1775

The Admiral wrote Letters to the captains of the *Fowey Tamer & Cruizer* informing them that the Rebellion being almost general throughout the Provinces it behooved them to be very circumspect and attentive to his Majesty's Interest; to support the Kings Governors and civil Power established by Law as long as they could and to assist and protect all other his Majesty's faithful Subjects and their property; but not to act offensively except for the immediate preservation of his Majesty's Ships under their Command, or except upon the special Requisition of the civil Magistrates in cases of the utmost Danger. He however hoped that things would not remain much longer in this uncertain State, that either an accomodation would take place between Great Britain and her Colonies, or effectual Measures be adopted to support the Kings just authority in and over them all. He told Capt[n] [George] Montagu that the Delaware ought not to be left without a Kings Vessel, therefore, unless it was absolutely necessary to detain him longer to send Lieut [Henry] Colins to his Station (to whom he also wrote), and to continue to forward the Dispatches therewith delivered according to their several Addresses, and that he would have him take on Board as much Bread as he could possibly stow, as the fleet was very short of that Article, and direct Lieut. Colins to do the same. He told Capt [Edward] Thornborough that his last letter was come to hand dated March 7th acquainting him with what he had done towards repairing the defective parts of the *Tamer* and fishing his foremast; that there was an end to all Correspondence by Land, & that he intended to send a Ship or Sloop to relieve him as soon as possible; in the mean time it would be proper for him to be upon his guard, to have his Majesty's Sloop under his Command in constant readiness for Action, and to keep his provisions compleat, particularly Bread, for all the Supplies to the Kings Ships were forbidden by the Congress. He let capt[n] [Francis] Parry know that she had received his Letters with the State and Condition of his Majesty's sloop *Cruizer* in Masts, Sails Rigging and other Stores, that from his representation he indeed appeared to be in a very unwarlike Condition; he might therefore expect to be relieved very soon: In the mean time he must put her into the best Condition he could, take care not to be surprized by the Rebels, and get on board as much provision as he could conveniently stow, particularly Bread: that the *Otter* was sent to Virginia, The *Tamer* was still at South Carolina, and He must

continue to give what Assistance and Protection he could to his Majesty's Governor at North Carolina.

With the foregoing Letters the Admiral sent to each Captain a number of printed Accounts of the Battle of Lexington, which had been very falsely represented by the Provincials.²

He also wrote to the collector of the customs at Salem to let the town know that he would not press their sailors if they did not stop the supplies for the Squadron, & in order to facilitate and encourage the bringing to Boston of Hay, Lumber, Fuel and Provisions for the use of the Garrison, the Admiral ordered that the calling of Vessels at Salem to enter should be dispensed with.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 96-98, MassHS Transcript.

2. The letters to the four captains are in Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 421-425, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO THOMAS FISHER, COLLECTOR OF
HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS AT SALEM¹

Sir,

Boston 21st May 1775

The Bearer of this Letter is Mr [Alexander] Brymer Agent to the Contractors for supplying his Majs Ships with Provisions; he has at Salem a Quantity of Bread and other Articles for the use of the Squadron. If the Town of Salem mean to approve themselves good Subjects, quiet and peaceably disposed, they have now an Opportunity to shew it. Let Mr Brymer ship off his Provisions, and let me have assurances that my People may come as formerly to purchase and that they shall be supplied and allowed to carry away what they want for the Kings Service, paying for the same, and I will not only order every prest man to be discharged who is an inhabitant of Salem, and direct no more to be impressed but I will give the Town any Protection and Assistance they can desire to enable them to continue firm in a dutiful Conduct towards his Majesty which cannot in my Opinion fail of producing the happiest Consequences to themselves. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 420, 421, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING¹

May 1775

Off Castle William Island [Boston Bay]

Sunday 21 at 8 A M Set the Rigging up fore & aft. Arrived two Transports from England with Soldiers. Employed clearing the Ship for Sea [P M] Variable Weather Saw three hundred Rebels marching round Dorchester Bay.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

CAPTAIN BENEDICT ARNOLD TO CAPTAIN JOHN STEPHENS¹

Sir

Ticonderoga May 21 1775

Colo. [Ethan] Allen & his Party is Just Arived from St. Johns, where they are Attacked the next Morning after I came away, the 19th Inst. by About Two hundred, Regulars, with Six Field Pieces, & were obliged to make a precipitate

Retreat with the loss of three Men Missing – They have returned without Provision, & much Fatigued. Pray Send On all the Provision you have immediately & those Men who will Engage for the Summer, I have here exclusive of Colo. Allens Men, Abt. 120 Men & have the Sloop & Schooner, in as good Order as posable (for the time), I shall immediately proceed to Crown Point, & make a stand there In Order to Secure the Cannon at that Place. I am under no Apprehension From the Enemy at present, as we are masters of the Lake – Dont fail Sending some Powder without Loss of time, as we have only a few Pounds.

I am Sir [&c.]

Bened^t Arnold Comr

1. Lawrence H. Leder, ed., *The Genesis of American Freedom 1765–95* (Brandeis University, 1961), plate VIII, facsimile.

22 May

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Monday, May 22, 1775

A Letter was received from the Committee of Safety, enclosing a communication from Colonel Benedict Arnold, giving information of the surrender of Ticonderoga.

Ordered, That the following Letter to Colonel Arnold, reported by a Committee, be accepted, signed by the Secretary, and forwarded in the name and behalf of this Congress, as soon as may be.

Watertown, May 22, 1775

Sir: This Congress have this day received your letter of the eleventh instant, informing the Committee of Safety of the reduction of the fort at Ticonderoga, with its dependencies which was laid before this Congress by said Committee. We applaud the conduct of the Troops, and esteem it a very valuable acquisition.

We thank you for your exertions in the cause, and considering the situation of this Colony at this time, having a formidable Army in the heart of it, whose motions must be constantly attended to, and as the affairs of that expedition began in the Colony of Connecticut, and the cause being common to us all, we have already wrote to the General Assembly of that Colony to take the whole matter respecting the same under their care and direction, until the advice of the Continental Congress can be had in that behalf, a copy of which letter we now enclose you.

We are, &c.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 817, 676, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS' CAPTAINS AT BOSTON ¹

Whereas in the present Exigency of his Majesty's Service it is necessary to facilitate as much as possible the bringing to Boston, Provisions, Lumber and Firewood for the use of the Army and Navy, You are hereby required and directed notwithstanding any former Orders to allow all Ships and Vessels laden with Provisions, Grain, Hay, Straw, Lumber, Firewood, and Spars, and which shall be properly cleared at the Port of Lading, to come into this Harbour, although

they may not have my pass or a Clearance from Salem, taking Care however that all such do proceed straight up to Boston, and to no other Place within this Harbour.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* 22 May 1775.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 425, 426, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 In Tarplean Cove

Tuesday 22d A M at 7 fird two Swivels & two Six Pounders Shotted and Brot too a Brigg from Dominica ² . . . P M Deserted two Marines and the Pursuers Steward.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.
2. There is no record in the prize list in Graves's Conduct, MassHS Transcript, that this vessel was condemned, although Linzee listed her as in his company when he sailed for Boston May 31.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MAY 22, 1775

Newport, May 22.

The week before last Capt. [John] Linzee, of the *Falcon* sloop of war, took two sloops on the coast between this place and the Vineyard, without the least reasonable pretence that we can learn; upon which the people at the eastward manned out two other vessels, retook the sloops, and carried them into Fair Haven, in Dartmouth last Saturday se'nnight [May 13] with 14 of Capt. Linzee's men, three of whom were wounded, which three were kept there, and taken good care of, and one other, who was a doctor's mate, was kept to dress their wounds; the others were sent to Taunton the next day. — It is said the above sloops, being only in ballast, were to have been employed in carrying live stock from some of the islands of Boston for the use of the King's troops. . . .

The brig mentioned in our last to have come here for provisions for our enemies, we are assured came only to procure provisions, and other necessaries, for a fishing company at Canso; but she will not take any provisions in, even for that purpose, there being several *piratical* cruisers stationed as 'tis supposed, between this place and Cape-Cod, on purpose to take vessels with provisions. . . .

The inhabitants of Halifax have destroyed 50 tons of hay, which was loaded on board several vessels, for General Gage.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE ALBANY COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Ticonderoga, May 22, 1775

I take the liberty to advise you that on the 13th inst. having proceeded from this place to St. Johns, with a party of my regiment of 35 men, I surprised and took prisoners, a sergeant and his party of 12 men, the King's sloop of 70 tons, and seven men, mounted with two brass six pounders; and in two hours after weighed anchor with the sloop, &c. and proceeded for this place . . . I am now

fixing the sloop with six carriages and ten swivels, the schooner with four carriages and six swivels,² and am determined to proceed to Crown Point, and make a stand there, in order to secure the cannon, near 100 pieces, at that place. We are in great want of a number of seamen, gunners, carpenters, &c., for both vessels. Our safety in a great measure depends on them, the vessels, as they will be able to command the lake if properly manned. Enclosed is a list of men wanted immediately, which I beg the favour of you gentlemen, to ship and send up here without loss of time, furnishing them with such things as you judge necessary. I have judicious able, commanders for both vessels, and want only mates, gunners, marines, &c. Annexed is the wages I propose giving, but must refer that to your direction, and any sums you are kind enough to advance for the above purpose, I will give a draft for, on the Committee of Safety at Cambridge, being fully empowered for that purpose. We have only one hundred and fifty pounds good powder for both vessels, and one hundred men. I have wrote repeatedly to Albany for powder, and must once more entreat you, gentlemen, if not forwarded, to send me as soon as possible ten or twelve hundred weight powder. If the seamen, &c. are not to be procured at Albany, I beg the favour of you to forward this letter to the Committee of Safety at New-York, and you will much oblige,

Gentlemen [&c.],

Benedict Arnold, Commander at Ticonderoga

1. *Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety and Council of Safety of the State of New York, 1775-1776-1777*, (Albany, 1842), Vol. II, 25. Hereafter cited as *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*
2. Sloop *Enterprise* and schooner *Liberty*.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN NEW YORK, MAY 22 [1775] ¹

I am now to inform you, that an express arrived here this day from Ticonderago, which brings an account that Major [Philip] Skene's snow on Lake Champlain was taken last Tuesday [May 16] by forces from Virginia, who have joined our militia and that of Connecticut. She is an armed vessel, and of some consequence on the lake. The New England people have timber ready, and are building fourteen sail on the lakes, all to be armed vessels.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 24, to June 27, 1775.

COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Honored Sir

New York 22d May 1775

I am directed by the General Committee of Association for this City and County to transmit to your Honor the enclosed Authentic Copy of a Resolution of the Continental Congress, received by express,² and to inform your Honor that in consequence thereof we immediately shipped to Albany One Hundred Barrels Pork, and that a select committee has been appointed to purchase and forward without delay Cordage, Oakum, Pitch, Gins, and every other necessary that may be wanted from hence to carry into execution the aforesaid resolution.

We have also by express desired our Brethern of Albany to give their aid and assistance.

I have the honor to be [&c.]

Henry Remsen Dep Chairman

1. Trumbull Papers, IV, Force Transcript, LC.
2. See Journal of Congress, May 18, 1775.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 22, 1775

New-York, May 22.

Friday Night last [May 19] Captain Reynolds arrived here from Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire: Last Monday [May 15], off Cape Anne, he was boarded by Capt. Greeves, in a Tender,¹ who had come out of Boston the Day before, and informed him that three Transports arrived there the 6th Instant from England, with Troops, and that many more were hourly expected; that several Vessels were then in Sight, which he imagined was Part of the Fleet, and several Guns had been heard in the Offing.

Thursday [May 18] Capt. Reynolds spoke with Capt. [John] Lyndsay [Linzee], in the *Falcon* Sloop of War, who acquainted him, that having Advice that a Sloop lay at a Place called Sandwich, that had carried some Provisions to Providence, &c. for the Use of the Boston Provincials, he dispatched his Lieutenant, with his Tender and 20 Men, and two other Officers, to take Possession of her; which they accordingly did; But, before they could carry her off, she was retaken, as also the Tender, by some Boats from the Country, and the Lieutenant lost an Arm, the Gunner was wounded in the Head, and the Doctor's Mate in one of his Legs. The Seamen were sent Prisoners into the Country.

The *Asia* Man of War of 64 Guns is hourly expected here from Boston.

1. Lieutenant Thomas Graves in His Majesty's Schooner *Diana*.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, MAY 22, 1775

Philadelphia, May 22.

On Wednesday evening last [May 17] arrived here, John Brown, Esq.; from Ticonderoga, express to the General Congress, from whom we learn, that on the beginning of this instant, a company of about fifty men, from Connecticut, and the western part of Massachusetts, and joined by upwards of one hundred from Bennington, in *New-York government*, and the adjacent towns, proceeded to the eastern side of Lake Champlain, and on the night before the 11th current, crossed the Lake with 85 men, (not being able to obtain craft to transport the rest,) and about daybreak invested the fort, whose gate, contrary to expectation, they found shut, but the wicker open, through which, with the Indian war whoop, all that could, entered one by one, others scaling the wall on both sides of the gate, and instantly secured and disarmed the centries, and pressed into the parade, where they formed the Hollow square; but immediately quitting that order, they rushed into the several barracks on three sides of the fort, and seized on the garrison, con-

sisting of two officers, and upwards of forty privates, whom they brought out, disarmed, put under guard, and have since sent prisoners to Hartford, in Connecticut. All this was performed in about ten minutes, without the loss of a life, or a drop of blood on our side, and but very little on that of the King's troops.

In the fort were found about thirty barrels of flour a few barrels of pork, seventy odd chests of leaden ball, computed at three hundred tuns, about ten barrels of powder in bad condition, near two hundred pieces of ordnances, of all sizes, from eighteen pounders downwards, at Ticonderoga and Crown point, which last place, being held only by a corporal and eight men, falls of course into our hands.

By this sudden expedition, planned by some principal persons in the four neighbouring colonies, that important pass is now in the hands of the Americans, where we trust the *wisdom* of the Grand Continental Congress, will take effectual measures to secure it, as it may be depended on that administration means to form an army in Canada, composed of British regulars, French and Indians to attack the colonies on that side.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore, May 22, 1775]

the Connecticut People have sent a detachment of men & taken Possession of Ticonderoga & Crown point to Prevent General [Guy] Carletons Joining the troops with some Indians & Cannadiens, so you may be assured if the Ministry do not alter their measures there will be warm work, & well I am Convinced those people to the Northward die rather than give up, besides I think if Government Carries matters any further that it must throw of[f] the Dependence of their Colonies –

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Committee met 22d May 1775.

Ordered that the following Oaths be taken by the Owners Consignees or Super Cargoes of all Vessels and by the Masters and Officers of the same that shall load in Patapsco River –

You A B Owner Supercargo or Consignee of the Ship or Vessel called the [blank] whereof [blank] is Master do make Oath that you will not order or direct, nor bid any Person for you to direct the Cargo now laden or intended to be laden on Board the said Vessel or any part thereof to be unlaided landed or delivered from on Board The said Vessel within the Province of Georgia East or West Florida Quebeck Nova Scotia St Johns Cape Breton Newfoundland, or at any Part of the fishing Coasts or fishing Islands or at the Town or in the Harbour of Boston, or to any Vessel or Vessels in either of the said Islands Provinces Coasts or Town or Harbour of Boston. And further that you do not know that the said Vessel or Cargo is intended or directed by any Order from the Owner or

Owners thereof to proceed to any or either of the said Provinces Coasts Islands or Town of Boston: And that if the Master of such Vessel should land or unlaid the said Carg[o] or any part thereof at any of the Places before excepted contrary to the tenor of this Oath, that you will in such Case give Information thereof to this Committee –

You [blank] Master and Officers of the Ship or Vessel called [blank] do make Oath that you will not land unlaid or deliver from on Board the Ship or Vessel of which you are an [blank] any Part of the Cargo now laden on board the said Vessel either in the Province of Georgia East or West Florida Quebeck Nova Scotia St Johns Cape Breton Newfoundland or at any any Part of the fishing Coasts or fishing Islands or at the Town or in the Harbour of Boston or to any Vessel or Vessels in either of the said Provinces Islands Coasts or Town or Harbour of Boston –

Ordered that Mr [Hercules] Courtney [James] Calhoun [John] Boyd, [David] Stewart [William] Neil & S[amue]l Purviance be a Committee to take the Depositions of all Masters of Vessels & their Officers and of the Owners Consignees or Super Cargoes of Vessels concerning the Destination of all such Vessels And that any three of said Committee be authorized to act. –

1. Balt. Com., LC.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM MANNING, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 22d May 1775. –

p Capt Gunn

You think that no Man in England would be better pleased to See a Speedy conclusion of the Subsisting Contest without bloodShed than Lord North – if his Lordship had ever expressed Such Sentiments I Should have thought him a Shallow politician – his actions militated against his wishes – Send out the most arbitrary & cruel Mandates that ever were imposed upon Freeman, Send Fleets & Armies to enforce his Edicts & expect to See a Speedy conclusion to Such business without bloodShed! – I once hoped & flattered my Self, that a happy but not a Speedy conclusion might have been effected & no blood Spilt – I thought that Some mediating measures when we were coming near to blows might have been proposed by Wise & temperate Men from each party but now we have reason almost to despair – the Sword is drawn Hostilities actually commenced by the Kings Troops & many lives lost on both Sides in an action on the 19th April between Concord & Boston, the particulars of which you have heard before this day – what will follow, God knows, but I learn that New York pensilvania Maryland & Virginia are in Arms – North Carolina I am very Sure will be as active as any of them – in this Colony an amazing readiness is Shewn by the people to contribute all in their power to the common cause – indeed a few of us have very hard work to restrain the Zeal & ardour of the many from entering upon Acts which appear to us to be at present impolite & inexpedient –



You think that no Man in England would be better pleased to be a spyward conclusion
of the existing Contest without bloodshed than Genl North - if his Southern friends
expressed such sentiments I should have thought him a weak & foolish politician - his actions
indicated against his wishes - stand out the most arbitrary & cruel measures that ever were
imposed upon America since 1763 & I am to suppose his Orders & request to be a strong
inducement to such bloodshed without bloodshed! I am bound to flatter myself that a happy
but not a spyward conclusion might have been effected & no bloodshed. I thought that
a more considerate measure when we were coming near to blow might have been proposed
by him & I suppose that from each party but now we have reason almost to suppose
the sword is drawn. Hostilities actually commenced by the King's Troops & many fine
lost on both sides in an action on the 19th April between Cornwall & Boston. The
particulars of which you have heard before this day: what will follow God knows, but
I think that these good gentlemen Maryland & Virginia are in Arms - North
Carolina I am very sure will be as active as any of them - in this belief an amazing number
of volunteers by the prompt to contribute all in their power to the common cause -
indeed a few of us have very hard work to restrain the zeal & ardor of the many from rushing
upon Hell which appears to us to be at present impossible & imprudent -

(Top left) John Laurens. By Charles Willson Peale, c. 1784. (Top right) Henry Laurens. By Charles Willson Peale, 1784. (Bottom) Extract from a letterbook copy, Henry Laurens to William Manning, May 22, 1775.

Georgia is, notwithstanding all the flattering accounts of Governor [Sir James] Wright, in commotion – the parish of St Johns which contains in number of Men & in Riches a Majority of the whole province has Sent a delegate to the Congress at Philadelphia & last Week the Magazine under the Nose of the Governor was Stripped of all the public Store of Gunn powder, & I am well assured that at Savanna there is a large majority of the Inhabitants ready to participate in the measures of their American Brethern these are no Signs of a Speedy conclusion without bloodshed – a little bloodShed on Tower Hill may become necessary in order to prevent a deluge on both Sides the Atlantic – the Scene is awful, & I have a great part to Act in it – God grant, I may do my Duty, & then come poverty come Death I will not repine –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

23 May

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 23, 1775

Whereas, our enemies make frequent excursions to the Islands and Sea-Coasts, from whence they plunder Hay, Cattle and Sheep, which not only greatly injures many individuals, but also the publick, and strengthens the hands of our enemies: Therefore,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Honourable [Provincial] Congress to take some effectual measure to secure the stock on the Islands and Sea-Coasts, to prevent it falling into the hands of our enemies.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 762, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 23 May 1775.

As I understand there is a considerable Quantity of Match at the Castle ² I beg your Excellency will be so good to order Half a Ton to be supplied to the Gunner of his Majesty's Ship *Preston* for the Use of the Squadron under my Command who are in very great want of that Article which cannot be purchased here nor is there any in Store at Halifax. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Castle William, in Boston Harbor.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 23d. [May, 1775]

Two Ships arrived with Officers and Recruits; and the *Merlin* Sloop of War arrived in the evening: one or two others arrived a day or two ago. The remainder of the Marines landed and encamped.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 49–50.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Long Island [Boston Harbor]

Tuesday 23 At 9 A M weighed & dropt down to long Island at 12 Brot too with the Bt Bower in eight fathom Water off the N E end of Long Island Variable weather Arrived from England his Majesty's Sloop *Merlin* and a Ship with three General Officers' horse & Baggage after Six Weeks passage.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. This was the baggage of the Major Generals William Howe, Henry Clinton and John Burgoyne, which arrived a day before the Generals themselves.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May. 23. [1775]

Last Eveng the story of the burning of Weymouth was contradicted. Gen. [Thomas] Gage it seems sent some armed Schooners to steal Hay in Stacks at Weym[uth] – the p[eo]ple opposed their landing and fired upon and beat them off, and set fire to the stacks of Hay. –

The week before last Capt. [John] Lindzee of the *Falcon* Sloop of War took two Sloops near the Viny[ar]d without any reason. The p[eo]ple of the Eastwd mand out 2 Vessels, retook the Sloops, and carried them into Fairhaven in Dartmo[uth] 13th Inst. with 14 of Capt. Lindzees' hands, 3 of whom wounded w[ho]m w[i]th a Doctors mate they kept there and sent off the rest to Taunton. –

This afternoon a Train of above 90 Soldiers headed by Capt. [John] Topham and Capt. Tew marched from the Courthouse down the Parade and then thro' the main street &c. beating up for Volunteers for the American Army. This is their first public Appearance – Capt [James] Wallace and other Officers of the Man o' War dined on shore when the Train passed. The Tories were greatly mortified to see the daring Boldness of the Rebels as they called them. The Tories had said that the Men o' War would fire the Town if any Soldiers were raised in it. But there was no molestation.

1. Stiles, II, 83, 86, LC.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

May 1775 Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour,

Tuesday 23 sent a petty Officer and 3 Men in the Sloop *Collector* to Boston ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

2. See *Newport Mercury*, May 29, 1775.WILLIAM WILLIAMS TO THE CONNECTICUT DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gent:

Hartford, 23 May 1775

I beg liberty to inform you that we just now recv'd the News of the approbation of the Hone Congress in the possessing ourselves of the important Post of Ticonderoga, &c, with vast Pleasure & Satisfaction.



Ezra Stiles. By Samuel King, 1771.

We yesterday had the News that Col. [Benedict] Arnold had taken the armed Sloop & other Craft in Lake Champlain, without any loss, & that Col. [Ethan] Allen had made an unsuccessful attack on Ft. St. Johns. The first we greatly rejoice in, & as to the latter we wish it had never been attempted, for many reasons. It seems to us, & every one here, that it would be vast Importance to retain the Post, that important Key of Ticonderoga, and must humbly ask Leave to suggest whether it might not be well for the Venerable Congress, our at present superior Legislature, to reconsider the matter of giving up that Post. We being persuaded of its utility, should with infinite alacrity exert every Nerve to preserve it.

Your Zeal, Union & Resolution, at this most critical Day, under the Almighty Blessing of Heaven, will I humbly yet confidently believe prove the Salvation of America.

I am with great Esteem & Respect Gent. [&c.]

W^m Williams

1. *Historical Magazine*, January, 1862, vol. VII, 21, 22.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY,
CAMBRIDGE ¹

Gentlemen

Crown point 23 May 1775

My last was of the 19th Inst by Captain Jonathan Brown, I then Advised you of my taking Possession of the Kings Sloop, &c. & that on the 18th Inst on my return from St Johns Coln [Ethan] Allen with about 80 or 100 Men passed me with Intention of making a Stand at St Johns & not being able to dissuade him from so rash a purpose, I supplied them with provisions &c, Yesterday he arrived at Ticonderoga with his party & Says that on the evening of the 18th Inst he arrived with his party at St Johns & hearing of a Detachment of Men on the Road from Montreal Layd an Ambush for them, but his People being so much fatigued (when the party where about one mile distant) thought proper to retreat & Crossed the Lake at St Johns where they Continued the Night, at dawn the next Day they where (when asleep) saluted with a discharge of Grape shot from six Field pieces & a discharg of Small Arms from about 200 Regulars; they made a precipitate retreat, & left behind three men ² – Immediately on this Advise I proceeded here with the Sloop, & Schooner, well Armed as possible under our Curcumstances & 80 Men which with the party here before makes near 150 Men with whome I am determind to make a Stand here to secure the Cannon, it being impossible to remove them at present, I am in hourly expectation of Two or three hundred men more, most of those here are Inlisted Col Allens Men are in gennerall gone home –

As the Regulars have good information of our Strength and movements, I am apprehensive of their paying us a Vissit Provided they Can get Battoes from Montreal to St Johns – I Shall make every possible preparation to give them a warm reception – I have Commissioned Captn John Sloan in the Sloop & Captn Isaac Mathues in the Schooner & I have wrote to New York for a number of Gunners & Seamen to man the two Vessells being in Great want of them, at present obliged to Stay on board one of them my self –

As soon as a sufficient number of men arrives I shall lose no time in Carring your orders into execution in regard to the Cannon &c – this morning very luckily a Escort of Provisions (5 Bars of Pork 30 Bars of flour) arrived here as a present from Albany under the care of Captn Elisha Phelps, the last Barrell of our Pork being a Breach, I have ordered 50 Barrs Pork & 100 of flour from Albany which I expect soon prior to which I bought 15 Oxen & 30 Bars flour which is all the provisions purchased as Yet. the People who have inlisted are promised the same Bounty as is given in the Masetusetes Bay. – a Sum of Money will be requisete to carry matters into execution – I have that found in the Sloop but as it was the Captns property do not chuse to make use of it at present. I have sent to Albany repeatedly for powder and can get none, have only 150 lb here which I brought from Concord & beg You will order a Quantity to be forwarded here immediately. I have wrote to Connecticut but can have no dependence from that Quarter as it is very scarce there –

I hope some Gentleman will soon be appointd In my Room here who is better able to serve the Public than I am – Interim I am [&c.] Bened^t Arnold
P S Since writing the Above One of Colo Allens Party who was taken prisoner at St Johns has made his escape & says that On the 19[th] Inst there was 400 Regulars at St Johns who expected to be Joined by more men, & were making all posable [prepar]ation to Cross the lake & retake Crown Point, & Ticonderoga, I have sent expresses to Fort George & Skensborough, to rally the Country You may Depend Gentlemen, these Places will Not be given up unless we are overpowered by Numbers, or Deserted, by Providence, which has hitherto supported us

I am yours &c

B Arnold

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 231.

2. It is interesting to note that Ethan Allen, in his "Narrative" omits any account of this disastrous foray. His story reads: "General Arnold with the schooner, sailed faster than the bateaux, arrived at St. Johns and by surprise possessed himself of the sloop before I could arrive with the bateaux. He also made prisoners of a sergeant and twelve men who were garrisoned at that place. It is worthy of remark, that as soon as General Arnold had secured the prisoners on board, and had made preparations for sailing, the wind, which but a few hours before was fresh in the south and well served to carry us to St. Johns, now shifted and came fresh from the north; and in about one hour's time, General Arnold sailed with the prize and schooner for Ticonderoga. When I met him with my party, within a few miles of St. Johns, he saluted me with a discharge of cannon, which I returned with a volley of small arms. This being repeated three times, I went on board the sloop with my party, where several loyal Congress healths were drank. We were now masters of Lake Champlain and the garrison depending thereon."

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN¹

[Tuesday] May 23, 1775. Since that time [May 19] nothing material has happened. It is Col. [Benedict] Arnold's present design, that the sloop *Enterprise* (as she is called) and the schooner *Liberty* shall cruize on the lake, and defend our frontiers, 'till men, provision and ammunition are furnished to carry on the war.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] 5 ho. P.M., May 23d, [1775]

A copy of a recommendation and directions from the Continental Congress, signed by their Secretary, bearing date of the 18th instant, and certified by Henry Remsen, deputy chairman of the committee of New York, to be a true copy, relating to the artillery and stores now in Ticonderoga, was handed to the President, and read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[Here is inserted the resolve of the Continental Congress of May 18, 1775]

The President then gave some farther information relating to the matters mentioned in the said recommendation from the Continental Congress, and particularly what had been done by the committee of the city and county of New York; and also enjoined and gave it in charge from the chair to the members of this Congress that the business concerning the artillery and stores at Ticonderoga, and every thing else relating thereto, is to be considered and kept as matters of secrecy.

The subject matter of the said recommendation or directions from the Continental Congress was taken in consideration and debated, and thereupon.

Resolved, That the Congress will immediately comply with the direction of the Continental Congress respecting the cannon and stores at Ticonderoga, and the other matters recommended in their order of the eighteenth of May, instant: And

Ordered, That Messrs. David Clarkson, Alexander McDougall, Walter Livingston, Robert Yates, Henry Glen, Zephania Platt, Egbert Dumond, Peter Clowes, John Sloss Hobart, Paul Mischeau and Gouverneur Morris, be a Committee to report to this Congress with all convenient speed, the method best adapted to carry the above Resolution into execution.

Benjamin Kissam, Esqr, dissented from the above resolution, and prayed his dissent might be entered on the minutes.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 9.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND ¹

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation for Talbot County, on the 23d of May, 1775, at the Court-House of the said County [at Easton].

A Letter from the Committee of Observation in Baltimore Town, bearing date May 20, 1775, and signifying that the Ship *Johnston*, belonging to Mr. [James] Gildart, of Liverpool, was loaded with Salt and Dry Goods, by the house of Messrs. Ashton, and bound to Chesapeake Bay, was read.

In consequence whereof, a deputation, consisting of eleven gentlemen, was appointed to wait on Mr. James Braddock, agent and store-keeper for Mr. Gildart, owner of the said Ship *Johnston*, to advise him of the information received, to request him to give a satisfactory account and state of all goods now in his hands, and not to assist or countenance, directly or indirectly, the landing of any goods from the said ship, or in any way to promote the sale thereof. On the whole, the deputation aforesaid had it in charge to require an answer from Mr. Braddock, as to the part he meant to act on this occasion, and whether he would

comply with their requisition, and to report the same to the Committee on Tuesday, the 30th instant, on which day they agreed to meet, unless the deputation should think it necessary to call a Committee sooner, in which case they were requested to give publick notice.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 682.

24 May

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 24, 1775

Resolved, That it be recommended to [the Provincial] Congress immediately to take such order respecting the removal of the Sheep and Hay from Noddle's Island, as they may judge proper, together with the stock on the adjacent islands.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 763, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

Massachusetts Spy, WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1775

Worcester, May 24 [1775]

The week before last, the *Falcon* sloop of war, was cruising about Cape Cod, and meeting with a wood sloop, in ballast, seized her, but promising the Skipper to release him and his vessel if he would give information of any vessel that was just arrived from the West-Indies with a cargo on board, he at length told the Captain of the *Falcon* that there was a sloop at Dartmouth, which has just arrived; whereupon the Captain of the *Falcon*, instead of releasing the wood sloop, armed and manned her, and sent her in search of the West-Indiaman; they found the vessel lying at anchor, but her cargo was landed; however, they seized her and carried her off after putting part of their crew and some guns and ammunition on board. Notice of this getting on shore, the people fitted out a third sloop, with about thirty men and two swivel guns, and went in pursuit of these royal pirates, whom they come up with at Martha's Vineyard, where they lay at anchor at about a league's distance from each other; the first surrendered without firing a gun, our people after putting a number of hands on board, bore down upon the other, which by this time had got under sail, but the people in the Dartmouth sloop coming up with her, the pirates fired upon them; the fire was immediately returned, by which three of the pirates were wounded, among whom was the commanding officer; our people boarded her immediately, and having taken both sloops, carried them into Dartmouth, and sent the prisoners to Cambridge, from whence nine of them were yesterday brought to this Town.

PORTIA (ABIGAIL ADAMS) TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

24 May B[raintr]e 1775

Suppose you have had a formidable account of the alarm we had last Sunday morning [May 21]. When I rose about six oclock I was told that the Drums had been some time beating and that 3 allarm Guns were fired, that Weymouth Bell had been ringing, and Mr. Welds was then ringing. I immediately sent of[f] an express to know the occasion, and found the whole Town in confusion. 3 Sloops and one cutter had come out, and dropped anchor just below Great Hill.



Abigail Adams. By Benjamin Blyth, c. 1766.

It was difficult to tell their design, some supposed they were coming to German-town others to Weymouth. People women children from the Iron Works flocking down this Way – every woman and child above or from below my Fathers. My Fathers family flying, the Drs. in great distress, as you may well imagine for my Aunt had her Bed thrown into a cart, into which she got herself, and ordered the boy to drive her of[f] to Bridgwater which he did. The report was to them, that 300 hundred had landed, and were upon their march into Town. The allarm flew [like] lightning, and men from all parts came flocking down till 2000 were collected – but it seems their expedition was to Grape Island for *Levet's* hay. There it was impossible to reach them for want of Boats, but the sight of so many persons, and the firing at them prevented their getting more than 3 ton of Hay, tho they had carted much more down to the water. At last they mustered a Lighter, and a Sloop from Hingham which had six port holes. Our men eagerly jumpt on board, and put of[f] for the Island. As soon as they perceived it, they decamped. Our people landed upon [the] Island, and in an instant set fire to the Hay which with the Barn was soon consumed, about 80 ton tis said. We expect soon to be in continual alarms, till something decisive takes place. We wait with longing Expectation in hopes to hear the best accounts from you with regard to union and harmony &c. We rejoice greatly on the Arival of Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin, as he must certainly be able to inform you very perticularly of the situation of affairs in England. I wish you would [write] if you can get time; be as perticular as you *may*, when you write – every one here abouts come[s] to me to hear what accounts I have. I was so unlucky as not to get the Letter you wrote at New York. Capn. Beals forgot it, and left it behind. We have a flying report here with regard to New York, but cannot give any credit to it, as yet, that they had been engaged with the Ships which [Thomas] Gage sent there and taken them with great loss upon both sides.²

Yesterday we have an account of 3 Ships comeing in to Boston. I believe it is true, as there was a Salute from the other Ships, tho I have not been able to learn from whence they come. Suppose you have had an account of the fire which did much damage to the Warehouses, and added greatly to the distresses of the inhabitants whilst it continued. The bad conduct of General Gage was the means of its doing so much damage.³ . . .

Our House has been upon this alarm in the same Scene of confusion that it was upon the first – Soldiers comeing in for lodging, for Breakfast, for Supper, for Drink &c. &c. Sometimes refugees from Boston tierd and fatigued, seek an assilum for a Day or Night, a week – you can hardly imagine how we live.

“Yet to the Houseless child of want
our doors are open still.
And tho our portions are but scant
We give them with good will.”

1. L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers*, Series II, *Adams Family Correspondence* (Cambridge, 1963), vol. 1, 204, 205. Hereafter cited as Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*.

2. Mrs. Adams's skepticism about the New York report was well founded.

3. The fire in Dock Square on the night of May 17. Gage was blamed for its spread because he had taken the fire engines out of the hands of the inhabitants.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Cape Cod S W b Wt 5 Leagues

Wednesday 24 at 4 A M weighed & run out of the Harbor at 7 dischargd the Pilot. at 8 the Light house W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 7 miles Stowd the small Bower Anchor. at 10 Musterd the Ships Company at 12 the Light house W b N $\frac{1}{2}$ N 3 leagues at 4 P M several Sail in sight. at 6 Pidgeon hill N W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 4 leagues Spoke his Majesty's Ship *Cerberus*. Brought too by order of Captn [James] Chads & sent our boat on board. at 7 made sail.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 [In Massachusetts Bay]

Wednesday 24 Light Airs & foggy at 4 A M saw the Land about Cape Ann bearing W N W 6 Lgs at 6 spoke his Majs. Sloop *Otter* on her way from Boston to Virginia

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS,
H.M.S. *Nautilus*, NANTASKET ¹

Sir

Preston Boston May 24. 1775.

I am very glad you came in with the *Prosperous Amelia* Transport, many more are daily expected to arrive, and I would have you assist them to get in as they are most likely unacquainted with the Coast. The *Charming Nancy* is not yet arrived. As I find the Schooner with the Melasses which I had ordered Lieutt. Brown to carry to Salem, is not yet sailed, it will be necessary for you to stand in with her in order to deliver her into the Charge of the Custom house for the Security of the Kings Duties as she cannot be condemned.

You will continue to cruize until the Arrival of the *Charming Nancy* or until further Orders, for which purpose, if you have no occasion to come in before, I would have you anchor in Nantasket Road the 2d of June. Here are Reports that the Rebels have armed Vessels alongshore, it is certain they have fitted out a Bermudian Sloop and that she is cruizing in Hell Gates.

I am &c

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 426, 427, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston May 24th 1775.

Sir, The Bearer Mr. [Ichabod] Jones having exerted himself for the Service of Government, is threatened by the Inhabitants of the Eastern parts of this Province, to intercept and destroy his Vessels, by which means they will be rendered useless hereafter, his Settlement is at Machias where there are several Guns belonging to

the *Halifax* Schooner cast Ashore there; he thinks an Armed Vessel's being sent there to bring them away, may have a good effect, and prevent their fitting out Vessels from those parts to annoy his Majesty's Subjects, and to encourage the Inhabitants to the Eastward to bring fuel, Lumber &c to the Port of Boston; I am therefore to recommend this to you as a Matter that may be usefull to the Town and Garrison here: Mr. Jones further desires a Certificate, both from you and myself, that any Persons bringing Supplys to this Port they shall have free Permission to come in and go out, without Molestation.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Wednesday 9 ho.A.M., May 24th, 1775

Mr. David Clarkson, chairman of the committee appointed yesterday to report the methods best adapted to comply with the directions of the Continental Congress, respecting the cannon and stores at Ticonderoga, and the other matters recommended in their order of the 18th instant, delivered in the report of the said committee, which was read. And the said Report being again read, by paragraphs, was approved of and ordered to be entered on the minutes, and is in the words following. to wit:

We do report, that we conceive that it will be proper to appoint persons in whom this Congress can confide, to superintend the removal of the cannon and stores (mentioned in the minutes of the Grand Continental Congress,) to the south end of Lake George.

That it will be proper to furnish supplies of provisions to the garrisons now stationed, or hereafter to be stationed at those places.

That it will be proper to appoint a committee to estimate the expense of these services, and a committee to consider of ways and means for providing money for the purpose of defraying the same. And lastly,

That it will be proper to write a letter to the Governor and company of the English Colony of Connecticut, on the matters recommended in the minute aforesaid.

The said Committee had also prepared, and then reported a draft of the letter above mentioned, which was also read. [Adopted, and entered in the minutes of the afternoon.]

Benjamin Kissam, Esquire dissented from the said report and letter, and desired that his dissent might be entered on the minutes.

4 ho. P.M., May 24th. [1775]

The gentlemen who are Deputies from the city and county of Albany, at the request of the Congress, recommended, and the Congress nominated and appointed John N. Bleeker, Henry I. Bogert, George Palmer, Dirck Swart and Peter Lansingh, of the county of Albany, or any one or more of them, to superintend the removal of the cannon and stores (mentioned in the minutes of the Grand Continental Congress) to the south end of Lake George. And in case of the inability or refusal of those gentlemen, this Congress does authorize and request the sub-committee of the city and county of Albany to appoint proper persons to superintend the removal of the said cannon and stores to the place aforesaid.

The Congress then took into consideration that part of the report of the committee concerning the removal of the cannon and stores, which relates to the estimate of the expence of removing the same, and the ways and means of raising money to defray the expense thereof.

Ordered, That Messrs. David Clarkson, Alexander McDougall, Walter Livingston, Jacob Cuyler, Henry Glenn, Richard Montgomery, Egbert Dumond, Peter Clowes, John Sloss Hobart, Paul Micheau, Isaac Low, and Gouverneur Morris, be a committee for both those purposes, and that they make their reports on these respective matters with all convenient speed.

The draught of the Letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, being read, paragraph by paragraph, was approved of, and ordered to be entered in the minutes, and is in the words following, to wit:

To the Honourable the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut.

Brethren: By a minute of the Grand Continental Congress, of the eighteenth of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, a copy whereof we do herewith transmit to you, we are informed that Ticonderoga hath been taken by sundry inhabitants of the northern Colonies; and from the minute aforesaid, we are assured that this measure was for the common safety of the American Colonies.

In pursuance of the directions contained in that minute, we have given the necessary orders for removing the cannon and stores (taken in that important fortress) to the south end of Lake George, and for securing them there, and we have appointed John N. Bleeker, Henry I. Bogert, Dirck Swart, George Palmer, and Peter Lansing, superintendents of this business. There is no doubt but that our brethren in Connecticut will feel great reluctance at the idea of ordering any of their troops to march within the bounds of this Colony, for the purpose of defending the Fort of Ticonderoga and the Cannon and Stores above mentioned at Fort George; but we pray you to cast away all fears of offending us on this occasion. We shall be happy to hear that you have placed a part of your forces in these posts, with intent to defend them until they shall be relieved by troops from this Colony.

In further pursuance of the directions of the Grand Congress, we have ordered provisions to be conveyed to Ticonderoga and Lake George, and we shall continue to furnish such supplies as we shall deem necessary.

You will be pleased, gentlemen, to appoint trusty commanders over your forces destined for the purposes above mentioned; and we do assure you, of our willingness that they shall take the command at those places while garrisoned by your troops.

We beg leave to assure you, that in this and all other matters, we will pay the highest attention to every recommendation of the Grand Continental Congress, and that we have the honour to be, gentlemen, [&c.].

P.S. We pray you to use every effort to preserve and improve the present peaceable dispositions of the Canadians and Indians, for which purpose we think it will

be necessary to keep up the strictest vigilance to prevent any incursions from being made into the Province of Quebec.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the President, and transmitted with all convenient speed.

Ordered, That the Gentlemen who are Deputies from the City and county of Albany, be a committee to prepare a draught of a letter to John N. Bleeker, and the other four Agents for superintending the removal of the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga, and also a draft of instructions to the said agents; and that they prepare and bring in the same with all convenient speed.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 9-11.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER KENNEDY ¹

[Baltimore, May 24, 1775]

Your Ship *Baltimore Packet* is now Ready for Sea under [your] Command. We have only to Request your Proceeding with her to [Falm]outh in England with the first wind & on your arrival there Imme[diately] write Messrs Johnston & Cumming of London, also as soon as you [receive] orders to Proceed to any one Port of Di[s]charge give them Information [so that] they may be able to make the Necessary Insurance. We have only to [add] that we wish you safe & plesent Passage –

Yrs

W. S.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

25 May

INHABITANTS OF KITTERY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Province of the Massachuts Bay To the Honorable Provincial Congress that is to Set at Watertown to Transact the Publick Affairs of Said Province on Wednesday 31st of May 1775 – The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Kittery in the County of York Humbly Shews

That the Town of Kittery in the County of York being a Frontier Town and Several Ships of War now riding at Anchor Directly Opposite to the Town having a Number of Marines on board and have given out that they will have provisions at all Events the Inhabitants from their threats are Obligated to Keep a constant watch; being in daily expectations of a Greater force being Sent this way in order to collect provisions & Deprive them of all their Property if not their lives; The River of Piscataqua being Navigable for large Ships For Miles it must be very Distressing to the Sea Ports; and whereas we have Sent one third part of our men capable to bear arms to Joyn the Provincial army, Such a Situation appears to leave us weak and defenceless; Therefore Your Petitioners for the Reasons Above mentioned, with many more than might be Added, Humbly pray, that some part of the forces may be ordered to this Town, under the same Regula-

tions with those that may Remain at the Head Quarters, or otherwise relieve your Petitioners as you in Your Wisdom Shall think fit and Your Petitioners Shall Ever Pray –

for and behalf of Said Town

W^m Leighton Tn Clerk

At A Legal Town meeting held in Kittery may 25th 1775 Voted that William Leighton Town Clerk Sign and forward the Above Petition for and in behalf of Said Town to the Provincial Congress

Attest W^m Leighton Tn Clerk

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 27.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1775

Cambridge, May 25

Last Sabbath [May 21] about 10 o'Clock A.M. an Express arrived at General [John] Thomas's Quarters in Roxbury, informing him that four Sloops (two of them armed) were sailed from Boston, to the South Shore of the Bay, and that a Number of Soldiers were landing at Weymouth. Gen. Thomas ordered 3 Companies to march to the Support of the Inhabitants. When arrived, they found the Soldiers had not attempted to land at Weymouth; but had landed on Grape-Island, from whence they were carrying off Hay on board the sloops. The People of Weymouth assembled on a Point of Land next to Grape Island. The distance from Weymouth Shore to said island was too great for small Arms to do Execution; nevertheless, our People frequently fired. The fire was returned from one of the Vessels with swivel Guns, but the Shot passed over our Heads, and did no Mischief. Matters continued in this State for several Hours, the Soldiers pulling the Hay down to the Water-Side, our People firing at the Vessel, and they now and then discharging swivel Guns. The Tide was now come in, and several Lighters which were aground, were got afloat, upon which our People, who were ardent for Battle, got on board, hoisted Sail, and bore directly down upon the nearest Point of the Island. The Soldiers and Sailors Immediately left the Barn, and made for their Boats, and put off from one End of the Island, whilst our People landed on the other. The Sloops hoisted Sail with all possible Expedition, whilst our People set Fire to the Barn, and burnt 70 or 80 Tons of Hay; then fired several Tons which had been pulled down to the Water-Side, and brought off the Cattle. – As the Vessels passed Horse Neck, a Sort of Promontory which extends from Germantown, they fired their Swivels and small Arms at our People pretty briskly, but without Effect, though one of the Bullets from their small Arms, which passed over our People, struck against a Stone with such Force, as to take off a large Part of the Bullet. Whether any of the Enemy were wounded, is uncertain, though it is reported three of them were. It is thought they did not carry off more than one or two Tons of hay.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Moord at Boston

Thursday 25 at 8 A M Boston Light house W N W 3 Lgs at 10 got a Pilot on bd pas'd by H M Ships *Mercury Nautilus* & *Falcon* at Anch'r in [Nan]tasket roads ½ past Saluted the Adr & Anchd wt Bt Br in 7 fm & Moord wt a Cable each way Castle William S E ½ S Fort point S W off Shore ½ M[ile] found riding here the *Preston Boyn Somerset Glasgow* & *Merlin*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 25 May 1775

His Majestys Ship *Cerberus* with three Generals on Board arrived this day, and I have had the Honor to receive their Lordships Orders of the 2d and 28th of March and 25th April respecting the *Cerberus* and *Scorpion*,² and prohibiting the Exportation of Arms and Ammunition for six months from the 19th of April, together with their Lordship's Orders of the 5th and 15th of April, accompanying eighty printed Copies of two Acts of Parliament.³ Their Lordships may rely upon my causing them to be carried into execution with the utmost punctuality, so far as may depend upon myself and the Captains and Commanders of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command.

I have also received your Letters Feb: 20th Dup. and April 13th The last inclosing a Commission their Lordships have been pleased to sign appointing me Vice Admiral of the White.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 98, 99, MassHS Transcript.

2. These orders placed both vessels under his command; the *Scorpion*, after delivering Lord William Campbell at Charles Town.

3. The restraining acts, forbidding trade with any except Great Britain and the British West Indies, and forbidding fishing on the Newfoundland Banks.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Boston] 25th May 1775

I have this moment received Information that the Rebels intend this Night to destroy, and carry off all the Stock & on Noddles Island, for no reason but because the owners having sold them for the Kings Use: I therefore give you this Intelligence that you may please to order the guard boats to be particularly Attentive and to take such Other Measures as you may think Necessary for this night

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 25 May 1775 9 at Night

The Guard boats have orders to keep the strictest look out; and I will direct an additional One to row tonight as high up as possible between Noddles Island

the Main, to Alarm in Case any attempt is made by the Rebels to go over; but I beg leave to observe to your Excellency that in My opinion A Guard upon the Island is the Most probable Means of preserving the Hay from being destroyed; However your Excellency May be assured all that the Ships can do shall be done to prevent the Rebels effecting their Design. I have the Honor to be with great regard and Esteem Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Preston Boston] 25th [May 1775]

The Major Generals [William] Howe, [Henry] Clinton, and [John] Burgoyne, and the Acts of Parliament for restraining the Trade of the Colonies arrived from England.

Great Difficulties now arose in procuring Fuel, not only for present consumption but for the next Winter. The Committees of Safety prevented the Garrison being supplied either with firing or fresh Provisions, and pronounced all those who in any Manner assisted us Enemies to their Country, but indeed publick Restrictions for this purpose were altogether unnecessary, the bulk of the people being through wicked Misrepresentations, sufficiently disposed to distress the Kings forces: And this disposition among the Country people rendered our dependance for Fuel and fresh provisions very precarious.

It has already been mentioned that the Admiral had allowed all Coasting Vessels laden with any sort of Provisions or fuel to enter Boston Harbour without touching at Salem; but all Vessels from abroad laden with dutiable goods were as usual to enter at the Custom House at Salem, and then the Kings Ships (having Orders for that purpose) brought them round to Boston.

The Indulgence to the Coasters was however soon found ineffectual, for, under pretence of fears from their own Countrymen, very few cared to supply us, although the extravagant prices given for the Commodities wanted stimulated them to come in. But the Committees along the Coast to the Eastward presently took a certain method to hinder the Kings Army from being supplied, which was to seize all the Craft found so employed and imprison the People, and to direct that all coasting Vessels (except a few absolutely necessary to carry fuel to Marblehead, Salem &c) should be laid up, and their Sails and Ruders deposited in particular places; so that we had only two ways of getting firing, the uncertain one of intercepting their small Vessels creeping along shore, which now and then happened, and to take it by force.

The general indisposition of the Americans towards us appeared likewise in the affair of masts on which subject the Admiral wrote to Captn [Andrew] Barkley at Piscataqua & to Govr [Francis] Legge.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 98-102, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY,
H.M.S. *Scarborough*, PISCATAQUA¹

Sir

Preston Boston 25 May 1775

I have received your Letters of the 10, 18 & 19 of May with their Inclosures. It would have been impossible for you to have brought away the Masts, when three hundred men were assembled to prevent it; but, suppose with the loss of Men you had effected it, the Consequences would have been destruction to every other Mast marked for the King; and I really do not at present see the use of the Governors acquainting you with a proceeding of the Rebels detrimental to his Majesty's Interest, when he at the same time had no request to make concerning it, and did not think it advisable for you to attempt the preventing the Masts being carried higher up the River.

I very much approve and commend Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat's intrepid and Officerlike Conduct at Falmouth; The Behaviour of Mr Hogg also deserves great Commendations; That Transaction ought to be a caution to all Officers not to trust themselves in the Hands of Rebels, who carry on War like no other People upon Earth.

It was quite right to despatch the *Canceaux* to Halifax, as you was not apprized of the *Tartar* being there expressly for the purpose of guarding that Arsenal. The *St Lawrence* and *Halifax* armed Schooners lately purchased are also at Halifax fitting out. The Account of the Hay being burnt was brought here by the *Centurion* Sloop I have great pleasure in expressing my entire Approbation of your Proceedings since you have been at Piscataqua and am satisfied you will on ever occasion exert yourself for the good of the Kings Service.

Herewith you will receive an Order to seize all Provisions &c. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 427, 428, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE, PORTSMOUTH¹

Sir

Preston Boston 25 May 1775

I am much obliged to your Excellency for your information concerning Mr [Edward] Parry, Agent to the Contractor for supplying Masts and Timber for his Majs Navy. I do not recollect Mr Parry verbally desiring my Application to your Excellency to grant him a License to cut Masts and other Timber in the Kings Woods; I am sure he made no such request in writing; In either case I should readily have wrote to your Excellency for that purpose.

As the Rebels in general seem determined to distress his Majesty's Service by every Means in their Power, tho' eventually to their own Ruin, and those within your Excellency's do not think fit to allow the Masts already cut to be under care of the King's Ships, Mr Parry's Confinement during the Rebellion will be no great Prejudice to the King's Service although perhaps disagreeable to himself I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 428, 429, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LIEUTENANT GEORGE DAWSON,
COMMANDING HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Hope* ¹

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to proceed to Salem in his Majesty's Schooner under your Command and use your utmost Endeavours to put [into] Execution the Orders you will herewith receive for seizing and sending to Boston all Vessels with Provisions, Melasses, Salt, Arms and Ammunition &c.

Given under my hand on board his Majs. Ship *Preston* at Boston
25 May 1775.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 429, 430, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

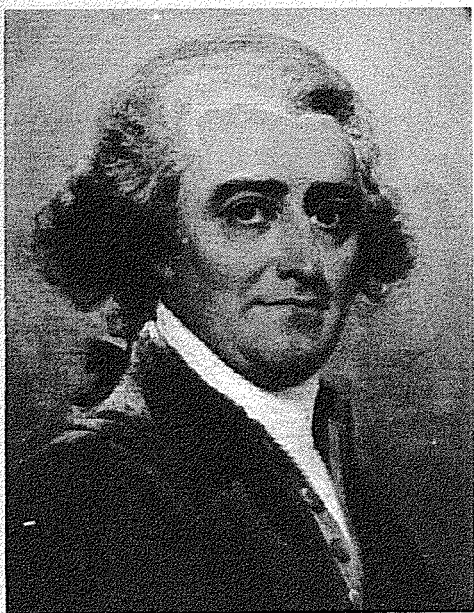
May 1775 Att Single Anchor in Tarpolean Cove
Thursdy 25 at 6 P M fired two Six pounders Shotted and Bro't too a Schooner
from St Vincents

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Your letter of the Seventeenth Instant with the Inclosed resolve of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay, was delivered to me by Colo [James] Easton, and communicated to the General Assembly, who have desired me to return their Congratulations on the Reduction of Ticonderoga, a Fortress truly Important, and to assure you they entertain a proper Sense of the Merit of those Officers and Soldiers by whose bravery and good Conduct it was achieved. As this Advantage was gained by the united Counsels and Enterprize of a number of private Gentlemen in your province – New Hampshire, New York, and this Colony, Prompted only by a zeal for the Liberty of their Country without Public Authority, to our Knowledge, and is of Great and general Importance to the united Colonies, it was thought best to take the Advice of the Continental Congress upon the Manner of treating it in future, both by the General Assembly of this Colony & the Committee of New York, as well as by you – Dispatches were accordingly sent to Philadelphia and the Sentiments of the Continental Congress thereon hath been receiv'd this day, by Express, with a Letter from the Committee of New York, Copies of which, enclosed, are herewith sent you

By them you will see, the present Custody of that Fortress is committed to the Province of New York, with the Assistance of the New England Colonies, if needed The General Assembly of this Colony beheld your Situation with Concern and a fixed Resolution to Contribute every thing in their power to Your Defence and preservation, and as far as apertains to them, are willing & desirous you should have the benefit of such Artillery as may be spared from the Fortresses of Crown point and Ticonderoga; but, as they do not consider themselves as intitled to the Command of those places, they cannot take upon themselves to give Orders for



(Top left) Jonathan Trumbull, Jr. By John Trumbull, 1792. (Top right) James Otis. By Asher B. Durand after Joseph Blackburn, 1823. (Bottom left) Benedict Arnold. After Pierre E. DuSimitière, 1783. (Bottom right) Silas Deane. After Pierre E. DuSimitière, 1783.

the removal of the heavy Cannon that may be spared, without the Concurrence of the other Colonies Interested in them

The Necessity of Securing and maintaining the Posts on the Lakes for the Defence of the Frontiers becomes daily more evident from the reiterated Intelligence we receive of the Plan formed by Our Enemies to distress us by Inroads of Canadians and Savages from the Province of Quebec upon the Adjacent Settlements, the enclosed Copy of a Letter from Our Delegates Attending at New York to communicate measures with the Provincial Congress in that City throws an Additional Light on this Subject and is thought worthy to be communicated to you. Whilst the Designs of our Enemies Against us, fill us with Concern, we cannot omit to observe the smiles of Providence upon us, in revealing their wicked Plans, and hitherto prospering the Attempts of the Colonies to frustrate them. With a humble reliance on the Continuance of Divine Favour and Protection to the Cause, of the Justice of which a Doubt cannot be entertained, The General Assembly of this Colony are ready to cooperate with the other Colonies in every Exertion for their Common Defence, and to contribute their Proportion of Men & other Necessarys for maintaining the Posts on the Frontiers or Defending or repelling Invasions in any other Quarter, agreeably to the Advice of the Continental Congress.

I am Gentl [&c.]

Jon^a Trumbull.

Hartford May 25 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

JESSE ROOT TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear Sir on the 13th Inst. we Recd letters from [Bernard] Romans representing the Garreson at Ticondaroga in a feeble State both as to men & provisions requesting Men & Money – at the Same time the Govr. Recd a letter from [Ethan] Allin of like Import – whereupon we rallied Sent Col Charles Webb & Col Joshua Porter & Mr Barn[abas] Dean with £ 500 money escorted with Eight marines from this Town well Spirited & equipped ² – with directions to proceed to Albany to procure from thence what assistance they Could & then to proceed to Ticondaroga with all possible Expidition & to do every thing to Secure & preserve the acquisition – about four days ago the officers & Soldiers from Ticondaroga & Crown point were brought into this Town Consisting of about Sixty persons – and are here-kept at the publick Expence – The Troops are Continually marching for Boston – unanimity & firmness Continues to reign here you Cannot Conceive what universal Joy defused it self through every Breast & Triumph in every Countenance on publication of the glorious resolutions of the Continental Congress by Mr [Samuel] Mott – May that unerring Wisdom that guides the roling Speres through the unmeasurable Track of ether – that Mighty power that Sustains the Stupendious frame of Nature Inspire your venerable Body with all that Wisdom & firmness that is requisite to guide & direct the Important Concerns of the american Empire for

its Safety & preservation against all the Craft & power of Tiranny the Pope & the Divel In haste as the Post is waiting with the greatest esteem I am &c.

Jesse Root

Hartford May 25th A D 1775

P S inclosed is a Copy of a letter from Col. Porter & Webb Since they went from here – of the further acquisitions to the Northward the Post will inform

1. Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. This is the first mention of American marines during the Revolutionary War period. Why there should be marines on May 13, 1775, more than a month before Connecticut even considered commissioning vessels of war, and why these marines should be found in the inland city of Hartford is difficult to comprehend. The theory that they might have been enlisted for service on Lake Champlain is untenable, as Governor Skene's schooner, subsequently named the *Liberty*, was not taken up at Skenesborough until the very day that Roman's letter arrived in Hartford, so there could have been no knowledge of her capture. In Benedict Arnold's letter of May 26, 1775, to the Massachusetts Committee of Safety, they are identified as eight gentlemen "who are Seamen." It is probable, therefore, that the use of the word "marines" had been a figure of speech by Jesse Root, whose rhetorical flourishes are apparent throughout his letter.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Thursday 9 ho. A.M., May 25, 1775.

The Committee appointed yesterday for that purpose, brought in and reported a draft of a letter, and also a draught of instructions to the agents for superintending the removal of the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga.

Mr. [Isaac] Low informed the Congress that he had been informed that some of the inhabitants of the northern counties in this Colony have designs of making incursions into the Province of Quebec, and that, therefore, he moved (and was seconded by Abraham Yates, Esqr.) that a letter be wrote to the inhabitants of the northern counties, to the same purport as the postscript to the letter to the Governor and Company of Connecticut; and the same being unanimously agreed to,

Ordered, That Mr. Low, Mr. John Williams, Mr. [William] Marsh, Mr. Robert Yates, and Mr. [Gouverneur] Morris, be a Committee to prepare and report to the Congress a draft of such a letter. . . .

A written request from the gentlemen who are a committee from the House of Representatives of the Colony of Connecticut,² requesting a conference with Mr. [John Morin] Scott and Colo. [Abraham] Ten Broeck, was read.

Ordered, That Mr. Scott and Colonel Ten Broeck have leave to wait on the said committee immediately. . . .

Messrs. Ten Broeck and Scott, who with leave, went to confer with Messrs. [Nathaniel] Wales, [Thaddeus] Burr, and [Pierpont] Edwards, the Committee of the House of Representatives of the Colony of Connecticut, returned and reported from their memory to this Congress, that they had conferred with those gentlemen, who informed them that they had detained Mr. President's Letter to their Governor and company, relative to Ticonderoga, till this Congress could be informed of the following facts, to wit: That their Assembly is not now sitting; that their recess was supplied by a council of war, with limited powers; that the

said council have only authority to direct the movement of their troops but not to appoint any command.

That their Assembly had destined three hundred men to be quartered at Salisbury, who probably would be allotted to assist in maintaining the fortress at Ticonderoga, if necessary; that the persons who had taken that post were not any part of their regular troops, but adventurers; that among these Colonel [Benedict] Arnold, from Massachusetts, and Captain [Asa] Douglas, who lives on the line between that Colony and this, were present at the capture; that Captain Douglass was a principal, and had great merit in the success of the enterprise; that almost all the rest of the adventurers were inhabitants of this Colony; that they were confident their council of war would not take upon them to appoint any person to take the command of that post; that besides, they were apprehensive that the people now there probably would dispute the delivering up that fortress to any person appointed by their council of war; that it was impossible for the said council of war to grant us any other assistance than the three hundred men above mentioned, which they judged insufficient to maintain that post; that Captain Douglass is guardian of the Stockbridge Indians, and had great influence over and almost the entire direction of them; that he is a person of great influence in that quarter; that he had raised for the enterprise two hundred men at his own expense, and could in ten or twelve days augment them to seven hundred, all of which except one hundred would be inhabitants of this Colony; that they recommended Capt. Douglass as meriting the attention of this Congress; that they thought it necessary for this Congress to appoint to the command of the above-mentioned post, and that in that case their council of war would have it in their power to supply the above mentioned assistance for that service.

Which Report being made, Mr. Scott moved that the letter to the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut be withheld and the subject matter thereof reconsidered. This motion being seconded, a debate thereon arose, after which the question was put, whether the said letter should be withheld, and the subject matter thereof reconsidered. And on a division, the said question carried in the negative.

The draft of a Letter to the agents for superintending the removal of the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, at New York, May 25th, 1775.

Gent— By the recommendation of the Continental Congress respecting Ticonderoga, already forwarded to the committee of your county, and by our resolution thereon, you will readily perceive the expediency of appointing proper persons to superintend the business therein mentioned, who will undertake it with cheerfulness, diligence, and dispatch. This Congress being convinced that persons in the vicinage of Albany would be most proper to put in execution the directions of the Congresses, left it to the Deputies of your county, now here convened, to propose some fit men for the approbation of this Congress. And you, Gentlemen, were accordingly nominated and appointed. We hope, therefore, that you will not hesitate, but enter upon what is enjoined by both Congresses with all expedition;

and in doing of which you will please to have regard to the enclosed instructions for your better government.

We are, Gentlemen, [&c.]

N.B. You will please to be as secret as the nature of the work will allow you.

To Messrs. John N. Bleeker and Henry I Bogert, of the City of Albany, and George Palmer and Dirck Swart, of Still water, and Peter Lansingh of Saraghtoga, in the county of Albany.

The draft of instructions to the said agents was also read and approved, and are in the words following, to wit:

Instructions for John N. Bleeker, Henry I. Bogert, Dirck Swart, George Palmer, and Peter Lansingh, commissioners or agents to superintend and put in execution the recommendation of the Grand Continental Congress, of the 18th of May, 1775, relative to Ticonderoga, &c.

1st. You will immediately endeavour to have a meeting together if possible, and see which of you it will suit best, and can most conveniently, reasonably and expeditiously discharge this trust reposed in you.

2. After that is fixed upon among yourselves, that you will then immediately repair to those places, either by yourselves or such fit persons as you know can and will complete the business effectually and reasonably.

3. It will be necessary that you have an armourer or engineer whose skill ought to determine which of the cannon are useless, that such may remain where they be, and no expence arise from them.

4. One at least of you ought to attend from time to time at the different stations, as occasion may require.

5. You will please, whenever you employ labourers, wagoners, or others in this service, that you engage none, if it possibly can be avoided, but industrious and sober men, and such as have or will sign the association.

6. You will agree with every man for the sum to be allowed him for his wages, and show the resolution of Congress of yesterday respecting the mode of payment, that no person may be ignorant of that point. You will also keep books of accounts and make exact entries and take just and true vouchers of all the expenses and proceedings, so that you may be able to swear as to the rectitude of your conduct for the satisfaction of the public when thereunto required.

7. You will endeavour as much as in you lies, to cultivate harmony and friendship between the New-England troops and all others that are or may be engaged by the Northern Governments in those services, and such persons as or may be employed by this government.

8. That you will keep exact lists and inventories of all such artillery, ordnance and stores, likewise their condition, as you may find on your arrival at those posts, vizt. Ticonderoga and Lake George – of all such things as may be left there or removed from there.

9. You will be also careful in providing boats and materials for water carriage in transporting such cannon as should upon examination be thought useful, to the south end of Lake George.

10. It may be necessary to inform you that there is lately sent up from this city, for the use of the people at the garrisons, and others engaged in these services, one hundred barrels of pork and some stores and materials, of which an inventory will be handed to you; you will take all these things under your care, direction and inspection, and see that they are forwarded and properly used and applied according to the true intention, and also procure such other provisions, materials and things, as may be deemed by you absolutely necessary to fulfill the design the Grand Continental and this Congress have in view.

11. It is the determination of this Congress not to countenance any person to make any incursions into Canada, and in order to prevent as much as in us lies any projects of that kind, you are hereby directed to withhold any succours or supports from any person or persons whomsoever for such an expedition.

Ordered, That the said Letter and Instructions be engrossed and signed by the President, and transmitted with all convenient speed.

Benjamin Kissam, Esqr., dissented to the said letter and instructions, and desired that his dissent might be entered on the minutes.

5 ho. P.M., May 25, 1775

The committee appointed this morning to prepare a draught of a letter to the inhabitants of the northern counties, to the same purport as the postscript to the letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, reported such draft; and the same being taken into consideration and amended, was unanimously changed into a resolution, in the words following, to wit:

Whereas, the enemies of American Liberty are indefatigable in their endeavours to disunite these Colonies, and in the prosecuting of this measure evil minded persons may insinuate that the northern Colonies have hostile intentions against our fellow subjects in Canada,

Resolved, That this Congress do most earnestly recommend it to all persons whatsoever not to commit any hostilities against the people of that country; and do hereby declare to the world that we do consider every such step as infamous, and highly inimical to all the American Colonies.

Ordered, That the above resolution be published.

Whereas, this Congress has resolved to comply with the direction of the Continental Congress, respecting the cannon and stores at Ticonderoga, and the other matters recommended in their Order of the eighteenth of May instant, and wrote a letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony on that subject,

Resolved, That it is necessary that a letter on the same subject be wrote to the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, and a like letter to the Colony of New Hampshire: and

Ordered, That the committee who drew and reported the draft of a letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, be a Committee to prepare a draft of a letter to the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, and a draft of a like Letter to the Colony of New-Hampshire, and that they proceed to prepare and report such drafts immediately.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.

2. This committee announced its presence on the afternoon of May 24, 1775.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1775

New York, May 25.

Friday night last [May 19] Capt. Reynolds arrived here from Portsmouth, in New Hampshire: On Monday the 15th instant, off Cape Anne, he was boarded by Capt Greeves,¹ in a tender, who had come out of Boston the day before, and informed him that three transports arrived there the 6th instant from England, with troops, and that many more were hourly expected; that several vessels were then in sight, which he imagined was part of the fleet, and several guns had been heard in the offing.

Yesterday Dr. Myles Cooper, President of the College of this City, sailed for Bristol in the *Exeter*, having remained for near two weeks before, on board the *King Fisher*, commanded by Capt. [James] Montagu, where he thought fit to shelter himself from the resentment of a people, who consider him as the writer of several pieces highly injurious to the liberties of America. — The Rev. Dr. Chandler,² and the Rev. Mr. Cook, go passengers with him.

1. Lieutenant Thomas Graves, commanding H.M. Schooner *Diana*.

2. Rev. Thomas B. Chandler of Elizabethtown, N.J.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, May 25, 1775

The Congress met according to adjournment and agreeable to the order of the day again resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into their farther consideration the state of America, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported from the committee that they had come to certain resolutions respecting New York, which he was desired to report, but not having gone through the rest of the business referred to them, the committee desired him to move for leave to sit again. The resolutions being severally read and agreed to are as follows:

1. *Resolved*, that a post be immediately taken and fortified at or near King's bridge in the colony of New York, that the ground be chosen with a particular view to prevent the communication between the city of New York and the country from being interrupted by land.

2. *Resolved*, that a post be also taken in the highlands on each side of Hudson's River and batteries erected in such manner as will most effectually prevent any vessels passing that may be sent to harrass the inhabitants on the borders of said river; and that experienced persons be immediately sent to examine said river in order to discover where it will be most adviseable and proper to obstruct the navigation.

3. *Resolved*, That the militia of New York be armed and trained and in constant readiness to act at a moments warning; and that a number of men be immediately Embodied and Kept in that city and so disposed of as to give protection to the inhabitants in case any insult should be offered by the troops, that may land there, and to prevent any attempts that may be made to gain possession of the city and interrupt its intercourse with the country.

4. *Resolved*, That it be left to the provincial congress of New York to determine the number of men sufficient to occupy the several posts above mentioned, and also that already recommended to be taken at or near lake George, as well as to guard the City, provided the whole do not exceed the number of three thousand men, to be commanded by such officers as shall be thereunto appointed by said provincial congress; and to be governed by such rules and regulations as shall be established by sd Congress until farther order is taken by this Congress; Provided also that if the sd provincial congress should be of opinion that the number proposed will not be sufficient for the several services above recommended, that the sd congress report their sentiments upon this subject to this Congress as soon as may be.

5. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the sd provincial congress that in raising those forces they allow no bounties or cloathing, and that their pay shall not exceed the establishment of the New England colonies.

6. *Resolved*, That it be further recommended to the provincial Congress aforesd that the troops be enlisted to serve until the last day of December next, unless this Congress shall direct that they be sooner disbanded.

A motion being made for an addition to the foregoing Resolutions, a debate arose thereon and after some debate the same was referred till to Morrow, to which time Congress adjourned.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 58-61.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO GEORGE FLOYD NORTON ¹

Dear Norton

Virginia 25th May 1775

My last was the 20th April P Capt McCunn since wch I am favour'd with your two letters of 17th Jany and 18th March the last P Capt Robertson, who went up Rappahanock yesterday. I observe what you say relative to that unhappy Circumstance of the Tea, believe me my friend that matter has not given me a little Concern & sorry I was to observe some other disagreeable Resolves lately published from Gloster owing to your Fathers letter of Justification not being published the first week after the Arrival of the *Virginia*, which I understand your Brother was persuaded from doing. I heartily agree with you that Prentis was the Person who ought to have suffer'd severely for his neglect in not countermanding that order. I was one of the Committee on the Arrival of that Ship, and exerted my utmost Endeavours, making use of every Argument to excuse yr Fathers Conduct, which was construed partiality & I was accordingly left out at the next Choice of Committee Men, a matter of little moment to me I can assure you, for I never wish to fill a place where I cannot speak my sentiments without Censure. I meant the Resolves previous to those in August, which you say you never read, there I cannot altogether acquit you, as you must have been remiss in not noticing them. I am sensible the obtaining leave of the Commissioners to reland the Tea when the Ship was at Gravesend, woud have been attended with a good deal of trouble & Expence, but as things have turned out I do sincerely wish it had been done, I never thought your Father had any other design

in shipping the Tea but to comply strictly with the order of his Correspondent, who behaved ungenerously in involving your house in a difficulty he might so easily have prevented. You say your friends did not treat you well in not writing you sooner the unhappy fate of that Ship. I fully expected your Brother wou'd have wrote your Father particularly or I undoubtedly shou'd have done it. I believe he was at the time unwell & under a good deal of concern, beside the determination on the Ship was for sometime in suspense. I am fully persuaded, indeed am convinced if your Brother & Mr Prentis on their first hearing of the Arrival of the Tea, had appeard active in destroying it, the People wou'd have look'd over it and the Tea Ship been allowed to load. I am warmly attached to your Brother, & from the many obligations I am under to your Father & Mother. Gratitude & the sincere regard I have for the Interest of your house wou'd tempt me to go any lengths to serve you, but I am really sorry to be obliged to say your Brothers Conduct is not so pleasing to the People in general as I cou'd wish to be sure he has a most difficult part to act a Man situated as he is to collect money and at the same time solicit Consignments must be posses'd of a great deal of patience & moderation not sometimes by an unguarded Expression to disoblige, for you must well know the family Connections in this Colony are so numerous, that if a person offends one they dont know where it may stop. I am sorry to find by your letter & the late papers that matters are not likely to be accomodated our Assembly are to meet the 1st day of next Month but suppose will be soon dissolved as I apprehend the Governor has nothing agreeable to propose he has made himself exceedingly disagreeable to the People by his late behaviour in regard to the powder & his letters wrote home, it is said he has wrote to General [Thomas] Gage for a Regiment to guard him and if they shou'd come, God knows what will be the consequence for I am satisfied if they are quarter'd on the Inhabitants of this Town or Williamsburg it will inflame the minds of the People so sufficiently, that I dread the thought of what may happen, the rifle Men in the upper Counties are prepared to assist us at the shortest Notice O that the wicked cursed Ministry wou'd but relent, ere it be too late and save a number of poor innocent People who must unhappily fall Victims to the designs of a few Men who are a disgrace to human nature. I shall endeavour to give Esten & Robertson all the Assistance in my power tho' am really fearfull Tobo will not answer at the high price it is now selling at. In your last you dont mention a word about Tobacco. I wrote your J.N. & Co 16th past by this same opportunity expecting the Ship wou'd sail sooner as this goes by the way of Glasgow I can't send you the papers, Mrs. Reynolds & myself are exceedingly obliged to you for your kind wishes towards us, how long we may live to enjoy them from the present complexion of Affairs is very uncertain, pray present our respects to your Mother &ca. & be assured that I remain unalterably Yours [&c.]

[P.S.] pray remember me to Mr Withers, I am obliged to you for the News paper, but you made a mistake instead of inclosing the Fishery bill you send me the Merchts Petition. Mr Cary lives at New Castle at present where he keeps a Store in which your Brother & myself are equally concerned.

26 May

PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS
OF NEW YORK ¹

Watertown May 26th. 1775

Resolved that the following Letter be Sent to the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New York now sitting in that Colony

Gentn Inclosed are Coppys of a Letter from Colo [Benedict] Arnold and a List of Military Stores at Ticonderoga &c

You Cannot fail to Observe that Mr Arnold for the Defence of this Colony is endeavouring that such Ordnance as he Judges Can be Spared from that Quarter should be transported to the Army in this Colony

this Step is taken in Consequence of Order given him by our Committee of Safety perhaps this may appear to You extraordinary; but we trust you will Candidly overlook such a mistake (if it is one) being made in the hurry and Confusion of War and we most Solemnly declare to you that this Congress and the inhabitants of this Colony are at the utmost remove from any Disposition or Design to make any the least infraction upon or usurpation of the Jurisdiction of any of our Sister Colonys and if any of those Cannon &c taken at the Lake Champlain Should happen through the Exertions of Enterprising Spirits to be brought within the allowed Limits of this Colony and Come to our use we shall hold ourselves accountable for them to the Representation of the Continent; and whenever they shall inform us that they are more needed for the general defence at any other part of the Continent then in this Colony we shall Endeavour that they be removed thither with the utmost Dispatch.

As to the Expediency and policy of endeavouring to maintain those old Fortresses near lake Champlain, or abating them and erecting others in some other places upon the Same Lake or abandoning those Posts and bringing off all the ordnance and warlike Stores in those parts we Conceive that the advice of the Continental Congress ought to be obtained and we have therefore addressed them in the most pressing manner being of opinion that the maintaining a post there is absolutely necessary to the defence of your and all the New England Colonys

Gentlemen and Brethren Could You have seen the horrid Devastation and Carnage in this Colony Committed by Ministerial Troops those sons of violence – who have got some footing in this Colony – the breach of a most Solemn treaty with Respect to the inhabitants of Boston when they had Surrendered their Arms and put themselves wholly in the power of a military Commander Relying upon his Faith then pledged that they should immediately Depart the T[o]wn with their effects as Stipulated which was no sooner done then they were not only Refused leave to Carry out the most valuable part of those Effects but their persons Detained under the most idle pretences and Suffered only to Scatter from their prison a few in a day hardly to be seen or noticed – we say Gentn Coud you see and Realize these Sceens of Distress you Could not refrain one moment from doing Every thing in Your

power to prevent the like Distress from happening to your metropolis, And availing Your selves of every Article which our Enimys Can improve with the least advantage to them for effecting the like Desolation horrors & insults on the inhabitants of your own City and Colony or which might enable you to make the most effectual defence

have you not Gentlemen divers of those articles as it was under your hand if you should delay securing them until they Should be out of your power and within a few days you should behold those very materials improved in murdering you and your selves perishing for the want of them will not yr Chagrin and regret be intolerable Brethren Pardon our importunity It is our own case, We behold Castle William and realize the ample Warlike Provisions and apparatus thaerin held by our enemies to our infinite and inexpressible Mortification We wish to heaven that you may be timely admonished by the consequences of our own Delays

[Endorsed] passed

1. Mass Arch., vol. 193, 245.

Essex Journal, FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1775

Newburyport, May 26 [1775]

Last Tuesday evening [May 23] a barge belonging to the man of war lying at Portsmouth, rowing up and down the river to make discoveries with two small officers and six seamen, the tars not liking the employ, tied their commanders, then run the boat ashore, and were so impolite as to wish the prisoners good night, and came off. The officers soon got loose and rowed themselves back to the ship.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO MIDSHIPMAN JAMES MOORE, COMMANDING HIS MAJESTY'S ARMED SCHOONER *Margaretta*¹

Whereas his Excellency the Governor hath represented to me that some of the Inhabitants of the Eastern parts of this Province have threatened to intercept and destroy the Vessels of Mr Ichabod Jones, who has engaged to supply the Garrison at Boston with Fuel and Lumber; and whereas it is necessary to encourage as much as possible the bringing in Supplies of these Articles and of Provisions for the use of the Army, Navy, and Inhabitants of the Town, and to Protect the Persons and Property of those who are so usefully employed. You are therefore hereby required and directed to take under your Convoy the five Vessels belonging to Mr Ichabod Jones, and any others bound to the Eastward, and proceed with them to Mechias, where you are to remain for their Protection while they are lading, and as soon as they are ready to come away again you are to return with them to Boston; Using your utmost Endeavours to take or destroy all armed Vessels that are acting illegally or that are annoying any of his Majesty's loyal and peaceable Subjects.

And whereas I am informed the Guns of the late *Halifax* Schooner have been taken up, and are now in the possession of some persons at Mechias, you are to endeavour to get the said Guns, and bring them to Boston, assuring the present Possessor that Salvage for them shall be paid to himself or to any Person

he shall order to receive it either in Boston or Halifax. And in the Management of this Business Mr Jones will give you all the Information and Assistance he can.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 26 May 1775

Sam^l Graves

1. Grave's Conduct, Appendix, 430,431, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Preston at Boston 26 May 1775

Mr. [Ichabod] Jones has delivered to me your Excellency's Letter of the 24th. I have directed an armed Schooner ² to take Mr Jones and any other Vessels bound to Mechais under Convoy. I have also ordered the Officer to defend them if they should be attacked.

Mr. [William] Tyng carried a written Declaration from me that all Persons bringing Supplies to Boston shall pass without molestation. I will give Mr Jones a Certificate to the same purpose, and with great pleasure assist in any other Measures your Excellency may suggest for the Publick Good.

I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

[Enclosure]

Declaration given to Mr. Jones

These to certify whom it may concern that I will allow all Vessels laden with Provisions, Lumber, Fuel, Wheat, Oats, or other Grain, Hay and Straw, to enter Boston Harbour, to dispose of their cargoes, and to depart again without Molestation.

Given under my hand 26 May 1775

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 431, 432, MassHS Transcript.

2. His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Margaretta*, commanded by Midshipman James Moore.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[*Preston*, Boston] 26th [May 1775]

There was however in Boston a Mr Ichabod Jones, who, having some property about Machias, imagined from his acquaintances and influence with the People there that he could furnish the Army with a considerable quantity of Firewood, he accordingly entered into a Contract for that purpose, and the General applied to the Admiral for an armed Vessel to go with and protect such Vessels as should be sent with Mr Jones on this Service: The *Margueritta* armed Schooner was appointed and had orders accordingly, being manned and equipped as expressed in the Admirals Letter to Mr Secretary Stephens; But the event proved how totally mistaken Mr Jones was in the temper of his Countrymen, and also shewed what we had generally to expect.

The restraining Acts were distributed among the Fleet with the Admirals Orders to send all Vessels seized either by virtue of the Acts, or by the Admirals

particular Orders to Boston: All Vessels laden with Lumber, Melasses or Salt were directed to be brought in.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 102, MassHS Transcript.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Crown Point 26th May 1775 -

My Last was of the 23d Instant. I then Advised you of the Situation of Matters here: Since which, there has been no Material Alteration: Verry few men have Arrived; We have fixed the Sloop with Six Carriage & Twelve Swivel Guns: the Schooner with Four Carriage & Eight Swivels, both Vessels are in good Order & Tolerably well manned, Eight Gentlemen having arriv'd from Hartford, who are Seamen, I have sent two 10 Inch Iron Mortars, two 8 Inch Brass Mortars & two 8 Inch Howitzers to Ticonderoga, to be forwarded to Fort George, You may Depend on my Sending the Cannon from this place as Soon as Possible. There are three 13 Inch Iron Mortars here. I beg to know what I Shall do with them. I have Receivd Large Donations of Flour, Pork, Peas &c: from Albany, near 70 Barrels, & I am Informed, there is a Large Quantity On the Road from that Place, & a Quantity Supplied from Connecticut - The Advice I Receivd from [Isaac] Butterfield, & Communicated in the Postscript of my Last of the 23d Instant prove to be premature. I have good Intelligence from a Batteau immediately from St Johns, which place She Left the 10th Inst. that the Regulars were return'd to Chamblee. I am [&c.]

Bened^t Arnold

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 247.

SAMUEL STRINGER, CHAIRMAN PRO. TEM. OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

Albany Committee Chamber, 26th May 1775

We now shall take notice of the New-York committee's letter to us of the 20th inst., enclosing the resolutions of the Continental Congress; from which we find that the reduction of Ticonderoga, by our forces, is approved of, and recommending us to proceed, with all possible dispatch, with a sufficient body of forces, &c. to the northward, to remove the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga to the south end of Lake George. We are now busy to raise two companies, each company composed of fifty men, in order to go upon said expedition; who we expect will be in readiness to march in two or three days. But, gentlemen, there are a number of very material difficulties that immediately arise: we have no ammunition; all the powder already gone up, with what we can possible collect yet among us, will not amount to above 250 pounds; and with so small a quantity, it is impossible for us to do anything of consequence.

Nor can we possibly conceive how the Provincial forces can maintain these northern posts or withstand the attack of the British Troops from Quebec, who are, from the best intelligence we can collect, preparing as fast as possible to come down in order to retake these places from us - an enterprise, if by them, under-

taken and completed, will introduce our enemies into the very bowels of our country. We beg of you, gentlemen, without delay, to take these important matters into your most serious and immediate consideration, and afford us the necessary assistance in this our distressed situation; and send us up, with all possible speed, a sufficient quantity of powder, without which nothing can possibly be done. We likewise stand in need of blankets, pitch, tar, oakum, nails, spikes, gin, ropes, camp kettles, entrenching tools, &c. and some rice, oatmeal, barley &c.; also, for the sloop and schooner, two mates, two gunners, two gunner's mates, two boatswains, and eighteen seamen, agreeable to Col. [Benedict] Arnold's list copy enclosed no. 15, all which you'll be pleased to cause to be sent up to us with all possible dispatch . . .

We would mention another matter to you, which, in our humble opinion, requires your immediate consideration, that as the vessel from St. John's has lately been taken by our forces, and whereof the Continental Congress have had no intelligence, on the 18th instant, when they entered into the resolution respecting Ticonderoga, and removing the stores and cannon from thence to Lake George, whether it would not be expedient to fortify the latter instead of the former, as Ticonderoga is by far the strongest and most important fortress.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 42-43.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Friday, 9 ho. A.M., May 26th, 1775.

Captain Asa Douglas, by a message in writing directed and delivered to the President, requested to be admitted to the Congress, to communicate a matter of some moment.

Ordered, That the doorkeeper desire Mr. Douglas to attend.

Captain Asa Douglas attending at the door, was called in and heard; and Messrs. Lewis Graham, Walter Livingston, Joseph Robinson, and Henry Williams, are appointed a committee to receive such further information from the said Asa Douglas, as he may have to communicate, and to know what he expects of this Congress, and report the same to this Congress.

Mr. [David] Clarkson, chairman of the committee appointed yesterday for that purpose, reported a draft of a letter to the committee of safety for the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, and to the committee of correspondence for the Colony of New Hampshire; and the same being read and approved of, is in the words following, to wit:

Brethern— Having received a minute of the Grand Continental Congress, of which we send you a copy herewith, we wrote a letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, of which we also send you a copy.

We do not doubt of your ready concurrence in the measures recommended by that august body, in which we do entirely acquiesce.

We pray you to act on this occasion with prudence and expedition, especially as we have received intimations from our brethern on Connecticut, that they cannot send a sufficient force for the purposes mentioned to them in our letter. And

we beg leave to assure you that we are, affectionately your friends and brethern in the generous cause of freedom

We are, Gentlemen [&c.]

New-York, 26th May 1775. In Provincial Congress.

To Joseph Warren, Esqr. and others, the Committee of Safety for the Colony of Massachusetts Bay.

A copy of the above to the committee of correspondence for the Colony of New-Hampshire.

Ordered, That two copies of the said letter be engrossed, signed by the President, and transmitted with all convenient speed, one directed to Joseph Warren, Esqr. and others, the committee of safety for the Colony of Massachusetts Bay; and the other to the committee of correspondence for the Colony of New-Hampshire.

Benjamin Kissam, Esqr. dissented from the said letters.

Ordered, That copies of the proceedings of this Congress, in pursuance of the minutes of the Continental Congress of the 18th May instant, be transmitted to the Delegates from this Colony at the Continental Congress.

Mr. [Henry] Williams, from the Committee appointed to confer with Asa Douglas, returned a report in the words following, to wit:

1. The purport of Mr. Douglas's desiring to be heard by this Congress, was to take the sense of the Congress whether they would choose to receive the Letter he brought from Collo. [Ethen] Allen for the Continental Congress, or whether he ought to proceed with the Letter to the Continental Congress.

2. He was requested by the troops who took Ticonderoga, Crown Point, &c. to solicit this Congress would take their services into consideration, and reward them with money or provisions, as they shall think meet.

3. He was desired by a number of the Officers of King's district, to apply to this Congress to appoint him the commander of such forces as are or may be raised in that district

4. He begs leave to inform this Congress that he has expended £18 in advancing money to the troops and defraying the charges of his journey in going to Ticonderoga and in coming here.

Ordered, That the said report lay on the table for the perusal of the members.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 13-14.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moor'd in the East River New York abreast the City
Friday 26 A M at 5 weigh'd and came to sail at 7 run over the inner Bar had
 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ fms water. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 came to in the East River off the City
 of New York in 7 fms water. at 12 sailed hence the *Kings Fisher*
 P M Veer'd away & Moor'd a Cable each way. Unbent Sails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Asia at New York May 26, 1775

I send this to inform You of the Arrival of His Majestys' Ship *Asia* (under my Command) off the City of New York, and at the same Time to acquaint You, that you may depend upon my Endeavours, on your application, to give every such Aid as may be Necessary towards supporting the legal Authority of Government, and ensuring the Safety of His Majesty's faithful Subjects in the Province of New York to which End, I shall be at all Times ready to wait upon, and consult with You, whenever you may think that I may be able by Means of the Kings Ship (under my Command) to afford any assistance for the above Purposes.

Some Dispatches and other Letters which I brought from Boston for you, sent last Night to be deliver'd to your Son:

I have the honor to be, Sir [&c.]

Geo Vandeput

1. *Colden Papers*, VII, 298.

MAJOR ISAAC HAMILTON TO CADWALLADER COLDEN ¹

Sir

New York 26th May 1775

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter which I just now received from the Commander in Chief. I am to request your Honor will be pleased to advise me, what steps are necessary to be taken in our critical situation for the good of his Majesty's service, and the protection of the five companies under my Command here.

Notwithstanding the most tempting baits have been thrown out, we were happy, for a time to find that only four, and those the worst of our men have been warped from their Duty and allegiance, but within these three days we have lost as many more, and I am apprehensive of the whole, unless we are soon removed or reinforced. As matters are thus situated, I am also of opinion Sir, that this Detachment should go on board the *Asia* Man of War; But in this, I am to be directed by your orders & advise.

I have the honor to be Sir &c.

Isaac Hamilton, Major

To the 18th or Royal Irish Regiment of Foot

1. *Colden Papers*, VII, 297.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, May 26, 1775

The congress resuming the consideration of the addition proposed yesterday, *Resolved*, that the following addition be made:

Resolved, that it be recommended to the congress aforesd ² to persevere the more vigorously in preparing for their defence, as it is very uncertain whether the earnest endeavours of the Congress to accomodate the unhappy differences between G. Britain and the colonies by conciliatory Measures will be successful.

Ordered, That the above resolves respecting New York be transmitted by the president in a letter to the prov. Congress of New York, and that it be particularly recommended to sd Congress by the president not to publish the foregoing resolves, but to keep them as secret as the nature of the services require.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 64.

2. The New York Provincial Congress; see Journal of May 25, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM MANNING, LONDON ¹

[EXTRACT]

[Charleston] 26 May 1775

p Capt Carling

the General Committee have Resolved to stop exportation of Indian Corn & of Rice, excepting completing the Cargoes of Vessels the Lading of which were actually begun before the 24th. Inst. – the Rumour of a design to Stop *all the Vessels* has Spurred Carling to get away without delay – the Brig *Esther* Capt Hastope with 8000 bushels of Salt on board will return with her Cargo to her Owners in Liverpoole who would not believe we had virtue enough to resist their temptation – I wish they had tried us with 800 Barrels of Gun powder – necessity has no Law – this we will not allow to apply to any other articles whatever & thank God we have lately received while Lord North was asleep Such Supplies of that article as puts us upon a very good footing – more is daily & nightly expected from abroad, besides our hopes from several very promising Specimens of Nitre as well as Gun powder manufactured, which have been produced to the General Committee – of being well Supplied within our Selves –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

27 May

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

In Provincial Congress, Watertown May 27, 1775

Resolved, That Colonel Joseph Henshaw be appointed and directed to repair to Hartford, and inquire whether provision is made by the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut for securing and maintaining the fortress of Ticonderoga and the adjacent posts; and if that Assembly has made provision for that purpose, the said Colonel Henshaw proceed directly to Ticonderoga and acquaint Colonel [Benedict] Arnold that it is the order of this Congress that he return, and render accounts of his expences in that expedition, in order that he may be honourably discharged; but if Colonel Henshaw shall find that such provision is not made, and the General Assembly not sitting, that he proceed to Ticonderoga, and inform Colonel Arnold that it is the order of this Congress that he continue there with such a number of forces as said Colonel Henshaw shall judge necessary for the purpose. Nevertheless, if the said Colonel Henshaw shall find the General Assembly sitting, and have not made such provision, that he consult with them touching this important matter, and take their proposals, and immediately make report to the Congress of this Colony.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD¹
 Sir

Watertown, May 27, 1775

We have, this day, with pleasure received your letter to the Committee of Safety, of the 19th instant, by Captain [Jonathan] Brown, and return you our hearty thanks for your exertions in the publick cause, and fully agree with you that the interposition of Providence, in this and many other instances, is apparent, for which we have the greatest cause for thankfulness.

We are clearly of opinion that keeping Ticonderoga is a matter of great importance, and we make no doubt the honourable Continental Congress will take that affair immediately under their wise consideration, and give all necessary orders therefor, as we have addressed them most earnestly on the subject.

You inform us that you have had intimations that some persons were determined to apply, in order to injure your character. If any such applications should be made here, you may be assured we shall be so candid as not to suffer any impressions to your disadvantage, until you shall have opportunity to vindicate your conduct.

We enclose a Resolve of this Congress, appointing and directing Colonel Joseph Henshaw to repair to Hartford, and consult with the General Assembly there, upon this important matter, by which you will see the resolution this Congress has taken relative thereto.

We would just add, that the letter you refer to, of the 14th instant, by Colonel [Bernard] Romans, has not come to hand, so that no order can be taken thereon. We are, &c.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 723, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

"A CIRCUMSTANTIAL ACCOUNT OF THE LATE BATTLE AT CHELSEA, HOG ISLAND, &c." ¹

On Saturday last [May 27] a party of the American army at Cambridge, to the number of between 2 and 300 men, had orders to drive off the live stock from Hog and Noddle's Island, which lie near Chelsea and Winnesimmet, on the N.E. side of Boston harbour. — From Chelsea to Hog Island, at low water, it is but about knee high, and from that to Noddle's Island about the same — The stock on the former belonged to Mr. Oliver Wendell, at Boston, and Mr. Jonathan Jackson, at Newbury-Port; that on Noddle's island was owned by Mr. — Williams, of Boston, who hires the Island.

About 11 o'clock, A.M. between 20 and 30 men went from Chelsea to Hog Island, and from thence to Noddle's Island, to drive off the stock which was there, but were interrupted by a schooner and a sloop, dispatched from the fleet in Boston harbour, and 40 marines, who had been stationed on the island to protect the live stock — However, they sent off 2 fine English stallions, 2 colts, and 3 cows; killed 15 horses, 2 colts, and 3 cows, burnt a large barn, full of salt hay, and an old farm house: By this time they were fired on from the schooner and sloop, and a large number of marines in boats, sent from the several men of war; upon which they retreated to a ditch on the marsh, and kept themselves undiscovered, till they had an opportunity to fire on the marines, when they shot down two dead, and

wounded two more, one of whom died soon after. They then retreated to Hog Island, where they were joined by the remainder of their party from Chelsea, and drove off all the stock thereon, viz. between 3 and 400 sheep and lambs, some cows, horses, &c.

During this, there were firings between the provincials and the schooner, Sloop, boats, and marines on the other island. – Having cleared Hog Island, the provincials drew up on Chelsea Neck, and sent for a reinforcement of 300 men, and 2 pieces of cannon (four pounders) which arrived about 9 o'clock in the evening; soon after which, General [Israel] Putnam went down and hailed the schooner, and told the people that, if they would submit, they should have good quarters, which the schooner returned with 2 cannon shot; this was immediately answered with 2 cannon from the provincials: – Upon this a very heavy fire ensued from both sides, which lasted until 11 o'clock at night, when the fire from the schooner ceased, the fire from the shore being so hot, that her people were obliged to quit her, and take to the boats, a great number of which had been sent from the ships to their assistance, and also a large reinforcement of marines, sent to Noddle's Island, with 2 twelve pounders.

The schooner² being thus left, drove ashore, where about break of day, the provincials carried some hay under her stern, and set her on fire, the sloop keeping up a small fire upon them; at which time a heavy cannonading was begun, at Noddle's Island hill, with the 12 pounders upon the provincials; also General Putnam kept a heavy fire upon the sloop, which disabled her much, and killed many of her men, so that she was obliged to be tow'd off by the boats, when the firing ceased, excepting a few shot which were exchanged between the party at Chelsea, and the marines on Noddle's Island. – Thus ended this long action, without the loss of one provincial, and only four wounded by the bursting of his own gun, another only lost his little finger. – The loss of the enemy amounted to 30 killed and 50 wounded. – The provincials took out of the schooner 4 double fortified 4 pounders, twelve swivels, chief of her rigging and sails, many clothes, some money, &c. which the sailors and marines left behind, they having quitted in great haste.

1. *New York Journal*, June 8, 1775. See also account in Barker, *Diary*, 50, 51.

2. His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Diana*, commanded by Lieutenant Thomas Graves.

REPORT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF THE BATTLE ON NODDLE'S ISLAND¹

On the 27th inst. [May] as a Party of the Massachusetts Forces together with a Party of new Hampshire Forces, in all about 600 Men were attempting to bring off[f] the Stock upon hog Island, & about 30 Men upon Noddles Island were doing the same, when about a hundred Regulars landed upon the last mentioned Island, a[nd] pursued our Men, till they had got safely back to hog Island – then the Regulars began to fire very briskly by Platoons upon our Men –

In the mean Time an armed Schooner (mounting four 6 Pounders & 12 Swivels)² with a Number of Barges came up to hog Island to prevent our People Leaving sd Island, But to no Purpose After this she attempted to return back to the Place where she was stationd at Winisimet,³ & five or 6 Minutes would

have secured her. But our Men put in a heavy fire of small Arms upon several Barges which were towing her back, for there was little Wind & flood Tide; & two 3 Pounders coming to Hand that Instant, began to play upon them, & soon obliged the Barges to quit her, & carry off her Crew – after which Fire was set to her, altho the Barges exerted themselves very vigorously to prevent it She was burnt upon the Ways of Winisimet Ferry –

We have not lost a single Life, altho the Ingagement was very warm from the armed Schooner, an armed Sloop that lay within reach of small Arms, from one or two twelve Pounders on Noddles Island, & from the Barges which were all fixed with Swivels – Hog Island was stript of its Stock, & some were taken from Noddles Island by our Forces Two or three Persons only, of our Men, were wounded, but not mortally – How many of the Enemy were killed & wounded we cannot ascertain – Since which we have got into our Hands all in the Schooner that was not destroyed by Fire.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 146, 131.

2. His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Diana*, commanded by Lieutenant Thomas Graves.

3. Winnisimet.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775	Remarks Boston Harbour
Friday 27	Admiral [Samuel] Graves being Promoted to Vice Admiral of the White, hoisted the white flag at 8 A M. The Squadron Saluted with 13 Guns, Returned 13. at 2 P M. Saw a Number of Rebels on Noddles Island destroying some hay made the signal for Landing the Marines, at the same time sent the <i>Diana</i> Schooner round to cut off their Retreat. She went as far as there was water, but the Marines drove them off the Island. They kept a Constant fire upon the <i>Diana</i> from Hog Island and the Main which she returned with Great Spirit. at 6 the <i>Diana</i> weighed and got all the boats ahead to tow her. the Rebels kept a Continual fire upon them that they were at last ordered to cast off, and a breeze sprung up which set her in upon the Rebels Shore. Under all those Circumstances they defended her with great Courage till the Tide left her on her beam ends and they could not keep the Deck. They then retreated to the <i>Somersets</i> Tender who lay by for that purpose

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775	Moord in Boston Harbour
Saturday 27	P M disembarkd our party of Marines P Signal & sent our Boats a shore Man'd and arm'd to Assist the Troops at 5 Sent Two of our 3pdrs & a party of Seamen a Shore wh Ammunition &c.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moor'd in Boston Harbour

Saturday 27 The Rebels fired several Musquets at the Ship . . . at 3 P M the Adml made the Signal for all boats mann'd & arm'd to land the Marines on Noddles Island sent the longboat & pinnace with the Marines at 5 saw several houses on fire at the Island at 8 heard severall Vollies of small arms & field pieces fired

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

"REMARKS &CA. ONBOARD THE *Somerset*" ¹

May 1775 Moored in Boston Harbour

Saturday 27 P M the Admiral made the Signal for landing the Marines. landed our Marines on Noddle Island; at 7, two of our marines were brought onboard, being wounded by the Rebels & the *Diana* Schooner & *Britannia*, Tender, were attacked with Great Guns & small Arms by the Rebels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury* ¹

May 1775 [Nantasket Road]

Saturd 27 Came in His Majts Schooner *Diana* Modt Breezes and fair Wr Empd Making Boarding Nettings.
P M heard the Report of Several [guns] towards Pudon [Pudding] Gut Sent the Longboat Mand & Armed to Se[e] the Ocasion of it heard the Report of Volley of Smal Arms & Great guns till a 11 a Clock at ½ past 11 the Longboat Retd by which we found the guns we heard was the Marines and *Diana* beating the Rabbls of[f] Nodels Isld

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866. Log kept by William McCreight, master.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston May 27th 1775.

Sir, I am under the Necessity of acquainting you that I have immediate Occasion for the Transports under Lieutenant Parrys directions; I shall therefore be obliged to you to Order them to be forthwith cleared. Major [William] Shirreff D:Q:M General will give Lieutenant Parry the Necessary Orders and directions for the Service he is wanted.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Extract]

[Preston, Boston] 27th [May 1775]

The *Lively* was ordered to Boston, on account of the intended trial of her Captain for disobedience of Orders, and the *Merlin* was sent to relieve her at Marblehead & Captain [William C] Burnaby (of the *Merlin*) received Orders

this day with directions concerning such Vessels as might be brought into Marblehead by the Cruizers on that Station.

And the Admiral now wrote particularly to Captain [Edward] Meadows at Halifax concerning the care of that yard.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 102, 103, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY, HIS
MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Merlin*¹

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to proceed in his Majs Sloop under your Command to Marblehead, where you are to use your utmost Endeavours to prevent all kinds of illicit and contraband Trade agreeably to the general Orders and the other Orders and Directions you will receive herewith. Lieut. [Alexander] Graeme commanding his Majs Ship *Lively*, whom you are to relieve, will give you such Information of the Place and Inhabitants &c as are necessary for the better carrying on the Kings Service at Marblehead, where you are to remain until further Order and whereas I have directed Lieutt [George] Dawson in his Majs Schooner *Hope* to lye at Anchor at Salem, or cruise occasionally, the better to prevent the Rebels receiving Supplies of Provisions, Fuel, Salt and Melasses as the said Lieut Dawson shall send or bring to Marblehead, until they have entered at the Custom House, and are cleared again for Boston, where you are to send them round either with hands from the *Merlin* or by the *Hope* Schooner, which shall be found most proper.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs. Ship *Preston* at Boston the 27th May 1775

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix 432, 433, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD MEDOWS, H.M.S. *Tartar*,
HALIFAX¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 27th. May 1775

I have received your Letter May 15 informing me that the *Gaspee* sailed the latter End of April and that the *Diligents* Tender (the *Tatamagouch*) will sail the first opportunity to Lieutt [John] Knight; also acquainting me with the Precautions you have taken for the Security of the King's Yard, which I very much approve, and desire all possible attention may be paid to its Safety. It becomes every day more and more necessary to exert the utmost Vigilance to prevent not only secret but open Attempts to destroy it. The burning of Hay in your Neighbourhood gives me a very unfavourable Idea of the Loyalty of the Inhabitants, and as you cannot but imagine every Stratagem will be tried to destroy the only Naval Magazine we have on the Continent of America, I must repeat my Orders for your taking every Step you think proper for its Security, always having in Remembrance that you are Kept at Halifax for that purpose and must be answerable for its Safety; therefore as things are situated I am sure you do not expect a Compliance with your Request to be absent: Upon a Service of such consequence and at a time like this, every Soul must attend strictly to their Duty. If the *Tartar* is not provided with the allowed Number of Boats I have no Objection

to her being furnished from the Yard, but my regard to the whole will not admit of a partial Indulgence to the detriment of the Service in General. The Ships are all in want of Boats and particularly Cutters, and the exactest distribution must be observed.

I have directed the Builder to make any Repairs or Alterations you desire in the Twelve Oared Cutter.

I am &c

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix 433–435, MassHS Transcript.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1775

Providence, May 27.

Saturday Night last[May 20] four armed Vessels, well manned, were sent from Boston to an Island near Weymouth, in order to take on board a Quantity of Hay that had been procured for the Use of the ministerial Army – They were discovered early on Sunday Morning, when a Number of the Inhabitants put off for the Island in a Gondola, who drove the Enemy on board their Vessels, burnt a large Quantity of Hay, and brought off a Number of Cattle which they had ty'd, – Our People fired on them briskly, and a Person since from Boston says, that three Men were carried in mortally wounded; they returned the Fire with Swivels and small Arms, but did no Execution, and got only one Ton of Hay, which they had taken in before they were opposed. – The Wind and Tide favoured the Enemy greatly, otherwise it is thought none of them would have escaped. – The Firing and burning of the Hay occasioned an Alarm through the Country, and vast Bodies of Provincials were on their March towards Weymouth.

We hear that Capt. Webster, in a Sloop from New-York, with Provisions, was seized a few Days since by a Man of War's Tender, near Newport.¹

1. See *Newport Mercury*, May 29, 1775.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"¹

May 1775

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Saturday 27 A M spoke the Ship *Peggy*, Wm Barron Mastr from Maryland with Flour

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

ABRAHAM LOTT, ROYAL NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT, TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

Mr. Lott having received an order from the purser of His Majesty's ship *Asia* to supply the said ship with sundry provisions, takes the liberty herewith to hand the same, and to request the favour that the Honourable Congress will be pleased to signify their opinion whether the order shall be complied with, and whether he shall be at liberty to supply the said ship with such other provisions as she may from time to time have occasion for, for her own use, during her stay in this Colony. City of New York, May 27th, 1775

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 30.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Saturnii, 9 ho., A.M., May 27, 1775.

A letter from Abraham Lott, Esqr., contractor for supplying his Majesty's Ships in this port, to this Congress (covering an order of this day from the purser of the ship *Asia* for provisions,) and requesting the favour that this Congress will be pleased to signify their opinion, whether the order shall be complied with and, also whether he shall be at liberty to supply the said ship with such other provisions as she may, from time to time, have occasion for, *for her own use*, during her stay in this Colony was read.

Ordered, That Abraham Lott, Esqr., be at liberty to comply with the order for provisions now laid before the Congress, and the Congress declare that Mr. Lott shall be at liberty to furnish such other provisions as above mentioned, to the said Ship *Asia*, *for her own use*, while in this port, he laying before the Congress (or the General Committee of New-York if this board should not be sitting,) a list of the Supplies so made from time to time.

To this amendments were proposed, to wit: to add the word (*first*) between the word *he* and the word *laying*, and to obliterate the words so made.

And debates arising thereon, and the question put thereon, it was carried against the amendment.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 15.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, May 27, 1775

Upon motion, *Agreed*, That Mr. [George] Washington, Mr. [Philip] Schuyler, Mr. [Thomas] Mifflin, Mr. [Silas] Deane, Mr. [Lewis] Morris and Mr. S[amuel] Adams, be a committee, to consider of ways and means to supply these colonies with Ammunition and military stores and to report immediately.

Upon motion, The Memorial of Robert Murray and John Murray, desiring to be restored to their former situation with respect to their commercial priviledges, was taken into consideration, and after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That where any person hath been or shall be adjudged by a committee, to have violated the continental association, and such offender shall satisfy the convention of the Colony, where the offence was or shall be committed, or the committee of the parish of St. John's, in the Colony of Georgia,² if the offence be committed there, of his contrition for his offence, and sincere resolution to conform to the Association for the future, the sd convention, or committee of the parish of St. John's aforesd, may settle the terms upon which he may be restored to the favour and forgiveness of the public, and that the terms be published.

Ordered, That this be made public.³

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 67, 68.

2. Georgia, as a Colony was not represented in Congress until September, 1775. Dr. Lyman Hall, representing the parish of St. John's, had been seated without vote on May 13.

3. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet* May 29.

28 May (Sunday)

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER"¹

May 1775 at 2 P M sailed hence His Majestys Ship *Canceaux*, at 7 Came in Sunday 28th the *Canceaux*, detained 2 Sloops loaded with provisions.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF MASSACHUSETTS TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD¹

Cambridge, May 28, 1775

The expedition to Ticonderoga, &c. requiring secrecy, the Congress of this Colony was not acquainted with the orders you received from this Committee. It gives us great pleasure to be informed by the express, Captain [Jonathan] Brown, that the success you have met with is answerable to your spirit in the undertaking. We have now to acquaint you that the Congress have taken up this matter, and given the necessary directions respecting these acquisitions. It is, then, Sir, become your duty, and is our requirement, that you conform yourself to such advice and orders as you shall from time to time receive from that body. We are, &c.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 726, 727, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN CAMP AT CAMBRIDGE"¹

Camp at Cambridge, May 28, 1775.

Yesterday a Party from the United American Army was ordered to take the Cattle, Hay, &c. from Noddle's and Hog Islands. While executing their Orders, they were attacked by a Number of the King's Troops from Boston, in an armed Schooner,² a Sloop, and 8 or 10 Boats belonging to the Men of War: A brisk Fire began about Four o'Clock, P.M. and continued most of the Night, then ceased a little, and at Dawn of Day, was renewed, by which time Capt. [Thomas Waite] Foster, with two Field Pieces from this Camp, joined our Troops, when a heavy Fire from the Shore on the armed Vessels put them into great Distress. The Schooner's Decks were cleared by our Field Pieces, and she drifted on the Ferry-Way at Winesimet, where our People set Fire to her, by means of some Hay put into the Cabbin Windows, and she was soon blown up, and destroyed. Sixteen Four-Pounders, and a number of Swivels were taken out of her by our People. The Sloop was disabled, and obliged to be towed off by the Men of War's Boats; the Remains of them are returned to their den. Our People had none killed, three wounded, but none of them dangerously.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, June 3, 1775.
2. His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Diana*.

GENERAL ORDERS OF GENERAL ARTEMUS WARD¹

[Camp at Cambridge, May 28, 1775]²

The General Much Approves of the Vigilance & Courage of the Officers and Soldiers under the Command of Col. [Ephraim] Doolittle in the late Action at

26	D°	D ^o W. P. M. arrived here his Majesty's Ship Cerberus with the Generals. She saluted the Flag with 13 guns. Returned 11. Sailed hence two Transports.
27	D°	Mod. and fair. Admiral Grace being Promoted to Vice Admiral of the White, hoisted the white flag at 8 A.M. The Squadron saluted with 13 guns. Returned 13.
28	Calm	D ^o W. P. M. Various employed. Painters on board at 2 P.M. saw a Number of Rebels on Noddies Island destroying some hay made the signal for Landing the Marines, at the same time sent the Diana Schooner round to cut off their Retreat. She went as far as there was water, but the Marines drove them off the Island. They kept a constant fire upon the Diana from Hog Island and the Main which she returned with great spirit. at 6 the Diana weighed and got all the boats a head to tow her the Rebels kept a continual fire upon them that they were at last ordered to cast off. and a breeze springing up which set her in upon the Rebels shore. Under all these Circumstances they defended her with great courage till the Tide left her on her beam ends and they could not keep the Deck. They then retreated to the Somerset Tender whalay by for that purpose at 3 A.M. the Tide leaving her quite dry the Rebels Ventured on board surrounded her and set her on fire. The Marines took post upon the Island for that night and when all was over were reinforced with 200 Men from the Garrison. The Tender after seeing no probability of saving the Diana ship'd and came up the Harbour at 12. The Cerberus' Quarter Deck guns were sent to the Island and at 6 two field Pieces from the Shore. They fired several times at the Rebels on the fortification
29	Calm	

Fresh ADVICES from the AMERICAN ARMY.

Camp at Cambridge, May 28, 1775.

YESTERDAY a Party from the United American Army was ordered to take the Cattle, Hay, &c. from Noddle's and Hog Islands. While executing their Orders, they were attacked by a Number of the King's Troops from Boston, in an armed Schooner, a Sloop, and 8 or 10 Boats belonging to the Men of War: A brisk Fire began about Four o'Clock, P. M. and continued most of the Night, then ceased a little, and at Dawn of Day was renewed, by which Time Capt. Foster, with two Field Pieces from this Camp, joined our Troops, when a heavy Fire from the Shore on the armed Vessels put them into great Distress. The Schooner's Decks were cleared, and she drifted on the Ferry-Way at Winefleet, where our People sat Fire to her, and she was soon blown up, and destroyed. Sixteen Four-Pounders, and six Swivels, were taken out of her by our People. The Sloop was disabled, and obliged to be towed off by the Men of War's Boats; the Remains of them are returned to their Den. Our People had none killed, three wounded, but none of them dangerously. The Number of killed and wounded of the Enemy not known.

Chelsea, & has ordered 2 Barrils of Rum to be dealt out to them in equal portions for their Service.

1. *The Magazine of History with Notes & Queries* (New York, 1909), X, 110.

2. The General Order is undated, but the logical date is the day after the engagement it refers to.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Remarks Boston Harbour

Sunday 28 at 3 A M the Tide leaving her [the *Diana*] quite dry the Rebels Ventured on board, Plundered her and set her on fire. The Marines took poste upon the Island for that night, and when all was over were reinforced with 200 Men from the Garison. The Tender after seeing no Possability of saving the *Diana* slip'd and came up the Harbour.
at 12 The *Cerberus*' Quarter Deck Guns were sent to the Island.
and at 6 two field Pieces from the Shore. they Fired several times at the Rebels on the Continent

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

"REMARKS &CA ONBOARD THE *Somerset*" ¹

May 1775 Moored in Boston Harbour

Sunday 28 A.M. Geo: Williams, Wm. Crocker Seamen, were brought onboard from the *Britannia*, the former Dead, the latter mortally wounded, so that he Died soon after. Do the *Diana* Schooner was driven onshore by the Tide, it being calm; soon after the Crew was obliged to take to the Boats, and she was set on fire soon after by the Rebels: The Revd Mr. Troutbeck performed divine Service on board, and the two Seamen were buried.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moord in Boston Harbour

Sunday 28 AM Got Do [ammunition] on bd Empd Embarking the Marines; Fired at the rebles assembled and burning the Houses & Barns of Hay on Noddles Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING ¹

1775 May Moor'd in Boston Harbour

Sunday 28 at 3 A M saw houses on fire at the So. End of Bostn at 6 A M the longboat & pinnace return'd with one Man wounded brought the News the *Diana* armed Schoner was burnt by the Rebels
Modr & Clear Wr P M sent part of the powder on Shore to Day
Sailmakers empd. as before All Hands at Quarters

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Preston, Boston] May 28th [1775]

About this time information being brought that the Rebels had small armed Vessels full of men along shore, and that a Bermudian Sloop was actually cruising in Hell Gates to intercept our small Vessels carrying Dispatches, notice of it was immediately given to all the Captains of the Squadron.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 103, MassHS Transcript.

29 MayMEMORIAL OF PORTSMOUTH MERCHANTS TO JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

The Memorial of us the Subscribers, Merchants, Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Portsmo *Humbly sheweth* –

That two vessels laden with corn, Pork, Flower & other Provisions contracted for by some Merchants of this Town for the Supply of the Inhabitants, of which they are in great want, are detained by the *Scarborough* at the mouth of our Harbour – and we are informed are to be sent to Boston the first wind, – your Memorialists are very apprehensive of the most alarming consequences from a measure of this kind taking place at this Critical Juncture and beg your Excellency & Honours would Interfere in such a manner as your wisdom shall direct for the liberating said vessels & Cargoes.

Portsmouth May 29th 1775.

H. Wentworth	George Hart	Alex ^r Morison
Tho ^s Hart	Supply Clap	Geo. Wentworth
Sam ^l Cutts	Henry Sherburne	R. Champney
A. R. Cutter	Wm. Knight	Sam ^l Penhallow
J. Driscoll	Josh. Wentworth	Geo. Gaines
Jacob Treadwell	Will ^m Pearn	John Penhallow
Rich. Hart	Wm. Whipple	Elisha Hill
Pierce Long	Jacob Sheaf, jun.	Neal McIntyer
Sam ^l Sherburne		

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 376.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ¹

At a Council held at Portsmouth the 29th Day of May 1775.

Mr Jac. Treadwell and Mr Jacob Sheaffe Junr present a Memorial from themselves & others Merchts Freeholders & other Inhabitants of this Town setting forth that two Vessels laden with Provisions contracted for by some Merchts for the Supply of the Inhabitants were detained by His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough* to be sent to Boston &ct & praying that his Excy & Honrs would interfere to liberate said Vessels & Cargoes – The Memorialists declare themselves very apprehensive of the most alarming Consequences from this Measure that in the present immediate Want of Provisions in this & the neighbouring Towns the immediate

assembling of large Bodies of People is to be apprehended and fatal Consequences dreaded.

The Council having fully considered and deliberated upon the Matter are of opinion, That the Poor of this and the neighbouring Towns are in the greatest want of Corn and other Provisions – and it appearing that the Cargoes of said Vessels have been contracted for for their relief and sustenance and also for the supply of the Inhabitants The Council are convinced there is the greatest Reason on these Accounts to apprehend the most violent outrages and tumults of the People will immediately follow this Detention of their Provisions the Consequences of which will be most probably very fatal to His Majesty's Service, by bringing into the most imminent Danger the Lives and Properties of His Servants which ought by all means to be prevented if possible.

The Council therefore think it their Duty to advise Your Excellency will be pleased to acquaint Capt. [Andrew] Barkley of these circumstances, not doubting but he will perceive that No general Orders can be intended to authorize him to cut off the Provisions actually procured for the necessary Sustenance of the Poor and Inhabitants of this Town, or impower him to interrupt the peaceable Subjects of His Majesty in this Province in pursuing their lawful Commerce.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, XVIII, 664.

HUNKING WENTWORTH, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF PORTSMOUTH TO THE
NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE ¹

Gentlemen

Portsmouth 29th May 1775

We have two Provision Vessels seiz'd at the mouth of our harbour the Last night by the *Scarborough*, and upon application to Capt. [Andrew] Barclay for their release, find he has positive Orders from the Admiral to take Possession of all Vessels Laden with Provisions, Salt or Mollasses, and send them to Boston; and says further, those Orders are Circular through the Continent –

We give this earliest intelligence for your Government and also inform you that the *Canceaux*, a small Ship of Six or eight Guns, Sails the first wind, to convoy the two Vessels already seized, to Boston, and are sorry to find ourselves unable to prevent it, as we have our harbour blocked up, by a 20 Gun Ship, and have no Vessel of force able to Retake them. One Reason of our mentioning this Circumstance, and sending an Express this night with it is, because we have just heard that you have an armed Vessel in your Port,

We have ordered two small Vessels to cruize of[f] and on, and if possible give this Intelligence to all Vessels bound to this or any other Port, and trust you will do the same – By Order of the Comtee [&c.]

H Wentworth. Chairman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 273.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston 29th May 1775

The destination of some of the Regiments expected from Ireland being Altered; four of which having been first Ordered to New York; ² I am in Conse-

quence of this Alteration, and the Orders received thereupon from His Majesty's Secretary of State; to make Application to you, that one of His Majesty's Ships under your Command may cruize in a proper place for these Transports, and to deliver such orders on board the Several Ships as shall be given, that the Troops may be Apprized of the Situation of Affairs in this Country, and be upon their guard on their Arrival. The Orders shall be ready to be delivered to such Officer as you shall think proper to Appoint for this service.

I am with Regard & Esteem Sir—&

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. *Ibid*, Dartmouth to Gage, April 15, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 29 May 1775. 5 o'Clock P M.

I have the Honor of your Excellency's Letter of this day.

Capt [John] Macartney, of His Maj's Ship *Mercury*, is ready to Sail, and to execute whatever Orders Your Excellency may think proper for Me to give him for His Maj's Service.² I am Sir with great respect and regard [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Gage's orders to Macartney were to intercept the transports and direct them to go to Boston.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Preston Boston] 29th [May 1775]

The Rebels burned the only Dwelling house on Noddles Island, which being the property of a notorious Rebel then in Arms, was not much regarded. But it appearing that they were inclined to burn and destroy every thing likely to be useful to the Army and Navy, and to do them all the Mischief in their power, the Admiral thought it proper to order the *Somerset* to drop further down the Harbour and anchor where she could come to sail at any time of Tide.

The Ship *Champion* arrived laden with Wheat and Flour, having been manned and sent for Boston by Captain [John] Linzee of the *Falcon*.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 103, MassHS Transcript.

WILLIAM SHIRREFF, DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, BRITISH ARMY, TO
THOMAS WILLIAMS, STOREKEEPER OF ORDNANCE AT ANNAPOLIS ROYAL ¹

Dear Sir

Boston 29th May 1775

I have received your obliging favor, and return you many thanks for the trouble you have taken, and readiness you have shewn in giving your Assistance so Necessary at present for the good of the service. The Hay will be most Acceptable and I am in hopes Captain Prince's Vessel has taken a part on Board As he promised me he should return immediately, and I will send you another one, as soon as possible I shall want three or four Thousand Tons of Hay and I wish with all my heart poor Annapolis [Royal] could furnish it – but all it can furnish I will take, and if they are Industrious they may get a great deal of

Money for their Vegetables Poultry Butter Eggs &c. – And may come directly into this Port without any expence whatever and will be sure to find every encouragement and Assistance that can be given them. On the Other hand if they give themselves Airs, and follow the Cursed example of these Mad Men they will Consider how easily Governmt can Chastise them, and they may rely upon it they will, and that immediately too – but I hope They will Consider Their Interests better and make all the Money they can. They never will have a fairer opportunity. I have wrote to Messrs Day & Scott at Halifax respecting Forage, and have desired them to Consult with you about the Quantity that may be procured at Annapolis, as they are to furnish the Remainder from Windsor & that Neighbourhood.

Procure Hay screws at any rate, and the whole should be carried to a particular place most convenient for that purpose as Also for Shipping of it – You have not Advised me in what manner I am to make your remittances for Expenses to be incurred in the above Service, therefore shall expect it pr Next. We are in the same Situation As when wrote you last – except the addition of twelve hundred Troops lately arrived from England, The Regiment of Horse and Eight Other Regts are hourly expected – when I hope you will hear better Accounts from us. I am hurried to Death therefore have only time to add my Compts to all friends & to wish you every happiness being truely Dear Sir [&c.]

Will^m Shirreff

P.S. If you can possibly add to the Quantity of Old Hay pray do and don't mind the Expense – W. S.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292.

NATHANIEL FREEMAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Honble Gentlemen in consequence of Complaint made to the Committee of correspondence of the Town of Sandwich by Messrs Simeon Wing and Jesse Barlow we have thought it advisable to represent to your Honours the circumstances of their Vessels being taken by Capt [John] Linsey of the *Falcon* & retaken by a Schooner from Dartmouth under command of Capt [Daniel] Egery, and to beg some advice and order of the Congress may be passed concerning it.

Mr. Wings Vessel commanded by his Son Thomas Wing has been ply'd as a wood Boat to carry wood to Nantucket from Sandwich for some years past and it hath been the usual practice for them to settle with the Custom House once a year the Officer of whom always gave them their Choice of paying twelve pence pr tripp on the whole at the years end and this hath been we find up[on] examining the Common practice with other vessels who have followed the same business at the same place – upon Capt Wings returning from Nantucket through the Vineyard Sound His Sloop was taken by a Barge from sd Capt Lindsey an indian Fellow on board of Wing informd Capt Lindsey of sd Barlows Vessel which had run in Cargo lately from the West Indies and was laden with Provisions in Buzzards Bay Bound thither again as he said Capt Lindsey employed Capt wings vessel putting 14 men on board to proceed up the Bay and take sd Barlows vessel,

which they carried off The master of this latter Vessel was taken with Wing being then on Board as a passenger, so that both vessels with all the Crew passengers &c were taken & proceeding to the Cove to Capt Lindsey – Mr Barlow made application to some people at Dartmouth who went with a Sloop one half of which Barlow ventured & took both Vessels and men with their arms &c and carried them into Dartmouth Messrs Wing & Barlow applyd to the Dartmouth People who took the vessels for them again the People offer'd them their vessels upon Wing paying them Eight Dollars and Barlows paying 10 Dollars, with which they complyd & Wing paid the money after which the Dartmouth people detained the Vessels till the Orders of Congress could be known, and now refuse to deliver up sd Vessels without Wing & Barlows paying 45 Dollars and giving Bond of a very extraordinary nature to indemnify sd Dartmouth People &c these are a true state of facts as nearly as we after examination of sd Wing & Barlow can ascertain and the sd Wing & Barlow thinking they ought to have their Vessels again without further difficulty desire the Committee of Correspondence of this town to lay the matter before you and pray your Orders hereon to which they profess their readiness to submit to & acquiesce in. We are your Honours [&c] the Committee of Sandwich.

Signed Nath^l Freeman p^r Order

Sandwich May 29, 1775

[Endorsed] In Congress Watertown, June 2d 1775

The Committee appointed to the circumstances from the Committee of Correspondence of the town of Sandwich into Consideration have Considered the same and report as follows viz

That the people of the town of Dartmouth mentioned in the remonstrance who withhold sd vessels from the sd Wing & Barlow be notified to appear the 2d Tuesday of the next meeting of the House of representatives in Watertown to give their reasons why they withhold the same, and that they be served with a Copy of this remonstrance and that Wing & Barlow be notified to Attend at the same time & place which is humbly Submitted

Ezra Richmond p^r order

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 28, 29.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MAY 29, 1775

Newport, May 29.

Last Wednesday night [May 24] the sloop *Collector*, Capt. Nicholas Webster, sailed from this port for Boston, with a quantity of salt provisions, for the use of the standing army there; & a number of sheep; but for whose use these were is as yet uncertain. It is reported, that said sloop & salt provisions were taken into the custody of one of the ships of war here, and sent by her to Boston; but how that matter is, by whom those sheep were shipped, and for whose use, *all-discovering* TIME may unfold. – The Committee of Inspection, we hear, have taken the affair of the sheep into their consideration.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Providence, dated May 25.

It is strongly suspected here, that the provisions on board Webster were really purchased for the King's service, and that the Capture was a SHAM. If this be not the truth of the case, pray set it in a true light, for the report spreads fast; and as surely as it is believed that the ENEMY is supplied from Newport, will every supply for that town be stopped from every colony upon the continent.

Last Saturday [May 20] put in here, the ship *Peggy*, Capt. William Baron, in 28 days from Baltimore, in Maryland: This vessel was bound to Cork, with a load of flour and Indian corn, 'tis said, but having contrary winds, was likely to fall short of wood & water. She is now in custody of the men of war in this harbour, and we hear is to be sent to Boston.

Another ship, said to be from Virginia, loaded with wheat, &c. was lately taken, near Nantucket, by the *Falcon* sloop of war, and sent to Boston; this ship was said to be bound to Europe.¹

That two ships, bound from Virginia and Maryland to Europe, should, at this juncture, fall in with Nantucket and Rhode-Island, is a matter of some speculation.

1. The ship *Champion*; see Graves's Conduct, MassHS Transcript.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

Gentlemen

Hartford 29th May 1775 –

I am desired to inclose you a Copy of a Letter from the Congress of New York to this Assembly dated 25th instant which you will receive herewith p Mr [John] Brown who is on his Return from the Continental Congress – The Contents of the abovementioned Letter were immediately taken into Consideration of this Assembly – in Consequence whereof they came into the followg Resolutions – That one thousand Men (including 400 which We had before ordered) under Command of Colo [Benjamin] Hinman should March as soon as possible to Tyconderoga & Crown Point for the Support & Defence of those Fortresses – That they continue there untill they are relieved by the Province of N York, or are otherwise ordered by this Assembly – That Colo Hinman take the Command of our Troops on those Stations – That the Troops be furnished with One Pound of Powder & three pounds of Bullets to each Soldier – That Colo Hinman be ordered to keep up the strictist Vigilance to prevent any hostile Incursions from being made into the Settlements of the Province of Quebec – and That the Provincial Congresses of N York & Massachusetts Bay be advised of these Measures, & the N York Congress be requested to forward the necessary Supplies for said Troops, & such other Supplies of Amunition as they shall judge necessary –

Advice of these Resolutions is already sent forward to N York p Mr Colton your Express to Philadelphia –

It is Matter of Doubt with us, whether the abovementioned Detachment of Troops ordered by this Colony will be sufficient for the important Purposes for which they are Destined – but We recollect that Colo [Benedict] Arnold is now

on the Spot with a Commission (as We understand) to raise a Regiment in the Pay of your Province. We are not informed how far he has proceeded in that Design – if he meets with Success, We flatter ourselves that his Regiment joined with the Troops we have sent will be able to maintain their Ground & keep Possession of those Important Posts. –

We take the Liberty to recommend to your Consideration the furnishg such additional Supply of Powder from you as you shall think necessary to be sent forward for the Support of those northern Ports – I am very sorry to have it to say that We are credibly informed there is not 500 lb of Powder in the City of N York – but at the same Time are advised that Means are taking to supply them with that very important Article –

I am with great Truth & Regard Gentlemen [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM PACKWOOD'S RECEIPT TO WILLIAM THOMPSON¹

New London May 29th 1775

Received the Within Contents frm Wm Thompson to be Laid out in powder
William Packwood

[Endorsed] Within is a List of the Money² dld Mr Nathl Shaw Junr

P W^m Thompson

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL. See Thompson to Shaw, May 18, 1775.

2. The list totalled £1440.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Gentlemen,

Crown-Point 29th May 1775

Your resolution of the 18th. Inst & recommendation of Measures to the City's of New-York and Albany, in Consequence of the taking Possession of Ticonderoga &c. has this moment been deliverd me, as Commanding Officer here, the Purport of which Induces me to believe, the Committee of Safety of the Massachusetts Bay, have not Informed you of my Appointment, or Instructions from them which I have taken the Liberty to inclose, & in Consequence arrived in the Neighbourhood of Ticonderoga the 9th. Inst where I met One Colo [Ethan] Allen with about 500 Men, rais'd at the Instance of some Gentlemen from Connecticut, who agreed we should take a joint Command of the Troops, the next morning at 4 oClock we surpriz'd the Garrison & took them prisoners, the particulars of which you have doubtless heard – Some dispute arising between Colo Allen & myself, prevented my Carrying my Orders into Execution untill the 16th. when being Joined by 50 Men of my own Regt & a small Schooner taken at Skeensborough which I immediately Armed, & Sailed for St Johns in quest of the Sloop, the 17th being becalmed within ten leagues of St Johns I mann'd out two small Batteaus with 35 men & after rowing all night, at 6 oClock next morning, landed at St Johns & took a Sergt and his party of 12 men Prisoners, the Kings Sloop of 70 Tons mounted with two Brass Six pounders, & seven men, and in two hours after left St Johns, having previously taken on board such Stores &c. as were valuable.

Providence remarkably smiled on us, as a few hours Delay would have ruined our Design, a party of 120 men with six pieces Cannon for the Sloop, being on their March from Montreal at only 20 miles distance, add to this a party of 40 men on their march from Chamble, 12 miles Distance, – Colo Allen arrived at St Johns the same Evening with 100, men & being Attacked the next morning by the Regulars, retreated, & left three men behind (two of wch are since arrived) – I have Armed the Sloop with Six Carriage and two Swivel Guns, the Schooner with four Carriage, & Eight Swivels, I have sent to Lake George, One Brass Twelve Pounder, Six large Brass & Iron Mortars & Howitz, & am making all possible preparation, for transporting all the Cannon here, and as many as can be spared at Ticonderoga, to Fort George – I must beg leave to observe Gentlemen, that the report of Ticonderoga's being abandoned, has thrown the Inhabitants here into the greatest Consternation, there is about five hundred families to the Northward of Ticonderoga, who if it is evacuated will be left at the mercy of the Kings Troops & Indians, & who have part of them joined the Army, & cannot now remain neuter, to whom a remove would be intire Ruin, as they have large Families, & no Dependance, but a promising Crop on the Ground. I need not add to this Gentlemen, that Ticonderoga is the Key of this extensive Country, & if abandon'd leaves a very extensive Frontier Open to the Ravages of the Enemy, & to Continual Alarms, which will probably cost more than the Expence of repairing and Gar- risoning it. –

I esteem'd it my duty as a Servant of the public's to give you the foregoing hints & hope the Exigence of the times will be a sufficient Apology for the liberty I have taken – I have the Honour to be very respectfully Gentn [&c.]

Benedict Arnold Colo & Commr of Ticona &c.

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC. This letter was probably included in the letters read in Congress on Saturday, June 10, 1775, the journal entry stating, "Several letters from Massachusetts Bay, Ticonderoga, Crown Point, &c. were laid before Congress, and read." Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 84, 85.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF
MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Gentlemen

Crown Point, May 29, 1775

I was equally surprised and alarmed this day on receiving advice, via Albany, that the Continental Congress has recommended the removing all the cannon, stores, &c. at Ticonderoga to Fort George, and evacuating Ticonderoga entirely which being the only key of this Country, leaves our very extensive Frontiers open to the ravages of the Enemy, and if put into execution, will be the entire ruin of five hundred Families to the northward of Ticonderoga. I have wrote the Congress, and given My Sentiments very freely, with your Instructions to me, as I fancy they have had no Intelligence of my appointment and orders.

Colonel [Ethan] Allen has entirely given up the Command. I have one hundred and fifty men here, and expect in two or three weeks to have my Regiment complete, and believe they will be joined by a thousand men from Connecticut and New York. I have sent to Lake George six large brass and iron mortars and

howitzers, one brass and three iron 12-Pounders, and shall pursue your orders with all the dispatch in my power. I am, Gentlemen, [&c.]

Benedict Arnold

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Worthy Gentn

Crown Point 29th May 1775

An Abstract of the minutes of Council from the Continental Congress, signed Pr Mr Charles Thomson Secretary has just come to hand and tho' it approves of the taking the Fortresses on Lake Champlain and the Artillery &c. I am nevertheless much surprised that your Honours should recommend it to us to remove the Artillery to the South End of Lake George and there to make a stand, the Consequence of which must ruin the Frontier settlements, which are Extended at least one hundred miles to the Northward from that place, probably your Honours were not informed of those settlements wch Consist of several thousand families who are seated on that Tract of Country Called the New Hampshire Grants. the Misfortune and real Injury to those Inhabitants by making the South End of Lake George the Northermost front of Protection will more fully appear from the following Consideration. Namely it was at the special request and solicitation of the Governments of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, & Connecticut, that those very Inhabitants put their Life into the hand of them Governments and made those valuable Acquisitions for the Colonies by doing it they have Incens'd Governor [Guy] Carlton and all the Ministerial Party in Canada against them, and provided they should after all their good Service in behalf of their Country, be neglected and left expos'd they will be of all men the most Consumately miserable. The South Promontary of Lake Champlain and Lake George as to a Southern Direction are near the same and if we should give up the Sov'reignty of Lake Champlain we may as well give up the whole, if the Kings Troops should be again in Possession of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and Command the Lake, the Indians and Canadians will be much more Inclined to Join with them, and make Incursions into the Heart of our Country, but as the Colonies are now in the possession and Actual Command of the Lake having taken the Armed Sloop from George the Third which was Cruising in the Lake, and also Seiz'd a Schooner belonging to Major Skeene at South-Bay and have armed and mann'd them both for the protection of our Country and the Constitution and Civil Priviledges and Liberties thereof. By a Council of War held on board the Sloop the 27th Inst it was agreed to advance to Point au fore with the Sloop and Schooner and a number of Armed Boats well mann'd, and there make a Stand, and act on the defensive, and by all means Command the Lake, and defend the frontiers, and wait for the special directions of the Honble Continental Congress, and govern ourselves accordingly, we are now almost ready to sail to that station which is about six miles this side, Latitude forty-five Degrees North, a small force with the Armed Vessells will at present Command the Lake and Secure the frontiers, the Canadians (all Except the Nobless) and also the Indians appear at present to be very friendly to us, and it is my humble opinion that the more vigorous the Colonies

push the war against the Kings Troops in Canada, the more friends we shall find in that Country. Provided I had but five hundred men with me at St John's when we took the Kings Sloop, I would have advanced to montreal. Nothing strengthens our friends in Canada equal to our Prosperity in taking the Sovereignty of Lake Champlain, and should the Colonies forthwith send an Army of two or three thousand Men and Attack Montreal, we should have but little to fear from the Canadians or Indians and would easily make a Conquest of that Place and set up the Standard of American Liberty in the Extensive Province of Quebec whose limits was Enlarg'd purely to subvert the Liberties of America, striking such a Blow would intimidate the Tory party in Canada, the same as the Commencement of the war at Boston intimidated the Tories in the Colonies, they are a set of Gentlemen that will not be Converted by Reason but are easily wrought upon by fear, Advancing an Army into Canada will be agreeable to our friends, and it is bad policy to fear the Resentment of an Enemy, if we lie easy & in a Supine State, and Governor Carlton exerts himself against us vigorously, as we know he will, and who by a Legal Constitution can oblige our Friends to assist him he will by slow Degrees Discourage our friends and Encourage our Enemies and form those that are at present Indifferent, into Combination against us, therefore the possible way to Circumvent him and the Scheme of the ministry is to Nervously push an Army into Canada, but if the Wisdom of the Continent in Congress should view the propos'd Invasion of the Kings Troops in Canada as premature or Impolitick nevertheless I Humbly Conceive when your Honours come to the Knowledge of the before mention'd facts, You will at least Establish some advantageous Situation towards the Northerly part of Lake Champlain as a Frontier, instead of the South Promontory of Lake George, there are many advantages in forming the frontier, near the Country of the Enemy, as first, it will be in our power to ravage and make Inroads into the Heart of the Enemies Country, the same as they might easily do, were they in Possession and Command of Lake Champlain, this Advantage will be of the utmost Consequence, be it in the hands of which Party it will, tho' it is now in our hands, to give it up to them would be fatal, the Interest of the Colonies but more particularly to those who were instrumental in the Atchievement of the supremacy of that Lake but secondly, Commanding the Northerly part of the Lake, puts it in our power to work our Policy with the Canadians & Indians, we have made Considerable proficiency this way already, sundry Indians have been to visit us, and have returned to their Tribes to use their Influence in our favr, we have sent Capt Abraham Nimham a Stockbridge Indian as our Ambassador of Peace to the several Tribes of Indians in Canada, he was accompanied by Mr Winthrop Hoit, who has been a Prisoner with the Indians and Understands their Tongue, I do not imagine provided we Command Lake Champlain there will be any need of a War with the Canadians or Indians, pray pardon me on Account of my Impertinency or Inaccuracy in this Composition as it is but a rough Draught wrote in great Haste from

Your Honours every faithful [&c.]

Ethan Allen

New York Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 29, 1775

New York, May 29.

Friday Morning last [May 26] his Majesty's Ship the *Asia*, George Vandepot, Esq; arrived here from Boston, after a passage of 16 Days.

When this Ship left Boston no Transports nor Troops had then arrived either from England or Ireland; but two Days after Capt. Vandepot came out, he fell in with 6 Transports from England, with Troops &c. on board.

Saturday Morning last [May 27] an express arrived from Ticonderoga, in eight days. By him we learn, that Major [Benedict] Arnold dispatched Mr. [Eleazer] Oswald [Oswald], and 35 Men, in a schooner and some Battoes, to take Possession of a Sloop that lay at St. John's; at the same Time Capt. Ethan Allan set out with 80 men to facilitate the Undertaking, and stopped on the Way for a Reinforcement of 20 more; but Mr. Oswald pursued his Scheme, and took Possession of the Vessel that lay at St. John's, with all the Battoes, and made 14 soldiers, and 6 Seamen Prisoners of War, before Capt. Allan came up; but the latter contrary to Advice proceeded to St. John's, where he unluckily fell in with 250 Regulars, that were dispatched to the Succour of Crown-Point and Ticonderoga, and after exchanging a few Shot, made a good Retreat with the Loss of 3 Men only.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 4 ho. P.M. May 29th, 1775.

A Letter of the 27th instant by express from the Honorable Jonathan Trumbull, Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, on behalf of the General Assembly of that Colony was read.

The copy of the Letter [from Colonel Benedict Arnold, dated] Crown Point, May 23d, 1775, [enclosed in the Letter from Governor Trumbull was also read.]

The committee of correspondence (according to order,) brought in and reported a draught of a letter to the Governor and General Court of Connecticut, in answer to the letter from Governor Trumbull, above mentioned, which [was read and approved.]

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, signed by the President and transmitted with all convenient dispatch.

Ordered, That the Committee to report the ways and means for removing the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga, do without delay and as privately as possible, direct one hundred barrels of pork, two hundred barrels of flour, and twenty barrels of rum, to be sent forward to Albany towards supplying the gar-risons at Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 16-18.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, May 29, 1775

On motion, *Resolved*, That no provisions or necessaries of any kind be exported to the island of Nantucket, except from the colony of Massachusetts bay,

the convention of which colony is desired to take measures for effectually providing the sd Island, upon their application to purchase the same, with as much provision, as shall be necessary for its internal use and no more.

The Congress deeming it of great importance to North America, that the British fishery should not be furnished with provisions from this continent thro' Nantucket, earnestly recommend a vigilant execution of this resolve to all committees.

Ordered, That the above resolve be immediately published.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 70, 71.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Committee met. Monday 29 May 1775. –

Ordered that all Masters of Vessels, arriving in Patapsco River do appear before the Committee at their Rooms, on the Monday next after their Arrival between the Hours of 10 & 12 A M. at which Time and Place the Committee will attend – it is expected that the Owners and Consignees of Vessels will in future be more punctual in directing the Attendance of the Masters, or they with the Masters will be reported to the Publick as Delinquents

Ordered that the above be printed in Dunlaps & Goddards Papers –

1. Balt. Com., LC.

HENRY TUCKER TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER ¹

[Extract]

Bermuda 29th May 1775

Cap. Dill in a Vessel belonging to Messrs. Richd. & Jno. Jennings now goes to Virginia with intentions to get a load of corn and have desired me to write to you requesting your Assistance in Case there should be any Stop put to the Exportation of provisions . . . I shall add that Our Legislature have passed a Law prohibiting the Exportation of all Provisions from hence so that there is no fear of any that comes here will be Suffd. to be sent from the Island and Cap. Dill has orders to enter into any Engagements that may be required to that purpose. I need not tell the distress we shall soon be in if we are not permitted to have provisions from America as it is impossible for us to subsist without their Assistance.

Shou'd it be urged that we have not shewn any Inclinations towards the Americans by coming into resolutions similar to theirs I must Answer That no people are more fond of Liberty than the Bermudians, but as they can be of no service to the Cause and indeed as little hurt, our Situation is such that we lye intirely at the Mercy of Great Britain who shou'd we offend by such resolutions wd. undoubtedly distress us, which could effectually be done even to a famine by only Sending 2 small vessels of War to be Stationed at the East and West ends of the Island which wd. prevent any Vessel coming to us.

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.

30 May

JONATHAN PARSONS, JR., TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen:

St. John's, Newfoundland, May 30, 1775

As liberty is the blessing, and ought to be the care of all men, I need no other apology for this letter, than to acquaint you I am an American, of Newburyport, New England. On my arrival here, the 19th instant, from the Mediterranean, I was informed of the care you had taken with regard to the exportation of bread and flour to this Island . . . the necessities of the people here for bread and flour are so great, that I doubt not you will have numbers of vessels on your coast, under various pretexts to get bread and flour to supply them. They are now at their wits end to find means to acquire the necessaries of life; yet such is their inveterate enmity against the Americans, that they cannot help breathing out their malice at every opportunity, where their interest is not immediately affected. Last Saturday [May 27] a schooner arrived here, belonging to Salem, in New England, from a fishing voyage; the merchants immediately sent the crier through the Town, to notify a meeting at seven that evening, which was adjourned to Sunday, to consult on the matter. It seems they were in hopes to get some hold of her from some Acts of Parliament relative to the regulation of the fishery in this Island, but finding their expectations fail them, that they could not get her seized, nor prevent an entry, they mustered their forces, seized upon and sent her to Sea; and what is more surprising to me is (if I am rightly informed) that upon a promise of indemnification, they obtained an order from the Judge of the Admiralty for this extraordinary procedure, and that after her being admitted to a legal entry in the Custom-House.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 851.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER"¹

May 1775 At 1 P M saluted His Excellency Govr [John] Wentworth with 17
Tuesday 30th Guns, upon his coming on board & 17 more upon his leaving
the Ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

Scarborough, Piscataqua 30th May 1775

Sir I received your Letter of the 25th Inst and likewise your Order with the two restraining Bills and Orders to stop and send to Boston all Vessels loaded with Provisions; In my last I acquainted You of my giving Lieut Mowat Orders to proceed to Halifax, the Wind continuing Easterly, made it impossible for him to get out of the Harbour, on the 23d he sent me a Copy of your Order, which he had received by Mr Tyng in a small Sloop from Boston desiring he might remain at Falmouth, till further Orders, in consequence of which, I ordered him there as

soon as he could get ready, which took up some time, as he was in want of Provisions.

Yesterday two Sloops arrived here from Long Island, loaded with Corn, Flour, Pork, and Bread, which I have stopt and sent round to Boston agreeable to your Orders.

The Stopping of these Vessels have been the cause of great Commotions in the Town of Portsmouth, A Committee applied to the Governor to have them discharged by either writing to me or coming down himself, accordingly he came On-board here Yesterday in the afternoon he ask'd me whether I could consistent with my Orders allow those Vessels to go to Town and unload, I told him, I could not and shewed him your Orders to me, he said it might be of fatal consequences to many of the King's Subjects – I told him I could not help that, I must do my duty, he then delivered me a Paper a Copy of which I herewith transmit to You,² I have just been inform'd there is a large body of People, come into Portsmouth from the Country, The Collector of the Customs and two or three other Friends to Government have taken shelter Onboard the *Scarborough*, wether the Governor means to come onboard I cannot as yet inform You, for when he came onboard Yesterday he was oblige to promise the people of the Town that he would return again so that he has not the least power or authority there; They threaten much for two or three thousand people to come down and destroy the *Scarboroh*; If they should have the madness to attempt any thing of that kind You may be assured the King's Ship will be defended; it was a very lucky Circumstance of my dismantling the Fort for they might very easily have come in and taken possession of it. There was a battery about a Mile and half from where I lay of eight twenty four Pounders, there are no Carriages to them, I heard they intended to move them upon an eminence in order to fire upon the *Scarboroh* Upon my hearing of their intentions, I ordered the Gunner to go onshore and spike them up, which has render'd them useless for the present.

I send these two Vessels round under the protection of the *Canceaux*, for if I had sent them singly by themselves, there were Arm'd Boats all ready to pursue them and likewise expresses have been sent to Newbury and Cape Ann to fit out Vessels to intercept them, as therefore it is morally impossible for me to send any Vessels that may be stop't with Provisions round to Boston without having an Armed Vessel to accompany them there otherwise they will be seized and the people in them very ill treated, if not put to death. I don't know any other Scheme, that will have a great effect in bringing the People of this Province to a due sense of the Duty that they owe to the Mother Country than that of stopping their Provisions, I therefore think it an Object worthy of Attention.

I am very much obliged to You for your polite Approbation of my Conduct since I have been in this Port, You may be assured that nothing shall be wanting on my part in doing every thing in my power for the good of His Majesty's Service and the protection of his Servants. I am [&c.]

And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. See Portsmouth Merchants to Wentworth, May 29, 1775.

NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Newburyport, May 30, 1775

This letter [of 29 May from Portsmouth Committee of Correspondence] was received this morning by the Committee of this Town; and as the Admiral's orders, herein mentioned, may affect every part of the Continent, we think it our duty to send it forward to the Committee of Safety for the Province, or to the Congress.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 30, 1775

Elisha Lettinwell was directed to proceed with two Teams to Chelsea, and bring from thence the Cannon and other Stores saved from the Schooner [*Diana*] which has been burned by our people, and to lodge said Stores in this Town.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 764, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Remarks Boston Harbour.

Tuesday 30 P M a Number of the Rebels came and set fire to a Dwelling House and some barns on Noddles Island fired several Shot to prevent their setting fire to our stores that were there.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] May, 30th. [1775]

The Rebels this morning set fire to a dwelling house upon the same [Noddles] Island: the house was almost close to the shore and within reach of the Admiral's Guns, which have been playing upon the Island every now and then most of the morning, whether because any Men were seen or only just to frighten them I don't know; a schooner was also sent to fire along shore; they had better take care not to run aground and get burnt by the Yankies, like the last. Near this house there was an outhouse where there were several Navy stores, which the Admiral has been taking out all day, and to protect the Men at that work he sent a flat Boat with a gun in it along shore, which has been firing frequently at the Rebels I suppose.

1. Barker, *Dairy*, 52, 53.

CHARTER PARTY FOR SLOOP *Molly* ¹

Boston May 30th 1775.

This Charter Party or Agreement made this Day between Majr William Sherriff Dy Qr Mr General, on the One part & Ephraim Perkins of the County of York in cape porpus, on the Other part.

Witnesseth that the said Perkins being Owner of the Sloop *Molly* himself Master, burthen about Eighty Eight Tuns, Doth hereby covenant and agree, that the said Sloop shall proceed from this Harbour to Nova Scotia, and there take on Board such Laden, as shall be Directed by the said Majr Wm Sherriff, & proceed Immediately back to this Port. Said Perkins Maning Victualing & paying all charges of the Voyage.

In Consideration of which the above said Majr Wm Sherriff, Doth promise to pay to the said Perkins for the Run or Voyage of said Vessel, One Hundred and Eighty Dollars, and Six Dollars p Day Demurrage if Detained longer than Ten Working Days at the Port where she Loads, and Six Days where she Delivers her Cargo –

For the true and faithfull performance of the above Agreement we each of us Bind our selves in the penal sum of five hundred pounds Sterling money of Great Brittain –

In Witness hereunto we have sett our hands and Seals this Thirtyeth day of May in the Year of our Lord. 1775 –

Witness. Jos. Goldthwait

Will^m Shirreff D Q M G

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 111.

MAJOR WILLIAM SHIRREFF, BRITISH DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, TO
EPHRAIM PERKINS ¹

Sr You will emediately proceed with the Sloop *Molly* under yr Command to Windsor in the Bay of Funda & Recieve Such orders As Mr [Josiah] Jones will give You Respecting your Cargo. making every dispatch thats Possible. taking Care to touch at No Other Harbour unless it be absolutely Necessary –

Jos: Goldthwait for William Sherriff D Qr Mr Gl

Boston May 30. 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 112.

WILLIAM SHIRREFF, BRITISH DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, TO DAY
& SCOTT, MERCHANTS AT WINDSOR, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

[Extract]

Gentlemen/

Boston 30th May 1775

The bearer Mr Josiah Jones with the Sloop *Polly* [sic *Molly*] Epharim Perkins Master is Chartered for Windsor in Nova Scotia in order to Receive from You Hay, and Oats – Am therefore to desire you will use every endeavor to Dispatch him as soon as possible agreeable to my Letter wrote you via Halifax, the 29th Inst ...

I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Will^m Shirreff

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 114.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 In Holmes's Hole
 Tuesdy 30 at 8 A M Weighd and Came to Sail . . . at 2 P M Anchord in
 Holmes Hole Veer'd to ½ Cable Sent our boats on Board two
 Sloops and put 2 men [on board them] at 6 fird four Six pounders,
 Shotted with Round and Grape to bring too a boat ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. According to Graves's Conduct Prize List, MassHS Transcript, none of these vessels was carried into Boston.

HENRY WARD TO SAMUEL WARD ¹

[Extract]

Providence May 30th 1775.

Webster arrived at Newport with a Load of Beef Pork &c on Friday the 19th from New York said to be bound to Nantucket. All the Provisions on Board he says belonged to William & Francis Rotch excepting 70 Barrels of Pork – consigned to himself which he sold to George Rome. All the Circumstances attending this Affair concur to give the strongest Suspicions that these Provisions were purchased for Use of the Enemy. Webster is gone with his Vessel to Boston, by whom the Tories in Newport have sent about 20 Sheep, a Quantity of fresh Butter and all the Eggs in the Town.²

A Ship belonging to Christo Champlin arrived at Newport last Saturday Morning [May 27] from Baltimore laden with Flour and Corn for Ireland. She was immediately taken into Possession by the King's Ships and is destined to Boston – Mr Champlin declares that he was utterly ignorant of her coming to Newport that she put in for a Supply of Wood and Water; and that upon his Application to [Captain] Wallace to permit his Ship to pursue her Voyage, he was denied and told by Walace that he had positive Orders from Admiral Greaves to seize every Vessel he could take with Provisions and send them to Boston.

1. Samuel Ward Papers, RIHS.

2. See *Newport Mercury*, May 29, 1775.

JOHN LAWRENCE, TREASURER OF CONNECTICUT, TO NATHANIEL SHAW JR. ¹

Sir

Hartford May 30th 1775.

I now send you by your Brother, Fifteen Hundred pounds, in order to procure the quantity, I wrote to you about: This is all the Money I have by me at present, If you stand in need of more, shall be able to supply you soon. Shall expect if possible, you will make up what is lacking of the first parcel, and likewise the number I wrote to you for, in my last. Be so good as to inform the Govr or me, from Time to Time, the prospect you have of getting of it.

I shall send to you soon, either by land, or Water, for some of that article to come to this Town. –

The Money, on Acct of the Delegates, I cannot send now, as the Officers are here waiting for money, and cannot be Suplied, as fast as they want it. I am [&c.]

John Lawrence

1. Shaw Transcripts, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York, Die Martis] 5 ho. P.M. May 30, 1775

Mr. [John Morin] Scott moved the subject matter of the resolves of the Continental Congress on the 25th of May instant, and transmitted to this Congress, be immediately taken into consideration . . .

Ordered, That Captain [Richard] Montgomerie, Mr. [Henry] Glen, Mr. Robert Yates, Colo. [James] Van Cortlandt and Colo. [James] Holmes be a Committee to view the ground at or near King's Bridge, and report to this Congress whether the ground near King's Bridge will admit of making a Fortification there that will be tenable; and at what particular place the ground will admit of making the best and most tenable Fortification; and that they call to their assistance such persons as they shall think necessary, and make report to this Congress with all convenient speed.

The Congress then took into consideration that part of the resolves of the Continental Congress which directs the erecting of Fortifications in the Highlands on Hudson's river.

Ordered, That Colo. [James] Clinton and Mr. [Christopher] Tappen be a committee (and that they take to their assistance such persons as they shall think necessary,) to go to the Highlands and view the banks of the Hudson's river there, and report to this Congress the most proper place for erecting one or more fortifications; and likewise an estimate of the expence that will attend erecting the same.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 20.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF TALBOT COUNTY,
MARYLAND ¹

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation for Talbot County, [30th of May, 1775] at the Court-House of the said County [at Easton]

On the 30th instant the Committee . . . met according to appointment, when the deputation . . . appeared and reported that they went to Mr. [James] Braddock's store, but not finding him at home, they left a copy of the letter from the Committee of Baltimore Town, together with a copy of the order of this Committee, to be delivered to him when he should return.²

In consequence of this Mr. Braddock appeared before the Committee, and informed them "that he did expect the Ship *Johnston* shortly to arrive in Miles River, but that he had no advice, nor had he any reason to believe (except from the aforesaid letter from the Baltimore Town Committee) that the Ship would bring either Dry Goods or Salt."

Mr. Braddock did likewise at the same time, voluntarily enter into the following engagement and promise: "That if the Ship *Johnston* or any other vessel having on board any Goods or Merchandise prohibited by the American Association, shall come addressed to him, or to any other agent or factor for Mr. Gildart, he will, in such an event, neither directly nor indirectly receive, nor assist in landing, storing, or following the said Goods or Merchandise, but that, on the contrary, he will, immediately and forthwith, give notice of the arrival of the said ship or other vessel to the above deputation, or to some four of them, (who are appointed to go on board such ship or vessel, and to examine the papers, viz: the manifest,

the cockets, and log-book) and that he would give directions for the immediate return of any ship or vessel addressed to him, without breaking bulk."

Mr. Braddock delivered, at the same time, to the Committee an inventory of the Goods he has now on hand, with which they declared themselves satisfied for the present.

Ordered, That the above proceedings be published in the *Maryland Gazette*.

Signed by order of the Committee

Robert Wilson, Clerk, pro. tem.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 682, 683.
2. See Talbot County Committee minutes for May 23, 1775.

31 May

MESHECH WEARE TO THE PRESIDENT, PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, EXETER ¹

Gentlemen:

May 31, 1775

As you have now under your consideration the important affair of raising Troops and appointing them to proper stations, as well for the safety and defense of this Province, as for promoting the common cause at this critical and alarming season, we doubt not but you will kindly receive intimations from any number of persons of things which appear to them of great importance; we therefore beg leave to represent, from frequent alarms we have had, and from authentick advice from General [Artemus] Ward, that a number of armed cutters are sailed from Boston, for what design is unknown. We apprehend it to be absolutely necessary that a proper proportion of the Troops to be raised in this Province be immediately assigned for the defence of our sea coast; and permit us to suggest, that if a proper number of Troops for this purpose were ordered to be raised in the Towns near the sea-coasts, it would greatly facilitate the raising the men immediately, and be a great help for procuring immediate supplies, and we can conceive will be must more service to the common cause than sending our men elsewhere. It will also be a great discouragement to men enlisting to be sent to a distance, at the same time that they leave their friends and substance exposed by their absence, when they themselves might be more advantageously employed for there defence.

We therefore pray that a proper quota of men may be assigned, and Officers for enlisting them, for this service, as soon as may be, which we submit to your wisdom and determination.

Meshech Weare

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 869.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Exeter] Wednesday, May 31. 1775

Voted, That the thanks of this Congress be given to the party, who this day have removed Sundry Cannon from the sea-coast in this Colony to the town of Portsmouth & to Dr. Hall Jackson in particular for assisting in the matter & bringing us the Intelligence.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 493, 494.

H. WENTWORTH TO MATTHEW THORNTON, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, EXETER ¹

Sir –

Portsmo 31st May, 1775.

We beg leave to inform you that this day eight Pieces of cannon were removed from Jerry's Point to this Town & that threats are thereon thrown out by the Capt. of the Man-of-War that in case he hear of any preparation of Rafts or any other Means being used to annoy him he shall come up with his ship to fire upon the Town. We would submit it to the Wisdom of the Congress whether these Guns should not immediately be placed in some convenient Battery to prevent this mischief & whether a Committee should not be forthwith employed for this purpose. The Guns are 6 Twenty-four and two Thirty-two Pounders, and its absolutely necessary that we be provided with ammunition & carriages to save them, of which we are entirely destitute.

I am by order of the Committee, &c.

H. Wentworth

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 377.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Scarborough, Piscataqua May 31st 1775.

Sir Since I wrote You Yesterday there is a number of People about three or four hundred, this morning have assembled themselves in Arms on the Island where I am and are now in Possession of the Fort, which I mentioned in my former Letter, and am inform'd they are going to bring Cannon down to it, The *Canceaux* got under Sail with the two Victualling Sloops this Morning but upon these people assembling, I have stop't her and ordered her to lay off the Battery and have sent the two Victualling Sloops under the care of the *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*] Sloop, I shall keep the *Canceaux* here till I have your further Orders, all communication between us and the Town is entirely stop't and I hear the Governor is confined to his House.

sign'd Andw Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

At Single Anchor Piscataqua River

Wednesday 31 A M Light Airs and hazy – at 8 A M weighed and came to sail in Co with the *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*] Tender, and two Provision Sloops, ½ past 9 came onbd the *Scarboroughs* Boat with Orders to stand off and on Little Harbor, – Saw a great No of Armed People at the No point of Ditto, supposed they had been taking away some Old Cannon that lay there – at 11 the *Spinckes* was ordered to Boston with the Provision Vessels – at Noon all the Men disappeared – standing off an on. .
at 3 P M came onbd Orders from the *Scarborough* [to] return to the Harbor – at 5 Anchored there in 9 fms water – Saw a

No of People on Battery Hill, at 9 hove up and went near the *Scarborough*, and moored with the Stream Anchor and Cable --

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER"¹

May 1775 A M sent an Officer & 4 men to carry two Vessels to Boston.
Wednesday 31st P M empd in fixing Boarding Netts, at 1 the *Canceaux* & the 2 Sloops sailed; at 4 the *Canceaux* anchd here.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, May 31, 1775

Ordered, That the Papers relative to the Fortresses at Ticonderoga, &c. be laid before the Congress.

The Papers being read.

Resolved, That Mr. [Elisha] Phelps, who was the bearer of some of them, be introduced to the Congress.

After information from Mr. Phelps,

Ordered, That the President, Mr. [Jonathan] Glover, Col. Nicholson, Dr. [John] Taylor, Mr. [Timothy] Edwards, Colonel [Nathaniel] Dwight, Dr. [Joseph] Wheeler, Mr. [John] Hale, and Dr. [Daniel] Whiting, be a Committee to take the said Papers into consideration, to sit forthwith, and report as soon as may be.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1379, 1380, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON, COMMANDING¹

May 1775 Remarks Boston Harbour

Wednesday 31 A M made the Signal for all boats Mann'd and Arm'd which with a Party of Marines took all our stores off [Noddles Island]

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING¹

1775 May Moor'd in Boston Harbour

Wednesday 31 Modr & hazey at 2 P M the Rebels came on Noddle Island & fired all the houses by which means was lost at the Cooperage house, Butts twelve, punches fifteen, Hh'ds ten, Barrells twelve, all full hoopd with 134 Iron hoops & all the Coopers tools

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN TUCKER AND OTHERS¹

We the Subscribers Testify and Say, that on the 29th day of May 1775 Captain [John] Linsey Commander of a Ship of war then at Tarpaulin Cove: Came with a Number of armed men and landed on one of the Elizabeth Islands

called Reskatemeth and came to the place where the men that oned part of the Stock on Said Island were Sheering their Sheep and demanded the Sheep Saying and promising that he would pay for them and give the full value of the Sheep or words to that purpose but the owners of Said Sheep told him that they were unwilling to part with them, but if he would take them they Should not molest him as most of the owners of the Sheep were of the people Called Quakers and that they would not be concerned in Defending themselves or their Interest by force of Armes but would treat him with civility but Said Capten with his men took Said Sheep and Carried them away, Some Shorn and many not Shorn: the Sheep were hurried away in Such a manner that we Could not take an account of the number with exactness but according to the best of our judgment the numbers and value of the Sheep are as follows viz –

Took from Joseph Tucker and Sons 93 Sheep, value £68–8[s.]-0 L[awful] money

Took from Jeremiah Robinson 17 Sheep, value £12–4[s.]-10[d.] L[awful] money

Took from William & Elisha Robinson 24 Sheep, value £14–8[s.]-0 L[awful] money

Took from Ebenezer Meiggs 72 Sheep value £51–15[s.]-6[d.] L[awful] money

John Tucker
Jeremiah Robinson

Elisha Robinson
Ebenezer Meiggs

Barnstable, ss., May 31, 1775

Then the above named Ebenezer Meiggs made oath to the truth of the above written by him Subscribed and the above named John Tucker Jeremiah Robinson and Elisha Robinson, being of the people called Quakers affirmed to the truth of the above written, by them Subscribed.

Before me

Tho^s Smith
Justice of the Peace.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 428. Printed in the *Boston Gazette*, Watertown, August 7, 1775, with the following preface: "Friend EDES, by inserting the following you will oblige many of your Friends and Customers, J.R."

DEPOSITION OF ELISHA NYE ¹

[Barnstable, Mass.] May 31, 1775.

I, Elisha Nye, Inholder Living on one of the Elizabeth Islands, Commonly Called Naushan, and near to Tarpalan Cove, Testafieth and saith, that some Time about the 5th of May, the Sloop of War called the *Faulkland* [*Falcon*], Command'd by Capt. [John] Linzey, came into the Cove, and as soon as the Vessel had come to Anchor, the Captain came on Shore with his Boat's Crew, all Armed, and came to the House and Said unto the Deponent "you need not be Scard;" upon which he told him it was Enough to Scare any Body to see so many Men come on Shore Armed; And the Women are all Fled and to where he knew not; upon which Capt Linzey told Him to call them in, for he did not mean to hurt any Body – upon which Promise, I & my Family were Satisfyed; Soon after that,

the Captain asked to walk with him; which he Comply'd with; and in the Course of the walk, he demanded to know what Stock I had, and Added to tell him Right, for if he did not, he would take all that he met; upon which I gave him the Account. Then the Captain told me, the Deponent, if I sold any one of them he would take the Remainder by force; upon which I told him, if he were here when they were fit for market he might have them, paying the Price I used to have. – Soon after, he went to Rhode Island, and Return'd back in a few Days; after which, he used to pass & Repass the Island allmost every day, mostly in Company with the Doctor of the Ship, leaving down the fences Repeatedly, which let the Cattle often mix together, which I told the Doctor was a great Damage. the Doctor's Answer was, "then you may put it up yourselves for I will not," and often talked in an Abusive Insulting manner that he, the Doctor, would soon take what he wanted without any pay – On the 26th Instant a Sloop came into the Cove, with about Twenty Passengers, Men, Women, & Children in great Distress for Provisions, and made application to me for Supplyes. Capt Linzey knowing that, (his Boat having boarded her) sent his Boat on Shore, and forbid my letting them have any, Than I advised them to apply to Capt Linzey, and see if they could not prevail upon him to let them have some; accordingly they went; Afterwards the Captain of the Sloop told me, that he absolutely Refused them, and said "Damn the Dog that would let them have any; and if they were not gone immediately, he would Sink them.["] upon which, they set sail Immediately without any Supplyes – And further, the Deponent Declareth, that the Doctor came on shore, and said that the Captain's Orders were, that I should go with him, the said Doctor and Destroy all the Boats belonging to the Island. I told him I could not go upon such Business as that; he said he would send me on board the Ship if I did not go; upon which I found I must Comply, and Accordingly went with him, and saw him, the Doctor, Stave three Boats. – On the 29th, about Eight o'Clock in the Evening Lo, the said Doctor came on Shore, and told me he had come for my Sheep, upon which, I told him they were out in the Pasture and I could not get them into the pen it being Dark, but would fetch them in as Early in the Morning as he pleased – the Answer from the Doctor was, "Damn you! what did you turn them out for?" – the Reason, I told him, was, that they had got out their own Sheep, and did not say any thing more about when they should want mine, and I thought it best the Sheep should be let out to feed; upon which, the said Doctor said to me, "Damn you! go on Board the Ship and I'll see what they were turnd out for." – I told him I would not, but would go and try to get the Sheep up: he said "Well, Damn you! make haste"! and Swang his Sword over my head, – but upon Trial I found it so Dark I could not get them in; but, on my Return, was Inform'd that he, the Doctor had sent onboard for more help to Carry me & my Brother on board the Ship; upon which, with the Abuses & threats I had Received before, I thought it Time to make my Escape, which I did, to the main land and begged the Assistance of the People, who Readily came to my Assistance. – When I Return'd, which was about three o'Clock in the Morning, Some of my Family told me, they had been on shore, armed, and taken all my Calves, being Seven in Number; two of the poorest & Smalest, they sent on shore in the Morning, the Others, with four Sheep they had some days before; they carried them off without paying any

thing for them. – I do further Declare the Abuses and threats I Received from Capt Linzey & the Doctor were the Occasion of my Moving off the Island, leaving my Interest, and I Declare that I never Refused Capt Linzey or any other person Belonging to any ship of war, Entertainment in my House or Supply of Provisions that I had on my farm that I could Spare and I further Declare that on the night of the 29th instant afforesaid [the] Doctor (as my wife Informs me) Came on Shore and Demanded my gun with his Sword in hand which she Delivered to him and I have not Seen it Since tho the only weapon of Defence that I had on the Island: the value of the Sheep Calves and Gun which they took frome me and the use of my Horse and well are as follows viz: –

	Elisha Nye Lawfull Money
four sheep value-----	£2-16-0
3 Calves four Month old-----	3- 6-0
3 Calves two Months old-----	2- 8-0
4 Quarters of veal, weight 60 pounds Sold before and delivered---	0-16-0
one Gun, taken out of my House by the Doctor of the Ship of great value -----	3-00-0
Riding my Horse and use of my Well-----	3-00-0
	<hr/>
	£15- 6-0

[Endorsed]

Elisha Nye

Barnstable Ss May the 31st: 1775

then the within and above Named Elisha Nye made oath to the within and above written Deposition and account as the Truth and by him Subscribed –
Before me – Tho^s: Smith, Justce of the Peace

1. Mass Arch., vol. 193, 321–324.

STEPHEN NYE TO COLONEL NATHANIEL FREEMAN¹

Sir

Sandwich [Mass.] May 31st, 1775

I would give you a relation of Capn, [John] Linsey, proceeding at the Islands since your going from here. On Sunday [May 28] he recd a reinforcement by a Schooner from Boston, & proceeded from thence to the West End of the Island where they took off about Two Hundred Sheep; chiefly from Tuckers Island which belonged to John Wing from there they came down to the cove & ordered the Sheep there to be yarded which was accordingly done, but it being near Night they concluded to leave them in the Yard until morning. They really insulted abused & threatned the People for their backwardness in assisting them. In the Night word was brought off to Falmouth of the above proceedings (by [Elisha] Nye who immediately went back to take care of his Family) on which a Number of men well equipt immediately went on the Island; before there arrival at the cove the Sheep were turned out of the Yard into the Woods. The People from the Ship had been on Shore & on finding the Sheep were gone were stil more enraged & took all the arms they could find, 6 Calves, & the Hogs and carried

them off. When the People from Falmouth got to the cove (which was before Day) they Placed themselves in the Bushes & lay undiscovered. In the morning the Boat came on Shore with the Doctor Boatswain &c; whom they might have taken had they not expected the Capn. ashore soon, however the Boat soon went back without going to the House & both Vessels immediately weighed Anchor & went Down to Homes' Hole where they lay last Night at Anchor. Capn [Barachiah] Bassett is now on the Island with about 50 Men, & will Tarry to Guard the Stock until we have the advice of the congress what method is best to take. By the best account there is not less than Four Thousand Sheep & between Two & three Hundred Horned cattle & a Number of Horses in the Island of Naushaun & Perhaps nigh as many on the other Islands. It is generally Judged That Fifty or Sixty Men Placed on the Island at Tarpaulin Cove would Guard the above Stock. It is certainly impracticable to bring it off & it must most certainly either be destroyed where it is or fall into the Hands of our Enemies. Which is best the Congress must Judge. Their Determination we should be Glad of as soon as Possible for we fear the men now there will be impatient to come off unless they are put under Pay. Capn Bassett is perhaps the best officer that can be placed there His Courage & Conduct have been heretofore well approved, & he is moreover well acquainted with the Ground on the Island which must certainly be of great advantage. There went a Number of men from This Town Some of whom are (we conclude now on the Island) We hope the Congress will let us have there advice & Determination as Soon as Possible and Pray that in all their Determinations they will be Councelled by the Supream Councillor & are Sir [&c.]

Stephen Nye

To Coll Nathel Freeman to be communicated to the Congress

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 284.

COLONEL JOSEPH HENSHAW TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD¹

Sir:

Hartford, May 31, 1775

By Captain [Jonathan] Brown I would advise you of my consulting the General Assembly of this Colony respecting the fortress at Ticonderoga. They have ordered Colonel [Benjamin] Hinman to take the command there with one thousand men, and four Companies raising at Albany, artificers, &c. to repair and defend that post. It is expected you will continue with Colonel [Ethan] Allen, and put the place in the best posture of defence you are able, and guard against any surprise from the enemy till the succours arrive, and you receive further directions from the Congress.² I should have proceeded from hence to Ticonderoga, but some events taking place since my departure from the Congress, makes it necessary for me to repair immediately thither.

I am, Sir [&c.]

Joseph Henshaw

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 724, from Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

2. Henshaw failed to follow the instructions given to him on May 27 by the Massachusetts Provincial Congress which directed that if Connecticut had made provision for garrisoning Ticonderoga, Arnold should return to Watertown "and render accounts of his expences in that expedition, in order that he may be honourably discharged."

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, May 31, 1775

A Letter from Col. [Benedict] Arnold, dated Crown Point, 23 May, 1775, was laid before the Congress, informing that he had certain intelligence, that "on the 19th there were then 400 regulars at St. John's, making all possible preparations to cross the Lake, and expected to be joined by a number of Indians, with a design of retaking Crown-point and Ticonderoga," and earnestly calling for a reinforcement and supplies. This letter being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the Governor of Connecticut be requested immediately to send a strong reinforcement to the garrisons of Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and that so many of the cannon and other stores he retained, as may be necessary for the immediate defence of those posts, until further orders from this Congress, and that the provincial Convention of New York be informed of this resolve, and desire of Congress, that he shd appoint a person, in whom he can confide, to command the forces at Crown Point and Ticonderoga.
for the lakes.

Ordered, That the above resolve be immediately transmitted in a letter by the prest to Govr [Jonathan] Trumbull, and the convention of New York.

Ordered, That the president in his letter acquaint Gov. Trumbull, that it is the desire of Congress, that he shd appoint a person, in whom he can confide, to command the forces at Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 73, 74.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, May 31, 1775.

Before this Letter can reach you, you must, undoubtedly, have received an Account of the engagement in the Massachusetts Bay between the Ministerial Troops (for we do not, nor cannot yet prevail upon ourselves to call them the King's Troops) and the Provincials of that Government . . .

General Gage acknowledges, that the detachment under Lieutenant Colonel Smith was sent out to destroy private property; or, in other Words, to destroy a Magazine which self preservation obliged the Inhabitants to establish. And he also confesses, in effect at least, that his Men made a very precipitate retreat from Concord, notwithstanding the reinforcement under Lord Piercy, the last of which may serve to convince Lord Sandwich (and others of the same sentiment) that the Americans will fight for their Liberties and property, however pusilanimous, in his Lordship's Eye, they may appear in other respects.

From the best Accounts I have been able to collect of that affair; indeed from every one, I believe the fact, stripped of all colouring, to be plainly this, that if the retreat had not been as precipitate as it was (and God knows it could not well have been more so) the Ministerial Troops must have surrendered, or been totally cut off: For they had not arrived in Charlestown (under cover of their Ships) half an hour, before a powerful body of Men from *Marblehead* and *Salem* were at their heels, and must, if they had happened to have been up one hour sooner, inevitably intercepted their retreat to Charlestown. Unhappy it is though

to reflect, that a Brother's Sword has been sheathed in a Brother's breast, and that, the once happy and peaceful plains of America are either to be drenched with Blood, or Inhabited by Slaves. Sad alternative! But can a virtuous Man hesitate in his choice?

1. John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington* (Washington, 1921-1940), III, 290-292. Hereafter cited as Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE DARLEY, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 31 May [1775]

I wrote you the 24th Inst by [Alexander] Kennedy since then have not had the plesure of hearing from you. Kennedey sailed the 25th and was at Annapolis 28th & I hope Ere this is Near the Capes. tho the winds has been light. . . . I know not any more I have to Say to you about the Schooner ² than I have allredy done. only that Unless Matters Gets worse than the[y] Appear yet that she will be Admitted with Servants & I would hope to get them Sold for Produce if thers any Shipping of it, & Arms & Ammunition from any place will be Admitted

Should the[y] not pass any Acts of Parliment to Restrict the trade of the Southern Provinces, produce will be Shipped for Lisbon &c in that Case Kenedy would stand as Good a Chance as another for a freight, but Shall write you more of this when I se[e] what our Congress Concludes on in the main time Should a Tolarable offer be made for Kennedy in London would advise you to Accept it, as I think she is a Ship that will be well liked there if Kennedy keeps her in good order.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Schooner *Industry*.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF NEWBERN AND COUNTY OF CRAVEN [NORTH CAROLINA] ¹

In the Committee at Newbern, May 31, 1775

Whereas it appears by Letters from the Committees of Correspondence in *New York* and *Philadelphia*, and by the Public Papers, that all Exportation to *Quebec*, *Nova Scotia*, and *Newfoundland*, or any part of the fishing Coasts or Islands, is suspended:

Resolved, That the above Measure be recommended by the Committee to the Merchants and Inhabitants of this Town and County; and that from this Time no Provisions, or any other Necessaries, be sent from this Port to the Army or Navy at *Boston*, unless otherwise directed by the Continental Congress.

Whereas having received certain Intelligence that a most bloody and barbarous Action hath lately been committed by the Army under General [Thomas] Gage on the Inhabitants near *Boston*, whom they unmercifully fell upon and murdered in cool Blood, and without Provocation, as they marched through the Country, having no regard to Age, Sex, or Infirmary; at the same time ravaging the Country, burning, destroying, and laying all waste wherever they came, until at length they were met by a few Companies of Provincials who then thinking themselves justified by all the Laws of God and Nations, took up Arms in the

immediate Defence of their Lives, and by a manly Exertion of that brave Spirit which a good Cause never fails to inspire, they, though greatly their Inferiors as to Numbers, providentially put a Stop to their destructive Career, and forced them to retreat with Precipitation and much Loss, for near 20 Miles, to their fortified City of *Boston*, which unhappy devoted Place the Army now consider as their own Property, in open exclusion of the right Owners. – From all which it manifestly appears that the *British* Ministry mean no longer to receive the peaceable Addresses of the much injured People of *America*, on the Subject of their invaded Rights; but are determined, since they will not voluntarily make a total Surrender of their Freedom and Constitution, to wrest it from them by the brutal Hand of Violence. The People of *America* are therefore now driven to this fatal Extremity – either they must tamely submit to Slavery, and agree for themselves and their Posterity forever, to work for and maintain, with the Sweat of their Brows, their proud Masters and Overseers, the ministerial Pensioners, Placemen, and Hirelings, of every Denomination whatever; or they must resolve firmly and manfully to maintain those Rights, which God gave, and the Constitution warrants. The latter Resolution our Sister Colonies have unanimously adopted, and accordingly have now in the field not less, from the best Accounts we have received, than 25,000 Men, well disciplined, and equipt with a large Train of Artillery and every Kind of military Implement necessary for immediate Action.

1. Archives Moravian Church South, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This is reproduced from an original broadside in English.

VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM PARRY TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE
BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir I desire You will please to acquaint the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I received their Lordships Order of the 31st. of January last, respecting the illicit Trade between the Dutch Settlements and His Majesty's Colonies in America, and likewise their Lordships other order on the same subject dated the 27th of February last; in consequence whereof, I have given the necessary orders to the several Captains of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command; and Instructed them to be very particular in this Service.

I have also received your letter of the 3d. of March last relative to the Ship *Prosperity*, and in obedience to their Lordships Command, have Ordered a good look out to be kept for her; Your other letter of the 1st of February last, I have likewise received, acquainting me that Vice Admiral [James] Young is to relieve me in the Command of His Majesty's Ships on this Station, and that it is their Lordships Orders that I hold myself in readiness to return to England on his arrival; His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* is now ready to proceed to Sea upon the shortest notice.

Captain Francis Grant Gordon arrived in English Harbour with His Majesty's Ship *Argo* the 20th. Instant, and I have, agreeably to their Lordships Orders taken her under my Command, and have sent the *Deal Castle* to England.

Enclosed is an Account of the State & Condition of His Majestys Ships and Vessels under my Command and another shewing the Disposition of them:

I am Sir [&c.]

Will^m Parry

Chatham in St John's Road Antigua the 31, May 1775

[Endorsed] Rd 12 July 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

1 June

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Exeter] Thursday 1st of June, 1775.

Voted, That two companys, as soon as they can be properly mustered & Equipt be sent to guard the sea coast for the present.

Whereas in the course of the present disputes, it may be necessary to Import on the Risque of the Colony a Quantity of Military Stores,

Resolved, That the Commt of Supplies be and hereby are impowered & directed to import or cause to be Imported from any place whatever such & so many stores aforesd not exceeding the value of three Thousand Pounds L.M. & the same to risque at their discretion, or without making Insurance on the vessels or cargoes which may be so employed, sent out or imported.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 495.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N. TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Scarbroh Piscataqua June 1st 1775

Sir I wrote to You Yesterday by Mr Fraser who I sent round to Boston in the *Spynx* Sloop, all communication between the Ship and Town is still stop't what measures they are pursuing in the Town I cannot inform You, the Guns which I spik'd up which I mentioned to You in my last, they have got up to Town before the *Canceaux* got off the Battery as Lt [Henry] Mowat informs me in his Letter they are preparing them for Service, there is a Hill abreast of Us in the Massachusetts side, which commands the Ship, they are now throwing up an Intrenchment and getting Cannon ready to mount there with an intention to fire on the Ship, there are two or three hundred Men Armed have been at work on it these two or three days past, all the Country are Armed and marching in bodys into the Town, it seems their whole design is if possible to drive the Ship out of the Harbour for further particulars I refer You to Mr [Thomas] Fisher Collector of the Customs at Salem who has been in Town, all the time these disturbances happened, I have taken forty or fifty Tons of Shot from the Fort and put it onboard a Sloop belonging to Capn [Thomas] Colsten for fear they might come in, in the night and steal them as there is no people in the fort, as I was informed they intended it, I hope I shall have Instructions how to act, against those people.