

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 2

AMERICAN THEATRE: Sept. 3, 1775–Oct. 31, 1775
EUROPEAN THEATRE: Aug. 11, 1775–Oct. 31, 1775
AMERICAN THEATRE: Nov. 1, 1775–Dec. 7, 1775

Part 4 of 9

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Lordship sent ashore a party of soldiers, under command of two officers, who marched through Norfolk to the place where the cannon were, destroyed 17 of them, and carried off two for their own use, without molestation. The above cannon we are confident were never intended for such a purpose; on the contrary, they belonged to sundry private Gentlemen, who had them removed there for safety.

Two companies of regulars are just arrived, viz: Capt. John Fleming's from Henrico, and Capt. Robert Ballard's from Mecklenburg.

We hear from Norfolk, that Capt. Matthews, of the Norfolk minute-men, Mr. William Robinson and Mr. John Hancock, have been taken prisoners by Lord Dunmore, but for what we cannot learn.

A large sloop from St. Eustatia, mounting 16 six pounders and a number of swivels, is said to be gone up the bay with a large quantity of gunpowder. Mr. [John] Goodrich of Portsmouth, whose vessel Lord Dunmore suspects of having brought in a supply of that article lately, is confined in irons on board a man of war.

22 Oct. (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN JOHN SELMAN¹

[Beverly, October 22, 1775]

At Cambridge I was ordered by Gen'l Washington to take the command of a detachment of said army and proceed on board the Schooner *Franklin*, on the 16th October 1775 his instructions and additional instructions, I send you a true copy of them. Before we sailed from Beverly I think it was a Mr. Morris [Stephen Moylan] an aid to Gen'l Washington came to me and asked for those instructions that he might see them, which I had received and was sealed and on the subscription p[a]rt was wrote (not to be opened till out of sight of land) I delivered them into his hand he immediately returned them to me, he had the same interview with Commodore Broughton, I believe in the same way. I remark on this that General Washington might be suspicious, this being the first enterprise of this nature with sealed orders, might start the mind, but the horrors of death in all its forms would not have operated to have broke a seal or denied a duty² – as to the time of sailing from Beverly I cannot say positively but I believe the 20th or 21st October.³

1. John Selman to Elbridge Gerry, March 18, 1813, printed in *Salem Gazette*, July 22, 1856.

2. The letters were sent by Colonel Reed to Moylan on October 19, who reported the same day that the letters would be delivered "to each Capt on their departure." Washington Papers, LC.

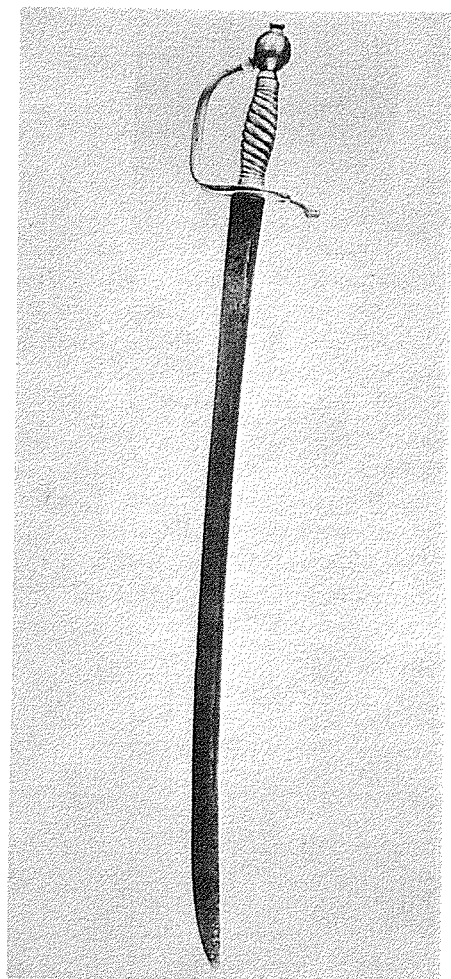
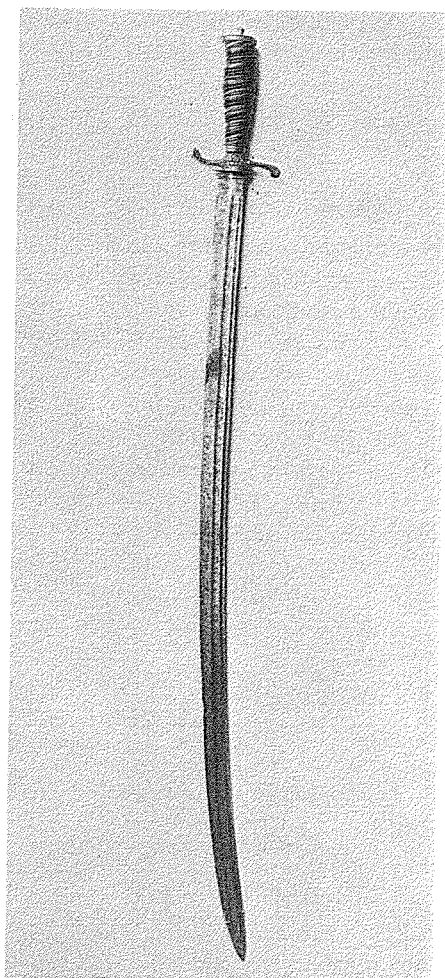
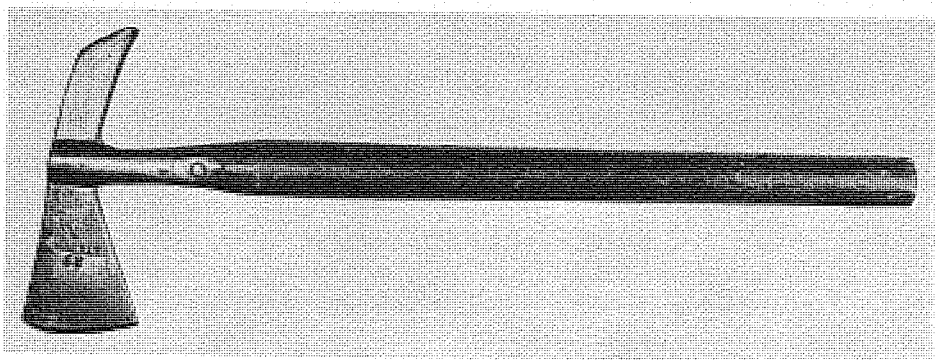
3. The sailing date was October 22, 1775; see Moylan's and Glover's letter of this date.

STEPHEN MOYLAN AND COLONEL JOHN GLOVER TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED¹

Dear sir

Beverly October [22]² 1775

The Schooners Commanded by Captains Broughton & Sillman [John Selman] Sailed this morning, as they had none but their old Colours, we appointed them a signal, that they may Know each other by, & be known to their friends – the ensign up to the Main topping Lift, –



(Top) English boarding axe. (Bottom left) English sword, used by Marine officers. (Bottom right) German sword, used by Marine non-commissioned officers.

you will please to order the Crew of the Schooner to be mannd out of General sullivans Brigade, to hold themselves in readiness for embarking next thursday, the Sooner that is done the better, as they may prepare what Necessarys they may have occasion for, & not delay in Looking out for them here, and as the Marble-head Gentry Will go home, it will be best to send them of[f] tomorrow, & we shall Stand a better Chance of being able to Collect them on Thursday, indeed the Captains of both schooners shoud be here to Superintend the Work

Mr. Moylan has orderd 200 bars of the Flour that was at Ipswich to this place, for the use of the Navy, it Saves some miles of Land carriage, that, at Salem, being nearer Camp.

Colonel Glover has received the present which Capt. [John] Langdon made to the Officers on board the Schooner he thinks it very genteel,

Please to send the following articles immediatly 40 Spears 300 Sorted Swivel Shot, & some Match rope 2 Signal Flaggs, 50lb Chocolate 50 lb Coffee 112lb Sugar & Small firkin of butter, We are with great regard Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan John Glover

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. This letter, well edited, appeared in Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 1134, under date of October 21. The original letter is dated "Beverly October 1775", and Colonel Reed, in acknowledging it on October 25, called it "your favour of blank date." From the contents of this October 25 letter, it is apparent the proper date of the above should be October 22.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM COIT¹

Head Quarters, October 22, 1775.

1. You being already appointed a Captain in the Army of the United Colonies of North America, are hereby directed to take the Command of a Detachment of said Army and proceed on board the army schooner *Harrison*; lately fitted out and equipped with Arms, Ammunition and Provisions at the Continental Expence.

2. You are to proceed as Commander of said Schooner immediately on a Cruize against such Vessels as may be found on the High Seas or elsewhere bound inwards or outwards to or from Boston in the Service of the ministerial Army and to take and Seize all such Vessels laden with Soldiers, Arms, Ammunition or Provisions for or from said Army or which you shall have good Reason to suspect are in such Service.

3. If you should be so Successful as to take any of said Vessels you are immediately to send them to the nearest and Safest Port to this Camp under a Careful Prize Master directing him to notify me by Express immediately of such Capture with all Particulars, and there to wait my farther directions.

4. You are to be very particular and diligent in your Search after all Letters or other Papers tending to discover the Designs of the Enemy or of any other Kind and to forward all such to me as soon as possible.

5. Whatever Prisoners you may take you are to treat with Kindness and Humanity as fas as is Consistent with your own Safety; their pri[mutilated] after being duly Searched, and when they Arrive at any Port you are to apply to the

Committee or to any Officer of the Continental Army Stationed at Such Port for a Guard to bring them up to Head Quarters.

6. For your own encouragement and that of the other Officers and Men to Activity and Courage in this Service over and above your Pay in the Continental Army you shall be intitled to one third Part of the Cargo of every Vessel by you taken and sent into Port (military and naval Stores only excepted, which the Vessels and Apparel are reserved for the Public Service), which said Third Part is to be divided among the Officers and Men in the following Proportions:

Shares, Captain 6, 1st. Lieutenant 5, 2nd. Lieutenant 4, Surgeon 4, Ship's Master 3, Steward 2, Mate $1\frac{1}{2}$, Gunner $1\frac{1}{2}$, Boatswain $1\frac{1}{2}$, Gunners Mate and Sergeants $1\frac{1}{2}$, Privates 1 each.

7. You are particularly charged to avoid any Engagement with any Vessel of the Enemy, tho' you may be equal in Strength or may [mutilated] have some small advantage. The Design of the Enterprise being to intercept the supplies of the Enemy, which will be defeated by your running into unnecessary Engagements. In this your own Discretion and Prudence must Govern.

8. As there may be other Vessels employed in this Same service with yourselves you are to fix upon proper Signals and your Stations being Settled so as to take the greatest Range avoid cruizing on the same Grounds; if you should happen to take prizes in sight of each other the Rules which take Place among private Ships of War are to be observed in the Distribution of the Prize Money.

9. In case of retaking the Vessel of any Friend to the American Cause, I will recommend it to Such Persons to make a suitable Compensation to those who have done such a Service, but [mutilated].

10. You are to be extremely careful and frugal of your ammunition, by no means to waste any of it in Salutes for any Purpose but what is absolutely necessary.

[G. Washington]

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 37-39.

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES AND OTHERS WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

October 22, 1775.

The Committee then proceeded to the Consideration of such Matters as have been mentioned in the Generals Letters to the Congress upon which no Order had been made

2. What Distinctions are necessary to be made between Vessels & Cargoes taken by the armed Vessels in the Pay of the Continent & those taken by Individuals. Should not the fitting out Privateers by Individuals be done under some Authority & Accidental Captures subject to some Regulations to prevent Piracies & other capital Abuses, which may arise?

Agreed that the General Court ought properly to take Cognizance of all armed Vessels fitted out by Individuals in this Province & that Commissions should be granted in such Cases; at least that Captures be made under some Authority. That Captures made by armed Vessels in the Pay of the Continent be disposed

of by the General for the publick Use, untill the Continental Congress give farther Direction. —

1. Washington Papers, LC. This was a "Conference of the Delegates of the Hon. Continental Congress, the Deputy Governours of Connecticut & Rhode Island, the Committee of Council of Massachusetts Bay with General Washington begun at Head Quarters Cambridge October 18, 1775 & continued to the 22d of the same Month."

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Watertown] The 22d [October]

We have just heard that the pirates on the Eastern shore have destroyed two-thirds of Falmouth burnt down, and have orders to destroy every sea port from Boston to Pemmaquid. This is savage and barbarous in the highest stage. What can we wait for now? What more can we want to justify any step to take, kill and destroy, to refuse them any refreshments, to apprehend our enemies, to confiscate their goods and estates, to open our ports to foreigners, and if practicable to form alliances, etc., etc.

I shall endeavour to see and form a judgment of your plan as soon as I can procure the chart. The row gallies you have at Philadelphia may be very serviceable in smooth water, but if I am rightly informed would not do in a sea. No doubt such might be constructed as would, but I am inclined to think that our cannon armed Vessels, especially as we can be so superiour in men, and are more used to them, will answer the purpose better, if we choose such as sail well.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 149–155. This is the conclusion of the letter Warren began on October 20, 1775.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 22 [October]

The Admiral received a Letter from Captain [James] Wallace acquainting him that the *Viper*, *Bolton*, two Transports, a Schooner for Virginia and a Packet for New York arrived at Rhode Island the 4th instant; that the *Viper*, Schooner and *Charlotte* Packuet sailed immediately for New York; that he had engaged a Quantity of Stock for the Transports, and notwithstanding the Rebel Governor [Nicholas] Cooke of Providence sent down 1500 men to prevent it he had got some off. He also acquainted the Admiral with his firing upon the Town of Bristol, and with his Endeavours to remove the Rebels in Arms from Rhode Island; that there was not an Island round him but had two or three hundred men under arms to defend it; & that the people were vigilant, some of them coming 50 miles upon an Alarm; but that there was plenty of provision to be got with a sufficient force; that he had had no regular Supply from the Contract[or] for 4 months past, and that if he could not settle some terms with the Town, he must depend upon ravaging the Country for Supplies.

Captain Wallace in another Letter acknowledged the Receipt of the Admirals Order of the 17th of September to burn, sink and destroy; and of other Orders.

Several two decked Ships and Frigates having by the admiralty been ordered to America, some of which it was imagined must very soon arrive, and perhaps

be already at Halifax, the Admiral now gave leave for the *Somerset* to return fr[om] thence to England; but he enjoined Captain Le Cras on his sailing from that Port, to leave all his Marines, and as many Seamen and Stores behind as he could spare.

Never had Ships been more eagerly wished for than at this period to intercept the Rebels outward and homeward bound Vessels, who were carrying on a most pernicious Traffic with the French and Dutch, injurious to the Kings Service in America and beneficial to themselves by bringing in not only Arms and Ammunition, but other Articles of equal importance to them, and without which they could not keep an Army together, nor of Course continue the War. The few Ships with the Admiral were continually on Service either cruizing or with Convoys, their coming into Harbour even was no relaxation, for, if not immediately hurried out again and abridged of time to take in their provisions and Stores, a part of their men was generally lent to other Ships, and the rest were sure of a great deal of Employment in Boats. So urgent were the Kings affairs and so inadequate had been the force to that time in America that it was worn down by Excess of Duty and Hardship. The following List contains the Additions to and Decrease of the Squadron since the arrival of the *Nautilus* and *Falcon* a few days before the Battle of Lexington

Added and time when fit for Service.		Decrease and the occasion thereof.	
1775		1774	
Jany 23	<i>Diana</i> Schooner	Novr 5.	<i>St Lawrence</i> gone to England.
May 20	<i>Charlotte</i> Advice Boat	1775	
July 17	<i>St Lawrence</i> Schooner	Feby	<i>Halifax</i> lost.
Sepr 1	<i>Halifax</i> Schooner	May	<i>Diana</i> burnt.
17	<i>Bolton</i> Brig	June	<i>Magdalen</i> gone to England.
		July	<i>Diligent</i> Taken.

Reinforcements from England within the time aforementioned

Name	Guns	Complement	When arrived	
<i>Otter</i>	16	100	April	23d
<i>Merlin</i>	16	100	May	23d
<i>Senegal</i>	14	100		30th
<i>Scorpion</i>	14	100	July	28th
<i>Viper</i>	10	80	Sepr	6th
<i>Cerberus</i>	28	160		26th
<i>Raven</i>	14	100	Octr	4th

Of these the *Otter* was sent to Virginia, The *Scorpion* as soon as she could be caulked and refitted sailed for North Carolina The *Viper* went to New York, And the *Raven* remained in Nantasket until the following Month, when she was ordered to Georgia. The *Merlin*, *Senegal* and *Cerberus* therefore were the only Vessels of those abovementioned that were of Service in the joint operations of the Squadron and Army at Boston.

The Condition in which the *Scorpion* and *Viper* arrived is partly described in their Captains Letters to the Admiral; hitherto almost all the small Ships and Sloops that came from England had been in want of men, caulking, and repairs.

All the Sailmakers that could be got were now employed in repairing old and making new Sails for the *Nautilus* and *Falcon*; as by reason of the Demands coming for these and other Stores from the Ships at Rhode Island, and the *Swan* being lately arrived in a manner destitute, the Storeship could not furnish Sails enough, nor indeed many other articles that were wanted.

The Admiral at this time not only ordered what Stores and Tackle had been requested for the Ships at Rhode Island to be supplied, but also directed a further quantity of the most useful Articles; to the end that those Ships might be able to maintain that important Post all the Winter: And the *Swan* was ordered to be caulked, victualled and stored with the utmost expedition that she might return to Rhode Island as soon as possible, & convoy the transports going with these supplies.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 152-154, BM

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 22d [October]

The *Swan* Capn. Ayscough came in from Rhode Island, bringing two Prizes and convoying two Transports laden with provisions. . . .

The *Nautilus* Capn. Collins came in; in chase of a Privateer ² she drove her ashore and run aground herself, but got off again with the lost of 1 Man killed and 1 wounded; coming into this harbour she run aground again, and was with great difficulty got off in two days; she now lays between this Peninsula and Noddles Island: there was a ship lay higher up the Mystick some time ago for a day or two, 'till the Adl. finding she was necessary there took her way. .

1. Barker, *Diary*, 65.

2. The vessel "run aground" was the armed schooner *Hannah*, Captain Nicholson Broughton, of Washington's Fleet.

CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR. TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED ¹

Hond Sir --

Plymouth 22nd Octo 1775

When I wrote you last, I omitted the Match Rope, (which is not to be had here, as I expected) Which I would have you Send P the first Opportunity as the Schooner will be obligd to wait for it. --

This will be handed you P. Capt Wormswell who complys with the Terms the other Vessells are hired on; he goes to Sollicit a First or Second Lieuts Birth which if you would please to give him will greatly Oblige Capt [Sion] Martindale, as he is well acquainted with the Vessell & Bears a Good Character, -- We are now at Work on the Vessell & hope the dispatch we Shall make in this Vessell will be No Less Pleasing to the Genl than the Former -- Capt Martindale is Anxious to please the Genl & Says he will go to no unnecessary Expence, Especially in the

Article of Powder, as he is Sensible of the Scarcity of it – but hopes to give entire Satisfaction, to his Excellency, as does Yr Very humble Servt

Eph^m Bowen J^r

NB. We hope to get this Vessell Equip'd by Sunday next –
To Colo Jos Reed Secy

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.¹

[Plymouth]

22 [October, 1775]. Waiting for the Return of the Express from Head-Qrs who Arrived Just before night

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CHARTER AGREEMENT FOR THE ARMED SCHOONER *Harrison* OF WASHINGTON'S
FLEET ¹

This Charterparty, Made & Concluded on this Twenty Second day of October, One Thousand, Seven hundred, & Seventy Five, by & between Daniel Adams, Mariner, part Owner of the Schooner *Harrison* Burthen about Sixty Four Tons, now lying at the Wharf in Plimouth, on the one part, & Ephraim Bowen (In behalf of his Excellency Genl Washington) on the other part. –

Witnesseth, that the Said Danl Adams, on his part doth hereby promise, Immediately to fix Said Schooner, with all needful Sails, (perticularly Topsails) Riging, a good Long Boat, Cables, Anchors, Tackel & all appertinances, Strong & Sufficent to perform a Cruise any where between Cape Codd & Cape Ann, Or elsewhere, which Said Vessell, Said Adams hereby lets or hires to Said Bowen for Said Services, for the Consideration below Express'd. and the Hull, sails, Riging, boat, spars, tackel & appertinances of all kinds belonging to Said Vessell needful for Said Voyage during the Same, to repair & keep in Repair at his Expençe. –

And the Said Ephraim Bowen, hirer of the Said Schooner, promises (in behalf of Said Genl Washington) to pay Said Daniel Adams Five Shillings & four pence P Ton P month & so in proportion for less time than a month during the time She is employ'd, also Said Ephraim Bowen does promise to pay all officers, marines & Sailors Wages; Pilotage, and all charge of Victualing the People during Said Cruise, & to pay all extraordinary expence that may accrue, as fiting the Sd Vessel as a Cruiser. The hire to commence the sixteenth day of this Inst October,² & to continue untill discharg'd by his Excellency the General. – And in case the Said Vessell is Lost, in Said Service, the Said Ephraim Bowen, promises (in behalf of his Excellency Genl Washington) to pay for her as She may be aprised, by the Persons appointed for that Purpose, and that Apprisement to be binding on both parties. To the true performance of all which the Said Parties bind themselves each to the other in the Penal Sum of One hundred pounds L[awful] M[one]y And they have hereunto Set their hands & Seals the day first Mentioned. –

N. B. The Vessell & appertinances is Valued at One hundred Seventy Pounds Lmy of Massachusetts – If the other Vessels employ'd by his Excellency Genl Washington, are Supply'd with Topsails at his expense, Then Capt. Adams to be allowd for his main Topsail

Daniel Adams Ephraim Bowen

Sign'd, Seald, & Deliverd in Presence of us
Tho^s S^o Howland Eph^m Spooner

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 75, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, Nos. 73 and 71. From two bills, dated October 19, it is evident that work on the schooner had begun the day hire commenced. These are "Octobr the 19th to Benjamin Richard To 1 day and a halves work at 3s pr day on bord the Schooner *Harrison*;" and "octobr the 19 ad 1775 To Lemuel Drew to 3 days and ½ Work at 4/8 . . . at Laying platform and Sundres on bord the Schooner *Triton* [original name of the *Harrison*.]"

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Ticonderoga] Sunday Octo: 22d

The Wind at South is so violent that no Boat can cross from this to Fort George I therefore detain the Express.

One o'Clock General Worsters [David Wooster's] Regiment is just sailed, they are gone with the greatest Reluctance. The Parson has been indefatigable to persuade them to move, they consist of three hundred & thirty five Officers included, Ninety Eight havin[g] returned home discharged between Albany & Fo[rt] George & fifty one sick & sham sick are left here.

There are still many more Cannon, here th[an] can be mounted, I propose sending the spare on[es] to Fort George, unless Congress should disapprove of [it.]

I had forgot to observe that in the Order of Congress which directs me to consult with my Principal Officers as to the Number of Troops & [the] best Method of procuring what will be necessary for the Defence of Canada, should we obtain it, an[d] for the Posts of Crown Point and Ticonderoga Nothing is said of the Pay; I conclude that their Intention is that It should remain as at present, But I really beleive that many Officers will refuse to remain in the Service on Account of the Pay which is so small that they cannot sub[sist] upon it like Gentlemen.²

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 244–245, NA; a copy in John Hancock Papers, III, LC.

2. The continuation of the letter will be found under date of October 25, 1775.

COLONEL ALEXANDER MCDUGALL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN,
CAMBRIDGE ¹

[Extract]

New-York, October 22, 1775.

The *Viper*, sloop-of-war, has aped the piratical conduct of the Ministerial ships to the eastward, by taking several of our vessels, inward bound, without so much as the least colour of their having violated any of the acts of trade. Nothing can more clearly manifest the absurdity and injustice of the present measures

against this distressed Country, than the violations of those acts which they contend ought to bind the *Americans*, and which they come to enforce against them by every artifice their wicked hearts can suggest. Will a *God* of justice suffer such matchless wickedness to pass with impunity? Surely he will not.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 1138.

CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU, R.N., TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH
NAVAL OFFICE, LONDON ¹

A Duplicate *Kingsfisher* Norfolk Virginia the 22nd October 1775
Gentlemen The 27th of September last I drew Bills on you in favour of George Hastings of the Ship *Rebecca and Frances* Transport, for Stores purchased for the Boatswain & Carpenter, and have here inclosed you a Duplicate of the Vouchers for the same. — I am Gentlemen [&c.]

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]
(No. 33)

The Ship *William* off Norfolk
October 22d 1775. —

Since I wrote your Lordship we have not been altogether inactive, for on the 15th Instant, I landed with between 70 and 80 Men (which was all we could Spare to take with us) some little distance from this in the Night, and Marched about a Mile and a half up the Country, where we destroyed 17 pieces of Ordinance and brought off[f] two more, that the Rebels had carried from the Town of Norfolk, and concealed there. On the 17th we landed again about eight Miles from this and Marched between two and three Miles up the Country where I had information of a Number of more Guns, and here they had collected about 200 of their Shirt men, who all fled to the Woods, and at this place we found some Small Arms and Ammunition, but could not find the Guns. On the 19th We landed again and Marched about two Miles up the Country, and there destroyed Ten Guns, and brought off Six. On the 20th we landed again and brought off Six more Guns, and Yesterday we landed again and brought off Ten Guns and Two Cohorns, and between fifty and Sixty small Arms and a great quantity of Ball of all Sorts and Sizes, which I believe is all the Military Stores in this Neighbourhood that could be of any Service to the Rebels; I should do manifest injustice to our little Corps if I did not inform your Lordship, that upon all these occasions both Officers and Soldiers behaved with that order and Spirit that does them honor; I can assure your Lordship that landing in this manner has discouraged exceedingly the Rebels, and has raised the Spirits of the friends of Government so much that they are offering their Services from all quarters; on one of the expeditions there were Seven prisoners taken of which Number I have detained two, the one is the Delegate [William] Robinson, the other is a certain Captn [Thomas] Mathews of the Minute men, whose examination I herewith send your Lordship. (No 2).

In my letter No. 32, I informed your Lordship of the situation of the Town of Hampton, the place of residence of His Majesty's Officers of the Customs of the lower district of James River, but the Rebels as I informed your Lordship had

possession of it and would not permit the Merchants, or Masters of Vessels, either to enter or Clear out; finding that the Custom House Officers were not permitted to do business there I ordered them by letter to move immediately to this place, where they would be protected by the Men of War, Mr Mitchel the Collector with his books and papers made his escape in the Night and Arrived here Yesterday in the Morning; Mr [Wilson Miles] Cary the Naval Officer declares he is an Officer belonging to the Country and not to the Crown, the other Mr Bradley the Comptroller I expect will come if he can make his escape, if Mr Carey or his Deputy does not come I shall appoint another in his place. I am [&c.]

Dunmore

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

23 Oct.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Exeter] 23d [October].

On the Report that a Fleet was expected to attack the Capital of the Colony, the Committee was desired to repair thither in order to take into their Consideration what was necessary immediately to be done.

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 23.

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES AND OTHERS WITH
GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Cambridge] October 23d 1775

The Delegates now proceeded to confer with General Washington as well on sundry Matters mentioned in his Letters to the Congress upon which no Order had been made as also upon other Matters occurring in the Course of this Business—and . . .

3. In what Light are Vessels which are made Captures of with their Cargoes to be considered? that is what Part is to be assigned the Captors in the pay of the Continent & where Vessels are fitted out at publick Expence & how is the Residue of the Vessel & Cargo to be disposed of—

The instructions given by the General to the armed Vessels now out being considered were approved, except that one third of the whole Capture be allowed the Officers & Men without any Reserve—

4. What is to be done with Prisoners taken in Transports by Vessels either in the Continental Pay or others? are they to be detained as Prisoners or released? if the former what Distinctions are to be made between those taken by the Continental Vessel & others In Respect to the Generals Cognizance of them is meant? Agreed That all Persons taken in Arms on Board any Prize be deemed Prisoners at the Disposal of the General as well such Prizes as are taken by Vessels fitted out in the Pay of the Continent as others – That all Vessels employed merely as Transports & unarmed with their Crews be set at Liberty upon giving Security to return to Europe but that this Indulgence be not extended longer than to the 1st April next. . . .

21. Six Vessels (armed) are now fitted out & fitting upon the best Terms to intercept the Enemy's Supplies – will this be agreeable to the Congress?
 Agreed that this Committee approve of this scheme & recommend it to the Congress? ²

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, a memorandum of some of the results of the conference reads:

Resolutions of the Conference

That Captures made by Armed Vessels in the pay of the Continent be disposed of by the General for the publick use untill the Continental Congress give farther directions.

Resolves of the Delegates from Congress in conference

The Instructions given by the General to the Armed Vessels being now considered and approved, Except that one third of the whole Capture be Allowed the Officers & men without any Reserve.

That all Vessels employed as Transports & unarmed with their Crews be set at liberty upon giving Security to return to Europe, but that this Indulgence be Extended no longer than to the 7 of April next.

BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE TO SAMUEL WARD ¹

[Extract]

Prospect Hill October 23 1775

. . . An Express arrived from Casco Bay last Evening that brings an account that the Enemy had been firing a Day or two upon Falmouth what has been the consequence we have not yet learnt, the Enemy had orders to burn Falmouth and Portsmouth unless the Inhabitants would deliver up their Arms and give Hostages for their future good behavior – The Enemys' conduct fulfills the Scripture "Whose tender Mercies are Cruelties" Will not this brutal conduct rouse a spirit of Indignation throughout America – Such a shocking scene as was Exhibited at Bristol you cannot conceive of – The People of Newport are all moving into the Country – The Night after Wallace returned from Bristol the confusion in Newport was near equal to what it was there – The Inhabitants Carted out there Goods and furniture and stord them in Barns & out Houses all about the Island, they must sustain very great losses from the confusion and disorder the Goods were mov'd in – Capt Escek Hopkins commands a party of about two hundred men Stationed there by order of Govenor Cook Capt Wallace has made the Inhabitants the following proposition if they will supply his Vessels with fresh Provisions Beer &[c] and remove the Troop off the Island he will spare the Town, but if they dont comply with these conditions he has positive Orders to lay the Town in Ashes, which he is determined to execute What will be the Event God only knows – There is a Committee from Newport down here to see Govenor Cook to get an Order for the Removal of the Troops and Liberty to furnish the Ships with fresh Provisions – The Committee are Capt John Jepson Mr John Malbone & Sam Dyer Esqr – The matter was laid before the Continental Committee who advisd to furnishing the Ships with fresh Provisions, but not to remove the Troops off the Islands – Which I suppose will take place Accordingly – But there appears a strange hobble in our Gait, here we are at Loggerheads at other places only Sparring and others again in perfect Tranquillity – Here we are cuting them off from geting fresh Provisions and removing the Stock from the Islands which amounts to an entire Depopulation – While at New-york, Philadelphia and many

other parts of America their Ships are supplied with every thing they stand in Need on and live in the midst of peace and plenty – If we are to be consider'd as one People and they as a common Enemy upon what Principles are they so differently treated in different Governments – O! could the Continental Congress behold the distreses and wretched condition of the poor Inhabitants driven from the Seaport Towns, it must, it would kindle a blaze of Indignation against those Commisiond Pirates and Licensed Robbers – that they would find no rest or Abideing Place in America –

1. Greene Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Monday, Octr 23, 1775

Resolved, That Capt. William Johnson, of the Schooner *Britannia*, chartered by the Committee of Supplies of this Colony, and now said to be arrived at Townsend, near Kennebeck River, be, and he hereby is directed to deliver to Tristram Dalton, Esq., or order, for supplying the Truckmaster of Penobscot, four half-barrels of Powder; he paying for the same five Shillings per pound.

[Endorsed] In Council, Octr 23 1775 Read and concur'd.

Upon a motion, Ordered, That Mr. Jones, Mr. Moody, and Mr. Webster, be a Committee to consider the propriety and expediency of giving order that any part of the cargo of Powder and Arms lately arrived at Boothbay, in the Schooner *Britannia*, should remain in that part of the Government.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

WILLIAM MOLINEUX'S ACCOUNT OF THE REMOVAL OF THE CANNON FROM
FORT POWNALL ¹

Watertown 23 Octo '75

The followg is an Account of the Manner which the Cannon & Spare Arms were taken from Fort Pownall on the 14th April '75 by an Order from Genl Gage, directed to Thos Goldthwait Esq Commander of said Fort.

On Friday Eveng the 13th Apl, came into penobscott river a Top sail Schooner which Anchor'd near Fort Pownall, which myself and others took to be a Merchantman going up the River to purchase Lumber – and early next Mornng we saw Another Schooner which came too & Anchord near the Former. soon after came ashore some Sailors from the first mentiond Vessel to beg some Milk for their Breakfast's and said they were going up the River to get lumber – presently after came on Shore an Officer who enquir'd for the Commander of the Fort and on seeing him presented an Order from Genl Gage, for the Cannon & spare Arms – he then return'd on board and immediately appeard a large Number of Soldiers on the Deck, (which before was not seen) who directly got into Boats and came ashore & March'd into the Fort and went to work in Getting out the Cannon & wch was carry'd on board – I am Convinc'd at that time 'twas not in Colo. Goldthwait's power to have resisted them, with the least Degree of Success – having only 6 or 8 Men in the Fort and but half a Barrl powder which the Gunner show me in the Magazine – I further declare that I remain'd at said Fort 'till

the news came of the Battle at Lexington – immediately on which (tho' late at Night) Colo Goldthwait dispatch'd a Number of Men in his Barge to go 20 Miles up the River and advise the people of the News – and recommend to them, to immediately Call a Meeting, to consider what was most Eligible to be done – the Meeting was accordingly hel'd the 6 day of May when Colo Goldthwait presided as Moderator thereof. – I attended the Meeting myself, and found, that after Colo Goldthwait's Conduct was represented to them, that they were Universally satisfy'd wch they manafested by a General Vote – during the whole of the above transactions I was at the Fort, and look'd on Colo Goldthwait to be a Strong Advocate for the Liberties of his Country

W Molineux

the above if requir'd, am ready to make Oath to

I would further add, that the Officers which Commanded the party, said that if Colo G't refus'd delivering the above Cannon &c. 'twas his Orders to destroy the Fort &c immediately

W M

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 211a, 211b.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1775

Watertown, October 23.

By a Gentleman who came to Town Yesterday from Falmouth, Casco Bay, we are informed, that Capt. Mowatt, and another Ship with two Transports arrived there on Monday last [October 16]; soon after Capt. Mowatt went on Shore with a Flag of Truce; informing them that his Orders, which he read in the Town House there was immediately to demolish that Town, (and yet they did not seize him) On which the Inhabitants, sick and well began to remove as fast as possible with their effects, and on Tuesday morning he began to bombard the Town, and set it on Fire, which was near three Quarters consumed when our Informant came through one Part of it on Wednesday last.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER GRAEME ¹

Octr 1775 Boston Light N ½ Wt Distce 2 or 3 Miles saw a Sail Stand-
Monday 23 ing to the S W gave Chase fired 2 Swivels & 9 Nine Pounders
Shotted at her to bring too a Brig Modt & hazey Wr spoke a brig
from Phalmo with wine and fruit bound to Marblehead, sent a Mas-
ters Mate & six hands to carry her to Boston

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR. ¹

[Plymouth]

23 Monday [October, 1775]. Put all the Provision & Stores ab[d] the Schooner *Putnam*. Set the Carpenters at Work on the Brig also the Rigers

1. Washington Papers, LC.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] October 23.

The 3 Gentlemen sent by the Town Council to D. Govr Cook to advise on the present State of this To returned this Afternoon, with a Letter from Gov. Cook dated at Cambridge the 21st Inst. in which he advises that upon the Advice of the Committee of the Continental Congress now sitting at Cambridge, Wallace shd be supplied with Provisions on Condition of sufferg the Ferry & Wood Boats to pass freely:—that the Troops stationed here should continue on the Isld, but out of Town: that by Express received the day before from Piscataqua, they were informed that several Ships & Transports with Kings Troops appeared in Casco Bay & demanded of the To of Falmo a surrendg of their Arms with Hostages for Fidelity, & shewed Orders for destroying that To & Portsmouth upon Refusal; that 8 Muskets were surrendered and no more — whereupon on Tuesday last the Ships began a heavy Canoniade on the To of Falmouth.

1. Dexter, ed., *Diary of Ezra Stiles*, I, 626.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1775

Newport, October 23

Last Monday [October 16] the *Swan*, Capt. Ayscough sailed for Boston, with 2 transport ships, several wood vessels, &c. The *Swan*, it is said, is to proceed from Boston to England. The above vessels carried round the live-stock that was bought of the Brentons, that which was extorted from Bristol, the Rams taken from Dutch Island, &c. which 'tis thought is all the supply of that kind the ministerial forces will ever receive from this quarter, as the sea-coasts of this colony are now pretty well guarded.

By a letter from a gentleman at Falmouth, Massachusetts-Bay, to his friend in this town, dated Oct. 9, we learn, that 14 sail of transport ships were then in Penobscot Bay, in quest of wood and other necessities; that Col. [James] Cargill with a body of men had gone in search of them, and 'twas hoped he would prevent their getting any supplies. — Perhaps it was this fleet returned to Boston, last week, which occasioned the report of a number of ships and troops having arrived there from England.

The men of war, in this harbour, having made a very arbitrary and wanton use of their power, in stopping ferry-boats, taking out passengers, turning the boats adrift, cutting away their masts, &c. — The owners of the ferries (whose boats were obliged to pass the ships) have laid up their boats, so that there is no passing the Western ferries, from and to this town, in the usual way; also a number of wood-boats, having been stopped, had their wood taken, stripped of their sails, rigging, &c. has occasioned all the others to be laid up, or employed some other way, so that there is no wood brought to this town, by water, at present.

Image unavailable.
See the printed volume.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1775

New-York, October 23.

Last Friday Night [October 20], John Bates, arrived here in a small Schooner, from North-Carolina, and acquaints us, That the Wednesday before he saw a Ship lying ashore on her Beam Ends at Brigantine Inlet, about half a Mile to the Southward of Little Egg Harbour, with her Head on Shore; that the same Evening, a Boat came out of Cranberry Inlet, with some People in her, three of whom appeared like Gentlemen, and said they had been a Gunning, but their Ammunition being out, they would be glad of a Passage to New-York; Capt. Bates took them on board, but soon after the Wind came a Head, he was obliged to put about and take Shelter in Cranberry Inlet, where the next Morning his Company was taken from him by Capt. Loverman and a Party of his Men from Egg Harbour, who informed Mr. Bates he had taken all the Rest of the Crew, and that the Ship they belonged to was a Transport, and that he understood the Captain's Name was Thompson ¹

We have since heard the Ship above-mentioned was from Boston, was cast away Yesterday Week, bound here, had 13 Women on board, one of which is come to this Town; that the Crew are saved, but the Ship gone to Pieces.

1. Captain George Hastings, of the transport *Rebecca & Francis*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] October 23rd.

Resolved, That Capt. [Peter] Long be order'd to buy a Quantity of half Price Boards, and send them to Fort Island, for the purpose of building a leantoo shed against the inside of the Fort Wall, sufficient to cover two or three hundred Men in bad weather.

Robert Towers, Commissary, Reports . . . That he has deliver'd to the undermention'd Captains of the armed Boats, the following Firelocks, viz't:

- 13 Firelocks to Captain [Henry] Dougherty, of the *Washington*.
- 15 ditto to Capt. [Charles] Alexander, of the *Chatham*.
- 15 ditto to Capt. [Allen] Moore, of the *Effingham*.
- 15 ditto to Capt. [Samuel] Davidson, of the *Warren*.
- 15 ditto to Capt. [James] Blair, of the *Burke*.
- 15 ditto to Capt. [James] Montgomery, of the *Ranger*.
- 15 ditto to Capt. [John] Hamilton, of the *Congress*.
- 15 ditto to Capt. [Richard] Eyres, of the *Camden*.
- 2 ditto to Capt. Thomas Moore, of the *Hancock*.
- 2 ditto to Capt. [John] Rice, of the *Dickinson*.
- 6 ditto to Capt. [Alexander] Henderson, of the *Bull Dog*.
- 8 ditto to Capt. [Nicholas] Biddle, of the *Franklin*.

Upon application of Capt. Peter Long, Ship's Husband, for a sum of Money for the payment of a Number of Small articles he had occasion to purchase for the use of the Armed Boats,²

By Order of the Board an order was drawn on Michael Hillegas, Esq'r, Treasurer, in his favour for one hundred pounds.

This Board having taken into their Consideration (by desire of the Hon'ble Assembly) the appointment of a Commodore to command the Fleet, Capt. Thomas Reed was named, And after full consideration of his Merits, and enquiring into his character and Qualifications, it was

Resolved, That the said Capt. Thomas Read be recommended as a proper person to be appointed by the Honorable House of Assembly to that Important Station.

Resolved, That the Commodore to the Armed Boats be allowed a Clerk, and that the said Clerk be allowed Nine Dollars p Month for his Services.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 378-379.

2. In the Gratz Autograph Collection, HSP, is an undated letter from Biddle to Long, which reads: "Sir Please to Pay the Bearer Michael Mingham for 8 and half Cord of Oak and two and a quarter of Hickory Wood which he has delivered on Liberty Island for use of the fleet."

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] Octr. 23, 1775

You will receive a Letter from a Comtee. whose Business it is to prepare a compleat Narrative of the War – at least of the Murders, Robberies, Piracies, Treasons, Felonies, Villanies, etc. of the Army and Navy. Mr. [George] Wythe who is one, is a Virginian, a Lawyer of high Rank at the Bar, a great Schollar, a most indefatigable Man and a staunch Virginian, to all appearance.

You will observe the Vote limits Us to last March. This was done without design and I dont intend to be so limited; and therefore I hope the two Houses will appoint a Committee upon a larger Scale and collect Facts at least from the Port Bill, i.e. the time when it took place. I hope neither Time, Trouble nor Expençe will be spared upon this Occasion; that an Account of the Expençe will be kept by the Province; and altho I have no authority to say it will be paid, yet I believe it will by the Continent.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 159, 160.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1775

Philadelphia, October 23.

Last Monday morning [October 16] before day, a transport ship, Captain Hastings, was stranded on Brigantine Beach, on the coast of New-Jersey. She had on board Capt. Duncan Campbel, Lieut. Sims, two Serjeants, and twenty-one Privates, bound from Boston, as they say, for New-York, as a recruiting party. The Captain and Lieutenant got off the Beach on Tuesday in a small boat, and are supposed to have gone towards Amboy, but 'tis expected they will be taken. Captain Hastings, with three of the soldiers, were brought here last Saturday under a guard. The rest of the soldiers will be secured. Before they quitted the vessel they threw overboard several pieces of cannon belonging to the vessel, 60 muskets and two and an-half barrels of powder. The vessel left Boston the 5th of October, in company with a 20 gun ship and one transport with some troops bound for Hali-

fax. No other ships of war or troops had sailed. General Gage was to sail in a day or two in a merchant ship of 16 guns. The 48th and 59th regiments being greatly reduced, the privates are incorporated into other regiments and their officers going home. The object of Col. Arnold's expedition was not known at Boston, but supposed to be destined against Halifax.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Octr 23

[Arrived] Joshua Barney, Ship *Sidney*, Gibraltar, Jno Smith & Sons [owners].²

1. Baltimore Committee, L.C.

2. See Journal of H.M. Sloop *Kingsfisher*, September 29, 1775; also Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*, 27-28, which reads:

When at last he landed, and saw and heard on every hand the din of preparation, and listened to the groups of old and young as they recounted at corners and public places the story of his country's wrongs, and the long catalogue of British tyranny and injustice, his heart grew big, his whole frame dilated – he felt himself already a *Commodore!* – and glowing with the pride of this anticipated promotion, he suddenly, and unannounced, presented himself in the counting-house of the plain, plodding, sour old merchant, who owned 'the good ship *Sidney*.' – The old gentleman raised his eyes from the ledger (the mysterious pages of which he was intently studying,) and fixed them with an inquisitive stare upon the young intruder. – 'Who are you, sir?' at length escaped from him, in a tone of surly impatience. – 'I am *Joshua Barney*, master of your ship, just arrived!' – 'Master of *my ship*, are you, sir? and how dare you, sir, an *apprentice boy*, presume to take command of a ship of *mine*?' – The 'apprentice boy' turned upon him a look of calm disdain, and throwing upon the desk before him the ship's papers and other documents of the voyage which he had brought in his hand – 'Read these!' said he, and without further reply walked to the window, where he amused himself in looking at the various individuals that passed to and fro. – The merchant in the meantime took up the bundle of papers, pulled down his spectacles from the top of his head, and was soon profoundly interested in the perusal. – The operation was slow – time wore away, and Barney's patience began to wear with it: – he had counted every brick in the opposite house, and read every sign, backwards and forwards, anagrammatizing the names, as far as he could see them up and down street – he coughed – walked to the fire – trod upon the toes of the great watch-dog that lay stretched before it, and knocked down the poker. – Everything has its end – the last paper was at length read, and carefully refolded: the old gentleman lifted his spectacles once more above his forehead, and rising from his seat with an agility that little belonged to his ordinary motions, he advanced to the young seaman, seized his hand, and giving it a hearty shake with both his own, exclaimed, '*Captain Barney*, you are welcome home, sir! I am *glad* to see you! I congratulate you heartily upon your safe return! your conduct meets my cordial approbation, sir, and I am proud to find that I have so deserving a young man in my employ. – Take a seat, sir; we shall see what's to be done immediately!' – The compellation with which the venerable merchant commenced this flattering address, was more soothing than all the rest of the compliment: – to be called 'captain,' by one who had the legitimate right to bestow such titles, was indeed an honor to be prized; it wiped away all remembrance of his insulting reception, and when the business of the interview was finished, he made his retiring bow in the firm persuasion that John Smith was one of the first merchants in the world!

Thus ended this truly eventful voyage – the ship had been absent nearly nine months, during the last eight of which Barney had been her commander, though at the moment of his arrival but sixteen years and three months old. He had already gone through scenes, and triumphed over difficulties, such as occur to few seamen in the course of a long life spent in navigation.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU ¹

October 1775 Moored in Elizbth River Virginia Abreast the Town
of Norfolk—

Monday 23 AM Delivered the Rum to the Owner out of the Sloop as he Brot
his Clearance but Kept the Sloop the owner being A Rebel

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

LIEUTENANT JOHN FERGUSSON, R.N., TO WILLIAM PRICE ¹

Sir

Rebellion Road 23rd Octor 1775

Please to Supply His Majesty's Armed Ship *Cherokee* under my Command
with the Undermentioned Species of Provisions Viz

Bread	One Thousand pound	
Rum	Fifty Gallons	
Beef	Fifty	} Tierces
Pork	Ninety	
Butter	One Hundred & forty pounds	

I am Sir [&c.]

Jn^o Fergusson

To Mr William Price Agent for Supplyin His Majesty's Ships with Provisions

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

(Copy)²

Tamer Rebellion Road South

Carolina 23d October 1775.

Sir As I have not had an opportunity of corresponding with Admiral Graves since the 29h of June I think it necessary to desire you will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships with some steps I have taken at the earnest desire of the Right Honble Lord William Campbell Governor of this Province on the 7h of September Lieut Fergusson arrived here with His Majesty's armed Ship *Cherokee*; and notwithstanding the particular service she was intended for it was thought necessary I should detain her in this port and the Governor being of opinion that her small Complement of Men was not sufficient for the Service that might be required of her; I have ordered Lieutenant Fergusson to procure for the Service 20 able bodied Men, and to bear them on the Books of the Ship he commands as Supernumeraries for Victuals and Wages. I have also procured Pilots for both Ships as well for their Safety as to assist any of His Majesty's Ships in entering this port the people of Charles Town having strictly ordered their Pilots not to go out of the Harbour.

On the 24h September I seized and have detained a very fine Schooner that had on board a hun[dred] Cannon Shot I understanding she chiefly belongs to an Officer in the Rebel Army and as they have actually armed Schooners in this Port it is said with an intention to attack His Majesty's Ships have more readily detained the above mentioned Schooner as it was by the Governors desire who was then on board for safety thinking her exceedingly fit for that purpose.

I shall not trouble their Lordships with the state of His Majesty's Subjects in this Province as his Excellency will give the Secretary of State a more particular Account than I am capable of. And am &c

Edward Thornborough

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 44b.

2. The copy which was transmitted to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Endorsed] COPY of a letter from Vice Adml Young Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels at the Leeward Islands, to Mr Stephens dated on board the *Portland* in English Harbour Antigua 23d October 1775.

The 7th of October arrived at English Harbour. Captn Gordon in His Majts Ship *Argo*, and brought answers to the Letters I had wrote to the Governors &c. of all His Majesty's Carribbee Islands Copies of which are inclosed; as is likewise Copies of two Letters, (deliver'd to Captn Gordon at Barbados) from the Governor of Bermuda, setting forth the Powder Magazine at said Island, had been broke open, in the Night of the 14th of Augt last, and upwards of one hundred barrels of Powder (the greater part of what was there) was stolen, and carried off, either to Philadelphia, or South Carolina, as he supposes.

I have likewise transmitted herewith, for the further information of Government, Copy of Intelligence given me by Captn Gordon, of a new mode of carrying on a Contraband Trade, from the French Islands to North America, by American Vessels, loading Powder & warlike Stores, at the French Ports and then taking on board a French nominal Master who (in case of Examination at Sea) is to produce a fictitious Bill of Sale for the Vessel and call her his Property; In consequence of this intelligence I immediately order'd Captn Gordon of the *Argo* to proceed to the Island of Guadaloupe, and deliver'd a Letter from me (Copy of which I have likewise inclosed) To the Count De Nosier, His Most Christian Majesty's Govr General of all the (French) Windward Caribbee Islands to acquaint him with the Information I had receiv'd, of the above very disgraceful & infamous Traffick, & desired he may immediately put a stop thereto. And I flatter myself their Lordships will approve of my doing so.

I have further transmitted, Copy of a Printed Paper, numbers of which, (I am informed) have been circulated (by the American Masters of Vessels) amongst the trading People in these Islands, to induce them to supply Gunpowder & Warlike Stores to the North American Rebels.² I am &c

Jam^s Young

P.S. Before Captn Gordon was arrived at Guadaloupe with my Dispatch. The County De Nosier (His most Christian Majesty's Governor General &c.) had forwarded me the inclosed Letter, mark'd No 11 to which I have return'd an Answer as P Copy herewith, mark'd No 12. Captn Gordon is not return'd from Guadaloupe, with the Count De Nosier's Answer to my Letter, so that I cannot by the present Opportunity acquaint their Lordships with the final result of this matter.

J. Y.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 53b.
2. Circular of a resolution of Congress, dated July 15, 1775, with Admiral Young's endorsement under date of October 23, 1775:

Whereas the Government of Great Britain hath prohibited the exportation of Arms & Ammunition, to any of the Plantations, and endeavoured to prevent other Nations from supplying us. Resolved – That for the better furnishing these Colonies with the necessary means of defending their Right, every Vessel importing Gunpowder, Salt petre, Sulphur (provided they bring with the Sulphur four times as much Salt-petre) brass field pieces, or good Musquets fitted with bayonets, within Nine Months from the date of this resolution, shall be permitted to load & export Provisions to the value of such Powder, Arms & Stores as aforesaid, the non-exportation agreement notwithstanding, and it is recommended to the Committees of the several Provinces, to inspect the Arms & Military Stores so imported, and to estimate a generous price for the same according to their goodness, and permit the importer of such Powder, Arms & other Military Stores as aforesaid, to export the value thereof & no more, on provisions of any kind.

A true Copy from the Minutes

Charles Thompson, Secretary

[Endorsed, October 23, 1775] The above is a copy of a printed paper circulated among the Trading People of these Islands, to induce them to supply Gunpowder &c. to the North Americans. [signed] Jam^s Young.

PRO, Colonial Office, 5/22, 53g.

DISPOSITION OF SHIPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG AT BARBADOS AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS ¹

23d October 1775.

Ships.	Commander.	Where Stationed &c.
<i>Portland</i>	Vice Admiral Young Capt Thos Dumaresq	} English Harbour Antigua: Fitting for Sea.
<i>Argo</i>	Fras G. Gordon	
<i>Hind.</i>	Willm Garnier	English Harbour Antigua, Fitting for Sea.
<i>Lynx.</i>	Alexr Scott	24th July 1775. Ordered to Dominica, St Vincent, Grenada, and Tobago, to enquire into the State of Trade &c. and to consult with the Governors of the different Islands, in what manner the Sloop may be best employ'd in guarding the said Islands, protecting their Trade, &c. and to continue in [that] Service till the 24th Octor next, then return to English Harbour.

14th Augt Order in Addition to the foregoing, to search all Vessels he may fall in with, that are bound to North America, and Strictly to examine whether they have on board any Gunpowder or

Ships.	Commander.	Where Stationed &c.
<i>Pomona</i>	Henry Byrne	other Warlike Stores, and should any such be found on board, to seize said Vessels and bring them forthwith to English Harbour. English Harbour Antigua. Fitting for Sea. Jam ^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

24 Oct.

INHABITANTS OF NORTH YARMOUTH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

May it please your Excellency

We the Inhabitants of North Yarmouth and New Gloucester in the County of Cumberland beg Leave to acquaint your Excellency that We in these and the neighbouring Towns are greatly alarmed and distressed by the Desolation of a great Part of the Town of Falmouth which was on Wednesday last [October 18] cannonaded and set on Fire by some of his Majestys Ships of War, the Particulars of which we suppose your Excellency has already received some other Way. We have been informed their Design was next to assault and destroy North Yarmouth. But that which gives us the most painful Apprehensions is, a Jealousy that their Design is to take Possession of Falmouth Neck and fortify an Eminence there from which we judge it woud be most difficult if not impracticable to dislodge them. In this Case they woud enjoy a most commodius Harbour for their Ships & be able to annoy and distress the defenceless Country around them at pleasure. We woud further inform your Excellency that we are weak and unprovided with Artillery and military Stores in this Part of the Country and shoud they erect a Fortress and garrison it with Troops as we have supposed, we judge that unless we are assisted by some of your Army or other Ways we must be obliged to fly with our Families or submit to their superiour Power. And as to the Importance of this Part of the Colony to the others we refer your Excellency to others who are acquainted therewith and can fully inform you. Certain it is that from this Part of the Country may be carried Plenty of Fuel Timber &c. and large Stocks of all Kinds of Cattle which woud be most serviceable to our Enemies if they shoud once get Possession of this Part of the Colony, and thus they might be greatly assisted in carrying on Hostilities against other Places. In these distressing Circumstances, we woud commend Ourselves to your Excellencys Attention and Compassion, referring the Matter to your Wisdom whether you will not judge it expedient to take Possession of the said Eminence in Falmouth and fortify and garrison it with some of the Forces under your Command, which woud at the same Time prevent such another terrible Ruin as has befallen great Part of that Town and also guard the other Parts of this Part of the Colony from Ravages and Devastations. But if your Excellency shoud not judge this to be expedient yet we woud pray your Excellency to afford us such Assistance of Men & military Stores as your Excellency shall judge proper; that we may not be exposed every Hour to be plunderd burnt and destroyed, or be forced naked and

helpless to leave our Settlements and Habitations and fly for shelter to some other Parts of the Country.

Thus have we briefly and imperfectly ventur'd to lay before your Excellency our distressed Scituation and the Anxiety of Mind we are in, not doubting but your Excellency will judge our Case worthy your Attention and that your Benevolences to the distressed tho they may be utterly unknown to you will influence you to do your Endeavours to afford us that Assistance which you shall think we stand in Need of. For further Information we beg Leave to refer your Excellency to Dr Edward Russell the Bearer hereof a Gentleman that resides in North Yarmouth and is capable of giving your Excellency any further Intelligence you shall need. —

We beg Leave to subscribe Ourselves your Excellencys [&c.] North Yarmouth Octor 24. 1775.

A Copy—

1. MeHS.

JEREMIAH POWELL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

North Yarmouth Octor 24. 1775.

To the Honourable Council, and to the Honourable House of Representatives of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay —

May it please your Honours —

Last Evening came up to this Town from the *Halifax* armed Schooner, belonging to a Fleet, viz the *Canceaux* the *Semitry* & the *Spitfire*, lying in Hog Island Road under the Command of Capt Mowit Three men Deserters from said Schooner, who ran away with the Yawl belonging to said Schooner, from a watering Place on Hog Island where they with one man more under the Command of a Midshipman were sent on Shore to take in Water — They came & delivered themselves up to some of our Militia who were at work erecting a Battery on the Shore — And give us the following Intelligence That on Monday the 16th Current the sd Fleet arrived in Casco Bay. That the same Day their Orders were read to them which were to burn, sink & Destroy every Thing to the Eastward of Boston that they cou'd not conveniently carry off with them. That Tuesday the Fleet went up to Falmouth & came too in a Line before the Town — That Wednesday Morning about 9, o'Clock they began to fire upon the Town, and about 2 Hours after the Fire began Boats were sent on Shore to fire the Houses by hand — that the men went on Shore unarmed, and to their apprehension not more than 20 were on Shore at any one Time. Further they say, that the greater part of the Buildings that were burnt were fired by Hand — The mens names are Charles Stuart Quarter Master, John Elliot and Daniel Streetland Foremastmen, the two first taken out of Vessels which they took, & are now detained in Boston Harbour, & the last impressed out of a Schooner at Halifax — The men give a fair and honest Acct of themselves and agree very well in their Relation of the fore mentioned Facts — We have sent them to the Committee of Scarborough to be forwarded to the General Court of Watertown, where when they arrive your Honors will have Opportunity for further Examination as may be tho't proper — The Yawl in

which they made their Escape is now in our keeping, and should be glad to receive Orders what shall be done with her.

I am your Honours most obedient and most humble Servant

Jer: Powell Chairman of the Committee of Safety

[Endorsed] In Council Octor 28th 1775 Read & sent down

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 252.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S ARMED VESSEL *Canceaux*¹

Octr 1775 Portland point N b W ½ W
 Tuesday 24 A M light airs & variable at 8 fired a gun made the signal for sailing at 11 weig'd & came too sail, at Noon boats ahead towing the ship off shore – [P.M.] Towing off shore with *Symmetry Hali-fax* & *Spitfire* – two Schooners & two Sloops Prizes at 4 C. Elizabeth W b N ½ N 1 mile at 6 Wood Island N W b W 3 Leagues do in 1st & 2nd Rft Top Sails. Fresh Gales & Clear at 12 Close Rfd Tsls H F T Sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED¹

Dear Sir

Beverly 24th Octobr 1775

I am much obliged to you that you take notice of my Letter p Wilson, & doubt not he will answer yours & my expectation, I wish with all my soul that these two vessells were dispatchd chiefly for the publick Service, & allso that I may have the pleasure of seeing my friends Mr Lynch & Col. Harrison, I want much to be introduced to Doctor Franklin, for whom I have many years a vast veneration, I think they will be off on thursday evening [October 26] if they are, I will be with you on Friday

Col. [John] Glover showed me a Letter of yours which has mortified him much, I realy & sincerely believe he has the cause much at heart, & that he has don his best, (in the fitting out these four last vessells), for the publick Service you Cannot Conceive the difficulty the trouble & the delay there is in procuring the thousand things necessary for one of these vessels, I dare say one of them might be fitted in Philadelphia or New york in three days, because you would know where to apply for the different articles but here you must Search all over Salem Marblehead Danvers & Beverly for every Little thing that is wanting I must add to these, the Jobbing of the Carpenters, who are to be sure the Idlest Scoundrels in nature, If I could have procured others, I shoud have dismissed the whole Gang of them last Friday, & such religious rascalls are they, that we Coud not prevail on them to work on the Sabbath I have stuck very close to them since, & what by Scolding & Crying Shame for their torylike disposition in retarding the work, I think they mend something –

there is one reason, & I think a Substantial one, why a person born in the same town or neighbourhood shoud not be employed on publick affairs of this nature in that town or neighbourhood, it is that the Spirit of equality which

reigns thro' this Country, will make him afraid of exerting that authority Necessary [for] the expediting his business, he must shake eve[ry] Man by the hand, & desire, beg, & pray, do brother, do my freind, do such a thing, whereas a few hearty damns from a person who did not Care a damn for them would have a much better effect, this I know by experience, for your future government — indeed I could give other reasons, but I think this sufficient —

I hope the Field Depys will not depart before I have the pleasure to see them, my Compliments to those of them that I am acquainted with, & believe me with great esteem Dr Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan

My best respects attend his Excellency pray order the articles wrote for yesterday to be forwarded without delay I shan't send my Sensible boy any more express, but as he goes to town on some business of my own, I desire he may Call on you & if you have any commands, I dare say he will wait for them

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

No 10.

Camp at Cambridge, October 24. 1775.

Sir, My Conjecture of the Destination of the late Squadron from Boston in my last has been unhappily verified by an Outrage exceeding in Barbarity & Cruelty every hostile Act practised among civilized Nations. I have inclosed the Account given me by Mr [Pearson] Jones a Gentleman of the Town of Falmouth of the Destruction of that increasing & flourishing Village. He is a very great Sufferer & informs me that the Time allowed for the Removal of Effects was so small that valuable Property of all kinds & to a great Amount has been destroyed. The Orders shewn by the Captain for this horrid Procedure by which it appears the same Desolation is meditated upon all the Towns on the Coast made it my Duty to communicate it as quickly & extensively as possible. — As Portsmouth was the next Place to which he proposed to go, General [John] Sullivan was permitted to go up & give them his Assistance & Advice to ward off the Blow. I flatter myself the like Event will not happen there, as they have a Fortification of some Strength & a Vessel has arrived at a Place called Sheepscot with 1500 lb of Powder.

The Gentlemen of the Congress have nearly finished their Business, but as they write by this Opportunity I must beg Leave to refer you to their Letter for what concerns their Commission.

We have had no Occurrence of any Consequence in the Camp since I had the Honour of addressing you last, — But expect every Hour to hear that Newport has shared the Fate of unhappy Falmouth. I have the Honour to be [&c.]

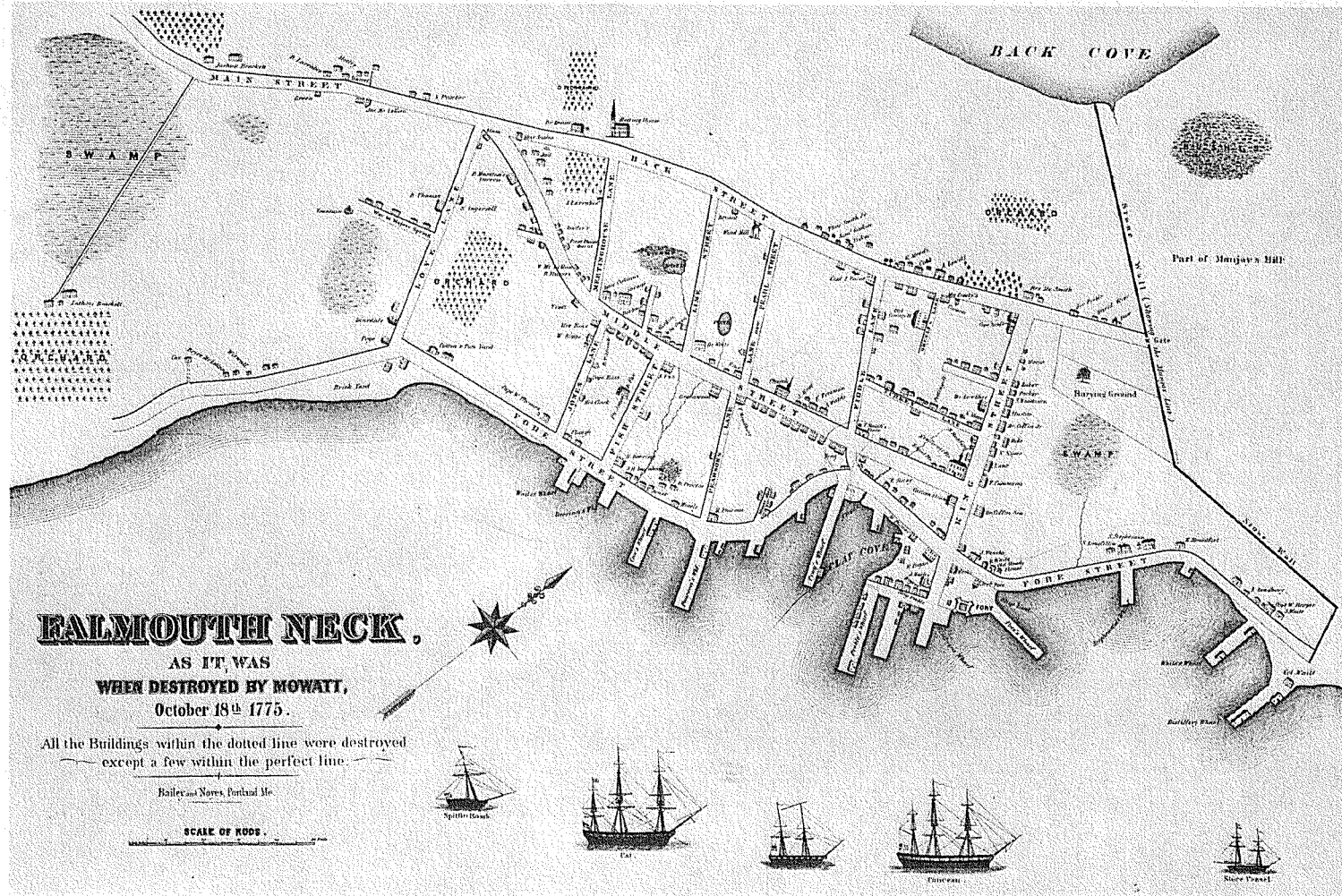
G^o Washington

1. Papers CC (Letters of George Washington), 152, I, 241–242, NA.

PEARSON JONES' CERTIFICATE CONCERNING THE BURNING OF FALMOUTH ¹

Cambridge 24th Octr 1775.

Falmouth Monday 16. October 1775, The *Canceaux* Ship of 16 Guns Commanded by Capt Mowatt, a large Ship, Schooner and a Sloop Armed, an-



Map of Falmouth (Portland), Maine, at the time of its burning in October, 1775.

chored before the Town the 17th at 3 P.M. they weigh'd & came up and anchored within Gun Shott and immediately Capt Mowatt sent a Letter on Shore to the Town, giving them two Hours to move their Families out, as he had Orders to Fire the Town; The Town immediately choose a Committee of three Gentlemen and sent them on Board, to know the reason of that Town's being sett on Fire, he returned for Answer that his orders were to set fire on all the Sea Port Towns between Boston and Halifax and that he Expected New York was then Burnt to ashes; ² he further sayed that when he received orders from the Admiral he desired that he might shew some favor to the Town of Falmouth, which the admiral Granted (I suppose as Capt Mowatt was under particular obligations to some Gentn in Falmouth, for Civilities shewn him when in Captivity amongst them) which favor was to spare the Town till 9 oclock Wednesday Morning, in case we would send off Eight Small Arms, which the Town immediately did. Wednesday Morning being the 18th, the Committee went on Board Capt Mowatt again in order to save the Town, he said he would save the Town, till he heard from the Admiral, in case we would send off four Carriage Guns, deliver up all our Small Arms, ammuniton &c and send Four Gentlemen of the Town as Hostages, which the Town would not do, at half past Nine in the Morning he began to fire from the four Armed Vessels, and in five Minutes set fire to Several Houses; – he continued firing till after dark the same day, which consumed the largest part of the Town. – he farther informed the Committee, that he should proceed to Portsmouth and Destroy that Place also

The foregoing is as near the Facts as I am able to remember, as Witness my hand,

Signed, Pearson Jones.

1. Washington Papers, LC; enclosed in Washington to Hancock, October 24, 1775.

2. Commenting in the *Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronical*, XLV, 598 (London, 1775), the editor, Sylvanus Urban, wrote: "We forbear to reason upon this fact till it is better authenticated; only this we may be permitted to remark, that it either cannot be true, or the reasons for this severe order are concealed."

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEORGE WASHINGTON AND JOHN FISK ¹

Articles of agreement between George Washington Esqr Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, for himself and his successors in the said command, and John Fisk, witness,

That the said George Washington doth hereby bind himself, to receive of the said John Fisk, any Quantity of Powder not exceeding twenty Tons; for each Pound of which he engages to pay the said Fisk, four Shillings lawful Money provided that the said Powder shall be delivered by the said Fisk at Newbury Port, or some Port convenient to the Camp at Cambridge, in good order & of good Quality, on or before the first day of April 1776: That the said John Fisk doth on his part bind himself, to use his utmost endeavours to procure the said Twenty Tons, or, if not the whole compliment, such Part thereof as he may be able to obtain: that he will deliver the same when procured at Newbury Port, or some other Port convenient to the Camp at Cambridge, in good order and of a good Quality, at or before the Time above mentioned.

In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands this 24th day of October 1775.

G Washington. John Fisk.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, Octr 24th 1775

Mr Speaker communicated a Letter from a Number of Gentlemen at Falmouth, giving an Account of an Attack upon it, and of the Desolation the Enemy had made by fire.

Read and sent up –

Benjn White, Esqr brought down a Memorial from Saml Stanwood, Chairman of the Committee of Safety and Correspondence of Brunswick Bowdoinham and Topsham, representing that nine Sale of Vessels, with a clearance from Nantucket, had arriv'd in Kennebeck River for Wood and Provisions, without licence from any Committee, and that they had order'd the Vessels to be stop'd and hawl'd up – till they can receive the Ordr of Court respecting them

Read, and committed to Mr Durfey, Mr. Woodbridge Deacon Plympton, Colo Lovel, and Colo Orne

A Letter from Timothy Langdon, of Boothbay inclosing a Petition from Majr Edward Emerson in behalf and at the desire of the Officers of the eastern Regiment in the County of Lincoln, setting forth their deficiency in Arms and Ammunition, and praying that part of the Cargo of Powder and Arms lately arriv'd there in the Schooner *Brittannia*, may be ordd for the Use of Colo Cargill's Regiment.

Read, and committed to the Committee appoint'd to consider the Expediency of ordering that any part of the Powder & Arms, arriv'd at Boothbay, should remain in the eastern part of the Province. –

Afternoon

A Petition of Jerathmeel Bowers, setting forth that one John Shardon on board Capt: Wallace's Ship, has a family on shore that need [his care and assistance] that Cap Wallace has endeavour'd to tempt him to pilot his ship up the River – and therefore prays to be redeemed by a Man from Tauton Goal.

Read and committed to Colo Godfrey, Mr Starkweather, and Colo Thompson.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE TO NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir:

Prospect-Hill, October 24, 1775.

By an express that arrived from Falmouth last night, we learn the greatest part of the Town is in ashes. The enemy fired above three thousand shot into it, and a large number of carcasses and bombs, which sat the Town on fire. The enemy landed once or twice, to set fire to the stores; they lost eight or ten men in the attempt, and had one taken prisoner. The inhabitants got out a very

An Express

Just arrived from

General WASHINGTON.

Camp at Cambridge, OH. 24. 1775.

S I R,
THE inclosed information being of the highest importance, I thought it proper to transmit it to you with all dispatch, I am Sir,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

On the Service of the United Colonies.
To the Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Esq; Dep. Gov. of Rhode-Island, Providence.
(Inclosed.)

Falmouth, Monday, 16th Oct. 1775.

THE Canseau ship of sixteen guns, commanded by Captain Mowat, a large ship, schooner, and a sloop armed, anchored below the town the 17th inst. At 3 o'clock P. M. they weighed and came up, and anchored within gun shot, and immediately Capt. Mowat sent a letter on shore to the town, giving them two hours to move their families out, as he had orders to fire the town. The town immediately chose a committee of three gentlemen, and sent them on board to know the reason of the town's being set on fire. He returned for answer, that his orders were to set on fire all the sea-port towns between Boston and Halifax, and that he expected New-York was then burnt to ashes. He farther said, that when he received orders from the Admiral, he desired that he might shew some favour to the town of Falmouth, which the Admiral granted (I suppose as Capt. Mowat was under particular obligations to some gentlemen in Falmouth for civilities shewn him when in captivity amongst them) and which favour was to spare the town till 9 o'clock, Wednesday morning, in case we would send him off eight small arms, which the town immediately did.

Wednesday morning being the 18th, the Committee went on board of Capt. Mowat again, in order to save the town; he said he would save the town till he heard from the Admiral, in case we would send off four carriage guns, deliver up all our small arms, ammunition, &c. and send four gentlemen of the town as hostages, which the town

would not do. About half past nine in the morning he began to fire from the four armed vessels, and in five minutes set fire to several houses. He continued firing till after dark the same day, which destroyed the largest part of the town. He farther informed the Committee that he should proceed to Portsmouth, and destroy that place also. The foregoing is as near the facts as I am able to remember. Witness my hand.

PEARSON JONES.

Prospect-Hill, October 24. 1775.

S I R,

BY an express that arrived from Falmouth last night, we learn the great-st part of the town is in ashes. The enemy fired about three thousand shot into it, and a large number of carcasses and bombs, which set the town on fire, the enemy landed once or twice to set fire to the stores, they lost eight or ten men in the attempt, and had one taken prisoner, the inhabitants got out a very considerable part of their furniture, no person killed or wounded during the whole time of their firing; the enemy produced orders from admiral Graves, to burn all the towns from Boston to Halifax, Capt. Mowat informed the committee at Falmouth, there had arrived orders from England about ten days since, to burn all the sea port towns on the continent, that would not lay down and deliver up their arms, and give hostages for their future good behaviour; he also acquainted them that he expected the city of New-York was in ashes; by these accounts we may learn what we have to expect, I think Newport should be fortified in the best manner it can be, doubtless the enemy will make an attempt to get the Rock off the island; provision should be made to defeat them; death and desolation seems to mark their foot steps, fight or be slaves is the American motto, the first is by far the most eligible. In haste I am with esteem, your most obedient humble servant.

NATHANIEL GREEN.

To the Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Esq; in Providence,
(per Exprels.)

considerable part of their furniture; no person killed or wounded during the whole time of their firing. The enemy produced orders from Admiral Graves, to burn all the Towns from Boston to Halifax. Captain Mowat informed the Committee at Falmouth, that there had arrived orders from England, about ten days since, to burn all the sea-port Towns upon the Continent, that would not lay down and deliver up their arms, and give hostages for their future good behaviour. He also acquainted them, that he expected the City of New York was in ashes. By these accounts we may learn what we have to expect. I think Newport should be fortified in the best manner it can be. Doubtless the enemy will make an attempt to get the stock off the island. Provisions should be made to defeat them. Death and desolation seem to mark their footsteps. Fight or be slaves! is the American motto. The first is by far the most eligible. In haste, I am, &c.

Nathaniel Greene.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 1168.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.¹

[En route to Bristol]

24 [October, 1775]. Waiting for Capt [William] Coit till 4 o'clk P M – who not being arrivd & the Guns Likely to be waited for – for the Brig. Set out for Bristol, got 13 miles this evening

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Martis, 9 HO. A.M.

October 24th, 1775.

Ordered, That Mr. Low, Mr. Van Derbilt and Mr. Roosevelt, be a committee to make inquiry, and plan a proper voyage for the pilot boat, the *Bishop of Landaff*, and report thereon to this Congress with all convenient speed.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 183, 184.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Trenton] Tuesday, October 24, 1775.

A memorial was presented to this Congress from Ichabod B. Barnett, Esquire, of Elizabeth Town, setting forth that, in the month of March last, he was advertised by the Committee of Elizabeth Town, as inimical to the liberties of his Country, for assisting Messrs. Robert and John Murray in landing certain goods out of the ship *Beulah*; that ever before, and since landing the said goods, he hath been ready and willing to render any service to his Country, on the present occasion, in his power; and that he hath in no wise contravened the public good, except in that particular instance for which he is heartily sorry, and prays an acquittal from his former censure – and it appearing to this Congress that the behaviour of the said Ichabod B. Barnett, since the above transaction, hath by no means been unfriendly to the liberties of this Country; and he having manifested a suitable

penitence for his behaviour in the above matter, *it is unanimously resolved*, That the memorialist ought to be restored to the favourable regard of his Country, and he is accordingly restored to all the civil and commercial privileges which he heretofore enjoyed in this Colony.

1. *New Jersey Provincial Congress*, 224, 227–228.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, October 24th

Resolved, That a Second Lieutenant be appointed to each of the Armed Boats, whose pay shall be twelve Dollars p month.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 380–381.

SAMUEL WARD TO HENRY WARD¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 24th Octr 1775

This Morning one Duncan Campbell at first an half pay Officer lately promised a Compy Commd who married in this Province and settled in Dutchess County in N. York was brought before the Comee of Safety of this Province; He and one Sims a Lieut under him and a Sarjunt and about twenty Privates were on Board a Transport from Boston which was cast away at little Egg harbor; they were going to N. York to enlist Men for Genl Howe; the Wretch had sometime ago enlisted 60 Men and carried them to Boston, and had engaged a Number of others in the County he lived in. It is said that he has £ 1500 in Cash with him; a Parcel of Guns and Powder they have thrown over board; the Guns we hope to get again . . .

With Regard to the Voyage [to Bordeaux for powder] proposed by the Depy Govr, I have wrote to his Honor twice by Order of the secret Comee of which I am Chairman and every thing necessary upon our Part is ready and I hope the Voyage is undertaken before this time.

I have seen the Examinations of Capt Campbell, his Lieut. and some Marines; the Privates swear or at least say but I think swear that the Capt and Officers promised them 200 Acres of good cultivated Land each out of the forfeited Estates; Campbell denies this: his Instrus from Genl Gage, which I have also seen, amongst other Things directs him to encourage the Scotch and other Nations to enter into the Kings Service; the Regiment to which he belongs is 72d now raising called the royal fensible Americans.

1. Bernhard Knollenberg, ed., *Correspondence of Governor Samuel Ward May 1775–March 1776* (Providence, 1952), 112–114. Hereafter cited as Knollenberg, ed., *Ward Papers*.

THOMAS JEFFERSON TO FRANCIS EPPES¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, Oct. 24, 1775

A small vessel was the other day cast away on the Jersey shore (she was one of the transports which had some time ago brought over troops to Boston), on board of which were a captain, with his subordinate officers and marines, amount-

ing to 23 in all, and also a Duncan Campbell, who was going to recruit men at New York for General Gage, he having some time before undertaken the same business in the same place, and actually carried off 60 men. The marines and their officers were all taken immediately, except their captain and the recruiting gentlemen; these pushed off in a little boat, and coasted it to Long Island, where they got on board a sloop which was to have sailed in an hour, when the party sent after them came upon them. They were brought to this city this morning, the marines having been here some time.

1. Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*, I, 248–249. Jefferson had received a somewhat garbled account of the shipwreck of the *Rebecca & Francis*.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1775

Philadelphia, October 24 [1775].

The fifteenth instant, at three o'clock in the morning, the transport ship *Rachel and Francis*,¹ Capt. Hastings, was stranded upon Brigantine beach, on the coast of New-Jersey. She had on board Capt. Duncan Campbell, Lieut. [James Smith] Sims, two serjeants and twenty-one privates, belonging to his Majesty's ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT OF EMIGRANTS, bound from Boston (they say) to New-York, as a recruiting party. The Capt. and Lieut. got off the beach the next day, in a small boat, and went towards New-York, in order to get on board the *Asia* man of war, which they would have effected, if they had not been prevented by the zeal and activity of Lieut. Loveland of Egg-Harbour; who, after a tedious pursuit of one day and two nights, took them on board a boat at Cranberry inlet, about thirty-five miles from New-York, in which he was assisted by Lieut Cook with six men, from an adjacent county, his own party being wore out with fatigue. They did not seem greatly alarmed when first taken, but Sims said he would pay handsomely to be carried to New-York. As some of the privates are known to have been formerly in this city, one of them a servant, and another a soldier, it is supposed they were selected as fit persons to inveigle servants and others into the ministerial service. Captain Hastings, and three of the soldiers, were conducted here last Saturday [October 21] evening under a guard. The rest of the soldiers, and the Captain and Lieutenant were brought here this day. Before they quitted the vessel, they threw overboard several pieces of cannon belonging to it, sixty muskets, and two barrels and a half of powder. The vessel left Boston the fifth of October, in company with a twenty gun ship, and one transport with some troops bound for Halifax. No other ships of war or troops had sailed.

1. The *Rebecca & Francis*.

LORD DUNMORE TO WILSON MILES CARY¹

The Ship *William* off Norfolk

Sir

October 24th '775. —

I know nothing of your Situation with Captain Squire, I promise you protection and that I will give you, or your present Deputy, Mr Seldon, if either of

The Ship William off Norfolk.
October 24th 1775. —

Sir

I know nothing of your Situation
with Captain Squire, I promised your
protection and that I will give you,
or your present Deputy M^r. Seldon,
if either of you arrives here before
to morrow Night, I shall be glad to see
you, if you do not His Majesty's
business must be done, I shall therefore
be obliged to appoint an other in your
place. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient
humble Servant
Dunmore

Wilson Miles Cary Esq^r —

you arrives here before to morrow Night, I shall be glad to see you, if you do not His Majesty's business must be done, I shall therefore be obliged to appoint another in your place. I am Sir [&c.]

Dunmore

1. HUL.

PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

[Extract]

No 32.

My Lord, That all imaginable assistance may be given, with as much encouragement as possible, towards increasing the lumber trade, for the benefit of the Islands in the West Indies, as well as, to advance, the Shipping of Naval Stores, from the northern parts of this Province: it is now absolutely necessary, my Lord, to establish a Pilot for St Mary River.

I have therefore my Lord appointed William Woodland to act as Pilot for that River, I have told him his Salary shall be, for the present equal to the Salary of the second Pilot of this Port.

I have also purchased a small Schooner, fit for this purpose of Pilotage, for which, I am to pay Sixty pounds.

St Augustine 24 Octr 75

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/555.

25 Oct.

LETTER FROM QUEBEC¹

[Extract]

October 25, 1775.

We have here a man of war's snow and an armed brig belonging to the navy, under the command of a Lieutenant, and three or four armed vessels with about three hundred seamen on board, taken up by General Carleton, and we hear there is another man of war on her passage in the river. There are several passengers going for England in the ships that are now sailing from here. Some of them will give very unfavourable accounts of our situation; but you need not give much credit to what they say, for their tale will be suggested by their fears. [Thomas] Walker has been taken up, by order of General Carleton, for corresponding with the Rebels, and spiriting up the Canadians to take up arms against Government. He is in irons on board the *Gaspee*, armed vessel, together with the New-England Colonel [Ethan] Allen, Major [Moses] Hezen, and Captain Turner.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 1185.

TRISTRAM DALTON TO ELBRIDGE GERRY¹

Newburyport October 25th 1775

Sir

Mr Plumer returned this Afternoon with 500 Flints – for which I will pay – Also a Resolve of the General Assembly, for Capt W Johnson of the Schooner *Britania*, to deliver me four half Barrells of Powder for the Use of the [Truck]

House at Penobscot. But Alas! p a Packett Mr Cross will deliver You you'll see the Resolve must be in Vain –

The Supply of this Or at least 2 or 3 half Barrells appears to me so absolutely necessary to support our miraculous Union with the Indians, that I should have dispatched Plumer back tomorrow on the same Errand – But finding Mr Cross intends being with you as soon, I have desired him to Make immediate Application for this Powder – And If possible to be procured to forward here by Saturday Morning – I will reserve in my Hands the fifty pounds You mentioned in the Resolve to be the Price, & send down on Receipt of the Powder – The Vessell will be ready to go to Sea by Saturday 11 oClock – Should the Province have no Powder – I think General Washington would spare it on having the Case represented – For how would it appear to our new Allies, When We cannot furnish them with a little Powder absolutely essential to their Subsistence and Defence? – Youll favor me with an Answer immediately whether I may rely on this Essential Article or no – As the Vessell may b[e] detained on Uncertainty. – I am compleating the Invoices made out by Mr Prebble, which will hand You As soon as finished – I refer you to Mr Cross for my Sentiments of that as well as the Agent Who is to deal with the Indians –

Mr Craft delivered me your Favors of 23 Currant – General Sullivan had sent an Express to Johnson for his Powder which suppose is on the Road – I therefore had only to let him Mr Craft know this – I wish Johnson had enough to supply all Our Wants – We have daily Applications for Powder – some in real Distress – particularly Beverly – To Portsmouth in their present Danger We have spared, tho' almost guilty of Sacriledge to Ourselves –

This Town is doing every Thing in their Power to serve themselves – filling up the Channell building a floating Battey – Fire Rafts – Entrenchments &c for which I refer to Mr Cross

In haste Your [&c.]

Tristram Dalton

[You'll] forward me Orders what shall be done with the Schooner, As Capt Johnson may probably wait at Townsend for Orders how to proceed Which would add Expençe to the already bad Voyage

1. Elbridge Gerry Papers, Folder 1772–1779, MassHS.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER AND STEPHEN MOYLAN¹

Gentlemen

Head Quarters Octor 25th 1775

Your favour of blank Date came Safe to Hand – We are much pleased that Capts [Nicholson] Broughton & Selliman are Sailed not only on Account of their probably meeting with greater Success in their Destination but on that of a piece of Intelligence we lately had from Boston, viz—That a Transport with 1200 Bbls of Powder on board without Convoy or Force has been missing Some Time & they expect has fallen into our Hands – Capt Coit with his Company marched to Plymouth yesterday we expect they will be out by Friday Some Time – There will be a large Schooner Carrying 10 Carriage Guns fitted out there by Sunday – I

have given them the Signals. Capt Adams was with me to Night, I hope to get him & his Men off by Friday Morning [October 27]

Enclosed you have the Instructions for the Agents Signed by the General which you will please to send to each of them nominated that Way—they are exactly the same as those sent to Plymouth – I have given Yesterday to Capt. [John] Glover [Jr.] Orders for the Things mentioned in your Letters which I hope he will procure as I have not Time to go after them myself –

Transports arrive every Day – We would wish you to apprize Capt Manly & Capt Adams of their preserving a good Understanding with each other & settling their Signals &c – As Adams is well Acquainted with the Coast farther Eastward than Cape Ann it may perhaps not be amiss for him to go there – I shall direct him to advise with you on this & other Subjects & am Gentlemen [&c.]

J R Sy

We think you had best fix the Commissaries [*sic* Commissions] with the Agents & so make the Instructions conformable where you are, & to those at a Distance make them refer to these others which will put all on a Footing. It will be best to put any Agreements in Writing –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

WILLIAM TUDOR TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge 25th Octr 1775

About 10 Days ago two floating Batteries were ordered down Cambridge River to fire into the Enemy's Camp on Boston Common & alarm the Troops there.² It had the expected Effect, but was attended with an unfortunate Circumstance. A 9 Pounder the Sixth Time it was discharg'd burst, & very badly wounded 7 of the Men. It reduc'd the Batterie to a perfect Wreck. She was however brought off with her Remaining Guns &c The Enemy never return'd the Fire. One of our Men died of his Wounds next Morning & one since.

The Enemy have been very quiet in their movements for some Time. We have 16 or 20 flat bottom Boats which carry 80 men each finish'd & the Carpenters are at Work on others. What they are intended for is not yet known. The Conjecture is that they are design'd for a Descent on Boston. –

We had an Express yesterday from Falmouth Casco Bay who brings News that a Number of the Enemy's Ships were in that Harbour, the Capt of which after informing the Inhabts that they must deliver Up all their Arms & give Hostages for their peaceable Behaviour, & allowing them 24 Hours to comply or he should fire the Town. At the Expiration of the Time set, finding they would not comply with the Demand, began a most infernal Connonade & Bombardment on the Town which destroy'd two thirds of it. After the Ships had burnt 2 or 300 Houses & drove 2000 People into the Woods they fell down – & it was Suppos'd were going to Portsmouth. As they had inform'd the People of Falmouth that they were to visit that place next & make the same Requisition, a Non Compliance with which would be attended with a Bombardment And that every Seaport Town on the Continent was to be visited for the like kind Purpose. These being the

Orders from our most gracious King. Surely it is become Time that we had a French Fleet to protect our Coasts – On Land we can defend Ourselves. –

The General Voice is throw open our Ports wide to all the World – & If we must be Slaves, Let Us be the Slaves of France Spain Turkey, rather than the Slaves of ungrateful Britain.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. See Diary of Lieutenant John Barker, October 17, 1775.

THOMAS GOLDTHWAIT AND OTHERS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Wednesday, October 25, 1775] ²

To the Honourable the General Assembly of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay
The Petition of Thomas Goldthwait Esq & others late of the Garrison of Fort Pownall

Humbly shews

That your Petitioners served in the said Garrison from the first day of June 1774 for the time they inlisted for or untill the said Garrison was dismissed agreeable to the establishment made for the said Garrison by the general assembly of the Province at Salem the last year and your petitioners having received no pay for their said service excepting only what has been advanced them by the officers of said garrison and are in great want thereof. – Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your honours to take their case into consideration and order them their pay.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray. &c.

Isaac Chester

his

Joseph X Pitcher

mark

William Pratt

Tho. Goldthwait

Thos Fletcher

Josha Treat

Nathanl Couzen

his

Daniel X Harris

mark

Henry Goldthwait

his

John X Evans

mark

W Crawford

Fra. Archibald jun

his

Timo X Pratt

mark

his

Jacob X Clifford junr

mark

Obadiah Moor

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 211.

2. Date established by action upon it that day in Council.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, Octr 25th – 1775

On the Petition of Thomas Goldthwait, Esqr and others –

Resolved that there be paid out of the publick Treasury of the Colony, to the non-commission'd Officers and Soldiers nam'd in a Pay Roll herewith exhibited, the Sum of Three hundred and thirty eight Pounds, in full for their Services – And that the Treasurer of said Colony is directed to pay to each of said Officers and Soldiers nam'd in said Pay Roll Cap: Goldthwait and Jonathan Lowder, Gunner, excepted, the Sums mention'd against each of their names, and take their several Receipts for the same, or Orders from under their own hands, which sums are agreable to the establishment for one year last past.

Upon a Motion, Order'd, that Mr. Morton, Cap: Bragdon Mr Sewell, Colo Thompson, and Mr Hovey, be a Committee to make enquiry into the Conduct of Cap: Goldthwait and the Gunner at Fort Pownal.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOSIAH QUINCY TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

[Braintree] Octr 25th 1775.

I received a Card from our Friend Doctr [Benjamin] Franklin, assuring me a friendly Visit before he returns to Philadelphia – If he can spare Time to take a View of the Harbor I hope to convince him of the Practicability of stoping up the Narrows, and forcing our Enemies to ask our Leave to return home. If you can procure, & send me a Model, or at least a perfect Draft of the Machine you mention for obstructing the Passage of Vessels up the River Delaware, with explicit Directions how to sink & secure them from being weighed or destroyed by the Enemies Ships, it would greatly facilitate the same valuable Purposes here, not only in the Narrows, but also in the Lighthouse Channel, which in the narrowest Part, is not much if anything above half a Mile wide: – Could the Depth of Water be reduced there, so as to prevent Line of battle Ships from entering this Harbor, we might, for the future, bid Defiance to our Enemies. But, you shall hear more from me, after I have conversed fully with Doctr Franklin upon the Subject, which is, to me, of much more Importance, than I had any Conception of 'till I read what you have wrote upon it; and especially, since the cannonading our maritime Towns, and the Destruction of *Falmouth* demonstrates, the malicious Purpose of our Enemies to execute, their unrelenting Vengeance by every Means in their Power.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

WILLIAM GORDON TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Jamaica Plains Octr 25 '75

Pray how many more burnings of towns are we to be abused with by the British Barbarians, ere the long suffering of the Congress is concluded, & every manly exertion of power & wisdom is to be exercised in opposing our Enemies!

By a Captain arrived from one of the French ports we are told, that the French are ready to trade with us, & to defend such trade. The Buccaneers of America made a great noise in times past; let the Congress give out letters of m[arque] to take all British bottoms, & we shall soon acquire a greater reputation & a better. West India & East India ships will make good men of war. The British sailors, who might be taken, would be likely to join us upon receiving proper encouragement; the single men might be married among us; the married might go back to their [own] Country after a while. The West India property belongs in general to English merchants, the planters being [to a] man over head & ears in debt to them. If the Merchants will support the ministry, we have a right [to th]eir property when we can catch it, that we may support ourselves.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S ARMED VESSEL *Canceaux*¹

Octr 1775

At Single Anchor Entce Cape Codd Harbor

Wednesday 25 at 3 A M Heard the report of Several Musquets to windward made the Signal to shorten sail at 7 Saw Pidgeon Hill N W b W five Leagues – the two Sloop Prizes was missing lay too under the Mizzen & fore stay sail hauld Fore & Main Tack on board stood to the S W Strong Gales Saw a Ship of War to Sd standing to the Northd Strong Gales & Clear ½ past noon made Signal for all Cruise[r]s ½ past Do to bear away for Cape Cod Harbor at 3 Race point S E b E 6 miles at 4 Made Signal to anchor ½ past anchor'd 20 fm to the Sd of the Beach of the Harbor in Company *Symmetry Halifax* & *Spitfire* & two Schooner Prizes

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir, –

Providence, October 25th, 1775.

Capt. Whipple returned here from his voyage to Bermuda, on Friday last [October 20]. He had received authentic intelligence of the arrival of the packet at New York before the first time limited for his cruise was expired, and immediately sailed for Bermuda. He had light flattering winds for several days, and when near the island met with a violent gale, which drove him three or four degrees to the southward, which occasioned his having a long passage. He put in at the west end of the island where the inhabitants, taking him to be an armed vessel belonging to the King, were thrown into the utmost confusion, and the women and children fled into the country. But upon showing them his commission and instructions, were satisfied and treated him with great cordiality and friendship. They informed him that upon the powder being removed, the Governor had given General Gage an account of the part they had taken in the transaction, who had dispatched a sloop-of-war and a transport of 600 tone, to take all the provisions sent to the island. They then lay at Georgetown, and treated the islanders as rebels. Capt. Whipple had five of the King's Council on board his sloop, who all

assured him that the inhabitants were friends to the American cause, and heartily disposed to serve it. As the assistance they gave in the removal of the powder hath made them obnoxious to the enemy, and reduced them to a disagreeable situation, I think they ought to be treated with every mark of friendship. I submit to your Excellency the propriety of your representing their case to the Continental Congress, and recommending them to favour. — We are fitting out Capt. Whipple for a cruise to the eastward with all possible expedition, which I hope will prove more fortunate than his last. I am, with acknowledgement for the polite treatment I received from you at Cambridge, and with great respect, Sir, [&c.]

Nich's Cooke.

P.S. I enclose your address to the inhabitants of Bermuda.

1. *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 132, 133.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRIAM BOWEN, JR.¹

[Bristol]

25 [October, 1775]. Set out & Reachd Bristol by 5 oClock, Waited on the Committee, who told me the Guns belongd to Capt [Simeon] Potter, & that he might dispose of them at his Pleasure.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Ticonderoga] Octo: 25th

I beg Leave to remind Congress of the necessi[ty] of an immediate Attention to what I said in m[in]e of the 5th instant respecting the paying of the Troop[s,] at least so far as concerns those who are willing to receive the Continental Pay here, or at such P[lace] where they may be discharged or reinlist, when Soldiers find that they must return home withou[t] their Pay, or are not paid off when asked to rein[list,] they will seldom reinlist in the Service; for the Susp[icious] of Men are very much in Proportion to their Ignorance. — And I assure You that many are now discharged naked & penny less, who may have Money due to them, and which I would readily take the Trouble to pay or cause to be paid, if I could ascertain what was their due. Some who are discharged are now offering their Wages for two Thirds of It.²

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 143, NA; a copy in John Hancock Papers, III, LC. Continuation of letter begun October 21.

2. The conclusion of the letter will be found under date of October 26, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT¹

October 1775 Moord between the Battery & Oyster Island
 Wednesday 25 Fresh Breezes & fine Wr P M Arriv'd the *King Fishers* tender
 Thursday 26 A M sent some Arms & Amunition on board her for Lord
 Dunmore at Noon she Sailed for Virginia

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, October 25, 1775

The Commee of Safety of Pennsylvania laid before the Congress sundry papers, being enclosed, instructions given by G[eneral] Gage to one Duncan Campbell of Duchess County N.York, an examination of sundry persons who came from Boston in the Transport *Rebecca and Frances*, Hastings, master, and who upon the vessels being cast away on Brigantine Beach, were seized by order of Sd Comee of Safety and are now in safe custody in this city.

The Instructions to Capt Duncan Campbell from Genl Gage which were found on sd Campbell were read and ordered to be published.

Also the examination of sd Campbell and others was read.

Ordered, That a copy of them be forwarded to the Convention of N.York with a recommendation to them to seize a Mr Grant, who, it is said, is employed in raising recruits in that Colony.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 305, 306.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] Octr. 25th, 1775

Pray inform me if [Jeremiah] Obrian and Carghill were or were not commissioned by some Vote of the general Court – and whether they cant be put into the Continental service. An order is gone to Genl. Washington to that Purpose if it can be done.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 163, 164.

A LETTER FROM MARTINIQUE ¹

[Extract]

Martinico, October 25.

A few days ago an English frigate cast anchor in the harbour of Fort-Royal, under the cannon of the fort, and sent some armed men in her boats to seize a New-England vessel which lay in that harbour, whose crew they made prisoners, then plundered the vessel, and afterwards left her to the mercy of the waves. – The Count de Nozieres being then at Guadaloupe, the Sieur de Sablonet, commandant in his absence at Fort Royal, failed not to take upon him to punish this violation of the law of nations by firing on the English frigate, which, after this expedition, sailed for St. Pierre, where there were then a dozen ships belonging to New-England. The frigate anchored, without ceremony, also in that port, and dispatched her boats to visit the ships which she suspected to be laden with warlike ammunition; but as they met with resistance from the first they attempted to board, the inhabitants of St. Pierre defended the English Americans, and having armed themselves, took the boats, with their crews, and the men were conveyed ashore, notwithstanding all their resistance; some of them were wounded on this occasion.

The Count de Choiseul-Meuze, second in command at Martinico, and then chief in the absence of the general, immediately went to the storehouse where the English were detained, and after sharply upbraiding them for so manifest an infraction of the law of nations, he sent a detachment on board the English frigate, and caused it to be signified to the commander, that he would not release his men till such time as he had repaired the injury which had been done; this was accompanied with an express order to put to sea immediately after; and the more efficaciously to decide the matter, he instantly set about preparing the battery of St. Martha, and threatening to sink the English frigate, if she deferred giving the satisfaction which was demanded. The firmness of our commandant had its effects on the captain, who speedily performed what was desired, and then weighed anchor, after having received his boats and his men.²

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1776], Part I, 316, 317.

2. For other versions of this affair, see the correspondence between Vice Admiral James Young and the Count de Nozières, October 7, 9 and 11, 1775.

26 Oct.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO COLONEL ALEXANDER McDUGALL¹

[Extract]

Camp on Winter Hill Oct. 26

You will have heard long before this of the inhuman busyness of Falmouth – the tragedy acted by these hell hounds of an execrable Ministry with a more accursed Tyrant at their head now calls out for decision, for Heaven's sake, My Dr Sir, let your city no longer hold the honest in suspense by these shilly shally mode of conduct, is this a time when whole communities are laid waste by the Dogs of War to address or suffer addresses to be presented to the delegate of an infernal Dynasty, can any man in his senses suppose that Tryon who cannot hold his commission by any other tenure but that of contriving by fraud or force to suborn the freedom of this Continent be dup'd by his professions? You are, it seems, afraid of your town, in the first place I do not believe that they dare fire upon it, but if it was earnestly their intention You have I think, the means of preventing it, Seize by one bold stroke the Tryon and all his associates then, assure the Capt of the Man of War that the first House he sets on fire shall be the funeral pile of his Excellency, and you ought really to execute your threats.

1. MeHS Collections (Copy).

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO MAJOR BENJAMIN TUPPER¹

Sir The General thanks you for your Care & Diligence in the Enterprize – the Success of which we are just now informed of – You will endeavour to get the Vessels to Plymouth as soon as possible – where you will find Mr Watson who is Agent for the Continent & will advance you what Moneys may be necessary for the Satisfaction of those who have assisted you – The General will notice you himself as it would be indelicate to leave that to yourself – You will then put

those Vessels and the Cargoes in the Hands of Mr Watson who will take Care of them 'till farther Orders –

We Apprehend that with Care and a Good Pilot you may get safe to Plymouth, Wishing you Success I remain Sir &c.

J R Sy

Camp at Cambridge Octo 26. 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO WILLIAM WATSON¹

Sir Major [Benjamin] Tupper will deliver you two Vessels late belonging to Tories in Boston which are taken and detain'd by the General's Order's together with their Cargoes & other Property of which the Major will give you an Account – Such articles as are perishable, you will immediately dispose of to the best Advantage – & take Care of the Vessels 'till farther Orders. – If Major Tupper could immediately man the Brig from Plymouth & be equipped without Loss of Time in sending backwards & forwards here for Ammunition the General would not object to his going out on a Cruize with her for a Month or 6 Weeks – but if it cannot be done in a few Days the Season is too far advanced for this Purpose – We suppose that the Vessels & Cargoes being put into your Hands will enable you to advance such Moneys as Majr Tupper think necessary to reward those who have assisted in the Enterprize which we desire you would do – I am Sir in Haste &c.

J R

Octo 26. 1775. Camp at Cambridge

You will please to advise the General of your Proceeding hereupon as soon as possible.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER¹

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, October 26, 1775.

We have had no Event of any Consequence in our Camp for some Time, our whole Attention being taken up with Preparations for the Winter, and forming the new Army, in which many Difficulties occur. The Enemy expect considerable Reinforcements this Winter and from all Accounts are garrisoning Gibraltar and other Places with foreign Troops, in order to bring the former garrisons to America. The Ministry have begun the Destruction of our Sea Port Towns, by burning a flourishing Town of about 300 Houses to the Eastward called Falmouth. This they Effected with every Circumstance of Cruelty and Barbarity, which Revenge and Malice could suggest. We expect every Moment to hear other Places have been attempted and have been better prepared for their Reception.

The more I reflect upon the Importance of your Expedition, the greater is my Concern, least it should sink under insuperable Difficulties. I look upon the Interests and Salvation of our bleeding Country in a great Degree to depend

upon your Success. I know you feel it's Importance as connected not only with your own Honour and Happiness; but the publick Welfare, so that you can want no Incitements to press on, if it be possible. My anxiety suggests some Doubts, which your better Acquaintance with the Country will enable you to remove. Would it not have been practicable to pass St John's, leaving Force enough for a Blockade; or if you could not spare the Men, passing it wholly, possessing yourselves of Montreal, and the surrounding Country? Would not St. John's have fallen of Course or what would have been the probable Consequences? Believe me, dear General, I do not mean to imply the smallest Doubt of the Propriety of your Operations, or of those of Mr. Montgomery, for whom I have a great Respect. – I too well know the absurdity of judging upon a military Operation, when you are without the Knowledge of it's concomitant Circumstances. I only mean it as a matter of Curiosity, and to suggest to you my imperfect Idea on the subject. I am with the utmost truth and Regard, etc.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 45–47.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, October 26, 1775

Upon a Motion, Ordered, That Colo Thompson, Colo Woodbridge, Mr Hopkins, & Colonel Norton, be added to the Committee for considering the expediency of ordering that any part of the Powder and Arms lately arriv'd in the Province of Main should remain in those parts.

Afternoon

On the Petition of Jerathmeel Bowers, Esqr in behalf of one John Shardon, the Committee Reported – Read and accepted.

Resolved, that Henry Bowers be allowed to receive of the Prison keeper In Taunton, one Person who hath been taken from the Navy under the Command of Admiral Graves – he giving his Bond to the Sheriff of the County of Bristol to the Use of this Colony, in the penal Sum of One hundred Pounds; condition that in Case he shall not exchange the Prisoner whom he shall receive for the said John [Shardon], he will return the said Prisoner to the Prison in Taunton aforesaid within fourteen days from the time he shall receive the Prisoner. – And the Keeper of said Prison is hereby directed to conform himself to this Order, provided the said Henry Bowers shall give Security as above directed.

A Petition from Josiah Nottage, Junr in behalf of himself and others, Marins, who were on board the Schooner *Industry*, on a Voyage from New Providence, bound to Boston, lately carr'd into Marblehead, setting forth, that they are deprived of the common Mode of obtaining their just demands, and praying Relief. Read – and committed to Colo Oatis, Capt: Adams, and Mr Durfe.

A Petition of William Davis, praying a Permit for the Sloop *Reliance*, now at Dartmouth, to sail in Ballast, with Cash, for some of the French W [West-India] Islands, under the Restriction, for Powder.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Exposed to the Horrors of War, Pestilence and Famine, for a Feather in His.



3 Shillings a Day, 2 Shillings a Day, 1 Shilling a Day. SIX-PENCE A DAY. Yankees. Fire and Water. Scurf and Famine. This is to display the Hardship a soldier and his family endure on the bare subsistence of sixpence a Day, while the lowest Trades earn sufficient to enjoy the Comforts of Life.

Published at No. 17, 1779, St. W. Humphrey, General Printer, &c.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.¹

[Providence]

26 [October, 1775]. Waited on Capt Potter. found 10.4 [prs] & 10 Swivels which he refusd to Lend or Let, & askd 1000 Dollars for the Guns exclusive of the Swivels, Which price I thought, too extravagant. So Went to Head Qrs 2 miles this Side of N Port, Where I found Several Cannon Suitable but was told by Genl [Esek] Hopkins that I could Not have them Without an Ordr from the Lt Governor, on Which I ret'd to Bristol & So to Providence, after makeing Capt Potter an offer for his Guns, which he declind. arrived at Providence between Nine & ten in the evening.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] October 26.

This Aft. a Letter from Gen. Washington informg that Falmo was half burnt down & still in flames, &c. Gen. Hopk.² recd it & sent for our Committee to communicate it to them. This excites a new & desponding Alarm thro' this Town least it shd be also fired.

1. Dexter, ed., *Diary of Ezra Stiles*, I, 628.

2. Esek Hopkins.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Ticonderoga] Oct: 26th

2 o'Clock P.M. This Moment an Express arrived from General Montgomery, Copy of his Letter & the Papers enclosed in it, I do Myself the Honor to transmit You,² Altho' I lament the Necessity that has drove us to Arms, I must congratulate You on this Success of the American Arms & on the Prospect there is of more; I shall send the Prisoners as soon as they arrive here to Albany, the Men from thence to Connecticut, & the Officers either to that Colony, New Jersey or Pensylvania as they may chuse, unless I should receive Your Orders in Time to the Contrary

I shall not detain the Express a Moment, therefore shall only add that I remain with greatest Respect & Esteem Sir [&c.]

I also send the Colours taken at Chamblee

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 246, NA; a copy in John Hancock Papers, III, LC. Conclusion of letter begun October 21.

2. Relative to the capture of Fort Chambly, garrisoned by about one hundred British regulars, and containing 124 barrels of gunpowder. It was taken October 19, 1775, thus cutting off St. John from further supplies.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1775

New York, October 26

Thursday last [October 19] his Majesty's Sloop of War the *Viper*, Capt. [Samuel] Greaves, sailed for Boston, and from Sandy Hook on Saturday, and

carried with him the Brig *Harmony*, Capt. Ross, from Coracoa with Salt, belonging to Mr. Nixon, of this Port; the Brig ———, Captain Lightburn, from Bermuda, loaded with Salt likewise, belonging to Mr. William Malcolm, &c. a new Vessel, Bermuda built, and this her first Voyage; and the Sloop *Polly*, Captain B[u]rns, from Antigua, loaded with Sugar and Molasses, belonging to Messrs. Mott and B[o]yne], and the Cargo to Mr. William Currie — They were all seized between this City and Sandy Hook.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, October 26, 1775

On motion made, *Resolved*, That the resolution of Congress July 15 for encouraging the importation of arms and ammunition, and the resolution of the 18th inst. for collecting an account of the hostilities committed by the ministerial troops and navy, be immediately published, with this amendment, to expunge the word “provisions” and instead therefor to insert “the produce of these colonies,” and dispersed through the different nations of Europe and through W. I. Islands.

Agreeable to the order of the Day, the Congress resolved itself into a Comee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of the trade of the confederated Colonies, and after some [time] spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr [Samuel] Ward reported from the committee that they had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, and have come to a resolution which they desired him to report, and farther to move for leave to sit again.

The resolution of the committee being read, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several provincial Assemblies, conventions, or councils of safety, of the United Colonies, to export to the foreign West Indies, on accot and risque of their respective colonies, as much provision or any other produce, except horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry, as they may deem necessary for the importation of arms, ammunition, sulphur, and salt petre.

Ordered, That a copy of the above be transmitted by the delegates to their respective Assemblies, conventions or Committees of Safety.

Ordered, That the resolution of 18 Instt respecting the obtaining a well authenticated account of the Hostilities committed by the ministerial troops and navy, be published in the news papers.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 306–308.

2. Published in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, November 6, 1775.

JOSIAH BARTLETT AND JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE ¹

[Extract]

Philada 26th October, 1775.

Sr Your favor, in Committee of the 12th Instant, is now before us: In answer to which we say, That General Washington had laid the affair of the Flour ship before the Congress, some days before your favor came to hand; but nothing has been concluded. We urged that the ship and her cargo belonged to the Colony, as she was taken by our men in Provincial pay; and not be Continental forces: that we had suffered and were still suffering many losses by the taking of our ships

inward and outward bound – And that before the taking of this Flour ship. As soon as this matter is settled shall inform you.

We are greatly rejoiced to hear that the Batteries are in such Readyness, as we have expected to hear that Portsmouth was cannonaded. Capt. George Hastings (who built a ship at Kennebeck last year and loaded with masts at Portsmouth) is now here, in a Transport from Boston, bound to New York, with Capts. Duncan, Chamble & Lieut. Simes, and a number of men, who were employed to Inlist Scotchmen in the Back parts of New York to reinforce the ministerial Army. They are all close Prisoners, except Capt. Hastings. A quantity of goods &c. is saved out of the Ship.

I saw Capt. Hastings yesterday, and as I was acquainted with him, he ventured to inform me that when he sailed from Boston, 4th Instant, Capt. Mowatt (Scotchman) with three armed Transports, were almost Ready to go round to Portsmouth, for the purpose of burning the Town; therefore, for God's sake, be you ready.

You mention Powder; there is a secret Committee for Procuring that article, of which Mr. Langdon is one; every Precaution is taking for ample supplies, but as the whole Continent is to be supplied, as well as the two armies, it makes it uncertain when can send you any. We beg leave here to suggest that the greatest attention should be paid to the use of powder; that no Cannon be fired unless Drove to the last extremity . . .

. . . Committee has been appointed to collect the Depredations committed by the sons of Tyranny, thro' the Continent wch you'll hear from. We are [&c.]

Josiah Bartlett John Langdon.

P.S. Inclosed is Resolution of Congress respecting Powder.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 631.

LETTER TO THE PRINTER OF THE *Virginia Gazette*¹

[Extract]

Williamsburg [October 26]

The affair at Hampton is at once a proof of the natural bravery of our countrymen, of the excellence of their aim in firing, and of the insignificancy of tenders. No troops could shew more intrepidity than the raw, new raised men, under the command of captain [George] Nicholas, of the second regiment, and captain [George] Lyne, of the minute men, together with some of the country militia. These brave young officers, at the head of their men, without the least cover or breast-work, on the open shore, stood a discharge of 4 pounders, and other cannon, from a large schooner commanded by captain Squire himself, and from a sloop and two tenders, which played on them with all their guns, swivels, and muskets. They stood coolly till the vessels were near enough for them to do execution, when they began a brisk and well directed fire, which forced the little squadron to retire. In the night the tenders forced their way through the vessels, which were sunk in the mouth of the river, and came close up to the very town, on which they fired till they were again repulsed with the loss of 9 men killed on board the schooner, and many wounded, 2 killed on board a tender which was boarded and taken, and from which lieutenant Write [Wright], of the *Otter*, made

his escape wounded, by swimming to the schooner on the opposite shore. Colonel Woodford, who had just entered the town as the fire began, with a reinforcement of 50 fine riflemen under the command of captain [Abraham] Bluford, an experienced and brave rifleman, compleated the victory, and we have no doubt, could they have arrived an hour sooner, so as to have posted their men properly, that the schooner and tenders would have been taken.

1. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette*, October 26, 1775.

JAMES GILCHRIST TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER ¹

[Extract]

Virginia Norfolk Octor 26. 1775

Dear Sr. One Letter more before all Communication is cut off—

I wrote you sometime ago, tho upon my Soul I have forgot by whom. But thats no Matter provided you have got it Times grow worse & worse here – & happy are they who are at the time out of the Vortex of these disturbances – I wish from my Soul I was with you—

Troops are collecting very fast at Williamsburg, where the Committee of Safety now reside – Five hundred Men are at Hampton & the Minute Men in Motion all over the Colony – Lord Dunmore has lately got a Reinforcement from St. Augustin, & we expect a Visit from above very soon So much for Politicks which to me are very far from agreeable.— . . .

I suppose you have heard of his Lordship having seized the Press, who is now setting upon board the large Ship he took into the Service from Elbeck, we shall soon have the Royall Chronicle, what say you? Shall I subscribe for a Paper on your Account, as perhaps you would choose to see both Sides of the Argument –

All the Cannon & small arms in & about this Town have been seized by his Lordship, he even had the Impudence to send a small Party as far as Kemp Landing in the face of two hundred Men for the same Purpose – No Blood was spilt & the Party returned next day, after having executed their Orders –

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Portland English Harbour Antigua

Sir

26th October 1775.

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Captain Gordon of His Majesty's Ship *Argo*, arrived this Morning at English Harbour, and has brought me the inclosed letter from the Count De Nosier, (His most Christian Majesty's Governor General &c.) ² in Answer to the Letter I wrote him the 7th Instant, which I desire You will lay before their Lordships. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. Letter of October 11, 1775.

A COMPLETE MAP
OF THE
WEST INDIES,
Containing
THE COASTS OF FLORIDA, LOUISIANA,
NEW SPAIN, and TERRA FIRMA:
WITH
ALL THE ISLANDS.

By
SAMUEL DUNN,
Mathematician.

London: Printed by H. B. S. near St. John's Church, in the Strand, at January 1774.

Distances in a Degree
Longitude and in a Degree
Latitude

NOTE. This Map is taken from the best and most authentic Sources, and is corrected to the latest Discoveries. The Coast of Florida is taken from the late Discoveries of the late Captain James Oglethorpe, and the Coast of Louisiana from the late Discoveries of the late Captain Jean Baptiste Le Moyne. The Coast of Terra Firma is taken from the late Discoveries of the late Captain James Oglethorpe, and the Coast of the Gulf of Mexico from the late Discoveries of the late Captain Jean Baptiste Le Moyne.



Map of the West Indies, 1774.

27 Oct.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Portsmouth, October 27, 1775] ²

Humbly Shews: John Sullivan's,

That General Washington sent him to Portsmouth in this Province to take the Command of the forces here to Repel any attacks upon this or upon any other sea-port in this Quarter, and has since sent some small force from the Army to assist in such Defence; That he in consequence of the directions given him, has summoned in a part of the Militia with whose assistance he has thrown up some works in this & the Province of Maine for Defence of Piscataway Harbour & taken such steps as appeared to him necessary for the Defence of Portsmouth, & has compleated it as far as the length of time since his arrival would admit; But finds that the Fleet destined to destroy this Port has proceeded to Boston: – Whereupon the militia begins to return to their respective Homes, leaving the works unfinished, not as yet defensible & without Guards sufficient to prevent your Fort & Town being taken & destroyed by surprise: he humbly apprehends that at least one thousand men, Exclusive of two hundred Artillery men ought to be raised & stationed at New Castle, Pierce's & Seavey's Islands, for some short space of time, with proper officers appointed to command in each Department, with proper officers to command the Companies stationed in each; he begs your advice on the affair & that you would inform him what is necessary to be further done & that you would let him know as soon as may be whether you apprehend it necessary for him or the Rifle men & Artillery men sent him from the Army, to tarry any longer; That he may conduct himself accordingly & begs leave to assure you that whatever you direct or advise to shall be chearfully complied with by your most obedt servt

Jno. Sullivan.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 633–634.

2. The date is established by the Committee's reply of October 27, 1775.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN
SULLIVAN ¹

[Extract]

In Committee of Safety, Octor 27th, 1775.

Sir – This Committee in consequence of your Representation are deeply Impress'd with gratitude to General Washington for his early attention and kindness to this Colony in sending you with some forces to protect their metropolis from the threatened invasion, and hope the same generous disposition will induce him to continue his assistance while our Danger remains.

The number of men you propose to have raised for our present defence we have considered of and judge it necessary the number of matrosses be augmented to Two hundred, and that Eight Hundred men more be enlisted for fifteen days

to guard the several necessary Ports & Passes, and shall give orders for compleating the same.

Coll. Joshua Wingate, Lieut. Coll. Jonathan Burnum, Majr James Hacket are appointed by the Congress, Field officers of a Regiment of minute-men and commissioned. We have, therefore directed them to take command according to their several stations; have requested Willm Knight and Joshua Wentworth Esqr, Capt. Willm Pearne, Capt. Thomas Thompson & Capt. Supply Clap to procure & fix a number of vessels above the Boom in order to hinder the passage of our Enemy's ships up the river. . . .

The fixing a Cable to strengthen the Boom as you proposed, considering the time it will require to prepare it & the great expence thereof & the importance of the Boom & ships, we think may be omitted.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 634.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COMMITTEE TO FIX A BOOM IN PISCATAQUA RIVER ¹

[Portsmouth] In Committee of Safety
October 27th 1775.

To Wm. Knight & Josh. Wentworth, Esqrs, Capts Pearne, Thompson & Clapp:

It having been represented to this Committee, as necessary that a number of vessels should be properly moor'd above the Boom on Piscataqua River, in order to prevent the passage of the Enemy's ships up the River, We do therefore desire you, or any three of you to take a sufficient number of the meanest vessels you can easily find that will answer the purpose, and fix them in such places & in such a manner above the Boom as you shall judge best: Also to appraise each of said vessels and make return thereof with the names of the owners to this Committee, & to assure the owners of the vessels you shall so take, that in case they are destroyed in said service, they shall be paid for according to your appraisement.

By order of the Committee.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 632.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Exeter] 27 [October].

Wrote Wm Knight, Esqr & others, desiring them to appraise & place Vessels in Piscataqua Harbour.

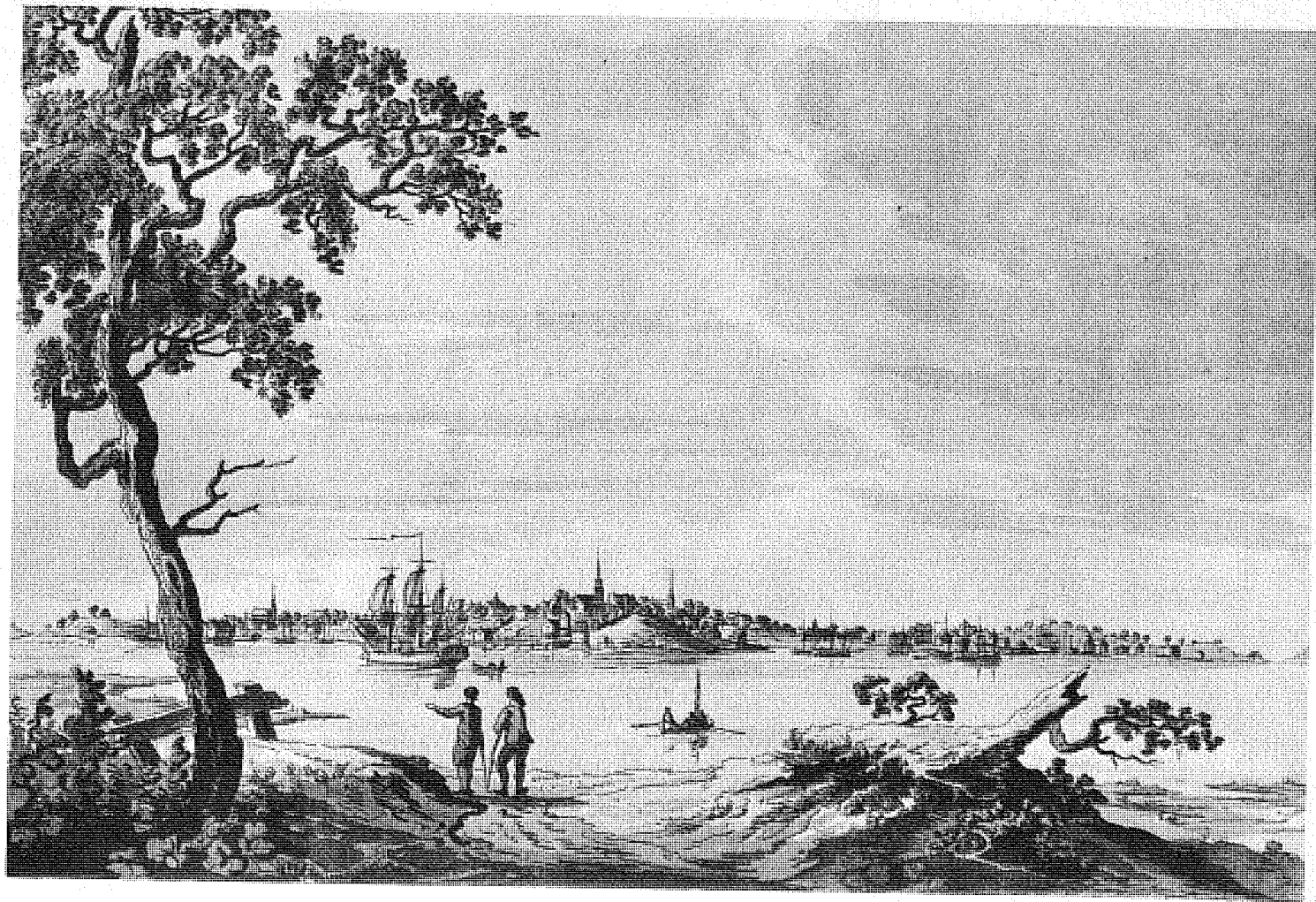
1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 23.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED ¹

Dear Sir

Beverly 27th Octobr 1775

I received your favor to me of the 25th & Communicated that part of it which regarded Col. [John] Glover unto him – when I last wrote to you, I gave the true reasons, for the delay attending the fitting out of these ~~two~~ vessells



Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 1781.

I observe you had given orders to young Glover for all the things write to you for, & he is returned without the most Material Article, which is the 300 Swivel shot, he says there was none but he says there was plenty of four ounce bullets, which if had one ounce of Sense he must have Known woud answer all the purposes

this young Gentleman I find has applied to you for a subaltern & twenty Men more than was intended for this vessel, I can easily See his reason for it, was to get on board with him, a favorite young officer who he apprehended woud not be allowed without an addition of men, I see no objection to indulge him with his freind, but I realy see no Necessity for the 20 men Nor has there been a provision of Stores Laid in for more than the original number, you must allso Consider, that if you indulge one, you must indulge the whole

I have told him (as his father did not chuse to interfere) that he may have his friend if he pleasd, who with 50 more officers included, is all I woud suffer to go on board except I had written orders from Headquarters to the Contrary I am very Sure that Number Must be full sufficient for all the purposes these Vessells are intended for all above that Number Must be an incumbrance on board one of these small vessells, & you will find when the Accounts Come in, the expence full enough without such an addition –

pray What Keeps Capt. Adams & his Company. His vessell has got all her guns provision &c on board & I know there will be many things wanting which we Cannot possibly think of untill he Comes,

as Capt. Manly's vessell is all ready, we now only wait the Collecting together his hopefull Crew to send him off, I have declared that if there are even 30 onboard to morrow morning & the wind proves fair that he shall hoist Sail, but these Swivel shot pray send of[f] immediately a Large quantity of them same four ounce bullets, Capt. Adams Can take sufficient for both vessels, & give Manly his proportion at Cape Ann, which will be their place of Rendezvous²

it will be very fortunate shoud any of our Cruizers fall in with the transports you mention, that woud be a glorious prize indeed

I am Much grieved that I had not the pleasare of Seeing Mr Lynch & Col. Harrisan, I regard them highly, Doctor Franklin is goeing & you are allso on the Wing, every one engaged in this Contest Must Sacrifice their private satisfaction to the publick good I assure you, the not seeing them Gentlemen, & haveing now little chance of Shakeing you by the hand before you depart is very mortifying to Dear sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan

My best Respects attend his Excellency

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. A list in John Glover's Colony Ledger indicates that portledge charges were advanced for all four schooners outfitted in Beverly. The item reads: "To advance wages paid Seamen Schoo. [blank] Capt. Broughton 14-4-0 To ditto Schoo. Franklin Capt. Selmon 14-4-0 To ditto Schoo. Lee Capt. Manly 14-4-0 To ditto Schoo. Warren Capt. Adams 14-4-0." MarbHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Friday, October 27, 1775.

Samuel Holten, Esq; brought down a Bill to encourage the fitting out armed Vessels.

Pass'd in Council, viz. In Council, October 27, 1775.

Read a second Time, and pass'd to be engross'd with the Amendments.

Sent down for Concurrence.

Read and concurr'd with the Amendments propos'd.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 27 [October]

The *Mercury* having seized a Brig laden with Wine and Fruit ran in with her to Nantasket, and seeing her safe under the protection of the *Raven* lying there, put to sea again.²

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 154, BM.

2. See the journal of H.M.S. *Mercury*, October 23, 1775.

JESSE HARLOW'S ACCOUNTS AGAINST WILLIAM WATSON ¹

Continentiel Servis	To Jesse Harlow	Dr.
To Going to Head Quarters Express for Capt Bowen and my Expences		£1.13 . . .
Plymouth Octobr 27th 1775		

Recd in full the above of William Watson Esqr &

	Eph Spooner	P Jesse Harlow	
1775	Continental Servis to Jesse Harlow		Dr.
Novr 1th	To 16½ yards old Canvis a 8d	}	0..0..11..0
	for Capt Addams Schoonr ² Vessl		
	To Piloting the above Schoonr To	}	0..6..0
	Bearch Point		
			£0..0..17..0

Rd in full the above of Watson & Spooner

Entd P Jesse Harlow

1. Prizes and Captures, Nos. 93 and 381, LC. See footnote to Stephen Sampson's bill of October 12, 1775. Watson was the Continental agent at Plymouth.
2. Washington's armed schooner *Harrison*.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR. ¹

[Providence]

27 [October]. The Lt Govr out of town at the Assembly Expected home to Dine but did not come till 4 oClk: A.M. Waited on him, & told him my Business. He said he would Acquaint the Committee that evening who he Orderd to meet, & would give me an Answer in the Morning. —

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 10 HO. A.M. October 27th, 1775.

The Congress proceeded to hear the residue of the minutes of the Committee of Safety, and having read that part of the minutes of the said committee, to wit: the minutes of the committee on the 30th of September last, which relate to Bernard Romans; and also his memorial since delivered to this Congress. — A draught of a letter to the Continental Congress on that subject was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New-York, October 27th, 1775.

Sir—The Committee of Safety, during the recess of the Provincial Congress, held a conference with Mr. Bernard Romans, and engaged his services as an engineer in building the fortification on Hudson's river. He objected to them, that his pension from the Crown of about £50 sterling per year as botanist for one of the Floridas might be taken away, when it was known that he had assisted this Country, and therefore prayed that he might be engaged as an engineer in the Continental service. The Committee thereupon promised him the pay of fifty dollars per month for the present, and informed him that it was probable his services would be wanted. We are not competent to the perfecting this business, and therefore pray that the Congress will make some order in the premises. As to the quantum of his pay, if fifty dollars is thought too little, the Congress will be pleased to fix upon the sum which they think adequate to the duties he is to perform.

We are, sir, [&c.] By order.

To the Hon'ble John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed and signed by the President, and transmitted.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 186.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] October 27th.

Upon application of Mr. Thomas Proctor to be appointed Captain of the Company of Artillery to be raised and employed at Fort Island for the defence of this Province, This Board considering Mr. Proctor's Application,

Resolved, That the said Thomas Proctor be appointed Captain of the said Company.

Resolved, That Mr. [Robert] Towers, Commissary, deliver and Send down to Fort Island, a Gin, Handspikes, Pulleys, Ropes, and what other articles that may be thought necessary for carrying on the Public Works at that Island.

Upon application of James Jones, Mate; John Orkney, Second Mate; & John Clerk, Charles Heys, George Simpson, & George Stewart, Mariners belonging to the *Rebecca*, & *Francis* Transport, Geor. Hastings, Mr., lately Stranded on Brig't Beach, on the Jersey Shores, a certificate was given them that they had been examined by this Committee; Discharged, and permitted to go at large.

Resolved, That Isaac Rotch be appointed Second Lieutenant to one of the armed Boats.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 382-383.

28 Oct.

STEPHEN MOYLAN AND COLONEL JOHN GLOVER TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED ¹

Sir

Beverly 28th October 1775

We received your favor of the 25th Instant inclosing instructions for the Agents, one of which we will deliver to the person appointed for this place & transmit the others to Portsmouth Newbury &ca &ca.

the first article mentions the laying in provisions Conformable to an inclosed paper, which inclosure was omitted, you will therefore please to send us five of them, & one more Copy of the Instructions by return of the bearer

We will pay due attention to your Commands in fixing the Commissions &ca with the Agents, & all agreements shall be committed to writing –

Captain [John] Glover [Jr.] has brought all the things we wrote to you for, except the 300 swivel shot which, he informs us, were not to be had, he says there are four ounce ball, which will answer very well. on looking over the Amunition left by the three Schooners we find, there will be wanting for Captain Adams

40 rounds of four pound Cartridges, & 400 or 500 of them four ounce ball, of these he will give half unto Captain Manly, when they meet at Cape Ann, there is no sheet lead to be had in these parts, we want ten foot Square, please to send it & these other things immediatly

60 four pound shot 40 two pound shot 40 cartridges for two pounders absolutely necessary

We will recommend harmony & good understanding to the Captains, & will give our best advice to Captain Adams relative to his Cruising farther Eastward, & in all other Matters.

We shall be glad to see him soon – his vessel is ready, it is now five oClock P.M. & no appearance of him or his Men. Captain Manly is off & only waits a fair wind to proceed to sea.

We are, With great respect to his Excellency & to you Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan John Glover

P S please to put Capt Adams in mind of Bringing his Sergeant & Gunner –

1. *Washington Papers*, LC.

BENJAMIN HICHBORN TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

Dear Sir –

Cambridge 28 Octr 1775

If tears of blood were to follow my pen, they wou'd but faintly marke the distressing anxiety I have suffered for near three Months past – to be betrayed into a situation which equally exposed me to the Insults of my Enemies and the Suspicions or Contempt of my Friends, by a Scoundrel whose base duplicity, I cou'd neither expose or counteract, excited feelings, which often proved too severe a trial for my utmost fortitude – I have been a week in the Country & till now have

not had resolution enough to write you a line – I have so much to communicate, that at present I shall only relieve my Mind of what I cannot contain. – It was generally presumed (& I confess with the greatest apparent reason) that the discovery of those letters was owing to my imprudence – imprudence in such a Case I should esteem a Crime, & a crime of such a nature as, in myself, I could never pardon the circumstances were shortly these – when we came to New York, contrary to our expectations, we found a packet boat waiting for Passengers, & in the opinion of every one there was not the least Danger in crossing the Sound, we accordingly took passage for New Port, & I never saw more reason for destroying your letters till the second day we had been on board the Man of war, than there was for throwing them in the River Delaware. Capt Ayscough Received us on board the Ship with the greatest politeness & Civility, making a thousand apologies for the rough treatment he had given us – said his object was the Sailors, who were in the boat with us, & was very sorry he had stopt us in our passage – this continued till the next day, when His Conduct suddenly wore a quite different appearance – I told Mr White, that Scoundrel Stone, (a person who formerly was Clerk to Henry Lloyd, & came passenger with us from New York) had given Ayscough some information which had produced this Change in his Conduct, & it was time for me to secure my letters, I had before this secreted them in a part of the Ship where I thought them perfectly safe – I immediately loaded them with money of the least Value I had about me intending, to Drop them over board in the Event: we (Mr White & myself) were then told that we must look upon ourselves as prisoners, & while Mr Stone was caressed in the Cabin, we had a Centinel over us – However I had then, not the least doubt of eluding their Strictest Scrutiny – my plan I thought was compleat & ensured me success; I had provided a couple of blank letters directed to General Washington & Colo [James] Warren, which in Case Stone should acknowledge himself the Informer & confront me with his declaration, I intended to deliver up with seeming reluctance & pretend I had concealed them through fear – just as the boat was preparing to carry our baggage on board Capt: Wallace for examination a Gentleman who came passenger with us from New York sent on board for a trunk which we thro' mistake had taken for our own, this circumstance looked so favourable that I could not avoid seizing, to get the Letters on shore – I opened the trunk with my own key put the letters in the folds of the Gentns Linen & with some difficulty locked it again, when the trunk came upon deck the Lieutenant mistook it for mine put it into the boat with the rest of our things & rowed off immediately on board the other Ship – by such a mere accident as this, did the letters fall into their Hands – The next day an Officer told Mr White that he heard Stone giving the Capt: information of the Letters, or we should never have been searched or suspected – General Washington does not yet appear altogether Satisfied with my Conduct – the only Satisfaction I have at present arises from the generous Reception I met with from Colol Warren, but my anxiety to know your Sentiments of the part I have taken prevents my attention to any thing else – I am sensible of the injustice I do you in harbouring the least diffidence of your generosity, but at the same time I know your nice feelings must receive such a shock from having your confidential observations, upon such delicate Subjects exposed, that

the Reflection gives me the keenest of pain – General Washington & the World, may think meanly of me, but suffer me to say without the appearance of adulation, – possessed of your Confidence & favourable opinion, I can be happy under their united frowns – nothing but a line of approbation from you can restore me to myself – let me intreat you, if from no other motives but pity, to send me a short letter by the Post, & I will then open myself to you with the greatest freedom – enclosed you have a rude plan of a design which I am satisfied may be carried into execution with the greatest ease – I Propose communicating it to the Genl through Mr [James] Bowdoin – I am Sir your unhappy but Sincere Friend

B^N Hichborn

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Watertown, October 28, 1775

I forgot to tell you that the powder arrived in our vessel at the eastward² has got from ninety tons by various gradations to seven and one half, which I think I gave you as the true account, being what I thought I could rely on; and from thence to fifteen hundred and from thence to six hundred, which I believe is the true one, tho' I can't say that it won't descend to three lbs.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 168, 169.

2. The schooner *Britannia*. See Timothy Langdon to Massachusetts General Court, October 16, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Saturday, October 28, 1775.

Benjamin White, Esq; brought down a Memorial from Jeremiah Powell, Esq; in Behalf of the Committee of Safety of North-Yarmouth, and Isaac Parsons, in Behalf of the Committee of Safety of New-Glocester, expressing their Apprehensions of an Intention in the Enemy to take Possession of Falmouth-Neck, and to improve that Harbour the approaching Winter for the King's Ships, and the dangerous Consequences that would ensue from such a Measure, and praying for Assistance—this was accompan'd with a Letter from Jeremiah Powell, Esq; informing of Deserters from the Fleet that burnt Falmouth.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

PROCLAMATION BY MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE¹

A Proclamation.

By his Excellency the Hon. William Howe, Major General and Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Forces, within the Colonies lying on the Atlantic Ocean, from Nova Scotia to West Florida, inclusive, &c.

Whereas several of the inhabitants of this town have lately absconded, to join, it is apprehended, his Majesty's enemies, assembled in open rebellion, I do, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by his Majesty, forbid any per-

son or persons whatever, not belonging to the navy, to pass from hence by water or otherwise, from the date hereof, without my order or permission given in writing. Any person or persons detected in the attempt, or who may be retaken, upon sufficient proof thereof, shall be liable to military execution; and those who escape shall be treated as traitors, by seizure of their goods and effects. All masters of transports, or other vessels, sailing from hence, unless under the immediate order of Samuel Graves, Esq; Vice Admiral of the White, &c. &c. &c., or officer commanding his Majesty's ships of war on this service for the time being, are hereby strictly forbidden to receive any person or persons on board, without my order or permission in writing. Any master or others detected in disobeying this proclamation shall be liable to such fine and imprisonment as may be adjudged.

Given at Head-Quarters in Boston the 28th day of October, 1775.

1. *New York Gazette*, November 13, 1775.

NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir,

Providence, October 28th. 1775

When we removed Part of the Live Stock from Block Island in July last a Number of Cattle were left, so poor (owing to the severe Drought) that they were totally unfit for the Knife. The plentiful Rains that have since fallen have increased the Feed so much that there are now upwards of 300 fit for Market: The Island is situated so far from the Continent that any Attempt to remove them will be extremely hazardous; And I can think of no other Method to prevent their being taken by the Enemy, than killing and salting them. As we have no Demand for salted Provisions in this Colony, I must desire your Excellency to take order that the Beef, when barrellled, may be received into the Magazines in Camp, at a reasonable Price; in which Case they will be killed and cured forthwith. — You are sensible Sir of the unhappy Situation of this Colony with Respect to the Enemy, it being scarcely any Thing more than a line of Sea-Coast; and I have no Doubt will give us every Assistance in your Power.

I am with great Truth and Respect, Sir. [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

P.S. I have this Morning dispatched Mr Bowen with Orders to Col. Hopkins for Ten Cannon Four Pounders for the armed Vessel, now equipping at Plymouth

1. Washington Papers, LC.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1775

Providence, October 28.

Wednesday last [October 25] the *Viper* Sloop of War, Captain Greaves, arrived at Newport from New-York. Capt. Barnes's Sloop, one of the four Prizes mentioned under the New-York Head to be taken by the *Viper*,¹ has been re-taken by a lucky Stratagem. — A Midshipman and four Hands were put on board, with two of Capt. Barnes's Crew, and the Master of another Vessel lately taken by the Enemy, was shipped as a Pilot. Their Orders were to carry the Vessel to Boston, but if separated from the others, to take her into Newport. They parted the first

Night, and the Night following made Rhode-Island. The Pilot was carrying her in at East Side, and on the Midshipman's expressing his Surprize at not seeing the Light-House, he was informed that the Sons of Liberty had burnt it. They soon came to an Anchor at Howland's Ferry; the Midshipman enquired for the Men of War, when the Pilot pointing to the Lights on Shore, told him there were the Ships. Early next Morning the Pilot, assisted by Capt. Barnes's Men, nailed up the Companion Door, and beckoned a Number of People on board from the Shore, who released the Pirates from their Confinement, and conducted them to Head-Quarters on the Island, from whence they have been brought to this Town, and safely lodged in Gaol.

We are informed that a Schooner of 120 Tons, belonging to the Enemy, has been lately taken, and carried into Machias. She had been up the Bay of Fundy, and had on board a parcel of Dry-Goods, 25 Head of Cattle, 100 Sheep, and a large Quantity of Potatoes.

1. See *New York Journal*, October 26, 1775.

SIMEON POTTER TO CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.¹

sir

Bristol Octr 28 1775 –

I will Let You have 10 Swivel Gunns at 20 Dollrs pr pare Most of which is already Swiveled and Teen Careadge gunns four pounders wt about 12:0:0 Each Gun European made & proved & is Reckend much Better then N Engd Cast Cannon with 10 Caredges 200 Shott belongen to the Gunns with what rammers Spunges Ladles Worm[ers] formers Leather & wooden Carteridge Boxes & powder hornes there may be remaining belonging to the sd Gunns for Seven hundred Dollers if the above price will Sute you may have them Deld Amedetly if not we Say no more about them I am yr Hble Sert

Simeon Potter

To Capt Ephrom Bowen att Mr Smiths Bristol

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 383, LC.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.¹

[Bristol]

28 [October, 1775]. Waited on the Lt Govr & Got An Order for 10 Carriage Guns, he said all the Swivels would be Wanted for the Gallies so could not Spare any of them – Left Providence at 2 O, Ck Detained by the Rain till that time. Arrived at Bristol at 5 [oC] Rained all day, Waited on capt Potter Again to buy his Swivels, which he would not Sell Without the Carriage Guns –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] October 28.

At Falmo 130 Dwellinghouses & 300 Stores burnt by the merciless Fury of Capt Mowatt. At the Request of the Eng. Ambassador the Dutch extend the

period of their Prohibition of exportg Powder & Arms to the Eng. Colonies. I perceive the Dutch & Spaniards fear the Revolt of the Eng. Colonies will prove an alarmg Precedent for theirs.

1. Dexter, ed., *Diary of Ezra Stiles*, I, 630.

Constitutional Gazette, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1775

New-York, October 28.

The following is the substance of the examination of Elijah Cable, of Fairfield, in Connecticut, taken yesterday before the Provincial Congress; viz.

That he left St. John's on Friday the 13th, that there is about 4000 men at that place; General Montgomery is on the South side, and the Canadians on the East side; the bomb battery is 66 or 67 rod from the fort, that they had set one barrack on fire in the fort, with the great mortar commonly called the old sow. On Saturday the 14th, when he was at the Isle a Noix, a very heavy firing began early in the morning, and continued until night, and then began the next morning, and continued until 10 o'clock when the firing ceased, what was the event of this action he could not tell, the wind being fair he set sail. He met General Wooster near Ticonderoga; our people had taken from the Regulars some blanket coats, stockings and shoes, four hogsheads of rum, and some wine; that a party of the Regulars went out in a floating battery to drive off our Canadians, about 500 in number, who were at work on the East battery, but were repulsed three days successively. Saw several Indians when he came away; our people lie on the North side, about three quarters of a mile from the fort, and often go up and kill the centinels. Provisions plenty, and the men in good spirits. Our army had lately received a reinforcement of 600 men from different quarters. General Montgomery has a sloop, a schooner, and two row gallies, each has a twelve pounder, and eight or nine swivels, a boom is across at Isle a Noix. Our people shot several holes thro' the King's vessel after she was hauled up. No snow when he left St. John's.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, October 28, 1775

The Comee of Safety of Philada laid before the Congress the examination of sundry of those who came in the transport *Rebecca and Frances*, and desired the advice of Congress, what ought to be done with the men taken.

The Congress taking this under consideration,

Resolved, That Captn Campbell and lieut. Symes, and the men who came with them in the transport *Rebecca and Frances*, be confined in the such gaols in this Colony, as the Comee of Safety of sd Colony think proper, and that said Captn Campbell and lieutenant Symes be allowed for their subsistance 1½ dollar each, pr week, and the men one dollar pr week each, to be paid out of the continental treasury.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 309.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, OCT. 28." ¹

On Monday morning the 16th instant, the transport ship, Capt. Hastings, of London, bound from Boston for New York, with seventeen seamen, a Capt. Duncan Campble, a Lieut. Sims, a recruiting serjeant, and fifteen or twenty ragamuffin fellows, that had ran from New York and listed, who acted as marines on board, ran ashore on Brigantine Beach, near Egg Harbour, where she is lost. The seamen and marines were secured soon after their coming on shore, and conducted to this city, where the former are set at liberty, but the marines are properly secured. Capt. Campble, Lieut. Sims, and one Cameron, (who it appears were to land at New York to list what men they could, by large promises of confiscated land, which he never could fulfill, get them on board the *Asia*, and then transport them to Boston) left the ship in a small boat, put into a place called Cranbury Inlet, but being pursued, were seized on board a sloop in which they had taken their passage for New York. – It is said before they quitted the ship they threw overboard several pieces of cannon belonging to the vessel, 60 muskets, and two and half barrels of powder. The vessel left Boston the 5th of October, in company with a 20 gun ship and one transport with some troops bound for Halifax. No other ships of war or troops had sailed.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 12 to December 14, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] October 28th. – At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety

Upon application of Anthony Martin, John Price, Larie McNeil, Thomas Pratt, Thomas Clough, John Smith, John Bachland, Simon Eastwood, & James Batchelor, Seamen, belonging to the *Rebecca*, & *Francis* Transport, George Hastings, Master, lately Stranded on Brigantine Beach, on the Jersey Shore, a certificate was given them that they had been Examined by this Committee, discharg'd and permitted to go at large.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 384.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JAMES FORDE, DROGHEDA ¹

[Baltimore] 28 Octr

We had the plesure of writeing you the 31st Augt to which refer. Since then have not recd any of your favours. we wrote you in our last we would remitt your ballance as Soon as we recd the Amt your Salt, but on Makeing out your Acct this day, we find we are only $\frac{1}{4}$ in your Debt. as P Acct Annaxed, and we have not yet recd the Amt of the Salt Sold here, but Expect it in a few days as it is now Some time due. all Communication between this and Hallifax Cut off. therefore think it Necessary for you to write Mr Thos Cochran of that place about your Salt, as we have never heard a word from him since we Sent it to him.² our business is all at a Stand As there are Neither Exports nor Emports. and the prices here are Merely Nominall. Wheat 3/ a 4/ flour 12/ very little purchasd or Sold Ex[change] 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ & likely to rise if there was a probability of Matters being Settled Soon now is the time to Make A purchase and put it in Store, but of that you must be A better

judge than we Can here. We Cannot write you any Polliticks if we did our letter would be Stopped. as opportunitys are Scarce we are obliged to Send this by the packet. we shall have an opportunity in Decr and when that is over we know not when there will be Another. we wish to hear from you—

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. For the disposition of Forde's cargo of salt received in the brig *Henry & Joseph* on March 10, 1775, see Woolsey to Forde, March 19 and April 3, 1775, and Woolsey to Greg, April 4, 1775, Volume 1, 152–154, 167, 168.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN¹

[Baltimore] 28 Octr

I wrote you the 2 Inst Via London. Since then none of your favours, tho the Schooner was arrived with you, & the Packet brought me a letter with that Acct² You Cannot Imagine how I am in Want of Money, and you Should have let me known when I might have drawn on you for a little. at any rate I must do it in Decr in favr of [Robert] Lisle as I Expect there will be then 100 £ Sterl due him, & he writes Very pressing. the Servant Debts are Very Slow in Coming in, which makes me be in more want than I would. I have now sent [James] Forde his Acct we are in his debt $\frac{1}{4}$ Currency. Indeed I made a Mistake in my own Mind as I thought we owed him the Amt of the Salt I have not Recd that money yet, but do now Expect it in a few days. as there are little business a doing I think to retail Wett Goods. if I find We Cannot do Enough, and trouble likely to Continue long. I think to buy some land & Quit business. the first Shall do Immediately, the Second wait Your & G[eorge] D[arley] advice – Very little wheat Comes in price 3/ a 4/ flour 12/ Ex[change] 66 $\frac{2}{3}$. now would be the time to purchase – I have wrote none but ford. this goes by the Packet no other opportunity till Decr when a brig to Galway will sail in ballast. Shall write by her & would be glad to hear from you

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The schooner *Industry*. For account, see Woolsey to Skinner, June 8, and Woolsey to Darley, June 29, 1775, Volume 1, 634, 779–780.

JOHN SMITH & SONS TO MILDRED & ROBERTS, LONDON¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore 28th Octor 1775

We wrote you the 26th Ultio inclosing Henry Kellys Bill on Wooldridge & Kelly of London for £ 200 Stg since which and indeed for Several Months Past are without any of your favours, which is very disagreeable. hope you'l in future be more Punctual. –

Our Ship *Sidney* the other day Arrived from Nice. and it seems the Young man Who took the Command of her after Capt [Thomas] Drysdale's Death has obligd Veirn & Vellon to Whom She was addressed to pay him the freight Altho: we give Express orders it Should be remitted you, the Young Man says he Left £271 . . 9 . . 0 Sterlg Part of the freight with St Pierre & Sauvaigue Merchts. at Nice to be remitted you, which if not done you'l Please write them Pressingly to do it. You'l Also we make no doubt take the Necessary Steps to recover of the underwriters the Loss Sustained at Gibraltar &c on this unlucky Voyage both on the

Ship & Cargo. we Shall now have but few opportunities of writing you therefore rely on your friendship in doing every thing [in] your Power for our Interest both in regard of the Ship *Sidney*, and every other Ship or Cargo we wrote you About —²

We have this day drawn on you in favor of Mr John Hadfield Junr of Manchester for £3.5.4 Stg. to Close our Accot with him. hope you will honor this Bill. — Inclosed you have Two Bills Amounting to £79 . . 7 . . 1 Sterlg as at the bottom Wch When paid Pass to our Credit —

we are Gentlemen [&c.]

Sent p Packet —

Wm Digges Bill on Thos Eden & Co

£40..8..0

Matthew Craymers Do on Wm & Robt Molleson

38.14..1

£79..2..1

1. Smith Letter Book, MdHS.

2. From the tone of this letter, John Smith does not seem to have been so enthusiastic over Joshua Barney's achievement in bringing the *Sidney* safely back to Baltimore, as Mary Barney indicates in Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*.

DIXON & HUNTER's *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1775

Williamsburg, October 28.

After Lord Dunmore, with his troops and the navy, had been for several weeks seizing the persons and property of his Majesty's peaceable subjects in this colony, on Wednesday night last [October 25] a party from an armed tender landed near Hampton, and took away a valuable Negro man slave and a sail from the owner; next morning there appeared off the mouth of Hampton river a large armed schooner, a sloop, and three tenders, with soldiers on board, and a message was received at Hampton, from Captain Squires, on board the schooner, that he would that day land and burn the town; on which a company of regulars and a company of minute-men, who had been placed there in consequence of former threats, denounced against that place made the best disposition to prevent their landing, aided by a body of militia, who were suddenly called together on the occasion. The enemy accordingly attempted to land, but were retarded by some boats sunk across the channel for that purpose; upon this they fired several small cannon at the provincials, without any effect, who, in return, discharged their small arms, so effectually, as to make the enemy move off, with the loss of several men, as it is believed; but they had, in the mean time, burnt down a house belonging to Mr. Cooper on that river.

On intelligence of this reaching Williamsburg, about nine at night a company of riflemen were despatched to the aid of Hampton, and the Colonel of the 2d regiment sent to take the command of the whole, who, with the company, arrived about eight o'clock next morning. The enemy had, in the night, cut through the boats sunk, and made a passage for their vessels, which were drawn up close to the town, and began to fire upon it soon after the arrival of the party from Williamsburg; but as soon as our men were disposed as to give them a few shot, they went off so hastily that our people took a small tender with five white men, a woman, and two slaves, 6 swivels, 7 muskets, some small arms and other things, a sword,

pistols, and several papers belonging to a Lieutenant Wright, who made his escape by jumping overboard, and swimming away with Mr. King's Negro man, who are on shore, and a pursuit, it is hoped, may overtake them. There were in the vessel two men mortally wounded, one is since dead, and the other near his end; besides which, we are informed, nine men were seen to be thrown overboard from one of the vessels. We had not a man wounded. The vessels went over to Norfolk, and we are informed the whole force from thence is intended to visit Hampton to-day. If they come, we hope our brave troops are prepared for them, as we can with pleasure assure the public that every part of them behaved with spirit and bravery, and are wishing for another skirmish.

ALEXANDER GILLON TO AN UNIDENTIFIED MARYLAND CORRESPONDENT ¹

Sir.

[Charleston]

If you chuse to import any powder or Arms from Holland think it best that you export the Amt of the Adventure in Tobacco fit for that market in Vessels that do not draw above 13-14 feet water & sail fast filling up Inve & bills of lading with letters as if from St Crus or St Eustatius bound to Hambro, the officers keeping their Journals accordingly & having no other papers on bd Rotterdam or Amsterdam are the best ports, on their arrival at the outport of either of these ports, let them report to the first officer as Bylyger on board to Hambro from St Crus put in their for orders or in distress, if to Rotterdam let the Capt immedly proceed up with the proper papers & apply to Messrs Isaac Hubert & Van Rykervarsel desiring them to receive the said capt under their protection & to wait & follow my orders letting nothing be landed if to Amsterdam the same directions will do to Messrs Nicholas & Jacob Van Staphorst should you approve of this plan please write frm first port your full directions to Alexr Gillen & Co at Charles Town So Caroline & copies thereof pr each vessel to Holland which will be duly attended to by. Sir, [&c.]

28th Octr 1775

Alexander Gillon

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 88, 89.

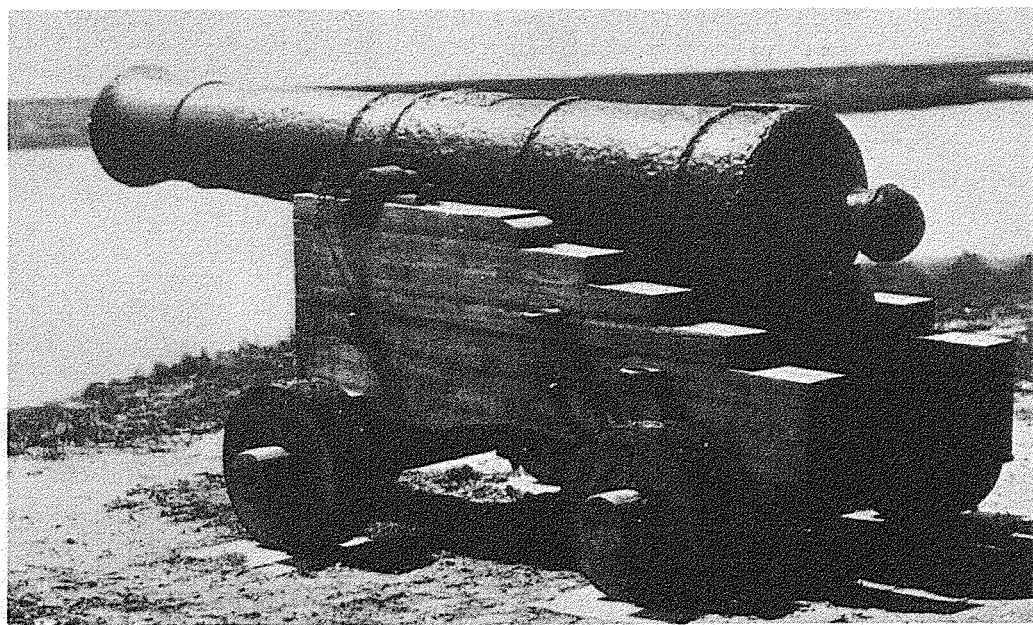
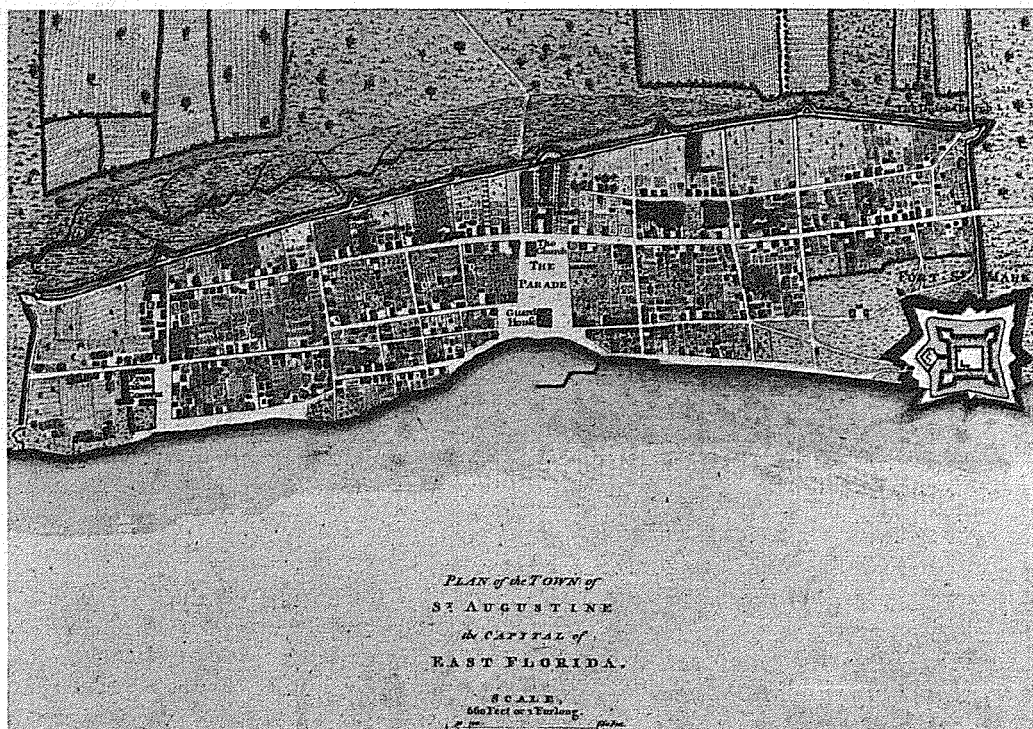
PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No 33.

Great, indeed, has been His Majesty's forbearance, and patience, with the perverse Americans. His Majestys benign good heart, has, my Lord, been tryed, to the very utmost extreme of tenderest humanity. The excesses of outrageous madness become grievous and intollerable.

No wonder, my Lord, they have turned the Kings compassion into anger. These wicked people have compelled His Majesty to the determination of puting in force such vigorous efforts, as may reduce the rebellious to order and obedience. I hope in God the effects of these measures, will be speedily most severely felt by them, that they may meet such just punishments as are the rewards of such enormous crimes.



(Top) Plan of St. Augustine, Florida, 1777. (Bottom) British 32-pounder naval cannon of the Revolutionary period.

It is very unfortunate your Lordships expectations are disapointed in the conduct of the Southern Provinces. All the Provinces north of East Florida, have entered into and adopted, the wicked measures of the Massachusets.

I trust now, my Lord, better times are not far off, that, the Plans forming may be attended with the most propitious success, untill our excellent Constitution be in permanence firmly fixed, and His Majesty's Government perfectly established, over all the British Dominions.

St. Augustine 28 Octr 75

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/555.

29 Oct. (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN JOHN SELMAN¹

[Country Harbor, Nova Scotia, October 29]

Running over Brown Bank² I shipped a sea which racked the *Franklin*, and set her leaking, was under the necessity for proceeding for Country Harbour to stop the same. As soon as ready sailed directly, the winds holding out Easterly.

1. Selman to Gerry, March 18, 1813; *Salem Gazette*, July 22, 1856.

2. A long shoal off the southeastern coast of Nova Scotia.

ITEMS TAKEN BY CAPTAINS NICHOLSON BROUGHTON AND JOHN SELMAN FROM THE SCHOONERS *Mary* AND *Prince William*¹

[Off Nova Scotia]

1775	Willm Standley [of the <i>Prince William</i>]	Cr.
Octo 29	By 3 Cod Lines	
	By 1 Dozn Cod hooks	
	By 1 Cod Lead	
	By 6 Quarts Mollases	
1775	Thos Russell [of the <i>Mary</i>]	Cr
Octo 29	By 1 hogshead Salt	
	By 6 Pound Sugar	
1775	To Sundrys taking for Use of Schr <i>Fra[n]klin</i> & People	
Octo 29	Thomas Russell of Marblehead	Cr
	To 1 hogshead Salt	
	To 7 hooks, to 2 Emty 2 galls gog forcans	
	To 1 Small Pote, To 7 Pound of Sugar	
	29 William Standly by Sundrys	
	To 1½ galls melasses Emty 3 gallon gag	

1. William Bartlett Papers, Nos. 5517 and 5516, BHS.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Portsmouth October 29th 1775

May it Please your Excellency – I arrived here in about twenty four hours after I Left you have Collected Powder So as to make up near thirty Barrels & have Since been preparing to Set an Example to the other Seaports by Setting the Fleet

at Defiance upon my arrival I was Surprized to find that the Boom So much Talked of was not prepared That the Bridge Intended for Crossing from the main to the Island Whereon Stands the Principal Fort (Called Fort Washington) had nothing more done than one Pier Sunk That there was not a foot of the Parapet over which a man might fire or Even See his Enemy that the Embrazures at the Foot were Horizontal as Well as the Top of the Parapet & in Short not a moments Defence Could be made or anoyance given to the Enemy Either With Cannon or Small Arms – I Immediately Collected a Number of Gondalows moored them head & Stern Laid pieces from one to the other & Plank across & Soon Completed the Bridge I then Turned My attention to the Boom & in two Days got it across but found it could Not Stand the Rapidity of the Tide it Soon Broke & we have again Fixed it So that I hope it may hold – but Lest it Should Deceive us I have taken a Number of Ships & Moored them above with a great Quantity of Combustable Matter in them & Shall Tomorrow have them Chained together & in Case The Boom Should give way Set those vessels in Flames. I have also a great Number of fire Rafts ready to Let Loose upon them I have altered the works & I trust made them fit for Defence & I Doubt not will in two or three Days more be Compleatly prepared I am Extremely thankful to your Excellency for the Riffle men Sent to our assistance it has Indeed filled our people with Gratitude and That my Coming Down was Equally agreeable your Excellency will See by the Inclosed Letter from their Committee of Safety – I have Seen Some Men that were on board the Fleet after the Destruction of Falmouth Capt Mowat Shew his orders which were to Burn all the Seaports East of Boston: when he Departed from Falmouth he told them that he must go to Boston & Take a Recruit of Shells Carcases &c & then Would visit Portsmouth I Expect him Dailey but in Case he does Not arrive in a few Days Shall Despair of his Coming I must beg yr Excellency to give me Intelligence of any movement of their Ships with any orders you may think proper with Respect to my Conduct while here I shall give the Earliest Intelligence of any thing material & remain with great esteem Your Excellencys most obedient Servant

Jn^o Sullivan

P S I Inclose a Letter Sent from the Eastward which Was Inclosed in one to me Signed by one Major Goodwin of Pownalborough That Infernal Crew of or[e]ys who have Laughed at the Congress Despised the friends to Liberty Endeavoured to Prevent fortifying this harbour & Strove to hurt the Credit of the Continental Money & are yet Endeavoring t[o] walk the Streets here with Impunity & will with a Sneer Tell The people in the Streets that all our Liberty Poles Will Soon be Converted into Gallows – I must Intreat yr Excellency to give Some Direction what to do with those persons as I am fully Convinced that if an Engagement was to happen they would with their own hands Set fire to the Town Expecting a reward from the Ministry for Such hellish Service. Some who have for a Long time employed themselves in Re[] and Discouraging those who were Endeavouring to Save the Town have now Turned upon me & are flying from one Street to another proclaiming that you gave me no Authority or Licence to take Ships to Secure the Entrance of the harbour or did any thing more than Send me here to See the Town Reduced to ashes if our Enemies thought proper Sir I

Shall read your Directions Respecting those villians & and See that they are Strictly Complied with by yr Excellency's most obedt Servt

Jn^o Sullivan

1. Washington Papers, LC.

AGREEMENT OF WILLIAM BARTLETT TO SERVE AS CONTINENTAL AGENT AT
BEVERLY ¹

Whereas a power has been granted by his Excellency General Washington, Commander in Chief of the Army of the united Colonies, unto John Glover Esqr Colonel of the 21st Regiment, & unto Stephen Moylan Esqr Commissary General of Musters, to appoint Agents for the Armed schooners & vessells, fitted out, now fitting or may hereafter be fitted out for the use of the united Colonies, against the enemy – and whereas, they have appointed me the Subscriber Agent for the Port of Beverly, & Such other ports & places adjacent, where there is no agent appointed

I do hereby promise to pay all due attention to the Instructions they have now given me from his Excellency, & to such as I may hereafter receive from Headquarters – I do also promise faithfully to fulfill as far as in my power Lyes, the trust now reposed in me.

I do agree to negotiate the same on the following terms, to receive two & one half P Ct on the sale of any Cargo vessell &c which I may have orders to sell, also two & one half P. Ct on the amount of Disbursements on sd schooners & repairs this to be a full Compensation for all Commissions vendue Brokerage &c – Witness my hand in Beverly the 29th of October 1775

William Bartlett

Signed in presence of us

Stephen Moylan John Glover

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 385, LC.

AGREEMENT OF JONATHAN GLOVER TO SERVE AS CONTINENTAL AGENT AT
MARBLEHEAD ¹

Whereas a Power has been granted by his Excellency General Washington, Commander in Chief of the Army of the United Colonies, unto John Glover Esq. Colonel of the 21st Regiment, and unto Stephen Moylan Esq Commissary General of Musters, to appoint Agents for the armed Schooners & Vessells fitted out, now fitting or may hereafter be fitted out for the Use of the United Colonies again[st] the Enemy—

And whereas they have appointed me the Subscriber Agent for the Port of Marblehead, & such other Ports and Places Adjacent where there is no Agent appointed –

I do hereby Promise to pay all due Attention to the Instructions they have now given me from his Excellency, & such as I may here after receiv[e] from Head Quarters – I do also promise faithfully to fulfill as far as in my Power Lyes, the trust now reposed in me.

I do agree to negotiate the same on the following Terms, to receive two & one half P Cent on the sale of any Cargo Vessell &c which I may have Orders to sell, also

two & one half P Cent on the Amount of Disbursements on said Schooners & Vessells – this to be a full Compensation for all Commissions, Vendue, Broker[g] &c Witness my Hand [at Marblehead]

the 29th of October 1775

Jonathan Glover

Sign'd in Presence of Us

John Glover Richard James

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 389, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO NICHOLAS COOKE¹

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, October 29, 1775.

Your Favor of the 25th Instant came safely to hand. Capt. Whipple's Voyage has been unfortunate, but it is not in our Power to Command Success, tho' it is always our duty to deserve it; I hope he will be more Successful in his intended Voyage, if it is proposed in consequence of the Direction of the Congress, I think it proper you should apprize him, that two Schooners have Sail'd from hence to the Mouth of St. Lawrence River, upon the same Service Commanded by Capt. Broughton and Captain Sellman; The Signal which they have agreed on to distinguish each other and to be known to their Friends is the Ensign up to the Main Topping Lift.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 53.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM COIT, PLYMOUTH¹

Sir Your Favour of the 26 Inst came to Hand this Moment. I am very sorry for the Accident that happened, but we hope more Care will be taken in future – The Vessel was well recommended, & as she is a good Sailor we hope you will soon put yourself in a better We expect a Brig & a Schooner taken at Martha's Vineyard will be in Plymouth in a few days, Major [Benjamin] Tupper who took them requested they might be fitted out from hence, to which the Advance of the Season &c was objected, but the General consented he might take one of them if he could man & fit her out at Plymouth immediately – If he should want one of them he is to have her, upon those terms, but you may have the other if you can immediately Shift into her without loss of Time – but we rather wish you should proceed in the *Harrison* as she is fitted out & sails well – There are a great many Vessels on the Coasts so that you may do your Country great Service & acquire much Honour yourself if you proceed immediately – It is under the Consideration of Congress to give the Officers & Men one clear third of the whole without any Reserve which I mention for your Encouragement – I wish you all possible Success & am, Sir, &c.
Oct. 29th 1775.

J R. Sy –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR., PLYMOUTH¹

Sir Capt Coit has informed us of the Accident which hapned to his Vessel thro' the Stupidity & Unskilfulness of the Pilot – We wonder we did not hear from you

or Martindale by the Return of this Messenger. As we are quite at a Loss about the Ammunition to be got from hence & the Time of Marchg the Men to Plymouth – However as by all Accounts the Vessel is ready I have Ordered the Men to have Notice to march to morrow or as soon as the Weather will permit. –

A Gentleman from Plymouth informs us this Morning that they cannot Spare the Powder from the Stock unless it is immediately replaced – you will therefore be particular in your Accounts that we may know how to repay it. – They speak of a brass Field piece which they cannot well Spare, you will also leave it unless it is indispensably necessary for the Vessels which we cannot Suppose –

You may let Capt ~~Coit~~ Martindale know that it is under Consideration of Congress to allow a great[er] Share of Prizes to the Officers and Men – we hope all will exert themselves for the Good of our Common Country. Two of our Vessels sail out of Marblehead to day – if the Weather permits – two are already gone to the Eastward – I am in haste &c.

Head Quarters Octo 29 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED'S REPORT ON WASHINGTON'S ARMED VESSELS ¹

Salem & Marblehead.

October 29. 1775

1. The *Lynch* – Schooner commanded by Captn Broughtn ².

2. The *Franklin* Do commanded by Capt. Sillman. both the above Vessels have sailed from Marblehead with 70 Men each to the River St Lawrence p the special Order of Congress, – See their additional Instructions –

3. The *Lee* – Schooner commanded by Captn Manley fitted out at Marblehead – sailes 29th Octobr on a Cruize – N B. Capt. [John] Glover [Jr.] having waived his Rank & gone as Lieutt I have given him Expectations that if he behaves well the General will give him the Command of the next Vessel fitted out from this Place if there should be any more –

4. The *Warren*. A Schooner commanded by Capt. Adams of the New Hampshire Troops – she sails the 30th – each of the above Vessels carries four 4 pounders with 20 Rounds for each Cannon 10 Swivels – & 20 Rounds. – the 2 last Vessels carry 50 Men each – for the Instructions to them see the Paper herwith Agents – Newbury Port, Tristram Dalton Esqr; Portsmouth, Joshua Wentworth Esqr.

Vessels at Plymouth.

1. The *Washington* – This is a fine Vessel mounts 10 Carriage Guns & is commanded by Capt Martindale – of Rhode Island She expects to sail the 30th – The Crew have not gone down but I have wrote to Genl [Nathanael] Green to order them away assoon as the Weather will admit – this Vessel will carry 80 or 100 Men.

2. The *Harrison* – Schooner commanded by Capt Coit of Connecticut. – She is now out. – she carries 50 Men – 4 Carriage Guns – 10 Swivels Agent; – William Watson Esqr, Plymouth. –

Capt Bowen is at that Place superintending the Outfit of the Vessels – Each of the

above Vessels has a Surgeon – their Boxes of Medicine prepared at the Hospital – Ammunition for the Vessels from Marblehead has been sent from Camp that for those at Plymouth has been provided by the Town – but is to be replaced assoon as an Acct is given by Capt. Bowen – 200 Barrels of Flour at Salem for the Use of these Vessels in the Hands of the Agent –

Mr Moylan and Col. Glover are at Salem & Marblehead superintendng the Vessels which have been & are fitting out there

For the Instructions to the Agents see the General Letter Book & also all Letters wrote to them – for Letters from the Persons employed in this Business see the File. Major Tupper express'd some Desire to go out in one of the Vessels he has taken at Martha's Vinyard has had Leave provided he can man & fit her out at Plymouth immediately – otherwise not as the Season is far advanced,

Capt – Coit is out in the Vessel first fitted but thinks she is rather old & weak – he has Leave to take one of late Captures if he can do it without Loss of Time – but is advised rather to keep in the Vessel fitted out till he can take a better –

Mr Watson (Agent at Plymouth) has Directions to advance Moneys to Major Tupper & those who assisted him – for which he has the Prizes &c. in Hand –

The Agents are directed by their Instructions to send their Bills with the Vouchers & an Affidavit of the Truth of their Accounts to Head Quarters before their Bills are to be answered –

No Bills are yet drawn or Warrants given upon this Account – I would humbly recommend that the Paymaster Genl should open an Acct for the armed Vessels & charge their Outsett. – That the Money or Value of Prizes taken be sent to him & Credited from which it will at one View be seen what is the Profit or Loss – & be kept distinct from the Army Accounts. –

Mr Moylan having been employed in this Service & from his Education understanding Shipping I should apprehend a very proper Person to controll the Accounts that will be sent in for the fitting out these Vessels. —

J Reed

Oct. 29, 1775.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The vessel commanded by Broughton was the *Hancock*, not the *Lynch*, which was not put into service until 1776. Reed's mistake was carried in his instructions to Broughton, and has been continued by many historians.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper*, LIEUTENANT SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Octr 1775 Running through the [Vineyard] Sound
 Sunday 29 Weighed [from Rhode Island] & Came to sail Convoy in Compy Mode & Cloudy at 4 P M Fired 2 Shot at the Custom house Schooner thinking she was taken by the Rebels as She did not Answer us when we hailed her & Whale boats passing and repassing from the shore to her she had in Company a Sloop which we Supposed had taken her

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR. TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED¹

Hond Sir –

Bristol 29th Octr 1775

I left Plimouth on tuesday evening [October 24] & arrived here the next evening, I presented the Letter to the Committee, who told me that what guns there was in town belonged to Capt Simn Potter & that he might dispose of them if he Pleased. – I Waited on Capt Potter, but could not agree with him for them I went next morning on Rhode Island to Genl Hopkins's Quarters where I found guns Suitable but could not get them without an Order from the Lt Governor, I set out Immediately for Providence, & found the Lt Govr was out of town but was expected next day by noon, I waited till 4. oClock when he returnd, from the Assembly, he Said I must wait till morning for an Ansr as the Committee were to set that evening. – the next morning I got an Ordr for 10.4 pounders. but could get no Swivels as they were wanted for the Galleys in Providence. I then Proceeded for this Place where I arrived Yesterday afternoon, & Tryed to get Capt Potters Guns, again – in the evening he made me an Offer, which I thought too high, This morning got my horse & was going to Rd Island for the Guns there when I cal'd on Capt Potter & made him another offer, which after some time he Accepted, have Just got the Cannon, Swivels, Carriages, Shott &c on Board a Boat to be carried to Taunton which is half the Distance. – Shall go forward this evening to Procure Carts to carry them to Plymouth, & Shall Wait at Taunton till I see them under way, I could have got the Guns off Rhode Island, considerable Cheaper, I believe, but could get no Swivels with them which was the Reason that I bot these,

It has taken much more time to procure these Guns than I expected, but as I have used the Utmost dispatch Possible, I think it cannot be displeasing to the General, I expect to have the cannon in Plymouth by tuesday night if the [Wind] is Such that they can be got to Taunton Tomorrow – I am, [&c.]

Eph^m Bowen Jr

If you Should have Occasion for more cannon, I have the Lt Govs Order Still, which I will keep till I hear from you

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CAPTAIN SIMEON POTTER'S BILL FOR ORDNANCE¹

Mr Ephm Bowen Jr

Bristol 29th Octr 1775—

Bot of Simn Potter

for the United Colonies. —

10 Carriage	4 [pd] Guns, 10 Swivels	} £220..0..0
200 Shott	5 Cartouch Boxes	
Sponges & Ladles, &c		

[Endorsed] Then Recd his Ordr on his Excellency Genl Washington for the above, which when paid is in full

Simeon Potter

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 283, LC.

RECEIPT FOR ORDNANCE SHIPPED ON THE *Gaspee*¹

Bristol 29th Octo 1775

Recd of Ephm Bowen on Board the Sloop *Gaspee*, ten Carriage & ten Swivel Guns, Two hundred Cannon Shott, Sponges Lades &c. which I Promise to Deliver at Taunton to the Said E Bowen

Witness my hand W Christoph[er]

[Endorsed] William Chrstrs Rect

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 387, LC.

CAPTAIN SIMEON POTTER'S ACCOUNTS FOR FREIGHTING ORDNANCE¹

Mr Ephraim Bowen Dr to. The fraght of 10 Cannon 10 Swivel Guns 10 Caredges 200 Shott &c to Ta[u]nton you finding a pilot as P Agreement	}	£3:12.0
To Mr Wm Christopher one Days work Getten the Guns from Rop-walk		
To hyer Six hands besides & finding them Vetels 1 Day Each for [blurred]		4.6
		1:4.0
Bristol Octr 29 1775	E E P	£5:0:6

Simeon Potter

ples to pay the above acct of Mr Wm Christopher and his Receipt Shall be yr Discharge from yr Humble Sert

Simeon Potter

[Endorsed] Recd the above in full for Capt Potter

W^m Christopher

[Endorsed] Recd Six Shillings for Piloting the above Vessell to Taunton

Ebene[zer] Chase

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 285, LC.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, OCT. 29."¹

By letter from Boston, dated the 4th inst. we are informed, that the General [Thomas Gage] had refused payment for the cargo of 2200 barrels of flour on board the ship *Charming Peggy*, Capt. [Thomas] Dowman, from this port to Lisbon, formerly taken by the *Mercury* man of war, and carried into Boston. The General at first refused to deliver up even the ship, but on a second application, he informed Capt. Dowman, that he might proceed with the ship to any port he thought proper; however the Admiral [Samuel Graves] would not permit his departure, save to Great Britain, or the English West India Islands, and that he had cleared out the ship in ballast for Barbadoes, and only waited to procure hands to man the ship, which was very difficult to do.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 26 to December 28, 1775.

30 Oct.

TRISTRAM DALTON TO STEPHEN MOYLAN¹

Sir Newburyport October 30th 1775

Since I had the Pleasure of seeing You, I have moved my Furniture into the Country, and am at present determined to retire to my Farm, more particularly as I enjoy but an ill State of Health – And it's probable I shall not return to Business here again, even if Affairs are happily settled – It will therefore be impossible for me properly to execute the Commission You favor'd me with – it being necessary that the Person, Who has the Charge, should reside in Town, I take the Liberty to recommend thereto Colo Jonathan Titcomb, as a Man well qualified to negotiate the Business – I have hinted the Affair to him, and He will undertake it on the Terms mentioned in your Memorandum to me – Which I now enclose – the Alteration of the Name being all that is necessary for any other Person – The Bearer Mr John Calef returns immediately, and will take due Care of any Orders you may please to send

I am with Thanks for your kind Intentions And Tenders of any Service in my Power, Sir [&c.]

Tristram Dalton

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JAMES WARREN¹

Sir, Camp at Cambridge, Octob[er 30, 1775]

At the Instance and Request of the Committee of Cape Ann, I dispatched Major [David] Mason to Survey and make a Report of such Works of Defence, as were already constructed there, and how far any new one might be necessary— From his Observations and Account I find, that a Battery may be erected, to the great Advantage, and Security of the Place. But the small Stock of Artillery, belonging to the Army, prevents me from Supplying the Materials for this Purpose. I have therefore thought proper, to acquaint you with the Circumstances of the Case, that you may make the best Provisions for this Necessity, and have also Sent Major Mason down to you, that particular Enquiry, if desired, may be made. Be pleased to communicate this Information to your honourable house. I am, Sir [&c.]

[Geo Washington]

1. Washington Papers, LC.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN¹

Sir Head Quarters [Cambridge] 30th October 1775

His Excellency General Washington directs me to acquaint that, it is necessary for the publick Service that you be at Cambridge Wednesday Night [November 1] as The Vessells that were expected at Portsmouth, are said to be return'd to Boston. I apprehend they have laid aside their design upon portsmouth for the present. The General is now confident, from your Vigilance, that the Enemy can

only meet with disgrace, should they dare to make their Appearance before that Town.

1. Otis G. Hammond, ed., *Letters and Papers of Major-General John Sullivan Continental Army* (Concord, 1930), I, 120. Hereafter cited as Hammond, ed., *Sullivan Papers*.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER AND STEPHEN MOYLAN¹

Gentlemen, Your Favour of the 28th came last Evening – Capt [Winborn] Adams is ordered to march immediately – Colo [William] Burbeck is preparing the Ammunition & I hope every Thing will be got in such Order as to have them both out –

The General approves of the detaining the 20 men – The Capt (Glover)² will if he behaves as We expect have a Vessel soon when he will then have it in his Power to oblige a Friend –

Mr. [Edmund] Randolph³ will with this forward the Acct of the Rations & also a Sett of the Instructions signed agreeable to your Desire –

I am just setting out for Phila so that in future you will direct to Mr Randolph⁴ You have both Gent my best Wishes of Health & Happiness & am [&c.]

Octo 30th 1775

J R Sy

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. See Moylan's letter of October 27, 1775.

3. Aide de camp to Washington, appointed August 15, 1775.

4. Reed took a leave of absence and did not rejoin the army for a year.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Monday, October 30, 1775

The Committee on the Petition of William Davis, reported as follows, which was read, and accepted, viz.

As it is of the utmost Importance that this Colony be well provided with Gun-Powder, in Order to make a proper Stand against our merciless Enemy: Therefore,

Resolved, That the Petition of William Davis, be granted, and that the said Davis be and he hereby is permitted to send the Sloop *Reliance* to any Foreign Ports in Order to purchase and bring into this Colony a Cargo of Gun-Powder; provided that the said Davis, or the Master of said Sloop shall give his Bond with sufficient Surety or sureties to the Receiver-General of this Colony, in the penal Sum of two Thousand Pounds, conditioned, that if the said Sloop shall, bona fide, bring the Powder she shall take on Board during said Voyage, into some Port in any of the united Colonies (Boston and Nantucket excepted) and shall take on Board no other Cargo in Order for said Voyage than Cash only: And also, no more Provisions than what shall be allowed by a Permit under the Hands of the Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Dartmouth, as being absolutely necessary for the Prosecution of said Voyage; then the said Bond shall be void, or else to stand and remain in full Force, Effect and Virtue. Sent up for Concurrence.

[Endorsed] In Council, October 30, 1775.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Plymouth 30 October 1775

Major Tupper the bearer of this will inform your Excellency in what manner he has conducted with the two ships taken by him at the Vireys. It is therefore unnecessary for me to enter into particulars — I was just advised that Portsmouth is a place of greater safety than this Port being much less exposed to Storms & better adapted at this time for getting out the arms & stores than Plymouth (as the Cannon if they can be had at Rhode Island as I understand they can) may be more readily come at — Any orders respecting this or any other business shall be obeyed with punctuality & all the dispatch in my power — I have wrote to Mr. Leonard Jarvis of Dartmouth to get the Brig grooved immediately, a step which Major Tupper thinks necessary as she is very foul & full of worms.

I will inform your Excellency that the Schooner Harrison's Galley will sail this afternoon weather permitting, & that the Brigantine Washington will be ready in 2 or 3 days provided Capt. Mastendal & Bowen can procure the Cannon & get the iron Bristle in season, these Gentlemen set out last Wednesday on that business, I have not heard from them since, the late excessive Rain must have impeded them much or they must have met with difficulty in procuring the Cannon — no time shall be lost in dispatching the Washington provisions are ready —

Powder & Ball makes rope & cordage paper is well & necessary to send from head Quarters, our Town stock of powder & shall are so exhausted that we think it unsafe to spare

any more, more especially as we are threatened with destruction & know not how soon ^{the execution} these threat may be attempted.

I have the Honour to be with much Respect

Your Excellency's most obedient

much oblig'd Humble servant

William Watson,

To His Excellency George Washington Esq.

William Watson to George Washington, October 30, 1775.

WILLIAM WATSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Plymouth 30 October 1775

Major Tupper the bearer of this will inform your Excellency in what manner he has conducted with the two Vessels taken by him at the Vinyard, it is therefore unnecessary for me to enter into particulars – I woud just observe that Dartmouth is a place of greater safety than this Port being much less exposed to Storms & better adapted at this time for fitting out an arm'd Vessel than Plymouth (as the Cannon, if they can be had at Rhode Island, as I understand they can) may be more readily come at – any order respecting this or any other buseness shall be obeyed with punctuality & all the despatch in my power – I have wrote to Mr Leonard Jarvis of Dartmouth to get the Brig graved immediately, a step which Major Tupper thinks necessary, as she is very foul & full of worms –

I woud Inform your Excellency that the Scooner *Harrison* Capt Coit will sail this afternoon weather permitting, & that the Brigatine *Washington* will be ready in 2 or 3 days provided Capts Martendal & Bowen can procure the Cannon & get them from Bristol in season, these Gentlemen set out last Wednesday on that business, I have not heard from them since, the late excessive Rains must have impeded them much or they must have met with difficulty in procuring the Cannon – no time shal[l] be lost in dispatching the *Washinton*, provisions are ready – powder & Ball match rope & cartridge-paper it will be necessary to send from head Quarters, our Town stock of powder & shott are so exhausted that we think it unsafe to spare any more, more especially as we are threatned with destru[ct]ion & know not how soon the execution [of] these threat may be attempted

I have the Honour to be with much Respect Your Excellencys [&c.]

William Watson

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.¹

[Taunton]

30 [October, 1775]. Arrivd at Taunton before noon. boat not arrivd with the guns. wind being ahead. head wind all day—

1. Washington Papers, LC.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] October 30.

The Sheriffs by Order of the Gen. Assembly seize the Estates of Gov. Hutchinson, late Lt Gov. [Andrew] Oliver, Messrs Saml & James Brentons & Mr Romes lying in this Colony, They having approved themselves Enemies to their Country. One of Romes Houses & Stores lay near the Water. The Men o' War drew up in warlike posture & threatened to fire, if any came to carry off the Goods in this House & stores. The To was alarmed: but the Thing passed over without Mischief.

1. Dexter, ed., *Diary of Ezra Stiles*, I, 630.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1775

Newport, October 30

On Wednesday [October 25] arrived here his Majesty's *Viper* sloop of war, from New-York, having taken 2 brigs, loaded with salt, and a large sloop, loaded with rum and sugar, from Antigua; all belonging to New-York. — One of the brigs, Capt. Liburn, arrived here a few hours after the *Viper*. The sloop had a Midshipman, and 7 hands put on board; one of whom, belonging to Bristol in this colony, was to pilot her into this harbour; instead of which he carried her up near Howland's-ferry, where she was taken possession of by some of the troops stationed on this island, and the people made prisoners. — The other brig, above mentioned, arrived here yesterday.

Yesterday sailed for Boston, wind N.W. the *Viper* sloop of war, with a brig loaded with salt, and a Custom-house schooner.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1775

New-York, October 30.

Wednesday last [October 25] being the Anniversary of his Majesty's Accession to the Throne, the same was observed with the usual Respect; at Noon a Royal Salute was fired from his Majesty's Ship *Asia*, commanded by George Vandeput, Esq; and his Excellency Governor Tryon received the Compliments of the honourable Gentlemen of the Council and the Gentlemen of the City.

ALEXANDER McDOUGALL TO JOHN JAY¹

Dear Sir,

New york 30th Octor 1775

I have many matters of importance to communicate to you, respecting our own Safety and the Public Security, which time will not now permit to enumerate. Suffice it that the Tories are chearfal, and too many of the Whigs make long Faces. Men of rank and Consideration refuse to accept of commissions as Field officers of the Militia; so that these commissions have gone a beging for Six or Seven weeks. This requires no Comment to one of your discernment. Our Congress wrote Some days Since to your's, to replace the Powder you order[ed] from us for Continental Service, and that we voluntarily spared it. But we have not been favoured with an answer, altho we have not 300 lb at our Command if it would Save the Colony; and the inhabitants are very illey Supplied, not a Quarter of a Pound per man in the Hands of half the Citizens; and the Country much worse. This is a deplorable State to be in for men who have their all at Stake. "For God's" Sake quicken the replacing of our Powder. The serving of Artillery require men of more Talents and greater Soberity than is requisite for musketry; the former being more complex than the Latter. For this reason I got our Congress to write to yours for an order to enlist matrosses for the Fort on Hudsons River. what detains it? are the men for this part of the Service to be raised when the Guns are mounted; and thereby expose the Post to fall into the Hands of the Enemy from the unskilfulness of the matrosses. You may be assured

infantry alone cannot defend Such a Post; unless they have been long Trained to the Artillery. General Woster's [David Wooster's] corps, which you ordered for the Fort, is by this at St John's in Consequence of orders he received from Genl Schuyler, before yours to the former to return hither reached him: that there are no Continental Forces nearer the Post on Hudsons river, than lake George, except two incompleat Companies in our Barracks; one of the first and the other of the Third Regiment. As it will be very difficult if not imposible, to procure the Stores Necessary for that Post, on the Sea Coast, I wish the Continental Congress, would pass an order without delay to enable us to take Such Stores from Ticonderoga, as will be wanted for it; and also to enable this and the other Colonies to take from that Fort or Crown Point Such Stores as may be requisite for the defence of the Colonies, especially lead of which there is a great abundance. I have urged our Congress to dispatch a Sloop we were obliged to buy, for Powder; but as it is difficult to procure Gold & Silver or Bills of exchange, it will be necessary to Send provission with her, which in Some of the Island will facilitate the geting that article. But the Congress wait your determination on the Trade. To prevent excuses for those whose Parsimony is very Criminal, and pretexes for false Brethren, I think it would be advancive of the Public Service, were the Congress to pass a Resolution to enable us, to Send provission for amunition if we shall Judge it Necessary. For there is not a moment to be lost in procuring this necessary Article. our all depends upon it. The *Viper's* Conduct detained a Sloop we had ready here to dispatch for Powder 15 days; and she is Soon to return. I therefore intreat you to get the opinion of Congress on this matter without delay, and if it Should be favourable dispatch it by express that we may expedite that Vessel before the return of the Viper. The intelligence from St John's is to the 13th Instant, by Captain [John] Quackenboss of my Regt who is returned Sick. He Say that he left it the 13th, That the next morning a Battery of 2 Twelve, 2 Nine & 2 Six pounders was to be opened on the East Side of the River against John's, which was to play on the Schooner & Galley of the Enemy. That the Ground on which the Battery is erected is much higher than that on which St John's stand, in so much that the Battery would command the Parade of the Fort. That he Heard a very heavy canonade the 14th, which began at Sun rise and continued all the day, and commenced the next at sun rise; and ceased all at once about 10 oClock. That the Troops were healthier than they had been and in good spirits; That they had plenty of Provisions and latterly fresh. That one of our Bombs had fired a large House the Principal Barrack in the Fort; but was extinguished. This intelligence is confirmed by another Person. From all I have been able to Collect, the Fort is compleatly invested, and so near, that the beseigers can hear the Garrison Speak to each other. That they are not Strongh enough to make any Sallies. So that if we do not Succeed, it must be for want of enginer's, and amunition. For if these were well Supplied the place must have Surrender or been destroyed. Time will only permit me to add that I am with great Truth [&c.]

Alex^r M dougall

1. John Jay Collection, CUL. Jay was a New York delegate in the Continental Congress.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, October 30, 1775

The Committee appointed to prepare an estimate, &c and to fit out the vessels, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the second vessel ordered to be fitted out on the 13th Inst, do carry 14 guns, with a proportionate number of swivels and men.²

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to carry into execution with all possible expedition the resolution of Congress of the 13th Inst, the one of ten³ and the other of 14 guns, and,

Resolved, That two other armed vessels be fitted out with all expedition; the one to carry not exceeding 20 Guns,⁴ and the other not exceeding 36 Guns,⁵ with a proportionate number of swivels and men, to be employed in such manner, for the protection and defence of the united Colonies, as the Congress shall hereafter direct.⁶

That the Comee consist of seven and therefore that four new members be now elected to be added to the former Comee – 4 a quorum.

The members chosen, Mr [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Richard Henry] Lee, and Mr J[ohn] Adams.⁷

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 311–312.

2. The *Andrew Doria*.

3. The *Cabot*.

4. The *Columbus*.

5. The *Alfred*.

6. In his notes of debates in Congress, John Adams wrote: "1775. Octr. 30th. Monday. *Ross*. We cant get Seamen to man 4 Vessells. We could not get Seamen to man our Boats, our Gallies. *Wythe, Nelson, and Lee* for fitting out 4 Ships." Butterfield, ed., *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams*, II, 220.

7. An extract from the Autobiography (Adams, *John Adams*, III, 9) reads: "This committee immediately procured a room in a public house in the city, and agreed to meet every evening at six o'clock, in order to despatch this business with all possible celerity."

ESTIMATE FOR FITTING OUT WARSHIPS FOR A THREE MONTHS CRUISE ¹

[Philadelphia] October [30] 1775

Estimate of the Expençe of fitting for the Sea The following Shipp of Warr on a Three Mo Cruize

(Viz) One of 24 Gunns 9. 6. & 4 pounders
with 200 men, &c, &c

	Dollrs.				
1 Captn	20	p mo.	£7	10	0
Two Lieuts	15	} each do.	11	5	0
	15				
1 Master	15	do.	5	12	6
Two Mates	12½	} each do.	9	7	6
	12½				
1 Boatswain	12½	do.	4	13	9
One Mate	10	do.	3	15	0
One Cook	10	do.	3	15	0

Estimate of the Expence of fitting for the Sea The following Shipp's of Warr on a
Three Mo Cruize—Continued

Two Mates	[Dollrs]			
5 Dollrs each	10 [each mo.]	[£]3	15	0
One Doctr	15 do.	5	12	6
One Mate	10 do.	3	15	0
One Gunner	12½ do.	4	13	9
Two Mates				
10 Drs each	20 do.	7	10	0
One Capt Marines	15 do.	5	12	6
One Armorer	10 do.	3	15	0
Officers. 18	215	80	12	6
Men. 182 @ 5 Drs.	910	341	5	0
200	1125	421	17	6
Three Months } Wages will be } Three Months } provision—say }	3 3375 2000		3 1265 750	0 12 0
24 Guns & Carriages @ 50 Dr	1200	450	0	0
20 Swivels @ 8 Drs	160	60	0	0
60 best Muskets } Drs with long Bayonets } 11	660	247	10	0
100 pr pistols @ 10 Drs	1000	375	0	0
200 Cutlasses @ 1 Dr	200	75	0	0
10 Blunderbusses 10 Dr	100	37	10	0
2 Tonns of powder } @ 800 Dollrs. }	1600	600	0	0
Stinkpotts, hand Granades & } powder flask say }	500	187	10	0
Vessel fitted suppose	3500	1312	10	0
Amount of one } Vessel of 24 Gunns }	14295	5360	12	6
One ditto ditto	14295	5360	12	6
Amount of Two Vessels of 24 } Gunns for Three Mo. Cruize }	28590	£10721	5	0
Carried Up				
Amount Brt. Up	Dollrs 28590	£10721	5	0
One of 18 Gunns in the same } proportion will amount to nearest }	10721	4020	10	6

Estimate of the Expence of fitting for the Sea The following Shipp of Warr on a
Three Mo Cruize—Continued

Add one of the same	}	[Dollrs]			
Number of Gunns		10721	£]4020	10	6
One of 14 Gunns in the same	}	8339	3127	2	[torn]
proportion will amount to					
Add one of the same Number of Gunns		8339	3127	2	[torn]
Suppose there be in addition to these					
Four Shipp of Thirty Six Gunns	}				
each built to draw but Twelve feet					
of Water the Metal will be heavier					
but the No. of Men & value of Shipp					
will not rise in the same proportion—					
if the Scale of the Above they will					
Amount to Twenty One thousand 442					
Dollrs each—I will suppose them to					
Cost 25000. each then 4 Shipp of		100000	37500	0	0
36 Gunns each will amount to		166710	£62516	11	0
Suppose I am Short for sundry small	}	13290	4983	15	0
articles and extra or incidental					
Charges to the Amt of		180000	£67500	6	0
Total Amt. for fitting out on a Cruize of Three Months a Fleet of Ten Sail					
(Viz) 4 of 36 Gunns each		[torn]			
2 of 24 Gunns each		[torn]			
2 of 18 Gunns each		[torn]			
2 of 14 Gunns each		[torn]			
10					

The Sailors Wages are set at Five Dollars each, in addition to which I propose that one third the Value of all prizes taken be shared between the Officers and Seamen—

The Enemy have not a Naval force Now on this Coast equall to the foregoing, if the *Asia*, *Somerset*, & *Boyne* be put out of the Question – These Three Shipp are ordered home and Forty Gunn Shipp and downward are to be employed on the American Station for the future – it is evident if they cruize in a Fleet they will not be formidable to Trade, and if single they will be liable to be attacked by an equall if not Superior force of the Continental fleet – Connecticut has fitted out Two & Rhode Island Two, these joining with the Two from the Massachusetts and those which other Colonies & Individuals will fix for the Sea will go near, to form a Naval force equall if not Superior to what the Ministry will think of sending to America the Next season for they dream as little of Our meeting them, on the Sea as of Our invading Canada, and though their Naval power, & resources be ever so great in Brittain, they must inevitably be defeated the Next Campaign in America if We get early to Sea, these Shipp, and with

them surprize, & intercept their Transports, or any considerable part of them, this effected, the distance between Us & Europe will put it out of their power to recover the blow, untill the season is over—

What will be the Loss to the Continent if these Vessels should be so unfortunate as to make no prizes? — I answer the Three Mo Wages and provisions will Amount to nearest one Third of the Gross Sum or sixty Thousand Dollars, and the ware & Tare will make up Ninety or one half which is a large Computation — but if by means of this Force the Coastwise Trade only is protected to say Nothing of securing the introduction of Ammunition &c under their protection—

The freight of Flour only to the Army will amount to a great part of the Sum, as every Barrel which they consume at present pays at least 12 Dollar Transportation more than if carried by Water 40,000 Barrels transported will save Sixty Thousand out of the Ninety Thousand Dollars and other Articles will doubtless Amount to as much more — it is a fact that more than 40,000 Bls. of Flour have been consumed the present Season—

But the probability of Captures is much, in favor of the adventure The Transports unsuspecting danger will sail without Convoy every prize of this kind is of double advantage — it weakens & disappoints the Enemy, strengthens & encourages Our Army—

It is good policy now to set on foot a Naval Force under proper Regulations, & the reasons for it are —

At least Ten Thousand Seaman are thrown out of employ in the Northern Colonies — these with their Owners, & the various mechanics, dependant on this extensive branch of Business cannot possibly long rest easy, in their present destitute, distress'd Situation, their Shipp's rotting & their Families starving — They will not revolt from the Cause but reprisal being justifiable as well by the Laws of Nature as of Nations, they will pursue the only method in their power for indemnifying themselves, and Reprisals will be made —

This will at best be but a kind of Justifiable piracy & subject to No Law or Rule the Consequences may be very pernicious—

The first fortunate Adventurer will set many more on pushing their Fortunes—

Is it not more prudent, where the Loss can, at most, be so trifling to Turn this Spirit, this Temper, this Necessity of the Times down its right & proper Channel, and reduce it while in its infancy to Rule & Order before it become thro Want of Regulation, unmanageable.

This will be, not only preventing, a Licentious roving, or piracy, but will be turning Our Enemies Weapons upon him—

Should private adventurers take up the Matter, every one will soon make his own Laws & in a few Years, No Law will govern, the mischief will grow rapidly & Our Own property will not be safe,—

Such Adventures are already desired upon, Witness, several Captures made by the provincials without order or direction—

This calls upon Us to be taken up & regulated at the first setting o[r] it will afterward be out of Our power Our Coasts will swarm with roving adventurers, who if they forbear plundering of Us or Our immediate Friends, may thro Necessity invade the property of the Subjects of those with whom We wish to stand well, & bring Accumulated Mischeif on these Colonies—

Can there be a scheme, or plan, by which, the above proposed, Naval Arma-ment may be equipp'd, without burthening these Colonies, or interfering with their other important & Necessary Operations? I think there may, & therefore take leave to propose —

- I. That a Committee of persons skill'd in Maratime Affairs be Appointed to fitt for Sea with all possible dispatch the foregoing Vessels of Warr — that They have power to Commission proper persons to command the same and to Constitute such rules, Ordinances; & directions as they shall judge best for the well regulating such Naval force, subject to the revision, & Alteration, of the General Congress, or such board as they may hereafter appoint for that purpose — Also to give the several Commanders from Time to Time such Instructions for their Conduct as they shall judge Necessary Subject to the Controll of the Congress—
- II. This Committee shall receive from the Continental Treasury the Sum of _____ in Bills emitted solely for that purpose & made redeemable as hereafter provided for, and that sd Committee receive after the rate of _____ p Cent on the Sums by them disbursed, in executing said Trust for the Congress—
- III. These Vessels shall cruise, only to protect the Trade of these Colonies from the insults of Ministerial Cutters, & Shippes of Warr, & for intercepting, & seizing such Vessels as shall be employed to Transport Stores, or shall have Stores on board for the Ministerial Forces employed against these Colonies—
- IV. The neat proceeds of all prizes after deducting the Shares of the Captors shall be by the Committee Accounted for to the Congress, by them to be applied toward sinking the Bills emitted for that purpose — all Convoy Mony, or for freight, shall be applied to the same purpose but of these the Officers & Seamen shall have no Share — Whatever Stores, or Vessels, which on being found Useless for the present & shall be judged proper for Sale, they shall be sold for Gold, or Silver, or those Bills emitted for Naval purposes & the Neat [net] Amount of the Sales shall be applied to discharge & sink the Sum first Granted for these purposes
- V. The Vessels of Warr already fitted out by any of these Colonies or Individuals or such as may hereafter be fitted out & shall join any part of the Fleet belonging to the Continent shall during their continuing with such Fleet or any part thereof be under the same Orders & Regulations as sd Fleet are, & be subject to the Directions of the cheif Commander of the Continental Fleet then present, and all prizes taken, they or any of them

present, & assisting – shall be divided by the proportion of Gunns & Men in the respective Shippes or Vessels present—

- VI. That the first Commissioned Captain be stiled Commodore and be considered as, & have the powers of a Commander in Chief, under the Congress, or sd Committee over sd Fleet—

I have now run over the outlines of a Naval Establishment, the American Exchequer, may have No Money to spare, for such an Adventure – That is not the Question – is it Necessary, if so, let Us look for Ways, & Means, – I would have the Money, struck for the use of the Navy, be kept as a distinct affair, & the Bills be sunk, or discharged independant of other Concerns. – if there should be any prizes they will help to pay off the Bills, The Sales of the Vessels, after the Cruize, if the Congress should not incline to keep it longer, in pay, will go farr in paying off the Bills. Suppose to make out the One half only, it is very probable, that selling, even at this discount with the Convoy Money, Freight & prizes, that the whole will be discharged – but in case this should fail & the whole at the end of Three Mo be sunk, will not the forcing Our Enemy to keep their Naval force collected in a Fleet give such a free access to Vessels bringing the Stores We want, be an advantage adequate To this Sum? I think it will & more—

The Bills emitted should be paid off in three annual payments, and suppose to render the payment certain without burthening the public it be, by Three annual Lotteries, in which Case, whatever the Fleet may bring in, may be applied to the repairing of it, & increasing, if Necessary This will take off all popular Objection in point of expences—

The Continent may be alarmed, at an additional expence, if a Navy be set on foot at Continental Charge, but a provision for sinking the Bills, by Lottery, will burthen no one, and it can be done with the greatest Certainty, by putting the Lottery, in effect, into Three Classes obliging the fortunate Adventurers in the first to receive a certain Number of Tickets in the Second in payment, in proportion To The Value of the prizes drawn, by which, a Sale will be insured, of so large a part of the next that the drawing will be punctually complied with—

Estimate made At [Phila]delphia Octo 1775

1. Silas Deane Account Book, No. 18c, ConnHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] October 30th.

Capt. [Henry] Dougherty attended this day, and acquainted the Board that agreeable to a Resolve of the 9th inst. the Captains had agreed to allow each good and able seaman fifteen Shillings as a Bounty for their entering into the Service on board the armed Boats, which Bounty is to be paid them one month after having been in the Service.

Capt. Duncan Campbell, Lieut. Symes, and twenty-three Private Soldiers, part of a Regiment about to be raised in the Ministerial Service, on their Voyage from Boston to New-York, on Board the Ship *Rebecca & Francis*, Capt. Hastings, (by the said Ship's being Stranded on Brigantine Beach on the New Jersey Shore) were taken Prisoners by the People of Jersey, and brought to this City, and, after having seperately examined the said officers and many of the Privates, it appears to this board that they have acted, and intended further to act, a part inimical to the Liberties of America; Therefore, it was thought proper by this Board to transmit the said examinations to the Honorable the Continental Congress, and request they would determine thereon, in consequence of which requisition George Ross, Esqr., produced from the Congress the following Resolve:

[See Journal of Continental Congress, October 28, 1775]

Agreeable to the above determination of Congress; It is,

Resolved, That the said Capt. Campbel & Lieut. Symes, be confined in the Goal of the City and County of Philadelphia, and that they be kept apart from the rest of the Prisoners; that they be not permitted to have the use of Pen, Ink or Paper, and that no Person whatever be permitted to speak to them or either of them, but in the presence of some Member of this Committee, or some other Person authorized by a *Member* of this Committee in writing.

Resolved, That Messrs. Robert White & Mr. Samuel Morris be a Committee to direct the building of the Shed on Fort Island, agreeable to the Resolve of the 23rd inst. and to repair such Buildings as may be already erected on the Island, that may be made suitable to the accomodation of the Soldiers and Sailors.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 384-386.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PHILADELPHIA JAILER ¹

In Committee of Safety, Phila'd.

30th October 1775.

Whereas, the Honourable the Continental Congress did, on the twenty Eighth day of October, Instant, Resolve that Capt. Duncan Campbell and Lieutenant Symes, and the Men who Came with them in the Transport *Rebecca & Francis*, be Confined in such Gaols in this Colony as the Committee of Safety of said Colony think proper, and that the said Capt. Campbel and Lieut. Symes be allowed for their Subsistance, one and one-third Doller each per week, and the Men one Dollar per week each, to be paid out of the Continental Treasury. And the Committee of Safety having taken the said Resolve into Consideration, this Day have determined that the said Duncan Campbel, Lieutenant Symes, and the Men who came with them as aforesaid, be Committed to the Gaol of the City and County of Philadelphia, there to be confined until this Board shall further determine therein. These are, therefore, to require you to receive into your Custody and Strictly Confine in the said Gaol the aforesaid Capt. Duncan Campbel & Lieut. Symes. And them safely keep, without Pen, Ink and Paper, apart from the rest of your Prisoners, and that you permit no person whatever to speak to

them or either of them, but in the presence of some member of this Committee, or some other person authorized by a Member of this Committee in writing, and hereof you are not to fail, at your Peril.

By order of the Committee, Signed, Robert Morris, Vice Presid't.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 386-387. Morris was vice president of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

MEMORIAL OF THE CAPTAINS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GALLEYS ¹

To the Honourable the Committee of Safety

The Memorial of the Captains employed in the Provincial Armed Boats humbly sheweth – That they do not presume, nor would they by any means be understood by any One, to presume to dictate to them, whom they apprehend to have the sole Power of appointing any Gentleman they may think proper to the chief Command of the Armed Boats,² yet they hope that they will be allowed, without giving the least Offence to any One of the Honourable Board, to offer a few things in their own Behalf; but would first observe, that it is not out of any dislike or disaffection to the Person, Character or Abilities, of the Gentleman it is reported will be appointed to that Command, but purely to vindicate their own Characters & Honour, from any unjust Aspersions, that may be thrown upon them by Persons out of Doors, who may be entirely ignorant of the Matter or Cause of it – therefore they would observe –

1st That when the Gentlemen who are honoured with the Command of those Boats first entered into the Service, it must be obvious to all, that it could not be out of any lucrative Views, but solely to serve the common Cause as far as lay in their power, & fondly hope their Conduct as yet, has not been blamed or disapproved off by any of your Board –

2d That ever since their Appointment they have found the greatest Harmony to subsist among the Officers & Men belonging to all the Boats, untill the other Night, when laying at the Island, on hearing the Report of a Commodore, who had not before belonged to any of the Boats, to be appointed, they conceive they have now some Cause to believe it will not long remain so among the Crews, tho' at same time they assure the Honourable Board, they will use every Endeavour to prevent any murmuring in their respective Boats –

3d They are of Opinion that there may be some of the Gentlemen already belonging to the Boats, who may be equally as well qualified for the Command, as perhaps many that can now be found in the Places, & were in hopes, that the eldest Captain would be appointed to the Command, & in Case of Removal by Death or otherwise, to be succeeded by the next eldest in Command, except found undeserving, which they apprehend to be the general Custom in the Navy, and are of Opinion it would tend to excite a Spirit of Bravery and Emulation among the Officers. – but this they humbly submit to the Determination of the Board –

Gentlemen – We have already declared & must again repeat it, that the incontestable Right of appointing to any Command in the Armed Boats, must & does belong to you, and that we never had any the least Intention in presenting this our undigested Memorial, drawn up in a Hurry, & in many Parts incorrect

& imperfect, to give the least Umbrage or Offence, to any Gentleman of your Honourable Board, but only to pray if it is not already too late, & that it can be done with Propriety, that you will be pleased to reconsider our Case – We are Gentlemen [&c.] Philada October the 30th 1775

H Dougherty	Samuel Davison
John Rice	Alex ^r Henderson
Charles Alexander	Rich ^d Eyres
Nicholas Biddle	James Blair Jr
Allen Moore	James Montgomery For
James Montgomery	Thomas Moore

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 5, Box 27, HSP. The minutes of the Committee of Safety do not record the receipt of this memorial.
2. See Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety of October 23, 1775, for recommendation to the General Assembly of Captain Thomas Reed as Commodore of the Fleet.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1775

Philadelphia, October 30.

By a letter from Boston we learn, that the Governor of the town of Boston and Bunker's Hill ¹ has refused payment for the cargo he took out of the ship *Charming Peggy*, Capt. [Thomas] Dowman, from this port for Lisbon, taken and carried into Boston by one of the parliamentary pirates on this coast: He has however permitted her to depart in ballast (if she can get men) to England or the West-Indies. We also learn that the brig *Sea Nymph*, Capt. [Joseph] Bradford, from this port for Jamaica, and the brig *Catherine*, Capt. [John] Mullony, from Cadiz for this port, with several others, are taken and carried into Boston by the pirates.

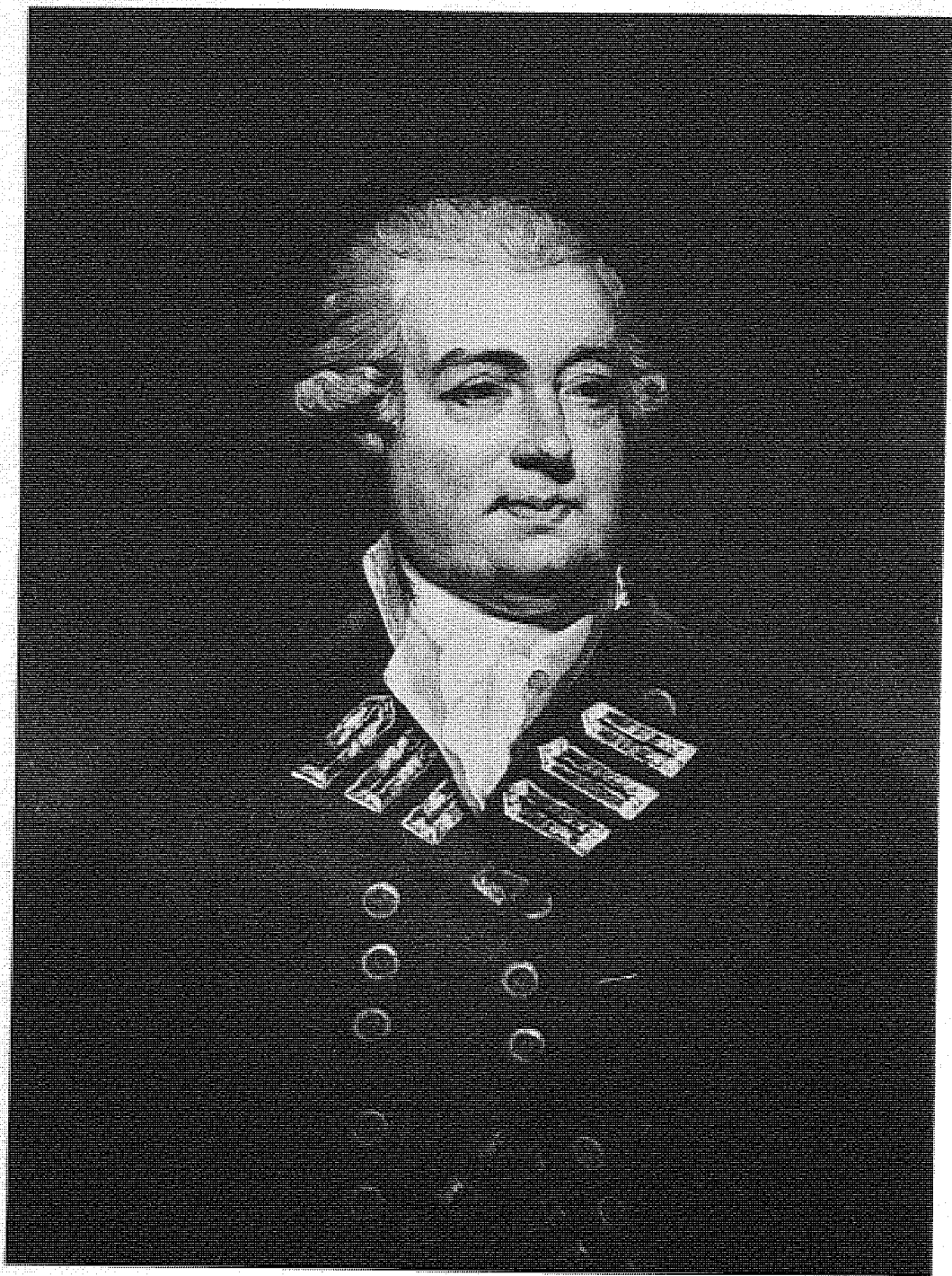
1. A satirical reference to the fact that Thomas Gage's governorship was no longer over Massachusetts, but restricted by the besieging Continental army.

31 Oct.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.¹

[Halifax, October 31, 1775]

1775 – The Rebellion in America growing more serious, and all hopes of bringing them back to their allegiance, otherwise than by force of arms, being at an end; The Ministry in the beginning of July came to a resolution to send out a considerable reinforcement of Troops & Ships to Boston; In consequence of which I was appointed to command The *Roebuck*, a new Ship lately built at Chatham carrying 44 Guns. I sailed from England about the Midle of September, and after stopping a few days at Guernsey, a week at Fayal (one of the Western Islands, which in a great measure recoverd me out of a dangerous fever), I arrived at Halifax in Nova Scotia, in order to land Comodore Arbuthnot (who was appointed commander in chief in that Port and Commissioner of the Dock Yard there) on the 31st of October. I should from thence have proceeded imediately to Boston, but as it was well known that a large body of the Rebels had marched



Commodore Marriot Arbuthnot. By Charles H. Hodges after John Rising, 1792.

into Canada, and a probability that if they did not succeed there they might attempt to destroy the Dock Yard at Halifax, Mr Arbuthnot, who had also a Commission to command the Ships in the Harbour, thought proper to detain me, as well as the *Somerset* Captain Le cras for the better security of the Place; and it was certainly most necessary as at that time there were not above 300 Land forces in the Garrison.

1. Hamond Papers, Account of Hamond's part in the Revolution, 1774–1777, UVL.

ADDRESS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO FRANCIS LEGGE ¹

To His Excellency Francis Legge Esquire, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia and its dependencies
Vice Admiral of the same &c &c &c

May it please your Excellency.

We His Majesty's ever dutiful and loyal Subjects the Members of the Council and Representatives of this Province, met in General Assembly, having the most grateful Sense of our Sovereigns paternal Regard for all his faithful People, and particularly in the distinguish'd favors lately granted to the Inhabitants of this Province, and such as seek an Asylum therein from the other Colonies: Think it our duty to lay before your Excellency the Discouragement the trading part of the People meet with in their Commerce with Great Britain, the West India Islands, and also the Coasting Trade, by having their Seamen and other persons employ'd by them in that Business, impress'd and put on Board Ships of War which unless speedily prevented must utterly ruin the small Trade of this Province and deprive His Majesty's Subjects in the West Indies of that supply of Lumber and other necessary Articles which they would otherwise be furnish'd with from hence, and has a Tendency to prevent many well Affected persons from coming into the Province from the other Colonies which the Government at home seem desirous to encourage; and tho we are willing to contribute all in our Power at this time for the Aid & Assistance of His Majesty's Forces in America, we cannot but feel for the distress'd State of Numbers in the Town of Halifax, on Account of the Scarcity of Fuel, and other necessary Supplies of which they will be deprived in a great Measure from the dread the Persons are under of being impress'd, who usually furnish'd the Town therewith.

We therefore Request your Excellency will please to represent to His Majesty & Ministers, the Distresses, if not total ruin of the Trade of this Province, where but few Seamen are to be had, should the practice of impressing them for the Ships of War be continued: That an Order may be procur'd from the Lords of the Admiralty to put a Stop thereto: In the mean time we pray your Excellency woud use your Influence with the Admiral at Boston and the Commanders of such of His Majesty's Ships as are now in the Harbour of Halifax, or may resort hither, that the Seamen belonging to Vessels owned in Nova Scotia may not be impress'd.
Octobr 1775.²

[Endorsed] (Copy) In Govr Legge's (No 49) of 4th Novr 1775.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, Nova Scotia Papers, DAC Photocopy.
2. Approximately the last day of the month.

EDMUND RANDOLPH TO CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR., PLYMOUTH ¹

Sir

Head Quarters Cambridge Octo 31st 1775 –

Your Favour, of the 29th Inst came to Hand this Morning, Colo [Joseph] Reed, to whom it was addressed, being gone for some short Time to Philadelphia, I opened it, and Communicated it's Contents to his Excellency, General Washington. He highly approves of your Assiduity, and Diligence in procuring the Cannon; but thinks that the Governour's Order, mentioned in your Postscript, ought to be returned: as there will be no Difficulty in renewing it, should any Necessity appear – ²

His Excellency desires, that you may continue to inform him of any Circumstance occurring in your Department, worthy of Communication I am Sir [&c.]

Edm^d Randolph A D C

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. See Cooke's letter of October 28, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] In the House of Representatives Oct [31] 1775 ²

Resolvd That the 13 h[undre]d weight of powder brought by Capt William Perce Jonson in the Schoonr *Brittannia*, be disposd of in the following manner viz 2½ hd be delivered to Coll Kirgill [James Cargill] and Majr [Edward] Emmerson for the use of the County of Lincoln, and to be proportion'd among the Inhabitants of the same, as they shall think best, the sd Kirgill and Emmerson to be accountable to this Court for the same. – and that 3½ hd. of Do be deliverd to the Committee of Correspondence of North Yarmouth, to be disposd of among the Inhabitants of the County of Cumberland as they shall judge necessary, sd Comee to be accountable to this Court for the same. –

That 4 hd be deliverd to the Comee of Safety for the Town of Salem, to be proportiond in the Towns of Marblehead, and Salem, as the Comt of Safty of sd Towns shall judge best. – the sd Comee to be accountable to this Court for the same –

That 2 hd of Do be deliverd Coll Beriah Norton, to be proportiond among the Inhabitants of Martha's Vineyard, as he shall judge convenient the sd Norton to be accountable to this Court for the same.

And that 1 hd Do be deliverd to the Comee of Correspondence and selectmen of the Town Truro in the County of Barnstable, to be proportiond among the Inhabitants of sd Town according to th[ei]r best Judgment they to be accountable to this [Court] for the same.

Resolvd also that of the 500 Arms import[ed] in the same Vessel 100 be deliverd to Coll Kirgill, & Majr Emmerson to be divided among the Inhabitants of the County of Lincoln, as they shall think best.

Michael Farley, Esq; brought down a Report on the Memorial from the Committee of Safety from North-Yarmouth and New-Glocester.

Read and accepted as taken into a new Draught, and is as follows.

That it is necessary, some Assistance should be granted to the Town of Falmouth at this distressing Time. And in Order thereto they apprehend that some suitable Person shou'd be appointed by this Court to take the Command of the whole of the Men station'd on the Sea Coasts in the County of Cumberland, and that he shou'd order such Intrenchments or Fortifications to be erected for their Defence and Protection as he shall think proper, and that he retain two Companies at Falmouth constantly. And in Case of any Emergency, that he cause the Militia thereabouts to be alarmed and mustered, and when muster'd, to be under his Command and Direction; and to be discharg'd as soon as the Service will admit.

That three Barrels of Powder lately arrived at the Eastward in Captain Johnson, of Newbury Port, and one Hundred of the effective Arms brought by him, be transported to Falmouth, and deliver'd to such Person as shall as afore-said be appointed, to be by him used in defending and protecting the said Town, and in annoying the Enemy. He to be accountable to this Court for the same.

Afternoon.

A Petition of Nicholas Sewell, and Isaias Prebble, praying Liberty for a Schooner to go to the West-Indies, the Owners giving Bond, that she shall bring back the whole, or most of her Proceeds in Powder, or other warlike Stores, if they can be purchased. Read, and committed to Mr. Bragdon, Col. Orne and Mr. Rice.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch., excepting the first five paragraphs which are in Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 206.
2. The date of the first five entries is established by various others in the Journal.

JOSIAH QUINCY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Braintree Octo 31 1775.

May it please your Excellency, My worthy and dear Friend Doctr [Benjamin] Franklin, the Honble Mr [James] Bowdoin, Doctr [James] Winthrop, and Doctr [Samuel] Cooper, were, the last Week, so kind as to honour me with a friendly Visit: – The Conversation naturally turned, upon the savage Cruelty we are dayly suffering, from the unrelenting Vengeance of a tyrannical Government: In the Course of it, the stoping up the Harbor of Boston, as one salutary Measure, was thought well worthy the Attention of our State Pilots; and upon my saying I had once, if not more than once hinted the Scheme to your Excellency, they desired me to communicate my Sentiments to you, once more, in writing; especially, as I had lately received, a Letter from the honble J: Adams Esqr in Phildia, in Answer to one of mine, which seemed to throw new Light upon the Subject: This, Sir, I beg may be a sufficient Apology for transmitting to you the following Extracts of those Letters; with what has further occurred to my Mind, since they were wrote. – In my Letter I thus write . . . In my former Letter I said, “ “the Harbor might be blocked up, and both Seamen & Soldiers made Prisoners at Discretion,” ” which seems to you incredible: – Please to read, at your Leasure the following Explanation: – There are but two Channels, through which ships

of Burthen can safely pass, to and from Boston: – One of them runs, between the west Head of Long Island and the Moon, (so called) and is about a mile across: This is too shallow for any Ship of War above 20 Guns: – The Other is called the Ship Channel, and runs between the east Head of Long Island, and the south Point of Deer Island; and is something better than a Mile from Side to Side: – This, the only Channel through which capital Ships can pass, leads, outward bound, through the Narrows, between Gallops Isld and Lovels Island, where the Channel is not wider than the Length of a 50 gun Ship: – In the Opening between Gallops Isld & Georges Isld is Nantasket Road; where one Frigate is always stationed to guard the Narrows from being stoped up. – Upon these Facts I thus reason.

The Moon Island communicates at low Water with Squantum Neck, almost dry shod: A defensible fort therefore, may be so placed upon Squantum, as to cover the Retreat not only from the Moon, but from Squantum to the Main. One upon the east Head of the Moon, and another on the west Head of Long Island, secures that Passage, and covers the Retreat from the Latter to the Former. Another upon the Summit in the middle of Long Island, covers the Shore on both Sides, so as that no Force can land without being greatly annoyed, if not intirely prevented. – Another strong Fort, with heavy Cannon, at the east Head of Long Isld, would command, not only the Ship Channel that runs by it, but the Narrows and Nantasket Road, so that no Ship could remain there with Safety, and consequently, we might by sinking Hulks in the Narrows, prevent, any Ship of Force from going out or coming in. – If the Passage through the Narrows is not stoped, I am sensible, that a Ship, with a fresh Gale of Wind and flood Tide, which is rapid between Long Island and Deer Island, might run through without any great Hazard: But, after the east Head of Long Island is fortified, I can forsee Nothing to hinder the Narrows being reduced, to such a Depth of Water, as that no Vessel of Force can pass through there: This being effected, as I said above, both Seamen and Soldiers, if they dont escape, by a timely Flight, must become Prisoners at Discretion. I have been told there is in one of the late English Magazines, an accurate Draft of the Harbor, which upon Examination will enable you to determine, with Precision, the Bearings & Distances from Island to Island, and the Depth of Water between them; and consequently, whether such a Scheme is practicable or not.

Mr Adams, in Answer writes thus.

I am much obliged by your kind Explanation of your Opinion that the Harbor might be blocked up. – I must confess, altho I was born so near it, I never understood before the Course of the Channel, and the Situation of the Harbor so well. – I have carefully compared your Discription of Squantum, the Moon, Long Island, Gallop's Island, Lovel's Island, and George's; the Narrows and Nantasket Road, with "A Plan of the Town and Chart of the Harbor of Boston, exhibiting a View of the Islands, Castle Fort, and Entrances into the said Harbor, which was published in London last February." This

Plan I knew to be inaccurate in some Particulars, and the Chart may be so in others: but by the best Judgment I can make upon comparing your Facts with the Chart, and considering the Depth[s] of Water marked on this Chart, I think it extremely probable with you, that Nothing but Powder & Cannon are wanting, to effect the important Purposes you mention, that of making Soldiers & Sailors Prisoners at Discretion.

Doctr Franklin's Row Gallies are in great forwardness: seven of them are completely manned armed, &ca I went down the River the other Day with all of them. I have as much Confidence in them as you have.* – But the People here have made Machines to be sunk in the Channel of Delaware River. Three Rowes of them are placed in the River, with large Timbers barbed with Iron. They are frames of Timber sunk with Stone – Machines very proper, for our Channel in the Narrows.

Doctr Franklin says they may be made in the Form of a Chevaux de Frize and used to great Advantage.

I have wrote to Mr Adams for a Model of the Machines he mentions, with explicit Directions how to sink and secure them from being weighed or destroyed by the Enemies Ships. For my own Part, since I have read what my Friend has wrote, I am more than ever convinced, of the Practicability of not only securing the Harbour, but relieving the Town of Boston, by making the present Possessors of it our Prisoners; and that without shedding much more human Blood, provided we can once possess & fortify long-Island. I doubt not, your Excellency will readily agree with me, that these are become objects of much greater Importance, since the Destruction of Falmouth demonstrates, the malicious Resolution of our barbarously civilized Enemies, to destroy all the rest of our Maritime Towns, if they can.

If your Excellency should think the above Sentiments worthy of your Attention, and for maturing your Judgment, conclude it necessary to take an ocular View of the Harbour and Islands; please to accept of my cordial Invitation, to refresh or repose your Self at my House; where my Happiness will be in Proportion to the Freedom with which you receive the friendly Salutations of your Excellency's, [&c.]

Jos^a Quincy –

*I had wrote largely to Mr. Adams upon the subject, but have not copied it, for fear of being tedious.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.¹

[En route to Plymouth]

31 [October, 1775]. Sent a Pilot down the River to Bring up the Boat who found a Pilot on Board when he got to Swansey The Vessell Arrivd with the Guns abt 2 OCik P M,. Procurd Teams Saw them Loaded, & Set of[f] for Plymouth –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

at Providence, on Tuesday the 31st day of October, 1775

Whereas, the town council of the town of Newport, presented a memorial to this Assembly, setting forth the distressed situation of the town, occasioned by the withholding from the ministerial fleet, stationed in the harbor of Newport, their usual supplies of fresh beef, beer, &c.; in consequence of which, the ferry boats, market boats, fish boats and wood vessels, are prevented from coming to the town with their usual supplies of provisions and fuel, for the use of the inhabitants; by means, whereof, together with a stagnation of trade, they are now exposed to all those dreadful consequences which must inevitably arise through the want of the common necessities of life.

And thereupon prayed this Assembly to take into their most serious consideration, the truly affecting state of that once happy town, and to grant them such relief in the premises, as shall be thought proper, consistently with the common interest; and this Assembly taking the subject matter of the said memorial into their most serious consideration, —

It is voted and resolved, that the town of Newport may, for the safety thereof, as far as may consist with the general safety, negotiate with Capt. Wallace, for the supplying the ships there with beef, beer, &c., as heretofore, upon his stipulating that the ferry boats, wood boats, with their passengers, &c., pass and repass unmolested, with the common supplies for the town, of the common and usual necessities of life.

That the commander in chief upon the said island, be instructed to permit such negotiation, and regulate the supplies for the said ships.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Ambrose Page, Esq.; James Arnold, Jr., Esq.; Jonathan Randall, Esq., John Sayles, Jr., Esq., and Henry Ward, Esq.; Metcalfe Bowler, Joseph Anthony, William Bradford, Joshua Babcock, John Jenckes, John Smith, John Mathewson, John Dexter, Job Olney, Stephen Whipple, William Greene, Paul Mumford and John Potter Esqrs., or any seven of them, together with all such members of the General Assembly, as shall be present, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to act during the recess of the General Assembly, upon any sudden important emergency, with full power to take all prudent and necessary measures for the safety of the United Colonies in general, and this colony, in particular.

That they be empowered to employ the two armed vessels, and the whole force of the colony, in such manner as they shall think the public interest and safety shall require; and that this act continue in force untill the next session of the Assembly.

Whereas, the *Viper* sloop of war, took the sloop *Polly*, Samuel Barnes, master, belonging to New York, bound from Antigua to new York, and put a midshipman as prize master, with several hands, on board, with orders to proceed with the said vessel and cargo to Boston; and also put on board Isaac Eslick, of Bristol, in this colony, as pilot of said sloop; promising the said Eslick, that in case he piloted the said sloop faithfully into the harbor of Boston, they would deliver up to him a boat taken from him, with the goods on board her, then in the possession of one of the enemy's ships.

But the said Eslick, with two of the men belonging to said sloop, who were left on board, having with great address brought the said sloop into Seaconnet River, so that she, with her cargo, were recovered out of the hands of the enemy, and taken into the possession and care of General Eseck Hopkins, and thereby the said Isaac Eslick hath lost all hopes of recovering his said boat and goods; and, as in justice and equity, satisfaction and encouragement, in such cases, ought to be made and given, —

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of \$250, be paid to the said Isaac Eslick, and \$50, to each of the other persons, instrumental in saving the said sloop, and cargo out of the enemy's hands, out of the value of the said sloop and cargo, in proportion to the properties of the several owners.

It is voted and resolved, that Ambrose Page, Esq.; be requested to procure the two row gallies, belonging to the colony, to be immediately completed fit for service; and that he draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £400, lawful money, for the purpose, aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, with the consent of Mr. John Brown, that the colony will purchase the sloop *Katy*, as she now is, with her boats, stores and appurtenances, at the rate of \$1,250.

That the said John Brown be allowed the hire of said sloop, at the price agreed upon, from the 12th day of June last, to this day, out of the general treasury.

And that in case the said sloop be taken or lost, before this day, that then the said John Brown shall receive out of the general treasury the said \$1,250, with interest from the said 12th day of June, in full compensation, without any allowance for hire.

It is voted and resolved, that there be the same number of officers, and of the same kind, appointed for the row-gallies, as are appointed for the sloop *Katy*; that the officers and men of the row-gallies receive the same wages as are allowed to the officers and men of the sloop *Washington*.

That Ambrose Page, Esq., be empowered to enter the men for the said row-gallies, to pay them one month's pay in advance, and to equip and fit them immediately for service; and that the officers of the row-gallies, not chosen, be appointed by Brigadier General Hopkins, and be commissioned, accordingly.

1. John Russell Bartlett, ed., *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England, 1770 to 1776* (Providence, 1862), VII, 381–407.

LETTER FROM RHODE ISLAND TO A NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT ¹

[Extract]

October 31, 1775

This will inform you, that last Thursday [October 26] your Sloop with several other prizes were retaken from his Majesty ship *Viper*, by the Provincials, and carried safe into Providence, which you may depend on as a fact.

1. *New York Journal*, November 2, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT ¹

October 1775 Moor'd between the Battery & Oyster Island
 Tuesday 31 AM dried Sails recd Beer & Water PM Clear'd Hawse, detain'd
 the *Glasgow* from Glasgow wth Emigrants. Prest 10 Seamen out of
 her sent 2 petty Officers & 31 Men on board with 28 days
 Provision

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM GOODRICH ¹

(Copy)

William Goodrich being Sworn upon the Holy Evangeliest before His Excellency Lord Dunmore Governor of the Colony of Virginia &c this 31st Day of October in the year of our Lord 1775 and in the 16th year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the third &c—

This deponent saith, that on the 14th of June 1775 or thereabouts, he was Spoke to by Mr Thomas Newton of Norfolk who informed him that the Treasurer wished to Speak to him on some business, that he this deponent, and the aforesaid Thomas Newton, went together to Williamsburg in a day, or two thereafter, where they both Spoke with Robert Carter Nicholas the Treasurer of the Colony of Virginia, who informed him that Gun Powder must be had for the use of the Colony at any price, he Nicholas, asked this deponent whether he would not undertake to procure Gun Powder from the French or Dutch Islands, or any other of the Western Islands, to which this deponent agreed, but referred the price for such Services to the General Assembly, and that he then asked the aforesaid Nicholas and Newton, whether his bringing Powder might not endanger his Life, to which they both replied in the Negative, but said it might be the means of forfeiting his Vessel, that he this deponent received for the aforesaid purpose the sum of £5000 in bills of Exchange drawn by the aforesaid Nicholas on Messrs Norton and Sons in London, payable to the said Thomas Newton, who endorsed the same to this deponent, who in consequence thereof sailed for the Island of Antigua, on the 15th of July or thereabouts, as near as he can recollect, where he could not procure any Gun Powder, but Sold bills to the Amount of £500 for Cash to different People there, and from thence proceeded on his Voyage to St Eustatia where he sold bills to the amount of £2000 more, and then deposited the Sum of £500 or thereabouts with a certain Mr Isaac Vandam, Merchant there, who undertook to pay for Powder, as he should receive it from Mr Bartrand of St Pierre's, Martinico, the aforesaid Mr Bartrand was to purchase the Powder, and send it from thence to the aforesaid Mr Vandam at St Eustatia, who was to Store, and take care of it till such time as Vessels should arrive from Virginia to convey it thither. This deponent further saith that he proceeded from St Eustatia to Martinico but there he could not procure any Powder, and being narrowly watched as he supposed by some English Officers who came from English Harbör he returned immediately to St Eustatia, where the aforesaid Mr Bartrand sent him 1800wt of Gun Powder in a french bottom, while he was laying there a small English Guinea Ship arrived from Antigua who sold him 1600w of Gun Powder, where he also purchased 750w more out

of a French Schooner from Martinico. This deponent saith that he sailed from St Eustatia the 1st of October last, and from thence proceeded to Ockriock River in the Province of North Carolina, where he arrived on the 9th of October, so Soon as he got on Shore, he made what dispatch he could to Williamsburg, and informed the aforesaid Nicholas, Treasurer, that he had brought in between 4 & 5000w of Gun Powder, who seemed very well Satisfied. And this deponent further saith that, on his return from Williamsburg, he met the greatest part, if not the whole of the Gun Powder in two Waggon, escorted by a Number of Armed Men who, were conveying it up the Country. And further this deponent sayeth not.

(Signed)

William Goodrich —

Sworn to before me 31st October 1775 (Signed) Dunmore

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

PASS TO JOHN GOODRICH, SR.¹

His Excellency the Right Honorable John Earl of Dunmore His Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia and Vice Admiral of the same —

To all Persons whom it may Concern —

Whereas I have certain information that a large Sum of Money is lodged in Merchants hands in St Eustatia and others of the Western Islands for the purpose of purchasing Gun Powder &c for the Colony of Virginia, and as I know the bearer John Goodrich to be well disposed to His Majesty's Service, and likewise connected with the persons who have lodged the Money in the aforesaid Islands, and most likely to procure the Powder Arms &c or the Money from the Merchants from such Connection and other papers he is furnished with, I have accordingly dispatched him for that purpose, and I do hereby require any of His Majesty's Servants to be aiding and assisting to the above John Goodrich either in procuring the Money Arms Powder &c And if any Tender belonging to the Men of War Stationed here should fall in with him on his return, I beg they will escort him to such Man of War.

Given under my hand and Seal at Arms on Board the Ship *William* off Norfolk 31st Day of October 1775.

(Signed) Dunmore. —²

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

2. Dunmore's note on a separate sheet of paper enclosed with the foregoing, reads: "I would wish you to bring Arms or Powder if equally convenient rather than the Money, wishing you a good Voyage and quick return I am Sir [&c.] Dunmore —"

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU¹

October 1775

At single Anchor off Sewells Point

Tuesday 31

At 6 AM Weighed & Came to Sail At 1 PM Anchored off Point Comfort At 2 Sent the Boats on Shore Man'd & Armd & Destroyed several peices of Cannon At 5 Weighed & Came to sl At 11 Anchored off Sewells Point

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.