

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 5**

**AMERICAN THEATRE: May 9, 1776–July 31, 1776**

**Part 6 of 8**

**United States  
Government Printing Office  
Washington, 1970**

Electronically published by  
American Naval Records Society  
Bolton Landing, New York  
2012

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF BERMUDA <sup>1</sup>

At a Council held in Assembly at the  
Government House on Thursday the  
13th day of July 1776. –

Present

His Excellency the Governor –

The Hono'ble George Forbes	} Esqrs	Jonathan Burch	} Esquires
Thomas Smith		John Harvey	
		Henry Tucker	

His Excellency acquainted the Board that Mr Eston had resigned his Commission as Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty and that Colonel Jones not having Acted lately and being at present rendered incapable to Attend by his indisposition he desired the Council would think of a person well Affected to His Majesty and Government, of good Abilities and Qualified to serve as a Judge of the Admiralty, and that may be willing to serve in that Office. After some consideration thereon His Excellency proposed John Randle Esquire a proper person to be Judge of the said Court of Vice Admiralty, the Board having no Objection to Mr Randle His Excellency was pleased to Appoint him accordingly. –

1. Proceedings of the Governor's Council, 299–300, Bda. Arch.

## 14 July (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY <sup>1</sup>

July 76 Moor'd in Annopolis Harbour  
Sunday 14th came in H: Majts: Sloop *Viper* with 4 Schooners

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Sunday 14th of July 1776

5 [A. M.] Small Airs of wind from SW Learge swell from the NE

12 Thick foggy weather the prize in Company

Lattd in 41d.21m Longd in 67d.3m

1 [P. M.] A Learge tumbling sea from the S W got our horser [hawser]  
on board the schooner to tow her

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Boston] Sunday july 14

I suppose you have heard of a fleet which came up pretty near the Light and kept us all with our mouths open ready to catch them, but after staying near a week and makeing what observations they could set sail and went of to our great mortification who were [prepared?] for them in every respect.<sup>2</sup>

If our Ship of 32 Guns which [was] Built at Portsmouth and waiting only for Guns<sup>3</sup> and an other of [...] at Plimouth in the same state,<sup>4</sup> had been in readiness we should in all probability been Masters of them, Where the blame lies in that respect I know not, tis laid upon Congress, and Congress is also blamed for not appointing us a General.<sup>5</sup> – But Rome was not Built in a day.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 46, 47.

2. A fleet of transports with Scotch soldiers, under convoy of the British frigate *Flora*.

3. The Continental frigate *Raleigh*, which had been launched in May.

4. Referring to the Massachusetts state brigantine *Rising Empire*, built at Plymouth, and also without guns.

5. General Artemas Ward, whose resignation was prompted by illness.

# JOHN BRADFORD TO ROBERT MORRIS<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Boston. 14th July 1776

The Brig *Dispatch* has been Ready for the Sea waiting your Orders some time. I flatter my self I shall Receive them soon, it has been a good time to get off our Coast, ever since the Fleet was drove out our harbour; not a Cruizer has been seen on, or near the Coast since, saving the frigate that paraded before our port with her Convoy & she did not even Attempt to spealk to any vessell<sup>2</sup>

I have great Occasion for money, seeing no prospect of getting any out of the hands of the late Agents for want of my Commission, they pay no regard to any thing till that Appears, tho the powder Ship was taken weeks after my Appointment yet they've Advertiz'd to sell the powder without Consulting me,<sup>3</sup> if you could spare a moment from the important concerns you are now Engag'd in<sup>4</sup> to forward my Commission you wou'd render me an essential service and the favour shou'd be most Gratefully Acknowledged by Sir [&c.]

Jn<sup>o</sup> Bradford

On the Service of the United States

The Honble. Robert Morris Esqr. Philadelphia

1. Papers of Robert Morris, Accession 1805, LC.

2. The British frigate *Flora* and her convoy of transports with Highland troops.

3. The powder ship *Hope*.

4. Morris was a member of the Marine Committee, Secret Committee and Committee of Secret Correspondence. In connection with the brig *Dispatch*, he was acting in behalf of the latter committee.

# BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear General

Crown Point July 14, 1776

I have this morning Sent off[f] Colonel [William] Maxwells & [William] Winde's Regiments, with most of the Artillery & Stores, want of Boats prevented my sending off[f] all the Sick & Companies of Artillery. I have Just Sent off[f] the last Boats we had, to Onion river & other Places for Boards, believe I can procure Twenty or thirty thousand feet & send you in a few Days. – we shall have Occasion for (at least) One hundred Boats, to

take up all the Army Unless part of them should March by land. If you think proper to Order the Army to Ty, will it Not be necessary to keep One Regiment here. . . .

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

JOHN BAYLEY TO COLONEL JAMES CLINTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Poughkeepsie July 14th 1776

We have set off[f] to Esopus for the Tory Sloop there and the Ship Carpenters are Busied in makeing fire Rafts we would ask Your Oppinion if it would not be best to purchase two other old Sloops which Lash together with Chains two fire Rafts between Each two Sloops and if a Northerly wind Sail them Directly Down on the Enemy when the Rafts are Compleated and if the Ships have not Passed Your Forts we would Ask you if we must not Send Down the Sloops and Rafts Near the Forts I am Sir [&c.]

John Bayley Chairman <sup>2</sup>

Coppy

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Chairman of the Poughkeepsie Committee of Safety.

COLONEL JAMES CLINTON TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, POUGHKEEPSIE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Fort Constitution 14th July 1776

I recieved Your's of this Day, I aprove much of your Plan for makeing Fire Rafts, and Doubt not but you will carry the same into Execution with the utmost expedition – I think it adviseable to purchase two other Old Sloops (or more if necessary) for the purpose but let it be done at the Cheapest rate, the Oldest and worst Sloops will do; let Men Value them, but they must be had at any Rate – When your Rafts are compleated they must be sent here without delay the sooner the better. – I could wish if the Generals Letter (a Copy of which you have) will warrant it, a Galley or two to carry a Nine Pounder in their Bow's could be built, as they might answer a Valueable purpose, but this I must submitt to you. – I want a Whale Boat exceedingly to Reconitere the Enemy, if one can be had, or built, and sent here without retarding the other business it would be of great service – I am Gentlemen [&c.]

James Clinton Coll.

Copy. –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York, July 14, 1776.

Sir: My last of Friday evening which I had the Honor of addressing you, advised that two of the Enemy's Ships of War and three Tenders had run above our Batteries here and the Works at the upper end of the Island.

I am now to Inform you, that Yesterday forenoon, receiving Intelligence from General Mifflin that they had past the Tappan Sea [Tappan Zee]



and were trying to proceed higher up; by advice of R. R. Livingston Esqr. and other Gentlemen, I dispatched expresses to General [George] Clinton, of Ulster and the Committee of Safety for Dutchess County, to take Measures for securing the passes in the Highlands, lest they might have designs of seizing them and have a force concealed for that purpose.

. . . The information given General Mifflin was rather premature as to their having gone past the Sea. A Letter from the Committee of Orange County, which came to hand this Morning says they were there Yesterday, and that a Regiment of their Militia was under Arms, to prevent their Landing and making an Incursion.

The Messenger who brought it, and to whom it refers for particulars, adds "that a party of them in two or three boats, had approached the Shore, but were forced back by our People firing at them." Since the manuvre of Friday, there have been no other movements in the Fleet.

A Letter from the Eastward by last night's post, to Mr. [Ebenezer] Hazard Post Master in this City, advises that two Ships has been taken and carried into Cape Ann; one from Antigua, consigned to General Howe with 439 Puncheons of Rum. The other a Jamaican with 400 Hogsheads of Sugar, 200 puncheons of Rum, 30 Bales of Cotton, Pimento, Fustick, etc.etc. Each mounted 2 Guns; Six Pounders.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 271-76.

#### DIARY OF ENSIGN CALEB CLAP <sup>1</sup>

[New York]

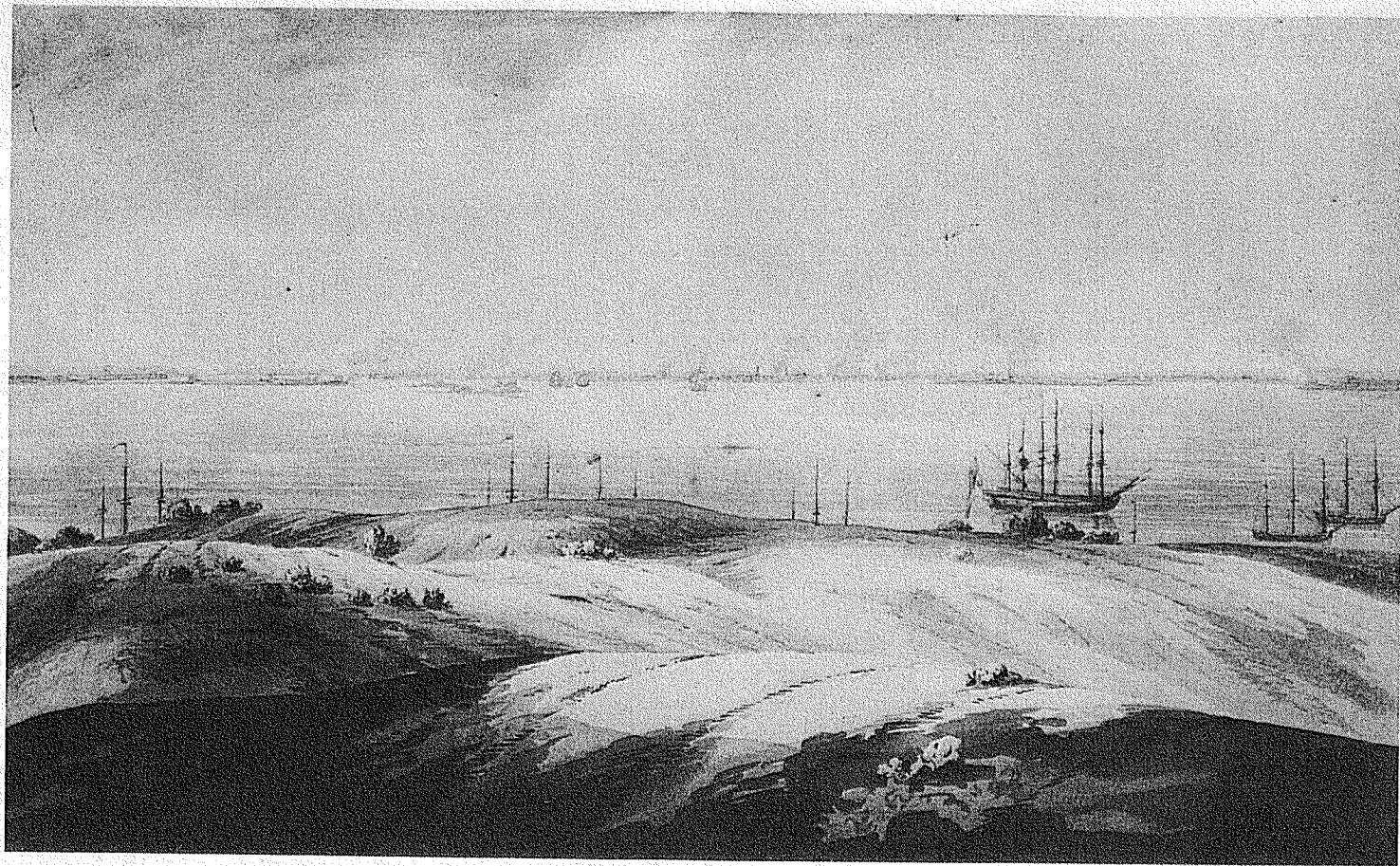
July 14th 1776 A flag was sent from the Enemy, Col Tupper being A board of A Privateer went and meet the flag seeing that the Letter was directed to George Washington Esqr, he answered that Knew no such Person, but he woud, send an Officer a shore and se if their was any such Person, but cou'd not find any of that Name Retun'd the Letter again, to the flag. The flag Report that Admiral Howe came in the 12 Instant, that he said he was very sorry he had not happened to have come in before, Independancy was declared,

It was Reported that General Washington was at the Whorf, and see the Letter, but wou'd not receive it, unless it was properly directed, nor never see the inside of it -

1. *The Historical Magazine*, III, 247.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A YOUNG MAN IN THE ARMY AT NEW-YORK, TO HIS FATHER IN TOWN [SALEM], DATED NEW-YORK, JULY 12 1776." <sup>1</sup>

July 14. . . . we were alarmed by some of the Men of War getting under Sail and making for the City; we immediately repaired to our Alarm Posts, which are at such a Distance from the River that we had not a Chance to fire a Gun, but had a beautiful Prospect of the whole Engagement. We saw them pass by Ten of our Batteries, they all kept an incessant Fire upon them until out of Reach, but had not so much Success as I



*The Phoenix and Rose (background) passing the American batteries and going up Hudson River, as seen from the heights above the Watering Place on Staten Island, July 12, 1776.*

could wish, though they were all hulled several Times and much damaged in their Rigging, but Wind and Tide being in their Favor, and a very brisk Breeze they soon got by: They poured their Broadides upon our Batteries and the Town as fast as possible, but without doing any Damage; they kept their Way up the River until they came near Kingsbridge, and not knowing there was any Battery there they dropped Anchor near the Shore, when our People opened a Battery of Four Twelve Pounders, Six Six Pounders, and Two Three Pounders, which did great Execution; they weighed Anchor with all possible Expedition and proceeded further up the River, where they lay peaceably at present; their Rigging and Hulls were very much damaged, so that they are obliged to keep continually pumping: One of the Tenders was so much damaged that the People all went on Board one of the large Ships and took her in Tow; and by Deserters from the *Phoenix* of Forty-four Guns, the largest Ship that went by, it appears that they lost (from that account) Twenty-four Men killed and Thirteen [wounde]d; that she had sprung a Leak which [they did] not discover, that kept them contin[u]ally pumpi]ng. We lost Six Men killed and [fo]ur wounded, by not spunging a Gun . . .

1. *American Gazette*, Salem, July 23, 1776.

#### PROCLAMATION BY ADMIRAL HOWE AND GENERAL HOWE <sup>1</sup>

By Richard Viscount Howe of the Kingdom of Ireland, and William Howe Esquire, General of His Majesty's Forces in America, the King's Commissioners for restoring Peace to His Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in North America, &c. &c. &c.

#### Declaration.

Whereas by an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament to prohibit all Trade & Intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, The three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and for other Purposes therein mentioned; It is enacted, that "it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons, appointed and authorised by His Majesty to grant a Pardon or Pardons to any Number or Description of Persons, by Proclamation, in His Majesty's Name, to declare any Colony or Province, Colonies or Provinces, or any County, Town, Port, District, or Place, in any Colony or Province, to be at the Peace of His Majesty; and" that "from and after the issuing of any such Proclamation in any of the aforesaid Colonies or Provinces, or if His Majesty shall be graciously pleased to signify the same by His Royal Proclamation, then, from and after the issuing of such Proclamation," the said "Act, with respect to such Colony or Province, Colonies or Provinces, County, Town, Port, District, or Place, shall cease, determine, and be utterly void." And whereas the King, desirous to deliver all His Subjects from the Calamities of War, and other Oppressions which they now undergo, and to restore the said Colonies to his Protection and Peace as soon as the constitutional

Authority of Government therein may be replaced, Hath been graciously pleased, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal, dated the Sixth Day of May in the Sixteenth Year of His Majesty's Reign, to nominate and appoint us, Richard Viscount Howe of the Kingdom of Ireland, and William Howe, Esquire, General of His Forces in North America, and each of us, jointly and severally, to be His Majesty's Commissioner and Commissioners for granting His free and general Pardons to all those, who in the Tumult and Disorder of the Times may have deviated from their just Allegiance, and who are willing, by a speedy Return to their Duty, to reap the Benefits of the Royal Favor; And also for declaring, in His Majesty's Name, any Colony, Province, County, Town, Port, District, or Place, to be at the Peace of His Majesty: We do therefore hereby declare; That due Consideration shall be had to the meritorious Services of all Persons, who shall aid and assist in restoring the public Tranquillity in the said Colonies, or in any Part or Parts thereof; That Pardons shall be granted, dutiful Representations received, and every suitable Encouragement given, for promoting such Measures as shall be conducive to the Establishment of legal Government and Peace, in pursuance of His Majesty's most gracious Purposes aforesaid.

Given at Staten Island the Fourteenth Day of July, 1776.

(signed) Howe  
W. Howe.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

#### JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE <sup>1</sup>

[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*] Sunday, 14th. July.

An excessive hard Rain, prevented going on Shore this Day, and we had no divine Service on board. Mr. [Samuel] Reeve, our first Lieutenant, returned from Amboy this Afternoon, whither he had been sent yesterday by the Admiral [Howe] with Dispatches, addressed to the several Governors in North America, notifying his Arrival and the Objects of his Commission, and inclosing a Declaration to be published by them in their respective Colonies. This was a prudent and decent Way of acquainting the People of America, that the Door was yet open for Reconciliation; for it was expected, they would have the Curiosity to read the Inclosures, which were dispatched under a flying Seal, being their Interest & Concern more than that of the Governors. Mr. Reeve breakfasted with [Hugh] Mercer, the American Commander, who behaved civilly, yet rather dryly. They had very coarse Fare, which the American noticed, but added, they had Plenty of Necessaries, and did not wish for Luxuries. The Lieutenant [Reeve] very properly replied, that it was very happy for those who had not them not to wish for them.

Mr. [Philip] Brown, another Lieutenant, was dispatched with a Flag of Truce to Washington at New York. He was stopped by three Boats at a little Distance from the Town, demanding his Business. Upon being told that he had a Letter from Lord Howe to their Commander, they ordered

him to lay to, while one of the Boats went to the Shore for Directions. In a short time, three officers came off, and desired to know to whom the Letter was addressed. They would not touch it, but begged the Lieutenant [Philip Brown] to read it. As the Address was, *To George Washington Esq. &c. &c. &c.* they said, there was no such Person among them, and therefore would not receive it. Upon being asked what Address they required, it was answered, that "all the World knew who Genl. Washington was since the Transactions of last Summer."...

This Evening a Gentleman came on board from New Jersey for Protection.<sup>2</sup>

The Ships, we heard, are safe about 7 or 8 Miles above the Town.<sup>3</sup>

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 31-33.

2. A Mr. Le Grand; see Moffat's Diary this date.

3. The *Phoenix* and the *Rose*.

#### JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEPHEN KEMBLE<sup>1</sup>

[Staten Island] Sunday, July 14th.

This day a Flag of Truce sent by Lord Howe to New York was stopped by the Rebels off Red Hook; it carried a letter for Mr. Washington, which was not received, as the Title was not thought honorable enough, being only directed to Geo: Washington, Esqr. Letters carried by another Flag to Amboy was received, but we know no further, or what was the intent of it. From appearances think the Rebels will not listen to any proffers for an Accomodation; their declaration of Independancy is a convincing proof that they will oppose every mode for a Reconciliation unless on their own terms.

1. "The Kemble Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, I, 81.

#### DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT<sup>1</sup>

[On board H.M. Sloop *Swan*]

July 14th Mr Le Grand of N Brunswick came aboard from Shrewsbury and went up to the Admiral & General. He says Mr. Kembles Family at Morris Town were well. Thermometer Noon 65. Capt'n [James] Ayscough sent up Lieut Dowie with Mr Le Grand to Lord Howe.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

#### BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Perth Amboy 14 July 1776

This Morning Lord Howe sent Lt Reeve of the *Eagle* Man of War, with a flag of Truce to this Post - He delivered me the Letters which accompany this - Nothing worthy your attention has happened here since I had the honor to receive your Instructions of the 11th Inst by Mr Ross - The Enemies Guards in our View continue without any new movement - From their Number it is probable that two Regiments encamp near this End of Staten Island - We have been able however to procure no certain Intelligence of their Situation - No Person has yet come over to us, nor is it easy to find one of our Friends duely qualified or ready to undertake the busi-

ness of a Spy on the Island. About four Hundred of the Pennsylvia Rifle Battalion have joined us – and another Party of the same Regiment is on its way; from This last I have ordered One hundred Men to take post at the Ferries of Pasaic and Hackensack & shall releive all the Jersey Militia, as soon as Reinforcements arrive. When the two Battalions of Rifle Men and one of Musketry from Pennsylv, are posted from hence to the Ferries towards N York a favourable Opp[ortunit]y may probably offer to surprize the Enemies Small posts – Boats may I think be procured – and the Rifle Men would be happy to be so employd – Such an enterprize is not suspected by the Enemy, nor believed to be under consideration here – I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

H Mercer

1. Washington Papers, LC.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND <sup>1</sup>

[H. M. S. *Roebuck*, July 8 to July 14, 1776]

July 8th      The Springs on the Island dried up so much on account of the long dryness of the Season that water became very difficult to be got near the Sea Shore, but by the time the *Fowey* joined us, which was on the      the Ships Casks were nearly full. – Captain [George] Montagu performed this service with great judgment & prudence; and brought with him upwards of 100 Voluntiers for the Army, and several small Vessels laden with Cattle.

9th      The next day, when I was preparing to Sail, an event happend which obliged me to alter my design. This was two Batterys of heavy Cannon that the Enemy opened upon the Fleet, and directed their Fire principally upon Lord Dunmore's Ship, who had a day or two before taken the *Otters* station to give the latter an Opp[o]rtunity of healing & cleaning her bottom. The *Dunmore* returned the Fire, but seeing that her small Guns had no effect upon either of the Batterys, and that every shot from the Enemy struck the Ship she cut her Cable, and being Calm, towed off out of reach of the Guns; which she effected with little damage to the Ship, and the loss of one man killed, and another wounded. all the small Vessels that lay within reach of the Shot did the same. The Enemy then fired upon the Tenders in the Haven which obliged them to run ashore upon the Island. They were set on fire, and one of them was entirely consumed, but the Enemy boarded the other with a number of Armed Boats time enough to extinguish the fire; so that she fell into their hands, but with 2 cannon only, the rest having been thrown over board.

From the preparations of the Rebels it was now apprehended that an attack was to be made upon the Island, and being too weak to resist any considerable force (the Army being reduced by the small Pox and an epidemic Fever) My Lord Dunmore & the

land officers were of opinion that their Post on the Island was no longer tenable, and accordingly determined on evacuating it immediately: which was effected in the course of the ensuing night & the next morning, leaving behind one Cannon, which was spiked up. – Notwithstanding the Merchants & other inhabitants onboard the different Vessels, had been frequently ordered to keep their Ships in constant readiness for moving whenever their should be occasion, it is impossible to describe the distress & confusion that this floating Town was thrown into, upon the sudden order for quitting the Island, and preparing to sail; most of them were entirely without fresh water, and this the Man of war was under the necessity of supplying them with; as well as Seamen to Navigate them.

I had frequently recommended it to Lord Dunmore in the strongest terms, to use his endeavors to persuade the People that had put themselves under his protection, to sail with their Vessels to some place of security, on account of the great inconvenience that arose to His Majtys Service by keeping two ships allways to guard them, but on this occasion I took upon me to assure his Lordship that I had come to a resolution to get rid of every Vessel except the Transports, and that I should order one of the Ships to convoy them to St Augustine; accordingly orders were sent to them for that purpose, but as many of them were quite worm eaten, others without sails & Rigging sufficient to Navigate them, and the whole without water, it was absolutely necessary, that we should proceed to some place where the latter could be easily obtained, and where the state of each Vessel could be examined into, and the Familys taken out of those found defective, and distributed on board the others.

The nearest place, likely to answer these purposes, was St  
 11th George's Island in the River Potowmack, whither we directed our  
 Course the next day; but on our way thither was so roughly handled by a gale of wind at Nwt which took us at the Mouth of the  
 July 14 River, that several of the Small Vessels were driven on Shore, many suffered, in their Sails & Rigging and the greatest part lost their Anchors & Boats. This Misfortune, to a Fleet ill provided before, was not to be remyded, so that many Vessels were condemned to be destroyed in consequence of it.

1. Hamond, No. 5, UVL.

#### JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Sirs/

I Recd your Lett[er] and am Well Satisfy'd that I have So far Pleasd you – you Menshon Sending £250 By Capt Nicollson he Brought Me a Order for that Sum But No Cash, have Sent the Order By Mr Wells to Recve the Mony, after Paying the flowr Expence to Poakamoak the Expence

of Discharging the Brigs and the hier of the Vesells for the Troops to Elk, shall Lay Out the Remainder in any Way you Pleas to Order as I have Open'd a Count for you shall Credit you With the Mony and Charge you for What I Doe and Pay for you, and Render you a State of the a Count Monthly or at the End of Sertain Jobs Done –

Mr Wells has S[everal] Proposals to Make But thinks it hard t[hat] he Cant Be Paid his Old a Count, Which I Now is hard On him as a Man Can have No Trust here for any thing, and his Surcomstances Wont admit of his Lying Out of his Mony So Long – there is 20 bbls of Super fine flowr Left with Me and I Was at the Bakehows Last Night there is a Good Deall of Bread Bakd, and Very Good, if there is any Wanted for the Brig Pleas Let Me Now in time, or if flowr is Wanted I have few Bar[rels] flowr I Would Sell at 9 S per hundred Which I Would Send Down for the Brig from your Humble Servant –

Baltimore July 14 – 1776 –

JeSee Hollingsworth

[P.S.] My flowr is fresh and good if you should Want to Send any to Chingoteag for the Brig –

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, on July 17 Hollingsworth wrote that he had not received the money and added "I have Been this 2 Days Geting Timbr for the Galleys."

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE TO THE MARYLAND  
COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

5 OClock Sunday 14th July 1776 Calvert County

Gentlemen About One O'Clock yesterday Morning by Express from Captain [Rezin] Beall, I Received Information that there were forty Sail of Vesells off Point Look Out, (Eight of which were Square Rigg'd) & Requesting some Assistance from our Malitia, (and to get the other part in Readiness in Case they should proceed up the Bay) – Collo [Benjamin] Mackall not being in the County; I gave such Orders as I thought might put us in the best posture of Defence; the Six Upper Companys were to hold themselves in Readiness to March on the Shortest Notice, & with Part of the Rest I went to Drum Point – about 4 OClock a firing of Cannon &c was heard; (Supposed to be in Potomack) which is Confirm'd this Morning by Mr Hugh Hopewell Junr who was down where the firing was; and brought the Inclos'd Letter from Collo Barnes; who also Requested the Assistance of Capt Beall & his men – Mr. Hopewell came to Drum point this Morning abt Nine OClock & Captn Beall with all the men he had there, set out about half past Ten; leaving that Post in the Charge of our Malitia, who are now but few in Number, but I propose to get (& keep) there about Sixty or Seventy men, Exclusive of Officers untill I Receive your Orders, or untill Captn Bealls Return. The Ships of War, Tenders &c was this Morning lying off between St Marys River & Point Look Out, & it is Reported by some Deserters from them that they intend to Land on St Georges Island in the Mouth of St Marys River – Captn Beall Desired me to Inform you of his Marching, and desires your Orders how he shall proceed – Collo Barnes



could not get an Express to Carry his Letter to you in St Marys, therefore sent it this Way & Expects to Receive your Answer the same way, which I will send him as soon as it comes; I shall go to Drum Point in the Morning & you may Depend I'll do all in my Power to prevent their Landing in this County, if they should alter their Course, so as to come up the Bay or into Patuxent; this Express is to be Paid from Drum Point to Annapolis which is about Sixty five Miles, & by whom I expect your Orders, which shall be punctually Obeyed. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Alex Somerville

P S A messenger will be waiting at the late Capt Carrolls Dwelling House To Morrow Evening to Receive Your Answer to Collo Barne's Letter. You will be pleased to direct what Number of militia are to be kept on Duty in this County & what Number of Officers

A S

1. Red Book, X, Md. Arch.

## 15 July

### CONDEMNATION IN NOVA SCOTIA ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE PRIZE SCHOONER *Molly* AND CARGO <sup>1</sup>

Nova Scotia	}	Cause
Court of Vice		James Montagu Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship
Admiralty		the <i>Mercury</i> VS the Schooner <i>Molly</i> and Cargo
26th June 1776		Libel filed and entred and Order made thereon as on file
27th June		Petition for the sale of the Cargo filed and entred and Order made thereon as on file
29th June		Gustave Logie L[ieutena]nt of his Majestys Ship the <i>Mercury</i> being duly Sworne deposeth that on the 24th May last they took the Schooner <i>Molly</i> near Philadelphia loaded with Corn and Oats bound to Sante Cruse, that the Rudder of the Schooner gave way and they took the Cargo out of her and brought the same into this Port that all the Papers found on board her are deliver'd to the Attorney General to be by him filed in this Court.
Sworn before me		Gust Logie
Charles Morris junr -		
15th July	}	Court open'd by makeing Proclamation as usual
1776		Decree Pronounc'd as on file whereby the Schooner <i>Molly</i> & Cargo was Condemn'd as lawfull prize to the Captors thereof -
Account Sales as on file		

Court adjourn'd without Day - <sup>2</sup>

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769-1777, N. S. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, this date the brigantine *Recovery* taken June 18 by H.M.S. *Kingfisher* was also judged a lawfull prize.

JOHN LANGDON TO COLONEL PAUL DUDLEY SARGENT <sup>1</sup>

Sir –

Portsmouth July 15th 1776

The drummer you were good enough to send me; has declined signing the Articles on board of Ship. I shall therefore send him back again to his Regiment if its agreeable to you, the reason why this Gen[tlema]n dont choose to sign, is, that he wants to go to Canada, or in short to get [a] large Bounty, which we are giving here and then to take himself off; I've refused a very good Drummer on his Acct supposing him as shipped. –

If this Fellow returns, I shall take it very kind, if you'll procure, (a Fife & Drum) for the Ship by any means, in your power, I've desired the Pvt to wait on you, and follow your Orders, who has the Conditions – With great Esteem [&c.]

Jn<sup>o</sup> Langdon

To Colo Sargent Boston via Post.

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

JOHN LANGDON TO JOSIAH BARTLETT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Portsmouth July 15th 1776

... several french Vessells from the W. Indies have arrived at Newbury Port and Falmouth – ...

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Munday 15th of July

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2 [A. M.] | Small winds cast off[f] our horser [hawser] for we Like to got on board the schooner   |
| 10        | We fin[d] a strong Currant setting to the Southward  |
| 12        | Sounded had 11 fathom on George's bank   |
|           | Lattd in 41d.48m Longd in 67d.39m  |
| 1 [P. M.] | Large swell from the southward   |
| 2         | Saw Brakers bairing NE about 4 miles we take it to be the shoal of Georges it broke the bigness of A Mile in the form of A half moon tending SW & NE |
| 9         | small breaze   |

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

PETITION FOR COMMISSION FOR GEORGE CREIGHTON, MASTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MERCHANT SLOOP *Adam* <sup>1</sup>

To the Honorable the Council of the Massachusetts Bay State –

The petition of John Winthrop & Stephen Bruce humbly sheweth that they are owners of the Sloop *Adam*, George Creighton Commander now ready to sail for the Island of Hispanolia & being desirous of procuring a quantity of Cannon & military stores, they intend purchasing 'em at said Island, & for the better securing the same & defending the said Sloop, will

have her well arm'd on her homeward passage & take on board an additional number of Men with orders to proceed with all speed for some port on this Continent – Wherefore as 'tis probable the said Vessel may meet with some belonging to our enemies, & will be in a condition to make prizes of them – Your petitioners humbly pray that your Honors will commissionate the said Commander to qualify him therefor & your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray –

Step Bruce for  
Mr John Winthrop & Self

Watertown July 15th 1776

[Endorsed] In Council July 16. 1776 Read & comitted to Moses Gill and Francis Dana Esqrs to report thereon

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 427, 427a.

DAVID COBB TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston July 15th 1776

... There is now in this Harbour two fine prize Ships, sent in by Capt [Henry] Johnson of this port, one from Jamaica for London, the other from Antigua for Halifax, the last of which, besides 400 & odd hhds of Rum, has on board 17 hhds that were not mentioned in her papers, & which were mark'd on the outside Jams, but contain English Goods, such as pins &c. – we are fearfull Capt Johnson is taken as he meant to come i[n] with the Ships, & tho' the Ships have been in port this week past we have heard nothing from him. –

... I have receiv'd two Letters from you since I wrote you; in the first of which you enquire respecting Hobarts casting of Cannon, if it is he who undertook to cast 'em in an Air Furnace, he has fail'd in his undertaking; but Cannon are cast in Different places in this Colony, 'tho' never very large as I have heard; but at Providence they cast as large as 18 pounds

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

NICHOLAS & JOHN BROWN TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

Sr

Providence. July 15. 1777 [*sic* 1776]

Yours of the 3rd April 1st And 16. of May is Before us the 43 ps which Capt Comstock Told us was Rousia sheeting Turn'd out Ravins duck is now All made up for the Friggets Light Sails. 100 ps Rousia duck was sent to Mr Langdon the Remaining 93 Both Lays in our stores waiting Your Orders. 10 of the small Arms was Gone in two of the Vessells we Fitted on Continental Acct Vizt Cpts Crawford and Avery as Allso the 2 Swivel Gunns – Togather with the 12 lb powder And 30 lb Ball which we put on Bord with Two other Swivels for the Securety Against the Enemy the Other 4 small Arms have sent His Excelency Genl Washington According to your Orders, our J.B. Being from home when the Last Vessill Capt Avery was Dispatch'd, prevented the several Bills Loading and Invo Being then sent,

Since which Publick Buisness And Inattencion to this matter Prevented, our Forwarding them Before. Inclos'd Invo & pr Acct Curr't Inclos'd the several Bills Loading made from the Invo Ballance in our Favour £85.11..2½ Lmo Due to us. have no Doubt But they all Got Safe of the Coast, and heartely wish them Good success And Safe Return and are Sr [&c.]

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCB. The endorsement reads: "Copy Letter to Robert Morris. And Acct Curr't July 15, 1776."

THOMAS GREENE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Provid[en]ce July 15, 1776

Agreable to the request of his Honor Govr Cooke I have sent Forward to the care of Nathl Shaw Jr the small Arms flints & cutlasses imported by Samel Chace <sup>2</sup> for the Continent wish them A safe arrivall at New York & your Excellencys health and the Arms of the United states success ag[ain]st our common Enemies Yrs With Respect –

T. Greene

P S there is

14,500 [gun flints]  
30 Cutlasses  
20 small Arms

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Captain Samuel Chace arrived in Providence on June 28, 1776; see *Providence Gazette*, June 29, 1776.

INVOICE OF ARMS SENT FROM DANIEL TILLINGHAST TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Providence July 15th 1776

Invoice of One hundred & Seventeen Small Arms, Eighty Nine Bayonets, Twenty Broad Swords & Three Fuzees, sent by William Browns Team from Daniel Tillinghast of Providence, to Nathl Shaw Esqr at New London who is Immediately to forward them to his Excellency General Washington at New York – Vizt:

S A	3 Cases c[on]t[ainin]g Scotch Arms taken by the	} Vizt
	<i>Andrew Doria</i> at Sea <sup>2</sup>	
No 1 a Case ct	36 Small Arms	
	36 Bayonets	
	2 Broad Swords	
2 a Case ct	42 Small Arms	
	42 Bayonets	
3 a Case ct	39 Small Arms	
	3 Fuzees in Cases	
	11 Bayonets –	
	18 Broad Swords	

Providence 15th July 1776

{ Copy Orig[ina]l sent  
Nathl Shaw Esqr

Errors [excepted]  
Dan<sup>l</sup> Tillinghast Agent

N B No 6 & 7 a barrell & Cag ct 17 M Gun Flints sent in the above Team to Mr Shaws Care by Clark & Nightingale & are to be forwarded his Excellency Genl Washington wth the above arms the first Opportunity –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The arms taken from the Scotch troops on board the transports *Crawford* and *Oxford*, which had been libeled against by Captain Nicholas Biddle, with the trial set for July 22. Condemnation seemed a foregone conclusion so the weapons were shipped without awaiting the formal verdict.

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, JULY 15, 1776

Newport, July 15.

The transport ship mentioned under the Williamsburg head <sup>1</sup> is one of the two taken by Capt. Biddle, in the *Andrew Doria*, some time past; two of the hands, Messrs. Lawton and Gardner, of this town, who were put on board by Capt. Biddle arrived here last Friday from Virginia, but last from New York.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, June 21, 1776, describing the recapture by Captain James Barron of the transport *Oxford*, with Highlanders on board.

#### JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] Monday 15 July,

Cap. Harding came in, having just arrived with his brig from Boston, gave an account of his cruize, taking the ships and brig &c., and his reasons for leaving the post without order &c., is excused and justified for so leaving &c., and wants directions about cleaning, graving and refitting, and about the men who are probably infected with the small pox, and is directed to do the necessaries with the advice &c. of Mr. Shaw, who is Colony Agent for naval supplies . . . Many things to say to him, and about the prizes bro't in to Boston &c.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 478, 479.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. <sup>1</sup>

Sir:

Lebanon, July 15, 1776

I have sent you by Captain [Seth] Harding your appointment as Agent for the Colony, for the purpose therein mentioned. We are informed by him that he expects a number on board his brig may soon be taken by the small-pox, as they were much exposed before he left Boston. If any should be taken with that infectious disease, you will take timely and prudent care for their being provided for, either at your pest-house, or at Duck-Island, whichever you may think most proper, or any other convenient place, where the most precaution may be taken against spreading the infection, and by all means to prevent it getting in, or spreading among, our soldiery. We

doubt not of your attention to this, as well as every other matter committed to your charge. And am [&c.]

Jonathan Trumbull

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, I, 360.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Sir

Tyonderoga 15th July 1776. –

Last night I received your Favor of the 14th – I sent you yesterday Fifty four Batteaus, under The care of a Captain of Colonel [Anthony] Waynes Regiment. This Afternoon, Forty more Batteaus will go from hence to Crown Point. I do not think it necessary for any of the Regiments to March by Land to Tyonderoga, as I will take care to Supply Batteaus sufficient for the conveyance of the whole. – <sup>2</sup> As we have so much Work to do here, I cannot see how a Regiment can be spared to remain at Crown Point; The Vessells will be there as soon as possible. I hope the Comodore <sup>3</sup> will sail tomorrow; & if our Naval Force cannot protect that part of the Lake from Invasion, I do not think One Regiment will be able to do it . . .

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

2. *Ibid.*, Arnold had written to Gates this same date noting that “We want Oars for near thirty Battoes Lying here, which are at present useless.” Arnold added: “you may depend On my utmost exertion in forwarding our Naval Armament, on which I think much depends.”

3. Commodore Jacobus Wynkoop.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

Monday Morning,

[White Plains] July 15th, 1776.

A letter from Genl. Washington, dated yesterday, by express, was received and read, and is in the following words, to wit:

New-York Head-Quarters,  
July 14th, 1776.

Gentlemen – The passage of the enemy up the North river is an event big with many consequences to the public interest. One particularly occurs to me well deserving your attention, and to prevent which I shall gladly give every assistance in my power, consistent with the safety of the army.

I am informed there are several passes on each side of the river upon which the communication with Albany depends, of so commanding a nature that an inconsiderable body of men may defend them aganist the largest numbers; it may be that on board these ships there may be troops for this purpose, who, expecting to be

joined by the disaffected in that quarter, or confiding in their own strength, may endeavor to seize those defiles, in which case the intercourse between the two armies, both by land and water, will be wholly cut off, than which a greater misfortune could hardly befall the Province and army. I must entreat you to take the measure into consideration, and if possible, provide against an evil so much to be apprehended. I should hope the militia of those counties might be used on such an emergency, until further provision was made.

I have also thought it very probable these ships may have carried up arms and ammunition to be dealt out to those who may favour their cause, and cooperate with them at a fixed time. I would, to guard against this, submit to your consideration the propriety of writing to the leading men on our side in those counties, to be very vigilant in observing any movement of that kind, in order that so dangerous a scheme may be nipped in the bud; for that purpose to keep the utmost attention to the conduct of the principal Tories in those parts, any attempts of intercourse with the ships, and all other circumstances which may lead to a discovery of their schemes and the destruction of their measures.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, [&c.]

Geo. Washington.

To the Honble. the Prest. of the

Provincial Congress of New-York.

A draft of an answer to the letter just received from Genl. Washington, was read and approved of, and a copy transmitted by the same express, and is in the words following, that is to say:

White-Plains, July 15th, 1776.

Sir—Your letter of the 14th inst. was read in Convention. They see the importance of securing the passes your Excellency mentions, and will immediately take the measures you are pleased to recommend, and every other which they conceive will tend most to the security of this State. Your Excellency was informed by our letter of the 13th of the precautions we had used in order to prevent any intercourse between the disaffected people of our State and the ships of the enemy, and to repel any attempts they might make to land. They see the necessity of watching with the utmost vigilance the steps of the Tories in this and the neighbouring counties, and shall give your Excellency the earliest notice of any resolutions that they may form for this purpose.

We have the honr. to be, &c.

His Excellency Genl. Washington.

Die Lunae, P. M. July 15th, 1776.

*Ordered*, That Mr. [John] Jay, Mr. Robert Yates, Mr. [William] Duer, Mr. Robert R. Livingston, and Colo. [Charles] Dewit, be a committee to take into consideration Genl. Washington's letter, received and read this morning, and that they report thereon with all possible speed.

*Resolved* unanimously, That, if His Excellency Genl. Washington should think it expedient for the preservation of this State, and the general interest of America, to abandon the city of New-York, and withdraw the troops to the north side of King's Bridge, that this Convention will cheerfully cooperate with him in every measure that may be necessary for that purpose.

A draft of a letter to His Excellency Genl. Washington, to enclose the above resolution, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, that is to say:

In Convention, July 15th, 1776.

Sir – One or two pettiaugers have been observed going to and from the ships of war at Tarry Town. Had the detachment of militia stationed there been supplied with boats they would certainly have taken them. The Convention take the liberty, therefore, of requesting your Excellency to send them four whale boats, which they will take care to man.

I am directed by the Convention to transmit the enclosed resolution to your Excellency, and have the honour to be, with great respect, [&c.] By order.

His Excellency Genl. Washington.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 523, 524.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Head Quarters New York 15th July 1776

Since my last, two of the Enemies Ships, one of Forty, the other Twenty Guns taking advantage of a strong wind and tide passed us, notwithstanding a warm fire from all our Batteries. They now lie in Taupon Sea [Tappan Zee] between twenty and thirty miles up Hudson's River – Where no Batteries from the Shore can molest them. Their views no doubt are to cut off all communication between this and Albany by water which they effectually will do. If the Gondolas, Row Gallies, &c. from Connecticut and Providence were here I should think of making their Station uncomfortable. If possible, I must request they may be sent on as soon as conveniently can be – I have wrote Govr. Cooke, requesting the same of him – Tis not unreasonable to suppose these Ships have a number of small Arms on board which are intended to put into the hands of the disaffected on the North River and in the back parts of this Province, when a favorable opportunity may offer



for their making use of them against us. I am sorry to say their numbers, by the best information I can get, are great. Inclosed is a letter I wrote the 11th instant which, through mistake, was neglected by the Thursdays Post. We have one large Row Galley nearly compleated, and another which may be ready by the time those arrive from your Honor and Governor Cooke – The whole, when collected, will be a force sufficient to attack the two Ships up the River, as the Channel they now occupy is narrow which will prevent their working their Guns to advantage – I am with Esteem and Regard [&c.]

G<sup>o</sup> Washington

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 318, 319, ConnSL. The letter to Governor Nicholas Cooke, of the same date, is almost identical in text, with this addition: "Lord Howe arrived on Fryday last – his fleet cannot be far off." Washington Papers, LC. Cooke replied on July 20 that "the row galleys are ordered to proceed immediately to New York. . . ." Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th I, 475.

*New-York Gazette*, MONDAY, JULY 15, 1776

New-York, July 15.

Last Friday Morning it was reported in Town, that Lord Howe was arrived at Sandy-Hook, with a large Fleet from England: Between 1 and 2 o'Clock P.M. two Ships hove in Sight and joined the Fleet at the Watering-Place; about an Hour after a Ship supposed to be the *Phoenix*, of 44 Guns, a Frigate of 28, and three Tenders, got under Way at Staten-Island and stood up for this City. – The Army soon took the Alarm, and in a few Minutes every Man was at his Station, well provided with all Necessaries for a vigorous Defence; but as soon as the Ships came near Bedlow's Island, they inclined towards the Jersey Shore, to avoid our Batteries that then began to play upon them from every Quarter on both Sides of the River; and notwithstanding they must have received considerable Damage,<sup>1</sup> they stood their Course up Hudson's River, firing several Broad-sides as they went along, without either killing or wounding any of our People, who on the Occasion behaved with uncommon Bravery. A strong southerly Wind, and the Tide of Flood facilitated the Ships getting above the Batteries near the Town, but we hear they were roughly handled about 12 Miles up the River, from whence they have not yet attempted to return, but we hear lay at Tarry-Town, about 30 Miles up the River, on Saturday evening.

Several Shot went thro' different Houses in the Town; two into the House of Mr. Verdine Elsworth, at Powlis Hook; three into Capt. Clarke's House at Greenwich; one of which went thro' the Front and lodged in a Brick Wall at the Head of Miss Clarke's Bed, in her Chamber, a Second went thro' the House, and the Third destroyed several Trees before the Door, and took its Course into the Woods.

A Ball also struck the House of Mr. Daniel Phoenix and from that took its Course to the new Dwelling of Mr. Christopher Smith, in the Opposite Side of the Street.

1. A man who escaped from the *Rose* following this engagement, reported, "That the most Damage they received was in passing the Battery at Powles-Hook and the Blue Bell - The Cook of the Ship had a leg shot off, some others wounded, a 12 Pounder lodged in their Fore Mast, one came thro' her Quarter Gallery into the Cabbin, and that her Shrouds and Rigging suffered much. The *Phoenix's* Damage he could not tell only that she had received a Shot in her Bowsprit," *ibid.*, August 5, 1776.

### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Moored off Statten Island

Monday 15th At 10 AM Dried Sails

The first part Mod Breezes & Cloudy Middle light airs & Do latter fresh Breezes & Cloudy At 3 P M a Flag of Truce came from New York with a Letter to Genl Howe sent the Boats to meet the Flag of Truce some Distance from the Ship hove in some of the B: Br Cable & Claped on a Spring & Veered the Cable out as before the Boats retd from the Flag of Truce <sup>2</sup>

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.
2. "A Flag of Truce was sent by Washington, to which an Answer was promised to be given, when the Admiral [Howe] shall have conferred with the Genl." Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 34.

### JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Monday, July 15, 1776

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to P[atrack] Henry, Esq. governor of Virginia, to give orders for manning and sending to sea, under convoy, the brig *Fanny*, Captain [William] Tokely, which is loaded on account of the Continent.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V; 559, 561.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE FRIGATE *Randolph*<sup>1</sup>No 8.  
Frigate *Randolph*[Philadelphia, July 15, 1776]<sup>2</sup>  
Nicholas Biddle Esqr Comr  
To the Commissioners of the Navy Dr

## Previous to her being Launch'd

1776.									
March	2	To Cash paid Samuel Kinder Pr Rect						£ 12.17..-	
"	27	" " 30 Bolts Holland Duck @ £ 8.10	£ 255						
"		" 32 Bolts Russia do @ 7.10	240			495..-.-			
		" 7 doz Sewing twine 87 w 2/6				<u>10.17..6</u>		505.17..6	
April	9	" Hawling carriage Stuff to William Evans						2..3..-	
May	7	" Cash paid Robert Bridges for an old Sail						4..5..-	
June	7	" 28 pieces Assorted Vizt							
		4 Pieces No 4 203½ yds							
		10 " L 449 "							
		9 " French 884 "							
		6 Bolts Russia				@ £ 7.10.45			
		72 lb Sewing twine	2/6			<u>9..-.-</u>			
"	20	" 8 pieces French Canvass 841 Ells is 1221 yds @							
July	11	" Cash paid Wetherell & Cressons Bill						4..-.-	
	12	" 2 Bolts Russia Duck @ £ 7.10						15..-.-	
		[No balance shown]							

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

2. The date used is that of launching. See Lydia McFunn to Nicholas Biddle, July 12, 1776.

WILLIAM LUX TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen.

Baltimore 15 July 1776

Capt Robt Sanders has been onboard the *Alfred* Adml Hopkins ever since he first fitted out, he went onboard at first as a Pilot when the Fleet was intended for Virga but after their destination was altered he continued onboard, and was in the Action with the *Glasgow*, he has Testimonials of his good Behavior and I believe will meet preferment in the Continental Service, but as you are intended to fitt out Tenders & Gondola's, If it be agreeable to give him the Command of one, I presume it woud be more satisfactory to him, and when you direct I will write for him to return.<sup>2</sup>

Commodore [John Thomas] Boucher has sent up for Capt Moore to go into the Virga Service, but as I made application to you in his behalfe I have prevaild on him to wait a day or two for your Answer. I must say that I think him very clever in his department, has perhaps seen more Service than any other that will be in that employ, And I shoud be sorry was he to quit the Service of our Province. If therefore you chuse to keep him as Captain to one of your Vessells you will please to write by Mr Yates who returns early tomorrow.

You will want Rigging for your Vessels wch we shall hope to furnish And with much Respect I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Will<sup>m</sup> Lux

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. According to the *Alfred's* muster roll, Robert Sanders entered December 25 as a midshipman, and was promoted to Second Lieutenant on August 20, 1776.

AGREEMENT OF GEORGE WELLS TO BUILD TWO GALLEYS FOR THE  
STATE OF MARYLAND <sup>1</sup>

Memorandum of an Agreement made this fifteenth Day of July Anno Domini 1776 Between the Council of Safety on Behalf of the province of Maryland of the one part and George Wells of Baltimore County of the other part. That the said George Wells hath agreed to build and compleat in a Workmanlike Manner two Row Gallies for the public Service agreeable to a Draft now proposed to the Council of Safety on or before the 30th Day of October next, to hire and find Workmen and Labourers, and all necessary Provisions and also all other Materials proper for constructing and compleating the Hulls Masts and Yards of the said Row Gallies and keep an Account of all Expences whatever incurred in Building said Gallies. And the Council of Safety agree on Behalf of the Province to furnish such Sums of Money from Time to Time as may be necessary to carry on the Work and will also make the said Wells an Allowance for the use of their Shipyard, whilst the said Vessels are building as well as for their own Services in and about superintending the building said Vessels.

For & on Behalf of the Council  
Dan of S<sup>t</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Jenifer P[resident]  
George Wells

Test G. Duvall

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 5, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE <sup>1</sup>

No 34.

Sir,

[Annapolis] July 15, 1776.

We received yours of the 14th and by the same opportunity one also from Colonel Richard Barnes, informing us that Lord Dunmore and the Fleet were within the mouth of Potowmack, and as he heard, intended to take Possession of an Island called Saint Georges Island, but as their designs are uncertain we think you had better give notice to your Battalion to keep themselves in readiness to march to oppose any attempt they may make to Land in your County and likewise to assist in any neighbouring County.

Captain Beall will have orders from us to remain in Saint Marys County with Colonel Barnes to watch the motions of the Enemy And to regulate his Motions accordingly,<sup>2</sup> he will move to you if there should be a necessity. – We have wrote to Brigadier Dent who will take the Command of the Militia and Regular Forces in his District. – <sup>3</sup> You will communicate this to Colonel [Benjamin] Mackall if he should have returned to your County.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*, Dent commanded all militia in the Lower District of the Western Shore of Maryland.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN NATHANIEL SMITH <sup>1</sup>

No 41.

Sir,

Be pleased to send down immediately by the Tender *Resolution* two Eighteen pounders with Carriages with Rammers, Spunges, Ladles and Worms and a sufficient number of Wads of all sizes, with 500 five pound Shot.<sup>2</sup>

[Annapolis] 15 July 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, Smith complied with the order on July 18.

JEREMIAH JORDAN TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Saint Marys County July 15th. 1776

Gentlemen This serves to inform you that there is now lying off the Mouth of St Mary's River, between Seventy and eighty Sail of Vessels – I am now at Leonard Town in my way down, with part of the 6th Battalion under my Command, when I received an Express from Colo Barnes (who is now at St Inagoes Neck with the Lower Battalion) informing me that this Morning Ten Boats full of men Landed on St Georges Island and had returned for more – I expect to be opposite the Island some time this Night, and shall endeavour to get the best intelligence I can of their Numbers, and give the earliest notice. . . .

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

BRIGADIER GENERAL ANDREW LEWIS TO RICHARD HENRY LEE <sup>1</sup>

Dr Colo

Williamsburg July 15th 1776

Give me Leave to trouble you with some of the Particulars relative to our Engagement with the Fleet, the Troops, and Banditti on the Island – On the eighteth of this Instant in the Evening I got to the Camp before Gwins Island and found that by Employing a Number of Men to work in the Night, our Battery might be opened in the Morning – On the Nineth at eight OClock, the Fleet lay in a Range that suited our Purpose. We instantly opened our Ambrasures which to that Moment were secret to the Enemy – The *Dunmore* lay near and very fair, when she was saluted by our eighteen Pounders, our other Battery of five Guns was opened on them at the same Time. Their Amasement and Confusion was beyond Discription – The *Dunmore* waited to fire only five Guns – She slipt both her Cabels and was towed off by three Boats, both Batteries playing on her all the Time of the Retreat. She is prodigiously shattered, her Cabben tore to Peices & several Men killed. The Shot that missed her could not fail taking Place in some of the other Vessels, the *Oatter William* and the *Fowey* were so peppered that they were obliged to slip their Cabels also and tow off. The whole Fleet were in Confusion and moved to a safer Distance. We are told all the armed Vessels and several others lost Men – The Guns of both our Batteries were then turned on their Camp (the Shot crossing other in the Center of their Camp) this set them to scampering – The next Morning we collected all the Canoes that could be got in that Neighbourhood, which did not amount to more than thirty. We then turned our Thoughts to the clearing the Haven, and by making Use of two six Pounders (brass Peices) on travleing Carriages; made a Sloop of six Guns and a Scooner well armed with some Carriage Guns and Swivels move their Stations, they grounded, we maned Cano[e]s and took them. This Step threw some of our Men on the Island, which being observed by some of the Enemy, who were placed as Look outs, ran to their Camp and greatly alarmed them, by saying that the lower End of the Island was full of the damed shirt Men – This struck them with a Panick and set them to the trot – Before we could with our triffleing Cano[e]s land 250 Men on the Island, the vast Multitude of Boats, belonging to the Fleet (which consisted of upwards of 80 Sail) took them on Board. They left in their Battery one excellent six Pounder, and considerable Quantity of Baggage in their Camp. We shall have at least £1000 worth of Cabels and Anchors and 266 Bars of Iron, Articles very useful to us – They burnt four Vessels one of them large, some took her for the *Dunmore* but I think they were mistaken – The Inhabitants of the Island say that *Dunmore* received a Reinforcement of one hundred and fifty Tories from Maryland and a considerable Number of Beef Cattle some Time before they were routed, 50 Head of the Cattle fell into our Hands I am told since I wrote the above that after

the Fleet sailed a large Ship taken to be the *Dunmore* returned to the *Oatter* which lay near the Mouth of Rapehanack, the Ship was boyed by a Number of empty Casks lashed to both Sides, and that after puting her loading on Board the *Oatter* sunk and totally disappeared –

On Sunday Evening Colo Charles Lewis with 4 Companies of his Battalion before Gwins Island and at Burwells Ferry had Orders to march to Potomack in order to afford Quiet and Protection untill Dunmore would fix himself on some Spot – After which we must take our Measures accordingly I am [&c.]

And<sup>w</sup> Lewis

The Honble Richard Henry Lee of Chantilly Westmoreland –

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO COLONEL SOUTHY SIMPSON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg 15th July 1776 –

We receiv'd your Letter, in consequence of which, we have sent you a draught which you are to be guided by, and shou'd be glad you wou'd hire Workmen and proceed to building of the Gallies with all possible dispatch – Youll take care to fix on some secure place for building them –

To Col. Southy Simpson	}	By order of the Naval Board –
in Accomack County		Thomas Whiting 1st Commissioner

[Endorsed] (This Letter was sent 19th July by Robt. Pages of Northamn.)

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Snows point West [Cape Fear]

Monday 15 at 5 Came off[f] 5 Negros and 2 White Men from the shore  
Mode and Cloudy Wear recd Information of the rebels Com-  
ing down in Boats, Kept the peopel at their Quarters all  
Night

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

16 July

CONDEMNATION IN NOVA SCOTIA VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE PRIZE  
SCHOONER *Lydia* AND CARGO <sup>1</sup>

Nova Scotia	}	Cause
Court of Vice Admiralty		Francis Banks Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship of War the <i>Renown</i> & the Schooner <i>Lydia</i> and Cargo
27th June 1776 –	}	Libel filed and entred Order made thereon as on file
1st July		James Alms Midshipman on board his Majestys Ship of War the <i>Renown</i> being duly Sworne deposeth that the Schooner <i>Lady</i> [ <i>sic Lydia</i> ] was seiz'd by Capt Banks of the

said Ship *Renown* in Nantasket Road that she was outward Bound loaded with Lumber that he never saw any papers

Sworne before me – James Alms

Charles Morris junr Regr –

16th July  
1776

} Court open'd by makeing Proclamation as usual  
} Decree Pronounc'd as on file whereby the said Schooner  
*Lydia* was Condemn'd as Lawfull prize to the Captors  
thereof – Court adjourn'd with out day in this Cause –

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769-1777, N. S. Arch.

#### STORES ORDERED FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BRIGANTINE

##### *Independence*<sup>1</sup>

In Council [Watertown] July 16. 1776

ordered that the Commissary General be & he hereby is Directed to Deliver out of the Colony Magazines & stores for the use of the Colony Brigantine Capt Simeon Sampson, or his order the following Articles – Vizt

half a Tun Gun powder  
100 Double head Shott  
200 Six pound Shott  
350 four pound Do  
3<sup>c</sup>.0.0 Grape Do  
4.0.0 Musket Ball, 14. a 22. to a pound  
50 lb Buck Shot  
400 flints  
100 lb Match Rope  
40. Fire Arms  
40– Ca[r]touch Boxes  
40 Cutlass Belts  
6. Reams Cartridge paper  
100 hand Grenades Taking Receipts for the same.

Read & accepted

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 426.

#### ARCHIBALD BOG TO TIMOTHY PICKERING, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Honorable Sir

Inclosed you heave a Clame against the Ship *George* leat Commanded by me I was teaken By a number of amercean preveteers fitted owt by order of the Honorb Congress on the 16th of June last and Was Browght into Boston harbour<sup>2</sup> where I Still Remain at a very great Expence and have but very little to Suport it and as I am informed that the Honorabl Congress has ordred all Masters and Sea men onboard of the Captiurs to Rescive there weages Due them onboard the Said Cap[tu]rs – I Must therefor bege of Your honnour to teake the trouble to lay the Claime before the Honorable



Court and as I Shall do Myself the Honour to weat on You at Court <sup>3</sup> Shall be Much oblidge to Your honor to advise me how to Proceed – and am Sir [&c.]

Arch<sup>d</sup> Bog

Boston 16th July }  
1776 }

1. Pickering Papers, vol. 33, 157, MassHS.

2. The *George*, one of the transports carrying Highland troops, was taken June 16, 1776, in Boston harbor, by five of Washington's armed schooners, and the Connecticut brig *Defence*.

3. Pickering was Judge of the Admiralty Court for the Middle District of Massachusetts.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO STEPHEN HOPKINS AND WILLIAM ELLERY <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence July 16, 1776

We have already Two Privateers out from this Place and one from Greenwich. Three more are now fitting from this Town and will soon sail. Capt [Samuel] Chace brought with him Four 4 Pounders, Six 3 Pounders, and Eight Swivels which are greatly wanted here for privateers. I have written to the General to permit us to take them for that Use at the full Value in Case they can be spared,<sup>2</sup> and if any Opportunity offers I request your Assistance upon this Occasion.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 329, 330.

2. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, I, 378.

CAPTAIN ELIJAH FREEMAN PAYNE TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Providence July 16th 1776.

I the Subscriber late of the City and Colony of New-York, but now residing in Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. request your Honor to grant a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal to me as Commander of the Schooner *Defiance* of which I am Owner, She is burthened about Fifty Tons carries Four Carriage Guns Three Pounders and Eight Swivel Guns, manned with Fifty Men, and fitted with a suitable Quantity of Muskets, Blunderbusses, Cutlasses, Pistols, Powder, Ball and other Military Stores. She hath on board Twenty barrels Beef and Pork, Eight Casks Bread, with some Flour, Rice, Beans Pottatoes &c. James Bull is First Lieutenant, Barzaleel Smith, Second Lieutenant and William Tallman Master. I am with great Respect Sir, [&c.]

Elijah F. Payne <sup>2</sup>

1. Maritime Papers, Letters of Marque, R. I. Arch.

2. Payne's request was granted this date. Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R. I. Arch.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence July 16th 1776

I have appointed Capt. Barnard Eddy, a very suitable Person, the Chief Carpenter. He hath already inlisted 20 Men, who are to be well provided with Tools and Arms at the same Rate at which the Marine Committee have inlisted those in Philadelphia. He informs me that he shall be able to pro-

cure the whole Number required of us, and march with them on Monday or Tuesday next at the farthest. He proposes to send off the Baggage on Saturday.<sup>2</sup>

1. Papers CC (State Papers of New Hampshire and of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1775-88), 64, 360, NA.

2. Carpenters to build galleys at Skenesborough.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Lebanon July 16th 1776

This will be delivered to you by the Captain of one of our Row Gallies, two of which, the *Whiting* and the *Crane* are ordered to proceed to New York forthwith and put themselves under your Command. The third is stationed at Stonington which may be exposed to suffer from the attack of a single Ship, several of which are now cruising near it, if the Galley is removed from thence –

The great desire I have to comply with every requisition which concerns the defence of the American States at this critical juncture has induced me to send you these Galleys although I am sensible they are not furnished with Guns as may be necessary to render them so useful as they might be with heavier metal – The Guns intended for them by the Colony are not yet compleated at Salisbury. From thence we hope for them soon. I have directed the Captains to move your Excellency for some heavier Guns while in your service, or untill we can get such as are more suitable from Salisbury down the North River, if possible – I am sorry we cannot possibly spare you any heavy Cannon, it being wholly out of our power. We have no more than is necessary and are mounted upon our forts at New London and Groton. Should any of them be taken away, those fortresses will become in a great measure useless, and the Town and Fort upon an attack might fall into the possession of the Enemy, which could not happen but with the greatest detriment to the United States in general as well as this in particular – I am with great Esteem and Regard [&c.]

J – T1

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 319, 320, ConnSL.

REPORT OF OFFICERS OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Providence* <sup>1</sup>

At a Committee held on board the *Providence* at Sea the 16th of July 1776 by Order of Jno P Jones Esqr to Consider the Conduct of Nicholas Johnson Master of the Schooner *First Attempt* under our Convoy Since our Departure from Boston & particularly Yesterday while the *Providence* was in Chace & Since that Time. –

Whereas Nicholas Johnson Master of the *First Attempt* hath paid no proper attention to the Signals made by the *Providence* for his Government Since our departure from Boston Especially Yesterday while the *Providence* was in Chace before the Wind & had given him the Signal to make Sail. – When, instead of obeying, he took in his Sails till he fell a Considera-

ble way a Stern And then hawled Close by the Wind. – And Whereas he hath persisted in this Obstinate & Unjustifiable Conduct ever Since by not bearing down in the Night nor Since Day Light this morning, When he could plainly discover the Signals made from time to time on board here

Therefore the members of this Comittee being the principal Commis-sion'd & Warrant Officers of the *Providence* who have hereunto Subscribed are Unanimous in their opinion & do Verily believe that the Said Nicholas Johnson hath Used & is using his utmost Endeavours to get away from the *Providence* & that without any Just reason and perhaps from bad Motives.—

John P Rathbun

William Hopkins Master

W<sup>m</sup> Grinnell Ft Leut

Henry Tillinghast Surgeon.

Edmund Arrowsmith Ensign

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 5, Box 28, HSP. A contemporary copy with only the signatures of Rathbun and Grinnell is in Papers of John Paul Jones, LC.

#### JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] 16 July.

Capt. Mygatt of a provision vessel stopped by Capt. [Robert] Niles agreeable order, moving for leave to proceed &c., but it seems not safe, the enemy so many about, and could not consent to it &c.

On application of Wm. Lax, for cash toward his bill for building carriages for the arm'd vessels and gallies &c: *Voted*, that an order be drawn on the Pay-Table in favor of Wm. Lax for the sum of £80, to be accounted for on his bill for building ship carriages for cannon on board the gallies &c. and the cannon bro't by Commodore Hopkins. *Order given, delivered him.*

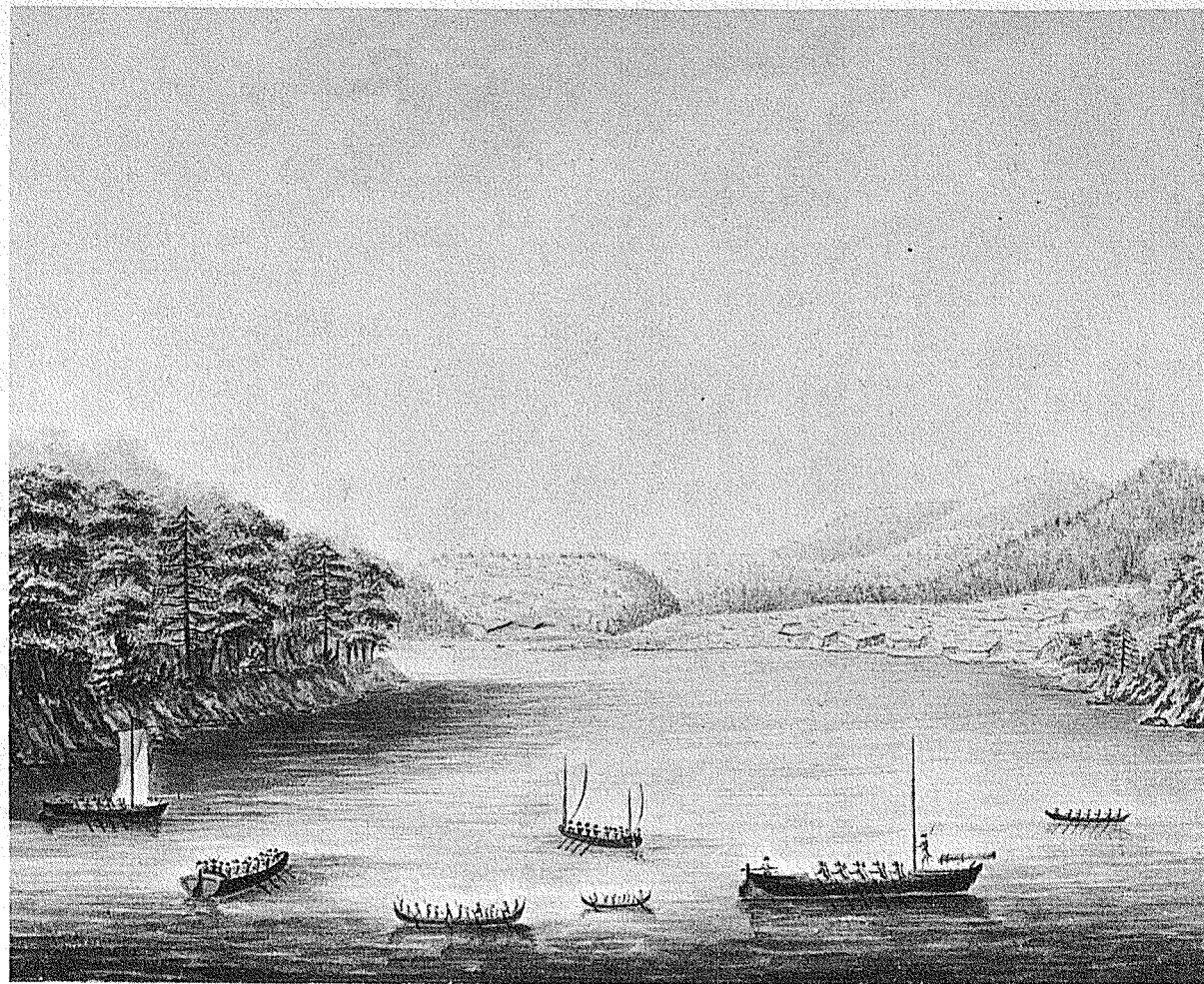
1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 480, 481.

#### MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Ticonderoga July 16th 1776

... A Council of General Officers was immediately held, wherein it was determined Unanimously to retire <sup>2</sup> & take post on the strong Grounds Opposite to the East point of Ticonderoga, to Endeavour by every means in Our Power, to maintain the Naval Superiority of Lake Champlain, without which, it is not possible, in our present Circumstances to hold any Ground upon this side the Carrying places leading into that Lake. In Consequence of these resolves, I came immediately with General Schuyler to Ticonderoga. We had the Ground for the New Encampment thoroughly examined, and commanded the Troops, as they arrived from Crown Point to prepare to Clear the Ground for their taking posts according to the Resolution of the Council of War. – The next thing was to Examine our Naval Force upon the Lake. The Vessels, which should have been Constantly Arm'd as Vessels of War, have hitherto been solely employ'd as Floating Waggon. of Course there was a Necessity of immediately sending them from Crown point hither to be Arm'd. Carriages for their Cannons were



*"A View of Ticonderoga from the Middle of the Channel in Lake Champlain."*

even to be made here, out of Wood taken from the Swamp. This is so far Effected, that a Schooner, mounting Ten Four, & Six Pounders, will be ready to sail tomorrow; the rest must wait to be fitted; and as the possession of every thing here depends upon keeping the Command of The Water, I shall do every thing our scanty means will afford to forward the Work. – as all the Field Cannon, with their [illegible] was lost in Canada, it takes a great deal of Time to Fix Our Artillery, Carriages being to be made from Wood Cut here; and so must Our Platforms for the Works we have to Erect.

The Gondolas General Schuyler has Order'd to be built, as he had no Model to direct him, are in nothing but in name like those at Philadelphia, the Rigging and Artillery are all to be Fix'd here, and when done, they seem to be Vessels very unweildy to move, & very indifferent for the purpose intended. Two are Finished, & Two more will be Finish'd this Week; if the Enemy gives us time to do all this, it will be well, if not, This wretched Army will probably be yet more unfortunate.

I am exerting all my powers to prevent the pestilence getting to Skeensborough, for should the Militia order'd there be infected, we shall be distress'd beyond Example.

General [David] Waterbury, who arriv'd the day before yesterday, is gone to Skeensborough to regulate the Militia when they Arrive, and to Stop them there. – he has this moment sent me an Officer infected with the Small Pox, to be removed to the General Hospital at the South end of Lake George – Colonel [James] Reed's New Hampshire Regiment is now at the Carrying place going to The General Hospital; They have upwards of Three Hundred Sick, and only just well men enough to row them over the Lake. – Thus Sir, you see the Melancholly Situation to which this Army is reduced.

I desire the bearer may not be detain'd a Minute Longer than to receive your Dispatches, and I must request, when any Express is forwarded to me from Congress, that he be Order'd to come the whole way and not deliver his Dispatches to any Other person to bring forward. –

Mr. Morgan Lewis who presents you this Letter, I brought with me from New York, and intended, conformable to the Resolves of Congress & General Washington's Instructions, to have appointed him my Deputy Quar. Master General, but General Schuyler says those Resolves & Instructions relate only to Canada; – A son of Governour Trumbull's who remains with me, I intended for Deputy Adjutant General, is in the same predicament. I am, Sir, [&c.]

Horatio Gates  
Major General

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.
2. From Crown Point.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.<sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Moor'd in Tapan-Bay, North or Hudson's River

Monday 15th First part Modt and fair Wr. Middle Fresh gales & Squally

with Rain. [Latter] Fresh Breezes and fair Wr P M empd working up Junk into Wads

Tuesday 16th at 9 AM Weigh'd the Stream Anchor & hove Short on the Small Bower at 1½ past Weigh'd and Came to Sail in Company as before at 11 Anchor'd in Haverstraw Bay in 5 Fam Veer'd and Moor'd with the Stream.

Fresh Breezes and fair Wr P M empd as before. The *Tryal* Schooner and the two Tenders Anchor'd near the Shore with an intention to land some Men to bring off Cattle; at 3 the *Tryal* and Tenders Anchor'd in the Bay not being able to Effect their design being prevented by a Number of the Rebels having Assembled.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

### JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

[White Plains] Friday Morning, July 16th, 1776.

The Convention took into consideration the danger to which the Continental ships building at Poughkeepsie, together with the stores belonging to them, will be exposed, should the enemy's ships pass the fortifications in the Highlands.

*Resolved*, That a letter be immediately despatched to the commissioners for superintending the building of those ships.

Thereupon a draft of a letter was read and approved of, and is in the words following, that is to say:

Gentlemen – The enemy's ships have left Tarry Town about ten o'clock this morning, with an intention as we conceive to destroy the Continental ships; we have therefore to request that you will exert your utmost abilities and attention to defend those ships from the hostile attempts of the enemy; but should you be of opinion that their preservation is not practicable, you will use your utmost endeavours to preserve the plank, rigging and other stores from falling into their power.

We recommend particularly to your attention, the security of the plank, which may hereafter be made a beneficial use of, for the safety of the State. Should you stand in need of assistance, you must apply to the nearest field officer, or committee in your district.

Yours, &c. By order.

To Jacobus VanZandt Esq. in his absence,  
to the Capts. [Augustine] Lawrence and  
[Samuel] Tudor, or either of them, at  
Poughkeepsie.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 525–27.

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION FOR THE NEW YORK PRIVATEER SLOOP  
*Independence*<sup>1</sup>

Sloop *Independence* 70 Tons Burthen 10 Carriage Guns 4 Pounds. Owners Philip Bell of Philadelphia, Isaac Sears, Samuel Broome & Co & John Broome of New York, and Adam Babcock of New Haven, Thomas Truxton [Truxtun] Commander, Smith Richards, Capt of Marines, number of the crew 60. Qty of provisions, 15 Bbls Pork 30 Bbls Beef 500 wt Powder with a Proportion of Ball — 30 Muskets 20 Pistols, Cartridges in proportion. I do hereby request that a Commission be made out for the above Privateer Sloop.

John Broome.

White Plains, July 16th 1776.

1. *New York Historical Documents*, I, 423.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN<sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Moored off Statten Island

Tuesday 16th At Noon Punishd Jno Cummins Seaman with 2 Dozen lashes for Striking his Officer  
Light Breezes and fair At 1 P M Sent a Midshipmn in the Pinnace with a Flag of Truce to New York erected a Tent and sent the Sick on shore At 3 Bent the Short Cable At 6 made the Parole Sigl & the Sigl for a Petty officer from the *Chatham* at 1/2 past 7 the Flag of Truce ret[urne]d<sup>2</sup>

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

2. "Another Flag of Truce was sent to-day with a Letter to Washington from the General [Howe] wch was refused for the same idle and insolent Reasons as were given before." Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 35.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia July 16, 1776

Two of the ships were launched here last week, viz; the *Randolph* and *Delaware*; but when they will get to sea is uncertain, as they have no anchors yet. . . .

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 16th July, 1776.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John Nixon, Esq'r, and others, the Committee of Accounts in favour of John Morton for £310, being the balance of the Brig't *Dolphin's* Freight, a Bill having been drawn for said sum by Stephen Ceronia, on this Committee in favour of said Morton, which Bill has not yet appeared, & this is in full discharge of it.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. Nixon, Esq'r, & others, the Committee of Acco't, in favour of Rob't Ritchie, for £48 5 6, for an Old Scow for a Hulk, an Anchor, Cabouse, &c.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Thomas Penrose & Mr. Arthur Donaldson be requested, and they are hereby Authorized to fix the two Piers at their proper stations in the line of the upper Chevaux de Frize, near Fort Island, and also to fasten the Boom thereto.

The Committee taking into Consideration the extraordinary trouble of Capt. [Robert] Whyte in attending and directing the Building & sinking Chevaux de Frize, and other publick services out of doors, are of Opinion he is entitled to Receive One hundred & fifty pounds for such services, And an order is drawn in his favour on Jno. Nixon, Esq'r, & others, the Committee of Accounts for said sum.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 647, 648.

*New York Packet*, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1776

Philadelphia, July 16, 1776.

This day week sailed from our Capes 13 sail of vessels. The next day the *Orpheus* and *Kingfisher* took Capt. [Philip] Lacy, in Joshua Wallace's brig, Capt. [George] Kelly in a brig, and Capt. [Thomas] Patton in a sloop; the rest got clear. Sometime before the above ship took Captain [Thomas] Wiley in a pilot boat, and Capt. Wells [William Willis] in a schooner, which are all the vessels they have taken in a month past.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Orpheus*, CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Cape Henlopen N55W 28 Leagues

Monday 15

At 4 AM Fresh Gales, saw two sail to the Westward made sail & gave Chase from 5 to 6 fired 4, 6 Pounders shotted to bring too the Chase a Sloop from Philladelphia for St Eustatia wth Flour sent an Officer & 4 men on board her <sup>2</sup> gave Chase to the SEt

Fresh Breezes & Clear, Fired 3 six Pounders to bring too the Chase at 8 P M sent the Yawl in Chase to the SE at 11 Boat ret[urne]d

Tuesday 16

at 4 AM saw the Chase to the SWt sent a Boat & took her a sloop from Philapdelphia for St Eustatia,<sup>3</sup> set up the Topmast Rigging

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4279.

2. *Martin*, James Neal, master, from Philadelphia for the West Indies, with flour, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

3. *Ibid.*, *Sarah and Elizabeth*, John Conner, master, from Philadelphia for the West Indies, with flour. On the following night, the sloop being leaky, she was set on fire, after taking out of her "One hundred & thirty six whole Barls & Seventy half Barls of flour & nineteen kegs of Bread," journal of the *Orpheus*, July 17.



TURBUTT WRIGHT TO JAMES TILGHMAN AND JOSEPH NICHOLSON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Gent.

Kent Island 16th July 1776

It is truly affecting to behold the Distresses of the People here under an Apprehension that they are shortly to be visited by Lord Dunmore. From Reports formerly they have had much Uneasiness, but that Uneasiness is much increased by hearing that Colo Chew had sent Express to your Board informing that a Number of Ships and other Vessels were at the Mouth of Patuxent. If Dunmore has any Design on this Place (and from its Situation and the Quantity of Stock on it I don't think it improbable) I shou'd think it of the utmost Consequence to secure the Pass at the Narrows, as a few Men under Cover of a Breast-Work with a few Field Pieces wou'd effectually cut off all Communication between the Island & the Main, & shou'd Dunmore avail himself of this Advantage you may easily conceive what wou'd be the Situation of the Inhabitants.

The Stock of Ammunition here is very small and Numbers of their young Men have enrolled for the Flying Camp. Wou'd not a Supply of Powder and Lead be necessary, and wou'd it not be prudent to order about 200 of the Militia on this Service. . . .

To James Tilghman & Joseph Nicholson Esqr Annapolis  
Mr Rice is requested to order the Ferryman to carry this letter immediately to one of the above Gentlemen

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 10, Md. Arch. Tilghman and Nicholson were members of the Council for Defense of the Bay. Wright was chairman of the Queen Annes County Committee.

JOSEPH DASHIELL TO JAMES TILGHMAN <sup>1</sup>

Dr Sir:

Worcester County July 16th 1776

When Capt Kelly was down my Sloop lay at Such a Distance that we could not go to her as they ware in Such a hurrey but I Promised to Send up her Dementions he heard her Carector of being the fastest Saylor in this place – her standing Riging in Good order Sales & Runing Riging Very Indiferent – 46 feet Long on Deck. 14½ feet Beem 6 foot Hole – I Consider her Sales & Riging as not her worth to the Provance except her Standing riging & Should not have mention[e]d her only for her fast Saleing – I gave One hundred & fifty pounds for [her] Last yeare & if Better to Answer the Porpose Cannot be got, I am Willing to take the Same, for her now –

this Comes by a french Gentl[eman] who I have had at my house and Sent him part of the way to Annapolis he has Papers which will Shoe he is Des[i]rous to Enter in to our Sarvice in Defence of Liberty, and from his expearence hope he will be Sarvicable. You will ples Lay this before your Brurthen and Obl[ige] sir [&c.]

Joseph Dashiell

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* <sup>1</sup>

July 1776 St Geo. Isld NW 4 Miles [Potomac River]  
 Monday 15 Moderate and fair P M Manne'd the galley, & sent her to the *Fowey* Sent the Cutter to assist in bringing the *Logan* Transport which was at Anchor below us into the fleet,  
 Teusday 16th A M. Weigh'd & turn'd up to the Island & anchor'd in 5 fath. George's Island NW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 1 Mile. Mr Brice was dangerously Wounded in Reconoitering the River in the galley <sup>2</sup> at 10 the *Otter* join'd us with a ship that she had got off[f] the ground Opend a Cask of Beef N75 Cont[ent]s 190 Short  
 Light Winds & fair, P. M. at 4 Saw Several sail off[f] Point Look out, weigh'd and gave chace, at 6 discovered the chace to be the *Fincastle* Tender with 3 Vessels belonging to the Fleet, Tack'd & brought too & spoke one of them made sail at 8 Anchor'd in 5 fath. St George's Island NW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 1 Mile,

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

2. *Ibid.*, the wounded officer died the next day.VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER CALVERT <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg 16th July 1776

We intend lodging a quantity of Iron with Mr John Taylor at Smithfield who will let you have what you are in want of upon your sending to him. – We have engag'd with Messrs Baker and Hardy for furnishing you with provisions in the following manner, to wit, one day of salt provisions and two of fresh and Rations the same as are allow'd the Troops. – We have sent you £ 200 which you'll receive by Mr Webb. – you are to allow to each of the Carpenters a half Pint of Spirits P day which you must provide for them. inclos'd you have a Letter for Willis Reddick Esqr. County Lieut. of Nansemond requesting him to excuse the Carpenters from attending the Musters while they are at work on the Gallies which we expect he will agree to

As to the demension of the Gallies you are to finish the one you are now about agreeable to your first plan, but as we are of opinion that 25 feet is rather too wide, we wou'd therefore have you when you come to build the other to make her only 22 feet wide and the same depth as the other.

To Capt. Christopher Calvert in Nansemond

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Anchor'd in St Mary's River

Monday 15 fired 1 half Pr to bring to a Canoe, boarded her & brot her along side the Schooner, Found her to be from Cumberland Island wt Messrs Martin & McCredie People Empd working up Junk and under Arms as before.

[First part] squally Wr with Rain Midl & Latter Modt & Cloudy at 2 P M Came on board from Wright's Landing the Surgeon with the sick men sent the Boat up the river Manned & Armed to see if the rebels had quitted the river and to bring down the sick –

Tuesday 16 At 5 (A M) weighed the Bt Br Anchor & hove short on the small Br in order to shift our birth People empd as before at 10 Came on board Mr Egan the Collector, Saw a Schooner off the Barr.

Moderate & Hazy Wr intermixed with Showers of Rain, weighed & Came to sail and shifted our berth to the Entrance of the river & moored at 3 (P M) Arrived here His Majesty's Pilot boat from St Augustine with Provisions & ca for the Troops but none for the Schooner except 2 Barrels Rum, Came down from Wright's Landing the Boat that was sent for the Sick men – at 5 sailed hence the Pilot Boat for the Troops. Wrote to Capt Graham on his Majestie's service

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

“COPY OF A LETTER FROM ST. EUSTACHE, DATED 16 JULY [1776]  
AND CONTAINING NEWS OF THE CONTINENT.”<sup>1</sup>

On the 13th instant a schooner from North Carolina arrived here and the Captain related that General Clinton had abandoned this province as General Lee approached and sailed for South Carolina where General Lee was marching with the troops from Virginia and North Carolina.

A merchant from St. Christophe, presently in Halifax, wrote to his associate, who came here yesterday, that on 10 June Lord Howe coming from England had passed in front of this city and had sent word by express to his brother that he should come out and follow him, which he did immediately since the troops had been embarked for a few days and the fleet was ready to sail with the first orders. These two fleets together were believed to proceed to New York which must be besieged by the main army according to the plan of the present campaign. We gather from what this merchant said that the views of the Royalists (who still seem to count on the defection of a great number of Americans) are to penetrate the country deep enough with their army in order to join with the army from Quebec and to spend the next winter living on the abundant supplies of the land itself. They would await considerable forces, composed mostly of foreign troops, which would be sent there next year, in the hope to subjugate the thirteen confederate provinces with these gathered forces during the next campaign. Meanwhile, the Americans are making ceaseless preparations to counter the Royalists' plans with the most vigorous resistance. The great question concerning independence was to be resolved in Congress on

the 1st of this month. It is said that all the provinces except Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York are asking for Independence and have instructed their representatives in Congress to act accordingly. The news from this Continent is going to become more interesting, &c.

[Endorsed] Certified true copy

d'Argout <sup>2</sup>

1. AN, Marine B<sup>1</sup>, 458, 29-30, LC Photocopy.

2. Forwarded to Versailles by the governor of Martinique.

**17 July**

MAJOR GENERAL SIR GUY CARLETON TO ADAM LITTLEJOHN <sup>1</sup>

Guy Carleton Captain General and Governor in Chief of the province of Quebec, and Territories depending thereon &c.&c.&c. General and Commander in Chief of His Majestys Forces in said province and Frontiers thereof, &c.&c.&c.

To Mr Adam Littlejohn -

Whereas the farther progress of His Majestys Army under my Command, requires the Establishment of a considerable naval force on Lake Champlain; and for the more effectual preservation of the Vessels, Boats, and Stores, necessary thereto: I do hereby constitute and appoint you, during pleasure, master Attendant and Naval Storekeeper, requiring, directing and Authorizing you, to take under your Charge, and Cognizance all such vessels, Boats, and Stores, as at present are, or hereafter may be, deposited for the purpose aforesaid, at Chambly and St. Johns, or anywhere, from the mouth of the River Sorel, to the Isle aux Noix, you are moreover hereby Enjoined, to take under your care, all such ship Artillery, shot Tackle, Furniture, &c. thereunto belonging, or shall be committed to your Charge, whether from His Majestys Ships or Elsewhere; for all which this shall be your Warrant. Given under my hand and Seal of Arms at Chambly, the Seventeenth day of July, One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy six. In the Sixteenth year of the reign [of] our Sovereign, George the third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland; King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

sign'd Guy Carleton

By his Excellencys Command

E Foy

Mr Adam Littlejohn hereby Appointed Master Attendant and Naval Storekeeper, at Chambly and St. Johns.

[Endorsed] A True Copy, taken at Chambly, October the 6th. 1776

Witness my hand

Ch<sup>s</sup> Douglas

1. PRO, Admiralty 49/2.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA <sup>1</sup>

At a Council Holden at Halifax  
on the 17th July 1776

The Lieutenant Governor propos'd the Consideration of such measure as may most effectually prevent the Ill Consequences to be Apprehended from the Sale of large Quantities of Gunpowder and Fire Arms, brought into this Harbour, on board Vessels Trading to and from the Colonies in Rebellion by his Majestys Ships and Armd Vessels, and here disposed of at Public Sale, with other Cargoes in general for the benefit of the Captors as directed by Act of Parliament, and the Council having consider'd that Powder and Arms so sold might fall into the hands of ill designing persons through fraud and contrivance might convey the same to the Kings Enemies on the Frontiers of this Province, where by much Mischief might arise and danger to the distant parts thereof, such proceeding of Sale being directly contrary to the Kings Proclamation whereby the Exportation of all Military Stores to the Colonies is Strictly prohibited; except by Special Licence obtain'd for that purpose, the Council were thereupon of Opinion: That the only means to prevent the Consequences to be apprehended wou'd be by purchase of all Gunpowder and Fire Arms for His Majesty's use, and that Application and requisition be made to the Keeper of His Majesty's Ordnance Stores at Halifax, that he woud in behalf of the Principal Officers of the Board of Ordnance Purchase all such Military Stores, after Valuation by proper persons chosen for that purpose, The Lieutenant Governor having already remonstrated the necessity of such proceedings to the Agent for the Captors, who has agreed and Assented thereto.

1. N. S. Arch.

CAPTAIN JOHN FISK TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

Salem, July 17, 1776

This may serve to acquaint your Honours that in the latitude 40°26' north, longitude 65°50' west, I fell in with the armed schooner *Dispatch* from Halifax, bound to New-York; and after an engagement of one-and-a-half hour, she struck to the American arms. I boarded her, and found on board eight carriage guns and twelve swivel guns, twenty small-arms, sixteen pistols, twenty cutlasses, some cartridge-boxes and belts for bayonets, nine half-barrels powder, all the accountrements for said cannon. The commander and one man were killed, seven others wounded. The crew consisted of thirty men and one boy. I lost one man killed and two wounded, and my vessel was much shattered, which obliged me to return with the prize, which I have at anchor in Salem Harbour and wait your Honours' orders how to proceed with the prisoners.<sup>2</sup> All the Captain's papers and orders were thrown overboard. I am [&c.]

John Fisk

To the Honourable Council and House of  
Representatives of the Colony of Massachusetts-Bay now sitting at Watertown.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, I, 405,406.

2. The prisoners from H.M. Armed Schooner *Dispatch* were ordered confined in Salem and Ipswich. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 443.

#### ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

In Council [Watertown] July 17th 1776

Ordered that The honble Tho. Cushing Benja Austin & Wm Phillips Esqrs be a Committee to enquire into the Conduct of the Masters and Mariners of the Three Transports lately brought into Boston, and who are now resident there and make report as soon as may be – That the said Com[m]ittee give notice to the said Masters & Mariners of the time & place of said enquiry that they may be present if they [have] Cause – <sup>2</sup>

Read & accepted

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy

<sup>1</sup> Mass Arch., vol. 165, 428.

2. The transports, which had carried Highlanders of the 71st Regiment, were ship *George*, Archibald Bog, master; brigantine *Annabella*, Hugh Walker, master, and ship *Lord Howe*, Robert Park, master, *New-England Chronicle*, July 4 and July 18, 1776.

#### PETITION OF WILLIAM ROSS AND NATHANIEL MORGAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

State of the	}	To the Honorable the Council of said State sitting at Watertown July [17] 1776
Massachusetts Bay		

The Petition of William Ross and Nathaniel Morgan, both of  
the Island of Jamaica Gentlemen

Humbly Shews

That on the Twenty second day of June last, being on board the Ship *Zachary Bayly*, as Passengers, Bound on a voyage from Jamaica to London, they were taken by an American Privateer commanded by Capt [Henry] Johnson,<sup>2</sup> and brought into the Port of Boston, and that there were taken with the said Ross his Wife and Daughter and with the said Morgan two Children together with three Negroe Servants all of whom are dependant upon your Petitioners for their Support, The Circumstances of publick affairs your Honors are sensible, render it impracticable for your Petitioners to have any communication with, or to receive any kind of Assistance from their friends in Great Brittain, they are strangers here destitute of connections and having nothing more to subsist on than the little they may receive from the generous Bounty of their Captors, A Recovery from the very ill state of health under which they have long laboured, was the principle inducement they had to leave Jamaica and to sail for England where their more immediate connections call them – the same reason still remains added

to which the consideration that the loss of life would reduce a Wife and children to the most miserable situation is a reason Paramount to all others.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly request your honors, that you would permit them to proceed on a Voyage to England in a Brigantine they intend purchasing for that purpose carrying with them the said Ross's Wife & Daughter, the said Morgans two Children, the two Mates of the Prize ships,<sup>3</sup> the Carpenters Boatswain, Steward and a boy with a sufficient number of Seamen to Navigate the Vessell, together with three Negroe servants, And as in Duty bound Shall ever Pray &c

Will: Ross  
Nath<sup>l</sup> Morgan

[Endorsed] In Council July. 17th 1776 Read & order'd that the above Petition be com[m]itted to Moses Gill & Francis Dana Esqrs to take the same under Consideration and report thereon –

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy<sup>4</sup>

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 108, 109.
2. The Massachusetts privateer sloop *Yankee*.
3. Referring to the *Zachariah Bayley* and the ship *Creighton*, taken also by the *Yankee*, and sent into Boston the same day.
4. *Ibid.*, petition was granted August 7.

#### JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston, July 17, 1776

I can give you little or no news. Two of our vessels have been brought too by a Man of War at sea, and the masters taken as they were told before Lord Howe, who told them he was bound directly to Philadelphia to settle with the Congress the unhappy dispute. He dismissed both the vessels and gave them paper to protect them against any or all cruizers, haveing first reprimanded one of them for the violation of the Acts of Parliament in the illicit trade at St. Petres, from which place he then came with French commodities.<sup>2</sup> Our coast is clear. I hear of no Cruizers at present to interrupt the passage of vessels. Last Saturday was the first time I have been in this Town since the flight of the Invincible British Troops. I can't describe the alteration and the gloomy appearance of this Town. No Business, no Busy Faces but those of the Physicians. Ruins of buildings, wharfs, &c., &c., wherever you go, and the streets covered with grass. I have just heard that an honest man from St. Petres in twenty-five days says they had there intelligence of a declaration of War between Spain and Portugal. This is neither impossible or improbable, and may account for Lord Howe's being in a single ship, as we are told he had arrived at the Hook.

1. Warren-Adams Letters, I, 262, 263.
2. Ambrose Serle, in his journal, tells of the chase of two vessels on July 7, 1776, but of coming up with only one of them, a whaling vessel from the coast of Brazil to Nantucket. Her master was happy to receive a bottle of brandy. The vessel was released. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 26.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONNECTICUT COLONY  
Brig Defence <sup>1</sup>

[New London, July 17, 1776]

1776 The Colony Brig Defence Seth Harding Master		Dr
Apr 13	To 4 Cask Lampblack 2/	0..8..0
	To 24½ lb 10d Nails /11	1..2..5½
	To 13 lb sheething ditto /10	0.10.10
	To 182 feet pine plank /2	1.10..4
	To 500 Brick 3/	0.15..-
May 25	To 24 lb 10d Nails /11	1..2..0
	To 56 lb Junk 20/	5..-..-
	To 148 Ys Old Canvas 1/	7..8..-
27	To pd Wid Pools Bill	19.15..5
	To 64 lb Tallow @ 7d 2 G Oile 12/	2..9..4
30	To Henry Billings Bill	22..8.10½
	To Jere Clements do	11..4..-
	To John Turners do	19..6
	To Cash as p Rect	100..4..-
	To Guy Richards Bill	3.19..9
	To Joshua Starrs do	3..2..2
	To Nathan Baley's do	7.12..1
	To James Tilley's ditto	120..3..3
	To 18 feet Oak plank /2	3..-
		<hr/>
		309.18..-
By Cash Recd p Ledyard £200—to Colony Cr.		
To Ebenezer Webbs Bill		4.19.10
		<hr/>
		314.17.10
	To 8 Swivel Gunns a 65/	26..0..0
	To 21 lb Swivel Shott a /3	..5..3
	To 500 Flints a 4/	1..0..0
	To 597 lb Muskett Ball a 6/	14.18..6
	To 1000 lb Powder	266.13..4
July 17	To pd Richd Deshons Bill	1.16..-
	To Cash as pr Receipt	50..-..-
	To pd Richd Deshons Bill	4.16..-
	To John Bolles Bill	1.15..6
	To Clark Elliotts Bill	3..-
	To Saml Latimers Bill	44..2..2
	To Alexr Merrels ditto	11..1..7½
	To Icha Powers Bill for } Victualing Ed Brown }	1.13..-



To Joseph Owens Bill	2.13..6
To pd John Russell for boards	1..6..—
	<hr/>
	743..1..8½
By Cash Carried to 2d Cruse £150..4..0	150..4..—
	<hr/>
	£592..7..8½

1. Shaw Papers, Ledger 4, 108, YUL.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Lebanon July 17th 1776

I have ordered two of our Row Galleys to proceed to New York, and trust they will be with you at the receipt of this – They have no Guns larger than nine pounders – I wish it may be in your power to make them more useful by replacing heavier metal upon them whilst they continue in your service. . . .

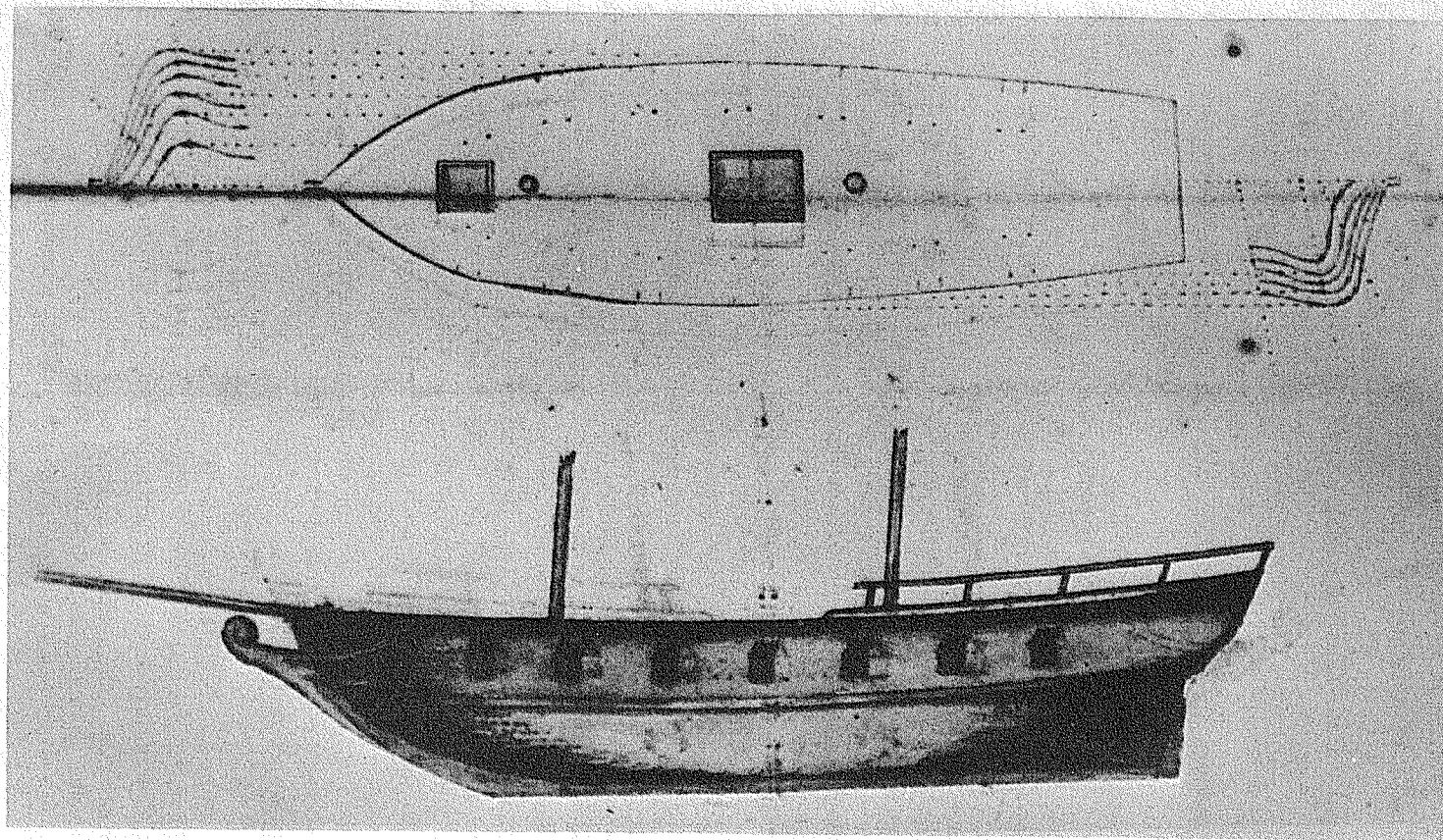
Since the arrival of the Fleet and Army at the Hook, several Frigates and Ships have been stationed between Montauk point and Block Island to intercept the Trade from the Sound, in which they have been so successful, that they have derived great advantages from the Provision Vessells they have taken, and by frequent advices from the Captains of our Armed Vessels, and others, it appeared highly improbable, that any Vessel going out or coming in by that passage would avoid falling into their hands; and as several Vessels were prepared and preparing in sundry places to proceed to Sea with Cargoes of provision, the owners of which must be presumed to be ignorant of the hazard they ran, in getting out, and sensible of how great importance it is, that all supplies of provisions should be kept back from the Enemy, and having good grounds to believe that some evil minded persons had designedly carried provisions to the Enemy, or thrown themselves in their way, as your Excellency will see by the enclosed copies of Depositions taken & sent to Congress – <sup>2</sup> I have given orders to the Captains of the Armed Vessels in the Service of this Colony, to stop and detain all provision Vessels coming out of any port in this Colony, or through the Sound and bound to Sea, for the present, and untill the Continental Congress and the Congresses or Conventions of the Colonies or States to which they respectively belong, may be apprized of the hazards attending those proceeding on their voyages, and on consideration shall give such orders as they may think fit respecting the same. <sup>3</sup> . . .

19th Received your favor of the 15th instant – which induced me to send orders immediately to Theophilus Stanton, Capt of our other Row Galley The *Shark*, to proceed with her forthwith to New York and subject himself to your Command – I wish him safe and serviceable to your Designs –

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, Conn SL.

2. See Deposition of Captain Robert Niles, July 17.

3. Trumbull sent similar information to Hancock on July 19. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, ConnSL.



*Schooner of the type used on Lake Champlain.*

DEPOSITION OF CAPTAIN ROBERT NILES<sup>1</sup>

Robert Niles, of lawful age, and Captain of the schooner *Spy*, testifies and says: That in the beginning of the present month, a ship, to appearance of about one hundred and sixty or seventy tons burden, loaded with flour, lay at anchor in Fisher's Island Sound, for the term of about one week; that during said term this deponent spoke with said ship, and advised and ordered her to make New-London harbour, assigning for reasons, that her situation was unsafe, being exposed continually to the ships of the enemy; and also that her remaining there was very disagreeable to the people of New-London, fearing that her cargo would fall into the hands of the enemy. However, the commander refused to comply with said advice and order, but remained in that situation until a number of small vessels came up and joined her, when she sailed, without waiting or attending to any signal of safety, as has been practiced by other vessels. This deponent further says, that when cruising on his station he very frequently had seen the Block-Island boats passing to and from; that he has good and sufficient reason to believe that they are much employed in furnishing the enemy's ships and vessels with intelligence, supplies, and every comfort in their power to afford; and that the people of New-London, Groton, and Stonington, are generally of the same opinion, appear to have no doubt of the truth of that fact, and are much dissatisfied with that circumstance. This deponent further says, that at the time of the Commodore's fleet lying in the harbour of New-London, after his return from New-Providence, one Littlefield, of Block-Island, came over to Stonington, and there, or near there, purchased a hogshead of Jamaica spirits, and paid therefor about one hundred and twenty dollars in milled money, as it was then and ever since has been universally said and believed, and returned with it to said Island, at which time there lay watering at said Island one of the King's ships; and further saith not.

Robert Niles

The above is a true copy of the deposition, attested 17th July, 1776.

Wint. Saltonstall, J.P.<sup>2</sup>

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, I, 402.

2. *Ibid.*, 401-03, similar depositions were made by Thomas Kanady, master of ship *Mary*, and by Ebenezer Colefax, master, and Nathan Spicer, member of the crew of sloop *Macaroni*.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Tyonderoga 17th July 1776: -

As I am intirely unacquainted with the Lake below Crown Point, I send the Commodore<sup>2</sup> with the Largest, & Best Schooner, to receive his Instructions from You in regard to this Cruize he ought to make; I think until the rest of the Vessells are Fitted, it will not be adviseable to send this Schooner into the Narrow part of the Lake Below. I wish you were here, to give directions for puting our whole Squadron a Float, it seems to me they are very Tardy About it, but am intirely uninform'd as to Marine

Affairs. I like Capt Mahew whom you sent here, but I think the Commodore seems Slow, & wish he may retain all that prowess for which he says he was so Famous last War – it is of the Greatest consequence to Our Affairs, to have the Arm'd Vessells Commanded by Men of Firmness, & approved Courage – I am Sir [&c.]

Horatio Gates

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.
2. Commodore Jacobus Wynkoop.

# JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

[White Plains] Wednesday Morning July 17th, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the commissioners who superintend the building of the ships at Poughkeepsie would be justified in suspending that work and suffering the carpenters and others employed thereon to labor under the direction of the secret committee of this Convention, on such vessels or works as they may think proper to build and erect for the defence of Hudson's river.

*Resolved*, That the commissioners would be justified in suffering the materials intended for the purpose of building the Continental ships to be employed by the secret committee, in such a manner as to them shall seem best calculated for exercising the trust imposed in them.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will immediately apply to the Honourable the Congress for their approbation of this measure.

*Resolved*, That the commissioners of the Continental ships, and Captains [Augustine] Lawrence and [Samuel] Tudor, be immediately furnished with a copy of these resolutions.

*Resolved*, That the secret committee have power to impress boats, vessels, teams, wagons, horses and drivers, when they shall find it necessary for the public service, as well as to call out the militia, if occasion should require.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this State be ordered to furnish the gentlemen of the secret committee with the sum of \$5,000, in advance, in order to enable them to expedite the important business with which they are entrusted.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 527, 528.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York, July 17th 1776.

As for the Articles wanted for the Gondolas, I should suppose many of them may be purchased of the Proprietors of Crafts about Albany, & Persons who have vessels there, by allowing them a good Price. The Communication by Water being now stop'd they cannot employ them, & I presume may be prevailed on to part with most of their Tackle, for a good Consideration . . .

The Carpenters from Philadelphia, unfortunately had not Time to get their Tools &c on Board a Craft here before the Men of War got up. They set out by Land next Day, and I suppose will be at Albany in the Course of this Week, as also two Companies from Connecticut.

I have enquired of Mr Hughes, & find that the six Anchors & Cables were on Board Captn Peter Post's Vessel belonging to Esopus; who, upon the first Appearance of the Fleet coming above the Narrows, went off without taking the Necessaries brought by Captain Douw. Mr Hughes says, Captain Douw who brought you the Lead, had Orders to get them.

I have inclosed you a List of the naval Articles the Qr Master expects to obtain & send from hence, which will evince the Necessity of your Exertions to get the Rest elsewhere. Many of the Articles, I should suppose may be made at Albany & within the Neighborhood of it.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Trenton] Wednesday, July 17, 1776

A letter from the Committee of Newark, requesting that this Congress would procure, or order to be built, four gondolas or row-gallies, mounted with cannon, to ply between the mouths of Passaick and Hackinsack rivers and Perth Amboy . . .

1. *Minutes of the Provincial Congress and the Council of the State of New Jersey* (Trenton, 1879), 510.

#### JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, July 17, 1776

The Board of War, to whom the letter of General Washington, of the 14, was referred, brought in a report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That General Washington, in refusing to receive a letter said to be sent from Lord Howe, addressed to "George Washington, Esqr" acted with a dignity becoming his station; and, therefore, this Congress do highly approve the same; and do direct, that no letter or message be received, on any occasion whatsoever, from the enemy, by the commander in chief, or other, the commanders of the American army, but such as shall be directed to them in the characters they respectively sustain.

*Ordered*, That the above be published.

*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the convention of New Jersey, to cause all the stock on the sea coast, which they shall apprehend to be in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, to be immediately removed, and driven back into the country to a place of safety.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 566, 567, 571-72.

JOHN ADAMS TO MAJOR JOSEPH WARD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia Wednesday July. 17. 1776

our Privateers, have the most Skill or the most Bravery, or the best Fortune, of any in America. – I hope Capt [Henry] Johnson was in a private Ship. – <sup>2</sup> I dont like to hear that the continental Cruisers have taken so many and the Provincial Cruisers and privateers so few Prizes – our People, may as well fight for themselves as the Continent. –

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. Johnson commanded the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Yankee*, commissioned May 23, 1776.

## ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF REMAINDER OF THE PRIZE SHIP

*Juno's CARGO* <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] July 17, 1776

The Remainder of the Cargoe of the Prize Ship *Juno*, consisting of Jamaica Spirits, Sugar and Fustick, will be sold this afternoon at Bright and Pechin's Wharff.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 17, 1776.STEPHEN STEWARD TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentel Men

[Shipyard, Maryland]

the Barrer Capt Ewing has a ship to Dispose of She is a Nue vesell and as well Built one as Ever I Se She is Raley a Complet Pice of Work, and Stout Enuf to Carey 8 or 10 Six Pounder With 50 Men She Draws Less Water then any vesell of hir Size – She is Nue ankers Cabels and Rigen hir Main Sal[s] nue but not Large Enuf for the Provence Service I would agreed With him for hir but am In Sum Doubts at hir Sailing fast by the Wind thare is no Doubt of hir Sailing Exseding fast from the wind Capt Ewing has agreed to Carey hir to anaplois to you I have tould him you Would Git Gilbert Midelton try how She Sails by the Wind Gil midelton Will Make Proper allowance for hir being badly saild If She will answ[e]r the End of Sailing by the Wind She maybe maid so able that Nothing but Men a war Can hurt hir and then She Run In to such Shole water from that they Culd not git at hir I think When She has 50 Men With water and Provetion and 10 Six Pounder She will not Draw More then 6½ feet water If Mr Midelton finds She will ansure the End of Sailing by the Wind She May be Bought from Capt Ewing for 450£ or 475£ and he must find you a Nue Mast Boom and all other Spars for thay are all two Short I am [&c.]

Stephen Steward

July the 17 1776

I have had a goodell of Business with Capt Ewing and have all Ways found him verey Puntuel S.S.

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

JEREMIAH JORDAN TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

St Marys County, St Georges River, July 17th 1776

Gentlemen/

I arrived down here on the 15th Instant with about One hundred of the Militia, where I found Capt Beall with part of his Company and one Company of Colo Barnes's Battalion – about day Break yesterday we were Visited by a Row Galley or Row Gondola Carrying 5 Swivels on each Side and a Six pounder in her head and another in her Stern, they Rowed Close along side our Centinels and not a Man to be seen & instantly began a very heavy firing which lasted about One hour but without doing any execution, although their shot raked the ground on every part where the Men were stationed – In the even[i]ng she returned again and engaged us again for upwards of two hours, and at the same time the Troops landed from the Ships on St George's Island to the amount of about 300 hundred pushed down to the point opposite to us with Swivels & Musquet[r]y and kept up a very heavy fire, from which Capt Beall was dangerously wounded in the Shoulder with a Ball (as he says) from a Riffle, which has rendered him incap[able] of Duty. –

I shall endeavour to keep the post we are at, at present if possible, if not shall retreat to the Woods about half a Mile. – From a report we had given us Yesterday they are Constructing another Vessel like the above and that they intend attacking us on the Potomack side – I think from all appearances the Fleet will Continue some time if so, some Cannon and Swivels will be absolutely necessary to dislodge the Men they have Landed on this Island. – <sup>2</sup>

With what assistance we Can give in this County, I think 500 of the Militia of the upper Battalions will be full enough to oppose the Enemy – we have Now at different posts about 600 Men

For further particulars refer you to Mr Hopewell by return this goes Express, he also will inform you the difficulties we Labour under in getting provisions for the Men without Money to pay for it immediately. £300 I think wou'd be Sufficient—Colo Barnes with his Battalion is on the other side of the River watching the Motions of the Enemy there I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Jeremiah Jordan

Excuse this paper

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. The Council replied on July 18: "shall immediately send you four Field Pieces &c." Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XII, 72.JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Wednesday July the 17th 1776

A Warrant from the Navy Board in favour of James Webb for two hundred pounds for the use of Captain Christopher Calvert for paying the Workmen for building the Row Galley at South Quay was presented, countersigned by the President & ordered to be registered.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council of Safety*, I, 73.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO RICHARD ADAMS, RICHMOND <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg 17th July 1776

The board of Commissioners for the Navy desire to know whither you have receiv'd any Iron from Mr James Hunter for building Gallies,<sup>2</sup> if you have, be pleas'd to forward three Tons to the care of Mr John Taylor in Smithfield, and if you have not receiv'd so much, send whatever he has lodg'd with you. A Vessel must be hired if there is not one going down that can take it in, as the Carpenters are waiting and cannot proceed without it.

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

2. *Ibid.*, on July 18 the Board wrote to James Hunter at Fredericksburg asking if he would supply "Iron of different sizes and Anchors," and inquiring if he had "sent the Iron ordered by the Committee of Safety to the care of Mr. Richard Adams at Richmond."

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. JACOB DUNNELL, DATED ST. PIERRES, MARTINICO, JULY 17, 1776." <sup>1</sup>

I sailed from Dartmouth, in the sloop *Nancy*, on the 9th of September, 1775, bound to the coast of Africa; on the 4th of November arrived at Goree, at which place I began to make my trade; from thence proceeded down to Mountsirarder – On the 10th of January, 1776, laying at anchor at the above-mentioned place, I was taken by the sloop of war called the *Atalanter*, Thomas Underwood, commander;<sup>2</sup> at which time they had taken a schooner called the *Juno*, belonging to the same owners, one Shockley, master, on a whaling voyage; I had the liberty of remaining on board my own vessel with the prize master so long as I behaved well; but if any complaint should be found against me, the Captain told me he would put me in irons; my mate and one of the people were taken on board the ship, and the 3 others remained on board the sloop; they then proceeded with the prizes down to Cape Coast, where they disposed of upwards of 6000 gallons of rum, some rice and other articles on their own account, and purchased slaves; these goods were part of said, sloop *Nancy*'s cargo from thence they proceeded with the prizes down the coast, in search of the Americans, but luckily found none; then sailed over to St. Thomas's, where we found the *Pallace* [*Pallas*] frigate, and the *Weazel* sloop of war. They had cruised the coast down, and the *Pallace* had taken one prize, a schooner, registered at New-York, one Scanett master; the *Weazel* had taken two prizes, a sloop belonging to New-York, one Darbey master, and a small schooner belonging to South-Carolina, which had been a long time on the coast, and when at St. Thomas's, there was an information given of a brig lying up Gibboon river, one Marshal master, from London, with American papers, and belonging to New-York, mounting 14 guns. The *Dartmouth* schooner, one of the prizes mentioned above, was immediately armed, and the *Weazel* sloop of war went in search of said brig, but I think she may have got clear, as I believe Capt Marshal had information of their coming. On the first day of May, 1776, the *Pallace*, Capt. Cornwall <sup>3</sup> and the *Atalanter*, with their prizes, sailed in company from St. Thomas's bound to Jamaica; and that on the



15th of May, in the lat. of 2 S. and long. 5 W. we parted with the said vessels, the 8th of June arrived at St. Vincent's, the prize master being on shore, we all agreed (11 in number, 4 men-of-war's-men, 7 prisoners with myself) to run away with the sloop *Nancy's* and at the time of our making the attempt, two of the prisoners, who belonged to Capt. Shockley's schooner, which were his mate, by the name of Beatle, his brother and one of the men-of-war's men, failed in said attempt. We then put them all three on shore, with their chests and cloaths, and got said vessel under sail about 3 miles from the land, when it became quite calm; we tarried on board said sloop until day brake, we then tho't the prize master might be apprized of our attempt, therefore left said sloop, took to our boat and proceeded for Martinico; where, thank Almighty God, we are all safe arrived, but with loss of said sloop *Nancy*, and all my papers of every kind; Capt. Shockley and his people were all put on board the *Atalanter*.

1. *New-England Chronicle*, September 12, 1776.

2. H.M. Sloop *Atalanta*, Captain Thomas Underwood, who died July 9, 1776, at Jamaica.

3. Captain William Cornwallis of H. M. S. *Pallas*.

## 18 July

### CONDEMNATION IN NOVA SCOTIA VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE PRIZE SLOOP *Fanny* <sup>1</sup>

Nova Scotia Court of Vice Admiralty 29th June/76	Cause George Talbut Esquire Commander of his Majestys ship of War the <i>Niger</i> VS, The Sloop called the <i>Fanny</i> .
	Libel filed and entered, order made thereon as on file. John Jurd Mate of his majestys Ship <i>Niger</i> being duly Sworne deposeth that the Sloop called the <i>Fanny</i> was detained and Brought into this Port by the Brig that Brought the Hessian Troops, the deponent immediately went on board the said Sloop by Captain Talbuts Orders, and Seized the said Sloop as Forfeited, that she is Loaded with Flour, some Tobacco, and Lumber
	John Jurd William Britton Master of the said Sloop <i>Fanny</i> being duly Sworne deposeth that the Papers Produced by the Captors were the Papers belonging to the said Sloop marked from No 1 to 7.
2d July 1776.	Sworne before me Charles Morris junr William Britton
3d July 1776.	Petition for Sale of the Cargo filed and entered, and Order made thereon as on file –
18 July 1776.	Court opened by making Proclamation as usual, Amount Sale of the Cargo returned as on file, Decree pronounced

as on file whereby the Sloop *Fanny* and Cargo, where Condemned as Lawfull Prize to the Captors thereof.—

Court adjourned without day in this Cause. <sup>2</sup>

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N. S. Arch.

2. Schooner *Lydia* was also declared lawful prize this date.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Thursday 18th of July 1776

9 [A.M.] Out Boat sent the Dockter on board the schooner to dress the wounded

Small breazes of wind from NW fair weather

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Thursday July 18th 1776

Petition of Jeremiah Obrian for Himself & the *Machias Liberty* Crew — Humbly Sheweth, that your Petitioner with the above Crew hath been Employ'd in the Colony Service since the first day of February last, & have not receiv'd any Pay therefore the Chief of the Men being Almost Naked, & have no other dependance but the Money Allow'd by the Honble Court — which Court through false Representations made to them by Mr [Moses] Hagen, have Ordered Our Wages to be Stopt, to make good an Illegal Demand of Sd Hazen's upon us as we Understand to the Amount of Eight Hundred Pounds for Goods taken out of his Vessell, which had Vessell & Cargo been taken would not Amount to that Sum — The Manifest of her Cargo was One Thousand Bushells of Salt, Ten Hhds Molasses, Ten hhds Rum, One Bagg Cotton, two Small Baggs of Coffee, part of a Cask of Loaf Sugar, One Trunk Shoes Codd Lines and Mens Capps — Out of which your Petitioner took for the Colony Service, One & half hhd Rum, One bbl Molasses & three Quartrs of hundred Sugar, One Pr Coils Rigging, which your Petitioner Supposed the Vessell to be a Lawfull Prize, & the Property [of] the Colony's, and they Standing in Need of such Articles presumd to take them Keeping a Proper Account thereof & to Account with the Colony therefor — Your Petitioners hope that Act of Independance shall not Exclude them from their pay, but that your Honors wou'd take the Matter into Consideration & award them as in your Wisdom Shall see Meet — The Sloop that your Petitioner Commands is now at Marblehead Newly Graved & fitt for Sea with two Months Provision on board full Mann'd and Waiting the Orders of the Honble Court as in duty Bound shall ever pray

Jeremiah Obrian

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 84, 86.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sr

[Watertown, July 18, 1776]

Messrs Jackson Tracy & Tracy Merchts of Newburyp[ort] are very solicitous to procure a Release of the Officers & Men of their late Privateer (*Yan-*

*kee Hero*) which was taken after a brave & manly Resistance, by the *Milford* Frigate they are now in the hands of our Enemies We take leave to recommend their Case to yr Excell[en]cys consideration, not doubting but you will attend to any Application made to you on their behalf by the Gentlemen above named and afford every reasonable Assistance to accomplish their benevolent purpose; and if they shod be happy enough to effect it, it will give us a particular pleasure, as those Men by their past Conduct merit our regard & shod they be obtaind may be greatly serviceable in the American Navy –

We cannot neglect this opportunity of recommending to your Exc[ellenc]ys particular consideration the case of Mr James Lovell, who suffer'd a long & severe imprisonment in Boston & was carried off in the Fleet to Halifax, where he has remain'd a close prisoner ever since. His enemies have not been able to fix any crime upon him & when he has repeatedly desired to be brought to a trial, they have always declined it. We are very desirous to procure his liberation & if there is a possibility of effecting it, should esteem it a favor if your Exc[ellenc]y would give in exchange for him any person you may think proper.

[Contemporarily endorsed] This draft was accepted July 18, 1776, and orderd to be signd & sent to Genl Washington

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 122.

#### THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dr Sir.

Watertown July: 18: 1776

I wrote you the 15th Instant that the Ship *Hancock* was launched but stoped by the way, She has since got off without the least hurt & safe along side the Long Wharf at Newbury Port. She is a very fine Ship, there is not one Superior to her on the Continent – We want the Guns, and orders for Enlisting the men – Genl Washington has ordered all the Continental Regiments Stationed in this State to the southward, so that our Lines & fortifications will be entirely destitute of men . . . We are almost drained of all our men the People here are surprized at the large Requisitions that have been made upon this Government they think it will be impracticable to get any more Men. . . .

1. Harbeck Collection, HUL.

#### LIBEL OF CAPTAIN GEORGE McARROY AGAINST THE PRIZE SHIP *Reynolds* <sup>1</sup>

Colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, Southern District, ss.  
To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, That the Maritime Court for the Southern District of the Colony aforesaid, will be held at Plimouth, on Wednesday the 7th day of August, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, to try the justice of the capture of the ship, named the *R[e]ynolds*, burthen about 300 tons (lately commanded by Keylock Rusden) and of her cargo and appurte-

nances: Against which a libel is filed before me (the said ship being brought into the Southern district aforesaid) in behalf of the owners, officers, marines and mariners of the armed sloop called the *Congress*, commanded by George McAroy.<sup>2</sup> And the owners of said Ship, or any persons concerned may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the same ship, her cargo and appurtenances should not be condemned.

At the Court aforesaid, will be tried the justice of Gilbert Harrison's claim to certain goods found on board the schooner *Volant*, lately condemned in the Maritime Court for the Southern district;<sup>3</sup> of which this notice is given to all persons concerned.

N. Cushing, Judge of said Court.

1. *New-England Chronicle*, July 18, 1776. This issue of newspaper also carries notice of court to be held at Salem on August 2 against sloop *Two Friends* captured by Jeremiah O'Brien in *Machias Liberty*.
2. Spelled Macaroy in privateer bond, see Volume 4, 775.
3. See petition of Gilbert Harrison, June 17, 1776.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

New London July 18th 1776.

Inclos'd you have Capt Jehiel Tinkers Receipt for three Chests of Arms and One Barrell & One Kegg of Flints, a p Invoice Inclos'd,<sup>2</sup> the Arms were Sent to me by Daniel Tillinghast Esqr the Flints by Messrs Clark & Nightingale Merchts In Providence desiring I would forward them to you by the first Oppertunity, hope they will come Safe to hand & am Sir [&c.]

Nath<sup>l</sup> Shaw Jun<sup>r</sup>

on the Service of the  
United States of America

To

On the *Crane* Galley  
Capt. Tinker.

His Excellency George Washington Esqr  
General & Commander in Cheif of the Forces  
of the United States of America  
In New York

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Shaw sent additional arms on July 22. Shaw Papers, Letter Book, YUL.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO CAPTAIN RICHARD VARICK<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

German Flatts July 18. 1776.

Whatever Carpenters may arrive from any of the Colonies are to be immediately forwarded to Skenesborough by the Way of Wood Creek, & You will therefore write to Mr [Christopher J.] Yates who is at Cheshires to Order Batteaus to that Place, that they may not be detained there. -

1. Schuyler Papers, Letters & Orders, 18 April, 1776 - 29 June, 1777, NYPL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.<sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Moor'd in Haverstraw Bay.

Wednesday 17th At 8 AM Sail'd the *Shuldham* up the River, to Sound. -  
Light Winds and Cloudy at 6 P M Anchor'd here the  
*Shuldham*.

Thursday 18th AM Sail'd up the River his Majesty's Ship *Rose* and *Tryal* in order to destroy some Vessels the Rebels had at Peek's Kill;<sup>2</sup> Captain Wallace found a large Body of Rebels intrenched upon heights directly over them he therefore thought proper to desist from any Attempt. –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

2. The Continental frigates *Congress* and *Montgomery*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE <sup>1</sup>

July 1776 Anchor'd in Hav[er] Straw Bay – North River  
 Wednesday 17th A M fir'd 3 Shot at some Arm'd Rebels  
 Fresh breezes and Clear Wr at Noon weigh'd and came to Sail, Steering up the river as did the *Phoenix Tryal* and Tenders.  
 Thursday 18th Light Breezes and Cloudy with Thunder, Lightning and rain P M sent our Tenders into Harvest Straw Creek to cut out a Sloop She run on shore on the flats, Steering along shore we was fir'd at by a Number of Rebels arm'd, fir'd several shot at them, at ½ past 1 Anchor'd off Thunder Hill Point NNNE at 4 Weigh'd and back'd and fil'd down the river, at 7 Anch'd in Do Creek as did the *Tryall* and *Charlotte* Tender.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

DIARY OF ENSIGN CALEB CLAP <sup>1</sup>

[New York]

July 18th the Declaration of Independant State was read at the City Hall, (A Committee was sent from the Revention [Provincial] Congress), after the Declaration was read the People give three Cheers, then the K[ing]'s coat of Arms that was in the City Hall, was taken down, and burnt, and the American flag, Hoisted immediately, it was proposd that the Bodies of Church shou,d have the Honour of taking down their coat of Arms in their Respective Churches themselves, and if not the People are allowed to proceed in the like manner as this day herd

1. *The Historical Magazine*, III, 248.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Head Quarters, New York, July 18th 1776

Sir, His Excellency General Washington, having Occasion to ride out early this Morning, has directed and ordered me to acknowledge & answer your two Letters of the 11th inst . . .

He is surprised, that out of upwards of 400 Prisoners only 73 Arms have been sent on; as he supposed every Man must have had his Arms with him. He begs your Attention in collecting from the Agents & others, all the Arms that have been taken & forward them immediately to this Place

where they are much wanted. Inclosed is a List of Articles he has taken from the Invoices, & would have you send on as soon as may be.

By Express Yesterday, we learn of the Arrival of the Northern Army at Crown Point, where those infested with the small Pox, will immediately be sent to a distant Hospital, that the Troops from your State, bound that Way need not be under any apprehension of Danger from the Disorder.

The Enemy on Staten Island remain as when I last wrote.

I have the Honor to be with Respect & Esteem [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> B. Webb. A.D.C.

List of Articles taken in the Transports which his Excellency General Washington requests General Ward to forward from Boston to New York as soon as possible.

*From Ship George.*

All the Fuzees, small Arms & Bayonets, Shoulder Straps, Gun Straps, Leather Buller Pouches, hair Knapsacks, Canvass Knapsacks, Belts, Flints, Marquees, and Soldiers Tents, common Tent Poles, tin Canteens, Camp Kettles, Blankets, Watch-Coats, Soldier's Cloathing, Stockings, black Plumes.

*From Ship Anne*

All the check'd & striped Hollands, Check Shirts, Writing Paper, Thread Stockings, Check Trowsers, Men's Shoes, Ticken Trowsers, Men's Hatts.

*From Ship Lord Howe.*

All the small Arms, Bayonets & Cartouch Boxes, cast off Canteens & Kettles, Soldiers Blankets, Cutlasses, Canvas Knapsacks, Marquees.

*From Brig Annabella.*

All the small Arms, Shoes, Soldiers Tents, Sheet Lead, Pack Saddles, Cartouch Boxes, Leather Bullet Pouches, Shoulder Straps, Gun Straps, Cutlasses, Bayonets & Belts.<sup>2</sup>

By Order of his Excellency General Washington

Sam<sup>l</sup> B. Webb. A.D.C.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. On July 27 John Bradford, Continental Agent at Boston, was ordered to send the articles "with the utmost expedition and dispatch." Trumbull Papers, V, 128, ConnSL.

*New-York Journal*, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1776

To the Printer.

Under a tyrannical Government, it generally happens that the officers in Administration from the highest to the lowest, are a set of villains, who countenance and support each other in every species of oppression, injury and abuse of the unhappy people who fall into their clutches. The *Laws*, even those that were well intended, in the hands of such officers, are only instruments of Oppression, but afford no protection from it. Of this the following Narrative of Capt. Robert Campbell, affords a remarkable instance, and is a slight specimen, of what every American might expect, if ever these Colonies should again fall under subjection to the tyrannical power of Great-Britain, or any other state or person.

Narrative of the Case of Captain Robert Campbell, of New York.

On the 24th of October, 1775, Captain Robert Campbell, Master of the sloop *America*, having on board 65 hogsheads of sugar, a mare and a chariot, shipped by and belonging to inhabitants of St. Croix, sailed from that place, bound to New York, where he intended to pay the duties, having refused other freight offered on condition of his attempting to run it at New York. – Meeting with bad weather soon after he sailed, his vessel and rigging received some damage. On the 24th November, lat. 35, long. 68, he was brought to by the *Viper* sloop of war, Capt. [Samuel] Graves, who sent for and examined him, looked over his papers and returned them, saying he would put an officer on board to keep the sloop by him, as he was going to New York; but soon after took the papers again, saying he would inclose and send them to Boston, where sugars bore a better price than at New-York. However, he assured Capt. Campbell, that if his vessel had no powder on board, she should not be condemned. Some time after Capt. Campbell was returned to his sloop, the man of war's boat came again, with a message from Captain Graves, demanding Capt. Campbell's sword and pistols, which the officer having received, took of his own accord a small box containing six bottles of castor oil, and a small cup of jelly – meanwhile the men were not idle, but like their officer, took many little things that lay in their way, and broke open a cask of sugar, from which they stole as much as they could conveniently hide from their superior thief. Capt. Graves, as he proceeded in villany, growing more callous, now demanded and took away Capt. Campbell's Mate and people, putting five of his own men on board in their stead, with orders to steer N.N.E. for Boston.<sup>1</sup>

Soon after setting sail, Capt. Campbell perceived that neither of Graves's men understood working the vessel, nor taking an observation, and told them that as they proceeded, they would never reach Boston. On the 30th of November, all the provisions the *Viper*'s men had brought, being expended, and having only 90 lb of bread on board the sloop, which he observed the men used very lavishly, he proposed dividing it among them, which was done and amounted to about 10 lb. each man. The sun having not appeared for five days, they now stood south, and continued so three days, to lat. 35.11. Then put it to vote whether to go on the coast, or to the nearest port. The bad condition of the vessel and shortness of bread and water, induced Capt. Campbell to vote for the nearest port, which being agreed to, they sailed for Bermuda three days, but not being able to reach it; the officer ordered his second, to sail for Antigua – where, with Capt. Campbell's best assistance, they arrived in St. John's harbour, the 21st day of December last. On the day of his arrival, the vessel was seized by a custom-house officer, on suspicion of having on board foreign rum and sugar. Capt. Campbell then entered his protest against Graves and the custom-house, for all losses, &c. occasioned by the detention, seizure, &c.

Capt. Campbell perceiving his vessel detained, and no likelihood of any redress, applied for advice, to a Lawyer, one Philip Hicks, who on his behalf drew up and presented a petition to the Hon. Robert Christian, Esq; Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty for the Island of Antigua, reciting the fore-

going particulars, and setting forth the great injury he had sustained in his property, and the many personal insults he had suffered by approbrious language, &c. That though Capt. Graves was arrived, and pretended the sloop *America* and her cargo were lawful prize, yet he had instituted no process, nor taken any step towards her condemnation, the petition therefore prayed that the Judge would issue a monition against him and all other persons concerned in the seizure and detention, &c. citing them to appear at a certain day, and answer to the complaint against their conduct respecting the said sloop.

The Judge granted the petition, and appointed the 26th day of January, for holding a Court of Admiralty, for the purposes mentioned in the petition.

After this monition, Graves found it necessary to bestir himself, in order to secure the plunder, which by an act of piracy he had violently taken from an innocent man and the right owner, from being wrested out of his rapacious hands. He therefore applies first to the officers of the custom-house, who had, as well as himself, seized the vessel, and as they no doubt agreed to share the plunder between them, they jointly concurred in a letter to the Attorney General, who was also a Justice of the Peace and the King's Proctor, of which letter the following is the substance, viz.

To Thomas Warner, Esq;

What can or shall we do with the vessel we have taken, brought into port and seized? Though her papers are good, and she has not broken any of the acts of trade; neither is there any thing on board that will confiscate her – But her owners are in a state of rebellion against the King, and his Parliament.

[The Attorney had as yet come upon no terms with them, and therefore it was necessary he should let them know his importance, in order to enhance his share in the plunder.]<sup>2</sup>

*The following is a copy of his answer.*

Though you have the vessel in port, and you actually know that her owners are in a state of rebellion against the King, and Parliament, and his troops – yet their goods and effects cannot be forfeited nor confiscated, before they are convicted or fled.

What secret measures were taken after this, to induce the Attorney General to become an accomplice in the villainy we know not, but that he did become an accomplice, appears from the part he afterwards acted in the business.

In order to embarrass Captain Campbell and put it out of his power to prosecute his suit, two of his sailors, Thomas Pacey and John Lawrence were tampered with, treated and intoxicated, when they were suborned to swear, on the 23d January last, before the same most conscientious *Attorney, Proctor, Justice*, &c. Thomas Warner, Esq; at least so he certifies, that Captain Campbell had, to each of them acknowledged, that since the rebellion in North America he had served as an Artillery soldier in the rebel army, and that when he was at New York, and St. Croix, he wore a cockade in his hat.



Therefore he, (the illustrious Thomas Warner, Esq;) issued a warrant, to John Jackson, Constable, requiring him, to take up and keep in safe custody, the said Capt. Campbell, till he should be dealt with as the law directs.

After this warrant was served on Captain Campbell, he was not immediately put under close confinement, as might have been expected from the tenour of the warrant, but suffered to go at large for several days, no doubt to give him an opportunity to go off, if he chose to do so, because, in that case, by the new act, the vessel and cargo becomes forfeited. But Captain Campbell, aware of the snare, made no effort to go off, but, on the contrary, urged on his suit. Finding this plan ineffectual, it was dropped, and recourse had to another. He was now taken up, and closely confined in a goal with felons, at a short allowance of raw provisions, which were to be dressed by the common Negro Hangman, and under this rigorous and ignominious confinement and treatment, he continued for eight weeks and three days. – During which time, and afterwards, till his departure, he was treated with continual insults, and the utmost contempt, being shunned by the men with whom he had been acquainted, who would scarcely deign to speak to him; – some indeed told him, that they should give offence to their superiors if they shewed him any countenance; and one considerable merchant, with whom he had often done business, told him, that he feared his coming to his house, would expose him to censure, and be a disadvantage to him; after which, Captain Campbell never went near him.

During this time, (on a combination of all the villains concerned) there was exhibited (on the 9th of March 1776,) against the vessel and cargo, a libel, which was designedly made a false one. – That upon its being proved false, another might immediately take place, upon another act, which was not in force till after the commencement of the first process. In the Libel, the seizure of the vessel by the *Viper*, which was on the 24th November, (when no act by which it could be seized was in force) was set forth to be on the 6th of January, when the act for seizing American vessels was in force.

After the (Allegation or) Libel, above mentioned was issued, (signed by George William Jackson Register in Admiralty) Mr. Hicks, (before mentioned) Captain Campbell's Attorney, acquainted him by note, that he, (Mr. Hicks) was employed to prosecute the claim of Mrs. Alletta Heyliger, for 28 hogsheads of sugar, her property, (part of the 65) on board the *America*, that he was clear the vessel could not be condemned, and advises Capt. Campbell to put in his claim, and give security as the law directs. It appears by a note of Isaac Harvey, that he had provided security for the vessel, and Captain Campbell was at liberty to take every advantage, on that account, that the law would afford him.

On the third of May, came on the trial, when, after a full examination and hearing, the judgment sets forth,

the claim of Mrs. Heyleger, that it was allowed, and her property ordered to be restored; but that no other claim being made,

the Court, as their definitive sentence, declared, the sloop *America*, her tackle, apparel and furniture, and the lading on board, (except Mrs. Heyleger's 28 hogsheads of sugar) to be condemned as lawful prize, for the use of the Captors.

The night before the trial, Mr. Hicks, the Lawyer, who appeared to be very intimate with Mr. Christian the judge, was a long time in close conversation with him. – Mr. Hicks told Captain Campbell, that he had said, if a claim for the vessel and remainder of the cargo should be made by Captain Campbell, it would have been allowed in Court, and the whole restored; but if it should be done, preparations were made to exhibit another Libel immediately on the new act, which would certainly have produced a condemnation of the vessel and cargo, at fifty or 100 pounds more expence; so that by Mr. Hicks's advice, Captain Campbell thought proper to wa[i]ve his claim, and acquiesce in the judgment.

The custom house officer had thought proper to quit his claim on the seizure he had made of the vessel, which being at that time in custody of the men of war, was of no real damage to Capt. Campbell, and therefore he could recover no damage on that account; and of the Captain of the man of war none could be recovered, because by the act, no damage shall be recovered of any person seizing vessels, though it should appear on trial that the seizure had been illegally made, and the vessel should be cleared.

Thus every way was Capt Campbell cut off from any redress, and after suffering a long and cruel imprisonment, and innumerable insults was obliged to acquiesce in the loss of vessel and cargo, without the breach of any law, even those oppressive and tyrannical laws of our enemies themselves.

*The following accounts were for charges on the imprisonment of his person.*  
Captain Robert Campbell

To the Hon. Robert Christian, Esq; Dr.			
1776	My fee for calling and attending a special	}	£ 5 0 0
March 28.	Court to admit you to bail.		
Ditto.	For summoning three Judges and the	}	0 14 0
	Attorney-General at 3s 6d. each.		
Ditto.	A Writ Habeas Corpus, to produce your	}	0 3 9
	person in Court,		
			£ 5 17 9
Fee per Docket,			£2 4 5½
Writing four notes to the			}
Judges and Attorney			
General, at 3s.4d.			
Writ Habeas Corpus,			0 6 8
Constable's (Jackson) trouble for apprehending			}
you, for treasonable practices, and bringing			
you before Mr. Warner,			
			£10 12 6¾

*A Note sent with the Constable's Account.*

Mr. Warner sends his Compliments to Captain Campbell, and if he will not pay Mr. Jackson's accompt, Mr. Warner must issue his warrant to compel him to do it.

1. See journal of H.M. Sloop *Viper*, November 24, 1775, Volume 2, 1118.

2. The bracketed statement is the printer's.

*New York Packet, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1776*

New York, July 18.

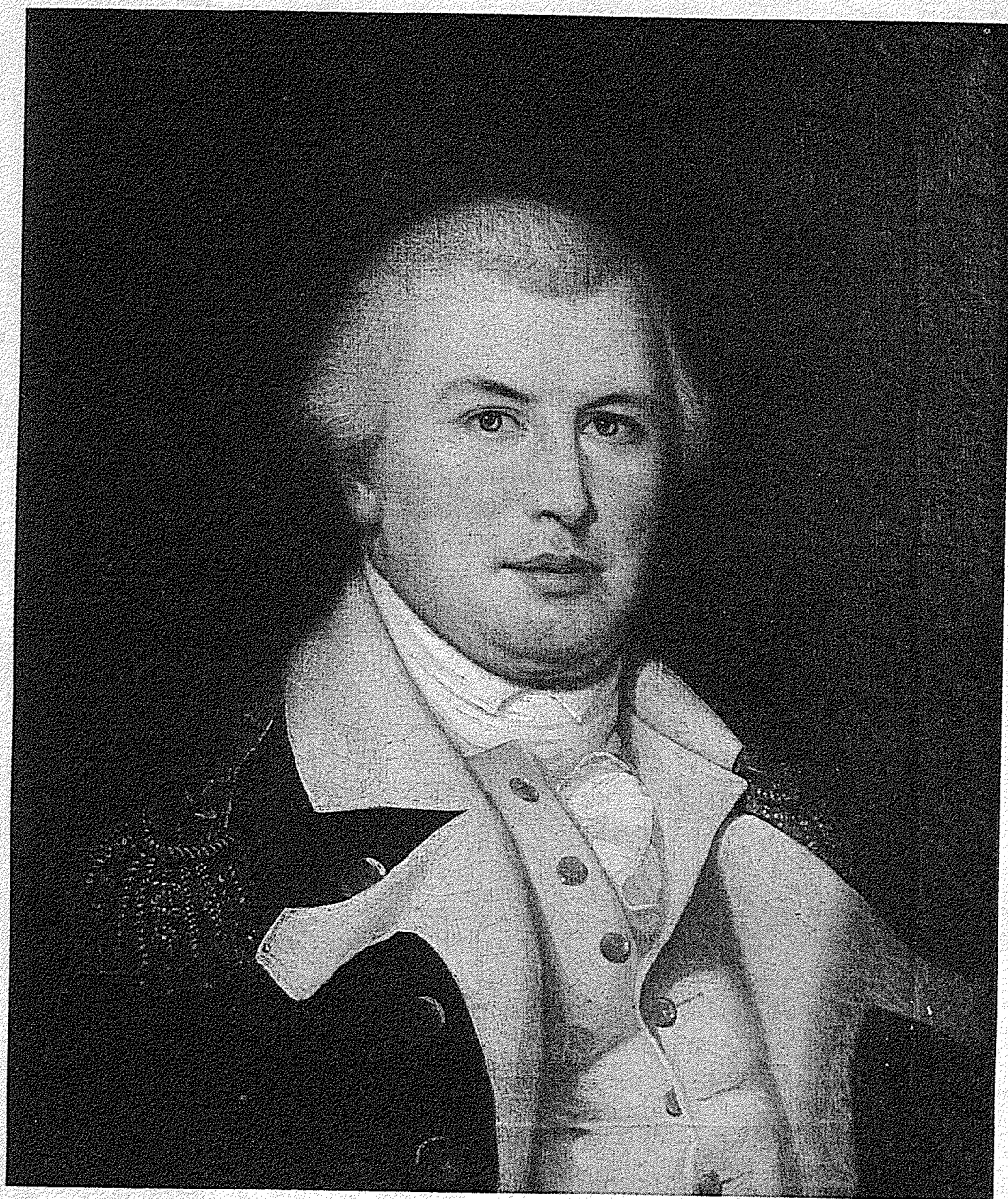
Last Friday morning it was reported in town, that Lord Howe was arrived at Sandy-Hook, with a large fleet from England: Between 1 and 2 o'clock P.M. two ships hove in sight and joined the fleet at the watering-place; about an hour after a ship supposed to be the *Phoenix*, of 44 guns a frigate of 28, and three tenders, got under way at Staten Island, and stood up for this city. — The army soon took the alarm, and in a few minutes, every man was at his station, well provided with all necessaries for a vigorous defence; but as soon as the ships came near Bedlow's Island, they inclined towards the Jersey shore, to avoid our batteries, that then began to play upon them from every quarter on both sides of the river; and notwithstanding they must have received considerable damage, they stood their course up Hudson's river, firing several broad sides as they went along, without either killing or wounding any of our people, who on the occasion behaved with uncommon bravery. A strong southerly wind, and the tide of flood facilitated the ships getting above the batteries near the town, they were roughly handled about 12 miles up the river.

Several shot went thro' different houses in the town, two into the house of Mr. Verdine Elsworth, at Powlis Hook, three into Captain Clarke's house at Greenwich, one of which went thro' the front and lodged in a brick wall, at the head of Miss Clarke's bed, in her chamber, a second went thro' the house, and the third destroyed several trees before the door, and took its course into the woods.

A ball also struck the house of Mr. Daniel Phoenix and from that took its course to the new dwelling of Mr. Christopher Smith, in the opposite side of the street.

A gentleman, who arrived here on Tuesday evening, reports that he saw the two ships of war and three tenders standing up the river, under sail, at 11 o'clock the same day; the foremost ship about 13 miles below Fort Montgomery. That 1400 of the militia were called in to the fort, which, considering the good condition it is now in, 'tis hoped will be sufficient to repel the utmost efforts of the ships to proceed further up the river; their principal design no doubt is to destroy our two frigates on the stocks at Poughkeepsie, which are almost ready for launching.

We are informed that William Barrack and John Sneden, two of the pilots on board the ships of war, were both killed by the shot from our batteries in passing them last Friday. These adventurers up Hudson's river, are



*Nathanael Greene.*

the *Phoenix*, Captain Parker, and the *Rose*, commanded by the infamous Wallace, and their three tenders.

Several ships from the fleet at Staten Island, (whether men of war, or transports, or where bound, we could not learn) sailed through the Narrows this day towards Sandy-Hook.

'Tis said the fleet destined for the American station is, as follows, viz. One of 70 guns; three of 60; seven of 50; two of 44; seven of 32; twelve of 28; five of 24; five of 20; two, of 18; seven of 16; three of 14; three of 10; and three of 8; besides armed vessels and one bomb ketch.

BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp on Long Island July 18 1776

Sir I receivd a line from Col [Samuel Blachley] Webb last Evening directing me to enquire how many Ships had past the Narrows. Colo [Edward] Hand reported one yesterday morning, which I thought was reported in my morning report and if it is not reported there, it was an omiss[i]on of mine, I beg your Excellency to examin it. Colo Hand reported at four OClock in the Afternoon that a Brigantine had gone down towards the Hook, and that the Ship that went through the Narrows in the morning had come too, off New Ullrich shore; at Seven in the Evening he reported that the Ship had gone down to the Hook; and that the Enemy were intrenching on the heights of Statten Island.

The two last Reports I did not come to the knowledge off, until within Night. I went over to the City at five and did not return until Eight. I thought it would be too late to get them to Head Quarters seasonably, therefore concluded to report them in the morning.

I have not receivd Colo Hands morning Report yet. I was down at Red Hook about sun rise and saw a Sloop streaching down towards the Narrows. Nothing extraordinary has happened the last twenty four hours. Our out Guards suspect that there are spies about the Camp. The Centries have fird half a dozen times, A Night the three preceding Nights.

Col Hands morning report is this moment come in, he mention'd every thing continues in the same situation as last Evening, except the Sloops going through the Narrows, that I observd from Red Hook.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety.

Philadelphia, 18th July, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Marines on Board the Ship & Floating Battery be allowed fifty shillings per month, to commence the 1st day of June last.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 649, 650.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1776

Philadelphia, July 18.

The brig *Polly*, Capt [Philip] Lacey, the brig [*Adrian*], Capt. [George]

Kelly, Capt Wells [William Willis] in a schooner [*Fidelity*], and Capt. [Thomas] Patton, in a sloop [*Peggy*], belonging to this port, were taken by the *Orpheus* and *Kingfisher*, off our capes, the beginning of this month, and Capt. [Thomas] Wiley, in a pilot boat [*Betsey*], was taken about four weeks ago.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlem

Baltimore July 18th 1776 –

I was favor'd with your orders of the 16th I shall finish heaving down the Ship this Evening, and expect to Sail from this on Sunday or Monday at farthest. I have been detain'd in Caulking the Ship all round. This, have sent by the small Tender to wait your further orders untill the Ship comes down. The large Tender Sails this Morning with the two Eighteen pounders, Shot, Wads &c – I am [&c.]

James Nicholson

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

THOMAS SMYTH TO JAMES TILGHMAN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Shipyard [Maryland] July the 18th 1776

... The Resolution of the Convention in ordering our regular Troops to march to the Assistance of New York & the Jerseys must have been precipitate & inconsiderate or I think they woud not have done it. Our Province is left thereby exceedly weak & defenceless more especially as so large a Body of our Militia is soon also to march to the Northward & will carry with them most [of] our best Arms – did the Convention consider that there was two Fleets to the Southward of us one on the Verge of the Province cheifly under the Direction of an inhumane Brute Dunmore and the other but a few Days Sail from us? shoud it be disappointd in its Intentions agst Carolina have we not some reason to think it may steer its course to this Province hearing that all our Force was marched to the Assistance of N. York? God protect us and grant that something may happen to put an End to our dreadful and unnatural War if it continues but a few years nay another year both Countrys must be ruined and America I am afraid first ...

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 10, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Thursday 18 July 1776

Ordered That the commanding Officer in St Mary's County take under his Charge the Schooner lately taken from the Enemy, unlade her and put her to what Use he may think best for the public Service: likewise the Sloop which is now aground if it can be done with Safety.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R. N., TO SAMUEL THOMAS <sup>1</sup>

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr

Whereas the Armed Ship on board of which his Excellency the Earl of

Dunmore Governor of Virginia is embarked has been under the necessity of cutting away two of her Anchors to avoid the fire of a Battery erected by the enemy against her, and remains at present with a Single Anchor: You are therefore hereby required and directed to Supply the Ship *Dunmore* with one of the Bower Anchors belonging to the *Levant* Victualer under your command, taking his Lordships receipt for the Same, specifying the weight of it, and for so doing this shall be your warrant.

Given under my hand on board  
his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* off of  
St Mary's River Virginia the 18th July 1776

A S Hamond

To Mr Samuel Thomas  
Master of the *Levant* Vict'r Transpt

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776-1777, UVL.

"[JAMES] CUNNINGHAM'S EXAMINATION 18th JULY 1776" <sup>1</sup>

In what Occupation did you act in Virg[ini]a?

I was a Book Keeper there to Messrs Jameson & Co.

q: What became of Mr Jameson

a: In the Fleet -

q: What Vessel was you on Board?

a: The *Dolphin* - Brig

q: Did you continue in the same Vessel or did you land at Gwin's Island

a: No - I never landed

q: What Time did you leave Gwins Island & what was the Cause

a: We were obliged to leave it by Batteries being erected on Shore -

q: Was any damage done to the Shipping?

a: Ld Dunmore's Vessel - The Boatswain was killed - a man lost his  
Arm -

q: None killed on the Island

a: None

q: What Cond[it]i[on] were the People in on Board

a: sickly - the small Pox negroes had the Goal Fever

q: What No were there?

a: Not above 300 in arms

q: Who commands them

[a:] [torn] Son commands

q: How many dy'd & were bury'd at G. [Gwynn] Island

a: I think there must have been 500

q: How were you provided with Provision?

a: Salt Beef enough for Troops

q: How many Families on Board the Fleet

a: I suppose 1000 Souls -

q: How many did the Ships bring from G. I.

a: 150 - 50 bel[ongin]g to 14th Regt - they do not exceed 300 in all -

q: How many did land upon St. Geor[ge]s Island

a: I dont know - none but Soldiers

- q: How many marines on Board?  
a: *Roebuck* 75 – *Fowey* 25 – *Otter* 15  
q: Did you know where they are going?  
a: No –  
q: Did you come off[f] or did you drift ashore  
a: I come off[f] voluntarily –  
q: Whose Property was that in [the] Vessel?  
a: It was sold at Vendue  
q: Were the people inoculated on Board?  
a: Yes. –  
q: Whose Prop[ert]y w[as] the Molasses  
a: I bought part  
q: Was Govr Eden on Board the *Fowey*  
a: Yes – I have seen him walking the Decks  
q: Did you know the *Fowey* was upon the E. S. [Eastern Shore]  
a: Yes – The Govr was not on Board  
q: Did they consent you shd come off  
a: No –  
q: Was it in the Night that you left the Fleet –  
a: In the night – the Fleet was after wood & water  
q: Have you Plenty of Bread  
a: Yes –  
q: Were there any Troops arrived at G: Island?  
a: No – no Troops – but part of the 14th  
q: Do the Tenders ply out in the Bay  
a: Yes – they keep cruising  
q: Did you know when Govr Eden goes Home?  
a: Yes he goes in a Store ship  
q: How much Stock was got upon E: S.  
a: The private Families got no share of it – I saw Cattle [o]n Decks  
q: Do the Tenders go out in the Bay – a cruizing?  
a: Yes – I have seen 'em out in the Bay.  
q: How long were they inocul[ated] & was it done to communicate it to the People on shore  
a: By no means every one in the Fleet was inoculated, that had it not –  
q: How many Men in the Gondolas  
a: Ten Oars on each Side – an old Flat – Captn Ham[on]d & Ld D[unmore] at Variance – I don't think Govr Eden has any thing to do with the fleet – the *lively* Frigate at the Capes – Molasses at a Bit – Good W. I. [West Indian] Rum at 2/2 – Marines & Sailors woud desert but no others – not 14th  
q: what distance *Fowey* from the Shore  
a: Musq[ue]t Shott –  
q: what No of Vessels in Fleet  
a: 72 – many small Boats



- q: Did you not say that the Fleet was going to Sea?
- a: Yes – a Signal gave from *Dunmore* for Masters of Ships to come on Board to receive orders that they were going to St Augustine – Not when to turn out to do duty –
- q: Did you [learn] any vessels –
- a: two Tenders on the Straights 2-4 Pounders – 2-2 Do *Dunmore* 3-6 Pr – fired & Slipt her Cables – the *Otter* upon Careen with her Guns out –
- q: How long was it after the Cannonade before you left off[f]
- a: Immedy – upon the first Discharge of Cannon –
- q: Where did you get Beef.
- a: from Antiqua a Brig with 500 Bbls – a Stowr Brig with 500 Do
- q: What Ex[ecution] did to [the] Tenders on E: S. [Eastern Shore]
- a: I Man killed & 8 or 9 wounded
- q: Money plenty
- a: yes – Commodore Ham[on]d the best man in the Navy – Capt Hamd will convoy 'em all out Safe to Sea –
- q: Has not Ld D sent [Flag abt] to communicate the Infection?
- a: Not to my Knowledge – Captn Hamd not continu[ing] on the Station – to go to N. York –
- q: How many Guns the *Lively*
- a: 30 or 36 Guns – 11 [torn] Shot in the *Dunmore* 18. <sup>2</sup>

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. In a letter of July 19, the Maryland Council of Safety advised the Maryland delegates to the Continental Congress of this examination and of Dunmore's movements. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

#### JOHN WEST TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Sir.

Alexandria July 18th. 1776.

At a meeting of the Committee for this County and District, a Resolution was entered into to write to your Council of Safety, and appointed me for that purpose.

I am informed that your Commanding Officer or Officers in each County have it not in their power to raise the Militia (on any occasion) under his or their Command, without application to your Council of Safety and instructions from them for that purpose.

Permit me to say I apprehend many dangers may be avoided, many good consequences (in case of a sudden Attack from the Enemies of America) are obvious had the Commanding Officer in each County on Potowmack River full power to raise the Militia and order them to March where there was a real occasion either in your own Province or to the assistance of a Sister Colony. We have been frequently Allarmed with Dunmore and his Banditti with the Vessels of War paying us a Visit, and when he lately made his appearance in our River, it was presumed, his intention was to make this place an object worth his attention – His well known enmity to Liberty, his untoward disposition towards this Commonwealth in particular, and his cor-

rupt principles, capable of committing the most atrocious Villainies, give cause to suspect that his intention might be to distress this place and the Inhabitants of each side the River, by which your Province would experience the dire effects of the Marauders.

Should you be Attacked, and our assistance necessary, we wou'd chearfully obey the summons of Liberty humanity, and Neighbourly affection, and fly to your Assistance, we should be wanting in [honor] did we not, because we are not bound up by any Ordinance, nor Command, but at full liberty to exert ourselves in behalf of ourselves and in that of a Sister Colony.

I hope you and the Gentlemen of your Council of Safety will excuse this remonstrance to you, and that you will see the necessity in the same light that we do of empowering (at least) your Commanding Officers on the River to raise the Militia under their respective Commands (in Case of danger) and to March them where there maybe a call for them. I am convinced the Gentlemen & Soldiers would chearfully do it from a principle of Humanity & friendship tho' the danger was more remote from them was this request put in execution. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

John West Charm Pt

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM A COMPANY OF VIRGINIA MARINES <sup>1</sup>

Alexandria, July 18th 1776.

Four Dollars Reward

Deserted last night from Capt. John Allison's company of Marines, John Pierce, born in Maryland, 18 years of age, 5 feet 5 inches high, fair hair tied behind, a thin spare lad and fair complexion: Whoever secures said deserter, so that he may be returned to his company, or sent to Alexandria, shall receive the above reward, with reasonable charges paid by

John Allison, Capt. of Marines.

It is probable he will endeavour to enlist in the troops now raising in Maryland, therefore all recruiting parties are desired to be particular in regard of him.

1. *Dunlap's Maryland Gazette*, August 20, 1776.

#### CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO LORD DUNMORE <sup>1</sup>

Roebuck [St. George's Island] 9 at Night Thursday

My Lord the 18th July 1776.

After waiting the whole day with the fulest expectations of seeing the Transports get under way to join me, and grudging every hour that was lost of so fair and fresh a wind. Mr [John] Orde is just returned to me, & informs me that the *Anna* will not be ready until tomorrow evening. I confess this disapointment and delay is more than I have temper and patience to bear; therefore cannot help tresspassing so far on your Lordship as to beg the favour of you to make en quiry into the cause of it, and Satisfy yourself

there has been no neglect of duty, or the Ship incumbered with other goods than what your Lordship has been acquaintd with. It is now five days since the Transports were Ordered by your Lordship to take in the empty casks, and one of them is not yet clear of her Cargoe; which if she was under my command, I should look upon as Sufficient cause of dismission from the Service, or at least of turning the master out of his employment.

I beg pardon for troubling you so long, on this business; but you must attribute it to the great uneasiness I suffer, at Seeing three of the Kings Ships in a State of perfect inactivity, at a moment when it is necessary to Strain every nerve to its utmost exertion in prosecuting the War.

I am Sorry there is no Pilot to be got for the *Anna* – however I will make a further en quiry thro' the fleet. I must also again request the favour of the draft of the River, which shall be returned when we come back.

Mr Orde tells me he thinks your Lordship still means to accompany us; I hope I need not tell you how happy I always am in having your company; But should I be disappointed of that pleasure, I submit it to you, whether it will not be necessary for your Lordship to give Captain Leslie Orders to put himself under my command: I am Sorry to Say that the disgrace of Gwin's Island evacuation, hangs so much about me that, I cannot help thinking it necessary to issue positive Orders, where the 14th Regt are to be concerned.

I have seen one of the Rebel look out Boats this afternoon that came down to look at us; I sent the *Otter* to Chace her, but the former was too nimble and went off. The *Otter* and *Ranger* will Sail up the River in the night and perhaps get above her: in that case we may stand some chance of seeing her again.

If my Lord, there should be likely to happen any new delay to the Transport, why should not the Troops come on board the *Roebuck*, or on board the other Transports, and th[is] Ship follow when she is ready?

I fear your Lordship will think me very troublesome and importunate, however you must on this occasion forgive me, as I am always most truly and affectionately [&c.]

A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Letters and Orders, 1775–1778, UVL.

#### MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*<sup>1</sup>

July 1776	St. Geo[rge's] Island NW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 1 Mile [Potomac River]
Thursday 18th	AM Supply'd Several Vessels in the Fleet with Water, and Loose'd the Fore topsail First Part Modt the Latter fresh gales and Hazey P M at 1 Made the <i>Otters</i> & <i>Fincastle's</i> Signal's to Chace at 3 Came in a Small Schooner from the Eastern Shore, Made the Signal to Call in Cruizers, at 8 the <i>Fincastle</i> sail'd out of the River

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday July 18th 1776.

The Board took under consideration the Invitation, prepared by the Commissioners of the Navy, from the Commonwealth of Virginia to their Brethern who are sons of Liberty & Seamen to engage in the Defence of the Liberties of America containing an agreement between the Captains of Vessels of War fitted out at the expense of this Commonwealth, & the several Seamen engaging to serve therein; which was read and approved of; And it is ordered that the public Printer strike off one hundred Copies of the Same.

A Warrant from the Navy Board in favour of Banister Howe for thirty pounds for the use of Captain [Robert] Tompkins for furnishing necessaries for the *Henry Galley*, was presented, countersigned by the President, and ordered to be registered.

A Warrant, from the Navy Board in favour of Adam Jeffries for fifteen pounds for furnishing the Cruiser Commanded by Captain Deane <sup>2</sup> with necessaries, was presented countersigned by the President; and ordered to be registered.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council of Safety*, I, 74, 76-77.

2. Schooner *Revenge*, William Deane, commander.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

(Triplicate)

His Majestys Schooner *St John* had injudiciously made an Hospital on the Georgia side of St Mary's River nigh to a Stockade erected three Years ago by Mr Wright when an Indian War was expected. To which place Mr Germain and Charles Wright have retired from their Estate in this Province, and Armed their Negroes; it is opposite to the post occupied by His Majestys Troops, who had also inadvertently sent Sick Men there. The 11th Instant Lieutenant Bucher of the 16th Regiment upon this Detachment returning from a visit at the *St John* Schooner in the Cutter with the Master sent by Lieutenant [William] Grants Account to bring off the Sick, upon two alarm Guns being fired from Mr Wrights Stockade, a Canoe with five Soldiers attending Lieutenant Bucher followed at some distance, when the Cutter arrived within a Creek they were fired upon, a Sailor was killed, another mortally wounded, Lieutenant Bucher the Master and Boatswain taken prisoners, and the Cutter burned. The Canoe with the five Soldiers escaped back to the Schooner.

A Solider of the 60th Regiment in the Hospital with the Surgeon and the Sailors made their escape to Mr Wrights Stockade.

By Mr Wrights Account the Rebels carried off twenty of his Negroes.

The Rebels were fired on from the Stockade and it is certain some were wounded as it appeared when they retired Men had lain on the Ground and bled, and were tracted by their blood.

They have been exceedingly imprudent my Lord to fix the Sick Men on

this Spot, Amelia Island being better situated within this Province, in the rear of Troops and Schooner.

(No 18) St Augustine 18. July [17]76

[Endorsed] Original & Duplicate supposed to have fallen into the hands of the Rebels.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/557, 165-72.

RICHARD HARRISON TO COUNT D'ARGOUT <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

I have been ordered by the honorable Security Council of Virginia presently holding the executive power of the Government to communicate to your Excellency various papers for your perusal.

This is to inform you that after being long persecuted and still more oppressed by the British Government which has not only employed force but all kinds of cruel and inhuman means to put into effect its destructive plans, the good People of Virginia could no longer support this tyranny and considered the unfortunate alternative either to submit themselves unconditionally to an unreasonable despotism or to declare their complete independence from the British Crown and Parliament. The second solution was adopted unanimously by their representatives. Furthermore, the delegates to the General Congress were instructed to employ every means to make this Independence universal among the Confederate Colonies.

The Council wishes to make evident the true motives behind its decision to the entire World and especially the French nation (whose generous feelings arouse its greatest hopes for assistance in this important crisis). Therefore, it sends you, Sir, the copy of its proceedings trusting that they will be clear enough to render useless the unfavorable advice which its inveterate enemy might attempt to press upon you.

Since this crisis may last for a long time and since the Colonies are forced meanwhile to obtain from foreign sources war ammunition and various other articles, I was commanded to beg your Excellency to continue to receive with hospitality the vessels from Virginia in your ports and to allow them to trade there as freely as required by the nature of these circumstances. While generously offering to supply the needs of an oppressed People, such an attitude cannot fail but show to your Excellency that much good for your Government will result from it. It may also be the beginning of a more widespread and lucrative trade for the French Dominions whose prosperity Great Britain has interest to oppose.

I am presently waiting for an answer from your Excellency which I must transmit to Virginia. I have the honor to be with deep respect [&c.]

At Fort Royal, 18 July 1776.

Signed: R. Harrison

[Endorsed] Certified true copy

d'Argout <sup>2</sup>

1. AN, Marine B7, 458, 37-39, LC Photocopy.

2. Forwarded to Versailles by d'Argout, governor of Martinique.

## 19 July

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Blonde*, CAPTAIN PHILEMON POWNOLL <sup>1</sup>

July [1776]                      Moored off Point Champlain.

Friday 19      AM pass'd us several Transports and Batoes Also the *Henley* Snow and *Boreas* Brig with frames of Vessells onboard for the service of the Lakes, Employed working up Junk.  
 Modre and hot Cloudy Wr    PM payed the Ships Sides and Masts over again with Varnish of Pine, blacked the Bends, & Rigg'd a New Gaff,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/118.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Brune*, CAPTAIN JAMES FERGUSSON <sup>1</sup>

July 1776                      Ditto [Sambro Light House] No33Et 96Leags

19      At 3 A M in 2d Rf's    at 4 Fresh Gales & Cloudy 1/2 past made the Signal & chased a Schooner to the N. W. lost a log & three lines    at 6 Fired 5. Six Prs to bring her too    at 7 took possession of do a Schooner from St Eustatia for Falmouth with Arms & Ammunition    put a Mate & 4 Men on board    took her people out & took her in Tow close Rf'd the FS's    at 10 Squally Split the main Topmast Staysail    unbent it & bent another  
 P. M. Fresh Gales & hazey with a heavy Sea    at 5 handed fore & Mizzen TS's    at 10 More Modte set Do & out 3d Rf's

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/117.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Friday 19th of July 1776

at day light Cape Ann harbour boar North 2 miles

Calm

At noon came to Ankor in salem harbour with Our prize in company sent the wounded men On shore prizoners on board    rainy in the night

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

WILLIAM WALL, RICHARD SALTER AND JOSEPH TILLINGHAST TO GOVERNOR  
 NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Providence July 19th 1776.

We the Subscribers all of Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island Merchants request your Honor to grant a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal to John Warner Commander of the Sloop *Yankee Ranger*, of which we are Owners; She is burthened about Twenty five Tons carries Four Carriage Guns Two Pounders and Six Swivel Guns, manned with Twenty five Men, and fitted with a suitable Quantity of Muskets Blunderbusses, Cutlasses, Pistols, Powder Ball and other Military Stores. She hath on board Ten barrels of Beef and Pork, Eighteen Hundred Weight of Bread with some Flour, Rice, Beans, Pottatoes, &c. Holiman Warner is First

Lieutenant, John Kilton Second Lieutenant, and Daniel Simons Master.  
We are with great Respect [&c.]

W<sup>m</sup> Wall R<sup>d</sup> Salter Joseph Tillinghast <sup>2</sup>

1. Maritime Papers, Letters of Marque, 1776–1780, R. I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, the owners made Continental bond for \$5,000 this date.

# JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] Friday 19th July

Copies made of a number about six depositions taken at New London of the conduct of some New York provision vessels throwing themselves into the enemies hands &c., in order to send Gen. Washington: originals for the [Continental] Congress.

On repeated application from Genl Washington &c.: Ordered, that Capt. [Theophilus] Stanton of the row-galley *Shark* shall, in addition to the ordered before, immediately repair to Genl Washington at New York and subject himself to the command of said general until further orders.

*Voted and ordered*, That Capt. [Seth] Harding of the brig *Defence* immediately cause said brig to be fitted and repaired with necessary repairs, and that he cruise in the Sound and in proper places and grounds, for the best advantage and interest of the Colony.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 487, 488.

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1776

New-London, July 19.

Last Sunday the Privateer Brig *Defence*, Capt. Seth Harding, in the Service of this Colony, returned here from Boston.

By a vessel from Cape Francois, we learn that the French at Hispaniola are determined not to suffer any American vessels to be seized within their Limits, by any English Ships.

LIEUTENANT EPHRAIM ANDERSON TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

Hond Sir

[New York, July 19]

I have the Honour now to inform you that I am preparing for the Destruction of the Brittish Fleet in this Harbour, and hope in a few days to be able to give a good acc[oun]t of the Greatest part of them, –

I shou'd be Extreemly thankfull if the Congress will Honour me with the Appointmt. of Deputy Adjutant Genl to the Flying Camp – it is a department in which I am Sure I can be of Infinite Service to the Cause, by diciplining Such Young Troops both Officers and Men – I will leave myself upon the Congress for the above or any other appointment they may Honr me with &c. I am Hond Sir [&c.]

E<sup>m</sup> Anderson <sup>2</sup>

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, I, 11, NA.

2. Anderson was adjutant in the Second New Jersey Regiment.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Head Quarters, New York, July 19, 1776

The several Articles wrote for in my Letter of Yesterday, you will please to forward to Norwich, with Orders for them to be sent on by Water, provided the Enemy's Ships should not stop the Communication, in which Case Land-Carriage must be procured . . .

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Moored off Staten Island

Friday 19th Mode & fair Wr At 3 P M Sent a Lieut with the Pinnace to New York with a Flag of Truce At 5 the Flag of Truce returned <sup>2</sup> At 6 made the Parole Signal <sup>3</sup>

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.
2. "A Flag of Truce was sent this Afternoon to the Town, and recd. for Answer, that Washington would see a General officer, if the Admiral & General pleased, on the morrow." Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 38.
3. The password to be given to the officers and the guards in the fleet.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT <sup>1</sup>[On board H.M. Sloop *Swan*]

Friday July 19th The *Liverpool* and *Halifax* sailed. Thermometer 70. Two declarations <sup>2</sup> were given by Captn Ayscough to Lieut [William] Quarmer to be given to Robert Morris to Disperse in N Jersey also four to Stephen Edwards & Ezekiel Chandler.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.
2. Lord Howe's declaration of June 20, 1776, offering pardons to individuals and restoring the King's Peace to any area upon receiving submission and proof of loyalty.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Friday, July 19, 1776

*Resolved*, That the Secret Committee be empowered to contract with Mr. Mirtle for the importation of goods to the amount of £30,000 sterling, at his risque, and £15,000 sterling, at the risque of the United States of America, for the public service.

That the Marine Committee be empowered to purchase a swift sailing vessel, to be employed by the Secret Committee in importing said goods.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the circular letters, and of the declarations they enclosed from Lord Howe to Mr. W[illiam] Franklin, Mr. [John] Penn, Mr. [Robert] Eden, Lord Dunmore, Mr. [Josiah] Martin, and Sir James Wright, late governors, which were sent to Amboy, by a flag, and forwarded to Congress by General Washington, be published in the several gazettes, that the good people of these United States may be informed of what nature are the commissioners, and what the terms, with the expectation of which, the insidious court of Britain has endeavoured to amuse and disarm them, and that the few, who still remain suspended by a hope founded



either in the justice or moderation of their late King, may now, at length, be convinced, that the valour alone of their country is to save its liberties.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 590, 592-93.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 19th July, 1776.

The Committee taking into Consideration the extraordinary trouble of Mr. Samuel Morris, jun'r, in attending and directing the Building of Chevaux de Frize, procuring Loggs, and other publick services out of Doors, are of Opinion he is entitled to Receive one hundred & fifty pounds,

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John Nixon, Esq'r, and others, the Committee of Accounts, for the above sum of £ 150, in favour of Mr. Morris, for the purpose aforesaid.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 650, 651.

#### MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO JOHN PAGE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Your favour communicating the intelligence that the Enemies Fleet had been driven from their Station, and their Forces obliged to abandon Gwynn's Island, came safe to hand and demands our acknowledgments.

They have since arrived in Potowmack, and Landed some Men on St Georges Island, at the mouth of Saint Marys River, where they have thrown up Entrenchments. – We are making preparations to dislodge them as soon as possible – In return we congratulate you on our success in the Southern quarter and We are &c:

P.S. We have ordered Mr Hughs to send immediately to Geo: Town two 18 pounders for the use of your Colony, to be delivered to Messrs Mason and Dalton's order –

[Annapolis] 19 July 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch. Page was president of the Virginia Council.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Friday 19 July 1776.

Adjourned till 3 O'Clock & met accordingly.

Ordered That the *Defence's* small Tender convoy Capt. Thomas's Company to the Mouth of patuxent in St Mary's County.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

#### BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN DENT TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Charles River Head Quarters 19th July 1776

Gentn On my arival at this Place, of the 16th Instant I found there had been an Engagement with the Enemy with no other loss to us but the Misfortune of Captn Page Beall being badly wounded, tho' its hoped not

mortal – By four Deserters wh[ich] came over to us yesterd[ay] we are inform'd the Mate or Mid-Ship man of the *Roe Buck* was killed in the Action. By the best Information the Enemy have not more than 50 Regulars of the 14th Regiment, about 150 Tories and 100 Negroes that have Arms; all of wch are landed every Morning, and embarked in the Evening under Cover of the Fleet, wh[ich] continues in the Mouth of St Marys River opposite the lower End of St Georges Island. Our Strength at present is about 400 Militia exclusive of the Independant, and Captn Forrest's Company. I made bold immediately on my Arival here (the Strength of the Enemy being much magnified) to order to our Assistance three full Companies of Militia from Coll [Josias] Hawkin's Battallion, to be selected from the Interior part of the County, wh[ich] I expect will arive about tomorrow Evening, when, I shall discharge an equal Number of the most necessitous of those now on Duty. The Fleet (wh[ich] at first consisted of Eighty Sail) is now reduced to little more than half that Number, many of the Tenders & square rigged Vessels having gone to Virginia opposite the Mouth of Potomack where a pretty constant Canonade has be[en] kept up ever since I have been here. We are told by the Deserters (two more of which have come over since I began to write) that the Fleet Intend only to wood & Water on the Island, burn all, or most of their small Craft and proceed to Sea. Had we a few great Guns at a Place called Cherry Fields Point: well planted & served we might anoy the Fleet so as to oblige them to quit their Station Captn Forest's Company has relieved an equal Number of the Militia who readily parted with their Arms such as they were. – I shall as often as any thing of Consequence happens communicate it to you with the Utmost Dispatch 'til when I am [&c.]

J<sup>no</sup> Dent

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

#### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Friday July 19th 1776

Two French Gentlemen styling themselves Le Chevalier de Saint Aubin & Le Chevalier de Harrincourt, who were taken by Lord Dunmores Fleet when they were coming in with a Cargoe of Arms & Ammunition from Martinique being introduced this day before the Board, and it appearing from their Account that they had been officers in the Armies of France, one as a Captain of Light Horse and the other of a Company of Foot, and that they are destitute of Clothes & other necessities of which they lost by flying from the Enemy when they were under their confusion in the late attack on Gwyns Island; Ordered therefore that Warrants issue on the Treasurer to pay twenty pounds to each of those Gentlemen, And it is farther ordered that Mr. Southall entertain them on reasonable Terms at the expense of the public.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council of Safety*, I, 77, 79–80.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO COLONEL ARCHIBALD CARY <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg 19th July 1776

The Board of Commissioners desire you will as soon as possible send to James Town the Articles hereafter mention'd, as one of the Gallies is now waiting for them and can't proceed untill She gets them –

1 Eight Inch Cable 75 Fathom

1 do. 6½ Inch 80 Fathom

2 Coil of 2½ Inch Rope

3 Coil of 2 Inch Rope

1 Coil of 1½ Inch Rope

6 lb Marlin

6 lb Housin

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN JAMES COCKE <sup>1</sup>To Capt James Cock on Board of the Brigg *Rawleigh*

Sir

Williamsburg 19th July 1776

The Board of Naval Commissioners desire you will on the receipt of this inform them of what number of Seamen and Marines you have on board, the condition of your Vessel, how she Sails, and whither She is likely to answer the purpose for which She was intended, and if any material matter shou'd happen during your cruise, that you do immediately transmit an account of the same to this Board. –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

PURDIE's *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1776

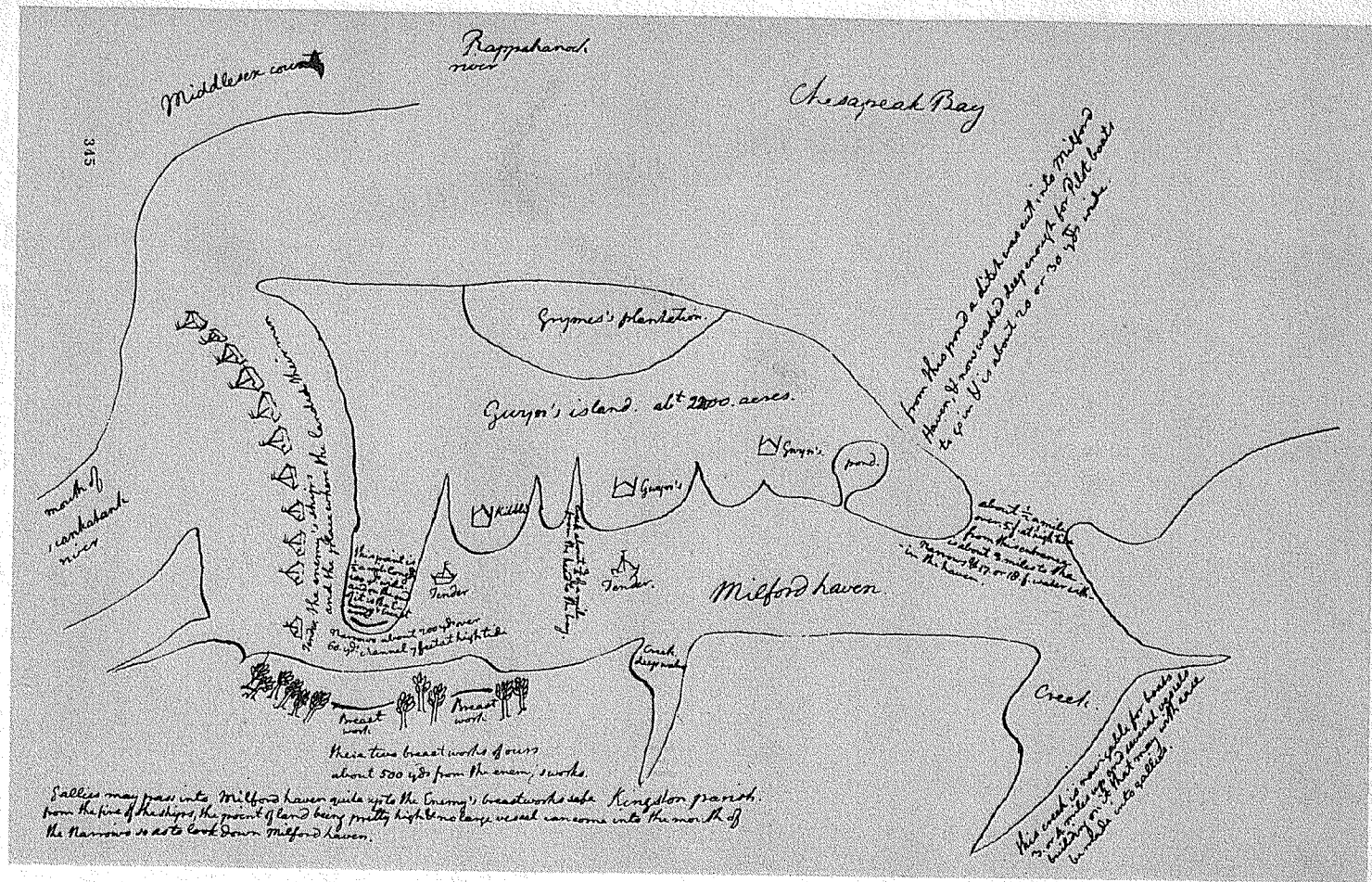
Williamsburg, July 19.

From Hampton we learn, that advice was brought there from the Eastern Shore of a tender, mounting two carriage and twelve swivel guns, being drove ashore in a squall of wind, five or six days ago, with 18 pirates on board, among them mr. James Parker, late of Norfolk, merchant; who immediately surrendered themselves to a party of our troops, and begged for quarters. A boat from another tender, her consort, attempted to cut her out from the creek where she was secured; but our people, perceiving their design, lay in ambush for them, and, when nigh enough, rushed into the water and fired upon them, killing five of the crew, it was supposed, as three were seen to fall overboard, and two to drop down in the boat, upon which the pirates tacked about, and rowed, faster than they came, to their tender.

Lord Dunmore's pestilential fleet was seen last Sunday morning at the mouth of Potowmack.

The following is a particular account of the attack and rout of lord Dunmore, with his piratical crew, from Gwyn's island.

We got to the island on Monday the 8th, and next morning, at 8 o'clock, began a furious attack upon the enemy's shipping, camp, and fortifi-



Rappahannock  
river

Chesapeake Bay

from the pond a little west into Miffland  
Avenue & then would depend on for Pitt boat  
to 4 in. It is about 20 or 30 yds wide

about 2 miles  
over 5 f. along the  
from this canyon  
is about 2 miles to the  
Narrow 47, or 18 f. water left  
in the haven.

Creek

This creek is navigable for boats  
most of the way to the natural rapids  
building up that way with some  
boulders into a pool.

Grymes's plantation

Guyon's island. abt 2200. acres

W Garyn's (hand)

W. Gaynor's

 Tender.

Milford Haven

(Creek deep water)

Creek

their two breast works of ours  
about 500 yds from the enem; works.

Sallies may pass into Milford Haven quite up to the Enemy's breastworks & take Kingston parish from the fire of the ships, the present ground being pretty high & no large vessel can come into the mouth of the Harbours so as to look down Milford Haven.

the evening, shop, the Cordero Mission  
and the place where the Cordero Mission

From the back of the bag.

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mouth of  
Cankabank  
river

*Thomas Jefferson's sketch map of the action at Gwynn Island.*

cations, from two batteries, one of five 6 and 9 pounders, the other mounting two 18 pounders. What forces the enemy had were encamped on a point of the island, nearly opposite to our five gun battery, covered by a battery of four embrasures, and a breastwork of considerable extent. Besides this, they had two other batteries, and a stockade fort, higher up the haven, where troops were stationed to prevent our landing. In the haven were three tenders, one a sloop (the *Lady Charlotte*) mounting six carriage guns, a schooner of two carriage guns, six swivels, and a cohorn, and a pilot boat, badly armed; who had orders from capt. [Andrew Snape] Hammond, of the *Roebuck*, to prevent our boats passing over to the island, and to annoy the rebels by every means in their power.

General [Andrew] Lewis announced his orders for attacking the enemy by putting a match to the first gun, an 18 pounder, himself; and the *Dunmore* being then nearest to us, at the distance of only 4 or 500 yards, the shot passed through her hull, and did considerable damage. Our five gun battery likewise began playing on the fleet, the enemy's camp, and works; and the fire soon became so hot that the *Dunmore* was obliged to cut her cables and haul off, after receiving ten shot, some of which raked her fore and aft. The *Otter* lay next to her, and it was expected would have taken her birth; but the first shot we gave her took place, supposed between wind and water, as she immediately slipped her cable likewise, and hauled out on a careen, without firing a gun. By this time all the fleet, any way near shore, began to slip their cables, in the utmost confusion; and had the wind set in with a flood tide, we must have taken great numbers of them. Our 18 pounders did great execution from the upper battery, which raked the whole fleet; and capt. [Samuel] Denny, who commanded the other battery, soon silenced the enemy at the point, knocking down several tents, which put their camp into great confusion. At half after 9 the firing ceased, which was renewed again at 12, with double vigour, from both batteries; and nothing prevented our pushing to the island, during the cannonade, but the want of vessels.

The general being determined to cross next day, gave orders for all the small craft to be collected together from the neighbouring creek that night, and two brass field-pieces, six-pounders, to be carried to a place called lower Windmill Point, to attack the tender that lay there, and facilitate our crossing. Accordingly, in the morning, capt. [Charles] Harrison, who had the direction of those field-pieces, began playing upon the tenders, which he galled so much, that the schooner ran up a small creek which made into the island, where the crew abandoned her, and the sloop got aground in reach of our cannon; upon which the general ordered capt. [Gregory] Smith, of the 7th regiment, with his company, to man the canoes and board her, which was done with alacrity. However, before our men came up with her, the crew got into their boat and pushed for the island; but capt. Smith, very prudently passing the tender, pursued them so close, that, before they could reach the shore, he exchanged a few shot with them, and took part of them prisoners. The enemy's lookouts, perceiving our men close upon the lower

part of the island, cried out *The shirtmen are coming*, and scampered off. The pilot boat made no resistance.

General Lewis then ordered 200 men, under col. [Alexander] M'Clanahan, to land in the island, which was performed as expeditiously as our small vessels would admit of. On our arrival, we found the enemy had evacuated the place with the greatest precipitation, and were struck with horror at the number of dead bodies, in a state of putrefaction, strewed all the way from their battery to Cherry point, about two miles in length, without a shovelfull of earth upon them; others gasping for life; and some had crawled to the water's edge, you could only make known their distress by beckoning to us. By the small-pox, and other malignant disorders which have raged on board the fleet for many months past, it is clear they have lost, since their arrival at Gwyn's island, near 500 souls. I myself counted 130 graves (or rather holes, loosely covered over with earth) close together, many of them large enough to hold a corporal's guard. One, in the middle, was neatly done up with turf, and is supposed to contain the remains of the late lord of Gosport. Many were burnt alive in brush huts, which, in their confusion, had got on fire. In short, such a scene of misery, distress, and cruelty my eyes never beheld; for which the authors, one may reasonably conclude, never can make atonement in this world.

The enemy left behind them, in their battery, a double fortified nine-pounder, great part of their baggage, with several tents and marquees, besides the three tenders, with their cannon, small arms, &c. also the anchors and cables of the *Dunmore*, *Otter*, and many others, to the amount, it is supposed, of 12 or 1500 L. On their leaving the island, they burnt some valuable vessels, which had got aground. Mr. John Grymes's effects on the island have fallen into our hands, consisting of 35 negroes, horses, cattle, and furniture.

Major Byrd, on the approach of our canoes to the island, was huddled into a cart, in a very sick and low condition, it is said, and carried down to Cherry point, where he embarked. The second shot the *Dunmore* received cut her boatswain in two, and wounded two or three others; and she had scarcely recovered from the shock when a nine-pounder from the lower battery entered her quarter and beat in a large timber, from the splinters of which lord Dunmore got wounded in the legs, and had all his valuable china smashed about his ears. It is said his lordship was exceedingly alarmed, and roared out, *Good God, that ever I should come to this!* We had our information from one of his people that came ashore after the engagement, who was taken by our scouts; he likewise said, that many were killed in the fleet, which had sustained some thousand pounds worth of damage. The *Fowey* and *Roebuck* were the lowermost ships, besides which there were 100 and large odd sail of vessels, who took their departure on Thursday afternoon, and are supposed to have gone into Potowmack.

In this affair we lost not a man but poor capt. [Dohicky] Arundel, who

was killed by the bursting of a mortar of his own invention; although the general and all the officers were against his firing it. His zeal for the service cost him his life.<sup>1</sup>

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, July 20, also carried an account.

JOSEPH CLAY TO THOMAS YOUNG<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Savannah the 19th July 1776

I understand you have by you or can procure a Quantity of Sail Duck and as the Public have determined on Building Six Row Gallies each of which are to Carry two large Lateen Sails which will require a very considerable Quantity of Canvas to Answer that purpose. I would Therefore be glad if you cou'd furnish or procure us the Quantity necessary f[o]r I suppose each Boat will want between 3 & 400 Yards. I should be glad of a Line from you in Answer to this and am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Clay

P.S. I would rather secure a larger Quantity of Canvas than possibly may be wanted than run the risque of being short

1. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, MNHP.

20 July

*The Freeman's Journal*, SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1776

Portsmouth, July 20.

Last Tuesday arrived here in 21 days from Halifax, Capt. John Salter, of this town, Capt. Nathaniel Dowle, Capt Crawford, Mr. Skinner and Mr. Jones. — On the 6th Sept. 1775 Capt. Salter in the ship *Crisis*, sailed from Newbury Port for the Island of Antigua [upo]n the 12th was taken by Capt. [Thomas] Bishop, of t[he] *Lively*, and carried into Boston,<sup>1</sup> where his chest was broken open and all his money, (to amount of 800 Dollars) with sundry other valuable articles stole. On the 12th March following, from a false representation to General Howe was sent on board the ship *Thames*, kept in irons 10 days and 4 weeks a prisoner — then sent ashore at Halifax, and there continued three weeks in goal — On the 28th of April, by order of Gen. Howe was released without any tryal, after petitioning the General for a hearing.

An Express passed through this town last Thursday, who bro't an account that Capt. Mowat in the *Canceaux*, had taken all the fishing boats which lay within his reach, to the number of 20 sail, at the Eastward of Casco-Bay, it's supposed has carried them into Halifax.<sup>2</sup>

1. The ship *Crisis*, with lumber, from Newbury bound for the West Indies, John Salter, master, appears in Graves's Prize List, December 31, 1775, Appendix D, Volume 2.

2. This was probably the *Viper*, Captain Samuel Graves, as Mowat was in Halifax waiting for the completion of a new ship, the *Albany*; the *Canceaux*, under a Lieutenant Schenck had been sent with dispatches to Quebec. Howe's disposition of his fleet, August 13, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

APPRAISAL OF MASTS AND SPARS FOR THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Raleigh* <sup>1</sup>for Ship *Raleigh*—To be paid the owners if not deliver'd, or the Colony

Main Mast 27 Inches	£ 19 – 4
Fore Mast 26 Do	17 – 1
Mezen Mast	5 – 0
Main yard 18 Inches	4 – 0
Fore Do	3 – 10
	<hr/>
Long.	£ 48..15..0

Portsmo July 20th. 1776 }  
 Appraised by } Moses Noble  
 James Marden

1. John and Woodbury Langdon Papers, NHHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Satterday 20th of July 1776

Pleasant weather Landed our prisoners let most of our people go on  
 shore on liberty

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* <sup>1</sup>

July 1776 Cape Ann No 65 Wt 12 Leags  
 Saturday 20 saw two Sail in the N W Qr made Sail & gave Chace  
 Fresh Breezs & Clear at 6 fir'd 5 Shot at the Chace at 1/2 past  
 fir'd 3 more at 7 fired 2 Shot and Brot too the Chace sent our  
 Boat onbd the Prize and took possession Rec'd Prisoners on-  
 board prov'd to be an American Schooner,<sup>2</sup> Wore Ship and  
 made Sail.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. The prize was the schooner *Triton*, from Kennebec River for the West Indies, with lumber,  
 flour and fish. She was condemned as a legal prize on August 23. Vice Admiralty  
 Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N. S. Arch.

JONATHAN GLOVER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Honoured Sir

Marblehead July 20, 1776

I am Extremely Sorry to take up one moment of your attention En-  
 gaged as it is in concerns of the highest Import to the United American  
 States: But Seeing without your kind Interposition I may be Materially In-  
 jured, I hope you will Excuse Me.

your Excellency was pleased to appoint Me one of the agents for the  
 Continental armed Vessels, which office I have Endeavour'd to discharge with  
 diligence and Fidelity: and Conducted, I would fain Suppose, to your  
 satisfaction. Among other things, when the Ship *Hope*, Laden with pow-  
 der, was taken, I hasted to Pulling point Gut through which they attempted  
 to Carry the Ship to Boston, But she got aground, So I procured Small craft  
 and Before Night got out Twelve Hundred Barrils of powder. I procured



a guard of one Hundred & fifty Men from General Ward, Lest the Enemy Should take the Ship By their Boats in the night. I Engaged the Best Pilot in Boston to Carry up the Ship, But he despaired of doing it in the Night, Because he Could Not See the Marks, as the Channel was Crooked, I told him I did Not chuse to trust her their that Night, and that She must be got up, he Said it was Impossible, I then proposed placing at anchor a Number of the Small Vessels with Lanthorns on Board them at the Shallow places and Bends of the Channel: and after they were thus Stationed, the Ship flitting and the wind Being fair, we made sail and got up her to Boston Safe at anchor off the wharf Before day Light, and I ceased Not till with vast labour and fatigue the whole Cargo was secured. on account of this Business for four days and three nights I did not pull off my Cloaths, and scarcely Slept at all, afterwards I Libelled the Ship & Cargo, and attended the trial and Condemnation, in one word, I have taken the whole care of them, and Nothing Now Remains, to be don, But Makeing sale of the Ship and a few artickls that are not Military Stores, the work of a day. in this Stage of the Business Mr John Bradford of Boston Steps in and desires to Sell this Ship *Hope* and her Cargo, and Claims a Commission on Some others against which I have Either finished or Commenced Proscution, I will take the Liberty fairly to State his Pretensions, he Recd in a private Letter, about Six weeks Since from Mr [John] Hancock Informing him, that through his Friendship he was appointed agent for all prizes Brought into this Colony, and that his Commission Should be forwarded as Soon as Might be, and advising him when he Should Rec[eiv]e it to make known his appointment in the Public Newspapers, this Letter Mr Bradford communicated to Me, as I have Reced No Intimation of this from your Excellency, who appointed Me an Agent, Nor from any person under the Authority of Congress and as Mr Bradfords Commission has Not arrived, and perhaps Never May, I thought it my Duty Not only to My Self But to your Excellency, and the Continent, to Continue acting in that Capacity as far as Respected those Vessels that comes in My hands, those that have Been since Brought in, to avoid any Colour of disputes I have Not Meddled with; under these Circumstances I flatter myself My Conduct will Receive the approbation of your Excellency and the Congress and if your Excellency Shall judge it Expedient a Line from the Marine Committee of Congress May Settle this Matter as in Justice it ought to be, which is all I wish, Mr Bradford has Lately Recd a Letter from the Marine Committee which Considers him as agent Respecting Some Matters yet to be done, this with Mr Hancocks Letter is all that give him any authority. I hope I Shall be Excused for thus Troubling you. I was afraid the publick Service would Suffer by an altercation Between us, and the Captors, I shall Esteem it a favour if your Excellency will give directions to have the Military Stores taken in the Ship *hope* appraised in order that the Captors may [get] their Shares as they are grately in want of many of them I am with the utmost Respect [&c.]

Jonathan Glover

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Lebanon 20th July 1776

Sir This Colony has been so unfortunate as to employ two Brigs one after another both of which have proved bad Sailors, the last of the two being well recommended, was purchased by this State and fitted in the best manner, this indeed, by Divine Favor was successful in taking one Ship and Brig in Nantasket Road near Boston, and afterwards assisted in taking another Ship in the Bay, of which you have received information – <sup>2</sup> Capt [Seth] Harding, the gallant Commander of her, complains that she is a dull Sailor and not fit for the Service – There is a Sloop of 150 Tons, Bermudas built, brought from New Providence by Commodore Hopkins which the Captain informs might do well to be turned into a Brig <sup>3</sup> The Cloathing and Military stores on board our Brig *Defence*, may be put on the sloop, and she fitted in a very short time to proceed on a cruize again[st] our Enemies – Our request is, that this State may have the Sloop at appraisal, or on such terms as the Honble Congress may judge reasonable; that so she may be fitted and employed accordingly – Colo [William] Williams, who brings this, and comes to take his seat in Congress agreeable to the appointment of our General Assembly, will inform fully on the subject, which renders it unnecessary to add, only my hope for a favorable answer –

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, 74–75, ConnSL.

2. The Scotch troop transports *George* and *Annabella*, and the *Lord Howe*, taken June 19 and June 20, 1776.

3. The sloop *Endeavour*.

MUNITIONS IMPORTED ON BOARD THE *Bountifull* <sup>1</sup>

This may Certify that Monseieur Mary Young Commandr of the Sloop *Bountifull* has Brot into this Port the Following Warlike Stores Vizt

18 three pound Cannon with Carriages &c

12 Swivels

300 Small arms

700 W[ei]ght Muskitt Ball

One Ton of Cannon Ball

Four Thousand wt of Powder

all which were Exhibited to the Committee of Inspection in this Town – <sup>2</sup>  
p R. Mumford Clerke

New London July 20th 1776

To all whom it may Concern

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 312, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, 313, an accompanying invoice gives values, sales and disposition, thus:

Invoice of Warlike Stores Imported in the Sloop *Bountifull*

Capt Merry Young

6 Cannon a £40

£240.. 0 .0

7 Ct wt Muskitt Ball a 6d

17..10..0

40 Ct wt Powder a 5s/4d

1166..13..4

75 Muskitts Sent to General Washington }

225.. 0..0

no Price obtained Value'd a 60/ }

50 sent out in the Sloop	
175 Sold on an Average a 50/.	437..10..0
12 Cannon	}
12 Swivels	
1 Ton of Ball	
The Sloop for	
	2700.. 0..0
L Money	£4786..13..4

DISPOSAL OF POWDER AND ARMS FROM THE SECOND VOYAGE  
OF THE CONNECTICUT SLOOP *Macaroni* <sup>1</sup>

[New London, July 20, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

Accot Desposal Powder bro't in the *Macaroni* the 2d Voyage

342 Kegs to Norwich	wt - 7547
23 ditto to Col [Gurdon] Saltonstall	wt - 672½
11 ditto to Gilson	- 177½
1 ditto to store to pay Huntington &c	32
1 ditto to Ely's Co	28
378	8457 lb

2 ditto used on the Voyage

Weight of Powder

50 kegs wt	1532½
46 do	520
172 do	2003
107 do	3440
4 do	337½
379	

French wt	7833
8 PCt	624
	8457
	910
	7547

[Cost of Cargo]

50 kegs	wt 1532½ lb	4½	6896.5
44 ditto	440	5	2200.
1 ditto	10	6	60.
1 ditto	70	3½	245.
96	2052½		

1 Chest Cartrages

172 kegs	2003	5.5	10515.15
107 ditto	3440	4.4	14448.
1 ditto	15	5.	75.
3 ditto	322½	5.15	1854..7.6
380	7833		36294..7.6

18 Swivel Guns	1260.
131 Small armes & 3 blunderbusses	6638
19 P[ai]r Pistols	594..8.6
6 hangers & belts	94.10.0
18 Cutlass's	156.15.
300 flints	9.
250 Muskett ball	115.10 —
33 Swivel Shott	30.15 —
200 lb Langrage	16.10 —
	<u>45209.16.0</u>

## [Recapitulation]

131 Small Armes bought	
42 Lost	
89 Remains one of w[hi]c[h] Charge to W[illiam] P[ackwood]	
18 Swivels bought	71 Musketts to Elys Co
5 Lost	19 Motts Co
13 Remains	90
342 kegs Powder	1 bot of Benvers
11 do to Long Island	89
24 do Court House seller	
377	
1 in store	
378	
8 Swivel Guns Hardens [Seth Harding's] Brig	
5 Lost in <i>Macaroni</i>	

1. Shaw Papers, Packet No. 3, YUL.

2. The date is approximated. While the *Macaroni's* second cargo was received at New London on February 2, 1776, the final accounting was not completed until after word was received of the loss of the *Macaroni* at the beginning of her third voyage. This is evident by the final entry in the above account. The news of her capture reached New London on July 17, 1776, when her mate, Ebenezer Colefax, and one of her hands, Nathan Spicer, arrived from New York and made affidavits. Presumably a few days were required to assemble the account.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT OF POWDER VENTURES <sup>1</sup>

Dr	Nathaniel Shaw Junr in Accot wth Willm Packwood	Cr
To Powder & Armes Shipt home in <i>Macaroni</i> 1st Voyage	19796..3..—	By Sales of the Sloop <i>Macaroni</i> Cargo the 1st Voyage 28845.18..1
To Coffee & Cocoa in ditto	7884..0..—	By 200 half Jos 13200.
1377—18.60		
Amo Disbursments on sd Voyag	1097..8..—	By Cash pr Sloop <i>Commerce</i> 11487.18..2
To Powder & Armes Shipt home in <i>Commerce</i> 1st Voyage	17489.19..—	By Amo Sales <i>Macaroni's</i> Cargo 2d Voyage 13765..2..4
Disburs[emen]t on ditto	1859..5..—	By Cash carried out in her 65472..0..0

To Powder & Armes Shipt home in <i>Macaroni</i> 2d Voyage	47715.10..4	By Cash Reced of R Jinnings	16500..0..0
			149270.18..7
Disbursments on ditto	7864..7..0	Ballance	5209..4..3
			<u>£154480..2.10</u>
To Sundry Goods of the 2d Voyage 20.187	20691.10..0		
Left in R Jennings's hands			
To Left in Sargentons hands	8490.18..5		5209..4..8
To Cash Returned	8401..0..0		4191.10..-
			<u>1017.14..8</u>
To pd Satinett pr <i>Commerce</i> 170.			
To Frontenack & [illegible] p <i>Macaroni</i>	367.		
To pd Jona Leeds	198.	735..0..0	
To the ballance of the <i>Black</i> <i>Jokes</i> Cargo	12315.19..7		
To Cash advanced S Champ- lin Storage &c	139..2..6	20691.10..0	
	<u>154480..2.10</u>	16500..0..0	

NB The above Ballance is due Wm Packwood in Case Jenings 4191.10..0 pays this sum  
[New London, July 20]<sup>2</sup>

1. Shaw Papers, Packet No. 3, YUL.
2. See footnote 2 under preceding entry.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.<sup>1</sup>

July 1776.

Anchored in Haverstraw Bay.

Saturday 20th AM Light Breezes and fair Wear at 9 Unmoor'd Weigh'd  
and Came to Sail Run further up the River, at Noon came  
too with the Small Bower in 5 Fam Water Veer'd and  
Moor'd with the Stream Anchor; Fired a Shott at a Party  
of Rebels on the Shore. -

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL STEPHEN MOYLAN TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH,  
NEW YORK<sup>1</sup>

Sir

New york 20th July 1776

the public Service requireing a Number of Ships & Vessels, I have to  
request of you. to Set out as soon as possible for Connecticut, & purchass for  
account of the United States of America, from twenty to thirty. ships, sloops  
& briggs, of the greatest Length of Keel that you Can get, the Least expen-  
sive & Oldest vessels will answer, & we want no more Rigging on them than  
will be barely necessary to transport them to this place - as the greatest dis-  
patch is necessary, Let each vessel be sent off[f] as soon as purchasd, &  
ballasted, with wood (if practicable) & stone -

Whereas it may happen, that the navigation of the Sound may be Stop'd  
in that Case, you will do well to Stipulate with the Owners, that they shall  
receive their vessels, all charges theron, to be paid by the publick in short,  
from your known good Character, & attachment to your Country I doubt

not but you will exert your Self in this business, purchasing as cheap as possible, & sending them forward with all possible dispatch, relying there on I remain Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan Q M G

1. Hubert S. Smith Collection, CL.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH <sup>1</sup>

[New York] 20th [July]. – A flag from Gen. Howe, with Adj. Gen. [John] Patterson, came up with a message to Gen. Washington, respecting the recent capitulation in Canada, and insinuating that Gen. Howe was desirous, if possible, to bring about an accomodation. The same day, news was received from South Carolina, that the British, in attempting Sullivan's Island, with their ships and a large body of troops, said to be from 1300 to 2000, were defeated by the Americans; one frigate burnt and blown up, several others damaged, and 172 men killed and wounded. On the side of the Americans, 10 were said to be killed, and 22 wounded.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 42.

*Constitutional Gazette*, SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1776

New York, July 20.

Since our last, several of our late King's ships from the fleet at Staten Island sailed through the Narrows towards Sandy-Hook, and, its generally believed, they are gone to the Sound to stop the communication between the New-England States and this.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Moored off Staten Island

Saturday 20th At 9 AM Sent a Lieut in the Barge to New York with a Flag of Truce <sup>2</sup> Caulkers Employd as before  
The first part Modr & fair, Middle light Breezes & Do  
Latter fresh Breezes with thunder & hard rain At 3 P M  
made the *Greyhound* & *Kingfishers* Signal for a Boat with  
a Petty Officer, made the Parole Signal

1 NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

2. "Another Flag of Truce went this Morning from the General, which met with a better Reception than any of the preceding." Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 38. Colonel John Patterson, Adjutant General of the British Army, went in this flag and was received by Washington. See *Heath Memoirs* this day.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Head Quarters Elizabeth Town 20 July [1]776

Sir Your favour of the 17th Inst with resolves of Congress of the 10th which I had the Honor to receive yesterday I shall pay all possible attention to –

Some days ago I came to this Place with a View to execute a plan to surprise some of the Enemies Posts on Statin Island formd by consent of

General Washington, from what we could observe and the intelligence receiv'd there were three Stations includeing the new blaseing Star which together with some few Houses off from the sound containd from five to Six Hundred men; two Creeks inclosd these stations all but a narrow neck of Land, so as to prevent any easey access of reinforcements.

It was intended to pass the sound from the mouth of Thompsons Creek a little below this Town to statin Isleand at a propper time of night so as to be on the back of the Enemies Quarters, before daylight appeard, we were first to have securd by a strong party the Neck of Land between the two Creeks, and then to have divided our force in such a manner as to have attack'd all the posts at once as soon as it was light – then to have retir'd if successful by the Ferry at the new blaseing Star; the night before last was fix'd on for this enterprize the first division consisting of Continental Troops under Major Nolten [Thomas Knowlton] march'd with me to the mouth of Thompsons Creek by nine OClock, with design to pass the Sound – Immediately, the two Battalion's of the Pensylvania rifle Men together with the first Battalion of the Pensy Millitia were to follow; the Whole force would then have consisted of about thirteen hundred Men – some of those Troops were renderd unfit for Service, by having had a very fatiguing march from Brunswick, this oblig'd us to think of contracting our plan, but very Tempestious weather comeing on obligd us to desist all together from the enterprize; some Gentlemen well acquainted with the passage there, being of opinion that we should endanger the loss of our whole party, in attempting to cross with such boats as we were provided with –

I have troubled you with this Narrative partly with design to point out the necessity of haveing boats of a propper construction built for the service of this Army, either to afford a safe & speedy passage to the Troops for the attack of the Enemy on Statin Isleand, or to move our men with expdion to New York or Phila. should the service require their assistance at either place . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers) , 159, 145–47, NA.

#### JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Saturday, July 20, 1776

*Resolved*, That the letter from General Lee, with the papers enclosed, which were received and read yesterday, be referred to the Board of War.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the United States of America be given Major General Lee, Colonel William Moultrie, Colonel William Thompson, and the officers and soldiers under their command, who, on the 28th of June last, repulsed, with so much valour, the attack which was that day made on the state of South Carolina, by the fleet and army of his Britannic majesty:

That Mr. President transmit the foregoing resolution to General Lee, Colonel Moultrie and Colonel Thompson.

1. Ford, ed., JCC, V, 593–94.

EDWARD RUTLEDGE TO ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, July 20, 1776

You will receive by this Conveyance what to me & to all who love me has & will be a most pleasing piece of Intelligence – I mean an Account of a very complete Defeat of the British Navy in So. Carolina. – On the 28th of June the *Experiment* of 50 the *Bristol* of 50, the *Sol[e]bay*, *Syria*, *Actoon* & *Action* <sup>2</sup> of 28 each, the *Friendship* of 26, the *Sphynx* of 20 & the *Thunder Bomb* drew up in Line of Battle before our Fort at Sullivan's Island about 5 miles from & in full sight of the Town – to divert the attention of the People the Bomb began to throw her shells until the Ships could be brought to bear upon the Fort, at the same time they attempted to land a Body of about 2000 men from 35 Flat Bottom Boats on a distant part of the Island judging that we had so many out of the Fort – but in that they were wrong, as indeed in almost every thing else, for we had abt. 3000 men posted there with 2 Field pieces & an 18 poundr under the Command of Col. [William] Thompson of the Rangers who twice repulsed their whole Force with Loss on their Side, but none on his own.

“The Fleet during the whole of this time indeed from 11 o'clock A.M. until 10 at Night kept up a most furious Fire on the Fort but were at last gallantly repulsed, with a mere handful of Men, a force which to one so little skill'd in war as I am, would have appear'd totally inadequate for the purpose – We had but 800 Men in the Fort & could bring but 12 Guns to bear upon the Fleet. The Loss as to Men on our part was inconsiderable as to No. & Character (other than being as brave as they could be []) – there were but 12 kill'd & 24 wounded, not an officer beyond a Serg; the least part, – Genles [Charles] Lee and [Robert] Howe says they behaved to a share with as much coolness & courage as they ever saw – & what makes it more singular is, that but one of the whole Number had ever been in Action – the *Bristol* lost her Mizzen Mast the 1st shot, her main and fore mast her Hall Yard etc vastly damaged – the Capt. of the Commodore lost his Arm, the Commodore was wounded in the thigh & knee and had his Breeches torn off 44 Men kill'd 30 wounded 20 of whom are since dead – the *Experiment's* Capt. kill'd tog[ethe]r with 57, others & 30 wounded – the Ship vastly hurt, several of her Parts brok into one or it is the general opinion that neither of the above Vessels will ever get to Sea again – Uncertain what the others lost The *Actoon* got aground & was set on fire by her own people but did not blow up before a Mr. Milligan a Marine officer had boarded her brought off her Colours her ships Bell, Sails, Stores, etc. The *Thunder Bomb* shatter'd her Bed in the Firing so much that she must be got into Dock to refit before she will be able to [get] cut – this my dear Friend is as much as I can relate of a Defense which must redound to the Honour of our valiant Countrymen – I think it will have most happy Consequences, not to that Colony alone, but to all America, it will fill her with a Spirit of Emulation & go far I hope towards overthrowing opposition. . . .”

1. *Rare American Historical Autographs, The Collection of Frederick S. Peck* (Philadelphia, 1947), No. 44

2. *Syren, Actaeon, and Active.*



PHILADELPHIA, July 26, 1776.

By an Express arrived yesterday from *South-Carolina*, we have the following important Intelligence.

Extract of a letter from Fort Johnson, South-Carolina, July, 2, 1776.

"ABOUT this day month a very formidable fleet came over our bar, containing in all about fifty sail, under the care of seven or eight men of war of considerable force.—The troops from their transports landed about a fortnight since on Long Island, a little to the northward of Sullivan's Island, only parted by a small creek, say from 1500 to about 2200 men, uncertain exactly how many. These were to force a pass across the creek and attack our fort on Sullivan's Island on the back, whilst Commodore Parker with his fleet cannonaded it in front. On the 28th, accordingly, the Commodore came up in the Bristol of 50 guns, with him the Experiment of 50 guns, the Active frigate of 28, the Solebay of 28, the Syren of 28, the Actæon of 28, the Sphinx of 20 guns; the Thunder bomb, and the Friendship transport mounting 20 guns. The Syren, Actæon, and Sphinx, very providentially got foul of each other, and aground on the shoal called the Middle, between Sullivan's fort and this post; the Syren got off, the Actæon and Sphinx were so foul, that the Sphinx was obliged to cut away her bowsprit to save the Actæon's mainmast; in that condition the Sphinx with difficulty got off. The Actæon, a fine new frigate not 12 months old, the enemy was obliged to quit and burn. The four first, the Bristol, Experiment, Active, and Solebay came to anchor about 500 yards, and kept up a most furious cannonading from 11 o'clock in the morning till 10 at night, at the same time the Thunder bomb threw her bombs at that battery for several hours. The Friendship transport also fired a no inconsiderable number of cannon. The fort on Sullivan's Island, containing 32 cannon mounted, was commanded by Colonel Moultrie, of the 2d regiment of our provincials, who had only his own regiment of 350 men rank and filed in.—he made a most noble defence, and obliged them to sneak off in the dark, about 10 o'clock, leaving their anchors and cables behind them. Hardly less than 12,000 cannon were fired at that fort, and had my friend but had a ton or two of powder more, he would have disabled them effectually. The fleet are so shattered that I believe they will hardly trouble us again unless reinforced. The Commodore is now altogether unrigged, his mizen-mast gone, and fishing his mainmast.—The enemies troops attempted to pass from Long-Island to Sullivan's, but were entirely repulsed.—In this long engagement we had 12 men killed and 20 wounded."

Copy of a letter from Fort Johnson, South-Carolina, to General Lee, at Charlestown, dated July 1, 1776.

"I have the pleasure to send to your Excellency five seeming very honest fellows, who slipped from the men of war last night, and came to us a little before day-light. Their names are, Thomas Benner, of Massachusetts-Bay, Daniel Howlin, of Boston, New-England, James Scott, of Virginia, Robert Hamilton, of New-Hampshire, Edmund Allston, of ditto.

"The first three were taken in the sloop Sally, Jenkins, master, bound from Cape-Nicholas to Dartmouth; Scott was mate of her.—The two last were taken the third of March, in the brigantine Friendship, John Hadsden, master, bound from Madeira to Piscataqua, in New-Hampshire.—The ships in the fleet arc, the Bristol, of 50 guns, (Commodore's ship) had 44 men killed and about 30 wounded,—the Captain his arm shot off. The Experiment of 50 guns,—the Captain killed,—57 killed and about thirty wounded. The Solebay of 28 guns, Capt. Hunt, 2 killed and three or four wounded. The Active, of 28 ditto, Captain Williams, First Lieut. killed, and one marine wounded. The Syren, of 28 ditto, Capt. Furneaux. The Actæon, of 28 ditto, Captain Atkins, burnt. The Sphinx, of 20 ditto, lost her bowsprit. The Friendship, an armed vessel, mounting 20 guns, taken into the service.—The Thunder Bomb, of 6 guns, altogether disabled, her beds being totally shaken and gone, so as not possible to be repaired without going into dock.

All the masts of the Commodore so disabled that they must be obliged to be taken out, and the people say there was a talk of fisting his masts and going to Antigua.

"These men say, it was generally reported that the engineer on board the bomb, came up to Charlestown in disguise, was at the taverns and at all our fortifications; that some of their boats come in every night and might be easily intercepted. The ships were in such a hurry to get away, that they cut their cables. The fleet very poorly manned; one third of the hands they came up with, taken out of the transports. Ever since they left Cape-Fear at two-thirds allowance, they never saw a mouthful of fresh provisions on board, that came from the shore, since they were taken. These men say, they had orders to spare none, to give no quarters. That 5000l. sterling is offered for your Excellency's head. A splinter whipt the Commodore very cleverly, tore all his breeches behind to pieces, and left his posteriors quite bare. They are very scarce of water."

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR DESERTERS FROM PENNSYLVANIA GALLEYS <sup>1</sup>

Deserted from the *Cambden* armed boat, Richard Eyres commander, a certain William Nichols, by trade a ship joiner, about twenty-one years of age, five feet six or seven inches high, fair complexion, and light coloured short hair. He had on, when he went away, a red and white striped outside jacket, white inside ditto, white breeches, blue and white spotted stockings, good shoes, and plated buckles. Whoever secures said Nichols so that I may have him again, shall receive Four Dollars reward.

Richard Eyres.

N.B. All persons are forbid to harbour or conceal the said Nichols upon their peril, as he belongs to the Provincial fleet.

Deserted from the armed boat *bulldog*, Alexander Henderson commander, John Lawson, a seaman, twenty-five or six years of age, of a fair complexion, and long hair tied behind. Whoever secures the said man in jail, or brings him on board the said boat, shall have Five Dollars reward, and reasonable charges.

Alexander Henderson.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, July 20, 1776.

PETITION OF GUARD BOAT CAPTAINS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE  
OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

To The Honourable the Committee of Safety

The Humble Petition of Charles Lawrence, William Watkin and Robert Tatnall Commanders of the Guard Boats Station'd at Darby Creek –  
Sheweth

That Your Petitioners labour under great inconvenience in being Supplied with Meat, from the Fort, and John Mitchell Esqr further informs us that we are to send to Philadelphia for our Meat for the future –

Your Petitioners humbly represent the difficulty of sending our men thirty two Miles every day, the difficulty of getting the men on board when in Town, and in case of an Alarm, the Wind & Tide might not admit of their coming down to our assistance –

Your Petitioners beg leave to inform you, that Mr Sketchley Morton a resident at this place where we lay, will Supply us with fresh Meat every day, at the same price as is allowed at the Fort –

Your Petitioners humbly beg, that Your Honours will be pleased to take it into consideration and Your Petitioners will for ever Pray

Darby Creek }  
July 20th 1776 }

Charles Lawrence  
W<sup>m</sup> Watkin  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Tatnall

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN DENT TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentn

St. Georges Head Quarters 20th July 1776

From the Acc[oun]ts given me by several Deserters that, the Fleet in-

tend up Potomack River to Water, and from the Motions of the *Roebuck*, five other Ships & a Sloop, I have the greatest Reason to believe they are now on their Way for that Purpose. Nanjemoy we suppose to be the Place of their Destination. I have by Letter informed the Committee of Correspondence of the Motions of the above ships, and shall endeavor to watch their Motions & prevent their Depredations with all my Might. There was a brisk and severe Cannonade from two or three Tenders & a Row-galley off Smith's Creek about six oClock this Morning the Consequence of wh[ic]h I have not as yet heard I [am] Gentn with much Esteem [&c.]

J<sup>no</sup> Dent <sup>2</sup>

p Express Upon public Service

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. The Council of Safety replied on July 21 to this letter and to Dent's of July 19. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN TO DANIEL WOLSTENHOLME <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

*Roebuck* 20th July 1776

I received this morning your letter of the 19th, with an Annexed declaration and Assurance that any Flag sent for you, and your Effects shall be received with the respect due to it

Commodore Hamond's Inclination to render any Service in his Power to any of His Majesty's Officers in your Situation; has induced him to order a flag to be sent on Shore for you on Monday or Tuesday next; And you shall have as good Accommodations for your Passage to England in the *Vic-tuallar*, he has been pleased to Grant me, as it will afford. And I am desired to Assure you that any flag or Vessel with a flag that you may employ to bring off[f] your Effects and stock, with their provision and Water, shall be Allowed to return immediately Unmolested

Dr Scott and four other Gentlemen, besides myself, take this opportunity of going to England. he desires his Compl[imen]ts to you and such of our Friends, as may be with you, in wch I Join and in wishing you health and a good Passage I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Eden

1. Red Book, I, Md. Arch. Wolstenholme was "Collector of the Customs in North Patowmack," Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XII, 103.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

St Geo. Isld N W 1 Mile

Friday 19th

A M. the *Otter* sail'd out of the River

Saturday 20th

Modt & fair A. M. at 3 Sent the Galley into Smiths Creek to Reconnoitre at 8 a Schooner from Baltimore Anchor'd here at 10 the Galley Return'd having lost Wm Ward Quarter Master at Noon Weigh'd & made sail with the *Dunmore*, *William*, *Anna* & *Fowey's* Prize

First part Modt & fair Latter part Modt & cloudy P.M. Came over Sandy Point in 19 feet water at 3 Saw the *Otter*

turning up the [Potomac] River  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt 9 Anchor'd off Normine Cliffs in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  fath.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Saturday July 20th 1776

Ordered, That Commissions issue appointing Eliezer Callender Esquire Captain of the Sloop *Defiance* William Green first Lieutenant Lewis Jones second Lieutenant Celey Saunders Esqr Captain of the first Row Galley <sup>2</sup> Stafford Lightburn first Lieut Samuel Nealey second Lieutenant James Markham Esqr Captain of the second Row Galley <sup>3</sup> John Lurty first Lieutenant Henry Lightbourn second Lieutenant William Saunders Captain of the Schooner *Adventure* Richard Lightbourn Lieutenant

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council of Safety*, I, 80.

2. Galley *Lewis*, Celey Saunders, commander.

3. Galley *Page*, James Markham, commander.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Off[f] Spencer's Inlet July 20th 1776

I had the honour to acquaint you by a letter sent in the *Tarrible* Sloop on the 17th of this month,<sup>2</sup> that the troops have all embarked, and that when the few transports now remaining in Spencers Inlet could get out we should be ready to go to Sea;

As the wind is now fair & those vessels will probably be out this morning, I must again submit to you whether, recollecting our small quantity of water, the danger which the Agents seem to apprehend in case of a gale of wind, with other reasons of still more importance, the advanced season & necessity of our being as soon as possible at NY recollecting all this & the uncertainty when the frigates can get out whether it will not be more advisable for us to go to sea without them; the agents will no doubt take every precaution & as the bays of Delaware & Chesapeake must be marked I apprehend no danger; I understood from Mr Tomkin [Thomas Tonkin] that you wish to have Mr [John] Knowles with you, as the *Palister* & *peace & plenty* are the only two transports that will remain with you, & as our safety will depend in great measure on our keeping together, I am sure you will think tis necessary he should be with us; I have the honour to be

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

2. *Ibid.*

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Sphynx*, CAPTAIN JAMES REID <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Moor'd in Five Fathom Hole off Charles Town.

Friday 19

Long boat Employed as before [watering]

Fresh Breezes & Cloudy W[eathe]r at 2 PM Weighed & dropt further to the Southward, at 5 came to with the Bt Br in  $\frac{1}{4}$  less 5 fms and Veerd to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a Cable, Lighthouse WBS Sullivans Island NBW, the Signl on board the *Experiment* for all

Lieuts sent the Boats to assist at the Embarking of the Troops from the Lighthouse Island, Lost in getting the Casks off 3 Puncheons, 2 Hogshead & 1 Barrell,  
 Saturday 20 AM the Signal on board the *Experiment* for Assistance, at 10 Do attempted to go over the bar, but the Wind not answering obliged her to Anchor again, the *Solebay* got over the bar, and the *Thunder* Bomb on Shore on the No breakers, Do made Sigl in Distress  
 Squally Wr with Thunder, Lightning & rain, Boats assisting the *Thunder*, at 10 she went off and got over the bar.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/922.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPTN [THOMAS] DAVEY  
 COMMANDER OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Diligence*, CONCERNING  
 THE ILLICIT TRADE CARRIED ON IN THE RIVER MISSISSIPPI,  
 DAT'D PENSACOLA THE 20TH JULY 1776." <sup>1</sup>

I found in the River a great many French Vessels, who hoist'd French Colours, & have proper French passes, therefore it was not in my Power to Seize them, as they were in a Spanish Port. I was therefore oblig'd to inform the Spanish Governor of their being in the River; and to assure him they were not English Vessels, and that I would not in any manner protect them

He said he was oblig'd to me for my information, and that he would order them to quit the River immediately, and that they must have come in under English Colours, as he had given strict orders not to admit any Foreign Vessels except English. I dare say it is true; but as I have not proof of their hoisting English Colours I cou'd not Seize them. In short Sir, there is no possibility to prevent the French from Tradeing in that River without a Vessel is kept constantly at the Balize, with strict orders to Examine every Vessel, & if any are found to be French, the Commanding Officer (as he cant Seize them) should be order'd to represent it to the Spanish Governor. The Captain should also have a Deputation to Seize Vessels carrying on a Contraband Trade – this plan I am sure will effectually prevent the French from Trading there without the Spanish Governor chuse's to connive at it, which I believe he will not dare to do, as his orders are not to admit any Foreign Vessels into the River except English. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Davey

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Letter was sent to Vice Admiral Clark Gayton.

SAMUEL CURSON TO COMFORT SANDS, NEW YORK MERCHANT <sup>1</sup>

Sir –

St. Eustatia, 20th July, 1776.

My last respects was the 30th May. I then forwarded you duplicate of sales of Captain Pullar's cargo, with bill of lading, and invoice of what I shipped in return. Also the Hon. [New York] Congress's account current

— balance due me, £620 7s. 2d. If you find it right, I shall be much obliged to you to pay it to Messrs. Curson and Seton, as I owe them a large sum.

Powder continues in great plenty; it has lately been sold as low as 30s. per cwt. Will not you be in want of blankets next winter? They may be had here at 2 and 3s. a piece.

Provisions are like to be very much wanted soon; there is but little good in these islands. If we have not larger supplies than heretofore we may suffer much. The English islands already feel the effect of America withdrawing their trade from them; and some begin to think with us, Great Britain will lose her object. I am, with great respect, sir, [&c.]

Sam. Curson.

1. *New York Provincial Congress, II, 301.*

#### RICHARD HARRISON TO THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gent.

St Pierre Martinique July 20, 1776

Your Letter of the 1st ulto I had the Honor of receiving a few days ago by way of Statia, and agreeable to your request, immediately waited on the Governor, Count Dargout, with the several interesting Resolves it contained; which I have the Happiness to inform you were received with politeness & Thanks, perused with pleasure, and are now on the way to the Court of France.<sup>2</sup> I embraced this Occasion of Broaching also to his Excellency the other more delicate part of your Commands; and for answer on that Subject, am authorized to assure you that the Americans may rely on a hospitable reception here, Protection, and every Indulgence in his power to grant them. At the same time being unable to accomodate them, openly, with so free and extensive a Trade in certain Articles, as they might wish, he can only assist them by Connivance, and therefore expects on their part Secrecy & Discretion in the Management of these Matters, untill he knows the result of his representations to the King, when perhaps less reserve may be necessary. — This, Gentlemen, is as much as he can well promise; is sufficient to demonstrate his friendly Disposition, & will I conceive suffice for your temporary purposes. —

As to the people in General, I can venture to say, they are as united in their Wishes for the Success of America, as the Americans themselves, and the ancient Distinctions of Whig & Tory are as much used among them. I believe they are sincere. For were we to admit them divested of all regard for the Rights of Humanity (which I by no means intend to insinuate) every Event tending to humble the Pride & Power of their Rivals, would we may naturally conclude, contribute to their Joy & Triumph.

Many Vessells belonging to this Island have lately sailed for the Northward and more will shortly follow. Several of them with Ammunition, which is now plenty & cheap. Dunmore keeps them from Virginia & Maryland, whither they have a great Inclination to trade. Could you once remove him I do not doubt but you would soon be well supplied with every necessary — There are now two Vessells on the point of Sailing, which I am

persuading to the port you mention, and I believe they will attempt it. One of them is a fine Sloop mounting 12 Guns, well manned, and determined to fight her way through – If you should think it expedient to grant Commissions to such Vessells, I have reason to believe many more would be fitted out of this place; as they would then have the double Temptation of Trade, and making Captures – I should not have mentioned this matter to you, had I not been applyed to by some who are desirous of engaging in such an Enterprize provided I could procure them Commissions. Should you think proper to send me any, I shall endeavour to make a prudent use of them. –

My design in coming to this place was to serve my Country. Whenever therefore I can be of Use to Virginia, lay your Commands freely, and depend on their being executed with much pleasure, by [&c.]

R<sup>d</sup> Harrison

1. Executive Papers, Patrick Henry, VSL.

2. See Harrison to d'Argout, July 18, 1776.

## 21 July (Sunday)

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Isis Quebec July 21st 1776

Sir Having on the 12th return'd from Chambly, I found here an order from Lord [Richard] Howe, to put myself under his Command, And to take all his Majts Ships & Vessels in this river, under mine; with several other orders, being all dated on the 13th Ultimo, off or near Cape race – Vice Admiral Shuldham's first Order by the *Canceau* Arm'd Ship, & dated at Halifax, had overtaken me at Trois rivières, in my way up – I also by the same conveyance (of the *Tartar*) receiv'd your's of April 17th giving me an account of the provisions, sent out by the *Alborough* Victualler, which, with all the rest of the *Tartars* Convoy, is safely arrived here, & her lading shall be disposed of, as directed. I have therewith, receiv'd the Orders of my Lords Com[missione]rs of the Admty as to the numerous Transports in general, which have enter'd this river, since my arrival here; And after mature deliberation with General Carleton, who has for some time past, been daily expected down from the Army, by the way of Montreal, I shall do every thing for the best, in that important respect, with his Excellency's approbation. The Wishes, Desires, & requisitions, of his Excellency, & the other Generals, are, because of the pressing exegencies of His Majesty's service, to employ, for want of readier craft, the Long boats of all the Transports, and Ordnance Ships, for the Conveyance of the Army, across lake Champlain which from a moderate estimate, already made, cou'd safely carry about eighteen hundred men, with arms, Accoutrements, Tents & Provisions for ten days – The Masters of the Ships, having done honor to their Country, by their Willingness during the whole course of this prosperous expedition, do not Scruple to return to England, without Long boats, (and I hope Carpenters too; at least such of them whose Ships are not leaky) on this important

occasion. The *Kent* transport, (carrying this) the *Speke* Hospital Ship, both Old Indiamen; And a large Swedish Transport, of about four hundred Tons Burthen, are to sail forthwith, after delivering their Long Boats, which are very large. And if General Carleton on his return, has no objection, which I do not believe he will have, the rest of the Transports some excepted, which possibly may be reserved for the sake of their Men, shall in succession follow – Having learn'd, by an Extract of a Letter from Mr Secretary [John] Robinson of the Treasury, sent me by General Carleton that their Lordships of that Board, are hard put to it for Ships, to send out more provisions from Cork to Canada, this year, I have taken it upon me, to add to the *British Queen*, *Beaver* & *Elizabeth*, (Victuallers for that department) the late arrived Naval Victualler the *Alborough*, & the Transports called the *Isabella* & *Dorothy* Wm Clarke & Cuthbert Berkeley Masters; Berkeley winter'd here both sail for nine Shillings a Ton per Mensem, And if not wanted can but be order'd from Cork to Deptford, whither they are Chartered. at all events my rectitude of intention assures me of their Lordships pardon, If I have err'd herein, I also send two large Transports loaded with Coals to Halifax where they are much wanted & from whence I presume, the Commanding Officer will send them home after delivery.

I have proposed to Lord Howe, that the *Blonde* be continued at Champlain, which is above the rapids of Richlieu; The *Triton* & *Lord Howe* arm'd Ships at the foot of them, the *Isis* & *Juno* here, (the latter to be kept in full readiness) and the *Bute* at the Isle of Bique – As also to remain here, the *Magdalen* Schooner & *Gaspee* Brig. This disposition is the most approved of by General Carleton, as the best to operate on the minds of the people, in this extensive Province And I make no doubt, of its meeting with His Lordships approbation he having signified that the Generals wish, as to the appointment of Ships, to be continued in this river, be complied with moreover it is intended that the four Ships first mentioned above, shall lend as many Seamen, as they can possibly & with propriety spare, for the important service, now under preparation, on lake Champlain. – As also Stores, of many kinds & Guns for the two new frames of Vessels; one to be taken down here, which is to carry sixteen twelve Pounders, one already taken down at St Denis, in the Sorel, to carry twelve of the same Caliber, or nine Pounders at least, And ten six Pounders for the *Maria* Arm'd Schooner taking down at Chambly, which three Vessels; the largest one being about One hundred & Eighty Tons, and the other two of about One hundred Tons each, are setting up or to be set up at St Johns: Guns for a few of the largest long boats, And a great Variety of other Craft, may possibly mostly be procured elsewhere: by all these means, our acquiring an absolute dominion over Lake Champlain is not doubted of – but it is with the Army herein to determine the quantity of force necessary. We can only strain every nerve, in contributing as far as possible, towards the procurement thereof – The *Lizard* is stationed to protect the Island of St Johns, with the adjacent fisheries – The *Carysfort* is under orders, forthwith, to join Lord Howe; And is very shortly to be followed by the *Tartar*. The *Pearl* is again to cruize in



the Gulph of St. Lawrence – And the *Gaspee* & *Magdalen* to be kept in full readiness for carrying dispatches as service may require – It is intended that the *Bute* and *Lord Howe* shall escort the Fur Ships homeward – For which a Convoy is to be solicited And which will sail in October <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, 43b.

2. Letter continued on July 23.

WILLIAM DUER TO JOHN JAY AND ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

White Plains Sunday  
21st July 1776 –

Genls Putnam and Mifflin have made an Exact Survey of the River opposite Mount Washington, and find that the Depth in no part exceeds 7 Fathoms – The Middle however of the Channell (wh is from 3 to 7 Fms) is not much less than 1800 Yds – the shallow Part of the River running in an oblique Direction – G.W. expresses himself extremely anxious about the Obstruction of that Channel, and Means are daily used for executing that Purpose – It is impossible to procure Vessells enough at New York, so that the Measure must be delay'd 'till such Time as more Vessells can be brought through the Sound from Connecticut – however I am not without apprehensions that this Resourse will be cut off, as I understand that some of the Enemy's Vessells have saild out of the Hook, with an Intention (probably) of cutting off our Communication with the Sound –

It is however an Object of so much Importance that no Difficulties however great ought to deter is from our Attempt to carry it into Execution; if we succeed the Designs of the Enemy in this Campaign are effectually baffled, if we fail we cannot be in a more lamentable Situation than we are –

Exclusive of the great Advantage we Should reap in obstructing the Channel so far to the Southward, it is I fear the only Place we can depend upon shallowing to the Southward of the Highlands whilst the Men of War are in the River For if proper Batteries are erected near the Water at Mount Washington, and on the opposite side mounted with Guns of 18 24 and 32 Pounds it will not be practicable for any Vessells to be so near as to prevent our Working under the Cover of these Works – I have strongly urg'd Genl Washington to send Genl Mifflin some heavier Metal, and though he seems half inclined this necessary operation has not yet taken Place –

There is another Consideration which I hope will induce one of you to repair immediately to New York – The Committee of Safety of Philadelphia have sent three Persons to New York in order to assist us in making Fireships – One of them a Mr [John] Hazlewood with whom I have convers'd is peculiarly clever – The Fireships charg'd in his Manner must I am confident prove destructive to any Vessell they fix upon – I have spoken concerning our Wishes to destroy the *Phenix* and *Rose* now in this River, and he is ready to undertake it, not doubting but he will meet with a generous Encouragement – I applied to Genl Washington to get Leave for him to



peint par Jean Willekinson à Teyton

## ISRAEL PUTTNAM.

Major Général dans les Forteres<sup>es</sup> de la Province Connecticut,  
 et Commandant en Chef de l'Expedition à Bunckers-Hill  
 pres de Boston le 17. Juin 1776.  
 Se vend à Londres chez Thom. Cart.

come up the River; but his Presence will still be wanted in Town for the ships their Loading 'till this Day Week, when he will wait on your Committee if You send him Notice by Express – he lodges at Mrs Graham's in Broad Street . . .

I had almost forgot to tell you that this Design of obstructing the Channel near Mifflin's is [conceived] under the Pretext of preparing Vessells for obstructing the Channel in the East River – It will be therefore be adviseable that Your Conversation should give a Colouring to this Matter . . .

P S – For gods Sake exert yourselves to Secure the Sea Vessells wh are in the River –

To John Jay, and Robt R. Livingston Esqrs.

Members of the Secret Committee, at or near Poughkeepsie:<sup>2</sup>

1. Robert R. Livingston Papers, 1765–1776, LC.
2. On July 16, the New York Provincial Congress appointed Jay and Livingston to a committee "to devise and carry into Execution such measures . . . for obstructing the channel of Hudson's river, or annoying the enemy's ships in their navigation up the said river . . ." *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 525–27.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

Head Quarters New York July 21st 1776

Dear Sir

By letter received from five Gentlemen Committee appointed by Provincial Convention of this State to reconnoitre and report the situation of the High Lands and Forts on Hudsons River, I find them in great want of Cannon, two men of war and three tenders being but about ten miles below them, and in daily expectation of their attempting to pass the Forts Montgomery and Constitution, to burn the two Frigates building at Poughkeepsie. In this situation they have mentioned sending to your Honor a request for those now at the Salisbury Furnace which I am fully persuaded you will, if possible, readily comply with, as it is not in my power to lend them any assistance from this Quarter – I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

G<sup>o</sup> Washington

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, 322, ConnSL.

PASS THROUGH NEW YORK FOR CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

Camp on Long Island July 21 1776.

Permit the bearer Capt Abraham Whipple who commands one of the Continental Frigates <sup>2</sup> to pass and repass from the City of New York to this Island and back again.

also through any part of the Forts fortifications or Encampments during his stay at New York, he being a person that may be safely trusted.

Nathaniel Greene

Brigadier General

To all the Guards and  
Sentries in and about

the City of New York belonging  
to the Continental Army.

1. Abraham Whipple Papers, RIHS.

2. Commander of the frigate *Providence* who was returning from Philadelphia. Whipple had been mildly rebuffed by Congress for a "rough, indelicate mode of behaviour to his marine officers," while commanding the *Columbus*. William James Morgan, *Captains To The Northward* (Barre, Mass., 1959), 51.

#### MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

St Geo[rge's] Island NW – 1 Mile

Sunday 21st A M at 4 Weigh'd & made sail at 10 Anchor'd in the Narrows a Little above Cedar Point in 13½ fath sent the galley on shore which Brought off[f] three Ferry Boats from Leadars Ferry at 11 Weigh'd But falling Calm Anchor'd with Kedge & Hawser in 13 Fath. Cedar Point SbE ½ a Mile  
First and latter parts Moderate and fair, P.M at 2 Brot home the Kedge & Let go the Sm Br at 3 Weigh'd and made sail, On Information of a Number of Rebels being Assembled in a House on the Maryland side, fir'd several 18 Pds at it, at 8 Brot Maryland Point NNE ½ Mile at 10. Anchor'd in 4 Fath Smith Point East ¾ of a mile.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

#### CAPTAIN ALEXANDER CAMPBELL TO LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL <sup>1</sup>

A Narrative of the Loss of the Ship *Glasgow Packet* (Transport) upon the Bar of Spencers Inlett near Charlestown South Carolina, the 21st of July 1776.

Upon the 18th Inst: I embark'd on Board the *Glasgow Packet*, with my Party, agreeable to the Orders I receiv'd that Morning from Lord Cornwallis. On my Arrival on Board, Capt'n Porterfield (Master of the Vessel) acquainted me that Mr [John] Knowles (the Agent) had given him Orders to be the last of the Transports to cross the Bar, as he had some small Guns on Board, to cover the Transports, whilst getting out of Spencers Inlett.

On the 20th all the Vessels in the Inlett, got under Way in the Forenoon Tide time, and by the Assistance of several Hands and Boats (The Troops being likewise mov'd out of some of them) they happily got over the Bar; the *Glasgow Packet* also got under way in due time of Tide, but it falling calm, oblig'd her to come to Anchor, the other Vessels warped out. I consider'd this Circumstance as a bad Omen to get over the Bar, and being inform'd that Mr Knowles the Agent, was at that time on Board the *Jenny*, assisting her in getting over, I went immediately and acquainted him with the Situation of the Vessel, and mention'd my own Suspicions, that she could not get over the Bar without Assistance; Capt. Thomson of the *Kitty* likewise spoke to the same Purpose, he having been on Board the *Glasgow*

*Packet*, when she was oblig'd to come to Anchor. Another Circumstance increas'd my Apprehensions of the Badness of our Situation: At the Instant I was applying to Mr Knowles, the *Jenny* struck, tho' she drew Eighteen Inches less Water, than the *Glasgow Packet*, which I instantly observ'd to Mr Knowles, who promis'd his Endeavours to provide Assistance next morning early, if the Fleet did not sail, which indecisive Answer increas'd my Anxiety, and I resolv'd to wait on Genl [Henry] Clinton at the Fleet, and represent my Apprehensions, of the Want of Assistance to help us over the Bar; I can not omitt mentioning that I represented in the strongest Terms the Necessity of Assistance, and applied for the same to General Clinton himself, also to Lord [Francis] Rawden, Capt'n [John] Drummond and the Gentlemen about the General (whose Business I thought it was to attend to my Application) that we might not be neglected, finding the Fleet was ready to sail. —

The Genl told me he would acquaint Sr Peter Parker with our Situation, who he hop'd wou'd afford me Assistance early in the Morning if the Fleet shou'd sail; at the same time the Genl gave me a Note to Mr [Thomas] Tomkins the Agent, desiring he would order back the *St Lawrence* to our Assistance immediately with Boats, Anchors &c. I went to Mr Tomkins on Board the *Friendship*, and deliver'd him the Genls Note; I had the Mate of the *Glasgow Packet* along with me, and made known to Mr Tomkins the evident Necessity of furnishing Assistance to get the Vessel over the Bar, as the other Transports had, and importun'd him much not to neglect us. —

His Answer was he wou'd send the Genls Orders to the *St Lawrence*; but as the Fleet was to sail directly if the Wind continued fair, he could not afford any other Assistance, neither was he sure the Commander of the *St Lawrence* wou'd comply with the Order.

Next morning about five o'Clock the Fleet got under way, but the *St Lawrence* did not return, nor any other Assistance; there was however a fine favourable Breeze, and about ten o'Clock the Ship got underway, the Breeze still continuing good, and kept her way very well for a considerable time, till within a Cables Length of the Bar; when she began frequently to strike; but continued her way till within about 40 Yards of the shoalest Part of the Bar, when she ceas'd making way, and stuck fast, continuing to beat excessively upon the Bar; this might be about 11 o'Clock. Signals of Distress were made, and Guns fir'd; Capt: Porterfield then got out a Small Anchor, with which they endeavour'd to heave the Vessel off; but without Success; in Short all my Men help'd, ev'ry Person assisted as much as possible agreeable to the Masters Directions till it was half past twelve of the Day, when I judg'd it most advisable, to wait on Sr Peter Parker as quick as possible, and apply to him for Assistance; I took the Yawl and arriv'd at the *Bristol* a little past three o'Clock, having row'd about the Distance of Ten or Twelve Miles. Sr Peter Parker immediately order'd a flat Bottom'd Boat manned, and a Kedge Anchor and Hawser, also Mr Witworths arm'd Sloop, to follow us to the Vessels Assistance (there being little Wind) for the better Dis-

patch, he was likewise pleas'd to send his own Pinnace with me. Being thus amply and expeditiously equip'd by Sr Peter Parker, with the means probably of saving the Vessel, and at any Rate the Party with their Arms and Necessaries, the Ships Company and perhaps the Provisions, I was happy at this Appearance of Relief, while it was yet Daylight, and was returning as quick as possible; a little past 6 o'Clock I met the *St Lawrence* returning from the Bar with the *Glasgow Packets* Long Boat at her Stern, seven of the Men had came off in her, who inform'd me the Vessel was taken about 4 o'Clock by a Row Galley mounting Ten Guns (Nine or Twelve Pounders) and some Swivels, and Boats towing of her. The Men who came off, say that the Ship had taken a Heel to one Side, and leak'd very much, that she struck so violently it was scarce possible to move upon the Deck, and her Head being to the Bar, and her Stern to the Shore made it impossible for them to bring a Gun to bear upon the Rowe Galley, who fir'd repeatedly both Grape and Round Shot at her. Being in this distress'd Situation Capt. McNicoll and Lieut: Frazer the Officers on Board despairing of any timely or effectual Assistance or Relief, judg'd it advisable to throw their small Arms overboard, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Rebels. How it happen'd that no more of them came off in the Long Boat I cannot tell, but it is most probable, that the Persons who came off in the Boat, loos'd her away for fear of being overset with more. As soon as I went on Board the *St Lawrence* I saw the Rebell's Boats along Side the *Glasgow Packet*, and their Rowe Galley a little Distance off.

I propos'd to Captn Greaves of the *St Lawrence*, to attempt recovering the Vessel and Party on Board, he told me No, that he had no Orders to go within the Bar, and the time of tide would not admit of his going over at any Rate. I then return'd on Board the *Bristol*, and acquainted Sr Peter Parker of the Misfortune, who next Morning dispatch'd the *St Lawrence* to try if possible to recover her; just as she reach'd the Bar, the Rebels who had already strip'd her of her Rigging set her on Fire.

I can not well express how my Soul is affected at the disagreeable manner by which my Friends and other trusty Associates have fall'd into the hands of a rebellious and tumultuous Enemy, coop'd up in a wrecked Vessel, wholly divested of the Power of even acting in their own Defence. We always had the Honour of the General and other our superior Officers Approbation of doing our Duty, and their falling a Sacrifice notwithstanding the Generals good Attention and Orders to furnish us with Assistance in due time, is grievous to me and the unhappy Sufferers in its Manner and bad Consequences.

Alex<sup>r</sup> Campbell Captn

R: H: Emig[ran]ts

Return of a Party of the Royal Highland Emigrants commanded by Captn Allexandr Campbell on Board the *Glasgow Packet* (Transport) lost on the Bar of Spencers Inlett July 21st 1776.

	Captns	Lieuts	Gentn	Volunters	Sergts	Corpls	Drummers	Privates
Fallen into the hands of the Rebels	1.	1.	6.	3.	2.	2.	28.	
Escap'd . . . .	1.					1.	8.	
Total . . . . .	2.	1.	6.	3.	3.	2.	36.	

Escap'd:

Lieut: Allen Stewart, of the late 78th Regiment.

Mr William Campbell North Carolina.

Alexander Ross of Do.

Ships Company fallen into the Hands of the Rebels.

The Master	4 Sailors
1st Mate.	2 Boys
Boatswain.	2 Negroes
Steward.	2nd Mate escap'd.

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Antelope*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM JUDD<sup>1</sup>

July 1776 North Caicos Wt 8 Leags  
 Saturday 20 At 1 AM Sounded no Ground at 60 fms at 2 TKd at 5 Out  
 2d Reef Topsls Bore up Sett Steering Sails Saw two Sail to  
 Windward Gave Chace at 11 Fired two Shott and Brought  
 too a Sloop from North Carolina<sup>2</sup> Sent a Boat on Board &  
 took possession of her at ½ pt fired a Shott at another at  
 Noon in Chace  
 At 1 P M Little wind & fair Wr Fired a Shot & Brot too the  
 Chace a Sloop from Georgia<sup>3</sup> Saw the Land bearing South  
 Wt Sent 7 Men on board of the Sloop & brought her Crew on  
 Bd Turks Isld SSW½W 3 or 4 Leagues at 4 made Sail in  
 Chace of a Sloop in the SE Qu[arte]r at 5 fir'd 2 Shott at the  
 Chace Shortn'd Sail at 6 Turks Isld SSW½W. 3 or 5 Miles  
 sent the Boat Mann'd & Armed After the Chace at 7 the NE  
 end of Turks Isld SWt 4 or 5 Miles the Chace & Boats  
 SSE wore to the NW at 8 Do Wr One prize in Sight ½  
 past TKd ½ past 9 TKd 10 TKd ½ past 11 TKd ½ Past  
 12 TKd the Boats return'd hoisted them in. In 1st Reef  
 Sunday 21 Topsls at 4 little wind TKd at 5 bore away the two Prizes in  
 Company at 8 Brot too with the Maintopsl. to the Mast at 10  
 made Sail at 11 Tack'd at noon the Middle of Turks  
 Isld. EBN 2 Legs

at [1] P M Modre Breezes & fair Wr Tacked At 3 Tack'd at 5 Spoke a Sloop from Bermudas at ½ past Anchd. in the Old Road of Turks Island, off Shore about ½ Mile the two prizes Anchd here sent the Boats Mann'd & Arm'd to Examine the Vessels in the Sound.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/39.

2. Sloop *Hope*, George Cuzens, master, with a cargo of rice, Gayton's Prize List, *ibid.*, 1/240.

3. *Ibid.*, sloop *Flying Fish*, — Littlefield, master, with lumber.

## 22 July

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE, PHILADELPHIA <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Portsmouth 22d July 1776

Dear Sir — Yours of the 8th instant is now before me, in which I found what I've been looking for some time it was publicly read, and declared (on the Parade the 18th Instant) by the Sheriff of the County, we are in a very bad Situation for want of Guns, and Ball, for the use of the Ship, also Orders for Powder, on the Agent at Boston, provision of the Commissary who has not got any Orders to deliver any Provisions to me.<sup>2</sup> We have Enter'd thirty or Forty Men, and I am doing the best I can with them, but its some Misfortune, to me, not to have Orders seasonably which renders my Schemes; difficult, and puts the Continent to much more Expence, we have now these Men, and not one single Commission for Officers, who are not willing to act, till their Commissions come, no Provision for them, but what I procure, at high price when their is Enough in the Commissarys hands at Boston, perhaps spoiling, no Orders for it, tho' I wrote for three Months ago, no Powder for the Gunner to make his Cartridges &c. had the Orders for enter[ing] Men come but Ten Days before; should have compleated our Hands; ere this, but this Order was also too late — however hope we shall get our Hands soon. —

I shall appoint a Steward who will be fit [a] Man for Purser — I should be glad to know if we are to Furnish any Bedding besides Hammocks; pray send an Order for small Arms (say some of those Carbines which were taken) — I have no doubt we shall do the Business for them at New York, if Howe should march to Philadelphia to pay a visit to Congress hope a resolution will be passed, and put in Execution, for confining him, and his Officers; in the New Goal —

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

2. At the head of this letter is a memorandum reading: "Portsmouth July 16th Wrote to Messrs Breck & Flannigan to call on the Commissary General for Provisions for Ship *Raleigh*."

*Boston Gazette*, MONDAY, JULY 22, 1776

Watertown, July 22.

Thursday last the *Tyrannicide* Privateer, in the Service of this State, commanded by John Fisk, carried into Salem, an armed Schooner of 8 Carriage and 12 Swivel Guns, and 30 Men, which he took off George's Bank, about three Weeks ago, after an obstinate Engagement of three



Glasses.<sup>1</sup> The Schooner belonged to and sail'd with the Fleet which is arrived at New-York, and was one of those which belonged to the Rear Division.<sup>2</sup> The *Tyrannicide* had one Man killed, and one Wounded, and was much shatter'd, but is now refitting, and will soon beready for another Cruize. The Captain of the Schooner<sup>3</sup> and one Man was killed: the Master lost one Arm, and about 10 wounded, several mortally.

Yesterday a ship with 1500 Barrels of Provision arrived safe at Boston, from Ireland.

Also a French ship with West India Goods.

1. H.M. Armed Schooner *Dispatch*, taken July 12.

2. Shulldham's list of his squadron of May 24, 1776, designated the *Dispatch* to escort the fleet from Halifax.

3. Lieutenant John Goodridge who has been confused with the Goodrich family of Virginia.

### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Monday, July 22d 1776

Whereas it is represented that Yesterday a Vessel from Ireland ladened with Pork and Other Provisions assign'd for Supplies to our Enemies entered the Harbour of Boston and was Compell'd to Submit to the Fortress of this State placed there,<sup>2</sup> and as the said Provision is wanted for the use and Service of this State, it is Ordered that the Commissary General be and hereby is directed forthwith to engage the same for that purpose. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 118.

2. The ship *Queen of England*, James Arnout, master, lured into the harbor by the *George*, Caleb Hopkins, a decoy ship wearing a commodore's pennant. *New-England Chronicle*, July 25, 1776.

### RICHARD CRANCH TO JOHN ADAMS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston July 22d 1776

The Declaration of Independency which took place here last Thursday, was an Event most ardently wish'd for by every consistant Lover of American Liberty, and was received accordingly by the loudest Acclamations of the People, who Shouted — God Save the united States of America! — We have various Stories current here of Vessels having spoken with Lord Howe, and that he inform'd them he had Powers to treat with Congress &c. *Beware of Punic Faith.*

Yesterday we had the Pleasure of seeing a Prize Ship with Provisions from Ireland, safely Anchor'd off Hancock's Wharfe. It seems by the Captain's account of things, that he was blown off to the W. Indies last Winter, was question'd by the Admiral at Jamaica, and roughly treated by him for coming so far to Leeward; he vindicated his Character; and after refitting, was sent off with a strict charge to go directly to Boston. He took a Pilot at Nantuckett, who foolishly told him that the Troops were gone from Boston; but happily the Captain would not believe him till our Fort at Nantaskett gave him full conviction. The chief of her Cargo is 1500 Barrells of Pork and Beef, with a Quantity of Butter.<sup>2</sup> We have also just received the agree-

able News, that an Arm'd Schooner, with Letter of Marque fitted out by the Derby's of Salem, has taken a large Jamaica Ship, with 394 Hhds, of Sugar, 143 Puncheons of Rum, 40 Pipes of Medaira Wine, and other West India Articles, and sent her into Sheepscutt. It is asserted that she has also 27 Pieces of Cannon in her Hold, from 4, to 9 Pounders.<sup>3</sup> The above Schooner has also taken a Sloop from England with Dry Goods, bound to N: York, and carried her into Cape Ann.<sup>4</sup>

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 57-58.

2. The ship *Queen of England*.

3. The *Anna Maria*, taken by Captain Joseph White in the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Revenge*.

4. This report was erroneous.

#### THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston July 22: 1776

. . . Capt McNeil is just arrived in town from Philadelphia, after having some Consultation with him, shall send you A List of officers – we wait for the Cannon, pray let me Know how soon we may expect them, as also the order for Enlisting the Men & for What time <sup>2</sup> . . .

1. Walter Fuller Don Collection, EI.

2. Cushing's inquiries regarding cannon and enlistments related to the Continental frigates *Boston*, Captain Hector McNeill, and *Hancock*, Captain John Manley.

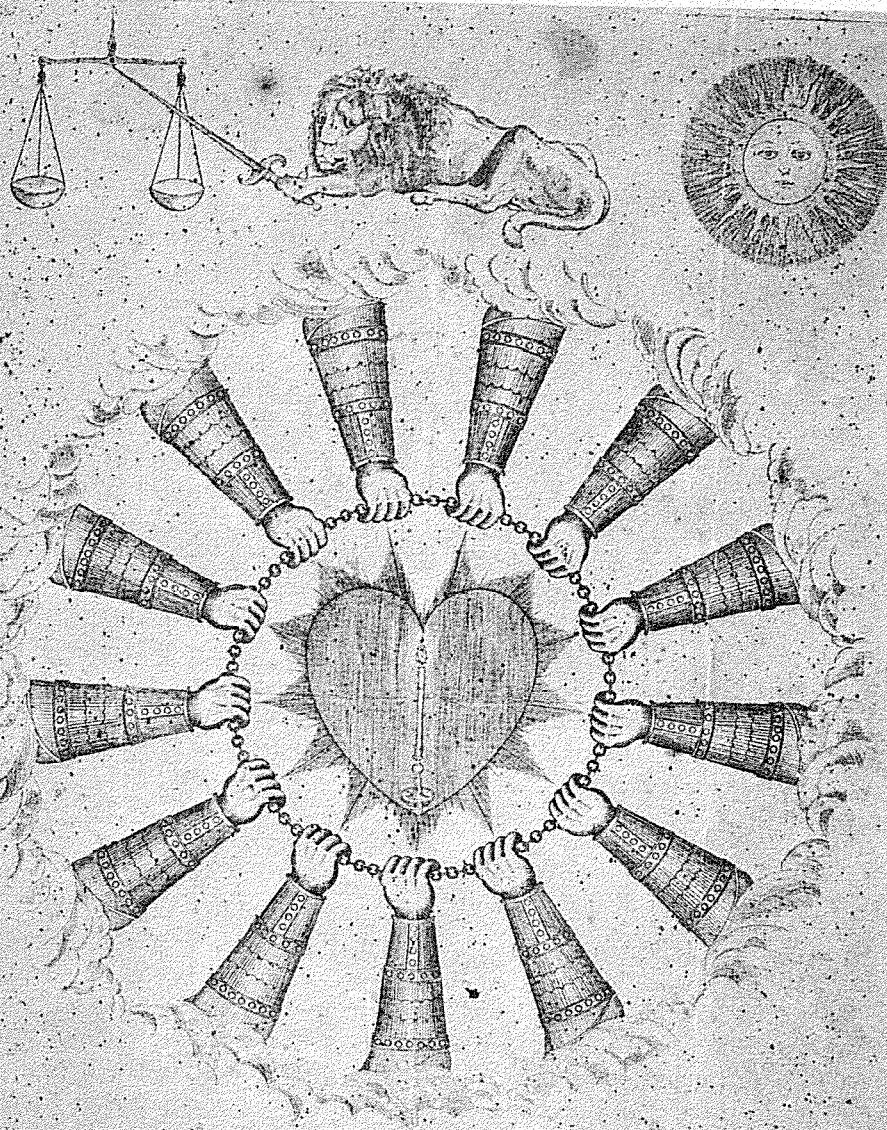
#### CAPTAIN JOHN GRIMES TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

Newport July the 22d 1776

Sr these are to Acquaint your Honr According to Orders the 21st I came to sail the Rowgally *Spitfir* & Left Orders with Capt Hyers to Come to Sail with Orders how to Conduct on our Pasig to Newyork after sum time the Gally *Washington* Lay Stil I fired to Signal Guns for her but to no Purposss I am Serta[in] I Could have Got Round But my Orders would not Permit me to go Alone by that I came back & Inquired the Reason of her not Coming his Answer was he would not go With Somthing to Rash to Mention his People being all Gone & Farther said he Would not be Odered by me with that I sent one of Lieut to take Comand & Carry her to Newyork & have Put Part of my Men on board & Mr Hill the Former Master as Capt for to Conduct he[r] there as I Understud meaning of the Hone Hous the Gallys Where Much Whanted in York as I am Certain the[y] Will Answer Good Purpose When Whe Get there as I am Informed its a Desine Planed on Porpos that his men Should Lev him so as to have an Excus for not Going as Your Honr & the Worthy Representatives of this State has thought Proper to Apoint me the Comand of these Gally I hope I shall be a Creadit to this Goverment & sum Honr to my Self thes[e] Frome Yours to Command I am [&c.]

John Grimes

PS. I Shall Sene Word with Colo Richmond About the Deserters from the Gally, with there Names & hope sumthing may be Don With them



# AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

*Declared July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776*

Thou tyrant's Earl, when with a fire brand  
Thy injured sons America's blood  
To cause thy sinking head  
Warm'd by one heart united in one band  
Fall on their fight and Independent land  
Of Britain and the World

**GOD SAVE AMERICA!**

The Honl Nickels Cook Govener & Command in Chief of the States of the Rhoad Island & Providence Plantations <sup>2</sup>

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, RIHS.

2. Governor Cooke replied on July 24 that he "was heartily mortified at the misconduct of the people on board the *Washington*. . . . I shall cause enquiry to be made into the conduct of Capt. Hyers, his officers and men. . . ." *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society* (Providence, 1867), VI, 158-59.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Newport July the 22 17[76]

I am to acquaint you that I saild from this place in the Continental Armd Brig *Andrew Doria* on the 25th of June, and accompanied the armd Sloop *Fly* as far as New London on her way to New York. On the 30th I saild from New London on a Cruise And on the 11th of July took the *Nathaniel and Elizabeth* a Ship bound from Jamacai to London commanded by William Hoare who is the Principle Owner. Just as I had taken the Captain and Crew out of the Ship and Mann'd her another Vessel came in sight to which I gave chase ordering the Prize Master to make the best of his way to the first Port of safety he could get to. The Vessel I Chased Proved to be a French Ship. Cap Hoare saild in Company with a fleet of fifty Sail under Convoy of a Fifty Gun Ship.

I Cruised till the 15th without seeing any of the Rest of the fleet and as the wind blew hard from the S W had no doubt of their having passd me. I then Steerd for Newport and Arrived here Yesterday. I had the Misfortune to strike on a Rock coming out of New London which makes it Necessary for to Careen the Vessel. I shall Make what dispatch I can in getting Ready for Sea And wait for Orders. I am Sir [&c.]

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, on deposit at HSP.

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, JULY 22, 1776

Newport, July 22.

Yesterday arrived here, from a cruise of about a month, the brig *Andrew Doria*, Capt. Biddle, who about ten days before took the ship *Nathaniel and Elizabeth*, Capt. [William] Hoar, from Jamaica to London, loaded with 300 hogsheads of sugar, 100 hogsheads of rum, &c. Capt. Philip Brown, of this place, was put in prize-master, and ordered to the first port he could make. Capt. Biddle saw two frigates under an easy sail near Block Island yesterday morning.

Yesterday in the afternoon, Lieut. Calcott of the *Merlin* ship of war (which lay a little without the harbour) came in a barge, with a Flag, to this town; the General Assembly being then sitting, he was conducted to the State house, where he delivered a letter to his Honor Governor Cooke, from Richard Viscount Howe, of which the following is a genuine extract.

[Howe's circular letter to the various governors]

The above mentioned letter was dated on board the "*Eagle*, off the Coast of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, June the 20th 1776."

While the Flag was in here the *Cerberus* lay a little without the *Merlin*.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Monday, July 22, 1776

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee respecting an exchange of prisoners; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the commander in chief in each department be empowered to negotiate an exchange of prisoners in the following manner: one continental officer for one of the enemy of equal rank, either in the land or sea service, soldier for soldier, sailor for sailor, and one citizen for another citizen:

That each state hath a right to make any exchange they think proper for prisoners taken from them or by them.

The Marine Committee having recommended the following gentlemen for officers of the *Rawleigh*, namely,

Peter Shores, John Wheelwright, Josiah Shackford, lieutenants; George Jerry Osborne, captain of marines; Stephen Meads, first lieutenant; Nathaniel Thwing, second lieutenant:

*Resolved*, That they be accepted, and that commissions be granted to them accordingly.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 598-99, 601.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia 22d July 1776

Dear Sir I have your favor of the 6th inst – in answer to the part of it respecting the Commissions I can only say, I am perpetually dunning the President to send them – if any alteration in wages of the Commission officers they will be higher: so there can be no difficulty with them – if any are lowered it will be the mates, midshipmen, coopers, sailmakers and perhaps some other of the petty officers and perhaps boatswain carpenter and gunner – if the three last are altered it will be but a trifle, say one dollar – the number of men I sent you some time ago – 80 seamen 80 mandsmen and 80 or 90 Marines – but it's my opinion if a greater proportion of seamen are entered and less landsmen there can be no harm done – if the officers have boys, no doubt they must be on the roll – it cannot be a question whether the men are to have hammocks – to be sure they must – the men to be entered for a year and as much longer as you can get them – if you can get arms the sooner the better – The Agent will have a commission for the business he does – therefore I suppose will employ what clerks he thinks necessary.

I always thought you had ample powers to fit the ship for sea and I believe it's so understood by the Committee – it is impossible to get the exact dimensions of the guns as there are but few made here and it's altogether uncertain whether they can be sent to you – The furnaces here have met with many accidents and I am of opinion your guns must come from Providence or some other furnace Eastward. . . .

The order the officers stand appointed.

Peter Shores 1st Lt

George Jerry Osborne Capt Marines

John Wheelwright 2d Lt

Stephen Meads, 1st Lt

Josiah Shackford 3d Lt

Nathl Thwing 2d -

Warrants will be filled up with the names you sent

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

SAMUEL HUGHES TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philada 22d July 1776

I have contracted with Congress for 1000 tons of Cannon at £36..10..0 to be delivered again the 1st January 1778. I have had but little conversation with the Marine Committee about the Frigates Guns; <sup>2</sup> they seem to leave it to you and Capt Nicholson to direct the length 3 inches in or over; therefore hope you'll send me the draft and directions, as soon as you can to the furnace, Where I hope to be in 3 or 4 days - No News from New York - the Militia of this province are marching. dailey to New York. The News of [Henry] Clinton's defeat has raised their spirits in this place wonderfully I am with regard [&c.]

S Hughes

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

2. The frigate *Virginia*, building at Baltimore.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Philadelphia, July 22, 1776.

Sir: The bearer, Mr. Joseph Belton, some time since petitioned the Congress for encouragement to destroy the enemy's ships of war by some contrivances of his invention. They came to no resolution on his petition, and, as they appear to have no great opinion of such proposals, it is not easy, in the multiplicity of business before them, to get them to bestow any part of their attention on his request. He is now desirous of trying his hand on the ships that are gone up the North River; and as he proposes to work entirely at his own expense, and only desires your countenance and permission, I could not refuse his desire of a line of introduction to you, the trouble of which I beg you to excuse. As he appears to be a very ingenious man, I hope his project may be attended with success.

With the sincere esteem and respect, I have the honour to be, [&c.]

B. Franklin.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, I, 496.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Orpheus*, CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Cape Henlopen N88Wt 18 Leagues

Saturday 20 at 6 AM Chased to the S W at 8 sent the Barge man'd & Armd after the Chase

Light Airs, at 8 P M the Barge Return'd with a Schooner from Philadelphia to the West Indias, Made Sail

- Sunday 21 at 4 A M saw three sail in the S W gave Chase at 5 took a Sloop from Philadelphia for the West Indias at 9 took a Brig from Do for Do at 10 in Chase of a Brig, at Noon 4 Prizes in sight  
Light Winds & Hazey Wr the Barge in Chase of a Brig at 6 P M the Barge Join'd us with with a Brigg from Philadelphia for the West Indias wth Flour Made Sail,
- Monday 22 at 4 AM sent the Barge in chase of a Schooner, at 8 She return'd with a French Schooner from Philladelphia for the West Indias wth Flour <sup>2</sup> at noon a sail in sight to the ESEt a Brig sloop & 2 Schooners in Company

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4279.
2. Prizes taken, all carrying flour from Philadelphia, in order of capture: *Fancy*, Joseph Titcomb, master; *Delaware*, James McKnight, master; *Endeavor*, A. Bartlett, master; *Dispatch*, Peter Parker, master, belonging to the Congress, sailing for France; *Mary Ann*, Guil De Grave, master. Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE KENT COUNTY COMMITTEE OF  
OBSERVATION <sup>1</sup>

No 68.

Gentlemen, We received by Captain [Richard] Berry the following Articles Vizt – 50 Barrels Powder four half Barrels ditto 15 Chests of Arms two large and two small pieces Lead.<sup>2</sup> – We send him back again for another Load, and the Schooner *Resolution* is to follow her, to bring away every thing She leaves. – The Money for Waggon Hire and other Contingent expences we have ordered into the hands of Mr Thomas Smyth – Sixty Barrels or 6000 Weight of Powder, and Lead in proportion is to be left for the Eastern Shore Magazine. – five Barrels for your County – We want the Swivels, Blunderbusses &c: to fit out a small Vessell immediately. – Should Elisha Winters have any Guns, please to let them come down by the Schooner *Resolution*. P.S. We expect the Sixty Barrels for the Eastern Shore Magazine were left at Talbot Court House  
[Annapolis] 22 July 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. In Executive Papers, Box 6, Md. Arch., the receipt for these stores reads: "Recd July 22nd 1776 From on Board the Boat *Liberty* Robt [sic] Berry Master Fifty Barrells & 4 half Barrells of Powder Fifteen Boxes Musquits supposed to contain 15 Each 4 Parcells of Sheet Lead supposed to Weigh 1500 lbs Arch<sup>d</sup> Anderson 1st Lt 4th Indpt Company."

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM VIRGINIA, DATED JULY 22, 1776" <sup>1</sup>

On Sunday last I was informed that Lord Dunmore was landing his troops on Thacker Washington's plantation, a little below Hoo's ferry. About twelve o'clock the same night, the Major of the county came express, to let me know that the fleet was then at Marlborough, a few miles above Boyd's-hole. The alarm was soon spread, and in a very little time the shores were covered with men. I went over early yesterday, and discovered four ships and three tenders. They appeared, as near as I can guess, to be

somewhere about Dumfries. The remainder we supposed to be below, either coming up, or attempting to land. Some few of us then pushed down the river, but found the militia dispersing just before we got to Boyd's-hole. They had received information that the balance of the fleet was at anchor near the mouth of the river. This morning early we returned to Patowmack river, and saw only three ships and two tenders, and hearing very distinctly, at the same time, a heavy cannonade at or near Alexandria, we concluded the other ship and tender had made the town a visit, where they will certainly meet with a warm reception. As yet we have no account. I shall proceed to morrow morning up the river Patowmack, and continue there till the fleet goes down.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 31, 1776.

### 23 July

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[*Isis*, Quebec] July 23rd

I have received the account, by one of my Midshipmen sent Express from Chambly that the Engineers have pronounced the Ground in one or more places, thro which the road leads, from thence to St Johns, not to be of sufficient Density for the Transportation of the whole Hull of the *Maria* arm'd Schooner, And that it would require too much time, and be productive of other inconveniences, to remove that obstacle. She is therefore taking down, to her floor heads, in order to be the more easily transported. The same Obstacles obtaining, with regard to the other two Hulls at Chambly the instant I received this Intelligence which I communicated viva voce to General Carleton His Excellency authorized me to have the frame building here, (already alluded to) of a Ship of one hundred & Eighty Tons burthen, taken down Today all the Carpenters afloat Went to Work, and it is expected that by after Tomorrow Evening, her Members will be ready for shipping off to Chambly in the Thirty Long boats, which are to be left by as many Transports, which Longboats are to be rowed by Canadian Boatmen, but for the greater safety & dispatch, to be steered by English patrons. The General agree, that the Transports may depart some excepted in case of exigences, but with their Long boats they must leave their Carpenters to whom His Excellency engages that they shall not be detained Longer than is consistent with their return to England before Winter: And I that they shall have a Transport kept for their Conveyance as also for that [of] such Seamen, as shall emancipate from the Lake service in consequence of Conditions Made or to be made with them, who have enter'd or shall Enter. The Transports shall sail, as fast as they can be got down from the Sorel, And Pilots can be procured for them from this bason, to the Isle of Bic where Twenty have long been in waiting, for the expected Brigade of Brunswick Troops.

Be pleased to assure my Lords Commrs that in all Cases, I shall act for the good of His Majts Service, to the Best of my humble Capacity I beg



leave to recommend the herewith inclosed for your persual and your communication of the Contents thereof, to their Lordships. And am &c

Cha<sup>s</sup> Douglas

P.S This moment General Carleton has in the most earnest terms desired that Lieut John Schank, with whose great merit I am well acquainted, Commanding the *Canceau* Arm'd Ship may have the superintendance in rebuilding at St Johns, the Ship already taken down here, almost to the very Keel; and the Command of her when afloat in lake Champlain I therefore send the *Canceau* to the Sorel, with Guns &c for the New Ship; And moreover to the end, that the Men and all the necessary Sails Anchors and Stores belonging to her, which are remarkably well adapted may be employed under their present Commander, And on the lake in question – The *Gaspee* Brig is to go in her stead to the Commander in chief, with General Carleton's next Dispatches And this very instant I received by a fresh Express from Captn [Thomas] Pringle of the *Lord Howe* in the name of Major General [William] Phillips, the request that the frame in Question (already in pieces) be taken down, and sent up to them – And most singularly happy am I, in this as in almost every thing else, We have ever anticipated Wishes and requisitions.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125/43b. Continuation of July 21 letter.

*American Gazette*, TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1776

Salem, July 23.

Sunday last was sent in here by Capt. [Peter] Lander in a Letter of Marque Schooner belonging to this Place,<sup>1</sup> a Sloop from the West-Indies, bound to Halifax, laden with Salt: She has on Board some Brass Blunderbusses, and a Quantity of English Goods; was taken about a Fortnight ago.

About the same Time was taken by the above Letter of Marque, a Ship from Jamaica, bound to London, laden with Three Hundred and Ninety-three Hogsheads of Sugar, One Hundred and Forty-four Hogsheads of Rum, Twenty-four Pipes of Wine, Twenty-six Pieces of Cannon, from Nine to Four Pounds, and Fifteen Tortoise: This Ship is thought to be worth between Twenty and Thirty Thousand Pounds Sterling. She is not yet arrived here.<sup>2</sup>

1. The letter of marque schooner was the *Sturdy Beggar*, commissioned June 13, 1776.

2. The ship was the *Princess Royal*, which never did arrive, being retaken by H.M.S. *Milford*, on July 25, 1776, within three leagues of Cape Ann, Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769-1777, N. S. Arch.

#### GENERAL ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES <sup>1</sup>

Head Quarters [Ticonderoga] July 23rd 1776. –

Parole Martinico Counter Sign Monckton

Whereas it is of the utmost consequence, that a well regulated Body of Sea Men, and Marines, should be immediately draughted from the Several Brigades of this Army, to the End that the Army of The United States may Continue to Support Their Naval Superiority, and Command



*John Schank.*

of the Waters of Lake Champlain; and for the Encouragement of such Seamen, and Marines, as shall be so Draughted for the important purpose aforesaid; The Honorable The Congress of The United States have Order'd each Non Comid Officer, Seaman, & Marine, while employ'd in the Service aforesaid, an additional pay of Eight Shillings Lmo pr month, over and above the pay they are entitled to receive in the Corps to which they respectively belong –

The Following is the Detail for the Non Commission'd Officers, Seamen, & Marines to be Draughted from each Brigade. They are to Parade to Morrow Morning at Eight o'Clock, & immediately to be deliver'd to the Officers appointed to Command Them.

Each Officer, will keep a Roll of their Names, Regiments, & Companies, that their pay abstracts may be regularly made up, and adjusted Once a Month. –

Detail for the Seamen and Marines

	Serjeants –	Corporals –	Drumrs –	Privates
First Brigade	6	4	4	64
Second	6	4	4	62
Third	6	2	2	60
Fourth	10	6	6	102
Total	28	16	16	288

1. Orderly Book of Major General Horatio Gates, 10–11, NYHS.

BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Fort. Montgomery 23d July 1776.

Sir I am favoured with your Excellency's Commands of the 17th Instant, and am happy to find the Measures taken here for the Reception of the Enemys Shipping approved. [Yesterday] some of the Carpenters from Poughkeepsie arrived at this Place with the Fire Rafts. They are constructed on the Plan lately transmitted to your Excellency by my Brother – We are busy preparing & hope to be able Tomorrow or next Day to draw them across the River, tho I fear we will be put to great Difficulty in procuring Anchors Cables &c for securing them. The Combustible Matter with which they are filled will I apprehend hardly be quick enough for want of Spirits of Turpentine & Salt Petre. We have neither & I don't know where to apply for or how to procure these necessary Articles. Shoud the Enemy ever attempt to gain Possession of this Fortress by Land with equal Numbers only we are in a bad Situation to defend it – The Hill on the South Side of Poplopens Kill & not above 1/7 of a Mile distant over looks us. Every Gun almost in our Battery lays in open view of it – It is accessable to the Enemy from a Landing that we cannot Command with our Batteries by a Road along which Field Pieces may easily be brought up – We must for the safety of these Works keep a large Body of Men there shoud the Enemy attempt landing if no Works are erected. If fortified a less Number will hold the Ground annoy the Enemy's Shipping, and render us safe from that Quarter or any attempt by Land. . . .

... On the 16th Instant the Enemys Shipping came under way & proceeded up the River opposite the Stores at Haverstraw about 8 Miles above where they first lay Opposite Tarry Town, they discharged a few Shot at the Houses on the West Shore without doing any damage – I went down there next Day caused the Goods to be removed out of the Stores & the cattle Sheep & ca contiguous the Shore to Places of safety & ordered 180 Militia under a prudent Officer to protect that Neighbourhood & prevent the Enemy getting any Supplies – In the Afternoon a Tender Sloop made Sail & run up within full view & long Shot of our Battery sounding the River carefully as she beat up – We gave her a 32 pounder which hit her, She put about & fell down to the Shipping plundering a small House on her Return near the Shore before our People could possibly get there – The 17th Instant The *Rose* Capt [James] Wallace & the same Tender came under Sail. The Tender soon after endeavouring to cover a Barge in Shore at which our People were firing run aground & did not get off before Evening. The *Rose* proceeded up within three Miles of this – plundered a poor Mans House & set it on Fire – Capt Wallace headed the Party who committed this little Robbery; his Share of the Plunder was a Handkerchief full of Salt & a Pigg so very Poor that a Crow would scarcely deign to eat it – The House stood single under a Mountain & we thought the Poverty of the Owner would be a sufficient Protection tho' we had a Party not far distant that they were not able to arrive Time enough to prevent the Mischief. Their being able to move from a Place so much quicker by Water than we can by Land is much against us – However I think I have my Party so disposed of now as to prevent effectually any Mischief in future – The *Rose* fell down in the Evening near to where the Tender was a Ground & the next Day the *Phoenix* moved up to her so that they now all lay about 5 or 6 Miles below us – A Deserter swam on Shore from the *Rose* a few Nights ago I desired Colo Nicolls & Hays to take & transmit to your Excellency his Examination which I hope you have recd he was a Volluntier in our Service last summer was taken on Board of one of our Privateers last Winter by the *Rose* is now here & well known by our Artillery Officers & People – I am very Apprehensive that the Enemy's Shipping (from their moving up so near us & other little Circumstances) mean to take the Advantage of a Dark Night & Slip by us – The Shores are high & bold & the navigation of course safe & Easy – To prevent this I have sent an advanced Guard every Night on the extreme Point in View about 2½ Miles below Our Works properly prepared to kindle up a large light Fire on the Shipping's heaving in Sight; I have also on the Shore opposite the Battery & a considerable distance up and down the River Large Piles of dry Brush & Wood mixt with leaves & the best Combustible Matter I can procure with proper Persons to set them on Fire upon the Signals being given from the first Point; So that by having them between us & those Lights we will be able to play upon them with great Advantage while our Shore will be thereby darkned to them –

PS. Since writing the above Messrs Livingston, VanZandt & Lawrence arriv[e]d here to consult upon the most adviseable Way of fixing a Chain

aCross the River & to view the Shores. The Ship Carpenters at Poughkeepsie are making more Rafts & other Matters advised by the Committee of Congress. . .

1. Washington Papers, LC.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM FORT MONTGOMERY, DATED JULY 23." <sup>1</sup>

. . . Last Thursday a man made his escape from on board the *Rose*, by swimming. He is well known here by officers and men from Boston, in the train. He was taken last summer by the *Rose*, in going to the West-Indies. He says, they expected to be joined by several hundred Tories, who were to drive down to them stock of all sorts; they had been informed that great quantities of goods were deposited in the stores at Peek's Kill, that they were to destroy, after which to proceed through the Highlands to Poughkeepsie, and burn our ships of war there: That they were much chagrined at the disappointment – they had on board 120 men and boys, and 20 marines: That the most damage they received was in passing the batteries at Powle's Hook and the Blue Bell – the cook of the ship had a leg shot off, some others wounded, a 12 pounder lodged in the head of their foremast, one came thro' her quarter gallery into the cabbin, and that her shrouds and rigging suffered much. The *Phoenix's* damage he could not tell only that she had received a shot in her bowsprit. What he saw he declared. As he was a prisoner, 'tis not likely they would let him know their disasters.

1. *New-England Chronicle*, August 8, 1776.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

Die Martis, HO. A. M.

[White Plains] July 23d, 1776

The Convention were informed that provisions are very scarce and dear in the city of New-York; that they have, notwithstanding, been shipped for exportation, and have fallen into the hands of the enemy: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That no provisions whatever shall be laden for exportation on board of any ship or vessel at the port of New-York, or from any other part of this State, unless for the use of the crew of such ship or vessel, or for the necessary supply of any of the United States of America, until further order; and that the city and county of New-York shall be first applied to for their permission to export any provisions for the purposes aforesaid, which said committee are hereby empowered to judge and determine upon the propriety of granting such supplies.

*Resolved*, That in all cases where a breach shall be made in the above resolution, the vessel and cargo shall be forfeited to the use of this State; and the persons guilty of infringing it, shall be held up as enemies to the United States of America.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 537.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Halifax* <sup>1</sup>

## Remarks on Thursday July 18 1776

A M Weighd at 10 the flood Obligd us to Come too within the Narrows Empd Occasionally

Moderate Breezes and fair Weather

- 2 [P. M.] Weighd and Came to sail with a sloop in Company

Empd Turning out of sandy Hook –

- 4 [P. M.] Fresh Breezes and Cloudy weather

Sandy Hook light house WSW 4 Miles Empd Turning to wndward

Fresh Gales and Squally w[ith] some Rain in 2d reef Topsls

at ½ past 6 Bore away for sandy Hook the sloop in company

at 8 Came too wt the Bt Br in 6 fathom of Water at Sandy Hook – the Light House East 1½ Miles

Hard Gales and Squally wr Thunder Lightning and Rain

## Remarks on Friday July 19th 1776

- 1 [A. M.] Moderate at ½ past weighd and Came to sail the Above Refugee Sloop in Company Stood out of the Hook –

- 3 [A. M.] Sandy Hook light House WNW 3 or 4 Miles

Fresh Gales and Squally Wr Handed the Topsails The

High land of Never Sunk NNW 5 or 6 Miles Running along

shore to the Southward at ½ past 9 Came too wt the Bt Br in

7 fathoms of water Veerd to ½ a Cable off Shark River The

Entrance of the Creek 1½ Miles Sloop In Company

Fresh Breezes and Cloudy Weather saw some People on the

- 1 [P. M.] Beach which we supposed wanted to Come off – Sent the sloops wale Boat but could not land the Surf being High, Empd Blacking the Bowsprit Yards &c &c

- 6 [P. M.] Little wind and fair Weather

- 8 [P. M.] the Boat wt some People from the sloop went on shore

- 10 [P. M.] Cleard for Action

- 12 [M.] Light Airs wt some Lightning

## Remarks on Saturday July 20th 1776

- 11 [A. M.] Saw a Sloop to the No Wd Standing to the N W

- 12 [M.] Mod Breezes and fair W. Empd Occasionally

- 1 [P. M.] Saw some People on the beach near the place that the Boat landed at sent the Sloops wale boat to them found them to be some People that was sent to Repair the Refugees Boat she Having ben stove in landing

- 8 [P. M.] found the Refugees to be all safe on shore

- 9 [P. M.] Calm

## Remarks on Sunday July 21 1776

- 4 [A. M.] Do and Cloudy

- 6 [A. M.] Modt Breezes and Cloudy Weighd and Came to Sail the Refugee Sloop in Company. Empd Turning to the So ward

- 10 [A. M.] Squally Close Reeft the Topsails Sloop in Company  
 12 [M.] The So m[ost] part of the wood lands WNW  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Miles off  
 Shore Empd Turning to Wind wd and Tacking Occasionally  
 1 [P. M.] Fresh Breezes and Cloudy Weather wt Rain  
 3 [P. M.] at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 Came too with the Bt Br off Sequan Inlett in  $7\frac{1}{2}$   
 faths of Water sandy Bottom the Entrance of the Inlett NW  
 the So mt point of land SbW The Sloop in Company.  
 6 [P. M.] Saw a number of People on the Beach which we supposed to be  
 the Refugees sent the Boat but the Surf being High could not  
 Land at 8 Squally Veerd to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a Cable  
 12 [M.] Light Breezes and Cloudy Weather  
 Remarks &c on Monday July 22d 1776  
 4 [A. M.] Light Airs and Foggy  
 7 [A. M.] Saw some People on the shore which we took to be  
 Refugees Sent our Yawl and Sloops Wale boat to them  
 9 [A. M.] as soon as the Boats got in to the Surf the Rebels begun a heavy  
 firing of small arms on them.  
 12 [M.] Fird several 4 pr Shottd at the Rebels got the Boats on Board  
 all safe Weigh and Cume to Sail  
 Fair Weather Refugee sloop in Company  
 3 [P. M.] Came too wt the Bt Br in 6 Fathoms off[f] the Mouth of Shark  
 River saw some people on the shore  
 5 [P. M.] sent the wale Boat to them which Returnd with some  
 Refugees at 7 Weighd and Came to sail Sloop in Company  
 9 [P. M.] Came too off Wardells Beach in 7 fathoms of water sandy  
 Bottom 1 Mile off shore  
 12 [M.] Modt Breezes and fair Weather Lattd Obsd 41-17  
 Remarks on Tuesday July 23d 1776  
 at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 saw some people on the Beach makeing signals for  
 the Boats to take them off  
 7 [A. M.] Sent the Boats Mannd and Armd to them as soon as the Boats  
 came near the shore, those people Fird on them  
 9 [A. M.] weighd and run near in shore and fird several 4 Prs at them and  
 drove them from the Beach at 11 the Boats returnd all well  
 made Sail for the Hook Sloop in Co

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775. The *Halifax* and her refugee sloop consort were cruising along the New Jersey coast as far south as Shark River between the present Bradley Beach and Belmar.

# JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, July 23, 1776

The Marine Committee having recommended Richard Palmes to be captain of marines,

*Resolved*, That he be accepted, and a commission be granted to him accordingly.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 601, 604.

ROBERT MORRIS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philadelphia 23rd July 1776

Some time ago we agreed with Mr Christopher Champlain of Rhode Island to Charter A Ship of his called the *Peggy* Now lying at Norwick in your Province, provided a Suitable Cargo could be procured for her There

As we wish you to act as our Agent in this bussiness, we request you will inform us of the different articles of your produce together with the prices, and what you would recommend to load said Vessell with at this time or in one or two Months hence for the European Market. as Soon as we receive your Answer we shall direct you how to proceed in the purchase, and will Send you the terms on which we agreed to Charter the Vessell We are sir

By order Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris, chair man of the Secret Commee.

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS. See previous volumes in this series for the checkered career of the ship *Peggy*.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR., BALTIMORE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philada 23d July 1776

... I do not hear of any person that has been recommended as Lieutenant for the Ship you are building,<sup>2</sup> nor have I as yet received your recommendations, please to send me the names of three Gentlemen in the order that you and Capt Nicholson would wish them to stand I have mentioned Dr Budd to the committee; he is not yet appointed – I have no doubt but he will be, at the same time the Lieutenants are appointed I am with much respect Dear Sir [&c.]

Joseph Hewes

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

2. The Continental frigate *Virginia*.

JOHN READ TO OWEN BIDDLE <sup>1</sup>

Sir:

Fort Island, 23d July, 1776.

The Roomes for the Officers in the Barracks are nearly finished – one of the Carpenters (Mr. McCleester) has, at the request of some of the Officers, applyd for the following locks to put on the Doors of their several Apartments, Vizt

For Capt [Thomas] Proctor, 1 Chamber door Lock; for Lieut. Courtney [Hercules Courtenay], 2 cubbord & 2 Chamber Door Locks; for Lieut. [Martin] Stroberg, 2 cubbord & 2 Chamber Door Locks; a Barrack Roome for Capt [John] Hamilton, of the *Congress* Galley, will take 2 cubbord & 2 Chamber Door Locks, as a Barrack Roome, is finished, for his reception. I am, Sir, [&c.]

John Read.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 786. Owen Biddle was a member of the Fort Island Committee, of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety. However, the Committee of Safety had been succeeded on July 23 by a Council of Safety.



ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Baltimore Town 23d July 1776

... you was so Obliging as to Mention us as proper persons to undertake Building of Gundalous for the Province, if the Council [of] safety thinks proper I will undertake a part and should be Obligated to you to agree for me Whatever St[e]phen Stewart or Others hav I will take and endeavour to dispatch business (You Are no Stranger to my foremans Work) I can get more hands if I want them and will begin immediately and finish as soon as in my power and think as soon as any other Person that begins with me – if You Order me to begin please to let me hear by a line, I am Sir [ &c.]

Arch<sup>d</sup> Buchanan

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

MAJOR THOMAS PRICE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Upper Camp St Georges 23d July 1776

I Arrived at this Place the 21st Inst with one of the four Pounders the other two I left at Leonard Town 'till further orders – After Inspecting this Camp and Giving the Necessary Orders I went over to the Lower Camp Commanded by Colo Barnes who is Stationed much nearer the fleet than this Camp – I think a Nine Pounder could reach the *Fowey* from one of the Points, 'tho I doubt our doing her much Damage – The rest of the fleet lay out side of her they are very Quiet & Give us no Disturbance The *roe-buck* and three or four large Ships, went up the river the Evening before I got Here since which a Number of Cannon have been fired as I suppose near the Mouth of Nanjenroy – I have order'd the other two peices of Cannon to the Lower Camp & Shall as soon as the Nine Pounder arrives Order that there & if Intrenching Tools which I have sent after Can be had thro up an Intrenchment as near the *fowey* as possible I find great Difficulty in Procuring Necessarys it is the Poorest Part of the Country I ever was in I suppose not three spades & Shovals to be had within ten Miles – We have several Deserters from the the Enemy most of them in the small Pox ...

Upon my Arrival here I was Informed that General [John] Dent had Ordered a flagg of Truce on board the *Fowey* to request a Passage for Mr Daniel Wolstenholm to go to England with his Property and that this was done in Consequence of a Passport Mr Wolstenholm Obtained from the Committee of this County and that he Expected a Boat every Day to take him on board but as Matters are Circumstanced I thought it Adviseable not to suffer Mr Wolstenholm to leave the Province until your knowledge and approbation Could be had relative to this Buissiness therefore hope for your Instructions by the return of this Express who Promisses to return Immediately – <sup>2</sup> I am Gentlemen [ &c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Price

P S The *Fowey* & *Otter* with About Fifty sail of Vessels are still here – This Express to be paid by your Board

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. Price, a Major in Smallwood's Continental battalion ranked both Brigadier General John Dent and Colonel Richard Barnes, militia officers. Dent and Barnes expressed resentment at having their actions relative to Wolstenholme counteracted by Major Price Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* <sup>1</sup>

July 1776                      Smith Point East  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a Mile [Potomac River]  
 Monday 22d    A M,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Past 7 Weigh'd and made sail, at 12 Sandy Point N E 1 mile  
                     First Part Squally with Rain Thunder & Lightning, Latter Part Modt & Cloudy P M. at 2 Made the Signl to Anchor at 3 Anchor'd in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  fath Sandy Point East  $1\frac{1}{4}$  of a Mile at 4 began to fill Water  
 Tuesday 23d    A M. at 4 fille'd all our Water, at 6 Saw a Number of Arm'd men near Col. Brents House on the Virginia Shore Landed Our Marines & a Party of the 14 Regt & Burnt the Col. House –  
                     Mode & fair P.M. at 12 the Tenders & Boats Return'd Lieut Wallis of the 14th & our Drummer was wounded at 4 Saw a Number of Arm'd men about a Boat in a Creek Sent the Galley which Brot the Boat off.<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

2 This incident raised a storm over the alleged conduct of the Maryland militiamen on the scene. *Dunlap's Maryland Gazette*, Baltimore, August 20, 1776, carried a series of charges and countercharges.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Tuesday July 23d 1776

A Warrant, from the Navy Board in favour of Captain Thomas Lilley for thirty pounds, for paying the Men Wages of the *Liberty* Cruiser, was presented, Countersigned by the President, and ordered to be registered.

Resolved, that Captain James Dunsby, of the Boat *Nancy* be permitted to proceed, & to trade at Saint Eustatia or any other foreign Island with the following Cargoe, viz, five Hogsheads of Tobacco, Two hundred & seventy five & a half Bushels of Indian Corn, six Barrels of Flower & eight bags of Bread.

On the Recommendation, of the Naval Board Mr Samuel Towles, is appointed second Lieutenant of the Cruiser *Revenge*, in the room of Mr Richard March, who has resigned; And it is ordered that a Commission issue accordingly.

Resolved, That Captain John Crew, of the Sloop *John & Milsy*, be permitted to pass laden with Six hogsheads of Tobacco, sixty barrels of Flour three hundred & twenty nine Bushels of Indian Corn, and two thousand hogshead Staves; to any of the Foreign Islands allowed by Congress, and to trade at the same, agreeable to the Regulations by them prescribed.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council of Safety*, I, 85–86, 87.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Tuesday the 23d day of July 1776. –

Capt Christopher Calvert is empowered to hire at the public expence Carts sufficient to convey any Necessaries to South Quay for the use of the Gallies now Building there under his direction and in case Carts sufficient for that purpose cannot be procured in the manner above mentioned he is empowered to impress them having them first appraised by two honest Men upon Oath –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt Deane for Seventy eight pounds seven shillings and seven pence half penny for pay of Carpenters employed in fitting the Schooner *Revenge* per Account to the thirteenth of July. –

Ordered that Capt [Isaac] Younghusband apply for and receive from the person or persons who may have Charge of the *Oxford* prize Ship <sup>2</sup> all the Water Casks and light Sails that can be spared and that upon receiving the same he Certify to this Board the number of Casks their Sizes and Condition and what of them he may think necessary for his own use –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Hugh Walker & Compy for thirty eight pounds nineteen shillings and eight pence farthing for sundry Clothing bought by Lieutenant [Aaron] Jeffries for the Seamen &c on Board the Schooner *Revenge* to be charged to Capt Deane –

Adjourned till tomorrow morning Nine of the Clock –

Signed Thomas Whiting <sup>3</sup>

1. Navy Board Journal, VSL. The first sixteen pages of the journal are missing. This entry begins at the top of page 17.
2. The transport carrying Highlanders taken May 29, 1776 by the Continental brig *Andrew Doria*; retaken from the prize crew by the prisoners on June 11, and recaptured while entering the Virginia Capes by Captains James and Richard Barron in two small armed vessels.
3. The members of the Virginia Navy Board were Whiting, John Hutchings, Champion Travis, George Webb and Thomas Newton, Jr.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Spanish Town 23rd July 1776

. . . I have Letters of the most alarming kind by which it appears the Parishes of Westmoreland & St James's are also at the Eve of General insurrection and indeed there is reason to think it was meant over great part of the Island I have not time to transcribe these informations which you shall have at Leisure I have only to Assure you that there is every reason to think this Island is in more danger than it has ever been since the English Conquest of it, I trust as I have every reason to do that the Safety and protection of this Island is your first object and in that firm belief as Governor of it beg you will send one of your Ships directly away to Lucea with orders to act with the Kings Subjects there to spare Powder to the Chief Magistrates or Colonels of Militia and to Sail from one place to another where the Danger calls without waiting your further orders, send down your Arms and I will give you what price you please for them, Flints, Ball &c&c please order your Ships when they go from place to place to make all the parade they

can such as keeping in the day time Jack, Ensign & Pendant flying and when at Anchor to fire Morning & Evening Guns. I will explain my reasons for this another time, excuse a hasty scrawl and want of ceremony multiplicity of Bussiness will plead my Excuse. I refer to you the propriety of getting some Vessel ready to proceed in a few days to Europe when we know our real Situation the present Pacquet being a remarkable bad Sailer, I urge this supposing you have Authority upon such occasions, if not you will forgive my Ignorance and inform me of it –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

## 24 July

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE SLOOP OF WAR *Tirannicide* <sup>1</sup>

Ten Dollars Reward.

Deserted from the Sloop *Tirannicide*, John Fisk, Commander, in the Service of this State, on Sunday last the Twenty-first Instant, Two Seamen, one named Andrew Burnett, about Twenty-seven Years of Age, a smooth-faced Man, about Five Feet Five Inches high, wears dark Hair: Had on when he deserted, a dark-colored Waistcoat and Breeches, and was born in *Great-Britain*. – The other named Robert Brown, about Thirty Years of Age, a thick-set Man, about Five Feet Five Inches high, full-faced, and much pitted with the Small-Pox, wears dark Hair; Had on when he deserted, a dark-colored Waistcoat and Breeches, and was born in *Great-Britain*. – The above Two Men were lately Prisoners of War, and were in-listed out of Ipswich Goal.

Whoever shall apprehend said Deserters, and bring them to the Goal in this Town, or secure them in any of the Continental Goals, so that they may be returned to their Duty again, shall receive the above Reward of Ten Dollars for each or either of them, and all necessary Charges, to be paid by the Honorable Richard Derby, Esq; or the Subscriber,

John Fisk, Captain.

N.B. All Sheriffs and others are desired to use their utmost Care in detecting them immediately, lest they may go over to the Enemy again  
Salem, July 24, 1776.

1. *American Gazette*, July 30, 1776.

### JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND <sup>1</sup>

[Providence] July 24 1776

Present Nicholas Cooke Esqr Nicholas Brown Joseph Brown John Brown Henry Ward Joseph Nightingale William Russell Daniel Tillinghast, Jabez Bowen.

Voted That a Bill be drawn on the Honble Stephen Hopkins Esqr at Philadelphia for Eight Hundred and forty Dollars, in favour of Mr Peter T. Curtenius of New Yorke.

Voted that Benjamin Eddy Build a New Barge And a Skiff for the Ship *Warren*, under the direction of Capt John B. Hopkins.

Voted That Mr Jonathan Ellis be paid Forty pounds Lawfl Money out of the Treasury in part [for] his Hand Bill and for Boxing Blocks.

Voted That Mr John Burrough and the other people at the States Elaboritory be employed to procure and put up the Gunners Stores for both the Ships of War.

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

# ORDERLY BOOK OF BRIGADE MAJOR PETER SCULL <sup>1</sup>

[General Orders]

Head-Quarters [Ticonderoga] July. 24. 1776.

. . . The Captains of the arm'd Vessels and Gondola's, to send this evening a sign'd return to the D. A. G. [Deputy Adjutant General] of the ammunition and military Stores wanted for each Vessel and Gondola. –

Brigade Orders.

Detail for the Batteau Guard

	Cor.	Priv
[Philip] DeHaas	1	1
[Arthur] St Clair		2
[Anthony] Wayne		3
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 6

1. MNHP

## BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Skenesborough July 24th 1776

Dear General I wrote you the 21st from Ticonderoga and by Direction of General Gates forwarded you some Indian Goods. – last night I arrived here and found Four Gondalos were compleated & gone to Ticonderoga, Two others will be finished in five days, & four more in Ten days, each of which will mount three, or four, heavy pieces of Cannon, & Fourteen Swivels. – Thirty Carpenters are arived from Connecticut, & are Cuting Timber for a Row Gally, to mount six pieces heavy Cannon, & Twenty Swivels, One hundred other Carpenters from Pensilvania, & the Massachusetts Bay will be here this evening, who will take in hand three other Gallies, the whole I expect will be compleated In three weeks – & will require a much greater Number of Seamen to Navigate them, than can be furnished From the Northern Army. Only Seventy Seamen have been returned from the whole Army, we shall want at least three hundred more to man the Gondalos, Gallies & Vessells on the Lake, exclusive of those that It may be necessary to build, of which we cannot Judge Untill we know the Naval preparations the Enemy Are makeing at St Johns, which expect to have advice of on return of our reconoitering Parties. Three or Four experiènced Commanders are wanted for the Row Gallies & four or five for the Gundalos, the Seamen are

of so much Consequence, I had thoughts of sending, directly to Connecticut for them, but Doubt If they can be engaged on the same Terms, as allowed by Congress for those in the Navy. (Vizt Forty eight Shillings Lawfull Money pr Month) as there is no prospect of makeing reprisals on the Lake, but rather Fatigue & Danger, I am told they cannot be engaged For less than the Common Premium & Ten Dollars pr Month wages, which I could not engage as I have had no particular Instructions, on that head, perhaps they can be furnished from the Army at New York At any rate we must have them *our Navigation without will be useless*, – Soldiers, or Landsmen will by no means answer without a number of Seamen In each Vessell. I hope no time will be lost in engageing and forwarding them to this place. If you think proper to Send to Connecticut, I beg leave to recommend Capts Samuel Chew & Francis Brown of New Haven, Capt Amos Green of Stamford, Capt [Azariah] Whitelsey of Saybrook & Capt Seth Warner of Haddam, who are Men of Spirit and if not engaged, I make no doubt will undertake & Engage a number of Seamen – Inclosed is a List of a Number of Articles which are wanted for the Vessells (exclusive of those wrote for before) in particular the Sail Cloth & Cordage, the former may be had of Thos Mumford of New London, the Latter of Mr. Mortimer at Middletown If none can be procured nearer. – All the Powder we have on hand, (which is about Eight Tons) will hardly make Thirty rounds for each Gun, so that as much more ought to be sent us emediately, I expect to return to Ticonderoga tomorrow, & will forward you a Return of our Artillery, Ammunition & Ordinance Stores, many of the articles in my List, tho' trifles Are absolutely necessary, & cannot be procured here. We are at a loss for Gunners, very few can be spared From the Artillery Companies, & no others are to be had here. I could wish Ten or Twelve, with their mates could be sent us, & that they may have Directions to bring such Articles, as will be wanted And are not Included in my memorandum...

PS. The Vessells cannot be Completed untill the Blocks & Cordage Arives B A <sup>2</sup>

1 Gates Papers, NYHS.

2. *Ibid.*, Arnold wrote a similar letter to General Gates this date.

#### MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Sir

German Flats July 24th 1776

Your Excellency's Favour of the 17th Instant was last Night delivered me by Mr Bennet.

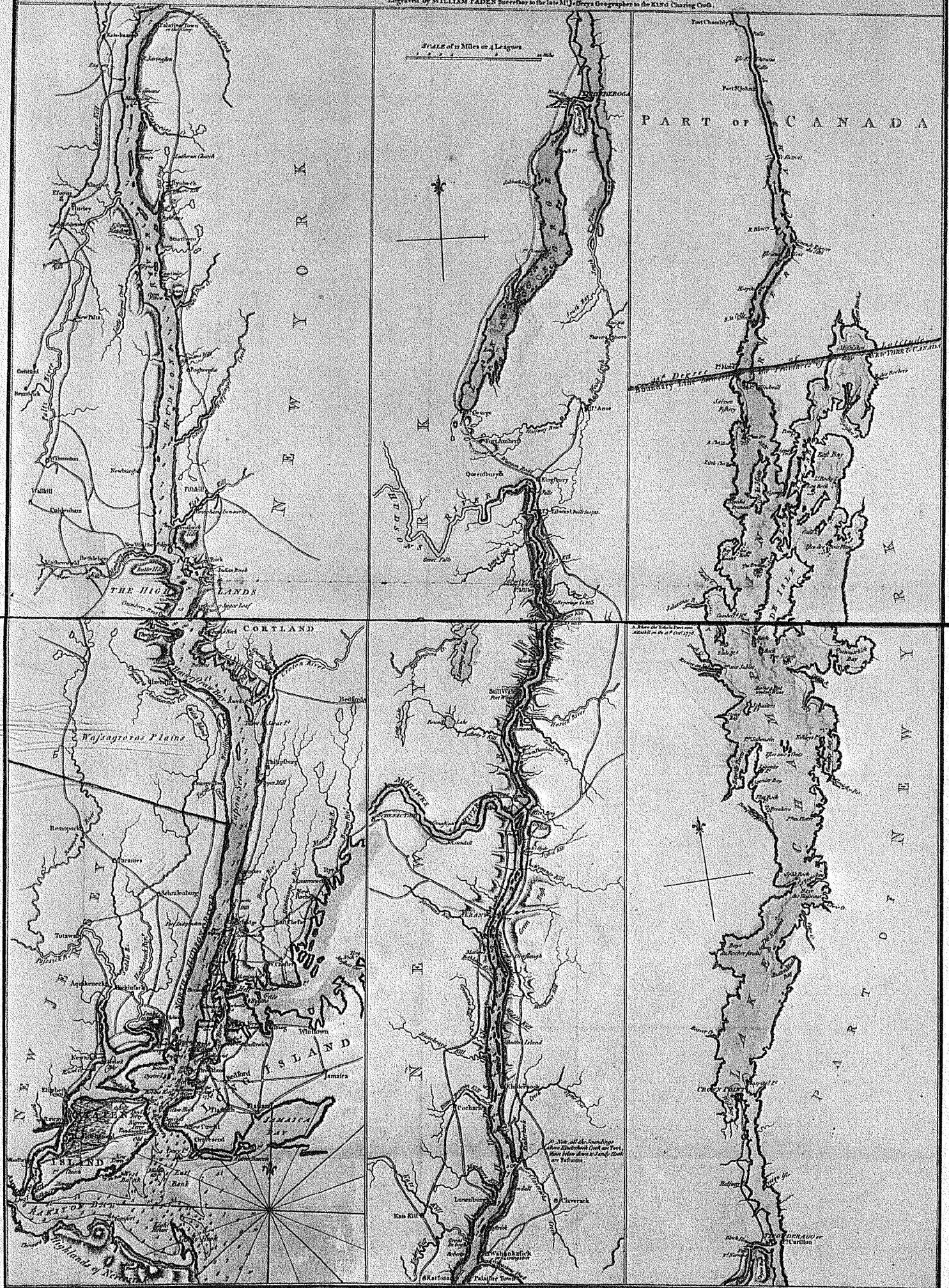
If I had with me the Remonstrance of the Field Officers against quitting Crown Point. I should attempt to point out the Insufficiencys of each of the several Reasons they gave against the removal of the Army to Ticonderoga and which would at the same time shew on which I founded my Opinion of the propriety of the Measure but as the paper was left at Albany I shall curiously enter into some Observations – The little time I have for reflecting on the Subject; the constant Interruptions from the Indians; Indis-

position of Body and my Inability to convey my Ideas with that perspicuity the Subject merits, I hope will plead for the Inaccuracies which you will discover. Crown point is a peninsula which projects from the West side of Lake Champlain and runs down and almost parallel to both Sides of it – the East side of the peninsula is bounded by the Waters of that part of the Lake, which flow from Skenesborough and Lake George, passing by Tyconderoga in their way; and the North East Corner of the peninsula is distant from the East shore of Lake Champlain about half a Mile or something better, but under three Quarters of a mile. The Northwest Corner of it is nearly, if not quite two Miles distant from the Western shore of the Lake — If the Enemy should have a Naval superiority, our armed Vessels must retire to the Southward of Crown Point between that and Tyconderoga, or take Shelter under any Fortifications we might have there, In either Case the Enemy may go along the Western Shore; land in the Bay that forms the peninsula and attack any Force that may be at Crown Point from the Rear, or they may land on the East side of the Lake, below Crown point, and as the Country is flat, and in some parts improved, they may possess themselves of the East Shore; between Crown point and Ticonderoga, without any great difficulty, however Strong any Fortifications on the East side, opposite to Crown point, might be and hence all supplies must be cut off unless our Force at Crown point should embark in Batteaus & be sufficiently strong to land and repulse them, and there is little prospect that such an attempt would succeed, considering how infinitely better they are provided than we and what Advantages they would receive from the works they might throw up; besides the Last consideration permit me to subjoin that such is the Nature of the Ground at Crown point (the point faces to the North; fronts the Lake and is indented with small Bays, and about one Mile broad in a streight line from the North Eastern to the Northwestern point) that the Fort which General Amherst erected there, was so exposed from the Grounds about it, that it required three or four strong Redoubts to cover it – Redoubts, that were in themselves very considerable Fortifications and built at much expence, on Account of the Scarcity of Earth, insomuch as, that all the Fortifications ten Thousand Men could make in the Course of the Campaign would be far from formidable.

At Ticonderoga we are not exposed to these Dangers or Difficulties – The Lake between the Fort and the intended Encampment on the East side of it, does not exceed half a Mile in Breadth – Let us now suppose that the Enemy are capable of forcing our Armed Vessels to seek Shelter at Tyconderoga – Nothing then is to obstruct their coming to that place Being come, let us suppose that they would land on the East side of the Lake – The intended Camp is defended on the North by a large Creek and sunken Country, which effectually prevents any approaches from that Quarter, they must therefore take a Tour of several Miles to head the sunken Country before they can get into our Rear. If they do, are our supplies Cut off? No, – for we have the communication by Lake George open, should they drive us out of the strong Camp on the East side; I think it im-



*A Topographical MAP of HUDSON'S RIVER, with the CHANNELS Depth of Water, Rocks, Shoals &c. and the COUNTRY adjacent, from SANDY-HOOK, NEW YORK and BAY to FORT EDWARD, also the Communication with CANADA by LAKE GEORGE and LAKE CHAMPLAIN, as high as FORT CHAMBLY on Sorel River. By CLAUDE JOSEPH SAUTHIER, on the Original Scale of Four Miles to One Inch. Engraved by WILLIAM FADEN Surveyor to the late M<sup>rs</sup> George's Geographers to the KING, Charing Cross.*







possible for twenty thousand Men to do it. ever so well provided if the Camp consists of less, than even a Quarter of that Number indifferently furnished; such is the natural Strength of the Ground but let us suppose that the Enemy should land on the West side and attempt to [drive] us thence; here we fight on an equal Footing (except what Advantages our Lines and Fortifications may give us) and we can oppose nine tenth of our Army to them; for they cannot prevent the junction of our Troops either way whenever they may please to join – Let us suppose the worst – They drive us from the Ground; we loose our Cannon, but they cannot prevent such as do not fall in the Engagement from retiring to the strong Camp. (A bare Inspection of A. good Map, if I had one to send your Excellency would I hope convince you of the Weight of these Narrations. –

But if we are obliged to retreat from Ticonderoga will not their Vessels pass our Strong Camp and get between that and Skenesborough? I think it impossible for them to pass The passage is narrow the Channel more so: Our Vessels laying in Line of Battle on the South side of the Camp; their's obliged to Come up by two at a time, at most: exposed to our Cannon in getting there, and when there at once attacked by our Vessels and our Batteries within point blank Shot.

But if the Enemy have possession of Ticonderoga will they not cut off our supplies! Yes. effectually any supplies attempted to be sent by the way of Lake George, but not those sent by the way of Skenesborough or thro the Towns laying in this Colony. on the East side of Lake Champlain between the Camp and New Hampshire and the Northern parts of Massachusetts.

But cannot the Enemy when in possession of Tyconderoga penetrate into this Colony by the way of Lake George and leave our Army in the strong Camp; Yes provided they take their Boats, provisions &c. Out of Lake Champlain on the North side of Tyconderoga and convey them by land into Lake George: the Distance between three and four Miles but as they cannot do this without our knowledge we can move any part of our Army by the Way of Skenesborough to Fort George before they can reach it, but as we have no Naval Force on that Lake, nor any strong Fortifications and if they are superior; and our Army not reinforced by Militia which I should hope would not be the case, we can retire from there to some place in the Vicinity of fort Edward, and bring away all the Carriages from the few Inhabitants that live there and I conceive that they would find it extreemly difficult if not impossible to move only such of their Boats and Necessaries, as they cannot dispense with over a fifteen Mile Land Carriage, even if they should be able to bring a considerable Number of Carriages each carrying four Barrels of pork or Flour (and they can bring no Carriages that will convey more) to transport one Days provision for 10,000 Men and the Carriages can only compleat a trip in two Days.

Upon the whole. I do not only think Ticonderoga infinitely preferable to Crown point for a Stand to be made, but so happily situated for us that I

have very little Apprehension of General [John] Burgoyne's being able to succeed in that Quarter unless there should be too great a Disparity of Numbers in his Favour.

I had almost forgot to Observe that your Excellency from the information you have had seems to entertain an Idea that the Situation of Crown point Is of the utmost importance especially if we mean to Keep the Superiority & Mastery of the Lake and that if its abandoned by us it is natural to suppose the Enemy will possess it and if they do that then our Vessels will be in their Rear, and it will not be in our power to bring them to Tyconderoga or the post opposite to it. Your Excellency will pardon me for a few Remarks on that passage of your Letter. Crown point lies about forty three Miles from the extreme South part of Lake Champlain. which is at Skenesborough. and about one hundred from the Northern Extreme, which is at St Johns – The part of the Lake South of Crown point is Seldom in any place above two Miles wide from Crown point to about 1[8] Miles North of it may be at a Medium about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  Miles three and four being the extremes; beyond that for about 56 Miles it is Seldom less than six or more than 14 or 15: but a Chain of Island running nearly parallel to the sides of the Lake lay in the broadest part on and nearly in the Middle so that the Width on each Side is about six Miles.

Let us now suppose our Navy to be in any part of the Lake to the Northward of and out of the Reach of the Cannon that may be at Crown point and there attacked by the Enemy, what assistance can it receive from any Fortifications at the point None surely and if worsted it must fly to the South Side of Crown point for shelter and the Enemy have the entire Mastery of the Lake. If Crown point was totally abandoned and if the Navy was attacked and worsted in any part to the Northward of Ticonderoga whether in Sight of that place or towards the North End of the Lake, the Consequences are exactly the same It must retire to the South of where the Army is. If we abandon Crown point, that the Enemy will possess themselves of it is Certain if they can do it. but if we suppose they can, we must not only suppose they can and will pass our Fleet altho their's should be inferior, or that they must have a Naval superiority – If they can pass our Fleet any where beyond Crown point, their Army can attack ours at Crown point, if it is there, or at Tyconderoga if there in either Case our Ships will be in their Rear. But supposing, they could and would by some means or other frustrate our Intentions in having A Navy in the Lake (which Intention appears to be to prevent any Boats coming up) and pass by it altho superior to theirs Is it probable they will do it? Will they risk the Danger they may run if a fair Wind should enable our Ships to get up with them? Will they risk an Interception of their Supplies and a prevention of Retreat in Case of a Repulse? I think not but if their Navy is superior the keeping possession of the Lake is impossible. and then the Question now is, where is the best place to make a Stand with the greatest prospect of Advantage to us – I think that place to be Tyconderoga and the Grounds opposite to it I may

be mistaken. The only View I had in giving my opinion for removing the Army to these places was, that I thought it would there most advance the Interest of the Cause we are engaged in.

Altho I do not recollect that in the Resolution of the General Officers to move the Army from Crown Point, that it is observed that a small post was to be kept there; from whence our Vessels might be supplied more readily than from Tyconderoga yet that was determined on . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 256-61, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York July 24th, 1776

Sir I was honored yesterday with your favor of the 17th instant and return you my thanks for your kind attention to and compliance with my request for the Row Gallies. They are not yet arrived that I know of —

The orders you have given to your armed cruisers for stopping provision vessels appear to me extremely necessary. I have mentioned the matter to Congress and shall warmly recommend the same to the consideration of the Convention of this State. It it should be attended with inconvenience to individuals, yet necessity and public utility ought to be first considered and outweigh every thing else — But it cannot. There is nothing but what they can readily dispose of for the use of the Army and for ready cash, so that every ground of objection must be nugatory. I am Sir [&c.]

G<sup>o</sup> Washington

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, 322, 323, ConnSL.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Chatham* off Staten Island 24th July 1776.

On the arrival of Lord Howe at this place a few days ago, I was not a little surprized to find that on His Lordship's calling off Halifax, He was informed by Commissioner Arbuthnot that there was no intimation left with him to what place His Majesty's Squadron under my Command and the Transports under my Convoy had proceeded, This indeed, if Fact, would have been a very gross and un-Officer-like Omission, of which I think it my duty to acquit myself, by sending you herewith a Copy of a Letter I wrote to, and left with the Commissioner a few days before my Departure from Halifax, which was delivered to him by my Secretary, which he acknowledged the receipt of,<sup>2</sup> but which in the Multiplicity of Business he is Engaged in, in his several Departments, I presume he must have forgot or mislaid, and therefore beg you will please to communicate it to their Lordships for my Justification. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. See Shuldham to Arbuthnot, June 5, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW <sup>1</sup>

July 1776 Do [Lighthouse off Sandy Hook] No 43 Wt 31 Lgs  
 Wednesday 24 AM saw a sail standing towards us, made sail twds her, 1/2  
 past 8 found her, to be, a sloop from Hambourgh, with Bale  
 Goods, belonging to New York.<sup>2</sup> Sent the Cutter on board  
 her, took the people out of her, and sent a midshipman, and  
 4 men to take Charge of her, hoisted the Boat in, and wore  
 Ship  
 Light airs and fair at 2 PM saw a fleet gave Chace, found  
 them to be 4 Sail of Transports under Convoy of His Majes-  
 tys Ship *Niger* – at 7 parted Co with the above – 1/2 past 9  
 gave Chace to 3 Sail found them to be His Majestys ships  
*Senegall* one Transport and a French Brig. Wore Ship and  
 made sail.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. *Sally*, John Williams, master, J. and A. Stuart, owners, from Hamburg for New York with  
 linens, canvas, etc., Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, July 24, 1776

The Marine Committee having recommended Benjamin Thompson to  
 be a lieutenant of marines in Captain Palmes's company,

*Resolved*, That he be accepted, and that a commission be granted to  
 him accordingly.

*Resolved*, That all the resolutions of this Congress, passed on the twenty  
 third day of March last, and on the third day of April last, relating to  
 ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel and furniture, and all goods,  
 wares and merchandises, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of Great  
 Britain, taken on the high seas, or between high and low water mark, be ex-  
 tended to all ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel and furniture, and  
 all goods, wares and merchandises, belonging to any subject or subjects of  
 the King of Great Britain, except the inhabitants of the Bermudas, and Pro-  
 vidence or Bahama island.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 604, 605, 606.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO WILLIAM BINGHAM, MARTINIQUE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philada. July 24th 1776

Sir We were much Concerned to find you were so long detained at Cape  
 May, but as you did at last escape clear of the Men of Warr on this Coast,  
 we hope you will arrive safe at Your destined Port and there be able to exe-  
 cute your Commission to be very satisfactory to all Concerned,<sup>2</sup> We are  
 told Mr LaMaitra arrived safe at Martinico but have no Certainty of it,<sup>3</sup>  
 sorry we are that Mr Merediths Sloop fell into the Enemys hands, for its not  
 only a Considerable loss but disapoints you & the Publick,<sup>4</sup> The Brig this

goes by will we hope have better luck and make up for the loss and disappointment of the other, but we feared to put any Goods onboard on our own Account as the Coast now swarms with Men of Warr.

We hope however that you may send us back some Goods by the *Reprisal* in the footing proposed in our former letter and you may depend on our attention in the Sale & Remittances for them . . .

. . . Shou'd Mr Bealle [Samuel Beall] be arrived in the West Indies when this gets to hand tell him We think Occracock Inlet in North Carolina is at this time the safest place along the Coast We are sir [&c.]

Willing Morris & Co.

1. Papers of Robert Morris, Accession 1805, LC.

2. Bingham took passage on board the Continental ship *Reprisal*, which sailed from Cape May on July 3, 1776.

3. Captain James LaMaitre.

4. See journal of H.M.S. *Orpheus*, July 4, 1776.

#### THOMAS SMYTH TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Chester Town July the 24th 1776

Sir Your favr of the 22d Instant to the Committee of Observation for this County was this morning delivered to Mr [illegible] Ringgold & myselfe and we immediately ordered all the powder & Sail Cloth in the Care of the Committee on board Capt: Bary [Richard Berry] for which youll receive inclosed his Receipt – the second Escort of Waggons is expected at Town to night by when I hope the Schooner *Resolution* will appear that the powder &c may be delivered to her out of the Waggons. The Money sent to me by my son for the Payment of the Waggonage of the powder & other contingent Charges did not reach me untill after the Arrival of the Waggons that brought the first Load from Chincoteague they have since been paid off I am with much Respect [&c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Smyth

The Honable Daniel of St Thomas Jen[i]fer Esqr  
President of the Council of Safety in Annapolis  
by Capt Bary

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

#### "EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DUMFRIES, IN VIRGINIA [JULY 24]" <sup>1</sup>

On Monday, July 22, the *Roebuck*, *Mercury*,<sup>2</sup> *Otter*, and an armed ship, came up to Potomack, and anchored two miles below Dumfries, where the water is fresh. Next day at 12 o'clock, they sent off two tenders, a gondola covered, and eight large boats full of men, of the 14th regiment, marines, &c. They landed at William Brent's, Esq; where about 60 of the Stafford militia were posted without any cover; the gondola drawing but sixteen inches water, ran in close to the shore, and with a nine pounder and grape shot, obliged the militia to retreat, when about 150 men landed, and burnt the out-houses &c. of Mr. Brent, and intended to have burnt his fine mill and other houses; but the *Roebuck* observing the Prince William militia on

their march, hoisted a white flag, and their men immediately retreated, without doing any further damage. The fleet having taken in fresh water, fell down the river the next day. Three white men and four negroes were found dead on shore; two of the whites were sewed up in hammocks, and shot through the breast; they had fine Holland shirts on, and are supposed to have been officers. A gold laced hat was found with a bullet hole through both sides of the crown. As the riflemen had some fair shot at them, it is not doubted but several are killed.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*, III, 334. The letter is undated. The day after the British went down the river, is the likely date.
2. Probably the *Fowey*; not the *Mercury* which was not in this area at that time.

#### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Wednesday the 24th day of July 1776. –

Ordered that Colo [William] Aylett deliver unto Lieutenant [Aaron] Jeffries for the use of the Schooner *Revenge* commanded by Capt [William] Deane One thousand twenty four penny Nails, One pound of Brimstone and some Pump Leather –

Ordered that Gabriel Maupin deliver unto Lieut Jeffries for the use of the Cruizer *Revenge* commanded by Capt Deane as much Lead as he may think Necessary to answer his present purpose –

Ordered that James Anderson, Black Smith do at the Public expence perform such Work as may be required of him by Capt [Edward] Travis for the use of the *Manley Gallie* –

Ordered that the Keeper of the public Magazine deliver unto Capt Travis for the use of the *Manley Gallie* the following Articles, to wit, Two Quire of common Cartridge paper, One hundred pounds of Sheet Lead, Ten pounds of Copper Shett [*sic* sheet], one dozen double headed Shott, Fifty pounds of Musket Ball, One hundred pounds of Lead – six powder Horns & priming pins, Ten pounds of Match Rope and twenty five twelve pound Shott. –

Ordered that the public be made a Debtor to Mr. James Hunter keeper of the public Store at Fredericksburg for One hundred and sixteen pounds eight shillings and six pence it being for sundries furnished Capt Dick for the use of his Company of Marines –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt Alexander Dick for One hundred and four pounds thirteen shillings and ten pence half penny for the pay of his Company of Marines from the sixteenth day of June One thousand seven hundred and seventy six to the sixteenth day of July following and for half pay of himself and officers from their Appointment. also forty four pounds seven shillings and four pence for necessities furnished his Company –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Richmond Allen for Eleven pounds fifteen shillings for Masts Yards &c furninshed Capt Deane for the Schooner *Revenge*. also for forty seven pounds seven shillings for masts Yards &c furnished Capt Thomas Lilly for the *Liberty* Cruizer –

1. Navy Board Journal, 18–19, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Wednesday July 24th 1776

The Board proceeded to deliver their Opinion on the case of Bartlett Goodrich, John Cuningham, and James Mohony that the proceedings of the Court of Commissioners for Northampton County be confirmed; and thereupon it is ordered, that the said Goodrich and Cuningham be sent to New London in Bedford County to be allowed to go at large within the limits of the Town on their parole; and that the James Mohony remain a prisoner in the public Jail but to be allowed on his parole to go at large within the limits of the Capitol Yard, the main street, and Houses thereon, as high up as Mr Southalls during the pleasure of the Board. And it was farther ordered that the Judges of the Court of Admiralty be desired to hold a Court as soon as conveniently may be upon the Vessel & Cargo belonging to the said Bartlett Goodrich which was stranded on the Shores of Northampton County.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council of Safety*, I, 88-89.

## 25 July

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Moord at Port Neuf

Thursday 25th Recd, an Order from Captn [Charles] Douglas to send 40 Seamen & petty Officers to Quebec to proceed thence to Chambly <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.

2. This detachment was to serve on board the fleet building at St. John's for service on Lake Champlain. On September 2, another draft of thirty-seven seamen under a midshipman went off from the *Triton* for the same service, and, two days later Commodore Douglas ordered "20 Men more from the *Triton*, 25 from the *Isis* and 20 from the Transports to Serve on the Lakes," *ibid*.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Do [Cape Ann] WSW 5 or 6 Leags

Thursday 25 at 9 AM saw a Sail in the NW Quarter, made Sail and gave Chace at 11 She hoisted English Colours. We Hoisted Yankee Colours at Noon the Chace upon our W. Bow Dist 4 Miles

Little Wind and Clear at 3 Fir'd 8 Shot at the Chace at 4 fir'd 5 more Shot Endeavour'd to run the Chace onshore, got the Boats ahead to tow the Ship and got the Ships Oars out fir'd 6 more Shot at her, at 6 fir'd four more Brot too the Chace they hoisted out the Boat and went onshore before our Boats could overtake them, sent an Officer and men onboard and took possession, proved to be a Jimaca man of London taken 6 days before by a Provincial Arm'd Schooner,<sup>2</sup> at 8 in 2d Rfs Topsails and got the Boats in

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. The ship *Princess Royal*, taken July 10 off Bermuda by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Sturdy Beggar*, Peter Lander, commander, Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769-1777, N. S. Arch.



ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM HACKETT FOR BUILDING THE MASSACHUSETTS BRIG  
*Massachusetts*, AND SLOOP *Tyrannicide* <sup>1</sup>

Dr Capt William Hackett his acct with Richard Derby junr				Cr	
1776				July 26	
Apr. 23d	To Cash 610	183..		1776	By the am [ount].
	Dollars				of his acc[ount].
June 24	To Cash as Recd	50..			for the Brig
	Cash pd 21 Ap.				<i>Massachusetts</i> &c
	on acct the				By the Am[ount].
	Sloop	172.16-			of his acc[ount]
	do pd 13 May on				for the Sloop
	acct do	174..-			<i>Tyrann[icide]</i> &c
July	Cash as Rec[eived]	26..4..6½			as p ac.
	do pd in cash				
	the Sloop	75.12-			
	my Order on E.H.				
	Derby for the Ball-				
	[ance] when pd				
	will be in full	391.16..1			
		<u>£1073..8..7½</u>			
					Salem

Salem 25 July 1776  
 Errors Excepted  
 Richard Derby Junr

1. PM.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks from Satterday 20th of July to Thursday 25th, 1776

Emloyd in gitting water and small stores on board in gitting our vesel  
 fixt for sea on bent our sails Sent them on shore to be mended got  
 them on board bent them got fit for sea Changeable Weather this  
 6 days past

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

JOHN BRADFORD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

To the honble the Councill of the State  
 of the Massachusetts Bay

humbly shews John Bradford Agent of the continental armed Vessells  
 that he is informed by his Counsell that the Presence of Archibald Campbell  
 Esqr <sup>2</sup> & Donald Campbell late Mate of the *Annabella* Transport Ship is  
 necessary at the Trial of that Ship & of the Ship *George* which is to be at Sal-  
 em on the thirtieth Day of July instant the said Bradford therefore prays  
 that the said Archibald Campbell Esqr & Donald Campbell may be permit-  
 ted to attend said Trial under such Restrictions as to your Honors may seem  
 fit, & as in Duty bound will [ever] pray <sup>3</sup>

Jn<sup>o</sup> Bradford

[Boston] July: 25th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 462.

2. Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell, who commanded the battalion of the 71st Highlan-  
 ders on board the transports captured in June 1776.

3. *Ibid.*, the Council ordered the two Campbells to attend the trial.

CALEB GARDNER TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Dighton July 25th 1776.

We the Subscribers of Dighton and Swanzy in the State of the Massachusetts Bay Merchants, request your Honor to grant a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal to Samuel Dunn junr. Commander of the Private Sloop of War *Revenge* of which we are Owners She is burthened about Seventy five Tons carries Ten Carriage Guns Four Pounders and Sixteen Swivel Guns and manned with Seventy Men and fitted with a Suitable Quantity of Muskets, Pistols, Cutlasses, Blunderbusses, Powder Ball and other Military Stores &c. She hath on board Forty barrels Beef and Pork, Twenty five Tierces of Bread with some Rice, Beans, Pottatoes &c. George Brown is First Lieutenant, Allin is Second Lieutenant, and John Sanford is Master. We are, with great Respect [&c.]

Caleb Gardner <sup>2</sup>

1. Maritime Papers, Letters of Marque, R. I. Arch.

2. Owners made Continental bond, \$5,000, this date. *Ibid.*, Bonds, Masters of Vessels.THOMAS CHILD TO NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Tiverton 25 July 1776

I have bought the Brigg of Mr Corey and am to pay Eighteen hundred Dollors in Contenentle or Rhode island money and I tarrey hear to git the Brigg Redey to Bring to Providance and Shall be glad you will Send the money by Capt Northam, as they dont Cear to go after It for It is a Matter of indifferanc with them weather thay Sell or not Shee is a fine Vessel fit for the Perpos and as well Bult as Ever I Saw a Vessel I intend to have the Vessel Redey by the time that Capt Northam Can git Back and am Gentleman [&c.]

Thomas Child

1. Brown Papers, JCB.L.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Skensborough July 25th 1776

... I have sent, Carpenters to Assist in Fixing the Gondalos & Vessells, I should have returned this morning but the Boats which were sent to Cheshire <sup>2</sup> the day before yesterday for the Carpenters are not yet returned: It will be Necessary for me to Stay untill they Arive to give them Orders respecting the Craft they are to build – I have sent off[f] an express this Morning to Genl Schuyler for Sundry Articles wanted for the Gondalos & have requested him to send either to Connecticut, or to Genl Washington, for Two or Three hundred Seamen, who will be Absolutely Necessary to Man what Craft we shall soon have Completed, without a Larger Number of Seamen than can be found in the Northern Army, our Navigation will be useless – we have received No Advice from below

lately, the first Compy of Militia Arived last evening, others are expected every minute – I am with Esteem & affection Dr Genl [&c.]

B Arnold

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

2. A vital saw mill was located here where Colonel Cornelius Wynkoop found "that the saw mill did not go at night, only by day, and no boards sawed. I have now given them the strictest charge to saw continually. . . ." Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, I, 582.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO CAPTAIN RICHARD VARICK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

German Flatts July 25. 1776.

By all Means advance the Carpenters Money, For I wish to get them at Work & will humour them with any thing to obtain that End. –

Inclose You a List of Stores sent up Mr Hughes. If arrived, forward them to Tyonderoga, You will find a Duplicate of the List I sent down to General Washington when I wrote him on the 12th instant, – Such Articles of that List as have not been sent up, You must procure from the Owners of Sloops at Albany, who can now spare them as the Navigation is, for the present stopped: – this is a Matter of so Much Moment, as to Claim Your first Attention: If You cannot procure a sufficiency of Blocks, Let the [illegible] Blockmakers make them & write in My Name to the Gentlemen at Po[u]ghkeepsie, who have the Direction of Building the Vessels there, to send up whatever You cannot get at Albany, & intreat them to be as Expeditious as possible in forwarding them to You. –

The Anchors & Cables mentioned by Mr Hughes were delivered to Capt Peter Post of Esopus, If they are not come to Hand, Send an Express for them, Send up a Ton of Iron to Skenesborough & desired Mr [Hermanus] Schuyler to write in Time for what he may want.

1. Schuyler Papers, Letters & Orders, 18 April, 1776–29 June, 1777, NYPL.

GILBERT LIVINGSTON AND WILLIAM PAULDING TO ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON <sup>1</sup>

Dear sir

Poughkeepsie July 25th 1776 –

Yesterday Mr [Abraham] VanZandt. Capt [Augustine] Lawrence & Myself. returned from the Forts, on examination we found the River considerably wider at Montgomery than at Constitution – and the Rocks on both the shores much more difficult to fasten Chains to, at the former Place than at the latter; from what Information we have had since I saw you, think it highly probable Mr [John] Jay will succeed in procuring Cannon – if so there is a very advantageous place to erect a Battery (Which may speedily be done) to defend a Chain at Constitution – Which from the several Considerations – of the Narrownes of the River – The tides being less Rapid – And the Wind not blowing in so direct a Manner up the River – have induced me to prefer this Place to Montgomery—

On My Return found Mr Paulding here by him learn that the plan is laid, and carrying into Execution, for stopping the Navigation at Mount Washington – By the Inclosed Letter from Mr [William] Duer you'll find More particulars on this subject – that part of his Letter which refers to

Your or Mr Jays going immediately to Genl Washington We much approve of –<sup>2</sup> & Wish you could see him & conclude which to go – & as our plan of Operation is now laid, think it would not be amis for both to be there –

Mr Paulding is now with me & Joins in this Letter. says that part of the Chain is in New York. We this day intend to send off an Express to Curtineus [Peter T. Curtenius] to send it up – as well as 2 or 3 barrels of spirits of Turpentine if to be had – the Chain that is in New York is made of Barrs not more than 1. & 2 Inch square – so that our Orders to Mr Livingston Must be altered, for it will certainly be of no use to have one part thicker than another, perhaps before you Receive this, you will have an opportunity to Measure that part of the Chain which is at Albany, that You may be certain as to the exact size of the Iron, as Mr Paulding did not actually measure that in N. York –

We have not sent a Copy of Mr Duers Letter to Mr Jay because we think it highly probable they will Meet at Gov: Trumbuls Neither have we Wrote to Mr Hazlewood thinking When either You or Mr Jay or both should Arive in N.Y. that engagement would be better done than it could be by Letter –

Our Rafts go on briskly – The ships below are about in the Middle off[f] Haverstraw – nothing particular – from the Forts – in high spirits – tho' badly found as to Artillery – Are sir With esteeme [&c.]

William Paulding  
Gilbert Livingston

We Congratulate you on the good News from Gen: Lee –

1. FDRL.

2. William Duer to John Jay and Robert R. Livingston, July 21, 1776.

COLONEL A. HAWKES HAY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Haverstraw July 25th. 1776

... the great extent of Shore we have to guard is extreemly bourdensome to the People & I suppose is the true reason that has induced Captain Parker to fix his Station in Haverstraw Bay – Since the Distruction of Halstead's House, & the robbing the poor Man of his Hoggs by Captain Wallace, nothing of a hostile nature has been attempted, the Enemy have collected their Force nearly opposite my House and imploy their Time in sounding the River. – Their having taken down the Sand Baggs from the Side of their Ships, spread Awnings in all their Vessels and neglecting to imbrace the many fair Winds and Tides that have offered, induces me to think that Capt Parker has resolved to confine his operations to the South side of the High Lands and to make no further progress up the River till the arrival of a Reinforcement. – As yet they have had no supplies from this Shore nor any addition to their Strength except two poor Wretches of infamous Characters, nor have I any reason to think that many have resorted to them from the Eastern Shore, altho' a Bullock was brought from thence & hoisted with great shouting from a Barge into the *Rose* at the Dawn of Day on Monday last & my Guards have since seen Cabbage delivered from a Canoe – If there

has been any other Communication between the Enemy and the County of West Chester it must be in the Night for I have observed no Increase of the Number of Boats about the Ships or Tenders in the Day time

Permit me Sir to suggest that it would tend greatly to obstruct the Designs of the Enemy if the Shores above & below them were furnished with light Whale Boats to pursue their Barges, this would enable us not only to dismiss part of the Guards now employed, but also to cut off any supplies, follow them where ever they may attempt to land & prevent the disaffected from joining them, give greater safety & releive the Peasant, and upon the whole be a saving to the Public. . . .

P.S. Half after Ten Oclock A:M: This Moment The Ships and Tenders came under Sail, fair Wind and Tide, and they are proceeding down the River

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR. <sup>1</sup>

July 1776.

Moor'd in Haverstraw Bay.

Thursday 25th at 9 AM Unmoor'd Weigh'd & drop'd down the River at 12 Came too wth the Small Bower in 5 Fam Water off Singing Town Talloes Point NEt Veer'd to ½ a Cable and Moor'd Ship with the Stream, Distance from the shore 2 Miles; Fir'd two Guns at a Party of Rebels. In Co as before. – <sup>2</sup>

Light Breezes and fair with Lightning in the NWt PM the Master empd Sounding about the River, upon the Boat approaching the Shore the Rebels Fir'd upon her and [s]lightley wounded Mr James Clark,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

2. The *Rose* and three tenders.

BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS MIFFLIN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Camp at Mount Washington

My dear General

July 25, 1776 8 oClock P M

I have this Minute receivd a Letter from Mr [Elbridge] Gerry at Norwalk on his Way to Boston, with the following Paragraph,

I was informed at the White Plains by some Gentlemen of the Convention that a person very unfriendly to the American States had authentic Information of the [plan] of the General in providing the Cheveax de Frize, and that it was appropriated, with the Ships, to stop the Channel in the North River and hem in the Enemy's Ships.

The Movement of the Ships this Morning down the River confirms Mr Gerry's Information. Lieutenant Connolly says they came 9 Miles down this Morning. – We keep a good Look out for them as the Wind & Tide are favorable to their Wishes. – When they first appear I will order 6 Alarm Guns

to be fired at a Minutes Interval; and when they come within Reach will keep up as heavy a fire as possible. I am with Attachmt [&c.]

Tho Mifflin

1. Washington Papers, LC.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL STEPHEN MOYLAN TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH,  
NEW HAVEN<sup>1</sup>

Sir

New York 25th July 1776

I received your Letter of the 22d from New Haven, and am sorry there is not a Better prospect of procuring Large vessels, I hope you will have more Success at the eastern part of the Colony, should you not we must do the best we can with the sloops, the Sooner you send them off the better, if you find you Cannot get a sufficient Number of Large, I believe you must even take the two, tho extravagant the price of them. Coud you Not make a bargain, that such part of the Rigging as we shoud not have occasion for, to be returnd & allowance made for its value, but this is a trifling Consideration as I dare Say the States will find use for it as to the time it must depend upon Circumstances, dont you Loose any, & I will tell you when to Stop, I am Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan

1. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, MNHP.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH<sup>1</sup>

[New York]

[July] 25th. — A row-galley or two arrived from Connecticut; and fire-ships, rafts, &c. were preparing with great expedition.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 43.

*Pennsylvania Ledger*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1776

New-York, July 25.

Last Lord's day a great many shot were heard in this city from Bergen-point. The occasion was this: A barge from the fleet full of men, landed on the point, but were opposed and driven off with precipitation by our troops; a smart fire ensued from a tender for a considerable time, without doing any injury. By two deserters, we are informed, that a Captain and two privates were killed on board their barge.

AMBROSE SERLE TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

New York Harbor, Off Staten Island

My Lord,

July 25. 1776

After a most tedious Passage of nine Weeks, we safely arrived on the 12th instant off Staten Island in the Harbor of New York. We had contrary Winds for the much greater Part of the Way; and, from a Belief that the Army continued at Halifax, we went round thither as to the Place of Rendezvous. Near Newfoundland we fell in with the *Tartar* Frigate and

her Convoy, bound to Quebec; and off Halifax we met with the *Renown*, of 50 guns, with several Transports, having on board the Scotch Troops from Greenock. Your Lordship will have heard of the Capture of four of these Transports and of Col. [Archibald] Campbell their Commander. At whose Door this Adventure must be laid, is above my Inquiry: People here are very free to guess, and very ready to say; that the naval Part of the Armament has been so conducted, as if it were meant to effect as little real Service as possible.

The Army here is in high Spirits, and, in such good Health, that, in the Number of about 9000 Men, not above 12 are indisposed. They shew the utmost Ardor to attack the Rebels. I am sometimes afraid the Soldiers hold them too cheap. A certain Degree of Disdain it may be right to indulge; but an Excess of it, in the case of an obstinate Resistance (which, from the Numbers of the Rebels, amounting to near 30,000, is not improbable), would occasion a Disappointment, that might end in Despair. Your Lordship would have been entertained with a View of the *Eagle* entering into New York Harbor. A little before our Arrival off Sandy Hook, we heard a brisk Canonade, and could see the Smoke rising over the Point of Land, which lay between us and the Town. We soon found, that it was occasioned by the *Phoenix* and *Rose* Men of War, with three Tenders, who had been ordered to force their Passage up Hudson's River, in order to cut off Supplies and to keep it open for Genl Burgoyne's Troops, which, with a thousand Indians, are expected soon to come down from Albany. The Batteries fired 194 Guns, and only one Shot took Effect upon a Tender, with very little Damage. The Ships returned the Fire very briskly. They had no sooner passed along in this bold Defiance of the whole rebel Force, which the Rebels themselves had pronounced impossible; but the *Eagle* came full in view, saluting and saluted by the Ships in the Harbor, with general Acclamations from the several Crews, and from Detachments of the Army spread over the Hills and along the Shore. A nobler Scene, heightened as it was by a beautiful Landscape and by the finest Day I ever knew, could not well be exhibited. We learnt afterwards by a Deserter, that the Inutility of their boasted Batteries, together with Lord Howe's Arrival, had thrown the Rebels into a visible Panic, and occasioned Express after Express for Reinforcements of Men. For greater Security, they have likewise removed the Bulk of their Powder and Magazines into Connecticut. The two ships are very safe about 10 or 12 Miles above the Town. As an Instance of the Hardiness of our People, I cannot help mentioning, that a Sailor sate upon the Top Gallant Yard of the *Rose*, under the Fire of all their Batteries, in a daring Bravado, and passed by unhurt.

The People of the Army begin to be impatient for the Arrival of the Hessians and the other Reinforcements. They are cantoned in several Quarters over Staten Island, and, by the Assistance of the Fleet, are posted in Security. The Operations will probably commence soon after the Hessians disembark. 'Tis feared, that, in the Conflict, the handsome Town of New York will perish by the Rebels; and it is asserted, that the Connecticut

People would have set it on Fire before this Time, but for the Provincials of this Country. The New England Folks desired to relieve the New Yorkers (who defend their own Town, and, because it is their Property, wish to preserve it) immediately after the Passage of the Ships. The Truth is, they are all extremely jealous of one another; and some of them have openly declared, that they can consider themselves as little better than in an Enemy's Country. The Connecticut People would destroy New York for a double Reason – the one, as a Rival would be demolished, which they have ever hated; and the other, as the King's Troops would be deprived of a convenient Station. There is great Reason to believe, from some Communications to Govr Tryon, and which in Conversation he has mentioned to me, that when the Troops give them one signal Defeat, Numbers will declare themselves immediately, upon such a positive Proof of Protection. At present, they are obliged upon every Account of Prudence and Safety, to conceal their Sentiments and Determinations. Those, who either have not been so discreet, or being more eminent in Station have been more noticed and suspected, have been obliged to fly for their Lives. Many have escaped and are escaping daily to the Camp; and others have retired to Woods and Swamps, where they are hunted like Game, and, with a Barbarity unparalleled except among the Savages, have been shot and murdered. The Madness of this People, excited by their own Publications, and by others from England, and especially by some late Speeches in Parliament, Dr [Richard] Price's Pamphlet, &c. is inexpressible. It is unnecessary to tell Your Lordship, that they have declared themselves Independent States, and proclaimed His Majesty, with every Aggravation of Insolence, an ungrateful Tyrant. Your Lordship will have also heard of the Demolition of the King's Statue, and several Pranks of that kind, which are now but common things with these deluded People. A Clergyman, who in his Sermon only exhorted the People to Moderation as it became Christians, without entering in the least upon Politics, was dragged out of his Pulpit as an Enemy to America, tarred, feathered, and carried about half naked upon a rough Pole in so rude a Manner, that he was obliged to submit to a certain Italian Operation for the Preservation of his Life. I need not add, that Affairs are as yet very unripe for peaceful Negotiation.

A Day or two after our Arrival, Lord H. sent up a Flag of Truce to the Town, inclosing a Copy of his Declaration; but because it was addressed only "To George Washington Esq. &c.&c.&c." they would not receive it. This is one Sample of their Vanity, as well as of their Indisposition to treat. I might give Your Lordship many others, which daily occur in their Publications. They make themselves sure of Victory, and affect to despise the Troops. I cannot omit the following Instance of it, which may serve likewise for a Specimen of the Rant and Bombast, which passes for sound Reason and Sense in this Part of the World. "Be assured" (says one of their Writers) "that the Sun, Moon and Stars shall fall, the Ocean cease to roll, and all Nature change its Course, before a few English, Scotch and German Slaves shall conquer this vast Country."



They have set up their Standard in the Fort upon the Southern Point of the Town. The Colors are thirteen Stripes of Red and White alternately, with the English Union cantoned in the Corner.

We can very plainly see their Works and Intrenchments, which appear to be strong. It will be an arduous Task to dislodge them; but it must however be attempted and succeed too, or the Colonies are our's no more.

The Rebels have good Intelligence of all that passes at Home, notwithstanding the Embargo upon Letters. Mr Wm Temple, Brother of Mr John Temple, lately arrived at the Congress with Letters ('tis said) from some great Names at Home, which were artfully concealed in his Cloaths. Himself was heard to declare, that they were inclosed in the Buttons, which were made large for the purpose.

The noted Major [Robert] Rogers is escaped from Philadelphia, and has joined the Army under General [William] Howe.

Lieut. [Edward] Sneyd is taken Prisoner, and is somewhere in Connecticut. Adml Shulldham mentioned him very handsomely at our Table a few Days since: I took the Opport[u]nity of saying, he was related to Your Lordship, and that You had some Concern for his Interests; which Lord H. was pleased to observe with much Attention.<sup>2</sup>

The People of Berkshire County in Massachusetts Bay have opposed the Decrees of the Congress, not from Principles of Loyalty, but from a thorough Hatred of all Subjection and Order. The Congress sent Commissions to Judges and other Officers for the Execution of Justice: The Multitude burnt the Commissions, and declared they would have no Law but the Law of Moses. This was the County, which first opposed the Administration of Justice under lawful Authority.

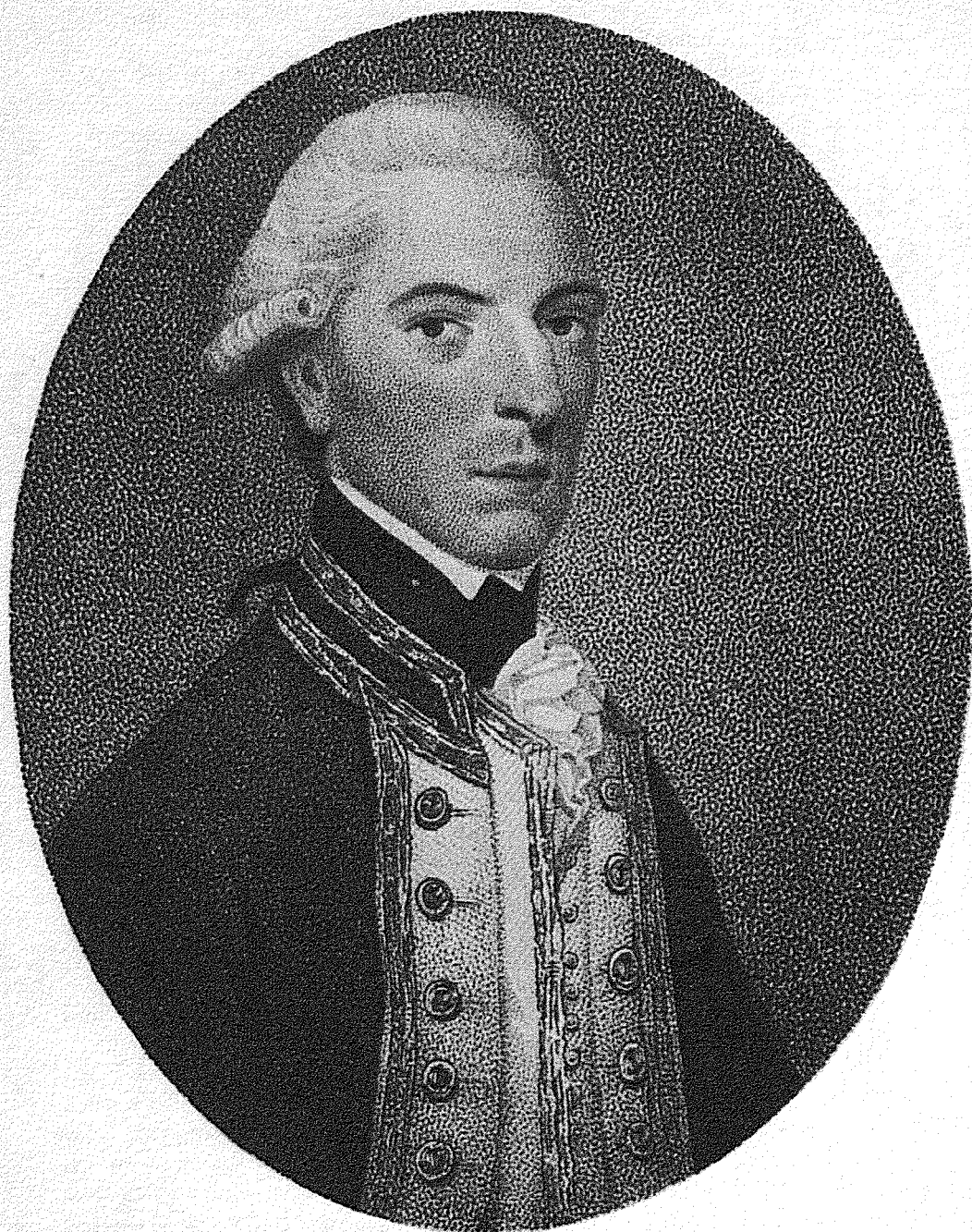
I fear Your Lordship will be quite tired with a Letter of this Length: I would only plead in Excuse, that You cannot be troubled in this manner very often from hence, and that it was much more difficult to determine what to omit than what to say. Inclosed is an Extract of a Letter from Massachusetts Bay, by which Your Lordship will be acquainted in some Measure with the State of that Province.

With the greatest Gratitude and Respect, I have the Honor to be, My Lord, [&c.]

Ambrose Serle.

P.S. We expect Mr. [William] Hotham's Fleet with the Hessians and Guards every Day, and wait for them with Impatience.

P.S. I know not how to aggravate Mr Stanhope's Feelings, which I certainly must, if I write to him what I know respecting his Son. 'Tis a painful Task to me, in the only Letter I may probably trouble him with from hence, to be the Conveyor of unpleasant News. Your Lordship has heard, that he was taken Prisoner by the Rebels. At first they confined him; but hearing and believing, that he was a young Man of Family and great Expectations, they released him upon his Parole of Honor, and appointed him a certain Limit. This Parole he has broken, stoled a Horse to facilitate his Escape, and, without knowing the Country, or where any of the King's Ships



*Henry Edwyn Stanhope.*

lay to receive him (if it were right to receive him), he strolled about, till, from Description of him by Name and Person in the Advertisements of the public Papers, he was seized and brought to Washington. He is now in Irons at some Goal in or near this Place; and we are under some Apprehensions about him <sup>3</sup>

Mr Percy, I hear, continued a very violent Agitator in the Rebel Proceedings, and stirs up the People with a Heat little short of Phrenzy. Such Conduct in such Persons affords too much Room for the Taunts of Infidels:

Tantum Religio potuit suadere malorum.

'Tis truly shocking to cover over human Pride or Violence with the broad Mantle of Religion.

1. B. F. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles of Manuscripts in European Archives Relating to America 1773-1783* (London, 1889-1898), 2040.
2. Lieutenant Edward Sneyd, R.N., commanded the British bomb brig *Bolton*, which was taken by the Continental Fleet on April 5, 1776. See Volume 4.
3. Lieutenant Henry Edwin Stanhope, H.M.S. *Glasgow*, was taken prisoner at Newport. See previous volumes in this series.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Flora*, CAPTAIN JOHN BRISBANE <sup>1</sup>

July 1776 Do [Sandy Hook] No 86°40 Et Dist 40 Leags  
 Thursday 25 at 8 A M spoke wt the *Renown* pr Sigl at 10. Exercised Great Guns and small Arms and at noon the *Renown* and 20 sail in Compy  
 First part Light Breezes and Clear, middle and Latter light airs and Cloudy wt thick Foggy wr at times at 1 P M gave Chace to two sail to leewd one of which had an English Ensign in her main top mast shrouds Fird several Guns and at 3 joined them found them to be the *Bristol* Transport & the *Hetty* Snow the former having had an Action wt a Rebel Privateer and beat her off. Sent the surgeon on Board the *Bristol* to dress some of the men who had been wounded ½ pt fir'd a Gun and made the sigl to speak the *Renown* Repeated ditto who some time after bore down & joined us Received on Board 2 wounded soldiers from the *Bristol* Transport

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/360.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Renown*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS BANKS <sup>1</sup>

July 1776 Sandyhook No 80:214 Dt 14 Leags  
 Thursday 25 P M Perceived one of the Convoy to Leewd to make the Signl of Distress; do md the Signl to speak the *Flora* ½ past spoke her & Orderd her to the Ships Assistance . . . At 7 brought too & sent the boat wth my Surgn: onboard the *Bristol* Transport; she having Engag'd a Privateer the Night before; by wch some of her Men were Wounded; ½ past 7 the boat returned,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/776.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COLONEL RICHARD BARNES <sup>1</sup>

No 76.

Sir, Before your Letter and papers therein inclosed came to hand, we had received a Letter from Major Price, in which Mr Wolstenholme's affair was mentioned. – The Council of Safety thereupon passed a General order to all the Committes of Observation and Military Commanders, not to suffer any Person whatever to go out of the Province for the present, a Copy of the Order was inclosed to Major Price and your Committee. – all intercourse with the *Fowey* has been heretofore expressly forbid by the Convention, besides times are so much altered since Mr Wolstenholmes passport and the Men of War have so openly Invaded this Province, that we could not discharge our Duty without passing such order, at least we thought so. – Mr Wolstenholmes case may be attended with particular circumstances, he must however submit to the times. – We hope both General Dent and yourself on reflection will be of opinion that we have done right. – the suffering Gentlemen to go off, on Board the Men of War or Tenders or any other Vessel that may have communication with them is attended with great danger to the Colony. – every means of intelligence must be cut off if possible. We are &c

[Annapolis] 25 July 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU <sup>1</sup>

July 1776                      At single Anchor in Potomack River Middle of St  
Thursday 25                      George's Island WSW off Shore ½ a Mile  
Light Airs Inclinable to Calms  
at 7 A M Discovered some Rebels on the Island    fired four  
9 pounders at them on which they retreated to the Main

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday the 25th day of July 1776. –  
Resolved that the following places be appointed as Magazines or Repositories for the reception of Provisions and Naval Stores for the use of the Navy in the Several Rivers, to wit, for York River Fraziers upon Mattapony, for James River Low point, upon Chepokes Creek for Rappahanock River – Bathursts Landing upon Piscataway Creek, and for Potowmack River potowmack Creek in Stafford County. – <sup>2</sup>

1. Navy Board Journal, 19, 20, VSL.

2. *Ibid.*, 20–22, on July 26, the Navy Board appointed "Agents or Contractors for purchasing provisions, Ship Materials, Naval Stores and all other Necessaries which they may be directed to Purchase," and resolved that they be allowed "a Commission of two and a half percent on all Sums of Money by them disbursed . . ." Those named were: William Holt, James River; Merriwether Smith and William Roane, Rappahannock River; James Hunter, Potomac River; and William Roane and William Frazer, York River.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday July 25th 1776.

Ordered that Captain Paul Bascome, of the Schooner *Polly* a square stern Vessel, Burthen twenty Ton, or thereabouts, built in Bermuda, but now in this Commonwealth, be permitted to sell the said Schooner to any person, residing in the said Commonwealth, who may be willing to purchase the same. Dissentient Mr. [Bartholomew] Dandridge, because the above mentioned Vessel appears to be Bermudian Property.

Resolved, That John Granberry Master of the Sloop *Betsey* be permitted to proceed to the Island of Hispaniola with his Cargo consisting of three hundred Barrels of Flour, and that he be allowed to Trade at that port.

A Warrant from the Navy Board in favour of Colonel Theodorick Bland for seventy two pounds two shillings and three pence half penny for smiths work and sundries furnished the Brig *Raleigh* Capt Cocke was presented Countersigned by the President and ordered to be registered.

Resolved, That John Middleton, of the Schooner *Polly* be permitted to proceed to Hispaniola with his Cargo consisting of Flour and Corn & that he be allowed to trade at that Port, he having given Bond and security to comply with all Regulations made by Congress.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council of Safety*, I, 93, 94.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE <sup>1</sup>

July [1776]                      Sting Ray Point [Virginia] bore WNW

Thursday 25    At ½ past 3 A M weighed & came to sail.    At 6 do saw a Sail. Set Studding sails & give Chace. She fired a Gun to leeward, & hoisted Rebel Colours. At 9 shoaled our water to ½ Twain, hauled down Studding sails, the Chace being close in Shore. Made sail & stood down the Bay.  
The first part mode & fair, the midl & latter light airs. At 2 P M saw a Row Boat, two Schooners & a Brig in Hampton Road, gave Chace do cleared Ship for Action. Hove overboard being an incumberance, Arm Chest for Boats two, Tables Hounds-ear one, do small six & Hencoops two. At 5 the Row Boat fired a Gun & the Brigg & Schooners stood close in shore. At Sun set Cape Henry bore SSE. At 9 shortened sail & hauled up for the Cape. At 11 came too with the B Bower in 7 fam off Cape Henry,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM CHACE TO GEORGE BABCOCK, PRIZE MASTER <sup>1</sup>

At Sea July 25th 1776 in Lattd 34. .20 Longe 54. .30 –  
Mr George Babcock as I have appointed you Prize Master of the Ship *Staar & Garter* my Orders to you are not to leave Company of the Sloop *Diamond* but Consort with her till my further Orders, and that in Dark nights you

keep a light in your Shrouds or some Convenient part of the Ship to be seen and upon your hearing a Gun from the Sloop Either in the day or Night you are to make Directly towards her and in Case of Bad Weather which may Prevent your finding the Sloop, you are to lie by till Clear Weather or if in the Night you are to lie by till morning, and in Case of being Seperated, your orders are to steer Directly for Nantucket and proceed to Providence Thro' the Vineyard Sound and take a pilot as soon as you posibly Can get one on board, one as is well Recomendend if you can, mind you are not Imposed on – In case you fall into the Eastward of Nantucket or into the Western Sound, you are to Send an Express that is to hire a man & Horse Immediately & Send to Messrs Nichols & John Brown Merchts att Providence. informing them where you be & there wait there Orders but if you should hit into the Vineyard sound you may Proceed to Bedford or into Seconet. that is if you get a good Pilot; to take Charge of the ships, Because to get good pilots cost what it will – if you get into Bedford stay their till Messrs Browns orders you to Depart, if we are chased by any Vessell & I hoist my Jack at Mizzen Peake you are to make the Best of your way off or if in the night we are chased upon my firing two guns you are to leave me & shift for your Self But on hearing but one Gun you are to make for the Sloop as Afore Mentioned Be carefull to keep Peace Among your People and be always on your Gaurd & Charge Your People Such as you may Depend on, to be carefull of the Rest or they may Plot your Overthrow; – These are my Orders which Please to Observe, and you have a Copy of my Commission for your further Safety and Protection; Being Assured of your Punctuall Performance, I Subscribe Myself your freind

William Chace <sup>2</sup>

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, R. I. Arch.

2. Commander of the Rhode Island privateer sloop *Diamond*.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Squirrel* Jamaica July 25h 1776

Herewith you'll receive a Duplicate of my Letter of the 2nd inst, and I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that His Majestys Ship *Boreas* Sail'd the 3rd inst with the 50th Regiment for North America and Inclos'd is the Embarkation return of that Regiment for their information

I likewise beg leave to acquaint them that His Majestys Sloop *Atalanta* arriv'd the 8th instant from Barbadoes and that Captain [Thomas] Underwood died the next day I have appointd Lieutenant Everitt to Act as Captain of her 'til the *Antelopes* arrival when I propose giving the first Lieutenant of that Ship a Commission for her. I likewise beg leave to inclose their Lordships the several Affidavits relative to William Platt, who I have sent to England in the *Pallas* to take his Tryal for the Crime he has committed, which I hope their Lordships will approve.

In my former Letter I acquaintd their Lordships with the Gun Powder & Arms taken by Lieut Montais. on its being brought in I immediately wrote to the Governor & offer'd it him for the Island at the Market price to

prevent its falling into bad hands & ever getting to North America In answer to which his Excellency acquaint's me that he had assembl'd his Council & laid the matter before them who were of opinion there was not a Necessity for purchasing the Small Arms as they soon expected a large Supply from Great Britain and in regard to the Gun Powder they had not a sufficient unappropriated Fund to enable them to purchase it on behalf of the Public, but as the same time, offer'd to take it on their own Accounts for the Island at the rate of £6.15 pr Barrall when the Market price was £15, not doubting but the legislature would refund them at the next meeting of the General Assembly

As His Majesty had been most graciously pleas'd to give the sole property of all Prizes to the Captors, I thought I should have been doing them a great Piece of Injustice, and what I had no Authority to do, to consent to the Islands having it so much under the Market price which I wrote the Governor and told him to prevent it ever getting into the Hands of the Rebels, I would order it to be kept in His Majestys Magazines until I heard from their Lordships respecting it. in regard to the small Arms as they had declin'd taking them at any rate; and there being no probability of their being want'd for His Majestys Service the Captors had order'd their Agents to sell them. the Captors have since agreed for the Island to have the Powder at their offer'd price, rather than wait 'til I here from their Lordships. I therefore must beg that you will lay the matter before them and request their directions, how I am to Act in future; if any Powder or Ammunition should be brought in by my Cruisers, whither 'tis to be Sold agreeable to Act of Parliament, or purchas'd for His Majestys Service.

The reason my thus troubling their Lordships, is, that the Governor has wrote to Lord Geo[rg]e Germain informing him that I had refus'd to Let the Island have the Powder at that price when the Market price was higher, which I did for the reasons I have assign'd in the former part of my Letter, which I hope will be fully Satisfactory to their Lordships and clear me of any Imputation which may be alledg'd against me.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that a Vessel arrivd from the Mississippi who brings Account of the *Diligence's* having taken Eight Prizes - I likewise beg leave to inclose them a Letter from Mr. Gauld wherein they will see how he proposes Employing himself, and have sent by the *Pallas* a fair Copy of his last Years Work.

I have likewise order'd Surveys & Estimates to be made on His Majestys Victualling Stores & Mast Now at Greenwich and have transmitted to the respective Boards, Reports thereof. I am, with respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

I. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

ABRAHAM VAN BEBBER TO THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

S[t]. Eustatius July 25, 1776

Gentlemen

Your very much esteemed favours of 25th April & 13th May came safe

to hand are now before [me] whose Contents I note: They have served to answer the desired Effect and I find myself under every obligation to your Honourable House for your favourable opinion of my Conduct. The Vessels mention'd address'd to my care are not arrived, if any of them should be fortunate enough you may depend they will have quick dispatch. I wrote you the 24th May by Capt Isaac Caton in a Ten Gun Sloop bound to Charles Town So Carolina by whom shipped you fourteen thousand three hundred wt of Gun Powder I likewise wrote you the 13th June by Capt Martin & Shipped sixteen thousand three hundred wt of Powder this Martin is in a Ten Gun Brigantine and has a very considerable Cargo on board for the Province of Maryland dayly hope & expect to hear of his arrival. I have debetted Messrs Lux & Bowly to your Colony's Cr[edit] for £1015 – by advice from them & have received a Bill from Mr John Dixon on Mr Webb for 600 Dollars but not heard of its acceptance. I intend to give you a State of your Acct with me, by the next opportunity and shall pay the Balla[nce] to VanBibber & Harrison who we have already inform'd you had enter'd into a Partnership in order to strengthen our Credit that we may be more enabled to comply with and Facilitate the Commands of our Country and supply their many Wants – therefore in future beg you'd direct Your favours for either of us to V B & H S[t.] Pier's Martinique I intend continuing here, but think it not so safe for Vessels to get into as the other Places mentioned. I am [&c.]

Abm. VanBibber

1. VSL.

VAN BEBBER & HARRISON TO THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen/

St Eustatius July 25. 1776 –

The preceding is A Letter from our AVB <sup>2</sup> acknowledging the Receipt of your several favours. We now embrace the Opportunity by Capt John Pasture in a very fine Boat belonging to your Colony to Ship on account and Risque of said Colony Seven thous[and] five hundred pounds Gun Powder and Ninety Stand of Arms for which you have enclos'd Invoice & Bill of Lading We also intend to Ship on board a fine Bermuda built Boat Capt [Thomas] Davis four thous[and] pounds Gun Powder and Ninety Stand of [Arms] the whole of which sincerely wish safe to hand. We have assured Capt Pasture that if he should be fortunate enough to arrive Safe and deliver his Cargo in good order he would be generously treated by your honourable House to encourage him to exert himself. Our RH <sup>3</sup> is at Martinique where I understand some Vessels from Virginia and other Provinces are arrived – With due Respect we Remain Gentlemen [&c.]

VanBibber & Harrison

[Enclosure]

Invoice of Sundries shipped by Van Bibber & Harrison on board the Boat *Pluto*, Thomas Davis Master, on Accot of the Colony of Virginia, agreeable to Bill of Lading therewith transmitted.



Saint Eustatia July 25. 1776 –

		Statia Curr[enc]y
4000 lbs of Gun Powder	a £ 13.4/ P C	528. — —
90 Stand of Arms	49/6	222. 15. —
	Storage	2. 12 6
	Portrage & Literage on bd	16 — 6
		<hr/> 754. 4 —
	Commission 5 P Ct	37. 14 . 2.
		<hr/> £ 791. 18. 2

(Copy)

Van Bibber &amp; Harrison

Invoice of Sundries shipped by Van Bibber & Harrison on board the Boat *Molly*, John Pasture, Master, on Acct & risque of the Colony of Virginia, agreeable to Bill of Lading therewith transmitted —

Saint Eustatia July 25. 1776.

		Statia Curry —
7500 lbs Gun Powder	13 £.4/.	990 — —
90 Stand of Arms	49/6	222 15 —
	Storeage	7.10 —
	Porterage & Litera[ge] on board	1.19. 6
		<hr/> 1222 — 4. 6
	Commission 5 P Ct	61. 2 — 3
		<hr/> £ 1283. 6. 9

(Copy) Van Bibber &amp; Harrison

1. State Agent, 1775–1782, VSL.
2. Abraham Van Bebber.
3. Richard Harrison.

## 26 July

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Diligent*, LIEUTENANT EDMUND DOD <sup>1</sup>

July 1776                      Moored off Charlotte Town [Island of St. John]  
 Thursdy 25th    First part modr & Cloudy, middle rain, latter modr & fair  
                          PM Recd information of a French Schooner being at St Pe-  
                          ters on the North Side of this Island, Armed the boat & the  
                          Lieut went up to examine her;  
 Friday 26th      AM dry'd the Sails  
                          PM the Boat ret[urne]d from St Peters, The Lieut having  
                          Seiz'd the Schooner (& put 3 of our Men on Bd of her) as  
                          an Illicit trader, She coming from the Island of Mequilon  
                          with Salt & one puncheon of rum, She being out of the  
                          Boundaries prescribed by the late treaty of peace <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4109.
2. According to the *Diligent's* journal of July 29, the Frenchman was cleared by the Court of Admiralty, "the master making it appear that he was bound on a fishing Voyage but forced by stress of weather into St Peters."

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Friday—July 26th 1776 –

Recommendation from Capt Simeon Sampson of Mr Daniel Adams & Saml Higgins as 1st & 2d Lieutenants of the Brigantine *Independence*, Read & Ordered that said Adams & Higgins be Comissionated Accordingly—

On Motion Ordered, that the Comissary Genl be directed to deliver out of the Colony Magazine & Stores, for the use of the Colony Sloops *Republic* & *Freedom*, Unto Capt John Foster Williams Comander of the *Republic*, & Capt John Clouston, Comander of the *Freedom*, or their Order the following Articles – Vizt. –

12..Cannon –	100 lb Muskett Balls –
14..Swivels & Cohorn's	50 lb Match rope –
30..Musketts –	14 Powder Horns –
20..Pr. Pistol's –	25 Barrels Pork –
20..Tomahawks –	25 Barrels Beef –
40..Lances –	90 lb Bread –
1..Ton Shott suitable for Cannon	10 Firkins Butter or Oil in
3..0..0 Grape Shott —	Lieu thereof –
	20 Barrels of Peas or Beans –

Bonds being given by Simeon Sampson,<sup>2</sup> a Comission was Issued out to him as Commander of the Brigantine *Independence*, fitted out by the State of the Massachusetts Bay to make Captures on Our Enemies Vessels. –

The Comittee Appointed to prepare Instructions for Capt Sampson, reported a Draft, which was read and Accepted & Signed by the President, and is as follows Vizt

Capt Simeon Sampson –

The Brig *Independence* under your Command being in all respects Equipped in Warlike Manner, and being also well & properly Man'd so as to proceed on a Cruize, You therefore are Directed Imediately to proceed on a Cruize not only against our Unnatural Enemies, but also for the Protection of the Trade of the United States, and you are directed to range the Coast of the Province of Main, laying between the River Pisscataqua & Machias, in Order to Clear That Coast of any of the Enemies Crusiers that may be Infesting the same, and from thence proceed as far Southward as the Lattitude thirty four North, and not further West than the Shoals of Nantuckett, nor further East than the Island of Sable, on the Coast of Nova Scotia, allways using every Necessary Precaution to prevent the Brig under your Command from falling into the hands of our Enemies, And whereas you have received a Comission by force of Arms, to attack Seize & take, on the High Seas, all the Ships and Other Vessels, belongg to the Inhabitants of Great Brittain, or Others Infesting to Sea Coasts of this Continent, you are therefore punctually to follow the Instructions now deliverd you, for regulating your Conduct in this Matter, and in all things Conduct Yourself Consistent with the Trust reposed in You –

In the Names & by Order of the Council Richard Derby Junr  
Presidt –

The Board Agreeable to the Assignment of this Morning for the Appointment of Agents for the Agents, Armed Vessels have no[w] come to the choice of the following Gentlemen, Vizt —

William Sever Esqr appointed Agent for the Southern District –

Richard Derby Junr Esqr for the Middle District –

Timothy Parsons Esqr for the Eastern District –

On Motion Ordered, that Saml Holton and Benja Austin Esqrs be a Committee to prepare an Order for the Appointment, of the Above Gentlemen as Agents, and to direct them in their Duty –

Ordered that William Sever Esqr be and hereby is Appointed Agent for all Captures made by any Vessel or Otherways in which this State is any way Interested or Concerned, whose Authority as Agent shall be Limited to, & Confined within the Limits of the Middle District [*sic* Southern District] for holding the Court of Captures as set forth by an act of this State, for the trying & Condemning of all Vessels as Aforesaid, and to do & transact all that is Necessary to be done as Agent in behalf of this State, bringing to Tryal before the proper Court & if Condemned to dispose of all such Vessels & Cargo's aforesaid, with Power Substituteing one or more Agents or Attorneys for the purpose aforesaid, & them again to revoke, & tis further Ordered the said William Sever Esqr give Bond with Suretys to the Treasurer of this State faithfully to Discharge this trust reposed in Him—Similar orders were Given the two other Gentlemen Appointed Agents for the Middle & Eastern Districts –

On a Certificate from Henry Gardner Esqr it appearing that Jeremiah Obrian Comdr of the Sloop *Machias Liberty*, has given Bond Agreeable to the Resolves of General Court, his Commission as Commander of Sd Sloop fitted out by the State was deliverd to him as also his Instructions —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 131–32, 134.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 139, 122, 123.

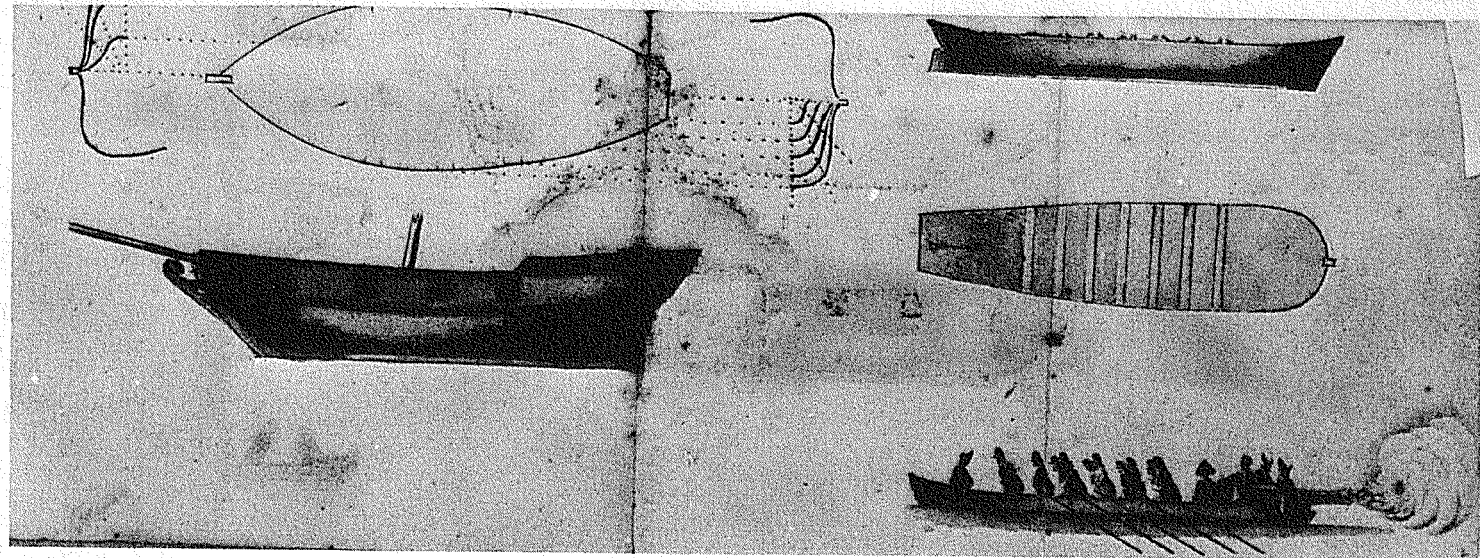
CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Andrew Doria* July the 26th 1776

A Gentleman in Philadelphia desires me to make enquiry concerning a certain Capt Golly who was taken in a Vessel from Philadelphia and Carried to Halifax from which Place he made his escape, and on his way home was stop'd and confind in Providence Goal. As his Wife and Friends have not heard any Reason Assign'd for his confinement they are very uneasy on his account. I am not acquainted with Capt Golly But the Gentleman who writes to me in favour of him is a warm friend to the cause of Liberty

The subject I write on will I hope apologize for my troubling you. And the Mentioning the Matter induce an enquiry into the cause of his confinement, which if it is (as is apprehended) only on suspicion of



*Sketches of a cutter and gunboat of the types used by the British on Lake Champlain.*

being inimical to the cause May be the Means of procuring him his Liberty. I am Sir with the greatest Respect [&c.]

Nicholas Biddle

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS <sup>1</sup>

July 1776                      No End of Block Isld WSW  $\frac{1}{2}$ W    5 Miles  
 Friday 26    at 6 AM saw a Sail over the Island    weigh'd & gave Chace.  
                  Light Airs    Chace in sight    at 6 PM Tkd Ship    at 7 run the  
                  Chase on Shore upon a reef between Fishers Island and the  
                  Main    TKd and stood out.<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

2. "Run on Shore a ship from the West Indies, Prize to the *Andrew Doria* Privateer," Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487. The ship was the *Nathaniel and Elizabeth*. See Biddle to Hopkins, July 22, 1776 and Extract of a letter from New York, July 29, 1776.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO WILLIAM WILLIAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Lebanon, 26th July 1776

Dear Sir I Intend to give you a State of Our Army from Canada . . .

How they will maintain their Naval Superiority, I must confess myself much at a loss – They Build a Gundola perhaps one in a Week – but where are they to find rigging for them, where the Guns, to be sure they have a great Train of Artillery, but they are very few of them mounted on Carriages, at present their Materials and Conveniences for making them are very slender – They have neither places fit for them to work in, nor Materials in that plenty they ought to have. – To oppose the Enemy on the Lake they have a Schooner of twelve Carriage Guns, – a Sloop of eight – two small Schooners to carry four or six each, and three Gondolas – the Large Schooner is now in good Sailing Order, and about to take a trip down the Lake, to make discovery – the Sloop is a most unmanageable thing 'tis not possible to beat up against a head wind, in her, – the two smal Schooners are not Armed, the Gondolas are not armed – and even the Carriages of their Guns are yet to be made –

The Enemy are at St Johns repairing the works at that place, and building three Schooners, and two Sloops, they have no doubt every thing ready to their hands, the rigging made, the Guns mounted, and only the wooden Work to perform, in which I fear they will have the Advantage . . .

Capt Winslow and his party of Ship Carpenters are arrived & gone to work Capt Lester's going by Water, did not get to New York until the river was invested with the Ships – and they were oblided to take to the Land – the thousand felling Axes requested by Genl Schuyler are provided, and will be sent forward On Monday . . . Mr [John] Jay came here Friday for the Loan of Cannon to use on North River – The 20 9 lbers for the Ship are ready for use – bored & drilled – and We have Lent Twelve & 10 Six pounders . . .

1. Trumbull Papers, IV, 336a-d, ConnSL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot*<sup>1</sup>  
1776

June 28	The Continental Brig <i>Cabot</i> Elish[a] Hinmam Commader	Dr	
	To 1 bar Tallow 212 pd @ /8	£ 7..1..4	
	To 1 bar Pitch	1..4..0	
	To Use of Scow in Landing Stores & carrying off Water &c.	0.12..0	
	To John Deshons Bill for Wood & filling Water &c		
30	To Cash pd Capt Hinman	£150. -	
	To ditto pd ditto	30. -	
July 8	To ditto pd ditto	39. -	
	To ditto pd Doc	8.14 -	227.14..0
	To 386 feet pine boards		
	To 2 Qr Cask Rum Nt 68 Gal a 6/6		
	To 7 bar beef @ 51/6	} Theo Morgan	
	To 2 bar pork @ 76/6		
	To 13 bar beef	} N[athaniel] S[haw]	
	To 4 bar pork		
	To 10 bar flour 18..1..0 a 16/		14.12..0
16	To 3 hhd Rum 338 Gal @ 4/3	£71.16..6	
	To 2 doz Felt Hatts 36/	3.12..0	
	To 6 bar Lampblack 1/6	0..9..0	
	To pd Braddick p[ar]t of do	0..9..6	76..7..-
	To box Candles 56½ lb of Howland	2..7..1	
	To 4 Gal Oile 5 qts do a /8	2..2..0	
	To Rus Hubbards Bill for Ship Chandler Stores	3..1..7	
	To 13 bus pease from R Saltonstall	5.14..	
	To 88 lb Oakham R Mumford	1..3..4	
	To 6 bar pork from Ledyard a		
	To John Ways Bill for Coopering	1.14..1	
	To 6 bar pork from Sam Alcott		
	To 300 bunches onions from A Beebee 3d	3.15..-	
	To 1 bus Corn 3/6 20 ft plank for the boat 3/4	6.10	
	To 27 lb butter 27/, 2 doz fowles 24/	2.11	
	To 4 Turkies 14/, 4 Ducks 6/	1 -	
22	To Cash deld Capt Hinman	30..0	
	To do 11 Dollars dl do	3..6-	
	To Jos Owens Bill	1..4..6	
	To 2 Small Cask lampblack	1 -	
26	To Cash deld Capt Hinman	30..0..0	

[Page 2]

1776	The Brig <i>Cabot</i> Hinman Command[er]	Dr
July	To the Sum brot over .....	£
13	To 39 Frocks @ 8/6 .....	£ 16.11..6
	To 44 Shirts 14/4 .....	31.10..8
	To 81 p trousers 6/8 .....	27..0..0
	To 2 Shirts & 3 p trousers } from G Richards	2..7..4
	To 8 Shirts from Pool .....	6..6..2
	To 50 p Shoes R Douglass .....	17.15..0
	To 26 p do R Manwarg .....	9.15..0
		111..5..8
	To 3 doz Wine .....	5..8..0
	To 1 Demi John Wine .....	2..8..0
	To 105 lb Mutton at Ston- } ington	1..6..3
	As p John Hinmans Bill	
	To pd John Owens Bill for a } House of Rendezvous	5.16..8
	To 1 p Trousers from G. R. dl Thos Dandy .....	6..6

1. Nathaniel Shaw Papers, YUL.

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1776

New-London, July 26.

The Sloop *Commerce*, Capt. Waterman, belonging to this Port, was taken the 15th ult. in her Passage from Montserrat to St. Eustatia. The Captain of her who arrived here last Wednesday, via Nantucket, informs that but very few northern Vessels escape the Vigilance of the British Cruizers.

Intelligence from Captain [John] Davis at Montauk, received by the *Spy* Privateer, who returned here on Wednesday from a Cruize, viz.

Thursday, July 18. At 6 A. M. espy'd two Ships E. from the Point, standing in for the Land.

Friday, 19. No Discovery this Day.

Saturday, 20. At 2 P.M. espy'd a Ship bearing S.W. from the Point, and at 6 abreast with the Point.

Sunday, 21. At 7 A.M. saw three Ships bearing S.E. from the Point, standing for Block Island.

Monday, 22. Espied a Ship E.S.E. from the Point.

Tuesday, 23. At 2 P.M. espy'd a Ship near Block-Island; at [3] saw another S.E. from the Point, standing for Block-Island.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Head Quarters, New York, July 26, 1776.

The Fire Rafts you mention, are not of the best Construction; but probably are the best than can be procured with the necessary Dispatch.

Cable and Anchors I should suppose, might easily be procured from the Vessels which used to be plying up and down the River, and are now lying idle; Salt Petre from the Manufacturers in the Country, as neither are to be had in this Place. The Necessity of the Case, will fully justify your taking the former wherever to be found, and the Safety of the People, I should imagine, would induce them to assist you to the latter, all in their Power.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V. 340, 341.

MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New york the 26 of July 1776

Dear Ginrol

I have waited with impasone to hear from you but being Sensobel the many and Grait Difficultys you had to surmont Dont in the Least wonder at your not riting to me we have ben in great Constornation hear and hardly know what to Do nor what thare intentions are but som things we dow know we know that the kings troops are Landed one stratens Island and are throwing up works in many Plases ther and that two ships are gon past our batre up to the topon See but belcause they ware pritey wel pepored as thay pasd by ous thay have maid seavrol atempts to land but hav always ben drove of with Loos . . . the fleat now lays in this bay vary saf clos under Straten Island thare troops poses no land hear but the Island is it not vary strang that thos invinsabel troops who ware to destroy and lay wast all this Contry with thare fleats and army are so fond of Islands and penelsenes and dare not put their feat on the main but hop by the blesing of god and good frends we shall pay them a viset one thare Island for that eand We are prepparing 14 fier ships to go into thare fleat som of which are ready Charged and fit to sail and hop soon to have them all fixed we are preparing Shevordfres at which we mak grat despach by the healp of ships which, are to be sunk, a scem of min which you may be ass[u]red is vary simpel a plan of which I send you the 2 ships starns Ley toward each outhar at about [seventy feet apart] 3 Larg logs which reach fr[om ship to ship are fastened to them] <sup>2</sup> the 2 Ships and logs stop the revor 280 feet the ships to Be sunk and when helled Down on won sid raise the picks at a proper haith and must unevatabelly stop the revor if thay will let ous sink them . . . all your shipeng can be of no sarves to you if thay git Poseson of Crown pint which they may easily do when you are at 15 milds Distonc and now leat me intreat of yo to your Endeavor and influenc to tak Posson of it and to keep it . . . for I am wel assuered if you dont thay will and not ask your leav and then all must be over as to your ships in the laks by a leator Just recived we understand that Ships gon up the revor intend soon to return as they have heard of our Desine to stop the revor and they are affraid to stay any Longer in that setuation . . .

1. Autographs of Generals of the American Revolution, PML.

2. The words within brackets were added in a different hand.



JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Centurion*, CAPTAIN RICHARD BRATHWAITE <sup>1</sup>

July 1776                      Moor'd off Staten Island.  
 Friday 26      AM at 8 the Admiral Hoisted a Red & White Pendant at His Mizzen Peak, ½ past 9 the Admiral made the General Sigl for Lieuts Wash'd & cleaned the Orlop & Lower Gun Decks. Moderate & Clear Wr P M Vice Admiral Shulldham came onbd Sent the Long Bt for Water . . . the Admiral Hoisted a Blue Pendant at the Maintopmast head as the parole Signal. Answered it as usual. Received on board a flat Bot-tomed Boat No 1. Sent the Guard Boat to Convoy a Stragling Boat with some of the Commissary General's Clerks to the *Elizabeth*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/177.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]    Perth Amboy 26 July 1776  
 Sir, I find by intelligence from our Guards at So Amboy that some Shallops five in number that passed us yesterday from Fish Kill were full of Soldiers, who appeared on Deck after getting round Billips Point into Princes Bay – As the Shallops passed our Feild Peices played on them – but with little effect – the Enemy returnd the Cannonade briskly during the Space of an hour with four, Six and Twelve Pounders – One of our Militia was killed and two wounded but not dangerously – Two more Shallops passed this morning and one remains up the Sound, in view – The *Fly* Sloop of War Capt Edger <sup>2</sup> lyes at Brunswick – I ordered her down yesterday on the appearance of the Shallops – but she is not yet fallen down the River – I am collecting all the Craft, of which a return will be transmitted – Genl [Nathaniel] Heard is out on examining the Creeks . . . <sup>3</sup>

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The Continental sloop *Fly*, Captain Hoysteed Hacker, commanding.

3. *Ibid.*, on the same afternoon Mercer wrote again to General Washington noting that six ships "have come into the Hook" and that a deserter from the *Asia* claimed "10 Ships arrived Foure Days ago."

BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]    Perth Amboy 26 July 1776  
 . . . Some Shallops passing from First Kill into Raritan Bay yesterday afternoon brought on a Cannonade – Our feild peices did little or no execution and the small Arms were not used – the distance being too great – the Enemy fired four, six and Twelve Pound Shot, very briskly for the space of an hour – We lost one man of the Melitia and had two wounded, not dangerously – some Iron four or six Pounders might be mounted on Flats or Skows we have here to answer very well against such Vessels as passd us yesterday – some have gone down today I did not think it proper to waste ammunition with so litt[le] probability of effect – Some such Peices as are

mentioned above are to be had at Philadelphia – We have Ship wrights & Smiths here could mount them. . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 159, 153–54.

# JOURNAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] July 26th, 1776.

On a Petition from John Peal, Boatswain of the *Ranger*, setting forth that he was in Confinement, & prays to be released & removed to another Boat,

*Ordered*, That a Court Martial be held on the said Peal, and a Court of enquiry on the officer who confined him, as soon as Possible, & report the sentence to this board.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 656.

## MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

No 78.

Dunmores Fleet has seperated; The *Fowey* and the *Otter* with a Number of Vessells having the Tory Families on board remain in the Mouth of Saint Marys River; the *Roebuck* and Six or Seven other Vessells have moved up the River Potowmack, as high as quantico in Virginia, where they stopt to take in Water. – there are some flying reports of their having Landed at Mr William Brents and burnt his Houses, which are confirmed this Day by Charles Lansdale – he says 'tis feared they are landing on Colonel [William] Smallwoods Estate – the last he heard of them was yesterday and the report was they were landing on The Maryland side near Colonel Smallwood's. . . . [Annapolis] 26 July 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

## JOSEPH HAWKINS TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Cha[rle]s County July the 26th 1776.

. . . I have the Satisfaction of informing you that our Militia have prevented the Enemy from Landing or plundering if they intended it and that we have sustained no damage except the Loss of a couple of boats, & the fleet have gone down the River again this day

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

## COLONEL RICHARD BARNES TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentn

Camp at Cherry Field 26th July 1776

I am informed Colo Kent that was approved by the Convention to Command the *Defence*, declines the acceptance of the Command. I shall therefore take the liberty to recommend Capn George Cooke as a proper

Person to command the *Defence*, knowing that Capn [James] Nicholsons opinion was that neither of the Gentn on Board the *Defence* was sufficiently qualified to take the command, Capn George Cooke has served on board the English Navy for Seven Years and has been in several engagements, and I think well qualified for the Business. I have had an opportunity of finding him to a Man of Undaunted courage since I have been in these parts, As Colo Plater is well acquainted with Capn Geo. Cooke and I suppose some others of the Council, I shall say no more about him, further than I thought it my duty to prevent his passing unnoticed if in my power. I remain Gentn [&c.]

Rich<sup>d</sup> Barnes

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

#### RICHARD HOOE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gent,

Chingateague July 26th 1776

I did myself the Honor of writing you on the 17th Inst by Mr Crockett.<sup>2</sup> Some days after that time I Purchasd about one hundred hhds of Fl[our] 60 of wch I have actually Reced and since making the Purchase the whole of the Flour has arrived. I have examined a good deal of it and find it in such a State as will not admit of its being Stored any length of time in expectation of a Sale, I shall therefore endeav[or] to Sell or Ship it Without delay.

If I cannot do better, I must have the Schooner *John* examined and Valued, and send her off with it for it will soon perish here, and there is a good chance of Selling it very high, if it can be expeditiously pushed to Markett. The Brig will sail in 12 days, by wch time Capt Martin has engaged to return, if he does not I must send her without him, as it is not in my power to attend here longer. The 2 Chests of Arms & 9 Bales of sail Cloth the Capt has deliver'd since the Committee of Worcester wrote you of the difficiency the Powder yet remains 12 whole Barrls short, 41½ barrls of wch he says was put on board for Vessells use. Capt Martin appears very anxious to be Commission'd, of this I can say nothing as he is a Stranger to me except that the Men enter & Act more cheerfully where they have a Chance of Shareing a Prize, but how proper it may be to grant Commissions to Vessells carrying Cargoes must be Submitted to you. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

R<sup>d</sup> Hooe

p favor of Capt Martin

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*

#### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Friday July 26th 1776.

Resolved that Captain Wileasor Bazey, of a Schooner belonging to Thomas Harwood, be permitted to pass with a Load of Corn from Rappahannock River to Suffolk & to bring from thence a Load of Tar.

A Warrant from the Navy Board in favour of Bartholomew Dandridge Esquire for seven pounds two shillings for Plank and Waggon hire furnished Captain Calvert & his Row Galley<sup>2</sup> was presented Countersigned by the President and ordered to be registered.

A Warrant from the Navy Board in favour of William Mitchell for twenty one pounds five shillings and four pence half penny the Balance of his Account this Day settled for the pay of his Company [of Marines] from Enlistment to the 16th July was presented Countersigned by the President and ordered to be registered.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council of Safety*, I, 94, 95, 96.

2. Galley *Norfolk Revenge*, Captain John Calvert.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1776

Williamsburg, July 26.

Capt. [Samuel] Denny has lately taken up before Gwyn's island 11 anchors and 10 cables, which were left by lord Dunmore's fugitive squadron. One of the anchors is of 1300 wt, with a new cable 120 fathoms long, supposed to have belonged to the *Otter*.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Halifax] Friday July 26th 1776.

Whereas it is necessary that the directions of the Congress respecting Exportation be fully and strictly observed.

Resolved That the Commissioners of the different ports do receive from the Captains of all Vessels on Oath a Manifest of their Cargo, before they grant any Clearance or permit to leave this Colony, and that the Commanders of the Armed Vessels, the Companies of Militia on the Sea Coasts and of the different Forts in this Colony are hereby impowered and required to Stop and detain all Vessels and prevent their leaving this Colony until they produce proper Clearances from the Commissioners of the ports of Edenton, Bath New Bern or Wilmington.

Resolved That Robert Neilson Master and Owner of the Brigantine *Polly* be permitted to Export to some port in Spain and Portugal the following Articles to wit Sixty thousand pipe Staves four thousand five hundred hogshead Staves, three thousand weight of Bees Wax and twenty Barrels of Turpentine, he having entered into Bond with Security in the Sum of five thousand pounds to import into this province the Net proceeds of the Staves above mentioned, in Salt, Arms, Ammunition and other Warlike Stores.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774-1776), NCDAH.

27 July

*The Freeman's Journal*, SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1776

Portsmouth, July 27, 1776.

Last Week arrived at Casco-Bay Sion Martindale, late commander of the

brig *Washington*, fitted out by Congress – He was taken the 3d of December last, and sent home to England, and there received his Majesty's pardon for crimes never committed; – from thence he was sent to Halifax, there taken up, confined in close prison, and treated in the most rascally manner for 5 Weeks. The 19th June last with 13 others, broke jail, and the next day six of them were retaken – Capt. Martindale, Lieut. [Moses] Turner, Lieut. William S. Coot, of Petersburg, Lieut. [James] Childs, <sup>1</sup> one Bridge, and one John Brown, of Boston, arrived safe at Casco-Bay.

1. Moses Turner and James Childs were first and second lieutenants, respectively, of Washington's brig *Washington*.

LIBEL IN NEW HAMPSHIRE ADMIRALTY COURT AGAINST THE BRITISH  
PRIZE SHIP *Prince George* <sup>1</sup>

Colony of New-Hampshire, Rockingham ss.

Notice is hereby given to all concern'd that the maritime court for the colony aforesaid, will be held at the state-house in Portsmouth, on Thursday the 22d day of Augu[st], at ten o'clock A.M. to try the justice of the capture of the ship, named the *Prince George*, her cargo and appurtenances of the burthen of about 200 tons, lately commanded by Richard Emms, against which a libel is filed before me, (the said ship being bro't into the port of Piscataqua) in behalf of the officers and soldiers belonging to the matross company, stationed at Fort Washington, under the command of Capt. Titus Salter in the service of the said colony. The owner of said ship, or any person concerned may appear and shew cause (if any they have,) why the same ship, her cargo and appurtenances should not be condemned and distributed as the law directs.<sup>2</sup>

At the court aforesaid, will be tried the justice of the capture or seizure of a certain quantity or number of masts, yards, & bowsprits, and a lighter or hulk, used in lading mast-ships, which are said to be British property, taken between high & low water mark in Piscataqua river, in the colony aforesaid; against both libels are filed before me in behalf of the colony aforesaid, and any persons concerned may appear and shew cause (if any they have,) why the same masts, yards, bowsprits and lighter should not be condemned.

J. Brackett, Judge of said court.

1. *The Freeman's Journal*, Portsmouth, July 27, 1776.

2. The *Prince George* blundered into Piscataqua harbor in October 1775, and was seized by the matross company. See previous volumes in this series.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Satterday 27th of July 1776

At 3 in the Morning came to Ankor in Cape Ann harbour after one man I went on shore found my man sent him on board found two of my men on board very unruly gave them there Discharge and sent them on shore small breaze of wind and pleasant weather got sum Casks fild with Water

At 1 P m came to sail with the wind at SE at 7 P. M. Half way

rock bore NBW 2 Leagues distance small airs of wind from the southward All night tack ship severall times

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN JOHN LAMBERT <sup>1</sup>

Council Chamber [Watertown] July 27, 1776

Captn Lambert

You are hereby Directed to Receive on board the Schooner <sup>2</sup> under Your Command Mr Francis Shaw Esqr together with the Indians now under his Care & proceed with them in the most Prudent & Cautious Manner to St Johns River in Nova Scotia, or as near thereto as Major Shaw Apprehends you Can sail to with Safety, and at Such place as he shall Direct there put him & the Indians aforesaid on Shore, proceeding afterwards as said Shaw shall apprehend will be the most suitable way for you to Transport hither any Indians he may Inlist into the Service of the United States

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 468.

2. The Massachusetts state schooner *Diligent*.

RHODE ISLAND MARINE COMMITTEE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Providence 27 July. 1776

The Bearer Capt [John] Grannis is appointed Capt of Marines on board the Continental ship *Warren*, provided he obtains a Dismission from the Service of the State of the Massachusetts Bay in which he is now engaged, we think the furnishing of these ships with able Officers and good Men are of the greatest consequence to these United States. We therefore Request that you would be pleased to dismiss the said Capt Grannis from your Service and give him permission to Inlist a Company of Men within your Territorys – permitting such of your people as are willing and are now in the Land Service to go on Board the ship with him. –

We are in hopes to get the Ships to sea in about three weeks. We are for the Marine Committee here your Honors [&c.]

Nich<sup>s</sup> Cooke, Chairman  
Jabez Bowen Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 195, 154.

BOND OF CLARKE & NIGHTINGALE FOR SHIPMENT OF GOODS TO HISPANIOLA  
ON BOARD THE CONNECTICUT SLOOP *Hero* <sup>1</sup>

Know all Men by these Presents That we John Innis Clarke and Joseph Nightingale of Providence in the County of Providence in the State of Rhode Island &c. Merchants are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the said State in the Sum [of] Three Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said State To which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with

our Seals. Dated the Twenty Seventh Day of July in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy six.

Whereas the said Clarke and Nightingale have obtained Permission from the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said State for Thomas Mumford Esqr. of Groton in the State of Connecticut to export in their Behalf on board the Sloop *Hero* Master to the Amount of Five Hundred Dollars in Staves or any other Articles they being intituled to export said Staves &c. in Consequence of Military Stores by them imported into this State in the Sloop *Joseph* James Munro Master some time in March last. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the Master of said Sloop shall in all Things during and respecting the said Voyage Conform himself to the Rules and Regulations of the Most Honorable the General Congress of the United States of America then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered  
in the Presence of

William Brown

John Murray

Jos. Nightingale for  
himself &

John I Clark -

I. Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R. I. Arch. This was the second shipment on behalf of Clarke & Nightingale for the military stores imported by Captain Munro. The previous shipment was in their own brig *Congress*, on July 19, 1776, the goods being supplied by Daniel Sargent of Newburyport.

*Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1776

Providence, July 27.

Last Sunday Afternoon Lieut. Calcott, of the *Merlin*, a British Ship of War, which lay a little without the Harbour of Newport, came in a Barge, with a Flag, to that Town: The General Assembly of this State being then sitting, he was conducted to the State-House, where he delivered to his Honor the Governor a Letter and Declaration from Lord Viscount Howe, of which the following are authentic Copies.

[Here is inserted Howe's circular letter to the Colonial Governors, of June 20, 1776, and his Declaration of the same day.]

Lieutenant Calcott also delivered Copies of the above Letter and Declaration for the States of Massachusetts-Bay, New Hampshire and Connecticut: He returned next Morning to the Ship, with the following Answer from his Honor the Governor.

Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Newport, July 21, 1776.

My Lord,

I am favoured with your Lordship's Letter, of the 20th of June last, inclosing your Declaration. I have communicated them to the General Assembly of this State, now sitting here, and at their Request inform your Lordship, that they will transmit Copies of them to the Most Honorable the General Congress of the United States of America, to whom every Application respecting the Dis-

pute between the said States and Great-Britain ought to be addressed, and must be referred.

I have the Honor to be, with great Respect and Esteem, my Lord [&c.]

Nicholas Cooke.

# MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH <sup>1</sup>

[Haverstraw] 27 Do [July]

Since my laste Note the Ships came so high up that I discovred them by the Inscriptions on their Sterns to be the *Phoenix* of 44 Guns & the *Rose* of 20 – They are attended by a Schooner two Shallops and a Pettiauger – One of the Shallops peeped round the Point of the Donderberg & got a two & thirty Pounder in her Stern from Fort Montgomerie – It was the only Shot fired. <sup>2</sup> . . . The Day after the *Rose* & Schooner went as high as Peaks Kill & burnt the Dwelling House of one Halstead under the Donderberg – After laying 8 Days before my House they fell down the 25 to Singing alittle below Teller's Point I frequently eyed them with my Telluscope and believe but Few could find Means to resort to those Ships. The strong Guards being kept up on both Sides of the River & the Ships being weak handed – A Deserter who swam on Shore at Stoney Point says they have not 400 in all the Vessels.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, II, 1.

2. *Ibid.*, in a marginal note, Smith wrote: "When Mr [Charles] Inglis came up in the Flag in Decr. one Mr. Hand Lt. of the Marines of the *Phoenix* said what is in the Passage scored was not true. Yet it was published at the Day & universally believed on the Tale of the Deserter who swam ashore who had listed in the *Phoenix*. He was taken in a Prize."

## JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR. <sup>1</sup>

July 1776 Moor'd off Singing.

Saturday 27th Light Breezes and fair Weather.

P M at 4 sent our Boats Mann'd and Arm'd after a Sloop that was Standing across the River, made the Signl for the *Rose's* Boats' to follow them, at 6 Fir'd two Eighteen Pounders at a Party of Rebels on Shore at 8 the Boats return'd not being able to come up with the Chace.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

## JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

[White Plains] Die Sabbati, 9 Ho. A.M. July 27th, 1776.

[Extract of letter from General Washington]

New York, July 24th, 1776.

Governor Trumbull having informed me by letter yesterday, that since the arrival of the fleet at the Hook, many of the enemy's frigates and ships have been stationed between Montauk Point and Block Island to intercept the trade from the Sound, and in which they had been but too successful in taking several provision ves-



sels, and of the impossibility that any should escape falling into their hands, he had ordered the armed vessels in the service of Connecticut to stop and detain all vessels going down the Sound with Provisions, till the Continental Congress or the Conventions of the States to which they belong could be apprized of the hazard attending their proceeding in their voyages and give orders thereon. I beg leave to recommend the matter to the consideration of your Honourable Body and submit it to them, whether it may not be expedient to lay a general embargo or prohibition upon all exports of this kind from your State, except such as the Congress or yourselves may order. The propriety of keeping the enemy from supplies of this sort, and providing a sufficiency for our own army, is so evident, that words are unnecessary upon the subject. However, I cannot but observe, as my opinion, that the former will be impossible to effect, unless some general restraining regulation is come into. No care, nor industry, nor honesty, on the part of the exporters will be able to elude the vigilance and activity of their almost innumerable cruisers. But when it is considered that as long as a free export of any articles of this nature is tolerated, disaffected persons may easily fall in their hands with impunity, nor any means be left us to ascertain their guilt; when there is strong reason to believe that some have designedly done so, and almost incontestible proof from sundry depositions of deserters and others that a ship that went from hence, sailed with no other view, and joined the enemy at the Hook; I incline to think the measure not only advisable but necessary, especially as the large consumption of provision by our army affords and will afford a ready cash market for all that individuals may have to dispose of and take away every objection of injury on that head. Were it otherwise, private advantages and emoluments must always give place to the public good, when they are incompatible . . .

I have the honour to be, [&c.]

Go Washington.

P.S. – When the ships of war, &c. run up the river, I wrote Governors Trumbull and Cooke, for some of their row gallies, supposing they might be of service in attempting something against the ships. I expect three or four every hour, besides one I have. If the secret committee are forming any plan against the ships in which they think they may be usefully employed, if they will let me know, I shall be glad to cooperate with them, and furnish every assistance the gallies can give, if not otherwise materially engaged.

I am just now informed that the ship mentioned above to have gone to the enemy was fitted out by the Congress, under the command of a Capt. Hilton, who has acted this base part.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the postscript of the foregoing letter be imme-

diately transmitted to the secret committee of the Convention, now at Poughkeepsie.

The following letter from Govr. Trumbull was received and read, vizt:  
 Lebanon, July 17, 1776.

Sir – I have received credible information that there has lately been intercepted and taken several provision vessels, bound to and from your Colony through the Sound; that there are three or four men of war, frigates and cutters, cruising off Block Island, &c.; that it is scarcely possible for any vessel bound to sea to escape them. I have kept out the armed sloop the *Spy*, Capt. [Robert] Niles, cruising off Block island, to give notice of danger to vessels passing that way; and merely for the public service, have been obliged to give him orders to stop any provision vessels bound to sea, when danger is apparent. In consequence whereof, he has detained a ship laden with wheat and flour, from New-York, which, if she had proceeded, must undoubtedly have fallen into the hands of the enemy, and of which I understand the captain is fully persuaded. I trust you will think that nothing but the common good would have induced me to have taken this step, and that you will readily approve the measure, when you consider the reasons and motives of my conduct therein. Whenever there is a fair prospect of the ship's sailing with safety and avoiding the enemy, no objection arises to her or any other vessel sailing, if within the rules of the Continental Congress. I have acquainted the Congress and Genl. Washington with my proceedings, and furnished them with a number of affidavits, supporting the above information. The General, I dare say, will show you them if desired.

I am with great truth and regard, sir, [&c.]  
 Jonth. Trumbull.

Honble. President [Nathaniel] Woodhull.

A draft of an answer to Governor Trumbull was read and approved of, and is in the words following, vizt:

In Convention of the Representatives  
 of the State of New-York.

At the White-Plains, 27th July, 1776.

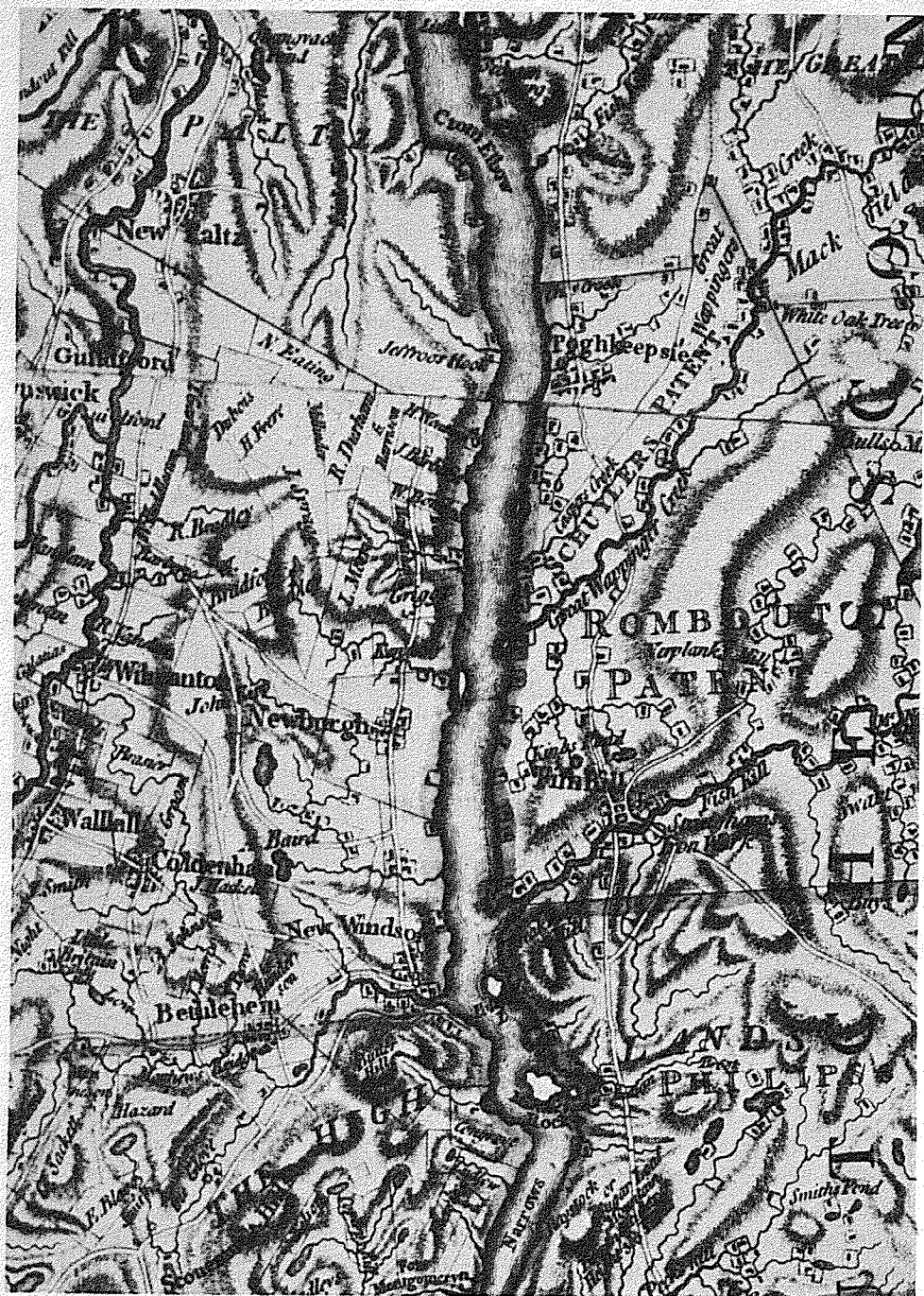
Sir – I am directed by the Convention to return you their thanks for your prudent care and attention in preventing the enemy from making capture of vessels laden with provisions.

The reasons which influenced your Honour's conduct, have had their full weight upon the councils of this Convention, which you will perceive by the enclosed copy of a resolution, which I am also directed to send you.

I am, sir, with great respect, [&c.]

To the Honourable Jonathan Trumbull, Govr., &c.

A letter from Robert Yates, Esqr. chairman of the committee for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, dated at Poughkeepsie on the



*Hudson River Valley from Crom Elbow to Fort Montgomery.*

22d instant, directed to the general committee at New-York, and by them sent to this Convention, was read and filed. They thereby inform that they have determined to fit out two armed vessels at Albany; that they want gunners, and persons used to cannon on board of ships; they request such to be sent to them, and mention Alexander Dean and Wessells, as having been recommended to them. They also request combustible material to make fire arrows, and that money be advanced to such persons as may be sent to them, to defray their expences.

Thereupon a letter to Capt. Hazlewood [John Hazelwood] was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

Sir – I am directed by the Convention of the State of New-York, to desire the favour of your immediately, to repair to Poughkeepsie with the combustible materials necessary for charging fire ships, and making fire arrows. When you arrive at that place you will inquire for Mr. [John] Jay and Mr. Robert R. Livingston, members of a secret committee, appointed by this House to annoy the enemy's ships in Hudson's river, and concert with them the most effectual measures for carrying their designs into execution. If those gentlemen are not at that place, you will be pleased to inquire of Captains [Augustine] Lawrence and [Samuel] Tudor, who live at that place, where they are, and make the utmost dispatch in joining them.

It will, however, be necessary that you should wait on General Washington, and obtain his permission for coming up; which, from Mr. [William] Duer's representation, we doubt not you will effect.

Should you stand in need of any money or assistance in order to forward the materials, be pleased to apply to General Washington, who we flatter ourselves will give every necessary direction to the quarter-master-general.

I am directed by the Convention of this State to enjoin to you the most profound secrecy in conducting this matter.

I am most respectfully, &c.

Captain Hazlewood.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 545–47.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN TUPPER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Sloop *Hester* July the 27th A.D. 1776

The Sloop is hove down & Cleaning & hope to be ready to take my Station this Night I shall not loose a minutes time but shall effect it if Possible, all Guards have been kept as usual & nothing Extrodinary has been Discoverd. I have been some uneasy respecting Capt Burr's Station and Humbly Conceive he might be stationd lower down than he is which would be more advantagious in preventing an Intercourse between the Tories and the Enemy, He also is of the same Opinion, but as General Putnam and General Alaxander<sup>2</sup> had given him Instruction it put it out of my power to do it. I only send one word to know whether Your Excellency

for the future will Consider him as being under my Inspection I am with great respect [&c.]

Benj Tupper Lt Colo

by Capn Burr

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. William Alexander, Lord Stirling.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York, 27 July, 1776.

In consequence of my Application to Governor Trumbull he has sent me two Row Gallies and I expect another from him. None from Governor Cooke are yet come, nor have I heard from him on the Subject. One is complete here; The fire Ships are going on under Mr. [Ephraim] Anderson's direction, but rather slowly and I am preparing some Obstructions to the Channel, nearly opposite the Works at the upper end of this Island. When all things are ready, I intend to try if it shall seem practicable, to destroy the Ships and Tenders above and to employ the Gallies, if they can be of Advantage.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V. 342, 343-44.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO COLONEL JABEZ HUNTINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp, New York July 27. 1776

... by an Intelligent Fellow belonging to Boston lately deserted from the *Rose* Frigate up the North River we learn that the *Rose* recieved Six 12 pound shot from our Batteries as she passed them which took off the Thigh of one Man & Leg of two others besides doing considerable Damage to the Ship what Damage the *Ph[o]enix* sustained he could not learn – there Design in going up was to destroy the two Frigates building at Poughkepsie & a large Quantity of Stores at Peek's Kill – there are good 1500 Men at our Forts Montgomery & Constitution who carefully watch the Motions of the Enemy & they have a Chain of Fire Ships & Rafts across the River to prevent their proceeding any further up – I hope we shall be able to give a good Account of them in their Return – we have some large Fire Ships & a great Number of Rafts – . . .

1. Huntington Papers, ConnHS.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Perth Amboy 27th July 1776

General [Nathaniel] Heard, Genl [Daniel] Roberdeau have considered with me the Plan proposed for Attacking the Posts on Staten Island – Two things we entirely agree in – Namely that the Number of Troops proposed are by no means equal to the undertaking – We cannot rationally suppose the Enemies Force on the Island to be less than 10,000 – where they are chiefly posted we have no intelligence to be depended on – Several out guards postd along the Shores of the Island are in our View – but these we can only regard as necessary to the Security of their main body; who may speedily come

to the assistance of any one Post – The Craft necessary to convey a sufficient body for a successfull attack on the Enemy is not so far as I can find to be collected along the Shores here – It is true there are many small Vessels – but the greater Number ill constructed for making a Descent – It is therefor our Opinion that before any grand Effort is made, a Number of flat bottomd Boats be constructed for the Purpose as well as those we have put in the best repair – We have Carpenters enough in the Troops here; Tools, Nails & other Materials may be had – and we wait your orders to set about this part of the Service –

In Raritan River are Craft of differant Sizes calculated to transport Raway River –

Genl Heard will be able to inform your Excellency what Craft may be ready in Thompsons Creek – Elizabeth Town – and Newark I have the honour to be [&c.]

[P.S.] No Troops have joind since last return

Hugh Mercer

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOHN HANCOCK TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philadelphia 27 July 1776

Inclos'd you have a Resolution of Congress for the Supply of Provisions to the Frigates in the Eastern Departmt out of the Stock of Proviss in that Quarter, & am to Request you will by the next Post issue your orders to your Deputy there to furnish such Quantities as shall be applied for by Mr [Thomas] Cushing & others who have the Care of the Ships –

I have paid all your Bills that have been presented; Money will soon be sent to the Paymaster – I wish you happy & am Sir [&c.]

J H Pt

To Joseph Trumbull Esqr Commissary Genl New York

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), 12A, NA.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO JOSEPH HEWES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Baltimore 27th July 1776

I advisd you in my last that Capt Nicholson was ordered with the *Defence* to Annaps where he intended to give up the Ship to the Council of Safety if they could get a proper Comdr for her, after which he purposed to go up & wait on your Board; at which time my Bror or I woud accompany him, it being now high time that every particular Arangemt of the Frigates Outfit shoud be settled, and Provision suitable made.<sup>2</sup>

I have learned yesterday that the Council have orderd Capt. Nicholson to proceed with the *Defence* to Potomack in expectation of being able to make a hawl amongst Ld Dunmore's Fleet which is supposd to have no other Escort at present but the *Fowey* a very heavey Sailer weakly Mannd; The rest of the Vessels of Force vizt the *Roebuck* & Tenders being gone up Potomack with design (as its conjectured) to destroy Alexandria, or the gondolas building there. –

Captn Nicholson is delicately circumstanced with regard to the Officers wh he intends taking with him into the Frigate. He is unwilling to distress the Province Service by taking many of the best officers out of the *Defence*; And they are so much attached to him that they woud to a Man desire to go with him into the Frigate. He is by this means kept in Suspence about the Appointmt of his Officers untill he gets clear of the *Defence*, as he is desirous to part on friendly terms from a Service wherein he has received the highest Marks of Public Confidence & Friendship – His last Desire expressd to me on the Subject, was that the Appointmt might rest untill he got clear of his present Employ, excepting Mr Aquilla Johns who he is determind at all events to have as First Lieutt – This Gentleman now superintends the Frigate & is extreamly well calculated for the Bussins – We could have launchd before now, but think it prudent to do every thing that can be done before launching, lest the Carpenters shoud desert after She is got into the Water. At all Events we intend to launch abt the Middle of next Week, I am with much respect Dear Sir [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Purviance Jun<sup>r</sup>

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

2. The Continental frigate *Virginia*.

#### DEPOSITION OF MOSES YELL <sup>1</sup>

July 27th 1776

Moses Yell being sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeth and sayeth. That some Time about the 15th of this Instant this deponent was going in a Vessel to Potowmac River with Tar and Plank, but on seeing Dunmore's Fleet this Deponent return'd and anchor'd under Smith's Island, about two or three Hours after he had anchor'd Joseph Wheland with one other Man unknown to this Deponent came on Board the Vessel this deponent was in, & Joseph Wheland ask'd this Deponent if he saw the Fleet, this Deponent answer'd he had seen the Fleet & return'd in consequence of it, Joseph Wheland then ask'd this Deponent whence he came & where he was bound, & who he was for, this Deponent answer'd he had not a Design to kill any Person, but was a Friend to his Country Joseph Wheland then ask'd this Deponent which he thought was right the King or the Shirt Men, this Deponent answer'd he thought the Americans were right Joseph Wheland then told this Deponent he was for the Fleet, and had Orders from Ld Dunmore to take any Vessel belonging to the Rebels and destroy such as he thought proper and carry the rest to the Fleet, the sd Wheland then demanded a Sight of this deponent's papers, which this Deponent gave him, the sd Wheland then took the Papers a Pocket Book a[bo]ut forty Shillings Cash and all the Clo[aths] belonging to this Deponent that were in the Vessel, e[xc]pt what he had on, and carryed this Deponent together with the Cloaths and Money on Board a Tender which he inform'd this Deponent he had the Command of, and likewise the sd Wheland inform'd him he had the Command of the other Vessels that were with the one, this Depo-

ment was put on Board of, this Deponent sayeth Joseph Wheland told him he had taken a Vessel belonging to White in Nanticoke and that he Wheland intended to fit her out with four four Pounders and twelve Swivels to guard the Islands and keep the Shirt Men from going on to abuse the Inhabitants, the afsd Wheland told him he must take out the Mast from his Yell's Vessel and put in the Vessel he had taken from White which was then driven on Ground and had lost her Mast, but before he had got her over the Bar he Yell understood from an Old Man on Board the Tender that Wheland had recd an Express from the Fleet ordering him to come up to Potowmac to assist the Fleet in geting Water as quick as possible as Orders were come to the Fleet to go out, as soon as they cou'd, Part to Martinico to fight the French, (as they expected a War there) & part to New York or Hallifax, Wheland soon after order'd Fire set to White's Vessel and one other which he had not got over the Bar, & put this deponent on Shore gave him Part of his Cloaths & told him he might take his Boat again, this Deponent sayeth that Marmaduke Mister was one of the Persons that kept Guard over him one Night while he was on Board the Tender, the afsd Mister ask'd this Deponent who he was for, whether King or Country this Deponent answer'd he was Friend to every person that behav'd well the afsd Mr then commanded in the King's Name to tell him the Truth this Deponent then told him he was born in this Country and had a Right to defend his Liberty, Mister then said what these damn'd Rebels call Liberty I call Slavery, & so the people will find it, this Deponent further sayeth that Marmaduke Mister set Fire to one of the Vessels that was burn'd and was to have the Iron for doing it. this Deponent sayeth that John Evans Robert Howith and one Price were likewise on Board the same Tender under the Command of the afd Joseph Wheland (he supposes) as he often heard them call him Captn, this Deponent saith he heard John Evans say he was determind to have several of the principal people on the Islands either dead or alive, or get some of their Negroes. this Deponent saith he has seen Joseph Wheland John Evans, Robert Howith, and Price the four persons [above] mention'd since they have been under Guard at the Streights and that they are the same Persons he saw on Board the Tender above mention'd. – this Deponent further saith on his asking Joseph Wheland for his Cloths wheland threatned to put him in Irons in the Vessels hole. the Deponent likewise saith that John Evans told him not to be uneasy about his Cloaths and Money for Wheland wou'd give them to him after he was ready to go from the Island, for the paper Money wou'd be of no more use to him than Blank Paper.

Sworn before Hugh Culeston

[Endorsed] Moses Yell lives in St Mary's County near Leonard Town in Bretons Bay <sup>2</sup>

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. Similar deposition was taken from Joseph Mariman who was on board with Yell. The depositions were forwarded on July 31 to the Maryland Council of Safety. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XII, 152. On August 3 the Council ordered Wheland; *et al.*, jailed. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.



RICHARD LEE TO LONDON CARTER <sup>1</sup>

Dr Sr

Lee Hall July 27 1776

Genl [Andrew] Lewis recd a Letr yesterday evening from Majr Price who commands at St Marys <sup>2</sup> the Majr Says he has 400 Men & 4 peices of Cannon 1 of 9 lb 2 of 4 lb & 1 of 3 lb that at two Oclock thursday Morning he sent 100 Men over to the Island who he ordered to lay an ambush till Dunmores Men came on the Island to get Water which they did every day & go off[f] in the eveng his Men discovered themselves too soon which Sat them to their heals our Men pursued them to their Boats killd 3 or 4 wounded several & took one prisoner [illegible] many have desertd from the Enemy among which is an Ensign sent to Annapolis 6 dead bodies have floated up, the Deserters say that as soon as the *Roebuck* the *Dunmore* & the two other Vessels return from up the River who I hear were off[f] Nemony Bay last Night the Fleet at St Marys which is weakly maned will Sail for Hallifax & the W Indies . . . Dunmore went up Potomack last Saturday. Eden is on board the *Fowey* at St Marys. I am [&c.]

Richard Lee

The Enemy have so few Men that they will be obliged to burn several of their Vessels when they leave St Marys. 40 Sail came out of St Marys yesterday.

1. Philip Lee Folder, VHS.

2. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Saturday the 27th day of July 1776 –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt Thomas Lilly upon Account for sixty eight pounds five shillings for Hogshead of Rum purchased of John Craig for the use of the Brig *Liberty*

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt William Saunders of the Schooner *Adventure* for seventy seven Pounds three shillings for the pay of Seamen on Board the said Schooner from their Enlistment to the twenty fifth day of this Month –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Gideon Hatcher for the use of Thomas Pollock for thirty three pounds fifteen shillings – Also a Warrant to the said Hatcher for the use of George Underwood for seven pounds fifteen shillings for Gunns furnished Capt [George] Muter for the use of the *Hero* Gallie –

1. Navy Board Journal, 22–23, VSL.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1776

Williamsburg, July 27.

It is reported that Lord Dunmore's miscreants, since they were driven from Gwyn's island, have received a severe drubbing on the Maryland shore

of Potowmack, where they landed in hopes of procuring some necessities, but were disappointed, and forced away after losing ten or more privates of the 14th regiment, who were killed; that the shipping are gone up the river, all in mourning, supposed for some of the leaders of the gang, or perhaps the *magnanimous* Chief himself. Two tenders, it is also said, are burnt, and their crews taken, about 50 in all. Our gallies and other armed vessels will soon be ready to meet them.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*<sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Sandy Point NE 1 Mile

Wednesday 24th

A M. at 5 a Boat Came off[f] with 3 of Genl Washington's Servts at 7 the *Dunmore* got underway & turn'd a little below us

Squally with Rain Thunder & Lightning P. M at 1 Weigh'd & made sail turning down the Potowmack, at 8 Anchor'd off[f] Smiths Point in  $\frac{1}{4}$  . 4 fath

Thursday 25th

A M. at 4 Weigh'd & made sail at 7 Came Past Maryland Point, turning down the River at 11 the *Dunmore* got a ground on the Middle Do Anchor'd in  $7\frac{1}{2}$  fath & sent Boats to Assist the *Dunmore*. Upper Cedar Point NNW  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a Mile

Modt & fine Weather, P M at 6 Departed this Life Jas Mun, Marine at 8 the *Dunmore* got off,

Friday 26th

A M at 4 Weigh'd & made sail, Turning Between upper Cedar point & Matthias's Point, Sailing Past Leader's Ferry, the *William* got a ground, sent the Long boat with an Anchor & Hawser to get her off & Anchor'd in  $12\frac{1}{2}$  fath. Cedar Point SE  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Mile, at 12 the *William* got off, Weigh'd and made sail -

Light Winds & fair, P. M. In Sailing thro, the Channel of the Kettle Bottoms The *William* got a ground Do Anchor'd in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  Fath Cedar Point NBW 5 or 6 Miles sent the Boats to Assist the *William* which at 5 got off, Weigh'd & made sail as did the other ships, & at 8 It being Calm Anchor'd in  $\frac{1}{4}$  less 4. Clements Island East  $\frac{1}{2}$  N 7 or 8 Miles,

Saturday 27th

Light airs & fair

P M. a 1 Weigh'd and made sail, Turning down the Patowmack, Clements Island NBW  $\frac{1}{2}$  W  $11\frac{1}{2}$  Miles at 8 Anchor'd in 5 fath Ragged Point SEBE 4 Miles at 11 Weigh'd and made sail,

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Halifax] Saturday July 27th, 1776

Resolved That Captain James Anderson who Commands the Independent Company stationed at Occacock do as soon as possible send an Officer with a sufficient Number of Men under his Command to Cape Hatteras Banks and to remove three peices of Iron Ordnance over the said Banks to Pamplico Sound and to Transport the Cannon from thence to South Key on Black Water and then deliver the same to the Virginia Commissioners appointed by the Convention of that Colony to build and fit out two Gallies for the protection of the Trade to Occacock and that all the Expence attending the hiring of Carriages &ca will be paid by this Colony

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774-1776), NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Anchor'd at the Entrance of St Mary's River

Friday 26

sent the Boat up to bring down the Troops from the Township being all Sickly occasioned by a low Swampy Country people empd on Sundries Gunner about the Arms, sent the Boat up to assist the *Florida* sloop who gote a Ground, The people under Arms as before

Do [Fresh breezes & Clear Wr] with sultry heat at 5 P: M: Came down the *Florida* Sloop with part of the Troops, sent the Boat Manned & Arm'd to bring down the rem[ainde]r –

Saturday 27

at 8 (A M) Exercised the people at small Arms fired away to bring to[o] 2 Canoes, 2 half Prs filled some Musket & Pistoll Cartrages made some Wads for the Guns Came on board Capt Graham & consulted with me &ca <sup>2</sup> The People under Arms all Night.

Fresh breezes and Cloudy Wr with rain Thunder & Lightning, People empd setting up the Netting, sent the Boat to tow the water on board at 2 P M fired 2 half Pounders to bring to a Canoe found her to be from St Julies with one Jamieson who had for some time been with the Rebels, but now come & surrendered himself up for Mercy.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. *Ibid.*, a detachment of troops from St. Augustine under command of Captain Graham had been sent from St. Augustine in the *St. John* on May 26, and had built a small fort up the St. Mary's River, which they are now evacuating.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER,  
H.M.S. *Argo* <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Whereas the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have directed me

to appoint Convoys to the homeward bound Trade from these Islands: You are hereby required and directed to Compleat the Victualing &c of His Majesty's Ship *Argo* under your Command to three Months, and proceed to Basseterre at the Island of St Christophers; and make known to all such Merchant Vessels as are bound to Great Britain or Ireland that you are appointed to Convoy them: and direct the Masters of said Vessels to put themselves under your Command; and obey such Orders & directions as they may receive from you; and to take the utmost care they do not loose Company with his Majesty's Ship *Argo* under your Command. You are to Sail from St Christopher's the 1st day of August with all such Merchant Vessels as are then ready, and on no account to remain longer there. You are to proceed with said Convoy on their way to Europe One hundred and twenty Leagues clear of the Island of Anguilla, and are then to open the Secret Orders you will receive herewith for your farther proceedings, and are Strictly to comply therewith for which they shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand on board the *Portland*  
in English Harbour Antigua, the 27 July 1776  
Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

[Enclosure]

#### Secret Order

Whereas I have directed you by my Order of this date to take charge of the homeward Trade from these Islands and Convoy them from St Christophers on their way to Europe 120 Leagues clear of the Island of Anguilla, and then have recourse to these Secret Orders for your farther proceedings.

You are hereby farther required and directed to proceed with said Convoy as far to the Northward as the Latitude of 38°.0'. North, and are then at liberty to leave said Convoy to proceed on their respective Voyages; making the best of your way with His Majesty's Ship *Argo* under your Command to Spithead, and on your arrival there are to acquaint the Secretary of the Admiralty therewith, sending Him a List of all such Vessels as came under your Convoy; and also the publick Letters you will receive from me; for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand on board the *Portland*;  
in English Harbour Antigua, the 27 July 1776. –  
Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER <sup>1</sup>

July 1776

Moored in St Johns Road Antigua

Saturday 27 Came on board the Admirals Secretary and paid Prize Money for the Sloop *Dolphin* to the Ships Company. – <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

2. The *Dolphin*, from Georgia, for Dominica, taken April 9, 1776. See Volume 4, 744.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ST. EUSTATIA, JULY 27"<sup>1</sup>

Since my last <sup>2</sup> Captain Booker's brig for Amsterdam, as mentioned in my last, has been libeled at St. Kitts, in consequence of an information on oath by a scoundrel, who says he assisted to load the said [vessel] here, with powder and other warlike stores for America, and that the brig had just returned from America, after carrying another cargo of the like kind, that he the said informer was a seaman on board all the while, and that Capt. Booker had changed his name from Martin to Booker. It is notorious to every person in this island that there is not a word of the whole information true, as Captain Booker has made two voyages already to Amsterdam from this Island, without being at any other place whatever within the time; one of which voyages in the above brig now under seizure, and carried goods on freight for most of the Merchants of this island. Capt. Booker has taken every step in his power to defend the vessel, but it is uncertain how it may terminate: thus you see the sad situation people are reduced to, even in a fair trade, with those sea robbers under his Britannic Majesty. There never was a vessel, left this place on a more clear and regular footing, and no other reason in the world to suspect her, than that of the Captain being an Englishman, two of the seamen were English and four Dutch men. It is very remarkable that the informer is entirely unknown to Capt. Booker, who says he never in his life saw the man before: so that he must have been procured on purpose to serve their wicked ends. Several small vessels belonging to this place under Dutch colours, have been seized, and sent into port lately, on frivolous pretences, and no one knows as yet how far his property can be safe in any case. A day or two ago, a vessel belonging to Bermuda, bound from this, home, was seized and carried into St. Kitts, for only having a few barrels of bread and beef (about ten in number) for the use of his vessel and family at home, to keep them from starving, he was so particular when here that he would not take a single article of foreign manufacture or produce on board, to prevent any risque, but all this could not protect him from the robbers.

Capt. Patterson in a ship from this for Amsterdam, late belonging to your place was carried into the Downs, about the 10th May by a cutter, and was lying there two weeks when the last accounts came from Holland, but it was unknown what would be done with her. There was no passing or re-passing up or down the English Channel for cruizers, and every step taken to intercept the American vessels.

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, August 21, 1776.

2. Letter of July 11, 1776.

"AN ACCOUNT OF AMERICAN SHIPS AND VESSELS TAKEN AS PRIZE OF WAR, BY HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS  
UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL YOUNG AT BARBADOES, AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS,  
BETWEEN THE 1ST AND 27TH JULY 1776."

By what Ships taken.	When taken.	Where taken.	Name of the Vessel	Master.	To what Nation or Province Belonging.	Sort of Vessel.	From Whence.	When last Sailed	Where bound.	Lading	Number of Tons. Men. Guns.	If any ship of War in Com- pany when taken, her Name &c. -	To what Port sent to be tried	Whether Con- demned or acquit- ted.
<i>Hawke.</i>	21st June 1776	off Barba- does	<i>William</i>	Zabdiel Coffin	New York	Brig	The Coast of Brazil	18th Octor 1775	St Eus- tatia	Whale Oil	46 13 4	None	Roscau Dominica	Con- demned
<i>Hawke.</i>	21st June 1776.	off Barba- does	<i>Cleopa- tra.</i>	James Fitch	New Port Rhode- Island	} Ship	Do	17 Sept 1775.	Domin- ica	340 Barrels Oil.	110 13 "	None.	Do	Con- demned
<i>Weazel.</i>	9th Decemr 1775	Gambia	<i>King of Barra.</i>	Jno Hopkins	Charles Town So Caro- lina					7 Slaves and some Trade Goods Provisions	9 ["	None	St John's Antigua.	
<i>Weazel.</i>	9th Janry 1776.	off Seirra Leon	<i>Daniel.</i>	Danl Darby.	New York	Sloop					9 ["	None	English Harbour Antigua.	
<i>Weazel.</i>	13th May 1776.	Bristol Island near Cape Lopez	} <i>Hester.</i>	Jno Marshall.	New York.	Brig				Ivory, Wax, &c.	16 ["	None.	Do	
<i>Seaford.</i>	18th June 1776.	At Sea.		Josiah Buck	New London	Schoo- ner	New London	3d May 1776	Cura- çoa	Flour	120	None.	St Kitts. English Harbour Antigua	
<i>Hind</i>	16 July 1776.	At Sea.	<i>Speed- well</i>	Jos. Manches- ter.	Provi- dence	Sloop	Providence		Hispan- iola	Flour & Lumber	70. 7 "	None.	Jam <sup>s</sup> Young.	

“DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY’S SHIPS AND VESSELS UNDER THE COMMAND OF  
VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, AT BARBADOES AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS,  
&c. THE 27th JULY 1776.” <sup>1</sup>

Ships.	Commanders.	Where Stationed &c.
<i>Portland.</i>	Vice Admiral Young	} In English Harbour Antigua, preparing for the Careen
<i>Argo.</i>	Capt. T. Dumaresq.	
	Wm Garnier.	Ordered to Sail from St Christophers with the Convoy for Great Britain and Ireland, the 1st August
<i>Seaford.</i>	Jno Colpoys.	In English Harbour Antigua Re-fitting for Sea.
<i>Hind.</i>	Henry Bryne.	Orders as P last Account.
<i>Shark</i>	Jno Chapman.	Ordered to St Vincent and Grenada with Dispatches for the Commanders in Chief of said Islands, afterwards to Cruize off the French Islands St Lucia, Martinico, and Guadalupe, 'till the 31st August.
<i>Hawke.</i>	Rob. P. Cooper	In English Harbour Antigua, re-fitting for Sea.
<i>Pomona</i>	Thos Eastwood	Orders as P last Account.
<i>Endeavour. Brig.</i>	Lieut. F. Tinsley	Fitting for Sea.
<i>Weazel.</i>	Saml Warren.	In English Harbour Antigua, Re-fitting for Sea.

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

**28 July (Sunday)**

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Copy/

*Isis* Quebec 28 July 1776

Sir, In addition to the various matters wherewith I troubled their Lordships by the *Kent*, I in justice, as it does the Subscribers thereof so much honor, herewith send you by the *Ostenbotten* (a Swede) the Copy of a Declaration made by the Masters of the Transports, which are below the Rapids, at parting with their Longboats. I moreover thereby intend that their Lordships may be pleased to cause immediate Orders to be taken with their Owners for providing others for them (shou'd their further Service be wanting) previous to their arrival in England, which may be shortly looked for, as they are all to sail for Spithead (some 3 or 4 excepted) when their Men who are Navigating the said Longboats with the pieces of the Ship frame to Chambly, are returned, every one being left at full liberty, I cou'd not pre-