

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 6**

**AMERICAN THEATRE: Aug. 1, 1776–Oct. 31, 1776  
EUROPEAN THEATRE: May 26, 1776–Oct. 5, 1776**

**Part 4 of 8**

**United States  
Government Printing Office  
Washington, 1972**

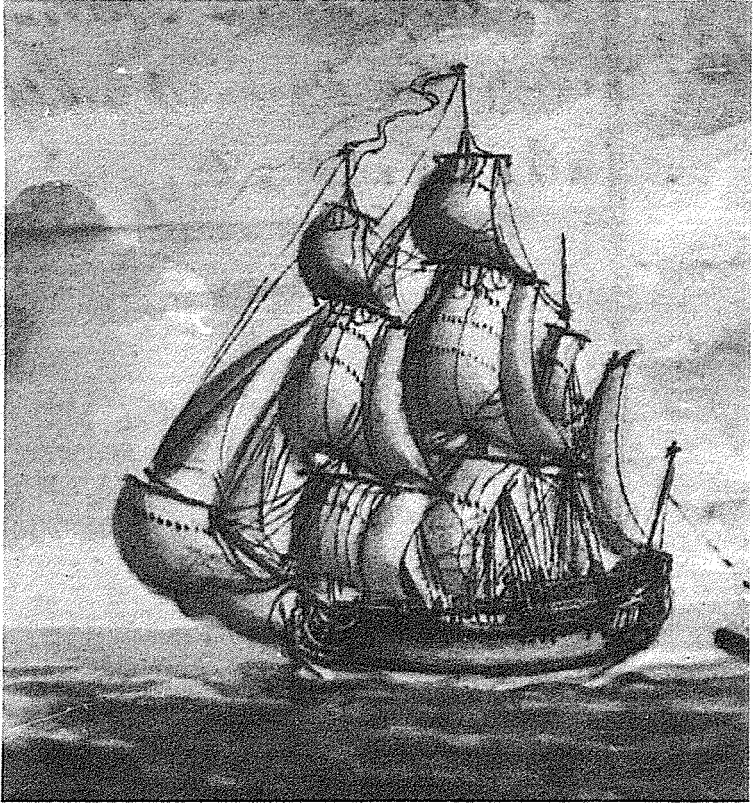
Electronically published by  
American Naval Records Society  
Bolton Landing, New York  
2012

AS A WORK OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
THIS PUBLICATION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.



# AMERICAN THEATRE

*From September 1, 1776, to October 31, 1776*





## AMERICAN THEATRE

From September 1, 1776, to October 31, 1776

### SUMMARY

After the retreat from Long Island, Washington could not hold New York City, and the Continental Army fell back to defensive positions at Harlem Heights. Shortly after the withdrawal a devastating fire swept through the city.

Admiral Howe's domination of the waters surrounding Manhattan Island allowed British men-of-war to make probing missions in strength up the rivers, and to land troops at places of their choice. It soon became apparent that the enemy's intent was to cut off Washington from the rear thus preventing retreat northward or into New Jersey.

Farther to the north the contest for control of Lake Champlain reached a climax in the bitterly fought fleet battle off Valcour Island beginning on 11 October. The American squadron, commanded by General Benedict Arnold, was shattered. Crown Point was abandoned, and the remnants of Arnold's force reached Fort Ticonderoga. The vital lake route for the present was held by the British, but Sir Guy Carleton acknowledged that the "advanced season of the year" would cause him to retire to Canada for winter quarters. In defeat, Arnold had bought precious time which was to affect events at Saratoga the following year.

The new Continental Navy frigates were in various stages of construction, outfitting, or readying for sea. Seamen and cannon remained high on the shortage list. Privateering was on the upswing, and the lure of rich prize money contributed to the dearth of seamen for the Continental service. Great concern was felt for the two Continental frigates building at Poughkeepsie after British warships breached the obstructions in the Hudson River.

Some vessels of the original Hopkins' fleet were cruising, and the names of John Paul Jones and Nicholas Biddle were being heard more frequently as successful prize takers. On 10 October Congress fixed the seniority list for Continental Navy captains.

A quickening of State Navy activity was also much in evidence. And, in the West Indies, friction between the British and French intensified as the islands became increasingly significant depots for American supplies.

1 Sept. (Sunday)

JAMES LYON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Machias] Sept. [1] 1776.<sup>2</sup>

I earnestly request you to send one of your frigates, or two or three of your ablest privateers to take the ship that infests our coasts, & clear the way for fishermen & coasters; & then perhaps some generous persons may be disposed to send us bread & take some of our lumber. I ask for a small army to subdue Nova Scotia, or at least that some person or persons, may have leave to raise men, & go against that Province, at their own risque. I believe men enough might be found in this county, who would chearfully undertake it, without any assistance from Government. The people this way are so very anxious about this matter, that they would go in whale boats rather than not go. Provided they might call what they took their own in common with the good people of that Province. I confess, I am so avaricious, that I would go with the utmost chearfulness. I hope, however, I should have some nobler view, for I think it our duty to relieve our distressed brethren, & bestow upon them the same glorious priviledges, which we enjoy, if possible, & to deprive our enemies, especially those on this Continent, of their power to hurt us. With these views the Committee of this place were petitioned for leave to go against that Province. And had our request been granted, in all probability, that Country had now been intirely ours, & vast quantities of provision would have been cut off from our enemies. . . .

1. James Phinney Baxter, ed., *Documentary History of the State of Maine* (Portland, 1910), XIV, 379, 383-84, 385.
2. The date is approximated. This letter, accompanied by one from Major Francis dated August 28, reached Watertown on September 10. It must, therefore, have been written in Machias about the first of the month.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston 1 September 1776

I am sorry to inform your Excellency that Captain [William] Burke in the armed Schooner *Warren* on the twenty sixth of August was taken by a British Frigate about ten leagues without this Bay. Captain Ayers [John Ayres] in the armed Schooner *Lynch* was in Company with the *Warren* but made his escape, and brought this intelligence.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*,  
CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE<sup>1</sup>

Remarks On Sunday Sepr 1 1776.

att 6 AM Saw 5 Sail to Windard att 10 Do Saw 3 Sail to Leward  
Standing to the Southard Spoke With one of them out of  
Nantucitt 10 Days Nantucett Island Bore W by S. 18 Legaues

Destent, Wind Being head Stood to Southward Lattr Part Still  
In Company with the Brigg and Fishing men all Well on Bord  
[Observation 41.38]

This Fust Part Pleasent Weither Smuth Sea Still in Compeny  
with Brigg, the wind Enclines to the Westward

1. *Independence Journal*, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Providence Septtr 1st 1776

I stoppd at Newhaven on Wednesday, and found the Brig *Hampden* near ready for the Sea as Mr Lawrence inform'd me all but Men and Officers which she had none – Captn [Hoysteed] Hacker had not got there I left Orders for him when he came, to get as many men as would be sufficient and come with the Brig to New London – I came to New London thursday Morning, did not find Mr [Nathaniel] Shaw at home but learn'd that the Schooner and Bomb Brig were both Sold with all their Stores<sup>2</sup> – So that at present I do not know of any Vessel that can be had that will answer – How Mr Shaw came to Sell them and their Stores, or by whose Orders I can't tell – I likewise found the *Cabot* was gone out on a Cruise. She had been gone out about a Week, and have no knowledge how long she is to Cruise nor by what authority Captn [Elisha] Hinman could undertake to go out, as he had my Orders when I left New London for Philadelphia not to go to Sea without he receiv'd Orders from the Marine Committee or from me – <sup>3</sup>

I came here yesterday – have not yet seen Captn Saltonstall, but hear the *Alfred* is about five miles below with about forty Men including Officers onboard – having Spared Some to Captn Biddle, and a Number to Captn Whipple, who sail'd on a Cruise in four days after he got home, with One hundred & Seventy eight Men onboard

As soon as I get a little over the Fatigue of my Journey, shall set myself about Manning the *Alfred* – Should be glad to know when I get her ready whether I may Send her out under the Command of her Lieutenant Mr Jonathan Pitcher, who I believe to be a prudent Capable Man – Should be glad of your Sentiments to know whether you approve of Captn Hinman's Sailing with the *Cabot*, as I believe he has gone without Orders from any Person – Mr [George] House who you appointed Lieutt of the Brig *Hampden* is gone out in the *Columbus* – If you think proper to appoint Mr Walter Spooner a second Lieutenant, that he may act as first until House gets onboard, I believe it will be best for the Service – I am Gentlemn  
[&c.]

E.H –

P S. I hear a Sloop of Dunmores is carried into the Eastward by one of there Privateers loaded with Tobacco –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Schooner *Hawke* and bomb brig *Bolton*. See Volume 4.

3. Governor Trumbull and Nathaniel Shaw had urged Hinman to sail. See William James Morgan, *Captains to the Northward* (Barre, Mass., 1959), 61.

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

Remarks off Flushing Bay Long Isld Sound

Sunday Sept 1st 1776

4 [A. M.] Mod and Fair sent the Boats as Before —<sup>2</sup> they Found in a Store belonging to Frans Lewis one of the Rebel Congress 19500 Wt of Tea and a Great Quantity of English and Scotch Goods

10 [A. M.] Boats Empd getting do on Board — pr Order of Captn [James] Ferguson<sup>3</sup>

Light Breezes and Fair W. at ½ past 1 Weighd and Turnd up to the *Brune* and *Niger* and Come too wt the Bt Br Veerd to ½ of a Cable. — at 6 Weighd and Run down to Whitestone and Came too abreast of Lewis's House —

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

2. The boats had been employed the previous day in taking off cattle.

3. Commanding H.M.S. *Brune*.

### DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JABEZ FITCH<sup>1</sup>

[New York Harbor] Sund: Sept: 1st: In the Morning the Ship *Lord Rochford* Commanded by one Capt Lambert, hall'd along side of the *Pacific*, & the Prisoners were all Remov'd into her; where we soon found ourselves more crowded than we were in the other Ship (this not being more than half so Large) yet on some ac[coun]ts: we were much better accommodated than in the *Pacific*: . . . soon After we went on Board the *Lord Rochford*, She hove up, & some time this Day she fell down below the Narrows, among the Shipping from whence the Late Landing of the Troops at Flat Bush was performed; here we turnd in this Night; I rested but very Indifferent.<sup>2</sup>

1. Sabine, ed., *Fitch's Diary*.

2. *Ibid.*, 35, Lieutenant Fitch was captured during the Battle of Long Island, and sent on board the transport ship *Pacific*.

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

September 1776

Governors Isld N E B W ¼ mile

Sunday 1st

A M. at 11 was fire'd on again from the Island<sup>2</sup> got under way in Order to Anchor close to the Battery but was order'd by the admiral to Drop farther from it, at noon Anchor'd in 10 fath. Governors Island ENE ½ a mile

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

2. Governors Island in New York harbor.

"MUSTER ROLL OF THE [PENNSYLVANIA] ACCOMMODATION SLOOP  
*Hetty*, HENRY HOOVER MAS'R, FROM AUG. 1 TO SEP. 1, 1776."<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

No.	Mens Names.	Station.	Time pay commenc'd.	Monthly pay.
1	Henry Hoover,	Masr	Augst 1,	£ 5 0 0
2	Daniel Morris,	Steward,	do.	3 15 0
3	John Thornton,	Clerk to all the Fire Fleet.	do.	6 0 0

I do certify on honour, That the Officers, Non Commission'd Officers and Privates, belonging to the Accommodation Sloop *Hetty* under my Command are bona fide engaged in the Naval Service of the Province of Pennsylvania, & receive pay according to the time mentioned, & the rank they hold in this Roll.

Henry Hoover

This Muster, taken from Aug. 1st to Sepr 1st, 1776, on board the Accommodation Sloop *Hetty*, commanded by Henry Hoover, of the Naval force in the Service of the Province of Pennsylvania. One Master, One Steward, & One Clerk.

Lod'k Sprogell, M. M.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 16.

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

Gentlem

Baltimore Sepr 1st 1776

The bearer Mr Morris waits on you, with an Application to have Mr [Gilbert] Middletons privateer<sup>2</sup> Stop'd and examined for 4 Desirtors from the Frigate,<sup>3</sup> Circumstances are very strong that they are, or will be on-board her, for the particulars of which refer to him, this I hope you'll think necessary, for should there not be an example made of those, if to be found, 30 odd likewise from the Eastern Shore, I expect will leave her in the same manner

I have sent three Craft from this to wait your orders to get A Load of Coal. The first two went before I expected or shoud have W[r]ote by them, & the last was out of the way

The *Resolution* return'd here Yesterday, the Officer says by your direction The *Defence* has required so much Caulking, that I do not expect she can be down before the last of the Week, I am fiting & Victualing her Sufficiently to proceed to Sea, should you think proper to order her. I have found great difficulties in geting her about two Months Salt provisions and as I did not use your order in Philadelphia for that purpose (for the reason refer to Messrs Chace [Samuel Chase] & [William] Paca) you'll please

to send by Mr [George] Turnbull £514. one Month[s] pay, which shall apply to pay the Ships Necessary disbursments. I am Gentlem [&c.]

James Nicholson

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch.

2. Maryland privateer schooner *Montgomery*, commissioned September 5, 1776.

3. Continental frigate *Virginia*.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JOHN PRINGLE, PHILADELPHIA<sup>1</sup>

Dr Sir

[Baltimore, September 1, 1776]

We wrote you the 27th last Month to which refer. Since have Recd your favrs of the 24th & 27th Augt and note the Contents & Shall do as you Direct about Jones Bill as yet we have not got you a Small Vessell Neither is there any probabillity of getting a Master for them nor yet for the Brig. however we Expect a Sloop every day here & its probable we Shall buy her for you tho we Know not where we Can get a master for her, Ridly is so farr Engge'd that we think he Cannot get off. tho the Brig had like to tempt him if you think of Loading the Brig you may Determin now as none of those people applyed to purchase her but you must Send a Master for her. however that will be no loss as we Can yet have her loaded & Rigged without a Capt Sailors we also have. Russells Boat is Charterd to go out again & you may become an adventurer in her She goes from your place let us Know how much gold you will put in her, & what goods you will Ship at Statia beside. Will you advance us fifty pounds in Statia if you do we will allow you for it as much as your use Should please let us Know and how much you will Expect for it here. A privateer Just lanchd here will Carry fourteen Guns we think we Could get you half a Share if you like it let us Know. if you will be of any Service to S. Woolsey you will oblige us much we wish he Could get Released and to his family tell him G. W. will write him Soon, Please to buy from Russell for us Some of the Nutmeggs Say 12 lb we hope that when the Prize Ship is Sold you will be able to buy us Some Sugar as low as three pounds Indeed G. W. Se[e] Some Sold in Barrells when he was up at £3.10.0 so we think the prize must make it lower we have reserved but four Hhds of Country Rum for you the[y] not being all Sold as we Intended to make up this Difecincey of the W. I. Rum only Nine Hhds left of that and when we Ship Some for you we think the rest will sell we have not yet Heard from Dixon nor Seen his boat nor have we been able to get a boat for you yet however the first boat we Can get, which we think will be soon we Shall load with Rum Sugar & Coffee for you to run. we now Inclose you C. Hughs bond & we wish neaver to have any More business to do with him as he Does not Understand when he is well treated We are Sir [&c.]

Woolsey & Salmon

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

BILL AGAINST THE PRIZE SCHOONER *Betsy*<sup>1</sup>

1776	SCHOONER <i>Betsy</i>	Dr
Septr – To Cash paid John Lynch for Schooner <i>Betsy</i> then lying High on Dry Land at Low water, the Tide Ebbing from & flowing into her—P[e]r Bill of Sale—Jno Lynch bought her of Carey who came in her from Dunmores Fleet – & Carey who was Seized by Colo[ne]l Forrest with the Vessell had Liberty from the Council of Safety to sell her –		£ 65. . . . –
To money paid for getting her off—New planking her Bottom—repairs & Materials Vizt: – as per particulars –		57.15.10
To Provisions for a Week found for the Carpenters & Seamen before they went to Board & Liquor found them		
To Old Sails and many Materials found for repa[i]ring the Vessells Sails to equip her which are not Charged in my Account –		
To Richard Masons Labour – Expences & attendance in getting her off, purchasing, fitting and repairing her not Charged in my Account		
To many artic[a]ls Omitted –		
To Interest for Outlay of purchase Money and Repairs & Materials –		
To Salvage & Expences Attending Court—fees &c –		
[Endorsed] the above provided the Vessell is decreed to Guy –		

1. Admiralty Court Papers, 1776–1781, Box 1, Folder 1, Md. Arch.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT BISSET TO GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN<sup>1</sup>

Sir

I this minute received your letter to Andrew Turnbull: This Information is very alarming especially with regard to Doctor Turnbull's people, a great many of whom woud certainly Join them [the Americans]; And the Plantations have neither arms nor ammunition, either to defend themselves or to endeavour to prevent their landing at Smyrnea –

They can only come in with boats as our Barr has not water enough for the Draught of any Private[er] which must be built sharp for sailing; So that I think our Plantations not in great danger, as we can get our Negroes out of the Way. – If such an event shoud happen most probably those that joined them of the Smyrnea settlements, woud endeavour to plunder our Plantations: – However I have great confidence in the badness of our bar, which I hope will deterr them from attempting anything here. I shall sett

out immediatly for Smyrnea & will make the best disposition I can for the defence of the Place, by arming those we can trust & disarming the suspected, — I shall acquaint all the Plantations and put them on their Guard.

We are much obliged to Your Excellcy for this early information, which shows your attention to the good of the Province & the security of the Property of the settlers. I have the honour to be with Great respect [ &c. ]

Rob Bisset

Palmerina Sepr 1st 1776.

[First endorsement] Col — Bisset 1st Sepr 76 Rd — 2d Sepr

[Second endorsement] Colonel Bisset to Governor Tonym In Govr Tonym's (No 23) of 8th Sepr 1776.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 771-74.

ANDREW TURNBULL TO ARTHUR GORDON<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Smyrnea Sepr 1st 1776 —

Sir. Yours of the 29th of last Month came to hand this morning by the Govrs Express—I cannot help being a good deal alarmed at this bold stroke of the American Privateer, particularly as the Govrs letter informs me that she is come Southd and has Warner the Pilot on Board—If she should make her appearance of[f] this Barr I will and can easily secret our Negroes by sending them down the Indian River or back into the woods, but cannot say what might [be] the consequence regarding the white people, as there is a good number of them at present a little discontented, and I am fully perswaded would Join the Rebels immediately on their landing at Smyrnea—I therefore beg you and Mr Penman would make application to the Govr and Commanding Officer at St Augustine to reinforce the party here with a few more men if it is eight or ten only, for it is absolutely necessary, if it was for no other end but keep our own people a little more in awe—If this cannot be done I see plainly they will grow very insolent and unruly from the Georgians being so successful in their excursions in this Province.

[Endorsed] Copy. Extract of a letter from Mr Andrew Turnbull to Arthur Gordon Esqr In Govr. Tonym's (No. 23) of 8th Sepr 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 767-70.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER TO THOMAS NELSON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Bermuda, September 1, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

On the 22d of Augst a Brigantine belonging to Dr Campbell of Virga which had been detained by Lord Dunmore for several Months & was dismissed by him on his leaving Virginia (with a number of other Vessels) was taken in sight of this Island by Capt: Biddel [Nicholas Biddle] of the Continental Brigantine *Andrew Doria*. Lord Dunmore on dismissing the Brig having given her a Pass to avoid being taken by the British Vessels of



War Capt: Biddle considered her as a prize—but not thinking the vessel worth sending to the Continent to be condemned took off a considerable Quantity of household furniture & other Effects which had been put on board by the Dr's Clerk when Norfolk was burnt (the Dr himself then being at Wmsburg) agreeably to the enclosed Account—the Saylor's with a Wantoness which those people are generally apt to exercise on such Occasions destroyed many other Pieces of furniture such as Desks, Dressing Tables, Chests of Drawers &c which are not inserted in this Account, and then dismissed the Brig —<sup>3</sup>

The Character which Dr Campbell supported in Virga and the Conduct which in the present disputes between Great Britain & America he has uniformly observed I flatter myself will justify me in observing that he has ever demonstrated himself to be the friend of that Country where he has resided for many Years with universal Esteem—The Convention of Virginia were sensible of this and acquitted him honourably of the charge which was brought agt him . . .

After this summary state of Facts, I presume you will be of Opinion that the Dr's Property was by no means to be considered as subject to continental Confiscation, since he cou'd be considered in no other point of view but as a friend to America. This Loss added to his former, in the Destruction of Norfolk, to the Amt of above £10,000 falls extreemly heavy on a Man whose Misfortunes were unmeritted as inevitable — Permit me then, sir, to solicit your friendly Interposition in his Behalf in Congress in order to procure such a Compensation for his Loss as that honourable Body shall think reasonable upon Consideration of the Circumstances of his Case. . . .

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, Earl Gregg Swem Library, CWM.
2. *Ibid.*, date of letter and the recipient established by the text of an accompanying letter to John Page of Virginia.
3. The brig *Maria*, John Marshall, master, bound for Bermuda. William Bell Clark, *Captain Dauntless, the Story of Nicholas Biddle of the Continental Navy* (Baton Rouge, 1949), 146-47. Hereafter cited as Clark, *Captain Dauntless*.

# JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Seaford*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS<sup>1</sup>

August 1776	At Sea Latite in 26:02 North
Saturday 31st	At 5 A M hoisted a boat out & sent her on board a Schooner from Surinam bound to Newberry. Sent a Petty Officer & Six hands on board her took her hands Out. At 10 A M made Sail, parted Company with the Prize. Light breezs & fair Wr
September	at 6 P M Saw a Sail to the NE
Sunday 1st	At 5 A M Saw a Sail to the No wd gave chace, at 12 A M hoisted a boat out & sent on board the chace, proved to be a Sloop from Newburry to St Cruiz [pu]t an Officer and 5 Men on board & took her hands out.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/880.

2 Sept.

CONDEMNATION IN VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE PRIZE SLOOP *Sally*<sup>1</sup>

Nova Scotia Court } Cause.  
 of Vice Admiralty } Henry Bellew Esqr Commander of his Majesty's Ship of  
 War *Liverpool* V.S. a Sloop call'd the *Sally* and Cargo.

Tuesday 13th }  
 Augst 1776. } Libel Filed and entered order made thereon as on file.—

Hugh Goold Purser of his Majesty's Ship *Liverpool* being duly Sworne deposeth that on or about the 27 day of July last Captain Bellew in the said Ship took the Sloop *Sally* at Sea off of Nantucket Shoals Loaded with Bale Goods from Hamburg, that the Papers found on Board were given by the Deponant to William Nesbitt Esqr his Majesty's Attorney General. That the said Sloop [*sic* ship] at present is at Head Quarters near New York. — (Sign'd) Hugh Goold

Thomas Mullock mate of the Sloop *Sally* being duly Sworne Confirms the above deposition, and says she was bound for New York, but her Papers Cleared her out for St Eustatia

Thomas Mullock

Sworne before me this 16th day Augst 1776. }  
 before me Charles Morris junr Regr — }  
 Papers filed as on file

Monday 2d Sept }  
 1776 — } Court open'd by makeing Proclamation as usual Procla-  
 mation again made for all Claimers to appear & assert  
 their Claims & Defend their Rights to the Cargo of the  
 Sloop *Sally* none appeard The Advocate General  
 then moved for a Decree which was pronounc'd as on  
 file whereby the Cargo of the said Sloop was Condemn'd  
 as Lawfull Prize to the Captors thereof — <sup>2</sup>

Court Adjourn'd without Day in this Cause —

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

2. *Ibid.*, this date the sloop *Swan*, schooner *Neptune*, and a brigantine, name unknown, were also declared lawful prizes of H. M. S. *Liverpool*.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Monday Sept 2d 1776.

Petition of Jona Eddy, Wm How, & Zebulon Rowe for themselves & Friends in the County of Cumberland Nova Scotia, setting forth — That the Enemy are repairing the Forts in that Province to the great detriment of the Inhabitants in sd County, which can be of no other End, but to keep the Inhabitants in Subjection to their Tyrannical Measures, &c That the far greater part of the People at Nova Scotia are greatly concerned about it, &

has been the cause of many to leave their Estates to be Confiscated, & come over to this State, and will cause many more to leave their Homes unless they Can have some supplies, and Assistance. That if they could be supplied with Necessaries, such as provisions, and Ammunition with a small number to join their Bretheren there, they Could destroy their Enemies Forts, & Relieve their Bretheren by Permission from this Hon: Court for so doing, or in any other way &c.

Resolved, That the Commissary General be, & he hereby is Directed to Deliver to Jona Eddy, William Howe, & Zebulon Rowe, Two hundred pounds weight of Gunpowder five hundred weight of Musket Ball, three hundred Gun flints, & twenty barrels of Pork taking their Obligation to be Accountable for the same, when Called for by Order of this Court.

Whereas by a Resolve past by the General Court the 29th April last, the Officers of Vessells in the Colony Sea service, were allowed to inlist Men out of the Companies raised for the defence of the Sea Coasts, and the Officers of the said Companies were thereby directed to permit any of their Men to Inlist into the Colony, & Continental Sea service only, and to Inlist others to supply vacancies occasion'd thereby as soon as may be.

And whereas such Liberty or allowance, which was the[re] given to the Officers of Vessells in the Colonial, & Continentall Service, has been found to be very detrimental; having weakened, & very much Exposed to the En[e]my, many of our Harbors, & Towns on the sea Coasts; And many of the Officers of the Sea Coast Companies, after much expence of Time, & Money to raise their Companies have had their Men taken from them, to their great loss & damage, & thereby been discourag'd from further recruiting; and some parts of the Sea Coasts may if this practice is allowed, be left destitute of all defence, & thereby become a Harbor for our Enemys, which would not only further distress our Trade, but involve us in many other difficulties. — Therefore —

Resolved, that the aforesaid Resolve of the 29th April, be & is hereby discontinued & made null, & Void.

In Council Resolved, that a Committee of suitable persons be appointed immediately to repair to the State of New Hampshire, & apply to the Government there, & if practicable, with the Loan of as many Cannon as can be spared from this State, to effect the fixing out the Continental Ship now under the direction of Mr [John] Langdon, and to take immediate measures that such number of Cannon, & other necessities, as without distressing this State may be lent to the Continent, may be safely, & expeditiously transported to Portsmouth — This Ship to be fixed out for the purpose of Attacking the *Milford*, or other Ships of War distressing our Coasts — And in case said Ship can within any reasonable time be equipt for the Sea —

Resolved, that two, or more Colony Arm'd Vessels be directed to Act in Concert with her — and that the Comtee be, & hereby are empowered, to engage as many Sea Coast Soldiers, East of Boston, as may incline to enter for said Service, and in general to do every thing necessary for effecting the aforesaid purpose — And that the pay of the Sea Coast men continue, in Ad-

dition to the Emoluments of the Sea Service – the sd Cannon, & other Articles that may be lent as aforesaid to be returned as soon as the Cruise shall be over, or as soon as they shall be called for by this Governmt

In the House of Representatives Read & Accepted & Oliver Wendell Esqr & Capt George Williams with such as the Honl Board shall join are apptd a Comtee for the purpose therein mention'd –

In Council. Read & Concurr'd & Benja Greenleaf Esqr is joined. –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 35, 190, 195, 196.

PETITION FOR COMMISSION FOR ELEAZER GILES TO COMMAND THE  
MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER BRIGANTINE *Retaliation* <sup>1</sup>

To the Honble the Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay, the Petition of Josiah Batchelder jr & Co Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioners have fitted out & Acquipted the Brigt Calld the *Retaliation*, for a Privateer, to Cruize on the Enemies of the United States of America, and having conformed to all the Resolves & Regulations of the Honble the Grand American Congress, & of the General Court of this State Relative to fitting out private Ships of War Humbly pray that your Honors would be pleased to Commisionate the within Named Persons, with full Power to proceed on Their Cruize &c and your Petitioners as in duty Bound Shall Ever pray, in behalf of himself & Co

Jos<sup>d</sup> Batchelder Jr

An Account of the Brigt *Retaliation* Stores & Appurtinances as Followeth—vizt –

Brigt *Retaliation* about Seventy five tons  
Ten Carriage Guns from four to two pounders  
Nine Swiv[e]l Guns—  
Josiah Batchelder junr & Co of Beverly Owners  
Eleazer Giles—Captain  
Thomas Stephens junr first Lieut  
John Procter junr Second Lieut  
Seventy Men –  
Fifty Barrils Beef & Pork  
Four thousand wt Bread  
Four Quintalls Fish  
Six Jars Oyl  
ten Bushels Potatoes  
five hundred wt Powder  
Eighty wt Musket Balls  
four hundred Cannon [Shot]  
Twenty five Small arms  
Thirty Cutlasses –  
Ten La[nc]es

These May Certify that the above is a True Acct of the Brigantine Called the *Retaliation* to Gether with her Stores Appurtinances & Acquipment &c. Beverly Sept 2d 1776:—<sup>2</sup>

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 4[th] 1776 Read & Ordered that the Above mentioned Eleazer Giles be commissioned as Comr of the Brig *Retaliation* he complying with the Resolves of Congress—

Samuel Adams Secry

1. Mass, Arch., vol. 165, 204, 205.

2. *Ibid.*, 198, on September 2 the Council issued a commission to Isaac Soames of the privateer sloop *Union* owned by John Winthrop, Jr. of Boston.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW<sup>1</sup>

Sept 1776

C: Codd N W 6 Leags

Sunday 1

First and latter fresh Breezes and hazey midle modr and Clear at 3 PM gave chace to a sail No ward – at 5 carried away Fore Topmast studding sl yard. Fired at the chace. brot too found her a Schooner from old York to the West Indies with Lumber empd getting part of her cargo onbd Prize in Co

Mondy 2

Modr Breezes took all the sails Rigging &c out of the Schooner and set her on Fire

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*,  
CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE<sup>1</sup>

Remarks on Monday Sept 2. 1776

Middle Part Fresh Breeses a 12 A M Crost The Great Ripp at 6 A M Made the Land Bareing West Distance 3 Leagues In 8 Fathem Warter Sowtheble Head Makes Very hie One Part Markes Likes Scrub Oakes the other Part White Sand Saw 3 Wind Miles A Cross the Low Land & Saw the Town Land Making Longger then It Is Lade Down a Sandy Poynt Making for 3 Homaks [hummocks]

Latter Part Pleasant All Hands Well on Board

The Fust Part Pleasant Weither Smuth Sea

At 6 P M, Came to Ancher In Company With one Franch Sloop one Prise Brigg Belonging to the *Cabbath*<sup>2</sup> and our one Prise Brigg,

1. *Independence* Journal, RIHS.

2. Continental brig *Cabot*.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence Sept 2nd 1776 –

I am Order'd by the Marine Committee to get the Valuation of the Stores that I brought from New Providence, and as part of them was sent to New York by your Order should be glad you would Order Mr [Henry] Knox, or some other of your Officers to put a Value on them, and order them to transmit such Valuation to me as soon as Convenient –

Sir Should be extremely oblig'd to you if you have Settled a Cartell with Admiral or General Howe, if you would endeavour to get one Mr Henry Hawkings, who was taken out of the Sloop *L'amiable Marie* Peter Douville Master the 20th May last, off Shrewsbury Inlet near Sandy Hook, and I believe is now onboard the *Phoenix*, and I hear acts as a common hand – he is young man and a near kinsman of mine, and his Father and Mother are very A[n]xious to get him Exchang'd.

I can send a Prisoner of almost any Rank that may [be] required for him.

Your assistance in this matter will very much oblige Sir[&c.]

E. H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LIEUTENANT JAMES JOSIAH<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence Sept 2nd 1776 –

I receiv'd your Letter yesterday—have enquired and find Mr Charles Elden is now at North Hampton—make no doubt but shall be able to procure him as soon as Capt'n Symonds [John Symons] has leave to Exchange you – please to let me know by a line and I will send Immediately for him and send him to Block Island if Capt'n Symonds gives his Word a Boat may come Safe –

There is a number of Officers Prisoners now in this Government—if there is any more Men onboard that belong'd to the Continental Fleet, should be glad to Exchange them. –

I have applied to Congress and they have given General Washington directions to get you Exchang'd if in his power with Admiral Howe – I am Your Friend

E. H.

To Mr James Josiah

onboard the Ship *Cerberus*, off Block Island – <sup>2</sup>

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Josiah was on board the prize transport *Crawford* when she was retaken by H. M. S. *Cerberus*. See Volume 5.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL  
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

[Providence] Sept 2.

Voted That a Letter be wrote to the Navey Board at Philadelphia Recommending Abraham Whipple Esqr (now of the *Columbus*) to be appointed Captain of the Ship *Providence*. and that Mesers William Russell and Jabez Bowen write by the next Post.

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICERS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD  
TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

[Providence, September 2, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

Appointments.

James Eldred –	South Kingstown.	Midshipman.	May 27, 1776.
Samuel Shaw.	Bridgewater:	Midshipman.	June 14, 1776.
William Jennison.	Mendon	{ 1st. Lieut. Marines if he enlisted 25 men.	} June 14, 1776.
James Sellers –	Dartmouth		
		3d. Lieut. if he enl. 12 men –	} June 14, 1776.
Paul Hathaway.		3d. Mate if he enl. 6 men.	

Appointments – Sloop “*Providence*”

Capt. Wm. Barron	Newport –	Master –	May 22, 1776.
Silas Devol.	Tiverton.	Capt. of Marines.	June 20, 1776.
William Barron.	Newport.	1st. Lieut.	June 20, 1776.
Benjamin Page.		3d. Lieutenant –	June 20, 1776.
Seth Chapin.		2d. Lieut. Marines	June 24, 1776.
Avery Parker.		1st. Lieut. Marines if he enl. 33 men	} June 26, 1776.
Thomas Bowen.		Midshipman.	
John Channing.		2d. Lieut.	June 26, 1776.
Nicholas Easton Gardner.		Midshipman.	June 26, 1776.
—Tanner.		Midshipman.	Aug. 23, 1776.
Benjamin Dunham.		2d Mate.	Aug. 23, 1776.
Abraham Whipple.	To be Capt. recommended.		Sept. 2, 1776.

Appointments. Sloop “*Warren*.”

John Grannis.	Capt. of Marines –	June 14, 1776.
George Stillman.	1st. Lieut. Marines.	June 14, 1776.

Barnabus Lothrop.	2d. Lieut. Marines.	June 14, 1776.
James Sellers.	2d. Lieut.	June 20, 1776.
Niles Christian.	2d. Mate.	June 20, 1776.
Lemuel Carver.	Midshipman.	June 26, 1776.
Ebenezer Allin – Rochester.	Steward.	June 26, 1776.
William Dunton.	Midshipman.	June 26, 1776.
William Comstock.	Midshipman.	June 26, 1776.
Niles Christian	Chief Mate, if he signed articles "to-morrow"	June 26, 1776.
Simon Dunbar –	Midshipman.	June 26, 1776.
Samuel Knap.	Chief Cook.	June 26, 1776.

1. R. I. Arch.

2. The date used is that of the last appointment on the list.

#### CHARTER AGREEMENT FOR THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Diamond*<sup>1</sup>

This Agreement or Charter party made between Nicholas Cooke Esquire of Providence Owner of the Sloop *Diamond* burdened Eighty Seven Tons and two thirds of the One Part and John Jenckes of said Providence Merchant who acts in this Matter (together with the said Nicholas Cooke) for and in Behalf of the State of Rhode Island &c of the other Part Witnesseth That the said Nicholas Cooke hath letter unto Freight to the said John Jenckes for the Use of said State the aforesaid Sloop for a Voyage from said Providence to the West-Indies and back and that the said Nicholas Cooke shall be at the Expence of keeping her in good and customary Repair during the Voyage.<sup>2</sup> In Consideration whereof the said John Jenckes on the Part of said State shall pay unto the said Nicholas Cooke for the Hire of said Sloop at and after the Rate of Seven Shillings and Six Pence lawful Money a Ton by the Month for the whole Time she shall be in performing said Voyage to be computed from this Day until she shall be returned back and redelivered to the said Nicholas Cooke And the said John Jenckes in Behalf of said State shall wholly risque said Sloop in all Cases and in Case of Loss shall pay to the said Nicholas Cooke Eighteen Hundred Dollars for her with Interest from this Time but in such Case shall not pay any Hire Money And further in such Case of Loss the said John Jenckes for sd State shall be at the Expence of all Repairs from this Time.

Witness the Hands and Seals of the Parties interchangeably

September the Second 1776

Witness

John Dexter Jon<sup>a</sup> Jenks Junr

Nich<sup>a</sup> Cooke

John Jenks

1. Maritime Papers, Revolutionary War, 1776-1778, R. I. Arch.

2. The *Diamond*, William Waterman, master, cleared Providence September 10, 1776, "for the Foreign Islands in the West Indies," with a cargo of "500 bbls Flour, 40 bbls Pickled Fish, 5000 Bunches Onions and 100 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles." Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R. I. Arch. The voyage was to Martinique, and a receipt on the back of the agreement shows an undated payment to Nicholas Cooke of £600 by the State Treasurer when the voyage was completed.



CLAIM OF CAPTAIN WINGATE NEWMAN FOR A SHARE  
OF THE PRIZE SHIP *Star & Garter*<sup>1</sup>

State of Rhode Island &c	}	Before the honble John Foster Esqr Judge of sd Court
Court Maritime		

Libel of Wm Chace vs Ship *Star & Garter*

Be it remembered that on the second Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy six Philip Moore of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania Mercht comes into Court & in Behalf of Wingate Newman Commander of the armed Brigt called the *Hancock* & the other Officers Marines & Mariners belonging to said armed Vessell & the Owners thereof claims a Part of the Ship *Star & Garter* in the Libel of said Chace said to be taken by the sd Chace – & the said Moore says that the same Ship was taken in the high Seas as set forth in said Libel by the said Chace but with the Aid & Assistance of the sd Brigt *Hancock* & jointly with her & being so taken was brot into Providence, in sd State of Rhode Island & the sd Moore further says that the same Brigt *Hancock* was a Vessell of War duly commissioned by the honble the continental Congress to cruise against the Enemies of the united States of America at the Time of said Capture wherefore he prays that the same Ship her Cargo & Appe[r]t[e]-[nance]s may be decreed by this honble Court to be divided between the said armed Vessels in Proportion to their Men & Guns as the Law directs—

Ph: Moore Agent –

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, 1776, R. I. Arch. The document is endorsed: "N.B. this Claim was not inforced."

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1776

Newport, September 2.

Last Thursday arrived here, in about 18 days from St. Lucia, the brig *Ludlow-Castle*, Capt. Darling who informs that, a little before he sailed, there was a warm engagement in the West-Indies, between an American privateer, name unknown, and the British sloop of war, named *Hawke*, a well-known bird of *prey*; in which the *Hawke* was so much damaged, that she was obliged to make the best use of all her wings, to escape the American bird of *justice*;<sup>1</sup> which we must confess, has not had that agility of motion necessary for the detection and ample punishment of the enemies to this country: —Otherwise many a rascal who fled hither, to prevent being hanged in his own country, and some natives among us, would have had much longer *necks* before this day.

1. Seems to be a truly fanciful account of the engagement between the Continental ship *Reprisal* and H. M. Sloop *Shark*.

*Connecticut Courant*, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1776

Hartford, September 2.

The Continental Frigate<sup>1</sup> now building at Chatham, is to be launched on Thursday next.

1. *Trumbull*.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT WILLIAM DIGBY<sup>1</sup>

[Isle aux Noix]

Sep. 2. I went on duty to St Johns, and was present at the launching of the *Carlton schooner* she was compleat in guns &c &c and the command of her given to lieut. Decars of the navy.<sup>2</sup>

1. Manuscript journal of Lieutenant William Digby, Additional Ms. 32413, BM. Hereafter cited as Digby's Journal, BM. Published under the title *The British Invasion from the North, The Campaigns of Generals Carleton and Burgoyne from Canada, 1776-1777, With the Journal of Lieut. William Digby of the 53D, or Shropshire Regiment of Foot*. Illustrated with Historical Notes by James Phinney Baxter (Albany, N.Y., 1887; reprinted, New York, N.Y., 1970).

2. Lieutenant James Richard Dacres.

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

[Extract]

Willsborough Sept 2d 1776

Dear General. I intended sending the foregoing from Button Mould Bay,<sup>2</sup> but waited for a Boat that I had Sent to this place . . . yesterday at Noon we left Button Mould Bay, & arived here last night. before we passed the Split Rock we Saw two Sail a Stern which, we suposed were the *Lee*, & a Gondola, they have not yet Joined us, we Are now under way with a Fresh Southerly breeze & expect to be at the Ile Ta'te before night. I hope soon to have it in my power to send you a very full Account of the Strength of the Enemy by Sea & land I hope no time will be lost in forwarding, the three Gallies, when they have Joined us, I am very Confident, the Enemy will not Dare attempt Crossing the Lake—I beg my Congratulatory Comps to Genl [Arthur] St Claire on his promotion—when the Enemy drive us back, to Tyonderoga, I have some thoughts of going to Congress, & beging leave to resign, — do you think they will make me a Major General—(*Entre Nous*) . . .

1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS.

2. Arnold's letter of August 31.

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

Remarks as Before [off Flushing Bay, Long Island Sound]

Monday 2d of Sept 1776

2 [A. M.] Came on Bd 4 Deserters from the Rebel Army Sent them to the *Brune*

- 4 [A. M.] Do W. [Moderate and Cloudy] Empd Sending Onshore the Furniture and Stock (belonging to Francis Lewis one of the Congress) to the Place taken from —
- 8 [A. M.] Do W. Empd as Before
- 12 [M.] Fresh Breezes and Fair Empd as Before and getting On Board Water
- 2 [P. M.] Little wind and Fair, Empd Landing the Goods &c at Whitestone, and Getting on Bd Water
- 6 [P. M.] : Weighd and Came to sail and Turnd up and came too of[f] Little Laurences Point.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

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

[New York, September] 2d. They [the British] ran a ship past the city up the East River: she was several times struck by the shot of a 12 pounder, which was drawn to the river's bank. Major [John] Crane of the artillery was wounded in the foot, by a cannon shot from the ship. It was now a question whether to defend the city, or evacuate it, and occupy the strong grounds above. Every exertion had been made to render the works both numerous and strong; and immense labor and expense had been bestowed on them; and it was now determined that the city should be obstinately defended.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 50.

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

September 1776                      Governors Isld ENE ½ mile  
Monday 2d                      A M. Mann'd a flat Boat & sent to assist in landing some troops on Governors Island which they took Possession off

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

#### DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JABEZ FITCH<sup>1</sup>

[On board the Prison Ship *Lord Rochford*]

Mond: the 2nd [September] Some Time in the Morning the Comasary came on Board again, & gave us to Understand that the Officers would soon be provided with a Ship by themselves; He also gave us Liberty of the Use of Pen & Ink, under the Inspection of our Commanding Officer, which Privilege we had not yet been Allow'd since we came on Board

1. Sabine, ed., *Fitch's Diary*, 38.

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

Monday Sept 2d 4 o'clock in the morning by Lieut Dowie received advices that in the night of Thursday August 29th the Rebels had evacuated Brookland and Red Hook leaving military stores and their provision behind. The morning of the 30th the King Troops possess both. The Rebels also evacuated Govrs Island. Lord Howe in the *Eagle* with several Capital ships & frigates are off Gov[ernor]s Island within random shott of N York. Sullivan is sent to Philadelphia on parole to negotiate an Exchange For General Prescott.<sup>2</sup> Ninety six Rebel officers are prisoners. General Howe is gone to the Eastward with 12000 Troops. Great Division prevails in [New] York among the Southern and Northern Rebels. The Southward officers now prisoners have petitioned Lord Howe to be separated from the N England Rebels and they are now kept in Different vessells in consequence of that application.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

2. Brigadier General Richard Prescott taken at the Sorel, on the St. Lawrence, in November 1775.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO DANIEL TILLINGHAST<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Philadelphia] September 2nd 1776

The Secret Committee of Congress have directed Mr Thomas Green of Providence in your State [Rhode Island] to put into your hands the following articles belonging to the Continent now in his possession for which you will please to give him areceipt.

- 330 Bolts of best holland and Rusia Duck
- 26¼ Casks of Powder
- 2 pair 4 lb Cannon
- 3 pair 3 lb Do
- 4 pair Swivels
- 3 Casks leaden ball
- 21 Casks Sewing Twine
- 598 lb salt Petre
- 60 lb Brimstone
- 470 Bushels salt
- 50 half Johannes
- 1 Drum

You have underneath a Copy of a Resolve of Congress of the 30th ulto ordering such part of the above Duck as is suitable for Tents to be made up and forwarded with all possible expedition to his Excellency General Washington, which we request You will immediately execute, you will hold the rest of the articles ready for the future orders of this Committee Who are Sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 19, NA.



*Charles Carroll, Barrister.*

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia,] September 2nd, 1776.

[Jno. M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, was directed] To pay Richard Dennis £ 31 5 0, for 50 Barrels of Tar, d'd Capt. [John] Hazelwood for the use of the Fire Rafts.

*Resolved*, That Samuel Mifflin, Esq'r, be appointed Commodor & Commander-in-chief of all the Naval Armaments of this State, and that the president be requested to send him his Commission, with orders to repair to his Command.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Owen Biddle be authorized to import from St. Eustatia, such necessities for cloathing and equipping the Troops employ'd in the service of this State, as may be wanted for that purpose, on account of this State.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 708.

JOHN BURNELL TO THE MARYLAND CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

Baltimore 2nd of September 1776

Gentlemen I was first shipt as masters mate of the ship *Defence* at her first setting out in the proventional service. at the time Lieut Boucher left the ship I was advanced to Master by the Councel of Safty. I hope your honours will Continue to Advance me in rotation or as Comd Nechoalson may think Right as Imagin him to be the best Judge what I may DeServe Leeut Nechoalson [John Nicholson] I here is going to Leave the Ship Likewise Leeut [Aquila] Johns if so I think should be first Leut as I was mas[ter] of the ship before Leut Auchenleck had his Commission, from gentlemen [&c.]

John Burnell

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch.

DEPOSITION OF JAMES CLARK NESSELS<sup>1</sup>

The Deposition of James Clark Nessells of Lawfull Age being duly Sworn this 2d Day of Sepr 1776,

Deposeth and saith that some time in the Month of June last he was sent for by some persons who intend on Board of the Tenders S[o] this deponent set of[f] with some Others and went Over to the Islands where he found a Number Tories a waiting to get on Board [of] some of Dunmores Ships, after waiting there abt Eight Days Nathan Linton Carried this Deponent and a Number of Others on Board the *Otter Man* of Warr Commanded by Capt Squires, that One Cocklin was among[s]t the Number that went on Board from the Islands, that Cocklin and Nathan Linton went down into the Cabin Cocklin got a Shift of Cloaths – Linton stayd in the Cabin about an Hour and then came upon Deck Capt Squires gave him the said Linton

a Gallon of Rum and some Pork and immediately Linton got into the Boat and set off for the Islands, this Deponent further saith that he understood from the People on Board of th[is] Ship that they had a Vessell dismasted near the Islands with Rum Iron Train Oil Coffee some Sugar and Sundry Other Articles, that Capt Squires made a present of all that was on Board of said Vessell except the Rum and Iron to Linton for his Trouble in taking up said Vessell and for Other Services done them, this Deponent saith that the Ships Crew & Linton appear'd to [be] very friendly—This Deponent saith that the Ship immediately set of[f] up Patomack and arived at St George's Island and being there Three Days he this Deponent was sent on Shore with some Others for Water and there made his escape over to the Maryland Camp and obtained a pass from the Commanding Officer and then Made the best of his Way Home, and further saith not

Sworn before Peter Waters

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Folder 98, Md. Arch. Deposition was made to the Committee of Somerset County, Maryland.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMAS<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg Sepr 2d 1776

The Cordage mention'd in your [*sic* our] Letter to you of August 13th is for the Gentleman who delivers this, Capt [Francis] Bright of the Brigg *Northampton*; you are desir'd to furnish him with it as soon as possible and assist him in procuring a Vessel to bring it down; Shou'd he want any other Articles not mention'd in the former Memorandum, you are to supply and am for the Board, Your very Hble Servant

Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

To Capt Charles Thomas  
manager of the Ropewalk Warwick<sup>2</sup>

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

2. *Ibid.*, this date the Board also ordered Andrew Lush of Cabbin Point to supply Captain Bright with blocks needed for the *Northampton*.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Boreas*, CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON<sup>1</sup>

Septmr 1776

Lattd in 27. .38N

Sunday 1st

at 6 AM saw a Sail to the Soward gave chace set Studg Sails at 7 Hauld down the Studg Sails Perform'd divine Service – The Prize in Co light Airs PM Open'd a Cask of beef Contents 56 peices Short 2 pieces & a Cask of Pork Contents 112 pieces 1/2 past 5 Sent the boats Man'd & Arm'd after the Chace at 8 the chace SE 1/2 past 11 lay too Between 11 PM & 5 AM

Monday 2d

fir'd a Gun every half hour as Signals to the Boats at 6 saw the chace Bearg. SEBE at 1/2 past 8 the Boats re-turn'd with the Chace a Brig from Georgia with rice<sup>2</sup> took

possession of her brot her men on board us & sent a Petty Officer with 6 men on board her at Noon bore up in Co with our prizes.

Mod & Cloudy PM read the Articles of War & Abstract to the ships Company at 6 In 1st reefs of the Topsails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/125.

2. Brig *Rebecca*, see Gayton's Prize List under October 8.

LIEUTENANT CHARLES COBB, R.N., TO GOVERNOR PETER CHESTER<sup>1</sup>

Sir –

As I find by the Orders Addressed to Capt Davey that His Majesty's Armed Sloop the *West florida* is Sent down with an Intention to be of Service to this Province in the present Emergency of Affairs – I am therefore to request your Excellency in Council will be pleased to point out what in your Opinion will be most Conducive to the Service His Majesty's Sloop is meant for – I am with great Respect [&c.]

Cha<sup>s</sup> Cobb

His Majesty's armed Sloop [*West*] *Florida*  
Pensacola Sept 2nd 1776.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/634, Part II, 378, LC Photocopy.

### 3 Sept.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE<sup>1</sup>

Septembr 1776

Moor'd In the Bason of Quebec.

Sunday 1st

Recd an Order from Captn Douglas at Chambly to send up a Midn & 37 Seamen to serve on the Lakes.

[Light Breezes & Cloudy] Wr at 6 P.M, sent up 37 Men with a Petty Officer to Sorel in the Long Boat left by the *Venus* Transport – came down 3 Transports –

Monday 2d

A M punish'd Thos Brown, Davd Thompson and Matthias Wright for Desertion & selling their Cloaths.

Fresh Breezes & Cloudy in the Evening sent on Shore the 1st and 2d Lieuts with a party of Seamen & Marines (by desire of the Lieut. Governor) to pick up straggling Seamen – brot on Bd 9 Men –

Tuesday 3d

A M scraped the Lower Masts & pay'd them

Do Wr 1st & mid parts with rain P M, recd an Order from Captn Douglass to send 20 Men more from the *Triton*, 25 from the *Isis* and 20 from the Transports to serve on the Lakes – at 8 P. M. sent the said Men up –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.



DIARY OF JOSHUA PELL, JR.<sup>1</sup>

[Isle aux Noix]

3rd September sixteen arm'd vessels and four hundred Batteaux, fill'd with Rebels appear'd off Point au Fer, the entrance into Lake Champlain from the Northward.

1. "Diary of Joshua Pell, Jr., an Officer of the British Army in America 1776-1777," *Magazine of American History*, II, part 2, 45. Hereafter cited as "Diary of Joshua Pell, Jr.," *Magazine of American History*.

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL FOR ARMS AND  
AMMUNITION FOR THE STATE SLOOP *Freedom*<sup>1</sup>

For Sloop *Freedom*

- 100 double headed Shott, at Plimouth
- 10 - 6 pound Cannon Carriages at Do
- 11 Swivell Guns & 1 Cohorn
- the Brigs Sprit sail Topsail
- 30 Hammocks -
- 2 Bolt duck
- 2 Studen sails
- 2 Barrells Powder

Capt John Clouston

In Council [Watertown] Sept 3d 1776

Read & Ordered That William Watson Esqr be and he hereby is desired to deliver Jonathmeil Bowers the above Articles out of the Armed Brig called the *rising Empire* - [Richard] Welden Comr which was Ordered to be haled up by a Resolve of the General Court passed the 31st Augt last -  
Samuel Adams Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 203.

"A JOURNIEL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD  
SLOOP *Warren* A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH  
TO THE LATTD OF 33:"<sup>1</sup>

Tuesday September the 3 Day 1776

Latter Part Tuesday Morning Five A Clock spid A sail to Le-ward Bearing East All Hands To Quarters Run For Her. Fir'd A swivel Brought Her Two Boarded Her Prov'd to be A schooner From Marvelhead Bound to Martinaca With A Load of Fish Honestly Cleared out from Port Lattd in 34:20

First Part these 24 hours the Wind at S W. Saw [a sail] Bearing S E Give Her Chase Run Up With [her fired] A Four Pouner Brought Her Two Bourded Her [proved] To Be A Prise From Tobago Taken Two Days Before Prise Master Aboard Bound to Capan [Cape Ann] Been out Twelve Day We A stearing S E

1. RIHS.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>

Sir, —

Providence, September 3d, 1776.

In Addition to what I wrote your Honor of yesterday, I now inform you that there is at present no armed vessel belonging to the Continent in this State besides the *Alfred*, who hath not more than forty men, inclusive of officers. She, with the two Row Gallies, make the whole of the naval force in this State. I have communicated your letter to Commodore Hopkins, and find him perfectly disposed to co-operate with the Assembly in every measure in his power.

A sloop is now lading here with Continental pork, for New London. She will carry about one hundred barrels, and it is expected will sail to-morrow morning. I give you this information that you may, if necessary, make use of it for the forces on Long Island. I am, with every sentiment of respect, Sir [&c.]

Nich's Cooke.

1. *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society* (Providence, 1867), VI, 167.

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE  
OF THE PAY TABLE<sup>1</sup>

Lebanon Sept 3d 1776

Draw on the Treasurer of this State for the Sum of three Hundered Pounds in Favour of Capt Uriah Hayden in Part for his building the Colony Ship *Oliver Cromwell* and to be in Account.

By Order the Govr &amp; Council of Safety

Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

To the Committee }  
Pay Table } £ 300

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 118a, ConnSL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT<sup>1</sup>

September 1776

Tuesday 3d

At Single Anchor in Flushing Bay

Light Breezes &amp; Fair Wr

at 4 P M Weigh'd and came to sail at 1½ past 5 came too wth the small Br in 12 faths in Whiteston[e] Bay in running down Fird 10 Twelve Pounders wth round shot at a Number of Rebels Under Arms on the North shore at 10 Came onboard 2 Deserters (Blacks) from the Rebel Army

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Number 7.  
Sir

*Eagle* off of Bedlow's Island, New York,  
September the 3d 1776.

Enclosed I transmit a Return of the Officers in different Stations which I have had Occasion to appoint for carrying on the King's Service in the Squadron under my Command.<sup>2</sup>

The Concerns of the Victualling, and Distribution of Naval Stores under proper Restriction, with other Matters respecting the Department of a Master Attendant, are so extensive, that I have been under a Necessity of having extraordinary Assistance in both these Branches. I send Copies of the two Appointments for their Lordships more particular Information therein; Hoping they will be pleased to authorize the Continuance of them, and also that of two Officers for Duty onboard the *Eagle*, in Addition to the established Number of Lieutenants, which are not sufficient for the current Duties of a public Ship; As well as the Nomination of an Assistant Agent requisite for the various Duties incident to the different Debarkations of the Hessian Corps, and landing and reshipping the Baggage and Stores of those inexperienced Troops.

I should have deemed it expedient to confirm the several Appointments made by Sir Peter Parker to the Vacancies that were occasioned by the Action at South Carolina, had my Powers been of sufficient Extent: But the Vacancy occasioned by the Resignation of Captain [Alexander] Scott<sup>3</sup> not corresponding with the Letter of my Instructions, I have left the Promotions consequent of that Resignation, as they stand in the enclosed Return from the Commodore, until their Lordships pleasure is signified concerning them. I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

2. See next entry.

3. Captain Scott, H. M. S. *Experiment*, lost an arm in the Charleston action.

"LIST OF OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE VISCOUNT HOWE, VICE ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE, AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS EMPLOYED AND TO BE EMPLOYED IN NORTH AMERICA, BETWEEN THE 10TH OF MAY 1776 AND THE 3D OF SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING." <sup>1</sup>

Time	Names	Officers Quality.	Ships Names.	Quality	Ships.	Appointments Occasion of the Vacancy.
1776.						
May 10th	James Watt	Lieutenant		Actg 5th Lieut:	<i>Eagle</i>	Supernumerary
	Thos Farnham	Do		Actg 6: Do	Do	Do
June 29	Willm Chambers	2d Lieutenant.	<i>Active</i>	1st Lieutenant.	<i>Active</i>	Lieut: Edw: Pike killed in Action.
	Edmd Joshua Moriarty			2d Do	Do	The former appointed first Lieutenant.
July 5	James Reid	Mast: & Commr	<i>Thunder Bomb</i>	Captain	<i>Bristol</i>	Death of Captain Morris.
	Do	Captain	<i>Bristol</i>	Acting Captain	<i>Sphynx</i>	Capt: Hunt officiating in the <i>Active</i> .
	Toby Caulfield	2d Lieutenant	Do	Mast: & Commr	<i>Thunder Bomb</i>	Capt: Reid appointed Captain of the <i>Bristol</i> .
	Do	Mast: & Commr	<i>Thunder Bomb</i>	Acting Captain	<i>Bristol</i>	Capt: Reid officiating in the <i>Sphynx</i> .
	A: J: P: Molloy	3d Lieutenant	<i>Bristol</i>	2d Lieutenant	Do	Lt Caulfield appointed Masr & Commr of the <i>Thunder</i> .
	Do	2d Do	Do	Actg Masr & Commr	<i>Thunder Bomb</i>	Capt: Caulfield acting as Captain of the <i>Bristol</i> .

		Robt Deans	Lieutenant	<i>Thunder Bomb</i>	3d Lieutenant	<i>Bristol</i>	Lieut Molloy appointed 2d Lieutenant.
		Do	3d Lieutenant	<i>Bristol</i>	Actg 1st Lieut:	Do	Lieut: Hope sent to England.
		New Hill			Lieutenant	<i>Thunder Bomb</i>	Lieut: Deans removed to the <i>Bristol</i> .
		Eastwood				<i>Bristol</i>	Lt Molloy actg as Mast: & Commr of the <i>Thunder</i> .
		Ambse Reddall	1st Lieutenant	<i>Experiment</i>	Actg 2d Lieut:		Lt Reddall acting as 2d Lieut of the <i>Bristol</i> .
		Peter Rothe	2d	Do	Actg 1st Lieut:	<i>Experiment</i>	
		Chas Hotchkys	3d	Do	Actg 2d Lieut:	Do	
		Sylverius Moriarty			Actg 3d Lieut:	Do	
		Chas Edmd Nugent			Actg 3d Lieut:	<i>Bristol</i>	
18		Brabazon Christian			Actg 2d Lieut:	<i>Liverpool</i>	
		Geo: Cherry	Purser	<i>Eagle</i>	Agent Victualler		
August 4th		John Hunter	Master	Do	Master Attendant		
5		Saml Taylor			Armourer	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	
12		Richd Clark	Boatswain	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	Acting Boatswain	<i>Flora</i>	
		James Lilly			Do	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	
14		Josh Mears			Carpenter	<i>Rainbow</i>	
		John Green	Surgs 2d Mate	<i>Flora</i>	Surgs 1st Mate	<i>Flora</i>	
		Willm Bristow			Agent for Transports.		
Septem: 2		[illegible]agu Bacon	Surgs 1st Mate	<i>Phoenix</i>	Actg Surgs 2d Mate	<i>Phoenix</i> .	

[Endorsed] 3 Sept 1776 Vice Adml Lord Howe No 7.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE<sup>1</sup>[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*] Tuesday, 3d. September.

A great Firing was heard last night from the Town upon the *Rose* & the Boats, which were ordered to sail up the East River. One Shot passed through the *Rose*, and another beat off one of her anchors, without doing any other Damage. The Rebels fired two Pieces of Ordnance upon her to-day from a Battery opposite Bushwyck; and wounded two or three Men. The Boats got safe into Newtown Creek, and, as 'tis supposed, unperceived by the Enemy, through the favorable Darkness of the Night.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 89, 90-91.JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE<sup>1</sup>

September 1776 at Single Anchor between Red hook &amp; Governors Island

Monday 2d AM at 8 weigh'd and came to sail at 9 Anchd in 7 fm between Red Hook and Governors Island to cover the Troops landing do landed and took Possession of the Island PM Recv'd from HM Ship *Eagle* Rum & Beef. Varl Wr at 10 P M weigh'd and came to Sail Steering up Et River with a Number of Flat-Boats. the Rebels from Curtes Hook fir'd on us.

Tuesday 3d AM at 1 came too of Newtown Creek at 9 the Rebels fir'd upon us from York Island, Return'd the Fire Weigh'd and shifted our birth.

Light breezes and Clear Wr PM the Rebels kept a Constant fire at us over Blackwells Island about 200 of our Troops from long Island came over and took Possession of Do Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JABEZ FITCH<sup>1</sup>[On board the Prison Ship *Lord Rochford*]

Tuesd: the 3rd: [September] Was a very pleasant Morning, I arose at 4 oClock, & took an agreeable Walk on the Deck before it was crowded with the Prisoners &c, This Morning we wrote many Letters to send up to Town, as we have had Encouragement of a Flag . . . The forepart of the Day there was a mighty movement of the Transports in the Harbour, a great number of them move'd up toward Town; About Noon the Comasary came on Board again, & look'd on us, which was Greatfully Acknowledged by us.

Toward Night Capt. Hawker, one of our greater Overseers came on Board again, & gave us great Encouragemt: of further Endulgence &c; About Sunset our other Officers which had till now been kept on Shore, were Bro't on Board a Snow, Laying near our own Ship, we also

Expected to have gon there this Night, but it was Defer'd while Morning; The Officers on Board this Ship, all of them Turn'd in this Night on the Quarter Deck, where I slept much better than I had done before since I have been a Prisoner.

1. Sabine, ed., *Fitch's Diary*, 38.

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

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, September 3, 1776

General Sullivan having reduced to writing the verbal message from Lord Howe, the same was laid before Congress, and read as follows:

The following is the purport of the message from Lord Howe to Congress, by General Sullivan:

That, though he could not at present Treat with Congress as such, yet he was very Desirous of having a Conference with some of The members, whom he would Consider for the present only as private Gentlemen, and meet them himself as such, at such place as they should appoint:

That he, in Conjunction with General Howe, had full powers to Compromise the Dispute between Great Britain and America, upon Terms advantageous to both; the obtaining of which Delayed him near Two months in England, and prevented his arrival at this place before the Declaration of Independency took place:

That he wished a Compact might be Settled at this time, when no Decisive Blow was struck, and neither party could say, that they were Compelled to enter into such agreement:

That, in Case Congress were Disposed to Treat, many things, which they had not as yet asked, might and ought to be granted Them; and That if, upon the Conference, They found any probable Ground of an Accommodation, The authority of Congress must be afterwards Acknowledged, otherwise The Compact would not be Compleat.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 730-31.

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

[Extract]

Philada Sepr 3d 1776.

Sir, I do myself the Honour to enclose you sundry Resolves, by which you will perceive that Congress, having taken your Letter of the 2d Inst into Consideration, came to a Resolution, in a Committee of the whole House, that no Damage should be done to the City of New York.<sup>2</sup>

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), 12a, I, NA.

2. Journal of Congress, September 3, 1776 reads: "*Resolved*, That General Washington be acquainted, that the Congress would have especial care taken, in case he should find it necessary to quit New York, that no damage be done to the said city by his troops, on their leaving it: The Congress having no doubt of being able to recover the same, though the enemy should, for a time, obtain possession of it," Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 730, 733.

ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Virginia*<sup>1</sup>Frigat *Virginia* built in the State of MarylandTo the Commissioners of the Navy. Dr<sup>2</sup>

[Philadelphia]

1776.

Septemr 3 To 12 Pieces French Canvass Assorted Vizte

6 pieces H 589 ells is 798 Yds. @

3 do K 355 do " 480 " @

3 do I 300 do " 406 " @

" 100 Cuttlasses

a 15/ 75...--

" 1 doz Ballast Shovells

2..8..--

1. Woodhouse Collection, Box 5, HSP.

2. The Commissioners of the Navy, appointed January 9, 1776, were originally intended to supply cordage and ship chandlery for the four frigates to be built at Philadelphia, but their services were quickly expanded to supply the same type of materials for all naval vessels in the port. The Commissioners were James Craig, James Wharton, Nathaniel Falconer and William Davis, Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, 24, 331, NA.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1776

Philadelphia, Sept. 3.

A Court of Admiralty being to be held to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, when the Martial and Crier must attend, the Sale of the cargo of the prize ship *Friendship* is postponed until to-morrow afternoon, at three o'clock when a quantity of Sugars, Coffee, Rum and Cocoa, will be sold.

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

[Annapolis] Tuesday. Sepr 3rd 1776

Ordered That Western shore Treasurer pay to George Trumbull for use of Captain James Nicholson five hundred and fourteen pounds for pay of Ship *Defence's* Crew.

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

GEORGE LOGAN TO SAMUEL LAWFORD<sup>1</sup>

Septem. 3 1776 St Augustine -

The former part of this Letter was wrote August 7 when I flattered myself with the Thoughts of getting away but alas that opportunity is at an end, for the Governor's Vessel is taken by the Georgians Since which the Governor has received Letters from Lord Germaine with orders to let Nobody whatever pass from this to the other provinces, therefore I have positively taken my passage in Captn Lofthouse & hope to See you in London at a Month after you receive this at most provisions grow very scarce here; and have been obliged to dine five Days on saltpork & glad to get that, I assure you, No fresh provisions [n]or Vegetables to be gotten they expect



here to be attacked by the Georgians & Carolinians soon and have prepared for them farewell till I see you in London Honoria writes to Kitty—<sup>2</sup>

George Logan

P.S. a provincial privateer has just now Carried a large Ship away that was lying off the Barr of this place — Success to them —

1. Brown Book, IX, Md. Arch. Continuation of an intercepted letter of August 7.

2. *Ibid.*, Honoria Logan to Katherine Lawford, September 3, 1776.

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

At a Council held at the Government House on Tuesday  
the 3d day of September 1776

Present

His Excellency the Governor. —

The Honoble George Forbes	} Esqrs	Edward Stiles	} Esquires
Thomas Jones		Henry Tucker	
Jonathan Burch		John Hinson	
John Harvey			

The Board Considering the present Alarming Situation of the Island from a Scarcity of Provision thought advisable to Address His Excellency on the Occasion.—

The following Address being drawn up was read and approved of by the Board the same Signed by the President and by him presented to His Excellency as follows. Vizt—May it please Your Excellency.

We His Majesty's most dutiful and Loyal Subjects the Council of Bermuda beg leave to represent to Your Excellency the present Melancholly and truly calamitous Situation of this Island —

From your Excellencys long residence amongst us, you cannot but be intimately acquainted with the Nature of our Trade and our entire dependance upon the American Colonies for supplies of Provisions. That we cannot possibly exist without such supplies is a Fact well known to your Excellency, a Fact which cannot be controverted. It has however been often urged, that every necessary supply can be easily obtained from Great Britain and Ireland, but as your Excellency is no stranger to the utter Impracticability of such a plan we flatter ourselves it will be needless to suggest any of the numberless Arguments, which may be adduced to demonstrate, that every attempt of that sort must infallibly prove unsuccessful and abortive — Our Trade is now totally annihilated thro' the unhappy Contest between the Parent State and her Subjects in America. We have no Staple of any kind, by which we can procure the common Necessaries of Life, nor can we encourage the most distant Hopes of reaping any supplies from the Production of the Country (at all Times inconsiderable and trifling) but at present destroy'd by the long continued dry Weather. Under these deplorable Circumstances, where can we fly to for Refuge and Supportment. Where but to your Excellency the Representative of Our most Gracious Sovereign, whose

Humanity is deservedly rank'd amongst his most distinguishing Characteristics. From what has been premis'd Should the late Act of Parliament which positively inhibits all Intercourse with the American Continent be literally and risidly [*sic rigidly*] adhered to, it is obvious that we must inevitably perish. We therefore most earnestly entreat your Excellency, that you wou'd be pleased to fall upon some Expedient; which may remove the Horrors the people at present but too justly entertain of an impending Famine. We are firmly persuaded that the Exigency of the Case and the peculiar Hardships we labour under will fully justify in His Majesty's Royal Breast every lenient Measure which Your Excellency may think proper to adopt for this desirable purpose, and therefore once more take the Liberty of repeating our Wishes that your Excellency wou'd be so good as to consider seriously the Distresses of the Inhabitants of this little Country and at the same time kindly grant them every Indulgence and Relief in Your Excellency's Power. —

By Order of the Board

September 3d 1776. —

George Forbes, President —

His Excellency was pleased to Acquaint the Board that he would do every Service to the Country that [lay] in his power Consistent with his duty to His Majesty and supremacy of the British Empire, and Agreeable to His Instructions. — His Excellency then laid before the Council an Instruction together with a Form of Lycence he lately received from the Right Honorable Lord George Germain directed to be granted for fetching of provisions. —

The Board then Adjourned. —

1. Proceedings of the Governor's Council, 300-02, Bda. Arch.

#### MARQUIS DE LA TORRE TO JOSÉ DE GALVEZ<sup>1</sup>

No. 1207

Most Illustrious Sir:

On August 23 there sailed into this port the mail frigate *Patagon*, which left La Coruña at the beginning of July. Its Captain, Don Josef Teodoro Perez, told me that on the night of August 19th, about ten-thirty, he encountered a British warship near the point called Hicacos on the coast of this island, which, after inquiring if it was a Spanish mail ship, ordered it to haul sail and stay within reach of its guns until daybreak. Not wishing to obey this order, the Britisher let go a cannonade of five shots which did some damage to the sails. Ceding, therefore, to force, he shortened sail and sailed under convoy of the British warship heading for this port until daybreak. Having then unfurled the Royal standard and answered questions as to whether it had encountered any ships, he was allowed to continue on his course. This tale of the Captain is supported by the declarations I took down and the original of which were sent to the Marquis of Grimaldi, since the event verified affects a ship of the Mail Service.

The British frigate in question is undoubtedly the one called *Diligence*, commanded by Thomas Davees [Davey], which has been on a cruise off these

coasts against shipping belonging to the Colonists of North America; the same that on the 14th and 15th of August anchored off the mouth of the harbor so as to take on water as informed in my letter of yesterday to Your Excellency.<sup>2</sup> [&c.]

Marquis de la Torre

Havana, 3 September 1776

1. AGI., Audiencia de Santo Domingo, Legajo 80-1-10, LC Transcript.

2. *Ibid.*, in addition to water, Captain Davey requested that crew members from the captured Jamaicamen *Lady Juliana*, *Juno* and *Reynolds* be turned over to him. However, the men had already left Havana for Europe and Jamaica.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Antelope* Jamaica September 3rd 1776

I have the pleasure to inform their Lordships, that since my letter of the 5th of last Month, Martial Law has been taken off, and that Peace & Tranquility is again restor'd to the Inhabitants, and beg leave to inclose for their information a Copy of a Letter I receiv'd from the Governor on that Subject.

I likewise beg leave to acquaint them that His Majestys Ship *Winchelsea* Captain [Nathaniel] Bateman arriv'd the 28th of August, by whom I receiv'd their directions to Caren & refit such of Lord Howe's Squadron as his Lordship might think proper to send, their order with the Kings Instructions respecting such Captures as should be made in consequence of the late Act for prohibiting all Trade & Commerce, with the Rebellious Colonies & your several letters of the 20th 22nd & 23rd of May, with their Inclosures, all which I shall pay due attention to, and beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that I've always been very Circumspect in the orders which I have given my Cruizers, respecting the French Islands to prevent giving any umbrage to that Nation.

A few days before the arrival of the *Winchelsea* I receiv'd by the Pacquet their Lordships order for augmenting the Complements of His Majestys Ships under my Command and your several Letters of the 4th 5th & 7th June, acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 31 March last and beg leave to inform them that as the *Atalanta* was omitt'd in the List of Ships to have their Complements encreas'd, thinking it must have been some Mistake I have order'd Captain [Thomas] Lloyd to Compleat to 125 Men, which I hope will meet with their Lordships approbation.

I am happy they approve of the reasons which I have assign'd for purchasing the *Lady Keith* Schooner (which I have consider'd; as one of the Four, since order'd to be purchas'd) and am extreemly oblig'd to their Lordships for complying with my request in confirming the order which I gave Mr Frans L'Montais to be Lieutenant of her

Having no Money Imprest against me, on my leaving England for Contingent Charges, was the reason of my ordering the Naval Storekeeper to pay the Attorneys Bill, for defending the several Actions brought against me for the Detention of the American Vessels & their Crews but will draw

on the Navy Board for Five Hundred pounds Sterling to defray those Expenses in future and shall account for the same in my Contingent Account agreeable to their Lordships directions, which I hope they will approve.

I likewise beg leave to acquaint them; that by the Addition of my Squadron and those expected from North America to Careen & refit, I have found it necessary for the forwarding the Service to purchase a Watering Sloop, as it [is] attend'd with many ill conveniences and bad consequences, watering with the Ships Boats, particularly to the small Arm'd Vessels & twenty Gun Ships, the Watering Place being near Ten Miles from Port Royal which Subjects the People, to be exposed to the extreem heat of the Sun in the Day, or to the Dews in the Night, both of which I am confident are very prejudicial to the Health of the Seamen, I have therefore order'd the Naval Storekeeper to purchase one of the Prize Sloops for £130 Curry (equal to £93 Stg) for this Service which I hope their Lordships will approve

The Inclos'd Account of Sir Peter Parkers attack on Chas Town I got from the Master of a Sloop, who was present, at the Action, which I am to much afraid may be depend'd on, as he is the Man, who escap'd with the Kings Powder from [New] Providence & has always been firmly attach'd to Government

With regard to the Disposition of His Majestys Ships & Vessels under my Command, I beg leave to inform their Lordships that the *Antelope*, *Winchelsea* & *Atalanta* are at Port Royal, the *Winchelsea* I shall send to Cruize after the Americans, as soon as she has got a new Bowspreet, having Sprung her old one upon the Passage out, the *Atalanta* I shall send to Convooy the Pacquet through the Windward Passage, then to Cruize to intercept the North Americans and on her return shall Careen & send her to Pensacola; to relieve the *Diligence*, who is exceeding bad.

The *Squirrel* & *Porcupine* Schooner are Sail'd on a Cruize for the Windward Passage to Intercept some North American Privateers which I had receiv'd information of, and to remain on that Service til the Middle of October — The *Racehorse*; I expect in a few days from the North Side, where she has been Station'd for some time past, in consequence of the late intend'd Insurrection, on her arrival I shall order her to Compleat her Provisions & send her to Sea, the *Badger* is to remain Fourteen days longer, & if every thing then remains quiet to return to Port Royal — The *Boreas* has been spoke with on the Coast of America, so I hope she'll soon Join me again & the *Maidstone* sailed with the Convoy in July & is to return to Jamaica, with all possible dispatch on leaving them I am, with great respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Antelope* Jamaica September 3rd 1776

I beg leave to lay before their Lordships the Situation, we are in for want of Stores particularly Masts and Bowspreets, those that are in Store being entirely decay'd. the *Squirrel* after her late Cruize; came in with her Fore Mast Sprung & before she could get another, was oblig'd to take out three Sticks, two of which in Working prov'd to be decay'd, the *Winchelsea* has likewise had the Misfortune to spring her Bowspreet, & her People has been Employ'd for this three days past, overhauling the Stores; for a Stick to make a new one, but as yet cannot meet with any, but what are decay'd to the very Heart –

I have the same Complaint of the Cordage from the Captains of His Majestys Ships under my Command who all assure me, tis dry Rotten, before tis Issu'd, indeed I have one instance of it myself, in regard to some New Careening Gear which I order'd to be fitt'd, and the first Ship that hove down by it (which was the *Antelope*) as soon as she came Keel out, Four of the Outrigger Pendants, out of the Five; gave way all together, but happily it was attend'd with no bad consequences

As their Lordships inform me I am to expect some of Lord Howes Squadron to Caren & Refit, I must beg they will be pleas'd to direct the Navy Board to send a supply of Stores, particularly Masts & Bowspreets, there not being a Sufficiency of those Stores for my own Squadron I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

[Endorsed] 3 Jany [1777] send a Copy hereof to the Navy Board for their information and recommend to them to cause supplies of Stores to be sent out from time to time, that the ships on the station may be in constant readiness for Service and to be particularly carefull that the Stores they do send are of good Quality, & fit for the use to which they are applicable.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

4 Sept.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW<sup>1</sup>

Sept 1776

Cape Ann NW $\frac{1}{2}$ N 4 Lgs

Wednesday 4 at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 AM gave chase to a sail—at 8 AM shortned Sail and brot too found the chase to be HM ship *Milford* and 3 Prizes. empd getting the guns on bd from out of our Prize<sup>2</sup> the *Milford* gave chase to a Sail N Wd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/ 548.

2. Washington's schooner *Warren*, taken August 26, 1776.

PETITION FOR COMMISSION FOR BENJAMIN WARREN AS COMMANDER  
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SLOOP *Revenge*<sup>1</sup>

To the Hon[o]rable the Council of the State of  
Massachusetts-Bay in New England.

The Petition of Elias Hasket Derby, Miles Greenwood and Joseph  
White, all of Salem in the County of Essex and State aforesaid. –  
Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioners are now fitting out, and have almost compleated  
for Sea, a Private Sloop of War called the *Revenge* of Ninety Tons burthen,  
to be mounted with twelve Guns from four to Six pounders, owned by the  
Subscribers, and whereof Benjamin Warren is intended to be Master; to be  
manned by eighty men, to be victualled with thirty Barrels of Pork, fifty  
Barrels of Beef and Seventy Barrels of Bread; and to be provided with  
eight hundred pound weight of Powder and one thousand Shot—

Your Petitioners's humble Prayer therefore is, that the beforenamed  
Benjamin Warren may be commissioned Captain of the said Private  
Sloop of War *Revenge*, & your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever  
pray.

Elias Hasket Derby Miles Greenwood Joseph White  
Salem September 4th 1776

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 4th 1776 Read & Ordered that  
the Prayer of the within Petition be granted and that a Comission be issued  
to the within mentioned Benjn Warren, he complying with the Resolves of  
Congress – <sup>2</sup>

Samuel Adams Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 208, 208a.

2. *Ibid.*, 210, 210a, commission was also issued this date to Nathaniel Freeman to command the  
privateer sloop *Wolfe*.

ORDER OF MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL COMMISSIONING THE OFFICERS OF THE  
STATE SLOOP *Freedom*<sup>1</sup>

Return of Officers on Board the Armed Sloop called the *Freedom* where-  
of John Clouston is Comander

John Clouston	Capt
James Scott	1s[t] Lieutt
Timothy Tobey	2d Do

In Council [Watertown] Sept 4[th] 1776 Read & Ordered that the  
above Officers be comissionated agreeable to their respective Ranks –

Samuel Adams Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 208a.

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

Dear sir

Boston September the 4. 1776

Mr William Bant Informed me that you directed him to pay into my  
hands such monies as he had from time to time occasion to remit to Phila-

delphia upon your Account, and to take Bills for the same upon yourself, he has accordingly paid me One Thousand Dollars for which have given him a Bill, which I hope will be Agreeable: I forgot to mention in my last that Capt Manly sett out for Philadelphia on the 31st Ultimo, he is quite tired of waiting for the Guns & goes either to get discharged from the service or to bring the Guns with him, he goes also with a view, I suppose, of prosecuting an Appeal to Congress with respect to the determination of the Maritime Court of New hampshire relative to a Vessell & Cargo he took some time since & carried in there<sup>2</sup> – I wish he may succeed with respect to procuring the Guns—The Vessells might have cleared themselves by this time if they had been furnished with Guns but the want of them retards every thing, It will be impossible to fix off & Man the Ships till they are obtained— I remain with great respect [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

P S. Mr Langdon tell me he is Appoint Agent for the Continental Ships, it was thought but reasonable as he had the Trouble of building one of them.—I do not find I am as yet noticed in this way, I think I ought to be for the same reason

1. Conarroe Papers, HSP.
2. The brig *Elizabeth*.

PETITION OF THOMAS CRAGG TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

State of the  
Massachusetts Bay } To the Honble the General Court of the said State –

The Petition of Thomas Cragg humbly Shews—that your Petitioner being part owner of the Ship *Isaac* & her Cargo was on a Voyage in said Ship from the Island of Tortola bound to Liverpool in England, to visit his Family & attend to his private concerns, that in prosecuting said Voyage he was taken & brought into this State<sup>2</sup>—this unexpected Event has thrown your Petitioner into the most distressed & pitiable Circumstances—a principal part of his Fortune is taken out of his hands, and what remains, must suffer inevitable ruin from his absence in a short time—he has a Wife, Children & a large Family who cannot long subsist without his support, & himself tho' unused to want the Conveniencies of Life, must soon experience the wretchedness of extream poverty—your Petitioner begs leave to declare that he has never taken an active part in the unhappy Controversy between Great Britain & America, & from his Age & standing in Life, it necessarily follows that he never will; he therefore humbly prays your Honors to take his unhappy case into your consideration and grant him & one Servant Liberty to take passage for some part of England in the Ship owned by Mr William Ross and by your Honors permission bound for some part of England,<sup>3</sup> or grant him such other relief as your Honors well known Wisdom and Humanity may point out, and your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Tho<sup>s</sup> Cragg

Boston Sept 4th 1776

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 6[th] 1776

Read & Ordered That the Prayer of this Petition be Granted and that the Said Thomas Cragg with one Servant be permitted to depart from this State to any part of Great Brittain in such Vessell as Willm Ross and Nathl Morgan, (who lately had Liberty obtained to depart) may purchase for that Purpose<sup>4</sup>

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

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 212-13.
2. The *Isaac* was taken by the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Warren*, Captain John Phillips, and was libeled against in the Admiralty Court of the Massachusetts Middle District on August 29, for trial on September 17; *New-England Chronicle*, August 29, 1776.
3. William Ross and Nathaniel Morgan, passengers on the ship *Zachariah Bayley*, were taken by the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Yankee*, Captain Henry Johnson. Ross and Morgan purchased a ship for the return to England, but had difficulty obtaining ballast for her, Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 208-11.
4. Master and passengers of prize ship *Nancy* also requested and received permission to go with Ross and Morgan, Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 218-21.

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

Remks on Wedensday 4th of Sept 1776

1 [A. M.] Very unsettled weather

N B. the under Mentioned snow hoisted a Seete of English Coulers we take her to be a British snow of warr  
At 6 A m saw a sail barring NNW Gave chaise  
she bore away form us  
at 10 found her to be a learge snow full of men and Armed we  
bore away made sail she Gave us Chaise we out saild her  
small Air winds -

Lattd in 40° . . 00' Longd in 65° . . 10'

1 [P. M.] Moderate breaze & fair weather  
the snow in Chaise of us

8 [P. M.] Took in sail lost sight of the snow & stood to the westward

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

CONDEMNATION IN RHODE ISLAND MARITIME COURT OF  
THE PRIZE SHIP *Star and Garter*<sup>1</sup>

[Providence, September 4, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

We find that on the Twenty fifth Day of July AD: 1776, the Ship called the *Star and Garter*, with her Appurtenances and Cargo, being upon the High Seas and bound from the English Island of St Christophers in the West Indies, to the Port of London in the Kingdom of Great Britain, were then captured and taken, by William Chace Commander, his Officers and men, belonging to the private Sloop of War, called the *Diamond*,<sup>3</sup> and that afterwards, on or about the Thirteenth Day of August AD: 1776, the said



Ship, her Appurtenances and Cargo, were brought into the Port of Providence, in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations: And we also find that at and before the abovesaid Time of Capture, the said Ship *Star and Garter*, her Appurtenances and Cargo, belonged to, and were the Property of some of the Inhabitants of Great Britain, or some of the Inhabitants of said Island of St Christophers, Subjects of the King of Great Britain, and were carrying Supplies to Great Britain, whose Fleets and Armies, are now acting against the united States of America.—

Elias Callender	Samuel Howard
Samuel Ulrich junr	John Warner
Samuel Cruft	Joseph Olney
John Colwell Jur	Obadiah Sprague
James Brath	John Carpenter
John Phillaplace	John Updike

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, R. I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, the verdict is without date, but the trial was held and condemnation given on September 4, according to the protest the next day of the master of the *Star and Garter*.

3. See Volume 5, 1221–22.

*Connecticut Journal*, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1776

New Haven, September 4.

Capt Redfield of Killingworth, on his Return from New York, was taken by one of the Frigates, who burnt his Vessel, and after detaining him a few Days, he was dismissed. There was another Person in the Vessel, whom they detained.

“PAPERS OF VANZANDT REMSEN & PINTARD RELATING  
TO THE SLOOP *Nancey*”<sup>1</sup>

New York Sept 4 [1776]

of the State of New York

[Jacobu]s Van Zandt Lewis Pintard & Co agents

[New York Pro]vincial Congress vizt

[The sloop *N*]ancey, John Harrison Mastr which said Sloop w[as] order of the Provincial Congress, from Joseph Hallet & Co to Bourdeaux, and to return the said Sloop—in any po[rt] [or harbor], between Cape Henlopen and Roade Island, This [sloop procee]ded to Bourdeaux, and their compleated her loading, with [powder] &c for the use of the State, But on her return to [America] The Captain for prundential Motives—proceeded [with] Sloop and Cargo to St Eustatious—ware on his arivel [he had i]ntelligence, that our Coast was Crowded with Men [of war] [and P]riveteers, for which reason, and for the Safety of the Cargo [decided] to Reship, the said Sloop *Nancy* Cargo, in Two Armed [vessels] to the Continent, ware th[e]y safely Arived—and [placed the] powder &c—in the hands of the Provincial Congress, [and left the] Sloop in the hands of

Messrs Thomas & Ashburne [at St Eus]tations, which Vessell Thomas & Ashburne has dispoused [of by] Orders — and remited to Grant & Fine the proceeds, [which they] received — as pr Acct at foot —

1. NYSL.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN<sup>1</sup>

(No 5)  
My Lord

Ship *Dunmore* off New York  
September 4th 1776. —

Since my Arrival here I have received your Lordships Letter of the 21st of May and am sorry to find that the *Duke of Cumberland* Packet Boat, with the dispatches were lost, tho' I am afraid your Lordship would have found but little information that would have been agreeable to you, one reason why I am sorry they did not get safe is, that mine contained originals of Intercepted Letters that would have gone far to have Warranted the securing the bearers of them, those were chiefly French, which it was not in my power from the shortness of the time from their being intercepted and the Sailing of the Packet to have Copied; of the others I have already sent you Duplicates, and now Triplicates.

It becomes Necessary now that I should give your Lordship my reasons for being here, they are few, but I hope your Lordship will think them conclusive; first the impracticability of Watring, our Numbers being reduced to one hundred and eight Men capable of doing duty, and those decreasing every day. The last time we were on Shore (as your Lordship will have seen by No 4) we were opposed by above three times our Number, and that we were sure to meet with wherever we went. Secondly our sickly State, yet I cannot say our Sick List increased much in Numbers, as there were as many died, almost as there were added to it, in short, there was not a Ship in the fleet that did not throw one, two, three or more dead over board every Night, the *Roebuck* I will venture to say is as well regulated, and as clean a Ship as any in the Navy, had Seventy five on her Sick list, and so in proportion had every other Ship; Capt'n Hamond and myself, finding it absolutely requisite to go to Sea immediately, as the only chance of recovering the sick, and saving those that were well; And being at Sea, and knowing this to be the place of rendezvous, for both Fleet and Army, We both thought it best to run in here; Where we would have an opportunity of giving the General and Admiral every information that came within our knowledge, relative to the State of the Southern Colonies, and our own Situation, and at the same time to procure some Aid; tho' both General and Admiral approve very much of our conduct, yet they seem very unwilling to part with any of their force at present, indeed it is hardly to be wished, till the fate of New York is determined, when I hope, if they are able to spare us any assistance they will; Sure I am returning to Virginia without, can Answer no good end to His Majesty's Service, but on the contrary would be giving fresh vigour, and Spirits to the Rebels, who would have it in their power to drive us from every spot whence we might endeavour to Land for Water, and if we run up

any of the Rivers for Water they are thence so Narrow, that the Rebels may Annoy a Ship from either side with Cannon with impunity.

I have offered my services here in the mean time to General Howe, and shall be happy if I can be of use.

I have now only to Congratulate your Lordship on the Success of His Majesty's Arms on the 26th Ultimo: I was with the Highlanders and Hessians the whole day, and it is with the utmost pleasure I can assure your Lordship that the Ardour of both these Corps on that day must have exceeded His Majesty's most sanguine wish, and I am well convinced from every thing I have heard, that the fervour of the rest of the Army was in no ways inferior to those I have just now mentioned, but of which I was not an Eye Witness. I am My Lord [&c.]

Dunmore

[Endorsed] R 10th Octobr

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

#### DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE<sup>1</sup>

[Long Island] 4th Sept 1776 The Rebels fired a good deal at the *Rose*, yesterday and this day, but as she lies under Blackwell's Island, in such a manner that her Hull is not seen by their batteries, they can do her no great damage with Cannon Shot. This day they threw several Shells over the Island at her, but without effect. She lies however in a dangerous situation.

Most of the Ships of War and Transports came up yesterday from Gravesend Bay and Staten Island, and anchored between Red-hook and Governor's Island.

The *Niger* and *Brune* Frigates and the *Halifax* armed Brig, are in the Sound, between Flushing and Whitestone.

1. *Diary of Frederick Mackenzie* (Cambridge, 1930), I, 37. Hereafter cited as *Mackenzie's Diary*.

#### DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JABEZ FITCH<sup>1</sup>

[On board the Prison Ship *Lord Rochford*]

Wednesd: the 4th: [September] I arose very Early in the Morning, & walk'd the Deck for some Time, while the Ship was somewhat Still; Some Time in the Morning the Commasary (Mr: [Joshua] Loring) came on Board again, but made but a very short Stay; At about 9 oClock Col: [James] Piper Capt: [Joseph] Howel Lt: [Thomas] Fanning & my self, went with Capt: Lambert on board the *Snow Menter*, where our other Officers are Confin'd, here I staid some Time & found most of the Officers of our Regt: . . . While I was on Board the *Snow*, the People gave me some Apples which were very agreeable, alth'o pretty hard; Col: [Samuel] Miles & Col: [Joel] Clark came back with us to the *Lord Rochford*, where he Treated us with two Bottles of Porter, the first Drink of any thing better than Water since we had been Prisoners, which is now 8 Days; Just before we came back, Mr: Dowdswell (the Offr: of the Marines) had Recd:

Orders to Enlist such Prisoners as were Dispos'd to Engage in their Service; I was soon after Inform'd that he had Considerable Suckcess; . . . About this Time our Prisoners on shore, were Bro't on Board of another Ship Laying in the Bay; The Night following, we again Lodg'd on the Quarter Deck, where I Rested Considerably Comfortably.

1. Sabine, ed., *Fitch's Diary*, 39.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN<sup>1</sup>

Sept'r 1776

Sandy Hook N67.15W 110 Leagues

Wednesday 4th at 4 AM Wore Ship

Modt & Cloudy Wr Saw a Sail to the NW gave Chace  
at 1½ pt. 5 P M Fired [a] Shot and brot too the Ship *Hope*  
from St Vincents bound to London that had been taken by  
the *Spy* privateer of New London<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/ 380.

2. The Connecticut state schooner *Spy*, Captain Robert Niles.

LIEUTENANT THOMAS QUIGLEY TO THOMAS RANDALL<sup>1</sup>

On Board the [*General*] *Putnam*, Cranbery Inlet the 4th of Sept 1776

Sir: I am sorry to inform you that there is a great disturbance in the Vessel which made its appearance During my absence, and Capt [Thomas] Cregier went away without informing me of it. They I understand had told him they were determined not to sail under his Command, and requested that they might be permitted to Petition the Congress for a Discharge from the Vessel, on acct of his bad conduct which he did not grant. On my requesting to way the anchor in order to go out, they one and all acquainted me it was their Determined Resolution never to act in the Schooner while he had the Command of her, upon which I have thought fit to grant them the liberty to Petition and send it by the bearer of this Letter, as I imagine that the Capt will not inform you of these Disturbances, have thought to acquaint you in this manner and as he is not Expected back under Eight or ten Days should be glad you would write me as soon as possible and let me know in what manner you think it most prudent for me to act. Your Compliance will much oblige your Humble Servt

Thomas Quigley,

Thomas Randall, Esq. one of the Marine Committee, Elezth Town

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts relating to the War of the Revolution in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, N.Y.* (Albany, 1868), I, 471-72. Hereafter cited as *New York Historical Manuscripts*.

CREW OF THE SCHOONER *General Putnam* TO THE NEW YORK CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

[Cranberry Inlet, September 4, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

To the Honble the Congress of New York assembled at the White Plains in the State of New York

The humble petition of us the Subscribers sheweth that we have been four Months in the service of the American States on board the Schooner *Genl Putnam*, during which time we have not been to sea but 11 Days all the rest of the Time we have spent inactively at the Head of Inlets, five or six Miles from the Mouths thereof from whence at any Emergency we could not put out without great Difficulty, and often not at all. That we have sundry Times Laid a week sometimes longer in an Inlet, and in one we have laid at Anchor four or five Miles from the mouth a full Month without ever attempting to go out or scarcely offering to send any Person to look out. that numbers of vessels have pass'd and repass'd without our endeavouring to speak them, notwithstanding it was the opinion of the officers we had several opportunities verry favourable. that with our Commander Thomas Cregier on board we have not been out of this Inlet in seven weeks.

That our sd Commander hath several Times insulted the officers when they have candidly advised him and gave them to understand that their business was only to answer a question when ask'd, and not attempt giving advice. that in correcting People for slight or no offences, he hath used unlawfull weapons, once presenting a Pistol to the breast of one Burns, for only requesting to know what his stated allowance was, and swearing by God he would blow a Ball through him, at another time with a large hickory club striking one Bell on the head and much wounding him for what in our opinion scarcely appear'd a crime. that in no one thing has he complied with the resolves of the Congress, His whole conduct being one series of Folly, Vice and Inconsistencies, setting the most scandalous Examples to the People, swearing, Lying and frequenting the company of the most contemptible of women, Presenting the Private Property of others to them, also at sundry Times giving the Ships and Cabben stores away. we are sorry to have occasion to Lay those charges against our Commander, but black as they are they can be Proved, by the Journals of the officers, and the Evidence of the most respectable persons in these Parts.

That by this Means he hath rendered himself Despicable to every man on board, has greatly dissatisfied every friend of the cause, and become the derision of its foes.

That we cannot with honor serve any longer under the Comand of the said Thomas Cregier. that in our sincere oppinion (with him as our Commander) we have not done the least service to our Country, and the season of the year being so far advanced, we humbly conceive the vessel unfit to be continued in the service, she being weakened and consequently would endanger our Lives in a gale of wind, besides she leaks so that not a man in the Hold can Lay dry in the Cabbins, and at the same time that we solemnly declare our ardent desire to Exert our utmost abilities in Defence of our Distress'd Country, in any station where there is a probability of doing it; and profess ourselves fully satisfied with the conduct of our Lieutenant, Mr. [Thomas] Quigley, and the officers in general, and though we confess it would be most agreeable to have a Discharge from this vessel, yet if your Honourable House think proper to continue us therein (as long as the sea-

son will admit) under the command of Mr. Quigley or any other Person you shall appoint, except the said Thomas Cregier, we shall cheerfully comply — for we beg leave to assure you that we glory in yealding obedience to your commands — but humbly request for the Honor & Interest of our Country and ourselves that the said Thomas Cregier may be Cashiered, and your Petitioners as in duty bound shall every pray

John James Boyd, Surgeon  
George Shell, Gunner  
John Thomas, Carpenter  
John Trail, Boatswain  
John Prichet  
William Willosey  
William Bell  
William Radley, Cook  
Thomas Still  
Timothy Byrns  
John Hardy

Henry Bassett  
Thomas Shourds  
Isaac Pritchett  
Samuel Turner  
Ezekeil Heazen  
Morgan Lahy  
John thayer  
Nathanell Larance  
Mack Donol  
Josiah Davis, Steward  
Benjamin Woodruff

1. *New York Historical Manuscripts*, I, 436–37.

2. Date and place established by Thomas Quigley's letter of September 4, 1776.

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

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, September 4, 1776

*Resolved*, That the proposal made by General Howe, as delivered by General Sullivan, of exchanging General Sullivan and Lord Sterling for General Prescott [Richard Prescott] and General M'Donald [Donald McDonald], be complied with.

Mr. J. Mease having, in consequence of the resolution of the 30th August, made a report, that he cannot find there is any cloth in this city, fit for making tents, except a parcel of light sail cloth, which is in the hands of the Marine Committee: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Marine Committee be directed to deliver to Mr. J. Mease all the light sail cloth in their hands: And that Mr. Mease be directed to have the same made into tents, as soon as possible, and forwarded to General Washington:

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 734, 735.

#### JOHN ADAMS TO DR. SAMUEL COOPER<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia Sept. 4. 1776

our Generals, I fear have made a Mistake in Retreating from long Island. I fear they will retreat from the City of New York next. — These are disagreeable Events. — I dont like these Measures. — I wish there was more firmness — But let not these Things discourage, — if [illegible] get Possession of New York, long Island, and Staten Island — these are more Territory than their whole Army can defend. — this Year. — They must keep

their Force together. The instant they divide it they are ruined. — They cannot march into the Country, for before they get Ten Miles into the Country they are surrounded or their Retreat cutt off. — They cannot go up the North River to any purpose — because, a few Months, will make Ice in it in which their Vessells cannot live. — They must keep the most of their Ships in the Harbour of New York to defend their Army. — I sometimes think, that Providence, against our own opinions and Inclinations has provided better for Us in this Instance than our own Wisdom would have done— that the Enemies Fleet and Army were kept from long Island, they must and would have made an Effort elsewhere for Winter Quarters at Staten Island they could not have wintered. — they must therefore have wintered at Boston, Rhode Island, or have gone to the Southward to Virginia, one of the Carolinas or Georgia, and either of these Cases would, perhaps have been worse, for Us. — The Panick, which is Spread upon the occasion is weak and unmanly — it excites my Shame, and Indignation. But it is moving off. — If our whole Army had been cutt to Pieces it would have been shamefull to have been so intimidated, as some are or pretend to be. — Congress I hope will stand firm. —

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

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

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] Wednesday Sept. 4. 1776

. . . I am obliged to General [Benjamin] Lincoln for his Information, concerning the Fortifications, which I hope will be effectually attended to, as I am not clear, that Boston is yet Secure from Invasion.

I hope, the Disasters at Long Island, and New York will not dispirit our People. The Ways of Providence are inscrutable. I have strong suspicions that these Disasters have saved Boston from another Invasion, which I think would have been attempted by the two gratefull Brothers, with their whole Fleet and Army, if they had not obtained Long Island.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 117–18.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE  
*Randolph*<sup>1</sup>

Thirty Shillings Reward.

Deserted from Capt. Samuel Shaw's Company of Marines, belonging to one of the Continental Frigates, Angus Cammeron, born in Ireland, about 5 feet, 8 or 9 inches high, dark complexion, with short black hair, curled behind, a little pock marked, about 30 years of age; it is said he listed in Capt. Craig's company of Lancaster militia. Whoever apprehends said deserter, and secures him in the city, shall have the above reward, and all reasonable charges, paid by

Franklin Reid, 1st Lieut.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 4, 1776.

*Pennsylvania Journal*, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1776

Philadelphia [September 4].

Since our last arrived here between 30 and 40 inhabitants of this State, who have been taken at different times by the English Pirates on our coast; They were brought from the fleet at New-York on board the *Orpheus*, and landed at Lewis-Town on Cape-Henlopen,

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

*Providence*, at Sea in No Latd 37°40' &

Wt Longitude 54° Sept. 4th 1776

Gentleman

I had the honour of writing to you the 27 Augt pr the Brigantine *Brittania* which I sent in under the Care of Lt Wm Grinnell Since that I have been to the Southward near the parallel of Bermuda & bro't too four Sail of French Spanish & Danish Ships homeward Bound but without gaining any usefull Information. — on the first Currt. I fell in with a Fleet of five Sail — one of them being very large it was the Genl opinion on board here that she was either an Old Indiaman outward bound with Stores or a Jamaica three Decker bound homeward we found her to be an English Frigate mountg twenty Six Guns upon one Deck She Sailed fast & pursued us by the Wind till after four hours Chace the Sea running very Cross She got within Musquet Shot of[f] our Lee Quarter — as they had continued firing at us from the first without Shewing Colours I now Ordered ours to be hoisted & began to fire at them Upon this they also hoisted American Colours and fired Guns to Leeward — but the bait would not take for having every thing prepared I bore away before the Wind & set all our Light Sail at Once so that before her Sails could be trimmed & Steering Sails set I was almost out of reach of Grape & soon after out of reach of Cannon Shot. — Our "Hairs breadth Scape" & the Saucy manner of making it must have mortified him not a little had he forseen this motion & been prepared to Counteract it he might have fired Several Broad Sides of Double Headed & Grape Shot which would have done us very material Damage but he was a bad marksman & tho' within Pistol Shot did not touch the *Providence* with one of the many Shot which he fir'd.

I met with no other Adventure till last night when I took the Bermuda built Brigantine *Sea-Nymph* bound from Barbadoes for London with a Cargoe of two hundred & twenty seven Hogshead's & Eight barrels of Rum, Five Hogsheads two Tierces & ten barrels of Sugar Six bags Ginger fourteen Casks of oil & Twelve Pipes best particular London Market Madeira Wine—

The Brig is new & Sails very fast so that she is a pretty good prize. — By the Master of the Brig & a Passenger I hear that the *A Doria* was off Bermuda a few days Since also that Capt Weeks [Wickes] had an Action with an English Sloop of War off Martinico & that our Side was victorious & drove the Englishman into Martinico —



I am now convinced that I am too late in the Season I will however try my utmost 'tis not impossible that I may yet fall in with another prize I did not expect to have found a Frigate Convoying two Ships a Brig & a Sloop if the Store Ships come out all under Convoy my hopes of Success from that Quarter must fall Short. – I have the honor to be with much Esteem & Respect Gentlemen [&c.]

Jno P Jones

N B the Brig *Sea Nymphs* Crew are as follows Vizt

1 Francis Trimmingham	Master
2 William Lovil	Mate
3 Wm Johnson	Sailor
4 John Hardy	do
5 Jamie	} Negro — Sailors
6 Anthony	
7 Peter	
8 Will	
9 Davie	
& Mr Saml Scott Mercht. of London Passenger	

1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock, and Miscellaneous Papers), 58, 81–82, NA.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO ROBERT MORRIS<sup>1</sup>

Honoured Sir

Providence at Sea 4th Sepr 1776.

I herewith inclose for your inspection all the letters and Papers which I found in the Brigantine *Sea Nymph* – for the Particulars of my Cruise hitherto I must beg leave to refer You to the within Open letter to the Marine Board which please to lay before them – I purpose to Stand to the Southward in hopes of falling in with some Ships which I understand are now on their Passage from Barbados – but at this late Season my Success is very Uncertain – I will, however, Ply about in this Meridian as long as I think I have any chance and if I fail at last I can run to the Northward and try for better Success among the Fishermen which may Answer no bad Purpose by increasing the Number of our Seamen. – however my cruise may terminate I forget not the Singular Obligation I owe to Mr Morris who Promoted it for my honour and Advantage & I esteem the Honour done me by his accepting my Correspondence as the greatest favour I could have Aspired to – I conclude that Mr [Joseph] Hewes hath Acquainted you with a very great Misfortune which befel me Some Years ago and which brought me into No America – I am under no concern however that this or any Past Circumstance of my life will Sink me in your Opinion Since human Wisdom cannot Secure us from Accidents it is the greatest effort of Reason to bear them Well. – I will from time to time carefully communicate to you every intelligence in my Power – and “As the regulations of the Navy,” he says, “are of the Utmost Consequence You will not think it Presumption if with the Utmost diffidence I Venture to communicate to you Such hints as in my Judgement will Promote it's Honour and Good gov-

ernment. — I could heartily wish that every Commiss[ioned] Officer were to be Previously examined, — for, to my certain knowledge, there are Persons who have Already except into Commission without Abilities or fit Qualification: I am myself far from deserving to be excused. — from my experience in Ours as well as from my former intimacy with many Officers of Note in the British Navy, I am convinced that the Parity of Rank between Sea & land or Marine Officers, is of more consequence to the harmony of the Service, than hath generally been imagined. — in the British Establishment — an Admiral ranks with a Genl a Vice Admiral with a Lieut Genl a Rear Admiral with a Major Genl a Commodore with a Brigadier Genl — a Captain with a Colonel, a master & Commander with a Lieut Col[o]nel — a Lieut. Commanding with a Major, and a Lieutenant in the Navy Ranks with a Captain of Horse, Foot or Marines. — I propose not our Enemies as an Example for our Genl imitation — Yet as their Navy is the best regulated of any in the World, we must in Some degree imitate them and Aim at such further improvement as may one day make ours Vie with and Exceed theirs. — Were this Regulation to take Place in our Navy it would Prevent numberless disputes and deuelings with otherwise will be Unavoidable.” — besides Sir, you know very well that Marine Officers being Utterly Unacquainted with Maritime Affairs — are in those Cases unfit Persons to Pre- side at or Compose half the number of a Court Martial. — I beg Pardon for the liberty — I thought that Such hints might escape Your Memory in the Multiplicity of Business. — I have Always Understood that the Sentince of a Court Martial when Confirmed by a Commander in Chief was definitive and Admitted of no Appeal — to Prove this I must again recur to English authority in the Case of Lord Geo. G. Sackville who for disobeying the Orders of Prince Ferdinand at the Battle of Mindan was by a Court Martial held at the Horse Guards Rendered incapable of Serving Afterwards in any Military Capacity — Altho’ his great Abilities were then well known and are Generally acknowledged at this day — I am led into this Subject by hearing with Astonishment the Application and Complaint of the late Captn [John] Hazard to the Marine Board after he had been found “Unworthy of Bearing his Commission in the Navy” by the Undivided Voice of a Court Martial where I had the honour to Sit as a Member.

If he was then Unworthy of bearing his Commission I cannot see what new Merit he can have acquired — and even if he had merit it would not be Sound Policy to reverse the Sentence — it would make Officers Stand less in Awe and attend less Punctually to their duty — and it is not Impossible that it might Induce future Court Martials in some Cases to inflict Personal Punishment from whence there is no Appeal.

There was a Mistake made in the date of my Commission which Unless you Stand my Friend will make a material difference when the Navy Rank is Settled — I took Command here the Tenth day of May as appears the Order and Appointment of the Commr in Chief on the Back of my Commission as Eldest Lieutenant of the Fleet. and my Commission as Captain is not dated ‘till the Eight day of August — which you know is not

fair as it would Subject me to be Superseded by Captain Robeson [Isaiah Robinson] who was at first my Junior Officer by Six — Perhaps it might Subject me to be Superseded by Others. — If I have deserved so ill as to be Superseded I am Unworthy of bearing my Commission. — I esteem it a greater disgrace and Severer Punishment than to be fairly broke and dismiss'd the Service. — I have ordered Mr [William] Hopkins the Prize Master to deliver You a Turtle which Please to Accept — I have the Honour to be with Grateful Esteem and much respect [&c.]

JPJ.<sup>2</sup>

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6489-6490, LC.

2. Captain Jones had a busy pen on September 4. He also wrote a letter to Esek Hopkins (filled with flattery for the Commodore) similar in content to those written to the Marine Committee and Robert Morris. Naval History Society Collection, NYHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Active*, CAPTAIN ANTHONY HUNT<sup>1</sup>

Septemr 1776

Charles Town Lighthouse Wt 7 Leagues

Wednesday 4th

at 11 took the *Rutledge* Schooner, laden with Rice and Indigo. Dispatched the prise to Cape Fear.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/5.

MINUTES OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF WEST FLORIDA<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

At a Council, held at His Excellency the Governor's House in Pensacola the 4th September 1776.

His Excellency Acquainted the Board that he had called them together in Consequence of different Intelligences Communicated to him by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs respecting the designs of the Rebels to attack this Colony and at this Critical Situation of Affairs he wished to have all the assistance and advice of His Majestys Servants. . . .

It also appearing to the Board that there is reason to apprehend the Rebels have designs against Mobile — They therefore recommend that the Engineer form an Estimate of the Expence Necessary to be incurred by temporary repairs to secure that Post in case of any Attack upon it and Report the same as soon as he can to this Board.

His Excellency also laid before the Board a Letter which [he] had received from Lieut Charles Cobb commanding His Majesty's Armed Sloop [*West*] *Florida* in this Harbour. . . .<sup>2</sup>

Upon which it was recommended by the Board that His Excellency do request Lieut Cobb at this Critical Juncture of Affairs to give Orders that the *West Florida* armed Sloop (sent down with an intent to be of Service to the Province) may remain here untill the Arrival of Capt Davey in the *Diligence* — who is hourly expected or some other of His Majestys Ships —

And they farther recommend that His Excellency also apply to Lieut Cobb to give the proper Orders that the *West Florida* afford what assistance she can to the works to be carried on for the Security and defence of



this place and more particularly in bringing up a quantity of timber now laying at the Red Cliffs Rose Island and Tartar point which will be wanted for that purpose

The Board also think it their indispensible duty to mention that as His Excellency is acquainted by a Letter from Lord George Germain — that His Majesty has thought fit to give orders to Sir Basil Keith and Admiral Gayton for the protection and Security of this Province in any Event which may happen in the present State of Rebellion in North America —

They therefore think it highly proper to recommend that His Excellency the Governor do desire Lieut Cobb to hold himself in readiness immediately to proceed to Jamaica in the Armed Sloop [*West*] *Florida* with dispatches from His Excellency to Sir Basil Keith and rear Admiral Gayton representing the alarming Situation we are at present in — and require that all the assistance which they can afford us may be immediately sent down for the Relief and protection of this Province — And then the Board were adjourned till tomorrow morning —

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/634, Part II, 371-72, 377-78; 378-79, LC Photocopy.

2. See Lieutenant Cobb's letter to Governor Peter Chester, September 2, 1776.

5 Sept.

# JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES<sup>1</sup>

[Exeter] Sept 5th 1776,

Whereas the American Congress have lately extended their Former Resolutions relating to ships & other vessells, their Tackle, apparel and Furniture and all goods, Wares & merchandise belonging to any Inhabitant or Inhabitants of Great Britain taken upon the High Seas or between high & low water mark; To all ships and other Vessells, their Tackle, apparel and Furniture, and all goods Wares & Merchandise belonging to any subject or subjects of the King of Great Britain, Except the Inhabitants of the Bermudas and [New] Providence or the Bahama Islands: In order to carry into effect the Resolutions of said Congress touching the above matters according to the Design and Intent thereof;

Be it Resolved, and it is hereby Resolved by the Council and house of Representatives for said Colony, That the Judge of the Court Maritime for this Colony for the time being, is hereby fully & amply Impowered to hear Try, adjudge & Determine the Justice of any Capture or Captures of any ships or other vessell, their Tackle, Apparell & Furniture, and of all goods, Wares & Merchandize belonging to any subject or subjects of the said King, Except as before excepted, that have been or shall be taken and brought into any Port or place within this Colony; And if upon Trial of such Capture or Captures it shall be found that the ships or other vessells and goods, Wares & Merchandise so taken & brought in, belong to any of the subjects aforesaid, Except as before excepted, Then the said Judge shall and may

Proceed to condemn & Distribute the Same, as the Law of said Colony & Resolutions of said Congress shall direct. Sent up by the Clerk. [Concurred.]

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 346.

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

Sept 1776

Do [Cape Ann] NW 7 Leagues.

Wednesday 4 at 5 AM saw a Ship & Schooner to the So ward, made Sail and gave Chace, the Chace standing towards us Barricaded & Clear'd Ship for Action at 8 spoke the Chace proved to be His Majs Ship *Liverpool* & her Prize Brot too Maintopsl to the Mast and Hoisted out the Cutter at 11 saw a Sail in the N E Quartr made Sail and gave Chace, parted Company with the *Liverpool*.

Fresh Breezes and Squally at 1 PM Still in Chace at 7 lost Sight of the [Chace] Shorten'd sail and in 2d Reefs T. Sails, Tack'd Occasionally, Brot too Maintopsl to the Mast at 11 saw a Sail under our Lee Bow, Bore down and took her she proved to be an American Sloop loaded with Wood for Boston,

Thursday 5 at 6 AM saw our Chace at an Anchor in Salem lost Sight of the *Liverpool* and Prizes, in Company the Brig, Scuttled the Sloop & sunk her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

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

[Watertown] Thursday Sept 5th 1776

Return of Amos Windship to be Surgeon on Board the Brig *Massachusetts* whereof Daniel Souther is Commander, Read and Ordered that the said Windship be Commissionated Agreeable to his Rank. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 215.

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

[Extract]

Sir —

Boston 5th Sept 1776

. . . You may Rely on your directions to Capt [Stephen] Cleveland being most punctually Complied with in every respect<sup>2</sup> . . .

I beg leave to hint that I last week wrote your worthy president relative to a matter wch as it concerns his private interest its probable he may be backward in mentiong to the Comee vizt the Agent for New hampshire stops all Continental prizes that occasionally goes into their harbour mouth for a nights Anchorage, and Orders them up to town there to be sold, their

harbour is so Situated that as the Autumn Approaches, its not probable we may have another prize here the whole season and its a notorious fact, that vessells nor Cargoss, will sell for more than half they would sell for here —

1. Papers of Robert Morris, Accession 1805, LC.
2. See Volume 5, 1286-88.

*New-England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1776

Boston, Thursday, September 5.

Our last Accounts from Halifax say — They left there 40 Sail of Vessels, Prizes, &c. —

Sails for London, from Halifax, in the *Princess Royal* Jamaicaman, Robert Hollowell, Nat Mills, Printer, Margaret Draper and Family; George Deblois, Sam Rogers, Sam Hughes, John Atkinson, the Miss Cummings's; and Justice Cutler of New-Hampshire.

Captain [Daniel] Waters, in the *Lee* Vessel of War, has retaken a Sloop bound for Halifax, which was lately taken off this Harbour, by the *Milford* Frigate, and sent her safely into Port.<sup>1</sup>

Taken up by the Company stationed at Plimouth for the Defence of the Sea Coast, the Hull of the Sloop called the *Smilling Molley*, with her Name wrote on her Stern, with white Paint, is almost 90 Tons burthen, appears to be about two Years old, was scuttled and drifting along Shore when found, the 24th of August current, about 5 Miles to the Northward of the Light House on the Gurnet, is painted with green Hants, and green Stern, had her Mast carried away by the Deck, and quite empty, not a Chest or Paper on board, is now at the Wharf in Plimouth. Any Person claiming Property, are desired to apply to Captains William Weston and Jesse Harlow, at Plimouth, being the Commanders of the Company above-named.  
Plimouth, Aug. 31.

1. The sloop *Betsey* with cordwood.

"A ROLL OF ALL THE OFFICERS AND MEN BELONGING TO THE SHIP *Alfred*  
FROM THE TIME OF HER BEING PUT INTO COMMISSION UNTILL  
THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER 1776."<sup>1</sup>

Time of Entry	Place shipped at	Station in which they have entered	Dead. Run. discharged turned over. &c.	Time when	Num- ber	Mens' Names
1775	Rhode Island	Comr in Chief			1	Esek Hopkins Esqr.
Dec. 7th	Connecticut	Captain			2	Dudley Saltonstall
Dec. 7th	Philada.	1st Lieut	Promoted	May 10th 1776	3	John Paul Jones
November 20	Rho. Island	Lieutenant	Run	May 1st 1776	4	Benjamin Seabury
" 20	ditto	Lieutent			5	Jonathan Pitcher
December 18	Connecticut	ditto			6	Jonathan Maltbie
" 7	Philada	Master	Turned over to the <i>Columbus</i>	Augt 7 - 1776	7	John Earle
" 11	ditto	1st Mate	Run	May 27 - 1776	8	George May
Novemr 29 1776	ditto	2nd Mate	dischd	Augt 26	9	Thomas Vaughan
January 3d 1775	ditto	3rd Mate	Turned over to <i>Columb.</i>	August 7	10	Philip Alexander
December 31	Rho. Island	Midshipman	Promoted to Master	August 20	11	Walter Spooner
November 20	ditto	ditto			12	Esek Hopkins jr.
" 20	ditto	ditto	Run	July 12, 1776	13	Rufus Jenckes
[1776]						
Jany. 2	Philadelphia	ditto	Turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug 7, 1776	14	George House
1775 Dec. 25	Philada	Midshipman	Promoted to 2nd Lieut.	Aug 20 76	15	Robert Sanders
" Dec. 21	Connecticut	ditto	Promoted to Master	ditto	16	Charles Bulkley
" Novr 18	Philadelphia	Surgeon			17	Joseph Harrison
" Novr 24	Rhode Island	1st Mate	Turned over to <i>Providence</i>	May 13 - 1776	18	Henry Tillinghast



1776							
Jan. 1st	Philadelphia	2nd Mate	Turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 30	19	John Scott	
1775							
Dec. 1st	ditto	Com Secretary			20	Samuel Lyon	
Dec 21st	Connecticut	Capt. Clerk	Turned over to <i>Trumbull</i>	Sept. 8 - 1776	21	Alexander P. Adams	
" 21	ditto	Sail Maker	Discharged	Augt 14	22	George Colfax	
" 28	ditto	Carpenter			23	Samuel Tyler	
" 21	Philadelphia	Gunner	Turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug 7 1776	24	James Thomas	
" 12	Boat [sic]	Boatswain	" " " <i>A. Doria</i>	Aug. 8	25	Francis Worrall	
" 21	ditto	1st Mate	Run	May 20 - 1776	26	Francis Roderick	
" 21	ditto	2nd Mate	Turned over <i>Aw Doria</i>	May 13	27	Lawrence Meadows	
" 25	ditto	Yeoman	Killed	April 6 - 1776	28	John Geddins	
Novr 25	ditto	Lieutenant	Turned over to <i>Fly</i>	Feby 1776	29	John Fanning	
Decr 11	ditto	Quart Gunner			30	Edwd Billangee	
Decr 14	ditto	Ships Steward	Run	May 27 - 1776	31	William Davin- port	
" 14	ditto	Gunners Mate			32	Elias Carr	
Novemr 10	ditto	ditto	Turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	May 13 - 1776	33	Daniel Harper	
Decembr 14	ditto	Gunnr Yeomn	" " " <i>Columbus</i>	May 30	34	Isaac Fox	
14	ditto	do	" " " "	August 1st	35	James Mein	
14	ditto	Qr G-r			36	James Rankin	
14	ditto	Seaman			37	Jacob Collett	
27	ditto	ditto	Turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 30 1776	38	William Barns	
14	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	39	Edward Bowen	
18	ditto	ditto	Run at Riedy Isld		40	Robert Barry	
18	ditto	Coopers Yeoman			41	William Johns	
16	ditto	Cooper	Turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug. 7 - 1776	42	Thomas Hall	

"A ROLL OF ALL THE OFFICERS AND MEN BELONGING TO THE SHIP *Alfred*  
FROM THE TIME OF HER BEING PUT INTO COMMISSION UNTILL  
THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER 1776. " Continued

Time of Entry	Place shipped at	Station in which they have entered	Dead. Run. discharged turned over &c.	Time when	Num- ber	Mens Names
Decemr 16	Boat	Commo Steward	discharged	May 10 - 1776	43	John Connor
" 16	ditto	Armourer			44	Joseph Wood
1776						
January 3	ditto	do Mate	Run	May 19 - 1776	45	Geo. O'Harra
1775						
December 14	Connecticut	Seaman	discharged	June 14 - 1776	46	Wm Fagan
" 23	do	ditto	ditto	June 16	47	James Holt
" 30	do	ditto			48	Peter Holt
1776	"	O Seaman	Run	April 10 - 1776	49	Samuel Proctor
1775						
December 30	"	Seaman	Run	April 21	50	Samuel Lollard
1776						
January 1	"	A. Seaman	Run	July 17 - 1776	51	Elias Robbins
3	"	"	Left the ship	July 3 - 1776	52	John Cole
" 2	"	"	ditto		53	Robert Babcock
" 2	"	"	ditto		54	James Palmer
" 2	"	"	ditto		55	James Brand
						(Nathan)
" 2	"	"	ditto		56	Daniel Palmer
1776						
January 3	Connecticut	A Seaman	Left the ship	July 3 - 1776	57	Peter Peters
" 2	"	"	Left sick in Connectt		58	Moses Palmer

"	3	"	"	Left the ship	July 3 - 1776	59	Elihu Babcock
"	3	"	"	ditto	ditto	60	Asa Lewis
"	4	"	"	discharged	Aug 2 1776	61	John Chester
"	4	"	"	ditto	ditto	62	Peleg Toker
"	8	"	"	died	April 16 - 1776	63	Edwd Derrick
"	10	"	"	Run	March 13	64	Richd Salter
"	6	"	"	Left sick in Connectt		65	Labius Gavitt
1775							
Decembr	20	"	"	discharged	June 20 - 1776	66	Thomas Cook
"	20	"	"	discharged	June 20	67	Ward Buckley
"	20	"	"	discharged	June 20	68	Daniel Wheeler
"	20	"	"	Turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	May 13 - 1776	69	David McKinney
"	19	"	O Seaman	died	March 21	70	William Bennet
1776							
January	2	"	A Seaman	Left sick in Connectt		71	John Perry
1775							
December	22	"	"	Run	April 30	72	Rodwell Hewes
1776							
January	3	"	"	Run	March 15	73	Robert P. Webber
1775							
December	18	"	"	Left sick in Connectt		74	Oliver Bradley
December	28	"	Oy Seaman	ditto		75	Titus Dutton
"	25	"	"	Run	Mar. 13 - 1776	76	George Leonard
1776							
January	11	"	A. Seaman			77	William Bidwell
Feb'y.	11	New Jersey	Oy Seaman	died	June 9 - 1776	78	Dixon Ewing
1775							
December	22	Philadelphia	Ships Cook	discharged	May 31	79	James Lynch
"	22	"	Carpenter	Run	June 4 - 1776	80	William Beatty

"A ROLL OF ALL THE OFFICERS AND MEN BELONGING TO THE SHIP *Alfred*  
FROM THE TIME OF HER BEING PUT INTO COMMISSION UNTILL  
THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER 1776. " Continued

Time of Entry	Place shipped at	Station in which they have entered	Dead. Run. discharged turned over &c.	Time when	Num- ber	Men's Names
1776						
Jany. 12	"	Stewd Mate	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 30	81	Joshua Mitchell
1775						
December 28	"	Carps Yeoman	ditto	ditto	82	James Lynn
Novembr 18	"	Trumpeter	Died of his wounds	April 25th	83	Thomas Ward
December 26	"	Carps. Mate	Turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug. 7	84	William Morrow
" 28	"	A Seaman	ditto	May 30th	85	John Moor
1776						
Jany 1	"	"	Run at Reedy Island		86	Patrick Rice
January 2	Philadelphia	A Seaman	Run at Reedy Island		87	Barnabas Mullen
" 2	"	"	ditto		88	Thomas Mulford
" 3	"	Master at Arms			89	Joseph Craig
" 3	"	Taylor			90	John Whiteman
" 3	"	A Seaman	Run at Reedy Island		91	Thomas Wheeler
" 3	"	"			92	James Wilson
" 3	"	"			93	Kennet McCloud
" 6	"	Oy Seaman	killed	April 8. 1776	94	Cornelius Sears
" 6	"	Taylor			95	Barnabas Steenback
1775						
December 26	"	A Seaman			96	Anthony Frank

1775							
December 20	Philadelphia	A Seaman	Run at Reedy Island		97	John Doran	
10	"	Cabbin Cook	Run	May 9th 1776	98	Samuel Williams	
10	"	Caulker			99	Robert Shillingsford	
25	"	Cooks Mate	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Augt 7	100	Patrick Doyle	
14	"	ditto	Made chief Cook	June 1st	101	Jacob Wasbie	
26	"	Cooks Mate	turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	May 13th	102	James Hayes	
1776							
Jany. 18	"	Cooprs Mate	ditto	ditto	103	Robert Cochran	
1775							
December 26	"	Quarter Mast.			104	John Dobbie	
21	"	ditto	turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	May 13th	105	Arthur McDougall	
1776							
January 2	"	ditto			106	Alexr Binnigall	
15	"	ditto	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 30th	107	Thomas Caton	
1775							
December 15	"	Quar Gunner	turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	May 13th	108	Rolan Edwards	
" 26	"	A Seaman			109	Emanuel Lewis	
" 14	"	"	Run	May 20	110	William Howell	
1776							
August 8	From <i>Aw Doria</i>	Boatswain	Run	Sept.	111	Joseph Shields	
1775							
December 27	Rho. Island	A Seaman	Run	April 30	112	Benja Sissell	
" 27	"	"	turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	May 13	113	Thomas Conner	
" 27	"	"	ditto	ditto	114	Richard Wilson	
" 28	"	"	Run	April 30th	115	Thomas Fisher	
" 28	"	"	Run	April 27th	116	John Baptist	

"A ROLL OF ALL THE OFFICERS AND MEN BELONGING TO THE SHIP *Alfred*  
FROM THE TIME OF HER BEING PUT INTO COMMISSION UNTILL  
THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER 1776." Continued

Time of Entry	Place shipped at	Station in which they have entered	Dead. discharged Run. turned over &c.	Time when	Num- ber	Mens' Names
" 29	"	"	Run	ditto	117	Benja Night
" 27	Philadelphia	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug. 7th	118	James How
1776 Jany 3d	Rho. Island	"	Run	Sept.	119	Daniel Munro
1775 Decemr 31st	"	"	turned over to <i>A Doria</i>	May 30th	120	John George
" 14	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 30th	121	Charles McDonald
" 31	"	"	discharged	April 15th	122	Gideon Freeborn
" 11	"	"	Run	March 15th	123	Henry Banks
" 11	Philadelphia	"	died	May 5th	124	Isaac Billangee
" 10	Rho. Island	"	turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	May 13th	125	Ezekiel Wilson
" 29	"	"	ditto	ditto	126	William Burns
" 10	"	"	Run	April 30th	127	William McKinney
" 29	"	"	discharged	April 15th	128	Thomas Scott
" 31	"	"	turned over to <i>A Doria</i>	May 13th	129	Daniel Durfy
" 27	"	"	Run	March 13th	130	Charles Wisevat
Dec. 28	Rho. Island	A Seaman	died	May 20	131	Joseph Sampson
" 27	"	"	discharged	April 15	132	William Perkins
" 27	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Augt 7	133	Thomas Austin
" 28	"	"	discharged	April 15	134	John Cleveland
" 28	"	"	died	March 4	135	Israel Pawhig

"	29	"	"	died	April 9	136	Primus Helle
1775							
December	27	Rho. Island	"	discharged	April 15	137	John Reed
"	31	"	"	"	June 1st	138	Thomas Rogers
"	31	"	"	Run	April 13	139	Richard Springer
"	11	"	"	Run	May	140	Jacob Litchanham
"	27	"	"	Run	May	141	Daniel Collins
"	27	"	"	Run	May 24	142	David Niles
"	14	Philadelphia	Rifle Man	discha	April 15	143	John Winters
"	14	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 30	144	James Ogg
"	14	"	"	Run	April 15	145	James McCracken
"	26	"	A Seaman	Run	April	146	James Robinson
"	28	Rhode Island	"	Run	April	147	Joseph Brown
"	28	"	"	Run	April	148	Daniel Billings
"	28	"	"	Run	April 12	149	John Thomas
1776							
Jany.	6	"	"	Run	April	150	Edward Ingraham
1775							
December	11	Philadelphia	"			151	John Barmore
"	10	"	Ships Barber			152	John Holden
"	13	"	O Seaman	Run	Aug. 1st	153	John Kennedy
"	31	"	"	Run	April 13	154	Robert Hardy
"	31	Rho. Island	Boy	Run	May 28	155	Ezekiel Billings
"	31	R. Island	Boy	died	March 27	156	Joseph Hope
"	21	Philadela	do	dischd	May 10	157	Edward Dorman
1776							
Jany.	2d	"	do	turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	Augt. 8th	158	Samuel Lewis
"	8	"	do	ditto	May 13	159	John McCormack

"A ROLL OF ALL THE OFFICERS AND MEN BELONGING TO THE SHIP *Alfred*  
FROM THE TIME OF HER BEING PUT INTO COMMISSION UNTILL  
THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER 1776. " Continued

Time of entry	Place shipped at	Station in which they have entered	Dead. discharged Run. turned over. &c.	Time when	Num- ber	Mens Names
[1775]						
Decem. 29 1776	R. Island	do	Run	May 28	160	Samuel Rogers
Jany 25 3	Philada	do	turned over to <i>Fly</i>	April	161	John Frame
	"	do	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug. 7	162	Thomas Wailing
	"	do	Run	"	163	James Betty
1775						
Decemr 28	Connecticut	do	discharged	April 17	164	Walter Tyley
" 29	R. Island	O Seaman	dischard	" 15	165	Walter Chace
" 27	"	"	ditto	ditto	166	Joseph Hawkes
1776						
April 12	from Bomb Brig	Seaman	turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	May 13	167	Floris Ellidge
" 12	ditto	"	Run	July	168	John Farrill
" 12	ditto	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug 7	169	Francis Beaujack
"	ditto	"	Run	July	170	Thomas Clark
1775						
Decem. 13 1776	Philadelphia	"	died of his Wounds	April 16	171	John McCarty
April 17	Connecticut	Surg. Mate	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug. 7	172	Abijah Perkins
" 23	"	Boy	turned over to <i>Trumbull</i>	Sept.	173	Brittain a Nagro (Capt Boy)



1775							
Decem. 29	Rhode Island	Seaman	Died	Feby. 18	174	Christ. Phillips	
1776							
April 22	R Island	Seaman	turned over to <i>Provide</i> .	May 13	175	Richard Pendrick	
Jany. 12	Philadelphia	Boy	turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	ditto	176	William Robinson	
April 16	Connectt	ditto	ditto	ditto	177	James Edwards	
						Run Oct. 6	
1775							
Decr 27	R. Island	Seaman	ditto	ditto	178	Francis Gould	
"	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug. 7	179	Jeremiah Brown	
"	"	"	Run	May 17	180	Joseph Francis	
1776							
Jany. 20	Philada	"	Run	May 20	181	Thomas Adams	
			Run at Reedy Island		182	Daniel Collit	
			ditto at ditto		183	Edmund Tillotson	
			sent on shore sick	May	184	Richard Grinnell	
Jany.	Philada	A Seaman	Run	May	185	Benjamin Hamman	
Jany. 2	"	"	Run	May 1st	186	Francis Gabriel	
" 2	Connecticut	"	turned over to <i>Fly</i>	Feby.	187	Robert Robertson	
1775							
Decem. 29	R. Island	"	Run at Reedy Island		188	Thomas Johnson	
" 29	"	"	Run	May	189	John Rogers	
" 27	"	"	Run at Reedy Isld		190	Thomas Burgess	
1776							
Jany. 6	Philada	"	Run at ditto		191	William Harris	
"	"	"	ditto		192	William How	
1775							
Decemr 27	R. Island	"	ditto		193	Joshua Catavowe	

"A ROLL OF ALL THE OFFICERS AND MEN BELONGING TO THE SHIP *Alfred*  
FROM THE TIME OF HER BEING PUT INTO COMMISSION UNTILL  
THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER 1776. " Continued

Time of Entry	Place shipped at	Station in which they have entered	Dead. Run. over, &c	discharged turned	Time when	Num- bers	Men's Names
1776							
Jany. 3	Philada	"	ditto			194	Zephaniah Pool
		"	ditto			195	James Kirkwood
		"	ditto			196	John Mathews
		"	ditto			197	Michl Mc.Lallan
1775							
Dec. 27th	Philada	"	ditto			198	Abner Russell
		"	ditto			199	Thomas Tracey
		"	ditto			200	Thomas Finney
Dec. 29	Philada	"	ditto			201	David Forbish
29	"	"	ditto			202	Joseph Dicks
28	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>			203	John Moore
1775							
Nov. 20	Philada	Captain	Promoted			1	Samuel Nicholas Esq:
" 28	"	1st Lieut.	do			2	Matthew Parke
" 28	"	2nd Lieut	Killed		Apl. 6 – 1776	3	John Fitzpatrick
Dec. 14	"	Serjeant	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>		Aug. 7	4	William Hamilton
" 8	"	do				5	Alexander Nilson
" 14	"	Corporal	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>		Aug 7	6	James Marshall
" 19	"	"	Run		Feby. 8	7	John Creely
" 8	"	Drummer				8	James Edgar

"	13	"	Private	Run	May 19	9	John Bingham
"	17	"	"	Run	Sept 3	10	Richard Evitt
"	13	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	June 9	11	Thomas Lewallen
"	19	"	"	discharged	Nov. 7*	12	Israel Vanluden
Dec.	16	"	"	Run	May 1	13	Samuel Mickery
"	16	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 30	14	Thomas Vanluden
1775							
Dec.	12	Philadelphia	Private	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 30	15	Daniel Lafferty
Dec.	13	"	"			16	Thomas Pendall
"	6	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Augt 7	17	John Nick
"	7	"	"	Run	May 17th	18	Leonard Cooper
"	16	"	"	Died	May 11th	19	John Hannah
"	8	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	June 9th	20	John Curtin
"	11	"	"	ditto	Augt. 7th	21	Robt McAuley
"	12	"	"	Run	May 23d	22	John York
"	21	"	"	discharged	Oct. 22*	23	John Long
"	24	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 30th	24	John McLocklin
"	13	"	"	Run	April 9	25	William Howell
"	13	"	"	died	May 10th	26	John Coombs
"	15	"	"			27	Isaac Cogan
"	14	"	"	Run	Aug 6	28	John Steward
"	14	"	"			29	Jeremiah Connel
"	10	"	"	turned over to <i>Columb</i>	May 30	30	Robert Robinson
"	10	"	"	ditto	ditto	31	John Stolcop
"	8	"	"	ditto	ditto	32	Robert Richey
1776							
Jany.	14	"	"	discharged	April 16th	33	James Kirkland

"A ROLL OF ALL THE OFFICERS AND MEN BELONGING TO THE SHIP *Alfred*  
FROM THE TIME OF HER BEING PUT INTO COMMISSION UNTILL  
THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER 1776. " Continued

Time of Entry	Place shipped at	Station in which they have entered	Dead. discharged Run. turned over. &c.	Time when	Num- ber	Mens' Names
1775						
Dec. 15	"	"	turned over to <i>Columb</i>	Aug 7	34	Thomas Burns
" 19	"	"	Run	May 11	35	Joseph Makood
" 16	"	"			36	Matthew Green
1775						
Dec. 7	"	"	discharged	May 12	37	William Leonhard
" 13	"	"	Run	June 7	38	William Williams
" 15	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug. 7	39	Thomas Donahoe
" 21	"	"	killed	April 6	40	Thomas Owens
" 11	"	"	turned over to <i>Columb</i>	Aug 7	41	Patrick OBrian
" 21	"	"	" " " "	ditto	42	Edward Hagan
" 17	"	"			43	Charles Bryant
" 11	"	"	died	April 15	44	George Shrack
" 15	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug 7	45	Ellis Rowland
" 13	"	"	discharged	April 16	46	Andrew Reily
" 15	"	"	turned over to <i>A. Doria</i>	May 13	47	John Glacken
" 15	"	"	Run	March 13	48	John Fox
" 14	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	Aug. 7	49	John Bill
" 8	"	"	ditto	ditto	50	James Wall
" 19	"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	ditto	51	Patrick McNamara
" 14	"	"			52	Stephen Bell

"	7	"	"	Run	taken at New London May 30. & turned over to <i>Columbus</i>	May 25	53	Isaac Hart
"	8	"	"	Run		June 7th	54	Timothy Lynch
1776		"	"	discharged		Novemr 6th*	55	William Chester
Jan. 5		"	"					
1776		"	"	Killed		April 6	56	John Dougherty
Dec. 16		"	"	Run. (say sick)		Sept. 28*	57	Michael Cooley
" 15		"	"					
1776		"	"	turned over to <i>Columbus</i>		Aug. 7th	58	James Connell
Jany 2d		"	"					
1776		"	"					
Jan 5th	Philada	Private		Run		May 25	59	Philip Fitzpatrick
1775								
Dec 14	"	"					60	Michael Moore
" 18	"	"		Left at Philada			61	Henry Stalcop
" 18	"	"		ditto			62	Edward Harwisky
" 19	"	"		Run		Jany 29:	63	Christ. Cazner
" 19	"	"		Dead			64	Saml Cornelius
" "	"	Corporal		turned to <i>Columbus</i>		7 Augt.	65	John Hamilton

The above is a true copy of the Roll left in the Ship by Captain Saltonstall

James Hogan

\* Entries made after the date of the muster roll.

I. Transcript of Military Papers, Revolutionary War, XL, 657-63, R. I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*,  
CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE<sup>1</sup>

Remarks On Thursday Sept 5. 1776

a 5 A M Came to Sail in Compney With 5 Sail a 11 Come to  
Ancker at Tarplain [Tarpaulin] Cove Two Boats Came on Borde  
With Solders Histed out the Boate and Sent on Shore To Fill  
Sum Warter all Well on Bord<sup>2</sup>

1. *Independence Journal*, RIHS. Journal ends this date.

2. *Independent Chronicle*, September 19, 1776: "Capt Jabez Whipple, in a Privateer of Providence went up the east passage last Thursday, with a fine large prize ship, bound from St. Vincent, with between 4 and 5 hundred hogsheads of sugar, 100 puncheons of rum and 400 casks of indigo; also a brig loaded with sugar and rum, and a sloop loaded with molasses."

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Sir, —

Lebanon, Sept. 5th, 1776.

. . . We have also determined to equip what naval force we have with all possible dispatch. I have certain intelligence that our forces are withdrawn from Long Island and Governor's Island, and that the two Continental companies, stationed on the east end of Long Island, are come over to the main, and that the militia on Long Island are dispersed. We are extremely desirous to co-operate with your State in every proper measure for our mutual defence, as there seems to be a threatening appearance that the enemy will endeavour to land on the eastward of New York, in order to cut off the communication and prevent supplies to our army. You will undoubtedly judge it expedient to send the regiment you have already raised, with such other force as you shall judge proper, to unite with us in this important measure, as also to augment and send your naval force for that important purpose, and to clear the Sound if possible. The matter undoubtedly demands the utmost attention and dispatch, as all seems to lie at stake. Don't doubt of your most vigorous exertions. I have advised General Washington and the Provincial Congress of the Massachusetts, of the measures we have taken. Would recommend it to you to consult Commodore Hopkins upon the expediency of attempting to dislodge the enemy's ships from the Sound, how far it is probable it might be done; also, whether the ships with you cannot be manned out of the forces you may raise, or is it not probable for the present emergency it may be done from the army. You will please to return an early answer to these matters.

1. *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 169, 170.

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

Sir

Lebanon Sepr. 5th 1776

There being necessity of Sending a Number of Troops from New London to the East End of Longisland you are desired to provide necessary Trans-

ports & Immediety provide for the Carrying over Colol [Erastus] Wolcotts Regiment with their Bagage & the Six field peaces at New London and you are directed to forward with them Sufficient quantity of Powder & Ball and as Capt John Dishon is directed to forward Sufficient quantity of Provisions for the Forces would have you Confer with him & so Cooperate that the Provisions may be forwarded as the Troops go on Mr Andrew Huntington of Norwich p[er] order engaged of Capt Jabes Perkins one Suitable vessell for Said Service which must be Improved as a Transport or to Carry stores and there is more to be had at Norwich if wanted & quite Likely a further Number will be soon wanted besides those immed[ia]tely for Colol Wolcotts Regt Resting Satisfied that nothing will be wanting on your part to forward this Important expedition Remain yours to Serve

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 305, ConnSL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO BARNABAS DEANE, WETHERSFIELD<sup>1</sup>

N. London Sept 5th 1776

Sir, The Marine Committee at Philadelphia wrote of the 22d Ulto that the Secrett Committee had given you orders to deliver me what Articles you had imported on Continent Accot Should be glad you would forward them to me soon as you can, as I want to make use of them, and any matters you want for the Ship, if wanted be fore She comes Round you can keep, and any other articles you want let me know of it & will Indeavour to supply you.<sup>2</sup> I am Sir Yrs [&c.]

1. Shaw Collection, Letter Book, YUL.

2. Barnabas Deane was superintendent of the Continental frigate *Trumbull* built at Chatham and launched September 5. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, September 7, 1776.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL  
SLOOP *Schuyler*<sup>1</sup>

1776	The Sloop <i>Schuyler</i>	Charles Pond Capt
Sept 5	To pd Wm Brooks for 90 lb beef @ 3½	£ 2..6..1
	To pd Mrs Cheeny for Nursing	
	Eph Jones	4..0..0
	To 1 Shirt & Sheet	1.14..6
	To pd the Sexton	0..6..0
	To pd Jona Starr for Coffin	0.18. – 6.18..6
	To Doc Wolcotts Bill	3.10..8
	To Doc Thos Coits Bill	3..2. –
		£ 15.17..3
	To My Coms 5 pCt	15..0
		16.13..0

1. Shaw Collection, Book 39, YUL. A partial account, omitting the doctors' bills and Shaw's commission, is in Nathaniel & Thomas Shaw Collection, Ledger 9, YUL.

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

[Extract]

Tyonderoga 5th September 1776.

. . . I am attentive to what you mention with Regard to an Officer being appointed to the Command of the *Royal Savage*, and have, accordingly, fixed my Eye upon Colonel [Edward] Wigglesworth, who has, upon my recommending it to him, most readily undertaken to serve as the Third Officer on Board the Fleet, yourself first, and Genl [David] Waterbury, Second. He will sail tomorrow Morning in the Gondola, now here. The Colonel is a good Seaman, appears to be much of a Gentleman. and has, as far as I can learn, an unimpeached good Character.

Lieutenant [James] Calderwood delivers you this Letter, and carries down with him the Seventy Men you have demanded. I understand Two Hundred Seamen are inlisted at New-York for this Service. They shall be put on Board the Row Gallies, the Moment they arrive. The first Row Galley will be to-day, the other Two, General Waterbury assures me, will be launched this Week. No Time shall be lost in Rigging them, and dispatching them to the Fleet. As soon as you get the Reinforcement I now send you, you will not, perhaps, think it necessary to detain Colonel [Thomas] Hartley's Detachment. He seems exceedingly anxious for them to return, as he hopes to engage his whole Regiment for another Year.

I send you by the Bearer, Lieutenant Calderwood, the Draught of the Lake as you desire. . . .

When General Waterbury and Colonel Wigglesworth join the Fleet, you will be able to dispose it in three Divisions; yourself in the Centre, General Waterbury on the Right, and Colonel Wigglesworth on the left. This Disposition will teach the Captains of the Vessels to know their Commanding Officers, and prevent any Confusion or dispute, about Command, in Case an unlucky Shot, or other Accident should take off the General.

As you have seen, and examined every Part of the Lake in your Way down, I should be glad to know your Opinion, what is the properest, and most defensible Station for the Fleet to take. Gales of Wind will probably be heavy about the Equinox. You are too good a Seaman not to take a secure Place for Anchorage against that Season. I am very much pleased to find the Gondolas are such good Sea Boats.

I fancy you will think it immediately necessary you should send hither your most experienced Pilot, to conduct the Row-Gallies with Safety, to the Fleet. Let him have your positive, and particular Instructions, how You think proper he should proceed. It will be proper you should communicate the Orders you, from Time to Time, receive, to General Waterbury and Colonel Wigglesworth, that they may know how to act upon any Emergency.

(Copy)

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 15, NYPL.



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

Remarks &c off Laurences Point.

Wednesday Sept 4th 1776

12 [M.] Got under way And Anchord off Whitestone  
 10 [A.M.] Empd Wooding and Watering and Setting up the Rigging –  
 12 [M.] Read the Articles of War &c to the Brigg's Comp  
 Mod & fair Weather PM saw a Number of Rebels on Hunts  
 point. Weighd and workd over to wards them and Fierd Sev-  
 eral Shot at them which drove them off at 8 Shifted our Berth  
 between Hewlets Island and West farm point  
 Thursday 5 AM at 8 Landed the Marines on Hewlets Island to Guard the  
 Boats in takeing the Cattle from thence  
 At Noon the Rebels came down of[f] West farm point and  
 Fird several small shot. fird 4 four Pounder wt Round and  
 Grape and drove them off got on Bd Bullock from Hewlets  
 Isld PM the *Brune* Made our Signal for a Petty Officer –  
 Fird several shot at the Rebels on West Farm point

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

BRIGADIER GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS TO MAJOR GENERAL  
 WILLIAM HEATH, KINGSBRIDGE<sup>1</sup>

Sr

As the Machine designd to attempt blowing Up the Enemy's Ships,<sup>2</sup> is  
 to be transported from the East to the North River where a Small Vessell  
 will be wanted to receive it, I wish you to order One for that Purpose, as all  
 Things are now ready to make the Experiment, I wish it may not be de-  
 layed, tho' the Event is uncertain the Experiment under our present Cir-  
 cumstances is certainly worth trying I am Sr [&c.]

[Corlears Hook] 5th Sepr 1776

Sam<sup>l</sup> H. Parsons

1. Heath Papers, MassHS.

2. David Bushnell's submarine, the *Turtle*. In a letter of October 1787, Bushnell described the  
 submarine to Thomas Jefferson. See Appendix B.

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

September 1776 In East River New York.

Thursdy 5th AM Hove up the best Bower. at 9 Moor'd and  
 steady'd the Ship with a Hawser on Shore:  
 Light Airs with Calms  
 PM at 4 the Rebels began to Fire upon us from  
 York Island from 2 Battery's 18 and 24 Pdrs  
 which damag'd us much, Do return'd the Fire.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

AMBROSE SERLE TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

My Lord,

In my last Letter I acquainted Your Lordship with the safe Arrival of the Hessians and Guards, and of the Troops under General Clinton from the South. By all together, on Sea and Land, we have a very respectable Force; and the Object of this Letter is to inform Your Lordship, how it has been employed. But I will take the Liberty to mention a few Circumstances, previous to the important Events, which are the main Points of Attention, and to which all the rest must be ultimately drawn.

The Hessian General and other Commanders have been treated with the greatest Deference, which (as might be expected with Germans) has made a pleasing Impression upon their Temper and Conduct, and inclined them as heartily in the Cause as the warmest among us could desire. On the other hand, the injudicious Abuse and Menaces of the Rebels, and the Hope of Plunder (for I hear all the Hessian common Soldiers have a Notion of making their Fortunes), have stimulated them to such a Degree, as by no means inclines them to shew Tenderness and Mercy. They are very expert in foraging, and have made great Use of their Time. The Company & example of the British Troops has hitherto prevented all excessive Cruelties.

On the 18th of August in the Morning, the Wind and Tide being fair, the two Ships (*Phoenix* and *Rose*) came down the River again in Defiance of the Rebel Batteries, and, though pelted all the Way, received no other Damage than by one Ball which struck the *Rose* and drove a Splinter into a Man's Leg. Such Artillerists were the Rebels, that all the rest of their Discharges, which were above an hundred, scarce came near either the Ships or their Tenders. A Captain of Engineers from the Town, with his Servant, attempting to get onboard the Ships, was overset in his Boat by the rapid Course of the *Rose* and unhappily drowned: the Servant was saved. The Rebels had attacked and sent up Fire-Ships to burn them, but to no purpose. — Our People destroyed about 200 of them in the Attempt, and towed off the Fire Ships to consume at Leisure, with the Loss only of a small Tender and of two Men.

Early in the Morning of the 22d of August, the English Troops, the Highlanders, and Preston's Light Horse, were conveyed over to Long Island without the least Opposition from the Rebels. — They immediately penetrated into the Country full 10 Miles, the Rebel Forces hastily retiring, and burning all the Ricks of Hay, Corn, &c. as they went. They were pressed upon too suddenly, however, to drive off the Cattle or to do so much Mischief, as the poor People, who are mostly well disposed, informed us they had intended. On the 25th following, the main Body of the Hessians were carried over likewise, and joined the Army, which, upon this Junction, amounted to near 20,000 Men. Some Troops were necessary to be left upon Staten Island, to prevent Incursions from the Jerseys.

On the 27th the important Scene was opened. As Your Lordship will have an Account of the Action in the public Dispatches, I will only relate

what passed under my own Observation at a little Distance from the Shore. I saw much of the Battle, which from Beginning to End was almost a running Fight. The Rebels, confident in Numbers, were advanced in an open Field, but on very advantageous Ground, without their Lines. Nothing could exceed the Art of General Howe in the Disposition and Conduct of his Attack. The Army was marshalled into three Divisions. One Column marched under General [James] Grant at a set Time to a particular Spot on the Coast, near to the main Body of the Rebels: The Second under General Clinton took the middle Way over the Hills and came upon the Rebels in Flank, soon after General Grant had posted himself in Front; and, while these were engaged, or rather keeping the Rebels at Bay and amusing them, General Howe with the third Column advanced upon them by a Circuit on their Rear, and nearly hemmed them in. The Rebels, finding this, did not stand a Minute, but all-amazed run with Precipitation to their Lines for the most Part; and the rest, being prevented in their Retreat, were either cut to Pieces, taken Prisoners, or scattered into the Woods, where our People have been hunting and destroying them from Day to Day. The Eagerness and Intrepidity of the Troops is beyond Description. They could not however beat them at running; but they followed them as closely as they could, and with a Spirit which even their Officers could scarcely restrain. Our People suffered most by little Ambuscades behind the Hedges. Considering the Ground, which is rather broken, and strong, the Loss on our Part is as little as could have been expected. We had 54 killed, about 140 wounded, and about 20 missing. Lord Stirling and Genl Sullivan, late a Member of the Congress, with about 90 Officers, are among the Prisoners, with whom for their Number we scarce know what to do. Many of them, principally Irish Emigrants, have offered to enter into the King's Service. They aver, that the Rebel Army was formed in great Measure by Compulsion, and kept together by great Watchfulness and Constraint. The Victory of this Day put His Majesty's Troops in Possession of all Long Island, except the small Peninsula of Brookland.

In the Afternoon of the 28th the King's Army broke Ground and advanced to form a Battery against a high round Fort, which the Rebels have constructed near the Isthmus at Brookland. They strove to dislodge the Troops, fully aware of the Consequences of this Post, and that the Possession of this Ground, which overlooks Governor's Island and the Fort, would give our People the Command [of] both of them and the Town. Their Efforts were loose and languid, and of course in vain. Two of our Men only were slightly wounded by their Fire of Cannon and small Arms, continued for the Space of four Hours.

The next Evening, they precipitately evacuated all their numerous Works and Intrenchments upon Long Island; and so precipitately, that many of them were drowned in attempting to pass over to New York Island. Our People were much surprized at an Abandonment, which to have forced from Men tolerably brave and determined, must have cost a great deal of Time and many Lives. I have walked over these Works, and, though

I am no Judge of Fortification; I can clearly see with what infinite Labor and Expence they must have been constructed. Many of them are of great Use to the Troops both for Harbor & Defence. The Reason of so sudden an Evacuation, I am informed, was this: The next Day after their Defeat, a Party of New England Men, who were posted in Connecticut Sound near Hell Gate, came down in great Agitation to the main Body of the Rebels, with the News of some Ships of War passing through the Sound, with the view of preventing their Retreat. Not recovered from the Terror of their Defeat, this Intelligence threw them into the utmost Consternation, and occasioned the hasty Flight I have mentioned. 'Tis observed of these People in general, that they are exceedingly careful of the Security of their Retreat, and that all their Works are constructed as much with a View to an easy Abandonment, as to the Annoyance of an Enemy. The Thought of being surrounded annihilates all their Courage.

The Situation of this People is becoming desperate; and their actual Distresses, to say nothing of their Fears, increase upon them daily. By the Battle, they lost in Killed, Wounded and Prisoners above 3000 Men, which we can account for; and, besides these, the Woods are so noisome with the Stench of the dead Carcasses, which the Hessians left in them, that they are in many Places inaccessible. A contagious Disorder also prevails in their Army; and 7000 of them are said to be sick and incapable of Service. — Jealousies and Feuds prevail among themselves; and they are reported to have lost their former implicit Confidence in their Commanders. Besides all this, the New England Provinces in particular have so entirely devoted themselves to Arms during this last Summer, that their Lands for the most Part have remained untilld; and I am informed by a Man of Character, just escaped from that Country, that their Stock of Cloathing is almost exhausted, and that they have not one eighth of the Quantity requisite for their Covering during the ensuing Winter. In short, the Rebel Force is becoming a Rope of Sand, which a few more Trials will probably break in Pieces.

I mentioned to Your Lordship, that we had among our Prisoners the Rebel General Sullivan and the titular Lord Stirling, two such despicable Characters, that nothing proves more the Want of real Officers or valuable Men among the Rebels, than the Employment and Trust of Persons like these. I have been in the Company of both, The former was once a Servant, afterwards a Lawyer, then a Delegate to the Congress from New Hampshire, and at length a General of the Rebel Army. He was the principal Instigator of the Confusions in New Hampshire, and is remarkable neither for Decency nor Probity, but very much for a Species of low Chicane, in which the Lawyers in general of this Country are known to excel, and by which he himself has succeeded to his present Eminence of Situation. Modesty has not been remembered to embarrass either him or his Colleague, who is a thousand times worse than nothing in his Circumstances, and is said to have made this desperate Push to get rid of the Inconvenience of his legal Obligations. With such Characters, indeed, as the present Rulers of



*News from America, or the Patriots  
in the Dumps.*

this Country are in general, it would be disgraceful, if not impolitic, to have any Sort of Intercourse. The Americans have an Adage, which I embrace in its full Extent. They say, "If Great Britain cannot conquer us, she cannot govern us." And I add, If Great Britain do not so govern them now, and so settle their Polity, as to render it unnecessary to conquer them in future, she will not govern them long. Pardon me, My Lord, if I add further, that her Counsels must dictate: Mere Conferences, I fear, will have no Conclusions to her future Interest, whatever they may have to a little temporary Peace. This I learn upon the Spot, and can easily foresee in the Constitution of Things and in the Spirit and Manners of the People. Another Campaign will expend the best Money Great Britain has laid out for a Century, considering American Affairs either in a political or commercial Light. I could explain this Position very fully, and I believe with some Demonstration; but I will not obtrude my own private Opinions, as I fear I shall sufficiently tire Your Lordship with the Recital only of Occurrences.

A Detachment of Hessians took Possession of Governor's Island on the 2d of September, which, though the Rebels had fortified it with great Labor, they abandoned without any Compulsion. We have found here and in other Places above 30 Cannon, which were spiked so injudiciously, that our Engineers have rendered almost all of them fit for Service.

I have made an Excursion upon Long Island, and own it to be one of the most pleasant and fertile Spots I have ever seen. But when I survey the Depredations and Ruin, the Bloodshed and Distraction, and all the other Miseries of this once happy Region, I cannot help deploring the Condition of its melancholy Inhabitants, and abhorring the Dishonesty and Ambition of those Men, who, under the specious Pretences of Patriotism and public Virtue, have been the Authors and Abettors of these Calamities. From what I have seen here, I look with a double Horror upon the Persons, who would light up a similar Flame, and incite the like Enormities at Home.

I did expect to have had the Honor of congratulating Your Lordship on the entire Possession of New York City and Island by His Majesty's Troops, before I closed this Letter, and am happy to think, it will, in all human Probability, be the Case, long before You can receive it. The sudden Departure of the Packet curtails a Letter which is already of an enormous Length, and obliges me to make a rather abrupt Conclusion. I cannot however finish it, nor even my Life itself, without the sincere and heart-felt Satisfaction of being, upon the firmest Considerations, My Lord, Your Lordship's [&c.]

Ambrose Serle.

Off the City of New York, Sept 5th 1776.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 2042.

#### DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE<sup>1</sup>

[Long Island] 5th Sept The *Rose* moved lower down this morning near to Newtown Creek, where she is in a safer situation. One of the shells which

the Rebels threw at her yesterday fell within 8 feet of her side. Some splinters from others fell on her decks. The ship has suffered a good deal of damage from their shot since she first came up.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 38.

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

[Philadelphia] Thursday, September 5, 1776

*Resolved*, That General Sullivan be requested to inform Lord Howe, that this Congress, being the representatives of the free and independent states of America, cannot, with propriety, send any of its members to confer with his lordship in their private characters; but that, ever desirous of establishing peace on reasonable terms, they will send a committee of their body to know whether he has any authority to treat with persons authorized by Congress for that purpose, in behalf of America, and what that authority is, and to hear such propositions as he shall think fit to make respecting the same:

That the president be desired to write to General Washington, and acquaint him that it is the opinion of Congress, that no proposals for making peace between Great Britain and the United States of America ought to be received or attended to, unless the same be made in writing, and addressed to the representatives of the said states in Congress, or persons authorized by them: And, if application be made to him by any of the commanders of the British forces on that subject, that he inform them that these United States, who entered into the war only for the defence of their lives and liberties, will cheerfully agree to peace on reasonable terms, whenever such shall be proposed to them in manner aforesaid.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, v, 736, 737.

MINUTES OF THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

In Marine Committee

Philadelphia September 5. 1776

*Resolved*

That the Uniform of the Officers in the Navy of the United States be as follows.

Captains	Blue Cloth with Red Lappels, Slash Cuff, Stand up Collor, flat Yellow Buttons, Blue Britches, Red Waistcoat with Narrow Lace. —
Lieutenants	Blue with Red Lappels, a Round Cuff faced, stand up Collor, Yellow Buttons, Blue Britches, Red Waistcoat Plain. —
Master	Blue with Lappels, Round Cuff, Blue Britches and Red Waistcoat
Midshipmen	Blue Lapped Coat, a Round Cuff faced with Red, Stand up Collor with Red at the Button and Button hole, Blue Britches & Red Waistcoat —

## Uniform of the Marine Officers

A Green Coat faced with white, Round Cuff, Slash'd Sleeves and Pockets; with Buttons Round the Cuff, Silver Epaulett on the right Shoulder — Skirts turn'd back, Buttons to suit the Faceings. White waistcoat and Britches, edged with Green, Black Gaiters & Garters Green shirts for the Men if they can be Procured —

Extract from the Minutes

John Brown Secy

for John Paul Jones Esquire

[Endorsed by Jones] Established Navy and Marine Uniform Dress — Recd at Philadelphia April 1777. from the Secretary of the Marine Board.

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6491, LC.

WILLIAM GOODRICH TO JOHN GOODRICH, JR.<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Brother

Philadelphia goal 5 Sepr 1776

I now have to inform You of my being here A prisoner in close confinement and not allowed the liberty of Speaking to any person . . .

I now proceed to inform you how I was taken which is as follows — Lord Dunmore Sent me to Bermudas to purchase a Brigg that would carry 18 Guns for the use of his Majesty which I was to Command When at Bermuda there was no such Vessil to be had and on my return from that to Virginia I fell in with The Brigg *Lexenton* Capt Berry [John Barry] of 16 guns who chased me Six hours and notwithstanding I kept a continial fyer-ing upon him with a three pounder out of my cabin window & now and then getting Some of my after guns to fyer upon him which obliged him to heave up Several times to fier on us while I was amakeing of[f] from him as fast as I could right before the wind but notwithstanding all these advantages and the art that I could make Use of she ran up alongside at which time we called out for quaters which was granted, and I was treated Extreamly Jen-teal by Capt Berry, and when carryed onboard of the Brig Capt Berry receivd me with A Grate deal of Joy giveing me a harty welcom onboard of the *Lexenton* Saying that he never was glader to see any man in all his life altho we neaver Saw each other before<sup>2</sup> Capt Berry on his return to Philadelphia came athwart Mr Samuel Kerr Whome he took I was hartily sorry for Mr Kerrs loss but could not keep myself from laughing at him owing to Capt Berry showing English Colours and passing for the *Asias* tender from New-york which made Mr Kerr give three cheers which was returnd by the *Lexentons* crew telling Mr kerr that he was ther prissoner which laid him all aback<sup>3</sup>

1. Record Group 27, Records of the Supreme Executive Council, Pa. Arch.

2. Goodrich commanded the sloop *Lady Susan*.

3. Samuel Kerr was master of the sloop *Betsey*.



ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gent.

Baltimore Town Sept 5. 1776

Please to pay Mr John Davidson Or Order Whatever sum of Money you may think is Necessary towards Building the two Gallies Contracted with You for some time ago

Arch<sup>d</sup> Buchanan

[Endorsed] Requiring an Order on W Shore Treasurer for Five hundred Pounds Currency by Virtue of ab[ove] Order and for the use of Mr Archibald Buchanan. John Davidson

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Folder 66, Md. Arch.

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

[Annapolis] Thursday. September 5th 1776

Ordered That Commission issue to Robert Polk of the Schooner *Montgomery*, he having given Bond according to the Instructions of Congress.<sup>2</sup>

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

2. Bond is in Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, X, NA.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT,  
H. M. SCHOONER *St. John*<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Sir,

The intelligence received from the North parts of this Province, makes it incumbent on me, to request that you will proceed with His Majesty's Schooner under your Command, without loss of time to St John's River, and take such station in conjunction with the Sloop Captain Mowbray, as will most effectually prevent any attempts made by the Rebels to enter that River, to disturb the Settlers thereon. I have wrote to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Troops, to grant the assistance you desired to have on Board the *St John* of a Serjeant and twelve men — I am with regard — Sir [&c.]

(Signd) Pat. Tonyn

Council Chamber St Augustine 5th Sept 1776 —

[Endorsed] Copy Governor Tonyn's letter to Lieut Grant No 2 —  
In Govr Tonyns of 8th Sept 1776 (No 24)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 791-94.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO COLONEL AUGUSTINE PREVOST<sup>1</sup>

Copy  
Sir,

The repeated intelligence from Georgia, and the North of this Province, makes it absolutely requisite, for the safety of the Planters on St John's River, to establish a Naval force there —

For this purpose I have engaged the Sloop *Rebecca* Captain Mowbray of ten Guns with nine men of the Captains, and [six] Seamen which I have added, but the late instance to attempt to man her proving ineffectual, I am compelled to request that a detachment of His Majesty's Troops of an Officer and 35 Private may be fixed on Board Captain Mowbray, to act as a Military force in conjunction with the detachment now established on Saint John's River.

His Majestys Schooner *St John* of four Guns being also to proceed immediately to that River, Lieutenant Grant has made application for a Sergeant and twelve, to be fixed on Board the said Schooner —

I am therefore compelled from the situation of that part of His Majesty's Province, to request of you, that the above Assistance be given to the above mentioned Vessels, with all imaginable dispatch, who have received directions to proceed forthwith to St Johns River —

Mr [Andrew] Turnbull at Smyrnea having represented the Mutinous disposition of the Settlers under his management and his apprehensions of their designs, obliges me to request that the detachment now there may be augmented to eighteen or twenty men. I have the honour to be with regard and esteem Sir [&c.]

Pat Tonyn

Council Chamber St Augustine Sept 5th 1776 —

Colonel Prevost Commanding Officer

[Endorsed] Copy Governor Tonyn's letter to Colonel Prevost No 1  
In Govr Tonyn's of 8th Sept 1776 (No 24)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 787-90.

6 Sept.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES<sup>1</sup>

[Exeter] Friday Sept. 6th, 1776

Voted to choose a Committee of this House, to join a Committee of the Honble Board, to take into consideration the Resolves of the Honble General Assembly of the Massachusetts Bay respecting fitting out the Continental Frigate at Portsmouth for a Cruise against the Enemy, and concerning Stopping the Export of Lumber &c. (this day transmitted to this Court by a Comtee of that Court) and to make report thereon to this house as soon as may be; and that Colo [Samuel] Sherburne, Colo [Timothy] Walker & Henry Prescott, Esq. be the Comtee of This house for that Pur-

pose. Sent up by Majr Tash. [Endorsed] [Concurred — Messrs Thornton, Whipple & Thompson added.]

The Comtee [above appointed] being joined by a Comtee of the Honble Board, made report.

That it be recommended to Mr. [John] Langdon Continental agent for the Frigate aforesaid to equip her as soon as Possible for a cruise against the *Milford* or any other Vessell of our Enemies on the Coast in conjunction with one of the Continental Frigates in the Massachusetts Bay and other of their Colony Armed Vessells: and that a Committee be appointed to consult with Mr. Langdon on the affair, and assist him if he needs it: and that any soldier in the Colony service have liberty to Enlist for the Cruise, their wages to continue besides the Emolument of Captures &c. they to return to their service when the cruise is over. Also recommend that an Embargo until the Twentieth of November next be laid on the exportation of All Lumber from this State

M. Thornton, Chairman.

Which report being Read,

Voted, That the same be received & accepted.

Voted and Resolved — That it be and hereby is Recommended to John Langdon Esqr Agent for the Continental Frigate now at Portsmouth to Equip the said Frigate as soon as Possible for a cruise against the *Milford* or any other Vessell of our Enemies on this Coast, in conjunction with one of the Continental Frigates in the Massachusetts Bay and other of their Colony Armed Vessells; and that Colo Samuel Sherburne with Such as the Honbl Board shall appoint, be a Committee to consult with said Mr. Langdon on that affair, and to assist him if he need it: And that any soldier in the Colony service have liberty to Enlist for the Cruise, and their wages to continue besides the Emolument of Captures &c. and to return to their service when the cruise is over.

Sent up by Capt. Prentice.

[Concurred, Mr. William Whipple added.]

Voted and Resolved That an Act be drawn up & Passed laying an Embargo on the Exportation of all sorts of Lumber from any part of this Colony, and that a Committee be chosen to join a Comtee of the Honbl Board to draw up & bring in a Bill or Act to prevent the Exportation of Lumber from this Colony untill the Twentieth day of November next, and that Colo Timothy Walker be the Committee of this House for that purpose. Sent up by Colo Walker. [Concurred — and Mr. Clagett added.]

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 321, 322-23.

PETITION FOR COMMISSION FOR THOMAS NICHOLSON, AS COMMANDER  
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SLOOP *America*<sup>1</sup>

To the Honble The Council of the State  
of Massachusetts Bay —

The Petition of Thomas Nicholson humbly sheweth that your Petitioner is fixing out from Plymouth as a Privateer a Sloop called the *America*, burthen about Eighty Tons mounting ten Carriage Guns and six Swivels owned by himself & Messrs. Watson & Spooner & a number of others. She has On board Six thousand pounds of Bread, forty barrels Pork and Beef five hundred weight of Powder, Two thousand weight of Iron and three hundred weight of leaden Balls, manned with Seventy men —

Thomas Nicholson — Captain

Corben Barnes — 1 Lieutenant

Nathaniel Ripley — 2 Ditto

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays your Honors would Grant him a Commission as Commander of the said Privateer, he giving Bond agreeable to the requisition of the Congress —

Thomas Nicholson

[Endorsed] In Council Sept 6th, 1776 Read & Ordered that a Commission be issued out to the said Thomas Nicholson as Commander of the Sloop *America* he complying with the Resolves of Congress

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

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 211.

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SCHOONER  
*Speedwell*<sup>1</sup>

[September 6, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

On board the Armed Schooner *Speedwell* of 50 Tons —

70 Men Officers included —

8 Carriage Guns — 4 & 3 pounders —

12 Swivels — 35 small Arms —

700 lb Powder — 400 3 & 4 pound Shott —

300 Swivel Shot — 70 wt Small Arm Balls —

45 bls Beef & Pork — 6000 wt. Bread —

4 bls Flour — & a Number of other small Stores —

Jona Greely Capt — First Leiuttenant not yet appointed —

Wm Pitman 2d Leiuttenant — John Williamson Master —

Thomas Melvill  
Wm Foster  
David Bradley  
John Hinckly  
Jonathan Greely  
Thomas Hichborn  
Capt Gorham

Owners  
all  
Of  
Boston<sup>3</sup>

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 215.

2. *Ibid.*, 214, 214a, memorandum is undated but the Massachusetts Council commissioned *Speedwell* on September 6.

3. Paul Revere had a 1/16 share in the *Speedwell*. Paul Revere Miscellaneous Collection, MassHS.

RECEIPT FOR PAPERS CONCERNING TWO BRITISH PRIZES<sup>1</sup>

List of Papers belonging to Schooner *Industry* Charles Coffin M[a]st[er]

- No 1 manifest of the cargo –
- 2 Register of the Vessel
- 3 Certificate of the Committee of Bristol in favr of the Master
- 4 Hospital Receipt –
- 5 Admiral [Samuel] Graves Permit –
- 6 Memorandum of Cargo –
- 7 William Coits Receipt –
- 8 Danl Hubbard & Comp[ny] Owners Orders –
- 9 Several Certificates from Committee in favr Capt –

A List of Papers belonging to Sloop *Polly* Sibilene White Master –

- No 1 – Manifest of Cargo –
- 2 – Register –
- 3 – five Letters from private Persons relative to sloop *Polly*
- 4 – Letter & Invo to Jabez Hatch Owner –
- 5 – Admiral Graves Permit –
- 6 – Hospital Receipt –
- 7 – Certificate of Adj[ut]ant Kembel [Stephen Kemble] a Card

Receiv'd the Above papers of Mr John Avery De[py] Secy for the Use of Willm Watson Esqr & Ephraim Spooner Continental Agents<sup>2</sup> –

[Watertown] Sept[er] 6th 1776 –

Oakes Angier

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 216.

2. The *Industry* and *Polly* were prizes taken by Captain William Coit, Washington's schooner *Harrison*, on November 5, 1775. These papers were essential to the trial which had been delayed.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL  
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

[Providence] Sept[er] 6th 1777 [*sic* 1776].

Meeting in being Present Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr Nicholas Brown Joseph Russell Henry Ward. Joseph Brown William Russell Joseph Nightingale John J. Clarke. John Smith John Brown Jabez Bowen.

John Langdon Esqr the Agent appointed to Build Equip a Ship of War at Portsmouth for the Thirteen united States apply'd to this Committee to Send Twenty six Twelve, and six Sixpounders, and he prod[uced] a paper from the Honble Stephen Hopkins, Recommending to the Owners of the Furnace Hope to supply him with the said Guns, if they had so many made, and E. Hopkins Esqr Commander in Chief of the American Navy being present Recommended to the Committee also that they should spare the Guns &c Wheirupon the Committee Voted to supply Mr Langdon with the Guns provided he makes a contract with the Owners of Furnace, to replace those that he takes, as soon [as] possible wh we suppose will not exceed Fifty Days provided they are supplied with Water by the falling of the fall Rains.

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

CONTRACT BETWEEN HOPE FURNACE AND JOHN LANGDON FOR CANNON  
FOR THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Raleigh*<sup>1</sup>

Providence Septem. 6th 1776

An Agreement between John Langdon Esqr on One part and the Owners of Furnace Hope on the Other part Witnesses Viz the Said Furnace Owners Agrees to Deliver to the Said Langdon Twenty Six Cannon Each Carrying a Twelve pound Ball and allso Six Cannon Each Carrying a Six pound Shot which Said Cannon are to be Deliverd in this Town out of the Cannon made for the Ships built here for the Contenent, the Same being Agreed to by the Navil Committee, and the Said Langdon Agrees to pay the Money to the Said Furnace Owners for the Amount of Sd Cannon at the Rate of one Hundred pounds L Money P Ton one half to be paid on the Delivery of the Cannon at providence as Afforesaid and the Other half by the First Day of November next or Interest from Each of Said Times till paid as Witness our Hands —

1. JCBL. An unsigned draft of the contract.

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

Remks on Friday 6th of Sepr. 1776

- 7 [A.M.] Sprang our mast again in the partenerd we have not a good spare on board
- 11 [A.M.] Very heavy sea from the westward we are Oblidge to carry little sail our mast is so [weak]  
Lattd in 40°50' Longd in 66°47'
- 1 [P.M.] Moderate breaze of wind and fair weather at 2 there came a flaw of wind from the northward Carried a way our flying gibb boom but it is no strang thing for our sparrs to break

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS<sup>1</sup>

Sepr 1776

Do [Block Island] N 3. 54 E 15 Leags

Friday 6

at 6 A M out all reefs & sett Top Gallt sails at 7 saw a Sl to Windwd gave Chace —  
at 1 P M fired two 9 pd at the Chace at 3 spoke the Chace a french Sloop from Rhode Island to St Domingo<sup>2</sup> at 6 in 2 reefs

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.
2. The *Felicité*, Gouace, master, from Rhode Island for Cape François, with fish, flour and spermaceti candles, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE  
PAY TABLE<sup>1</sup>

Lebanon Sept 6th 1776

Draw on the Treasurer of this State for the Sum of Eighty Pounds in Fa-  
vour of William Lax to Enable him to carry on the Work of Making Cannon  
Carriages for the Ship *Oliver Cromwell* and to be in Account

By Order of the Govr & Council of Safety

Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

To the Committee  
of Pay Table } £80..0..0

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 117a, ConnSL.

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1776

New-London, September 6.

Last Tuesday three Privateers, viz two Sloops and a Schooner, com-  
manded by the Captains [William] Rogers, [Charles] Pond, and Clarke,<sup>1</sup>  
arrived here from Fire-Island Inlet, on the South-Side of Long-Island;  
where they had at different Times carried in eleven Prizes, viz. 1 Ship, 2  
Brigs, 1 Schooner, and 7 Sloops — a small Sloop loaded with Sea-Coal, they  
brought out with them, the other Prizes they left in the Inlet, being obliged  
to leave the Place at the Time our Troops evacuated the Island. The Cargoes  
of the above Vessels had been carried to Huntingdon, and is in the Posses-  
sion of the Enemy.

The Court of Admiralty for the Trial of the Cargo of the Ship *Nathan-  
iel & Elizabeth*, will be held at the Court House in New-London, on the 20th  
Instant, instead of the 22d, as mentioned in the Advertisement in the last  
Page of this Paper.

1. Rogers commanded the New York state sloop *Montgomery*, and Pond, the Continental sloop  
*Schuyler*. Captain Clarke and his schooner have not been identified.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT<sup>1</sup>

Sept'r 1776 Moor'd off Whiteston[e]

Friday 6 At 8 AM Fir'd 3 Twelve Pounders & 2 six Do wth shot at some  
Rebels Passing in a Boat sent the Boat, Man'd & arm'd &  
brought of[f] the Boat the Rebels making their Escape on  
shore

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER<sup>1</sup>

Head Quarters Ticonderoga September 6th 1776

Sir

8 O'Clock at Night.

The following is an Extract of a Letter this Moment received from  
Lieutenant Colonel [Thomas] Hartley commanding officer at Crown Point.

Friday two O'Clock There has been a very heavy cannonading down the Lake all this Morning it is undoubtedly between our Fleet and the Enemy so that you may prepare accordingly – I have sent down a Boat just now to know more particularly.

I am exceedingly vexed to think that it is above a Month since I wrote repeatedly for Musket Cartridge paper and not one Sheet yet arrived Let me entreat you to send if not the exact Sort we want as many old Books or such Substitute as you can procure – The Moment I know the Result of this firing down the Lake I will acquaint you with it by Express. I am Dear General [&c.]

Horatio Gates

1. Washington Papers, LC.

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

Septemr 1776.

Moored off of Bedlows Island

Friday 6.

At 1 AM Several Musquets were fired at the Guard Boat ½ past 10 made the Sigl for all Petty Officers At Noon sent a Boat to meet a Flag of Truce Fresh Breezes & Cloudy Wr with rain at times At 3 P M Arrived here his Majys Ship *Carysfort*<sup>2</sup> At 6 made the *Rainbow*, *Roebuck*, & *Emeralds* Sigl for Petty Officers At 6 hoisted a Yellow pendt the Parole Sigl & made the *Emeralds* Sigl. for a Lieut

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

2. "The *Carysfort*, Capt. Robert Fanshaw, an old Schoolfellow with me, arrived this Day from Canada, & brought Dispatches from the Commander in Chief [Carleton] to the Admiral & General," Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 92, 94. Serle makes no mention of the flag of truce.

JOURNAL OF H.M. FIRESHIP *Strombolo*, CAPTAIN CHARLES PHIPPS<sup>1</sup>

Septemr 1776.

Moored off Red Hook in New York River.

Thursday 5th

Fresh Breezes and Cloudy A M got a Flatt bottom Boat & 20 Men from the *Phoenix* and Moored our ship, the *Eagle* made the Sigl for Weekly Accounts received 132 pounds of Fresh Beef. the Captain, Lieut with the Gunner, Midshipman & 10 Men went on shore to Governors Island to assist at the Fortifications, a Flag of Truce went from the *Eagle* to the Town of New York came up and Anchored here the *Rainbow* and *Lively*.

Do Wear (P.M) Heard a great deal of Firing in East River Parole Falmouth

Friday 6.

A M Seven Rebel boats made an Attempt to Land on Governors Island, but were beat off, by our Seamen & Hessians Sailed hence the *Rainbow* for Hallifax a Flag of Truce came from the Town of New York for Lord Howe.



Do Wr at 5 P M the *Phoenix*, *Roebuck*, *Orpheus* & *Carrysfort* Weighed & run up East River & were fired at from the Town of New York & several other Battery's on Long Island, and Governors Island fired on the Town but none of our people were killed from the Rebels firing

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/931.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR<sup>1</sup>

September 1776

Moor'd off Staten Island

Friday 6th

AM the Long boat Employed Watering. Read the Articles of War & the Abstract of the Act of Parliament, to the Ships Company. —

Fresh Breezes with Rain at 3 PM (Admiral Shulldham) Shifted His Flag to His Majesty's Ship *Bristol*, and Commodore Sir Peter Parker Hoisted His Broad Pendant on Board His Majestys Ship *Chatham*, which Occasioned an Exchange between Captain Raynor of the *Chatham* and Capt. [Toby] Caulfield of the *Bristol*, with Several Officers & Seamen Belonging to each Ship, by Order of the Viscount Howe Vice Admiral of the White and Commander in Chief &ca in North America —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE<sup>1</sup>

[Long Island] 6th Sept — The *Rose* moved her Station again last night, and went lower down the River. The Rebels fired some shot at her again last Evening.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 39.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] Sept'r 6, 1776.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed. . . To pay Jos. Gresswold for Portorage of Powder & Lead, Imported P Capt. [Thomas] Bell, £ 13 5 6.

A Commission was filled up for Sam'l Mifflin, Esq'r, Commodore of the Fleet in the service of this State, dated the 2nd Instant, & a Letter wrote to him to return from Amboy, (where he now is,) & take the Fleet immediately under his care and direction.

A Letter was also wrote to General [Hugh] Mercer, requesting he will permit Commodore Mifflin to return home for that Purpose.<sup>2</sup>

A Petition was read from Wm. Whitpain, a Midshipman on board the Ship *Mongomery*, praying that he may be discharged, as he expects to go into the Continental service; after consideration of said Petition, it was

*Resolved*, That said Wm. Whitpain be discharged from the service of this state.<sup>3</sup>

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 711, 712.

2. Samuel Mifflin was commanding an artillery company in New Jersey.

3. Whitpain had been appointed master of the Continental sloop *Independence*.

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

[Philadelphia] Fryday Sept. 6. 1776

This day, I think, has been the most remarkable of all. [Major General John] Sullivan came here from Lord Howe, five days ago with a Message that his Lordship desired a half an Hours Conversation with some of the Members of Congress, in their private Capacities. We have spent three or four days in debating whether We should take any Notice of it. I have, to the Utmost of my Abilities during the whole Time, opposed our taking any Notice of it. But at last it was determined by a Majority "that the Congress being the Representatives of the free and independent states of America, it was improper to appoint any of their Members to confer, in their private Characters with his Lordship. But they would appoint a Committee of their Body, to wait on him, to know whether he had Power, to treat with Congress upon Terms of Peace and to hear any Propositions, that his Lordship may think proper to make."

When the Committee came to be ballotted for, Dr. Franklin and your humble servant, were unanimously chosen. Coll. R. H. Lee and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, had an equal Number: but upon a second Vote Mr. R. was chosen. I requested to be excused, but was desired to consider of it untill tomorrow. My Friends here Advise me to go. All the stanch and intrepid, are very earnest with me to go, and the timid and wavering, if any such there are, agree in the request. So I believe I shall undertake the Journey. I doubt whether his Lordship will see Us, but the same Committee will be directed to inquire into the State of the Army, at New York, so that there will be Business enough, if his Lordship makes none. — It would fill this Letter Book, to give you all the Arguments, for and against this Measure, if I had Liberty to attempt it. — His Lordship seems to have been playing off a Number of Machiavillian Maneuvres, in order to throw upon Us the Odium of continuing this War. Those who have been Advocates for the Appointment of this Committee, are for opposing Manœuvre to Manœuvre, and are confident that the Consequence will be, that the Odium will fall upon him. However this may be, my Lesson is plain, to ask a few Questions, and take his Answers.

I can think of but one Reason for their putting me upon this Embassy; and that is this. An Idea has crept into many Minds here that his Lordship is such another as Mr. [Thomas] Hutchinson, and they may possibly think that a Man who has been accustomed to penetrate into the mazy Windings of Hutchinsons Heart, and the serpentine Wiles of his Head, may be tolerably qualified to converse with his Lordship.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 120–21.

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

[Annapolis] Friday, September 6th, 1776

Permit was granted to Hugh Sherwood of the Schooner *Betsy* to go to Martinicoe, or any other foreign Port; he having given Bond with security, according to resolve of Congress.

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

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

[Williamsburg] Friday September the 6th 1776

The Sloop *Good Intent*, of Bermuda, Richard Fowle master having entered with eight hundred bushels of Salt, three puncheons of Rum and three hundred and fifty pounds of Coffee, and having been offered twenty shillings per Bushel for the Salt but chusing to give the preemption to the publick; the Board considering the great necessity of laying in a stock of that essential article for the use of the army, agreed to take it for that purpose and the said Richard Fowle is directed to deliver the same at Jamestown, and is permitted to take in a load of Grain pursuant to the resolution of Congress in such cases made and provided, as soon as he shall produce to this Board a receipt for the same, under the hand of M. John Hawkins who is hereby appointed to receive it.

Ordered that the Commissary of Stores deliver to John N. Norton Esquire two pieces of Sail Duck to enable him to fit out a Vessel for the importation of sundry necessary Articles, he having engaged with this Board to return the same, in kind.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Thomas Wootten, for Two pounds twelve shillings and six pence for the hire of a Boat and two hands seven days and for Express hire to Norfolk and Portsmouth two pounds.

A Permit to Captain Richard March of the Boat *Nancy* Burthen Twenty Ton, Virginia built the property of Messrs Reynolds and Perrin of York town and laden with Tobacco, Flour and Corn as per manifest filed to trade at Martinico, or other port allowed of by Congress, the said Captain having entered and acknowledged Bond with Security which is ordered to be registered.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 144, 145, 146, 147-48.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Friday 6th September 1776. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Frederick Stoner for Forty one pounds five shillings and six Pence for Whiskey furnished Capt William Deane for the use of the Schooner *Revenge*. —

Capt. Edward Travis of the *Manley* Galley received Orders to Proceed immediately with his Vessel and join the Commodore [John Thomas] Boucher who is laying off New Point Comfort. —<sup>2</sup>

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Lieut James Quarles for Twenty five Pounds, on Account, to Purchase necessities for the use of his Company of Marines –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Robert Robertson for Four pounds two shillings for Junk furnished Capt Edward Travis for the use of the *Manley Galley* –

Ordered that Warrant Issue to Doctor Corbin Griffin for Eight pounds for Pistols he furnished Capt. [Thomas] Lilly of the Brig *Liberty* – Also for Twenty pounds and six pence for attending the Sick belonging to the Brig *Liberty*. And also for Two Pounds four shillings and three pence for attending the Sick belonging to the *Manley Galley* as p Accts this day settled.

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt Robert Tompkins of the *Henry Galley* for Seven hundred and eighty three pounds three shillings and seven pence for Pay of his Company on Board the said Galley as p Accts this day settled –

1. Navy Board Journal, 51–53, VSL.

2. Sloop *Congress*.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO COMMODORE JOHN THOMAS BOUCHER<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg Sept 6th 1776

Yours by Capt Westcot [Wright Wescott] we receiv'd. This will be deliverd by Capt [Edward] Travis of the *Manly Galley*, whom we have sent to join you, we also shall order Capt [George] Muter of the *Hero Galley* and Capt [James] Barron to your assistance immediately with those Vessels and the Sloop *Liberty*.<sup>2</sup> You are to proceed with the Brigg *Adventure* ten Leagues out of the Capes, observing to keep the Captain Barrons ahead as lookouts, taking all possible care to prevent your convoy from falling into the Enemys hands. After you have discharg'd the Brigg you are to return to York with the Sloop *Liberty* informing us of your arrival there, as we shou'd be glad to see the Vessels. The Brigg *Rawleigh* is cleaning and will not be ready for some time. Capt [Thomas] Lilly is at Baltimore for Iron Ballast, had they been ready we shou'd have order'd them also to join you. Capt Westcott we have order'd to Portsmouth to clean and refit. I am by order of the Board of Commissioners Your Hble Servant

Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

2. *Ibid.*, the Navy Board's orders to various captains.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO COLONEL GEORGE MASON<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Williamsburg, 6th Sept 1776 –

Yours of 26th and 29th Ultimo we have receiv'd in compliance with your request we send you by Lieut: Arrell the sum you mention being £400. . – which we doubt not you will properly apply to the use of the Navy in your department— We have just receiv'd a letter by Capt Westcott from

Commodore Boucher informing us of his being in Mobjack Bay with the *Liberty* Cruiser & the Tobacco Brigg *Adventure* and have order'd him with the said Cruiser, two of our Gallies and the two Barrons who we have sent to join him to convoy the Brigg clear off the Capes and to return to York Town for our further Orders — We are surprised to hear that Mr Hunter has made no Provisions for the [use] of the Navy and cou'd not conceive he wou'd doubt of his Authority to mak[e] such Provisions after having contracted and enter'd into Bond for that purpose. We shall write him immediately on the Subject which we presum[e] will prevent all further difficulties in the business.<sup>2</sup> the size and plan of the Galleys now building are very nearly the same with those you intend to propose to the Assembly and will enable us with some degree of certainty to furnish you with an estimate of their Cost. I am by order of the Naval Board. Your very humble Servant

Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

To Col. Georges Mason Gunston Hall Fairfax County

P.S. We are oblig'd by your observations respecting the future supply of necessaries for the Fleet, and shall consult the Council on the Move you propose, but fear it cannot be adopted without a stretch of power, which they will not venture to risque

Thos Whiting 1st Commr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

2. *Ibid.*, the Navy Board wrote to James Hunter, state naval agent at Fredericksburg, on September 7.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO SMITH & ROANE, HOBBS HOLE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Williamsburg Sepr 6th 1776 —

. . . you are to provide for the Vessels both Salt and fresh provisions. laying in a sufficient Stock that they may not be delayed for the want of those necessary Articles; before this We hope you have received the Tar, Pitch and Turpentine from Mr Cooper, Mr Hawkins will contract with you for 40000 lbs Bacon at 7d pr lb to be deliver'd after the 25th March and before 25th June next. we approve of the price and desire you'll enter into contract.

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

LIEUTENANT CHARLES COBB, R.N., TO GOVERNOR PETER CHESTER<sup>1</sup>

Sir/ I am this Instant honored with your Excellencys Letter in the first place requesting that I will detain H. Majesty's Sloop *West Florida*, untill the arrival of H. Majesty's Sloop *Diligence* or any other of H. Majesty's Ships — also that I will give directions to Lieut Burdon to give all the Assistance in his power in the Removal of a Quantity of timber from Rose Island and Tartar point — for the better Carrying on the intended new Works. I shall Comply with your Excellencys request & give directions to Lieut Burdon accordingly

Your Excellency has also Signified to me that it is the Opinion of your Excellency & Council that H. Majesty's Sloop under my Command should be held in readiness to proceed to Jamaica with dispatches for vice Admiral Gayton & Sir Basil Keith — I look on it my duty and am always ready to Comply with any request that may be for the good of His Majesty's Service — at the same time I must take the liberty to say that as your Excellency has a proper Vessel for such service she should be employed therein. I on my part will give every assistance required in getting her ready for sea — and do take upon me to say (if her bottom is in proper Order) I will have her ready nearly as soon as any Dispatches your Excellency may have to send and as in the present State of Affairs it would in my Opinion be improper in me to quit the province I propose forwarding the Removal of timber &c up to this place and to give every assistance in putting it in a State of defence —

But should it prove that the *Hillsborough* cannot possibly be got ready for Sea I am still ready to forward any dispatches for Jamaica —

I beg the favor of your Excellency's Answer as soon as convenient that I may have time either to get the *Hillsborough* ready or to write my Letters to Capt [Thomas] Davey and leave directions with Lieut Burdon for his farther proceedings have the honor to be &ca

Cha<sup>s</sup> Cobb.

His Majesty's Armed Sloop [*West*] *Florida*  
Pensacola Sept<sup>r</sup> 6th 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/634, Part II, 391-92, LC Photocopy.

7 Sept.

#### ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF THE CARGO OF PRIZE SLOOP *Isabella*<sup>1</sup>

To be sold at Public Vendue, On Thursday, the 19th Inst. at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, at Beverly,

The Cargo of the Sloop *Isabella*, consisting of one Hundred and Forty-seven Hogsheads and Eight Tierces of Antigua Rum.

Salem, September 7, 1776.

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

#### ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Saturday September 7 1776.

Resolved that the two small Vessels employed for the purpose of obtaining Intelligence respecting the movements of the British Fleet, and Army with their Crews be, and they hereby are discharged from the Service of this State, and that the Honble James Warren Esqr be and he hereby is impowered, and directed to dispose of One of the above mentioned Vessels, which was fix'd out at Plimouth with her Appurtenances to the best Advantage of this State, and pay the proceeds arising from said Sale into the Treasury of this State taking duplicate Receipts the one of which Re-

ceipts to be lodg'd in the Secretarys Office the said honble James Warren Esqr to be Accountable to this Court.

And it is further Resolved, that Capt Josiah Batchelder be, and he hereby is directed to dispose of any Articles, that is the property of this State, that may be found on board, or belonging to One of the above mentioned Vessel fixed out from Beverly, discharge, and pay off the said Vessel, and Crew, and lay his Accounts before this Court.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 35, 207, 209.

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

[Extract]

Braintree Sepbr. 7 1776

Tis said that the Efforts of our Enemies will be to stop the communication between the colonies by taking possession of Hudsons Bay [*sic* River]: Can it be effected? The *Milford* frigate rides triumphant in our Bay, taking vessels every day, and no Colony nor Continental vessel has yet attempted to hinder her. She mounts but 28 Guns but is one of the finest sailors in the British Navy. They complain we have not weighty mettle enough and I suppose truly. The Rage for privateering is as great here as any where and I believe the success has been as great.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 121, 123.

*Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1776

Providence, September 7.

Thursday last arrived here a Prize Schooner, taken by the *Joseph* Privateer, Capt. John Field, in Consort with a Letter of Marque, commanded by Capt. Joseph Tillinghast, both of this Port. She was in Ballast, and bound from Grenada to Liverpool, in Nova-Scotia.

Capt. Biddle, of the *Andrew Doria*, in the Service of the United States, we hear has taken four valuable Prizes, one of them said to be a large Ship, which Lord Dunmore was sending to England, with 15000 Bushels of Wheat. Two of the Prizes have arrived safe in Port.<sup>1</sup>

We learn that Capt. Jabez Whipple, in the Privateer *Independence*, of this Place, has taken three valuable Prizes, viz. a Ship, Brig and Sloop, and convoyed them into a safe Port.<sup>2</sup>

1. The prizes sent into Providence were the brigantines *Lawrence* and *Elizabeth*.

2. The ship was the *Aurora*; the brig, *Fanny*.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT JOHN TREVETT<sup>1</sup>

[August 6 to September 7, 1776]

July, 1776. I was at Newport but a few days before I sailed again with Capt. Biddle.<sup>2</sup> On this Cruise we took several prizes, one of them from Lord

Dunmores fleet; [also] A Brig from Barbadoes bound to Newfoundland, This prize I went on board of as Master, and arrived safe at Providence.<sup>3</sup>

1. Trevett's Journal, NHS.
2. Trevett's month is in error. He arrived in Newport on August 6, and the *Andrew Doria* sailed from there on August 10.
3. The 100 ton brigantine *Lawrence*, George Leyburn, master, with a cargo of rum, sugar, limes, sea coal, wrought copper and tinware. The prize got into Rhode Island on September 7.

#### ORDERS TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM WATERMAN<sup>1</sup>

Sir./ you being master of the Sloop *Dimant*, as She is now fitted for the Seas, our Orders to you are that you Embrace the first fair wind, and good weather, and go to Sea, with Said Sloop and her Cargo, and proceed Directly for the Island of Martinico, and when you arrive their, weight on the Governor and gett a permission to Sell your Cargo. and when you have Sold your Cargo, Lay out the neet proceeds in Gun Powder, and fire Arms, Some three & four pound Canon & Swivells, Lay out the Principle part in Powder, and make all the Dispatch in your power, if you Should fall to Leward by any means go into St Eustatia, or any Port to Leward that you think will Answer & Sell your Cargo, & Lay out the neet proceeds in the above Articles, You Are to have for the Sale of your Cargo five pCent and Two and a half for your Returns, and if you Sell at Martinico, two half Joannes for to pay the Ling[uis]ts, and if you are obliged to give any part of your Commision away for doing the Business, you are to pay it out of your Commision. your Priviledge Home as master is to be Ten Hogshd and your mariners as p agreement, we Leive the Conducting this Voyag[e] to your good Judgment, & recomend that you make all the Dispatch in your Power. So We wish you a good Voyage & Safe return Home to your Friends & Owners. Dated at Providence Sepr 7th 1776

Nich<sup>s</sup> Cooke } Committee  
John Jenckes }

[Endorsed] The above is a True Coppy of my Orders, which I promise to Observe Witness my Hand

William Waterman

#### [Additional instructions]

Capt William Waterman

Providence Sepr 9th 1776

Sir you are Ordered to purchase Two Hundred fire Arms the remainder of your Cargo Lay out in Powder, & Cannon [&] Swivele guns.

John Jenckes } Committee  
for }

1. Maritime Papers, Revolutionary War, 1776-1778, R. I. Arch.



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

Sir

New London Sept 7th 1776

Since the Council left N L the Committe have Sent a Number of Vessells to Long Island, and have brot of[f] as many People as Chose to come, Also as much Stock as were offer'd them to transport, and tomorrow Several more Vessells will Return to the Island, but it is Doubtfull wether they will be requested to take any more Stock, as the Inhabitants that are now left seem to be Determin'd to Remain and Submitt on as good terms as they Can git — this Moment the Inclos'd came to hand, and as it Contains Matter of sum Consequence, as to the troops Returning to the Island, it was thought best to forward it to you, I am Sir [&c.]

Nath<sup>l</sup> Shaw Junr

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 307, ConnSL.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER VAIL<sup>1</sup>[September 6–7]<sup>2</sup>

We at this time had information of a Company of Tories that was stationed at Sauteunt [Setauket] L. Island we collected about 60 whale Boats and manned them and cros'd over the Sound in a heavy blow from N. West in the night in Company with the Armed schooner *Spy* of 10 Guns. Capt. [Robert] Niles and arrived at the Island about 11 P.M. and divided our force so as to take their whole force by surrounding their Guard house and Head Quarters at the same time. On our arrival at the Guard house numbers fled to Head Quarters where the whole was taken. We killed 13 of the Enemy and brought off 40 prisoners and made prizes of two Sloops — we had one man killed, none wounded, and the day following we returned to New Haven —<sup>3</sup>

1. Diary of Christopher Vail, LC.

2. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 40, for September 7, 1776: "A few of the Rebels landed about 20 miles to the Eastward last night, and after committing some outrages upon the loyalists, went off again, taking with them some Cattle, and other matters."

3. See also Lieutenant Colonel Henry Beekman Livingston to Robert R. Livingston, September 25, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS<sup>1</sup>

Sept 1776

Block Island N 3.54 E 15 Leags

Saturday 7

at 6 AM saw a Sail a head gave Chace fired sixteen 3 pdrs at the Chace at 11 Brot too & spoke the Chace a Sloop from Cape Francois Ladend with Molasses bound to Dartmouth<sup>2</sup> Fresh Breezes & hazey sent a Mid: & 4 Men on bd a Prize to Conduct her to New York at 5 saw a Sl to Windwd gave Chace at 6 parted Co wth the *Merlin* & Prizes<sup>3</sup> at 11 handed Fore & Mizn Topsl

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

2. *Ibid.*, 1/487, the *Success*, E. Hathaway, master, J. Otis, owner, from Cape François for Dartmouth, with molasses, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777.
3. Master's log of the *Cerberus* reads: "parted company with the *Merlin*, Prize and French Sloop [*Felicité*], having sent them to Sandy Hook," PRO, Admiralty 52/1650.

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

Dear General,

Wind Mill Point September 7th 1776

I wrote you the 2nd Instant from Willsborough by Lieut [James] Calderwood, the same Evening Anchored at Schuylers Island, & on the 3d Instant arrived safe at this Place, which is 4, or 5 miles from the Isle Aux Tate,<sup>2</sup> and 7 miles from the Isle aux Mott, we found the Isle aux Tate occupied by the Enemy, and several hundred Men encamped, between that & us, who the Evening of our arrival made a precipitate retreat

I have posted my Guard Boats, at a Point running into the Lake about one Mile below us, The Enemies Boats have several Times, appeared on the Lake with a View of decoying our Boats but I have never suffered them to be pursued; Lieutenant [Benjamin] Whitcomb arrived here the 5th in the Evening and went off the same Night with three Men for St. Johns on the Westside, I sent off Ensign [Thomas] McCoy early the next Morning on the Eastside, with three Men, they are to send me intelligence from time to time I expect to hear from them to Morrow early yesterday morning the Boats were ordered on Shore to Cut Fascines to fix on the Bows and Sides of the Gondolas to prevent the Enemies boarding and to keep off small Shot. One of the Boats went on Shore contrary to Orders before the others were ready, they were attacked by a Party of Savages, who pursued them into the Water. They all reached the Boat, but before they could row off, three were killed, and Six wounded the Party was headed by a Regular Officer, who called to our People to resign themselves, on our firing a few Shot among them they immediately dispersed. a party was sent on Shore who found a laced Beaver hat, the Button marke 47th Regiment. The *Lee* and Gondola arrived here yesterday morning, we are moor'd in a Line a Cross the Lake, insuch a manner, it will be impossible for a Batteau to pass us. — I hope the Gallies are nearly compleated, the Force of the Enemy is uncertain, however they have this advantage that they can Man all their Batteaux with Soldiers whenever they think proper to attack us, and our Vessels are solow that numbers may carry them by boarding, this must be attended with great Loss on their side, as I am Positive they will notbe able to surprize us. If I find the Enemy have a considerable Naval Force I design to retire, to Cumberland Head or Schuylers Island untill joined by the three Row Gallies, which will be Superior to all our present Force, when the whole are joined, I believe the Isle a Mott will be the best Stand as the Enemy can bring nothing against us by Land nor will they dare to Come on the Island, as by our Guard boats we can prevent, any Boats going from Missisque Bay, as you have more Troops at Tyconderoga than you want, will it not be prudent to send up one thousand or fifteen hundred Men, who might encamp on the Isle aux Mott, and be ready at all times to assist us if

attacked twenty Men to a Batteau will be sufficient, they might Load under Cover of the Vessels, push out and Fire, & retire under cover again, & If the Enemies Boats should make their principal Attack on any particular Vessel these Batteaux might Assist her; each should be fixed for a Swivel in each end, and if they are armed one should be fixed in them, if you should think it necessary to send a Detachment, it will be necessary to bring intrenching Tools, that they may cover themselves from Small Arms. —

We have but very indifferent Men, in general, great part of those who shipped for Seamen know very little of the Matter three or four good Gunners are wanted enclosed is a List of our Sick, who increase fast, I have sent up in three Batteaux 23 Men, who will be of no service for some time, I wish 50 Seamen could be procured and sent down, I inclose you a Letter from Samuel Chaise Esqr you will observe he requests an explanation of your Letter to Mr Adams, He observes my Character is much injured by a Report prevailing in Philadelphia of my having sequestered the Goods seized in Montreal, as you have had an Opportunity of hearing that Matter canvassed on the Tryal of Colonel [Moses] Hazen, I beg you will be kind enough to write your Sentiments to him on the Matter I cannot but think it extremely cruel, when I have sacrificed my Ease, Health and great Part of my private Property in the Cause of my Country, to be Caluminated as a Robber and thief, at a Time too when I have it not in my Power to be heard in my own Defence.

The 15th of August when we left Tyconderoga the fleet were victualled for thirty Days, which Time is elapsed except 6 Days, we have on board the Fleet Six or eight Days Provision besides twenty Barrells of flour, left at Crown Point to be baked, and ten Barrells of Pork which I have ordered Lieutenant Calderwood to bring down, which will serve the Fleet to the 20th, as the Lake is often very difficult to pass for a number of days we ought to have at least one Months Provisions on hand. Major [David] Grier goes up with the Sick to whom I must refer you for particulars.

We are very anxious to hear from New York, hope soon to have that pleasure by one of the Gallies, which I think must be completed by this Time — please to make my Compliments to the Gentlemen of your Family and believe me with much respect, esteem and Affection Dear General [&c.]

B. Arnold

1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS. A copy is in Washington Papers, LC.

2. Isle aux Têtes.

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

Sir

New York Sept 7th 1776

This will be delivered you by Captn [Sion] Martindale & Lieutt [Moses] Turner who were taken last Fall in the Armed Brig *Washington*,<sup>2</sup> & who with Mr [James] Childs the 2d Lieutt have lately effected their escape from Hallifax.

Captn Martindale and these two Officers have applied to me for pay from the 1st of January till this time, But not conceiving myself authorized to grant It, however reasonable It may be, as they were only engaged 'till the last of Decemr at their instance I have mentioned the matter to Congress & submit their case to their consideration. I have [&c.]

Go Washington

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, II, 523, NA.
2. See Volumes 3 and 4.

#### DIARY OF SAMUEL RICHARDS<sup>1</sup>

Decr. [*sic* September 7, 1776]

In the bay below N. York the british fleet made a great display; the no. of the vessells of all sizes amounted to about 300; and as they spread their sails to dry — after a rain— they covered a large extent of the water.

The admirals ship — the *Eagle* of 64 guns appearing in full sight, known by her flag, Capt. [David] Bushnell — of the sappers & miners — having prepared his submarine engine — it was sent one night, with a magazine of powder attached to it — under the command of a serjeant and 12 men — the party proceeded to the ship — having a pointed rod at top designed to be stuck into the ships bottom, but this point not taking effect — the tide which was strong — wafted the engine away from under the ship & the enterprise failed. The sergeant who had the command gave me a particular narrative of the proceeding, and said that he was of opinion that the projecting point struck the head of a bolt which prevented its success; but I judged it as probable that the point was prevented from entering the ship by the copper sheathing.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Captain Richards' Diary*, 45.
2. See Appendix B.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT<sup>1</sup>

September 1776

Saturday 7

Moor'd in the No. River at New York

Do [Moderate & hazy] with Rain at times PM at 1/2 past 10 sent 4 Boats to the Assistce of the Advanced Guard p Signal<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.
2. Guard boats could have been alarmed by a strange object in the water—Bushnell's submarine *Turtle*. See Appendix B.

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

Septembr 1776

Saturday 7th

Moored off of Bedlows Island

At 6 A M made the *Asia*, *Bristol*, *Rainbow*, *Emerald*, *Thunder* & *Stombolos* Sigls for Lieuts At 8 Sent a Lieut & the Flat Boats Crews ashore to Red Hook to Launch the Flat Boats, At 9 the *Renown*, *Emerald*, *Thunder*, *Carcass*,

*Asia*, & *Bristols* Sigl for Petty Officers, Arrived His Majesty's Ship *Fowey* At 11 the *Repulse* Signal for a Petty Officer & Lieut Barkers Signal.

The first part fresh Breezes & hazey the Middle light airs & do, latter fresh Breezes & Cloudy with rain At 3 PM Sent Lieut [John] Howorth with Command of 12 Petty Officers & 132 Seamen to Man Flat Boats At 5 made the Parole Signal with a Red & White Striped Pendant & the *Greyhounds* Signal for a Lieut Lieutenant Howorth with the Petty Officers & Men Returned onboard At 1/2 past 10 the out Guard Boats made the alarm Signal, fired a Gun & made the Signal for sending the Guard Boats to their Assistance 1/2 past 11 fired a Gun & made the Signal to recall them<sup>2</sup>

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

2. See Journal of Ambrose Serle this date.

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

Sept 1776

Governors Isld ENE 3/4 of a mile

Saturday 7th Receiv'd our 6 Prs from Red Hook

Fresh gales & Rain P M at 10 Receiv'd 2 Deserters from the Rebels, at 11 an alarm was made by the gaurd boats, Do the Admiral made a Signl to Reinforce them, which was comply'd with

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

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

[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*] Saturday, 7th. Sept.

This Morning, the *Fowey*, Capt. G[eorge]. Montagu, came into the Harbor from North Carolina.

Great Preparations have been making all this Day; and about 80 Flat-bottomed Boats were made ready for a further Debarkation of Troops, and for a further attack upon the Rebels.

A slight alarm happened to-night from the Enemy's Boats approaching too near; they were soon driven back by the Musketry in our Boats. Their Intention was, as we apprehended, to bring down 2 or 3 Fire-ships to set adrift in the Fleet.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 95.

THOMAS RANDALL TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS-

[Extract]

Gentlemen —

Elizabethtown, Sept. 7th, 1776.

Enclosed' is a letter from the Lieutenant of your schooner *Gen. Putnam*, who informs you that the captain went away without letting him

know of his going, and of course it must be a neglect of his duty. You also have a petition from the ship's company, which complaint I fear is too true; you will be pleased to take such steps as you think fit; for my part I think it would be best to appoint a new commander for her; the lieut. I believe would be more industrious in the service. I also think it would not be amiss to order the people to be paid about one half of their wages, to supply them with clothes and stores. . . .

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 223.

WILLIAM GOODRICH TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Philadelphia Goal, 7th Sept'r, 1776

Gentlemen of the Counsel of Safety:

I now beg leave to inform you of my transactions while I was employed in fetching in gunpowder for the use of the Collony of Virginia, and detained a prissinner under Lord Dunmore on that Account, Which is as follows, Viz:

Sometime in July, in the year of 1775, I was employed by Mr. Thomas Newton, of Norfolk, to fetch in a quantity of gunpowder for the use of the collony of Virginia, and was intrusted with Bills of exchange on London to the amount of five thousand pounds Sterling, to purchase the same with. I proceeded to the West indies with all possible disspatch and disposed of the said bills of exchange, agreeable to my directions from Mr. Newton. Then I went to St. Eustatia, Martinico and Sundry other french Islands, and purchased all the gunpowder I could find in those Islands, which did not exceed five thousand weight. And knowing at that time that the Collony of Virginia was laying in a defenceless state, I took the above quantity of gunpowder into a small sloop of mine, with a quantity of Oznabriges on my own Acc't, and proceeded with same to the head of paspotank river, in North Carolina, where I landed the powder and oznabriges all safe. From thence I was preceding to Norfolk, in Virginia, over land, there to see Mr. Thomas Newton, the gentleman who employed me to go on the powder expedition. On my way to Norfolk I was informed that the said Newton had moved from that and it would be onsafe for me to go there, as Lord Dunmore was a keeping a lookout and wanted to take me, owing to an information lodged against me to Lord Dunmore of my being gone out after gunpowder.

When I left the west indies I left the remainder part of the Cuntry's money in the hands of Isaac Vandam, Merchant at St. Eustatia, with orders to lay the same out in gunpowder, and have the same ready at St. Eustatia on my return, a copy of which I took with me. My receiving information that Dunmore Wanted to take me, maid me alter my corse and go to Portsmouth, Where I expected to have seen my family; but on my arrival There, I saw no one but Mr. Robert Shedden, who informed me that my Father's and my family was moved up to a Plantation of my Father's that was about twenty-five miles back in the Cuntry, and that I must leave the town eme-

diately as Lord Dunmore was keeping the strictest lookout for you, which I did. I proceeded to my family. Mr. Shedden sent word to my Father & Brother to inform them of my safe arrival, Who were then down at the Capes, the one at the North cape and the other at the south Cape, keeping a lookout for me, and a small Schooner which they expected in, loaded with coarse Linens. After staying one or two days with my family, I proceeded to Williamsburg, and on my way I met with Mr. Newton, who I inform'd of my proceedings, which gave him satisfaction, & he desired that I would proceed to Williamsburg and there give an account of my proceedings to Mr. R. C. Nicholus, who it also gave Satisfaction to.

From Williamsburg I returned to my Father's plantation, where my Family was, and moved my Wife, who was then big with Child, and looking to lay in the course of a month or so, to Mrs. Brown's, an old Midwives, where I thought She might remain in Safety while I was gone for the remainder part of This gunpowder. As soon as I got her well settled there and provided her with necessaries of Life, I proceeded to my Father's plantation, on my way to St. Eustatia, but on my arrival there my Father wan't returned from the cape, who I wanted to see before I went to 'Statia, which induced me to stay there that night, and, unluckey for me, there came Eight men and an officer that night and took me a prissenner, about two o'clock in the morning, and Carried me on board of the *Otter* Sloop-of-War.

On my Father's hearing of this misfortune of mine, he returned from the Cape, and took the directions I left with Mr. Vandam and went to the head of paspotank, where the small Vessel was laying that I brought in the powder and Oznabriges with, and was proceeding to St. Eustatia in order to take in hand the powder expedition, but onluckily got taiken at Ocrocock Bar, by two of the king's Croosers that was there, and brought a prissonner on board of the *Otter*, with all his papers, among which was a Copy of Vandam's orders, which I left with him. Upon Lord Dunmore Examineing of this Copy of Direction that I left with Mr. Vandam, he found that I had left a considerable sum of money belonging to the Colony of Virginia in the hands of Vandam, at St. Eustatia, to be laid out in gunpowder; upon which, his Lordship obliged me to go on board of an armed tender, and sent me to St. Eustatia, giveing of me possative orders to take that gunpowder, and what money that should not be laid out, and fetch the same to him.

When arrived at St. Eustatia, I informed Mr. Vandam of My misfortune, and told him that I was sent there by Lord Dunmore with such instructions, which I shewed to him, telling of him, at the same time, that we must fall upon some plan to keep Lord Dunmore from Geting of this money, as I did not think it was Just that he should have it, which Vandam readily agreed to, and the money is now laying in the hands of Mr. Vandam's Executors, as he has since departed this Life. Mr. Vandam had the powder ready, agreeable to my directions, which he sold afterwards to a New York Sloop that was laying in the rhoad.

On my return from St. Eustatia to Virginia, I waited on Lord Dunmore and Shode him a note from Mr. Vandam Promissing to pay the sum of

money I left in his hands, On his receiveing advice that the bills of exchange was duly Honoured, and not before, as he was an indorser on the bills which he had the money for, and did not think himself safe in delivering the money before then, which note Lord Dunmore took and was satisfied with; and in about one week his Lordship granted me my perole to go and see my family where I staid three days and returned on board remaining a prissinnor, in which time Lord Dunmore sent for me several times desireing that I would Join government, which I refused to do, telling of his Lordship that I could not think of taking up arm against a cuntry that was Acting in de- vance of there Liberties.

Now the people of the cuntry began to suspect that I had fotch in the cuntries' money to Lord Dunmore, which Occasioned the Convention to stop the payment of a considerable sum of money due my brother & self for a quantity of corse linen sold them in October last. The people of the Cuntry grew so intragedd, they went to the house where my wife was, and when she had been but three Days delivered of a child, with a fixed reasolution to burn the house over her head, which it was as much as some of my friends could do to keep them from. My Friends was obliged to send my wife of[f] in a fortnight after she was delivered as she run a risque of her life while on shore.

After this I staid on board of a Vessel of my own for three months on my perole not to go on shore; after which Time Lord Dunmore sent for me and desireing that I would Take charge of one of the Tenders, which I still refused to do. This Occasion'd his Lordship to grow a little mad. "What," says he, "don't the ill treatment of those fellows on shore to Mrs. Goodrich lead you to resent it?" I replied that I did not think it was right to resent the ill treatment of a few Invious men on the whole Cuntry, and that I could not take up armes agains them with a clair Contience as long as they were acting in defence of there Liberties. "But," says he, "you may depend upon it that they mean to Shake of[f] their dependence on grate brittain?" Then I told his Lordship that if he would alow me to remain nuteral untill they did declare themselves free and independent of grate brittain, that I should then look upon myself to be in duty bound to take a part in favour of grate brittain, and would do avery thing in My power to appress the Americans in such a declaration. Upon which we parted, and I do declair upon my honour, Gentlemen, that I did not do nothing in favour of government but what I was obleged to do before they Declared for Independence. Upon the declaration of Independance in Virginia, I told Lord Dunmore that I was then ready and willing to take a part in favor of grate brittain Agreeable to my promiss, provided that his Lordship would furnish me with a proper Vessel well man'd and arm'd, Which his Lordship agreed to do, and sent me to Bermudas in the armed sloop, the *Lady susan*, to purchase a Brigg that Would carry Eighteen guns. When at Bermudas, there was no such Vessel to be had, and on my return from Bermudas, I met with the misfortune of fall- ing in with the brig *Lexington*, Capt. Berry [John Barry], who took me and sent me here.<sup>2</sup> This, gentlemen, I hope you will take to your Consedra-



tions, and have me treated genteally, as a prissonner of war ought to be, and not like a thief or a Robber, as you have done by putting of me in Close confinement, and not alowing of me to speak to any person. I am, gentlemen, a constant and sinseer well-wisher to the piece and well fair of America, while under the power & authority of Grate Brittain.

William Goodrich

N.B. I would be glad to obtain Liberty of riting to my pore Distressed family who are now in Bermudas, as I understand there is an opportunity.

W. Goodrich

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 621-24.

2. Goodrich wrote to his brothers, Bridger and Bartlett, this date describing his engagement with Barry:

On my pashage from Bermudas to — I made the Brigg *lexenton* Capt Berry [John Barry] of Sixtean guns wright to the windward of me about Six oClock in the morning on the 27 day of July & in the Latitude of 35° - 5' She gave Chase to me, and at 12 oClock She came So near as to throw her shot over me, notwithstanding I was make[ing] off[f] from her with all possable speed right before the wind, from 12 untill ½ after two oClock I kept afireing at her with a three pounder out of My Cabin windows now and then giveing the sloop a yaw and fetching some of my after guns to bare upon her at which time She kept her Bough guns aplaying upon me and ran up along side, at which time I struck knowing my Self to be no match for her haveing but 10 men onboard 6 of which was down with the Smallpox and 2 more not worth There salt to there Victuals, no one remaining true but Jones, Miller & oald hardy the rest all turn'd [torn] in ten minutes after taiken you well [torn] your boy Jeffery by Calling of him the Devil [torn]. Capt Berry used me while I was onboard of the brig with agrate deal of humanity and did every thing in his power to make things Agreeable to me

Record Group 27, Records of the Supreme Executive Council, Pa. Arch.

#### DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Sept. 7th 1776

. . . yesterday arrived a Bermudian Vessell its Sd with 2500 Bushels of Salt . . . passes wrote & Signd to day were for Sarah Lecke wife of the Liutenant of *Roebuck* She was taken at Gwin's Island now going to New York.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

#### STEPHEN STEWARD TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentell.

[Woodyard] Septembr the 7 1776

this will be handed to you by Captain [William] Paterson he has ben with me to No If thare is any of the Provence Boats are Redey I have two Redey for Rigen The Rigen is at Baltimore Wha[re] Capt Paterson may go for amedatly If you think well of Employing him the boat he Chuses to go in is Redey for shipen I am [&c.]

Stephen Steward

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch.

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

[Williamsburg] Saturday. September 7th 1776.

A Petition from the Inhabitants of the Town of Alexandria setting forth among other things, "their defenceless condition, tho accessible to Ships of War under forty or fifty Guns only, and praying that they might be permitted to purchase at the public expence sixteen Iron Cannon, vizt ten eighteen pounders and six nine pounders to be mounted on two substantial Batteries which had been lately erected on advantageous situations in that Town, and which were now compleated with proper embrasures for Cannon directly under which the Channel of the river runs, so that no ships can pass at much more than a Quarter of a mile distant; And that they may be also allowed to purchase in the same manner two small Forges for casting the nine pound shott, with a sufficient Quantity of Ordinance Stores . . . It is Ordered, That the Petitioners be accordingly permitted to purchase the Cannon, Forges & Ordinance Stores aforesaid taking care not to exceed thirty five pounds per Tonn, for the Cannon, including the expence of proving the same, and to procure the other Articles as cheap as possible. . . .

On considering a recommendation from the Navy Board, It is Ordered that Mr Willis Wilson be appointed Captain of a Galley, called the *Caswell*, building at South Quay, and that a Commission issue accordingly.

Ordered, that Mr Joel Studivant who, as appears by Captain Cockes Certificate, has acted as Captain of Marines on board the Brigantine *Raleigh* ever since the resignation of Captain Foster, besides doing the Duties of his own office of second Lieutenant of the said Brigantine, do receive from the Time of Captain Fosters resignation six shillings per Day as long as he shall continue to be employed in both the said offices.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 148, 149-50.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Saturday 7th September 1776. —

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt [Robert] Tompkins for the use of the *Henry* Galley four hundred Pounds of Gunpowder six Quire of Cartridge Paper One hundred Gun flints and a Worm. Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Job Martin for Ten Pounds for two Rifle Gunns furnished Capt George Muter for the use of the *Hero* Galley. — Willis Wilson is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honorable the Council as a proper Person to be appointed to the Command of the *Casewell* Galley. —

1. Navy Board Journal, 53-54, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN WRIGHT WESTCOTT,  
STATE SLOOP *Scorpion*<sup>1</sup>

Sir Williamsburg Sept 7th 1776

You are to proceed to Portsmouth immediately and put your Vessel [i]n order for cruising, with the utmost expedition, being as frugal as possible in your expence.

By order of the Naval Board  
Thoms. Whiting 1st Commr

P. S. Should an Enemy be in the Bay you are to join Commodore Boucher or any other of our Vessels & assist in distressing them T. Whiting

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO SIR JOHN TAYLOR, GLOUCESTER<sup>1</sup>

Sir Williamsburg Sept 7th 1776

We are inform'd by the honble Mr Pago that there was a Flatt sunk with some Cannon belonging to one of Lord Dunmores Vessels near Gwynns Island. We have therefore sent Capt [Robert] Tompkins in the *Henry* Galley to search for them and to endeavour to get them up & Shou'd be much Oblig'd that you will give him the best information you can where they may be most likely found. I am by order of the Naval Board Your hble Servant

Tho<sup>s</sup> Whiting 1st Commr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN AT BALTIMORE."<sup>1</sup>

Williamsburg, Sept. 7.

A Continental ship arrived with our vessel in Delaware, with 2200 stand of arms and 1500 bolts of canvas, and full with other stores.—

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, September 7, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE<sup>1</sup>

Septemr 1776. Moor'd off Ball'd Head

Frydy 6 AM 20 Men & 2 Officers Sent on Shore to work on the fort. Modt. and Cloudy Wr PM the Rebels were discovered on Ball'd Head at the same time attack'd fort Gorge with Musquetry with 150 Men Commanded by Coll Poke<sup>2</sup> after a fire of about 10 Minutes the Rebels were drove off by a party in the Fort of about 25 or 30 Men with only 12 Musketts The men in the fort belong'd to differant Ships of War. the Rebels had 1 Man killd & 1 Woundd not a man hurt by the Rebels Notwithstanding they had the Oppertunity of firing on the grater part for some minutes be-

fore they Could get into the fort. 5 men belonging to H M Sloop *Cruizer* that awas Stragling in the Woods was taken & Carried off before the Rebels came to the fort on the forts firing made Signal for all Boats mann'd & arm'd sent Arms & men from the Ship to Support the fort fird 6 pounders through the Woods at the Rebels at one P M we discover'd 2 of the Rebels Boats in Buzzards Bay Sent Lieutt Dickerson with the Command of Sloop *Defiance* mann'd and Arm'd and 5 Boats to Block them in or destroy them  
 Satury 7 AM fird Six pounders through the woods knowing the Rebels to be there.

Fresh Breezes and Cloudy Wr P M the Boats and Sloop Attack'd the Rebell Boats in Buzzards Bay with Swivels & Musquetry the Sloop fird some 3 Pounders which was Returnd by the Rebels as was thought with either 2 or 3 pounders our Boats Returnd with out being able to Destroy them and under Cover of the Night got off.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. Colonel Thomas Polk, 4th North Carolina Regiment.

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

September [1776]

abreast of Fort Johnston [Cape Fear]

Friday 6th

Modr and fair Wear at Noon the Battery at Bauldhead fir'd upon the Rebels but was soon beat off.

Do Wear at 1 P M the *Falcon* made the Signal for all boats at 2 unmoord and Hove Short on the best bower, at 7 came in a Schooner from the West Indias at 10 A M came into Bauldhead a small Schooner, put 4 of our 3 pounders on bd a Sloop to go up the river to prevent the Rebels from geting by bauld head

Saturday 7th

Mode and hazey at 6 P M the boats belonging to the Ship fird several Swivels at the Rebels boats up in Buzzards bay, but was obliged to retreat.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE<sup>1</sup>

Septemr 1776

Moor'd in Cape Fear River.

Saturdy 7

AM the Rebels landed on Bald Head burnt the Red Cutter which was hauld on shore to prevent her falling into their hands

Boats Empd with the Armed Sloop in cutting off the retreat of the Rebels from Bald head they having been repulsed by the Fort in the W. part of the Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

*Providence* at Sea in No Latd 36.°40' and  
Wt Longd 51° — Sept 7th 1776.

Gentlemen

I had the honour of writing to you 27th Ulto pr the Brigantine *Britannia* a Nantucket Whaler which I Sent in under the Care of Lieut [William] Grinnell. — Also 4th Currt pr the Brigt *Sea Nymph* from Barbadoes for London which I Sent in under the Care of Mr [William] Hopkins Master of the *Providence* with a particular Accot of my Cruise till that time — nothing has Since happened till last Night when I took the Brigantine *Favourite* laden with Sugar from Antigua for Liverpool as pr Custom House Certificates herewith inclosed — as this Vessel did not Sail from Antigua till 18th Ulto my future Success must be very uncertain the West Indies is very much thinned of Shipping & I have already Succeeded beyond my expectations however I will not yet give up the pursuit. I Send this Vessel in under the Care of Mr [Joseph] Vesey my Actg Master — Since I dispatched the *Sea Nymph* I have understood that there is a very considerable property in Wine & Cask over & above what is enumerated in her Clearances — I hope this may appear in time to take measures accordingly. — I herewith forward you a large Bag of letters which may I hope contain some useful Information. — Some of them contain Bills of Lading for the Cargo. — As I have no Clerk I hope to be excus'd for not Sending Copies of my former Letters. I have the honor to be with gratefull Esteem and much respect Gentlemen [&c.]

Jn° P Jones

The *Favorites* Crew are as follows Vizt

1	John Davis	Master
2	Bernard Gallway	Mate
3	Jno Williamson	Secd do
4	Jno Wilson	Seaman
5	Ben. allen	do
6	Wm. Nolats	do
7	Jamie Bacop	do
8	Saml Cornish	do
9	Jno Gaunt	do
10	Jno Irvine	do

1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock, and Miscellaneous Papers), 58, 85, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE COUNCIL OF WEST FLORIDA<sup>1</sup>

[Pensacola] 7th September 1776.

We the Subscribing Members of His Majesty's Council therefore recommend it to your Excellency that you will be pleased to order His Majesty's Engineer to put the Fort of Mobile in such a temporary State of defence as may be thought Sufficient to Repell any Attack from the Rebels

as the Loss of it will be Attended with the following dangerous Consequences —

first That it will Cut off all our Communication with the Chactaws, Chickesaws and all the other Tribes of Indians to the westward as far as the banks of the Mississippi and alienate those tribes from His Majesty's Interest with the total loss of the Indian trade which is at present very considerable and will put and end to all Commerce between Great Britain and the River Mississippi which will infallibly fall into their Possession

Secondly That it will be Seperating us from the Western part of the Province and prevent this Colony from Supplying the West India Islands with Lumber &c. and this place with such Provisions as are Necessary for its Subsistance. . . .

A Majority of the Board then gave it as their Opinion and advice that His Excellency the Governor Should give Orders to the respective Officers of the Customs at Pensacola not to clear out any Vessels now in this Harbour bound to the River Mississippi & should also Apply to Lieut Cobb the Commanding Officer of the Armed Sloops here to prevent any such Vessels from going out of the Harbour untill farther intelligence arrives in Order that these Vessels may be prevented from giving intelligence or affording any Assistance in transporting the Rebel Troops which may come against us thro' the Channel of the Mississippi & whom they think there is reason to expect. . . .

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/634, Part II, 387-92, LC Photocopy.

## 8 Sept. (Sunday)

### "EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 8."<sup>1</sup>

Captain [Francis] Proctor is confined in the common goal in Halifax, is treated most barbarously, and had been in irons ten weeks on board the *Mercury* man of war; they threaten to take away his life, but he despises their threats; all that he wants is to meet his enemies in the field.<sup>2</sup> He has been in Halifax goal about five weeks, together with Col. [Ethan] Allen, Mr. [James] Lovell, and 28 others.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 25, 1776.

2. For capture of Proctor by H. M. S. *Syren* see Volume 4.

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

Septr 1776

Sunday 8

Cape Cod So 73 Wt 49 Leagues

at 1 A M handed Mizn T. Sail Close Reeft Topsails Handed Fore and Mn T. Sails at 5 saw a Sail to the So wd made Sail and gave Chace at 6 saw another Sail to Windwd at 9 came up with the Chace Brot too and sent the Boat onboard to take possession Proved to be an English Ship Bd to London

taken of[f] Cape Race By Amer Privateers Recd onbd the Prisoners<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. The ship *John*, Captain John Hunter, taken August 30 by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Independence*. The Halifax Vice Admiralty Court returned the *John* to her master after he "offer'd to pay the one 8th Salvage to the Captors in behalf of the King." Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, N. S. Arch.

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

Dear General,

Isle aux Mott September 8th 1776 —

When I wrote the foregoing Letter I designed sending off the Batteaux last evening but was prevented by the Stormy weather lastnight the Enemy were heard by the Guard Boats and the People onboard the Vessels near in-shore onbothsides of us several Trees were felled and lights discovered. I believe the Enemy were erecting Batteries, which might have injured us as the Lake is only one and a Quarter Miles over and their Design was doubtless to have attacked us both by land and Water at the Same Time. I make no Doubt we should have been more than a Match for them, but did not think it prudent to Run any Risque, as it would answer no good Purpose. I therefore ordered the Fleet under way this Morning, and at 2 OClock P. M. anchored at this Place here the Lake is about two Miles over and safe Anchorage we effectually secure any Boats passing us — just as we came to Anchor Lieutenant [John] Brooks came on Board, sent down by Colonel [Thomas] Hartley in Consequence of hearing our Cannon fired at the Indians on Sunday Morning. I have thought it necessary to dispatch him back again that you may be out of Suspence with regard to us. Four Guard Boats are constantly out, the Rounds go every two Hours, at Night, and every precaution is taken to prevent being surprized. —

Our men are extremely bare of Cloathing and the Season is coming on-severe & more so on the Water than land. If a WatchCoat or Blanket & one Shirt could be sent for each Man it will be of great Service for them. Rum is another necessary Article When the Howitz arrive, I beg three or four of Six Inches may be sent us mounted, on Field Carriages, with Shells &c. &c. 50 Swivels are much wanted, the last Vessels h[ave none] I am [&c.]  
[B. Arnold]

P S. send me a few Quires Paper

1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS. A copy is in Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Albany September 8th 1776

The Season advances so fast that it is Time to think of preparing the Winter Quarters for such Troops as are not to be kept in Garrison . . . perhaps it would be best not to canton the Troops too far from Tyonderoga at it may be supposed that an attempt will be made by the Enemy in the

Course of the Winter on that post or at least they will try to burn our Navy in order to insure their passage over the Lake in a future Campaign — . . .

Since writing the above a Letter from General Gates of the 5th Instant is come to Hand he observes that "as the Fleet is large and mounts a Number of Cannon and the Body of Troops here very considerable, it is immediately necessary that fifteen Tons of powder, Ten of Lead with Flints and Cartridge paper in proportion should be sent to this post," I have not any of the Articles here and must intreat that they may be sent with all Expedition.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 331-42, NA.

CAPTAIN ISAAH ROBINSON TO LIEUTENANT JOSHUA BARNEY<sup>1</sup>

Mr Barney —

As it may be a means of preventing Mr Forrests, & the other Gentlemens Chests, & other things being more vigorously rummaged when you get up, You will be kind enough, before the Pilot or any other reputable person to examine their Chests, Boxe's, &c. should you come Across [illegible] Money, You will take a List, or Acct of it, Accurately; As the Congress will require a return of every thing of that kind to be made to them, but Leave it in the Gentlemens posession, Untill the Sentiments of the Congress are made known to me relatively to it. Let not a stitch of Wearing Apparel, or any thing else of the kind apertain[ing] to them be touch'd on any pretext Whatever

You will bring the Brigantine to Anchor in the stream and suffer no body to come aboard of her, but those that have Imediate Business, & suffer not the least Article belonging to her, her Cargoe, Materials, or Stores to be touched, or brought from her. I am Yrs Sincerely

Mr Joshua Barney }<sup>2</sup>  
Lieutt  
of the *Sachem* }

Is<sup>a</sup> Robinson

Sloop *Sachem* Sunday Morning [September 8, 1776]<sup>3</sup>

Nb Apply to Mr Forrest<sup>4</sup> for Capt Stalkers Bill of Lading for the Cargoe &c — He may depend on its being return'd him, for his recovering his Insurance on which Acct. he is Under a Necessity of having one.

1. FDRL.

2. Barney, first lieutenant of the *Sachem*, was prize master on board the British brig *Three Friends*, Captain Anthony Stalker, which was taken after a smart engagement on August 12, 1776. Mary Barney, ed., *A Biographical Memoir of the late Commodore Joshua Barney*: . . . (Boston, 1832), 45-46.

3. The date is based upon the arrival of the *Sachem* in the Delaware on September 7, and the instructions to Barney stating "when you get up." These facts point to "Sunday Morning" as being September 8. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 11, 1776.

4. Probably James Forrest whose letter to Congress was read on September 17 and referred to the Board of War. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 768.



CAPTAIN JAMES CAMPBELL TO JOHN HANCOCK<sup>1</sup>Chingoteague Virginia  
8th Septemr 1776

Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you that the *Enterprize* Privateer of Baltimore under my command is arrived Safe in this inlet having taken during my Cruize the following prizes vizt

The *Lancashire* Ship a Guiniaman in Ballast now in Sinepuxent in Maryland — 4 Guns 16 men —

The *Betsey* Brigt of Jamaica from Guadaloup for Hallifax having on board 120 hhds & Tierces of Molasses now in this inlet —

The *Black River* Ship from Dominica for Bristol having on board 158 hhds Sugar 58 hhds. rum 60 hhds Molasses, Egg Harbour

The *Snow James* of Lancaster from Antigua having on board 100 hhds Sugar 171 Bales cotton 2 hhds rum 14 Tierces and 27 Barrels Sugar & 50 Tons Fustick 23 men not yet arrived.<sup>2</sup> The Brigt *Betsey* of Guernsey from St Croix having on board 240 hhds rum not yet arrived expected this day The Sloop *Modesty* of Dartmouth in England from Barbadoes for Newfoundland thirty hhds & 4 Tierces rum and Twenty Barrels Sugar arrived yesterday in Sinepuxent the Schooner *Liberty* of Nova Scotia from Montserat & Anguilla having on board 1000 bushs Salt 14 hhds rum & 10 casks Nails a Sloop from Tortolla with a small cargo of Salt & rum Dis-mis'd with 30 prisoners being quite Outnumbered by them when I saild I had 53 men & boys 29 of whom never was at sea I suffered much in my health and Sprung both my Masts, but expect to get better soon and be out again before the winter I shall send your honourable Congress a Survey of the Inlet when my health permits it being of Great importance and ought to be fortified for which four Guns would be sufficient in it is 15 feet water and among the Shoals without a Ship of any Size may find Shelter till lightened<sup>3</sup> I am Sir [&c.]

James Campbell —

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, V, 63, NA.

2. Retaken and carried into Bristol, England, *Public Advertiser*, London, October 1, 1776.

3. See Journal of H. M. Sloop *Nautilus*, August 22, 1776.

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

No 24.

My Lord;

In the evening of the 28. August a Ship with some of His Majesty's loyal Subjects and their Effects arrived at an Anchor of[f] this Bar from Cockspur.

The next morning, the Master and the Passengers being ashore, a rebel Brig, supposed to be one Turpin Commander of 16. Guns and a hundred Men run close to the Ship put three boats of their People into her and carried her off/

We have no naval force but the *Saint John* of four Guns, and Lord William Campbells Schooner of six Guns in this Port for repairs. The first was ten miles up North River cleaning, the latter without Men.

A Sloop pierced for fourteen Guns, belonging to Captain Mowbray, who has been in the Kings royal navy, and a person of much credit and esteem, the same I sent to Captain Berkley's [Andrew Barkley] assistance in February last at Cockspur, had arrived a few days before from the Islands. I engaged him to go out, sent for the *St John* Schooner in all haste, put ten Guns into the Sloop and endeavoured, My Lord, to Man her; finding it however a difficult task, a subscription was set a foot to encourage the Men to enter on Board, after our utmost exertion, about thirty Men were collected by night, and of them not more than ten Men the Captain told me fit to go to Sea. The *Saint John* made great dispatch, and by eleven at night was in the road towards the Bar, although she lay Keel out of the water, when my letters reached Lieutenant Grant.

Your Lordship cannot guess at my shock and mortification, for my zeal runs high on such occasions for His Majesty's service.

After applications my Lord to Admiral Shulldham, Sir Peter Parker, and to Lord Howe, for a sufficient naval force for the protection of our Coasts and Rivers, I am, my Lord, utterly in despair of any maritime assistance.

The Inhabitants are very uneasy my Lord, for the want of such support, and from the very strong reports from all hands, that the rebels intend to attack the Plantations on Saint John River, I have been under the necessity of taking Captain Mowbrays Sloop into His Majesty's Service, for the Protection of the Province, although it be attended, my Lord, with great expence, I have no alternative. Our Rivers are too large to be defended without Vessels upon them, by any number of Troops, less than an Army.

For these reasons, my Lord, I wrote to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Troops, of which the enclosed is a Copy, No 1, and to Lieutenant Grant of His Majesty's Schooner, No. 2.<sup>2</sup>

I hope your Lordship will approve these measures, I beg leave to assure you my Lord, in all cases and circumstances, my greatest care and anxiety is to do right. I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, My Lord, Your Lordships [&c.]

Pat. Tonyn

St Augustine 8 Sept 76

[Endorsed] St Augustine 8th Sepr 1776 Governor Tonyn (No 24) R/  
19th Decr (2 Inclosures)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 783-86.

2. Tonyn to Prevost and Tonyn to Grant, September 5.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPE NICHOLA MOLE, DATED SEPT. 8."<sup>1</sup>

. . . A French Frigate arrived the other day from France, with orders to the General to protect all American vessels: A pilot boat belonging to a merchant in Philadelphia was taken the day before yesterday, and sent to

Jamaica; a French frigate of 36 guns and a guarda costa, which last hoisted Continental Colours, were immediately sent after her, with orders to follow her into Port Royal harbour, if they could not overtake her before, and demand her; what will be the consequences time will discover. The French were very much exasperated at her being taken, which was within two leagues of the land.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 16, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Atalanta*, CAPTAIN THOMAS LLOYD<sup>1</sup>

September 1776

Cape Tiberoon NbE 5 or 6 Leagues

Sunday 8th

Fresh Gales and cloudy weather, at 4 P M in 2d reef at 6 Cape Tiberoon N $\frac{1}{2}$ W 8 or 9 Leagues Variation Pr Ampltde S, 39Et, att 8 close reef topsls and got down top Gallt Yards at 10 handed fore and Mizn topsl fired 2 Six pounders at the Packet to make her keep her Station,<sup>2</sup> she being a great way to windward and going a head, when she came within hail I asked him why he did not obey his Instructions, answered he did all he could to keep astern. I asked him why he did not haul his foresail up, he made the same reply, and added that he would leave me to morrow, which he repeated as he went under the Lee Quarter, I then replied he should not if I could come up with him, and told him, I would fire into him if he attempted it, she then Shot a head without Shortning Sail, upon which I ordered the foretopsl to be set, but before that was accomplished he fell on our Starboard Bow and carried away the Spritsl Yard; the Ship wearing very Quick prevented any farther damage; when he fell on Board his after Yards were Square, as soon as she run on board clewed all up, she Shot a head and to Leeward, fired a Swivel at her to bring her too, was obliged to wear round after her several Times. At 12 fired 6 Guns and made the signal to bring too on the Starboard Tack,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/75.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Atalanta* had sailed from Port Royal, Jamaica, on September 4 conveying the packet *Anna Theresa* and the sloop *Antelope* through the Windward Passage.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A MERCHANT AT BARBADOES, SEPT. 8."<sup>1</sup>

The *Ranger*, a Privateer Brig of 16 Guns, fitted out here to cruize against the Americans, has brought into Carlisle Bay an American armed Schooner of ten Carriage-Guns, from Brest, bound to Philadelphia, on board of which were found several Letters; amongst others was one addressed to the Hon. John Hancock, Esq; from one Mr. [Frederick] Hamilton, an American Gentleman, who has been some Time at the Court of Versailles.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, October 22, 1776.

9 Sept.

PETITION OF ISAAC COLLYER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

The Petition of Isaac Collyer of Marblehead

Humbly Sheweth that your Petitioner with Sundry others Are fitting out an Armed Vessell [the *Polly*] on a Four Months Cruize Against our unnatural Enemies to Carry Twelve Carriage Guns and One Hundred men Nathaniel Leech Commander and as It is difficult if not Impracticable to Procure Ammunition, Beg your Honours would be Pleased to order the Commissary of this Colony to deliver your Petitioner One Thousand Pounds of Gun Powder he paying for the same and your Petitioner as In duty bound shall Ever pray &c.

Isaac Collyer

[Endorsed] Sept 9, 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 181, 214 This petition is illustrative of the frequent requests for gun-powder made to the state by those who were outfitting privateers.

PETITION OF JOHN BARBER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

To the Great & General Court, of the State of the Masachusetts Bay, now sitting in Watertown —

The Petition of John Barber, late of Charlestown, in the said State —  
Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner hath a Schooner about 56 Tons Burthen, which was Coming from Sheepscot the 29 of August, &c. by contrarey winds put into Cape Anne the 3d of September; having on board Posts, Rails, a few Boards & Some Shingles, all designed for my own use, for Building & inclosing my Lands in Charlestown;

That the embargo laid by the Honble Court, took place the 4th September, by which means his Vessel is retarded, Your Petitioner Humbly Prays that your Honble Court would Grant him a permit to bring her round to the Port of Boston, for which indulgence he is willing [to] give securities for his faithful performance — And your Petitioner as in Duty bound will Ever pray

Boston, Septem. 9, 1776

John Barber

[Endorsed] In House of Representatives Sept 9th, 1776

The Committee appointed to take into Consideration the within petition of Captn John Barber have fully Considered the Same and Report by way of Resolve —

Resolved that the within named Captn John Barber be permitted to bring the within named Schooner with her Cargo from Cape Ann to the Port of Boston — he taking due Caution to prevent Said Schooner & Cargo falling into the hands of the Enemy

Sent up for Concurrence

Sam<sup>l</sup> Freeman Speakr P.T.

In Council Sept 9, 1776 Read &amp; Concurred

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 181, 218-19.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Monday September 9th, 1776.

Petition of Ichabod Jones setting forth, That he in May 1775, considering that the People at Machias in the Eastern part of this State were of themselves unable to procure the Provision necessary for their support, & knowing that the greatest part of them depended on him to supply them the other Traders having declined to do it; did purchase a Quantity of Pork, Flour, & other Articles of Food, & convey the same to the People aforesaid in two Sloops belonging to him

That when arrived at Machias the Inhabitants at his Request met together, & were informed, that if they could furnish themselves in any other way with necessary provisions he would be extremely glad to be freed from the difficult, & hazardous Task – That a great majority of them declared they could not obtain the necessary Supplies without his Assistance and desired him to continue as formerly to bring them provisions.

That afterwards by means of some of the Machias People with the Assistance of others in the neighbouring places the Vessels aforesaid, & the Person of the Petr were seized – That at the time of the seizure the Inhabitants of Machias owed him, & Compa nearly the Sum of Four thousand pounds LMy which he is able, and ready to prove. –

That he is lately informed they have taken possession of his Houses, Mills, & all his other Estate at Machias, & not only of the Estate of which the Petr was sole proprietor, but also of the Estate which belong'd to himself, & Partners

That he learns from an Advertisement in the Watertown Paper of Augt 19th that Libels are filed against the Vessels, & Cargo's abovemention'd before the Judge of the maritime Court for the eastern District in this State, & that the Justice of the Captures is to be tried at the said Court to be holden at Pownalboro' on the 9th of September next.

That as he is confined in the Town of Northampton under large Bonds (with scanty means of subsistence) he is unable to attend himself, or to procure any person to attend in his Behalf on so short a Notice, & is greatly apprehensive, that his property therefore will be condemned, altho' if allow'd to attend the said Court with his Evidence, he persuades himself the Innocence of his Conduct would fully appear.

And praying the Hon: Court would take the Premises into consideration, & that he may have a hearing thereupon, having no doubt on a full knowledge of his Case that he would be discharged from any further Confinement – and that he may have liberty to attend in Person the Trial aforesaid of his Vessels at some future time, to which the said Court shall by Order of the Hon: Court be adjourned, & that in the mean time all proceedings touching the Vessels & Cargo's aforesaid may be stayed.

Resolved, That the prayer of this Petition be so far granted, that the maritime Court for the Eastern District of this State to be holden at Pownalboro' on the 9th of this Instt in order to try the Justice of the Capture of

two Vessels taken from the petitioner be adjoun'd to the first Day of Octr next in order, that the petitioner by an Attorney may shew cause if any he has why the said Vessels should not be Condemned. And the Petr by his Attorney has Liberty to file his claim with the Judge of the said Maritime Court, to the said Vessel, & Appurtenances at any Time before the said first Day of October next – And that the Judge of said Court be notified thereof by being served with a Copy of this Order.

Petition of Isaac Dodge setting forth – That he with his Company marched upon an alarm to Gloucester last November to defend a Store Briga called the *Nancy* taken by Capt Manly, that he has received no consideration therefor tho' the Hon: Court have allowed others that were called upon the same business – And praying for allowance for himself & Men in said Service agreeable to the roll.

The Comtee appointed to examine the Muster Roll of Capt Isaac Dodge for Service, & Travel of himself, & Co from Ipswich to Gloucester 29th Novr 1775, have attended that Service, & beg leave to report, that they find the same right cast, & well vouched, & inasmuch as said service was for the Protection of a Prize taken by Capt Manly in the Continental Service, that the said Roll be paid out of the Treasury of this State, & charg'd to the Continent. all which is humbly submitted –

John Bliss p order

Resolved, That there be allowed, & paid out of the public Treasury of this State to the within named Isaac Dodge, or his Order the sum of Twenty two pounds four shillings, & ten pence for the use of himself, Officers, & Men (who were employed in the Continental Service) in full discharge of his Roll.

Petition of Thomas Melvill, for himself & others – setting forth – That they have at a great expence equipt, & fitted the Schr *Speedwell* Jona Greely Commander with ten Carriage Guns, & every necessary warlike Implement for a Cruize against the Enemies of the American States; but for the want of about 700 lb wt of powder, said Schr is detained in the Harbor, and unable to proceed on her intended Cruise – And praying for a supply of 700 lb wt of powder, &c.

Resolved that the Commissary General be, & he is hereby directed to deliver out of the Store belonging to this State[ (]or order the same to be delivered at the powder Mill in Stoughton) Five hundred pounds of Gunpowder to Thomas Melvill he the said Melvill paying Six shillings p pound to the said Commissary for the same – the Commissary General to be accountable for the money so Received. –<sup>2</sup>

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 35, 207, 208, 213, 216.

2. *Ibid.*, the General Court provided gunpowder for six other privateers this date.

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

[Extract]

Boston Sept 9th 1776

. . . A Number of prizes have been sent into the different ports of New England since my last, 4 in at Bedford, one at Cape Ann, some at the

Eastward & a number at Providence, chiefly West India men. — The Spirit for Privateering is got to the highest pitch of enthusiasm, almost every Vessell from 20 Tons to 400 is fitting out here; they are in great want of Guns, but with what they dig up on Wharfs and at the Corner's of Streets, they have made out heretofore very well; Small Vessells are gone to Hispaniola for the Cannon of 2, 24 Gun Ships, that are now fitting for the Sea; the Owners have offer'd me 20 £ p Month & 4 shares, to take the Surgeon's birth on board one of 'em. — The Salt Petre business is still persu'd with spirit, tho' the quantity that has been brot in since June, is but small, but when the Farming business is over we shall have it in as great plenty as ever. —

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Sir

Boston September 9th 1776

I have received your kind favor of the 24 Ultimo — The 24 Gun Frigate might have been out to Sea a month Ago and have cleared her Cost as well as the Cost of the other Frigate, by what prizes she might have taken before this, had she have been furnished with her Guns, the want of these retards every Attempt to fix her off, besides it will be impossible to procure Men till they see she is Compleatly Armed, It is a great pity you have not been able to send the Cannon from Philadelphia; I have received no orders to purchase any here but have from the first been told I should be supplied with them from Philadelphia, however I have tryed in Vain to procure them at Providence, Their Furnace has been so engaged in supplying the two Continental Ships there as well as the Government of Rhode Island with Cannon that they have constantly wrote me I could not be supplied with any till they had fulfilled those Engagements; but I fear (being tempted with a most extravagant Price by the owners of Privateers) they have notwithstanding been Supplying other People even in preference to their own Government; Mr Nicholas Brown, one of the owners of the Furnace, has lately wrote me that they Can have Ninety pounds Lm p Ton for Cannon & want to Know Whether I am empowered to Contract for any, but does not Inform me how soon I can be furnished, if I was willing to Contract at that enormous price, which I dare not do without first Consulting Congress, pray let Know what I shall do upon this occasion, provided they at Providence Can furnish me Seasonably —

The *Mi[l]ford* Frigate and, it is said, some others, are Cruising upon our Coast and taking prizes — The Continental Frigates, if they were now out, might be of eminent service, O for Cannon! The spirit of Privateering prevails so amazingly here that Cannon cannot be procured, if at all, but at a most extravagant price — pray forward them from Philadelphia if possible & send me the dimensions of the Guns by the first opportunity that I

may compleat the Carriages, for the General Court apprehending the 24 Gun Frigate will not be a Match for the *Milford* of 28 Guns are About placing the Guns, they proposed lending to me, on board the Portsmouth Frigate, if Capt Langdon will consent she should go out And Attack the *Milford* . . .

Your Brethern in the Law have fine times of it, They are making Money as fast almost as they Can receive it, I suppose there never was a better chance for Gentlemen of your Profession getting money than the Present, Privateering prevails so much & such a number of prizes are taken that it makes a vast deal of Business in your Way — Messrs Dana, Lowell, Kent, Morton Hitchburn &c. &c. &c have their hands full —

While writing I received your Favor of the 31 August — The prize ship that had the Ten 9 pounders on board was retaken & Carried to Hallifax — I hear Capt Langdon is appointed by the Congress Agent for the Continental Ships within the State of Newhampshire and as he has had the trouble and fatigue of building & fixing one of them out (which at this difficult day is attended with Ten times the trouble & fatigue as at another time when every thing may be obtained with Ease & barely for asking for) I think it is reasonable & just he should have the Appointment — If I, who have had the care & trouble of building two of these Ships, Should be entirely overlooked, will it not seem as if my conduct with respect to them was disapproved of? As to the Objection made to my being Agent for the prizes on account of it's being incompatable with my other Appointments, it seems this objection was easily got over with respect to Mr Langdon for he is judge of the Common pleas in his Government as well as my self in this Government; with respect to such an Appointment's being incompatable with the place of a Councillor, that seems not to Agree with the Ideas of the Court here, for both the Honble Mr Wm Sever & Mr Richard Derby are Councillors and Notwithstanding this they have both been appointed by the Council Agents for the Colonial Vessells of War, one for the southern District, the other for the Middle District; As I have had an Infinite deal of trouble in building & Collecting the Materials for these ships I should think it hard if any one else was appointed to have the Care of them & from time to time to furnish them with Supplies, It will be full enough for one man to have the Charge of the Prizes, and for Another to have the Care of these & the other Continental privateers & from time to time to supply them with Provisions, Stores of all Kinds, Mast, Yards, Cables and other riggen as they may stand in Need of them — perhaps this is the appointment Capt Langdon has got pray let me know particularly what his appointment is & what precisely is his Duty, I am oblided to you for the tender of your services Upon this occasion & doubt Not I shall experience the benefit of them —

I remain with respect [&c.]

Thomas Cushing



COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence Septembr 9th. 1776 —

I receiv'd yours, and desire you will supply Captn [Hoysteed] Hacker with every thing that may be necessary to enable him to get with dispatch his Vessel ready to Cruise<sup>2</sup> —

As to purchasing the Schooner you best can tell, as you had directions in procuring the Vessel — My Instructions is to Mann her and Order her where to Cruise — I have no Orders to buy, or to direct any other Person to buy — perhaps you would do well to write to the Marine Committee for Orders in that matter, as I believe they had no Apprehension of any Warlike Vessel, Guns or Stores of any kind being Sold without their Especial Orders, so to do — I expect to come to New London soon, and am Sir [&c.]  
Esek Hopkins

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

2. Continental brig *Hampden*.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN HOYSTEED HACKER,  
CONTINENTAL BRIG *Hampden*, NEW LONDON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence Septembr 9th 1776

I receiv'd yours of the 5th instt and observe that you think your Vessel is in bad Order — If it is necessary, direct you as soon as possible to Grave, or clean the Brig and fit her for the Sea with 5 or 6 Months provisions on-board —

Mr. [Nathaniel] Shaw will Supply you with every thing necessary — I shall come to New London soon and give Some directions about filling up your Officers. I am Your Friend

E.H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL CHEW, NEW HAVEN<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence September 9th 1776

I receiv'd yours — and now acquaint you that I had directions from the Marine Board to offer you the Command of a Schooner which they made no doubt was in New London, and directed Mr Shaw their Agent there to preserve her which can't be done as the Schooner is gone — <sup>2</sup> If Mr Shaw procures any other in her Room shall fit her out — but I have no Orders to buy a Vessel myself — that matter being entrusted to their Agent Mr Shaw — If any thing offers shall acqu[ain]t you — I shall be at New London in a few days, when I shall be able to inform you with more certainty, in the mean time I am [&c.]

E.H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Schooner *Hawke* which the Marine Committee had ordered purchased and renamed *Hopkins*.

"INTEROGATORIES ANSWERED BY SAMUEL LIGHTBOURN LATE COMMANDER OF THE BRIGANTINE *Fanny*. PROVIDENCE SEPT 9TH 1776"<sup>1</sup>

Interog. When where and by whom was the said Brig taken, from whence and to what Port was She bound, what Tonage is She what are the Contents of the Cargo of said Brigg: and who are the owners of the said Brig and Cargo? —

Answer The said Brig and her Cargo upon the Twenty first Day of August AD: 1776 was taken upon the High Seas, by Jabez Whipple Commander of the private Sloop of War called the *Independence* in Latitude 33. her Cargo consists of 118 Hogsheads 3 Tierces 14 Barrels 15 Bags of Sugar 5 Barrels of Oyle 10 Barrels of Limes about 300 lbs of Indego 1 Cask of Rum. the said Brig & Cargo were bound from the Island of Antigua to London. — the said Brig is owned one Quarter part by myself One Quarter part by William Lightbourn of Bermuda — One Quarter part by William Malcom of New York, and the other Quarter part by Cook Muli-gen of New York late deceased, the said Cargo belongs to Inhabitants of Great Britain Said Brig is of the Burthen of about 146 Tons.

Sam<sup>l</sup> Lightbourn

Providence Septemr 9:1776 Sworn to before me

John Foster Judge of Prize Causes —

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, R. I. Arch.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Lebanon Septemr 9th 1776

Since my last I have made Enquiry what naval Force can be had in this State to assist in an Attempt to clear the sound of the Enemies Ships — and find we can soon have a Ship mounting 20 Guns, 9 ladders, and a Brigantine of 16 Guns ready for that Service; we could also add another Brigantine of 8 Guns could we procure Cannon to put upon her, besides our Gallies, which we hope may be able to join them

I persuade myself You are advised of the present Situation of our Army and the Enemy, from which it will appear how much it imports the Success of the Army under General Washington, as well as the Safety of these States to atchieve this Enterprize — Could Commodore Hopkins be prevailed upon to join the Force under his Comand with Your Gallies and such naval Force as your State can furnish to our Ship Briga and Gallies I flatter myself it would be sufficient to effect the purpose intended. if greater Force should be thought necessary, there are two privateers in the Harbour of New London that may be had to assist them.

Permit me to request your Attention to this subject, and your answer by the return of this Express and to assure You I am with the greatest Respect & Esteem [&c.]

Jon<sup>th</sup> Trumbull

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R. I. Arch.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen —

Lebanon Sept<sup>r</sup> 9th 1776 —

The vast Importance of preventing the Ministerial Army takeing the Benefit of the Stock on Long Island & Availing themselves of the Advantage of that Post, Assisting such of the Inhabitants to remove with their Effects who are disposed for it, and prevent their Total Seduction, I Apprehend are Matters of more Consequence to the Common cause than we can easily Imagine, to dislodge that Army from Long Island and Destroy the two Ships & Tenders in the Sound which at present prevent Supplies that way by Water to Our Army, might at one blow in a great Measure Relieve Our Bleeding Country from its Impending Danger —

How far it wou'd be Practicable or what Measures are proper to take at this Alarming Crisis is Matter of Serious Concern with Us — Its Supposed here that in Case an Attempt Shou'd be made to Collect a Force at the East end of Long Island to Remove Stock &c That a Number of Whale Boats wou'd be Absolutely Necessary to Troops Stores Supplies &c as they might Avoid all the Vessels of Force the Enemy cou'd send to Obstruct us — I am Informed that a large Number of Whale Boats that belong to the Continent are at and near Boston and might be used for that Important purpose we have but very few with us. I am Also Informed that a Regt is Ordered from you to Providence to replace the Continental Battallion removed from the State of Rhode Island, & Whether your Regiment cou'd not come in the Whale Boats to Providence Carrying them A Cross the Land at Buzzards Bay, is I apprehend Worthy of your Consideration, and to be executed without Delay We are Equipping what Naval Force we have with all Possible Expedition, we are Exerting Ourselves & desirous to Unite Our Whole Strength with the Other States in Our Common Cause — I dont doubt of your Utmost Attention and Most Vigorous Exertions therein. Must Intreat your Answer to this & such other Measures as you Judge may be Beneficial —

I have Communicated to Governor Cooke on the Subject I am with great Truth and Esteem Gentlemen [&c.]

Jon<sup>a</sup> TrumbullA true Copy —<sup>2</sup>

Attest —

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R. I. Arch.

2. This copy was enclosed in Trumbull's letter of the same date to Cooke.

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

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council [Lebanon] September 9th, 1776.

Voted to give, and accordingly gave, orders to Capt. Zebadiah Smith, master of the prize schooner *Elizabeth and Hannah*, (now at Newport) lately taken and sent in by the armed schooner *Spy*, to embrace the first fair wind and weather when the coast is clear of the enemy, and proceed with

said prize to N. London and up to Norwich, and take the necessary steps to procure a legal condemnation to be pass'd thereon as soon as may be.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 517.

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

Sir

New London Sepr 9th 1776

Inclos'd is two letters wich came by Express from Saybrook, this moment — And the person who brot them says he must wait for an Answer —

Should be Glad you would give sum orders for the People Tradesmen &c we want to Assist in fitting the Arm'd Vessels, not to be Oblig'd to March with the Meletia, or we Cannot Proceed — as to officers that are to be Imploy'd in the Navy its very Nessesary that they be hear, & In Case you have not already Appointed any, if its Agreeable, I will Choose such & Recommend to your Honour as I think will Answer our Purpose — I am Sir [&c.]

Nath<sup>l</sup> Shaw Junr

P.S. I Recd yrs of Yesterdays date & have Sent of[f] a Vessell to New Haven for the Stores NS

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 308, ConnSL.

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

[Extract]

Isle-aux-Mott September 9th 1776

. . . The Master of the *Royal Savage* is Ill with the Fever and Ague; I shall observe your Directions very particularly, I hope soon to have the Pleasure of seeing General [David] Waterbury and the three Gallies. I think the Station we are in the Best in the Lake to stop the Enemy; there is not a good Harbour, except where the Lake is Wide until you come to Button-Mould Bay, thirteen Miles this side Crown-Point here I think we are very safe from Gales of Wind: the Anchorage good and several small Harbours in the Vicinity where the Gondolas will Ride safe from any Wind, that Blows, I have sent you Robert Aitkins an experienced Pilot, to bring down the Gallies and have given him particular Directions. —

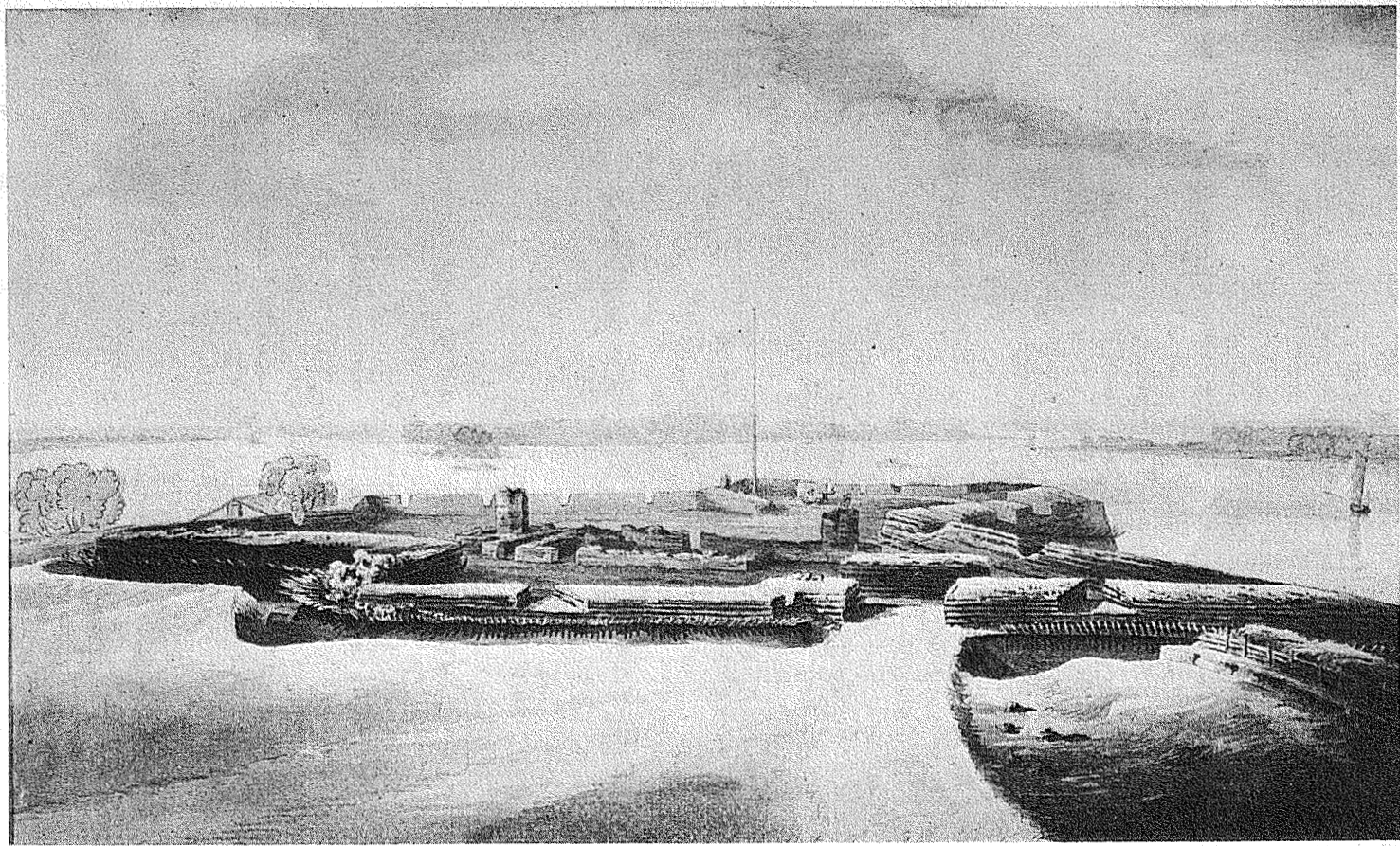
1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS.

ABRAHAM YATES, JR. TO THE NEW YORK DELEGATES IN THE  
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety for the State of New York  
Fishkill Sepr. 9th 1776

Gentlemen. Sensible of the great Importance of the Posts in the high-lands, We have lately directed an enquiry into their Situation which will appear from the inclosed Return to be far from such as we could wish. —

The Necessity General Washington has of all the Troops that compose his Army at New York, prevented his sparing to those Fortresses sufficient



*Hell Gate, New York, Showing American Fortifications.*

Garrisons or the necessary Stores — What may be the fate of the Country below the highlands is as yet uncertain and may possibly depend on the event of a single Battle — should these Posts be properly secured we cannot but hope that the greater part of this State might nevertheless be retained; and the Communication between the Northern and Southern States be by that Means kept up — For which Reason we wish you to call the Attention of the Congress to an Object of whose Importance they have already been sensible and to ask a proper supply of Stores. We have already afforded them all in our Power to supply — Fire Ships would be of great use, yet for want of Materials we are unable to proceed in preparing them. Seamen cannot be procured here to man our armed Vessels without the greatest Delay unless drafted from the Army — perhaps they may be got at Philadelphia. —

By the inclosed Resolves you will find that we have endeavoured to reinforce the Garrisons in the highlands — As these Men are all taken from the Plough, we are very anxious to have them relieved as soon as the Circumstances of the Continent will admit. —

We have borrowed of the State of Connecticut twenty Pieces of Cannon, ten Twelve and ten Six Pounders for the Forts — We wish they were heavier, but we fear this Deficiency cannot be supplied, and therefore must endeavour to do without them — You will find by the enclosed Resolves that we have taken Measures to encrease the Number of our field Artillery. You will be mindful to transmit us every public Resolve of Congress, and at least one of the *Pensylvania Gazattee's* every Week — We remain Gentlemen [ &c. ]

By Order      Ab<sup>m</sup> Yates Junr President

1. Papers CC (New York State Papers), 67, I, 268-69, NA.

#### DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

[Long Island] 9th Sept Two Ships of War are expected up the East River, as soon as the Wind and tide serves for their pafsing the town. Many of the flat boats have come up the River during the late nights, and are assembled in Hallet's Cove near Hellgate. More are expected up this night, and the whole will be collected there.

Everything indicates that we shall soon attempt something decisive against the Rebels, but considering the nature of the Shore at Hellgate, and rapidity of the tides and variety of Eddies there, I do not suppose the landing will be made in that place. It appears probable that the erecting batteries against the Enemy's works at Hellgate, and making so much demonstration there, is intended to draw their attention from some other point, for owing to the situation and construction of their principal work, it is extremely difficult to destroy it effectually.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 41-42.

E. BALDWIN TO SOLOMON PORTER, DANBURY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp below Turtle Bay Sept 9. 1776

Matters continue very still, that I have little to write — We are in hourly expectation of the Enemies Landing on this Island — But they continue still as yet — Except that they have Erected a Battery opposite ours at Hell gate from whence there was yesterday a very brisk Cannonading & Bombardment upon our Fort — & from our fort upon them — I hear they killed one of our Men, wounded Another & have done some Damage to the fort — last Night they were still on both sides — but this morning we hear the Cannon playing very briskly again. The Ship (probably the *Rose* Capt Wallace) still lies in the East River close by the long Island Shore; at such a Distance, that tis not easy to damage her much. . . .

1. Trumbull and other Assorted Papers, YUL.

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

[Extract]

Head-Qrs New York, Sept 9th, 1776

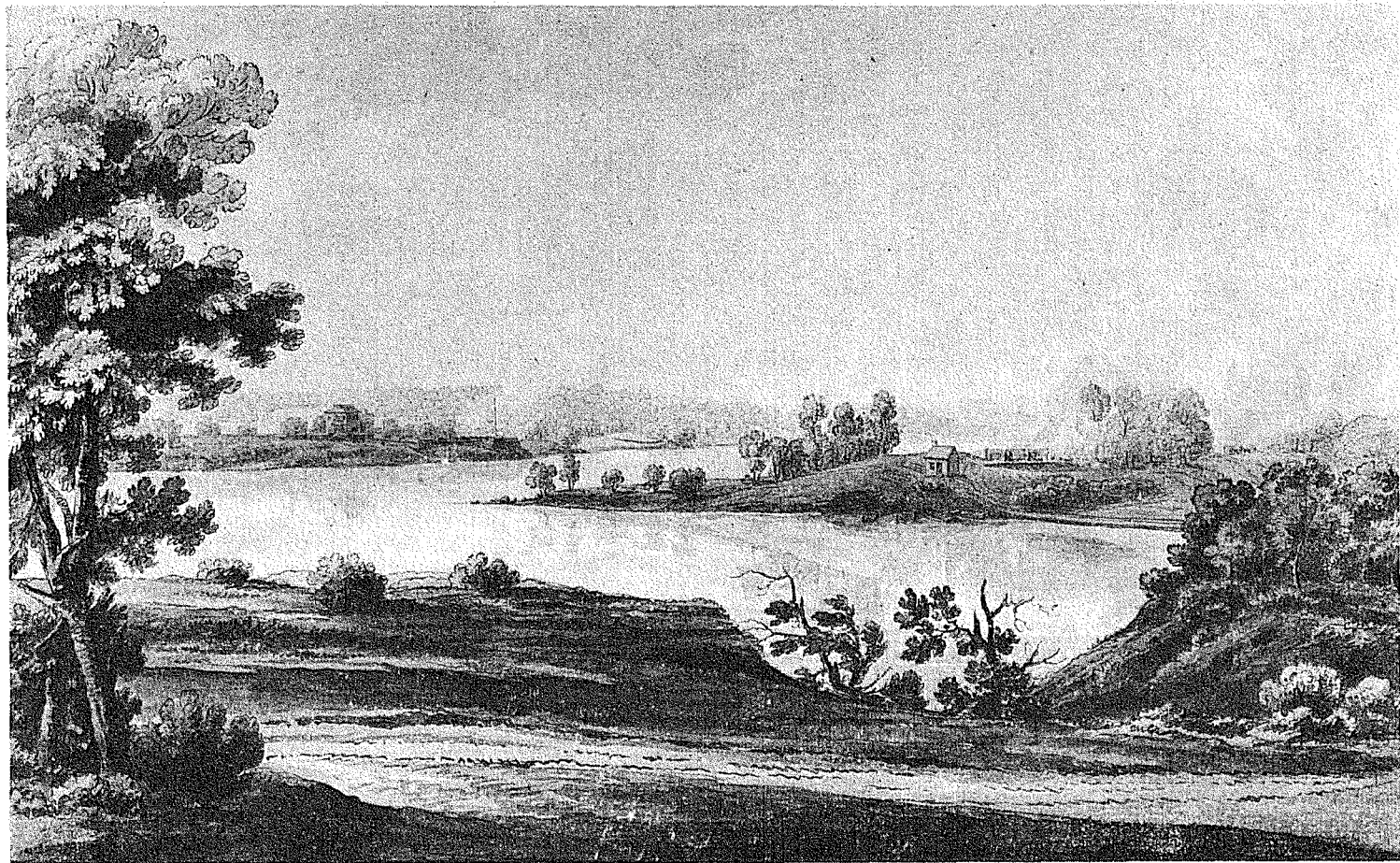
I highly approve of your plan and proposition for raising such a naval force as will be sufficient to clear the Sound of the enemy's Ships of War — If Admiral Hopkins will Join you, I should suppose It not only practicable, but a matter of certainty, & If it can be effected, many valuable & salutary consequences must result from It — As to drafting Seamen from the Continental regiments It cannot be done as their Numbers have been reduced so low already by taking men from them for the Galleys, Boats, & other purposes that some of them have hardly any thing left but the Name, besides I must depend chiefly upon them for a successful opposition to the Enemy — If It can be done out of the Militia I shall not have the least objection & heartily wish the Enterprise, when ever attempted may be attended with all possible success — secrecy & despatch will be most likely to give It a happy issue — The enemy's Ships can receive no reinforcements but such as go round Long Isld — Our Works at Hell Gate preventing their sending Ships that way — they are sensible of their Importance & yesterday opened Two, Three Gun Batteries to effect their destruction, but as yet have not materially damaged them & they must be maintained If possible.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

*New-York Gazette*, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1776

New-York, Sept. 9.

Since the Retreat of our Army from Long-Island, the Enemy have extended themselves a considerable Length on the Shore bordering the Sound, and on Tuesday a large Number of them landed on Blackwell's-Island, about three Miles from the City, but the Shot from our Batteries soon made them recross the River. On Wednesday a Ship from the Fleet, (supposed to be a



*British Hell Gate Battery Opening Fire, September 8, 1776.*



Frigate) passed between Governor's Island and Red-Hook, and that Night got up the Sound abreast of the Island the Enemy had been drove from; when, under cover of her Guns, they the next Day again came over to it in large Bodies – This brought on a brisk Cannonade for near two Hours, in which the Ship sustained so great Damage in her Hull, &c. as obliged her to move close in with the Long-Island Shore, for Shelter from our Shot and Bombs. At the same Time of this attack, a firing also began from the Enemies Batteries on Long-Island opposite the City, which was returned with such Spirit, by our People in their Fortresses at and about the Ship-Yards, that they gave us little or no Annoyance since from that Quarter.

Several Men of War now lie within Gun Shot of our main Battery, and the greatest Part of the Fleet behind Governor's-Island tho' they have lately had very favourable Winds to come up to the City; which gives us Reason to think they mean not to attack it by Water till they know the Success of their forces in attempting to land on this Island.

Thursday a Barge was seen in the East-River, sounding the Channel where it is obstructed by scuttled Vessels, but soon made off, as it is supposed she observed our People at the main Fort, preparing to give her a suitable Salutation.

Wednesday a Flag came from the Fleet with a Return of those Officers that were made Prisoners in the late Attack on Long-Island; who we hear are treated with Civility by the British Officers.

Saturday night our Guard Boats for observing the Motions of the Fleet, fell in with those of the Enemy, when a smart Attack began and lasted for some Time, but the latter being reinforced with several Tenders obliged our's to return to their Station.

On Sunday Morning a Cannonade again commenced, supposed to be from our People opposing some new manoeuvres of the Enemy up the Sound.

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

[Philadelphia] Monday, September 9, 1776

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to hear the parties on the appeal against the verdict and sentence of condemnation passed against the schooner *Thistle* and her cargo.

The members chosen, Mr. [Richard] Stockton, Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [James] Wilson, and Mr. [Thomas] Stone.

*Resolved*, That in all continental commissions, and other instruments, where, heretofore, the words "United Colonies" have been used, the stile be altered, for the future, to the "United States."

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 747.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] September 9th, 1776.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed . . . to pay Doct'r James Dunlap £16 13 6, for Medicines, &ca., for the use of the Fleet.

An order was given for Rob't Jewell, Esq'r, was authorized & Required to receive the Bodies of Messrs. James Forrest, Thomas Byrn & Shanks into his Custody, they being Prisoners of War, Taken by Capt. Isaiah Robinson of the Armed Sloop *Sachem*<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to pay Sam'l Davison, late Commodore of the Fleet, his wages to this day.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 713, 714.

2. Josiah Bartlett to John Langdon, September 9:

Yesterday was sent in here by the *Sachem* continental vessel, a brig [*Three Friends*] bound from Antigua to the British Army; She mounted six guns and fought obstinately. killed 3 men on board the *Sachem* – her loading said to be rum and sugar.

William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 217, LC.

LIBEL OF CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY AGAINST EIGHT NEGRO SLAVES<sup>1</sup>

Port of Philadelphia, }  
 Pennsylvania, ss. } To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, that a Court of Admiralty will be held at the State House in the city of Philadelphia, on Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of September inst. at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, then and there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bill of John Barry, commander of the brigantine of war called the *Lexington*, (who as well, &c.) against Thomas Saunders, John Lucy, John Pomp, Samuel Sawood, Jack Masson, Charles Mills, Chance and Jeffery, *Negro Slaves* lately taken on board the prize sloop or vessel called the *Lady Susan*, William Goodrich, master; to the end and intent that the owner or owners of the said slaves, or of any or either of them, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be condemned, according to the prayer of the said bill. Sept, 9, 1776

By order of the Judge,  
 Andrew Robeson, Register.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, September 10, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

At a Meeting of the Committee 9 Septemr 1776 –

Job Green having appeared before the Committee and desired a Passport to pass the Fort for the Schooner *Two Brothers* now loaded with Bread & Flour intended for the West Indies, and the Committee being informed, that the said Schooner was the same Vessell, which belonged to Mr James Clarke, and was then called the *Sea Flower*, demanded of Mr Green,

whether he would make Oath, that the said Vessell was his own Property, before the Time Mr Clarke was published as an Enemy to his Country, he answered, that he would not, the Committee therefore, Unan[imously] rejected a Clearance for said Vessell to pass the Fort, the more especially as Mr Green has refused to associate & has paid a Fine of £ 10 --

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

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

[Williamsburg] Monday September 9th 1776

It appearing by an authentic Letter, received from a Gentleman of Credit in the Island of Bermudas that the Schooner *Polly* John Middleton Master, cleared out from the port of James river, for the Island of Hispaniola, hath landed and Disposed of her Cargo in the said Island of Bermudas, contrary to the Resolutions of the General Congress; and in breach of the Condition of the Bond given for clearing out the said vessel Resolved that the attorney General be desired to commence a Suit in Behalf of this Commonwealth on the said Bond; and to procure the Depositions of the Master and Mate of the Sloop *Good Intent*, lately arrived from Bermudas, and who are about to leave the Country, to be taken as evidence in the said suit.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 150, 151.

#### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Monday 9th September 1776. --

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to George Goosley for Forty eight pounds thirteen shillings and three pence for Rum furnished Capt Travis for the use of the *Manley* Galley. -- Also for seventeen pounds one shilling and six pence for Swivel Guns, Shott he furnished Capt Thomas Lilly for use of the Brig *Liberty* as p Accts this day settled --

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Brett for Twenty five pounds for a Boat Built for the use of the *Manley* Galley. --

1. Navy Board Journal, 54, 55, VSL.

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

No 25.

My Lord; On the 7. by express from the Commanding Officer on St John River the Rebels have appeared on the opposite side of some force, our Planters are greatly alarmed, but I hope the Indians I have sent along the West side of that River will soon compell them to move out of this Province.

The Sloop Captain Mowbray which I was obliged to take through necessity into His Majesty's Service will be of the greatest use in that River, I have also employed a scout Boat with swivels, and have directed that as

many as are necessary to perform the service of scouts on the River be employed.

Give me leave to inform your Lordship, the expence of these services not only distress me, but shock me, the expence of employing Rangers is terrible, repairing and putting in order the Fort comes high, I hardly know which way to turn.

I have desired the Commanding Officer to apply to the General to discharge the expences of repairing the Lines by the Kings Troops, and for their allowance of Rum when on that duty, these charges will amount to a considerable Sum, but they are nevertheless absolutely necessary in our present situation

I have done every thing with the greatest frugality and Oeconomy, yet in these times I am startled at the expence.

It is confidently reported that a rebel General of note, with a considerable body of troops arrived at Savannah about a month ago.

The distresses of our frontier Inhabitants are great, they affect me very deeply, I endeavour to lessen them, as much as I can, but, it is not possible in our Situation to remove them.

That your Lordship may know the state of His Majestys Troops, I have the honour to enclose a return.

We are now actually threatened with an invasion. By all accounts from His Majesty's loyal Subjects preparations are making in Carolina and Georgia to besiege this Garrison. Part are to come by the inland water passage, with the Row Gallies, the Men the rebel General [Charles] Lee brought from the North, joined to what can be raised in those two Provinces. Lee has been as far South as Sunbury. I am informed the rebel Generals [John] Armstrong and How [Robert Howe] are to conduct this expedition. Lee I believe is either gone to the North, or is going there. We hear great boastings from Georgia, of what great things they are to do. If they come they may possibly ruin our Plantations. In former letters I have acquainted your Lordship of my suspicions of a part of the Inhabitants of this Province. But, my Lord, If the Plans I have set on foot, to bring the Indians to our assistance take place on this occasion, of which I have not the least doubt, your Lordship, I flatter myself will hear in the end a good account from me, of this vaunted expedition.

I have had the honour to convey to Lord Howe, and the General, an account of these matters. I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, My Lord, Your Lordships [&c.]

Pat. Tonyn

St Augustine 9 Septemr 76

[Endorsed] St Augustine, 9th Sepr 1776. Governor Tonyn (No 25)

R/ 19th Decemr (1 Inclosure)

10 Sept.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW<sup>1</sup>

- Sept 1776                      Cape Ann No 43 W 27 Lgs  
 Monday 9                    at 5 AM saw 2 sail Et wd gave Chace, 9 mann'd and Arm'd  
                                  the Pinnes and sent her after a Sloop. 1½ past sent the Cutter  
                                  onbd a Sloop from Nantucket fishing, still in Chace —  
                                  Light airs and fair, at 7 [P. M.] shortned sail, and brot  
                                  too. Retd the Pinnes with a sloop from the Wt Indies, bound  
                                  to Rhode Isld with Rum and Sughar, took possession of her,  
                                  hoisted in the boats and made Sail  
 Tuesday 10                   at 6 AM gave chace to a Sloop Wt wd    at 11, the Sloop run on  
                                  shore sent the Boat after Do Prize in Co  
                                  First and Midle parts, Modr and Cloudy, latter modr and  
                                  clear, returned the Boat, not being able to burn the chace,  
                                  being fird upon by a party of Rebels, at 5 PM bent a New F  
                                  Topsl

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

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

Remks on Tuesday 10th of Sept 1776

- 12 [M.]    Saw Cape Cod barring west 8 Leagues Distance  
                  Lattd in 42°.9'  
 Hasey weather    moderate breaze of wind from the southward    at 3 P M.  
 saw a Ship and sloop barring west    we hald our wind to the SW the ship  
 and Sloop gave us Chaise    at 5 the ship gave over Chaise    she out saild the  
 sloop so fast we allmost lost sight of her    at 6 the ship spake with the sloop  
 the ship barring N E B N and the pitch of the Cape N W B N 3 Leagues  
 Distance    rainy weather    we find Mackrell plenty    Saw a sloop on shore  
 about nawset [Nauset] harbour    at 8 bore away round the Cape small airs  
 of wind from SE

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

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

[Watertown] Tuesday Sept 10th 1776

On Motion Ordered That Mark Clark be Commissiond as Master on  
 Board the Armed Brig Called the *Massachusetts*, Daniel Souther Com-  
 mander belonging to this State —

Bonds being given by Nathl Leach & John Guest & James Mugford a  
 Commission was Issued out to the said Nathl Leach<sup>2</sup> as Commander of the  
 Sloop Called the *Polly* & Instructions were Accordingly deliverd him —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 223, 224.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 165, 227, the name is spelled Leech in petition for commission.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Providence Septembr 10th. 1776.

Inclosed you have Copies of Captn Hacker & Mr Shaws Letters, by which you will know Circumstance of the Brig and the Schooner which Mr Shaw was to purchase – The *Alfred* is this day going to Newport there to be hove down, as upon examining find her Bottom so foul that she will not do well to Cruise untill Clean'd – The *Andrew Doria* has sent in here two Brigs, One from Dunmore with Salt, Tobacco, Rice and Flour, One Phaeton and Chaise bound to Antigua → the other with fifty hogsheads Rum from Barbados to the Land –<sup>2</sup> Captn Biddle had also taken a Ship with 15,000 bushs Wheat which Lieutt [John] McDougall thinks was bound to the Westward

There has also arrived in this port this week a large Ship loaded with Sugar from Grenada, and Brig with Rum from Antigua taken by the Sloop *Independance* of this place –<sup>3</sup>

The People onboard Captn Biddles Prizes informs, that they left the *Columbus* in Lattd 36 – and when they parted a Sixty Gun Ship was in Chace of her

The whole attention of Merchants and Seamen at present seems to be on Privateering through the whole New England Colonies, any Small Carriage Guns will now Sell at the extraordinary Price of 400 Dollars pr Ton –

I believe if you was to give the same Prize Money which is one half as they do, it would be a great deal easier to Mann the Continental Vessels I am with great Regard [&c.]

E.H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. The vessel from Dunmore's fleet was the brigantine *Elizabeth*; the one from Barbados, the brigantine *Lawrence*.

3. The prizes were the ship *Aurora* and brig *Fanny*.

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

[Lebanon] September 10th, 1776.

This Board do appoint Doctor Thomas Gray to be Surgeon's Mate and Physician of the ship *Oliver Cromwell*, and his Honor the Governor is directed to give him a warrant accordingly.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 519.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT<sup>1</sup>

Sept: 1776

Moor'd off Whitestone

Sunday 8

Mode Breezes & Fair Wr P M sent an Officer & 20 Men to the Et wd in a Sloop with the *Halifax*

Monday 9

First part Do Wr Remr Do &amp; Cloudy

Tuesday 10 Mode & Cloudy at 10 P M the Officer & People Return'd from the Et wd with a Prize Sloop from Curasoa bound to New York Laden with Bale Goods<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

2. *Ibid.*, on September 13 the captors "sent the Prize sloop to Flushing & put the Cargo under the Care of Messrs Frumiture & Eustace."

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

Sept. 1776 Remks at Anch'r off New Citty Island  
 Sunday 8th AM Heard the Report of a Heavey Cannonade, supposd at Hell Gates  
 The 1st part fresh Breezes and Fair Middl Do and Hazy  
 PM the *Nigers* Tender Came Down, and Brt fresh Beef for the Use of the Briggs Company, and a Party of High Landers sent the Boats Mannd and Armd on the long Isld shore in search of Vessels and Boats at 10 the Yaul returnd with a small sloop from long Island  
 Monday 9 A M at 5 Saw a Sloop off Janseys point. Sent the *Nigers* Tender in Chace, weighd and Gave Chace. fird a 4 pr Shotted and Brt to[o] the Sloop Came too of[f] the So part of Hart Isld in 18 fm of water found the sloop to be the *Sally* from Coraso Laden wt salt Bale Goods. bound to New York — took Charge of her as prize Sent the *Nigers* Tender wt the Yaul in to Cow bay in Search of Vessels for Governments Use Weighd and Turnd to wards Cow bay  
 Remks at Anchor in Cow bay Long Island Sound  
 P M at 4 Came too in Cow Bay wt the Sml Br in 3 Fathoms Veerd to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a Cable, Tend[er] and Prize in Company. At 10 the Boats returnd and brought one Sloop and some Small Boats with her  
 Tuesday 10th AM sent the Tender and Boats with a Party as before at 10 the Tender and Boats returnd with two Empty Sloops and Several Small Boats with them Empd Occasionally Light Breezes and Fair Weather PM Weighd and Came to sail with the Prize five Sloops and several boats in Company at 9 Came too of[f] Frogs point and sent the *Nigers* Tender with the Boats and Vessels and Prize up to the *Brune*. Rowd Guard during the Night

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS TO WILLIAM COIT, NORWICH MERCHANT<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp Nigh Kingsbridge Sept 10th 1776

. . . I Expected to have got the boards down the North river, but the day before yesterday 3 Ships ran the gantlet by all our forts, & have Stopd

Our People from getting Any Lumber down for barracks, though they got a good deal down before, tis Supposed that is what they went up for — the Ships were much damaged from our forts, they took one of the york gallies, but the men got on Shore, & tis reported they took Another after they got up the river —

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO JOSHUA WENTWORTH<sup>1</sup>

Sir

New York Sept 10. 1776

I am directed by his Excellency to acknowledge his receipt of yr Letter of the 26th Ultio advising of the Capture made of the Ship *Nelly Frigate*, & of the acquittal of the Brig *Elizabeth* on a Trial had the 22d. also of your appealing to Congress from that decision. —

Removed at such a distance as his Excellency is, and Involved in a multiplicity of Important business, It is impossible for him to give directions about or to pay attention to the Continental Armed Vessels at the Eastward — Therefore, at the same time that he doubts not but your conduct is right respecting this Appeal, he apprehends you should correspond with the Marine Committee appointed by Congress in all matters that may occur in your department, presuming that they were appointed & intended for that purpose. — His Excellency can only repeat that he has already said, that the Laws prescribed by Congress, are the only Rules by which you can conduct yourself — It is not his wish nor in his powere to give any orders or advice authorizing a deviation from them — If in any instances hardships of a peculiar nature cast up — Congress & Congress alone have it in their power to relieve, on proper representation being made.

The Estate of Colo. Lee, late of Marblehead, having lent the Continent some Guns to fit out their Armed Vessels, which are now wanted & applied for you will deliver Nathanl Tracy Esqr Eight that are at Portsmouth which were taken in some of the prizes — Mr Tracy has a claim to Ten, which his Excellency would have replaced, If we have so many — The reason of mentioning Eight, is, that he has no Account of your having more. I am &c

R H H

1. Washington Papers, LC.

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

[On board H. M. Sloop *Swan* at Sandy Hook]

Tuesday Sept 10th Thermometer 66. Captn Bursel in an armd Ship from cork last from Halifax in 18 days passd up to the fleet with a prize ship from Virginia 16000 bushels of wheat and Indian corn aboard and six Victuallers from Ireland also a Schooner with passengers from Halifax. at noon also passd up the *Merlin* Sloop of war with two prize



Sloops laden one Homward and the other outward bound to and from the west Indies.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO WILLIAM TEMPLE FRANKLIN<sup>1</sup>

Dear Grandson,

Brunswick Sept. 10, 1776

It is possible that a Line from Lord Howe may be left for me at your good Mother's, as I have appointed to be there to morrow Morning, in order to meet a Notice from his Lordship relating to the Time & Place of a proposed Interview. If it should come there to night, or very early in the Morning I could wish you would set out with it on horseback so as to meet us on the Road not far from hence, thus if N York should be the Place, we may not go so far out of our way as Amboy would be. Besides I should be glad to see you. My Love to your Mother Mr [John] Adams & Mr [Edward] Rutledge are with me. If Amboy or the House opposite to it on Staten Island is to be the Place of Meeting, we shall want private Lodgings there. I am as ever, Your affectionate Grandfather

B Franklin

If no Letter is come to your House enquire at Headquarters if any for me is come there; but do not mention from whom, or the Occasion.

1. Mason-Franklin Collection, YUL.

DANIEL JOY TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE<sup>1</sup>

Sr/

Reading-Furnace Sept the 10th 1776.

The purport of this is to acquaint you that I have been at Col: Grubb's Furnace where I proved Two of their 12 lbs with 8 lb of powder & two Shot, boath Stood, Mr Bustead had proved one of them with 12 lb of Powder & one Shot before my arivel. last Saturday I left their when they had 27 twelve pounders cast, the Majore part of which looks Extreemly well & cast very Smooth aqualety peculiar to that Metel, — An accident happened that they Brock the Gudgin of their water wheel or else they would had Several others ready, before I left it they cast a new gudgin So they will soon be able to get [a]boreing again & I endeavored to prevail on the Cleark to get one made at some Forge which he promissed me he would, for I have but a poor oppinion of cast Iron for such kinde of work. They have excessive hard work in boreing out their coers. I have told him Bustead of Mateirals to make them with So as they can be got out with the greatest ease which I make no doubt but he will try.

They go on with the greatest Spirit & I make no doubt but will soon accomplice their contract, the greatest fault in their cannon is they are very large being  $17\frac{3}{8}$  Inches at the Touchole &  $11\frac{3}{4}$  Inches at the Muzle & I suppose will weigh about 30 C, — They requested me to apply to you for a resolve of congress for Liberty to employ a number of the prisoners of war

(not exceeding twelve[] ), which if you should obtain please Send it via Lancaster to be forwarded by Mathias Slough or Wm Henry to cornwall Furnace, working people are very scarce at present about the Furnaces's –  
I remain with much Esteem [&c.]

Daniel Joy

P S when I was in Philada last I saw some Double-headed Shot in the State-house yard the Barr's of which were large enough to over load any gun, they being  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 Inches Square, And as Messrs Rutter & Potts have an Order to make Some for Congress I have herewith Sent you the Size of the Barr's &c: as I calculated them for Sd R: & Potts — you'll see they are in a just Ratio with the Shot. that is they are  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Diametir: of the Shot long in the clear &  $\frac{1}{5}$  of a Diameter Squar — The greatest length that ever was alowd was 3 Diameters — I am &ca

D: Joy

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

BILL OF JOHN SLEMAKER, PILOT OF THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence*<sup>1</sup>

Ship <i>Defence</i>	To John Slemaker	Dr
1776		
March 8th	To Piloteing To North Point and up	£ 4..0..0
	ditto To Annapolis and up	7..0..0
April 30th	To Wicomoco and up	16..0..—
May 18th	To ditto	16..0..0
June 6th	To Boat hire and Expences Taking } up the 4 Deserters	5..9.11
27th	To Piloteing To Potomack & up	14..—..—
July 4	To ditto to Wicomoco	16..0..—
23	To Potomack	14..0..—
August 1st	To Annapolis	7..0..—
9th	To the Cape	24.15..—
Sept 10th	To Annapolis	3.10..—
		£ 127.14.11

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 1, Accounts, 1776, Md. Arch. The movements of the *Defence* in Chesapeake Bay can be traced through this account, the origin of each cruise being Baltimore.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Tuesday 10th September 1776.

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt Gabriel Jones for Four hundred and forty four pounds one shilling and three pence for the pay of his Company of Marines to the twenty ninth day of August last as P Pay-roll this day settled —

George Brett personally appeared before the Board and Agreed for the Sum of six pounds P Ton to Build a Row Galley on Mattapony River of the fol-

lowing Dimensions, Vizt, Eighty one feet Keel Twenty one feet Beam seven and a half feet Hold, Square Stern'd with a Quarter Deck thirty feet long three feet Waist with Quick Work as high as the Sills of the Ports, Ten Gunn Ports. The Plank (except for the Decks) and all the Timbers to be of good sound white Oak of Proper sizes and the Plank for the Decks to be of good two Inches thick Yellow Pine, the whole to be finished in a Workman like manner with as many Ports as can conveniently be Rowed in also Oars, Masts, Yards and all necessary spars fitted to a Cleet and to be delivered by the first day of April next –

1. Navy Board Journal, 55–56, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO MR. BENJAMIN BAKER, NANSEMOND <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Williamsburg Sepr 10th 1776

We are inform'd by Captain [John] Calvert that you have not as yet complied with [yo]ur Contract for furnishing the Men employ'd on the Gallies building at So Quay with Provisions, and that you seem rather to be dispos'd to retard than expedite their work, We are greatly surpris'd that you shou'd endeavour, by any means to obstruct the public service and find it our duty to call upon you for an immediate compliance with your Contract and at the same time to warn you against throwing any difficulties in the way of our Workmen or People employ'd there, as you may hereafter answer it at your Peril I am for the Naval Board Your Hble Servant –

Tho<sup>s</sup> Whiting 1st Commr –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE <sup>1</sup>

September [1776]	The S end of St Johns River SW $1\frac{1}{2}$ W 3 Leagues
Tuesday 10	At 9 A M anchored with the B Bower in St Augustine Road in 10 fam Found lying here the <i>Duke of Cumberland</i> Packet. Fired a Gun & made the signal for a Pilot. At Noon one came onboard, who informs us that the Sloop <i>Fincastle</i> our Tender was in the Harbour, with a Prize Schooner she had taken with Corn & Tobacco

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

11 Sept.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lizard*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

Septemr 1776	[Hillsborough Bay, Island of St. Johns]
Tuesday 10	Sent an officer wt 18 Men to bring Guns to defend Charlotte Town.
Wedy 11	Brought the remainder of the Guns from Fort Amherst

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/550.

ISAAC SMITH TO JOHN ADAMS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Salem September the 11th 1776

As to trade there is but very little what there is. is chiefly in the West India way, but that is very much Obstructed by the *Milford & Liverpool & Viper* who seem to be stationd this way. and take more or less every week. we were in hopes the Continental ships would have been att-sea before this, but dont see any prospect of there being likely to get to sea: A Month to come, the complaint is for want of Guns — There is here and the Towns round About a doz privateers Out, a small One took a briga from Ireland bound to Halifax with beef butter &c — for the Armeys is in att the Eastward & expected up here Two Vessells from Antigua with Rum for Halifax was carrd into Plymouth last week. — One taken by this state briga<sup>2</sup> Capt [Simeon] Sampson — we have here Another briga<sup>3</sup> belonging to this state near sailing Capn [Daniel] Souther, but these Vessells are not sufficient to keep the Coast cleer. I am Affraid the Town of Boston will be greatly distrest for want of Wood this Winter, As there are many Coasters taken which discourages there coming up . . .

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. *The Independence*.3. *The Massachusetts*.ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] September 11th 1776.

Resolved, That Edward Pope Esqr the Colony Agent at Dartmouth, be, & hereby is empower'd, & directed to pay to the petitioner [Weymes Orrock] one hundred pounds out of the Colony's part of the Ship [*Harriot*], & Cargo of which the petr was late Master if so much there be belonging to this State, if not, whatever is the Colony's proportion of sd Capture.

Whereas the Ship named *Lord Dartmouth* lying in Danvers is libelled in the Maritime Court for the Middle district by Bartholomew Putnam, and Andrew Cabot, and Whereas this Court apprehend that as said Vessel was owned in Great Britain she properly belongs to this State.

Therefore Resolved, That the Hon: Richard Derby Jr Esqr be and he hereby is appointed agent in behalf of this State to put in, and defend their Claim to the said Ship, appurtunances & Boats, and whatever may be found in her, and in all respects to carry on said Claim to final Judgment, and if the same shall be adjudged to this State, that he take possession thereof 'till the further Order of this Court.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 35, 224, 227.

PETITION OF A PASSENGER IN THE BRITISH PRIZE SHIP *Princess Royal*  
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

The Petition of William Williams an African –  
Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner in a Ship bound from Jamaica, to London, commanded by Capt Archibald Duthie<sup>2</sup> was taken by the Letter of Marque Schooner *Sturdy Begger*, commanded by Capt Peter Lander, and after the Capture of the said Ship, he was taken out of her and put on board the said Schooner *Sturdy Begger*, and brought into Salem.

That your Petitioner, being in a Country where he is an entire stranger, and where from the manner of his bringing up, he is incapable of earning his living, is deprived of the necessary means of subsisting. Your Petitioner has for a number of years been much incident to the Rheumatism, even while in the West Indies and being now in so cold a Climate, he must expect that the same disorder will attack him with double violence upon the approach of Winter, unless he should be suffered to depart this Country

Your Petitioners humble Prayer therefore is th[at] he may be suffered to take passage for London, in a Ship bound thither lately purchased by Mr Ross and others at Boston

And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray

his  
William X Williams  
mark

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 11th 1776 Read & Ordered that the Prayer of the Petition be granted and the Said William Williams be permitted to depart from this State to any Part of Great Britain in such Vessel as Willm Ross & Nathl Morgan (who lately obtained Liberty of this Board to depart) may purchase for that Purpose –

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 228.

2. Captain Duthie's vessel was the *Princess Royal* which was retaken by H. M. S. *Milford* and carried into Halifax, Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, N. S. Arch.

PETITION OF ETHAN COMPSTOCK AND JOSHUA WING  
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

The Petition of Ethan Compstock second Lieutt in the *diligent* Schooner of War Capt. John Lambert Commander & Joshua Wing Master of said Schooner humbly sheweth –

That your Petitioners have been in the Service of the State nearly six Months, have made several Cruizes but all of them unsuccessfull by which they have not been able to supply themselves with any of the necessaries of Life: & your Petitioners are now reduced to such a Situation (not having as yet received any Wages,) as obliges them to Petition your Honors for some Relief: –

And your Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray &c

Ethan Compstock      Joshua Wing –

Boston Sept 11th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 181, 235.

*Massachusetts Spy*, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1776

[Worcester, September 11]

Captain James Tracy sailed from Newbury-Port the seventh of June in the *Yankey Hero*, for Boston, with twenty-six men only, including officers this number was not a quarter of his complement; he was provisioned for a six months cruize, and was to take in the remainder of his men at Boston; the afternoon he went out, going round Cape Ann he observed a sail in the offing, but in his situation did not think of looking after her. Two boats full manned with their muskets, who had put out after the sail, came on board, and informed him a number of transports had been close in with the Cape that day; fourteen men from the two boats joined him, and sent their boats on shore; he had now forty hands in the whole (only a third of his complement) with these he put away for the sail, which bore E. S. E. about five leagues distance, they perceived her to be a ship, and soon from her management to be a ship of war. As a contest with her must have been very unequal, Capt. Tracy, who intended to make a harbour that night, ordered the brig to be put about for the shore, not then suspecting the ship could come up with him; but he had not tacked ten minutes before the westerly wind died away, and the ship taking a fresh southerly breeze came fast in, endeavouring to cut the brig off from the shore. After some time, the ship thus getting in the wake of the brig, the wind again came fresh to the westward, upon which the brig hauled to the wind in the best angle for the shore, the ship gave chase and in an hour came up within half a mile, and began to fire her bow chasers, which the brig only answered with a swivel, Capt. Tracy reserving his whole fire, until the ship, keeping a constant fire, came up within Pistol shot upon his lee quarter when the brig gave her the best return they could make from their main and quarter deck guns, swivels and small arms, and after then kept up a constant fire. The ship was soon up along side, and with twelve nine pounders of a side, besides forecastle and quarterdeck guns, and with her marines overlooking the brig as high as her leading blocks, kept a continual fire; after some time the ship hauled her wind so close, which obliged the brig to do the same, that Capt. Tracy was unable to fight his lee guns; upon this he backed under her stern, but the ship, which sailed much faster, and worked as quick, had the advantage, and brought her broadside again upon him, which he could not evade; and in this manner they lay not a hundred feet from each other, yawing to and fro, for an hour and twenty minutes, and privateer's men valiantly maintaining their quarters against such a superior force. About this time, the ships foremast guns beginning to slack fire, Capt. Tracy stacked under her stern, and when clear

of the smoke and fire, perceived his rigging to be most shockingly cut, yards flying about without braces, some of his principal sails shot to rags, and half of his men to appearance dying and wounded.

Mr. Main, his first Lieutenant, was among the first wounded, and Mr. Davis, one of the prize masters, fell in the last attack. In this situation they went to work to refit the rigging, and to carry the wounded below, the ship having then taken a broad sheer some way off, and none of her guns bearing; but before they could get their yards to rights, which they zealously tried for in hopes still to get clear of the ship, as they were now nearer in shore, or to part from her under the night, she again came up and renewed the attack, which obliged Capt. Tracy to have recourse to his guns again though he still kept some hands aloft to his rigging; but before the brig had again fired two broad-sides, Captain Tracy received a wound in his right thigh, and in a few minutes he could not stand; he laid himself over the arm chest and barricadoe, determined to keep up the fire, but in a short time, from pain and loss of blood, he was unable to command, growing faint, and they helped him below; as soon as he came to, he found his firing had ceased, and his people round him wounded, and not having a surgeon with them, in a most distressed situation, most of them groaning and some expiring.

Struck severely with such a spectacle, Capt. Tracy ordered his people to take him up in a chair upon the quarter deck, and resolved again to attack the ship, which was all this time keeping up her fire; but after getting into the air, he was again so faint that he was for sometime unable to speak, and finding no alternative, but they must be taken or sunk, for the sake of the brave men that remained, he ordered them to strike to the ship [*Milford*, of twenty-eight guns, John Burr, commander]. Thus was this action maintained upwards of two hours in a low single decked vessel, with not half the metal the ship had, against an English frigate, whose navy had been the dread of nations, and by a quarter the number of people in the one as the other, yet the victors exulted as though they had overcome a force as much superior as this was inferior to them. The brig had four men killed and thirteen wounded including officers the number in the *Milford* wounded is not known, though there were some. The deprivation of these brave officers and men is to be regretted by all friends to this country. With justice to Captain Burr of the *Milford*, it must be acknowledged he treated with humanity and politeness the officers and men that were wounded; but to the eternal disgrace of Britain, and the present King and Parliament, let it be recorded, that in this very action above related, upwards of thirty Americans (prisoners in the *Milford*) were forced, at the forfeit of their lives, to fight against their countrymen, and the officers and men of the *Yankey Hero*, that were not wounded, are now detained in several of their ships, and may meet with the same cruel fate, an exaction that even savages have not been known to require. It is to the credit of the *Hero's* men, that not one would

enter upon the ship's books, though not only urged by every persuasion but by threats.

Capt. James Tracy, and Mr. Main his first Lieutenant, we hear are likely to do well of their wounds, though they mend but slowly; they and the other wounded men are at Halifax, twelve of the *Hero's* men were kept on board the *Milford*. Mr. Robert Tracy, his second Lieutenant, and the rest of the brig's company, are on board the *Renown*, Commodore [Francis] Banks.

LIBEL OF CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE AGAINST THE BRITISH BRIG *Fanny*<sup>1</sup>

State of Rhode Island  
& Providence Plantations ss

To the Honl John Foster Esq Judge of  
the Court of Justice erected for the  
Tryal of Prize Causes in and throughout  
the State of Rhode Island and Providence  
Plantations

Jabez Whipple of Providence in the County of Providence in said State Commander of the private Sloop of War called the *Independence*, of the port of said Providence duly commision[e]d to cruise against the Enemies of the united States of America for himself and for and in behalf of the Owners of and the officers and men belonging to said Sloop of War comes into this Honl Court and gives your Honor to understand and be informed that on the Twenty first Day of August AD 1776 being on a Cruise against the Enemies of the said united States upon the high Seas he together with his officers and men belonging to said Sloop took and captur[e]d the Brigantine *Fanny* with her appertenances commanded by Samuel Lightbourn together with her Cargoe consisting of Sugar, Whale Oil, Indico, Rum & Limes, bound from the Island of Antigua to the port of London in great Brittain, which said Brigantine her appertenances and Cargo at and before the Time of Capture aforsd belongd to and were the property of some of the Inhabitants of Great Brittain or some of the Inhabitants of the said Island of Antigua Subjects to the King of Great Brittain, and were carrying Supplies to great Brittain in support of the Fleets and armies which great Brittain has now acting against the said united States of America, And he farther informs your Honor that he has sent said Brigantine with her appertenances & Cargoe into the port of Providence within your Honors Jurisdiction for condemnation.

Wherefore he hereby prays that your Honor would take the premises into Consideration and grant out the proper process and Notifications required by Law in such Cases or otherwise proceed as to right and Justice doth appertain

John Cole proctr for J. Whipple

[Endorsed] Received Sept. 11. 1776 Trial ordered to be on 1st Octor 1776

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, R. I. Arch.



JABEZ BOWEN TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Providence September 11th 1776

We the Subscribers all of Providence in the State of Rhode Island &c Merchants, request your Honor to grant a Commission or Letter of Marque and Reprisal to Thomas Child<sup>2</sup> Commander of the Brigantine *Industry* of which we are Owners, She is burthened about One Hundred and ten Tons carries Twelve Carriage Guns Six Pounders, and Twelve Swivel Guns, manned with One Hundred Men, and fitted with a suitable Quantity of Muskets Blunderbusses, Cutlasses, Pistols, Powder Ball, and other Military Stores. She hath on board Forty-five barrels Beef and Pork, Seven Thousand Pounds Weight of Bread, with some Flour, Rice, Beans, Pottatoes &c. David Arnold is First Lieutenant Draper Toman is Second Lieutenant and Joshua Bliven – Master. We are with great Respect Sir [&c.]

Jabez Bowen

1. Maritime Papers, Letters of Marque, Petitions and Instructions, 1776–1780, R. I. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, Thomas Child acknowledged his commission and instructions on the same date. In the Rhode Island Historical Society is a bill from Child for expenses incurred while outfitting the *Industry*. It is dated September 15, 1776, and reads:

To Repairing 3 Guns & 4 Pistols	£ 0-9-0
To 1 Coffee mill	0-12-0
To Spring lock	2..6
1 Call for the Boatswain	1-4-0
1 mortar for the Doctor	0-8..0
12 Glasis	0-3-0
2 Doz Belaying pins	0-5-0
fresh meat for the Brig	1-17-6
	£ 4-3-0
Cr Reced of Capt Earl	
1 Case Geneva	2-11-0
By Cash from Mr Jon Brown	1-10-0
	4-1-0

Errors Except p Tho<sup>a</sup> Child.NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO FRANCIS LEWIS, PHILADELPHIA<sup>1</sup>

New London Sepr 11 1776

Sir Yours 24th Ulto came to hand last Post, & I find that I can purchase Seed to put on board Capt Kenedy [Thomas Kennedy] in the Room of the Flower, consequently shall sell the flour which begins to take damage, Kendy says that he can take on board three hundred hhd. – A few days agoe Capt Alex Exceen in the Brig *Friendship* arrived here from the Southside of Longiland, being drove out by the Tories, having left most of his Cargo on Shore and is now waiting here for your orders he has Six or Seven hundred bus Salt on board – I think its best to discharge the Vessell & put the Cargo in Store – All the Melitia in this Coloney being order'd to N Y makes it very difficult to get any work done, but imagine by the next Week Kenedy will begin to Load I am Sir [&c.]

N Shaw Jun<sup>r</sup>

1. Shaw Collection, Letter Book, YUL.

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

[Long Island] Wednesday, Sept. 11th. Some firing the Night past, tho' mistake, the Highlanders and our Seamen in Flat Boats. Our 1st. and 2d. Light Infantry on Montresors Island, 1st Brigade on Bohannas. Are informed that three Commissioners, Vizt. Franklin, John Adams and Rutledge, from the General Congress, had this day arrived at Staten Island, to Treat with Lord and General Howe. His Lordship only met them, and their Interviews short, as the Deputies from the Congress would treat on no other terms than that of Independent States.

1. "The Kemble Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883* (New York, 1884), I, 87.

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

Septemr 1776                      Moored off of Bedlows Island  
 Wednesday 11th    At 10 AM Dried Sails    made the *Renown Asia*, *Strom-bolo* & *Carcass* Sigls for Petty Officers  
    The first part Modr & fair, Middle & latter light airs & Cloudy  
    At 2 PM Sent a Boat to meet a Flag of Truce from New York<sup>2</sup> At 3 made the *Asias* Signal for a Petty Officer, At 5 the *Repulse* Signal for a Lieut at 7 the Parole Sigl with a White Pendant, At 9 sent the Launch and Yawl to row Guard At 11 Cleared hawse

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.
2. "A Flag of Truce came from the Town this Afternoon, with Letters, Cloaths, & Money (hard Cash, not *Congress Notes*) for some of the Rebel Prisoners. Among them was a most illiterate Letter from [Israel] Putnam to a Mr. Chew, in our army." Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 97, 98.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSHUA BARNEY<sup>1</sup>

[July 5, 1776 to September 11, 1776]

. . . we had not been long out before we fell in with an armed Brig (Letter of Marque) with whom we had a severe action for upwards of two hours, when she struck to us, she was loaded with rum & had a large turtle on board with Lord Norths name on it, brought it in & gave it to Mr [Robert] Morris: we had all our officers killed or Wounded the Captain & Myself excepted, so that I was obliged to take the command of the prize & which circumstance obliged the *Sachem* to return into port.<sup>2</sup>

1. Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.
2. The brig *Three Friends*, Anthony Stalker, master. The engagement took place on August 12. The prize and *Sachem*, Captain Isaiah Robinson, arrived at Philadelphia on September 7. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 11, 1776.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] Septem'r 11th, 1776.

Commission granted for Sloop *Jupiter*, Privateer, Fran's, Illingsworth, Comm'r, 80 Tons, 95 men, 14 carriage Guns, own'd by Nicholas Low, & co.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 714, 715. Continental bond for this privateer is in Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 5, Box 27, HSP.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF THE PRIZE BRIGANTINE *Neptune* AND CARGO<sup>1</sup>

On Monday, the 16th of this instant September, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon on Plumsted's Wharff.

A Parcel of Rum. Taken in the Prize Brigantine *Neptune*, condemned in the Court of Admiralty.<sup>2</sup> The said Brig will be sold the same Afternoon, at the same Place, as soon as the Rum is disposed of.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 11, 1776.
2. The *Neptune*, Captain James Robinson, "burthen about eighty tons," was taken by Lambert Wickes in the Continental ship *Reprisal*. *Pennsylvania Ledger*, August 24, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Wednesday 11th September 1776

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Colo William Aylett for Nine pounds fourteen shillings for Bread furnished Capt Lilly for the use of the Brig *Liberty*. – Also for Thirteen pounds nine shillings for Bread and Flour furnished Capt Edward Travis for the use of the *Manley* Galley.

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Armistead for Eight pounds two shillings and ten pence half penny for Provisions furnished Capt William Mitchell for the use of his Company of Marines –

William Smith Bell is recommended to Capt Willis Willson as a proper person to be appointed Surgeon to the *Casewell* Galley.

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt William Mitchell for the use of his Company of Marines One hundred pounds of Lead & six Quire of Paper –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Jones for Ten pounds, upon Account, for his Allowance as Bookkeeper the Board.

Adjourned till tomorrow morning nine of the Clock.

Signed,

Thomas Whiting 1st Comsr

1. Navy Board Journal, 56-57, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN THOMAS LILLY, BRIG *Liberty*<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Williamsburg Sepr 11th 1776

As the Congress have order'd that Troops be immediately sent to New York and that the said Troops be transported by Water as the most expedi-

tious way, the Naval Board has receiv'd orders to collect all their Vessels in this Colony for that purpose, you are therefore desir'd to proceed directly to York Town upon receipt of this and when arriv'd there apply to this Board for further orders. I am by order of the Naval Board, your h'ble Servant  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Whiting 1st Comr<sup>2</sup>

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

2. *Ibid.*, similar orders were issued this date to Captain John Calvert, galley *Norfolk Revenge*; Captain James Cocke, brig *Raleigh*; Captain Wright Westcott, sloop *Scorpion*, and Captain Robert Tompkins, galley *Henry*.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAINS RICHARD AND JAMES BARRON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg Sept 11th 1776 —

most of the Vessels of the Navy with some Transports are very shortly [to] proceed up the Bay with a considerable body of our Troops, unless prevented by appearance of an Enemy, we therefore desire you'll use the utmost diligence in reconnoitering the Bay and Capes as often as possible, and shou'd you discover an Enemys Vessel that you will give immediate notice of her strength and situation to this Board. I am by order [&c.]

Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO GENERAL ADAM STEPHENS, PORTSMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg Sept 11th 1776 —

As the Troops intended for New York are to be transported up the Bay it will be necessary for the Boats you had built to attend them. Therefore you'll please to order them to be ready to attend the service by the 20th Instant, by which time we expect that the other Vessels we are to furnish will be ready to sail, I am By order of the Naval Board Your hb'le Servt

Thoms Whiting 1st Comr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO MR. JOHN PERRIN, GLOUCESTER<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg Sept 11th 1776 —

hearing that you had two Sloops unemploy'd and being in want of Vessels to transport Troops up the Bay, shou'd be glad to know immediately whither you can have them ready at York by the 20th Inst. By order of the Naval Board, I am Your hb'le Servant

Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL. A similar letter was sent to William Stephenson at Yorktown who had "a Schooner unemploy'd."

12 Sept.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. MICHAEL WHITBYRNE, DATED  
ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, SEPT. 12"<sup>1</sup>

This is to inform you of my being arrived here in the *Captina*, Capt. Ceutrich, having lost the *Minehead*, which was taken from me Sept. 4, by the *Hawke* privateer, Malachy Lee, commander, of eight guns and 60 men, almost all of whom were Old-England-men;<sup>2</sup> they also took nine other sail the same day, but released all but mine, it being the best sailing ship among them.

1. *London Chronicle*, October 15 to October 17, 1776.

2. Probably the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*, Captain John Lee, commissioned August 10, 1776.

JOHN GARVIN AND ISAAC NEEDHAM'S AGREEMENT ON PRIZE SHARES<sup>1</sup>

this agreement made this twelfth Day of September 1776 Between John Garvin and Isaac Needham Both of Salem Wetens [witnesses] that the Said John Garvin a Seaman on Board the Privter Sloup *Reveng[e]* Command By capt Ben Worren heath Sold and By these Presents Doth Sel to the Said Isaac Needham for the condertions her after mentchons one half of one Share of all prizes that Shall Be taking By the Priveter Sloup *Reveng* During her Said Cruze in Concerdiert[i]ons of Which the Said Isaac Needham Doth hearby Prom to Pay to the said John Garvin Eighteen Dolrs pr month for every month he Shall Contrene on Board the Priveter Sloup or on Board her prizes During Said Cruze to comments at the time of Said John Garvin gouen on Board of said Priveter and the Said Isaac Needham Doth further Proms to Pay to the Said John Garvin Eighteen Dolrs in ad vance in Wetens hear of We Both of Us hear unto Set our hands this twelfth Day of September 1776

Wetens

Daniel Needham

Isaac Needham

John Garvin

1. *Shipping Miscellany*, EI.

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

[Watertown] Thursday Sept 12th 1776 –

On Motion Ordered That Benjn Greenleaf & John Winthrop Esqrs be a Committee to propose a Letter to the Honble Congress, acquaintg them with the Situation of Our Coast being infested with Cruisers belonging to Great Britain, and to request that some of the Continental Vessels may be fitted Out for the purpose of Clearing the Coast of those Enemies to the State, and Report –

1. *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 19, 226, 227.

JOSEPH PALMER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

Watertown, Sept 12th 1776:

Joseph Palmer represents, That the Town of Braintree was heretofore Supported in a great measure by Supplying Lumber for Ship-building, & large quantities of Stones for Cellars, Houses & Wharfs, for Boston, Marble-head &c, which employed many men, & about 10 or 12 Lighters from 25 to 40 Tons each; which business has been wholly destroyed by the Quarel commenced against us by Great-Britain: said Palmer had also there, a very large Manufac[to]r[y] of Spermaceti Candles, which is entirely Stopped, & the Apparatus nearly, if not quite ruined, to his damage more than £2000 L mo within that Town

That some of the Inhabitants were obliged to quit their habitations, others removed their most valuable effects, & many Suffered great damage by having troops Stationed upon the Sea-Coasts of said Town, to prevent greater damage by the Enemy; whose vicinity occasioned frequent alarms to the Inhabitants.

J: Palmer

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 139, 348.

PETITION OF WILLIAM JENKINS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

State of the	}	To the Honble the Council and the Honble the House of Representatives of said State in General Court assembled at Watertown this twelfth Day of September 1776
Massachusetts Bay		

Humbly sheweth William Jenkins of the City of Bristol in the Kingdom of Great Britain, Mariner.

That your Petitioner being Master of the Brigantine called the *Perkins*, was by the Chance of War, taken by the Capts [Samuel] Tucker and [John] Skimmer in the Continental arm'd Schooners called the *Hancock* and *Franklin* & brought into the Port of Boston where he now is —

Your Petitioner would represent to the Honble Court that at the time of his being taken, he was on a Merchant Voyage, bound from St Augustine to Bristol in Great Britain, that he had on Board his said Brigantine no Supplies of any kind either for the Fleet or Army, now employed against these States, neither had he Arms or Ammunition —

Your Petitioner would further represent to the Honble Court, that he left in Bristol a Wife and four small Children who are entirely dependant on him for their Support and maintenance, & he is really apprehensive that even before this time they may be suffering all the Anxiety and Distress annexed to a Want of the Necessaries & Comforts of Life, unless fortunate enough to find Friends to releive them in their Troubles; however tedious and irksome his Continuance here might otherwise be, this cannot but necessarily render it more so. He therefore prays the Honble Court that from a Consideration of the Premisses, they would grant him Permission to take

Passage for Great Britain or any other Part of Europe, the first Opportunity that offers; he also prays Liberty to take with him his Servant Boy.

He humbly presumes there will be no Objection to the Prayer of his Petition, as he is not held as a Prisoner of War, & no Information that he can give can be of any possible Service or disservice to either Party in this War, unless indeed the Humanity with which he has been treated may be an Inducement to the like Treatment of others in similar Circumstances on the other Side — And as in Duty bound shall ever pray

Will<sup>m</sup> Jenkins

[Endorsed] In Council Sept 20th 1776 Read & Ordered that the Prayer of this Petition be granted & Said Petitioner be permitted to depart with his Servant Boy to any Part of Great Brittain agreeable to his Prayer —<sup>2</sup>

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 254, 255.

2. *Ibid.*, 256, on September 14, John Bradford had written to the Council on Jenkins' behalf.

*New-England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1776

Boston, Thursday, September 12.

An authentic List of the Naval and Military Force, in the Province of Nova-Scotia, August 13th, 1776, collected from the best Authorities in said Province.

In the Harbour of Halifax, the *Milford* and *Liverpool* Frigates, of 28 guns; the Brig *Hope*, of 12 Guns; the new Sloop of War, fitting out, called the *Albany* (late the *Rittenhouse*, belonging to Philadelphia) to carry 16 Guns, Mowatt, Commander.

August 16. Since writing this List, the *Milford* and *Liverpool* Frigates sailed, and the 17th, the Brig *Hope* will sail for Louisburg [And since which (by an honest Fisherman) we are informed, that the *Milford* Frigate is cruising off this Coast again. Look out, Cruizers,&c.]<sup>1</sup>

Captain James Tracey, and Lieut. Mains, of the *Yankee Hero* Brig, were sent from Halifax to Staten-Island, the last of July, on board the *Mercury* pirate Frigate, James Montague — [Captain Proctor, of Philadelphia, who is now a prisoner in Halifax goal, was 11 weeks in irons on board the above Frigate, during which time he was treated in the most barbarous manner by the above Montague, who several times threatened to hang him, and offered one of his sailors 40s. to swear his life against him.] Mr. Carpenter, of this Town, is closely confined in irons in Halifax goal, by order of Gen. [Eyre] Massey, who commands there

We learn from undoubted authority, that the Schooner *Sally*, Capt. Roach, which lately went from Piscataqua, to Halifax, as a flag of truce, with prisoners, was, on her arrival there, made a prize of, (by that *petty, paltry, Jack-tarr*, Commodore Arbuthnot,) and the hands put on board a man of war.

Yesterday se'nnight was sent into this Harbour, by the *Lee*, Capt. Waters, a Sloop from the Eastward, bound for Halifax, laden with Cord-Wood.<sup>2</sup>

We hear that a Snow, laden with Rum, and Sugars, was carried into Cape-Ann last Week.<sup>3</sup>

One Day last Week, was sent into Providence, seven Vessels, Prizes, with Supplies for those unrelenting, barbarous, tyrannical, blood-thirsty Butchers, the Royal Savage of Britain's Troops, now on Staten-Island. — They were taken by the Captains Biddle and Whipple, in two Vessels of War, belonging to the United and Confederate States of America. Particulars of their Cargoes have not yet come to Hand.

Last Sunday was taken and carried into Gouldsborough, by two small Boats, a Brig from Ireland, bound for Halifax, laden with Beef, Butter, &c. She parted Company with Twelve other Provision Vessels the Day on which she was taken, all bound for the above Port.

By the Hartford Post we are informed, that the Royal pirate Frigate *Rose*, commanded by the infamous Wallace, in attempting to get up the Sound, at New-York, was hulled several Times, and obliged to put back to the ministerial fleet.

1. The brackets were inserted by the printer of the *Chronicle*. Apparently he had taken the Halifax material from a letter or the *Nova-Scotia Gazette*, and interpolated his own comments.
2. The sloop *Betsey*.
3. The snow *Anna* taken by the Massachusetts state sloop *Tyrannicide*.

*Continental Journal*, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1776

Boston, September 12.

Capt. [John] Gill in a small Privateer Schooner from this Port,<sup>1</sup> has taken and sent into Plymouth, a Brigantine from Antigua bound to Europe, laden with Rum and Sugars. She was first taken by a Connecticut Privateer, but the People rose and retook her, and had her in Possession three Days before Capt. Gill came up with her.

We hear a Privateer from Salem has taken a Brigantine from Cork, loaded with provisions for New-York, and sent her into some Port at the eastward.

1. The privateer schooner *Independence*.

LIBELS AGAINST BRITISH PRIZES FILED IN THE MASSACHUSETTS  
ADMIRALTY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

State of Massachusetts's-Bay, Southern District,ss.

To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, That the Maritime Court for the Southern District will be held at Plymouth, in the county of Plymouth on Tuesday the first day of October, 1776 at the hour of ten in the forenoon, to try the jus-



tice of the following captures, viz. of the ship called the *Argo*, of about 170 tons burthen, lately commanded by William Cockran, and her cargo and appurtenances; of the sloop called the *Elizabeth*, of about 30 tons burthen, lately commanded by Thomas Ludlow jun. and her cargo and appurtenances; of the brigantine called the *Frederick*, of about 140 tons burthen, her cargo and appurtenances, lately in possession, and under the care and command of Edmund Cottle; seized and taken in the port of Dartmouth, in said district, on a part of the sea, between high water and low water mark; of the schooner called the *Spermaceta*, of about 90 tons burthen, and her appurtenances, lately in the possession and under the care and command of John Peas; seized and taken in the port of Nantucket, in said district, on a part of the sea, between high water and low water mark. Against which vessels, their cargoes and appurtenances libels are filed before me, they having been brought into the Southern District aforesaid; and the owners of the same, or any persons concerned may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why said vessels, or any of them, with their cargoes and appurtenances should not be condemned.

Nathan Cushing, Judge of said Court.

[Boston, September 12, 1776]

1. *New-England Chronicle*, September 12, 1776. Same issue of newspaper carried notice that the trial of ship *Charming Sally*, snow *Ann*, and brigantine *John* captured by the armed sloop *Broome* would be held at Plymouth on October 3, 1776 to be followed the next day by trial of the brigantine *Carolina Packet*.

JOHN BROWN TO MOSES BROWN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Providence] Septem 12th 1776 –

. . . I have allso Desired Mr Polock to Forward all the Cordage he has bot for Me & the Navil Committe here, which Cordage Suppose is Now at Kings Bridg, by Land to the First Harber in Conecticut on this Side the Kings Ships and that the Same May be Shipt to me from thence by water as Soone as possable . . . if the Cordage he has wrote me about is purchased Viz 8 Ton for Me & Ten Ton for the Navil Committe a 5.5/ York pCt Comes to £1890. York Mony or 4725 Dolls So that their will be upwards of 5000 Dolls due to me when the Goods are Sold & Cordage pd for, & as I have had Sum hints Sence I Left York Which Makes Me a Little Doubtfull of the Safety of My money I am the More Urgent to Git it out of his hands . . .

John Brown

1. Moses Brown Papers, RIHS.

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

Sir

New London Sepr 12 1776

Agreable to Coln [Benjamin] Huntingtons directions I have sent to New Haven for the Stores Rigging &c belonging to the Old Briggtt *Defence*, and the Vessell is Returnd with only the two masts (one of which is

been Cutt & not fitt to go in her Again) , and Rigging only Sufficient for the Shrowds to her foremast with her main and Fore Stay, these being so much Short of what we Expected, I thought best to Advise you of it before I begin to work on her, & shall wait your further orders – my Bomb Brigg<sup>2</sup> is Clean'd Rigg'd and already to take Guns on Board & Capable of Carrying Twelve four pounders, with a Good Suit of Sails — & is att your Service, if you Incline to have her for the Use of this State I will take the Old Brigg in part pay — I am Sir [&c.]

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

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 309, ConnSL. Copy in Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Formerly the British bomb brig *Bolton* captured by Esek Hopkins, which Shaw was fitting as a privateer.

### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS<sup>1</sup>

Sept <sup>r</sup> [17]76	So End Block Island NWbW 3 or 4 Leags
Wednesday 11	at 5 AM out all reefs, found the Bowsprit sprung in two places, got the Sprit sail Yard in Empd fitting a fish for do sett studg sails Mode Breezes at 1 P M Brot too a Brigg from Virginia bound to St Augustine Loaded with rum & Molasses
Thursday 12	taken by the <i>Andrew Doria</i> privateer. <sup>2</sup> at 5 AM saw a Sl to Windwd gave Chace fired at the Chace 3-9 pdr: 3-3 pdr at 12 brot too the Chace a Brigg from Cape Fran- cois bound to Nantuckett Loaded with Molasses & some cotton <sup>3</sup> Fresh Breezes & hazey sent a petty Officer & 4 Men on board the Prize at 6 parted Co wt the Prizes

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

2. *Peggy*, William Cook, master, Morfield & Son, owner, from Virginia for St. Augustine, with rum, molasses and linen, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487, where the recapture is erroneously credited to the *Perseus*. The master's log of the *Cerberus* adds: "... sent the Boat on board, found that the Privateers people had taken their Boat & left the Vessell," PRO, Admiralty 52/1650.

3. *Joseph*, Elias Coffin, master, from Cape François to Nantucket, with molasses, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

### EXAMINATION OF SERGEANT THOMAS DAY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

The Examination of Serjeant Thomas Day of Colonel McLeans Regiment late of Captain [John] Lambs Company, who deserted from Point aux Tremble, between Montreal and Sorrell, with two others the 31st August.<sup>2</sup>

... That he heard there were two Schooners taken to Pieces and brought up to St Johns, to Carry Six six Pounders, and ten Swivels each, that he understood there were two or three more Sloops & Schoone[rs] withsome Gondolas and floating Batteries, building at St Johns. That he

frequently heard for a Fortnight before he deserted that the Army were in a few Days to cross the Lake for Crown Point. . . .

On board the *Royal Savage* September 12th 177[6]

B. Arnold.

[Endorsed] Letters from Brigadier Genl Arnold dated, Ile La Motte September 15th & 16th. 1776 — With his Examination of Sergt Thomas Day, a Deserter from the Enemy.

1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS.
2. Thomas Day was captured, along with most of Lamb's artillery company in the disastrous attack on Quebec, December 31, 1775. He then enlisted in the British service in Colonel Allan McClean's regiment.

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

Dear General.

Tyonderoga 12th September 1776.

I had the Pleasure to receive your Letters by Lieutenant [John] Brooks of the 6th Battallion of Pensilvanians, from Isle-aux-Mottes. I am perfectly satisfied with your leaving Isle-aux-Tites, & think from Your's & every other Account, that the Post you now Occupy is much preferable. Point-aux Fers is an Object that should employ your Serious Attention. Should it be Possible for the Enemy Secretly to get Artillery, & a post Fix'd there, while you are to the Northward of that remarkable Spot, it might prove a great Annoyance to your Fleet, remember how exceedingly you ought to Guard against the possibility of the Enemy's possessing any Narrow Pass in your Rear; a Caution, which you so-much approved, in the Orders, & Instructions you received.

The Row Gallies are all three at this Place, and Fitting with the Utmost diligence. G1 Waterbury is indefatigable, & promises to Sail without the smallest unnecessary Delay; your best Pilot should be sent by the return of The Bearer to Conduct them down. — You wrote to General Schuyler, to Apply to Governour Trumbull for Capts to Command These Gallies. The Governour has sent Four; by this, we are incumber'd with Double Officers, as you appointed Three, before you left Tyonderoga. What is best to be done in this Difficulty? I shall Endeavour to Pacify all Claimants, until I hear from You. a Good many Seamen are procured, & will be sent in the Gallies. I have Order'd Commissary [Elisha] Avery, & Mr Deacon Rood of Onion River, to Acquaint all the Inhabitants upon both sides the Lake, that what Cattle, Sheep, Garden Stuff, or Hogs, are sent to You, shall; upon your Certificate, be paid for in ready money, upon the presentment thereof to Me.

Inclosed is a Copy of a Letter I have Just receivd from Dr Franklin. The Tobacco is not yet come, it shall be sent to you in the First Row Galley — would it not, now & then be proper for a Row Galley or Gondola to Cruize a little to the Southward, above Point Aux Fers, to protect boats & passing to the Fleet? — The Enemy are Subtile, and quick at Expedients; they may endeavour to Impose False Friends upon you; your watch word,

should never be given until Sun Sett, and all boats, at Day light, kept at a proper Distance, until their Crews are examined.

In Obedience to your request I wrote very fully Yesterday in my Publick Letter upon the Subject you so Earnestly mention'd. I fancy when my letter is received, the Congress, & your Friends will be convinced, that every report to your prejudice is Founded in Calumny, & should meet with the Contempt, & disregard it so Justly deserves.

A Fourth Row Galley will be quite plank'd up by Saturday night; your Barge is here, and most elegantly painted & Finish'd. She will be sent by Capt [James] Arnold; The prvovisions I now send, will last much longer than will be necessary for the Supply of the Fleet, until the First Row Galley Arrives, Even if the Inhabitants upon the Lake do not send you any Fresh Provisions &c.

I hope to be able to send all the Cloathing you demand by Capn Arnold. Rum goes by this Conveyance, and all the Hard bread baked at Crown Point. — Commissary Avery has my orders to write, & to Obey all your Orders. — the Swivels will come with the Galley; Gunners are very Scarce; but you Shall be Supplied.

I would Feign send you some Intelligence from Authority, of the Proceedings of The Armies at Long Island; but neither General Sch[uyler] or myself, have received any Letters from General Washn; that are particular upon the Subject. By private Letters, it is clear the Enemy lost upwards of 1400 Men in the three Repulses they met with, in their Attack upon our Lines, Wednesday the 28th Ult; and Commissary Trumbull writes that we are still in possession of Our Lines upon Long Island, and the City of New York. It is beyond a doubt that our people have behaved with the Greatest Spirit & that the Enemy have suffer'd Greatly & must View our Troops in a very respectable light I am [&c.]

P S When you receive an Order to send a Flag to the Enemy; or have an Opportunity by the return of one of theirs, send them the Act of Independence Inclosed —

H G

1. Gates Papers, Box 19, NYHS.

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

[On board H. M. S. *Eagle*] Thursday, 12th. Sept.

A severe Canonade was heard on board this Morning, supposed to be Horn's Hook, where our People are dislodging the Rebels, and are already in Possession of two Islands [Montresor's and Buchanan's] near the Isle of York Shore. We have lost one Sailor, who was killed as he lay sleeping on the Grass by a Cannon Ball. An Engineer lost an Arm; and two or three other slight Accidents occurred.

This Afternoon Capt. [Thomas] Wilkinson in the *Pearl*, a fine Frigate of 32 Guns, arrived from Quebec. He brought us very agreeable News from Genl. Carleton, viz. That General Burgoyne was almost ready to em-

bark on Lake Champlain, and probably would be embarked by the middle of August, with an Army of about 14,000 Men, of which 10,000 were Regulars and about 1000 Indians; and that, if it were necessary, he could bring with him 15 or 20,000 Canadians. Capt. Wilkinson convoyed several Transports with upwards of 500 Rebel Prisoners on board, with whom we know not what to do. He also informed us, that he spoke with a Ship on the 27th. of July, who had seen the Second Division of the Hessians at Sea, and that they may hourly be expected to arrive.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 98.

JAMES BLAIR TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Fort Island, Sept'r 12th, 1776

I this morning received your Resolve of 31st ult., ordering Four men belonging to the Gallies to be sent to work at Mr. James Wharton's Rope Walk for four weeke, agreeable to which I now send Purviance & Canaday belonging to the *Franklin*. Farley belonging to the *Ranger* went up this morning in their Yaut [yaw] & the other man Reily is on board Capt. Greenaway. I am, Gent. [&c.]

James Blair.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 24.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE<sup>1</sup>

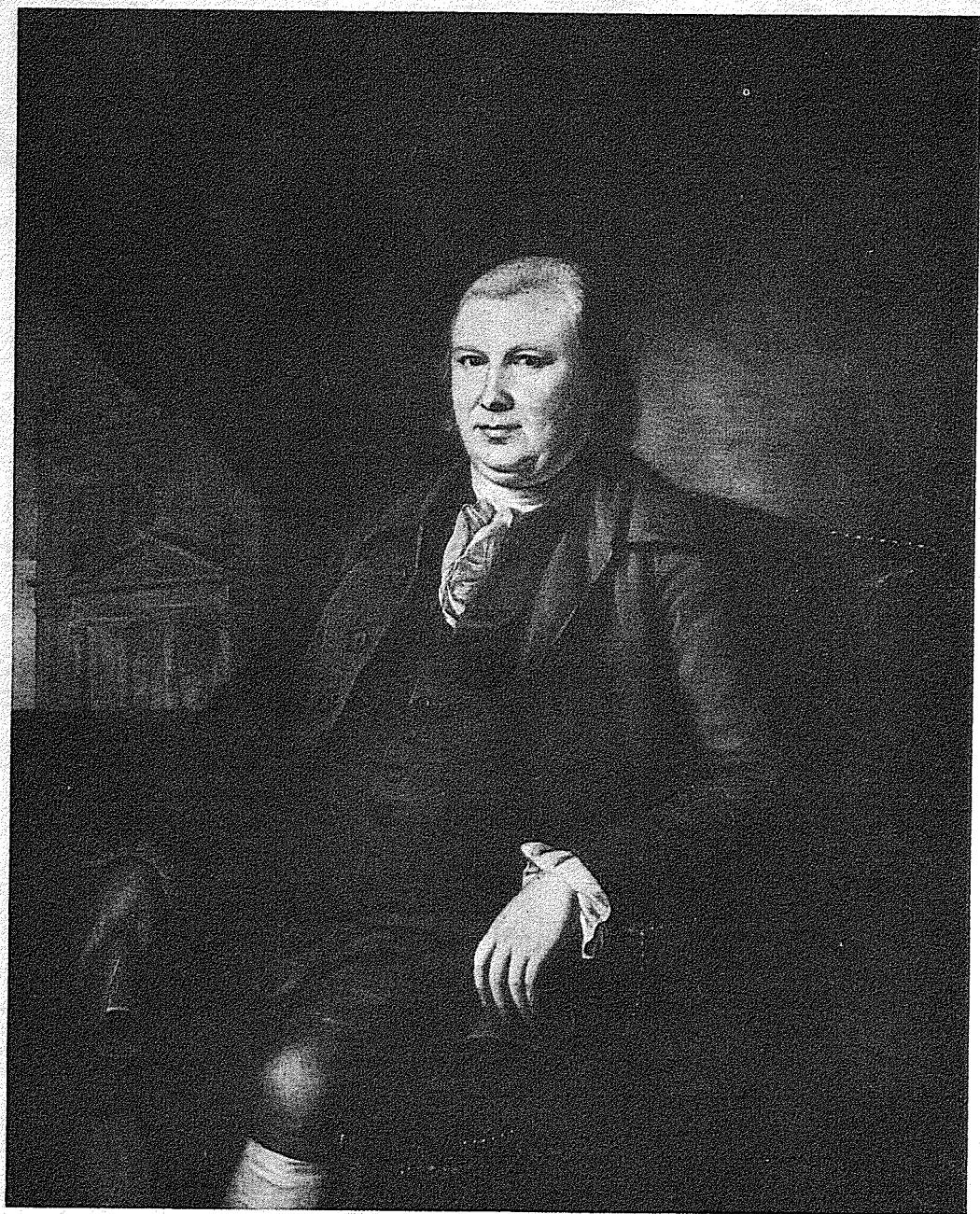
[Extract]

Philada Sept'r 12th 1776

Sir You will receive herewith Copy of what I wrote you the 11th Ult'o & by this Conveyance I remit the 2d bills of those setts mentioned in that letter. I have bought a considerable quantity of Tobacco but cannot get suitable Vessells to carry it, you cannot conceive the many disapointments we have met with in this Respect however I expect a Ship is now taking in about 400 hhds as I wrote two posts ago agreeing to the Owners terms and shall advi[s]e you more particularly in my next respecting this matter. I am sorry to tell you another Vessell bound from hence for Bourdeaux with a Cargo of flour &c has been taken and carried to N York with the Fleet. this was a fine New Brig intended as a Packet between us. she had dispatches for You which were thrown over board & sunk by the Captain as well the Invoices &c of the Cargo,<sup>2</sup> these unlucky accidents retard the remittances exceedingly, which is vexatious but cannot be helped. I hope your Credit has been sufficient to procure the Indn Goods & that they are on their way out, for they will be much wanted and we shall not give over remitting untill you are fully enabled to pay for them; I expect a Cargo of Rice & Indigo is now Shipping on this Account as orders have been given to that Effect, but still the same difficulty about Vessells occurs in that quarter also. So many of the American Ships have been taken, lost, sold & employ[ed] abroad, that they are now very Scarce in every part of the

Continent which I consider as a great misfortune for Ship building does not go on as formerly and this Want can only be supply'd by the arrival of Ships from Europe and by the Captures, in which all the American Cruizers have been remarkably Successful those who have engaged in Privateering are making Large Fortunes in a most Rapid manner, I have not meddled in this bussiness which I confess does not square with my Principles for I have long had extensive Connections & dealings with many Worthy Men in England & Coud not consent to take any part of their property because the Government have Seized mine, which is the case in several instances.

The Trading plan recommended in my last is farr more eligible and if we have but luck in getting the Goods safe to America the Proffits will be sufficient to Content us all, I do therefore continue my recommendation of that plan and sincerely hope You & Tom<sup>3</sup> will be able to do something considerable therein for you may depend it will reward you beyond any other pursuit. If you can procure Insurance at any reasonable prem[iu]m even at 50 pCt (altho I dont think the Risque is really worth 15 pCt) I think you had best to Charter two or three good Double Deck'd fast Sailing Vessells, ballast or Load them with Salt in the Holds and put onboard of each as many Dry Goods, say Woolens, Linens, Tin, Copper, Hosiery &c &c, as you can Conveniently obtain & let them proceed immediately for this place, Insuring the Value of the Cargoes on the best terms you can against the Risque of Capture by our Enemies as well as against all other Risques & dangers, I mean that you shou'd Charter French Vessells & by clearing them out for the Island of St Piers & Miquelon they may sail along this Coast without being Subject to Capture untill they come within three Leagues of the Land, you must take care that the Ships are sound, strong & staunch and that they are well fitted & Manned, two suits of Sails and good Anchors & Cables they ought to have. tell the Masters when they come on this Coast to venture in Close with the Land as our N Westers in the Winter will keep them out a long time if they keep without Or in the Gulph Stream whereas if they come within it, nothing but an Easterly Wind can hurt them & those Winds do not prevail much in Winter, when they come in sight of our Light House they must hoist an Ensign at the Foretop Gallt Mast head and stand in for the Mouth of the Bay with it flying. If there is any Enemy or danger in the way, a Signal will be made at the Light House by shewing Colours there. If no danger they will not answer the Signal and the Vessells may come boldly in to the Mouth of the Bay or into Whore Kiln Road & send a Boat onshoar at Lewis Town for a Pilot — inshort I think there is very little danger in all this matter for the Men of Warr cannot keep the Coast & we will not let them Harbour here in the Winter Season. You Shou'd Charter the Vessells out here & back again, so that You may afford them a good Freight & we will load them back with Wheat, flour, Tobacco, Rice & Indigo, Bees Wax &c, to pay for the Cost of the Cargoes You Ship by them, besides these Vessells I wou'd have you keep sending out Goods Constantly to Martinico, St Eustatia & Cape Francois but the first and last are safest for the present & I suppose will continue so,



*Robert Morris.*

unless the French become parties in our Warr which I think very likely and then the Dutch Islands must engross our Attention, at St Eustatia Mr Cornelius Stevenson and at Curracoa Mr Isaac Gouverneur will receive & forward Goods for us, at Cape Francois Mr Stephen Ceronia, at St Nicholas Mole Mr John Dupuy, at Martinico Wm Bingham Esqr who has already written you some Letters & with whom I expect you will support a Constant Correspondence both Political & Commercial, he is a Young Gentl[eman] of good Education, Family & Fortune, his Correspondence has yet a good deal of the Fancifull Young Man in it, but experience will cure him of this and upon the whole I think he had abilities of Merit both in the Political & Commercial Line, you will inform him soon as You can whether Insurance can be effected on Goods & Vessells from the French Islands to this Continent, and on what terms, indeed we expect to hear from You pretty regularly through that Channell

Since my last Genl Howe & his Army have taken possession of Long Island leaving about 4 or 5000 Men on Staten Island where they first landed We had some Works & about 5000 Men on Long Isld when the Enemy landed with 20 m a Skirmish very soon followed the landing there about 3000 of our Men went out of the Lines to take possession of some Hills & high Lands, but the Enemy out General'd us and surrounded our People with four times their Number however they purchased the honor of the day at a very dear rate for our Folks drew up, gave them Battle & two different times broke & routed double their Number in fair Manoeuvring & Platoon firing in the open Field, but in the end Superiour Numbers & Superiour Generalship prevailed, We lost about 7 to 800 Men in Killed, Wounded & Prisoners, the Enemies loss was farr greater as they acknowledge in Killed & Wounded, but not so in Prisoners for we only took one party a Lieutt & 30 Men. Sullivan commanded in this affair & was well seconded by Ld Stirling who behaved Nobly indeed, they are both Prisoners as are several Cls Lt Cols & other officers, in short such Victorys as these alarm our Enemies & will be their ruin. We have evacuated Long Island & must do the same by N York which is not tenable against their Ships, for my part I wish our Men & Stores were all removed to Kingsbridge where we must sooner or later take Post & make the great stand. We are no ways dismayed at the Force of the Enemy but have full hopes of getting the better of them in the long run altho they seem very formidable at present Our Army on the Lakes is now very Strong and we seem perfectly Secure in that quarter for the present. . .

1. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. The *Dispatch*, Peter Parker, master, taken July 21, 1776, off the Delaware Capes by H. M. S. *Orpheus*, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487. See also Volume 5, 1182-83.

3. Thomas Morris, a half brother of Robert Morris.



JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Thursday, September 12, 1776.

On motion Resolved, That the Council of Safety be empowered to sell the schooner *Resolution*, after removing her military and other stores, and her sails, rigging, anchors and cables.

Resolved, That no merchant vessel belonging to any inhabitant of this state, sail from this state without licence from the Council of Safety, or the committee of observation for the county from which the vessel shall sail, and that no such licence be granted before the captain of such vessel shall make oath, or affirmation (if a quaker) as to the contents of his cargo, and that he will use his best endeavours to prevent such cargo, and every part thereof, from being landed in any part of the dominions of the king of Great-Britain, or otherwise going into the hands of the enemies of America; and further shall give bond with good security, that he will not land such cargo, or any part thereof, in any port, island, or territory, subject to the king of Great-Britain, nor sell or dispose of the said cargo, or any part thereof, to the enemies of America; and the owners of the cargo shall also make oath, or affirmation (if a quaker) that the said cargo, and no part thereof, belongs to or is for the use or benefit of any inhabitant of Great-Britain, Ireland, or any of the dominions subject to the king of Great-Britain.

1. *Maryland Convention*, 26.

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

[Annapolis] Thursday. September 12th 1776

Permit was granted to Job Greene of the Schooner *Two Brothers*, to go to Martinique or any other foreign Port, he having given Bond, and returned a manifest agreeable to the Resolutions of Convention:

Permit was granted to Thomas Ridley of the Sloop *Fanny* to go to Hispaniola or other where –

Ordered That Western shore Treasurer pay to Archd Buchanan four hundred and fifty Pounds for Schooner *Dolphin* insured by this State.

Ordered That said Treasurer pay to George Wells three hundred Pounds, on Acct of Gondolas. –

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO VAN BEBBER AND HARRISON,  
ST. EUSTATIUS<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Your favours of the 9th 24th and 25 of July and August 1st & 15th are before us. – It has been unlucky for this State as well as for you, that so many of our outward bound Vessells have miscarried – we have been toler-

abl luckey in our importations, having only lost the Adventures by Scott and Simmertton that we as yet hear of, Captain Luce is safe arrived in Delaware and we Daily expect to hear of the arrival of the rest of the Powder you advise us, that you have and are about to Ship. – We are very solicitous to Charter or buy Vessells to Load out to your address as we want a large sum of Money in your hands for the Purchase of Salt, Arms, Course Cloathes, Blankets and Lead but we fear that we shall be disappointed in procuring as many as we want – you will therefore if possible Charter or buy Vessells with you and Load them in with Salt as far as thirty thousand Bushels and Draw Bills upon us or upon Messrs Willing Morris and Company at Philadelphia and you may depend upon their being duly honoured. Next to Salt we want a large quantity of Course Cloths, Blankets, Sail Duck light as well as heavy, Lead and Muskets. – We do not restrict you in price – but leave it to you to do the best you can for the State of Maryland – and your Bills for the whole or any part thereof will be paid.

P.S. Your Bill on T. Johnson Esqr Will be duely honoured – We are &c:<sup>2</sup>  
[Annapolis] September 12th 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, another letter this date from the Council advised Van Bebber and Harrison that Captain Thomas Conway, letter of marque sloop *Molly*, was being dispatched to St. Eustatius with a cargo of tobacco, fine flour and bread.

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

[Williamsburg] Thursday 12th September 1776.

Resolved, that the Commissioners of the Navy be desired immediately to contract with proper persons for the building in the most expeditious manner, thirty Boats properly calculated; for the transportation of Troops across or up and down the rivers and Creek's, each Boat to be of a proper size for carrying a complete company of sixty eight men, with their arms and Baggage.

The navy Board, having agreeably to a request of this Board, returned a List of such of the cruising Vessells, as in their opinion, might be sent with the greatest advantage & the commodities of this Country, to the Foreign Islands or to Europe for the purchase of Salt, clothing, arms, and other necessaries for the army & also a scheme of trade & recommendation of proper persons to conduct their lading & outfit; the consideration thereof is deferred till to morrow.

Upon Information, that a quantity of Flour, belonging to the public was landed at Frazers ferry in the County of King William from on board the Brig *Liberty*, It is Ordered, that the Commissary of Provisions do make inquiry concerning the same, and cause it forthwith to be brought to this place.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 155, 156.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN RICHARD TAYLOR<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg Sepr 12th 1776

We are in immediate want of your Vessel for carrying Troops up the Bay, you are therefore upon receipt of this to proceed to York Town — where you are to prepare for taking in the same so as to be ready to sail by the 20th Instant at farthest. I am by order of the Board Your h'bl'e Servant

Thom<sup>s</sup> Whiting 1st Comr

To Capt [Richard] Taylor of the Schooner *Hornett*

The same wrote to Capt [James] Markham of the *Page* Galley —

The same wrote to Capt Cily Sanders of the *Lewis* Galley —

The same wrote to Capt [Eleazer] Callender of the Sloop *Defiance* — <sup>2</sup>

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

2. *Ibid.*, the Navy Board this date sent similar orders to Captain William Deane and Captain Isaac Younghusband, and offered to hire a small vessel from Mr. Edward Hughes, Gloucester.

13 Sept.

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

Remks on Thursday 13th of Sepr 1776

6 A M. Came to Ankor in salem harbour all well<sup>2</sup>

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

2. The journal at this point is condensed by Fisk to read:

Remarks from Sepr 13th to Novr 1st 1776. This time spent in Rigging the Sloop into a Brig & getting fit for sea.

PETITION FOR COMMISSION FOR ISAAC SNOW TO COMMAND THE  
MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SCHOONER *America*<sup>1</sup>

To the Honorable Council Setting at Watertown In the State of the Massachusets Bay September The Thirteenth day, Anno Domini 1776 —  
The Petition of Isaac Snow of Harpswell in the County of Cumberland  
Humbly Sheweth —

That Your Petitioner has the Command of A Private Schooner of Warr, Called the *America* of Ninety Eight Tons Burthen, Mounting Ten Carriage Gunns Eight of which are four pounders & Two Three Pounders, Eighteen Swivel Guns five Hundred weight of Powder, fifteen hundred weight Of Shott, Thirty five barrells Pork and Beef, Six Thousand weight of Bread, Belonging to Aaron Hinckly, Esqr of Brunswick, James McCobb Esqr of George Town — [illegible] Pennington Esqr and Messrs John Snow, Joseph Linscott, Henry Merritt, Elisha Snow and Isaac Snow your Petitioner of Harpswell in the County of Cumberland, In the State aforesaid Whereof Isaac Snow of Harpswell aforesaid is Commander and Benjamin Lemmount of George Town in the County of Lincoln is Lieutenant, with Eighty Men —

Your Petitioner Prays Your Honors would Grant him A Commission to Cruize Against the Enemies of the United States of America, and Your Petitioner as in Duty bound Shall Ever Pray &c

Isaac Snow In behalf of himself and other owners —

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 13, 1776 Read & Orderd that a Commission be issued out to the Above named Isaac Snow as Commander [of] the Schr *America* he Complying with the Resolves of the Congress —

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 229.

#### COLONEL THOMAS CRAFTS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

Some time in June last a Scotch Ship & brig were seen in the bay by the troops stationed at Hull, standing in for the Light & four Privateers attacking them without any probable hopes of success. On this ordered one eighteen pounder to Point Alderton In the dusk of the evening The Vessels were between said Point & the fort on Hull — We fired from the Fort on them — The brig struck to us & sent her boat on shore. I put in a claim for the Vessels in the name of the State & in behalf of myself & regiment — But recovered no part of the Ship or brig.<sup>2</sup> When the *Queen of England* was taken I had the same idea of the matter as before —<sup>3</sup> That it was my duty to claim for the State as well as myself & Regiment, accordingly gave directions to my Council — I was afterward to my great surprize informed, that the Ship was not libelled in the name of the State & that it was too late to correct this error — But at my request the Honble Mr [Richard] Derby [Jr.] Agent for the State had leave to enter his claim, the time by Law for his doing it being relapsed notwithstanding for I had no disposition that the State should be deprived of its just right in this Vessel neither have I now any disposition to contend if the Council are clearly of the opinion that there ought to be a different disposition of said Ship & Cargo from that given by the Court & Jury I beg your Honors would excuse my troubling you with this matter & believe me to be with the greatest respect [&c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Crafts

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 13[th] 1776 Read & Committed to David Sewell & Daniel Hopkins Esqrs to take the same under Consideration & Report —

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 230.

2. The ship *George* and brig *Annabella*. See Volume 5.

3. See Volume 5; also *New-England Chronicle*, August 2, 1776. See also next entry.

#### FINAL VERDICT IN THE CASE OF THE BRITISH PRIZE SHIP *Queen of England*<sup>1</sup>

Suffolk ss At the superior Court of Judication &ca held at Braintree within & for the County of Suffolk, by adjournment, on the second Tuesday [10th] of September Anno Domi[ni] 1776.

In the Case Benedict Eldridge one of the Claimants of Ship *Queen of England* app[e]lant vs Caleb Hopkins et al Libellants and Josiah Whitney Thomas Crafts & Thomas Marshall et al other Claimants of the same Ship Cargo & appur[tenan]ces ap[pe]llees. The Jury find that the said Ship *Queen of England* was employ'd in carrying supplies to the Fleet & Army employ'd against the united Colonies or States of America and being so employ'd the said Ship was taken at the time when, in the Libell, she is said to have been taken by the Claimants Josiah Whitney Thomas Crafts & Thomas Marshall and the Men under their command and Benedict Eldridge the Pilot, and by them brought into Boston in the County of Suffolk, and that one fifth part of said ship and appur[tenan]ces & Cargo be to the use of Benedict Eldridge, and the remainder of said prize to the use of Josiah Whitney Thomas Crafts & the said Men under their Command.

John Ellis proc[tor]  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Winthrop Cle[rk]

Sept 13th 1776.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 231.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Friday Sepr 13th 1776.

The Committee of both Houses appointed to take into consideration the representation of Capt John Fisk take leave to Report. –

That the Honble Richard Derby Junr Esqr be Directed as soon as may be to alter the Spars, & Rigging of the *Tyrannicide* from that of a Sloop to a Brigantine and to lay his Accounts before this Court for Examination and Allowance, and in order, that this matter may be effected expeditiously – the Honble Board are Desired to Issue their warrant on the Treasurer in favour of the said Richard Derby Jr Esqr for such Sum of Money as they judge may be Necessary for the purpose aforesaid, the said, Derby, being accountable therefor. –

Read, & Accepted.

Resolved that this State will furnish the Agent for building the Continental Ships at Newbury port with a sufficient number of Guns for one of them, and afford him every other assistance in their power, in fitting out and maning said Ship; provided leave can be obtained from the Hon: Congress for said Vessel to cruize on this Coast for the protection of the Trade thereof. – The Agent engaging to reimburse all the Expences this State shall incur in fitting out, & manning said Ship, and return said Guns, whenever said Ship shall be otherwise employ'd.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 35, 239, 242, 244.

JAMES BOWDOIN TO JOHN HANCOCK<sup>1</sup>

State of the Massachusetts Bay

Sir.

[Watertown] Sept 13th 1776.

The General Assembly of this State beg leave to inform the Honble Congress, that the *Milford* Frigate of 28 Guns and another Ship of War, have been for sometime cruising on this Coast, and have taken several Merchantmen and valuable prizes coming into Port; We have apply'd to the Honble Thos Cushing & John Langdon Esqrs, Agents for building the Continental Ships at Newbury Port & Portsmouth, requesting that one or more of those ships might be sent out to protect our Coast, but are inform'd by those Gentlemen that they have no Guns, and if they had, they have no orders to send the Ships to Sea, upon this information the General Assembly of this State resolv'd to furnish the Agent for building the Continental Ships at Newbury Port with a sufficient number of Guns for one of them, and afford him every other assistance in their power in fitting out and manning said Ship; provided leave can be obtain'd from the Honble Congress for said Vessell to cruise on this Coast for the protection of the Trade thereof, The Agent engaging to reimburse all the Expences this State shall incur in fitting out and manning said Ship, and return said Guns whenever said Ship shall be otherwise employ'd.

We would farther inform the Hon Congress that the Guns propos'd for the above purpose are 24 nine pounders, which we apprehend are suitable for the Ship under the command of Hector McNeil Esqr, and which is in the greatest forwardness for sailing.<sup>2</sup>

As said Ship will be inferior to the Enemy in Force, this state beg leave to suggest to the Honble Congress, the great advantage of having the Ship under the care of John Langdon Esqr fitted out immediately to act in concert with her. The readiness of the State of New Hampshire to give all possible assistance to Mr Langdon for the above purpose, will appear by a resolve of that State herewith inclos'd.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 57, 280-81.

2. The Continental frigate *Boston*.

JAMES BOWDOIN TO THE RHODE ISLAND NAVAL COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

Gentn

Watertown Sept 13th 1776

We have your Letter of the 29th Ulto and consider the sending out the Continental Ships (as you do) of the greatest consequence to these united States, and should be glad to promote their being sent out immediately by every means in our power, for we trust they might be employ'd to very good purposes, especially as several of the Enemies Cruizers are now infesting this Coast.

We farther assure You that we shall readily embrace such occasions as may present to render a neighbouring State any reasonable Services, but considering how much this State is drained of its Men by the public Calls,

and how much our Sea Coast is expos'd to the incursions of the Enemy, we have thought it needful sometime since to pass a Resolve prohibiting the inlisting our Sea Coast men into any other Service, even such as it may concern this State particularly to attend to; we cannot therefore consent to your request that Mr [John] Grannis may be permitted to enlist his Compliment of Marines out of the Troops in our pay.

If Mr Grannis chuses another Service in preference to ours, we shall endeavour to supply his place by as good a Man.<sup>2</sup>

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 57, 284.

2. John Grannis had been appointed Marine captain on board the frigate *Warren*, June 14, 1776, by the Rhode Island Naval Committee. RIHS,

LIBEL IN RHODE ISLAND MARITIME COURT OF THE BRITISH  
PRIZE BRIGANTINE *Bee*<sup>1</sup>

State of Rhode Island  
& Providence Plantations ss

To the Honl John Foster Esq Judge [torn]  
erected for the Tryal of Prize Ca[u]ses  
[torn] State of Rhode Island & Providence  
Pla[torn]

John Warner of Providence in the County of Providence Commander of [the] Sloop of War calld the *Yankey Ranger* of the Port of said [Providence] duly commissiond to cruise against the Enemies of the united [States of] America, comes into this Hone Court and gives your Honor to under[stand &] be informed that he together with William Rhodes of sd Providence Comm[ander of the] Sloop of War *Montgomery*<sup>2</sup> of said port of Providence who was also duly commissiond as [torn] being on a Cruize against the Enemies of the united States of America on the Twenty-first Day of August A D 1776 on the high Seas they together with their officers and Mariners on board said Sloops took and captured the Brigantine called the *Bee*, with her Appurtenances command[ed] by one Thomas Davis together with her Cargoe, consisting of Coffee, Cocoa, Sugar, whale Oil, Cotton &c — bound from the Island of Dominica in the West Indies to the port of Lancaster in Great Brittain And which said Brigantine and her Cargoe at and before said Time of Capture belonged to and were the property of some of the Inhabitants of great Brittain or some of the Inhabitants of said Island of Dominica Subjects of the King of Great Brittain — And were carrying Supplies to great Brittain whose Fleets and armies are now emplyd and acting against the said united States of America, And the Libelant further Informs your Honr that he hath brought said Brigantine with her appurtenances & Cargoe into the Port of Providence for adjud[ication.]

Wherefore he humbly prays that your Honor would take the premises into your Consideration and grant out the proper process & Notifications in such Cases by law required and proceed in such manner as to your Honor shall seem Right and just

John Collins for the Captors

[Endorsed] Libel No 1. John Warner and Wm Rhodes vs Brig: *Bee*. Received Septemr 13 AD 1776 Trial Octor 1. 1776. Warrant to sell Issued Octor 2: 1776

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, R. I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, the ship *Betsy* and brigantine *Triton*, also prizes of the *Montgomery*, were libeled against on September 18.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ACTING IN RECESS OF THE RHODE ISLAND  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY<sup>1</sup>

[Newport] Friday Septemr 13th

Upon hearing the Petition of James Wallace and Henry Stevenson late Officers in the British Navy and now Prisoners in the Gaol at Providence Resolved That the Petitioners be permitted to go upon their Parole into either of the Towns of Smithfield, Gloucester, Scituate or Cumberland at the Discretion of the Secretary.<sup>2</sup>

1. RIHS Mss.

2. Wallace commanded the British schooner *Hawke*, taken April 4, 1776 by the Continental fleet. Stevenson probably had commanded the *Glasgow's* tender, taken April 6, 1776.

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1776

New-London, September 13.

Yesterday returned here from a Cruize, the armed Schooner *Spy*, Capt. Robert Niles, belonging to the State of Connecticut, and brought in with him the Schooner *Mary and Elizabeth*, commanded by Capt. Bruce, bound from Barbadoes to Halifax; her Cargo consists of 59 Hogshead of Rum and 8 Ditto of Sugar. — About 18 Days ago Capt. Niles took the Ship *Hope*, Capt. Quince, burthen 270 Tone, bound from St. Vincents to London; her Cargo consists of 257 Hogsheads of Sugar, 32 Puncheons of Rum, some Molasses, Cocoa and Coffee, and may be daily expected into some Port.<sup>1</sup>

In Lat. 38, Long. 65. Capt. Niles saw five large Ships, which he supposed were Transports, under Convoy of a large Man of War; the latter chased him a while.

Capt. Niles saw a Number of Vessels which he could have taken, had it not been for bad Weather. — He spoke the Captains [Seth] Harding and Packwood, six Days out from this Port.

1. *Hope* was recaptured by HMS *Galatea*. See Journal of HMS *Galatea*, September 4, 1776.

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

[New York, September] 13th. — Four British ships, one of which was a two-decker, ran by the city up the East River. The cannonade and bombardment at Horn's Hook continued.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 51.



JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Carysfort*, CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW<sup>1</sup>

Sept 1776. Att Single Anchor off New York  
 Friday 13th AM the Ship quite clear, Ships Drt water Foreward 14 foot  
 Aft 16 ft 5 Inches  
 Little Wind & Cloudy with Rain – At 4 PM the Signal was  
 made aboard the Admiral, on which we Weighed & came to  
 Sail run in for the Channel between Long Island & Governors  
 Island, led by the *Phoenix* & *Orpheus* and followed by the  
*Roebuck*, each Ship at the Distance of two Cables length  
 from each other, on our coming round Governors Island the  
 Rebels began to fire their great Guns from their Batteries on  
 New York, which was returned by the British Troops from  
 their Batteries on Governors Island, & the Eastern Shore,  
 Several Shot fell on board our Ship, Damaged the Sails [&]  
 rigging, Spare Pump, some of the braces & part of the Mizen  
 Top &c but hurt none of the Ships Company – Abt 5 Passed  
 by all the Enemy's Batteries – At ½ past 5 Anchor'd off Bush-  
 wyck Creek in Company wth the above Ships, Do Moor'd with  
 the Stream Anchor in Shore in 3 fam & the small Bower in 8  
 fam found Riding here His Majesty's Ship *Rose* –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/168.

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

Septemr 1776 Moored off of Bedlows Island  
 Friday 13th At 8 AM made the *Greyhounds* Sigl for a Petty Officer At  
 9 the Signal for a Petty Officer from the *Asia*, *Renown*  
*Carysfort*, *Roebuck* *Phoenix* & *Jersey*  
 Modr & Cloudy At 3 PM fired a Gun & hoisted a Blue &  
 Yellow Flag at the Ensign Staff made at the same time, the  
*Phoenix*, *Orpheus*, *Carysfort* & *Roebucks* Signals, which  
 Ships got under way & Run up the East River and were  
 fired at from the Rebels Batteries without returning a  
 Gun At 6 the[y] Anchor'd, at which time was hoisted at  
 our Foretopgallt masthead a Red & Yellow Flag with a  
 Blue pendant over it, made at the same time the *Repulses*  
 Signal & the Parole Sigl with a Yellow Pendant At 11 An-  
 chor'd here his Majesty's Frigate the *Galatea*

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

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

[On board H. M. S. *Eagle*] Friday, 13th. September.

In the Afternoon, the *Phoenix*, Capt [Hyde] Parker, of 44 Guns, the *Or-  
 pheus* of 32 Guns, Capt. [Charles] Hudson, the *Carysfort*, of 28 Guns,

Capt. [Robert] Fanshaw, and the *Roebuck* of 44 Guns, Capt. Hammond, sailed up the East River up to Bushwyck Bay. The Fort fired 4 or 5 Guns faintly upon them, as also a Battery upon a red Bank of high Land just above the Town; and were retorted upon very warmly by our Batteries on Governor's Island & Brookland. The Ships passed along under their Topsails, for the most Part; and, in supreme Contempt of the Rebels and their Works, did not fire a Gun. It was a fine Sight, if one could have divested one's Thoughts of the melancholy Reflection, that some Fellow-Creatures Lives were either taking away or in Danger, on account of the Villainy of the Rebel Leaders & Abettors. We could not perceive that the Ships recd. the least Damage; by an account afterwards, we found that the *Phoenix* had one man killed upon her Forecastle.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serie's Journal*, 99-100.

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

Septemr 1776. at Single Anchor off of Bedlows Island.

Friday 13th. Light airs and fair. PM Empd as before<sup>2</sup> at 1½ past 3 weighed and made sail up the East River p Sigl from the Admiral in Company with the *Phoenix*, *Carrisford*, and *Roebuck* passed the Town and Battery of New York which kept a Constant Fire at the Ships, without their returng One Shot. at 1½ past 5 came too, with the Best Bower in 9 fathm in Bushwick Creek, found here the *Rose*.<sup>3</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/650.

2. Clearing the ship for action.

3. Bartholomew James describes the above action, mistakenly dating it September 21, and confuses the position of the *Rose*. His journal reads:

... The 21st, about three o'clock in the afternoon, his Lordship made the signal for us to weigh, in company with the *Phoenix*, *Roebuck*, *Carysfort* and *Rose*, with a very light air from the westward. At half past three the enemy's batteries opened and commenced a prodigious heavy cannonade on us, from which we were never a pistol shot till seven o'clock, and without once returning the fire; and though the shot went through and through us, we experienced little loss except in our rigging, which was terribly cut fore and aft, the people being all directed to lie down. The other ships were not so fortunate, having a number killed; among which was Mr. Hitchcock of the *Roebuck*, belonging to Falmouth who was to have dined with me on that day had not the service prevented it. We anchored in Kippes Bay at half-past seven, where the rebels were intrenched along the shore of York Island two miles, to the number of 15,000, and amused us all night with a constant fire from an eighteen-pounder, with which, from the darkness of the night or bad conduct, they only hit us twice.

Laughton, ed., *James' Journal*, 30.

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

On board H.M. Sloop *Swan* at Sandy Hook

Friday Sept 13th Noon Thermometer 70. P M passd up the *Galetea* Captn [Thomas] Jordan from Plymouth in nine weeks with Two Prize Ships retaken from the Pirates also a Brigantine and Schooner.<sup>2</sup> The Ships

were from the west Indies. Captn Jordan came out after a Fleet with British and foreign Troops had passd through the [English] Channell.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.
2. The ships from the West Indies were *Sword Fish*, S. Kingsley, master, from Cape St. Nicolas Mole, and the *Heart of Oak*, E. Howell, master, from Cape François. The brigantine was the *William*, Joshua Bunker, from Bordeaux with gunpowder and small arms; the schooner, *Dolphin*, John Parker, from Philadelphia for Bermuda with flour and corn. Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE  
MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentn

Philada Sept 13th 1776.

We have been applyed to for a supply of powder for the Continental Frigate built at Baltimore<sup>2</sup> which shou'd have been ordered down there, but as we understand you have a sufficient quantity at that place and as there is some powder due to the Continent from your State, we request the favr of you to supply Messrs Wm Lux, Saml Purviance and David S[t]ewart with four Tons and a half of gun powder for the use of the said Frigate and for proving her Cannon &c and hereafter we will repay you in powder the balance that will then become due to your State, or supply you with more shou'd it become necessary. Your compliance with this request will save time and charges. It will also oblige the Secret Committee of Congress of which we are a quorum & we remain Gentn [&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris      B Franklin  
Richard Henry Lee      Josiah Bartlett

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.
2. The *Virginia*.

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

In Council of Safety

[Philadelphia] September 13th, 1776.

Permission was given Christopher McClure, Tho's Gaskil, Isaac Tublin, & Benja. Clifton, Blacksmiths, on board our fleet, to come to this City to work on Anchors, making by De Offley, for the Continental Frigates, if they are not already employed in the Service of this State.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 716, 717.

ADVERTISEMENT OF LIBEL AGAINST THE PRIZE SCHOONER *Peter*<sup>1</sup>

Port of Philadelphia, }  
Pennsylvania, ss } To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, that a Court of Admiralty for taking cognizance of and trying the justice of captures of vessels, made pursuant to the resolves of the Honorable Continental Congress, and brought into this port, will be held at the Court-house in the city of Philadelphia, on Saturday, the

14th day of September next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day; then and there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bill of Lambert Weeks, Commander of the Ship of war called the *Reprisal* against the schooner or vessel called the *Peter*, burthen about eighty tons, lately commanded by John Muckelno, with her tackle, apparel, furniture and cargo. To the end and intent that the owner or owners of the said schooner, called the *Peter*, and her cargo, or any persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said bill. By order of the Judge,

Andrew Robeson, Register.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 13, 1776.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN GEORGE COOKE <sup>1</sup>

No 184. To Captain George Cooke, Saint Marys County.

Sir, We have the pleasure to inform you that you were Yesterday appointed Commander of the Ship *Defence* now lying at Annapolis bound out on a Cruise; and the Honourable Convention have directed us to inform you of this appointment and to request your immediate attendance to take the Command of said Ship We are &c:  
[Annapolis] 13 September 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, Md. Arch.

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

[Williamsburg] September 13th 1776

The Board, now resumed the Consideration of the Report made yesterday by the Navy Board; which is as follows viz.

The Commissioners of the Navy are of Opinion, that the Scheme proposed to them by the Council for the Importation of Salt, Clothing, and Medicines, for the supply of the Army, is practicable, and may probably be the means of providing those and many other Articles Indispensably necessary for the Army and Navy on much cheaper Terms, than they can be procured in any other way. They think the following Cruizers to wit, the Sloop's *Congress*, *Scorpion*, *Liberty*, *Defiance*, and Schooners *Hornett*, and *Revenge*, may with propriety be spared for the purpose; and that they may be ready to take in their Cargoes by the 15th of October next. They have no doubt the Articles desired may be got in Europe on good Terms, but conceive these Vessels to be unfit for such a voyage; more espécially, as their return, would probably happen in the winter season; they have therefore agreeable to the Request of the Council made out Invoices of the Cargoes that they Judge best suited to the Markets in the Foreign West Indies, and a Memorandum of such articles, suited to our wants, as may probably be purchased there to advantage.

Invoice of Cargoes for Six Vessels proposed to be sent to the Foreign West Indies on account of the Public viz.

each .....	£600.-.-.
500 Barrels of Flour at 30/ .....	750.-.-.
	<u>£1350.-.-.</u>

£10. each .....	£100.-.-.
250 Barrels of Flour at 30/ .....	375.-.-.
	<hr/>
	£475.-.-.

£10. each .....	£100.-.-.
250 Barrels of Flour at 30/ .....	375.-.-.
	<hr/> £475.-.-.

£10. each .....	£600.-.-.
300 Barrels of Flour a 30/ .....	450.-.-.
	<u>£1050.-.-.</u>

£10. each .....	£100.-.-.
300 Barrels of Flour at 30/ .....	450.-.-.
	<u>£550.-.-.</u>

£10. each .....	£200.--.
300 Barrels of Flour at 30/ .....	450.--.
	<hr/>
	£650.--.

To be purchased on James River, and Stored at Hoods, 90 hhds Tobacco and 900 Barrels of Flour.—

To be purchased on York River, and Stored at Cumberland, 60 hhds of Tobo  
and 500 Barrels of Flour.—

To be purchased on Rappahannock River, and Stored at Hobbs Hole, 20  
hhd's Tobacco and 500 Barrels of Flour.—

To be purchased on Potowmack river, for the Schooner <i>Speedwell</i> and Stored at Alexandria, 60 hhds Tobacco supposed at £10 each . . . . .	£600.-.-.
300 Barrels of Flour at 30/ . . . . .	450.-.-.
	<u>£1050.-.-.</u>

Mr Thomas Shore for James River, Mr George Park for York River, and Messrs Smith and Roan for Rappahannock River, are Recommended as proper Persons to purchase the above Cargoes—

Invoice of Goods to be purchased in return for the Cargoes of six Vessels proposed to be sent to the Foreign West Indies on Account of the Public viz

Cargo for Sloop <i>Congress</i> , 2000 Bushels of Salt supposed at	
2s/6d	£250.--.
Blankets to the amount of	600.--.
Coarse Woollen	500.--.
Sail Duck	500.--.
Medicines	50.--.
Oznabrigs	500.--.
Checks and coarse white Linens	300.--.
Powder	[500.--.]
Arms & Swords	200.--.
Port Charges &c	150.--.
	<hr/> £3550.--.
Cargo for Sloop <i>Scorpion</i> , 500 Bushels Salt	
	£62.10
Blankets to the amount of	200.--.
Coarse Woollens	200.--.
Sail Duck	100.--.
Arms	300.--.
Powder	100.--.
Port Charges &c.	87.10
	<hr/> £1050.--.
Cargo for Sloop <i>Liberty</i> , 500 Bushels Salt	
	£62.10.-
Blankets to the amount of	300.--.
Coarse Woollens	200.--.
Medicine	47.10.-
Sail Duck	100.--.
Arms	200.--.
Coarse Linens	100.--.
Port Charges &c.	£ 165.--.
	<hr/> £1175.--.
Cargo for Sloop <i>Defiance</i> 1000 Bushels Salt	
	£125.--.
Blankets to the amount of	500.--.
Coarse Woollens	500.--.
Medicines	75.--.
Sail Duck	300.--.
Arms	300.--.
Oznabrigs & Checks	300.--.
Powder	400.--.
Port charges &c	200.--.
	<hr/> £2700.--.
Cargo for the Schooner <i>Hornet</i> 600 Bushels Salt	
	£75.--.
Blankets to the amount of	200.--.
Coarse Woollens	200.--.
Medicines	40.--.
Sail Duck	125.--.

Arms	200.--.
Powder	260.--.
Oznabrigs	100.--.
Port charges &c.	[150.--.]
	<hr/> £1350.--.
Cargo for Schooner <i>Revenge</i> 800 Bushels Salt	£100.--.
Blankets to the amount of	300.--.
Coarse Woollens	300.--.
Medicines	50.--.
Sail Duck	250.--.
Arms	200.--.
Powder	200.--.
Port Charges &c	100.--.
	<hr/> £1500.--.

Total £11325.--. which upon the most moderate Estimate we suppose the Cargoes will sell for.—

The Return Cargo for the Schooner *Speedwell* to be hereafter Considered.

The Board having maturely considered the above Scheme do entirely approve thereof and thereupon it is, Ordered that agreeable to their Recommendation the following Gentlemen be appointed Agents to purchase the Commodities intended for Exportation viz Mr Thomas Shore for James River, Mr George Park for York River, and Messrs Smith and Roan for Rappahannock River. Also that Mr John Dalton be appointed Agent for Potowmack River — That the Agent on James River be instructed to purchase on as good Terms as the same can be procured 90 hhds of Tobacco and 900 Barrels of Flour, to be stored at Hood's — That the Agent on York River be instructed to purchase 60 hhds of Tobacco and 500 Barrels of Flour, to be stored at Cumberland — That the Agent on Rappahannock River be instructed to purchase 20 hhds of Tobacco and 500 Barrels of Flour, to be Stored at Hobbs Hole. And that the Agent on Potowmack River be instructed to purchase 60 hhds of Tobacco and 300 Barrels of Flour, to be stored at Alexandria

All which Commodities will be paid for by Warrants on the Treasurer within three Months from this day. —

And the several Agents aforesaid are to be instructed to procure the respective Commodities aforesaid so as to be ready at the Places where they are directed to be stored, by the 10th day of next month at latest. —

1. Executive Communications, July 5, 1776–June 1, 1778, VSL.

# JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Friday September 13th 1776 –

Mr Thomas Newton is desired to proceed as soon as he conveniently can to Edenton in North Carolina to enquire after and provide proper Materials

for the Rigging, fitting &c of the Galley's now Building at So Quay. and also to endeavour to procure in the lower parts of Nansemond County proper Vessels for the Transportation of Troops up the Bay –

Mr Thomas Whiting is desired to procure in Gloucester County as many Vessels as he may think Necessary to be employed in the Transportation of Troops up the Bay. –

Mr George Webb is desired to proceed up James River to View the present state of the Rope-Walk at Warwick under the direction of Capt Charles Thomas and to give such directions respecting the same as he may think Proper and also to endeavour to procure what Vessels he can for the Transportation of Troops up the Bay.

Mr Champion Travis is desired to attend in Williamsburg in Order to discharge any Business that may come before the Navy Board during the Absence of the Members this day sent on Business to different parts of the Country. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 57–58, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER, JAMESTOWN <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

[Williamsburg] September 13th 1776 –

You are requested to permit Lieut. Triplett to take the Cannon lying on the Beach near your Fort and afford him your assistance in conveying them to his Vessel.

By order of the Naval Board I am Sir, Yours &c  
Thom<sup>s</sup> Whiting 1st Comr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1776

Williamsburg, Sept. 13.

Another vessel is arrived at Hampton with 1400 bushels of Salt, and a small quantity of rum. The captain informs, that he spoke a French ship, one of a fleet of 14 sail, Laden with goods, and bound for Delaware. A number of French officers were likewise on board, who intended to offer their services to the United States of America.

By letters from Cape Nichola Mole, of the 28th ult. we learn that two frigates had lately arrived at St. Domingo, from France, completely manned, in order to cruise off that island, and protect all American vessels within their limits. Two more frigates are daily expected, for the same purpose. These four frigates are to act in conjunction, with two Spanish frigates, which are stationed at Porto Rico, for the protection of all North American vessels. The Spanish captains are to pay equal attention to the general of St. Domingo's orders as to those of the commander at Porto Rico. There is every appearance of a speedy rupture between France, Spain, and Great Britain, as Spain and Portugal are absolutely now at war.



WILLIAM SAVAGE TO JOHN MCCROHON & CO., ST. EUSTATIUS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

(Copy)

Edinton 13th September 1776.

. . . this Opportunity will serve for me to apprise you that if you will lay your Shoulders to Business, We may have it in our Power to do a great deal with very little Risque — the Plan I propose is this to Charter every Vessell that you can come across, load them entirely with Salt and send them into me and I will load them in return with Produce, by this method You will observe the Salt Cargoes will be but little Risque and if the Vessel or Vessels arrive safe here We can afford to run the Risque of the Cargoes to the West Indies; In good Times, the very highest Freight that was given was a Dollar Pr Ton — We can afford now to give Two Dollars Pr Ton, as they will have so many Risques to run and for which a Double Freight will be a full Consideration — By your taking a Trip thro the English Islands, I take it for Granted that You may pick up any Number on those terms, as well as in the Foreign Islands — and it will be necessary to take out English Clearances, with English Bottoms, for Hallifax or St Augustine, which will protect them from the Kings Ships, at the same time it will be as necessary to take out Foreign Clearances, to protect them from Seizure by American Vessels tho' I should in Case of Seizure be able to explain this Matter on the Continent in such a Manner as to give Satisfaction . . .

[Endorsed] No 1 Edinton, 13th September 1776 Intercepted Letter of Intelligence —

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

# JOURNAL OF THE COUNCIL OF WEST FLORIDA<sup>1</sup>

At a Council held at Pensacola the 13th September 1776.

The Governor laid before the Board agreeable to the Minute of Yesterday the Opinion of the Attorney General & another Gentleman of the Law in Answer to the Question then proposed which was, whether he could be justified by the information then Communicated in laying an Embargo at this time on the Shipping bound to the Mississippi which he desired might be read & inserted in the minutes of this day and is as follows —

Sir

In Answer to your Excellencys Question of yesterday whether your Excellency would be Justified by the information then communicated in laying an Embargo at this time on the Shipping bound to the Mississippi, We have the honor of informing your Excellency that there is no doubt but by the known and Established Laws of the Land, the King may and Consequently your Excellency as his representative in this Province can in time of War by Proclamation lay an Embargo on all Shipping as well those of foreigners, as Others, this however is never to be done but in

Cases of Great & Urgent Necessity; thus Stands the Law upon the Subject —

And with regard to the legality of the affair under Consideration having Maturely considered the Matters Contained in the information we are with all due deference to your Excellency of Opinion that such information does not contain such legal Matters as is Necessary to Justify such a measure at this Juncture, we are &c.

E R Wegg      E H Bay

His Excellency Governor Chester

And desired to know if the Gentlemen of the Board would still advise him to detain the Vessels bound for the Mississippi after having received the above Opinion. —

(The Chief Justice and Mr Livingston a Gentleman of the Law were also desired by His Excellency to give their Opinion who entirely agreed in Sentiment with Mr Wegg and Mr Bay)

some of the Gentlemen begged leave to decline giving an Answer and Others were Still of the same opinion that the Vessels should be detained — Upon which His Excellency read the following Paragraph (to wit) "Gentlemen I must beg leave to be excused from following your advice as the Gentlemen of the Law are of a very different Opinion (to wit) that the Information is not Sufficient to Warrant me to detain those Vessels any longer — I shall therefore give Orders that they may receive their Necessary papers and proceed on their Voyage." —

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/634, 394-96, LC Photocopy.

14 Sept.

JOHN LANGDON TO THOMAS & ISAAC WHARTON, PHILADELPHIA<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen —

Portsmouth 14th Septemr 1776

Your favour of the 26th ulto is just come to hand, I join most heartily with you in hoping, that the day is not far distant, when we shall have Peace and good Will towards Men, and our Trade renewed, so far (on its former footing) as shall be consistant with the true happiness and Intrest of both Countries —

The Charges you mention on the Iron shall Order paid p Colo [William] Whipple, and shall thank you for your Rect, as it must be Charg'd to the Continental Ship, as the Iron was intended for her<sup>2</sup> my most kind wishes to your good Families — with respect I am [&c.]

John Langdon

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

2. The *Raleigh*.

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

Dear Sir —

Portsmouth 14 Septemr 1776

My absence for sometime past will no doubt plead a sufficient Excuse for my not writeing; and I suppose you'll say that your hurry must do the same on your part, let it be so then, we are on a Ballance. —

I've just return'd from Providence, where I've been after Guns, this is the third time, I've been, (and sent) to contract for Guns, and to endeavour to perswade those Gentlemen; who are employ'd to build the Ships there to lend me the Guns, which were already cast for our Ship, as they could get another sett cast for one of theirs, long before either could go to Sea. They seem'd at first to agree to it, and Voted in their Committee to spare the Guns, but with this proviso that I should contract with the Owners of the Furnace for a sett to be replac'd, and pay them their price, which was the unheard of Sum of One hundred pounds Lawf[ul] Money Pton, all this (however unreasonable it appear'd to me) I agreed to do, rather than not have the Guns, but notwithstanding this, when I came to see the Contract of the Owners of the Furnace (who by the way are included in this Committee of Mr [Stephen] Hopkins's for building the Ships) it appear'd such a one that I could not in Honour to the States, as Agent sign it, they (some of them especially the Messrs Brown's) declined taking me as Agent, but insisted that I should give my private Engagement to pay for the Guns at that price. I told them that my power was ample and equal to Govr Hopkinss who appointed them to build their Ships & contract for Cannon, they answered, that they did not doubt it, but said the Congress might think the price too high, and perhaps some dispute would arise. I even agreed to do this and in short any thing almost, that they in such an unreasonable manner asked, but what finally prevented my agreeing at last was that they insisted that I should pay one half down for those Guns, which they were to deliver me, which already had been paid for by the Continent, or should pay Intrest for the Money from the delivery of the Guns. — I told them if they would deliver the Guns, I would on my return home, send them Two or three thousand Dollars, and as soon as I could get Money from Philadelphia would pay the whole, as the Continent, would not pay Intrest, and this would be done long before the Guns would be cast for me, with which I was to replace those they lent me, which were not theirs, but the Continent's, such & many more, were the Arguments with those Gentlemen, to induce them to do no more than what I conceive was their duty, but all would not do, there seem'd to be a secret determination not to let me have the Guns at any rate whatever, unless an absolute Order from the Honbl Marine Committee, it appear'd to me, every advantage was to be taken of the Continent in their power, in the Price of Cannon. —

I've given great dispatch for Masts for both of their Ships at Providence, part of which had got round & they have just began to make them, the rest are on their way — take the Situation of their Ships, it appears to me impossible, that they should get to Sea in two or three Months,

notwithstanding they tell the Committee they are almost already, and shall want their Guns — It is truly to be lamented, that there should be Guns belonging to the Continent laying at Providence near three or four Months past, and this Ship entirely waiting for them since June last, at which Time every Man might have been had for her, who are now gone either in the Army or Privateering, and the Ship might have Sail'd by the 1st of July without the least doubt, since which she might have taken more Prizes than would have paid for our whole Fleet, numbers of which have been within sight of this Harbour, and all this must be put up with, rather than the Furnace Owners (who are of the Committee and understand one another) should loose Ten or Twenty Pounds p Ton on casting the Guns for the Continent, or a Jealousy that the New Hampshire Frigate, would be ready about four Months before them at Providence — I should been very happy, if the Honourable Committee, had sent a Man, well acquainted with Ships to have seen who was forwardest, how built and the Properest place for that Business — Those Ships at Providence in all probability, could not have gone to Sea, either of them this Year, had they not got Masts from hence unless they had gone with improper ones, not by any means to be depended on.

I think it my duty as Agent, to lay this matter before the Honble Committee, as I tho't the Continent ill treated & myself insulted, by their dragging me at the Continental Expence from this place to Providence, twice or three times under pretence of contracting for Cannon, when I was first up in June, they said Seventy pounds would be the price, little after Eighty pounds, soon after Ninety Pounds, and now by their Letter before my going up, the last time, One Hundred Pounds p Ton, upon which I went up least it should be Two hundred pounds p Ton — They have cast considerable number of Cannon for private Ships, thro the Summer, some of which are Nine Pounders — with great Respect I am [&c.]

John Langdon

[Note by Langdon] The above wrote to Mr Hancock also, as President of Marine Committee at the same time — p Post.

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

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

Dear Sir

Portsmouth 14th Septemr 1776

Inclos'd is a long Letter about Cannon the Contents of which you'll mention to the Honourable Marine Committee, committed there will be no need of laying the Letter before them, as I've mentioned the same to Mr Hancock — Mr [John] Wheelwright our 2d Lieut for the Ship has left us, therefore have appointed another to act till the pleasure of the Comme is known Mr Josiah Shackford will rise from 3d Lieut to be 2d, in room of Wheelwright, and Mr Hopley Yeaton to be 3d Lieut, this you'll please mention to the Comme immediately and send down a Certificate of Mr Yea-

tons appointment P return of Post — If the Commissions are ready they will stand in the following Order — Viz —

Capt. Thomas Thompson

Peter Shores —	1st	Lieut
Josiah Shackford	2d	ditto
Hopley Yeaton	3d	ditto

Your [&c.]

John Langdon

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

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES<sup>1</sup>

[Exeter] Saturday, Sept. 14th 1776

Whereas Capt. Lionel Bradstreet is now a State Prisoner in this State (lately commander of the *Nelly Frigate* lately taken & bro't into the Port of Piscataqua by two Continental Armed vessels,)

Voted that he have leave and be Permitted to depart this State, & repair to Boston or to Maryland or Virginia or any Port or place on this Continent in order to get a passage home to his Family in Great Britain. Sent up by Mr. Cutts. [Concurred].

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 335.

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

[Watertown] Saturday Sept 14th 1776

Bonds being given by Isaac Snow, James Leech & Ebenr Prout a Commission was Issued out to the said Isaac Snow as Commander of the Schooner called the *America* and Instructions were given him accordingly

The Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, & Safety for the Town of Newbury Port Would beg leave to Represent to Your Honors that a Sub Committee was appointed by them to Inspect all Vessels Arriving at or Departing from this Harbour that the Regulations of the Honble Congress of this State might not be Violated that while on their Duty on board the Sloop *Two Friends* (which was some time past taken & bro't into this Place by Captns Obrian & Lambert, And acquitted by a Court of Admiralty held for this District) William Hazen Master bound for St Johns they were Informed of two Men that were bound to Nova Scotia in said Sloop and of whom it was Suspected that if not prevented they would be of real Damage to this State to let pass Upon further Inquiry we were Satisfied as to the unfitness of their going and prevented them it appeared they were to be sent by Mr Epes Sargent of Cape Ann (the one being his Son & the other a Master of a Vessel who had for sometime past been in his Employ) down to East Passage where he had a Snow and tis said a Schooner or two laying with Considerable Interest which we have Reason to think has for sometime past been Employ'd in and under the protection of that Government By a Letter from Mr Epes Sargeant which was wrote directly upon his being

frustrated in this plan, to Capt Sayward Master of his Snow there and intercepted just before the Sloop sail'd fully Convinces us of the above Suggestions. – We are induced to Trouble Your Honors with this Information by a Report that the said Mr Sargeant did on his leaving this Town hire a two Mast boat in Ipswich & applied to a Friend in Salem who procured a Commission for said Boat that She has Actually sail'd it is supposed directly for East Passage and that his Son is gone in her. Which Your Honors will be pleased to Act upon as shall in Your Wisdom seem fit

In Behalf & Pr Order of the Committee

Jona: Titcomb Chr P.T.

In Council Sept 14th 1776 On the Representation from the Committee of Newbury Port relative to Epes Sargeant Read & Ordered that the said Epes Sargeant be notified to appear and make Answer in Council on Thursday the 26th day of September inst to such Matters as are in said Representation suggested to his Prejudice and that the Secretary be directed to serve him the said Epes Sargeant with a Copy of said Representation and this Order thereon and also serve the Committee of the Town of Newbury Port with a Copy of the above Order that they may appear if they think proper.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 231–32.

#### ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] September 14th 1776.

Whereas this Court is credibly informed, that two Negro men, lately taken on the High Seas, on board the Sloop *Hannibal*, and brought into this State as prisoners, are advertised to be sold at Salem the 17th Instant by public Auction.

Resolved, That all persons concerned with the said Negroes be and they hereby are forbidden to sell them, or in any manner to treat them otherwise than is already ordered for the treatment of prisoners taken in like manner; and if any sale of the said Negroes shall be made, it is hereby declared null, and void. And that whenever it shall happen, that any Negroes are taken on the High Seas, and brought as prisoners into this State, they shall not be allowed to be sold, nor treated any otherways than as prisoners are ordered to be treated, who are taken in like manner. –

Whereas it is necessary, in Order that the Ship *Boston*, Hector McNeil Commander, may be fitted out with all possible expedition, that she shou'd be immediately supplied with Guns this Court has resolved, upon certain Conditions to furnish her with. – Therefore Ordered, that the Committee for Fortifying the Harbor of Boston be, and hereby are directed to send forthwith by Water so many Cannon nine pounders with Carriages, & other Apparatus from those in, and about the Town of Boston, as shall be sufficient to arm said Ship to the Town of Newbury Port to be there deliver'd to Capt Hector McNeal, for the purpose aforesaid, and in case the whole number of nine pound Cannon above mention'd cannot be obtained from those

in, and about Boston, then the said Committee are Impower'd, and directed to procure, and send to Newbury Port by Water so many as may be necessary to make up the deficiency from the Towns of Salem, and Marblehead, and give them others in lieu of the same from those in, and about the Town of Boston – and further Ordered, that the Agent for building the Continental Ships at Newbury Port be furnish'd by the Town of Newbury Port for the purpose before mentioned, with the five pieces of Cannon this State has lately purchas'd of said Town, and also with five other Cannon nine pounders, which the Town of Newbury Port has agreed to lend to this State with their Carriages &c. the Agent engaging to redeliver all the Cannon with their Carriages, and other apparatus beforementioned to the Order of this State, in case leave cannot be obtained from the Hon: Congress for said Vessel to cruize on this Coast for the Protection of the Trade of this State, and it is strongly recommended to said Agent to be as Expeditious as possible in fixing out said Ship.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 35, 251–52, 254.

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

Sir, Providence September 14th 1776.

I the Subscriber of Providence in the County of Providence and State of Rhode Island &c. Merchant request your Honor to grant a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal to Abner Coffin Commander of the Sloop *Favourite* of which I am Owner. She is burthened about Seventy-four Tons, carries Ten Carriage Guns Four Pounders, and Ten Swivel Guns, manned with Eighty Men, and fitted with a suitable Quantity of Muskets, Blunderbusses, Pistols, Cutlasses, Powder Ball and other Military Stores. She hath on board Fifty barrels Beef and Pork, Six Thousand Pounds Weight of Bread, with some Flour, Rice, Beans, Pottatoes &c. Peter Ritt is First Lieutenant, Wilson Jacobs Second Lieutenant, and Jacobs Master. I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

John Brown<sup>2</sup>

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

2. *Ibid.*, commission and instructions were issued the same day.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL  
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

[Providence] Sept 14. 1776.

Meeting in Being &c

Voted That The Commtee purchase of Mesers Clarke & Nightingale one Thirteen inch Cable, of One Hundred and Twenty fathom, at Five pounds. L. Mony [illegible.]

Voted That Lieut. Chapin go to Plymouth &c. and Interest as many Seamen and Marines as he can, and that Mr John Brown supply him with Fifty pounds [illegible] for that purpose.

Voted That Mr Shaw, go to the Eastern Furnaces and [illegible] engage a quantity of Shott for the Ships, and that Mr Joseph Brown be desired to give him the gua[ge] and Dimentions of those that are wanted.

Voted That Capt Christopher Sheldon be appointed to pay of the Board of the Seamen & Marines belonging [to] The two ships and that his Wages be raised one Dollar pr Day for his attendance &c.

Voted That Mr George Olney be not retained any longer in the pay of this Comtee. he having Nearly posted up the Books &c &c.

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

LIBELS OF COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS AND CAPTAINS JABEZ WHIPPLE,  
JOHN WARNER, AND WILLIAM RHODES AGAINST VARIOUS  
PRIZE VESSELS<sup>1</sup>

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,

Providence, ss.

Seven Libels are filed before me: First, In Behalf of Esek Hopkins, Esq; Commander in Chief of the Continental Fleet, against the Brigantine *Lawrence*, Burthen about 110 Tons, with her Appurtenances; and also her Cargo of Rum, Sugar, Limes, Sea Coal, wrought Copper, Tin Ware &c. George Leyburn, late Commander, bound from Barbados to Newfoundland, captured and taken by Nicholas Biddle, Esq; of Philadelphia, Commander of the Brigantine *Andrew Doria*, one of said Fleet.

Second, In Behalf of the said Esek Hopkins, against the Brigantine *Elizabeth*, Burthen 110 Tons, with her Appurtenances; and also the Cargo of said Brig, consisting of Salt, Flour, Rice, Riding Carriages, Turpentine, one Negro Man, &c. William Johnson Rysam, late Commander, bound from Cape Fear to the British Fleet and Army at New-York, and taken by the said Nicholas Biddle.

Third, In Behalf of Jabez Whipple, Commander of the private Sloop of War called the *Independence*, belonging to the Port of Providence, the Owners of and the Officers and Men belonging to the said Sloop, against the Ship *Aurora*, Burthen 210 Tons, with her Appurtenances; and also [her] Cargo of Sugar, Rum, Cocoa, &c. Gregor McGregor, late Commander, bound from St. Vincents, in the West-Indies, to Glasgow, in Scotland.

Fourth, in Behalf of the said Jabez Whipple, the said Owners of and Officers and Men belonging to the said Sloop, against the Brigantine *Fanny*, Burthen 146 Tons, with her Appurtenances, and also her Cargo of Rum, Sugar, Indico, Limes, Whale Oil &c. Samuel Lightburn, late Commander, bound from Antigua, in the West-Indies to the Port of London.

Fifth, in Behalf of John Warner, Commander of the private Sloop of War called the *Yankey Ranger*, in Company with Capt. William Rhodes, Commander of the private Sloop of War called the *Montgomery*, both of the Port of Providence, for himself, the Owners of and the Officers and Men belonging to the said Sloops, against the Brigantine *Sally*, Burthen 130 Tons,



with her Appurtenances; and also her Cargo of Sugar, Whalebone, Oil, &c. Jacob Snowball, late Commander, bound from said Antigua to London.

Sixth, in Behalf of Daniel Tillinghast, Esq; Continental Agent in said State, and Messieurs Clark and Nightingale of Providence, Agent for the Sloop *Montgomery*, belonging to the State of New-York, for and in Behalf of the Owners of and the Officers and Men belonging to the Continental Sloop of War, called the *Schuyler*, Charles Pond Commander, and the said Sloop *Montgomery*, William Rogers, Commander, against the Sloop *Charlotte* and her Appurtenances, which said Sloop *Charlotte* was laden with Intrenching Tools, John Cox, Master, late bound from Halifax to the British Army at New-York, and taken by the said Charles Pond and William Rogers, in Company.

Seventh, in Behalf of John Warner, Commander of the private Sloop of War called the *Yankey Hero* [*sic Yankee Ranger*], in Company with William Rhodes, Commander of the private Sloop of War called the *Montgomery*, both of the Port of Providence, for himself, the Owners of and the Officers and Men belonging to the said Sloops, against the Brigantine called the *Bee*, her Appurtenances, and her Cargo of Coffee, Cocoa, Sugar, Whale Oil, Cotton, &c. Thomas Davis, late Master, bound from Dominica, in the West-Indies, to the Port of Lancaster, in England.

All which said Vessels, with their Appurtenances and Cargoes, against which said Libels are filed, the Libellants say, they have lately captured and taken as Prizes, and have brought the same into the Port of Providence, in said State, for Trial; and that the said Vessels, their Appurtenances, and Cargoes, before and at the Time of Capture, belonged to and were the Property of some of the Inhabitants of Great-Britain, or some others, Subjects of the King of Great-Britain, and were carrying Supplies to said Subjects, in Support of the British Fleets and Armies, now acting against the United States of America.

The Justice of the aforesaid Captures will be tried, at the Maritime Court erected for the Trial of Prize Causes in and throughout said State, to be holden at said Providence on the first Day of October, A.D.1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon.

This Notice is given pursuant to Law, that the Owner or Owners of said Vessels, Appurtenances and Cargoes, respectively, or any Person or Persons concerned therein, may appear and shew Cause, if any they have, why the same, or any Part thereof, should not be condemned.

John Foster, Judge of said Court.

1. *Providence Gazette*, September 14, 1776.

#### LIBELS OF JOHN COLE AND COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS AGAINST CABLES, ANCHORS AND NEGRO SLAVES<sup>1</sup>

State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.

Providence, ss.

Two other Libels are also filed before me: First, By John Cole, Esq; as Advocate, for and in Behalf of said State, against three Large Cables and two

large Anchors, which late belonged to the British Ship of War, called the *Scarboroughh*; which said Cables and Anchors were captured and taken by John Grimes, Commander, his Officers and Men, belonging to the Row-Galley called the *Spitfire*.

Second, in Behalf of Esek Hopkins, Esq; Commander in Chief of the Continental Fleet, against Seven Negro Slaves; late in the Service of the King of Great Britain, on board one of his Ships called the Bomb Brig,<sup>2</sup> a Vessel of War, sent against the United States of America, and lately taken by the said Fleet; which said Cables, Anchors and Negroes, the said Libellants say, they have brought into the Port of Providence, in said State, for Trial.

The Justice of the abovesaid Captures will be tried, at the Court erected in and for said State for the Trial of maritime Causes, to be holden at said Providence on the 1st Day of October, A.D. 1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon.

This Notice is given, pursuant to the Laws of said State, that the Owner or Owners of said Cables, Anchors and Negroes, or any Person or Persons concerned therein, may appear in and shew Cause, if any they have, why the same should not be condemned.

John Foster, Judge of said Court.

1. *Providence Gazette*, September 14, 1776.

2. H. M. Bomb Brig *Bolton*.

*Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1776

Providence, September 14.

The Privateers *Montgomery* and *Yankey Ranger*, of this Port, have taken three large Brigs, bound from the West-Indies to England, laden with Rum, Sugar, Coffee, Cotton and Oil. They are all arrived in a safe Port.<sup>1</sup>

We hear that Capt. Samuel Dunn, in a Privateer from Swanzey, has taken a large Brig, with 260 Hogsheads of Rum.

1. The prizes were *Sally*, *Bee* and *John*.

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

[New York, September] 14th. — The British sent three or four ships up the North River, as far as Greenwich. The cannon and stores were removing from New-York, during the night.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 52.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Carysfort*, CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW<sup>1</sup>

Sepr 1776.

Att Single Anchor off Bushwick Creek East River  
Saturday 14th AM sent the Boat on Shore Watering, Do the Sailmakers empd mending the Sails, & people repairing the Rigging, Do the Ships Company on Deck all Night & ready for service

Mod Breezes & fair Wear – PM empd Watering & getting the Ship clear for Action Do cleard Hawse – At 6 several Great Guns were fired, both from the Enemy in New York & the British Troops on Long Island – At 7. five Transports came pass'd the Enemy's Batteries & anchor'd here –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/168.

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

[On board H. M. S. *Eagle*] Saturday, 14th. Sepr.

Late last Night arrived Capt [Thomas] Jordan in the *Galatea* of 20 Guns from Plymouth, which Place she left on the 10th. of July. He brought us Advices, that the Hessians were only sailing from England, when he left it, and that, being in heavy-sailing Dutch Transports, we cannot expect their Arrival here for a great while to come, and especially if they come into the Course of the equinoctial Winds, by which they may be probably driven to the West India Islands, and not be able therefore to sail hither before the Spring. He also brought an account, that the Sea to the South-East from hence, & about Bermuda, and to the Lat. of 32°, is greatly infested by American Privateers, who have taken several of our West India merchant men, and that the Rebels are fitting out every Vessel that can sail for that Purpose. This Intelligence was very unpleasant altogether. A few such swift-sailing Ships as the *Galatea* would soon disperse or destroy these Free-booters; and 'tis presumed they will be employed.

Five Transports sailed up the East River this Evening to join the Man of War, who went up last Night. Many Shot were exchanged upon the Occasion. I saw a House or Part of a House in the Town tumble down, by a Ball from one of our Ships or Batteries. Three men of War wêre to have passed up the North River at the same time, but were prevented by an accident.

1. *Tatum, ed., Serle's Journal*, 101-02, 102-03.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] September 14th, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Capt. [Joseph] Blewer & Mr. [Francis] Gurney be Empowered to contract with some person or persons to fill up & Compleat the Peers sunk in the Chanel of the River Delaware, near fort Island, and fix the Chain for stoping the Navigation upon an Immergency.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 717, 718.

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

[Extract]

Philadelphia Saturday Septr. 14. 1776

Yesterday Morning I returned with Dr. F. [Benjamin Franklin] and Mr. R. [Edward Rutledge] from Staten Island where We met L[ord] H[owe] and had about three Hours Conversation with him. The Result of this Interview, will do no disservice to Us. It is now plain that his L[ord-shi]p has no Power, but what is given him in the Act of P[arliament]. His Commission authorises him to grant Pardons upon Submission, and to converse, confer, consult and advise with such Persons as he may think proper, upon American Grievances, upon the Instructions to Governors and the Acts of Parliament, and if any Errors should be found to have crept in, his Majesty and the Ministry were willing they should be rectified.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 124.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO WILLIAM BINGHAM, MARTINIQUE<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Philada Septr 14th 1776

Your several favours of the 2nd, 15th & 26th August have come duely to hand, the last by the *Reprisal* Capt. Wickes who arrived here Yesterday without having taken any more Prizes or met with any Remarkable occurrence. We shall reply to the Contents of your letters in the order they stand or at least to such parts as require an answer —

The observations you make on the different modes of Conducting a Commerce between Europe & this Continent through the Islands of Martinico & St Lucia are very proper, they are what have frequently occurred to us, but do not remove the only difficulty we have to encounter, which is the establishing proper Funds in Europe as a foundation to Trade on. Our Produce is bulky & little Value in it requires large Ships for the Transportation, large Ships are much exposed to Capture and indeed we have not many of them left, so that, you see us encircled with difficultys in this respect, for this reason & for this reason chiefly we like the Idea of Your agreeing with some Good French House in the Island to Import certain quantitys of Goods as for his own Account to be delivered over to you on arrival at a Certain advance. You do not mention what advance wou'd be expected, which we are sorry for as that is a material point, however We advise that you immediately make such a bargain on the best terms in your power, with some House of Established good Reputation for honorable & punctual dealing, you may agree with them to import in this way the Value of Two Thousand pounds Sterling to be wrote for immediately and sent out with all possible expedition. If they can be shipped from France so as to be out with you in all the Month of Decr & January we wou'd wish nearly the whole Amount to Consist of Woolen Goods fit for Winter Wear, Blankets, Cloths chiefly Coarse, Coatings, Flannells, Worsted & Yarn Stockings some Good Silk Stockings, Threads, Pins, Needles, Sewing Silk, Mohair Twist & But-

tons, but if they are to arrive later you must order an assortment of Sail Cloth, Coarse & fine linens, sheetings &c We will keep shipping to you the Produce of this Country to enable Punctual payment, but we think you had best make it a part of your bargain that You shall have liberty to Ship from Martinico to old France any Tobacco or Indigo we send you on your own Account & they to Receive the Nt pceeds there in payment for the Goods & then if you dont like the prices offered you in Martinico you can ship your Goods to a second Market – Monsr Begorrats Sloop is not yet arrived, when she comes in you may depend on a faithfull attention to his orders & interest<sup>2</sup> and that the same will be extended to every Concern put under our care and as you think it might facilitate or promote these Consignments to take a Concern with them occasionally We agree that you shou'd interest us jointly with yourself any part you may think proper & Prudent in such Vessells & Cargoes as come to our Address you holding one half we the other half of whatever share you thus adopt.

We observe you mention several Vessels at St Lucia that might be Chartered or bought upon Good Terms & we have no objection to your buying or Chartering some of them provided You can get Salt or Mollasses to load them with; Cargoes of those Articles Cost but little Money & will sell for a great deal therefore You may execute of this plan as much as You think proper for our joint Accounts or take in some more partners so as to reduce the risque to thirds or fourths just as you like best & use such precautions as you think most likely to bring them safe here, and as you will know from France whether Insurances can be made there or not, you can give orders for Insurance if you find it can be obtained on reasonable terms, but let it be made for the whole Voyage & not for so many Leagues clear of the Island & so many clear of this Coast as mentioned in your letter, which woud Subject us to many perplexing disputes, you woud pay the premm & never know whether you were Insured or not – We (say R M the writer hereof) does not see any impropriety in your attending to Commercial matters as that will not prevent your attending carefully & assiduously to the more Important matters committed to your charge, but at the same time we dont think it will be much to your advantage to seek extensive Connections as most of the Trade from this Continent must be Carried on in Small Vessells and the Masters chiefly insist on the Consignments or they will not go the Voyages, and we shall make a point now that you are safe arrived & well established to keep you well supplied with Goods both on Publick & Private Account, however do herein as you think proper We advise you to write to Mr John Dorsius at Charles Town, So Carolina, & to the Honble Archibald Bullock Esqr President of Georgia, informing them of your establishment at Martinico & offering them your assistance in the Sale of Rice, Indigo &c and in procuring for them Powder, Arms & such other Articles as they may want in Return. Mr Bullock is President of Georgia & not a Merchant but he may recommend You to their Merchts & I will get the Delegates to write him on the Subject. Mr Dorsius is well established at Charles Town & doing much business there. You may also write Messrs

Smith & Hughes Merchts at Edenton No Carolina & to Colo. Benjn Harrison of Berkely, Charles City County Virginia. We like your plan of a Voyage to Dantzic but its too soon for the execution of it

We shall send the Maccaliao Snuff forward to Colo Harrison who will think himself much obliged to you for it We have letters from Mr Bealle who arrived at Bourdeaux the 6th June but finding it impracticable to transact his business there, he had gone for Holland where he expected to Succeed, but we dont yet know whether he will come out to St. Eustatia or your Island, it is most likely to the latter as we imagine he must land his Dutch Goods in France & Reship them from thence he will bring his whole value in the one single article therefore you must only Contrive to get it here in the best manner you can at present this place, Virginia & Occracock Inlet No Carolina are the safest places but theres no saying how long they may remain so, the best way will be to divide it amongst some good fast sailing small or armed Vessells but if he arrives whilst this Sloop *Independence* Capt [John] Young is with you, We think it so good a Conveyance that we should be for risking the whole or greatest part by her You & Mr Bealle must lay your heads together and Contrive to send it safe one way or other & Remember that you shall have other Armed Vessells sent to your address besides this Sloop.

Capt Wickes has not yet landed the Goods but we doubt not they will answer very well we shall make the most of them & hope very soon to transmit You a pleasing account Sales – It now Remains that we enable you to pay for them as speedily as possible and we shall also attend most Carefully to this Circumstance by shipping you Goods for that purpose We wou'd gladly have sent some by this Conveyance but the Sloop is full & the Goods belong to the Publick therefore we must wait another Opportunity, indeed we mean to seek out for a Sloop that will answer to the papers you have sent and if we can meet one will load her immediately but shou'd that not happen we shall get others and shall ship you some Tobacco as well as flour. we will also Contrive if we can to send You some Rice & Indigo from Carolina or Georgia

You will doubtless have learned that West India property is now liable to Confiscation as well as British Consequently your plan in that respect will not do, so long as the French remain in Peace it is probable that French Papers may prove the best Cover, especially in your Seas. You ask what Articles are most in demand here or what are likely to be most so, to which we may safely reply that every thing is wanted, it is hardly possible to go amiss. However Woolens will undoubtedly yield the greatest Profit if they can possibly be got here before the Winter is over Linens also Continue in full demand notwithstanding a most glorious Crop of Flax was gathered the last Season, but we have not Weavers & Manufacturers to Work it up fast enough, We think Hosiery of every kind will be exceedingly wanted, Cotton & Wool Cards, Pins, Needles, Ravens Duck or other Cloth fit for Tents, Muskets & Powder must Continue in demand whilst the Warr lasts & so indeed must every kind of European Manufactures, Medicines are much called

for, West India Produce is dear, Mallasses upwards of 4/ pGalln Sugars 60/ to 90/ p Ct Rum 6/ to 10/ pGalln In short you may keep Shipping us Goods as you meet with good Conveyances but not too much Value at a time especially in unarmed Vessells.

The Sloop *Independence* by which this goes We deem an exceeding good Conveyance & shou'd have no objection to your Shipping to the Value of fifteen hundred or Two Thousand pounds by her especially as you expect Goods to be plenty & Cheap by the time she will be with you, But as we have proposed a good deal of bussiness to you & pointed out Several purchases to be made you will naturally say where are the Funds & these we must try to establish for you and will do it with all possible expedition. We wish you wou'd immediately either Charter or buy a good fast sailing Sloop or Schooner and dispatch her for Edenton in North Carolina Consigned to Messrs Hewes & Smith Merchts there with some Salt, Mollasses, a few Sugars, alittle Rum, Dry Goods an assortment of any or all these Articles to the Value of five or Six hundred Pounds & they will immediately send her back to you with a Cargo of Fine Tobacco for we have bought a Considerable quantity which now lies there waiting for Vessells to carry it away Edenton is up Occracock Inlet. As We understand Monsr Begorrrats Sloop is afine Vessel ready Armed and that he intends she shall be sold, we may probably buy her unless she goes too high which it is very likely may be the case as such Vessells are much wanted and we shall give her afair Chance at Public Vendue, but if we buy her our present View is to send her from hence to Carolina & thence to You with Rice & Indigo by which means we can make up a very valuable Cargo and, of Course lodge Funds for the several purposes we have pointed out to you —

We like your Idea of Importing Medicines from the Mediterranean and wish you wou'd immediately write to Mr Estevan Cathalan Mercht at Marseilles probably you know him he is a most Respectable Mercht inform him of your establishment at Martinique and tell him your Connection with us indeed we will if possible inclose you a letter for him p this Convey and request him to ship you soon as possible the Value five hundred pounds Sterling in an assortment of Medicines of which we will enclose a list if we can get it in time, Peruvian Bark is exceedingly wanted but Cadiz is the best place to get that Article from however you must Contrive in the best manner you can to procure it & always write for Medicines of the very best quality You will inform Mr Cathalan that you will be constantly receiving remittances from hence & that you will very speedily remit him the Cost of whatever you order from him — Messrs Saml & J. H. Delap of Bourdeaux have offered us Credit to the Extent of £ 4 or £ 5000 Stg or more if we engage they shall not be disappointed of remittances therefore We have requested them to Credit you to the Extent of Two Thousand Pounds Sterling. And you may immediately write to them for that Value in an assortment of such articles as you think from the Course of these & other advices will answer best to tranship from Martinico hither, press them to dispatch the Goods quick as possible and en-

gage for the remittances being made within twelve Months probably they may go to hand in much less time, enclosed you have an open letter to them on this Subject We mean these Goods on your & our joint Account, but they will probably Send you others for us beside which you'll take proper Care off. We have lately recd a Cargo of Sail Cloth &c from Mr Andw Limozin of Havre deGrace who used us extreamly Well & is justly entitled to a preference of bussiness in that place write to him to Ship you the value of £ 1000 Stg in Woolens immediately he can readily get them and you will also find an open letter to him, with a Sealed one, these Goods also to be on your & our joint Account, but he may probably have others to send for us which you'll take care off.

Mr John Ross of this City is now in Europe and will ship out Goods by various ways for us, and our Thos Morris is with Mr Deane at Paris they may probably do the same. We depend on Your care in forwarding & Receiving any Goods that may come for us, and as this letter is now Spun out to a pretty good length we will close it altho we shall probably write You another by this Conveyance being Sir [&c.]

1. Papers of Robert Morris, LC.
2. Pierre Begozzat, Martinique merchant.

#### THOMAS RODNEY TO CAESAR RODNEY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dover Sepr 14th 1776 —

Brown informs me that small vessels are much wanted [at] Philada — Stockly says he was Offered £ 350 for his; My Sloop [is] worth a great deal more than his, & if what he says be true perhaps she may sell for £ 400 — She Carries about 1200 bus is 2 years old, very sound & well found, sails & Riging all good — If you should hear any enquiry for such a one, please to sell her & I will send her up immediately — At any rate shall send her up soon to sell her as she is of little use at present<sup>2</sup>. . .

1. Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*, 118, 119.
2. *Ibid.*, 121, Caesar replied to Thomas on September 17 urging him to send the sloop to Philadelphia "immediately for the purpose of haveing her Sold" because "the demand cannot hold Long."

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

[Williamsburg] Saturday, 14th September 1776.

A Certificate dated July 25th of the Review of a Lieutenants quota of marines recruited by Lieutenant Henry Stratton of the *Hero* Galley, was returned and filed, the said Henry Stratton having taken the oath of Fidelity to this Commonwealth also received his Commission dated this day.

Permits issued to the Schooners *Kitty*, and *Good Intent*, Captains Stevens and Sea Brooke, outward bound, to trade at Hispaniola, or other foreign Port, allowed by Congress, a manifest of their Cargoes was lodged and filed.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 160, 162.



JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Porcupine*, LIEUTENANT JAMES COTES<sup>1</sup>

September 1776  
Saturday 14

Cape Nichola SbE 5 or 6 Lgs

A M at 4 Off Bonnet of the F Sail at 5... 6... & 7 TaKd  
Saw three Sail to the Eastwd Saw the Land, Out Reefs,  
on Bonnets — Saw 2 Sail in Shore at 8 Cape Nichola  
Mole, SbE Diste 11 or 12 Lgs at Noon TaKd the Ship  
to Windwd fire a Gun

Modt Breezes and Cloudy at 3 P M the Ship & Snow to  
Windward, brought to, fired a Gun & hoisted a Jack at  
the M T. Gt Mt head, we took her for the *Squirrel* and  
made the Signl but as she did not answer it fired a 3  
Poundr at the Ship & bore away She firing at us several  
Shot, At 1½ past 4 she made our Signal and fired a Gun  
not shotted, brot too & found it to be the *Attalanta* with  
two Packets under Convoy, & at 5 md Sail in Co with her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Atalanta*, CAPTAIN THOMAS LLOYD<sup>1</sup>

September 1776  
Saturday 14

Island Tortuga ENE 5 or 6 Leagues —

at 4 AM fired 2 Guns made the signal to wear and sail  
on the other Tack at 6 out 2d and 3d reef topsls and set  
Mizn topsl at 7 tacked a Strange Sail in Company  
Moderate breezes and cloudy wr at 3 PM fired a Gun  
and made the Signal for the Convoy to come under our  
Stern, at 4 repeated the private Signal, made sail and gave  
Chace fired 7 Six pounders and 2 Swivels at the Chace  
1½ past 5 the Chace brot too proved to be His Majesty's  
Schooner *Porcupine* — Cape Nichola SW 5 Leagues

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/ 75.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Maidstone*, CAPTAIN ALAN GARDNER<sup>1</sup>

Septemr [1776]  
Saturday 14

Turks Isld S23E — 151 Leags

AM 5 Out reefs. — Saw a Sail in the SW. Set Studg Sails.  
Sent the Barge and Cutter Mann'd and Armed after the  
Chace. 8 Observed the Chace to Fire at the Boats, Saw the  
Boats board her: 9 the Boats returnd with a Schooner from  
C Nicola to Boston,<sup>2</sup> Seized her. — Took out the Master  
and People. — Sent a Mate and 6 Men to take Charge of her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/572.

2. Schooner *William*, master's name not given, see Gayton's Prize List, under October 8.

DECLARATION OF JOHN DOUGLASS<sup>1</sup>

September 14th 1776 — 8 o'Clock in the Morning Comeing in the Mole of St Nicholas, I, John Douglass, Commander of the Schooner *Lady Caroline*, come from Philadelphia Loaded with Flour, Kegs of Biscuit, Fish, Pork, Cheese, Gammons &c &c

I declare I was at Five o'Clock in the Morning within Five Miles of the Land & North of the Point of St Nichola Mole in the Island of St Domingo. I have been chased by one English Frigate & a Sloop, and them two pursued me firing a great many Shot at me both Nine Pounders & Swivels, til the Sloop came to the distance of one Mile from the Entry of the Port of St Nicholas Mole; where I saw a French Frigate with her Colours flying and she firing several Shot but it being Calm she could not get out of the Harbour, but I saw her send a Sloop out of Sixteen Guns, with two of her Barges, towing ahead the French Frigate, having part of her Sails unbent and was Setting up her Main Rigging, Main Top Mast and Main Top Gallant Mast was also down. And she was getting ready as fast as possible to come out, the Sloop not minding the Shot stil kept her Pursuit not careing for the little distance I was from the Land, then I was oblig'd to abandon my Vessel with my People and I came into the Mole for protection And all the Inhabitants both ashore and the Shipping came running down to the Shore, they haveing seen the Event, I was sure I was near enough to the Land not to be Molest'd in the least, but to go in the Harbour Peaceably

I have Declar'd the above  
in the Mole of St Nicholas  
to all the Superior Officers

Signed Jn<sup>o</sup> Douglass

[Endorsed] Copy of the Declaration of John Douglass, Master of the North America Schooner Seiz'd by His Maj's Ship *Squirrel*, annex'd to the claim of the Chevr de Monteil dat'd 16th Sepr 1776.

[Endorsed] (A Copy) Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. See Vice Admiral Clark Gayton's letter of October 8, 1776.

"A JOURNIEL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD  
SLOOP *Warren* A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH  
TO THE LATTD OF 33:"<sup>1</sup>

Saturday September the 14 Day A D 1776 —

Latter Part Saterdag Nine A Clock Saw A sail to Windard the [wind] at SW. standing to the NNE. A small Brease Run for Her Almost Calm [out] the oars Rowd for Her Lattd in 36:17. (scalded my self in the Cabose by Boyling water)

First Part these 24 hours Fine & Smoth in Chase after A Brig stearing to NW Five fir'd at Her Brought two Spoke With Her she was A french man From Portto prince Bound to Bourdou in France told no News

1. RIHS.