

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 7

AMERICAN THEATRE: Nov. 1, 1776–Dec. 31, 1776

EUROPEAN THEATRE: Oct. 6, 1776–Dec. 31, 1776

AMERICAN THEATRE: Jan. 1, 1777–Feb. 28, 1777

Part 2 of 9

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authorized and empowered to sell all the Vessels with their Tackle, Apparel and furniture belonging to this State, lying in or near St. Mary's River in St. Mary's County, drifted on Shore or made Captures of from Lord Dunmore's Fleet; they first giving due notice of the Time and Place of such Sale, and that they make Return of their Proceedings, and of the money arising from such Sale to the Council of Safety or other executive Power of this State; reserving to themselves a reasonable Commission for their Trouble.²

Commission issued to Robert Dashi[e]ll Commander of the Sloop *Betsey* mounting ten Guns, as a private Letter of Marque.

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

2. See Hebb and Bowes to the Council, November 4, 1776.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ST. EUSTATIUS, NOVEMBER 16, 1776¹

There arrived here this morning a brigantine from Congress called *Andrew Doria*, commanded by Captain James Roberson [*sic* Isaiah Robinson], mounting 14 guns and carrying a crew of one hundred. This Captain's mission is still unknown; but since he spent a long time at the Governor's, it is believed that he brought him dispatches from Congress. He left Philadelphia on the 28th of October and the River on the 1st instant. Congress has dispatched at the same time three other vessels whose destination is unknown even to their Captains; the one who just arrived learned his only once he was at sea.

... The Americans met with a rather important defeat on lake Champlain during a Naval Engagement which lasted from the 11th to the 13th of October between two small fleets. The Royalists had forces by far superior to those of the Americans who, however, were still occupying after the action the forts of the Crown [Point] and Ticonderago. Two frigates of 36 guns each are expected to come out this month from the River of Philadelphia.

1. AN, Marine, B⁷, 458, 46, LC Photocopy. This extract was sent to Paris by the governor of Martinique.

17 Nov. (Sunday)

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. SLOOP *Hope*¹

Remark's &c onbd the *Hope* Sundy the 17th Novr 1776

At 8 [A.M.] Cape Sable NWBW 3 or 4 Leags DoWr
[Fresh Gales and Squally] Saw a Sail to the Et wd Tack'd and
Chaced, at ½ past 9 Tack'd to the Wt Wd fired 6 foure Pounders
Shoted at the Chace 3 of Do Round and Grape the Chace Brought
to Proved to be the Ship *Betsey*² taken by the Rebels took Charge and
made Sail to the Et wd Cape Sable NEBE 5 or 6 Miles

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1794.

2. The *Betsey*, Thomas Jarrold, master, from the Isle of Wight for Halifax had been taken November 2 by the Massachusetts privateer brig *Washington*, Elias Smith, Vice Admiralty Records, N. S. Arch.

LUX & BOWLY'S ACCOUNT WITH THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

Dr	Messrs Lux & Bowly	Cr															
1776	To the Brig <i>Liberty</i> for two Guns £20..0 Maryld Curry reduc- ing at 25 PCt is To paid your Order on the Council in favour of Benjamin Powell	<table> <tr> <td>16..--</td> <td> By Capt Thomas Lilly, for Cash advanced him at Baltimore & Commission thereon £68.11..0 Maryld Curry, reduced at 25 PCt. is </td> <td>54.16.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>400..--</td> <td> By the Brig <i>Liberty</i>, for sundries supplied at Baltimore & Comms thereon Amot £888.10 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt. is </td> <td>710.16..-</td> </tr> </table>	16..--	By Capt Thomas Lilly, for Cash advanced him at Baltimore & Commission thereon £68.11..0 Maryld Curry, reduced at 25 PCt. is	54.16.10	400..--	By the Brig <i>Liberty</i> , for sundries supplied at Baltimore & Comms thereon Amot £888.10 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt. is	710.16..-									
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400..--	By the Brig <i>Liberty</i> , for sundries supplied at Baltimore & Comms thereon Amot £888.10 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt. is	710.16..-															
Novr 16	To Warrant on the Treasury	<table> <tr> <td>454.15..8</td> <td> By the <i>Norfolk Revenge</i> Galley for sundries as p Acct with Commission Amot £12.10..1 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt. is </td> <td>10..0..1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> By John Calvert for Cash Advanced him at Baltimore & Commission thereon Amot £15..7..6 Maryld Curry; reduced at 25 PCt is </td> <td>12..6..-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> By the <i>Henry</i> Galley for sundries supplied at Baltimore & Commission thereon Amot £97..8..3 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt is </td> <td>77.18..7¼</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> By the <i>Manley</i> Galley for sundries supplied at Baltimore & Commson thereon Amot £2..6..5 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt is </td> <td>1.17..1¾</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> By the Schooner <i>Hornet</i> for sundries supplied at Baltimore & Commson thereon Amot £3.16.2 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt is </td> <td>3..1..-</td> </tr> </table>	454.15..8	By the <i>Norfolk Revenge</i> Galley for sundries as p Acct with Commission Amot £12.10..1 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt. is	10..0..1		By John Calvert for Cash Advanced him at Baltimore & Commission thereon Amot £15..7..6 Maryld Curry; reduced at 25 PCt is	12..6..-		By the <i>Henry</i> Galley for sundries supplied at Baltimore & Commission thereon Amot £97..8..3 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt is	77.18..7¼		By the <i>Manley</i> Galley for sundries supplied at Baltimore & Commson thereon Amot £2..6..5 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt is	1.17..1¾		By the Schooner <i>Hornet</i> for sundries supplied at Baltimore & Commson thereon Amot £3.16.2 Maryld Curry reduced at 25 PCt is	3..1..-
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1. Navy Board Ledger, 130, VSL.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO LEVINUS CLARKSON AND
JOHN DORSIUS ¹

Gentlemen

[Philadelphia] November 17th 1776

Upon the recommendation of your freinds here we have appointed you Continental Agents in the State of South Carolina, as such you are to supply any of the Ships or Cruizers with whatever Provisions Stores or necessarys they may be in want of when they put into or arrive in any of your ports. If repairs are necessary we depend on you to employ the best Tradesmen and see that the business is done with dispatch. You will in short do all things in this department that you think will serve the Continent and promote the service of the Navy and you must send us proper Certificates Signed by the Captain or principle officer of each Ship or Vessel of your expenditures and your drafts on this board for the amount will be duely honored. It is a Standing order to all our men of war and Cruizers to send their prizes address[ed] to the Continental Agents at the ports where they arrive. If any such come into South Carolina, you must receive the same into your charge, prosecute them in the Admiralty to condemnation make the Sale of them at Public vendue – pay all charges justly attending each Prize, and credit us for such part as appertains to the Continent agreeable to the Rules and Regulations of Congress, a book of which shall be sent you. The shares belonging to the Officers and Crews of the Captors you must divide amongst them agreeable to the said Rules and Regulations, and to do this justly and equitably the Commanders must furnish you with compleat and certified list of the officers and men entitled to a Share of each prize and the share or shares they are respectively entitled to, and you are to pay all persons concerned their shares as soon after sale is made as you possibly can, and return to this Board duplicates of all your accounts and proceedings. We are Gentlemen [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 46, NA. Clarkson and Dorsius were Charleston merchants.

CAPTAIN JOHN MARTIN TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore Novemr 17th 1776

this my 2d opprotunity of in forming you of my Situation I am much Distressed for Sailors the Merchants in this place gives from 12 to 15 £ pr month and if I Dont give as much I Can git No Sailors I am told Capt [William] Stone is going to take the Brig ² it is a thing that I am unequaented With and would be glad of an answer to this Letter.

the Brig wants 1 anchor 700 Wt 1 Cable 10 Inches She Never had any but the old anchors and Cables from Cpt Stones Sloop. I want 200 – 4 lb Shot 300 3 lb Ditto and Sum Swivel Balls Sum Cordage for Back Stays &c. I Shall advise this morning with Capt [James] Nicholson and ask him if I must keep the Brig till I gitt an answer from your Honr board I am Gentlemen [&c.]

John Martin

1. Red Book, XVI, Md. Arch.

2. *Friendship*.

"A JOURNIEL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS OBOURD OF THE GOOD SLOOP
Warren A BOLD PRIVATEER A SECOND CRUIZE." ¹

Sunday November the 17 Day 1776

Latter Part Sunday Morning Rugged the Wind at N W. I am Not Well
 A Pain in my Left Ear

First Part of these 24 hours Rugged the Wind at N. I have had A Bad
 Pain In my Left Ear

1. RIHS.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS,
H.M.S. Seaford ¹

(Copy)

You are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith to Sea in his Majesty's Ship the *Seaford*, under your Command; and Cruize among the Leeward Charibbe Islands, Viz off S Eustatia, St Martins, St Bartholomew, and St Croix, and are to use your utmost endeavours to intercept and make Capture of all Ships and Vessels belonging to or Owned by any of the Inhabitants of the associated Colonies in North America, now in Rebellion, and of all other Ships and Vessels whatsoever, that you may meet with, either going to Trade, or coming from Trading with any of the aforesaid associated Colonies; taking care strictly to Comply with the General Orders you have already received from me concerning them; You are to remain on this Service till the 18th Decemr next, and then (having Compleated the *Seafords* Wood and Water) are to return and join me in English harbour Antigua: For which this shall be your Order Given &c 17th Novemr 1776.

J. Y.

By command of the Admiral G. L. [George Lawford]

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

18 Nov.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. BRIG *Diligent* ¹

Novr 1776

Sunday 17th

Cape Sable S 82.09 Et Dist: 42 Leagues -

at 3 AM Handed the Main Topsl at 4 departed this Life
 Philip McSavoy at 8 wore & set the Main Top Sail at 11 out
 2d Reefs Topsails lost Sight of the *Albany*. Saw a Sloop to the
 N Wt at Noon the High land of Penobscot NBE 7 or 8 Lea-
 gues Fresh Breezes & fair at 3 PM Saw a Sloop to the No wd
 out Reefs Topsls & Gave Chace at 4 Saw the *Albany* bearing
 down to us. at 6 the *Albany* fired a Gun Do we Answered it:
 perceived that She was a Shore left off Chase and Endeavourd
 to work up to her night Coming on & being unaquainted
 Run under the Island of Menhagen TKd Occationly

Monday 18th

at 6 AM got up top Gallt Yards saw the *Albany* Still on Shore
at 10 saw a Sloop & 2 Sconers going to the *Albany*. Working
up to the *Albany* at Noon the High Land Penobscot
NBE Menheagen Islands SWBS 3 Leagues –

Modt & fair Wr PM ½ Pt 2 Anchd in Georges Sound with
the Bt Br in 25 fms Sandy Bottom, Menheagen Island S½ Wt
Georges Isld North old man's rock NW abt 1 Mile Sent the Sl
Br Anchr & Cable with some People to her assistance found
that the Vessels going to the *Albany* where taken by her Boats
received from the *Albany* Baggage belonging to the troops
at Fort Cumberland –

First pt Do Wr Midl & latter Fresh breezes & Cloudy PM: at
5 *Albony* got off the Shore, weig'd with her & went into
Georges Harbour &c Anchd in 7 fms water Muddy bottom

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1669.

JOHN LANGDON TO JOHN BRADFORD.¹

Dear Sir

Portsmo Novemr 18. 1776

I shall be much Obligd If youll Inform me by return of Post what Commission
you charge on Prizes, to the Continent & whether you are Agent to the Officers
& Men whether any separate Commission for that or whether your Commission
is on the Groce Sales – “by resolve of Congress we are ordered to make Distribu-
tion of the Officers & Peoples Prize Money as soon as may be after Sales,” whether
this is meant after, that after all Charges are paid; the Third should be paid to
the Officers & Peoples' Agent to be by him proportioned & paid agreeable to
Resolves or whether it is in our Department as Agents to make out the proportions
for the Officers and Seamen & pay it with any Commission further – Esek Hop-
kins Esqre has appointed me Agent for the Officers & Seamen for the Continental
Fleet in this State — Pray give me your Opinion on this matter fully — with great
Respt [&c.]

John Langdon

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

JOHN LANGDON TO ARCHIBALD MERCER, BOSTON MERCHANT¹

Dear Sir

Portsmo November 18. [17]76 –

Our mutual Friend Collo [Philip] Moore has no doubt informed you of the
forwardness of our Ship of War called the *Portsmouth*² we are now laying her
Gun Deck, shall if it holds good weather, be near ready to Launch next Week –
Cap. [Robert] Parker who we have spoke too, to Command her has all his Hands
ready or will be by the time the Ship is. It will be of great Advantage if you can
come immediately down here, & settle the Matter about rigging & Sails the Ship
may be verry soon Dispatched, if the Guns are Ready – pray let me see you this

Week if possible I am in want of Cash, have been paying out of my own little Stock some time — I am with all Due Respect

Jⁿ Langdon

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.
2. New Hampshire privateer.

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Boston, Novr. 18th, 1776

. . . I wish I could Entertain you with any News of Importance but I can only tell you of prizes taken. but this is become so common that we hardly hear of them ourselves, unless they are from Europe with such Articles as we want much, and very rich besides. we have had divers such lately. A report prevails this day that Howe is Embarking his Troops, which occasions many Conjectures about the place of their destination. I forgot to tell you that this Harbour really looks Brilliant and Grand, as full of Ships as in the most flourishing State of Commerce, and all but a few armed Vessels [are] prizes.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters Being Chiefly a Correspondence among John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Warren . . .* (Boston, 1917–1925), II, 440, 441. Hereafter cited as *Warren-Adams Letters*.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1776

Boston, November 18.

Wednesday the Captains Skimmer and Tucker return'd here from a Cruize, and brought in a Brigantine from Erse [*sic* Ayr], in Scotland, bound to New-York, laden'd with a valuable Cargo of Woolens, Shoes, &c. &c. said to be worth 15,000 Sterling.¹

To-Morrow, the 19th November, at Eleven o'Clock will be Sold by Public Vendue, at Noble's Wharf,

The Schooner *Margaretta*, with her Appurtenances, &c. — Said Schooner is about 60 Tons burthen, a good Sailor, well Found, with Sails, standing and running Rigging, Cables, Anchors, &c. Inventory of Stores to be seen at the Time and Place of Sale.

Escaped from the Goal in Northampton, Robert Arnold and Henry E. Stanhope two Prisoners, lately Midshipmen in the British Navy, the former a short well-set smart-looking fresh complexioned Man, about thirty five years old, wore a Coat of a London brown colour. The latter absconded heretofore when on Parole, and was retaken at Middletown; he also is a short Man with light Hair and Pale Complexion, and has large Eyes, Lips and Nose. Whoever will apprehend and secure either of said Persons shall receive Twenty Dollars and necessary Charges from

Aaron Wright, Goaler.

Northampton, Nov. 7th, 1776.

1. Brig *Lively*, Nicholas Martindale, master, taken October 13, 1776.

PETITION OF THOMAS DAVIS AND EPHRAIM SPOONER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honble the Council, and the Honble the House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts Bay.

The Petition of Thomas Davis & Ephraim Spooner humbly shews,

That a Schooner called the *White-Oak*, has been lately captured by an American Privateer, and carried into the Eastern District of this State, three quarters of which were owned by your Petitioners: That it was so late before Your Petitioners, had notice of the capture of said Schooner, and the time of her tryal, as rendered it impracticable by reason of the distance, for either of them to get to Pownalborough, and claim their property, till after said Schooner, her cargoe and appurtenances were condemned in the Maritime Court. Your Petitioners prior to the Continental Association, had annually carried on the business of fishery from Barrington in Nova Scotia, and when the act of Parliament was passed, restricting the trade of these States, they were obliged to take out new Registers for their Vessels, in the names of some of the Inhabitants of that Province, in order to save them from confiscation and forfeiture. One of your Petitioners was allowed by the Committee of Safety in Plymouth (where they reside) to go to Nova Scotia, & secure their effects, which he accomplished, except the interest in the Schooner *White Oak*, which he could neither dispose of; nor bring away.

Therefore, as your Petitioners are steady friends to their country, and as it is owing to no fault of theirs, that a claim was not filed in the Maritime Court within the time prescribed by law, they humbly pray your Honors, to grant them the privilege of an appeal to the next Superior Court to be held in said Eastern District, that they may have an opportunity of proving their property in said Schooner; and your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray—

Thomas Davis Eph^m Spooner

Plimouth Novr 18th 1776

In the House of Representatives Novr 22d 1776

On the petition of Messrs Thomas Davis & Ephraim Spooner

Ordered that the said petitioners notify the Captors of the Schooner called the *White Oak* to Appear on the Second Tuesday of the next setting of the General Court by lodging an attested Copy of said petition & this order, with Capt [John] Harman Commd of Sloop *Putnam* Fifteen days at Least before the said Second Tuesday, that they may Shew cause if any they have why the prayer of the petitioners shuld not be granted

Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council, Novr 27t 1776 Read & Concurr'd

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 228–29, 227a.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. S. *Milford*¹

Novr 1776

Cape Cod S 87 W Dist 31 Lgs

Monday 18th

At 8 am set the fore & mizen topsails Do tacked At 9 saw a Sail in the SE Qr made Sail & gave chase: At ½ past 11 fir'd 5 Shot & brot too the Chace shortned Sail & Close reefd the topsls hoisted the Cutter out & took possessn of the prize. She proved to be the *Wm Sloop Rogers* Ma[ste]r loaded wth Lumber & fish for the Wt Indies – Fresh Breezes & Clear Middle little Wind & Cloudy. Latter Calm & Clear. Sent a petty Officer & 4 Men to take charge of the prize At ½ past 3 pm parted Compy & sent the prize to Halifax At ½ past 8 out 3d & 2d reef Tp Sails.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

JOHN COTTON TO BARNABAS DEANE, WETHERSFIELD¹

Sir/

Middletown Novbr 18th 1776 –

When Capn. [Dudley] Saltonstall went away to Wethersfield I had forgott that you had pork Stored with Tewels Butt Desired him to a Quaint you that that pork left with Cooper was taken away, I Shall take outt of Tewels Store two Barrels and putt On Board the Ship –²

I would be Glad if you Could hire and Send Down a Vessell to Take Our Matters from the Ship yd Before we Go a way with the Ship as I Dont Like to Leave them there for fear of a Loss in Some Things that is Much Wanted Especialy Pitch. – Nothing further, the Ship Will be Ready to Goe Down Tomorrow Or Next Day Yr [&c.]

John Cotton

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. Continental frigate *Trumbull*.*New-York Gazette*, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1776

New-York, November 18.

The *Cerberus* and *Lark* Frigates, came into Harbour on Saturday Morning from a Cruise.

The 9th Instant a Fleet of Victuallers, with 500 Recruits, arrived here from Cork, in eight Weeks: They were dogged for several Days on this Coast by a Brig and Schooner, supposed to be Rebel Privateers.

Tuesday last about 200 Transports sailed from Sandy Hook for Great-Britain, under Convoy of his Majesty's Ships *Fowery* and *Active*. In the former his Excellency Lord Dunmore took his Passage for England.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, November 18, 1776

The Marine Committee having recommended Francis Hopkinson, Esqr. as a fit person to execute the business of the navy, under their direction.

Resolved, That he be accepted.

A memorial of Isaac Cox,² in behalf of Alexander Frazer and others, inhabitants of the Island of Providence, owners of two sloops called the *Dragon* and the *Molly*, taken by private sloops of war, called the *Congress* and the *Chance*, and brought into the port of Philadelphia, but afterwards released, praying for letters of safe conduct for the said sloops to the port of Providence, in order to prevent any arrest or molestation from ships of war in the service of the United States.

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition be granted.

A petition from Muscoe Livingston, was read:

Ordered, That it be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [George] Wythe and Mr. [George] Ross.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 957, 958–59.

2. Papers CC (Memorials addressed to Congress), 41, II, 13, NA.

MEMORIAL OF BENJAMIN EYRE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Philada Novr 18. 1776

The Memorial of Benjamin Eyre of Phila Shipwright humbly representing That his Petition of the 24th October² last preferred to Your Honours for the Payment of certain Services by him done together with his Bill of Charges for the same Services has been by Your Order referred to the Board of Treasury – And they by stating that Account upon a postulatum or principle by them for similar Cases adopted have reduced Your Memorialists said Account to a Sum less than half that which he thinks his said Services are worth in Justice and reason – The Difference between his said Bill and the Taxation thereof made by the Board of Treasury is clearly appearing on the face of the Synopsis of both Accounts hereunto Subjoined –

Your Memorialist solemnly disclaims all those vague pretensions and presumptions of Artists & Tradesmen in favour of their own Knowledge and Deserts: He only begs leave to make one or two Observations upon the Reduction Account of the Board of Treasury and to appeal from their Settlement of his Account to the Wisdom and Justice of the Delegates of the States of America.

1./ First and principally Because Your Memorialists Charge of building Row Gallies at a certain Price per Ton is made agreeable to the Usage and Custom of Shipbuilders in the Old and New World But Your Board of Treasury reduces and confines him to accept of daily Wages and Rations: Which Rule of ascertaining the Quantum merait could never be establish'd against the constant Custom without a previous Contract between the Employer and the Workman – And that Resolve of Congress to pay the Journeymen Carpenters £ 13 and the

Master Builders double that Sum per Month and to allow them stated Rations was made a Month after Your Memorialist setting out for New York and could have no Retrospect to bind him or fix upon him an express Contract, When he at the desire of Brigadier General [Thomas] Mifflin and on his promise that he should be handsomely rewarded left Philadelphia without making any Contract at all –

2./ Secondly Because the Board of Treasury have allowed Your Memorialist Rations which he can in no wise accept of – When he arrived at New York he did not choose to live in that great Town like as in a Camp or Barracks He hired a House furnished it and kept regular House and one Horse constantly employed in the public Service All which in the Dearness of times has actually cost him more than 15/ – per day and this he spent the freer as he never expected to be at any Charge to the public for his daily expences but to be paid for his work by the Ton.

Therefore Your Memorialist most humbly submits to Your Honours Whether his Charges of 25/ P Ton for three Row Galleys finished and 15/. for the one not finished are too high? He left his own Yard and his Work in hand unfinished, by which if he had stayed at home he might well have earned more than what he has charged for his Work abroad –

And Your Memorialist as in duty &c

Benjamin Eyre

The Synopsis in the within Memorial referred to

A. Benjamin Eyres Charges

To building three Row Galleys 60 ft Keel 18 ft Beam 6 ft Hole, 68. Tons each at 25/. P Ton	£255.
To one Boat left on the Stocks at 15/. P Ton	51.
To 27. days acting as an Assistant to the Quarter master Genl at 3/. p day	40.10
	<hr/> £346.10

B. The Board of Treasury Allowances

For 134. days Service in constructing Row Galleys as Builder at £26. p month is 4 mo 14 days	£116..2..8
134 days Rations, 3 Rations p day is 402 Rations at 8d p Ration	13..8
Going to and coming from New York in lieu of Rations at 3 3/4d Pennsa Curry allowd 200 miles.	3..2..6
Horse hire and travelling expences going to Albany to engage Boards for the Army at 15/.	20..5
Pennsa Currency p day, 27 days employed in the Service	7.10..9
134 Pints of Rum being 16 6/8 Gall at 9/	
	<hr/> £160..8.11

1. Papers CC (Memorials addressed to Congress), 41, III, 1-4, NA.
2. Not in Papers of the Continental Congress.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE BRIG *Lexington* ¹Brigte *Lexington* —

William Hallock Esqr Commander. —

[Philadelphia]

— For Third Cruise —

1776						
Septr	21	To	Cash paid	Thomas Webber for 2 cords wood &c		2.13..-
	30	To	do paid	James McCutcheon for fresh Beeff	7.12.10	
	"	"	do "	Thos Hollinsworth for 8 Bars Flour	15..1..9	
	"	"	do "	Sawing & Splitting 2 Cords wood	15....-	
	"	"	do "	John Peter for 34 Barrs Shipbread	28.16..4	52..5.11
Octr	7	"	do "	John Taylor for Cleaning arms	5.10..9	
	"	"	do "	John Hyde freight of sundry provns	3..-..-	
	"	"	do "	Sawing & Splitting 1 cord wd	9..-	8.19..9
	"	"	1 Bolt Russia Duck			7.10..-
	"	"	Cash paid Henry High for 89 lb Fresh Butter		3.17.10	
	"	"	do " Porterage of do		10	
	"	"	do " ditto of Sundrys		12..4	
	"	"	do " John Flinthams bill		10..1	
	"	"	do " freight of Sundrys to E. [Egg] Harbour		10..-	5.11..1

	17	"		20 Hammocks			
	21	"	Cash paid	Peter Brown for 2 files & a driver	10..6		
	"	"	do	William Shute for 3 Boxes Candles	5.12..6		
	"	"	do	Benjamin Condry for repairing a Compass	10..-		
	"	"	do	Arthur Donaldson for Boards	14..3		
	"	"	do	William Rigdon painters bill	2..-		
	"	"	do	Philip Flick for 9 Barrells bread	8.11..6		
	"	"	do	Mary Manny for mending a Jack	2..6		
	"	"	do	James Allenby Coupars bill	3..-.5	19..3..8	
	29	"	2 Harness Tubs			2.10..-	
	31	"	Repairing Lanthorns & mendg Trumpetts			2..8..1	
	"	"	Cash paid	Philip Hall Butchers bill		56.19..5	
Novr	18	"	do	Benjamin Davis for Repairs	18..-		
"	"	"	do	Hill & Marrets bill	14..7½	1.12..7	

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

NOVEMBER 1776

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] November 18th, 1776.

Mr. [John Maxwell] Nesbitt to pay James Oellers £ 3364 4 0, for 128 Casks of Powder, delivered to Mr. Towers.

Mr. Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to Deliver to the Marine Committee of Congress 1500 Shot, for 24 pound'rs, 1800 Shot, for 18 pounders, & 500 Bar Shot, for 18 & 24 Pounders, taking their receipt for the same.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to deliver Capt. John Rice 20 Blankets, for the Use of the Armed Boat *Convention*.

Resolved, That the pay of the Officers of the Armed Boats, in the Service of this State, be as follows, to commence from the first day of October last:

Captain,	32 Dollars.	Gunner,	15 do.
First Lieutenant,	20 do.	Carpenter,	15 do.
Second Lieutenant,	16 do.	Steward,	12 do.
Master,	20 do.	Drum and Fife,	8 do.
Captain's Cl'k,	12 do.	Privates,	8 do.
Boatswain,	15 do.	Boy,	4 do.

Adjourned to 3 o'Clock

Met at 3 o'Clock, Nov'r 18th, 1776.

Resolved, That the Armed Boat *Convention*, commanded by Capt. John Rice, be ordered down to Cape May, to protect the trade of this State, agreeable to a request from the Secret Committee of Congress.

The Following Instructions were delivered to Captain Rice:

In Council of Safety, Novem'r 18th, 1776.

Sir:

The Secret Committee of Congress have informed this board that the Continental Cruicers are so employed that they cannot afford the necessary protection to the Trade of this State; you are therefore ordered to proceed to Cape May. You are not to leave that Station when any of the Enemy's Vessells are at the Opposite Cape, and to use your best endeavours to protect all trading Vessells belonging to the United States of America, and to the Islands of Bermuda or Bahamas, or to any Foreign State, except under the Dominion of the King of Great Britain; and in case of their being in distress, you are to grant them all the Aid and Relief in your Power, and upon any number of the Enemy's Ships appearing off the Coast, you are to give Intelligence thereof to Mr. Henry Fisher, of Lewis Town, with the Course they Steer, and such other Circumstances relating to them as are of any importance to us; or if you should be able to transmitt the Intelligence by express to us more expeditiously than Mr. Fisher, you are to do it.

And you are, at the same time, to use your endeavours to make Capture of and distress such of the Vessells belonging to the enemies of these States as come in your way; but if it should appear to you that the Enemy are coming with a Fleet to invade this State, you are, in

that case, Immediately to return with the *Convention* to Fort Island.

We confide in your discretion to execute the foregoing orders, so as to answer the Intention of this board, and that you will perform such other service as the nature of your Station will require; we therefore shall omit any further Instructions.

N.B. If there are any vessels appear with an Ensign hoisted at the fore top Gallant mast Head, you may conclude it is a trading Vessel, in the Congress' Service, and you may give her any advice or assistance Accordingly; That being their signal to the Light House. Save your Salt Provisions as much as Possible, & provide your men with Fresh, if to be had at as low a rate as of the Commissary here.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 7, 8-9.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Orpheus*, CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON¹

November 1776 Do Cape [Henlopen] No 21 Wt 35 Leagues
 Monday 18th at 7 AM saw a Sail to the NW. gave Chace with the *Daphne*.
 Mode and fair Wear at 5 PM unbent the Fore Sail from the
 Main Yard and bent the Mainsail at 7 the *Daphne* joind
 with two Sloops from Philadelphia.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/650.
2. *Schuylkill*, Benjamin Camby, master, and *Greenwich Packet*, James Glasgow, master, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO STEPHEN STEWARD¹

No 15.

Sir, There are no Durants in the Stores, so that we cannot furnish you with materials for colours as yet. - We send you two Bolts of Oznabrigs. - the guns and cohorns on board the *Defence*'s Prize you will please bring with you to Annapolis. - and we should be very glad you & Jesse Hollingsworth could contrive us down the Cannon lately brought from Hughs's Works, be pleased to hire a vessel for that Purpose, unless your own will bring them there are upwards of 20 eighteen Pounders, which will be wanted here. - Mr West[e]neys² has been to the magazine & got 4¼ Yds Tammeys and two Bolts Oznabrigs.

Mr Stephen Steward [at Baltimore]³

[Annapolis] Novr 18th 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.
2. Steward's clerk.
3. See Steward to Council of Safety, November 11.

LIBEL AGAINST THE PRIZE SLOOP *Daniel*¹

State of Maryland ss

To the Honourable Benjamin Nicholson Esqr Judge of the Court of Admiralty for the State of Maryland Afsd

The Libell of George Cooke (Commander of the Ship of War Called the *defence*) who in behalf of Himself the Officers and Mariners of the said Ship as well as the

Governor, whilst he was amongst you, and to the Address afterwards presented him here from Londonderry & Truro, that he is greatly astonished at it, you might at least have sent him word that these People were amongst you, altho you did not detain them as faithfull Subjects shoud have done; however the Lieutenant Governor woud hear what you can say in your Justification, in the meantime he expects, that you call on every Person to take the Oaths of Allegiance & Fidelity to the King and his Government; and that you do likewise from the three Townships furnish immediately him with the Names of 50 Men of the Militia who shall be ready on the first notice to March to Halifax, or elsewhere in this Province where they shall be directed I am. Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich^d Bulkeley

P S No person from any of the three Townships will be suffer'd to pass Fort Sackville without a pass Sign'd by Mr. Samuel Archibald of Truro Signifying their business at Halifax.

1. Dispatches and Letters of Governors, Lieutenant Governors, and Secretaries, Record Group 2, vol. 136, 242-43, N. S. Arch.
2. Captain William Carleton in the Massachusetts privateer schooner *General Gates*, had been driven ashore on September 27, in a small harbor on Isle Madame at the eastern end of the Gut of Canso, by H. M. Sloop *Hope* and H. M. Brig *Diligent*. See Volume 6. The crew got ashore and escaped despite a pursuit into the woods by landing parties from both Royal Navy ships. As Bulkeley's letter explains, Carleton and his men made their way across Nova Scotia to Cobequid Bay, where the inhabitants assisted them.

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gent

Portsmo 19 Novr 1776

I wrote Mr Morris few days Since, in which I mention'd that a q[uan]ti[t]y of Sugar would be sold soon, they were at the time mentiond but at the sale the first day, they sold so high that I tho't it not worth while to Engage as they sold for upwards of 50/. the next day at the first of the sale I purchased abt Twenty five Hhds Sugar which Iv'e Stored for your Acct this is some of the best of the Cargo, and will not Average more than thirty nine or forty shillings P[r] C I should have gone to one Hundred Hhd if a Number of purchasers had not Appeared, which raised it two high - I mentiond likewise, that in abt month; more Sugar Jamaica Rum Mahogany &c which was taken by private vessell, would be sold, before which I can hear from you, when you'll be good enough to Mention the prices of any of those Articles that you think would do, as it will be some guide to me in purchaseg -

Such has been the Demand for Seamen within these few days that there Wages have risen to abt Twenty Dollars P month - the Privateers give one hundred Dollars P man Advance, by which you'll see that it will [be] expencive to send out ships with Lumber however the Lumber will pay great freight, - we have Number ships which woud Answer the purpose, had they Rigg[in]g but it's [im]possible to get it in this part of the world - Therefore should you Conclude to send any ships with Lumber, they must be purchased with all Compleat. the ship with the Rum, which is to be sold in abt a month is very Compleat, valuable ship, and as I think she is too small for Masts, therefore will not do for the Continent should she go low, it would be best to purchase her, and fit her out to the

West Indies with proper Cargo Lumber, on your Acct together with Messrs Cunningham & Nesbit, as you shall order – I shall not proceed any further untill hearing from you fully on this matter, which I've mention in mine to Mr Morris aforementioned to which I beg leave to Refer you – I am Gent [&c.]

John Langdon

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

JOHN LANGDON TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Sir

Portsmouth Novemr 19. 1776 –

The Letter from the Honle Marine Committee of the 18th Ult; is just come to hand inclosing the two Resolves of Congress by which I am Ordered to accot with the Honle Committee for the Continental share of Prize money and also to make Distribution among the Officers & people of their allotted Prize money I shall take care to comply in every particular; The Honle Committee will please to take notice that only one Prize viz. the Ship *Royal Exchange* has come into my hands the sale of which was compleated two Days since I expect to Receive from the Vendue Master his accot in three or four Days when I shall immediately make out my accot relative to that Ship & Transmit it to the Honle Committee – I wrote last week to Esek Hopkins Esqre to send me a list of the Officers & People who have a share in this Prize & that I should be ready in few Days to pay them or their Agent their proportion of Prize money – This I did before receiveing the Letter from the Honle Committee as I was Determined to pay the Officers & People their share of the Prize Immediately as they have suffered in this heretofore – Esek Hopkins Esqre has appointed me Agent (by his Letter) for the Officers & Seamen for the Ships of War under his Command to receive proportion & pay their allotted Prize Money, by which it seems the Officers & Seamen or the Commanding Officer for them have the Liberty to appoint their own Agent of this the Honle Committee will please to inform me as also what Commission I am to Charge on Prizes, and what on my other Business, I am somewhat at a loss in some part of the Honle Committees Letter Where it says “We shall allow you all your just Expenditures on accot of the Continent to be charged against their share of Prize money” The way I shall proceed is this after Deducting all Charges & Com[mission]s from the amount of Sales two thirds of the Neet sum will be carried to the Cr[edit] of the Honle Committee's the other third part to the Agent (who the Officers & People appoint, to receive it []) to be proportioned agreeable to Resolves of Congress

Mr [Joshua] Wentworth who was Agent for the Schooners under General Washington is ready to accot for the Prizes which he has in his Hands only waits an Order from the Honle Committee or General Washington Directing to whom it should be paid and by whom the accots are to be settled I Shall be happy to have an Answer to these several matters as soon as may be for my Direction – I have the Honor to be with Great Respect [&c.]

J Langdon

The Honle John Hancock Esqre
President of Marine Comee Philadelphia

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

SALE OF CAPTORS' SHARES IN THE PRIZE SHIP *Julius Caesar* TO THE
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

In the House of Representa[tives] Novr 19: 1776

Resolved That Messrs Caleb Davis, Jedediah Prebble and William Story be and they hereby are in behalf of this State fully Authorized and impowred to Contract and Agree with Capt John Foster Williams his officers and Men or the agents for them for their third part and Share of the Ship *Julius Caesar* her appurtenances and Cargoe latly taken as prize by him in an armed Vessell belonging to this State for such sum and Sums of money as they shall think proper – not exceeding the Sum of Ten Thousand Pounds – Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council Novr. 19t 1776

Read & Concurr'd

John Avery Dpy Secy

Know all men by these presents That we John Foster Williams Commander of the Sloop *Republic* belonging to the State of Massachusetts bay Samuel Lake first lieut Joseph Smith Second lieut and Isaiah Stutson Master of the said Sloop and the said Joseph Smith and Isaiah Stutson as agents for the other officers and Crew belonging to the same Sloop for and in consideration of the sum of ten thousand pounds lawful money to us in hand paid before the ensealing hereof by Caleb Davis Jedediah Prebble and William Story a Comtee of the Great and general Court of the State aforesaid The receipt whereof we hereby Acknowledge Have and by these presents do Grant Bargain and Sell unto the said Caleb davis Jedediah Prebble and William Story for the use of the State aforesaid one full third part of The whole Hull or body of the Ship *Julius Caesar* her boats Tackle Apparrell Sails Riggins Anchors Cables Furniture and Appurtenances whatsoever to her belonging or appertaining also one full third part of all the Cannon Small Arms implements and Warlike Stores belonging to the said Ship and one full third part of all the Cargoe and Stores of every Sort on board said Ship when taken as prize and belonging to said Ship lately taken as Prize by said Sloop and, brought into the harbour of Boston To have and to hold the same unto the said Caleb Davis Jedediah Prebble and William Story to the only proper Use and behoofe of the State of Massachusetts bay And we do hereby Covenant to War-rant and defend the same unto the said Caleb Davis Jedediah Prebble and William Story for the use aforesaid Against the lawful Claims and demands of all and every person and persons whatsoever In Witness whereof we hereunto set our hands and Seals the Nineteenth day of november Anno Domini one thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six —

Signed Sealed & delivd

Jno F Williams

in the presence of us

Sam^l Lake

John Dean

Joseph Smith

John Grimes

Isaiah Stetson

Memo the interlineation of one full third part of in three places & the words on board said Ship when taken as prize and were done before Signing

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 140-42.

WILLIAM SEVER TO JAMES BOWDOIN, PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

Sr

Kingston 19th Novr 1776

I yesterday addressed a line to you,² mentioning the arrest of a prize of Capt Samson's of the Brig *Independence* with a number of Irish men on board.³

as the Supporting such a number of people here will be expensive, I have thought it advisable to send Lieut Adams the prize master to Boston to take the orders of the Honble Board respecting them. can they be considered as prisoners & sent on board the flag of truce at Marblehead & if they can with propriety they may answer a valuable purpose, if not I believe a great part of them might be taken into families for their labor through the winter many of them I find have families in Ireland & are very desirous of getting home as soon as they possibly can - shall hope soon to receive the orders of the Honble Council respecting them [&c.]

W Sever.⁴

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 52-52a.

2. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 176.

3. Brigantine *Nancy*, 140 tons burden, John Churchill, master, *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, December 26, 1776.

4. On November 21 the Council ordered:

That such of the said Irishmen as are desirous to return home be sent on board the Flag of Truce now at Marblehead bound to Halifax; and that such of them as chuse to tarry may have liberty to enter into our sea service or be put out by the Comtee of correspondence &c at Plimouth into families where they may maintain themselves by their labor thro' the winter . . .

Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 53.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO COLONEL WILLIAM RICHMOND¹

Sir

Providence Novr 19th 1776

I have recd certain advise, from the Generals Lee and Greene informing me that a large Body of his Britanic Majesty's Forces have lately embarked at New York, and as their destination is unknown, it is imagined they are going to make an Attack upon Newport. You will take every proper & prudent method to put the Town of Newport in the best posture of defence possible, - And that you endeavour to cultivate a Harmony among the Officers & Soldiers. - I have called the General Assembly to meet on Thursday next at East Greenwich; in order to take the proper steps for supporting & sustaining you in Case of Need. I am sr

Nich^s Cooke

1. Letters from the Governor, 1768-1777, R. I. Arch.

DANIEL BEARS' SLOP ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL SHIP
*Columbus*¹

1776	Daniel Bears	To the Ship <i>Columbus</i>	Dr
			Penns Curry
January 10th		To 1 Great Coat	£1.18..-
" 18.		To 1 Jacket	1..8..-
" 20		To 1 Ditto	1..8..-
" "		To 1 Check Shirt	16..6
February 1st		To 1 P Stockings	5..-
15		To 1 P Shoes	7..6
March 19		To 2½ Yds strpd Halld a 1/9	4..4½
" "		To 2½ Yds Check a 1/8	4..2
April 18		To 7 Yds Check a 1/8	11..8
June 12		To Cash	1..5..3
		To Commission on the above	8..3
August 4		To Cash	5.12..6
" "		To Cash	3..0..0
			<hr/>
			£17..5..2½

Newport 19 Novemr 1776

Errors Exceptd

Jos^p Hardy

Mr Bears entd as Midshipman on Board the *Columbus* the
20th Novemr 1775 & advanced to Gunner the 1st June
1776 as P his Warrant J:H:

1. Manning Collection, Record Group 219, NA.

JOHN COTTON TO BARNABAS DEANE¹

Sir/

Middletown Novbr 19th 1776

I Wrote to Aquaint you that I have Taken two blls of Your Pork for the Ship² Which was in Tewels Store Capn [Dudley] Saltonstall Desires that I would have You Send Down Some Coffee and Sugar and Chocolate if you have Any for the Ships Stores Round to New london What Other he wants I shall Endeavor to Gett here, and the above if they are to be Gott here if they Are they [are] Extravagant the prices Being high, as people are So Exceeding high in their prices they Know well Nott to ask if you have any Spare Bags I Could wish you Would Send Down ½ Dozen as the Ship Wants them and the Capn Mentioned itt To Me I am Sir With Regards [&c.]

John Cotton

N B The Ship Must Goe away this Week if the Tides Rises

ysr J - C

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. Continental frigate *Trumbull*.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONNECTICUT PRIVATEER SLOOP *American Revenue* ¹

Sloop <i>American Revenue</i> ²		Dr	£	S	D	Pr	Contra	Credit
Novemr	30 pieces of Guinea Cloath		8	3	6	Novemr	18 Yards of tow Cloath	
the 19th	9 White Holland Shirts		9	10	0	the 19th	1 Barl of Flower	
1776	to pair of Everlasting Breeches		1	6	0	1776	2 Small Arms	
	to Short Duffel Coat		2	11	0		2 pair of Pistols	
	to 1 Cotton Jacket		3	0	0		1 Small Barl of powder	
	to 1 Strait Bodyed Coat of Superfine Broad	}	17	2	0		Wtt 25 Lb	
	Cloath & Waist Coat							
	to 1 Lappel Jacket		0	16	0			
	to 1 Green Strait Bodyed Coat		2	0	0			
	to 1 pair of Short Linen Breeches		1	6	0			
	to 1 pair of Linen Stockings		0	10	0			

1. Shaw Papers, 1775-1782, Ledger 7, YUL.

2. The *American Revenue* was commissioned October 9, 1776, owned by Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. & Co., of New London, and commanded by Samuel Champlin, Jr., Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, I, NA.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE PRIZE SHIP *Mary*¹

Ship <i>Mary</i> ²	Dr	Pr	Contra	Credit
	L. S. D.		£.	S. D.
Novemr the 19th 1776	To 18 Yards of Tow Cloath to 1 Barrel of Flower to 2 Small Arms to 2 pair of Pistols to 1 Small Barrel of powder Wtt 25 Lb	30 pieces of Guinea Cloath 9 White Holland Shirts 1 Pair of Black Everlasting Breeches 1 Short Duffel Coat 1 Cotton Jacket 1 Strait Bodyed Coat of Superfine Broad Cloath 1 Waiscoat of the Same 1 Lappel Jacket 1 Green Strait Bodyed Coat 1 pair of Short Linen Breeches 1 pair of Linen Stockings	8 9 1 2 3 17 0 2 1 0	3 10 6 11 0 2 16 0 6 10 6
			£46	4 6
		1 Doctors Box of Medicines 1 small Do with Surgeons Instrums		

1. Shaw Papers, 1775-1782, Ledger 7, YUL.

2. The *Mary* was a prize of the Connecticut privateer *American Revenue*.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO ALEXANDER TODD ¹Indent of Sundrey Slops Wanted for the *Randolph* Frigate

Great Coats.....	20
Outside Jacketts.....	200
Inside do.....	60
Shirts.....	200
Frocks.....	100
Pair of Shoes.....	260
Stockings.....	300
Caps.....	250
Hatts or Dutch Caps.....	100
Beds.....	180
Rugs & Blanketts.....	260
Woollen Trowsers.....	240
Mittens.....	280

Please to Deliver the Slops mentioned in the above Indent for the
Frigate *Randolph*
November 19th 1776

Nicholas Biddle

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, HCL.

CONTINENTAL BOND FOR THE MARYLAND PRIVATEER BRIG *Sturdy Beggar* ¹

Nov 19th *Sturdy Beggar*, Maryland brig. Guns: 14. Crew: 100
1776 Bond: \$10,000. Master: John McKeel
 Bonders: John McKeel, John Muir and Frederick Green, Baltimore.
 Owners: Lux & Bowly, Baltimore.
 Witness: Richard Ridgely

1. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, XIV, NA.
An abstract from the bond.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday November 19th 1776

Ordered that the Commissioners of the Navy be requested to lay before his
Excellency the Governor a Return of the present state of the Marines belonging to
the several Vessells in the service of this Commonwealth

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 244, 245.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday 19th Novr 1776. --

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Aron Jeffery's
One thousand Pump Nails, five hundred Scupper Nails & seven Fishing Lines
for the use of the Schooner *Revenge*. --

Ordered that Mr. William Holt deliver unto Capt Thomas Lilly two hhd's Rum and one hhd Whiskey for the use of the Brig *Liberty*—

1. Navy Board Journal, 110–11, VSL.

“A JOURNAL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS OBOARD OF THE GOOD SLOOP *Warren*
A BOLD PRIVATEER A SECOND CRUIZE.”¹

Tuesday November the 19 Day 1776

Latter Part Tuesday Morning Eight A Clock Saw A Sail Bearing S E. the Wind at N E. Called all hands Made sail Got Up Guns spoke with Her proved to Be A Brigg from Maryland Bound to France Been four Days out Judged Herself in the Long of 66:6 Dischar[ge]d our Guns Jib'd ship Hal'd By the Wind took in two Reefs in our Mainsail the wind at N E. steering by the Wind to the Wind [*sic* West].

1. RIHS.

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen

St Eustatia 19th November 1776—

I Have by different opportunities lately Advised you of the Change and turn that has taken place here by Government in favor of the American States. Now our Flag flies current every day in the road

The Merchants here were Always complaining of Government untill they would give as much Protection and Indulgence here to us as the French and Spainards do. The orders from the States [General] and Great West India Company to this Governour for the Prohibition of the Export of Powder and other Warlike Stores Expires the 28th Instant. It's made Publick and the Governour is daily expressing the greatest desire and Intention to protect a trade with us here—Indeed they begin to discover their Mistake and are now very Jealous of the French's running away with all their Trade. All kinds of goods and Warlike Stores are very Plenty here and much more Reasonable than they are at the French Islands & All your goods purchased here, and at a very great expence & Risque too they are [sent] up to Martinique to be reshipped to Maryland in your Vessels as they all Arrive there. Your Flower, Bread and Tobacco is all sent down here to be sold as this is allways the best Markett for your Produce especially Tobacco which this is the Only Markett for, All these goods are burthened with a very heavy freight from Martinique here and Never fail to suffer great Abuses in the way, Hhds broken all to pieces & the Tobacco hove loose a Shore & ca & ca indeed its lessened in Value 50 p Cent—All this I have often mentioned in Sundry of my last letters to your Honourable House—I have Enclosed all my own private accounts by three different Vessels, I hope you have received some of them and Flatter my self they will be Approved off as I must assure you I never omitted doing any thing that has ever been in my Power that cou'd serve my Country

Sir's on Mr [John] Crocketts arrival here I intended to have returned home and left him to Settle my Affairs here, but my Circumstances are such that our Creditors would not Consent to my leaving this place untill our debts were discharged.

I shall endeavour to content my self untill it may suit you . Enable us to Wind up what we have done for our State here & will render every Service in my Power during my stay; tho I must inform you that I dislike my Station and would be happy if it was to be in my power to leave it very soon – I have endeavoured all ways to Encourage all the Trade & Speculations that was possible to any part of the Continent, and particularly to our State as perhaps you may have observed – and I have engaged into some Concerns very largely, in order to enduce others to Speculate to our State Vizt in particular in two Ships ordered to be purchased in Baltimore and load out from there – One of them I engaged to be a fifth and the other a Fourth Concerned, this was purely to serve my Country, and my engagements otherwise will Scarcely Admit of my being Concerned. This I inform you off with an Expectation that you would take the Risque, Profit or Loss of[f] my hands. The Plans of the Voyages are good & we will Attend to and see them well Managed &ca Mr John Crockett is to return and is the Bearer of this he is well acquainted with all Matters here that you may wish to be Advised off & to him please to be refered, Should he at any time want a sum of Money to execute any orders he may receive, I Hope you will not hesitate to let him have it as I assure you Gentn that he will not call on you for it Unless it is to Execute orders that he may Receive from me or through my Recommendation &ca. I shall In future send my letters under Cover to Mr Crockett who will imeadiately wait on whomsoever you may direct him to with them. Our Mr R. H. [Richard Harrison] is at Martinique and has lately dispatched several of your Vessels with very Valuable Cargoes &ca. I am doing all I can to send home Salt & have borrowed many large Sums of Money in order to join with Merchants here to hold part of their Vessels & Cargoes to induce them to send in Salt. We never had any orders to join your Honourable House into Partnerships or perhaps we shou'd have chose to Interested you before ourselves—Indeed we are as the Saying is Makeing one Nail drive another & Shoeing the Horse, for when we were able to pay of[f] one Debt it give us a Credit for Twice as much, which Credit we allway Modestly made Use off –

Capt Robertson [Isaiah Robinson] of the Continental Brig *Andrew Doria* arrived here three days agoe and Saluted the Fort with eleven Guns the Salute was returned from the Fort with 18 Pounders and the Capt most graciously received by his Honour the Governour and all Ranks of People. Its esteemed here by the first Gentlemen a favor and Honour to be Introduced to Capt Robertson – all American Vessels here now were [*sic wear*] the Congress Coulours. Tories Sneak and Shrink before the Honest & Brave Americans here –

Robertson and his Officers & Crew make so good an Appearance in every Respect & such good order Observed, that it gives the Greatest pleasure to the friends of our States and Strikes the Tories with terrour and Confusion – Gentlemen we have the Honour to be [&c.]

Van Bibber & Harrison

20 Nov.

POWER OF ATTORNEY GRANTED BY OFFICERS AND MEN OF H. M. S. *Amazon*¹

[Extract]

No 20. Know all men by these presents That We who have hereunto Set our hand and Seals being the Admiral [*sic*] Captain Officers Seamen and Others, now or late belonging to his Majestys Ship *Amazon* Have constituted and appointed, and do hereby constitute Authorise and appoint Maximilian Jacobs Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship *Amazon* and Alexander Thomson of Halifax Nova Scotia Gentleman, to be our true and Lawfull Atty and Agent for us, in our names and to our uses to Solicit transact and take care of all our concern and Interest in any Prize or Prizes Seizures or Recaptures, that have been or shall betaken Seized retaken or destroyed by the said Ship or to which we are, or shall be intituled by any means Whatsoever and in all Head money or other monies arising from such Capture and Interest. Giving and hereby granting to our said atty & agent our full Power and authority in the Premisses for Inventorying Appraising Condemning and Selling the said Prize or Prizes Seizures and Recaptures their Cargoes Tackle Guns Apparel & Furniture and for the receiving the money arising thereon: And also the said Head money by Bill made out by the Honorable Commissioners of his Majestys Navy, and our several Shares of the Whole, and for the recovering Obtaining compounding and discharging the same. And generally to do and Act for us and for our use and safety; as fully and effectually to all intents & purposes as we our Selves might or could do collectively or Seperately being personally present Acquittances and Releases and other discharges to make and grant, ratifying and confirming all and whatsoever our said Atty and agent or his Substitutes shall Lawfully do or cause to be done in the Premisses by Virtue of these presents. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & Seals the twentieth day of November in the year of our Lord 1776, and in the seventeenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the grace of God over great Britain &c. —

Sealed & Delivered

in the Presence of us

John E^d T^s WrightMaxⁿ Jacobs JunrMaxⁿ Jacobs CaptainBaynto^m Prideaux Lt

Thomas Shaw Acting Master

Benj^a Green Newcomer Lt of Marines

James Mallandain Boatswain

Joseph West Gunr

Sam^l Crump (Purser)

Daniel Webb Carpr

Sam^l Best Surgn

[and 125 crew members]

[Endorsed] Received and Registered 20th December 1776. —

1. N.S. Arch., vol. 499, Vice Admiralty Records, Register of Letters of Agency, book 2, 1776–1781.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Albany*, LIEUTENANT MICHAEL HYNDMAN¹

November 76

Sunday 17th

The Isle of Monhagan WBS Dist 2 Leags

at 8 AM more modt Set the fore & mizn Topsails Saw Severall Small Sails in Shore Made Sail & gave Chace at Noon the *Diligent* in Sight

Modr & Cloudy Wr at 2 PM gave Chace to 4 Sail to the No ward at 3 they all got in Amongst Some Small Islands was Obliged to leave Of[f] Chace at 4 Saw a Large Sloop to the Et ward gave Chace at ½ past 5 in running Past the Island of St Georges, Struck upon a rock bearing from the So end of St Georges SbE Dist 4 Miles this rock is Called by the Inhabitants the Old Man and is very Dangerous being Covered at 2 thirds flood Fird Severall Guns & made the Signl in Distress to the *Dilligent* which was Close by but did not come to our Assistance all the Night Struck Top Gallt Yards and Top Gallt Masts empd Starting Water

Monday 18th

At 6 AM Mannd & Armed our Boats to go in Among the Islands to get a Vessell to take our Guns out 10 Do they Returned with 3 Sail Vizt 1 Sloop & 2 Schooners, Hauld the Large Schooner Alongside Empd getting the Guns on Board her at Noon the *Dilligent* in Sight Working up to us. Modt & fair Wr Empd getting Provisions on Board our Prizes at 5 we endeavored to heave of[f] but Could not get of[f] Empd getting out more Ballast & got a Cable & Anchor from the *Dilligent* & laid it out a Stern as well as our own

Tuesday 19th

At 5 AM hove upon Both but the Ship did not float Empd Lightning Still Stove many Casks in the Hold & hove overboard a great Quantity of Wood from the Prize Sloop to get our Provisions Put on Board of her

Light Winds & Cloudy

Empd Starting the Ground Tier of Water & getting all Other heavy Stores out in order to Lighten the Ship at 5 PM hove Off the rock the Wind Shifting to the SW was Obliged to Slip the *Dilligent* Cable to Keep Clear of the Rock, Sent the Boat a Head to Sound at 6 Do Anchd in 7 fathm with the Bt Bower Sent men on Bd our Prizes to bring them in with our Guns & Provisions

Wednesday 20th

at 8 AM Hove up with our Prizes & run into Georges Harbour Anchored with the Bt Bower in 10 fathom got the Schooner Alongside wth our Guns at Noon got all our Guns on Bd & Some of Provisions the *Dilligent* Anchored here.

Variable Wr Empd getting our Provisions on Bd & Stowing it Away & filling Salt water to Ballast the Ship there being very little fresh to be got on the Island.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/23.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Boston] Wednesday Novr. 20th. 1776.

Petition of Joshua Gray, representing that he was wounded. at Ticonderoga in an engagement on board a Row Galley. — That he is in a distress'd situation — & has not any Money to bear his Expences home &c and praying for Relief &c — In the House of Representatives. On the Petition of Joshua Gray of Wells in the County of York —

Resolved that there be allowed, & paid out of the Treasy of this State to the Petr. the Sum of Two pounds, as a temporary Relief to defrey his Expence home, being in great pain of Body, and low Circumstances in life, the above Sum to be consider'd, as a Donation to the abovenamed Joshua Gray.

In Council. Read, & Concurred. —

Consented to by 15 of the Council. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 180, 183.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 20th. Novr 1776. P. M.

Upon a Motion Resolved that the Sloop *Republic* belonging to this State, be fitted immediatly for Sea. —

Resolv'd, That, a Committee be appointed to engage a Captain to Command said Sloop. — That Mr [Ellis] Gray be this Committee. —

Resolv'd, that a Committee be appointed to engage two or more Vessels, to go to Penobscot for loads of Lumber. — That, Mr [Samuel P.] Savage be this Committee. —

Resolved, That a Committee be chosen, to provide a Commander, who shall take charge of the Ship *Julias Caesar*, and get her fitted for Sea immediatly. — That Mr [John] Brown be this Committee. —

Resolved, That the President acquaint Mr Bigelow of Worcester, that this Board is ready to Contract with him for any quantity of Pork. —

Resolved, that the President move in the General Assembly to morrow, for leave to take into Possession, the Ship *Julias Caesar*, a quantity of flour at Pittsfield, and the Sloop *Republic*. — That Mr [Samuel Allyn] Otis be this Committee. —

Att Jams Swan Secy. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 2-3.

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE SHERIFF OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY ¹

The Sheriff of the County Council Chamber [Boston] Novr 20, 1776
of Middlesex

You are hereby ordered forthwith to remove the Prisoners mentioned in the Schedule Annexed — amounting to Twelve in number, if they are found within your Precinct — to the Town of Marblehead in the County of Essex, there to be delivered to the Sheriff of the said County of Essex, his under Sheriff or deputy,

or to the Committee appointed to negotiate the Exchange of Prisoners, together with a Copy of this Precept – hereof Fail not, and make return of this precept with your doings hereon into the Secretary's Office as soon as may be –

A true Copy Attest John Avery Dpy Secy

[Annexed] Prisoners to be sent to Halifax in the Flagg of Truce –

Hopkinton	John Mulcaster	Midshipman –	May 1776
	Robt Campbell	– Voluntr	June 24, 1775
	Willm Furnival	– Midshipman –	May 6, 1776
	Robert Basden	– 3d Lieutenant of the	Decr 1775
	<i>Niger</i>		
	Thomas Payne Stant	– Midshipman –	Feby 8, 1775 [sic]
	Richard Edgécumb	Seaman, on board the	<i>Chatham</i>
	John Lear	ditto	<i>Falcon</i>
	and 4 Others		

Framingham John Loring – a Midshipman son to Comodr Loring

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 156, 157. See Hopkinton Committee of Safety to the Massachusetts General Court, November 13.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN JAMES MUNRO, COMMANDER OF THE RHODE ISLAND PRIVATEER SHIP *Blaze Castle*¹

By the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor
Captain General and Commander in Chief of and over
the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations –

Instructions to James Munro Commander of the Ship *Blaze Castle* a Private Vessel of War to whom I have issued a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal.

First. You may by Force of Arms attack, subdue and take all Ships and other Vessels belonging to the Subjects of the King of Great Britain or any of them (other than the Inhabitants of Bermuda or the Bahama Islands) on the High Seas, or between high-water and low water Marks, except Ships and Vessels bringing Persons who intend to settle and reside in the United States of America, or bringing Arms, Ammunition or warlike Stores to the said States for the use of such Inhabitants thereof as are Friends to the American Cause, which you shall suffer to pass unmolested, the Commanders thereof permitting a peaceable search, and giving satisfactory Information of the Contents of the Ladings and Destinations of the Voyages.

Secondly. You may by Force of Arms attack, subdue, and take all Ships and other Vessels whatever carrying Soldiers, Arms, Gunpowder, Ammunition, Provisions, or any other contraband Goods, to any of the British Armies, or Ships of War employed against these States.

Thirdly. You shall bring such Ships and Vessels as you shall take with their Guns, Rigging, Tackle, Apparel, Furniture and Ladings to some convenient Port or Ports within the United States, that Proceedings may thereupon be had in due

Form before the Courts which are or shall be there appointed to hear and determine Causes civil and maritime.

Fourthly. You or one of your Chief Officers shall bring or send the Master and Pilot and one or more Principal Person or Persons of the Company of every Ship or Vessel by you taken, as soon after the Capture as may be, to the Judge or Judges of such Court as aforesaid to be examined upon Oath and make Answer to the Interrogatories which may be propounded touching the Interest or Property of the Ship or Vessel and her Lading, and at the same time you shall deliver or cause to be delivered to the Judge or Judges, all Passes, Sea Briefs, Charter Parties, Bills of Lading, Cockets, Letters and other Documents and Writings found on board, proving the said Papers by the Affidavit of yourself or of some other Person present at the Capture, to be produced as they were received without Fraud, Additions, Subtraction or Embezzlement.

Fifthly. You shall keep and preserve every Ship or Vessel and Cargo by you taken, until they shall by sentence of a Court properly authorized be adjudged lawful Prize, not selling spoiling wasting or diminishing the same or Breaking the Bulk thereof nor suffering any such thing to be done.

Sixthly. If you or any of your Officers or Crew, shall in cold Blood Kill or maim, or by Torture or otherwise, cruelly, inhumanly, and contrary to common usage and the Practice of civilized Nations in War, treat any Person or Persons Surprised in the Ship or Vessel you shall take the offender shall be severely punished.

Seventhly. You shall by all convenient Opportunities send to Congress written Accounts of the Captures you shall make with the Number and Names of the Captives, Copies of your Journal from Time to Time and Intelligence of what may occur or be discovered concerning the Designs of the Enemy and the Destinations Motions and Operations of their Fleets and Armies.

Eighthly. One Third at least of your whole Company shall be Landsmen.

Ninthly. You shall not ransom any Prisoners or Captives but shall dispose of them in such Manner as the Congress or if that be not sitting in the State whither they shall be brought as the General Assembly Convention, or Council or Committee of Safety of such State shall direct.

Tenthly. You shall observe all such further Instructions as Congress shall hereafter give in the Premises when you shall have Notice thereof.

Eleventhly. If you shall do any Thing contrary to these Instructions or to others hereafter to be given, or willingly suffer such Thing to be done, you shall not only forfeit your Commission and be liable to an Action for Breach of the Condition of y[our] Bond but be responsible to the Party grieved [for] Damages sustained by such Malversation.

Given under my Hand at Providence in State aforesaid this Twentieth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Nichs Cooke²

[Endorsed] Providence Novemr 20th 1776 I acknowledge the aforewritten to be true a Copy of the Instructions given me by his Honor the Governor with

my Commission as Commander of the Ship *Blaze-Castle* a private Vessel of War.
 Witness Henry Ward Secry James Munro

1. Maritime Papers, Letters of Marque, Commissions and Instructions, R. I. Arch.
2. As of this date the manner of issuing instructions to privateer captains in Marblehead was changed. Instructions had previously been headed: "In Congress Wednesday April 3d 1776," and signed "By Order of Congress John Hancock, President." However, the instructions were not altered.

CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR THE RHODE ISLAND BRIGANTINE

*Harry*¹

Port of }
 Providence }

State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.
 This may certify all whom it may concern, That *James Bourk* Master of the *Brigantine Harry* Burthen *Thirty* Tons, or thereabouts, by Register, mounted with *No* Guns, navigated with *Five* Men, and bound for *Hispaniola* having on board *Thirty Hogsheads of Fish Twenty Thousand of Hoops Two Hundred Shaken Casks Three Thousand Ropes of Onions Five Thousand Bricks Ten Thousand Feet of Boards and the necessary Provisions for the Voyage* hath complied with the Requisites for qualifying Vessels to trade.

Henry Ward
 Intendant

Given under my Hand and Seal of Office, at Providence aforesaid, this *Twentieth* Day of *November* in the Year of our Lord 1776

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, 1776-1778, R. I. Arch. A printed form with the blanks filled in, and shown in italics.

JEDIDIAH ELDERKIN AND NATHANIEL WALES, JR. TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹

To the Honourable the Governor and Council of Safety of the State of Connecticut agreeable to your Honors Directions, We the Subscribers have repaired to New-london, and Examined into the Curcumstances of Capt Hardens [Seth Harding] Stopping the Ship *Mary* under the Command of Capt Thos Kanady from proceeding on her Voige; and the reasons of her being Detained in this Harbour till this time; have taken Several Depositions also copies of his orders & Instructions which We hearwith transmit to your Honors, by which We apprehend the dangers attending the sailing of said Ship at the time She was stoped and Since Will appear Nearly in their true Light: but we think it our duty to further inform: that we have advised with Mr Nathl Shaw Jur Capt [John] Deshon and sundry other Gentlemen Well acquainted with the Coast the place where the British Ships are Cruising and with the temper of the Crew on board the Ship *Mary*, and they unanimously agree that it was the most Likely that had said Ship proceeded as Was intended when stoped or since, She Would have been taken by our Enemies

or have been delivered up by the Crew. and those acquainted with her Cargo say that it has been so long shipd it is doubtful whether it will not Spoil on the Voige, that flax seed will answer much better and be Safer for both the publick and the owners – and it seems to be a General opinion that there is a probability that Considerable part of our Army May be wanted here, in which Case it may be Extreem difficult to provide flower for them – and it seems to be the opinion of every one that Capt Harden Conducted prudently in stoping the Ship from sailing. We Conferd with Capt Kanady on the Subject. he says it is a fact that the most of his Crew & his Mate Were Prisoners brought in by our Armed Vessels & that they belongd to Europe and were straingers to him but Says he Could get no others: and had orders to sail, and therefore thought best to take them – & that they promised to be true to him in the Voige but he freely Confesses to us that it is his opinion that if he had Gone Out when he intended, it is most Likely he Should have been taken by those British ships, or that his Crew would have proved unfaithful: he also agrees with those who say their is danger of the Cargos takeing Damage if attempted to be Carried to Europe, he Left the Ship on her first being stoped but is now gone on board and promised us this Day to take good Care of the Ship & Cargo till he hears further; Says he has wrote to the General Congress the whol affair: it appears to us that the Danger is still as great, as to said ship going to sea as ever – and that She Stands but a very smal Chance to escape our Enemys. all which is humbly submited to your Honrs by your [&c.]

Jed^h Elderkin Nath^l Wales Jur

Newlonden November the 20th Ad 1776

1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS. See Journal of the Connecticut Council of Safety, November 15, 1776.

Connecticut Journal, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1776

New-Haven, November 20.

Last Friday se'nnight was sent into the Port of New-London, by the Continental armed Brig *Cabot*, Capt. [Elisha] Hinman, a Prize Ship, burthen about 200 Tons, bound from Jamaica to Scotland, laden with Rum, Sugar, &c.¹

A few days since, a number of men landed from one of the enemy's tenders, on a point of land at Stamford, remote from the inhabitants, where they shot and carried off two fat cattle.

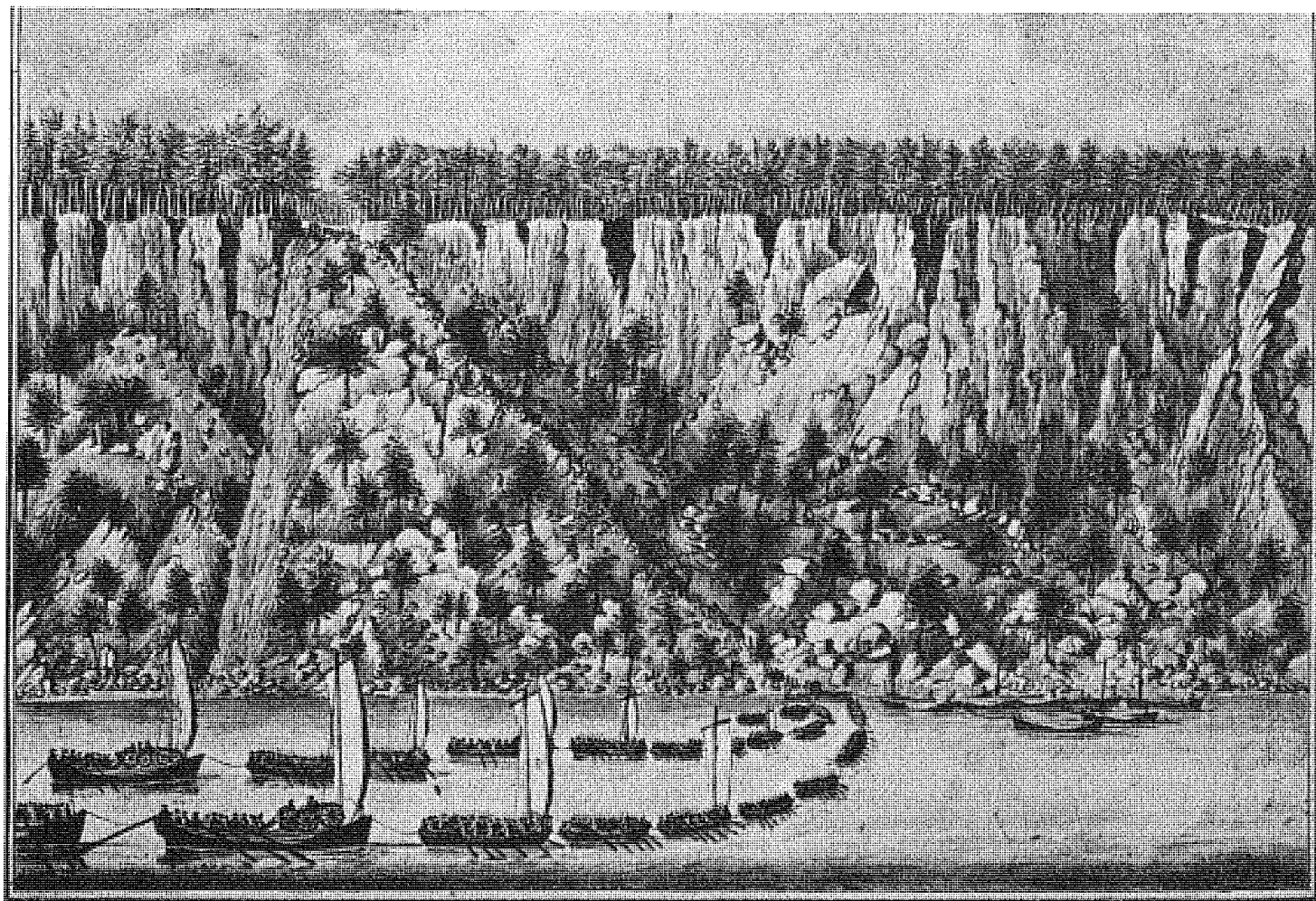
1. The ship *Clarendon*.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE¹

[New York] Wednesday, [November] 20th.

The *Solebay*, convoying Transports with the 6th. Regiment on board, arrived from St Vincent's. They saw the great Fleet of Transports homeward bound off Nantucket Shoals.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 144.



The Landing of the British Forces in the Jerseys on the 20th November 1776 under the command of the Rt. Honl. Lieut. Genl. Earl Cornwallis.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU ¹

November 1776 Do [Sandy Hook] No 79 Wt 220 Leagues.
 Wednesday 20. at 8 AM out 3d reef of Fore & Main topsail, set the Mizzen & unbent the Cables and stowed the Anchors.
 Moderate and Cloudy at ½ past 2 PM saw a sail to the SE made sail and gave Chace, at 7 began to fire at her, at ½ past 8 brought her to and found her to be one of our Transports that had been taken by a Rebel Privateer, took the Rebels out and sent 7 of my Men to assist the Master ².

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

2. *Fowey* journal, Sunday, December 22, 1776 reads: "at Anchor at Spithead . . . AM sent the Rebel Prisoners on board the *Centaur* & *Culloden* by Order of Sir James Douglas," PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, November 20, 1776

The Marine Committee to whom was referred the bringing in a plan for increasing the navy of the United States, brought in a report, which was taken in consideration; Whereupon,

Resolved, That there be immediately undertaken,

In New Hampshire,	1 ship of 74 guns, ²
In Massachusetts Bay,	1 ditto of 74 ditto, and
	1 ditto of 36 ditto,
In Pensylvania,	1 ditto of 74 ditto,
	1 brig of 18 guns and a packet-boat;
In Virginia,	2 frigates of 36 ditto, each;
In Maryland,	2 ditto of 36 ditto each.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 967, 968, 970.

2. "Dimentions of a 74 Gun Ship":

	feet	Inc
Length of the Keel for tonage	147	—
Extream Breadth of Beam	49	—
Depth in hold	19	—
Height between decks	7	—
Length of the Transom	31	6
Breadth of floor	22	6
Rising of Mide floor	2	—
Port Cells from the Beams	2	6
do in the Clear fore & aft	3	—
do up & down	2	7
Distance between the ports	8	1
fore port abaft the Rabbitt of Stern	15	9
after do before the rabbit of the post	17	10
hanging of the Deck	2	—
Port Cells from the Beams	2	4
do fore & Aft in the Clear	2	8
do Up & down	2	5
Distance between the ports	8	5
hight of the Waste amids	5	6
Beak head Abaft the Rabbitt	6	6
fore port abaft the Beakhead	3	6
Tumbling home top timber	5	—

2. "Dimentions of a 74 Gun Ship"—[continued]

Height Under the Quarter deck	6	10
do fore castle	6	4
Length of do	43	6
do Quarter deck within two feet of the Main Mast		
Dimentions of the Quarter Gallery		
Length of the lower Stool of the lower Gallery	14	11
Weth of do	2	11
Lower Gallery Length of the lower Rim	18	8
Weth of do	4	8
Length of Upper Rim	17	3
weth of do	4	9
Length of the Lower Rim	15	3
Weth of do	4	2
Length of the Upper Rim	14	7
Weth of do	3	1
Length of the Upper Stool	10	8
Weth of do	3	1
Projection of the Stern Gallery abaft the Stern	3	6
Bulk head of the poop within the Stern	2	6
Distance of the Brest of the Figure from the Hause	20	3
piece		
Length of the figure of the head	21	0

John Langdon Papers, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] November 20th, 1776.

Mr. [John Maxwell] Nesbitt to pay . . . Daniel Offley for Iron Work for the Battery *Putnam & Chevaux De Frize, &ca.*, £ 14 6 2.

Resolved, That Mr. [Thomas] Wharton & Mr. [Joseph] Blewer be appointed to revise & Fix the Pay of the Fleet of this State.

Mr. Nesbitt to pay Lewis Grant £ 10 10 0, for Gun Ladle & Powder Measures, £ 10 10 0, for the Armed Boat *Convention*.

An order was drawn on Mr. Nesbitt in favour of Messrs. Williams, toward the Armed Boat *Delaware*, to be charged to their Accounts.

Mr. Nesbitt to pay Messrs. Willing & Morris for Handkuffs, & other materials delivered for the Use of the Fleet, £83 1 0.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 9, 10.

ORDER FOR SALE OF THE PRIZE SLOOP *Modesty*¹

Court of Admiralty } To Matthew Clarkson Esquire Marshall of the
Pennsylvania sst } City and County of Philadelphia

Greeting – Whereas at a Court of Admiralty lately held at Philadelphia upon the Bill of James Campbell who as well &c. against the Sloop or Vessel called the *Modesty* &c: It was judged and decreed that the said Sloop with her Tackle Apparel and Furniture and the Goods, Wares and Merchandizes found on board her at the Time of her Capture should be condemned as Prize for the Use of the Captors &c: You are therefore hereby commanded to expose to Sale at Public Vendue the said Sloop or Vessel called the *Modesty* with her Tackle Apparel and Furniture and all and singular the Goods Wares and Merchandizes found and taken on board her at the Time of her Capture And after deducting the Costs and Charges of the Tryal Condemnation and Sale and the Wages due to the several

Seamen and Mariners belonging to the said Sloop out of the Monies arising from the said Sale to pay the Residue of the said Monies unto the said James Campbell his Agent or Attorney to and for the Use of himself the Officers Seamen Mariners and all others belonging to or concerned in the private Schooner of War called the *Enterprize* And You are hereby further commanded to pay the said Wages to the several Seamen and Mariners entituled to receive the same, and to pay the whole of the said Costs and Charges into the Hands of Michael Hillegas Esquire Treasurer of this State – And how you shall have executed this Precept make Return to me at a Court of Admiralty to be holden at my Chambers in the City of Philadelphia on the Twentieth Day of December next And have you then there this Precept Given under my Hand and Seal the twentieth Day of November in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six –

Geo: Ross

1. Court of Admiralty Papers, Am. 677, HSP.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT MULLAN'S
COMPANY OF CONTINENTAL MARINES¹

Sixty Dollars Reward.

Deserted from Captain Robert Mullan's Company of Marines, lying in the barracks at Philadelphia, the following persons, viz.

Thomas Mewkinny, labourer, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, short fair hair, ruddy complexion, strong built, and lived near Jacob Miller's tavern on Lancaster road.

John M'Losky, a shoemaker by trade, about 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, well set, short brown hair, one of his thumbs stiff at the joint, and withered so as to appear less than the other; he lived in the same neighbourhood with the former.

John Fritzinger, labourer, about 5 feet 9 inches high, fair hair, tied, slender built, German extraction, but speaks English well.

Joseph Lowry, labourer, about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, short fair hair, full faced, well set, and resided in the same neighbourhood with the former, and they are all four great cronies together.

Thomas Calwell, labourer, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, a little stoop shouldered, strong built, and born in Ireland.

Thomas Sappington, labourer, aged 21 years, 5 feet 10½ inches high, sandy hair, slender built, born in Kent county, Maryland, and is supposed to have gone towards Warwick.

Jessy Redding, by trade a blacksmith, about 22 years old, 5 feet 7¾ inches high, and born in Maryland.

John M'Cashon, labourer, 5 feet 4 inches high, sandy complexion, stoops forward, and has the appearance of a hard drinker.

Neil Farron, labourer, born in Ireland, aged 26 years, 5 feet 4¾ inches high, short black hair, down look, and dark complexion.

Joseph Boys, labourer, born in Ireland, about 27 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches high, dark complexion, he cannot write, and is supposed to have gone towards Cumberland county. It is probable he may visit his friends in Chester county.

Hugh Conoley, labourer, born in Ireland, about 27 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches high, short black hair curled; was a servant before he enlisted, with one James Drum, West-Fallowfield township, Chester county, and is supposed to have gone that way.

William Taylor, a carpenter, born in England, 36 years old, 5 feet 4 inches high, lost his fore finger of his right hand.

John Hill, born in Ireland, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 2 inches high, and is a sailor.

John Campble Brown, about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, has lost his left eye, and is of a sandy complexion.

Samuel M'Cormick, labourer, enlisted at Port Penn, is about 37 years of age, 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, is well set.

Whoever secures said deserters, and sends them to their respective company at the barracks in Philadelphia, shall have the above reward, of Four Dollars for each, and all reasonable charges, paid by

Robert Mullan, Capt. of Marines

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, November 20, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday November 20th 1776

The Commissioners of the Navy having informed this Board that the Schooner *Revenge* Capt [William] Deane is ready to proceed to Sea and desired to know if Coracoa would be a proper Port for her destination It is Ordered that his Excellency the Governor be required to write to Thomas Whiting Esqr first Commissioner of the Navy informing him that as there is no Agent for this State at that Place This Board are of Opinion that the said Schooner and her Cargo should be consigned to Messrs Vanbibber and Harrison Agents for this Commonwealth at Martinico And his Excellency is further required to write to the said Messrs Vanbibber and Harrison to pay a proper Regard to such Instructions that they may receive from the Commissioners of the Navy of this State and that they make their Returns to the said Commissioners who are to report the same to this Board

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 245, 246.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday 20th November 1776. -

An Agreement was this day made by the Board with Robert Donald & Co for nine Acres of Land called Brookes Point in Chesterfield County for the Sum of four hundred and twenty nine pounds which said Land is to be appropriated to the use of a Ropery for the Public; the said Robert Donald appeared and executed a Deed for the said Land in the Presence of sundry Witnesses which said Deed was delivered to Mr Benjamin Watkins to be Recorded in the Court of Chesterfield County and transmitted to this Board. - Ordered that a Warrant Issue to the said Donald for Four hundred and twenty nine pounds the Consideration Money for the Land above mentioned. -

Ordered that Benjamin Powell deliver unto Capt George Elliott, Ten Yards of Bunting for the use of the *Safeguard* Galley. —

Ordered that Mr William Holt deliver unto Capt George Elliott sixty Gallons of Whiskey for use of the *Safeguard* Galley.

1. Navy Board Journal, 111–12, VSL.

COMMISSION TO COMMAND THE SOUTH CAROLINA PRIVATEER SNOW *Hope* ¹

By His Excellency John Rutledge Esquire President & Commander in chief of South Carolina one of the United States of america

To all people to whom These presents shall come Greeting
Know ye that I do by these presents grant Commission to and do Licence & authorise John Hatter To set forth in warlike Manner The Snow called the *Hope* of the Burden seize and of about Two Hund Tons under his own Command and therewith by force of arms to apprehend saize and Take all Such Ships Vessels and Goods as are leable to Seisure and Confiscation pursuant to the resolves of the Representatives, of the good People of The United States of, america in General congress assembled and the Same To bring To such Port as Shall be most Convenient in order To have them Legally adjudged in court admiralty or other Court heaving Jurisdiction in Cases of Captures pursuant To the Said Resolves —

Given under my Hand and The seal of South carolina aforesaid at Charlestown in the Said State This Twenty day of Novembre in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy six

1. Preston Davies Collection, No. 3406, UNCL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Maidstone*, CAPTAIN ALAN GARDNER ¹

Novemr [1776] Cape Nicholas N¹/₂E 5 or 6 Leagues
Wednesday 20 Bore away and gave Chace to the SW.
Do Wr [Fresh Breezes and Squally] Fired 4 Guns and Brot to the Chace a French Schooner from Philadelphia Loaded with Flour &ca. Seized her. Took out the Master and People. Sent an Officer and 4 Men to take Charge of her.²
Made Sail Prize in Comp.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/572.

2. Schooner *Marianna*, Gayton's Prize List, February 26, 1778, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BARBADOES, DATED NOVEMBER 20, 1776." ¹

The Ship *Sam*, Capt. [Samuel] Richardson, who sailed from hence the 20th ult. with about 20,000 Dollars, and 52 C. Weight of Ivory on board, bound for Liverpool, was taken the 25th, in Latt. 20. by the *Independence* Rebel Privateer of 10 Guns, and 45 Men, John Young, Commander, belonging to the Congress. The Ship was sent away to Philadelphia with the Ivory and Silver; the Captain and the Boatswain were landed at the Port of St. Pier's in Martinico: the Doctor, Mate, and two Servants, and four of the People, were left on board the *Sam*; all the rest of the Hands entered on board the Privateer. — If the French Governors

suffer Prize Cargoes, without Condemnation, to be landed in their Islands, our Trade must most certainly be quite ruined very soon.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, January 28, 1777.

21 Nov.

SIR GEORGE COLLIER TO LORD SANDWICH ¹

My Lord/

Rainbow, at Halifax 21st Novr 1776.

I esteem it a Duty incumbent on me to make use of the Opportunity which presents itself (by Lieut Breyntons return to England from the *Pembroke*,) of paying my Respects to your Lordship & of acquainting You with the present State of Affairs in this Province.

Apprehending a probability of the Rebels attacking Halifax, Lord Howe was pleased to give me Orders to proceed here with his Majestys Ship I command, & to take the Direction of all the Men of War stationd in, & near, the Province of Nova Scotia; I arrived here the 21st of Sept & Commissr Arbuthnot did not oppose my taking upon me the Authority his Lordship had been pleasd to vest me with; convined doubtless of the Impossibility of any one Persons going through the various Duties of Governor, Commodore, & Commissioner: only one of which, I beg leave to assure Your Lordship, has taken up almost every Moment of my Time since my being here.

As one of my first Wishes is to be honord with your Lordships approbation of my Conduct, I will entreat your leave to enter into a little Detail of the most material Things which have happend since my Arrival.

After sending the *Liverpool* to Canso, to secure that very valuable Fishery, which had lately been continually ravagd by paltry Privateers, I made the best disposition I coud, (with the Advice & Approbation of the Lieut Governor) of the rest of His Majs Ships stationd in the Province: every Thing remaind Quiet except Rumors of intended Attempts by the Rebels, which were not believd till the 6th of this Month, when the Lieut Governor receivd Information, that an armd Force was assembling near St Johns (New England) & upon This, & the Councils application to me for a Man of War to be sent from hence "to the Rivers Kenebeck, Penobscot, & Pasamquody for Intelligence" I directly orderd his Majs Sloops the *Albany* & *Diligent* to go to Sea, with the Directions mentiond in the Paper I take the Liberty of sending for your Lordships Inspection, marked No 1.²

And General Massey applying to me for a Man of War to convoy a Vessel loaden with Provisions for Fort Cumberland; (which by some strange Neglect had scarce any remaining) I sent Capt Dalrymple in the *Juno* to perform that Service, & afterwards to look in at Annapolis [Royal], where if He found every Thing quiet, & the Inhabitants under no Apprehensions of a visit from the Rebels, He was to proceed on a Cruize between that Place & Mount Desart, which effectually securd the Mouth of the Bay of Fundy.

The *Milford* had saild for the Coast of New England some little Time before, Her Orders are in the Paper No 2 – Capt [John] Burr being too much indisposed to go to Sea, I gave Capt Mowat (whose Abilities when He surveyd that Coast recommended Him to your Lordship) an Order to command the *Milford*; & my

first Lieut Mr Hyndman (who was with Adml [John] Byron round the World,) the same Powers to command the *Albany* Sloop, which Capt Mowat was removed from.

The Chain of Cruizers I formd for annoying the Enemys Coast, & securing that of this Province, was as follows.

The *Milford* – stationd from Cape Cod – to Monhagen

The *Hope* 14 Guns – from Monhagen – to Mount Desart

The *Juno* – from Mount Desart to Passamquodi, & so up to Cape Sable.

The *Lizard* – & 2 small armd Vessels, from Cape Sable allong the Coast of Nova Scotia, to Liverpool – (which is about 20 Léags from hence to the Westward.)

I informd these Captains, of each others Destination, in order for their mutual Assistance shoud they ever be obligd to retreat from very superior Force.

Lord Howe having been pleasd to direct that the Commissioner & myself shoud send a Cartel Vessel to Marble Head with Rebel Prisoners, in order for their being exchangd for an equal Number & Rank of His Majs faithful Subjects, We hird a large Sloop of 100 Tons, & a Schooner; & sent 179 Rebels in them; directing the Commissary who had charge of them to apply to Mr Nathl Tracey at Newberry Port, whom the Inhabitants of the rebellious Colonys had vested with Powers to settle & adjust the Exchange of Prisoners.

Capt Dalrymple executed his Orders & convoyd the Provision Vessel safe up to the Bay of Fort Cumberland, where finding from Col [Joseph] Goreham that the Garrison under his Command, was free of Apprehension from the Rebels, He proceeded to Annapolis; and finding no Alarms there from the Enemy, nor any particular Cause to induce his Stay, He pursud the rest of his Orders in cruizing for the Annoyance of the Enemy & the Protection of the faithful Subjects of the Crown.

It was the 17th of this Month that the *Juno* saild from Annapolis; and on the 9th, Govr Arbuthnot receivd Advice, that the Communication between Windsor (44 Miles from hence,) & Fort Cumberland, was cut off by the Rebels; & that the Ferry boat was taken by a Pirate Vessel of 8 Carriage Guns; upon which I immediately dispatchd the *Vulture* Sloop (who was just arrivd here from England) into the Bay of Minas, with the Orders your Lordship will be pleasd to peruse, markd No 3.^s

And upon the certainty that Fort Cumberland was actually invested by a Body of Rebels, I immediately sent Directions to the Captain of the *Albany* to proceed instantly to Fort Cumbd together with the *Diligent*, & throw as large a Body of Men & Officers into it, (to assist Col Goreham in its Defence,) as could be spard from the two Sloops: And in order to prevent any Demur about carrying Troops in the Men of War, I furnished Genl Massey with an Order addressd to the Caps of any of His Majs Ships in the Bay of Fundy, to use the best means in their Power to perform that Service, & to cover their Landing; – & likewise with another, for them to supply Fort Cumberland, & Fort Edward (at Windsor) with any Provisions which their Sloops could spare, & the commg Officers of these Garrisons shoud make Requisition of.

I have presumd to be thus particular that your Lordship may form a Judgment of my warm Zeal & Attention to his Maj's Service, & in the flattering Hope that I may merit (a Reward highly prizd by me) the Honor of your Lordships Approbation of my Conduct.

There remains but little more for me to acquaint yr Lp of; the Provision Vessel was taken by the Rebels, 3 Days after the *Juno* left Cumberland Bay, the Serjeant & Ten Soldiers on board Her were made Prisoners, asleep, & nothing but the Cowardice of the Rebels prevented the Fort from being surprizd in the same Manner; to remedy this Inconvenience I have sent one of the Victuallers from hence, with Ten of my own Seamen added to her Compliment, & Genl Massey directed an Officer & 20 Marines to embark in Her for Fort Cumberland.

We have since learnd, that this Body of Banditti are not near so formidable, as the first Fears of the People represented; they have no Cannon, & do not exceed 3 or 4 Hundred Men; Col Goreham has 260 in the Fort, & Major Batt embarkd on board the *Vulture* at Windsor with 400 fine Troops 3 Days ago, for Cumberland, (which is not above 20 Leags distant,) so that we daily expect to hear of the flight of this maroding set of Rebels.

I must beg leave to express my Opinion of the perfect Security of Halifax for this Winter; for tho the Enemy might possibly find a way for Men thro the Woods, it is impracticable to convey Cannon without a Road & the only one to this Place, is by Fort Sackville (11 Miles off,) & lies by the Water side; allong which I think I may answer, to prevent any being brought. By Sea, the Ship I have the Honor to command, is able to engage all the Force that the rebellious Colonys can set forth; besides wh I propose keeping one or two of the smaller Men of War during those Winter Months when it is impossible (in this Country) that they can keep the Sea to cruize.

I beg leave to present my respectful Congratulations to your Lordship, upon the happy Success of His Maj's Arms in the Province of New York, & on the Lake Champlain; the People in New England (I'm well informd) begin to be heartily tird of the destructive War they have forced the Parent State to Wage against them; & I trust a very few Months will restore Tranquillity to this distracted Continent, & make them pant to return again under His Maj's mild & gentle Government. I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect Your Lordships [&c.]

Geo Collier¹

I shall dispatch on Tuesday next, a Convoy of 20 Sail of Transports & Victuallers for New York, under the Protection of 3 Frigates: Capt [Maximilian] Jacobs of the *Amazon* is here but [h]as declind interfering with the Command of the Port.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1611, 2, 43b-44.

2. Collier to Lieutenant Michael Hyndman, November 6.

3. Collier to Captain James Feattus, November 9.

4. Collier wrote a similar letter to Lord George Germain this date, PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, 332-35, DAC Photocopy.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. S. *Milford*¹

Novr 1776

Pidgeon Hill WNW Dist 5 Leagues

Wednesday 20th

at 1 AM brot too the Main Tp Sail to the Mast and in
Second Reef Do at 1/2 past Do wore Ship at 6 Do wore

Ship & made Sail at 10 saw Cape Ann bearing WNW about 8 Leagues at Noon in Compy with the Tender as before

Fresh Breezes & Clear latter fresh Breezes & Cloudy At 1 PM saw several Vessells under the land made Sale and gave Chase as did our Tender At 4 Do Pidgeon Hill West Dist 5 leags Saw a Schooner under the Land hoisted out the Cutter Man'd & Arm'd her the Master with Nine Men went in pursuit of her the Arm'd Schooner likewise in Chase – the Frigate standing off & on having but Light Airs of Wind at 8 the Schooner came up with the Chase & fired 5 or 6 Shot at her she Proved an American Schooner loaded with Lumber & fish loaded to the West Indies At 10 the Cutter Engaged & took two Vessell[s] bound to Newbury loaded with grocery Goods & some Arms for the Provincial Privateer Sunk one & Blow'd up anor At 11 the Tender & Cutter Joined the Ship with their Prizes

Thursday 21st

Fresh Breezes & Hazy latter fresh Gales & Squalley At 1 PM sent one [*sic* our] Prizes with petty Officers & Men to Halifax At 5 Joined the Tender with a Prize Do Shortn'd Sail & brot too Main Sls Mast [*sic*] to the Mast got all the Prizes Stores out & Burnt her. At 6 Do made Sail.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

[Boston] Thursday Novr. 21st. 1776.

Petition of Jotham Moulton – setting forth. That in April last a Schr. in the service of the Colony called the *Diligent* commanded by John Lambert was driven on shore at York in the County of York, and on the sd Lambert's applying to the Petr. for his Assistance in refitting said Vessel she being then much injured, & her keel being beaten off – whereupon the Petr. attentive to the Interest of the Colony expended the Sum of Fifty three pounds 15s/3d in repairing said Schr. and giving her such Supplies as were necessary to her going to Sea – the particulars whereof is herewith exhibited & ready to be avouched when, & where the Honble. Court shall direct – the said Lambert drew a Bill on Tracys & Jackson of Newbury Port for the Expence aforesaid assuring the Petr. that the said Tracys. & Jackson were employed by the Colony to fix out the same Vessel and that they would duly honor said Bill. but they have refused to pay the same – Wherefore the Petr. prays that the matter may be taken under consideration. and that the sum aforesaid may be allowed him out of the public Treasury, & he will ever pray.

In the House of Representatives. – Resolved that there be granted, & paid to Jotham Moulton Esqr. or his Order the sum of Fifty three pounds, eleven shillings & Nine pence. in full Discharge of his accot

In Council. Read, & Concurred.

Consented to by 15 of the Council. –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 187–88.

GEORGE WEIR, MASTER'S MATE OF H. M. S. *Juno*, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
COUNCIL ¹

Gentlemen

Boston Goal 21st, November 1776

I take the liberty to Sollicit your Honours. For my Exchange with four Men belonging to the *Juno* Frigate. I am Masters mate on board the above Frigate. and was lately brought into this place in a Manner I presume well known to your Honours.² Therefore if you will please to Include me and my four men in the present Exchange. you will lay me under particular Obligations to your Honours – I Remain your Honours [&c.]

George Weir –

P.S. Mens Names

James White

James Scot

Thomas McKay

Thomas Skidwell

P.S. I am quite destitute of any money for my Support

[Endorsed] In Council Novr 20th [*sic* 21st] 1776 Read & Ordered that the Prayer of the Above Petiton be granted and that the Petitioner have and he hereby have Liberty with the 4 Prisoners to be exchanged agreeable to his Request

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 58.

2. See Captain James Gray to Council, November 14.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 21st Novr 1776.

That a Committee be chosen to agree with some suitable person to take the Command of the Sloop *Republic*, and to fix her out for the West Indies, and to procure a Cargoe for her.

Voted, that Mr Ellis Gray be this Committee. –

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to agree with some suitable person to Command, & to procure a Cargoe for, the Ship *Julias Caesar*, to go directly from hence to Europe, or by the way of the Southern States. –

That, Mr Brown be this Committee. –

Resolved, that a Committee be chosen to enquire the length of the Masts, belonging to this State: and whether there are any Ships that can be got to take them. –

That Mr Otis be this Committee. –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 3–6.

Independent Chronicle, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1776

Boston, November 21.

The Prize Brig,¹ laden with Cloathing, mentioned in our last to have been taken and sent into this Port, by Capt. Skimmer, should have been by Captains Skimmer and Tucker. She had on board 664 dozen Men's Shoes; 41 doz. Women's ditto; 548 doz. silk, worsted and yarn Stockings; 228 pieces milled Pladding; 6 dozen Men's Shammy Gloves; 11 dozen milled ditto; 62 dozen worsted and yarn ditto; 1 dozen silk ditto; 11 dozen milled Mittens; 402 pieces Linnen;

247 dozen ruffled Shirts; 18 dozen plain ditto; 57 dozen Check ditto; 3052 yards Blanketing; 74 dozen Pladding Breeches; 100 dozen Pladding Waistcoats; 7 dozen milled ditto; 16429 yards Oznabrigs; 2436 yards white and blue napped Cottons; 1525 yards Dowlass; 25 reams Writing Paper; 18 dozen worsted Caps; 116 lb. sewing Thread; 994 yards Bed-Ticking; 231 yards Brown Holland; 100 dozen printed Handkerchiefs; 19 dozen Check ditto; 77 Table Cloths 1989 yards Sheet-ing, 205 yards Diaper; 14 pieces Long Lawn; 7 pieces Cambricks; 231 lb. Nuns white Thread; 36 lb. whitened brown ditto; 192 lb. Oznabrigs Thread; 112 pieces printed Cloth; 64 dozen fine thread Night Caps; 9 dozen Cotton ditto; 33 lb. white Thread, sorted; 6 dozen Men's Shambuck Breeches; 6 dozen ditto Lamb; 5 dozen grounded Lamb ditto; 27 casks Nails, sorted; 10 boxes Candles, 30 boxes Soap; 30 hogsheads Porter; 149 pieces Sail Cloth, containing 5781 yards; 150 firkins Butter; 65 dozen bottles red Port Wine; 114 ditto Sherry; 106 ditto Lisbon; and 50 bushels Barley. – Amount of Invoice £2503 2s 8d 3–4.

To be Sold by Public Auction, On Friday, 29th Instant, On Colonel [John] Hancock's Wharf, The Prize Brig *Lord Lifford*, of 130 Tons, with all her Appurtenances. This Brig is a prime Sailer, well found, and but two Years old.²

She will be put up for Sale at Twelve o'Clock.

Wm. Greenleaf, Sheriff.

By Order of the Agent. On Tuesday, 26th Instant, At Ten in the Morning, will be sold by Public Auction, On Stephen's Wharf, in Beverly, The Cargo of the Ship *St. Lucea*, from Jamaica, consisting of about 500 Hogsheads of best Jamaica Sugar, and 20 Puncheons of old Jamaica Rum, a Proof for the London Market. Also, said Ship, being a fine new British-built Vessel, about 350 Tons burthen, half Frigate-built, and capable of being made a most excellent Ship of War. She is a prime Sailer.³

And on Wednesday the 27th of November, Will be Sold, At the Hon. John Hancock, Esq's Wharf, The Warlike Stores and Provisions of The Private Schooner *Boston*, lately returned from a Cruize, Consisting of – Four fine double-fortified 3-pound Cannon, with Carriages, Rammers, &c. compleat [12] good Swivels fixt, 12 Spears, 6 Cutlasses, 250 lb. good Powder, 12 excellent made Arms, a Quantity of Cannon and Swivel Shot for said Guns and Swivels, a Number of Powder Horns and Musket-Balls, &c. – Also a Quantity Pork, Beef, Bread, Peas, Beans, Rum, Rice, Candles, &c.

Procter & Lowell, Auctioneers.⁴

1. The *Lively*, subsequently purchased for the Secret Committee of Congress and renamed *Robert*.
2. The *Lord Lifford* was a prize of Continental ship *Columbus*, Captain Abraham Whipple.
3. The *St. Lucea* was a prize of the Massachusetts privateer brig *Retaliation*, Captain Eleazer Giles.
4. This issue of the *Independent Chronicle* carries arrival notices of other prizes, and the sale of numerous captured ships and cargoes.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN LANGDON¹

Sir

Newport November 21st 1776

I wrote you a Letter some time ago, acquainting you that it appear'd to a Court Martial, that Capt'n [Lawrence] Bowden of the *Royal Exchange*, had some

hand in forwarding a Mutiny onboard – and for you to Stop his Adventure untill that matter was Clear'd up² – Since which the Captain has been here and declares his Innocence – and I wrote by him to Capt'n Whipple that whatever he gave him an Order to Receive, Should be Satisfactory to me – but on Seeing Capt Whipple and the Officers belonging to the Fleet, they do not seem Satisfied with giving him money – however Should think it but humanity for you to Supply him with three or four hundred Dollars, to enable him to Subsist while here, and it will be agreeable to me, and I do not think the Congress or the People of the Navy will take it amiss –

I am now almost Ready, and expect to Sail in a few days – in the mean time I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

Esek Hopkins Cr in Chief

P.S. Capt'n Whipple his Officers and Men are going out directly,³ but I suppose they will leave some power for their Prize Money with some person here, that will advance some part of it

John Langdon Esqr

Agent for the Continental Fleet, in the
State of New Hampshire

1. Ferdinand Dreer Autograph Collection, American Navy, HSP; draft in Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.
2. See Hopkins to Langdon, October 24, 1776, Volume 6, 1398.
3. Whipple commanded the Continental frigate *Providence*, but she did not get to sea in 1776.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM THE CONTINENTAL SHIP
*Providence*¹

Ran away from the Continental ship *Providence*, Abraham Whipple, Esq; Commander, Richard Peirce, Quarter Master, about 5 feet 8 inches high, dark hair, and dark complexion, and is a deceiving artful fellow: (his place of abode is Dartmouth:) Whosoever will take up said runaway, and confine him in any gaol in the United States, so that he may be conveyed on board said ship *Providence*, shall receive 5 dollars reward, and all necessary charges, paid by

William Barron, 1st Lieut.

Newport, Nov. 21.

1. *Newport Mercury*, November 25, 1776.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT¹

[On board H. M. Sloop *Swan* at Sandy Hook]

Thursday Novr 21st came in the *Raven* and *Cherokee* Sloops of war with a prize Sloop from Philadelphia with flour² and nine transports with recruits provision and store from Ireland.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.
2. The sloop *Hope*, Jean Louis, master, bound for Charleston with flour and lumber, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] November 21st, 1776.

An order was drawn on Mr. Nesbitt, in favour of Jacob Kisling, £ 10, for services rendered to the State, in producing a Model for a Fire-Ship.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to deliver to Pay Martin Pendergast, for Iron Work for Fire Rafts, &ca., &ca., (2 Acco'ts) £ 136 17 5

Mr. Nesbitt to pay W'm Taylor £ 17 1 0, for Boatswains' Calls, for 8 of the Armed Boats belonging to this State.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, II.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sirs

Baltimore, Novembr 21 – 1776

Capt king has at Last Left Baltimore With all his Papers Invoices &c With him,² Which I hope Will Pleas – Capt keltey [John Kilty] is Loded ³ But has Many things to Provide Which I New Nothing of, there is No Gib Sall Nor Can Mr Dogan [Cumberland Dugan] find One I have advisd Capt Celty to Ride Down to No if you have any Canvis to Make One, as Wee have None here Nor Do I think it Possible to Purch it in this Plase, Mr Dogan Expects to Pay Part of the Expence as hee Says hee Ought to find One of halff Prise – Capt [William] Stone has Replevyd his Brig ⁴ But Capt [John] Martin keeps Posesion Capt Stone took the Sherrif With a Rit of Replevy, But Capt Martin Got the Seemen and kept the Posesion With Guns Sword and Bayonets, I Was Not Present But Beleve the Sherrif Was Executing his offis Sively, the Vesell is halld Out in the Streem and the Riging in My Stores the Guns On the Warf, One of the Masts is hoisted Out there Will Bee a New one in to Morow I have kept Clear of the Dispute Between Stone and Martin, and Intend to Do So, it has Made a Good Deell of Noise here Sum has Told him hee Ought to have Security and if hee Replevyd that you Would Give him Security in Case the Vesell Was Lost Or Taken Between this and a Day of Tryall I Do[nt] think Stone Expect hee is to have the Vesell Now But Beleve hee Wants Security – I Dont Pretend to Direct Or advise in the Matter But Give the State of things as I here them there is 80 bbls of flowr On Bord her and shee Will Bee Redy for More in 2 Days and the flowr Will Bee Redy for her – if Canvis Come up in a Bote the Salt for you May Return With the Same Bote tho I have Spoke to a Man to Carry it from your friend [&c.]

JeSee Hollingsworth

1. Red Book, XVI, Md. Arch.

2. For flour and tobacco shipped on board the schooner *Resolution* on account of the Council of Safety, Naval and Maritime Papers, Md. Arch.

3. Schooner *Ninety Two*.

4. *Friendship*. Captain William Stone to Maryland Council of Safety, November 21, 1776, Red Book, XVI, Md. Arch.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE MARYLAND SCHOONER
*Resolution*¹

1776	The Honorable the Council of Safety of Maryland To Jesse Hollingsworth For sundries Supplied the Schooner <i>Resolution</i> —	Dr
Novr 14.	To Cash paid for 1¼ Cords wood @ 18/	£1.11..6
15.	To Ditto paid for 630 Nails	7..6
21.	To 29 lb Brown Sugar @ 13d Cask 1/3	1.12..8
	To Cash paid for 2 Keggs	7..6
	To 1 Barrel of Flour Nt Wt 2..0..0 @ 13/6 } Cask 1/10 }	1..8.10
	To 1 Box of Candles Nt Wt 52 lb @ 1/10 } Box 1/8 }	4.17..—
	To 1 Kegg to hold Coffee	1..3
	To 8 lb of 20d Nails @ 1/2	9..4
	To 2 Qure of Paper	3..3
	To 2 lb of Chocolate @ 2/4	4..8
	To Cash paid for 10 Gallons Rum @ 9/ } & Kegg 4/ }	4.14..—
	To Ditto paid for 8 Gallons do @ [10]/6	4..4..—
	To Ditto paid for 1 M Pump Nails	6..6
	To Ditto paid for 6 lb Coffee @ 2/4	14..—
	To Ditto paid for 500 Scupper Nails @ 7/6	3..9
	To Ditto paid for 1 large Hammer	5..—
	To Ditto paid for 5 Gimblets	2..8
	To Ditto paid for 1 large Spike Gimblet	2..9
	To Ditto paid for 2 Pad locks	10..—
	To Ditto paid for 2 lb of Twine	7..6
	To Ditto paid for 1 Dozen Sail Needles	4..—
	To Ditto paid for 3 Palm Irons @ 9d	2..3
	To 967 lb of Beef @ 30/ PCt	14.10..1
	To 5 Bbls of Beef Weight unknown & unseled for from Andrew Alger —	

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Folder 84, Md.Arch.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH'S ACCOUNT FOR CARGO SUPPLIED THE MARYLAND
SCHOONER *Resolution* ¹

1776	The Honorable The Council of Safety of Maryland To Jesse Hollingsworth		Dr
For part of the Cargo on board the Schooner <i>Resolution</i>			
Novr 16	To 20 Hhds Tobacco Nt Wt 17935 lb @ 22/6 P Ct Hhds a 5/ Each	}	£206.15..4½
	To Cash paid Mackie & Brinton Storage of the above Tobacco @ 1/ P Hhd		1..-.-
21	To 49 Barrels of Super fine Flour Nt Wt 77..1..2 @ 17/ P Ct	}	65.13..6½
	To 39 Barrels of Common fine Flour Nt Wt 78..3..0 @ 12/6 P Ct		49..4..4½
	To 405 Barrels of Bur fine Flour Nt Wt 734..2..20 @ 14/ P Ct	}	514..5..6
	To 49 Cask @ 1/9 4..5..9		
	To 26 Ditto @ 2/6 3..5..0		
	To 89 Ditto @ 1/11 8.10..7		
	To 97 Ditto @ 2/0 9.14..0		
	To 232 Ditto @ 2/3 26..2..0		51.17..4
	To 8 Days Scow & Hands hire puting Flour Bread &c. on Board the Schooner @ 12/6	}	5..-.-
	To 800 Staves Red Oak Hhd @ 10/		4..-.-
	To 650 White Oak Hhd Staves @ 13/0 P Ct		4..4..6
			£902..0..7½

Errors Excepted

1. Naval and Maritime Papers, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH¹

No 21.

Sir Should Captain [William] Stone replevy the Brigg,² you will be pleased to let us know immediately that we may give the necessary Security, and proper orders to the Sheriff; Captn Stone petitioned the Convention, and by his own desire the Affair was postponed. – Should he now issue a Writ of Replevin, it can be only to obstruct the voyage, which [we] are determined, if possible, the vessel be at Liberty to make; the Interest of the State requires it, and we on behalf of the public are able and willing to give Security to answer all damage. – We are glad to hear that Captn King and Captn [John] Gibbons are ready, or near ready to sail,³ – pray Dispatch the Brigg as fast as possible. – Get ship-Stuff to work the Bread, if necessary, we rely on you, and shall pay all reasonable Demands. – get Beef for the present as much as can be salted with 500 bushels of salt; – the residue of the salt please send to us by first Opportunity; – Pork will be plenty, we expect soon, and we doubt salt very Scarce. –

We are sorry to hear the Tradesmen Complain, particularly Mr [Cumberland] Dugan, sure never was a Time, when an industrious Tradesman could get more, than at your Town at present, you may spirit them up with good Words, and we will find them Money. – Neither French, nor English can have any further indulgence in puting Flour or Tobo on board the brigg, and so be pleased to Let them know.

P.S. Since writing the above we recd yrs of the 21st informing us that Captn King had sailed, & Keltly almost ready – we have ordered canvass for the Jibb Sail – be pleased to wait on Mr Christie the Sheriff of Balto and Let him know that we shall take care on behalf of the State to give him security to indemnify him & to pay Captain Stone all Damages, – and that we shall be glad to see the Sheriff, when he comes to Annapolis.

[Annapolis] Novr 21st 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.

2. *Friendship*.

3. Schooners *Resolution* and *Friendship*, but "Captn King," of the former was actually Captain John Carey.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday November 21st 1776

His Excellency the Governor having by an Express received Intelligence that upwards of one hundred Sail of the Enemy's Ships have moved from New York and are Steering Southwardly It is the Opinion therefore of this Board that a sufficient Force should be collected for the protection of this State. For which purpose a circular Letter was written to the County Leiutenants of Princess Ann Norfolk, Nansemon and Isle of Wight Counties directing them immediately to embody one half of such part of the Militia in their respective Counties that are furnished with Arms and to March such Militia to Portsmouth there to act under the commanding Officer of that Station. Also a Letter to the said commanding Officer communicating this Intelligence to him that he may be

upon his Guard. A circular Letter was also written to the County Lieutenants of the following Counties to embody and march to Williamsburg the part of their respective Militia's as following James City fifty Men besides a Minute Company Charles City fifty, New Kent one hundred and fifty King William one hundred, Henrico one hundred King and Queen fifty besides a Minute Company and Surry fifty. And a Letter was also written to Capt. James Barron requiring him immediately to keep a strict Lookout and make known to this Board the Manoeuvres of the Enemy.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 246-47.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday 21st Novr 1776. -

Byrd Chamberlaine is Recommended to his excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the Brig *Musquetto*. -

Edward Chamberlaine is Recommended to Capt [John] Harris of the Brig *Musquetto* as a proper person to serve as Midshipman on Board the said Brig -

Ordered that John Bleauford, George Edwards, John Truman, Ellis Leeland, John Wilkins, Matthew Run & Charles Sorrell, Stephen Wilkinson and William Jarvis at present on Board the *Henry* Galley be turned over to the Brig *Musquetto* Capt [John] Harris and take with them their Hammacks, Bedding &c. -

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt Thomas Lilly four hundred Pounds of Gunpowder, fifty Gunflints, one Dozen Powder Horns and what Cannon Ball he may be in want of for the use of the Brig *Liberty*. -

1. Navy Board Journal, 112-13, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BRIG *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK ¹

Remarks on Thursday 21st Novr 1776

4 [A. M.] Calm

11 [A. M.] All hands on Deck swearing them that never past the Tropic 37 in number ²

Lattd in 22^d58^m Longd in 48^d36^m

1 [P. M.] Small breeze of wind & Cloudy weather

11 [P. M.] Squally with rain

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

2. Initiating those crew members crossing the Tropic of Cancer for the first time.

22 Nov.

NICHOLAS & JOHN BROWN TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentl/

[Providence] Nov 22, 1776

This serves Just to Inform you of the Arrival of Capt [Samuel] Avery in the schooner *Salley* from Nantes wch place he left the last of Sept has brot but 26 Bal[c]s of Cloth & 16 m[illegible]ys of Salt, a Considerable of wch he supposes

to have melted on his passage Acation'd by his Limber post getg out – The Invo[ice] he Del[ivere]d you have Inclos'd but no Acct yet Deld have not as yet had full time to Enquire of him as to Particulers – he only informs Us that the outward Cargo remains unsold After we get the French Merchts Letrs Translated & what Information Can get of the Capt Will forward you Intrem are with due respect [&c.]

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

JEDIDIAH ELDERKIN AND NATHANIEL WALES TO
GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir,

New London Novr 22d 1776 –

A Flagg of Truce arrived from Lord Howe in this Harbour this Day – The inclosed Copy will inform your Honor of the Business he is charged with – ² it seems he is confined to those in the Naval Department we have not many of those in that Department in this State, but we suppose there is likely many in the state of Rhode-Island – but since our Arrival in this Town we have been informed that a considerable Number of those who have been brought into your State in the prizes are petitioning for a permit to depart, & it is thought they will obtain it – if this should happen perhaps it may be a means of detaining the same number of our Friends in Captivity – As we happened to be here on Business & being of the Govrs Council of safety we judge it our Duty to give immediate notice to our Governor ³ of the Arrival of this Flagg & have forwarded the same Copies to him as to your Honor, but as our Governor is at Hartford we think it necessary to give the earliest Inteligence to your Honor that such steps may be taken in your state as may be necessary for the relief of our distressed Friends – This Mr Wm Howland informs us that he sailed from Dartmouth the begining of Novr for surinam, was taken in a day or two after he went out & carried into N. York that there were on board the Ship he was confined in about 140 prisoners some taken from our privateers – some from Merchantmen – that black & white, Officers & Sailors are crouded down below Decks – kept at short Allowance – are sickly & dieing – that there are a great number of sd people prisoners – they are badly cloathed & sickly – we are not acquainted with this Howland nor his Character ⁴ – we have a report here that Fort Washington is taken This same Howland says it is true – that he left New York last Monday [November 18] – and that our Garrison surrendered on saturday about eleven of the Clock in the forenoon – that 3700 of our Men fell into their hands – We this minute heard a Letter read from Colonel Woolcot [Oliver Wolcott] speaker of our lower House of Assembly now sitting at Hartford, in which he says it is reported there that Fort Washington is taken but not fully Credited – but it appears most likely to us to be true – We are – with Esteem [&c.]

Jedidiah Elderkin Nath^{el} Wales –

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R. I. Arch. Elderkin and Wales were members of the Connecticut Council of Safety.

2. Admiral Howe's proposal for an exchange of naval prisoners. See *Connecticut Journal*, November 27, 1776.

3. Elderkin and Wales to Governor Trumbull, November 22, 1776, Conn. Arch., 1st Series, V, 441a, 441b, ConnSL.
4. William Howland, master of the brig *Roby*, taken by H. M. S. *Perseus*, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

LIEUTENANT THOMAS BARKER, R.N., "TO THE GOVERNOR OR
PRINCIPLE INHABITANTS OF NEW LONDON"¹

Pilot Tender New London
Novr 22d 1776

Gentlemen

Having Powers from Lord Howe to negotiate respecting the exchange of Officers, & seamen, now prisoners on board the Fleet at New York; I must therefore request an interview with you to know your sentiments on that head.

I have sent Mr Wm Howland on shore this morning on his parole for three days to endeavour to accelerate the said exchange² I have the Honor to be
Gentlemen [&c.]

Thos Barker³

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, V, 443, ConnSL.
2. Captain Howland's parole, Conn. Arch., 1st Series, V, 442, ConnSL.
3. The committee appointed by the Connecticut General Assembly to consider Lord Howe's proposal reported that, "such an Application to this State is altogether Improper & inconsistent, and that the Same Ought to have been to his Excellency General Washington . . .," Conn. Arch., 1st Series, V, 444a-444b, 445, ConnSL.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1776

New-London, November 22.

The Public are desired to take Notice, That the Prize Ship *Sally*, her Appurtenances and Cargo, will be sold at Vendue in New London, on Tuesday the 3d Day of December next.

The Public are desired to take Notice, That the Ship *John*, and her Cargo of Rum, Sugar, Cotton Wool, &c. will be sold At Norwich, at Public Vendue, The Sale to begin the 27th Day of November Instant, and from Day to Day, till the whole is sold.

Per Pros. Wetmore, Marshal.

In the Evening following the 8th day of November instant, two of the Continental Prisoners broke out of Windham county goal, and made their escape, viz. Lieut. Edward Sneyd about 22 years of age, midling height, slim built, wears his own hair of a brown colour, has a little fuzz beard on his upper lip and stutters, wears a blue coat;¹ the other's name is William Cook, a tall young man about 20 years of age, wears his own hair of a dark brown colour, wears blue cloths, many pimples in his face. There also escaped with them two other prisoners, one John Russell, of a dark complexion, dark coloured hair which curls, the other's name is John Coggin, a rough looking fellow, both seamen. Whoever shall take up said prisoners or any one of them, and secure them in any goal in the state of Connecticut, shall be paid all reasonable costs, charges and trouble by me Nath'l Hebard, Goal keeper.

These are to request the civil authority, sheriffs, constables, &c. and all other friends to the united states of America, to afford all possible assistance in apprehending and confining the above described prisoners.

Jed Elderkin,	}	Committee appointed to take care of said prisoners.
Nathl Wales, jun.		
Sam'l Gray.		

1. Sneyd commanded H. M. Armed Brig *Bolton* taken by the Continental fleet in April 1776.
See Volume 4.

"A JOURNIEL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS OBOURD OF THE GOOD SLOOP *Warren*
A BOLD PRIVATEER A SECOND CRUIZE." ¹

Fryday November the 22 Day 1776

Latter part Fryday Morning Six A Clock Spi'd A Bark Bearing S E [illegible] Spoke With her Been from Hyspanala forty Days Lost His Mast on-shipped his Rudder knock'd off his Waste In A Gale the 13. of this Month Been Drove off th[re]e Times From the Lattd 37. to the Lattd 35. Did Not Chouse to Leave the Wreck. Lett Him have Provision Beef & Bread & Water Got some Molasses of him Lattd in 38:40

1. RIHS.

HENRY WISNER AND GILBERT LIVINGSTON TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE
OF SAFETY ¹

[Poughkeepsie] November 22, 1776.

In consequence of a letter received by us the subscribers, members of the secret committee, from the Committee of Safety, dated the day of November instant, when we were at Fort Montgomery fixing the chain across the river, enclosing an extract from a letter of Gen. Schuyler, requesting the Convention to have the river sounded in different places in the Highlands, we have sounded the river, beginning between Verplanck's and Stoney Point, thence northward through the Highlands to Pollapel's island, and find no part of the river in that distance less than eighty feet deep in the main channel, till within a short distance of the island.

From the island to the western shore, found by measurement, the distance to be fifty-three chains; the channel near the middle of the river at that place is about eight chains broad, and fifty feet deep; from the channel the water shoals gradually on both sides to the flats, which are about eight or ten chains broad, reckoning both sides.

This above described place is the only one in our opinion, that it is possible for an obstruction to be made by docking, effectually to impede the navigation of Hudson's river, at any place above the south part of the Highlands.

Henry Wisner, Gilbert Livingston.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 315.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

[Haverstraw] Friday 22 Novr.

. . . The British Army left West Chester for the City & afterwards came up from it agt. Fort Washington. Perhaps a Party crossed at Kings Bridge in Boats sent up Harlem River for the Purpose from the Ships in the East River. In either Case why did not the Provincials march to their old Ground at Harlem Heights & prevent or raise the Seige? The River is now open to the Highland Forts, and probably Mr. Washington's Army divided on both Sides of the River, and unequal on each Side to Mr. Howe's who may attack either with his whole Force, or waste the Country agt. a Descent at such Places where there is not any Force to oppose them. . . . The chief Dependance of the Provincials must now be in their Projects by Fire Ships Forts &c to prevent the Ascent of the British Ships up the River and their collecting a numerous Militia to the Banks of it.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, II, 47.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[New York] 22d Novr Came in a fleet of 9 sail, last from Cork with provisions, and about 400 Recruits on board. Came in also a transport with two Companies of the 6th Regiment, which had parted from the fleet to which she belonged, a few days before they came in. She was attacked off the Hook by two small privateers, but beat them off.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 114.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO WILLIAM BINGHAM ¹

In Secret Committee

Sir

Philada Novr 22d 1776

We hope you may in due time Receive this letter by Capt Stevens of the Continental Schooner *Lewis* – which goes from hence to Carolina where we have directed her to be loaden with Rice & Indico for Your address, We hope she may arrive safe & deliver You a Valuable Cargo, the Rice you will sell of course, but it is not likely the Indico will sell to advantage at Martinico & if that

shou'd be the case You will please to reship it onbd the first good French Vessell in which you can obtain freight for old France & Consign it to the Order of Mr Thos Morris at whatever Port it goes to, write him to make the best Sale he can of it, to Credit us for the Nt pceeds and apply the Money to such uses as we have ordered, or may order. You must also Credit us for the Nt pceeds of what you Sell in Martinico & apply the Money to the uses we have directed or such as we may hereafter direct. Shou'd the West Indias be so Crowded with British Cruizers that You think it dangerous for this little thing to remain in those Seas, You may in that case Ship a quantity of Powder, Lead, or Bullets & Arms onboard her Consign them to the Continental Agents at Charles Town or if he cannot get in there, to the Continental Agent in Georgia, John Wereat Esqr is Agent in the latter State & Messrs Levinus Clarkson & John Dorsius in the other tell them to keep those Articles for Continental Service & they will receive orders respecting them from the Board of War or from us, to us you must Send duplicate Invoices &c & charge us for the Cost We are sir [&c.]

Fras^s Lewis

Robt Morris

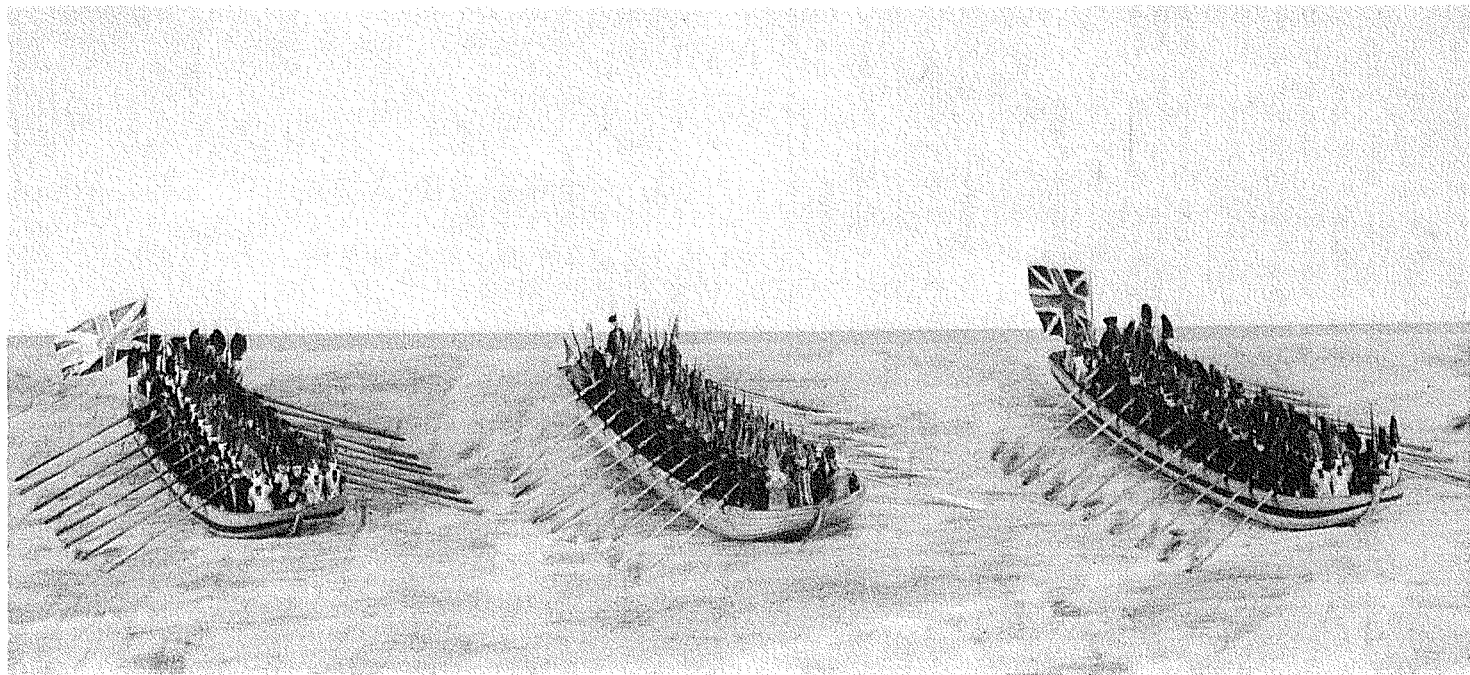
Richard Henry Lee

W^m Whipple

[P.S.] [If] you send the Schooner back with Arms and Ammunition write to the Agents to reload her to You with another Cargo of Rice & Indico and then in the Spring you may send her here with Arms &c.

Pr Capt John Stevens

1. Emmet Collection, NYPL.



British landing boats (Contemporary models)

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] 22d Novber

. . . News last night of Sykes new Brigg & its Sd two other Provision vessells taken & Carried into New-york by our British enemies: four or five sea vessells came up to day. there is Some Salt in one of them . . . one of those Sea vessells arrived this forenoon, its said is a large Ship a Prize from the *Montgomery* privater, but from where did not learn &c &c ²

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

2. The prize was the ship *King George*, Edmund Williams, master, from Jamaica for London, with a cargo of gold dust, ivory, rum and sugar. She was taken by the Pennsylvania privateer brig *General Montgomery*, Captain James Montgomery, *Maryland Journal*, November 27, 1776.

PAY OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN IN THE PENNSYLVANIA NAVY ¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] November 22, 1776.

A list of the pay of the Fleet in the service of the State of Pennsylvania.

Stations.	Ships and Batteries	Gallies and Boats	Rations.
Commodore	60 dolls. per mo.,		
Captain	32 do	32 dollars,	
First Lieutenant	20 do	20 do	
Second and Third Lieut's	16 do	16 do	
Masster	20 do	None	
Master's Mate	15 do	None	
Carpenter	14 do	12 dollars,	
Gunner	14 do	12 do	
Boatswain	14 do	12 do	
Armourer	9 do	None	
Clerk	12 do	13 do	
Steward	10 do		
Cook	9 do	8 do	
Drummer	8 do	8 do	
Fifer	8 do	8 do	
Chief Surgeon of the fleet, (ship excepted) Artillery, and Superintend'nt of the Hospital	10 shil's per day		3 rations.
Surgeon of the ship	32 dolls. per mo.,		3 do.
Surgeon's Mate	18 do		2 do.
Privates	8 do	8 dollars,	
Boys	4 do	4 do	

Pay to commence 1st October, 1776.

- JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Orpheus*, CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON¹

2. *Nancy*, James Kinney, master, Davis Bevan, owner, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1776

Williamsburg, November 22.

Wednesday evening an express arrived here with advice, that a fleet of the enemy's transports had sailed from New York, about a hundred sail, standing to the southward, the wind then favourable, and that it was imagined their intention was to make an attempt upon some of the southern colonies; that General Burgoyne had returned with his army to Quebec, where they will probably remain during the winter; also, that the army under General Howe, finding their attempts against our army utterly fruitless, had retired to the city for winter quarters.

On the 16th instant was stranded on Cape Henry, the brigantine *Beckey*, or *Lady Washington*, laden with flour and bread, from Alexandria, bound to Charlestown in South Carolina, Captain's name Harper.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD ¹

Navy Board [Charleston]

Friday 22d Novemr. 1776 –

Mr. Hall reported that he had agreeable to the Resolution of the Board last Night Purchased from Capt. Ammonette his Pilot Boat Called the *Glory of America* for the Sum of One Thousand Three Hundred Pounds currency, Together with her Stores &ca. as P Inventory No. 15.

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 26.

COUNT D'ARGOUT TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE ¹

Martinique

No. 171

Mylord, I have the honor to send you a few items concerning the present situation in New England; the defeat on lake Champlain was somewhat softened by the fact that, as various letters from this country indicate, the Americans had gained a few advantages on land, recapturing a few posts and ground which they had previously lost to the Royalists. I also enclose the extracts from three letters which I received from St. Eustatius and which confirm this news in part.²

Mylord, vessels and privateers arrive here frequently from New England. I know that they come in order to buy from the merchants of St. Pierre powder at high prices, which is not harming the French trade in any way. Three hundred thousand pounds were received here from France and I heard that the Governor of Dominique had had thirty thousand pounds removed from the trade. I am with respect, Mylord [&c.]

D'Argout

Fort Royal, 22 November 1776

1. AN, Marine, B¹, 458, 48, LC Photocopy.

2. See letter from St. Eustatius, November 16.

23 Nov.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA ¹

At a Council holden at Halifax on the 23d November 1776

The Lieutenant Governor having taken under consideration the descent made at Cumberland by the Rebels from New England, and the Accounts lately received of their Numbers, Also the danger with which the interior parts of this Province is threatned, and Application having been made by the Lieutenant Governor to Captain Jacobs, Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Amazon* requesting that he would Order the Marines on board the Ship under his Command, to be landed, in Order that they may be sent as a further reinforcement to dislodge and disperse the Rebels –

In Answer to which Captain Jacobs having Answered by Letter, that he could not reconcile to his duty a step that wou'd so materially incapacitate the *Amazon* from Executing any Service for which she may be destined by the Commander in Chief, on his Arrival at New York.

It was then Advised that Application be made to General Massey that if he should think it proper and Necessary, he would please to make the Above requisition of Captain Jacobs, as from the information of the Lieutenant Governor the *Amazon* had a considerable body more than her Complement by the Addition of the Company of His Majesty's Ship *Savage* lately lost at the Isle of Cape Breton. –

1. Council Minutes, N. S. Arch.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. S. *Milford* ¹

Novr 1776 Cape Ann So 70d W Dist 50 Leags
Saturday 23d at 2 A M wore Ship at 8 saw a Strange Sail in the S.E.
 Quarter made Sail & gave Chase at 9 up Tp Gallt Yard out
 2d Reef Tp. & first Reef Mn Tp Sail at Noon coming up with
 the Chase fast
 Little Wind & Cloudy latter little Wind & thick Hazey weather
 with little rain At 2 P M Tack't Ship & stood after the Chase
 at 3 fired 2 shot at the Chase at ½ past Do the Chase brot
 too at 4 Spoke her & brot too the Mn Tp Sail to the Mast She
 proved to be the *Carolina* Brigg from Verseles for Hambrough
 but was taken by the *true Blue* Rebbel Privateer 35 days before
 we retook her ² Sent the Boat on bd with an officer & took
 Possn of the Prize. At 8 Do took the Prize in tow hoist'd the
 Cutter in & made Sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. Massachusetts privateer, William Cole, master.

RESOLVE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT RELATIVE TO PRIZE
BRIGANTINE *Nancy* ¹

The Committee of Both Houses to whom were referred the Letters recd by the Honble Board from the Honble James Bowdoin & Wm Sever Esqrs relative

to Brigantine [*Nancy*] sent into Plimouth by Capt [Simeon] Sampson being a Prize with a Cargo of Oyl & Blubber lately taken by him have Considered the same & beg leave to report by way of Resolve which is humbly submitted In Council Novr 23d 1776

Read & sent down

P Thomas Cushing P order
John Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representatives Nov. 1776

Resolved That The Honble William Sever Esqr Agent for the Southern District be and hereby is Impowered & directed to purchase for the use of this State all the Train Oyl and Blubber that came in a Prize Brigantine lately taken & sent into Plimouth by Capt Simeon Sampson Commander of the Brig *Independence* in Case said Brig with her Cargo Should Upon Tryal be Condemned, And he is also hereby directed to Send by Water the Seventy five Irish Fishermen that were taken prisoners in said Prize to Marblehead, in order to be sent to Hallifax by the Flag of Truce that lately came from thence in exchange for the same Number of Men that were brought to this State by the said Flag of Truce

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 175.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1776

Providence, November 23.

Capt. Carr, who arrived at Newport on Thursday from Hispaniola, informs, that on the 14th Instant, in Lat. 39, a little to the Eastward of Block-Island, he saw a Fleet of about 100 Sail, steering E. by N. one of which chased him a considerable Time.

Captain John Tillinghast, in the Privateer Sloop *Independence*, of 8 Guns, belonging to this Place has taken and carried into a safe Port a Ship¹ of 300 Tons, mounting 16 Carriage Guns, 3 and 4 Pounders, 8 Swivels, and having on board 30 Men, among them a Serjeant, Corporal and 11 private Soldiers: She was bound from Cork to the Army at New-York, laden with a valuable Cargo of Provisions, &c. Capt. Tillinghast engaged her about 20 Minutes, and then boarded her, where the Men were soon drove from their Quarters, leaving the Captain alone to defend the Ship. Captain Tillinghast was shot through the Body by a Musket Ball, but is recovered; three of his Men were likewise wounded, and two killed. On board the Prize the Serjeant and two Soldiers were killed, and the Captain and six Men wounded. Another Ship of 14 Guns, and a Brig mounting 8 Swivels, were in Company. Captain Tillinghast exchanged a few Broad-sides with the former, after securing his Prize, when they thought proper to sheer off. The Cargo of the Prize consists of 11,970 weight of Beef, 47,880 Weight of Pork, 14,625 Weight of Butter, 48,750 Weight of Oatmeal, 140,280 Weight of Flour, 44,800 Weight of Bread, 1200 Bushels of Peas, 1 Ton of Powder, a Quantity of Cannon Ball, 6 Tons of Cordage &c. A large Number of Provision Ships were to leave Cork soon after the above Vessels sailed, most of them armed, and to sail 10 or 12 in Company.

The Names of the Men killed on board the Privateer are John Angress, of Salem, and Peter Ingerfield, of Cambridge or Boston.

Public Vendue.

On Thursday, the 28th of Nov. inst. at Eleven in the Morning, will be sold by public Vendue, at Bedford, in Dartmouth, the following Prize Vessels, and their Cargoes, viz. The Ship *Capel* and her Cargo, consisting of 392 Hogsheads and 20 Tierces of Sugar, 140 Puncheons of Rum, 18 Bags of Cotton Wool, 60 Bags of Pimento, 120 Planks of Jamaica Mahogany and 12 Tons of Fustick. The Brig *General Wolfe*, and her Cargo, consisting of 205 Puncheons and 40 Half Puncheons of Jamaica Rum. The Brig *Lady Jane's* Cargo, consisting of 200 Puncheons, and 16 Half Puncheons of Grenada Rum, 40 Barrels of Sugar, 10 Pipes and 4 Half Pipes of excellent Madeira Wine, 5 Hogsheads of choice Claret Wine, also 51 Bags of Cocoa, 1 Bale of Cotton and 6 Quarter Casks of Madeira Wine.

And on Thursday following, the 5th of December, at Eleven in the Morning, will be sold by public Vendue, at Plymouth, the Ship *Maria*, and her Cargo, consisting of 337 Hogsheads of Sugar, 32 Hogsheads of Rum, and 10 Bags of Cotton Wool.

The Ship *Capel*, about 300 Tons. The Brig *General Wolfe*, about 140 Tons, and the Ship *Maria*, about 350 Tons, will be put up on the Days of Sale above mentioned. They are as well found as other Folks Vessels are, and I suppose will sail as fast.

J. Russell, Auctioneer.

Wanted Immediately,

A Surgeon for the Privateer Schooner *Eagle*. A Person properly qualified will meet with good Encouragement, by applying to

John Mathewson

N.B. A Number of Hands are likewise wanted by Tuesday next.

The Officers and Men belonging to the private Sloop of War *Sally*, James Munro Commander, are desired to call for their respective Shares on the Subscribers, who are Agents for her first Cruise.

Clark and Nightingale

The Privateer Ship *Blaze Castle*, mounting 20 Six Pounders, will sail on Wednesday next. A few good Seamen are wanted for said Ship.

Providence, Nov. 22, 1776.

1. The *Friendship*.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO FRANCIS LEWIS AND PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
PHILADELPHIA ¹

Gentlemen,

Hartford Novr 23 1776.

I Received yours 18th Ulto Inclosing a Letter to Capt Thos Kennedy, also directions &c Relative to the Distination of his Voyage,² at the time your favour came to hand Capt Kennady was Loaded & ready to proceed on his Voyage & agreeable to your directions I fill'd up the Bills Lading, and Inclosed them as you desired to your friends at Havre De Grace in France, and being obliged to go into the Country, I wish'd Capt Kennedy a Good Voyage, & sett out on my Journey but on my return (which was in a Week) I was Suppriz'd

to find Capt Kennedy still in port, and the Ship detained by Capt Seth Harding of an arm'd Brig belonging to this State, I immediately sent an Express to his Honor the Govenour to know if it was by his order that the Ship was detained but received no answer, and as the Govenour & Council were setting in this Town I came up here to see if the Ship might proceed on her Voyage, and Last evening I waited on them, and at their request I am desired to keep the Ship in Port untill I receive your further orders for her Sailing, as they think you will consent to have her unladen at N[ew] L[ondon], when you receive the inclosed depositions of Sundry persons in N L which was sent to his Honour by the N L Committee setting forth the great difficulty there is in getting out to Sea without falling into the hands of our enemies and further that the Govr & Council think that incase part of the British Troops should make an excursion to the Eastward, the article of Wheat would be much wanted here being none & is now at a Dollar pr busl as to what is said in one of the depositions reflecting on Capt Kennedy[s] Conduct being not friendly & I must in Justice to his Character say, that I believe him to be as Good a man as could be employed in the buissness you was pleased to Honor him with. True it is that the greatest part of his Ships Crew were persons that have been brought into America by our Crusing Vessells (having only four persons besides himself but was in that Situation on board) it being impossible to get any other, as to the men of Warr Crusing of[f] the Harbour at the time Kenedy was to Sail, there where four at Anchor of[f] Gardiners Island, and our intention was to have Sailed through Fishers Island Sound, and into the Vinyard & over the Sholes, as the day before a Ship taken by the *Cabot* was bro't into N L that way, by an excellent pilot who I ingag'd to take charge of Kenedy, and it was his opinion that he could carry him out, thus I have mentioned the Facts, and the Ship will be detained untill I here from you again which I hope will be Soon, as I think the Wheat is been too long already on board & begins to take damage, and where it mine I would rather sell then Ship it & Load the Ship with Flex Seed, but must Say that there is no seamen to be had only such as are taken in British Ships the risque of having such people you must be Sensible is 'worthy of consideration, those that Kennady employed were as Good of the kind as could be had & seemed much averse to be taken by any of the British ships & what is in their favour in my opinion they refus'd taking their Months advance before Sailing choosing rather to have it on their arrival in france. I emmagine I can dispose of the Sead on Board for near the first Cost if you determine to give up the Voyage I have not to add but am Gentlemen [&c.]

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Kennedy commanded the ship *Mary*.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Fishkill] Die Sabbati, 9 HO. A.M.

Novr. 23rd, 1776.

Mr. Wisner and Gilbert Livingston's report was read.

Resolved, That a copy of the said report be transmitted to General Schuyler, with a request that he will favour the Convention with his advice on the best and

most effectual plan for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, and that the committee of the Convention of this State appointed to obstruct the navigation of Hudson's river, be instructed to cause a nautical survey to be made of such parts of the river as may be most effectually obstructed, so as not only to impede the navigation but likewise to prevent the landing of troops below such obstruction; that they endeavour to procure the advice of the general officers and engineers respecting the said obstruction.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to obstruct the navigation of Hudson's river, be instructed not to pay the blacksmiths who made the chain which was lately drawn across the said river, and broken by the tide, until such time as the sufficiency of their work can be properly examined; and that the said committee take proper measures for that purpose.

Saturday, 3 ho. P.M. Novr. 23rd, 1776.

A letter from General George Clinton, was received and read.

A draft of the river, enclosed, was also exhibited, and committed to the committee of the Convention of this State, appointed to obstruct the navigation of Hudson's river.

A letter from Messrs. Augustine Lawrence and Samuel Tudor dated this day, was received and read.

A draft of an answer thereto, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, that is to say:

In Committee of Safety,
Fishkill, 23rd Novr. 1776.

Gentlemen – Your letter of yesterday concerning a quantity of rigging, to be furnished by you by an order of the marine committee, is under consideration; as the order is explicit, we advise you to comply with it immediately.

Capt. Ivers represents to us that it is impracticable to carry the cables by land, but that he has yarn sufficient to make the cables of, and that they cannot be safely carried until they are warped and tarred; this matter we leave with you, and advise, if it be the only practicable method, that it be pursued, and that Mr. Ivers go with the yarn and finish the cables. In case you cannot hire wagons or teams to carry the quantity of rigging wanted, you are hereby empowered to impress them, giving sixteen shillings per day for each ox team with drivers, (say four oxen) and twelve shillings per day for each waggon and horses, and drivers, they finding themselves, to carry the same to the first town in Connecticut on the road leading to Middletown.²

I am, gentlemen, with respect [&c.]

By order.

To Captains Laurence and Tudor.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 714–15.

2. The rigging was ordered by the Marine Committee to be sent to Middletown for use of the Continental frigate *Trumbull*.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[New York] 23rd Novr – Rain last night Arrived a fleet from England, & Cork, under Convoy of the *Mermaid*, with Recruits and provisions.

Part of the troops for the Expedition are to embark to Morrow.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 114.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Number 13.

Eagle Off New York

Sir

November the 23d 1776.

The General thinking fit to move with a large Part of the Army to the Right of the Rebel Forces, who were preparing to establish themselves for the Winter on the Heights above King's bridge as well as on the North part of York Island, the Embarkation of the Troops in the Flat-Boats and small Vessels provided, was made from Kep's Bay in the Night of the 11th of last Month; under the Direction of Commodore Hotham with the Captains of the Ships from which the Boats were manned, as in the former Instances. And the Troops were landed in the Morning on the Peninsula of Frog's Neck in the Sound, about ten Miles Eastward from New York, without Opposition.

A thick Fog prevailing when the Boats entered the dangerous passage through Hell-Gate, every ill consequence was to be apprehended. But it fortunately happened, that no other Injury was sustained, besides the oversetting of an Artillery-Boat, by which Accident two Field-Pieces and three Men were lost.

It had been some time before resolved, in order to prevent the Enemy from receiving Supplies by the North River, to send a Detachment of Ships above their Works at Jeffery's Hook on York Island and the opposite Shore of Jersey; between which they had been lately making fresh Attempts to block the Channel. Captain Parker in the *Phoenix* was again chosen for this Service with the *Roebuck* and *Tartar*. The Wind did not permit the Ships to pass the Enemy's Works until the ninth. By the Accounts I have a few Days since received from Captain Parker, I find the Ships had suffered much in their Masts and Rigging. The loss of Men, as in the enclosed Return, was less considerable. Of four of the Enemy's Gallies chased from their Stations behind the Line of sunken Frames and Vessels placed to obstruct the Passage of the River, two were taken; One mounting a Thirty-two Pounder with Swivels, the other two Nine-Pounders and two four-pounders. The two remaining Gallies with some small Vessels being favored by the Tide and Weather, escaped the Ships in shoal Water, where they had sufficient Protection from the Shore, which was in the Enemy's possession.

The General judging it necessary to make a second Movement with the Troops he conducted, further to the Eastward of Frog's Neck; the Light Infantry, Grenadiers and other Corps of the first Embarkation, were again taken into the Flat Boats, and landed the 18th on Pell's Neck, separated from Frog's Neck by Hutchinson's River. The rest of the Army which had only that narrow Stream to pass, were conveyed over with the Artillery and Baggage a few Hours after. And the second Division of the Hessians that came under Convoy of the *Diamond* the nineteenth, were carried up in the Flat-Boats, and landed the 23d on Myers

Neck, the post of Communication with the Fleet last established, nearer to New Rochelle.

This Position of the Army requiring further Provision to be made for keeping the Intercourse open by Water with York Island, the *Rose* and *Sénégal* were added to the Frigates and small Armed Vessels before stationed in the Sound for that Purpose.

It is incumbent on me to represent to their Lordships on this Occasion, and I cannot too pointedly express, the unabating Perseverance and Alacrity with which the several Classes of Officers and Seamen of the Ships of War and Transports, have supported a long Attendance and unusual degree of Fatigue consequent of these different Movements of the Army. Captain [Charles] Phipps and the Detachment of Seamen under his Command, who were further appointed to assist in the Service of the Artillery upon an Emergency, have acquired much Credit by their spirited Conduct on that Duty.

The Enemy retreating on every Occasion as the Army advanced, were forced from the White Plains (where they seemed prepared to make some stand) into the North Castle District. And have finally retired with the greatest Part of their Forces behind the Croton River. Whereby the Communication was opened from York Island with the Continent, by Kingsbridge.

On the 16th instant the General directed an Attack to be made on their Lines adjacent to Fort Washington, a regular Work, constructed upon the high Grounds above Jeffery's Hook. It was appointed to be carried on from the Side of New-York, of Kingsbridge; And by two separate Embarkations from the Continent, across the last River. Thirty Flat Boats were ordered up to Kingsbridge by the North River the Night of the 14th under the Direction of Captain [Thomas] Wilkinson, (who has distinguished himself very much in the different Parts of this and the subsequent Operation) assisted by Captain [Andrew Pye] Molloy. The Batteaux, mostly manned from Transports, were commanded by Lieutenant Botham of the *Brune*, Lieutenant Loggie of the *Mercury*, and the Agent Lieutenant Henry.

The Troops embarked in the Boats had a considerable Fire to sustain from the Enemy in their passage across the East River, and at their Landing. But having surmounted every Obstacle, under the further Disadvantage of a very steep ascent to gain the Flank of the Enemy's Line; And the other Attacks succeeding at the same time, the Fort was completely invested in the Evening. The Rebels, in number about two thousand seven hundred, were thereupon induced to surrender Prisoners of War. And several Pieces of Cannon with a considerable Proportion of Military Stores, were taken in the Fort and Out-Works.

Captain Wilkinson's Presence being deemed most material with the Flat-Boats, the *Pearl* was left under the Direction of the first Lieutenant Scot, to be placed for covering the March of the Hessian Troops, and to flank the Enemy's Lines on the Side of the North River: In which Service his Behavior was much approved. The same Commendation is due to the Officers and Seamen in the Boats. Only one of the last was killed and five wounded; the Loss of Men at the Landing having happened chiefly amongst the Troops.

Twenty more Flat-Boats which were sent up the North River under Captain Phipps, passed the Enemy's Posts undiscovered in the Night of the 18th. And a Detachment from the Army commanded by Lord Cornwallis, being landed on the Jersey shore the 20th in the Morning above the Enemy's Redoubts opposite to Jeffery's Hook, and unperceived by the Rebels for some time; They soon became possessed of the Redoubts without Loss. Some few of the Enemy were killed, and about Seventy taken, with many pieces of Artillery and a large Quantity of Ammunition and Stores.

The sudden Effect of these two unexpected Attacks, seems to have made great Impression upon them.

In my Report to their Lordships upon these several Transactions, particular Notice is due to the Ability testified in the Direction and Conduct of many difficult and very fatiguing Services, which Captain Ferguson of the *Brune* was charged with, preparatory to and in the Progress of the various Movements of the Army, from the time of the first Descent on York Island to this Period. Lieutenant Botham of the same Ship, and the Agents Lieutenants Knowles and Henry (the last more especially) having had a considerable Share in the Arrangement as well as Execution of such Services, are likewise entitled to a particular Distinction on this Occasion. And the unwearied Spirit of the Seamen, from the Transports as well as Ships of War, in dragging the Artillery up the difficult Heights for sustaining the Infantry on their Landings, can never be exceeded.

The General, desirous to take Advantage of every Opportunity for prosecuting his intended Operations whilst the Season would admit, had some time since applied to have Transports for ten thousand Men, with an adequate Naval Force, prepared for a separate Service. The Command thereof, under the Circumstances of Lord Shulldham's Application to return to England, has devolved on the Commodore Sir Peter Parker, who will have the Ships of War and Transports under his Direction as in the Account annexed.

I have thought it necessary for the speedy Conveyance of the General's Dispatches on the present Occasion, to appoint the *Tamar* for that purpose; Having had the Sloop cleaned and refitted here for her Passage to Europe, in the best Manner that the Materials to be provided in our present Circumstances would permit, Captain [Christopher] Mason is directed to the . . . port he can first most conveniently gain in England; and to wait to receive their Lordships Commands for his further Proceedings. I am, with great Consideration, Sir, [&c.]

Howe

[Endorsed] R 30 Decr (2 Inclosures).

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Copy.

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 &c in North America.

Whereas it has been judged expedient whilst the Season may still admit, to take every possible Advantage thereof, and to prosecute fresh Invasions on such

Parts of the Coasts and Settlements of the King's rebellious Subjects, as they might by further Opportunity afforded be able to strengthen, and under such Protection continue their illegal Opposition to His Majesty's just Authority and Government with greater Effect; It has been determined in consequence to proceed with a sufficient Force in Troops and Ships of War for making a Descent on the Colony of Rhode Island, in view to take an established Possession of the Town and Port.

And whereas by the leave granted at the request of the Vice Admiral Lord Shuldham, for his Lordship to return to England by the earliest Conveyance, the Direction of the separate Service intended devolves in Succession upon You; You are therefore hereby authorised and directed to take under your Command and Conduct (in Conjunction with the Commodore Hotham, subordinate to You) the several Ships of War and Transports specified in the Lists annexed, and destined for that Service: the respective Commanders and Agents concerned having received suitable Notice thereof.

When the Land-Forces under the Command of the Lieutenant General Clinton have been embarked, and every Requisite provided for that Occasion; You are to proceed with the said Ships of War and Transports, as soon as the Wind and Weather will permit, to the Colony of Rhode Island; For making a Descent in such Manner, and on such Part or Parts thereof, as with the Concurrence of the Lieutenant General, or other the chief Commander of the said Forces, is thought fit. Being further to render with the Ships of War and Seamen under your Command, every Assistance for promoting the Purpose of this Armament, on Requisition from the Lieutenant General, that your Means will admit; Or as You may otherwise in your Discretion and Judgment see cause from time to time separately to direct.

And as a further Object of your present Appointment will be, to prevent the rebellious Inhabitants of the said Colony and Parts adjacent in their Purpose, by the different Armed Vessels they have prepared, to make Capture of, and appropriate to their Use, the Ships and Effects of His Majesty's faithful Subjects; it is recommended to your particular Attention, as soon as the Progress of the Army in the Reduction of the Island will admit, by every possible Means to seize, burn or otherwise destroy, such Armed Vessels taking shelter in the Ports and Harbours thereof. And also with the Assistance (when it may be necessary) of such Land Forces as can be spared by the Lieutenant General, on your Application to that Effect, to recover from the Possession of the Rebels for being restored to their rightful Owners, such of their Ships and Cargoes as may now be detained in the Harbour of Providence, or other Harbours and Ports as before expressed.

Carysfort. And whereas the Ships named in the Margin are stationed off
Greyhound. of the Port of Rhode Island, to prevent all Intercourse there-
Merlin Sloop. with, or the Escape of the Enemy's Ships from that Port; You
 are at liberty to employ them in any Manner you judge requisite for the Service You have in Charge.

You will please to make known to me, the Progress of your Operations on that Service, or any material Incident arises; and to accomodate the Lieutenant General with suitable Opportunities, by detaching One (or more) of the smaller

Frigates attending upon the Fleet, when he shall have Occasion to correspond with the Commander in Chief of the Army.

You are to communicate to him the Contents of these Instructions and all the Information You may acquire relating to the Object of your present Appointment: And to co-operate with him in every Measure that he may propose for the Benefit of the King's Service, as you are able, in all other Respects. And in case of your Inability to direct the Conduct of such separate Services as aforesaid, these Authorities and Instructions are to remain in equal Force with the Officer on whom the chief Command of the Squadron may from time to time devolve.

Given onboard His Majesty's Ship the *Eagle* off New York the twenty third day of November 1776

Howe.

To The Commodore Sir Peter Parker, hereby appointed to command a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships intended for a separate Service; Or the Officer on whom the chief Command thereof, for the time being, may devolve.

By Command of the Vice Admiral

Josh Davis.

[Endorsed] In Lord Howe's Lre of 25 Nov 1776.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE¹

Novemr 76

Moord at the Mouth of the Killns.

Saturdy 23

at Noon a pilot Came on Bd unmoor'd & hove into 1/2 Cable on the Bt Br

Light Airs Inclinable to Calms with some Rain Recd some New Sails Stopt the Schooner *Venice* from Barbadoes Neck to New Brunswick Laden with Flower Soap & Candles for the Rebels Jams Davis Master & Owner. at 10 PM weigh'd & dropt out of the Kilns at 11 Came too under Staten Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN¹

Novr 1776

Sandy Hook N11.03W 59 Leagues

Saturday 23d

Fresh breezes & Cloudy at 8 AM Gave Chace to the SW

Do wear at 2 PM brot too the *Harts of Oak*² Sloop from Cape Francois bound to Philadelphia, laden with Rum Limes &ca at 5 made Sail and gave Chace to the NNW at 7 finding the Ship in 8 fm water leav'd off Chace at 9 Saw a Sail to the SE gave chase at 12 brot too the *Dispatch* Brigg belonging to Cork from the Granades, that had been taken by the *Congress* Sloop Privateer of Six 3 pounders.³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

2. *Hearts of Oak*, E. Howell, master, with rum, linens, turpentine and dry goods, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

3. The Pennsylvania privateer sloop *Congress*, William Greenway, commander, commissioned October 3, 1776, *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 740.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER'S FLEET FOR THE RHODE ISLAND EXPEDITION ¹

Eagle
off New York
Novr the 23d 1776.

List of Ships of War and Transports destined to proceed on a particular Service
under the Command of the Commodore Sir Peter Parker.

Ships of War				
Rate	Ships Names	Guns	Men	Commanders
4	<i>Chatham</i>	50	367	{Commodore Sir Peter Parker {Captain Toby Caulfield
4	<i>Preston</i>	50	367	{Commodore Hotham {Captain Samuel Uppleby
3	<i>Asia</i>	64	500	George Vandeput
4	<i>Renown</i>	50	350	Francis Banks
4	<i>Centurion</i>	50	350	Richard Brathwaite
4	<i>Experiment</i>	50	320	James Wallace
5	<i>Diamond</i>	32	220	Charles Feilding
5	<i>Brune</i>	32	220	James Ferguson
5	<i>Emerald</i>	32	220	Benja Caldwell
5	<i>Ambuscade</i>	32	220	John Macartney
6	<i>Cerberus</i>	28	200	John Symons
6	<i>Mercury</i>	20	160	James Montague
Sloop	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	14	125	Alexander Graeme

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER'S FLEET FOR THE RHODE ISLAND EXPEDITION [continued]

Transports

Corps	No of Officers & Men	Ships	Tonnage	How distinguished	Number of Fascines	Flat Boats
Light Infantry	280	<i>Mercury</i>	295	584 Red ————— Main		1
		<i>Argo (Greave)</i>	289			
Grenadiers	407	<i>Rachl & Mary</i>	320	631 Red ————— Fore		1
		<i>Hunter</i>	311			
Regt 10th	407	<i>Isabella</i>	362	613 White 1 Red Ball — Main		1
		<i>Empress</i>	251			
“ 38th	412	<i>Gr. Dss of Russia</i>	308	607 White 1 Red “ — Fore		1
3d Brig.		<i>Sea Venture</i>	299			
“ 52d	353	<i>Savile</i>	355	562 White 3 Red Balls — Fore		1
		<i>Antelope</i>	207			
“ 37th	359	<i>Eagle (Noble)</i>	344	584 White 3 Red “ — Main		1
		<i>Susannah (Brig)</i>	240			
Regt 22d	414	<i>James & William</i>	393	622 White 2 Red Balls — Main		
		<i>John</i>	229			
5th Brig.	“ 54th	<i>Gd Dke of Russia</i>		672 White 1 Blue Ball — Main		
	“ 63d	<i>Amity's Admonition</i>	410	693 White 1 Blue “ — Fore		
		<i>Three Sisters</i>	283			
	“ 43d	<i>Chambre</i>	360	591 White 2 Red Balls — Fore		
		<i>Earl of Orford</i>	231			

Hessian Brigades Du Corps	574	<i>Lord Sandwich</i> <i>New Blessing</i> <i>Charmg Sally</i> <i>Spring</i>	368 256 267 378	891	Blue 1 White Ball — Main	Topmast Head
Lasberg P. Charles	533	<i>Esk</i> <i>Tweed</i> <i>Judith</i>	304 162 377	844	Blue 2 White Balls — Main	
Ditfourth	580	<i>Eleonora</i> <i>Tryal</i> <i>Father's Goodwill</i>	286 230 333	893	Blue 3 White — Main	
Wuttginau	449	<i>John & Bella</i> <i>Young Tom</i> <i>Eagle (Hay)</i>	194 173 324	700	Blue 1 White Ball — Fore	
Schmidt Bunau	535	<i>Union (Child)</i> <i>Roman Emperor</i> <i>Sisters</i>	302 182 254	808	Blue 2 White Balls — Fore	
Huyn	427	<i>Minerva</i> <i>Glencairn</i> <i>Earl of Derby</i>	218 193 370	665	Blue 3 White “ — Fore	
Ordnance		<i>Nancy</i> <i>Noble Bounty</i>	245 273		Blue — Main	

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER'S FLEET FOR THE RHODE ISLAND EXPEDITION [continued]

List of Transports—Continued

262

	Ships	Tonnage	No of Horses	How Distinguished	Flat Boats
Cavalry Ships	<i>John Assistance</i>	302	32	White ————— Main	
	<i>Amity's Production</i>	256	28		
	<i>Minerva</i>	250	26		
	<i>Fanny (Cook)</i>	258	28		
	<i>Fanny (Cook)</i>	246	26		
Artillery Horse Ship	<i>Amity's Providence</i>	327	25	White ————— Fore	Topmast Head
Engineers Stores	<i>Felicity (Breeme)</i>	264		Red 3 Blue Balls — Fore	
Hospl Ships	<i>Dutton</i>	676		Yellow ————— Fore	1
	<i>Grosvenor</i>	714			1
Genl[s] Jones & Smith	<i>Earl of Effingham</i>	263		Red 1 White Ball — Main	
Army Victualler Genl Clinton's Baggage	<i>Sovereign</i>			Red 2 White Balls — Main	

AMERICAN THEATRE

Ships with Commanding Officers of Corps, are distinguished by a Swallow Tail in the Vane.

Agents for the above mentioned Transports.

Light Infantry, Grenadiers & Artillery —	Lieut Knowles
Third and Fifth Brigades — British —	" Parrey
Hessian Corps —	" Dickinson
Cavalry —	" Sutherland

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, November 23, 1776

To Lieutenants Bogart [Richard Boger] and [George] Ball, two prisoners of the British navy, and to be paid to James Smith, Esqr for their allowance, from 9 July, to 19 November, 1776, inclusive, 19 weeks, at 2 dollars a week, 76 dollars:

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 975, 977.

SAMUEL CHASE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Philada Novr 23d 1776

Gentlemen

Saturday

Since I wrote You on yesterday I saw a Letter from General Mifflin from Elizabeth Town dated the 21st Inst: in which he writes, that the Enemy crossed the North River below Dobbes ferry in 400 Boats, and stole a March to fort Lee, which the Garrison evacuated leaving all their Artillery, Cannon, Stores, provisions and their Baggage. We have not heard from the Army since the General Letter of the 19th – The Alarm of a fleet sailing from New York, with Troops is without any foundation. about 150 Transport & Store Ships sailed under Convoy of Commodore Shuldham in the *Bristol*, & two frigates, and are supposed to be bound to Ireland for provisions. This Information comes from General Mercer.

The Congress have resolved to encrease their Navy – two frigates of 36 Guns are to be built in our State.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Providence* ¹

Chester, November 23, 1776.

Five Pounds Reward.

Run away from the subscriber, living in the Borough of Chester, in the beginning of August last, a Mulattoe man, named Jack Jones, upwards of 24 years of age, a Cooper by trade, about 5 feet 7 inches high, wears his hair tied in a cue behind, has a hobbling gait when he walks, occasioned by the rheumatism formerly in his hips, this country born, speaks good English, can read, and write a tolerable hand, and can play pretty well on a fife, is a sly, smooth tongued fellow, and may probably forge a pass, and pretend to be a freeman; he went on board the *Providence* privateer, commanded by Captain [John Paul] Jones, when she lay opposite Chester, outward bound on her cruize, and am since informed by one of the hands, that he escaped from on board the first prize taken by the privateer, when she was retaken by the English, and came ashore at or near Egg-harbour, in Jersey, ² so that it is supposed he is lurking somewhere in Jersey, or perhaps may

have come to Philadelphia in expectation of getting his prize-money. Whoever takes up said fellow and brings him home, or secures him in any goal in this province, so that his master may have him again, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges, paid by

Elisha Price

N.B. His clothes cannot be well described, as he left the most of his old clothes at home, and is supposed to have got new.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, February 5, 1777.

2. "Augt 19 1776 John Jones Landsman [turned over to] Prize Brig *Britannia* Agt 27 1776," *Providence Muster Roll*, Transcript of Military Papers, R. I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday 23d Novr 1776. —

Capt William Deane is appointed to Superintend the Gallies now Building by George Brett and Caleb Herbert and he is desired to repair to the Places where the said Gallies are Building and cause them to be increased to one foot greater Depth of Hold than was at first directed Provided such alteration can be made without affecting the Strength of the said Gallies. —

1. Navy Board Journal, 115, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO VAN BIBBER & HARRISON, MARTINIQUE ¹

Martinique,
Gentlemen,

At the request of his Excellency the Governour and the Honble the Council, we have consign'd you by the Schooner *Revenge* Captain Samuel Towles 25 Hhds upland Tobacco and 210 Barrels Flour mostly superfine for which you have Invoice and Bill of lading Inclos'd You'll be pleased to dispose of it at the best price your Market will afford and invest the proceeds as p Invoice for returns herewith sent you. We rely on you to give the Captain all necessary assistance, and as good dispatch as possible, and for your processing the Goods order'd on the best terms and of good quality. —

This Cargo is purchas'd and consign'd you on the public Account of the State, and there are several other Cargoes now purchas'd and to be purchas'd on the same Account and shou'd we meet with success in this adventure it may determine us to send several of the other Cargoes to your Island and of course to your address . . . Be pleas'd to direct your letters and returns in consequence of this Consignment

To. Thomas Whiting Esquire }
first Commissioner of the Navy }
Virginia }

By order of the Board I am &c

[Williamsburg] 23d Nov. 1776 — (Signed) Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Seaford*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS ¹

Novemr 1776

At Sea [off St. Eustatius]

Saturday 23rd

At 6 AM Manned the Pinnace & Sent her after a Schooner at 12 Do the town of St Eustatia NNE 2 Leagues.

Do [Light airs] & fair Wr Sent the Cutter on board a Sloop from St Martins to St Eustatia at 6 PM the Pinnace Retd having taken the Schooner, Proved to be from Baltimore in New England [*sic*] to St Eustatia Sent an Officer & 6 hands on board & took her hands Out.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/880.

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Gent.

St Pierre Novr 23d 1776.

We wrote you on the 2d Inst by Capt [Thomas] Conway who sailed the 4th with a Cargoe consisting of Muskets, Powder, Woolens, Linnens & Salt to the Amount of £3944.19.10 this Curr[enc]y which we hope are all, or will be soon, safe in Store with you. . . .

We are glad to find you were loadi[n]g out some vessells for us – Our Creditors are growing emportunate & unless paid soon will be exceedingly clamorous & troublesome.

Linnens are in great Abundance – Powde[r] we are quite overstocked with, & some small Arms may be bought: But we know of no Brass Cannon or Howitzers, & Woolens are yet scarce. –

The *Elizabeth* Capt Laugier got safe into Chas Town & sold your powder there with the Cargoe and has since arrived here with a fine parcel of rice & Indigo . . .

Tobacco is rising fast in Statia where several Ships are loading with it for Holland, & begins to sell well here. But Flour & Corn are very low & will keep down 'till towards the Spring. . . .

1. Red Book, XVI, Md. Arch.

24 Nov. (Sunday)

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DARTMOUTH, DATED NOV. 24.” ¹

I have the pleasure to inform you of the arrival of the prize brig *Active*, taken by Captain [John Paul] Jones in the *Alfred*, and that he has been fortunate enough to take a large and very valuable transport with cloathing, and about 30 soldiers, bound for Canada.²

1. *Continental Journal*, November 28, 1776.2. The *Mellish*.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹[*Roebuck*, in Hudson River, October 28 to November 24]

After the reduction of this Post [Fort Washington] which the Rebels had looked upon as almost impregnable, The General [Howe] lost no time in pursuing his success, and immediately sent my Lord Cornwallis with 5. Thousand Men into the Jerseys to attack the Fort on the opposite side of the River. They embarked in the Flat Boats early in the Evening, intending to land at Midnight at a place about 5 Miles further up the River: But when his Lordship came to see the place, the path seemed so narrow, & difficult of access, that he could not be persuaded that it was the right spot, and went alongshore 2 or 3 Miles further to look for a better: by which delay the Enemy got apprized of their being landed and had just time enough to make their escape before the Army appeared in sight, and had drawn out of the Fort some of their Cannon & Mortars, but as My Lord Cornwallis was immediately reinforced to 10 Thousand Men he marched into the Country, where the Rebels flew every where before him, and all their Cannon & Military stores fell into his hands, among which were the Mortars that had been taken in the *Nancey* ordnance Brig the last winter,² and every thing else of any consequence that they had taken from us. During this time My Lord Howe was exerting himself to the utmost to annoy the Enemy by sea: every Ship was sent out to cruize on different stations the moment they could be no longer useful at New York

1. Hamond, No. 5, UVL

2. Hamond was in error; the only mortar found on board the *Nancy* burst during the siege of Boston.JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Perseus*, CAPTAIN GEORGE KEITH ELPHINSTONE¹

November 1776.

Running up the Narrows for New York.

Saturday 23d

Light breezes and hazy. at ½ past 10 (PM) heard the report of Guns in the SW quar At 11 made Sail, saw two Ships & 2 Sloops bearing down on us, ½ past made the Private Signl and Cleared Ship for Action. At 12, One of the Ships hailed us, but not to be understood.

Sunday 24th

set the Foresail in order to Tack and get to Windwd – the Two Ships fir'd several Shot at us. ½ past Tack'd and run close alongside one of the Ships which we hailed and proved to be the *Willm & Mary* Transport from London for New York with 3 Captures.² 2 Brot too at Noon made Sail. 4 Sail in Company.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/688.

2. The prize ships, *Hawke*, S. Williams, master, and *Harlequin*, Nathaniel Phillips, master, both from Hispaniola for Rhode Island, and retaken transport *Layton*, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.RICHARD HENRY LEE TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 24th Novr 1776

Very long before your recommendation of Mr [Thomas] Plunket came to hand, a Capt. [James] Disney had been appointed Capt. of Marines on board the

Virginia, upon the recommendation of Mr [Thomas] Stone.

The Congress have determined to build in Maryland two Frigates of 36 guns each, and I make no doubt but that one at least of these will be built at Baltimore. I suppose, when the [Marine] Committee meets on Tuesday next, that directions concerning the building the new ships will issue to the respective States. Not a word has been yet said in Congress touching a quarrel with Portugal, no[r] will any such thing happen, I imagine, unless they should confiscate any of our Vessels.

It will give us much pleasure to hear that Capt. Nicholson is ready for sea, and I think we can furnish him from hence with one such Anchor as you mention. Capt. Biddles frigate *Randolph* of 32 guns is now completely ready except that she wants Men, which want we hope to remedy when the Vessels daily expected, arrive. The *Virginia* & the *Randolph* cruising together, might bring us in some of the enemies scattering frigates that now go about, very badly manned, injuring our trade extremely. I wish therefore, that every effort were strained to get the *Virginia* ready. Our enemies army has been pretty busy since they retreated from the White plains—Already they have got possession both of Mount Washington and Fort Lee, and they talk, or the Tories talk for them, strongly of their aiming at this City. I fancy they will find some difficulty, and not a little danger in the accomplishment of this part of their plan.

1. Ballagh, ed., *The Letters of Richard Henry Lee*, I, 225–27.

25 Nov.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THREE PRIZE MASTERS ¹

Sir

By J. P. J. &ca &ca

You are hereby Appointed commander of our prize the Ship [blank]

You are required and directed to keep Company with me and Obey all my future Orders and all Signals made on board here, agreeable to the Copy of Signals which you receive herewith for your Government. — Should You Unfortunately be Separated from the Squadron You are to proceed with all possible dispatch to the Most convenient port within the United States of America.

I would Advise you to proceed through Nantucket shoals to Rhode Island. — be careful of the Ship with her cargo and Stores let nothing under your care be wasted or Misused — Your careful attention to these things will promote your future Intrest

Given on board the *Alfred*

Novr 25th 1776

J. P. J.

3 Copies

To Messrs Saml Tiley, Mich. Knies, & James Bechup Commanders of the Ships *Betty*, *Surprise* and *Molly*

thier Stations — The *Betty* on the *Alfreds* Larboard Qr

The *Surprise* a Stern of the *Betty* and the *Molly* Astern of the *John*

N.B. the day and Night Signals to be made with or without a Gun Meeting after Separation — those to windward shall Clew up their Main topsoil and Spread

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an Ensign on the Maintopmast Backstay from the Cross trees Downwards – and those to leeward shall answer by Clewing up their Fore Topsail and Spreading an Ensign on the Fore topmast Backstay.

3 Copies

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6510, LC.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO LIEUTENANT JOHN PECK RATHBUN ¹

Sir

By J. P. J. &ca &ca

You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the Ship *John* and as she is Armed for War you are to keep company with me and observe and obey all future directions from me and all Signals made on board here

You receive herewith a copy of Signals for your Government and should we fall in with any of the Enemy's Ships of War you are to give me all possible Assistance. – Should you Unfortunately be Separated from the Squadron you are to proceed with all possible dispatch to the Most convenient port within the United States of America

I would Advise you to proceed through Nantucket Shoals to Rhode Island Your careful Attention to these things will Secure my regard and promote your own Intrest.

Given on board the Ship *Alfred*

Novr 25th 1776.

J. P. J.

To John P. Rathbun Esqr ²

Commr of the Ship *John*

N B your station in the Squadron is at the distance of two or three Cables lengths from the *Alfreds* Starboard Quarter – and you are at no time to leave that Station Without Orders.

The day and Night Signals will be made with or without a Gun. – Meeting again after Separation – those to windward shall clew up their Main Topsail and spread an Ensign on the Main topmast Backstay from the Cross trees Downwards – and those to leeward shall Answer by Clewing up their Foretopsail and Spreading an Ensign on the fore topmast Backstay

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6511, LC.

2. Rathbun was a lieutenant in the Continental Navy. He served in the sloop *Providence* with Esek Hopkins' fleet, and was transferred to the *Alfred* October 20, 1776.

LIEUTENANT JOHN PECK RATHBUN TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES ¹

[On board the ship *John*]

Captn Jones Sir

Monday Novr the 25

As Your Orders By Leiut Hamilton ² works Such An Afect upon the Captn and I Cant find that he any ways Encouraged the People to behave as they did but on the Contrary took a Cutlass from one of them ³ I would beg It as a favour

If Your Honr would Please to let him tarry On board as he is unwell Sir I have the Honr to Stile my Self Yr [&c.]

John P Rathbun

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6514, LC.
2. Marine Lieutenant William Hamilton, of the *Alfred*.
3. Edward Watkins, master of the prize ship *John*.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO LIEUTENANT PHILIP BROWN¹

By J. P. J. &ca

Sir You herewith receive a General Copy of Signals for your Government as Commander of our prize the *Mellish*. – You are to observe my former directions and Your Station in the Squadron Shall now be on the *Alfred's* Starboard Quarter at the distance of two or three Cables lengths and You are hereby directed to continue in that Station and at no time to leave it without Orders Unless to prevent Eminent Danger.

Given on board the Ship *Alfred*

Novr 25 – 1776.

J. P. J.

To Philip Brown Esqr
Commr of the Ship *Mellish*

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6513, LC.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. SLOOP *Hope*¹

Remark's &ca on Mondy the 25th Novr 1776

- 11 [A. M.] Tack'd Seel Islands NWBW 2 Leags foggy Wr
1 [P. M.] Fresh Breezes and Foggy, Wr Standing off & on, abreast of the Seel Islands, up T-Gallt yards, Saw a Sail, in the SE Qr Do Sail Chaced us at ½ past 4 Tack'd, & Stood to wards the Strange Sail, Came to Action, at 5 the Enemy made Sail from us; out all Reefs, Let T-G-Sails, and Stidding Sails, and Chac'd, and Kep Firing the Bow Chaces, at 7 the Chace Cal'd for Quarters, Sent the Boats with the Leutenant and took the Prisoners out, Sent 22 of the Prisoners on bd the *Nancey*,² the Prize Proved to be *Independance* Rebel Brig of 14 Guns Six Prs and 10 four Pounder with 10 Swivels and two Couhorns with 95 Men Commanded by Simion Samson, out 5 Weeks from Plymouth, Had Kil'd by the Enemy Heugh Robison, Seman, wounded Wm Gregory Marine our M. Mast wounded in Several Places, Sails & Rigging much Tore Empd Splicing & Knoting the Rigging

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1794.
2. The *Nancy* was a transport under convoy.

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE¹

[Extract]

Portsmo Nov. 25th 1776

Iv'e not heard of the Guns from Connecticut, but have just heard that Mr Cushing has said that Mr Manly² is to have them Guns at Connecticut & that

he has sent a Man to take them if this should be so I shall think verry hard of it we are suffered thus to be imposed on that tho' we have taken such pains to get Ready should be Obliged to lay all Summer & at last wait for Mr Manly who cannot be equipt for long time; pray look into this matter; I think the Intention is to carry this Ship round to Boston that every thing might be done there – I sent a Sloop up to Boston for Shott which are there, (for this Ship) but nobody would deliver any untill Manly is supplied therefore obliged to return without any . . .

I should be glad to be inform'd Immediately what I am to Charge Commission on Prizes and what on the other Business you'll consider that, I am early & Late, at Expence of Clerks my Wharehouse like a Tavern,

Iv'e nothing to Inform you of this way The Privateer *McClary* sailed few Days since on a Cruize The Ship that Iv'e built for Moore & Co is called the *Portsmouth* therefore hope that [John] Roche's will be calld the *Hampshire* unless we should have orders to build a large one in that case it will be best to keep the name for her I understand that some large ones are to be built pray let me have orders to cut Timber as soon as may be that we may not be behind Hand I see the Absolute Necessity of proper attention's being paid to the Resolves of Congress by the Friends of Freedom other wise our whole Machine goes Soure like the Edystone but nothing under Heaven's that I know off will prevent the Generality of Mankind looking after self in preference to anything on Earth – If the Honle Congress would send in their Resolves to the Respective States & order them to be carried into execution it would do stop Privateering untill the Publick are served with Men &c few such measures would be Salutory –

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.
2. Captain John Manley of the Continental frigate *Hancock*.

LIST OF BRITISH MERCHANT SHIPMASTERS AND SEAMEN IN SALEM ¹

Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety

Salem November 25th 1776

Return of the Names of Prisoners, who are not Prisoners of War, and who have not entered on board any American armed vessel, – now in Salem —

William Pennock

John Bishop

John Fletcher

Richard Blyth

John Farrah

Benjamin Burton

[N]B the foregoing six persons are
all Masters of Vessells)

Thomas Millar

John Bradford

Thomas Badford

Gilbert Strachan

John Sylvin

James Reed

William Parrot

Aaron Proudén

John Jozer
 Richard Moor
 Joseph Harfield
 Robert Harrison
 Joseph Bran
 Robert Ward
 Benjamin Ripley
 William Craven
 John Towers
 John Nicholson
 Timothy William
 James Grague
 James Thompson
 John Aiming
 Robert Knox
 Samuel White
 Dennis Doyle

Henry Seton, a supercargo.
 William McGill, a supercargo.
 William Fitzpatrick
 James Way
 Groims
 Joseph Pickworth
 Ruskeen Kizer
 John Robertson
 Joseph Hoget
 Thomas Wilcocks
 Duncan McPherson
 [(]this last mentioned Person is by
 Trade a Dyer and is now at work at
 his business with Archibald Murphy
 of this Town where he is contented
 to stay)

By order & in behalf of the Committee,
 Tim. Pickering, junr. Chairman.
 To the Honourable The Council
 of the Massachusetts Bay

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 245.

“PRISONERS SENT TO MARBLEHEAD TO GO IN THE CARTEL, NOVEMR
 25TH 1776”¹

Capt Lumsdell [Alexander Lumsdale]	of the Ship <i>Hope</i> – prize
Charles McCarthy	Do Carpenter
John Wilson –	Do Marriner
George Weir.	Masters Mate of the <i>Juno</i>
James White.	Mariner Ditto
Thomas Mckay –	Do
James Scott –	Do
Thomas Kidwell	Do
Peter Money	Marriner of the Prize <i>Queen of England</i>
Charles Castel	Marriner of the Prize Brig <i>Elizebeth</i>
Joseph Broadbridge	Marriner of Ditto
Henry Harding	Carpenter of the Prize Ship <i>Lively</i>

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 189.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 25th Novr 1776. A.M.

Resolved that Mr [John] Brown be a Committee to purchase the Ship *Camden*, which is to be sold this day; and to offer £1,000: but if [i]t appears to him that she wou'd be cheap at £1,200, to go to that Sum: Also to offer 30/ P. Ct for bright Sugars.²

Adjourn'd 'till 4 o Clock P.M.

Att Jam^s Swan Secy.

Boston 25th Novr 1776. pm.

Mr. Brown Reported, that the Ship *Camden*, was sold, higher than the Sum the Board limited him to. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 10–11.

2. "On Monday next, 25th Instant, at XI o'Clock, Will be Sold by Public Vendue, on Tileston's Wharf, The Ship *Camden*, and her Cargo, Consisting of 140 Hogsheads of choice Sugars." *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, November 21, 1776. The *Camden* was the prize of Rhode Island privateer brig *Putnam*, Captain Christopher Whipple.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1776

Boston, November 25.

Yesterday 7-night arrived at Marblehead, a prize Brig of about 120 tons burthen, laden with Salt, said to be from Lisbon; taken by the sloop *Polly* of Marblehead, lately commanded by Captain [Nathaniel] Leech, who had the misfortune to be washed overboard five days after he left Port, and was drowned.

Thursday last a Prize Brig, laden with Oats, bound for the Fleet and Army at New-York, was carried into Marblehead. We have not heard by whom she was taken.¹

On Thursday next, the 28th of November, 1776, at Eleven o'Clock in the Morning, will be sold by public Auction on Richard Derby, Esq's; Wharf in Salem,

The Snow *Jenny*, and Appurtenances; also the Brigantine *Sally* and Appurtenances, together with her Cargo, consisting of about 5000 Bushels of best English Bla[ck Oats] Also the Brigantine *Providence Success*, [consisti]ng of about 500 Barrels of choice Gottenburgh [herri]ngs.

Walter Price Bartlett, Auctioneer.

N.B. The Snow *Jenny*, and Brigantine *Sally*, are about 120 Tons Burthen each, and will be put up precisely at Twelve o Clock.

On Tuesday the 3d of December 1776, will be sold by public Auction on the Long-Wharf in Salem, precisely at Nine o'Clock, A. M.

The Schooner *Kitty and Nancy*, about Ninety Tons Burthen, Bermudas Built of Mahogany and Cedar, a prime Sailer, and well found. — Inventory of Stores to be seen at the Time and Place of Sale.

W. P. Bartlett, Auctioneer.

1. The *Charming Sally* taken by Captain John Clouston in the Massachusetts state brig *Freedom*.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

Sir

Providence November 25th 1776.

I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 22d of October last with the inclosed Resolve of Congress,² and to inform you that before it came to Hand myself with the other Owners of the Privateer who took the Ship bound to Quebec³ being desirous that the Continent might have all the Goods in her which were necessary for the Army wrote to General Washington acquainting him with the Capture of the Ship and her Lading. In Consequence of which Brigadier General Mifflin appointed a Gentleman in this Town to purchase the abovementioned Goods who hath accordingly bought the Blankets being near Three Thousand, Three large Hogsheads of stout Shoes being the whole of that Article, and Three or Four Hogsheads of Camp-Kettles, and is now in Treaty for a large Quantity of coarse Cloths — Linens and Stockings for the same Purpose I am Sir [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

2. Resolve of October 23 reads:

Congress being informed, that a vessel from London to Quebec, [loaden] with dry goods, among which are many blankets and coarse cloths, fit for soldier's clothing, was lately brought into the state of Rhode Island:

Resolved, That Governor Cooke be requested immediately to purchase, at continental expence, for the use of the army under General Washington's command, all the said blankets and coarse cloths; that the blankets be sent to General Washington, and the cloths made up, agreeable to the directions of Brigadier General Mifflin, quarter master general.

Ordered, That the Committee for Cloathing forward the above resolution to Governor Cooke, and acquaint General Washington and Brigadier General Mifflin therewith.

Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 897.

3. The ship *Thomas*, captured by the Rhode Island privateer sloop *Hawke*, Captain Arthur Crawford, *Providence Gazette*, October 12, 1776.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE¹

Gentlemen

Newport November 25th 1776 –

I receivd yours of October 23rd and have Order'd the *Cabot* round from Boston – the *Hamden* is nearly fitted – the new Ships and the *Columbus* are ready but not yet fully mann'd – if they are not mann'd when the *Cabot* arrives I believe I shall take the Officers and Men out of the *Columbus*, and attempt to put your Orders in Execution with all the dispatch in my power – Capt'n [Nathaniel] Falconer by whom this comes will be able to inform you more fully in respect to our Circumstances – Inclosed you have a Copy of Capt'n [John Paul] Jones's Letter which I receiv'd last Evening by Mr Walter Spooner the Master of the *Alfred* who arrived yesterday at Bedford in the *Active* Prize, I hope the Ship with Cloathing may arrive Safe as that will be of great advantage to the States by Supplying the Army – Mr Spooner informs that the Ship had some Quantity of Arms, and says he heard the Captain Say her Cargo was worth £60,000 Sterling –²

I think it will be necessary for you to Send Orders for the *Alfred* *Providence*, and *Columbus* if She should be left behind directing them how to be Employ'd – it may be best to direct them to the Care of my brother to forward them to whatever Port they may come intoo – I hope you will give some directions in respect to Supplying the Sailors out of the Prize Goods as they will not be able to do Duty well in the Winter without and it is with difficulty we are able to Supply them with any –

I have not been able to find a Small Vessel fit for a Tender and think of making use of the *Hamden* for that purpose – I am with great Regard Gentlemen [&c.]

E H –

To the hon. John Hancock Esqr
President of the Marine Committee
at Philadelphia
p Capt Falconer –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Ship *Mellish*.COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LEONARD JARVIS¹

Sir

Newport, November 25th 1776 –

I receiv'd yours by Mr [Walter] Spooner, and am to inform you that it will be for the Publick Good and agreeable to the Orders of the Marine Committee, that you keep all the Cloathing, and other Things that are fit for the use of the Army or Navy untill you receive further Orders – the Anchors, Coal and indeed every thing that will be wanted by the Publick Should not be Sold –

You will please to Send me as soon as possible a Copy of the Invoice of the Brigantine *Actives* Cargo as there may be Some things that are very much wanted by the Fleet now near ready to Sail – In behalf of the Officers and People

of the Navy I now desire you to take Care of their part of the several Prizes under your Care untill we Send for the Same -- I am with Esteem Sir [&c.]

E H Cr in Chief

To Mr Leonard Jarvis

depy Agent for the Contl Fleet at Dartmouth --

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

LIST OF STORES ON BOARD THE CONNECTICUT SHIP *Oliver Cromwell*¹

An account of Stores on board Ship *Oliver Cromwell*

A Quantity of Pigg Iron called 60 Tuns --

89 Casks Water containing 12554 galls --

57 Bbls Beef --

49 do. Pork

111 . . 1 . . 5 Wt of Bread

3 bbls flour containing 5 l . . 2 . . --

3½ Bushells pees --

1 Bushell beans --

Quantity Cheese 2000 Wt --

411 wt Butter

120 hand Cuffs

50 Shackles

75 Lancets

20 Cannon & tackle

9 Swivels & do --

16 Cord Wood

1 Grind Stone

1 Hand Saw

1 Iron Square

2 Gimblets

2 broad Axes

2 Adds

2 Gouges

2 do --

2 files

4 Chisels

1 Calking Iron & Mallet

2 drawing knives

2 fore planes

2 do. bot by Capt [Ephraim]
Bill.

2 doz Brooms bot by M[ichael]
M[elally]

2 speaking trumpets

6 pad locks

8 Cabbin Cheers

1 Caboose Kettle ladles }
and tormentors -- }

A Quantity of small Crocky Ware

2 Gridd Irons --

2 Water pots

1 Stove

1 small Caboose

6 scanes Marlen

4 pr Granes

5 tressing lines

1 scane twine

8 logg lines

2 deep sea lines

6 leads from 65 to 6

4 scrubbing Brushes

1 Cagg Lamblack

9 serving Mallets

81 Hammocks

Quantity of staples to Sling Hammocks

738 Wt Lead for Musket Ball

Quantity of Cannon Balls to the
Amount of 15 l or thereabouts

Quantity of Swivel Ball

Ships Bell --

71 Muskets

Powder

533 wt Lead --

205 wt do Ball

5 pr Pistols

Cutlasses Simmitres & hangrs

1050 Gun flints --

24 Catridge boxes --

Quantity 2 sides of leather for use of
Ship

16 Blunder bushes [sic]

1 Barrel Tarr

4 Hammers

2 dozn Lanthorns

2 Harniss tubbs

[Page 2]

13 dz Lanthorn's
 24 Barge Oars
 24½ Bushl Beans & Pees
 21600 Bunches Onions
 25 3/4 Bushll Beets
 7 Bbls Vinegar
 1 Barrel Sammon
 [illegible] wt spare Nails
 1065 gallons Jamaica Spirits

3 Bbls Sugar 7 l . . 2 gr . . -
 187 Wt Sugar partly used
 30 Bushell Beans from Doctr
 Elderkin
 1 Medicine Chest as pr Invoice
 83 Cheeses were put on board
 Capt [William] Coit Supposes
 Capt [Seth] Harding Recd 72 -
 64 l : 2 : 11 lt Shot Mr Shaw pd freight
 for

The Ship *Oliver Cromwell*
 25th of Novr 1776

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 151-151b, ConnSL.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL
 MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

My Lord

Eagle off New York Novr 25th 1776 -

Being directed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty pursuant to the Kings pleasure signified by letter from Lord George Germain, one of His Majesty's principal Secretary's of State, dated the 16th of last August, to inquire into the truth of the Facts there stated, with relation to the Capture of two Transports carried into Boston, as represented in General Howe's Letter of the 7th of the preceding Month; Whereby a Disposition of the Ships of War under your Lordships command transmitted it appears, that His Majesty's Ships the *Renown* and *Milford*, and the armed Vessels the *Hope* and *Halifax* were then stationed in Boston Bay; And also to inquire into the Reasons which so long operated to prevent the stationing of a small squadron of His Majesty's Ships in the Delaware, as directed by their Lordships Order of the 6th of July 1775; & into the motives which induced the removal of the *Roebuck* and *Liverpool* from that River, when at length it had been thought fit to station them there. And being further charged to report to their Lordships for his Majesty's information, the Result of my appointed enquiries in those several respects; I send your Lordship herewith a Copy of the said letter of the 16th of August from the Secretary of State; And am to request you will please to communicate to me, such further lights on those matters in addition to the Copies of your Orders to and Correspondence with the Captains of the Ships before named delivered soon after my Arrival in this port, as you conceive may be conducive to the purpose of the Kings commands signified to their Lordships as in that Letter expressed. I have the Honor [&c.]

Howe

To The Rt Honble Lord Shuldham

Vice Admiral of the Blue &ca &ca &ca

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

PAY ROLL OF A COMPANY OF MARINES ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL GALLEY *Trumbull*¹

A pay abstract of a company of Mareens on Board the *Trumbull* Galley Commanded by Capt. Seth Warner Taken from the Regimts of Col Willards, Knox, Brewer, Motts, Whitcoms & Woodbridges Commencing On the day of their entering on bord Sd Gally and ending the 25 day of November 1776.

Names of Officers and Number of Seamen & Mareens	Time when entered on pay.	When left the Service and for What Reason	Number of days in Service	Wages pr Mo as they Sever- ally drew in the Regts. to which they be- longed	Wages pr Mo in the Naval Service	The balance due pr Mo for Service on board Sd Galley	Balance due
Ebenezer Bass 1. Lt.	Sep. 23.	Dischd fm the Gally Nov. 25.	62	£5.8.0	6.0	12/	£1..4..9½
Zephan Fuller Master	do	Dischd ditto 25	62	2.4.	6.0	3.16	7.17..0
Benoni Simmons Gunr	13	wounded & in Hospl 25	72	2.5	4.10	2.5	5..8..0
Joshua Green Gunrs	13	dischd 25	72	2.8.	3.0	.12	1..8..9½
Mate							
Gideon Ball Cook	9	ditto 25	76	2.0.	3.12	1.12	4..1..0
Otis Southworth	9	ditto 25	76	2.0.	2.14	14	1.15..5½
Coxwn							

20 Mareens & Seamen	12	ditto	25	73	2.0.	2.8	8/	19.19..2
1. ditto	9	ditto	25	76	2.0.	2.8	8/	1..0..3
1 ditto	22	ditto	25	63	2.0.	2.8	8/	16..9
2 ditto	24	ditto	25	61	2.0.	2.8	8/	1.12..6
2 ditto	26	ditto	25	59	2.0.	2.8	8/	1.11..6
1 ditto	25	ditto	25	60	2.0.	2.8	8/	16..-
3 ditto	30	ditto	25	56	2.0.	2.8	8/	2..4.11
Robert Atkinson Pilot	26	ditto	25	59	0	4.0.0	—	7.13..3
6 Mareens	25	ditto	Nov. 19	24	2.0	2.8	8/	1.18..4½
1 ditto	8	ditto	Oct. 15	37	2.0	2.8	8/	.9.10
1. ditto	12	died	Oct. 12	30	2.0	2.8	8/	8..-
3 ditto	12	dischd	Oct. 24	42	2.0	2.8	8/	1.13..7
2 ditto	25	Dischd	Nov. 13	48	2.0	2.8	8/	1..5..7
1 ditto	25	do	do 19	54	2.0	2.8	8/	14..4½
1 ditto	12	do	Oct. 25	43	2.0	2.8	8/	11..5½
1 ditto	22	do	Oct 15	23	2.0	2.8	8/	6..1½
2. ditto	12	do	do 21	39	2.0	2.8	8/	1..0..6
1. ditto	12	do	Nov. 13	61	2.0	2.8	8/	16..3
2 ditto	12	do	Oct. 17	35	2.0	2.8	8/	18..6
1 ditto	12	died	Oct. 12	30	2.0	2.8	8/	8.0
								£68..5..4½

[Endorsed]

This may certify that the foregoing is true copy of an original paper lodged on the Files of this Office given under my hand & seal at the pay Office in New York this 3d day of March 1787

Jn^o Pierce PMG & Comiser of
Army Accounts

I do Certify the above pay Roll
is Just and true. —
Seth Warner Cap

"A PAY ROLL OF CAPTAIN SETH WARNERS COMPANY OF SEAMEN RAISED IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR THE NAVAL SERVICE ON THE LAKE IN THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENT, COMMENCING ON THE DAY OF THEIR ENLISTMENTS AND ENDING WHEN THEY WERE DISCHARGED BEING NOV: 25. 1776 INCLUDING BILLITING MONEY TRAVELING EXPENCE PREMIUM FOR ENTG THE SERVICE BLANKET MONEY, GUN, CARTOUCH BOX, KNAPSACK & C & C AGREABLE TO ENCOURAGEMENT" ¹

Names of Officers Noncommissd Officers and Privates	When entered the Service	When left the Service and for what reason	Num: days in Service	Wages p month	Amo of Wages	No days from the time of enlistment till they marchd	Rate p week for billiting	Amount of Billeting	Number of miles from Saybrook to Benington	Amo of one penny p mile from Saybrook to Benington	One days wages for every 20 miles from Saybrook to Benington	Amot of one days wages for every twenty miles from Saybrook to Benington	Bounty allowd for entering into the Service	Allowance for the use of Blanket W	Allowance for Gun	Allowance for Cartouch box Knapsack & Belt	Total Amot
Seth Warner Cap.	Augt 12	Nov: 17. Dischd	97	9. 12. 31.	. 0. 9	16 @	16/	1. 16. 6	140	11/8	7. @ 6/4 $\frac{3}{4}$	2. 4. 9	-	-	-	-	35. 13. 8
Josiah Canfield Seaman 13	promd Sep. 9.	27	2. 8	2. . 3. 2	15 @	3/6	7. 6	140	11/8	7. @ 19d	11. 1	6. 0	12/	6/	-	10. 11. 5
Josiah Canfield 2. Lt	Sep. 9th	wounded in Hosptl dischd Nov. 25.	76	6.	15. . 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15. 4. 0
Job Wheeler Seaman	Augt. 15	Promd Sep. 9.	24	2. 8	1. 18. 6	13 @	3/6	6. 6	140	11/8	7. @ 19d	11. 1	6. 0	12/	-	-	9. 19. 9
Job Wheeler mate	Sept 9.	Dischd Nov. 25	76	4. 10	11. . 8. 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11. . 8-
Giles Cone Seaman	Augt 15	Promd Sep. 9.	24	2. 8	1. 18. 6	13 @	3/6	6. 6	140	11/8	7. @ 19d	11. 1	6. 0	12/	-	-	19. 19. 9

Giles Cone Boatswain	Sep. 9.	Dischd Nov. 25	76	4. 10	11. . 8. 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11. . 8. 0
Simon Hough Seaman	Augt 15.	promd Sep. 9.	24	2. 8	1. 18. 6	13 @ 3/6	6/6	140	11/8	7. @ 19d	11. 1	6. 0	12/ 6/ 2/				19. . 7. 9
Simon Hough Cpts Clerk	Sept 9.	Dischd Nov. 25	76	4. 10	11. . 8. 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11. . 8. 0
Samuel Ames Seaman	Augt 15	Promd Sep 9.	24	2. 8	1. 18. 6	13 @ 3/6	6/6	140	11/8	7. @ 19d	11. 1	6. 0	12/ - -				9. 19. 9
Samuel Ames Carpenter	Sept 9.	Dischd Nov. 25	76	4. 10	11. . 8. 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11. . 8. 0
Amos Bates Seaman	Aug 15.	Promd Sept 9	24	2. 8	1. 18. 6	13 @ 3/6	6/6	140	11/8	7. @ 19	11. 1	6. 0	12/ 6/ -				10. . 5. 9
Amos Bates Carpts mate	Sep. 9.	Dischd Nov. 25	76	3. 0	7. 12. 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7. 12. 0
Thomas Fitch Seaman	Augt 13	Promd Sep 9.	27	2. 8	2. . 3. 3	15 @ 3/6	7/6	140	11/8	7. @ 19	11. 1	6. 0	12/ - -				10. . 5. 6
Thomas Fitch Steward	Sept 9.	Dischd Nov. 25	76	4. 0	10. . 2. 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10. . 2. 8
Ebenezer Squires Seaman	Augt 15	ditto... do	100	2. 8	7. 17. 4	13 @ 3/6	6/6	140	11/8	7. @ 19	11. 1	6. 0	12/ 6/ 2/				16. . 6. 7
David Warner do	13	ditto... do	102	ditto	8. . 0. 0	15 @ 3/6	7/6	140	11/8	7. @ 19d	11. 1	6. 0	12/ - -				16. . 2. 3
Joseph Barbee do	15	ditto... do	100	ditto	7. 17. 4	13 @ 3/6	6/6	140	11/8	7. @ 19	11. 1	6. 0	12/ - -				15. 18. 7
Pascal Deangalis do	13	ditto... do	102	ditto	8. . 0. 0	15 @ 3/6	7/6	140	11/8	7. @ 19	11. 1	6. 0	12/ - -				16. . 2. 3
Peter Negro do	29	ditto... do	86	ditto	6. 10. 8	-	-	-	140	11/8	7. @ 19	11. 1	6. 0	12/ - -			14. . 5. 5
George Puffer do	Sep 1.	ditto... do	85	ditto	6. . 9. 4	-	-	-	140	11/8	7. @ 19	11. 1	6. 0	12/ - -			14. . 4. 1

9. 8. 10

deduct for one days wages
for every 20 mi

278. 13. . 2

9. . 8. 10

268. . 4. . 4

I do Certify the above pay Roll is Just and true Seth Warner Capt

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER,
H. M. S. *Chatham* ¹

Copy

Whereas from the lateness of the Season it has been thought unadvisable to put to Sea with the whole number of Transports appointed for the Service expressed in your Instructions of the 23d Instant; And the separating of them into two Divisions being deemed inexpedient for the purpose of their Destination: You are therefore at Liberty, notwithstanding the Tenor of those Instructions, to make such Disposition of the several Ships of War and Transports under your Command, as, upon consulting and advising with the Lieutenant General, You shall find most convenient; so that the whole of the Transports (the *Grand Duke of Russia* excepted) may pass through the Sound under the Conduct of Commodore Hotham, with such Frigates of your Squadron as you shall appropriate for that Part of the Service. Being to proceed yourself with the rest of the Ships of War, and the Transport last named, by Sandy Hook and to the Southward of Long Island; Thence to join the other Transports conducted as aforesaid, at such Rendezvous as, with the Concurrence of the Lieutenant General, You shall see fit to appoint.

Given onboard His Majesty's Ship the *Eagle* off New York the 25th day of November 1776.

Howe.

By Command of the Vice Admiral Jos: Davies.
[Endorsed] In Lord Howe's Letter 25 Novr 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEAUX SHULDHAM TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD
LORD HOWE ¹

(Copy)

My Lord

Bristol off New York 25th Novemr 1776.

I have the honor of Your Lordships Letter of this date, accompanying a Copy of One from Lord George Germain One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated the 16th of last August to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and in answer to that from Your Lordship, I have the honor of acquainting You that I shall immediately write to Captain Banks of the *Renown*, to furnish me with Copies of the Orders issued by him to the Ships and Vessels put under his Command, upon my quitting the Harbour of Boston, as also to Captain Hamond to furnish me with the motives which induced him to remove the *Roebuck* and *Liverpool* from the River Delaware, where they were Stationed, and afterwards re-inforced by the *Fowey*, *Orpheus*, *Glasgow* and *Kings-fisher* Sloop, as soon as I could possibly draw those Ships from the different Services on which they were employed, and get them ready to send there, after the departure of Vice Admiral Graves on the 2nd of last February, and the Command of His Majesty's Fleet devolving upon me, all which shall be transmitted to Your Lordship as soon as I receive the reports from those Officers, together with Extracts of some of my Letters to the Secretary of the Admiralty, in obedience to Your Lordships Commands that I should communicate to You such further lights on the subject

of those Matters contained in Your Lordship's Letter, in addition to the Copies of my Orders to, and Correspondence with the Captains of those Ships before-named, which I had the honor to deliver to Your Lordship soon after your Arrival at this Port. I have the honor to be My Lord Your Lordships [&c.]

Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1776

New-York, November 25.

On Tuesday last the *Solebay*, having under Convoy a Number of Merchantmen and Transports, with the 6th Regiment on board from St. Vincent's, arrived safe in the Harbour. The *Solebay* spoke with the *Active* and *Fowey* off Nantucket Shoals, with the large Fleet of Transports under their Convoy; all well, and the Wind fair.

The *Raven*, Capt. Standope [John Stanhope], and the *Cherokee* Armed Vessel, arrived here from the Southward on Thursday [November 21], and brought in several Prizes.

Since our last arrived here from London, in nine Weeks, the *Mermaid* Frigate, James Houker [Hawker], Esq; Commander, with about twenty Sail of Victuallers under her Convoy. A few Days since off Delaware, Captain Houker spoke with the *Dauphne* and *Orpheus* Frigates, who then had four Prizes in Company, and were in Chase of two others. — The *Mermaid* took a Schooner from Baltimore for the West-Indies, loaded with Provisions, and brought her into this Port.

In one of the above Ships came Passenger, Samuel Kemble, Esq; Naval Officer for this Port.

The *Syren* Frigate is come into Harbour, having lost her Foremast, in chasing a Rebel Privateer in a brisk Gale of Wind. She left the *Perseus* and *Merlin* in Chase of two others, and it is supposed they must have come up with them, as they appeared to gain upon them very fast, while in Sight of the *Syren*.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

[On board H. M. Sloop *Swan* at Sandy Hook]

Monday Novr 25 passd up AM the *Perseus* with a retaken Ship &c PM passd up the *Galetea* with a retaken Brig and two prize sloops

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Orpheus*, CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON ¹

November 1776	The High Land of Never Sunk NNW 2 or 3 leagues
Sunday 24th	at 8 AM Spoke two armed Vessels from New York. Fresh breezes and Cloudy Wr sent the Prizes into New York with the two Armed Vessels got down Top Gallt Yards.
Monday 25th	AM Exercis'd Small Arms. at 11 Spoke His Majesty's Ship <i>Galatea</i> . Fresh breezes and hazey Wr latter part drizzling Rain.

PM at one Sent ten prisoners onboard of the *Galatea*. at 5
handed the Fore and Mizen Top Sails lost a Log and two
Lines

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/650.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Philad'a, Novem'r 25th, 1776.

Mr. Towers was directed to deliver the Marine Committee of Congress 800 Swivel Shot, taking a receipt.

Mr. Nesbitt to pay Henry Litman £55 6 2, for Iron Work for Fire Rafts.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to pay an order drawn by Vanbibber & Usher, of Baltimore, for £805 0 0, in favor of Mr. John Mease, for Freight of 23,000 lbs. of Gun Powder from St. Martins' to Baltimore, & now in the Warehouse of Isaac Vanbibber at that place.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 14, 15.

CAPTAIN JOHN MARTIN TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore November 25th 1776

I Received yours of the 21st and as you Did Not write me Concerning the Sailors wages I thought it my Duty to acquaint your Honr board that the few vessels Now fitting out in this place Gives from 11. to 12 £ pr month for Common hands, and officers Wages is what they please to ask, mates has 15 £ pr month as I Shall have but a few Seamen this passage I think it ~~be~~ Requesit to have an officer of merines it is much wanting in a harbour, and at Sea they Serve to Work the Guns – If you think it proper, I Shall be glad Mr Bond may have the preference –

I Cant Ship a Sailor for want of articles and then as I agree with them I can make them Sign and be on the Sure Side –

When I git the articles I Can git men in Great plenty by telling them I Shall have a Commission, & I hope as I had the promise Last voyage, & as I Sail for lowe wages and Refused good offers in vessels that have made fortunes, this voyage I hope according to promise to have a commission and Doe Sum good for my Self & Country Capt [William] Stone Came the 18th instant with the Balef and a parcel of men, to take the Brig But I Defended hir With 4 men & Still keep presesion, though the Sheriff putt his hand on the Side & Said he Deliver'd hir as Capt Stones property & Sum thing Strange that a man to Deliver a thing he Cant git presesion off I am Gentlemen [&c.]

John Martin

1. Red Book, XVI, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday 25th November 1776

Samuel Towles is Recommended to his Excellency the Governour and the honble the Council as a proper Person to take the Command of the Schooner

Revenge lately commanded by Capt [William] Deane who is appointed to superintend the Building of the two Gallies on Mattapony River –

Capt Towles Recd his Orders for making a Voiage to Martinique which is Ordered to be Recorded

Lieut Thomas Merriwether is Recommended to his excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper Person to take the Command of Capt William Mitchells Company of Marines who hath Resigned his Commission –

Edmund Morton is Recommended to his Excellency the Governour and the honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed first Lieut of the Schooner *Revenge* in the room of Lt Aaron Jeffery's who is appointed to the Command of the Sloop *Liberty* –

John Shields is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor and Honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed first Lieutenant of Marines in the room of Thomas Merriwether who is appointed Capt of the Company of Marines lately Commanded by William Mitchell. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 116–17, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD ¹

Navy Board [Charleston]

Monday 25th Novemr. 1776

Mr. Alexander Horn having represented to the Board that the Multiplicity of Business he is engaged in prevents his paying due attention to the Public Boats Committed to his care he therefore requests the Board will accept his resignation –

The Board accordingly accepted Mr. Horns resignation – Resolved That Mr. McCulley Righten be appointed Public Boat Keeper –

The following Letter was wrote to Mr. Alexr. Horn

Sir

You are desired by the Commissioners of the Navy to deliver to Mr McCulley Righten all the Boats belonging to the Public of So Carolina in your Charge, together with the Oars, Rudders, &c., And as soon as possible bring in your accoumpt to the Commissioners

Edward Blake

November 25th 1776 –

The Following Letter was wrote to Mr. McCulley Righten

Sir/

The Commissioners of the Navy have appointed you Boat Keeper in the Room of Mr. Alexr Horn and desire that you will have all the Public Boats put in good repair and Provided with good Oars, Rudders, and Tillers, as soon as possible. Also to have the Flood gate Cleared of stones &c. and all the Boats removed and kept within the Flood gate – November 25th 1776

Edward Blake first Commissioner

The following Letter was wrote to Clement Lempriere Esq.

Sir.

Navy Board 25th Novemr. 1776 –

The Board of Commissioners Accept your proposal for the Building of a Row Galley Vizt to pay you Three pounds Ten Shillings Sterling

P Ton, the Measurement to be the Length Multiplied by the Breadth and half Breadth & request you finish the same with all possible Dispatch I am &c—

Edward Blake first Commissioner

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 26–27.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO GOVERNOR PETER CHESTER ¹

Sir.

Antelope Jamaica, November 25th, 1776

The 13th instant by the *Comet* Packet, I had the Honor of Receiving a Duplicate of your Letter of the 14th Sept^r last, acquainting me of your having great reason to believe the Rebels had an Intention of Invading West Florida and Requesting that I would send to Pensacola with all Convenient Speed, Such part of my Squard[r]on as could be Spared from the Jamaica Station

In answer to which I beg leave to inform your Excellency that I am extreem Sorry tis not in my power to send you any other Reinforcement than the *Atalanta* a Sloop of 14 Guns & 125 men who is to relieve the *Badger* and remain for your protection and Safety, my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having recommended to me the Island of Jamaica as my First object & Care, since which I have received letters from them informing me that the American Continental Congress will have at Sea Twenty two Frigates from 44 to 20 Guns in the Course of this Winter who are to Cruise in Squadrons and range about the West India Islands Signyfying to me their directions to use my best endeavours, either to take or destroy such of the said Frigates as might appear within the Limits of my Station, to perform which Service and the other necessary ones of this Station I shall only have a 50 Gun ship (where my Flag is flying) and two Frigates one of 32 and the other of 28 Guns, after the sailing of the next Convoy; having sent a 20 Gun ship home with the last, and positive orders to send a Frigate with the next, should I have a reinforcement from England and hear west Florida is in Actual Danger, your Excellency may depend I will Immediately send such part of it as can be spared for Your Relief, By the last Packet I Transmitted to the admiralty for their Lordships Information an Extract of your Excellencys Letter As the Province Sloop you mention to have sent your Express by is not arrived, I am afraid she has fell into the Hands of the Rebels. Captain [Thomas] Lloyd ² has with him two Ships which arrived here the 7th Instant for a Convoy to Pensacola, they are loaded with the Indian presents, and are well Arm'd, having an Ensign and Seventeen Private men on board of each belonging to the 6th Regiment by way of Guard, they tell me you may soon Expect Recruits for the 16th Regiment I am with great respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/634, Part II, 443–44, LC Photocopy.

2. Lloyd commanded H. M. Sloop *Atalanta*.

BARON DE COURCY TO COUNT D'ARGOUT ¹

Copy

St. Pierre, 25 Novr 1776.

General, I have the honor to send you an account of a special event which took place yesterday along the coast. I have already told you, General, that two

English merchants recommended by M. [Thomas] Shirley, Governor of Dominica had come here from that island. These two gentlemen came here in a truce ship on a mission for the English Government and were therefore welcome. Wishing to return to their island, they departed yesterday on board the same cartel ship under the same guarantee. A small privateer from New England, lying at anchor, watched them and got under way in order to follow them. These were making sail along the coast without any suspicion when the privateer closed on them and seized them leeward of the Perle. After capturing the truce vessel, they robbed the Captain and the whole crew of their last shirt. Then, they took the two Negroes belonging to the passenger merchants and put everyone ashore at the Precheur, keeping the vessel and the Negroes. The two merchants report that they were then only one league from shore, and complain that they were captured while under the protection of the island. I had M. [William] Bingham informed and he agrees that the Privateer's insult is most flagrant; he said that he was going to write to Congress about it to demand justice and the restitution of the vessel and the two Negroes. Should this small Privateer return here, I beg you, General, to let me know if I should place it in M. Bingham's custody and leave to him the right to exercise any justice he will deem proper with regard to us and to the merchants recommended by M. Shirley, or if I should put him under arrest on my own authority. Messrs. Bingham and Arrison [Richard Harrison] are quite disturbed by the conduct of this privateer captain and speak of him as a man who should be demoted. I am &c. Potier de Courcy

1. AN, Marine, B¹, 458, 50, LC Photocopy. Baron Potier de Courcy was deputy commandant at St. Pierre.

26 Nov.

COMMODORE MARIOT ARBUTHNOT TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

[Extract]

I had received information of this business,² before it happened, which principally occasioned my letter to Genl Howe a Copy of which & Mr Franklins [Michael Francklin] (who cannot sufficiently be applauded for his Zeal) will give your Lordship all most the whole of what we are doing in Consequence of those horrid pursuities of those People, except that General Massey has Added 1 Company of Grenadiers of the Royal Emigrants, one hundred Men & Marched them Yesterd[ay] to Windsor to reinforce the others allready at that place to Embark for Fort Cumberland, which with what Force can be landed, from the *Vulture*, sent upon this occasion by Sir Geo Collier at my requisition allso the *Albany* & *Diligent* Armed Brigantine Likewise sent prior to this at my request to Guard the Rivers Kenebec &c. I hope all together, a force – full sufficient to drive those Banditty to their holes – as the only means to secure our quiet this winter, there cannot be the smallest doubt about our success Unless the Rebels in the eastern part of New England can afford them more Succour than I think they have power to Effect.

However, as we have in the harbour one forty Gun Ship, three Frigates, I have wrote to Capt. [Maximilian] Jacobs, of the *Amason*, Requesting him to Land his

Marines as he is going to head Quarters, I have likewise requested the same by letter to Sir George Collier, to order the Ships Under his Comand to do the like, as well as himself, this I think when complied with will make a reinforcement of near 150 rank & file, beside recruits which came out in the *Pembroke* 120 & other people left behind General Massey has now detained upon this Occasion, I should think will amount to near 200 more, so that I am in no pain about this place from any thing but fire, and that nothing may be Omitted I have caused the Gentlemen of the Town to mount every night with 20 Men to patrol the streets in addition to the Military, in short my Lord, as farr as my faculties can assist me, no pains shall be spared, to defeat the privat[e] Machinations of those detestable Men; And I am sure General Massey will do the same.

I shall conclude this long letter with Acquainting you that the variety of services which the Kings Ships have been called upon to perform has put it out of Lord Howes power to give that protection to this province which otherwise I well know he would; Our Coasts have been infested with small piratical Rebels who have entered Our defenceless harbours, and done much Mischief to the Fishery & Shipping, some of Which they have carried away, & many others they have burned, but since the Landing of the Kings Troops on long Island we are well protected, but I have been obliged to purchase a small Armed Vessel of 8 Carriage & 10 Swyvel Guns, Maned with forty People for the Convoying the Coasting Vessels, &c, at the expence of about 260 pounds, which I shall draw for & will be the only expence attending this business Permit me my Lord to Offer my Congratulations On the success which his Majesties Arms has Obtained over the Rebel Vessels on Lake Champlain who are totaly defeated on the 11th & 13th of October past, the particulars of which arrived at this place in a Transport after a passage of 19 days from Quebec bound to head Quarters; last night. . . . Halifax Novr the [26]³

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, 316-24, DAC Photocopy.

2. Attack on Fort Cumberland.

3. Date is arrived at from data in a second letter written by Arbuthnot on "the 26th," PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, 330-31, DAC Photocopy.

THOMAS STONE, COMMISSARY OF PRISONERS, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
COUNCIL¹

Gentlemen

Marblehead Novr 26th 1776

Among the Prisoners that I brought to this place were two belonging to Rhode Island or Connecticut - Ezekl Burrough's second Lieut of the *Columbus* & Jno Earl Master of the *Alfred* both having Continental Commissions I propos'd to the Gentlemen of the Committee appointed by you to settle the Exchange of Prisoners (on my first Meeting at Water Town) to Exchange Lieut Burroughs for Lieut Edward Sneyd of his Majesties Navy Prisoner of War in one of the above named Colonies; the Gentn at that time acquainted me that it was out of their power to treat for him he being Prisoner in another Colony but that they would send and endeavour to procure him. Since which Govr Cooke of Rhode Island has sent round to me two Masters of Transports who I by no means look upon as an adequate Exchange for the Continental Officers

above Named. I am however willing to accept of one [of] them in Lieu of Mr Earl but can by no means Think of accepting the other in Exchange for Lieut Burroughs – I shall therefore esteem it a favour if you would desire the Gentn of the Committee appointed to settle the Exchange of Prisoners to acquaint Govr Cooke of his Mistake & endeavour to procure the Release of Lieut Sneyd, as I should think it extremely hard he being so very near should be exempted from the Benefit of the present Exchange of Prisoners I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Thos Stone Commy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 103.

JOHN BRADFORD TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Boston Novr 26 1776

Gentlemen Since my last under the 15 Instant ² I have been at Salem and have made a strict scrutiny into the affair of the Sloop *James* Capt Gillis late master and find that the owners of the privateer wch retook her ³ did not know she was fitted on account of the Continent, the letter which you supposed to be wrote by the Salem Committee to Eddington ⁴ was wrote by the owners, a state of the Case I now inclose you which on examination I find to be real facts The Sloop will be sold to morrow at Auction and I have wrote to one of the owners to purchase her if she goes off at £ 120 Sterling she is not worth more than £ 170 being a small Sloop & badly equip'd, I shall be glad to receive your orders relative to the improvement of the Sloop in future if she should be bought for the Continent. – Wou'd it not be worth attention to send her to Eddington for a Load of Naval stores, tar is 42/ pr Barrell, we are in continual want for the Navy. –

I this moment receiv'd advice from Dartmouth of the arrival of a Brig ⁵ with provisions &c sent in by the *Alfred*, who had taken a Ship of the same fleet which consisted of six sail from England bound for Quebeck, she has on board three thousand stand of Arms three thousand suits of Soldiers cloathing besides many Military Implements – Capt Jones of the *Alfred* writes that the Brig was the last of the fleet which was not taken who took the other four he does not mention, the Brig left the ship ten days since – I hope to have the pleasure of congratulating you in my next on her arrival.

1. John Bradford Letter Book, vol. 1, LC.

2. John Bradford Letter Book vol. 1, LC.

3. Jacob Ashton and Joseph Sprague of Salem, owners of the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Rover*.

4. Edenton, North Carolina.

5. Brigantine *Active*.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 26t Novr 1776. A.M.

Mr [Jonathan Loring] Austin, return'd to Town, waited on the Board, and Accepted of his appointment of Secretary. –

Resolv'd that Capt Eleazr Johnson purchase the Ship *George* at £ 1,000 – including her Cable or at £ 800 without ² –

Resolv'd that the Secretary to this Board be allowed Ten pounds Lawfull Money

P Month; he took the Oath of Office accordingly, wch is filed, agreable to Order of Court & Adjourn'd 'till 4 o'Clock P M –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 11–12.

2. "On Tuesday, the 26th of November, Instant, at One o'Clock, Will be Sold at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern, Congress Street, The Prize Ship *George*, burthen about 260 Tons, now laying at the Hon. John Hancock, Esqrs. Wharf, a fine Ship, extremely well fitted with Sails and Rigging, a fast sailing Vessel, Inventory of Stores to be seen at the Time and Place of Sale," *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, November 21, 1776. The *George* was taken by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Boston*, Captain Silas Atkins.

WILLIAM ROTCH TO NICHOLAS BROWN¹

Respected Friend

Nantucket 11th Mo 26th 1776

Nicholas Brown

I am very sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of making a second complaint to you of the unjust conduct of one of your Privateers, but as this comes nearer to your door than my former information (if I am rightly inform'd of you being one of the owners) I shall do it with more freedom, & with greater expectations from necessity of your exerting every faculty, that may conduce to the extermination of such atrocious Villany; our Harbour has been frequently infested with a small Sloop, her name I know not, but she is known here by the Name of the *Willfull Murther*, an appellation not very unbecoming the carrecteristick of her crew; of the Commander & Company of this Vessell I have now to Complain, & shall begin the subject at its source & endeavour to trace it to the present Day. The Schooner *Nightingale* own'd intirely by Inhabitants of this place, was hired by Timothy Folger to send to the West Indias; of the Risque & Charter of this Vessell I took about three Quarters, she went to the Mole, (where likewise Folger went in another Vessell) and finding this Vessell unfit to return here without some New Sails, & not a ps of Duck to be got at the Mole, determin'd him to try an Expedient to supply himself elsewhere (though in the end it proved a very expencive one) accordingly having nothing but Oil on board, went under the appearance of a Whaleman towards Jamaica, & near that place was taken by a Ship of War,² the Vessell & Cargo tried condemn'd & Sold, in which we lost with the Expences Three Thousand Dollars, he then bought the Vessell at a high price for the hirers, proceeded to the Mole, loaded her with Molasses, intirely on our (the first hirers) Account, arriv'd at this place Yesterday, abt 11 or 12 O'Clock, the Privateer came in the same time in the last Night, & this Day about 11 or 12 O'Clock, the Commander with his Company in a Ruffain like manner took possession of Vessell & Cargo, with Swords & guns, & Still keeps them, notwithstanding I think we have fully proved, by the declaration of several Passengers as well as of ourselves, that are concer'd whose words I believe whould have satisfied any honest Man that the whole Cargo was taken in at the Mole, & that the Vessell & Cargo is intirely the property of the Inhabitants of this place; which I now declare to you to be the case and that no person directly or indirectly other than the Inhabitants of this place are concern'd therein, & that without the least Collusion of any kind, besides she had been along side the Wharf about Twenty Four Hours, her Sails unbent & part of her Cargo out, & discharging the remainder as fast as we could. –

I am not about to beg for my interest, but only to ask for impartial justice, & if you are still an Owner I desire you would see that justice takes place, for at present I cannot apprehend you can acquiesce in such conduct, nor be partaker of the Spoils of such wicked plunderers. If you are not concern'd, I intreat you to interpose & assist us in justly wresting our Intrest from the hands of such wicked Men. And if you are concern'd in the Privateering business, I beg you to consider the consequences of it, & how often honest Men are depriv'd of their Rights; it is not sufficient in my opinion to say that the innocent must suffer with the guilty; however Wise Providence may permit such things to fall upon the innocent, what reward thinkest you, those have who are the instruments of their Sufferings? I intreat you, & that from pure good will, to let the consideration of those things pass over your mind, & endeavour to bring to your View the cries of innocent parents & their tender Offspring, perhaps for the want of Bread, for the reallity of this let any man cast his Eyes on some parts of Nova Scotia Government, where the Calamitous situation of some of our real friends & Country men that are settld there, brot on them by the Destruction from privateers, must be a very moving scene to a mind susceptible of but a small degree of Humanity. I really believe I have seen you seeking better things, & wish still to see you pursuing such. —

28th — we have this Day made Capn Symonds³ an offer that if he would deliver up Vessell & Cargo that she might be unloaded, as the Molasses is in a very leaky Condition, we would give bonds & also produced four good Bondsmen, & presented him with them, that if the Vessell was Libel'd & condemn'd we would give up the whole, but he will do nothing, therefore we intend in a peacable manner to unload her, without the least injury to any Man, & if it should be Condmn'd I will give up my part. pray enquire for particulars of Capn Robt Champlin & Hammilton Ballantine Esqr for particular[s] in hast I am your Friend —

W^m Rotch

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

2. Taken by H. M. Schooner *Porcupine*, Gayton's Prize List, February 26, 1778, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

3. Daniel Simon, commander of the Rhode Island privateer sloop *Yankee Ranger*, Maritime Papers, Letters of Marque, Petitions and Instructions, R. I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Merlin*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY¹

1776 Novemr Do [Block Island] N42d. — 25'E — 20 Leagues
Tuesday 26 at 2 AM Veer'd at 7 saw a Sail gave chase at 10 brot
too an American Brigt loaded with Salt & Wine²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/604.

2. *Joseph*, B. Hewes, master, from Cadiz for North Carolina with wine, salt and Jesuits bark, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MANIFEST OF THE CONNECTICUT SLOOP *Mary*¹

Manifest of the Cargo of the Sloop *Mary*, now at Anchor in the Port of New Haven & bound on a Voige to the Isle of Statia. . in the West-Indies —

Burthen Sixty five Tons, — whereof Giles Mansfield is Master for this present Voige —

Vizt 12 Horses — 2,000. Staves. . 8,000 Whoops —
 20 Bbsl. Pork & Beef —
 (to mount 6 Guns —
 Thirty Two men)

Hartford County ss. }
 Novr. 26th. 1776 — }

Capt Giles Mansfield made Oath to the Truth
 of the above Manifest.

before Olivr Ellsworth, Justs. Pacs —

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Fishkill] Tuesday Morning, Novr. 26, 1776.

The defence of Hudson's river being not only absolutely necessary for the security of this State, but also for the defence of the United American States, and keeping up a communication between the eastern and southern States,

Resolved, That the committee heretofore appointed to obstruct the navigation of Hudson's river, or any three of them, be directed to report some form of a plan for perfecting the same, with all convenient speed.

A letter from Augustine Lawrence and Samuel Tudor, dated at Poughkeepsie, the 25th inst. relative to the removing of the ships at Poughkeepsie ² was read.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 718.

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

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE ¹

[New York] Tuesday, 26th. [November]

The *Perseus* & the *Galatea* came in last Night having taken or retaken near 20 Prizes, off Bermuda.

Several of the Transports with Troops on board, going on the new Expedition, fell down the River, with the *Asia*, &c.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 146.

Pennsylvania Packet, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1776

[Philadelphia]

Yesterday the ship *Sam*, lately commanded by Samuel Richardson, was sent into this port; she was taken on her passage from Barbados to Liverpool by the Continental sloop *Independence*, Capt. Young, was mounted with four guns, and had on board 20,000 dollars, two tons and a half of ivory, 100 bars of iron, &c. ¹

1. Congress resolved that if the cannon on board the *Sam* "are fit for field artillery, to take measures to have them mounted on proper carriages; and sent to General Washington." Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 982.

LIBEL IN PENNSYLVANIA ADMIRALTY COURT OF CAPTAIN JOHN YOUNG AGAINST
THE PRIZE SHIP *Sam* ¹

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 Court-house, in the city of Philadelphia, on Saturday, the 14th day of December 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 John Young, Esq; (who as well, &c.) against the armed ship or vessel called the *Sam*, burthen about 120 tons, with her tackle, apparel, furniture and cargoe lately commanded by Samuel Richardson. To the end and intent that the owner or owners of the said ship and her cargoe, &c. 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 libel. By order of the Judge,
Nov. 26, 1776.

Andrew Robeson, Register.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, November 27, 1776.

SAMUEL CHASE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract] Philadelphia Nov 26th 1776. Tuesday Morning –

We have certain intelligence that a number of ships of the smallest Draught of water, sufficient to carry 10,000 Troops are now lying ready in the North River with Fascines on their sides. The Destination of this Float [*sic* fleet] is uncertain, some conjecture to land a body of Troops at South Amboy, which is very probable, if this City is the object with Mr Howe. others guess Virginia or South Carolina, the latter is the most suspicious, because if they Succeed against Charles Town, they can pass the Winter there. a few days will relieve us from Conjecture

1 Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

JOHN ARCHER TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn

As I understand some of the Gondolas are nearly ready for which your Honorable Board has the Appointment of Officers – I would therefore beg leave to remind you of two Gentn who have been recommended to you by sundry Persons who are well acquainted with them – Their Names are Captn Bennett Mathews and John Stevenson of Harford County – Captn Mathews is well acquainted with the Sea & is a Gentn of Integrity & Attachment to the American Cause he applies for a Captn's Commission – John Stevenson is a worthy, deserving young Man as well acquainted with Military Discipline as most young Men in our Country – he applies for a first Lieutenancy & should your Honors think proper to appoint him he would be desirous of serving under Captn Math-

ews – They are both natives of this Province I am Gentn with great Respect
[&c.]

John Archer

Harford County Novr 26th 1776

1. Red Book, XVI, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday 26th November 1776. –

Joshua Singleton is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the *Henry* Galley in the room of Byrd Chamberlayne who is appointed first Lieut. of the Brig *Musquetto*. –

Ordered that William Holt deliver unto Doctor William Carter Nine Ounces of Rhubarb, it being for so much lent by Doctr Carter for the use of the Navy. –

Capt George Elliott Received Orders to proceed with his Vessel to Fredericksburg there wait on Mr James Hunter and take on Board such Naval Stores & Provisions as the said Hunter may have to send down to York & James Rivers –

William Skinner is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed Captain of the Sloop *Congress* in the Room of Commodore Boucher who hath Resigned his Commission

Ordered that the keeper of the public Store deliver unto Capt William Skinner four dozen Sail Needles, six pounds of Twine, six Palm Irons, two Bolt of Canvas No 1, five hundred 10d Nails, five hundred 20d Nails and two hundred Deck Nails for the use of the Sloop *Congress* –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to William Drew for the use of Mr Thomas Whiting for One hundred and twenty five Pounds upon Acct. – Also for One hundred and thirty four pounds for the use of Champion Travis, upon Acct, for their attendance as Commissioners of the Navy. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 117–19, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM SKINNER ¹

You are to proceed with your Vessel immediately to Cumberland where you are to apply to Cornelius Dabney for a Cargo of Tobacco and Flour which you are to take on Board and secure in a proper manner for a Voyage to the West Indies. You are to make the best dispatch in your power and when loaded return down the River to the mouth of Queens Creek and apply to the Board for further orders

(Sign'd) Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

[Williamsburg] 26th Nov. 1776. –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL. Skinner had just been appointed to command the sloop *Congress*.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO COLONEL ISAAC ZANE, FREDERICK¹

Sir, The Commissioners of the Navy Board are in want of a number of Cam-buses and Potts for the use of the Navy for which purpose they have inclos'd you a Memorandum, and wou'd be glad you wou'd have them made and sent down to Fredericksburg to the care of Mr James Hunter as soon as possible.

Mem. 20 Cambooses three feet in the clear from side to side each to be fix'd with two Pots one of which to be a third layer [*sic* larger] than the other, and the Pots to be so contriv'd as to fill up the whole space in the Cambooses.

10 do of two feet each, and to be fitted as above with Pot hooks for the whole

(Signd) Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

[Williamsburg November 26, 1776]

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

MARQUIS DE LA TORRE TO JOSÉ DE GÁLVEZ¹

Illustrious Sir:

I have learned from the Royal Order Your Excellency transmitted, dated August 6, that the King has approved the answer I gave to the Governor of Louisiana, following his request to dispatch a War Frigate to the Mississippi River in order to maintain respect in those shores, and expressing His Majesty's will that amid the strict neutrality he enjoins be observed in the war of the English with their Colonists, no permission be given to one or the other to enter into these Ports, and much less to permit acts of hostilities among them within the shelter of said ports, or reach of their guns, since in such cases they should be advised to abstain from executing those acts, and if they do not abstain, to oblige them to do so repelling them with Artillery. I have communicated that Royal Resolution to the said Governor of Louisiana, to that of Cuba and to the Lieutenant Governors of this Island, that they observe and obey it, as I shall punctually do myself; but I wish to bring to the attention of Your Excellency that the refusal to permit entrance to English ships, in my understanding applies except in cases of emergency, in which case in accord with the spirit of previous Resolutions the indispensable hospitality must be extended; and were it the intention of His Majesty not to permit anchoring under any circumstances I pray that your Lordship so advise me, so that thus it may be complied with, and we may be freed from the inconvenient visits of Foreign Ships, which will never cease to frequent Havana since there are no other ports nearby where similar facilities may be had to obtain promptly the necessary assistance. Our Lord Grant, [&c.] –
Havana, 26 November 1776

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

SAMUEL BEALL TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear Sir

St Eustatia 26 Novr [1776]

Your much [es]teeme[d] favour of the 5th of Septr came to hand yesterday. I have the pleasure to tell you I ar[r]i[ve]d here the 26th Ult[o] after an agreeable passage of forty Six days. I am of opinion a House settled here by a person who has good connexions in America would answer very well on the plan you prop[os]e, 5 P Ct will pay all the losses in Vessels trading from this to the States since June last. there has been a constant trade here since that time and continues to increase. Vessels are daily arriving and returning, It will not suit me by any means to continue here. I shall sail this Week in an Armed Br'g for Ph[iladelphi]a and as soon as I arrive I shall proceed to Virginia and settle at a convenient secure port near the capes, where I propose trading as largely in Tobacco as the times will permit more. I shall particularly attend to your Interest, and hope to have it in my power to make a pleasing remittance in Tobacco.

I must refer you to Doctor Franklin for News.

I am Dr Sir with much Esteem [&c.]

Samuel Beall 3^d

To Silas Deane Esqr to the care of Messrs S & J H. Delap Merchants Bordeaux

[Endorsed] Bordeaux $\frac{28}{29}$ March 1777 Received & forwarded by Sr Your
Hble Servts S & J H Delap

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XXIII, 50-51.

"COPY OF COUNT DARGOUT'S REPLY TO BARON DE COURCI FORT ROYAL,
26 NOVEMBER 1776." ¹

I had the honor to receive your letter, dear Baron, in which you reported the capture by an American Privateer under the *Perle* of a Parliamentary vessel with two merchants from Dominique on board. This is a most heinous action: any power should be safe under the protection of our flag and the least hostility is an insult to it. Therefore, you will please to command all the New Englanders who are either in the Road or in Saint Pierre that they be personally responsible for and repair the damage committed by this Privateer and to tell them most expressly on my behalf that if reparation is not made in a satisfactory manner I shall give new orders and punish them more severely.

My dear Baron, we do not know here any deputy from Congress; you understand me, and you will show them my letter; you will also assure the two merchants from Dominique on my behalf that I was most surprised by this action and acquaint them with the orders I gave in consequence thereof. I have the honor etc.

Signed: Dargout

1. AN, Marine, B⁷, 458, 50, LC Photocopy.

27 Nov.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE LATE MASTER OF THE BRITISH SHIP *Spiers*¹

Narrative of Mr. Lamont's Observations during the Time he was a Prisoner in Massachusetts-Bay, viz. from the 22d of September till the 27th of November last [1776]. Mr. Lamont commanded a Ship from Glasgow²

Upon the 6th of November two continental men of war lay at Newport, Rhode-Island; the one carries 36, 12, and 18 pounders; the other 32, 9, and 12 pounders, nearly manned, with every thing else on board fit for the sea, which they were to scour of the English frigates.³ Between that place and Providence, I was told there were upwards of fifty privateers of different force and burthens, but chiefly small. From Plymouth there are ten small privateers, and a brig called the *Independence*, of fourteen guns, belonging to the province.

There sailed from Boston, in the months of October and November, at different times, about forty privateers, amongst which was the ship *Zachary Bailey*, formerly of London, now the *Boston*, of 24 guns; she sailed about the 1st of November upon her cruize, which was intended betwixt Cape Finisterre and Madeira;⁴ she took under her convoy the ship *Hope*, [Alexander] Lumsdale, late master, who was taken, with powder and stores for the British army, and a large brig, both of which were loaded with fish and lumber for the French West-Indies.

About this time, arrived a sloop and brig, belonging to this province, from Cape Nichola Mole, with molasses and rum, each of which had a French as well as New-England master on board, with several French officers for the continental army; and near this time also arrived a French sloop with warlike stores, and another at Newbury; these were cleared for the island of St. Peter, as well as the other two.

About the 20th of October, the *Boston*, a 30 gun frigate, came round from Newbury to Boston, to fit out under the command of Capt. M'Neil; she was navigated by thirty English sailors, whom they impressed for that service only; about one hundred New-Englanders embarked in this ship; the French officers bore some command, and one of their independent companies acted as marines; soon after, her guns were shipped on board a sloop, and sent round to Newbury to be put on board another continental frigate finished there, to carry 36 guns, which is daily expected in: she fits out at Boston.⁵

Out of Newbury, Beverly, Salem, and Marblehead, are several privateers upon a cruize, besides the *Massachusetts*, a provincial brig of 16 guns, 6 pounders, commanded by a Captain Souter [Daniel Souther]. At these places a great many others are fitting out, viz. at Beverly, the *Alfred*, formerly of Bristol, to carry 20 guns: at Salem, a brig built for one Campbell, but seized, when launched, as English property; this brig is to carry sixteen 6 pounders, with many other small privateers, sloops, and schooners, of 8, 10 and 12 guns.

At Boston, a ship, formerly the *Britannia*, was burnt down to the wale, but now rebuilt, and is to carry 30 guns, which are not all procured; it was said she was to go to France to finish her outfit, and afterwards to cruize in a southern latitude for Indiamen. At this place are also the *Isaac*, formerly of Liverpool; she is to carry 24 guns, which are not yet procured; and the *Anna Bella*, formerly

of Glasgow, taken with troops; ⁶ she carries 18 six-pounders, and was ready for sea the 20th of November, with many other brigs, sloops, and schooners.

There were also fitted out for a voyage to Virginia and France, the ships formerly *Lord Howe*, and *George*, of Glasgow; the *Anna Maria*, *Lady Juliana*, *Picary*, *Earl of Errol*, and *Camden*, of London; and two others at Salem. The *Julius Caesar* of London, Captain [Azariah] Uzald, who, though she mounted 10 iron guns, shewed 18 wooden ones, and had 27 men all ready to engage, struck to a force far inferior, without firing one gun; she is now fitting out as a privateer, to carry 18 or 20 guns.

The Congress, when they issued commissions for privateers, made a law, that persons taken in prizes should have their private adventure restored them. This was observed to a great many taken at first; and still is by continental and provincial vessels; but this act was amended by leaving something discretionary to the captors, since which they generally find some way to avoid giving them any thing; and it was resolved in council, and recommended to the committees, to send all prisoners into the country, as far from any post-road as possible, and there, such as cannot maintain themselves are made to work for their living. Mates of ships taken, and seamen, are not suffered to depart. They say they don't impress them into their service; it is true, they don't lay violent hands upon them, and force them on board their vessels of war, but take a more effectual way, which is this – they pay them what wages are said to be due to them, in their paper money, on which the poor fellows set no value, but sailor-like, spend it as fast as possible. When this is gone, they must starve unless they enter on board their privateers, which are always ready to receive them. I don't doubt several enter before it comes to this extremity, but the greater part do not.

There is another six and thirty gun frigate building in Piscataqua,⁷ the finishing of which was retarded by the want of iron, but they have lately got a small supply from Philadelphia, and some ready manufactured, in the *Julius Caesar*, from London. I was told there were also building upon the lakes, two frigates to oppose General Carleton in the spring.

I was greatly mortified in attending their court of admiralty in Salem, at a trial, where a prize ship was claimed by some people in the country. The counsel for the privateer, produced a register taken out in the name of Lane, Son, and Fraser, London, in proof of her being British property. The counsel for the claimers affirmed, that the register was only a sham one, to prevent her being taken by English men of war, and that the property still rested in the claimers. The counsel for the privateer demanded to know, how any such sham register could be procured, seeing, that an oath was always made, that the persons named in the register were the sole owners thereof; to which the counsel for the claimers replied, that he could get the people in England to perjure themselves, or do any thing else, for money. After long disputing, the ship was decreed to the claimers, and the cargo to the privateer.

1. John Almon, ed., *The Remembrancer; or Impartial Repository of Public Events. For the Year 1776* (London, 1776), IV, 264, 265. Hereafter cited as Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*.

2. *Spiers* was taken on September 6, 1776 by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Eagle*, Captain Elijah Freeman Payne, while en route from the Bay of Honduras to Glasgow. Lamont was removed to the *Eagle*, and a prize master and prize crew put on board the

Spier. On September 15 the members of the *Spier*'s crew, who had been left on board their ship, rose under the mate, William Carmichael, and retook the vessel which was carried to Glasgow on October 13, *Public Advertiser*, London, October 23, 1776. Lamont, with a number of other British shipmasters, embarked at Boston on November 27 in the brig *Dolphin*, ostensibly bound for Portugal. However, she sailed directly for England and reached Plymouth on Christmas Day 1776, *Whitehall Evening Post*, December 24 to December 26, 1776.

3. The Continental frigates *Providence* and *Warren*.
4. The ship *Boston*, William Brown, commander, commissioned September 24, 1776, mounting 22 guns and with a crew of 210 men, Mass. Arch., vol. 5, 100.
5. The Continental frigate *Hancock*.
6. See Volume 5.
7. The Continental frigate *Raleigh*.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir Newport November 27th. 1776 –

I sent an Officer with my Orders to take up, and bring onboard the Fleet some deserters who Enlisted out of the Army, and receiv'd their Months pay – and he took up Seven at Warwick, and brought as far as the Fulling mill – where a number of the Inhabitants got together, and took the Men away from him – the names of the Men taken away are as follows –

John Joyce, John Allen, Bénjamin Howard, Abel Bennet, George Burgess, Wm Japes, & Job Bridge –

and the following Men have likewise desertd

Benj. Weldale, Joseph Braymour, Arthur King, Durfy Springer, Daniel Jones, Willm Chadsey, David Ralph, and William Jacklyn –

I make no doubt but your honour will give the Necessary Orders to have them taken up, and Sent onboard the Ships – if you will please to let me know whether you'll give Orders for the above purpose, you will Oblige Sir – Your humble Servant –

I send you by Creetman two Officers in the Service of George the third which you will order taken Care of as you think fit – I am Sir [&c.]

E.H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

JOHN MANLEY'S ACCOUNT OF WAGES PAID CREW OF CONTINENTAL SHIP
Columbus ¹

List of Wages pd the People belong'g to *Collumbus*

1776		Dollars		Dollars	
Octr. 12	Pearce Donovan	4	[Octr. 19]	John Pattin	12
14	Dr Kessler	24		Guy Rogers	12
	Matthew Parks	26½		Bardin Sylvester	10
15	Joseph Lenehan	8		Philip Alexander	12
16	John Scott	13½		John Gould	12
17	Edwd Burk	10		George Bennet	8
19	Patrick Fletcher	12		James Crosswell	8
	Edwd Burk	8		Wm Wallace	6½

1776					
[Octr 30]	John New-	4. -	[Novr] 12	Do a Second	9. -
	tons boy			Time	
	Capt Jos	15.	14	John Scott	4. -
	Olney		18	Edwd Burk	15. -
			19	Pearce	
				Donovan	
Carried up		£ 30.14.6	20	Thos	
To Amount				Anderson	
Brought up		30.14.6		John La ²	
Novr 2	Thomas	2.14		John	
	Cayton		21	Joh	
3	Dr Kessler	6		Jo	
9	Stepn John-			To amount brot up	£ 322.15.6
	son for	6	Nov 25	Barney	2
	Expense			McDermot	
	findg Keys			Thos Foss	2
	Mr Burk	6. -		John Hegley	3.12.
	Capt Olney		26	Robt	16
	266 dolls			Hawthorn	
		79.16		1 sht	
11	John Gould			Peter Cane	8.
	1 pr Shoes	12	27	Jam Wright	
	David			Capt Ol	
	Roberts	9. -		Wm	

1. John Manley's Account Book, 18-19, NHS. Manley was deputy Continental Agent at Newport, Rhode Island.
2. Part of this page missing.

Connecticut Journal, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1776

New-Haven, November 27.

Mr. Lovel [James Lovell] of Boston, who has been a prisoner among the enemy since Bunker Hill battle, has lately been exchanged for Gov. Skeen [Philip Skene], and a few days since passed thro' this town, on his way home. He left Col. [Ethan] Allen in the fleet, who is now well used, being allowed to mess with the officers.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Fishkill] Wednesday, A. M.

November 27th, 1776.

Mr. Robert R. Livingston moved sundry resolutions relative to obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, and engaging General Schuyler in that service.

5 ho. P. M. November 27th, 1776.

Resolved, That a letter be immediately written to Major-General Schuyler, informing him of the survey that has been taken of Hudson's river at Poliple's

island, and requesting him to take on himself the superintendence and direction of such works as he may think necessary, either there or elsewhere for the security of Hudson's river.

Resolved, That a letter be written to the Honble. the Continental Congress informing them of the measures that have been pursued for obstructing Hudson's river; suggesting the necessity of more effectually securing the posts and passes in the Highlands; employing the carpenters, who are now discharged from the shipping, in preparing fire ships and whatever else may be thought necessary for the defence of the river, and annoying the enemy on their passage up; and requesting that they will be pleased to put the management thereof under the direction of Major-Genl. Schuyler, whose abilities, knowledge of the country and military command will give him great advantages in the execution thereof.

Resolved, That a letter be written to His Excellency General Washington, enclosing the above resolves, and requesting his concurrence therein.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 719, 720.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[New York Harbour] 27th Novr

Most of the transports with troops on board for the Expedition, went out of the N. River to day, and anchored between Governor's Island and Redhook. The large ships are gone down to Gravesend bay.

It is still uncertain where we are going; but Rhode-Island is now generally supposed to be our destination; and that The Frigates and transports will go through the Sound, and the two decked Ships round Long Island, and rendezvous off the E. end of Long Island.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 116.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Number 14.
Sir

Eagle Off New York
November the 27th 1776.

Enclosed herewith I transmit a Return of the Disposition of the Ships of the Squadron, for specifying the Changes made therein since the Date of the last Return sent by the *Fowey*, which sailed the 13th Instant; and also an Account of the State and Condition of the Ships, with an Explanation of the Supernumeraries borne onboard them.

The *Lark*, intended to relieve the *Cerberus* off of Rhode Island, was forced back to this Port the 16th, with the Loss of her Main-Mast; caused by a considerable Defect in the Mast below the Partners, which it is conceived might have been discovered at Halifax, (where the Mast was made and supplied), if it had been duly inspected. The *Greyhound* sailed some Days before to strengthen the Ships on that Station, upon Intelligence that some Armed Ships of Force would soon be in readiness to put to Sea from Rhode Island. And Directions were sent by that Opportunity for Captain [Richard] Smith to detain the *Cerberus*, if still in fit Condition, a few days longer. But the Accident happening to the

Lark before the *Greyhound* joined them, the *Cerberus* came back with the *Lark* in consequence of the former Appointment.

The *Carysfort* was thereupon ordered off of Rhode Island. But the Fore Mast of the *Syren* being soon after found defective and sprung in the Head, which compelled the Return of that Ship also, the *Diamond* and *Ambuscade* were appointed to replace the two disabled Ships.

The *Lively* arrived from before the Harbour of St Augustine the 5th Instant. Captain Bishop left the *St John* Armed Schooner in that Harbour; And the *Otter* with the *Hinchinbrook* to remain in St Mary's River for the present Service of the Province. The *St John* Schooner, which has been in St Mary's River mostly since the Beginning of last April is found on Survey unsafe to venture out of the port and is incapable of being repaired there. The Condition of the *Otter* is represented to be such (not having been cleaned since the 2d of Feby 1775) as to render the Sloop little fit for Service at Sea. And the *Raven* and *Cherokee* arrived the 21st much in the same State.

On the 20th the *Solebay* returned with the 6th Regiment from St Vincents. And the *Mermaid* arrived the 22d with the Convoy of Victuallers and other Transports Captain [James] Hawker had in Charge to conduct to this Port, the *Aurora* and *Newmark* Victuallers excepted; having parted from them the 13th in a hard Gale of Wind, during which it was feared the last had foundered at Sea.

The *Perseus* and *Galatea* anchored here the 25th; The Term for which the first was appointed to cruise Eastward from the Nantucket Shoals being expired; and the latter to discharge several Prisoners taken, some by that Ship, and others by the *Orpheus* and *Daphne*, in small Trading Vessels the Property of His Majesty's rebellious Subjects. — Several more Captures have been made by the Frigates cruising from Boston Eastward. — When I have received the Particulars thereof, daily expected, I shall transmit a Return of the whole Number reported during the last six Months.

I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your several Letters of the 31st of August, and 6th and 7th of September by the *Mermaid*. To the Contents of which I shall have every due Attention, and communicate my Proceedings on the several Matters with all suitable Dispatch. I am with great Consideration Sir [&c.]

Howe

[Endorsed] 27 Nov 1776 off New York Vice Adml Lord Viscount Howe
R 30 Decr (3 Inclosures)

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

"COPY OF A LETTER FROM CAPTAIN BANKS OF THE *Renown* TO
VICE ADMIRAL LORD SHULDHAM" ¹

My Lord

Renown in Gravesend Bay 27th Novemr 1776.

I have received your Lordship's Letter of the 25th Instant, inclosing an Extract of a Letter from Lord Viscount Howe (in consequence of a Letter from Lord George Germain to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty) Noting that he is directed by their Lordships to inquire into the Cause of the Capture of Two Transports with part of the Highland Troops onboard, which were carried

into Boston without any interruption by any of His Majesty's Ships, and that the late advices from Halifax mentioned the Arrival there of the *Renown* and *Milford*, two of the Ships Stationed in the Bay of Boston under my Orders; and your Lordship directing me to furnish you with the Copies of all the Orders I have issued to the Captains of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels put under my Command while upon that Service, together with the cause of the *Renown* and *Milford* proceeding to Halifax, as well as all other necessary information which has fallen under my knowledge on the above Subject. In answer thereto, I herewith inclose to Your Lordship Copies of all the Orders I have given to the Captains you left under my Command, which I hope will meet your Approbation; and with respect to my proceeding to Halifax, I must beg leave to inform your Lordship that I left Nantasket Road principally for want of Provisions, having onboard not above one Month for my Ships Company, and the Troops at the Light House which I was obliged to support, and having with me to the Amount of about Thirty Sail of Transports with Highland Troops, and Stores, in a similar Condition, and not knowing when I should have a Supply; I thought it right, for the good of the Service, to take them under Convoy, and with the *Hope* which was likewise in the same Condition to proceed to Halifax, leaving the *Milford* which I had completed with Provisions for one Month, under Orders to Cruize in the Bay as long as it would admit her to do so with propriety. The Rebels having been employed after the Arrival of the Highland Troops, in Erecting Works on every spot from which they could annoy us, and in all probability of itself would have soon obliged me to evacuate that place, as I found from the high situation of their works, my Shot against them could do no execution; I must likewise beg leave to remark to your Lordship that during the time the *Renown* lay at Nantasket she was so exceedingly sickly that for some time I had but two Men to a Gun, and never had less than Sixty or Seventy Men on shore at the Hospital on George's Island which I was obliged to protect, And that in the whole time was never joined by any of the Ships and Vessels put under my Command but the *Milford* and *Hope*, and the *Lively* for some little time which Ships were constantly employed Cruizing in the Bay, and saved a Number of Victuallers and other Vessels from falling into the hands of the Rebels. The two Transports which your Lordship mentions with Highland Troops were taken after I left Nantasket Road, and which I consequently knew nothing of. That there was a Ship carried into Boston there is no doubt,² but she was taken a great distance from me, and I never saw her till she came thro' the Sound, which your Lordship is sensible must be totally out of my power to prevent, as none of the Ships then under my Command were near me at that time. I am [&c.]

F: Banks.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

2. The transports *George* and *Annabella*, and ordnance ship *Hope*. See Volume 5.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO MESHECH WEARE¹

Sir,

Camp Philipsbourg 27th Novr 1776.

As the whole fate of America depends on the speedy completion of the New Army; all consideration ought undoubtedly to be postponed to this object. The

Officers (and indeed it must necessarily be so,) are of opinion, that nothing impedes the recruiting of the Army so much as the present rage for Privaterring, that unless this is in some measure check'd, it is vain to expect any Success. I wou'd therefore humbly refer to your Consideration whether it is not expedient to lay a temporary Embargo on Privateers until the Regiments of each State are compleated Our situation is so delicate and alarming and the absolute necessity of the Army's being raised without delay so obvious, that you will at least excuse the liberty I take in proposing the only mode which occurs to me I am with the greatest respect [&c.]

Charles Lee.

To The Hone The President of the Council of the State of New Hampshire.

1. US Revolution, October 8, 1776–February 28, 1777, LC.

FRANCIS LEWIS TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen –

Upon the information given to the marine committee by Capt. Patrick Dennis, of the then state of the frigates built at Poughkeepsie,² the said committee desired me to inform you that it was their opinion, those ships being launched should as soon as possible be sent up to Esopus creek, to be there laid up for the winter, as there appears at present no prospect of bringing them into service for this year. And it is their opinion that a lieutenant of marines be appointed, with orders given him to immediately enlist thirty marines to guard those frigates during winter, and that all such stores that are remaining, together with those belonging to such vessels as were ordered to be sunk in the North and East rivers, be also put under the care of said lieutenant of marines.

That Capt. Dennis, who has at present the custody of all the rigging, &c. belonging to the vessels so sunk, be directed to deliver the same to said lieutenant, furnishing him with an inventory of the particulars; a copy thereof to be signed by the lieutenant, and transmitted to the marine committee, who apprehend the stores aforesaid will be this winter wanted by Genl. Schuyler.

In regard to the destination of the frigates for the winter, if you see any likelihood of their being brought into use, they are submitted entirely to your direction. Upon your nominating the lieutenant, his commission will be sent up to you as you, are more immediately upon the spot. In regard to the frigates, the marine committee refers it to your judgment to direct what may be necessary to be done with them, and desires you will advise them thereof. I am, respectfully, sirs [&c.]

F. Lewis

Phila. 27th Novr. 1776.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 730. Lewis was a member of the Continental Marine Committee.
2. The Continental frigates *Congress* and *Montgomery*.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL¹

[Philadelphia] Novbr 27th

. . . News to day is that the enemy intends to make a Push for Philadelphia, its sd part of their force is embarked either to go up the Deleware and make their

attacks at both Sides at once, or else to amuse the Southren States, and prevent their Sending any assistance to Philadelphia

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1776

Philadelphia, November 27.

Last week arrived here the prize ship *King George*, Edmund Williams, late commander, homeward bound from Jamaica, taken by the *Montgomery* privateer, of this port.¹

1. The privateer brig *General Montgomery*, Captain James Montgomery.

CONDEMNATION OF THE PRIZE SNOW *Georgia*¹

Baltimore County ss

At a Court of Admiralty for the State of Maryland held at the Court House in Baltimore Town in the County Aforesaid the 27th Novr 1776

Present

The Honble Benjamin Nicholson Esqr Judge
were the following proceedings

The Court Adjourns till tomorrow Morning 10 O Clock

Court met According to Adjournment

Present

The Honble Benjamin Nicholson Judge

George Cooke Commander of the Ship *defence*
& Others

vs

Snow *Georgia* Thos Bolton Commander

Condemnation

Monition issued the
5th Novr 1776
Libel filed

day of Sale Ordered to be on the 7th December Next

1. Minutes of the Court of Admiralty, 1776-1778, Md. Arch.

AQUILA HALL TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentn

November 27th 1776.

As Capt Bennett Mathews had made application to your Honrs for a Captn's place in one of the Gondolas now building, and as Capt. Alexander Cowin and Mr Archbd Buchanan has one nearly ready, and wants a Captn to take charge of her; And as I am well acquainted with Capt. Mathews and know him to be a good Seaman and a sober man, begg leave to recommend him as a proper person for such a place, and shall take it as a favour if your Honours should think proper to give him a birth. I am Gentn

Aquila Hall.

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM STONE ¹

No 26.

Sir We have already wrote Captain Martin and Jesse Hollingsworth about the Brig *Friendship*, we have nothing further to say at present, than merely to refer you to those Letters, and to inform you that it never was our Intention to weaken the civil Authority. – as you have thought proper to replevy the Brig, we propose giving you Security in the regular course, and shall indemnify the Sheriff, on behalf of the State. –

You petitioned the Convention and the matter was postponed at your own request, as we have been informed – had you chose to have Let the dispute rest for their determination, we think they would have done you justice.

[Annapolis] Novr 27th 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday 27th November 1776. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Joshua Poythress for five pounds two shillings for Cyder & Potatoes furnished the Sloop *Defiance* as p Acct. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Thomas Prosser for six Pounds for a large Gun for the use of the *Hero* Galley. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 119, VSL.

LIEUTENANT THOMAS DAVEY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Copy

Sir *Diligence* Pensacola Novr 27th 1776 –

Yesterday I received a Letter from a Gentleman at [New] Orleans, an Extract of which I think it necessary you should know as soon as possible, as by representing it to the Ministry a stop may be put to a Trade that is very detrimental to His Majts Service. This information is from undoubted authority, & may be relied on, my Letter is dated the 29th September.

“In the Month of August arrived here a large Barge from Fort Pitt on the River Ohio in which came one Gibson ² & twenty rifle Men, it is currently reported, that Gibson brought a Packet from the Congress to Govr Unzaga, whether he did or not, he had several Conferences with him, & about five days ago they went back loaded entirely with Powder, it is said they had 12,000 pounds, it was taken out of the King’s Magazine by Mr Oliver Pollock His Britannic Majesty’s loyal Subject who entirely equip’d these fellows.”

If you remember, Sir, in one of my Letters I mention’d the Manner the French traded to the Mississippi, & that it was the opinion of the Attorney General of this Province, that the Captains of His Majesty’s Ships could not seize those Vessels, as it could not be proved that they traded with His Majts. Subjects, but that it was the duty of the Spanish Governor to prevent it, if it was not

permitted by his Court, Now, Sir, this Ammunition is imported by the French, & may very easily be seized, if the Captains of His Majesty's Ships were properly authorized to do it, but in the present circumstances it would be folly in any Captain to do it, as the Vessels would immediately be acquitted by the Admiralty Court when they were brought to a Trial I am &c.

Thomas Davey

[Endorsed in Secretary of State's Office] In Lords of the Admiralty of 13th March 1777 A(1)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/126,227,228.
2. George Gibson, agent for Indian affairs.

POWER OF ATTORNEY TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER FOR THE BERMUDIAN
SLOOP *Dispatch*¹

Bermuda.

Know all Men by these presents that we Richard & John Jennings, Henry Tucker of Somerset, and Henry Tucker & Son of these Islands Merchts and Owners of a certain Sloop called *The Dispatch*, whereof Thomas Tucker is Master, for divers good Causes and Considerations us hereunto moving, have made, ordained, authorized, constituted and appointed, and by these Presents do make, ordain, authorize, constitute and appoint St George Tucker Esqre our true and lawful Attorney, for us and in our Names to order and direct all such Voyage and Voyages as he shall think fit, and farther, if he shall see Cause, to dismiss and discharge the said Master, the Mate or Sailors or any or either of them and others in their Room to appoint and finally to transact and negotiate all and all Manner of Business of what Nature or Kind soever relative to the said Sloop *Dispatch*, and to our Use to ask, demand, sue for, recover and receive all such Sums and Sums of Money, Debts and Demands whatsoever, which may be due or owing unto us by or from any person or persons whatever, and to have, use and take all lawful Ways and Means in our Names, or otherwise for the Recovery thereof by Attachment, Arrest, Distress or otherwise, and to compound and agree for the same – and Acquittances and other sufficient Discharges for us and in our Names to make, seal and deliver, and to do all other lawful Acts and Things whatsoever concerning the Premises as fully in every Respect, as we ourselves might or could do, if we were personally present – Ratifying and by these presents allowing all and whatsoever our said Attorney shall in our Names do or cause to be done in and about the Premises by Virtue of these Presents – In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands and Seals this twenty seventh Day of November Anno Domini One thousand seven hundred and seventy six –

Signed, Sealed and

Delivered in presence of
St Geo. Tucker Junr
Nicos Riddell

Rich^d & Jn Jennings
Henry Tucker
Henry Tucker & Son

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, Earl Gregg Swem Library, CWM.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BRIG *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK ¹

Remarks on Wednesday 27th Novr 1776

7 [A.M.] Saw a sail to the westward gave chase, saw another to the Northward at 10 came up with them both they laying too for us received a broad Side from the Bark *John*, gave her a shot she struck gave the other Ship a Shot she struck, sent the boat on board both of them

Lattd in 16d47m Longd in 46d31m

1 [P. M.] Found the Bark to be from London Wm Barrass Master for Antagua & the Ship from East Florida for Granada James Crichton Master

6 [P. M.] Mannd the Bark and sent away for Salem, the Ship in Company

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

JOSEPH DONALDSON, JR. TO OWEN BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Owen Biddle, Esq'r:

St. Eustatius, Novem. 27th, 1776.

Dr. Sir: – My last was the 5th this Instant Covering Invoice and Bill of Lading for sundries which I hope is safe arriv'd; this serves to inclose Invoice and Bill of Lading for sundries ship'd on board the Vessel of Warr *Andrew Doria*, John [*sic* Isaiah] Robinson, Esq'r, Commander, amt'g to £ 1,579 6 2 the Residue of the Bills of Exchg'e received, likewise acco't Cover ballance due you £ 0 6 3. I am sorry it was not in my power to ship the Goods according to order received as it is impossible to obtain them. I have wrote to several of the Neighboring Islands for the Woolens which was not to be had.

Some time agoe arrived here, Wm. Aull, from France, formerly of your place, with a large Cargoe of Goods among which was some Cloths. He sold the whole off at 15 p'r Ct. on the Invoice; and after he had bargained for them he found it was Considerably under the Value, he wou'd not let the person have them. I went to him for the Blue Cloth which cost about 2/10, and he ask'd me 18/ p'r yard for them. I looked at him with Amazement, but offer'd him 9/ for them but he wou'd not take it, and I come away. The next day he offer'd them for 12/ to take as many Brown as Blue, however I agreed with him for them at 10/.

This was the day before the *Andrew Doria* arriv'd, and after her arrival he was acquainted with her errand. I desir'd him to send me the Cloths and he return'd me for answer I cou'd not have them for that price, as he was offered more and to take proportion of white with them by Mr. S.[Samuel] Curwin, for the Continent, which I Inform'd I had purchased those Goods from Mr. Aull. But he did not like to give them up, and rather than Expose Aull, as he was a stranger here, I gave the matter up. He has made Mr. Curwin pay the most Extravagant prices for Goods I ever heard of, as there is no other than what he has at Markett, Owing to the Detention of the Vessells in Holland, there being a great Quantity



Oranjestad Harbor, St. Eustatius

of Goods Ship'd from thence for this Markett. The prices of American provisions still Keep down, Occasion'd by Vessells arriving daily. I am, Dr. Sir, [&c.]

Joseph Donaldson, J'r.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, II, 649-50.

CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS, R. N., TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

[Extract]

Seaford, Basseterre St Christophers

Novr the 27th 1776.

This will be delivered to you by Mr Knapp who goes to Antigua in a Dutch Sloop - laden (with Flour and Tobacco) which I took on sunday night between St Eustatia and St Martins.²

I go from hence as soon as it is dark, in hopes of intercepting an Armed Vessel, which I gave you an Account of in the Letter I wrote you by Mr Gray who left me the 24th instant, off Sandy Point in a Schooner Laden with Flour which had been taken the day before by Lieut Byron in our Pinnace.

This day the Port of Statia is opened without reserve to all American Vessels and I find that the Salutes of their Armed Vessels are returned at St Croix as well as at Statia. I am &c

(Copy)

Jn^o Colpoy's

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/126, Part I, 235.

2. The *Mary*. See Young's Prize List, December 9.

28 Nov.

JOHN BRADFORD TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Boston 28th Novr 1776

I beg leave to hint that I am without any instructions what to do with the dismantled *Lynch* she remains in pay doing nothing all the schooners are now in port and the men seems loth to go out on a cru[i]se this Season by reason the vessells are so uncomfortable.

Capt [Samuel] Tucker repoarts his vessell the *Hancock* unfit to proceed again and on examing her find it will cost as much as she's worth to fit her for service, May I take the freedom to Ask if Tucker might be shifted on board one of the other Schooners The *Lee* is a good vessell but the Captain ² seems determind not to exert himself in the publick Cause the *Lynch* is also a Good vessell and the Worthy Capt [John] Skimmer has the worst vessell amoung the whole ³ his guns are easily shifted and if the name is transformd we've no Register to endors

Yesterday arrived a Brig Loaded with provisions sent in by one of our Colony cruisers ⁴ and last week was sent in to marblehead a provision vessell & one loaded with Coal taken by a privateer fitted out there.⁵ I beg leave to ask if I may send [ro]und the Coal I purchasd for the Congress without Convoy as I find we shall have Opportunityes Offer several vessells designing to go to Philidelphia that Artical is very scarce here and has been sold so high as eight pounds p Chaldron tho' there is no limmits to the price of things here Rum was yesterday sold at Beverly at Vendue at 7/8 p Gallon how these things may end I know not as disunion amoung us seems unavoidable the poor traedsmen and Labourers ar[e]

Crusht to death between the merchants and the farmer I wish something could be done to prevent this Growing Evil . . .

1. John Bradford Letter Book, vol. 1, LC.
2. Daniel Waters.
3. Washington's schooner *Franklin*.
4. Brig *Nancy*, John Churchill, master, taken by the Massachusetts state brig *Independence*, Captain Simeon Sampson.
5. Schooner *Sally*, George Elliot, master, and the brig *Desire*, Joseph Jackson, master, taken by the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Independence*, Captain James Magee.

Independent Chronicle, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1776

Boston, November 28.

Captain Friend, in the Newbury Packet, bound round to this Port, was, a few Days since, taken by one of the Enemy's Cruisers.

To be Sold by Public Auction On Friday, 6th December, On the Long-Wharf, The Prize Ship *Venus*, and her Cargo. Consisting of 160 Tons of Logwood, all chiped. A large Quantity of Mohogany, in Logs and Planks. The Ship *Venus* is burthen about 380 Tons, is a fine sailing Ship, built at Portsmouth, about three Years since. If any Merchant or Company of Merchants are disposed to purchase the Ship and Cargo, the Cargo may be sold by Invoice without unlading the Ship. The Sale will be at Ten o'Clock in the Morning.

At the same Time and Place, Will be Sold by Public Vendue, The Prize Ship *Caledonia*; about 200 Tons, with all her Appurtenances.

The Ship was built in Boston, by Mr. Clark, about 4 Years since; she is a prime Sailer, and very well found. The Inventory to be seen at the Sheriff's Office, three Days before the Sale.¹

W. Greenleaf, Sheriff.

1. *Venus* and *Caledonia* had been taken by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Eagle*, Captain Elijah Freeman Payne.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir

Providence Novembr the 28 1776

I Received yours of yesterday by Express am Sorrey to find by the Contents that any of your officers have ben obstructed in their duty in picking up the Deserters from the Ships Shall use my indevours to give all due Asistance to the officers of the fleet in picking up their Deserters if the offenders can be found out Shall endeavour that they be brought to Justice from Sir [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

LIBEL OF THOMAS RUTTENBER, COMMANDER OF THE RHODE ISLAND PRIVATEER SLOOP *Montgomery*, AGAINST THE PRIZE SCHOONER *Frank* ¹

State of Rhode Island & Providence Plantations ss	}	To the Honl John Foster Esq Judge of the Court of Justice for the Tryal of Prize Causes in and throughout the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in America
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Thomas Rutenburgh of Providence Commander of the Private Sloop of War called the *Montgomery* of the port of Providence duly commissioned agree-

able to the Resolves of the Honl the Continental Congress to cruise against the Enemies of the united States of America in behalf of himself, 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 ninth Day of October AD 1776 being on a Cruise against the Enemies of said united States upon the high Seas he together with his officers and Men took and captured the Schooner *Frank* with her Appurtenances commanded by one Sylvanus Waterman together with her Cargoe consisting of Ninety one Cask of dry Fish about Fourty Quintals of dry Fish in Bulk Eleven Tierces and five barrels of Oil and five barrels of Herrings cleared out from the Port of Ferryland in the Island of Newfoundland to the Island of Jamaica in the West Indies and which said Schooner in the month of March AD 1775 being then called the *Dolphin* sailed from the Port of New London with her Cargoe under the Command of Silvanus Waterman and arived at Montego Bay in the Island of Jamaica in the month of April following where he sold her Cargoe and gave a Bill of Sale of s[a]id Schooner to one Francis Mariez Merchant at said Montego Bay and took out a New Register in the Name of sd Francis Mariez and changed the Name of sd Schooner to the *Frank*. And took in a Cargoe of West India Produce and cleared out for Newfoundland where she arived in the Month of October following, and there took in a Cargoe of Fish &c and cleared out and returned back to Jamaica, And there took in another Cargoe of West India Produce and in the month of April AD 1776 cleard out for the Island of Newfoundland Subject to the King of great Brittain whose Fleets and Armies then were and now are acting in an hostile manner against the sd united States of America, and at said Newfoundland took in a Cargo of Fish &c and clear'd out for Jamaica and on her return there was taken & captured as abovesaid so the Libellant saith that said Schooner before and at the Time of Capture had been imployed in carrying supplys to the Enemies of the said united States contrary to the Resolves of Congress the Laws of this State and the Law of Nations, And the Libel[la]nt further informs your Honor that he hath sent said Schooner with her appurtenances and Cargo into the port of Providence within your Honors Jurisdiction for adjudication. Wherefore he humbly prays that your Honor would take the Premises into Consideration and grant out the proper Process & Monition in such Cases by Law requird and further proceed as to Right and Justice appertaineth

John Cole pro Libellant ²

[Endorsed] Received Novr 28: 1776

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

2. *Frank* was tried and condemned on January 27, 1777, Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, R. I. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Fishkill] Thursday Morning, Nov. 28th, 1776.

Mr. [Henry] Wisner from the committee appointed for securing the frigates, made the following report:

Your committee to whom was referred the securing of the frigates at Poughkeepsie, report the following resolves to be served on Capts.

Tudor and Lawrence respectively:

1st. That they fit their respective ships, *Congress* and *Montgomery*, with all the despatch possible, with so much rigging as is necessary to remove them from Poughkeepsie:

2nd. That they proceed up the river with the first fair wind after the ships are ready, as far as Roundout kill or creek, near Esopus Landing, where they are to be wintered, if after carefully sounding the depth of the water on the bar at the mouth of the creek, they find they can be safely carried in:

3rd. If upon strict examination there is not found water enough safely to carry the said ships into the creek, then they are to proceed with all the despatch possible, (after taking on board the best pilots they can procure,) to Claverack dock, and there secure the ships in the best manner in their power:

4th. That the quantity of lead in the possession of the Convention of this State is so small, that there is none at present to be spared for any other use than musket ball.

Henry Wisner, Chairman.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 721, 722.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE ¹

[New York] Thursday, 28th. November.

Capt. Elphinstone of the *Perseus* informed me this morning, that he was fired upon in the Dusk of the Evening off Nantucket, by an armed Transport who took him for a Rebel Privateer. The Transport's People fired 28 Shot upon the *Perseus*, without hurting any body: Capt. Elphinstone prudently restrained his People till the mistake could be cleared up. This Transport has taken & brought in 3 Prizes.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 147.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN ¹

Novemr 1776

Moored off New York

Thursday 28th

At 9 AM hoisted a Blue pend[ant] at the foretopg mt head & Sent 24 flat Boats upon Service, Several Transports Sailed up the Et River

Modr & fair Wr at 2 PM Sailed from hence his Majesty's Ships *Chatham*, *Preston*, *Emerald*, *Cerberus* & several Transports ² at 3 made the Parole Sigl with a Blue pendt

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

2. "Most of the lighter Transports laden with Troops passed up the East River, in order to go through Hell-Gate into Connecticut Sound: The *Chatham* and *Preston*, commanded by the Commcdores Sir Peter Parker & Mr. Hotham, with the *Asia* and other Ships of War fell down to the Narrows, in order to pass by the East End of Long Island, where they will join the above Transports, convoying some of the heavier ones themselves." Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, November 28, 147.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[New York Harbor] 28th Novr The transports with the troops came up with the tide, and anchored in the East River between Corlaer's-hook and the town. The two decked ships, and the large transport with the 54th Regiment on board, are gone down to Sandy hook. It is now pretty evident that we are going to Rhode Island.

Major General [Richard] Prescott, Capt. Welsh, his aide de Camp, & Brigadier General [Francis] Smith, together with Major of brigade Baker and myself, embarked this day on board *The Earl of Effingham*, which ship has been allotted for those two Generals, with their Suite and baggage.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 116.

JOURNAL OF BARTHOLOMEW JAMES ¹

[On board H. M. S. *Orpheus*]

[October 3 to November 28, 1776]

The 7th ² we dropped down to Staten Island, and on the 12th put to sea with his Majesty's ship *Daphne* under our command, and proceeded off the Capes of Philadelphia . . .

The 20th we took a small schooner from Philadelphia, bound to the West Indies, with flour and Indian corn, and having taken out the flour, set her on fire.³ The 24th, retook a brig from the coast of Guinea, which had been taken by the *Congress* and *Chance* privateers, and had on board about a thousand pounds' worth of ivory.⁴ She was sent to New York with one of our midshipmen, who was again taken on his passage and carried into Rhode Island, from thence to Providence, where he remained a prisoner six months. On the 30th, having again parted from the *Daphne*, we took an armed sloop mounting eight carriage four-pounders, fourteen swivels and four cohorns, and loaded with rum, porter, flour and bread.⁵ I was sent to take charge of her with two men and a boy, having no time to take any clothes with me, as another sail was seen from the masthead; and a few hours after, I lost sight of the *Orpheus* and was left in a heavy gale of wind in a very distressed situation, having split both my main sail and foresail. I continued water-logged till the 4th of November, when the gale somewhat abated, though I got neither dry nor clean things till the 25th; for notwithstanding I was fortunate enough to fall in with the ships the following day after the gale ceased, yet bad weather and constant chasing prevented any boats from boarding me till that time, which, on the coast of America at this season of the year, was not the most pleasing situation in the world.

The 9th at daybreak in the morning, Cape May bearing NNW, fifteen leagues, we took a schooner from St. Eustatius with rum and gin;⁶ and the 14th spoke his Majesty's ship *Mermaid*, with a convoy from England for New York, on which day we took two sloops from Philadelphia, bound to the West Indies with flour.⁷ The 18th we took a schooner from Martinique with claret,⁸ and on the 26th, for the first time, the boat came on board me with directions to take charge of the five prizes, and proceed with them to New York; and having got on board my sea chest and bedding, I parted company with the ships on this day,

having during my time in the *Colonel Parry* prize, had my shirt and stockings washed while I lay in bed naked till they were dry. I arrived all safe at New York on the 28th Instant, and secured the prizes alongside the wharf amidst twenty-nine others belonging to the *Orpheus*.

1. John Knox Laughton, ed., *Journal of Rear-Admiral Bartholomew James 1752-1828* (London, 1896), 35-37. Hereafter cited as Laughton, ed., *James' Journal*.
2. The dates recorded by James in his journal are generally incorrect.
3. Schooner *Two Brothers*, James Gilbert, master, Mayne & Co., owners, from Philadelphia for St. Eustatius, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487. Footnotes 4 through 8 from same source.
4. Brig *Britannia*, B. F. Hughes, master and owner, from Jamaica for Liverpool.
5. Sloop *Colonel Parry*, William Gamble, master, Learning & Co., owners, from Philadelphia for South Carolina.
6. Schooner *Fanny*, Daniel McKay, master, William Bell, owner, from St. Eustatius for Philadelphia.
7. Sloop *Schuylkill*, Benjamin Camby, master, Harbutson & Co., owners, from Philadelphia for Cape St. Nicolas Mole, with flour and bread, and sloop *Greenwich Packet*, James Glasgow, master, James Young, owner, from Philadelphia for South Carolina.
8. Schooner *Nancy*, James Kinney, master, Davis Bevan, owner, for Philadelphia.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX
SHULDHAM ¹

Copy

Roebuck off New York the 28 Novr 1776.

My Lord, I had the honor this day to receive your Lordships Letter desiring to be furnished with the cause of the removal of His Majesty's Ship under my Command and the *Liverpool* from the River Delaware; In answer thereto I beg leave to lay before your Lordship the following Narrative of my Proceedings concerning that matter.

Having Cruized off that River with the utmost Vigilance until the beginning of May, I received your Lordship's Letter of the 11th April informing me that the force I had required to enable me to put in execution those Orders I had received from Admiral Graves, and renewed by your Lordship the 17th January (Viz:) "To destroy the floating Batteries, and to weigh up or otherwise render useless the Machines sunk in the Channel of the River Delaware to obstruct the Navigation thereof," could not for certain reasons be sent to me, I immediately turned my thoughts to that part of your Lordship's Letter which mentions Sir Peter Parkers request to have the *Roebuck* with him on his Expedition against Charles Town South Carolina together with Your Lordship's desire that "if I could leave a sufficient Force to prevent the Operations of the Enemy in the Delaware that I would comply with his request," I took the resolution to join Sir Peter Parker and to leave the *Liverpool* (and *Glasgow* which I hourly expected to arrive) to Cruize in Delaware Bay to obstruct the Trade, which from intercepted Letters I had reason to think would be laid aside by the Rebels during the summer Months: But as at this time I was short of Water, I thought it necessary to run up the River for the purpose of compleating it, which would also give me an opportunity of reconnotring the Enemy's force, so as to be useful when any attack should be planned against it. Accordingly on the 5th of May, I took the

Liverpool with me, sailed up the River as far as Wilmington where I was attacked in a shallow part of the River by thirteen Row Gallies attended by several Fire-Ships and Launches, which in two long Engagements I beat off, and did my utmost to destroy, a particular Account of which (is given in my Journal to the Commander in Chief) and after having fully executed what I had in view, I returned to the Capes the 15th, when I gave Captain Bellew Orders to remain Cruizing (a Copy of which is here enclosed) and stood to the Southward. The same Evening I fell in with a Vessel dispatched to me by His Excellency the Earl of Dunmore Governor of Virginia by which I received a Letter from His Lordship to acquaint me of having received certain Intelligence that the Rebels intended attacking the Lines near Norfolk; that they were bringing cannon down and preparing fire rafts to destroy his Fleet, and assembling in large bodies in his Neighbourhood: Therefore earnestly entreated me to return to his Assistance and relief. The saving His Lordship and so valuable a Fleet which consisted upwards of ninety sail of Vessels, many of them with Rich Cargoes onboard, out of the hands of the Rebels appeared to me an immediate object of so much consequence, that I sent my Tender to acquaint Sir Peter with my intentions, and altered my Course for Virginia, flattering myself however that his Lordships apprehensions might be premature.

I arrived the next day off Norfolk when I found my Lord Dunmore's expectations of an Attack not the least abated. Every Circumstance therefore was considered, both as to situation and strength to oppose the Enemy's attack, when it was thought most adviseable to move the Fleet immediately for had we waited until the Enemy had planted Cannon at certain places on the River side (which is not half a mile over) it would scarce have been possible to have got the Vessels down the River and they must inevitably have fallen into the Enemy's hands.

Gwins Island at the Mouth of the Pianketank River being pointed out as a spot containing many advantages, and to be easily defended against the Rebels was fixed upon as the most proper place to repair to, where with more trouble and difficulty than ever I before experienced I deposited the whole Fleet on the 27th May, and should then have taken my leave of His Lordship, but from the small Pox having broke out in his little Army, together with a bad fever, he was so much reduced in his numbers, that I was obliged to assist with my Ships Company in throwing up some works on the Island for their defence, which I the more readily consented to as I received a Letter from Captain Hudson of the *Orpheus*, acquainting me that he had joined the *Liverpool* and had also the *Kingsfisher* with him off the Delaware, after that time so many new things occurred, and the Rebels were so very industrious in raising an Armament against us, that I found it impossible with any degree of propriety to leave his Lordship until the Vessels with him could be fitted so as to proceed to a place of safety, which I used all possible diligence to do, but so many impediments happened in this new scene of a Floating Town, that I was not able to effect it until the beginning of August, having been obliged to go a hundred and twenty Miles up the River Patowmack to get Fresh Water for their Sea Store; when after having set the *Otter* as Convoy to about Forty Sail to St

Augustine, The *Fowey* to see Governor Eden Twenty Leagues off the land, with Ten Sail bound for England; I left the Capes with his Lordship and the remainder, and arrived here the 13th of August; having directed Captain Montagu to take the *Otter* under his Command at her return from the Southward, and to continue Cruizing there 'till further Orders. I have the honor to be [&c.]

A. S. Hamond.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

INTERROGATION OF JAMES PATRICK, MATE OF THE PRIZE SNOW *Georgia* ¹

Cooke & Others agst Snow <i>Georgia</i>	}	Interrogatories Examination of James Patrick late Mate of the Snow <i>Georgia</i> taken in Court before the Judge
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Question – Was you mate of the Snow *Georgia* at the time the Ship *defence* made a Prize of her

Answer – That he was mate of her ever since the Snow left Grenoch the 16th July 1775

Quest – Who were Owners of the Snow *Georgia* at the time she left Grenoch

Ansr – John Buchanan Junior – Alexander Morrison and Company were Owners

Question – Where does the Owners of the Snow *Georgia* reside

Ansr – in Grenoch

Questn – who were owners of the Cargoe of the Snow *Georgia*

Answer – John Buchanan Jun Alexander Morrison and Company

Question – has the Property of the Snow *Georgia* been changed since she left Greenoch –

Ansr – Not that he knows –

James Patrick

Sworn to in Open Court [November 28, 1776] ²

1. Admiralty Court Papers, 1776–1781, Box 1, Folder 2, Md. Arch.

2. *Georgia* was condemned this date, Minutes of Court of Admiralty, 1776–1778, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday November 28th 1776

On the Recommendation of the Navy Board It is Ordered that a Commission issue to James Meriwether appointing him second Lieutenant in Capt. Thomas Meriwethers Company of Marines

Ordered that his Excellency the Governor be requested to write to Capt. James Barron desiring him to inform the Masters of all Vessells that may hereafter arrive to attend this Board and make a report of the state of their Cargoes before they either break Bulk or agree for the Sale of any part thereof

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 255.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD¹

Navy Board [Charleston]

Thursday 28th November 1776 –

Agreed That The following Order be sent to Mr. [McCulley] Righton

Sir

You are Desired by the Commissioners to Endeavour to Engage
Eight good Negroe Boat Men on the best Terms to be Constantly
Employed under your Direction and report to the Board on Saturday
Evening –

Edward Blake first Commissioner

Novemr. 28th 1776 –

Adjourned to next Saturday Evening 6 oClock –

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 28.

29 Nov.

PETITION OF SAMPSON MEARS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

To the Honble the Council, and the Honble the House of Representatives of the
State of Massachusetts Bay,
The Petition of Samson Mears humbly shews,

That the friend of your Petitioner Mr Samuel Curson is an Inhabitant of the
Island of Snt Eustatia, belonging to the dominions of the United States of Holland,
and was owner of a certain Brig called the *Dove*, lately captured by Capt Thomas
Truxton,² & brought into the Port of Dartmouth; and has been tried & condemned
in the Maritime Court of the Southern District, and the said Brig & her cargoe
sold at public auction.

The tryal in the said Maritime Court was held so soon after the said Brig ar-
rived into Port, as rendered it impossible for your Petitioner, or any other friend of
said Cursons to appear & file a claim within the time prescribed by law; she being
brought into Port the 3d & tried the 30th of October, and your Petitioner being
within that time at the distance of near 400 Miles. Your Petitioner would acquaint
your Honors, that said Curson the owner of said Brig & her cargoe, is not only a
friend to the United States of America, but transacts business for the Continental
Congress in the capacity of an Agent, and by his firm adherence & attachment to
the glorious cause in which this Country is engaged, has made himself so obnoxious
in the British West India Islands, that he is obliged to cover his property in order
to screen it from British men of war. Your Honors will doubtless be sensible how
discouraging it must be to the friends of this Country abroad to have their property
confiscated by these States, in whose service & defence, they are daily venturing
their all.

Your Petitioner, therefore, prays your Honors to take the premises into con-
sideration, and order that said Curson may file his claim in said Maritime Court, in
such manner & form, as if no process had been had on said Brig & her cargoe, or
indulge him to appeal to the next Superiour Court to be held in said District, and
in the mean time direct, that the Captors may give Sureties for the safe lodgement
of the Monies, which arose from the sale of the said Brig & her Cargoe, so that

there may be a possibility of said Cursons recovering his property, provided he should support his claim; and give such other orders as your Honors in your wisdom shall direct.

Samson Mears

[Endorsements]

In the House of Representatives Novr 12th 1776

Read and thereupon Resolved that Coll Orne & Mr Cooper, with such as the Honble Board shall join be a Committee to take the same into consideration and report Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council Nov 12th 1776

Read & Concurr'd & Willm Phillips Esqr. is joined on the Part of the Board

John Avery Dpy Secy

The Committee of both Houses to whom the Petition afore said was Committed having heard the Petitioner – beg leave to Report by Way of Resolve

That the Petitioner Serve Edward Pope agent of Thomas Truxton Commander of the armed Sloop *Independence* and the officers, Mariners & others concerned in the said Capture with a Copy of this memorial and order therein at or before the 23 day of Novr Current, that He the said Edward Pope agent as aforesd may shew Cause Before the General Assembly of this State on Tuesday the 26th Novr Current – if then sitting & if the General Assembly should not be then sitting on the first Tuesday of the next Session of this Court, Wherefore the Petitioner should not appeal from the said Determination of the Maritime Court aforesd and have the benefit of a Tryal upon the Justice of the said Capture in the said Sup Court – and the Sale of the said Vessell & her appurtenances (if already unsold) in Consequence of the said Decree of the maritime Court, is hereby order'd and directed to be suspended, & if the same is already Sold The Moneys arisen in Consequence of said Sale to be retaind in the agents Hands undistributed, till the further order of this Court

Wm Phillips p Order

In Council Novr 16th 1776

Read & Accepted Sent down for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representatives Novr 18. 1776

Read & concurred

J Warren Spkr

Bedford in Dartmouth November the 22d 1776

this may Certify to whome it may Concern that this Day with Sampson Mears, I served the Agent of Thomas Truxton & others Concernd in the Sloop *Independence* with Copies of the annex petition &c

James Bryant Constable of Dartmouth

In the House of Representatives Novr 26, 1776

Read & thereupon Ordered, That Brigr Preble and Mr Mayhew, with such as the Honbl Board shall join be a Còmmittee to take the same under consideration, hear the parties if present and report what is proper to be done – Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council Nov 26t 1776

Read & Concurr'd and Daniel Hopkins Esqr is joined on the Part of the Board

John Avery Dpy Secy

The Committee of both Houses appointed to take into Consideration the Petition of Samson Mears, and the order of Court thereon, report the following Resolve; – Vizt

Resolved, that Samson Mears, in behalf of Samuel Curson, have, and he hereby has Liberty of filing his Claim to the Brigantine *Dove* and her Appurtenances, in the Maritime Court of the Southern District of this State; and also of appealing from the Decree of the said Court, condemning the said Brigantine, her Cargo and appurtenances, to the next Superior Court of Judicature &c within said District, the time for filing such Claim, and appealing as aforesaid being lapsed, notwithstanding. – And the said Superior Court is hereby fully authorized and empowered to proceed upon, hear, and determine the said Cause upon such appeal in the same way and Manner to every Intent and Purpose, as tho' such Claim and appeal had been filed, and claimed in the manner and time by Law prescribed, any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding. –

In Council Nov 28t 1776

Read & Accepted Sent down for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representatives Novr 29th 1776

Read and Concurred

T Dalton Spkr pro Tem

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 131–33, 264, 265.

2. Thomas Truxton commanded a New York privateer.

JOHN DUNCANSON, A BRITISH NAVAL PRISONER, TO _____¹

Sir

I have received undoubted intelligence that an exchange for those of the British Navy, who are prisoners in America; is actually to take place – I have now been nineteen months a prisoner of war, and yet by the managers of this business have been unhappily neglected – I am inform'd by Mrs Gordon, that to be unfortunate, is title sufficient to have an Interest with you Sir, & those civilities which I last year experienced at your hands, seem to justify her opinion – May I hope, Sir, that your influence will be used, to have my case fairly stated before the Hon: Council which I doubt not, will be sufficient to obtain for me that justice which is the extent of my wishes – I had the honor to live with you a fortnight at Watertown in Mr Hunts house, as I'm extreemly anxious to know if

there is any chance of my being exchange'd – wou'd esteem it as a particular favor if you wou'd return an answer by the bearer – I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

John Duncanson

Surgeon's mate of the

Falcon sloop of war –

Dunstable Novr 29th, 1776

[Endorsed] In Council Chamber Boston December 3d 1776 –

Ordered that the within named John Duncanson be permitted to go to Hallifax in one of the Cartel Vessels now at Marblehead to be exchanged, or in exchange, for one of the subjects of this State, of the same station or character

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 68.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1776

New-London, November 29.

Tuesday Night last, one John Coggin, late Boatswain of the Bomb Brig, (who with three other Prisoners lately broke out of Windham Goal) was found on board a Brig in this Harbour: He gives the following Account of said Prisoners, viz. That the Night after breaking out of Goal, they, with the Help of one Lewis, who was taken in a Prize Vessel, stole a Canoe near Norwich-Landing, with which they attempted to cross the Sound to Long-Island, but at the Entrance of the Race, near Gull-Islands, the Canoe upset, when all of them except Coggin, were drowned. Their Names are Edward Sneyd, (late Commander of the Bomb-Brig)¹ William Cook, John Russell, and ——— Lewis.

1. H. M. Bomb Brig *Bolton*, see Volumes 4 and 5.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. BRIG *Halifax*¹

Remarks in Long Isld Sound Friday Novr 29th 1776

- 1 [A.M.] Weighd and stood over for the No shore at ½ past Tak'd & stood for Long Island shore Tender In Company Mod Breezes & Cloudy Weather Tiney cock point SWbW Hogg Island SSW. stood for the No Shore at 7 Came too wt the Sml Br in 4½ fathoms Hard bottom off Horse Neck saw some Cattle on the Rebel shore
- 8 [A.M.] Hoisted out the Boats and Sent them Mannd & Armd and got off four head for the Use of the Brigg the Rebels came down on the shore and Fird several shott at the Boats, at 10 Weighd and stood for long Island at Noon Tiney cock point WSW –

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE¹

East River. N. York 29th Novr The *Earl of Effingham* came down the N. River this morning about 10 o'Clock with the Ebb tide, and with the next flood went up the East River, and anchored off Bushwick point. Greatest part of the Expedition fleet is now at anchor in the E. River between Turtle bay and Bushwick point.

About 60 sail are assembled. The Frigates which are [to] Convoy us, passed through Hell-Gate some days ago, and are waiting for us in the Sound.

The large ships, vizt *Asia*, *Chatham*, *Centurion*, *Renown*, *Experiment*, & *Preston* with some Frigates, and the transport with the 54th Regiment, went over the Bar, and put to Sea this Morning with a fine wind at N.

Rhode Island is certainly our object, at which place it is said there are some Rebel Frigates, and a great quantity of Goods and Stores.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 117.

MAJOR CHARLES STUART TO HIS FATHER, THE EARL OF BUTE ¹

[Extract]

East River, New York, Nov. 29, 1776

Upon the 11th Oct. we embarked on board the flat-bottomed boats at 7 ocl. in the evening, and at about daybreak the next morning we proceeded through Hell-Gate (a place so called from a considerable chute which renders the passage very dangerous) to Throg's neck, where we landed without opposition.

The rebels, observing our motion, destroyed a bridge and causeway which joined this neck to part of the continent called West Chester, and flung up entrenchments further to impede our march. It being thought improper to force their pass we encamped; one boat of artillery and a few lives were lost in the passage.

On the 17th we again embarked and landed near Rochelle upon the continent; the rebels not expecting us, we proceeded near 3 miles unmolested, until the Lt. Infantry coming to the great road which leads from New York to New England they had a slight brush, in which Col. [Thomas] Musgrave, three officers and a few men were wounded. . . .

(I forgot to mention that General Kniphausen with 3,000 Hessians had been sent to invest Fort Washington, which fort is about a mile from Kingsbridge upon York Island.) On the 12th we marched in two Lines towards Kingsbridge, and after two days' march we encamp'd with our right at Morrisania and our left upon the River fronting White Plains. A general attack on the Fort was ordered on the 15th, the dispositions being as follows – Gen. Kniphausen to advance and ascend the Hill, Lord Percy to attack the lines in front, the Guards, Lt. Infantry one [*sic* our] Corps and 42nd Regt. to cross Harlem River, and land in two different places. Fortunately for us the Americans behaved as dastardly as usual, and after a little opposition to the Hessians and Highlanders they ran to the protection of their Post, which not being able to contain them, they surrendered at discretion.

About 3,000 prisoners lay down their arms; thus did we gain possession of a Fort which I wou'd have engaged with 800 men to maintain against 10,000. The post in itself was weak, but the ascent to it was difficult beyond description; they had, more over, 6 months' provisions and stores.

In this affair the British lost 100 killed and wounded, and the Hessians 300. . .

Six thousand are embarked for an expedition under the command of General Clinton and Lord Percy; I likewise go, with the command of the Grenadiers, we imagine to Rhode Island. I am on board a miserable transport with 30 offi-

cers, therefore you must excuse the incorrectness; it is rather severe after sharing in every active part of this campaign immediately to undertake a Winter one.

1. *New Records of the American Revolution. The Letters, Manuscripts and Documents sent by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Charles Stuart, to his Father, the Earl of Bute, 1775-79 and Letters of General Howe, General Clinton, and other Officers to Sir Charles Stuart, during the Revolution, 1779-81* (privately printed, n. d.), 12, 13. Hereafter cited as *Letters of Charles Stuart*.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN TOBY CAULFIELD ¹

1776 November

[Off Sandy Hook]

Thursday 28

6 AM unmoored Ship & hove into 1/3 of a Cable light breezes & fair Wear 2 P M weighed & came to Sail in Co wt the *Experiment*, *Cerberus*, *Emerald* & *Sphinx* 1/2 past 4 made the Sgl for anchoring at 5 came to wt the B. Br in 10 fm in Gravesend Bay – fir'd the morning & Evg Guns

Friday 29

1/2 past 9 AM Weighed & came to Sail in Co wt the *Asia*, *Centurion*, *Renown*, *Preston*, *Experiment*, *Emerald*, *Sphinx*, *Cerberus* & Two Transports – 12 made the Sgl for Anchoring – Anchored wt the B. Br in 7 fm. off Sandy hook – found riding here H. M. S. *Swan*

fore & middle parts strong Gales & cloudy latter little wind

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN ELISHA WARNER ¹

Sir

[Philadelphia] November 29th 1776

We have sent Doctor Smith to take charge of the wounded men belonging to the *Fly*, and since the Vessel is no longer in condition for prosecuting her Cruize you are to return with her into this Port as quickly as you can bringing with you the wounded men, and the Surgeon now sent to take care of them. We are Sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 47, NA.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] Novem'r 29th, 1776.

Mr. Nesbitt to pay Andrew Ashton £4 10 0, for Iron Work for the Armed Boat *Delaware*.

Agreeable to resolve of Congress, a Commission for Letter of Marque was this day granted to Michael Barstow, Commander of the Brig *Industry*, mounting Ten Carriages' Guns, (4 Pounders,) Burthen about 100 Tons, navigated by Twenty-five men, owned by Blair McClenachan.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 20, 21.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

Dear Sir

Baltimore Novr 29th 1776

I have communicated to Capt [James] Nicholson what you mention in your Letter of the 24th, expressing the desire of Congress to have his Frigate

fitted for Sea as soon as possible; and have asked his own opinion how soon (from her present Circumstances) She can be ready. He says that if he is supplyd with One large Anchor & shoud not be disapointed in his expectations of getting part of the Ship *Defences* Crew, he can certainly have her ready to sail in a Month at the utmost. – The Ship *Defence* is a few days ago arriv'd at Annapolis from her Cruise, And as her Crew were allmost every One recruited by Capt Nicholson, they went out on the late Cruise chiefly at Capt Nicholson's request & with the expectation of Shipping with him in the Frigate on their Return. The time of their enlistment will be expired about the 15th or 20th of next Month, before which they cant leave the *Defence* – Capt Nicholson thinks If he can get only half of them that he will be well off as to Seamen; – The Frigate has got 22 of her 12 Pounders mounted, the other 2 We expect to receive immediately. The 4 Pounders are not all come to hand, But that will not delay the Vesl as the Capt thinks it wd not be proper to Mount them now at going out –

Two of the Officers are now on the Eastern Shore with Casks Salt & Coopers getting Pork put up, & part of the Beef is now making up here. – I have got the Gunsmiths employd in making the Musquets which will be all compleated in 3 Weeks. –

I will now give you a detail of the principal Wants, which I hope Congress will endeavour to supply by some Means or other; some of them being such as I see no prospect of being able to supply here. – Blankets, of these we can get none either in Town or Country, both being ransackd to equip the Flying Camp Troops. – The heavey Anchor w[hic]h I informed you Mr. Young had procured in Virginia is not yet brought up: But supposing it certainly to be got, Another of the largest Seize is still wanted. – Inclosed you have a List of the light Canvas yet wanted. The Sail Maker deliverd Me this lately, altho he had long before told Me, we had enough or nearly so. – As We expected in a Vesl here from Statia with Canvas, I thout it best to wait her Arrival rather than trouble Congress about it. The Vessel is arrivd a few days agoe at Sinepuxent, but cant learn the particulars of her Cargo. – Capt. Nicholson thinks that if you dont expect to get out any more than One of the Frigates from Philida. this Winter, You can spare a Set of those light Sails for him. – In the meantime I shall not fail to purchase whatever light Canvas may be arrivd in the Vesl at Sinepuxent.

On receiving the Advices yesterday that Genl Howe seems bent on pushing for Philada., A Number of the Officers & Gentlemen of Coll [William] Buchanans Bataln chiefly of this Town Militia, met & came to a Resolution of trying to make up a Number of Volunteers to march as soon as possible to Philada. – I have not a doubt that they will be able to make up a respectable Number, shoud none others besides meer Gentlemen go. – I flatter myself that the Example will have the most salutary effect & stimulate many other Batallions to march a Number of Volunteers on this very importt Occasion. – I wish my Situation woud admit of my Marching, but that is impossible. Mr [David] Stewart my Bror In Law & Co Agent for the Frigate & an Officer of the Marcantile Company, will certainly march for One altho but Just emerging from a Fever. My Bror² is but

Just beging to move about after a tedious Fever, wh subjects me to no little Bussins, so that I have no hopes of being able to go. – Captn Nicholson proposed to go along with the Volunteers, as he thinks he could be of Service in assisting about the Artillery: But I have perswaded him to go up to Congs as soon as ever the Bussns of the Frigate will admit of it. Accordingly he has resolved to go next Week. – I purpose getting him to send an Express for Captn [John Thomas] Boucher who lives at George Town on Potomk & in Order to take him up with him, as I am perswaded he is a Gentln very capable of being serviceable in any departmt about the Artillery. This Captn Boucher is the same who was lately in the Service of yr Colony, & formerly First Lieutt to Captn Nicholson in the *Defence*. I know him to be as brave a Man as lives, & One who will readily serve his Country on any Emergency. I am very sorry he was not thought of to be appointed to One of the Contintl Vesls for which I apprehend he is One of the fittest Men on this Cont[inen]t – I know Capt Nicholson considers him as much superior to himself in the Knowledge of Marine Matters. He is a Man of Education & excellent Genius, and was brought up regularly in the Navy.

God grant us all firmness & Resolution at this important Crisis. I neither wish nor expect to survive the Liberties of our Country. If that is to perish, let us like Sampson bury Ourselves in the Ruins. Adieu My Dear Sir & May God bless you, prays Your [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Jun^r

1. Lee Papers, UVL.
2. Robert Purviance.

CAPTAIN THOMAS CONWAY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Chesapeake Bay] November 29th 1776

Gentlemen, I take the Pleasure to Acquaint you of my Safe Arivil from Martinico, in the Sloop *Molly* Having A long Passage 22 Days, up As High as Point lookout, As the Winds Keep to the Norrd So long I knu I Could not get up the Bay soon I thought I had better Send the letters by Express, Having one of my Salors Acquainted Well with the Rode, I shall loose No time And Make the best of My Way With the Sloop up to Anapolis, Seed nothing to interrupt my Passage at the Capes From your [&c.]

Thomas Conway

1. Red Book, XVI, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday November 29th 1776

Ordered that a Commission issue to Robert Tompkins appointing him Captain of the *Henry* Galley which accordingly issued bearing date this day

Ordered that the Commissioners of the Navy Board be requested to direct the Schooner *Adventure* Capt. William Saunders to proceed to Saint Eustatia or Martinico and consign the said Vessell with her Cargo to our Agents at those Places giving such Instructions to the Captain as they may judge proper

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 256, 257.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday 29th November 1776. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Albion Robins for Fifty five Pounds, on Account, to Purchase Necessaries to Build a Boat for the Transportation of Troops.

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Peter Smith for Fifty five Pounds, on Account, to Purchase Necessaries to Build a Boat for the Transportation of Troops —

Ordered that Capt Christopher Calvert be directed to have the *Washington* Galley now Building under his direction at So Quay as deep in the Hold as the Timbers will admit of so as not to do the Vessel any Injury. —

1. Navy Board Journal, 120, VSL.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1776

Williamsburg, November 29.

We have advice, by a vessel which is just arrived with cloth, blankets, &c. from Martinico, that 30 sail of French men of war lay in that port when she left it. There are two more small vessels arrived, whose cargoes consist chiefly of salt.

Tuesday the remains of the Hon. Peyton Randolph, Esq; late President of the Continental Congress, were brought here from Philadelphia, and interred in the family vault in the College chapel.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Maidstone*, CAPTAIN ALAN GARDNER ¹

Novemr [1776] Do [Tortuga] S½E. 11 Leags
 Friday. 29 AM ½ past 2 TKd Ship. 5 TKd Saw two sail, out 1 Rf.
 Tops. 7 TKd Ship. 8 a French Frigate Bore down on us.
 Brot to Mn Tops to the Mast She sent her Boat on Board of
 us. Sent 10 Frenchmen on Bd of her, that we had taken out
 of American Vessels. 9 made Sail in Compy Fr. Frigt
 Modt and fair P.M. 4 The French Frigate Wore and Stood
 to the Southwd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/572.

30 Nov.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT JOHN TREVETT, CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Providence* ¹

[November 3 to November 30] ²

We sailed to the eastward of Halifax, the first prize was a snow from England bound to Halifax her cargo dry goods, the next prize was a Ship called the *Malech* [Mellish] her cargo 10,000 suits of Soldiers Clothing ready made, a set of light-horse accoutrements with carbines and a valuable invoice of Medicine chests: The Ship the most valuable out of 45 sail, the rest of her cargo trunks of Silk gowns and dry goods suitable for Gen. Burgoyne's army at Quebeck, the Ship haled down her colours to the Sloop *Providence*, she mounted 12 carriage guns and had between 60 & 70 men, the *Alfred* and the *Snow* coming down on us,

we then manned the *Malech*, and ordered both for New Bedford, where they arrived safe. As soon as they arrived, without trial, for the *Malech*, she was unloaded, and all the clothing taken out and waggons prepared to send them on to Gen. Washingtons army, at that time his army being in a distressed situation for clothing, and in this Ship was every article complete for a Soldier from the hat, to the shoes, and at that time I can say with pleasure I had rather taken her, than a Spanish Galleon with hard money, although we took Continental money for our parts of all the prizes. We cruised off Halifax until we took 3 more Ships, their cargoes sea coal &c – when we had a violent snow storm, it being in the month of Nov. we parted with Com. Jones and then we put away for Rhode Island and arrived the last of Nov. and the *Alfred* arrived safe at Boston.³

1. Trevett's Journal, NHS.

2. Dates approximated on journal content.

3. Trevett's after the fact account is inaccurate. *Providence* parted with the *Alfred* on November 18, and consequently had no part in taking the coal ships six days later. Jones arrived at Boston December 17, and the *Mellish* on December 21 at Bedford; not in November as Trevett states.

ORDER OF MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT RELATIVE TO MANNING CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot* AND STATE BRIG *Massachusetts*¹

In the House of Representatives Nov. 30: 1776

Whereas a Number of Men are wanted to Enable Cpts Hinman & Sowter [Daniel Souther] to proceed upon a Short Cruize by the desire & orders of the Board of War. & a Number of Coll [Thomas] Crafts Regiment are willing to go on Board said Vessels for the purposes Proposed – ² Therefore

Resolved That ^A the Board of War be Impowered to order ^A a Number of sd Regiment not Exceeding fifty ^B to Embark on Board the Brigs *Cabot* & *Massachusetts* & with them proceed on a Cruise – Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council Novr. 30th. 1776 –

Read & Concurred with Amendment at A & B – A dele from A to A at B
Insert, be permitted

Sent down for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representatives Novr 30 1776

Consented to – Read & Concurr'd

B Chadbourn

J Warren Spkr

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 270.

2. The occasion was a report that H. M. S. *Milford* was grounded in Penobscot Bay. However, the *Milford* got off and the project was dropped, Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 15, Board of War Minutes, 1776–1777.

ORDER OF MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT RELATIVE TO BRITISH NAVAL PRISONERS AT NEWBURYPORT¹

In Council Novr 30th 1776

Resolved That all such Prisoners, taken upon the high Seas, as are now at Newbury Port, & refuse to enter into the Service of this State, or of the United States,

be forthwith sent from Newbury Port to Marblehead, & delivered to Capt Stone Master of the Cartel Vessel now lying at Marblehead, in ^A order to their being transported to Halifax; and that this Order be inclosed in a Letter to the Hon. Benjamin Greenleaf Esq at Newbury Port

Sent down for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representa[tives] Novr 30, 1776

Read and Concurred with the Amendment at A vizt at A insert exchange for the same number of persons of like condition in Sent up for Concurrence

Sam^l Freeman Spkr P T

In Council Novr 30t 1776

Read & Concurr'd

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 271.

RESOLVE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT INCREASING THE
NUMBER OF OFFICERS IN STATE VESSELS OF WAR ¹

In the house of Representa[tives] Novr 30. 1776

The Comtee Appointed to consider what officers were omitted in the late Establishment for the Armed Vessells that were necessary and to report an Establishment for each of them have attended that Service and report it as their opinion that they apprehend the officers hereafter mentioned are necessary for each Vessell and that their wages and share of prizes should be as hereafter mentioned therefore report the following resolve vizt

Resolved That in Addition to the officers heretofore Established there be a Captains Clerk a Prize Master a Second Mate a Cooper a Sergent of Marines and an Armourer, and that their pay and shares of prizes be as follows vizt –

Captains Clerk to be entitled to One Share and a Quarter of all prizes and receive P month	2.15 –
Prize Master to be entitled to one share & half of all prizes & receive P month	2.15 –
2d Mate to be entitled to one share & a quarter of all prizes & receive P month	2. .8 –
Cooper to be entitled to one share & a quarter of all prizes & receive P month	2. .8 –
A Sergent of Marines to be entitled to one share & a quarter of all prizes & receive P month	2. .8 –
An Armourer to be entitled to one share & a quarter of all prizes & receive P month	2. .8 –

Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council Decr 3d 1776

Read & Concurr'd

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 281.

"NAMES OF PRISONERS FROM THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, ORDER'D
BY THE HONBLE [MASSACHUSETTS] COUNCIL TO MARBLEHEAD,"¹

[Boston] Novr 30th 1776

Lt John Knight	Charles Elder	do
Wm Bogie Midshipman	Edward Webb	do
Wm Broughton do	George Cowie	do
Thoms Spry do	John Dansier	do
Robt Hanning Hitchens do	Thoms Sproule	do
John Atkinson do	Wm Carthew	do
Philobeth Dommel do	Justin Budd	Gunner
John Larkin do	George Grigory McFadyen	Surgeon
Bateman Baker do	John Hitch	Capt of the <i>Success</i> Sloop

Mareens —

David Skurrey	Sergent	John Gill	Corporal
Joseph Weathers	ditto		

Sailors —

James Piper	John Simplin
Wm Allen	Wm Havelock
Jacob Culps	Wm Allen
Wm Rickett	Hugh Jones
Hugh Hughes	Wm Mackay
Edwd Burges	Jonathan Ellis
Thos Browning	Mundrick Shaw
James Collins	Robert Light
Thos Donaldson	Wm Moore
James May	John Samsbury
John Kelley	Thoms Anderson
Charles Godman	Thoms Taylor
George Davis	Thoms Peck

Mareens —

Allen Soper	Simpson Moore
Wm Small	Wm Galvin
John Matticks	John Loyd
Danl Carregin	John Gale
John Arrow Smith	Jeremh Emmond
George Smith	Peter Handlin
John Waters	Wm Bazzel, left on the
John Stanard	Rhoad at Worcester
Humpfry Sweetlin	Peter Buzz
Partrick Clark	

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 172.

DEPOSITION OF NICHOLAS MARTINDALE AND GEORGE MCCREE ¹

In Justice to Captain Samuel Tucker, of the *Hancock*, in Return for his Civilities, We do hereby Certify, That on the 29th day of Octr last we was taken in the brig *Lively*, bound from Air to Newfoundland by the *Hancock* in the Continental Service and brought into this Port on the 13th currt – That Captn Saml Tucker Commander of the *Hancock*, allowed us to Remain on board the *Lively* till her arrival here, where we was trate with all manner of Civilities and Good Usage – Mr Tucker he Not Only Give Liberty for Mr McCree the Master Mate & hands of the *Lively* to take all their Goods Cloths & private Adventurs &c for their Own particular account – But after Some of the Sailors had been Robbed of Some Goods and Cloths by his people, which were amissing for Some days – He was at the pains to search for the Goods &c, which he found and Delivered, and Such part as could Not be found, he Generously paid the full price for Out of his Own pocket – He likewise has been at all manner of pains Since we arrived to intraduce us to Such Gentln as could be of any Service to us – and has done everything in his Power to make maters as easy and Agreeable to us as possible in Our present Situation.

Given Under Our hands as Witness our Subscriptions At Boston this 30th day of Novr 1776 –

Commander of the *Lively*

Nichs Martindale

Owner of her Cargo,

George McCree

1. Tucker Papers, vol. 1, 17, HU.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Fishkill] Novr. 30th, 1776.

Mr. Duer, pursuant to a resolution of this morning, reported certain alterations he had made in the draft of a letter to the Honble. the President of the Continental Congress, agreed to on the 28th inst. which were approved of, and by which the following was substituted instead of that part of said letter contained between the words "*defenceless parts of New-Jersey*, in conclusion of the first paragraph, and the words "*however severe the sudden reverse of fortune*," in beginning of the last paragraph, vizt:

In perfecting the obstruction between Anthony's Nose on the eastern shore and Fort Montgomery, we endeavoured to avail ourselves of the model of that which had proved effectual in the river Delaware, and were assisted by the advice and experience of Capt. [John] Hazelwood, but the great length of the chain, being upwards of 1800 feet, the bulk of the logs which were necessary to support it, the immense weight of water which is accumulated, and the rapidity of the tide, have baffled all our efforts; it separated twice after holding only a few hours.

Mr. Mechin, the engineer at Fort Montgomery, is of opinion that with proper alterations it may still be of service in another part of the river, and we have, with General Heath's concurrence, directed him to make the trial. But we have too much reason to despair of its ever

fully answering the important purpose for which it was constructed. A like disappointment, we are informed, happened at Portsmouth, the chain intended to obstruct the navigation of that harbour, proving equally ineffectual. These considerations have induced us to explore the depth of the river throughout the Highlands, in which a committee of the Convention have been assisted by Gen. George Clinton. The distance and depth of water at the north entrance, which, on the experiment, is found to be the fittest place, will be seen by the enclosed plan. General Heath, on a conference with General Clinton, has been pleased to recommend the obstruction of the navigation in this part of the river by cassoons, and the Committee of Safety, after mature deliberation, conceiving it to be very practicable, have agreed to the further resolutions, which are herewith transmitted, They wish on account of General Washington's distance and the multiplicity of business with which he is encumbered, that the direction of this work may be committed to Major-General Schuyler, who we believe to be every way qualified to ensure its success. Timber and stones can be conveniently procured, and when the campaign terminates, the troops cantoned in this part of the country may be employed in rotation to assist in the work. If the enemy persevere in their plan of subjugating the States to the yoke of Great Britain, they must, in proportion to their knowledge of the country, be more and more convinced of the necessity of their becoming masters of Hudson's river, which will give them the entire command of the water communication with the Indian nations, effectually prevent all intercourse between the eastern and southern confederates, divide our strength and enfeeble every effort for our common preservation and security. That this was their original plan, and that General Carlton and Genl. Howe flattered themselves with the delusive hopes of uniting their forces at Albany, every intelligence confirms; and it appears to the committee that they will not give up this grand object until they shall finally relinquish the project of enslaving America.

The committee take the liberty to submit these reflections to the Honourable Congress. If they are well founded, an early and vigorous preparation to oppose the progress of the enemy in this quarter must be indispensable, and the defence and security of Hudson's river a principal object of that preparation.

Ordered, That a copy of the said letter, as amended, be engrossed and signed by the President and transmitted.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 724, 725-26.

PROCLAMATION OF ADMIRAL HOWE AND GENERAL HOWE ¹

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

Proclamation

Whereas by our Declarations of the 14th of July, and 19th of Sept. last, in Pursuance of His Majesty's most gracious Intentions towards his Subjects in the Colonies or Provinces of New-Hampshire, Massachuetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia; all Persons speedily returning to their just Allegiance were promised a free and general Pardon, and were invited to accept, not only the Blessings of Peace, but a secure Enjoyment of their Liberty and Property, upon the true Principles of the Constitution; and whereas, notwithstanding the said Declarations, and the Example of many who have availed themselves of the Assurances therein made, several Bodies of armed Men, in open Contempt of His Majesty's proffered Clemency, do still continue their Opposition to the establishment of legal Government and Peace; and divers other illdisposed Persons pursuing their own ambitious Purposes in the Exercise of a lawless influence and Power, are using fresh Endeavours, by various Arts and Misrepresentations to alienate the Confidence and Affection of His Majesty's Subjects; To defeat every Plan of Reconciliation, and to prolong the unnatural War between Great Britain and her Colonies: Now, in order to the more effectual Accomplishment of His Majesty's most gracious Intentions, and the speedy Restoration of the public Tranquility; And duly considering the Expediency of limiting the Time within which such Pardon as aforesaid shall be granted, and of specifying the Terms upon which only the same shall and may be obtained, We do in His Majesty's Name, and by Virtue of the Powers committed to Us, hereby charge and command all Persons whatsoever, who are assembled together in Arms against his Majesty's Government, to disband themselves and return to their Dwellings, there to remain in a peaceable and quiet Manner.

And We also charge and command all such other Persons as are assembled together under the Names of General or Provincial Congresses, Committees, Conventions, or other Associations, by whatever Name or Names known and distinguished, or who under the Colour of any Authority from any such Congress, Committee, Convention, and other Association, taken upon them to issue or execute any Orders for levying Money, raising Troops, fitting out armed Ships and Vessels, imprisoning or otherwise molesting His Majesty's Subjects to desist and cease from all such treasonable Actings and Doings, and to relinquish all such usurped Power and Authority, so that Peace may be restored, a speedy Remission of past Offences quiet the Apprehensions of the Guilty, and all the Inhabitants of the said Colonies be enabled to reap the Benefit of His Majesty's paternal Goodness in the Preservation of their Property, the Restoration of their Commerce, and the Security of their most valuable Rights, under the just and moderate Authority of the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain: And we do hereby declare, and make known to all Men, that every Person who within Sixty Days from the Day of the Date hereof shall appear before the Governor or Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in Chief in any of His Majesty's Colonies or Provinces aforesaid, or before the General or commanding Officer of His Majesty's Forces in America, or any other Officer in His Majesty's Service, having the Command of any Detachment or Parties of His Majesty's Forces there, or before the Admiral or Com-

mander in Chief of His Majesty's ships of War, or any armed Vessel in His Majesty's Service, within any of the Ports, Havens, Creeks, or upon the Coasts of America, and shall claim the Benefit of this Proclamation, and at the same Time testify his Obedience to the Laws, by subscribing a Declaration in the Words following, "I, A. B. do promise and declare that I will remain in a peaceable Obedience to His Majesty, and will not take up Arms, nor encourage Others to take up Arms, in Opposition to His Authority," shall and may obtain a full and free Pardon of all Treason and misprisons of Treason, by him heretofore committed or done, and of all Forfeitures, attainders, and Penalties for the same; and upon producing to Us, or either of Us, a Certificate of such his appearance and Declaration, shall and may have and receive such Pardon made and passed to him in due Form.

Given at New York, this Thirtieth Day of November, 1776

By Command of their Excellencies,

Hen. Strachey

Howe.

W. Howe.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, December 20, 1776, where the proclamation is introduced thus: "The following is a Copy of a Proclamation which was a few Days since brought from Long-Island, and is said to have been printed in New York, by one Macdonald & Cameron."

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE CONTINENTAL BOARD OF WAR¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters, Brunswick, November 30, 1776.

Gentn: I am to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 18th. 19th and 23d Instant, which, from the unsettled situation of our affairs, I have not been able to answer before.

That of the 18th incloses a list of Stores taken in the *Hancock and Adams* Continental Ship and carried into Dartmouth in New England, with a Resolve of Congress to deliver the Muskets, Powder, Lead and Flints to my order, as the other Articles of the Cargo will be full as useful to the Army, as those included in the Resolve, I would advise, that you given directions to have the whole Cargo removed from Dartmouth to some secure place in the Neighbourhood of Philadelphia, and there deposited till call'd for. It is by no means proper, that so great a Quantity of Military Stores should be lodged with the Army, especially at present, as we know not today, where we shall be obliged to remove tomorrow, and that will in all probability be the case, while the Enemy continue with a light Army on this Side the North River.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, VI, 316-17.

WILLIAM HOOPER TO JOSEPH HEWES¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] November 30th [1776]

In Lat. 32. Long. 70. A man just arrived at Baltimore saw 160 large Vessells steering SW. & WS.W, were these intended for Chas'town, you know before this, it is suspected that they are a fleet which Burgoyne with Men is carrying to the Southward² - Rise My dear Carolina Men - Rise to A Man, to the Southern Provinces is reserved for aught I know the glorious task of rescuing America from Slavery here & hereafter -

1. HL. Also on microfilm at UNCL.

2. The fleet which generated this report consisted of empty transports bound for England.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] November 30th, 1776

Resolved, That in the present allarming situation of our affairs, it is Highly expedient that no vessells should be suffered to depart this Port untill further orders from this board.

The Commodore was directed to stop all vessels from passing thro' the Chevaux de Frize

Ordered, That Capt'n William Brown do furnish a Guard for the Salt Vessels, when applied to by the Salt Committee for that purpose.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 22, 23.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Orpheus*, CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON ¹

November 1776 Do Cape [May] No 29° Wt 15 Leagues
 Saturday 30th at 8 AM fired three Six poundrs a Signal to tack at 11 saw a
 Sail to the SE made sail, and the Sigl to Chace, got up the
 Main top Gallt. Yards, and set Studdg. Sails. Sailmakers
 repairing the Fore Top Gallt sail.
 First part fresh gales, mid & latter Mode & Clear Wr at 4
 Brought the Chace too, a Sloop from Bourdeaux for New
 York ² shorten'd sail and got Main Top Gallt Yards Down.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/650.

2. *Samuel*, John Hutchins, master, with saltpeter, sulphur, salt, canvas, and coarse linen, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sirs Capt. John Carry is in Want of a Mate as he informs Mee, there is a Good Looking yongue Man that Came Mate of a Prise Skooner ² taken By Capt Cook that is Willing to Emedelly Enter With Capt Carry as Mate But Capt Cook Will Not Releas him Without your Orders So Would have you Write him I have Done all in My Powr to Get him But it Dont Seem Satisfactory to Capt Cook as I have Wrote you So often this [illegible] I ad No More from [&c.]

JeSse Hollingsworth

hee has a Boy Prentis to him Self Which hee Expects With him Pleas [illegible] it to Capt Cook — I have a Plied to Capt Cook in Person hee Says hee Must have your Instru[c]tions has Not Seen Mr Nicollson [Benjamin Nicholson] the Guge of the Court of Admaltury as yet Nor Do I think Mr Nicollson Will under-take in this Case So Pleas to Bee full on the Matter
 [Baltimore] Novembr 30 – 1776

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

2. The schooner *Nancy*, taken by Captain George Cook in the Maryland Navy ship *Defence*, Admiralty Court Papers, 1776–1781, Box 1, Folder 5, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday November 30th 1776

The Board being informed that Capt. Lilly has not yet sailed notwithstanding repeated Orders have been given him for that purpose. It is therefore

Ordered that the Navy Board be requested to make strict Enquiry into the Conduct of Capt. Lilly who is suspected of having made unnecessary Delays ²

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 257, 259.

2. Lilly commanded the brig *Liberty*.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO VAN BIBBER & HARRISON, ST. EUSTATIUS ¹

Gentlemen, At the request of his Excellency the Governour and the honble the Council we have consign'd You by the Schooner *Adventure* Captain William Saunders 100 Barrels of good [flour] for which you have Invoice and Bill of lading inclos'd You'll be pleas'd to dispose of it at the best price your Market will afford and invest the proceeds as p[er] Invoice for returns herewith sent you. We rely on your giving the Captain all necessary assistance and as great dispatch as possible and for your procuring the Goods order'd on the best terms and of good qualities –

This Cargo is purchas'd and consign'd You on the public Account of the State, and there are several other Cargoes now purchas'd and to be purchas'd on the same Account, and shou'd we meet with success in this Adventure it may determine us to send several of the other Cargoes to your Island and of course to your address. Be pleas'd to direct your Letters and returns in consequence of this consignment to Thomas Whiting Esqr 1st Commissioner of the Navy Virginia –

(Signed) Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

[Williamsburg] 30th Nov. 1776 –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

1 Dec. (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT ¹

November 1776	Crane Neck NEbE 1 Mile & a ½
Saturday 30	Strong Gales & Squally at 4 PM let go the sml Br Veer'd to a Cable & a ½ on the Bt
December 1776	at 8 AM Arriv'd here a Sloop from stratford in New England
Sunday 1st	having on board the Mayor of New York, ² & some other Passengers who had made their escape from the Rebels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

2. David Matthews.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Fishkill] Sunday, P.M. December 1st, 1776.

A draft of a letter to be addressed to John Teller, John Elmendorf, Jeremiah Clark and Nicholas Brewer, Junr. appointed agents for collecting boats, scows and crafts by the third resolution passed yesterday for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, was read and approved of, in the following words, vizt:

Decr 1st, 1776.

Sir: – The necessity of obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river near Pollepel's Island, having been resolved upon as an object of the