

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 3 of 9

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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

utmost moment to the safety of this State, the enclosed resolutions have been adopted.

The advanced season of the year requires that the preparations should be made with the utmost vigour; and from an opinion which the Committee of Safety entertain, of your activity and zeal for the common cause in which we are engaged, they have unanimously appointed you to the trust mentioned in the said resolutions. They entertain no doubt that you will execute it with fidelity, despatch and cheerfulness.

I am, sir [&c.] By order.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 724-25.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE¹

Long Island Sound 1st Decr The Expedition fleet weighed anchor at daybreak, with a fine wind at S. all went safely through Hellgate, and at 3 in the afternoon anchored near Whitestone, & not far from Frog's-point. Here we found the *Brune*, *Mercury*, and *Kingsfisher*, appointed, with some others not yet joined, to Convoy us. Some of the ships which did not leave New York yesterday, came down this Evening. Commodore Hotham, who Commands this part of the fleet, hoists his broad pendant on board the *Brune*.

No accident happened to any of the Ships in passing through Hellgate, notwithstanding the extreme narrowness and difficulty of the passage, and the rapid tide which sets through. The day being very clear and fine, the appearance of so many large ships going through such a narrow and dangerous passage, in a line ahead, with all their sails set, and with considerable velocity, afforded a grand and pleasing sight. In some places a stone might have been thrown on either shore.

The tide, at some times, runs 7 or 8 knots an hour in this passage, and I have several times seen large transports pass through with a contrary wind, Stern foremost, with all sails set.

During the time the army has been on New York Island, very few accidents have happened, considering the great number of vessels which have passed through this dangerous Channel. They have frequently touched the Rocks, but no ship has been lost. The best time to go through is at the beginning of the flood tide, and near high water, as then the strength of the Current is much abated. It is safer to go from New York into the Sound, than the contrary. Before the arrival of the Army at New York, it was very uncommon for any vessel drawing above 10 or 12 feet water, to attempt going through this passage.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 117-18.

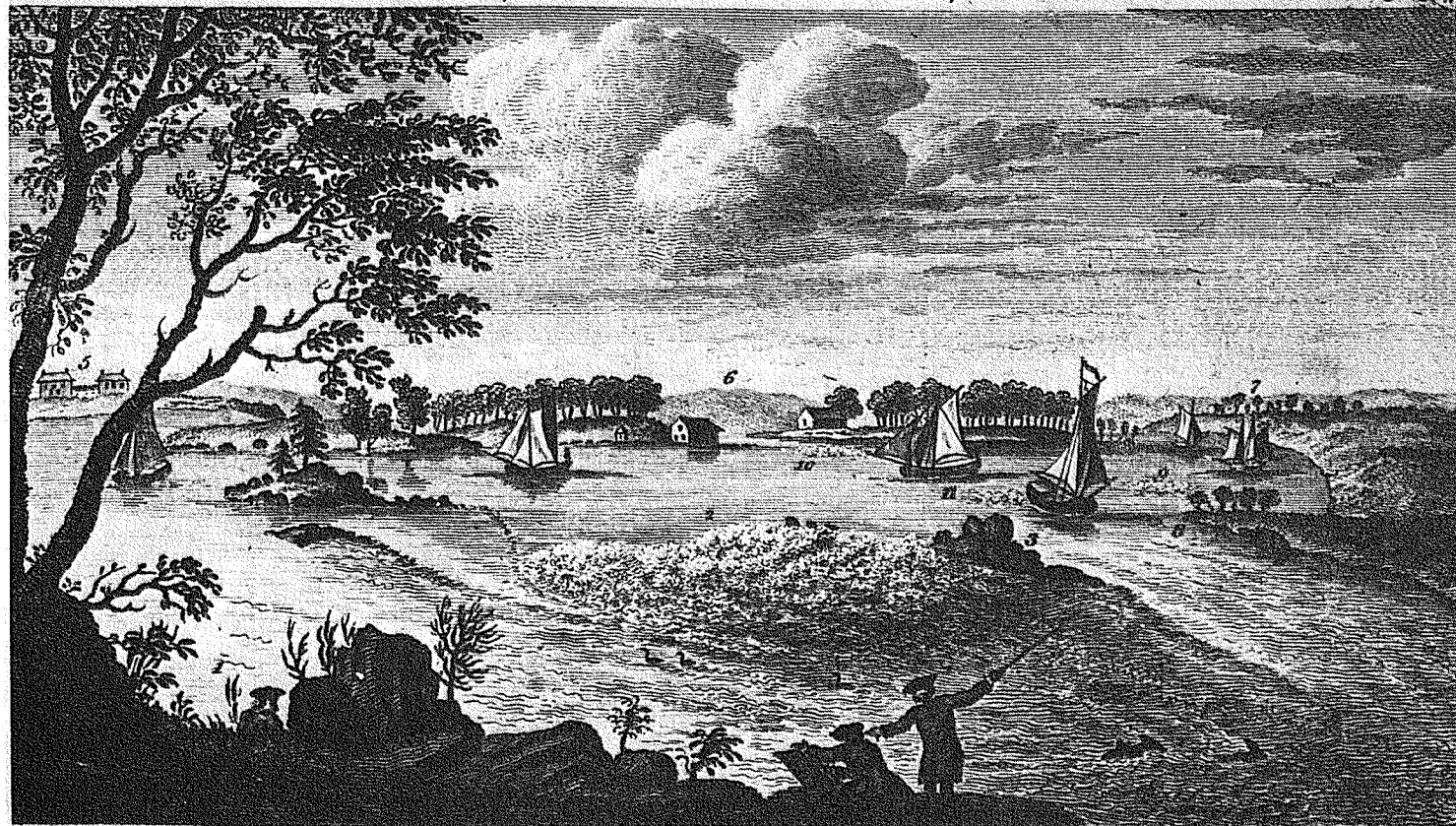
MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a Special Meeting [Philadelphia] December 1st, 1776.

Resolved, That Mr. William Richards & Mr. Mathew Clarkson be appointed to provide every necessary for accommodating the militia on their passage from here to Trenton, to have Oars fixed to each Shallop, and proportion the number of men each can carry.

East View of Hell Gate, in the Province of New York.

Lond. Mag. Apr. 17



W.A. Williams del. 1773

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 Hoorn's Hook. | 3 Hancock's Rock. | 5 Morrisena. | 7 Pinfold's Place. | 9 The Pot. | 11 The Frying |
| 2 The Gridiron. | 4 The Mill Rock. | 6 Bahannas Island. | 8 Hallet's Point. | 10 The Hogs back. | Pan. |

Dispatched expresses to Chester, Philad'a, Bucks & Northampton counties, to hasten the march of Militia to reinforce Gen'l Washington in New Jersey.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 24-25.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO CAPTAIN JAMES MAXWELL ¹

Sir

Philadelphia 1st Decr 1776

The Congress having resolved immediately to undertake the building of two Ships of War of 36 guns each in Virginia as directed by the Marine Committee to apply to some proper persons in that State to Superintend the business. You Sir have been recommended so strongly to me by Gen. Stephen and others as a person of great fitness for this business; and not doubting but that you may comply with this, altho you are the same way employed by our Government, I do in the name of the Committee request you will, taking the advice of the Navy board in Virginia, determine on the most safe, and in other respects most fit place or places to put these Ships upon the Stocks at. Safety against the enemy is a very necessary object, and proper water for Launching. Convenience for getting proper timber you will consider. I suppose it will be no objection if both these Vessels are put upon the Stocks at the same place but in determining on the place or places, not private or local but public considerations are to govern. A Master Builder with 4 or 6 Workmen will soon go from hence to Virginia for this business, and I have no doubt but a sufficiency of other workmen will be to be had in that State to carry on the work briskly - The Builder desires that the Trees may be immediately felled whilst the Sap is down, that a quantity of Locust Trunnels be split 1½ inches, and in length from 18 to 30 inches. That Sawyers be employed to get up plank (White oak) of 3½ inches. These things and whatever else may be immediately necessary for the right pursuit of this business you will take care to have done, and your drafts for the expence created by the same, on the Chairman of the Marine Committee of Congress, shall be duely honored. One or more Associates will be joined with you in this Agency, but for the present you will singly do what is necessary, and for your trouble you will be liberally compensated by Congress. The Board of Assistants are directed to prepare a proper draught of these Ships which shall be forwarded to you when ready. Let me have your answer to this letter by return of Post. I am Sir [&c.]

Richard Henry Lee

P.S. The Builder tells me that Cedar, Locust, Pitch Pine, or Wild Cherry tree, will be the proper Timbers for upper works.

1. C. Stribling Snodgrass Private Collection, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

PAY ROLL OF CAPTAIN ROBERT MULLAN'S MARINE COMPANY TO
DECEMBER 1, 1776 ¹

Captain.	Robert Mullan, June 25, 1776.
First Lieutenant.	David Love, June 25, 1776.
Second Lieutenant.	Hugh Montgomery, June 25, 1776.
Sergeants.	James Coakley, July 1, 1776.
	Andrew Read, August 22, 1776.

	John McKinley, August 2, 1776.
	Warwick Hattabough, September 13, 1776.
Corporals.	George Murray, August 27, 1776.
	Adam McFerson, October 22, 1776.
	John Cribs, October 13, 1776.
	Joseph Grumley, September 17, 1776.
Drummer.	Collin York, June 25, 1776.
Fifer.	Peter York, June 25, 1776.
Privates.	John Hogg, August 21, 1776.
	William Barnett, September 1, 1776.
	Lawrence Lessee, September 3, 1776.
	Benjamin Woodin, August 12, 1776.
	Robert Gilmore, August 28, 1776.
	William Allison, September 2, 1776.
	John Stone, September 2, 1776.
	Daniel Forsman, September 2, 1776.
	William Carcill, August 19, 1776.
	Henry Sharp, September 1, 1776.
	George Campbell, August 4, 1776.
	James McIllear, August 8, 1776.
	Stephen Rutledge, August 22, 1776.
	James Stevenson, August 22, 1776.
	Votier Gawden, September 9, 1776.
	Thomas Murphy, September 2, 1776.
	Robert Work, August 16, 1776.
	Patrick Quigley, July 16, 1776.
	Mark Sullivan, September 10, 1776.
	John McFall, August 5, 1776.
	William Stone, September 5, 1776.
	Stephen Archer, August 13, 1776.
	James Cane, September 9, 1776.
	Daniel McCarty, turned over to <i>A. Doria</i> , August 10, 1776.
	Michael Kelly, September 12, 1776.
	Neil Farron, August 16, 1776.
	William Beauchamand, September 4, 1776.
	Henry Dehart, September 2, 1776.
	William Campin, September 11, 1776.
	John Speer, August 16, 1776.
	George Lafberry, August 5, 1776.
	Jacob Guy, August 19, 1776.
	Francis Quin, August 15, 1776.
	Owen Ward, turned over to <i>A. Doria</i> , August 4, 1776.
	Robert Douglas, September 2, 1776.

John McClure, August 16, 1776.
 John Gilmore, August 28, 1776.
 Thomas Gough, August 28, 1776.
 Richard Keys, October 3, 1776.
 Michael Millar, October 3, 1776.
 William Rively, October 10, 1776.
 Edward Smith, October 2, 1776.
 William Rich, September 8, 1776.
 Robert Elder, September 7, 1776.
 Edward Ashberry, August 29, 1776.
 Barney Maloy, September 12, 1776.
 Thomas McKey, August 27, 1776.
 Allan McKey, August 27, 1776.
 John Getty, September 11, 1776.
 Enoch Jenkins, September 13, 1776.
 Henry Hassan, September 10, 1776.
 John Lewis, September 25, 1776.
 Henry Ripshon, October 21, 1776.
 Patrick Harvy, September 17, 1776.
 William Dougherty, November 12, 1776.
 Isaac Walker (negro), August 27, 1776.
 Orange (negro), October 1, 1776.
 Thomas Caldwell (deserted), August 20, 1776.
 Jesse Redding (deserted), September 2, 1776.
 Patrick Russell (deserted), August 11, 1776.
 Alexander Cummins (deserted), September 1, 1776.
 John McCashon (deserted), August 21, 1776.
 Hugh Conolly (deserted), September 8, 1776.
 John McClosky (deserted), August 29, 1776.
 Thomas Mewhinney (deserted), August 31, 1776.
 John Fritzinger (deserted), August 31, 1776.
 John Lowrey (deserted), August 31, 1776.
 John Hill (deserted), August 16, 1776.
 Thomas Sappington (deserted), September 7, 1776.
 Joseph Boyce (deserted), August 29, 1776.
 William Taylor (deserted), October 10, 1776.
 Daniel Cloud (dead), August 21, 1776.
 Thomas Atkinson (dead), August 23, 1776.
 pr. H. Montgomery, Lieut.
 Samuel Nicholas, Major.

THOMAS SMYTH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Extract]

Chester Town December 1st 1776

The Roe Gally that is building at my Yard is nearly ready to launch the Cables and Anchors are wanting to secure her when in the Water, the Guns are wanting to enable the Carpenters to make the Carriages and the pig Iron for Ballast – the Council will please to direct me what name to call her –

Mr Thomas Coursey who stands on the List of Applications would accept of the Command of her I am told he is very capable and was all last War engaged in the Sea service and had the command of a Privateer; or he would accept of the Command of one of the Province Merchant Vessels. Mr Coursey is well known to several Gentlemen of your Board – The Council will please to excuse the liberty I have taken in mentioning Mr Coursey . . .

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM JAMAICA, DEC. 1.”¹

The *Lady Keith* armed schooner has been remarkably successful in her cruizes. She is just returned with two prizes, which she took off the island of Hispaniola; they sailed from the continent together, but parted in a gale of wind. The *Lady Keith* fell in with one of them first, which she took, and the next day met with the other, and has brought them both in here. They are laden with provision and lumber, and though no great prizes to the Lieutenant who commands her, yet will be of great service to the island, as we are in want of such cargoes, and wish we had 50 such in Port Royal Harbour.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 1 to February 4, 1777.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO LIEUTENANT JOHN P. ARDESOIF,
H. M. BRIGANTINE *Pelican*¹

(Copy)

You are hereby required and directed to proceed immediately with his Majesty's Armed Brigantine *Pelican*, under your Command to Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica, and forthwith compleat the Brigantines Wood and Water: Whilst you are employed on that Service, you are likewise to endeavour to Compleat the Complement of Seamen allotted to the Brig; but as soon as the Service of Wooding and Watering is performed at Prince Ruperts Bay you are then to proceed to Rosseau, Dominica, where you are to remain four days; and during that time are to use the utmost diligence to raise as many Seamen for the Kings Service as you possibly can, entering as many on the *Pelicans* Books as will compleat her allowed Complement; and bear the remainder on a Supernumerary List for Victuals 'till you join me. You are afterwards to Sail on a Cruize ranging along the French Islands of Martinique, St Lucia, and Guadalupe, 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 or Vessels whatsoever that you may meet with either going to Trade or coming from Trading with any of the aforesaid Colonies, taking care strictly to comply with the General Orders you

have already received from me concerning them. And whereas I have received Intelligence that several small American Privateers are hovering about the Bays, Roads &c of the French Islands, from whence they push out to annoy and intercept the Trading Vessels belonging to his Majesty's Loyal Subjects; You are therefore further required to look into said Bays, Roads &c about the several French Islands within the Station now appointed you; and use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or otherwise destroy all such Privateers or Armed Vessels belonging to the aforesaid Rebellious Colonies as you may meet with at Sea; but are not to attack them in the French Bays, Roads &c whilst under the protection of their Forts –

You are to remain on this Service 'till the 21st Decemr and then return and join me in English harbour Antigua.

Given &c 1st Decemr 1776

J. Y.

By Command of the Admiral G. L.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

COUNT D'ARGOUT TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE ¹

[Extract]

Martinique

No. 180

My Lord, I have often received requests in writing from New England Privateers who wished to know if they could bring here prizes captured on the high seas; I have always refused to answer such queries and I only informed them orally that they had better take them to New England. I am with respect [&c.]

D'Argout

Fort Royal, 1 December 1776.

1. AN, Marine, B⁷, 458, 51, LC Photocopy.

2 Dec.

PROCEEDINGS AT FORT CUMBERLAND, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Decr 2d Captn [George] Dawson of the Armed Brigg *Hope* arrived in the Harbour with a large Victualing Ship from Halifax, in this passage took the *Independance* Rebel Brigg with 14 Guns and One hundred Men, he offer'd to supply the Garrison with Four Six pounders and Eight four pounders which was readily received;

1. Proceedings at Fort Cumberland, PRO, Colonial Office, 217/53, 12, DAC Photocopy.

JOHN LANGDON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sr

Portsmo Decemr 2d 1776

I Recd (a few days Since) an order from the Honbl Continental Secret Committee to forward Sixty thousand flints to your Excellency at Newyork, in obedience to which I herewith, send by the Bearer Mr Yeaton, fifteen Caggs Containing abt Sixty thousand flints, which I wish safe to hand We have no

Intelligence this way worth Communicateg, our Privateers do great execution, and had we guns for our Continental ships, they would give great Assistance to your Excellency's Operations, by Cutting off, the Supplies, of the British Army – May Heaven Crown your endeavours, with Success, and that you may live to Receive the Applause of Your greatful Country, is the most Ardent wish of your [&c.]

John Langdon

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

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

In Council [Boston] Decr 2d 1776

Ordered that the Commanding officer at Castle Island be and hereby are directed to Deliver to Cap Hector McNeil for the use of the Ship *Boston* all the old Useless & Broken Cannon & Mortars there taking an Account of the Weight of the same & the Agents of the Middle District be and hereby are directed to deliver to Cap Hector McNeil all the Iron Ballast that belonged to the Armed Sloop Called the *Republic* for the use of the Continental Ship *Boston*.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 173, 54.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR¹

Boston 2d Decemr 1776 A M

Voted that the Agent be directed not to dispose of any of the Articles of the *Julius Caesar's*² Cargo, which are wanted by this Board, & minuted as follows –
Viz

230 Barrells & 21 Teircs Pork –
126 Barrells Beef –
104 Boxes common Candles
32 half hhds Vinegar
All the Medincine
All the Nails – 77 Casks Smerneys
All the Tobacco – 1 Barrell Pepper
15 ps Oznabrigs
10 ps 3/4 brown Duck
9 ps brown Drabs – 12 ps white do
15 ps brown Siliesias
All the Linnens excepting the Lawns
200 Barrells fine Flour
7 hhds Oatmeal – 7 hhds Barley –
3 hhds Pease – 112 Bags Bread –
100 Casks Butter – 500 felt Hatts –
10 Tons Cordage –
Woolens, Shoes, Boots & Checks –

Voted That Colo Crafts be desired to purchase 400 hand Granado's

Voted that Mr [John] Appleton be notified that the Board have made choice of him for their Book-keeper –

Adjourn'd 'til 3 o Clock PM –

Attest Jon Loring Austin Secy.
Boston 2d Decr 1776 PM

Voted that the President be empower'd to charter Four Schooners to go to Baltimore for Loads of Flour, & one Schooner to go to South Carolina for a Load of Rice –

Voted That the President be also empower'd to contract for a Quantity of round Shott & Spears –

Voted That Mr [Samuel P.] Savage be desir'd to write to the Proprietors of the Iron Works at Hardwick, to know if they will contract for a Quantity of round & bar Shott –

Upon a Return of sundry Articles necessary for the Laboratory at Boston Voted, that Colo Crafts be & hereby is impower'd & directed to procure – Ten pounds Cotton Wick – Fifteen Rheams Cartridge Paper – Fifty Sheep Skins – Thirty Hammers – Fifty pair Pinchers – Twenty five Budge Barrells – Three Ginns – Three Falls & Slings for ditto – Six common Lanthorns – Twelve water do Six sets Powder Measures – Thirty Havre Jacks – Twenty sets drag Ropes – Twenty pair Shell Hooks – Thirty oil Cloths – One hundred Gimblets Thirty four tube Boxes – Fifteen hundred tin Tubes – Three Horses – Two Waggons – Four Powder Carts – One pair Trucks – One thousand pounds slow Match – Twenty Rheams Musket Cartridge Paper – Two Rheams writing Paper – Five paid double Bellows – Two dozen small Sheers – Two Chaldron Sea-Coals – Forty pounds thread – Six Lawn Seeives – Four dudgeon Boxes – Copper for Ladles – Ash Logs – & with Regard to the larger Articles here enumerated to make Return to the Board before he contracts – Also to engage an Armourer, & make a general Return of his doings as soon as may be –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 17–21.

2. *Julius Caesar* was the prize of the Massachusetts sloop *Republic*, Captain John Foster Williams.

JOHN BRADFORD TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Boston 2nd Decr 1776

I this hour Recd a Ltr from poor Capt [William] Burke late Commander of the *Warren* he is now a prisoner in [New] York on board a Guard ship very Ill waiting to be exchangd for Lieut Bowger [Richard Boger] a prisoner at German town near phila I need not urge the matter to a Gentleman of your Benevolent mind, I wrote to the Amiable General under the 9th Novr to let him know that Capt Burk was Sald from hallifax to be exchanged, but his mind is so engaged that no provision is made to release poor Burke, he is a Brave man and I could have wished him a Better Fate I have the honr to be with the greatest truth [&c.]

J B

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

DIARY OF BENJAMIN MARSTON ¹

[Plymouth] Decr 2. — Salt is now at 10/ Ster. p bush: flour at about 6 dollars p Ct wt woolens & Linnens are scarcely to be had — & yet This miserably deceived People are made to believe they can Support an independency — Bread corn has got to a price wch was hardly ever Known in times of the greatest dearth & yet there were scarcely ever better crops — what will it be next Spring? The time when this Province — (State I mean — I beg pardon —) used to receive some hundreds of Thousand bushells of grain from the Southern provinces — There is now an order for draughting every fourth man to releive the army, whose term of service is within a few days of expiring — What a miserable figure must such a new-raised raw undisciplined unprovided body of people make, when opposed to experienced veteran Troops, well provided with every thing necessary to live in the feild & commanded by Officers & a General who have acquired the Knowledge & Skill in the Art of war by long Service, & by being engaged against the best troops in the world; excepting the British — Their Infatuation is beyond all example — God have mercy upon them, & open their Eyes. —

1. Marston Diary, UNBL.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1776

Newport, December 2.

The sloop *Providence*, Capt. Hacker, arrived in a certain port last Wednesday [November 27], from a cruise in company with the *Alfred*, having taken a rich ship, a brig and snow, the brig we mentioned in our last to have arrived safe; and 'tis said the *Alfred* and the other 2 prizes, are safe in port at the eastward

COLONEL JOSEPH NOYES TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Westerly December 2nd 1776 —

May it please your Excellency

This Day between the Hours of ten & Eleven oClock, Hove in Sight a fleet of Eleven Sail of large Vessels Square Rigged Supposing them to be the Enemys fleet, Standing in between Montauk & Rhode Island, and thinking it a matter of the Greatest Importance that your Excellency Should have the Earliest Notice thereof, I hereby Send my Son as Express with these few lines, and think these Ships now in Sight are only a part of the fleet as I Discovered but a few in the beginning, and are Continually appearing in Sight, the foremost which is the largest now in Sight having put about and put back for the last which hove in Sight, but Spoke every one of the Vessels as She passed by; Supposing their Destination to be for Newport, I have Accordingly Issued Warrants for my regiment to Hold themselves in Readiness to March at an Hours Warning any where within the State where Exigency may require, they have all hove to and are now opposite to my House I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Noyes

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

COLONEL JOSEPH STANTON, JR. TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Westerly 2nd December 1776 –

May it please your Excelency

I this moment with Certainty Discover Ten Sail of topsail Vessels Standing to the Northward and Eastward which I dout Not is the British fleet that General lees Adecamp Refers to in his Letter to your Excelency of the 21st of Last month, in all probability, if the wind Stands they Will Be in the Harbour of Newport before Sunset. I therefore think it my duty to Acquaint your Excelency of it Immediately Your [&c.]

Jos: Stanton Junr

PS While I am Writing I See Sundry Sail more J S

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN STELLE TO COLONEL JOHN COOKE ¹

Sir Block Island 2 Decbr 1776 8 oClo P M –

This Evening About Sunset came to Anchor off the West End of this Island Eleven Sail of British Ships Armed four of which are Frigates from 28 to 32 Guns the Others from 40 to 60 Gun Ships they Anchored so Nigh I could distinctly Count their Guns there are Likewise three Ships those I suppose that are stationed here a Cruizing to the Eastward I saw them to day at 12 oClo at About 8 or 10 Leagues Distance bearing About ENE. All of which are bound into Rhode Island with out Doubt. I will not presume to dictate what may be done on this Occasion but that they will be with you to morrow is my sincere Opinion. God grant you Wisdom and Fortitude – I have not yet had any Oppertunity to Exchange my Prisoners nor put them on board a British Ship Am tired of Staying here. I now Despair of an Oppertunity of Exchange – Am Yours [&c.]

Benj Stelle

[Endorsed] A True Copy – Recd Dcbr 3d 2 oClo P M –

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Greyhound*, CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD DICKSON ¹

December 1776 Block Island N 34° W 15 Leags

Mondy 2d at 8 AM Saw a Sail bearing NNW at 9 Tack'd ship in chace of a Schooner, fir'd 8 three pounders & One Nine to bring her too Spoke her from New London at ½ past brought too with the main top Sail to the mast & fir'd one three pounder & a Swivel at the Schooner to make her make more Sail At Noon in Compy wh the Schooner.

First part fresh Gales & Clear Weathr middle & Latter parts Light Airs & Clear Weathr at 1 PM hoisted out the Cutter & sent 4 Men on board the Schooner from New London bound

to Hispaniola wh Stock & horses at 2 PM Hoisted the Cutter
in & Made Sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/420.

"FORM OF SAILING OF THE FLEET UNDER THE COMMAND OF SIR PETER PARKER.
Chatham, OFF BLOCK ISLAND, 2D DECR 1776"¹

	<i>Chatham</i>	
<i>Experiment</i>	{ Lieut Knowles's, Transports Lieut Parry's, Transports }	<i>Asia</i>
	<i>Renown</i>	
<i>Emerald</i>	{ To repeat Signals, as Com- mander in the 3rd post }	<i>Brune</i>
<i>Sphynx</i>	{ Lieut Dickinson's, Transports Lieut Sutherland's Ships }	<i>Centurion</i>
	<i>Preston</i>	

A Man of War will be ordered to bring up against any Battery that may be
at the entrance of the harbour, that the Transports may pass under her cover.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 120.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE¹

[Long Island Sound] 2d Decr Fresh wind at E. with rain.

The fleet remains at anchor near Frog's point.

The *Earl of Effingham* and some other ships changed their births, and
anchored further in round the point, in order to be out of the strength of the Tide.

A hard gale of wind during the latter part of the day, at S. attended with
rain.

The Masters of Ships received orders, sealed up, to be opened in case of
separation.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 118.

SAMUEL TUDER TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen —

Poughkeepsie, 2nd December, 1776.

We have just received a letter from the marine committee, directing us in
every matter to take your directions. We shall proceed with the ships as soon as
wind will permit.² When we leave the yard, there will be a quantity of plank,
timber, and stores left, which we beg your advice what to do with. We think it
would be prudent to pile up the plank and timber, and lock the stores up in the
shops. It may likewise be prudent to have a man to take care of them. It has been
hinted to us that you intend building floating batteries; if so, we conceive our
carpenters (the bulk we have just discharged) would be very useful to you, and
may now engage, though some are daily going away; the sooner you let us know
whether you want them the better. We are, gentlemen, [&c.]

Saml. Tudor

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 731.

2. The Continental frigates built at Poughkeepsie.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1776

New-York, December 2.

On Tuesday [November 26] the *Perseus* and the *Galatea*, two Frigates sheathed with Copper and reckoned to out-sail almost any Vessels that can be framed, came into the Harbor from a Cruise. The *Galatea* alone has taken or retaken 15 or 16 Prizes, and sent them safe into Harbor.

Thursday last several Transports full of Troops and military Stores passed up the East River into Connecticut Sound: At the same Time Sir Peter Parker and Mr. Hotham with the *Asia*, *Renown*, and other Men of War fell down to the Narrows, in order to join the above Transports, as 'tis supposed, about the East End of Long-Island. Various Conjectures are raised concerning their Destination.

On Saturday the *Camilla* with a large Fleet of Victuallers under Convoy, arrived safe in the Harbor.

On Wednesday the *Roebuck*, Capt. Hammond, came down from her Station up the North-River.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN¹

Decemr 1776 Moored off New York

Monday 2d At 10 AM made the *Bristols* Signal for a petty Officer came
down the No River a prize Row Galley.

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

JOURNAL OF H. M. FIRESHIP *Strombolo*, CAPTAIN
SAMUEL WITTEWRONGE CLAYTON¹

December 1776 Moor'd with a Cable each way off New York

Monday 2d Moderate & Cloudy Weather, this Day I came on Board &
took Command of the Ship²
P.M. the *Roebuck* & *Falcon* moor'd up the East River
Parole Gloucester.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/931.

2. Clayton succeeded Charles Phipps.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, December 2, 1776

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be empowered to advance 20 dollars to each seaman who will enter to serve on board the *Randolph*, Captain Biddle, the same to be deducted out of their share of the prize money.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the council of safety of Pennsylvania to send immediately one of their gallies along the Jersey shore, between this and Trenton, to bring over all the river craft, vessels, and boats from the Jerseys to the Pennsylvania side of Delaware, in order to prevent their becoming serviceable to the enemy, in their attempts to cross said river:

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 998, 999, 1000.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] December 2nd, 1776.

Resolved, That all Vessells Cleared out at the Naval Office before this date, be suffered to depart this Port and Pass thro' the Chevaux de Frize.

Capt. [Wingate] Newman is permitted to take one or two of the Field pieces in the State House yard, & proceed with them and his men to the assistance of G'l Washington.²

Resolved, That Capt. Samuel Williams be appointed Lieut't, & Capt. Thomas Read to join General Washington³

Mr. Towers was directed to deliver Major Sam'l Nicholas 300 Bayonet Belts & Cartouch Boxes.⁴

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 24-26.

2. Commander of the Pennsylvania privateer brig *Hancock*.

3. Read commanded the unfinished Continental frigate *Washington*.

4. Senior officer of the Continental Marine Corps.

RESOLUTION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In Council of Safety.

Resolved, Philadelphia, Dec'r 2, 1776.

That Capt. Huston² immediately proceed up the River Delaware, as far as Trenton, and remove all the river Craft, Vessels & Boats from the Jersey, to Pennsylvania side of Delaware, in order to prevent their becoming serviceable to the enemy in their attempts to cross said River.

By order of Council.³

Passed.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 84.

2. Thomas Houston commanded the galley *Warren*, but the muster roll for December showed him "Absent," as well as seven crew members, Muster and Pay Rolls (Loose), Pennsylvania Navy, 1776-1779, Pa. Arch.

3. This resolution was not entered on the minutes of that day.

JAMES STERETT TO CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON ¹

[Extract] Baltimore Decr 2d 1776

. . . Our Army have retreated as far as New Ark in the Jerseys. It is said they have receiv'd certain Intelligence of their Design to come to Philadelphia and that they are embarking a Number of their Troops either to come up the Delaware and make the Attackt on both Sides, or amuse the Southern States that they may not send any Assistance to our General

1. Misc. Letters, Vertical file, MdHS.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday December 2nd 1776

A Permit granted to the *Aurora* Capt. John Hutchinson the Property of John Richards, Hall and Horner and Watson and Taylor and burthern two hundred Tons or thereabouts to proceed on her Voyage to Nants in France agreeable to a Resolution of Congress

On the Recommendation of the Navy Board It is Ordered that Commissions issue to Edmund Waller appointing him second Lieutenant in Capt. Alexander Dicks Company of Marines in the room of Leiut. James Blankhead who has resigned Also to John Reynolds appointing him third Lieutenant in the room of the said Waller which Commissions issued accordingly bearing date this day

A Permitt granted to the Schooner *Richmond* Captain Alexander Massenburg to proceed on her Voyage to Martinico Manifest of her Cargo filed Bond executed acknowledged and ordered also to be filed

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 259, 260.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday 2d December 1776. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Gabriel Maupin for Nineteen Pounds ten shillings for Whiskey furnished Capt Calvert for the use of the *Revenge* Galley. – Also for two pounds fourteen shillings and three pence for sundries furnished Capt Lilly for the use of the Brig *Liberty* as p Acct. – Also for Ten shillings for Casting Rope for the Schooner *Speedwell* as p Acct. –

George Chamberlaine is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor & the honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed second Lieut of the *Manley* Galley. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt John Calvert for the use of Doctor Joseph Simon Pell for Fifty pounds, on Account, for his Wages on Board the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 123–24, VSL.

3 Dec.

JOHN LANGDON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sir

Portsmo N H Decemr [3] 1776 ²

The Continental Frigate *Raleigh* built in this State has been ready to receive her Guns since June last the want of which has prevented her doing great Service to the States if it's in your Honor's power to Furnish this Ship with her Guns it would render great good & Demand my thanks I shall be ready to receive them whenever your Hon: thinks proper to Deliver them & pay for the Guns with all Charges – I have the Honor to be with great Respect [&c.]

JL Agent for the States

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

2. This letter is undated, but is in Langdon's letter book between letters of December 2 and December 4, 1776.

The Freeman's Journal, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1776

Portsmouth, Dec. 3.

We hear there is a Prize Brig sent into this harbour, but have not come at particulars.

On the 12th day precisely at 12 o'clock at noon, will be put up the Ship *Hero*, about 280 tons burthen, river built, an exceeding fast sailing vessel, well built and

well found, full six feet between decks, well calculated for an armed vessel to carry 16 or 18 guns under deck.

Likewise on the same day the brigantine *Three Friends*, about 140 tons burthen, and well found. also

The Ship *Live Oak*, about 180 tons burthen, well found and well built, two years old, and will be put up with her cargo intire, now on board, consisting of 28 tons Logwood, and 63 thousand feet of Mahogany. – The original invoice of the cargo may be seen at the time of sale.

The above ships with the inventories of their stores may be seen any time before the sale, by applying to
 Portsmouth, Nov. 28, 1776. Geo. Wentworth, Auctioneer.

CERTIFICATE OF TIMOTHY PICKERING TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

I hereby certify that William Carlton of Salem is appointed to the command of the private armed Schooner *True American* in the room of Daniel Hathorne the late commander, who in said Schooner is lately returned from a cruise against the enemies to the United States, after having taken & sent in four or five prizes.

Tim Pickering junr

Salem Decr 3d 1776.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 72.

ORDER TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR RELATIVE TO BRITISH FLEET
 REPORTED OFF BLOCK ISLAND ¹

In the House of Representatives Decemr 3d 1776

Whereas advice has been received that a large Fleet of the Enemies Ships have been discovered near Block Island, & as it is uncertain whether they are bound to New Port or farther to the Northward; and it being of great importance that the earliest intelligence should be obtained, of that Fleets approach to our Coasts, if they should be coming this way – Resolved,
 that the Honble the Board of War be and hereby are directed ^A & impowered to Send out a Suitable Vessel to make discovery, ^B if they shall apprehend such Measure to be necessary

Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council Decr 3d 1776.

Read & concurred with the following Amendments (vizt) at A. dele & impowered. and dele from B. to B. and insert, of the motions of the Enemies. Fleet

Sent down for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representa[tives] Decr 3 1776

Read & Concurred

J Warren Spkr

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 293.

PETITION OF CAPTAIN DANIEL SOUTHER TO RESIGN AS COMMANDER OF THE
STATE BRIG *Massachusetts*¹

To the Honble the Council of the Massachusetts State

Humbly Sheweth Daniel Souther That he is extremely obliged to your Honors for the Great Honor done him by his Commission for the Command of the armed Brigg *Massachusetts* in the Service of this State; But by reason of his Ill Health desires leave to resign said Commission.

Boston 3d Decr 1776.

Daniel Souther

[Endorsements]

In Council, Decr 4, 1776 Read & sent down

John Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representatives Decr 5th, 1776 –

In answer to the Petition of Danl Souther

Resolved that he have leave to resign his commission & that for his fidelity & good conduct while in the Service of this Government more especially for his constant attention to the discipline of the men under his command, he justly merits the Thanks of our constituents –

Sent up for Concurrence

Sam^l Freeman Spkr P T

In Council Dec 5t, 1776 Read & Concurr'd

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 324.

JAMES WARREN TO LOUIS PONCET & SON, BORDEAUX¹

State of Massachusetts-Bay N England,

War Office Boston 3d Decr 1776

Messrs Poncet & Son,
Gentn

We have lately been constituted by this Government a board of War, as for other purposes so to get from your part of the World those Supplies of warlike Stores we yet stand in need of; having an opportunity from Newbury-Port to ship a small interest by a chance Vessel, we consign it to your House for Sale, there may be some small Furrs & Oil, or perhaps Oil only; whatever Effects may come to you for our Account please to sell them to the best Advantage, & return us the Proceeds Freight & all other Charges being deducted, in good effective Fire-Arms and Bayonets, such as are us'd in the King of France, his Army, or those that approach nearest to them, there has been a good Manufacture of this kind lately shewn to us as a Specimen, that was brought by a Gentleman from Nantz, belonging to the House of Poncet & Gruel Negt. sier Lisle faidau a Nante – this Fussil was of a good length, had a well siz'd Caliber, & a sufficient Bayonet & Sheath, it had iron clasps & steel ramrod – & well fix'd in every part with a Bridle to the Lock; this Fusil was offer'd at twenty-two livres Tournois – please to ship upon the *Montgomery* when she returns, the whole amount of this Adventure in such Fire Arms as above describ'd, if you can procure them, and let them be carefully pack'd in Chests – But as you may not be able to procure good Fire Arms, & as we are uncertain at present what Interest will be ship'd to you by this Vessel, we will mention

to you what other Articles we want, & you will send them in the Course they are mention'd, Viz:

Five hundred well made Gun Locks, with what the English call good Bridles –

One hundred & fifty thousand good Flynts, cost 3½ to four Livres pr Thousand –

Fifty pounds Borax purificata, cost in London about five shillings pr pound –

Ten good Brass Cannon for Feild peices carrying three pound Ball, if not too dear –

If any thing remains after these purchases, please to send it in good Ravens Duck fit for Soldiers Tents, it generally costs from 22/. to 27/. Sterling a peice of 38 yards ⅞ of a yard wide – It is probable we may make you some further consignments by our own Vessels, & in the Interim remain with respect [&c.]

James Warren President of the Board of War

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 3–4, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

INVENTORY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE SLOOP *Republic*¹

Inventory of the Sloop *Republic* two Anchors two Cabels one Cegg Anchor and Hearsers [hawser] one flying Jibb Boom one Topt Mast one Crossjack Yard one Topt Sail Yard one Ringtale Boom one Squar Sail Boom one Main Boom Two main & one Trysail Gaffts Standing Riggen one Nun Boy [buoy] Two Pare of Canhooks half a Barrel of Tar Sum Spare Riggen

Recd the Above on Board the Said Sloop *Republic*² December the 3th 1776

Alden Bass

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 19.

2. On November 20 the Board of War had ordered the *Republic* to be fitted for sea.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSEMBLY¹

Sir

Providence, Decemr 3, 1776.

I think it my duty to inform you that I have just received undoubted Intelligence that yesterday morning a large fleet of square-rigged Vessels was seen between Block Island and Montauk, who in all probability are designed for an attack upon this State. When The letters giving me this Information were writing Eleven Sail were plainly discovered, and before the Expresses came away, several more hove in sight. The Authority of New Hampshire will make such use of this Intelligence as Prudence shall suggest, and at all Events prepare the Force of that State to Act as the exigency of affairs shall require.

I am in great haste, Sir [&c.]

Nichs Cooke.

1. Nathaniel Bouton, ed., *State Papers. Documents and Records relating to the State of New-Hampshire* . . . (Concord, 1874), VIII, 411. Hereafter cited as Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*.

HENRY WARD TO THE SPEAKER OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

Sir –

[Providence, December 3, 1776]

I am directed by his Honor the Governor to acquaint you that A Privateer belonging to this place arrived here this morning, who took a light Transport ship, being one of the 130 Sail bound from New York to Great Britain and the West Indies, under Convoy of Three Ships of War, and which without doubt is the Same Fleet that we received information was taking on board a Body of Troops at Staten Island. I am, very respectfully, Sir [&c.]

Henry Ward.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 411.

OWNERS OF PRIVATEER *Eagle* TO WILLIAM ELLERY ¹

Sir,

Providence Decemr 3 1776.

The Owners of the Privateer Schooner *Eagle* request that you will present to Congress, and support with your good Influence, the inclosed Memorial and Protest, relative to the Conduct of Capt. Jones, Commander of the Ship *Alfred*, in impressing a Number of Hands from the Said Schooner, maltreating the Officers, and breaking up her Cruize. We are told, and are convinced, that we should be guilty of a breach of Duty to the Continent were we tamely to pocket the Abuse; and the Result of Congress, and the Event of an Action we have commended against Capt. Jones, must determine whether this flagrant Violation of all Law and Justice shall be drawn into a Precedent. If unhappily it should be thus determined, Division, Confusion, and frequent Bloodshedding, must be the inevitable Consequence. We however trust that neither the Congress nor an American Jury will countenance such Outrages, which must render Property insecure, and are a Scandal to Humanity and the sacred Cause in which we are engaged. –

We wished to avoid every Cause of Offence in pointing out said Abuse and for this Purpose were determined, with [our] Captain, to prevent any if possible – The Articles were hung up in one of our most public Taverns, the Men went on board and the Vessel sailed down the River in the face of Day; she lay at Newport some days near the *Alfred*, and was repeatedly searched by Boats from her, and from the Forces stationed there and as Capt [Isaac] Field showed a written List of the mens Names who had entered on Board the Privateer to one or more of the officers belonging to the *Alfred* If notwithstanding this one or two did go in her, without the Knowledge, and contrary to the Inclination of the Owners and Captain, we conceive the Fault must have been with the Officers of the Fleet, in not being more vigilant, and if one or two were found on board by Captain Jones, it will surely not be deemed a sufficient Pretext for his taking all the Seamen belonging to the Privateer –

Your friend Mr [Francis] Dana is retained in our Behalf, who, before we had said a Word to him on the Subject, told Commodore Hopkins publicly that Capt. Jones had been guilty of an Act of Piracy. We present you our best Regards, and are, Sir [&c.]

1. Miscellaneous Collection, vol. 16, RIHS.

LONG POINT COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION TO MAJOR GENERAL JOSHUA BABCOCK,
WESTERLY ¹

Sir

Long Point Decemr 3d 1776 –

Six oClock After Noon –

The Sloop Flag of Truce, Capt Lator, fitted out at Providence & Sent as a flag to Block Island, is just Arrived & this Moment the Mate, on shore, Advises us – That he was this day brot too & borded by a Bote from the Ship *Cerberus*, and that Capt Simmons [John Symons] of sd Ship Inform'd him, – That the fleet were bound to Newport, when joined with 150 sail of Transports which were coming thro' the sound. – That Some of the ships Appeared to the Mate, much Larger then the *Cerberus*, and that he Apprehends they cannot be less then 50 Gun Ships.

It Appeared to us that those Ships went into the Mouth of New London Harbour. Capt Lator is left in Block Island, the wind being too fresh to take him of[f]. We are sir [&c.]

Nath ^l Minor	}	of the Comtee of
John Denison 4th		Inspection &c –

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch. Enclosed in Babcock to Cooke, December 4.

COLONEL JOSEPH NOYES TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Westerly December 3d 1776 –

May it please your Excellency –

I thought proper to Acquaint your Honour of the Movements of the Enemys Fleet Mention'd in my last – yesterday about two OClock they Hauled up their Courses and kept Hovering Round Untill about Sun Set When they made Sail for Block Island and Came to Anchor on the West Side – this morning about 7 OClock they all Came to Sail (Eleven in Number) and Stood Westward between Long Island and the Main, but are yet in Sight, We all Wait your Excellencys pleasure with the greatest Impatience but hope they will give us Sufficient time to prepare for their Reception Should they be Destined for Newport, or any other part of this State – we Watch their Movement with the greatest Diligence, and as long as they Continue on Our Side Shall Endeavour to render you an Account thereof I am [&c.]

Joseph Noyes

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS ¹

Decr 1776

Block Island East 3 or 4 Leags

Tuesday 3

1 AM spoke His Majts Ships *Diamond* & *Ambuscade* at 9 saw the fleet up the Sound at 10 brot too & sent the Boat on board a Sloop from Rhode Island w[i]t[h] Prisoners to Exchange.
Fresh Breezes and Cloudy at 3 PM Anchd in Co with the Fleet wth Bt Br in 22 fm Plumb Island E off Shore 2 Miles

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

COLONEL ANTHONY WAYNE TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES ¹

[Extract]

As I was beginning to Seal this Capt [Thomas] Church, whom I had sent down the Lake to gain Intelligence of the Situation of the Enemy – Returned, and Informs me that about four miles below Crown Point has discovered a large Topsail Vessel coming up the Lake – he made all the Sail he could with his Boat and by the help of his Oars got clear of her she came to anchor at Crown Point. I sent off two parties Immediately by land to make further Discoveries – they have not yet Returned,

Whether this is only a Single Vessel come on some Scheme – or the Advanced Guard of the Enemy I can't yet determine – I think it is quite too late for an attack – however I am preparing for the Worst – and will at all events Defend this place until Succours can arrive –

I wou'd by no means have this Occation any Alarm until you hear further from [&c.]

Ant^y Wayne[Ticonderoga] 3 Decr 1776 ²

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

2. Wayne began this letter on December 1.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Long Island Sound] 3rd Decr Hard gale of wind all last night from the Southward, with very heavy rain. It was so very dark last night, that we could not distinguish the water out of the quarter Gallery windows.

We are under some apprehensions for our friends who are gone round Long Island.

Calm this morning, but thick weather, with rain. The last of the ships belonging to our fleet came down from New York last night. The whole is now assembled, and consists of about 70 sail of vessels.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 118.VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE WILLIAM HOTHAM ¹

Dr Sir

Eagle [off New York] Decr the 3rd 1776

By the Accounts we have received of good Credit, the Rebels, having suspicion that the Armament was intended for Rhode Island, and having no hope of defending it with Effect, are said to have been lately employed in withdrawing their Troops Artillery and stores, with the utmost dispatch. General Clinton receives advices to the same effect, by this opportunity Consequently no time will be lost in getting forward to the place of destination, that the best advantage may be made of the Enemy's Neglects. You will please to communicate the Contents of this letter to Sir Peter Parker, upon your junction, and be assured that your joint operations engage and will be attended by the most earnest wishes for success that can actuate your [&c.]

Howe

1. Collection of Lord Hotham, Yorkshire (East Riding) County Record Office, England.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Philad'a., Dec'r 3rd, 1776.

An order was drawn in fav'r of Messrs. Williams, for £ 150, towards building the *Delaware* Armed Boat, to be charged to their acco't.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 27, 28.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] . Decr 3d 1776

... one Gondola Just gone past from Trentown Some troops in motion ... light horse & Some of the Militia went out of town, Numbers of familys loading waggons with their Furniture, &c taking them out of Town ... drank Tea at home then went with a Number of deeds to son Christophers put them into his Iron Chest ... no News to be depended upon this day

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday December 3rd 1776

Ordered that the Commission granted by the Committee of Safety to Richard Taylor appointing him Captain of the Armed Schooner *Hornett* be now renewed and issued in the name of the Governor

The Board being informed that the Schooner *Hornett* Capt. Taylor and the Sloop *Defiance* Capt. ——— have their respective Cargoes on board and are now ready to proceed to Sea. It is therefore the Opinion of this Board that the *Hornett* should go to Cape Francois consigned to the Captain and that the *Defiance* should sail for Surinam and be consigned to Raleigh Colston Esquire Ordered therefore that the Navy Board be requested to give the several Captains Instructions for their Conduct

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 261.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday 3 December 1776. —

Lieutenant Benjamin Pollard is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed to the Command of Capt Samuel Hanway's Company of Marines who hath resigned his Commission —

Joel Sturdivant is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a Proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the *Manley* Galley. —

Signed, John Hutchings 1st Comsr Prom

1. Navy Board Journal, 125, VSL.

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT HOWE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GEORGIA CONVENTION ¹

Sir,

Savannah 3d Decemr 1776

The Survey I took of a great part of Georgia made me in some measure acquainted with it's Situation, and I mention'd to his Excellency the President

those methods I thought best calculated to place it in a proper State of defence; this induced me to imagine that upon the meeting of your Convention either those methods wou'd have been adopted, or some other plan of defence immediately fallen upon, and that the necessary materials and the number of hands Wanted to carry it into execution, wou'd have been provided and procured. In consequence of this expectation I was setting out for Georgia when I recd information, that the Convention without taking this matter into their Consideration at all, had adjourn'd for five weeks; I had Consequently nothing to do in this State which required my personal attendance, and having a great deal to employ me in South Carolina, I chose to postpone my Visit to this Country 'till your Convention met again when I doubted not that they wou'd among the first objects of their attention have considered how very important it was, to prepare for that attack which I perswade my self there are reasons every moment to apprehend. But your Honble House (employed I Suppose upon matters which they think more Consequential) have Suffer'd a fortnight to Elapse without having taken one Step towards effecting this essential purpose. forgive me therefore Sir if I feel it my absolute duty once more to trouble you upon this occasion by repeating, that you are assailable at a variety of places and at none prepared for defence. that while other States are by every effort endeavouring to make their Country as dear a purchase as possible and have in a great measure effected it, Yours remains so very weak that it seems to invite an attack, for it is natural to imagine that the enemy Shou'd they progress Southerly will aim at that conquest which will cost them least, and their attempts in your present Situation can hardly fail of Success.

Some other States possess advantages yours unhapily has not, the number of their people and their other internal resources are greater than yours, they have in some measure established a Constitution, and invested the executive part of it with powers in all cases of emergency to act with dicision, their people having been frequently called into action, are prepared and habituated to fly upon any alarm, to their arms, the establishment of minute Battalions and the very strict militia laws they have, which of late have been rigidly executed, has given their men a knowledge of discipline, and so inured them to Service that they Submit to it Without murmer or repining; and shou'd their State be attacked in so formidable a manner as to require assistance, they are not so remote but it may be brought up in time. these are Capital advantages, and yet they do not wholly rely on them, but by every means in their power are preparing for defence, and have lost all idea of expence in the importance of the object. Added to this their people are united, all private pique & party animosity have either intirely Subsided, or if they exist at all have no influence upon Public Measures; these last mention'd advantages you perhaps possess in Common with them, and I flatter myself that you will Shew yourselves equally desirous to place your Country in as good a State of defence

It gives me Sir great anxiety to find your State so destitute of almost every military requisite, and so deficient in every necessary provision for the Soldieriey no Barracks built for the men, nor any that I have heard of preparing to be built, no public stores furnished with goods where the Soldiers may lay out their

money in necessaries and by that means be kept from spending it improperly, at the same time that it benefited the State, no arms purchas'd nor Comissioners appointed to purchase them, Very little powder or lead and no effectual measures taken to increase the quantity, not one rheam of cartouche paper either for musquettrey or Cannon, no great number of flints, no public Armourers or Blacksmiths appointed or employed, not Cannon Sufficient and no steps taken to procure more no Clothes, Blanketts or tents provided or providing, no Stock of medicines laid in for the want of which many good men have fallen a melancholy Sacrifice, no public Hospital established for the Sick, no store of wood provided for this inclement season, No great quantity of salt, No magazines of provisions of forrage, No intrenching tools wheelbarrows or other necessary implements of war, No Carpenter's tools or indeed tools of any Sort, so that upon my application to the quarter Qr Master for a Single axe it was not to be obtain'd, This Sir is a dreadfull Catalogue of wants and yet many things equally usefull remain unmention'd, let us therefore for god sake Set about making instant provision.

Arms & ammunition are articles so very essential that you Cannot Exist as a State without them; these are only to be obtain'd from abroad, a great number of Vessels Shou'd be employed for this purpose that tho the Vigilance of the enemy Shou'd deprive you of some of them, others may arrive to furnish you; private adventurers are by no means to be depended upon in a matter so truly important, they may not have finances to undertake it upon so large a Scale or so immediately as is requisite, or if they do, and Shou'd Succeed, What they procure must Come with accumulated expence. The Public therefore Shou'd in my opinion immediatly undertake it, permit me to recommend it with the utmost earnestness and to reiterate that in this, as well as every other Circumstance of defence, not one moment ought to be lost, your private interest and the good of the Common Cause Conspire to demonstrate the necessity of your immediate exertions, that this golden opportunity now lent us may not pass away.

If Sir my urgency in any part of this letter has exceeded the bounds of propriety may I hope that you will solicit for me the kind indulgence of your Honble House and that they will do me the justice to impute it to that regard I have for their interest & safety and to that Zeal I feel in the Glorious cause to which I am, and pride myself in being, the devoted Servant.

I shall be glad to be favour'd with a determination of the Convention upon the Subject of this and of my former letter as expeditiously as possible. I have the honour to be With the greatest respect Sir [&c.]

Robert Howe

1. Miscellaneous Letters, NYHS.

4 Dec.

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE ¹

[Extract]

Portsmo Decemr 4th 1776

. . . The Progress of the Enemy gives me pain, but not the least Dispirits me, the next Spring will give them Some other employ, — the *Betsey* frigate will

Sail next week, for Bourdeaux, I've bo't in the *Royal exchange*, for the Continent as She went Low, but shall not fit her out, as She would Carry only Small masts, want[s] much Rigg[ing] which is not to be had at any Rate, I shall therefore Appropriate the Rigg and Sails for the use of Cap [John] Roche's Ship and lay up the hull, for the Present. the Ship *Reward* near 500 Tons has in part, Come into my hands, she would make Compleat Mast Ship had we Cordage, but its not to be had at any rate. – I've had no letters from Philad. some time fear the Communication is Cut off, or letters intercepted . . .

P. S. there is some Cordage taken by a Continental Cruizer Carried to Boston pray get an order on the Agent there for part of it pray don't fail in this there is abt 10 Tons, it can be Appraised and taken for the use of the States – get the Order for it or I shall never get any from them No guns yet for Mercy sake where is those from Connecticut

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

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN JOHN AYRES, SCHOONER
*Lynch*¹

Sir,

Boston 4th Decr. 1776 –

You are hereby order'd to proceed to Sea for the purpose of reconoitring a Fleet said to be of[f] Block Island, to look into Cape: Cod Harbour, if you meet with the Fleet off the Cape, either return or run into Chatham, apply to Colo Deane, or otherwise send any accounts you may think proper by Express to Brigadr. Otis of Barnstable, with Directions to forward the same to the Board of War immediately – If you discover nothing off the Cape run round the East End of Nantucket, looking if possible into the Vineyard Sound. where if you make any discoveries run into Hyannes, the Vineyard, or Woods-hole, & send Express as aforesaid – If you discover any thing in the South Channel you will do well to push for Nantucket, Chatham, or Hyannes, & send Express to Brigadr. Otis as aforesaid; or if you go into any other place send by Express the quickest Intelligence possible – And in General you will use your best Endeavours to discover and inform the Board of the Motion of the Fleet – By Order,

J Warren President,

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 5, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

CAPTAIN ALEXANDER WILSON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR¹

To the Honble Commitee of War

[Boston] Decr 4th. 1776

Gentlemen As you are pleased to desire proposals from me to go a Voyage to Europe as Master of one of the Ships under your Direction I present you the following Viz –

1st I Must approve of the Ship and Voyage

2dly the Cargo Not to be Less than £3000

3dly I must heave 5 PrCt Coms for Sales and 2½ for purchase Clear at Carolina

4thly to heave Eight tons previlidge out

5thly Eight pounds per Month Wages

6thly to be Dispatched Immediately as soon as may be

7thly Not to heave a prisoner for a Mate & Two Tons privilege home
 Gentlemen I wish Not to Value my Services more than they are Worth, I doubt
 Not Men may offer to go for half of What I ask Who Knows nothing about the
 Voyage Nor perhaps how to put the Ship about I am with great Respect
 Gentlemen [&c.]

Alex^r Wilson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 152, 4, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED DURING THE
 RECESS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

Gentlemen

Providence Decembr 4th 1776.

I received your Resolve of this Day ² and Note the Contents of it; I now let
 you know I have long had Orders from the Honorable Marine Committee to
 get all the Vessels out as soon as I could Man them, I should be glad that Your
 Honble Board wou'd Devise some way to compleat their Men to Enlist, and like-
 wise some way that the great Number of Deserters may be sent on Board, a con-
 siderable number of which is now in this State. I am Gentl. [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

To the Honble Nichs Cooke Esqr
 Governor of the State of Rhode-Isld
 to be laid before the Committee of said State

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

2. The Committee resolved "that we will and do hereby advise Commodore Hopkins with the
 Continental Vessels under his Command within any of the Harbors of this State to
 put to Sea as soon as he thinks the same can be done with Safety," Letters to the
 Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sr

Providence Decem 4th 1776

Yours of this Date is before us, by which we Observe You have orders from
 the Honorable Marine Committee to Git all the Vessels Under your Command
 out as Soon as You Could Man them, and As you Request of us to Devise some
 Method to Compleete the Same, we do Assure you that Nothing in our power, in
 a Constitutinel way, shall be wanting to Effect so Desireable an Object as
 the Sailg of the new Friggetes, And Recummend that the Strictest puntstuellity
 be Attended too that Every Man in the Navil Department be as Soone as possable
 paid off both his Wagers and Shears of all prizes heretofore tacon which will be
 a Grait Inducement for other Men to Ingauge in the Service, we are Not
 now a Committe but as Soone as we are make no doubt shall Resolve that all
 officers both Civil and Millitary within this State Give Every assist[a]nce in their
 power to Your Officers to Git their Men onbord, and hope more Care will be
 tacon to keep them their till the Ships Sail than has been heretofore used and if
 you have not a full Compliment of men to Attact Ships of any Considerable
 fource we think it adv[i]seable If you have a sufficient number to Navigate the
 Ships with Safety Round into Boston Bay to join the Continental Ships their
 that you immediately proceed We [have] no doubt that the State of the
 Massachusets Bay would Assist the Completion of your Complment of men in

a more Speedy manner than tis in the Power of this Small State to do (whose men are already so greatly exhausted) If not they will then be in a Place of Safety and may be rendered Servisable when ever fully manned which if they Remain here Cannot be Provided this Harbour is Blocked up which is Hourly Expected. – All the Deserters from your Ships that can be found in this State shall be taken Up & sent to you to Boston, if you think proper to go there.

1. Letters from the Governor, vol. 2, 1768–1777, R. I. Arch.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO COLONEL JOHN COOKE, NEWPORT ¹

Sir/. Providence Decemr 4th 1776 –
Recd yours 3rd currt pr ² Express, with the Copy of Adjutant Stelle's Letter ³ inclosed, and you may be assured every effort, will be made to repel the enemy. To that purpose, large reinforcements, will be immediately sent; several regiments are now in Motion – I doubt not your Zeal on this Occasion; and that nothing will be omitted on your part, for the public Safety.

The Stock for the present may be removed to the middle of the Island & to such places as may in case of Necessity, admit of being readily drove to the Ferries – the Flat bottom'd boats will be also held in readiness to carry them off, or other Purposes – as circumstances may require –

The Cannon at the North Battery I believe it will be best should remain there the rest agreeable to the Order of Assembly should be removed to and secured on the Heights upon the [place] near the Ferries as the whole defence & safety of Newport depends upon commanding that important pass –

You will attend to the Conduct of persons supposed to be disaffected – and conduct at present towards them as prudence shall suggest. I am [&c.]

Nic^o Cooke

[Endorsed] Letter Govr Cooke [to] Col Jno Cooke Decr. 4. 1776 Copy

1. Letters from the Governor, vol. 2, 1768–1777, R. I. Arch.

2. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

3. Lieutenant Benjamin Stelle to John Cooke, December 2.

MAJOR GENERAL JOSHUA BABCOCK TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir Westerly 4th Decr 1776

I am honour'd with your Commands of 3d current. Your Vigilance & early Dispatches in Sending off Expresses to the neighbouring States merits the Thanks of this and every other State

By the Inclosed ² am noticed of the Movement of the Enemy's Ships, (which I thought proper to transmit to your Honour) the Wind being Easterly then, but fair now.

Shall I encourage one or two Aid de Camps to attend me in this arduous & to me entirely untri'd Enterprize?

All imaginable Attention will be paid any Orders or Instructions You shall send to your Honours [&c.]

Josh Babcock

PS. Will it not be worthy the Attention of the Honble Comtee to propose one [illegible] two Fire-Ships on their the Enemy's first Coming into & Anchoring

in our Bay, which and if done soon may turn to Accot; but afterwards may not be effected: & a very large Reward promised to the Undertakers.

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

2. Committee of Inspection of Long Point to Babcock, December 3.

Connecticut Journal, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1776

New-Haven, December 4.

Saturday evening last the Flag of Truce, mentioned under the New London Head, stopt in this Port; the Manner of her coming in gave some Suspicion that their Designs were not good, and the Officer¹ was taken into Custody and examined by the Magistracy of the Town, who after a proper Examination, acquitted him, and Monday Morning the Vessel pursued her Voyage to New York.

1. Lieutenant Thomas Barker, R. N.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE¹

[Long Island Sound] 4th Decr The wind being fair this morning, the signal for weighing was made about 11 o'Clock, and at 2 in the afternoon almost the whole of the fleet was under way with a light wind at N. Towards Evening the wind came round the Westward, and freshened; and about Sunset the whole was well in company, making all the sail they could, under Convoy of The *Brune*, *Rose*, *Carysfort*, and *Kingsfisher*. The *Mercury* remained at Whitestone, waiting for an Hospital ship which had not arrived from New York.

This Evening, just as it grew dark, our ship being among the headmost in the fleet, we had an opportunity of viewing a most beautiful Seapiece from our Cabbin windows. The fleet was going down the Sound before the wind, those ships which sailed the worst having all their sails set, the others such as were necessary to keep them in their respective Stations. The Sun having set from under some very thick clouds, a Streak of a reddish colour between those clouds and the horizon, shewed the fleet aStern of us, and just discernable. The perspective was very fine: in the farthest distance we could perceive some of the Sternmost ships, with their Mast heads and Top Gallant Sails, reaching about half way up the red streak:— according as the ships were situated nearer to us, less of them appeared; in some only their Topsails, in others nothing more than thier Courses. But the principal object in the piece was the *Brune* Frigate; this ship had nothing more than her three topsails set, and she was exactly at that point of distance in which no part of her could be seen but her lower masts and rigging, her Hull being below the horizon, and her sails above the red streaks. What was seen of her had a singular appearance. The stillness of the Sea added much to the beauty of the piece, which would have afforded an uncommonly fine subject for a Painter.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 119.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A. M.

[Fishkill] Decr. 4th, 1776.

The committee to whom was referred the letter from Francis Lewis, Esqr. of the 27th of November last, and also the letter from Captain Samuel Tudor of the 2nd inst. reported certain resolutions, which being read by paragraphs, were amended and adopted, vizt:

Resolved, That Mr. Victor Bicker, Junr. be nominated lieutenant of marines for the ship *Congress*, and directed to enlist thirty marines for the ship *Congress* for the same term as the other Continental troops, whose duty it shall be during this winter to guard the ships *Congress* and *Montgomery*, and such other vessels and stores belonging to the Continent as may be laid up with them. That they be allowed the Continental bounty, pay and rations.

That Capt. Patrick Dennis be furnished with a copy of the letter from Francis Lewis Esqr. to the Honourable the Convention, and be requested to deliver over the Continental stores and rigging in his custody to the said Lieutenant Bicker, who is directed to sign duplicates of the inventory and receipt therefor, and transmit them to the Convention of this State, in order that one of them may be sent to the marine committee of Congress at Philadelphia and the other to remain with the Convention.

That the two Continental frigates at Poughkeepsie be secured in the manner directed by the resolution of the Committee of Safety, of the twenty-eighth of November, and that the other Continental and public vessels be laid up in the same place, if they can be there accomodated; if not, that the agents for the said ships make an immediate report thereof to the Convention of this State, and suggest some place where they can find a secure harbour for them.

That all convenient expedition should be used by the managers, Messrs. Tudor and Lawrence, together with the captains of the frigates, to get the same rigged and their cannon mounted by the spring, as in the opinion of the Committee, they may be of use in the defence of Hudson's river, which will most probably be exposed to the attempts of the enemy.

Resolved, That carriages for the guns be immediately begun by the carpenters, if they can be supplied with the seasoned stuff; and if not, that stuff be prepared for seasoning, on which work they may be employed till the Convention receive an answer to a letter written to the Honourable the Congress, on the subject of fortifying Hudson's river, and building floating batteries, &c. thereon.²

Resolved, That the managers take such measures as they conceive proper, for the plank and stores that are left at Poughkeepsie, and direct one of the inhabitants of the said place to take charge thereof.

Ordered, That the managers of the said ships be furnished with copies of the above resolutions; that a copy thereof be transmitted to Francis Lewis, Esqr. and that another copy be sent to Lieut. Victor Bicker.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 734.

2. See Committee Minutes, November 30.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE¹

[New York] Wednesday, 4th. December.

This Day the *Tamer* sailed for England; and my L[ette]rs to Ld. D[artmouth]. . . . were conveyed on board; and 'tis supposed the Ship will get Home (V.D.) by Christmas or New Year's Day.²

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 154.2. H. M. S. *Tamar* entered Dartmouth harbor on December 29, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 51/968.ROBERT MORRIS TO WILLIAM BINGHAM¹

Dear Sir

Philada Decemr 4th 1776

This will be delivered to you by Capt. Geo. Ord who takes his passage with Monsr Cotiney de Prejent in the Ship *Esperance* for Guadaloupe he is a worthy, Active, Industrious, Honest Man in whom you may safely repose confidence at least such is the Character he has hitherto borne & such is my good oppinion of him —

Under this opinion, from Mr Prejents solicitation's, and from a desire to comply with your request as mentioned in your letter of the 1st October to me, I have procured a Commission for Captain Ord to Command a Privateer and send him with it in order that you may purchase fit & Man a Suitable Vessell for this purpose under his Command, I propose that this Privateer shou'd be a stout, good, & fast sailing Vessell quite fit for the purpose a Ship, Brigt a Sloop or Schooner just as you can best suit yourself. I think she shoud have 12 to 16, six or four Pounds & 100 to 150 Men if to be got, and be well fitted & provided in every respect.² She may be bought, fitted & sent out on a Cruize with all possible expedition the sooner the better, and I leave the Choice of the Vessell & all other Circumstances to you, Mr Prejent & Capt Ord, as also the Cruizing Ground, altho I think good business may be done amongst the Outward bound West India Men by Cruizing to Windward of B[ar]B[a]dos where is also the track for Guinea Men. I propose this Privateer to be, one third on your Acct one third on Acct of Mr Prejent & one third on my Account and If the *Esperance* arrives safe Mr Prejent & you will have sufficient Value to accomplish this business, if she does not arrive you will otherways receive sufficient remittances to pay for your & my part —

You must observe, I have not hitherto had any Concern in privateering & even at this day my Partner Mr [Thomas] Willing objects possitively to any Concern therefore this has no Connection with the business of my House but is totally distinct & on my Own Account, You will charge me for my part the Cost of Outfit & Credit me for my third the Nt pceeds of all Prizes &c You may use the Effects of W[illing,] M[orris] & Co to pay for my third; but I hope that Amot will soon be reimbursed by some good Prizes, if not, I will repay them the Amot here. I have not imparted my concern in this plan to any person and shall Copy this letter myself to prevent its being known, therefore I request you will never mention the least Tittle about the matter to any person nor in any letter but private ones to myself. You must know I had determined not to be Concerned in privateering but having had several Vessels taken from me & otherways lost a great deal of my

property by this War, I conceive myself perfectly justifiable in the Eyes of God or Man to seek what I have lost, from those that have plundered me.

I recommend a Stout Privateer because I imagine the British Ships will now come out very generally Armed and little will be done by small ones. I have delivered Capt Ord the Rules & Instructions of Congress and request that both he & you will closely abide by them, indeed I have given Bond that you shou'd do so. I think however that you may sell Negroes, perishable Commodities & other Articles suitable for the Islands, in Martinico if the General will give You leave without waiting a formal Condemnation in any of these States, but I think you had best send the Vessells & such parts of their Cargoes as are suited to the Continent to some part of it for Camdemnation & Sale, & when You take out a Cargo or any part of it from a Prize You might ship Salt or Mollasses, Rum &c in lieu thereof. You'l Consign to Mr John Dorsius in Charles Town to Messrs Hewes & Smith at Occracock North Carolina, to Benjn Harrison junr Esqr in Virginia, to Mr David Stewart at Baltimore, to us on this Coast, to Mr Nathl Shaw junr at New London, Mr Danl Tillinghast at Rhode Island, John Bradford Esqr Continental Agent at Boston or any port in Massachusets or to John Langdon C Agent in New Hampshire – I forgot to Mention Benjn Wereat Esqr in Georgia, however I wou'd always have you prefer sending to Charles Town & this place whilst they remain ours, indeed if you hear this place falls into the hands of the Enemy it may probably be best to keep the whole of the Prizes in your own hands

We have been much alarmed for some days past for the safety of this City & are not yet entirely relieved of our apprehensions on Acct of the unfortunate changes in our affairs since the reduction of Fort Washington The Enemy landed a Body of 8 to 10,000 Men in the Jerseys with a large Train of Artillery, and after forcing Genl Washington with between 4 & 5000 Men to evacuate Fort Lee, they have Continued their March as far as N Brunswick in the Jerseys where they now are & obliged Genl Washington to retreat before them to Prince Town & Trentown, he is at the latter place with about 3000 Men Ld Stirling at the other with 1000 to 1500 Men, but if the Enemy come on they will be obliged to Cross Delaware for Safety as they are not a Force to make a stand before the Enemy, in this retreat we have lost many usefull Stores, Provisions & I fear Artillery, and You may suppose the alarm & confusion here as it was generally believed they intended for this City, thus you have one side of the Picture, I hope the other may be better. Our Associators had been much disgusted with their Service in the Flying Camp & their Spirit had gone to sleep, they were called upon but did not rouse, untill within this two days when they began to Conceive their danger was real & they are now turning out with a Spirit becoming Free Men this day & tomorrow the whole Militia of this City & Suburbs March to join Genl Washington the Country will follow the example of the City the Jerseys are in Motion and Genl Lee has Crossed the North River with Considerable Force & is on the March towards the Enemy, so that I expect they will now be driven into Winter quarters more I do not promise myself at this time as their Artillery is extreamly formidable & we have but little to oppose it. Our affairs are amazingly altered for the worse within a few Weeks however I hope the exertions of Congress this Winter will but [*sic* put] them in a respectable posture before the Spring.

I am in daily hopes of hearing from you by Capt [John] Young,³ the Committee will not have time to write by this Conveyance. I am Dr Sir with much regard [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

P S I expect Mr Prejent will be very usefull in buying, fitting & manning the Privateer. You must however get as many Anglo American as possible for Officers & Men and be sure that no Prize is detained unless clearly British or British-West India property.

R M -

1. Miriam Lutchter Stark Library, UTL.

2. Morris recommended that the privateer be named *Retaliation*. Morris to Bingham, December 4, 1776, Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 1, Box 9, HSP.

3. Commanding the Continental sloop *Independence*.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL¹

[Philadelphia] Decr 4th

. . . Great Numbers People moving & Militia with [Thomas] Proctor's Compy and two field peices waggons &c no news to be depended upon but that 140 Sail Of vessels left New York last first day but not none by us where, and that general Lee with 10,000 men was within a few miles of the regulars

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

THOMAS COURSEY TO NICHOLAS THOMAS¹

Mr Thomas Sir

Decr 4th 1776 -

mr. James Tilghman & mr Thomas Smith Gentlemen of Your Council Inform's me that I am on Your List for the Command of one of the armed Vessels fitting out by the province as mr Smith is out of the Council & I am informed You are in Should be Very much obliged to you for your intrest in Obtaining my Commission, the Vessel fitting at mr Smiths yard would be the most Convenant to me as she is but a little Distance from my house Should be glad you'd send the Commission as soon as possable, that I may Engage seaman as they Will be Very Scarce, and the season far advanced I am Sir [&c.]

Thos Coursey

Should be glad of a hand from you if my appearance at annapolis is necessary that I may Come over -

1. Red Book, XIX, Md. Arch.

SHIPPING ARTICLES OF THE CREW OF MARYLAND SCHOONER *Resolution*¹

Annapolis Road Decr the 4th 1776

These are to Certify the [*sic* that] We the Mariners & Seamen, have agreed to Proceed on a Voyage in the Schooner *Resolution*, John Carey Master, Belonging to the Honble Concil of Safty for the State of Maryland, To Proceed to Martinico, or to any Port or Ports in the French India Islands, As shall be Directed by The Honble Concill of Safty, & from thence Back to the Port of Annapolis, In Con-

sideration of the Monthly Pay standing against each Mans Name, But on Disobedience of Orders Neglect of Duty Embezelment of the Cargo &ca Shall forfeit all Wages Cloaths &ca Belonging to them According to the Rules & articles of all Merchantmen, In Witness of the above We have each Sett our hands heretoo.

Time of Entry	Mens Names	Quality	Wages Advanc'd	Wages P Mo	Witness
Annopolis } Decr th } 4th 1776	John Carey	Master			John Carey
	Pat Dennistoun	Mate		£14. . 0. . 0	
	John Hergis	Seaman		10. . - . 0	
	Thomas Watts	do		10. . - . -	
	Thomas Prendergast	do		10. . - . -	
	Hugh Orr	Boy		5. 10. . -	
	William Jones	do		5. 10. . -	

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Folder 87, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday 4th Decr 1776.

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Richard Taylor one Log Line, One half Minute Glass, one Quarter Minute Glass, two Compasses, four hundred Scupper Nails, four hundred Pump Nails, four pounds of sewing Twine and one Handsaw file for the use of the Schooner *Hornett*

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt Robert Conway for Eighty three pounds fifteen shillings and three pence for Disbursements & Pay of his Company on Board the *Protector* Galley to the 1st Inst as p Acct this day settled. —

John Thomas is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieut of the *Protector* Galley in the Room of Robert Tewell who hath Resigned. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to James Southall for the use of John Barrett for four Pounds four shillings for Linseed Oil furnished Capt Calvert for the use of the *Revenge* Galley. — Also for six pounds twelve shillings for Rugs furnished Lieut Benjamin Pollard for the use of the Marines. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Thomas Gibbs for thirty five pounds thirteen shillings for Blacksmiths Work for the Brig *Liberty*. — Also for Five Pounds twelve shillings and ten pence for Blacksmiths Work for the *Safeguard* Galley — Also for four Pounds fifteen shillings and eight pence for Blacksmiths Work for the *Manley* as p Accts this day settled.

1. Navy Board Journal, 126–27, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER DICK, PORT ROYAL ¹

Sir,

Your Company of Marines are wanting to go on Board the Brigg *Musquetto* Captain [John] Harris who now lies at Portsmouth. You are therefore directed

immediately on the receipt hereof to Ship yourself & Men on board the *Manly* Galley Capt [James] Cocke, who waits to take you on Board, and proceed with you to Capt [John] Harris on Board the said Brig who will receive you and your Company,

(Signed) Thos Whiting 1st Comr

[Williamsburg] 4th Decr 1776 –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN JOHN HARRIS, BRIG *Musquetto* ¹

Sir,

This will be deliver'd You by Captain James Cocke of the *Manly* Galley, who will deliver to you Capt Dicks Company of Marines which you are to take on board and turn over Mr Valentine and his Marines to the *Manly*.

(Signed) Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

[Williamsburg] 4th Decr 1776 –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1777

Christianstaed (St. Croix) Dec. 4.

On Sunday last [December 1] put in here the ship *Lasoye Planter*, commanded by Capt. Smith, who on the second of November sailed from New-York bound for Cork, in his Britannic Majesty's service, and on the 12th fell in with the brig *Freedom*, Capt. [John] Clouston, in the Continental service,¹ who made a prize of said ship, and on the 21st the carpenter, boatswain, and three of the people retook the ship, and brought her into this port the first instant.

1. *Freedom* was in the service of Massachusetts. See Volume 6.

CAPTAIN HENRY BRYNE, R. N., TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

(Copy)

Hind off Roseau, Dominica;

the 4th December 1776

Sir.

I am to inform you that yesterday I fel in with a Brig from Nantucket bound for Bordeaux, but she loosing her Masts in the Lattd 38° North, obliged her to make the best of her way for some of the French Islands, we fell in with her a little to leeward of Marigallant [Marie-Galante], I was under the necessity of taking her in tow, as eight points is as near as She can lie when close hauled.²

I have delivered her safe to Mr Corlet at Roseau; her Lading is Oil and Flax seed. I also sent in a Schooner the 21st last Month to Roseau with Flour and Tobacco from Baltimore,³ both taken by the *Greyhound*; I am sorry to say she has sprung her Foremast, which obliges me to keep her close at hand, and for fear of her being taken by some of the Privateers, as there are great numbers in

these Seas; one in particular at Martinica fitted out on purpose to take the *Greyhound*, exactly such another mounting six Guns and twenty five Hands. Mr Nibbs of Tortola is my author[ity], himself was taken by this said Privateer last Sunday was a week, he also informed me there are Six others ready to sail at a moments warning; from this News and the *Greyhounds* disaster I propose being at Barbados the 12th or 13th, receive your Letters and make the best of my way to Antigua; Inclosed you will please to receive the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ship under my Command, and a List of Vessels seized. I am in hopes this will meet your approbation, and am Sir very respectfully [&c.]

Hen^y Bryne.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. Brig *Polly*, George Ramsdell, master. See Young's Prize List, December 9.

3. Schooner *Mary*, William Alexander, master, bound to Martinique. See Young's Prize List, December 9.

5 Dec.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO SIMEON DWIGHT, SHERIFF OF WORCESTER COUNTY¹

Council Chamber [Boston] Decr 5. 1776

To the Sheriff of the County of Worcester

his under sheriff or deputy, Greeting

You are hereby ordered forthwith to remove Such Seamen who are prisoners, mentioned in the schedule Annexed amountg to six – in number, if they are found within your precinct, directly 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 and if you have in your Custody any other Sailors or Seamen not mentioned in this Schedule, you are to remove them also adding their names to the Schedule, & you are to observe those Marines in your Custody are not to be sent wth the Seamen; And should the Cartel have Sailed before you arrive at Marblehead, you are to deliver these prisoners to the Sheriff of the County of Essex, or his under Sheriff who is hereby ordered to receive the same into his Custody hereof fail not and make return of this precept with your doings hereon into the Secretarys office –

Seamen at Worcester

Thomas Skinner

Wm. Bushell

John Burroughs

Anthony Simms alias Simmons—*Niger* Frigate

Peter McPherson—*Fo[we]y*

William Clarke—*Jenny* Transport

} Preston

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 74.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 5th Decr 1776 AM

Voted that Capt [John] Ayres have an Order on the Commissary for the following Articles, as Supplys for the *Spy* Vessell fitted out by Order of Government – viz – 1 Barrel Beef – 1 ditto Pork – 300 l Bread – 10 l Candles – 2 Bushels Potatoes – 20 Gallons New England rum – 1 Case W Inda ditto – 12 l Coffee – 7¼ hundred Sugar – 12 l Butter – 1 Cord Wood –

Voted that Capt [John] Hallett be taken into Employ by the Board, & that he be directed to proceed to the Cape; provide a Crew for his Vessell the Sloop *Republic*, & engage as many more Sailors as possible –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 25–26.

Independent Chronicle, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1776

Boston, December 5.

Commodore Manly, in the Continental Ship *Hancock*, of 32 Guns, came round from Newbury-Port, last Thursday.

Last Sunday a Number of Prisoners (Marines and Sailors) arrived in Town from the interior Parts of this State and Connecticut, and on Monday set off for Marblehead, in order to be exchanged for a Number of our Men, who lately arrived in the Cartel Vessels there.

Thursday last arrived at Marblehead, a Prize Ship, from the Bay of Honduras, laden with Logwood, taken by a Marblehead Privateer, the 6th Day of her Cruise.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Providence Decmr: 5th 1776

Yours of Yesterday I have just recd and I shall take it for granted, that you will take every Legal method to forward the manning of the Ships, and as to what you refer with respect to the Wages and Prize money I must now let you know, that as I am not Agent or Pay Master that I have nothing to do in that matter, further than to use my Influence that Right be done to every Man in the Navy; I have no knowledge of any Fraud in any Officer under my Command and I believe there is none I shall caution the Officer to take care to keep the men on Board althoh I believe the greatest part of the desertion was before they ever came on board, and as to what you seem to desire that the Ships shoud go round to Boston, my Orders will not admit of such a Step and if they woud, I can see but little prospect of getting men there, as I am well assured that if one of the Ships there had been manned she woud have Sailed before now – I am Sr yours and the Members of the Assemblys [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

To the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr
to be laid before such Members as
he may think fit –

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

JOHN MANLEY'S ACCOUNT WITH THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Hampden*¹

Amount of Money Advanc'd the Men be- long'g to the Brig <i>Hamden</i> —on her second		
1776	Time of refitting	
Nov 3	Capt. Thos Weaver	£ 3.10
21	George Nicholson	2..8
"	George House	15.12
Dec 2	Capt. Thos. Weaver	17.14
	59 Dolls	
5	Geo Nicholson advanced	1.18
	2 Chk'd flannel Shirts	
		£41. 2

1. John Manley's Account Book, 28, NHS. Manley was Deputy Continental Agent at Newport.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. B. F. HUGHES OF THE BRIG *Britannia*,
DATED PROVIDENCE, RHODE-ISLAND, DEC. 5, 1776."¹

I sailed from Jamaica the 6th of September last, and was taken by the *Joseph* privateer of this place, who brought me in here. The brig is at Bedford,² and I am almost stripped naked, and without money.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 18 to February 20, 1777.

2. Libel was filed in the Southern District of Massachusetts, against the *Britannia*, Benjamin Francis Hughes, master, taken by the Rhode Island privateer sloop *Joseph*, Thomas West, for trial at Plymouth, January 17, 1777, *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, January 2, 1777.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

[Extract]

Lebanon Decembr 5th 1776

Sr I have this day recieved Intelligence from New-London that there are Collected in the Sound near plumb Island Ten English Men of Warr and about 80 Transports And from Another quarter have further Intelligence that some hundred of the Enemies Ships and Transports had passed hell gate, their destination must at present be Uncertain Whether at New London or New-port but New Port may be the most probable, tho they may possibly pay us a small Visit at New London as they goe along. I think it is high time for the New England Colonies to be Alarmed, and amost every other Consideration to be laid Aside, to have the great Object of our defence employe our Utmost Attention & most Vigorous exertions. I have Ordered The Militia of this State On and Eastward of Connecticutt River to be on their March towards New London and Trust we shall be ready to Afford All possible Assistance wherever the Appearance of the Enemy shall make it Necessary. I have taken the Liberty to Inclose a letter containing the same Intelligence to Mr Bowdoin, President of the Councill of the Massachusetts which hope you will be so good as to forward without delay . . .

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 9, 1776–1777, R.I. Arch.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Long Island Sound] 5th Decr The wind increased considerably last night, and we went about 6 knots an hour under topsails only. It blew very fresh this morning at N.W.

At day break being nearly off Seabrook, we saw Sir Peter Parker's Squadron at anchor under the Long Island shore, with thier yards and top masts struck. At sunrise Commodore Hotham saluted him with 13 Guns, which was soon after returned with the like number. Immediately after this, our fleet stood over to the Connecticut shore, and about 12 o'clock anchored off Seabrook, which stands at the Mouth of Connecticut River. The last ships of the fleet were at anchor by 3 o'clock. Fresh wind at N.W. Soon after our fleet appeared, Sir Peter Parker's Squadron began to set up their yards and topmasts. About 12 o'clock they weighed, and about Sunset they anchored near us.

The above Squadron consists of the *Chatham*, *Asia*, *Preston*, *Centurion*, *Experiment*, *Renown*, *Emerald*, *Sphynx*, and ; – also the *Grand Duke [of Russia]* transport, with the 54th Regiment on board.

The wind abated towards night.

Some of our ships are anchored within less than a mile of the Shore. Very few people appear there. Many Cattle and Sheep are feeding along shore, and every thing appears perfectly quiet. In the Evening some few people, who seemed to be attracted by curiosity alone, came down to the shore, without arms.

A Signal having been made in the afternoon on board The Admiral, for all Masters, they returned soon after with a paper containing the order of Sailing to be observed by the Fleet.²

Besides the ships of War mentioned in the form of Sailing, the *Carysfort*, *Mercury*, *Rose*, & *Kingsfisher* are with the fleet, and are employed in Cruizing, or other services.

Lieut Knowles's transports have on board The Light Infantry, Grenadiers, and 3rd brigade.

Lieut Parry's, the 5th brigade,

Lieut Dickenson's – The Hessians, and

Lieut Sutherland's, the Light Dragoons, The Artillery, Stores, &c. &c.

1. *Mackenzie's Dairy*, I, 119–21.

2. See "Form of Sailing of the fleet under the Command of Sir Peter Parker. *Chatham*, off Block Island, 2d Decr 1776."

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION ¹

Fishkill, 5th Decr. 1776.

A draft of a letter to Francis Lewis, Esqr. a member of the marine committee, was read and approved of, in the words following, to wit:

Sir – Your favour of the 27th of November has been laid before the Committee of Safety, who in consequence thereof have agreed to the resolutions, a copy of which I am directed to transmit. You will be pleased to assure the marine committee that we shall be attentive to every thing which is requested of us; and when the Continental vessels

of war and the stores in this river are in a place of safety, shall not fail to give them information, and transmit the inventory they require.

Lieut. Victor Bicker, being recommended for his courage, activity and integrity, they have nominated him to be lieutenant of marines to the *Congress* and hope it will meet with approbation.

Capt. Hetfield, who commands a Continental brig, purchased by General Mifflin, and now in this river, has still a few seamen who have the care of the brig.

We are informed a Continental sloop is in the same situation. Be pleased to inquire from the marine committee whether the captains and men are to be discharged, or how they wish them to be disposed of. I am, sir [&c.]

To Francis Lewis, Esqr.

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

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 737.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG¹

Copy

Eagle Off New York

Sir,

December the 5th 1776.

Being directed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send a Part of the Ships of His Majesty's Fleet composing the Squadron under my Command stationed in North America, to be cleaned and refitted occasionally in the West Indies; Orders having been given, as their Lordships are pleased to inform me, for making due Provision of Stores at the different Yards accordingly: The *Roe-buck*, *Pearl* and *Falcon* are appointed to repair in consequence to the Island of Antigua, with that Intent. The *Perseus* and *Camilla* will follow in a short time after, to procure a fresh Supply of Water, and otherwise prepare for further Service, as Circumstances may require.

And as the tempestuous Season, commencing at the time Captain Hamond (the Senior Officer) quits his Station off the Delaware, will not in all probability allow of his return there to any Effect until the Month of March; I am induced for His Majesty's general Service to submit, that a suitable Disposition of those several Ships for protecting the Trade of His Majesty's faithful Subjects, under your Orders, or intercepting the Rebel Armed Vessels cruising within the Limits of your Command, be made in the meantime, as You think fit: Being nevertheless to request You will please so to regulate your Appointments in those respects, that the Ships may be completed in their Water and Stores, to return under the Conduct of Captain Hamond and resume their former Station on this Coast, consonant to the Tenor of the secret Instructions he will communicate to You upon his Arrival.

I beg leave to refer You to his Information for the Particulars of the Success of His Majesty's Arms under the Conduct of General Howe, on these parts of the Continent. I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Howe

[Endorsed] Copy of Lord Howe's Lre to V. A. Young In Lord Howe's Lre of 12 Decr 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH ¹

Sir

We request the favor of you to bid for the Brigg,² that was taken by Captn Cooke and buy her for the State at all Events; also to take Care, and purchase the rum, or any other Part of the Effects, condemned, that may be useful to the public, and are to be had at a moderate Price. – should you not care to act, be pleased to get some other Person to bid. – if the Snow *Georgia*, or any other of the vessels are to be had upon Terms you think reasonable, be so good as to buy them for us.

[Annapolis] Decr 5th 1776

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

2. Brigantine *Brothers*, Richard Morgan, master.JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday 5th December 1776. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Argyle Herbert for Thirty eight pounds eight shillings for his Wages on Board the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley from the twenty first day of August last to the twenty fifth day of November as p Acct this day settled. –

Argyle Herbert is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed first Lieut of the *Casewell* Galley. –

Edward Worrycott is appointed to superintend the Building Rigging and fitting of the *Grey-hound* Brig now on the Stocks at Minzies Ferry –

Edward Worrycott is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed Captain of the Brig *Grey-hound* now Building at Minzies Ferry. –

Lieut William Payne lodged with the Board a Complaint against Capt Wright Westcott of the Sloop *Scorpion* in the following Words. “As I expect to be Ordered shortly on a Cruize with Capt Wright Westcott I beg leave to make some objections against going with that Gentleman. 1st I think his Courage as an officer is much to be Doubted – next his Conduct is far from being equal to that of a Commander as there is many convincing Proofs of his Drinking too freely at Times when he ought to be most Sober.” Ordered that a Copy of this Complt be Transmitted to Capt [John] Harris and that he cause the Depositions of Colo James, Capt Carrington and any other Witnesses in this dispute that cannot conveniently attend the Board to be taken – given Capt Westcott legal notice of the Time & Place of taking such Depositions and that he and the Depositions as soon as they are taken to the Board. –

Lieutenant William Green is Recommended to his excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed Captain of the Sloop *Defiance* in the room of Capt [Eleazer] Callender. –

Capt Richard Taylor of the Schooner *Hornet* this day Received his Instructions for making a Voiage to Cape Francois which are Ordered to be Recorded

1. Navy Board Journal, 128–30, VSL.

PETITION OF DANIEL PRUDDEN TO THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL
CONGRESS ¹

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Provincial Congress of North Carolina, now sitting at Halifax.

The Petition of Daniel Prudden.

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner was equally interested with Messrs Conte & La Fong, in Three thousand bushels of Salt, imported into this Province last November.

That your Petitioner now Avails himself of the Privilege and Indulgence granted by the Provincial Council; and Apprehends it to be his Duty, to inform your Honors, that he is desirous of transporting in the same Bottom, One hundred Barrels of Pork.

Your Petitioner humbly entreats, that your Honors would be pleased to grant him the Permission of your Honourable House, to transport the above mentioned Number of One hundred Barrels of Pork from this Province, to either the Island of Bermuda, Turks Island or to some one of the French West India Islands. —

And your Petitioner, as in Duty bound, will Pray &c &c

Edenton 5th December 1776

Daniel Prudden

[Endorsed] Read & Ordered to be for Consideration. —

1. Secretary of State Papers, Provincial Conventions and Congresses, 1774–1776 (October–December, 1776), NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD ¹

Navy Board [Charleston],
Thursday 5 December, 1776.

The Board met According to Adjournment.

Present.

Thomas Corbett Esqr. Chairman

Roger Smith, Geo: Abbott Hall Thomas Savage, Esquires. Capt. Edward Allen attended the Board on his Arrivall with Two Prizes, Viz. a Sloop called the *George* from Jamaica & Owned there And a Schooner called the *Maria* from St Vincents, & Owned in Liverpoole

Ordered that the Clerk to waite on his Excellency the President, to desire he will give a pass to the Forts, for the Little Pilot Boat (*Hawk*) Lately purchased.

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 28.

JOHN FITZPATRICK TO JOHN STEPHENSON ¹

[Extract]

Manchac [Louisiana] 5 Decr 1776 —

. . . I am in hopes that you & the Gentlemen of your Place that their fears are Expell'd in regard to the three Rebel Ships of 18 Guns each that was sent out to prevent Mr Mims and the other Vessells for the Mississippi arrival, as there is six of them safely arrived now in the River, make no doubt but Mr Mims and the Store Ships is safely arrived e're this as it is supposed they have enough to do at home if the defeat of their Troops on Long Island is true

. . . it is said the Boat that went up the River had on board 13, 500 lb Gun Powder but as she never Stopped here in her way up or Down, I really can't say what Quantity she had but this is the Common report, as for the Sloop it is reported she had on board 30 [illegible] Hhds full of Powder which was Intended for the Americans if they could arrive (a Bon Port) which was Loaded at the Levee before the town of [New] Orleans this Sir is all the News of these parts that can be depended on in regard to the American Boat & Sloop . . .

1. John Fitzpatrick's Letter Book, NYPL. Fitzpatrick was a merchant engaged in ventures from Gulf ports.

EDWARD OTTO BAYER TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

(Copy)

Council Chamber [Antigua] Decr 5th 1776.

Sir I was favoured with your Letter of the 20th of last Month ² in which You inform Me that there are now on board his Majesty's Ships under your Command near one hundred American Prisoners that have been taken onboard different armed cruising Vessels from America, and that you cannot keep such Prisoners longer onboard the Kings Ships, and think it both improper and unsafe to give them Liberty to return back to America, and in which you also desire that I will communicate the same to the Members of his Majesty's Council of this Island in order to their procuring some place of Safety where the above Prisoners may be properly secured 'till you may receive Directions from Government concerning them; and that you will in the mean time direct them to be victualled at the Expence of Government; I am therefore, Sir, to inform You that on the 28th of last month I laid your Letter before the Council, and there arising at the Board some Doubts on the Construction of the late Act of Parliament prohibiting Trade and Commerce with the Rebellious Colonies in America, the Members thought proper before they came to any Resolution so as to enable Me to answer your Letter, to refer these Doubts to his Majesty's Attorney General for his Opinion thereon, which has prevented me from sending a more immediate Answer to your Letter. —

The Council met again this day and the Consideration of your requisition being resumed, the Board are unanimously of Opinion that there is not at present in this Island any Place, except the Common Jail where the Prisoners you have taken, can be kept in Safety, and that to confine such a Number of Men there, when the small Pox rages in the Town, a Disorder that most probably the greatest part of the Prisoners have never ever had, would be delivering them over to the Miseries of a Prison and Disease, and consequently to almost certain Death; at the same time the Inhabitants of St John, in such a Climate as this, in the Opinion of the Board, would run no small Risque of other Distempers from having the Jail, which is situated in the Midst of the Town, rendered so sickly, and infectious.— The Board, Sir, are sensible that other places may be thought of as proper for the Purpose, nor have the Members neglected to consider such other places, but when it is recollected how very small the Number is of His Majesty's Troops at present in this Island, and the impossibility of keeping in safety without their Assistance and strict Attention, such a Number of Prisoners

rendered desperate perhaps by their peculiar situation, the Board imagines that they shall not stand single in their Opinion –

I must beg leave to add in Justice to the Members of the Council that it has been with much Concern they have found themselves unable to cooperate with You in relieving his Majesty's Ships from the Inconveniency they at present labour under, which cannot but be detrimental to his Majesty's Service. I have the Honor to be with Regard Sir[&c.]

Edwd Otto Bayer ³

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Bayer was president of the Antigua Council.
2. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.
3. Young replied to this letter on December 6 stating that "His Majesty's Service will not permit me to keep the Ships of the Squadron in Harbour for that purpose; I shall therefore be obliged to put said Prisoners on Shore as I can," PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

6 Dec.

PETITION OF PHILIP HODGKINS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honle Council and House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts –

The Petition of Philip Hodgkins humbly sheweth that your Petitioner in Novr 1775 took and carried into Union River the Sloop *Advance* Nehemiah Eastman Commander bound from Boston to George's, with the Purpose of Supplying our Enemies then in Possession of our Capital ² – and deliverd the same to the Comee appointed by the General Court in the County of Lincoln, there not being any Maritime Courts then established in this Government – and since sd Courts have been established your Petitioner has not had Opportunity to libel said Vessel – the Clerk of sd Committee, who had the necessary Papers, being absent – Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays your Honrs to give your Petitioner Liberty to libel said Sloop *advance* in the Maritime Court in the eastern District of this State, and as in Duty bound will ever pray &c

Philip Hodgkins

[Endorsements] In Council Decr 6t 1776 Read & thereupon Resolved That Daniel Hopkins Esq with such as the Hon'ble House shall appoint be a Comittee to consider the above Petition & report what is necessary to be done thereon – Send down for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy

In the house of Representa[tives] Decr 6. 1776

Read and Concurred and Judge Rice and Mr Snow are joined

Sam Freeman Spkr P.T.

The Committee of both houses appointed to consider the within Petition report the following Resolve

Viz Resolvd that Philip Hodgins be, and he hereby is authorized and impowred if he see Cause at his own Expence, to file a Libel in the Maritime Court of the eastern District of this State against the Sloop *Advance*, Nehemiah Eastman Commander, her Cargo, and Tackle and Appurtenances, with in twenty Days from this Time. And the said Court is hereby fully authorized and impowred to try the Justice of said Capture, in the same way and manner the Justice of other Captures

is by Law triable, in the said Court – any Law, Usage or Custom to the Contrary notwithstanding –

In Council Decr 6th 1776 read, and accepted, sent down for Concurrence passed

John Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representa[tives] Decr 6. 1776

Read and Concurred

Sam Freeman Spk P T

1. Mass. Arch, vol. 211, 346, 345.

2. See Volume 3.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

[Boston] Friday December 6th. 1776.

In the House of Representatives. Whereas a number of Masts, & Spars collected by Edward Parry, are now at Kennebec River in the care of a Committee of this Court; and it is represented that they are liable to receive damage where they lay, and are not accessible in the Winter Season. – Therefore –

Resolved, that the Honble. Board of War be, and they hereby are empowered and directed to take the said Masts, & Spars into their possession, and dispose of them for the benefit of this State as they shall judge proper, and the said Committee are hereby directed to deliver them on demand to the order of said Board, they first causing them to be appraised by indifferent and discreet men, taking the Marks and numbers of each Mast, & Sparr, and transmitting the same with their appraised Value to the said Board of War.

In Council. Read, & Concurred

Consented to by 15 of the Council. –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 273, 281.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR¹

Boston 6th Decr. 1776 AM

Capt Paul Reed of Boothbay waited on the Board & offer'd them the Brigantine *Rosanna* (lying at Boothbay aforesaid) burthen about 170 Tons, 2 Year old for £900 – Sterling – Thereupon

Voted that the said Brig be engaged by the Board to proceed with a Cargo of Lumber to the West Indies; provided Capt Reed will go Master of said Vessel, load her & provide a Crew –

Voted That Mr [Ellis] Gray be the Committee to contract with Capt Reed for his Brig, & when purchas'd give him Directions how to load her, & prepare his sailing Orders –

A Number of the Crew belonging to Capt [Daniel] Sout[h]ers Brig² apply'g for a Dismission, they were referr'd to the Agent of this State for an Answer Adjourn'd till 4 oClock PM

Attest Jon Loring Austin Secy

Boston 6th Decr 1776 PM

Mr Gray the Committee to treat wth. Capt Reed Reported that he had purchased the Brig *Rosanna* of Capt Reed for £1200 – Lawfull Money received a Bill of

Sale³ & engaged him to go in the Vessel – that he had also drawn up his Instructions how to load said Vessel – together with his sailing Orders, wch were read & Accepted – & filed accordingly

Voted That said Brig be called the *Warren*

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 26–27.

2. The Massachusetts state brig *Massachusetts*.

3. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 22.

MEMORANDUM OF DEPUTY CONTINENTAL AGENT JOHN MANLEY'S ACCOUNT¹

[Newport, December 6, 1776]²

Memo of Articles sent on board the fleet but not Charg'd to any Vessel as yet They being sent on board in a hurry Desin'd to the several Vessils as follows

- 38 Chkd flannell shirts for *Collumbus* viz 16 of which is already Charg'd in acct of Stores of 50 yds; this pc. being after it was Charg'd sent to be made up
- 3 small Jackets @ 9/6 for Do. to be also Charg'd
- 3 pr Trousers 8/2
- 3 shirts 11/10
- 1 pc. flannell 64 yds Chk'd for *warren*
- 1 pc. Striped 22¼ } *providence*
- 1 pc Check'd 45¼ } all @ 5/ p yd. *warren*
- 1 pc White 21¼ } *providence*
- 1 pc Ck'd Linnen 7 for *providence*
- 2 new hammocks of Duck
- 200 bushells White beans
- 22 Casks for Do. [Stephen] Fry Coopering Do

1. John Manley's Account Book, NHS.

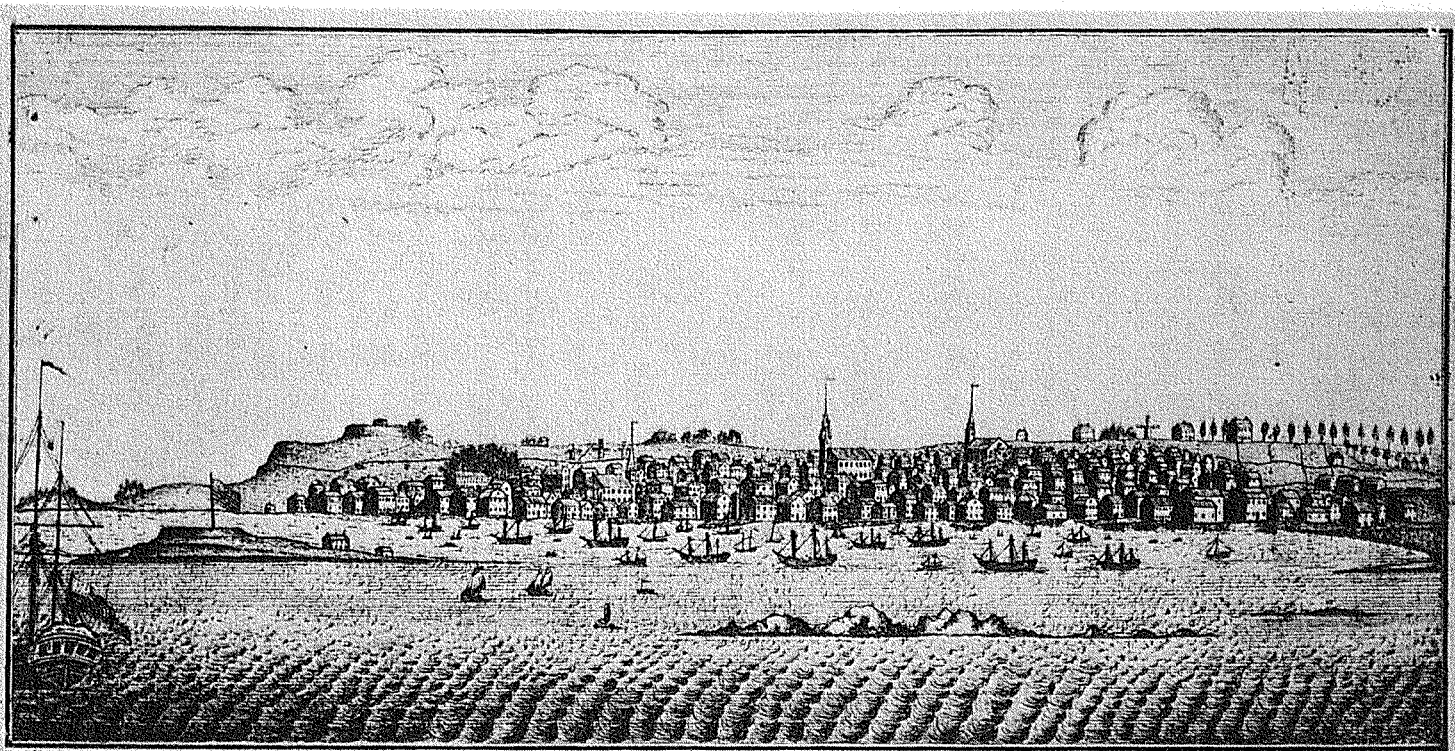
2. Date approximated. Manley sent off these articles "in a hurry" as the British approached.

DANIEL RODMAN TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

South Kingston 5 OClock 6 of Decr 1776

Sir

I Traveld Westward this morning to the edge of Westerly when meeting Capt Simon Rhodes who Informed Me that he Saw this morning 25 Sail of Vessels Steering Out of New London Harbour for Fishers Island Race and that a Flag of Truce Belonging to this State had Come into Stonington Long Point (I suppose Still [Benjamin Stelle]) who Declares that at the East End of Fishers Island he Spoke Capt Simons [John Symons] of the *Sebrus* [*Cerberus*] who told him he was waiting for 150 Sail of Transport and then he was Bound For Newport Upon which I made no doubt They were Bound Immediately For Newport and Determined to Return to Providence this Night But Being Over Taken by the Bareor who Informs that their is Now about 70 or 80 Sail Hovering Round New London Harbour which may be with design to take us in by Finess to Draw our Strength that way and then Run down to New port, It is generally Immagined by People I have seen and by Jona Hazard who is Returned From the Camp that their is not much Land Fource on board. Hazard Informes of an



A South West View of Newport.

Action in the Jerseys in which we have Obtained a Considerable Advantage. I have Tacked about again and will Convey you Every Intelligence in my power of their Movements In has[te] about 2 Miles from Home your Honr [&c.]

Daniel Rodman

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 9, 1776-1777, R. I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,
[Hartford] December 6th, 1776.

There being a large fleet of men of war and transports at anchor a little to the westward of N. London harbour and their design not being known, it was determined to be a prudent step to remove the continental and colonial property at N. London up to Norwich, and also to take a quantity of wheat on board a ship at New London, commanded by Capt. [Thomas] Kennedy,² for publick use; and Capt. Ephraim Bill, Jabez Perkins and David Mumford of Norwich are appointed and desired to assist Mr. Shaw in taking and removing the said wheat to the mills to be floured, and the continental and colonial ships stores &c. to the places of the greatest safety that can be up Norwich River, and to secure the same as well as they can.

Orders were given to several regiments of the militia to march to New London in the defence of this country against the invasions of the enemy; also letters sent to Genl Washington and others for the needful assistance and steps to be taken in this alarming time of danger &c.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*, I, 83.

2. The ship *Mary*.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1776

New-London, December 6.

Last Saturday Morning the Flag of Truce mentioned in our last, left this Harbour, and the same Evening put into New-Haven for a Harbour, in her Way to New-York. The State of Rhode-Island, by a Committee which came here last Week, have agreed upon an Exchange of the Prisoners in that State, for a like Number in the British Fleet, which is to take Place the 9th Instant, at this Port. An Exchange of the Prisoners in this State is postponed for the present.

Tuesday last, this Town was alarmed by the Appearance of eleven Ships from the Eastward, coming into the Sound, most of which appeared to be Men of War, who by their Course, for some Time, it was apprehended might be bound in to this Place; but they went further up Sound, and towards Evening anchored under Long-Island Shore, where they lay till Yesterday Morning, when being joined by other Men of War and Transports from New-York, to the Number of near One Hundred, they came to Sail, and anchored near Black-Point, about eight Miles West of this Harbour, where they remain at this Publication. The Appearance of such a formidable Fleet within one Hour's sail of the Town, has thrown the Inhabitants into great Consternation.

Our Readers we doubt not, will readily excuse the Publication of a Half Sheet this Week, on the above Account.

The Public are desired to remember, that the Ship *Sally* and Cargo were notified for Sale at Vendue in New-London, on the 3d December, on which Day the Sale was deferred on Account of the Alarm which then happened. — The Sale of said Ship and Cargo will now take Place on Wednesday the 11th Day of December, in New-London.

per Pros. Wetmore, Marshal.

The Ship *Clarendon* and Cargo, will be sold at Vendue in New-London, on Monday the 16th December.

Pros. Wetmore, Marshal.

The Schooner *May & Elizabeth*, and her Cargo, will be sold at Vendue, on Monday 9th December, 1776, at Norwich.

Pros. Wetmore, Marshal.

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

Remarks in Long Isld Sound Friday Decr 6th [1776]

- 8 [A.M.] Weighd and Came to sail and turnd out of the Bay Saw a Sloop on the Rebel Shore sent the Tender to Chace
- 12 [M.] Light Airs and Fair Tiney cock point WNW 3 & ½ Miles out Boats and sent them Mannd and Armd to Chace the Sloop with the Tender at 3 light airs sett steering sails and stood after the Boats, saw the Rebels fire on the Boats from the shore at 4 the Boats returnd, Having run the Sloop on shore sent the Tender to the Wt Wd at 6 Tiney Cock point SWbW 5 Miles bore away for Huntington bay at 7 Came too in Huntington Bay and Veerd to ½ of a Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT ¹

December 1776 Mount Missery SEbS off Shore 3 Miles
 Friday 6th Mode Breezes & Fair Wr at 5 PM Weigh'd & came to sail at 8 Plumb Isld E 4 Leags at 11 Came too wth the Bt Br in 11 faths off Wading River sent the Barge in shore Man'd & Arm'd & Burnt a small schooner & a Boat belonging to the Rebels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Long Island Sound] 6th Decr 1776 The fleet weighed this morning at 7 o'Clock, Wind E; but having the advantage of a strong ebb tide, we worked, as far as The Race, which is between Fisher's and Gardiner's, Islands. At 2 o'Clock, the tide being spent, the signal was made for anchoring, which Was done by the whole fleet by half past 3 o'Clock. The Race lies between Long Island, Gardiner's Island, Fisher's Island, and The Main; and is occasioned by the narrowness of the

Channel, which confining the great body of water that comes out of the Sound, causes a great rippling on the Ebbtide, in the narrowest part, and has the appearance of the water running over a reef. There is however above 20 fathom water on it.

The tide which flows in at Sandy hook and past New York, is met at Whitestone by that which comes up the Sound from the Eastward; from which place they return again. So that a vessel coming from New York as far as Whitestone with the flood tide, has the advantage of the Ebb tide from thence down the Sound; by which means the passage from New York to some of the Ports in the Sound is made in a very short time.

The passage from New York is very entertaining, and the many beautiful views on each Shore, but particularly that of Long Island, which is in several places intersected by deep bays and Inlets, make it extremely pleasing even at this season on [*sic of*] the year. In Spring or Summer the Views must be delightful.

From the place where we are now at anchor, we have a view of the mouth of the Thames upon which river New London is situated; and which we can see just over the W. end of Fisher's Island. Several vessels are plainly discovered at anchor in the harbour, with their sails loose. We suppose some of them to be Privateers, as many are fitted out from that place. Our Pilot says there is not above 12 feet water on the Bar at high water.

We are now about 15 leagues from Rhode Island, to which place, it now seems past all doubt, we are going. The Ships of War are throwing overboard all useless lumber, and appear to be clearing out in order to bring up against any batteries which the Rebels may have to obstruct our entrance.

The *Mercury* Frigate joined the fleet this afternoon with the Hospital ship which was left behind.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 121.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO WILLIAM BINGHAM¹

[Extract]

Philada Decemr 6th 1776

Sir We have already wrote you by this Conveye but we have just recd your favour of the 31st Octr by the *Molly* Capt [Thomas] Conway arrived safe into Maryland & those of the 3d & 5th Novr by Monsr Blaquiere who is just arrived at Chester. You observe our Tobacco by Capt Stevens cost high & the freight out of the way. had you been here when it was shipped you wou'd not have thought so, indeed none but persons on the spot can have a just Idea of the perpetual changes that take place in every branch of business. When ships that in common times sold for £1000, by a sudden demand are raised in Value to £4000 & Seamens Wages jum[p] from £4 to £14 p Mo & every article relative to ship rises in the same proportion what must the freights be to make an equivalent, as to the price of Tobo ours was bought on as good terms as any at the same time, the quality we are very liable to be imposed on, having no inspection nor in fact any persons here sufficiently judges of it; We wonder the exportation of it shou'd not be permitted from Martinico to France, as it is from St Domingo for we had 15 hhds transhipped from Cape Francois on our Acct Rice & Indico we

deem good Commodities at your Market but tis difficult to get them there as they have little shipping to the Southward & here is too much employment for what we have to send them on Circuitous Voyages. . . .

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

SAMUEL ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

Philadelpa., Dec. 6, 1776

By the last Accounts from the Northward we are informd that the Ice begins to make on the Lakes. A few choice Friends have conceivd it very practicable when the Enemies Vessels are closd in the Ice to destroy them by burning. Could this be done it would exceedingly distress the Enemy and confound them. I confess I am enthusiastical in this Matter. I wish you would consult *a few* concerning it. If it is a Proposal worth your Notice, and I hardly doubt you will think it so, it must be communicated to a very few. I should think it would be best set on foot and executed by the New England People and I dare say there are trusty Men in our State who thoroughly understand such kind of Business. *Sat Verbum Sapienti.* Think seriously of it.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 278, 279.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] December 6th, 1776: –

Met at 3 o'Clock

Resolved, That all River Craft be permitted to pass from this Harbour as Usual, notwithstanding the embargo on sea vessels.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 36.

MATTHEW IRWIN'S ACCOUNT WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA PRIVATEER BRIG *General Lee* ¹

		[Philadelphia]
Aug. 31	Briga <i>General Lee</i> , ² my part, paid	130. . 0. . 0
	Thomas Irwin, 1st payment	
“ “	Thomas Mifflin, paid do towards his	130. . 0. . 0
	Share in said Vessel	
	Briga <i>General Lee</i> , my part, paid	65. . 0. . 0
	Anthy Butler for half his	
	Share in her	
Sept 30	Owners of Briga <i>Gen. Lee</i> paid	0. . 8. . 4
	Porterage of 20 bbls Pork	
Oct 7	Owners of the <i>Lee</i> , paid Jno Roodle	10. 18. . 7
	for 6 bbls Burr Midlings	
	12. 1. 4 Nt 17/ & Casks 19½d	
8.	Briga <i>Gen. Lee</i> my part paid Thomas	100. . 0. . 0
	Irwin 2d Payment for my Share	

9	Briga <i>Gen. Lee</i> , my part, paid Anty Butler for 2d Payment of $\frac{1}{2}$ Share bot of him	}	50. . 0. . 0
	Owners of Briga <i>Gen. Lee</i> , paid for haling 6 bbls Flour		. . 2. . 0
Nov 4	Owners of Briga <i>Gen. Lee</i> Dr to Sundry Accounts	}	
	To Beef & Pork for 25 bbls		
	Pork @	£7. 10. . 0	187. 10. 0
	To John Baker for 1 hhd Rum		
	115 Gals 8/	46. . 0. 0	233. 10. . 0
18	Briga <i>Genl Lee</i> pd Thomas Irwin my		125. . 0. . 0
18	3d paymt <i>Genl Thos Mifflin</i> pd Thos Irwin his 2 & 3 paymt of Brig <i>Lee</i>	}	225. . 0. . 0
Dec 5	Brigne <i>Genl Lee</i> pd Jno Bayard $\frac{1}{10}$ of Cargo & Outfits—2d May [1777]		259. 15. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
6	Brigantine <i>Genl Lee</i> pd Anthy Butler my 3d paymt for $\frac{1}{2}$ share	}	62. 10. . 0
5	Brigne <i>Genl Lee</i> pd Philip Bhoem for my share—16th June [1777]		61. 12. . 3
5	Owners Brigne <i>Genl Lee</i> pd Mathw Potter for the sd Col Expenses	}	1. . 0. . 7

1. Matthew Irwin's Account Book, 1769–1784, LC.

2. The brig *General Lee* of about 100 tons, John Chatham, commander, 12 guns and 90 men, was commissioned October 3, 1776, *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 740.

CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Honrd Gent — Baltimore Dec 6th 1776.

The Snow *George* arived the 4th Inst. that we took November the second and afterwards retaken by one of the ministerial Ships, soon after that the Privateers

Capt. [James] Campbell took her again, she is now lybell'd in their names. As the ship *Defence* first took her, the Province and Ship's company has a right to some part and it will be necessary to have some Attorney employed to claim that part before the Board of Admiralty when she is to be condemn'd. I hope you'll please to appoint some Gent. of the Law for that purpose. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

Geo. Cook

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

BILL OF LADING FOR THE MARYLAND SCHOONER *Friendship*¹

Shipped in good order and well conditioned by the Council of Safety of Mary Land, in & upon the good Schooner called The *Friendship*, whom of is Master

for this present Voyage John Gibbons – and now riding at Anchor at the Port of Annapolis, bound to the Island of Saint Eustatia to wit, twenty Hogsheads of Tobacco, four hundred and twenty one Barrels of fine Bur Flour, ten Barrels of Superfine Flour, two hundred Barrels of Bread & two thousand, eight hundred White-Oak Hogshead Staves being marked & numbered as in Margin,² & to be delivered in the like good order, and well conditioned, at the aforesaid Port of Saint Eustatia – unto Messrs Vanbibber & Harrison or their Assigns. – In Witness whereof the Master of the said schooner hath affirmed to the Bills of Lading, the one of which said Bills being accomplished, The other to stand void: Dated at Annapolis this 6th Day of December 1776

John Gibbons

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Folder 90, Md. Arch.
2. The items are listed in the margin but not numbered.

THOMAS LUDWELL LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

My Dear Brother

I must own to you that I cannot avoid some uneasiness at the late manoeuvres & successes of Howe. He avails himself greatly of those advantages which the water gives him to puzzle, distract, & divide our forces. I dont like the small force of 6000 with Washington, whilst no more than 10000 remain on the other side. Does the number of 16000 make up the whole force of our grand army? As little comfort can I draw from that damned torpid militia you mention. Militia, bad at best, can deserve very little confidence in such a state.

However as you dont appear to be alarmed I do not altogether despair.

[Williamsburg] Decr 6th 1776.

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

a member of Congress

Free Philadelphia

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday December 6th 1776

Ordered that the Commissioners of the Navy Board be requested to direct one of the Row Gallies or some other armed Vessell belonging to this State to proceed immediately to the Head of Elk for the purpose of transporting seven hundred stand of Arms, purchased by our Delegates in Congress and lodged at that Place under the care of Mr Hollingworth and that the said Commissioners give Instructions to the Captain of such Vessell that may be sent for the aforesaid Purpose to return with the said Arms to this Place as soon as possible.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 266, 267.

NOTICE TO BRITISH CREW OF THE PRIZE SHIP *Caroline*¹

Williamsburg, December 6.

The master and crew of the ship *Caroline*, taken by the schooner privateer *Harlequin*,² and condemned as a lawful prize by the Court of Admiralty of this state, are hereby advertised, that they are to apply to William Lux, esq; of the town of Baltimore, in the state of Maryland, for payment of the wages due to them from said ship, agreeable to a resolution of the Continental Congress.³

By order of the Hon. Court of Admiralty.

Ben: Powell, marshal

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, December 6, 1776.

2. A Maryland privateer, William Woolsey, commander.

3. Resolution of March 19, 1776: "that all seamen and mariners on board of merchants ships and vessels, taken and condemned as prize, shall be entitled to their pay, according to the terms of their contracts, until the time of the condemnation," Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 214.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG'S CONTRACT WITH DOVER, TAYLOR & BELL
AND OTHERS¹

Antigua. Contracted and agreed this Sixth day of December 1776 between James Young Esquire, Vice Admiral of the Red; and Commander in Chief of His Majestys Ships and Vessels Employed and to be Employed at Barbadoes the Leeward Islands and the Seas Adjacent, for and on behalf of His Majesty: and in the Name of the Principal Officers and Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy; on the one Part: and Messrs Dover Taylor and Bell of the Town of St John in the Island of Antigua Merchants and Copartners on the other Part. And the Said Messrs Dover Taylor & Bell for and in Consideration of the Monies herein after Agreed to be paid them by the said Principal Officers and Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy; Do Contract and Oblige themselves, their Executors and Administrators, to do and Perform every thing Contained in the Articles or Clauses herein next following Vizt.

The Said Messrs Dover Taylor & Bell, for and on behalf of themselves and all and every the Part Owners of the Ship *Lord North*; whereof George Ross is now Master [of] the Burthen of Two Hundred Tons or thereabouts; Mounting Fourteen Carriage Guns, & Twelve Swivels; Navigated by Twenty five Men; now Riding in the Harbour of St John, Antigua, Do Covenant and Agree that their Said Ship *Lord North* shall proceed, forthwith to the Island of Montserrat, and there receive on board, all such Soldiers, Women Arms Ammunition, Provisions and Stores, As the Said James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red and Commander in Chief &ca shall order to be put on board her (being part of the Eighth and part of the Forty seventh Regiments of His Majesty's Forces, which were brought from England by the *Hind* Transport, *King George*, Daniel Witherdon Master, who having Lost His Masts in bad Weather at Sea put into the Said Island in distress, and Cannot proceed the Voyage without great repairs and much Delay), And carry Said Troops to New York in North America, and there to Land them Pursuant to the Directions of the Commanding Officer of the Kings forces, at that Place. During the Con-

tinuance of the Troops on board the ship *Lord North*, It is declared and Agreed that the Officers shall be accomodated with the Great Cabbins and other Cabbins of the Ship except a Proper Cabbins for the Master and A small one for the Mate, and that the Gunroom Forecastle and Steerage or Such part thereof as shall be necessary be reserved for Lodging the Seamen. The Troops are to be provided at the Cost and Charge of the Owners with Coppers or Furnaces Sufficient and Necessary for the Boiling and dressing their Provisions, and also with Cans and Pumps for serving them with Water &ca, in their Voyage as well as with, Platters Spoons Candles and Lanthorns. They are to be Victualled at Navy Two Thirds Allowance, from the Kings Provisions put on board with them from the *King George* Transport; and to be Provided with Water Casks and Hammacoes [hammocks], at the Expençe of His Majesty; For which Provisions, Water Casks and Hammacoes, the Master of the Ship *Lord North* is to give Proper Receipts, and duly to Account for the Expenditure of the Same at the end of His Voyage, and he is to return into his Majesty's Stores at New York all the Kings Provisions that are remaining on board at the Time he shall Land the Said Troops at New York; and also the Water Casks and Hammacoes, for all which he is to take proper Receipts, and also a Certificate from the Commanding Officer of the Kings Forces of His Having Performed the Conditions of this Contract.

And in Consideration of Said Covenants Conditions and Agreements being duly performed and Executed by the aforesaid Messrs Dover Taylor & Bell, The Said Vice Admiral Young, in the Name of the said Principal Officers and Commissioners of the Navy, doth Covenant and Promise; for and on behalf of His Majesty, That the said Messrs Dover Taylor & Bell; their Executors Administrators or Assigns shall be allowed and Paid, the Sum of Four Pounds Sterling for each Person, belonging to the Kings Troops taken on board the Said Ship *Lord North* at the Island of Montserrat, in Order to their being Carried to, and Landed at New York, as aforesaid, which Money is to be paid by the Aforesaid Commissioners (on the Producing to them the Aforesaid Accounts Receipts & Certificates) in Course of the Navy, and if not paid in Six Months then to be allowed Interest as usual.

To the True performance, and keeping all and every the Covenants, Conditions and Agreements, above Mentioned on the Part and behalf of the Said Messrs Dover Taylor & Bell, to be kept done and performed; They the Said Dover Taylor and Bell bind themselves their Heirs, Executors and Administrators, Unto the Said Vice Admiral Young in the Name of the Said Principal Officers and Commissioners of the Navy for & on behalf of His Majesty, in the Penalty or Sum of Five hundred Pounds, of Lawful Money of Great Britain, to be recovered and Paid by these Presents.

In Witness whereof The Parties abovementioned have hereunto interchangeably set their Hands and Seals the Day and Year first above Written.

Dover Taylor & Bell

Sealed and Delivered }
in Presence of

Geo: Lawford

H: Garnier

(Copy)

7 Dec.

JAMES HOGAN TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES ¹

Sir, Saturday Evening Decr 7th
 Possessed of the most acute sensations I regret, that part of my Conduct which hath given Origin to your Offence, and hope you will overlook whatever has passed, relying on my future Endeavours to serve you. I have the honor to be Sir, with due Respect [&c.]

James Hogan ²

[Endorsed by Jones] *Alfred* at Sea 7th Decr 1776 from Mr. Hogan when under Confinement.

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6514b, LC.

2. Hogan was captain's secretary on board the *Alfred*.INVOICE OF FURS SHIPPED ON BOARD THE SHIP *Montgomery* ¹

Invoice of two Hogsheads Furs ship'd in the Ship *Montgomery* Joseph Rowe Master for Bourdeaux & Consign'd Messrs Louis Poncet & Sons Merchts there, on Acct & Risque of the Board of War, for the State of the Massachusetts Bay –

No 1	1 Hogshead Furs –	2	1 Hogsheads Furs –
	81 Otters		10 Red Foxes –
	22 Ordinary do		1 Ordinary do
	19 red Foxes		55 Otters
	4 Ordinary do		11 Ordinary
	14 Patch do		117 Minks
	5 black Poll do		30 Ordinary do
	6 Martins		397 Martin do
			16 Fishers –
			1 Ordinary do –
			1 Catt –
			1 large Bear
			1 small do –

Newbury Port Decr 7 1776

Errors Excepted

for the Board of War

Jackson Tracy & Tracy

(Copy)

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 361.

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN PAUL REED ¹

Sir/ Boston Decemr 7. 1776 –
 The Board of War having purchas'd of you the Briggt *Warren*, now laying at Booth Bay & appointed you to the Command of her, do hereby direct you with all possible Dispatch to Load her with Lumber (Staves excepted) fit for the West India Market. – To engage a Sufficient number of Hands to navigate her &

to proceed as soon as She is ready for Cape Francois & there dispose of your Cargo to the best advantage & if you have Opportunity of your Vessell also & lay out the proceeds in good effective Fire Arms if you can obtain to that Amount – if you cannot the Over-plus must be laid out in Powder if to be obtained, if it is not, in any of those Warlike Stores of which you have a Memorandum annex'd –

If you shou'd dispose of the Briggt we shall expect you to return & bring with you the Proceeds of her & her Cargo in some one of the Vessells we shall send to the Cape of which you will receive Notice when there –

You will purchase your Cargo of Lumber on the best Terms you can, send a Bill of Loading & Invoice of the Cargo to this Board & may draw upon them for the amount –

By Order of the Board –

Memorandum –

4 Brass Field Pieces, 3 or 4 pounds

10 Tons Lead –

50 M French Flint

Russia or Ravens Duck

Ticklinburgh –

Cordage –

Coarse Linnens

Coarse Cloths –

PS. You are not to sell your Vessell under Twelve hundred pounds Currency – The Board consent to allow you five P Ct Commsn on the Sales of your Cargo & two & half PCT on the returns –

[Endorsed] Decr 7. 1776 I acknowledge the above to be a true Copy of the Orders I have received from the Honble Board of War & promise to obey the same –

Paul Reed

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 391, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

DIARY OF BENJAMIN MARSTON¹

[Plymouth] Decr 7. Their Army is now broken to peices – Their General not to be found – so that General How has been Obliged to send to the Governor of Connecticut about an exchange of prisoners – of whom he has great N[umbe]rs – They have likewise lost a very great part of their Cannon Tents & baggage – And yet the managers of the Game in the province affect to talk in the high Style – Still push the draughting of every fourth man to releive the Army who are every day running home – Sick Louzy ragged & full of all manner of nastiness – Nay General Wn [Washington] (who moves the Puppets (or puppies) of this place) has the effrontery to give out that a french fleet & army will be over early in the Spring – But he has lyed so often & so barefacedly That his very tools & creatures begin to distrust & contemn him – A Fleet from France! – There will be one from the Moon as soon – Strange Stupidity to expect assistance from that quarter – For can it be tho't, that any European power who has colonies in America would lend a helping hand to form an independant State here so large an one, as the British Colonies would make; if all united. –²

1. Marston Diary, UNBL.

2. To the above remarks, Marston added: “(10 years afterwards) I find in this I was much out in my Guess.”

PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.

Gentlemen,

The Enemy's Fleet, consisting of upwards of 100 Sail of Men of War and Transports, have arrived in the Mouth of the Bay, and are now steering towards this Town, both upon the East and West Side of Conanicut, who may be here before Morning: I therefore earnestly beseech the Assistance and Aid of our Sister States, and that every Person capable of bearing Arms will forthwith appear, to stop the Progress of the Enemy. If they get a Lodgment in this Town, they will soon penetrate the Country. You will all come properly armed, with the necessary Accoutrements, and with Blankets, Knapsacks, and such Provisions as you can bring with you. I am, Gentlemen, in haste [&c.]

Nicholas Cook, Governor.

Providence, December 7, 1776, 4 o'Clock P.M.

To all the Brave Inhabitants of New-England.

1. *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, December 13, 1776.GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GOVERNOR JAMES BOWDOIN ¹

Providence, Decr 7th 1776.

5 O'clock, P.M.

Sir – By Expresses & other Channels I have certain intelligence that between 10 & 11 o'clock, A.M. 30 sail of Ships were seen coming into the Harbor of Newport, and that upwards of 100 sail were between two & three o'clock between Canonicut & the Main Land steering directly up the River. The General Court must be fully apprised of our dangerous situation, and of the fatal consequences of the Enemy's effecting a lodgment upon the Continent & need not any argument to excite them to exert the force of Massachusetts Bay upon this most important occasion, upon the event of which the fate of America may depend. Your most obedt Servant,

Nicholas Cook.

[Endorsed] (Copy sent to New-Hampshire)

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 411–12.GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Council Chamber Providence Novr [sic December] 7th

Saturday Eveng 7. oClk –

Sr Yours of this Day is Jest handed me by Mr [Samuel] Brownel, and thank you for the Intelligence, tho had Repeated Advice theiroy by Land from Each Side of the Bay, the Committee havg tacon up about 40 prissoners of the Sailors brot here by the Severil Priveteers and beleave their is as many more Yet about Street, our Jail is Very Full, and Sendg them in the Countrey may Not Answer as their will be but Fue or no men their to take care of them, I havg Called in all the men in this Countey to the Defence of the state, abut 500 men have March'd for Newport, before I recd Yours, had Got Printed & Dispersd a Grait Number of the Inclosed hand Bills, So that Should the enemey Delay their attack on this

part of the State a Due Days I hope to Give them a Very handsome Reception I
am sr [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

Ps please to Let Me know as Soone as May be, What Number of the above
Prissoners Shall be Sent onbord your Ships –

To Esek Hopkins Esqr

Commander of the Continental

Navy, onbord the *Warrin* Near

Pawtuxett

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Governer Cook Sir

I am very Sorry that Matters have Bin Such that I Could not writ to you. Be
fore I arived at Newport the fifth Day of this Instant when I found Colonel
[John] Cook upon a Retreat and I thought it Best not to Countermand the order
Bout to asist with all Posable Des patch we have got of[f] a grate quantity of
Stock also Chife of the Bagage and war Like Stores But obliged to Leve about
fifteen heave Canno[n] have take of[f] all the troops I Came of[f] in the Last
Boat But one the Enemy Got Down to the farry Befour I Got half over and
fired upon the Last Boat But killed no men I am Credially informed they Landed
about Eight thousan men we have got a Consideable number of men at Brister
[Bristol] and Brister ferry But it has Bin out of my power to git a Return of how
maney

Sir I shall right to you a gain Soon and as Cant t[e]ll the movement of
[the] Enmey how it may Be for the futer. Cant So well tell what number of men
I Shall want at this place I Can writ[e] But Short I have not Had But verey
Littel rest Sence I Lef provide[nce] Governer [William] Bradford has wrote
what stores we want these from you[r] [&c.]

W^m West

Dated at Bristol this 7 day [December] 1776

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 9, 1776–1777, R.I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Emerald*, CAPTAIN BENJAMIN CALDWELL ¹

December 1776

Eastermost of Rhode Island in Sight NE

Saturday 7th

at 6 AM weighed & came to sail in Company with the Fleet;
at 10 the Commodore made a Signal to clear Ship for Action, &
for the Sternmost Ships to make more Sail, washed the ship with
Vinegar.

Ditto Weather [Modt breezes & clear Wear] At 2 PM cleared
Ship for Action, at 4 PM Anchd p Signal from the Commodore,
the *Chatham* brought a Brigg too coming out of Rhode Island
bound to North Carolina, took her in custody

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/311.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Sphynx*, CAPTAIN ANTHONY HUNT¹

December 1776

The Lighthouse at Rhoad Island, NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 6 or 7 Miles

Saturday 7th

At 4 AM weighed p Signal & came to Sail in Company the fleet, Do Joind company His Majestys Ship *Mercury*, at 8 Block Island ESE, the Easternmost point of Long Island SbW, at 10 the Commadore made the Sigl for the Sternmost of the Convoy to make more Sail, at 11 the Commadore made the Signal to prepair for Battle –

First part fresh Breezes & hazey Wr. latter little wind & Cloudy with Drizzling Rain, pm Running into Rhoad Island thr'o the Western Chanl at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 came too in the Channel above Dutch Island with the Bt Br in 11 fm Veerd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable, the Commadore & Fleet went round Connanicut.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/922.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Experiment*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE¹

Decemr 1776

Rhode Island NE 4 Leagues

Saturdy 7

AM at 4 the Commadore made the signal to weigh weigh'd & came to sail, at 8 out all reefs, Clear'd Ship for Action, the Commadore signl to prepare for Battle, hoisted out the Longboat, at 11 the Commadore signal to make more sail, at Noon shortened sail & in 1st reefs Topsails, all the Convoy in Compy

Modte & fair PM at 1 the Commadore made our Captns signal, $\frac{1}{2}$ past spoke him & reced orders to go ahead & lead into Port, made sl a head & steer'd into the Western Passage, between the Isld of Connanicut & the Main, $\frac{1}{4}$ pt 3 the Commadore signl to Anchor, at 5 Brot up wth the Bt Br in $7\frac{1}{2}$ fms off the NW end of Rhode Island & veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable wth springs to bring the Broadside to bear for making good a Landing, $\frac{1}{4}$ pt the Comdre & Convoy Brot up, $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 the signl to Moor. Moor'd a Cable each way, $\frac{3}{4}$ pt the signal for all Lieuts, boarded & took a Brigg wth Lumber, at 7 the Signl on bd the Commadore for all Lieuts, at 8 hove up Broadside to the Shore, in order to protect the Troops Landing, at $\frac{1}{2}$ pt the Boats with the Troops in came under our protection, at 9 made the signal to land, $\frac{1}{4}$ past the party of boats Landed some Troops without any opposition, at 10 our signal on board the Commadore for an Officer, two Frigates got under weigh to stop the Passages leading to Providence to prevent the Rebels Vessels getting out & some Transports to Newport to land Troops to take Possession of the Town.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN TOBY CAULFIELD ¹

December 1776	Anchored with B. Br in 7 fm off Sandy hook
Sunday 1	10 AM weighed & came to Sail in Co wt H.M.S. <i>Asia</i> , <i>Renown</i> , <i>Preston</i> , <i>Experiment</i> , <i>Emerald</i> , <i>Cerberus</i> , <i>Sphynx</i> & One Transport Mod. & Clear sounded occasionally – in Co wt the fleet
Monday 2	½ past 9 AM saw a Sail in the S.W Quarter made the <i>Cerberus</i> Sgl to give Chace tack'd occasionally first & middle parts fresh Gales & Clear latter mod. & hazey in Co. wt. the fleet ½ past 4 P.M came to an anchor off Block Island in 17 fm fir'd the evg Gun
Tuesday 3	at 6 AM weighed & came to Sail as did the fleet ½ past 10 fir'd a Gun & made Sgl for the fleet to bear away Do Wear 1 PM made Sgl for the fleet to anchor at 2 Anchored in 23 fm off Plumb Island
Wednesday 4	fresh Gales & Cloudy 10 PM fired a Gun & made Sgl to strike Yards & Topmts
Thursday 5	at 7 AM got up do at 8 Commodore Hotham saluted wt 13 Guns ret'd 13 at 10 fir'd a Gun & made Sgl to weigh fresh breezes & Clear 1 P.M weighed & came to Sail at 4 came to in Black Point Bay found riding here Comdre Hotham wt 51 Sail of Transports fir'd the morn'g & evg Guns.
Friday 6	8 AM weighed & came to Sail in Co Wt 64 Sail, Tack'd occasionally Mod. & Cloudy 3 PM fir'd a Gun & made the Sgl to anchor 4 do repeated the Sigl & came to in 18 fm Water fir'd several Guns occasionally
Saturday 7	5 AM weighed & came to Sail 65 sail in Co made the Signal to prepare for Battle – the <i>Preston</i> repeated do Do Wear wt Rain 2 PM fir'd a Gun & made the Sigl for the fleet to anchor at 2 fired 2 Six pdrs & brot too a brig from Newport bound to Providence [<i>sic</i> to North Carolina] at ½ past 3 came too wt the B. Br & moored a Cable each way flatt boats emp'd landing the Troops – fired the morn'g & Evg Guns

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

GENERAL ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

General Orders.

On board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham*

Rhode Island harbour. 7th Decr 1776

The General is certain that the officers Commanding Regiments will take the utmost care that the reputation their courage has so justly given them during this Campaign, is not sullied by Marauding, or any other disorderly behavior. Want of discipline does not reflect less dishonor on a Corps, than deficiency in point of Spirit.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 125.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

Rhode Island Harbour, 7th Decr A fine fair wind all last night, and good weather; which continuing this morning, at 4 o'Clock the signal was made for the fleet to weigh, and at 5 the whole was under way, with a fresh wind at S.W. At 8 o'Clock saw Block Island, at 10 Point Judith, which is the S.E. point of Connecticut, and at 12 made the Light House on the S. point of Connonicut Island at the entrance of Rhode Island harbour. The Commodore soon after made the Signal to speak with The *Experiment*, Capt Wallace; and about 1 o'Clock that ship took the lead, and stood up the Western Channel, between Connonicut, and the Main, followed by the *Chatham*, and *Asia*, and then by the transports and other ships according to the form of Sailing given out.

No Enemy appeared on either side as we went up.

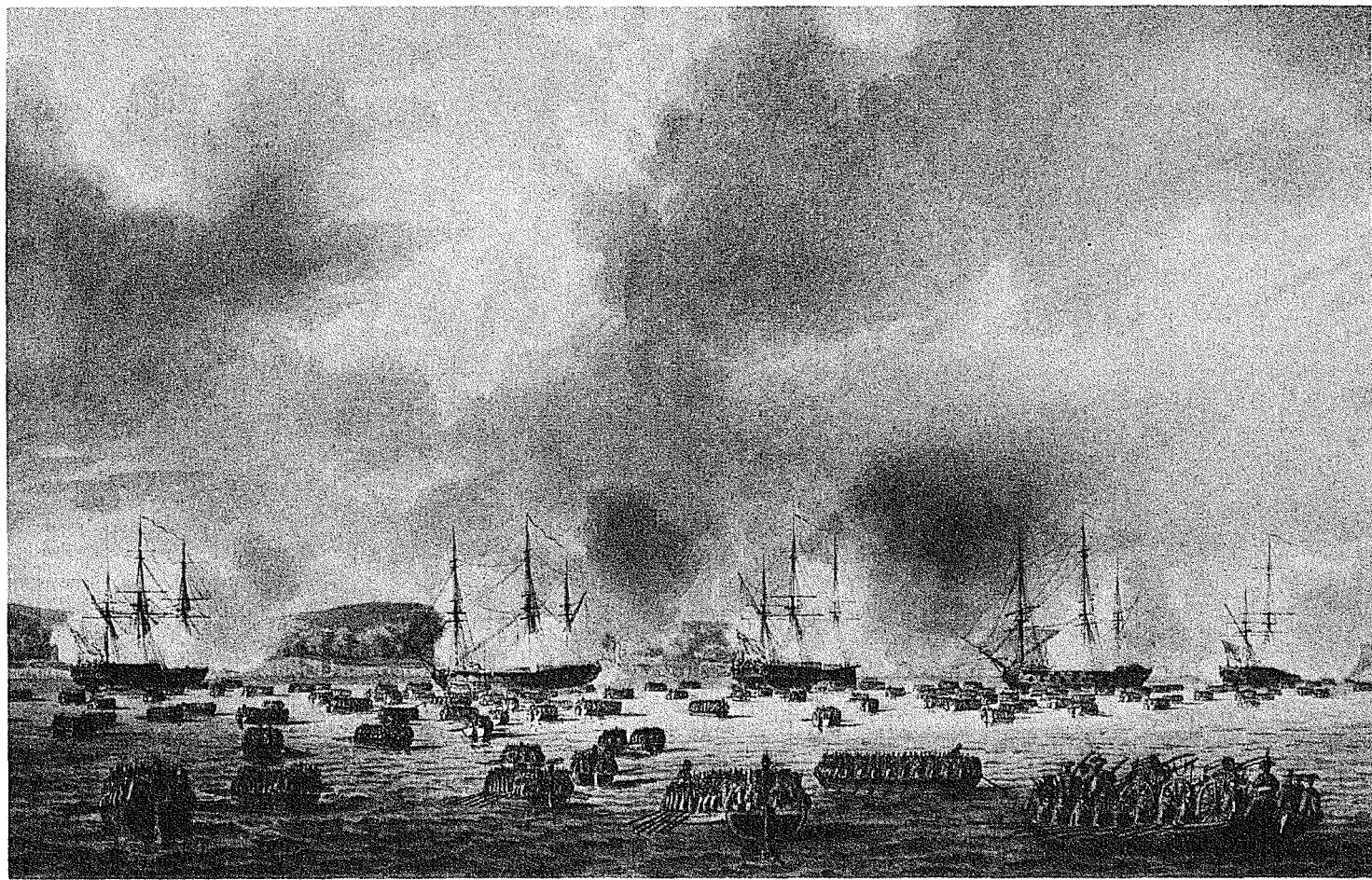
About 2 miles from the Light House, the Rebels had a Battery or Redoubt, with 4 Embrazures towards the Channel. But it appeared to be abandoned.

When the leading ships had got as far as the N. end of Connonicut Island, they hawled round the point to the Eastward, and steered down the Middle Channel towards Newport on Rhode Island, keeping near the Rhode Island shore. The rest of the fleet followed in order, and about 4 o'Clock the signal was made to anchor, which was done by the whole fleet at 5 in the afternoon, without the smallest accident, about 4 miles from Newport, between Dyer's Island, and Weaver's Cove, half a mile from the Shore, and immediately off Mr Stoddard's house. As the fleet turned round the N. end of Connonicut Island, we saw three large ships and a Brig, standing up the harbour at the back of Prudence Island, with all sails set. We at first took them to be some of our Frigates which had come up the Middle passage before us; but we soon found they were Rebel frigates, Commanded by Mr Hopkins, Commander in Chief of the Rebel fleet. They went up towards Providence. A Brig laden with Lumber and Poultry, which was too late in coming away from Newport, struck to the *Chatham*, who fired two shot at her.

No armed Rebels appear on the shore. A few appear on Tammany hill, about 2 miles from the town, where they appear to have a work thrown up, and on which there is a Beacon erected. The Rebel Colours are flying on the Batteries below the town.

As soon as the fleet came to an anchor, eight men came down to the shore near Stoddard's house, on which a boat was sent to them from the *Experiment*, which returned with four of them; the others rode back towards the town. It appears from this circumstance that the Rebels have no great force on the Island, and those who are there do not intend to make any resistance, & will probable retire before we land.

The passage of the fleet here, and the weather during that passage, has been as favorable as could have been wished, particularly during this day, when we had the most favorable wind that was possible, by which the fleet was enabled, without loss of time, to come in by a passage which it is probable the Enemy did not expect so large a fleet would attempt. The same wind served to bring us round Connonicut to our present anchorage without the smallest obstructoin. We have by this means avoided those batteries which they no doubt have erected to defend the



British landing on Rhode Island

usual and principal entrance. We have now got above the town, and the Rebels must either abandon it, or fall into our hands.

Orders were given this evening for the Army to land to-Morrow at daybreak.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 122-23.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BILL, NORWICH¹

Sr
 You are hereby directed to Ship on bord the Schooner *Spye* Robert Niles Com-
 mander part of the Westindia goods in your Care as much Rum and Sugar as he
 Can Carry for the use of Our Troops in Genl Washingtons Army to be Trans-
 ported by Said Niles as far Westward towards the Army as he Can Safely proced
 with his vessell & then Land the Same with directions to have it forwarded to the
 Army to the Care of Such Persons as the Genl Officers from this State Shall
 direct in order to be Disposed of to the Troops raised in this State agreeable to
 the Act of the General Assembly –
 if Landed at N Haven to Colol Jonathan Fitch
 if at Stratford to the Care of John Brooks Esqr
 if at Fairfield to the Care of Saml Squire Esqr
 if at Norwalk to the Care of Thadeas Betts
 if at Stanford to the Care of Danl Gray
 and proper Rects to be taken for the Same wherever Landed to lye for further
 Orders from the Govr & Comtee of Safety or from Majr Genl [Joseph] Spencer –
 I am Sir [&c.]

Lebanon Decr 7th. 1776

Jonth Trumbull

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, XXXI, 114, ConnSL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL, COMMISSARY GENERAL OF
 THE CONTINENTAL ARMY¹

Dear Sir, N London Decr 7 1776

I Reced yours 29th Ulto and observe what you say about Mr Cable – have
 engaged one hundred Teirces of Bread of him for the Navy and am very sorry to
 here that he has Rais'd the price of flour however shall wright him about the
 matter and shall take care how I employ such Fellows for the future – as to the
 pork I purchase have given express orders that they give no more then what you
 do – Their is a Continental Prize now in this Port with about Sixty Punchions
 Jamica Rum London proof. the Sale comes on next Monday sennet, the last
 that was sold at Norwich was at Ten shillings, our state have pass'd an Act that
 we must not sell at more then 6/ pr gal I should be glad you would take the
 whole and give the Customery price 10/ which will settle the matter and I believe
 will give universal Satisfaction to all concern'd, otherwise I must keep it untill I hear
 from the merine Comtte at Phila – I have orders to Remitt what money I have of
 theirs to Phila and they have desired that I would procure Bills from you or sum
 other Person that is Employ'd in the Public way, soon as I compleat the Sales
 of this Cargoe Should be glad to git a Bill from you to the Amo of what I may have
 in my hands – I have had a Small Vessell Loaded with Twenty five hhd N E Rum

for you this three Weeks, but the Men of Warr are been so much in the Sound that I dare not send it along – Yesterday there was about Sixty Sail of Ships Sail'd through the Race, after Lying two days under Black Point which alarm'd us in this Town (not a Little) all the Melitia this Side the River was order'd down to this Town, and I assure you they came in very full, we sent a Boat out to D[o]g the Fleet and they this moment Return'd & say that they Saild between Block Island & the main and doubled round Point Judith, so that undoubtedly they are gone to Newport I believe the Sound will be pretty clear and shall send what N E Rum, I have as fast as I could shipt it, what Salt I have shall deliver [Jeremiah] Wadsworth when ever he Sends unless the people break open the Store which I assure you they threaten – the expedition to Long Island under the command of Col [William] Richmond, I Supplied with Shipping &c by order of our Govr how & by whom am I to be paid, should be glad of your advice – please to forward the Inclos'd by the first post for Phila as it is of Consiquence that I have an answe're directly – Pray if you can spare the time let us know how matters go on the other Side of the River – for we have had no news that can be relied on Since the taking of Fort Lee. I am &c

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

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

Gentlemen,

New London Decr 7 1776

I wrote you 23d Ulto advising of the Ship *Mary* being in this Port, Since that I have not Received any of your favours – have now to informe you that this day there came out an Order from the Govr & Council of this State to have the Cargo unloaded & sent up to Norwich to the Mills with orders to have it Ground & made into Bread. I Suppose the reason for this is, that Wheat is become avery Scarse Article this Way and the great probability of a move being made of by the Brittish Troops to Newport, for this two days past we hourly expected a Vissell from them in this Town, a Large Fleet of between Sixty & Seventy Sail of Ships lay at anchor Just back of our light house, & yesterday Saild to the Eastward, we sent out a Boat to Watch their motions and they Returned & say the whole fleet Saild between Block Island & the main, and Doubled round Point Judith so that undoubt[e]dly they are gone into Newport – Expect soon to have you[r] directions Relative to the Ship for I believe now she will not be able to get out this port by reason of the Men of Warr which are Crusing of[f] this Harbour for this Ten Days past – If you approve of it I can git the Commissn Bills for the Amo of the Cargoe Pay in Phila I am &c

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R. N., TO CAPTAIN CHARLES PHIPPS,
H. M. S. *Camilla* ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr &ca

You are hereby required and directed to proceed along the Coast to the Southward, with his Majesty's Ship under your command, and looking into Egg

Harbour in your way, if the weather permits of it, join me off Cape Henlopen Lighthouse, as soon as possible.

Given &ca at New York the 7th Decr 1776
A S H ——— d

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776–1778, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R. N., TO THREE NAVAL CAPTAINS ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esquire
Captain of His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*.

Seal'd Rendezvous not to be
opened, but in case of separation

In case of Separation by bad weather or any other unavoidable accident; You are hereby directed to join me off Cape Henlopen Light-house, as soon as possible.

Given under my hand on board – His Majesty's Ship
the *Roebuck* at New York the 7th Decr 1776

A S. H ——— d

To the Captains [Thomas] Wilkinson
Elphinston [George Keith Elphinstone]
&
[John] Linzee

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776–1778, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R. N., TO CERTAIN NAVAL CAPTAINS ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esquire
Captain of His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*

In consequence of Orders from the Lord Vt Howe Vice Admiral of the White and commander in chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America.

You are hereby required and directed to put your self under my command and follow all such orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from me for His Majesty's Service.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship
the *Roebuck* at New York the 7th December 1776.

To A S Hamond

Captain Wilkinson of His Majs Ship *Pearle*.

The Hon'ble Captain Elphinston – *Perseus*

– – Phipps – *Camilla*

Captain Linzee – *Falcon*

Distinguishing Signals
deld the above Captains.

Pendants.

Red	White	Blue	Place
<i>Roebuck</i>	<i>Pearl</i>	<i>Perseus</i>	Maintopmasthead
<i>Camilla</i>	<i>Falcon</i>		Foretopmasthead
			Mizentopmthead

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776–1778, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R. N., TO FOUR OF HIS MAJESTY'S
NAVAL CAPTAINS ¹

Private Signals

Private Signals for his Majestys Ships under my command to know each other.

By Day.

The Ship to Windward shall lower down her Foretopsail, which the Ship to Leeward shall answer by lowering down her Maintopsail, there the Ship to Windward shall hoist an English Jack at her Maintopmasthead, which the Ship to Leeward shall answer by hoisting an English Jack at her Foretopmasthead, then both Ships shall hoist their proper Colours.

By Night

The Ship to Windward shall hoist Five lights where they can best be Seen, one over the other, the Ship to Leeward to hoist Two lights, abreast of each other, where they can best be seen; Then the Ship to Windward to burn one false fire, and the other to burn Two

Given on board His Majestys Ship the *Roebuck*
at New York the 7th Decr 76
A S Hamond

To The respective Captains of
His Majesty's Ships the
Pearl – Perseus – Camilla & Falcon.

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776–1778, UVL.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

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

Saturday Decr 7th [1776] a sloop prize of *Orpheus & Daphne* from Bourdeaux with 1400 bolts of Canvass Salt petre Brimstone fire arms &c ² passed up to the fleet.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

2. The *Samuel*, John Hutchins, master, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COLONEL JOHN CADWALADER ¹

Sir:

Trenton, December 7, 1776.

As your Troops (from Philadelphia) can be better accomodated in this place than at Princeton, where Quarters are scarce, I would have you remain here till the whole of your Brigade comes up. In the meanwhile, keep me regularly advised of their arrival that I may endeavour to time other matters thereby.

If they are not already properly arranged no time should be lost in doing of it; nor in compleating them with Ammunition; keep them regularly supplied with three days Provisions ready Cooked, that they may be ready to March at a Moments warning.

The Marines, Sailors &ca. from Philadelphia you will take under your care till a further disposition of them can be made, if necessary, letting me know the

meanwhile if they came out resolved to act upon Land or meant to confine their Services to the Water only.

Delay no time in advising me of your strength, with sincere esteem, etc.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, VI, 334–35.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, December 7, 1776

That Captain [Nicholas] Biddle be empowered to enlist into the continental service, such of the sailors in prison as he shall think proper.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 1009.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] December 7th, 1776.

Resolved, That this Port shall be opened on Monday next, and all Vessells be allowed to pass and Repass.

Commissions were granted to Wingate Newman, Captain; Wm. Baxter, Cap'n Lieut.; Nathaniel Wallace, 2nd Lieut.; & John Sober, Lieut. fire Worker of artillery in the Militia of the City & Liberties of Philad'a.²

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 36, 37.
2. Officers of the Pennsylvania privateer brig *Hancock* who had volunteered to serve in the army during the emergency.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday December 7th 1776

On a Complaint brought before this Board by Thomas De Saussive Super cargo of the Sloop *Maria* lately arrived with Salt from Saint Eustatia setting forth that the Captains of two armed vessells belonging to this State have enlisted four of the Seamen belonging to the said Sloop that is to say Alexander Hendrall, Christopher Rostendall and Abraham Robswat are enlisted by Capt. [John] Harris and Thomas Tufts by Capt. [Willis] Willson.² They are of Opinion that such a Practice must be highly prejudicial to the Commerce of this State It is therefore Ordered that the said Seamen be immediately given up

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 268, 269.
2. Harris commanded the brig *Musquetto*; Wilson, the galley *Caswell*.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

[Extract]

No 31

A report has been current, my Lord, that the rebels are supplied with ammunition from New Orleans, up the Mississippi to Fort Pitt, a laborious hazardous attempt. The Indians, my Lord, will certainly consider it, a noble inviting prize, I am hopeful, they will entercept them.

Mr Stuart² mentions a Batteau with sixteen thousand weight of Gunpowder escorted by the Rebels, up the Mississippi for Detroit or Fort Pitt, and, that he has sent the Indians to way lay them, I hope, with all my heart, they will succeed.

These accounts, my Lord, I shall convey, with all possible dispatch to the commanders in Chief of the Army and Navy. . . .

St Augustine 7 Decr 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/557, 67-72.
2. John Stuart, Indian Agent at Pensacola.

"A LETTER FROM ROBERT NICHOLSON, CARPENTER, ON BOARD THE *Le Soye Planter* . . . DATED SANTA CRUZ, DEC. 7"¹

On the 1st of Nov. we sailed from New York for Corke, but on the 10th of the said month, in lat. 38,20, long. 60, fell in with an American privateer, and were taken.² They left four men, a boy, and myself, on board, who, with twelve of their own men, were to carry the prize into Boston. On the 12th we met with a violent gale of wind at N.N.W. and being very leaky, had then four feet water in the hold, which kept two pumps constantly going. Being unable to reach the destined port, we bore away for Cape Francois, and in the interim I stopt several leaks. On the 22d I disclosed my mind to the Boatswain and fellow-prisoners of seizing the ship, which met with their concurrence: accordingly, the same day, being in the cabin with the Mate, I suddenly seized him, with four pistols about him, and with one of them knocked him down; then handing the pistols upon deck, desired my comrades to make use of them, but save lives if possible, which they did so effectually that we were soon masters of the vessel without bloodshed. We then proceeded with the ship, though in great distress, to Santa Cruz, belonging to the Danes, where we arrived on the 1st of December, and where I met with the owner (from Domingo) and many other friends, who gave me a joyful welcome.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 11 to February 13, 1777.

2. "The *La Soy Planter*, Smith, from New York to Corke, was taken the 12th of November by the *Freedom Privateer* [Captain John Clouston]. The Captain, Officers and Crew were forced on board the privateer, except the Carpenter, Boatswain and three Foremast-men, who on the 1st of December re-took and carried her into Saint Croix," *Public Advertiser*, London, January 29, 1777.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

No 1.

Antigua 7th Decemr 1776

Sir, I request you will be pleased to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; that I have now received your different Letters mentioned on the other side with their Duplicates; the latter I received the 22d Novemr pr September Packet, but the Originals did not reach me 'till the 5th Instant. (Owing to an Error in the Post-Master at Barbado's who took them from the August Packet, expecting some Ship of the Squadron would call for them, as had been usual; but the Kings Ships being all out on different Cruizing Stations; I had no Ship with me to send up to Barbados 'till the latter end of Novemr when I sent His Majesty's Brigantine *Endeavour* which brought me said Letters the 5th Current.) I am extremely sorry to find this mistake and delay has prevented my Complying with their Lordships directions, (pr your Letter of the 9th August) to Order the Ship that sailed with the Trade from St Christophers the 4th of November last; to proceed with them to England; however their Lordships will perceive by my Letter

to you of the 29th October last; I had directed Captain Chapman to see such Ships as Sailed under his Convoy as far as the Latitude of 38° North: which I flatter myself is to a greater distance from the Islands than any of the American Cruizers go to. The *Seaford* is Cruizing off St Eustatia and the adjacent Islands, and I shall send the Kings Brigantine *Endeavour* to join her as soon as She is Victualed and will give such particular description of the Schooner *Gunticanute* as may enable them to intercept her.

I am exceeding sorry to perceive (by your Letter of the 7th August) my Appointment; of Lieutenants Swiney and Drummond to be Second and Third Lieutenants of the *Portland*, and of Mr John Luck to be Second Lieutenant of the *Argo*, is disapproved by their Lordships, and that they should appear to suppose said appointments had been made in consequence of Mr Young refusing to go back Lieutenant of the *Portland*. I must therefore entreat you will now acquaint their Lordships the latter was in no wise the case, but said appointments were made on a Supposition their Lordships would have been pleased to put Mr Young on the List of Masters and Commanders for the reasons I took the liberty to offer to their Consideration in my Letter to you of the 20th May last; however as you now acquaint me their Lordships do not think fit to depart from the Resolution they had come to on that matter, (Signified to me by Mr [George] Jackson's Letter of the 20th February last) I shall submit to their pleasure; and will appoint Mr Young Second Lieutenant of the *Portland* the moment I can get an opportunity to put Mr Drummond into some other Ship. —

I must also beg you will assure their Lordships no care or endeavours shall be wanting in me to distress and annoy the Rebels so far as I am able to effect it, with the small Squadron under my Command; but if the Intelligence your Letter of the 6th Septemr brings me is well grounded, I hope their Lordships will think it necessary and be pleased speedily to reinforce the Squadron employed in these Seas.

The inclosed Papers marked No 1, 2, & 3 are Copies of intercepted Letters, and private Intelligence sent me which I must desire you to lay before their Lordships.² I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

[Endorsed] Recd 12 March 1777

Answd 2 Apl (3 Inclosures)

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. Endorsed in the margin to the left of this paragraph: "Send Copies to Ld G. Germain for his Mgs Informn."

8 Dec. (Sunday)

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO LIEUTENANT ROBERT SANDERS¹

By J. P. J. Commr of the American Ship of War the *Alfred* and Senior officer of the Original Fleet. —

Sir

You are hereby appointed commr of our prize the Ship *John* — You are to use your utmost endeavours to Navigate her with all possible expedition through the

shoal of Nantucket to the State of Rhode Island – if you find from the situation of Affairs that it is Unsafe to proceed to Rhode Island you may make the best of your way into any other port within the United States of America – You are to Endeavour to keep company with the Ship *Surprise* – and Mr [Samuel] Tyler,² the Master, (who is a Pilot) will have Orders to keep company with you.

Given at Sea on Board the *Alfred* [8th] Decr 1776.

J. P. J.

To Robr Saunders Esqr

Commr of the Ship *John* ³

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6516, LC.

2. Tyler was carpenter of the *Alfred*.

3. *John* was retaken the next day. See Master's Log of H. M. S. *Milford*, December 9.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO JOHN MARGESON ¹

By J. P. J. &ca

Sir

You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the Ship *Betty* you are directed to keep company with me and to obey all future orders from me as well as all Signals agreeable to the Copy now onboard the *Betty* for your government – should you Unfortunatly loose company with me you are to proceed to the nearest port within the United States of America

Given at Sea onboard the *Alfred* Decr 8th 1776. –

J. P. J.

To Mr Jno Margeson

Commr of the Ship *Betty* ²

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6518, LC.

2. Margeson was a master's mate on board the Continental ship *Alfred*. The *Betty* was retaken entering Rhode Island. Journal of H. M. S. *Chatham*, December 18, PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

CAPTAIN JOHN AYRES TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Lynch Cape Ann Decr 8th 1776

Sirs As I found it impossible, to get a Pilot for the Shoals, in Boston, & haveing Your Orders to look into Cape cod Harbour, concluded, I should be furnished their, & yesterday at forty Minutes after twelve Discover'd a Ship & Schooner at Anchor there, Stood in to be fully Satisfied till Past one OClock, then I saw the Ship loose her Topsails & sheet them home, I hove about & Stood to the Northward, and anchord here about nine last night, shall get a Pilot, and persue my Cruze Instantly, I believe its the *Milford*, or *Liverpool*, With Burks Schooner,² I am Gentlemen [&c.]

John Ayres

Sunday Morning 7 [o'clock]

1. Mass. Arch., vol 152, 6, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777.

2. Formerly Washington's schooner *Warren*, Captain William Burke, which had been taken by H. M. S. *Liverpool* in August 1776. See Volume 6.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT HULL¹

State of Massachusetts Bay Council Chamber [Boston] Decr 8. 1776
To the Commanding officer at the Fort at Hull

You are hereby ordered and directed not to suffer any Vessell of any Denomination Whatever to depart out of the Harbour of Boston unless the Commanding officer of the Vessell departing produces a permitt from the General Court or the Council, under the signature of the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of this State and you are hereby further directed to examine all Vessells that may be Entering this Port & in Case a Flag of Truce should arrive you are to prevent such Flag of Truce from proceeding up the Harbour & prevent any Person from going out of or from going on board such Vessell unless such as are Necessary to make the proper Examination without the Order of the Council and you are immediately upon the Arrival of such Flag to advise the Council thereon.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 173, 58.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

Onboard the *Warren* off Patuxet

Sir December 8th 1776— at 8 in the Mornng

Yours of the 7th Novr I receiv'd this morning, and think we can Secure what Prisoners you may please to Send provided they are Sailors, or to be treated as such — That or any other Service which the State requires, that is in my power, Shall be done with pleasure —

I have nothing new since my last — have not heard any disturbance last Night — You mention a hand Bill inclosed, but there was none in your Letter — If there should be any Sailors that are Idle, think I could employ them to Advantage —

I sent a Boat to Newport last Night for Intelligence, but She has not yet return'd — I am Sir [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

Onboard the *Warren* off Patuxet

Sir December 8th 1776 — 5 OClock

About 12 OClock this morning the English Fleet came in to the Westward of James Town, all but three which stood to the Eastward for Secunnet Point — there is in the whole upwards of One hundred Sail — Some of them Anchor'd at the North End of Connanicut, and the rest was under Sail at 4 OClock — I am Sir [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, 1776, R. I. Arch.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹Onboard the *Warren* off Patuxet

Sir

Decembr 8th – at 6 oClock in the Evening

Captain Hacker in the Sloop *Providence* went down this afternoon below Prudence, and a Ship gave him Chace but she run onshore – he saw one Ship down by Dutch Island and one off Hogg Island – and Mr [William] Barron ² return'd from Rhode Island, and says the Enemy landed at 8 OClock this Morning 8000 Men and took possession of the whole Island without Opposition, and he thinks have got most of the Stock how many of our Men are got off he can't tell –

I think if the Galleys are Mann'd they would be of Service down here – Capt [Samuel] Chace [Jr.] is up Tanton River ³ if the Men could be prevail'd upon to come here they would be of Service as it is not likely they will go far out of Protection of the Ships – I am Sir [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 9, 1776–1777, R. I. Arch.

2. Barron was master of the Continental ship *Providence*.3. Chace commanded the Rhode Island privateer *Oliver Cromwell*.

MEMORANDUM OF JOHN MANLEY, DEPUTY CONTINENTAL AGENT FOR
RHODE ISLAND ¹

Memo of Articles left in the Continental Store in Newport when the Enemy Took possession Decem 8, 1776 – Vizt

5 bbls of flour Sour	worth 24/	} belonging to <i>Collumbus</i>
2 bbls & 5 Kegs peas	old	
1 Keg Neats Tongues	1 Bread	
2 bbls Molasses	half Salt water	} Brig <i>Hamdon</i>
2 parcell of old Junk		
a parcel of rammers, sponges & Wormers		
2 Tierces Sand	-----	<i>Warren</i>
2 hhds pottatoes	-----	<i>Providence</i>
Some Linch Stocks		
63 dlbl headed Twenty four pounders		
1 Topsail recd from Bedford—value 9. . –		
Some chests belonging to the Sailors }		
on board the Sloop <i>providence</i> }		
10 Lanthor[n]s belong'g to the <i>Hamdon</i>		
an Ullage Cask of White beans Left abt 5 bushells		
2 Large Powdering Tubbs	-----	<i>Alfred</i>
1 Do.	Do	----- <i>Collumbus</i>
1 Tryangle which was brought from New Providence		
1 Sail left in Graftons sail loft }		
wch Sail he has sold	}	

1. John Manley's Account Book, NHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY¹

December [1776]	Remarks . . . at Sea.
Sunday 1st	10 AM weighed by Signal in Company with his Majestys Ships as above in casting fell on board the <i>Sphynx</i> carried away our Jibb Boom fixed a new one
Monday 2	hoisted in the Long boat at 8 sounded 20 fathms grey sand . . . made the signal for seeing a strange sail mustered the Ships Company at their Quarters, the Commodore and Squadron in Company Block Island bearg East 3 or 4 Leagues Ditto weather tacked occasionally by signal bore away the Commr made the signal to Anchor, Anchored of[f] Block Island
Tuesday 3	5 AM the Commr made the signal to weigh in heaving our Anchor the <i>Sphynx</i> run on board us carried away our Ensign Staff & otherwise damaged our Carve work – the Commodore made the Signal for all Pilots, & also for all Cruizers, the Commr & squadron in Company Fishers Island NE 3 miles Squally weather with rain the Commodore made the Signal to Anchor at the West end of Plumb Island
Wedy 4th	AM the <i>Cerberus</i> drove athwart hause & carried away our bumkin, served Grog to the Ships Company, Carpenters empld fixing a new Bumpkin. Ditto weather came on a very heavy squall of wind parted the Best bower Cable & lost 50 Fathoms of it, together with the Anchor Buoy & rope, struck the yards & Topmasts by signal, got the sheet Anchor over the side, bent a new Fore Topmast Staysail –
Thursday 5	am saw a Fleet of Transports to the Wt ward got up yards . . . the Commodore made the Signal to weigh Modt and cloudy weather weighed & came to sail found the small bower Cable much worn, unbent it & bent another Cable 6 pm Anchored in Black point Bay found riding here his Maj: Ship <i>Brune</i> Commr Hotham with a Fleet of Transports at 9 Commr Hotham hoisted his broad pendant onboard us
Friday 6	7 am the Commr Sir Peter Parker made the Signal to weigh, which we repeated & came to sail – repeated the Signal for to Convoy to close washed & cleaned the Ship Ditto weather pm repeated the Signal to Anchor & Anchored,
Saturday 7	5 am came to sail again at 7 made the signal for the sternmost Ships to make more Sail, hoisted out the Long boat & cleared Ship, the Light House on Beavers Island NEbN 3 or 4 miles received a Bower Anchr from <i>Renown</i> Ditto weather repeated the signal to Anchor & Anchored off

Rhode Island, the Commodore made a Signal for all Lieutenants, sent for all our Division of Flat boats & moored Ship. at 5 am sent 2 Lieutenants with 8 Flat boats to disembark the Troops which was done without any opposition, in the night rowed guard.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU ¹

December 1776 Rhode Island Light House NEbN Dist 4 Leagues --
 Saturday 7 at 6 AM the Commodore [Sir Peter Parker] made the Signal for the Fleet to Weigh, Block Island bearing East, Fishers Isld North at 9 the Signal was made to prepare for Anchoring at Noon bringing up the Rear of the Fleet.
 Do [Moderate and Fair] Wr at ½ past 4 PM Anchor'd P Signal between Connenecut Island & Rhode Island Newport Town bearing South,
 Sunday 8 at 6 AM Weigh'd & Came to Sail at 9 Run aground ½ past got off and made Sail at 10 Anchor'd with Best Bower in 4 fm Water Hope Island South at 11 Saw a Privateer coming round Warwick Point, Fir'd several shot at her, which She returned.
 Fresh breezes and Cloudy PM got under Weigh in Chace of a Privateer, Run aground and hove all a back Carried the Stream Anchor & Cable out & hove the Ship off, Came too with the Bt Br in 5 fm Water do hove up the Bt Bower and Stream Anchor, and Anchor'd with the Small Bower in 5 fms Water Greenwich bearing WNW

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Greyhound*, CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD DICKSON ¹

December 76 Block Island N24W 14 Leags
 Saturday 7th at 8 AM Tack'd Ship & at 10 Tack'd
 First part Light Breezes & Clear Middle & Latter parts Fresh Breezes & Cloudy at 1PM saw a Sail made & gave Chace at 2 PM fir'd one three Pounder to bring the Chace too at 4 PM Shortn'd Sail & brought too Main top Sail to the Mast, hoisted out the Cutter & sent her on board the Chace which prov'd to be a Sloop from Curaco bound to New London sent a Mate & 5 Men aboard her at 7 PM Wore ship the Prize in Compy
 Sunday 8th at ½ past 5 AM Sound'd 32 fathom Ouzey Ground at 6 AM Saw a Brigg in the NE Qr standing to the NW bore away to Speak her at 7 AM fir'd one three Pounder to bring her too Parted Compy wt the Prize Sloop at ½ past 7 brought too

Main top Sail to the Mast hoisted out the Cutter & sent her on board the Chace which Proved to be a Brigg from Piscataqua bound to New York sent an Officer & three Men on board her at 8 AM hoisted in the Cutter and made Sail Fresh Gales & fair Weathr at 6 PM hard'd fore & Mizn top Sails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/420.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

Rhode Island 8th Decr 1776

The Army landed this morning at Weaver's Cove near Mr Stoddard's house, in the following order –

The first Embarkation consisted of the Light Infantry, Grenadiers, and 10th Regiment, under the Command of Major General [Richard] Prescott. As soon as they had landed, the boats returned for the three other Battalions of the 3rd brigade, which formed the whole of the 1st Division.

The 2nd Division consisted of Losberg's brigade, & Wutgenau's Regt under the Command of Major General [Frederick Wilhelm Freiherr von] Los[s]berg.

The 3rd Division consisted of the 43rd, 54th, & 63rd Regiments of the 5th brigade, and the two other Hessian Regiments of Schmidt's brigade, under the Command of Brigadier General [Francis] Smith: – All these Corps were landed in succession at the same place, and the whole of the Army on shore by 3 oClock in the afternoon.

The first Embarkation under Genl Prescott, marched as soon as formed to the high road from Newport to Bristol ferry, a short distance from the landing place, and finding that the few of the Enemy who were on the Island, had retired in haste towards the N. end of it, he pursued them to the ferries, where he took a few prisoners, and a 9 pr Cannon; and saved a great many Cattle & Sheep which they had not time to carry off.

The remainder of the 3rd brigade marched as soon as they landed and joined Genl Prescott. The 5th brigade and the two Hessian brigades, were ordered to encamp near the road above Mr Stoddard's house.

The 22d Regiment went down on their Transports under cover of some of the Ships of War, early this morning to Newport, and finding the Rebels had abandoned it, they landed, and took possession of it, and the Batteries.

It rained during the time the first Division were landing, but cleared up soon after, and proved a fine mild day.

It appears that the Rebels have driven off a considerable number of Cattle and Sheep belonging to the Inhabitants; and have removed most of their Cannon and Ammunition.

The Rebels have Batteries on the Main at Bristol Ferry, and Howland's ferry. They fired both round & Grapeshot from their Battery at Bristol ferry, at some of our advanced parties, but without any effect.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 123–24.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a Special Meeting [Philadelphia] December 8th, 1776 –
2 o'Clock, morning.

A letter was laid before the board from Col. [John] Bayard to Mr. Andrew Hodge, dated at Trenton, 2 o'Clock yesterday afternoon, informing that General Howe was advancing at the Head of his Army towards Head Quarters at Princetown.

Whereupon Commodore Seymour was sent for and directed to order all the armed Boats to be dispatched to Trenton Immediately, to assist in removing the Stores & any other service that may be required Adjourned to 9 o'Clock,

Ordered, That the several Ferries, over Schuylkill, be put in a condition to give the utmost assistance to the Citizens, and others, who may have occasion to [pass] and repass in this Time of danger.

The Commodore was ordered up with the armed Boats to proceed to Trentown, and put himself under the directions of Gen'l Washington, &c.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 39.

CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Honor'd Gent.

[Baltimore] Decemr 8th 1776

Our People's time will Expire some time this Month and the begining of next, and as their is wages given as far as Eleven Pounds per Month in the Merc[han]t Service its very Possible that many of them will leave the Service of this state without due Encouragement. I'm inform'd that there is a resolve made by the Honrble Convention of this State giving Twenty Dollars Bounty for Able seamen and ten Pounds for Ordinary Seamen, I'm in hopes this Bounty will Engage the whole of them or the greatest part, to the Service, provided its Advertised, I hope for your Instructions in this Case and should take it as a singular favour you would Provide for me the resolves of this State, or Congress, that is relative to the Navell Department that I may Act Accordingly. I'm doing all I can to get the Ship away before Christmas and make no doubt of its being so provided we can keep our people together. –

Since I wrote the above I recd your favour of the 6th Inst and it gives me pleasure, I can be Supply'd with Canvas, Mr Hollingsworth bid for the Snow fourteen Hundred Pounds & upwards. I believe he went as far as he thought the value of her, but was over bid. – The Schooner *Nancy* one of our Prizes I make no doubt will answer your purpose if large Enough. the Capt of her informs me she is a good Vessell and well found. – As I expect to see you in a few day I shall have an Oppertunity of ta[l]king farther with you, therefore shall trouble you no further at present, but am Hond Gent [&c.]

Geo: Cook.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BRIG *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK¹

Remarks on Sunday 8 Decemr 1777 [*sic* 1776]

6 [A.M.] Squally

- 11 [A.M.] pleasant weather
 Lattd in 17^d.8^m Longd in 47^d50^m
 1 [P.M.] Moderate breeze of wind and pleasant weather
 12 [M.] Middle part as first
 1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN THOMAS DUMARESQ, H.M.S.
Portland ¹

(Copy)

You are hereby required and directed to proceed immediately with his Majesty's Ship *Portland*, under your Command to Prince Ruperts Bay, Dominica, and there use all possible dispatch to compleat the *Portlands* Wood and Water; as soon as that Service is performed you are to proceed off the Island Curassau [Curaçao]; and Cruize about that and the adjacent Islands for three Weeks; and are to use your best endeavours to intercept and make Capture of all Ships and Vessels belonging to or Owned by any of the Inhabitants of the associated Colonies of 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 received from me concerning them; And whereas I have received Information, that several Armed Vessels, and Privateers belonging to the said Rebellious American Colonies are now Cruizing in these Seas to annoy and make Capture of the Trading Vessels and Property of his Majesty's Loyal and Faithful Subjects, you are therefore directed to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or otherwise destroy all such Armed Vessels and Privateers, belonging to the Rebels as you can meet with at Sea, but are not to attack them in the Bays Harbours, or Roads of any of the Islands belonging to the European powers in amity with Great Britain, while under protection of their Ports; after the expiration of your Cruize you are to return and join me in English harbour Antigua bringing with you such Prizes as you may have taken: For which this shall be your Order

Given &ca the 8th Decemr 1776.

J. Y.

By Command of the Admiral. G. L.

[Endorsed] No 4 Copies of Orders given to the *Seaford*, *Pelican*, & *Portland*.
 In Vice Admiral Young's Letter 9th Decemr 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

9 Dec.

LIEUTENANT JOSEPH HAYNES, R. N., TO SIR GEORGE COLLIER ¹

Rainbow, Halifax, Decr 9th. 1776

Sir,

In consequence of your Orders I Yesterday went on board the *Tartar* Transport William Bussel Master, and made Enquiry into the Cause of her having been taken by an American Pri-

*The Privateer
had only 25 Men
The *Tartar* had
Ten 4 Pounders
& Men Sufft

*2 Mates who
were taken by
the Privateer
in other Vessels.
*The Rebels put
only 4 Men on
board, there
were 9 others
who were Pris-
oners taken by
the Privateer.

*I believe in-
stead of "In-
sured," Mr
Haynes should
say chartered,
as that Sum is
expressed in
his Charter
party to be
paid for her
if taken

G. C.

vateer; and found from seperately examining the whole Crew that the Vessel to which she had surrendered was a small Schooner Privateer with only six Carriage Guns of two Pounders,* against which no Defense had been made, as the Master absolutely forbid his People firing the Guns; who were otherwise well disposed to have defended her.

On the Scheme being concerted for the Recovery of the Ship by the Mates* put on board from the Privateer, they consulted the Master, whither or not, he was willing to assist; who declared he would have no hand in it, being determined (as he expressed himself) to stand neuter. *When they first ordered the Course to be altered, the Prize Master said to Bussel, it was hard they should take the Vessel from him, he replied it was no act of his nor was he the least concerned in it. After the Mates had recovered the Vessel Bussel asked one of them what he supposed the *Tartar* might be worth, who replied from £700 to £800; he then said it was unfortunate for him that she had not been carried in by the Rebels as he should have made Money by it, the ship being ensured* for £1200. On the whole it appears to me that the Vessel was given up in a most cowardly or treacherous Manner, as a single Shot in all Probability would have occasioned the Privateer to have made sail from her.

These are the principal Heads I at that time collected on board the *Tartar*; but was since at the Attorney Generals when they were again deposed upon Oath. I am Sir [&c.]

Jos: Haynes

[Endorsed] This Letter was sent me by Lieut Haynes who examined all the Crew unexpectedly separately The *Tartar* belongs to Bristol, & is chartered as a Transport by Muir, Son & Atkinson.

Geo: Collier

[Second endorsement] No 2 Bussels Case (Master of the *Tartar* Transport) In Sir Geo: Colliers of the 2 Janry 1777

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1611, 2, 17.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. S. *Milford* ¹

Decr 1776
Sunday 8th

Cape Nagro No 32d W Dist 26 Leags
At 8 AM wore ship & Set the Tp. Sails At Noon Tack't Ship
Fresh Gales & Hazey Middle Calm & Clear latter light Breezes
& Cloudy At 3 PM saw 5 Strange Sail in the So West
Quarter Dist abt 4 Leags Set the fore & Mizn Tp. Sail gave
Chase & Clear'd the Ship for Action and stood towds them they
Answer'd our Signals which we Supposed to be a Man of War
and her Convoy for New York Do left off Chase & reef'd the
Top Sails At 6 Do lost Sight of the Strange Ships

Monday 9th At 3 AM Tack't Ship At 8 Do saw 3 Ships on our Weather Bow Dist about 3 Leags Out Reef's of the Top Sails up Tp Gallt Yards & gave Chase At 10 Tack't the Ships then on our Weather Beam At ½ past 11 Tack't the Ship on our weather Beam bearing down upon us At Noon she fired 4 Shot at us then we found them to be the Enemys Ships made Sail & gave Chase to the Ships on our Weather Bow
 Fresh Gales & Squally with hard Showers of Hail Still in Chase the 2 Ships bearg from us Wt b S Dist abt 4 Leags the Ship a Stern still follg us At 3 PM Tack't stood for the Ship a Stern at ½ past Do brot too the Chase hoisted the Cutter out & sent on bd her she proved to be the Ship *John* from Liverpool taken by the *Alfred* Rebel Arm'd Ship of 32 Guns which was the Ship a head of us & another prize with her Sent a Petty Officer to take possn of the Ship to carry her to Hallifax At 6 Close reef'd. the Tp Sails sent the prize for Hallifax At 9 wore ship & stood to the Norward

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES'S NOTES ON THE *Alfred's* CRUISE ¹

1776

Novr 12 – took the Brigg *Active* Commanded by Isaac Fox from Liverpool –
 Novr 13 we took the *Melish* from London Comanded by Stevenson Bound to Quebeck
 Novemr 16th took the Snow *Hetty* from Gaspey Bound to Barbados Com-
 manded by Charles Ross
 Novemr 18th we had a Strong Gail from N N E with Rain and Snow and Dark
 Weathe Lost Sight of the Sloop *Providence*
 Novemr 22d our Boats was On s[h]ore at Canso 2 men Deserted
 24th took the *Betty Polly* [*Molly*] and the *Surprise* all from Spanish
 River with Coals for New York – lost Isaac Hart
 25 Sent our yaul After 2 Ships in Sight but they Made Sail from the
 yaul and Being Foggey the Boat Returnd
 26 – We took the *John* from Liverpool Bound to Halifax Edwd Wat-
 kins [master]
 Decemr 6 Lost Sight of the Prize *Polly* [*Molly*] Jas Bechup Strong Gail
 from the Westd
 8 Lost Sight of the *Mellash* & *Betsey*
 9th was Chaced by a Large Ship which we Supposed to be and English
 Frigate ² Parted with the *John* and *Surprise*

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6512, LC.

2. H. M. S. *Milford*.

SALEM COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Committee Correspondence &c

Salem December 9th. 1776

The Committee would inform the Honorable Board that the foregoing List ² was forwarded, immediately after it was taken; but the Committee having made enquiry last Evening, of the Honorable Mr [Daniel] Hopkins, what had been done upon the matter, he informed them that he had never heard any mention made of it at the Board, and therefore concluded that it must have been mislaid. The Committee would beg leave further to inform the Honorable Board, that the minds of the People in this Town are in general very uneasy, that these Prisoners should be suffered to remain here, on account of its being a Sea port, as the danger arising from them, must from a variety of circumstances be greater than if they were distributed about, in the interior parts of the Country, and as there are a great number of our best Men, going from this Town in a few days to join the Army, and the number of Prisoners still increasing, our danger must, in proportion be greater. At the time of taking the foregoing List there were a considerable number of Prisoners, who had entered on board our Privateers. and who were not included in the list, many of whom are not yet gone to Sea, and as there is a general Embargo now laid upon all Shipping they must remain here, which must still increase our danger,

By order of the Committee

Miles Greenwood, Clk

1. Mass. Arch., vol 8, 222.

2. See list of British shipmasters and seamen, November 15.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 9th Decr 1776 AM

Mr [John] Brown & Mr [Ellis] Gray the Committee – Reported they had purchased the Ship *Venus* & Cargo for £3450 – The Ship *Caledonia* was sold for more than they judg'd her worth –

Resolv'd That Capt [Holton] Johnson be desir'd to haul the Ship *Venus* to the Wharfe, take out her Cargo between Decks, have her clean'd & prepar'd for Sea –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 29.

JOHN BRADFORD TO TIMOTHY PICKERING ¹

Sir

Boston 9th Decemr 1776

I have receiv'd a letter from Congress ordering me to forward an Accot of all prizes arrived in this state of every Denomination since the Commencement of Hostilities, I know not how to acquire that information so certain in any other mode than that of getting a list from your self & Judge [Nathan] Cushing of all Vessells condemn'd in your Courts with a list of their Cargoes. Your indulging me in this matter will much oblige Sir [&c.]

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

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1776

Boston, December 9, 1776.

Last Saturday Afternoon Capt. St. Barbe in a Vessel belonging to Newbury

arrived at Squam from Bilb[ao] in 30 Days, with whom came Passenger Mr. George Cabot of Beverly, Merchant, who informs that the Spanish and French Ports are open to our Cruizers and their Prizes, and that they permit the American Vessels to carry the American Flag in their Ports; and that both the Courts of Madrid and Versailles were determin'd to prevent the Russians coming to America. [*This may be credited as the natural Dictate of the soundest Policy*]¹

By two gentlemen from Martha's Vineyard we are informed, that two of the enemies ships have for some days been cruizing at the mouth of the sound, between Gayhead and the Elizabeth islands, and at night have run in and come to anchor. It is supposed they are station'd there in order to stop the communication. It is hoped that those who have any shipping to pass that way, will keep a good look-out.

1. Bracketed editorial comment by the printer of the newspaper.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE SHERIFF OF PROVIDENCE COUNTY ¹

State of Rhode Island – } To the Sheriff of the County of Provi-
& Providence Plantations } dence or to his lawful Deputy Greeting. –

You are hereby in the Name of the Governor and Company of the State aforesaid Commanded to take a good sufficient and Able Guard. & proceed to the Prison-House in Providence and there take all the Prisoners of War being Seamen or Comon Sailors & also all such Prisoners being Seamen or Comon Sailors that are to be found in and about the Town of Providence, & them under such Guard convey to Pautuxet, & their deliver the same Prisoners unto the Order of Commodore Hopkins to be put on Board the Ships of War under his Command. And all Officers Civil & Military are hereby required to be aiding and Assisting you the said Sheriff in executing this Warrant. And for your so doing this shall be your Sufficient Warrant. Hereof fail not Given under my Hand & Seal this ninth day of December AD 1776. –

Nich^s Cooke Govr

Providence December 9th 1776

[Endorsed]

in Obedence To your Honners Within Command I Took up som Seam[e]n & others and Took some from the gold [*sic* gaol] in Providence To the Number of Twenty & Nine and By the Sistance of Corniel Arnolds Coppyney of Gra[n]naders Percaded To Pautexset and Del[i]ver[e]d them To the ofers[er]s on Bord Commodore Hopkens fleet Lying near there in the Bay

per Mee – Martin Seaman Deputy Sher[e]f

Feas 20/

1. Council of War Papers, Exchange of Prisoners, R. I. Arch.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

[Extract]

Governor Cook Sir –

I have this Day Recd your Leter to the Deputy Govrner Read By which I under Stand you are Disireous I Should Keep position of the fourt at Bristers [Bristol] ferry and howlens ferry which I am fully of opinon we Can Do in Case

we are Soported with Stores and men as to gowing on newport I also think adviseable providad there Can posable Be Boats a nuf procured So that we Can Land Two Div[i]ssions at one Time Consesting of Two thousand men in Each Division But as it hath Bin as yet and now is there is not Boats a nuf to Carry [illegible] or of more then one hundred at a time and there ware not more then Six hundred men on the Island when the Retreet was made if they had Landed the first Day all must fell in to there hands I Do fairmly Beleve that with teen tho[u]sand men we Can Drive the hole Iland and all they Cane Land . . .

Dated Bristol this 9 day of Decenbr [1776]
at Teen of a Clock fournoon

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 9, 1776-1777, R. I. Arch.

SAMUEL TUDER TO THE NEW YORK CONVENTION¹

Gentlemen –

Poughkeepsie, December 9th, 1776.

Mr. Ivers having declined doing any more for the ships,² and your orders being to fit them for sea by spring, would inform you that after the rigging we have spared, shall fall considerably short to fit the ships out, we shall therefore be under the necessity to get some person to relay what rigging may be wanted out of the old rigging on board the brig *Polly*, Capt. Redfield, for which purpose would recommend the bearer, Mr. Degrushe, who we think very capable. Mr. Ivers being willing to serve the cause, will either sell his tools he has here, or let them on reasonable terms. Capt. Anthy. Rutgers can give you Mr. Degrushe's character, as a rope maker. As the season is so favourable we should be glad of your answer by first opportunity, that Mr. Degrushe may go to work, if you approve of him.³ We expect the stuff for the gun carriages soon, and as we must have the dimensions of the guns before the carriages can be made, should be glad to know where the guns are, and whether it would not be prudent to send a person to take measure of them. There will be wanted a number of stores to fit the ships for sea. Would submit it to your Honourable House whether it would not be prudent to appoint Capt. Anthony Rutgers to assist in providing them. Agreeable to your desire, we have appointed Mr. Stephen Hendricks, of this place, to take care of the stores. Should be glad you would let us know whether we shall agree with him, or you stipulate his wages to go to the yard once a day. I am, with great esteem, gentlemen, [&c.]

Saml. Tudor.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 255.

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

3. The New York Committee of Safety approved Tudor's recommendation on December 11, *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 747-49.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1776

New-York, December 9.

On Thursday the *Tamer*, Capt. [Christopher] Mason, sailed for England. The Earl of Winchelsea, the Hon. Mr. Finch, and Capt. Gardiner, Aid du Camp to General [William] Howe, went Passengers. On their coming on board, the *Tamer* saluted Lord Winchelsea with eleven Guns.

Saturday Morning last the *Roebuck*, Captain Hammond; the *Falcon*, Capt. [John] Linzee; the *Perseus*, Capt. [George Keith] Elphinstone; and two or three other Ships, fell down the River in order to proceed to Sea.

TIMOTHY PARKER AND OTHERS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sir

Whitby Prison Ship, N York, 9th Decr 1776.

I make no doubt but your Honour long Before this, hath been apprized of our being Prisoners in New York – That our present Situation is most wretched your Honr need not doubt, which I Likewise hope you will Soon be assured of from men of Undoubted Veracity – There are more than two Hundred and fifty prisoners of us on board this Ship (Some of which are Sick and without the least assistance from Physician, Drugg, or Medicine) all fed on two thirds allowance of Salt provisions and all Crouded promiscuously together, without Distinction or Respect, to person office or Colour, in the Small Room of a Ships Between Decks, allowed only to walk the main Deck from about Sun Riseing, till Sun Sett, at which time we are Ordered below Deck – and Suffered only two at once to come on deck to do what Nature requires, and Sometimes we have Been even Denied that, and been obliged to make use of tubbs & Bucketts Below deck to the great offence of every Delicate Cleanly person as well as to great prejudice of all our healths – These Sir with many other Miserable Circumstances too lengthy and tedious to Enumerate, are the Just portraits of our present Situation – In Short Sir we have no prospect before our Eyes but a kind of Lingular Inevitable death Unless we obtain a timely and Seasonable Release – From your Honors well known Character of Humanity and Justice we Humbly hope That your Authority will be Exercised in procuring us an Exchange – As Lord Howe hath Sett at Liberty all his prisoners Taken in the Merchant Service – But Refuseth (as we hear) to Exchange those Taken under arms but by a like number taken in arms also – Therefore from your Honours Clemency Candour and Benevolence we Cannot but hope and Expect (as we were in the Service of our Country and cannot be deemed as [torn] Common privateer) That Such an Exchange will be put forward and in due time Accomplished if possible – In the meantime we Rest in Confidence that your Honrs Authority and Influence will be Exerted in our Behalf – and beg leave with the utmost Respect to Subscribe Our Selves your Honrs [&c.]

These Belong to the Schooner *Spy* }
and were taken in the Ship *Hope* }
they are now prisoner with me }
the others I Suppose to be on }
board Some of the men of war, but }
what Ship or where I cannot tell. }

Tim Parker ²
William Davall Junr
John Tucker
William Swan
Thomas Coffin
Joseph Holly

1. Trumbull Papers, V, 278, ConnSL.

2. Parker, first lieutenant of the *Spy*, and prize master of the ship *Hope*, was captured in the latter vessel by H. M. S. *Galatea*. See Volume 6.

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

December 1776

Do [Light House of Sandy] Hook No 43° Wt 23
Leagues

Sunday 8th at 7 AM saw a Sail to the SE. made the *Daphne*'s Sigl to Chace and made sail set Studding Sails.
 Fresh gales with heavy Squalls at ½ past 2 shorten'd sail & Spoke the Chace, a Sloop from Philadelphia wth flour for Rhode Island close Reef'd Top Sails and stood to the Soward at 12 handed the Top Sails

Monday 9th at 9 AM saw a Sail to the Wtward. at 10 set the Top Sails, & made the *Daphne*'s Signal to Chace.
 First and Middle parts fresh Gales & Cloudy latter more Mode & fair. at ½ past One the *Daphne* brought too the Chace, a Brig from Philadelphia loaded with Tobacco for France. made sail the *Daphne* and two prizes in Company. at 10 handed the Top Sails.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/650.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gent.

Baltimore Town Decr 9. 1776

I desir'd Mr Stephen Stewart (who I saw some time ago in Baltimore) to Acquaint You that it was time to send up Masters for the two Gondalous, Anchors and Cables we Ought to have immediately we cannot Launch them with Out one of them is in my Way where I want to Raise a Ship – its best to have Masters before they are Launchd as they some time's want some Alterrations – Capt [Bennett] Matthews of Hertford mentiond to me he had some Reason to Expect one of them, I immagine he will be ready as soon as you please. Your Answer Will Oblige Gent. [&c.]

Arch^d Buchanan

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

“SALES OF SNOW *Georgia* & CARGO LATELY MADE PRIZE OF BY THE SHIP *Defence* COMMANDED BY GEO: COOKE & SOLD BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE OF THE HONBLE COURT OF ADMIRALTY FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND”¹

[Extract]

Date	To whom Sold	Amount
1776	Thos Usher & Co	90..8..3
Decr 9	Robt Moore	32..3..3
	Jesse Hollingsworth	23.13..6
	Roger Gavin	10.11..1
	Cash receiv'd for	524.17..9
	Geo: Wells	15.17..6
	Shields & Mattison	9..-..-
	Cash receiv'd for	42.12..2
		<hr/> 749..3..6 ²

[Date]	[To whom Sold]	[Amount]
[Decr 9]	Isaac Vanbibber for the Snow <i>Georgia</i> with her Materials Agreeable to Inventory	1450..--..
	Carried forward	£2199..3..6
	Sales Continued -	
	Amount brought forward	£2199..3..6
	Charges Vizt	
	Cash paid Advertizing in papers & hand Bills	11..3
	paid Cryer giving Notice of Sale at Town & Point one day for Vessel & two for Cargo	1..2..6
	paid Judges fee on Condem- nation	3.15..9
	paid Marshalls do on do	1..--..
	paid Registers do on do	6..--..
	paid Advocate drawg & prose- cutg	15..--..
	Libell	
	paid	
	Capt Bolton Balce of Wages	£102
	Wm Steel do do	19..9..3
	A Bayley do do	16.14..7
	Jas Patrick do do	36.10..6
	Jas Scott do do	16..2..5
	Robt Wallace do do	13.11.11
	John Blake do do	16.13..4
		221..2..1
	paid Isaac Griest Wharfage of the Snow Wharfge of Mahog- any Storage Weiging & use of Scales for Logwood	21.10..-
	paid Robt Moore measurg Mahogany @ 7/6 P M & Labour- ers bring Logs 8/	20.13..-
	Commission on Sales a 2½ PCt	54.19..7
		345.14..2
	Neat proceeds	£1853..9..4
	The State of Maryland as Owners of the Ship <i>Defence</i>	
	2/3	1235.12.11

Officers Mariners &ca of Ship

Defence

1/3

817.16..5

£1853..9..4

[Endorsed] Errors Excepted Baltimore 21st Februy 1777

1. Admiralty Court Papers, 1776-1781, Box 1, Folder 2, Md. Arch.

2. Amount received from sale of mahogany and logwood cargo.

CAPTAIN JOHN CAREY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Schooner *Resolution* Decr 9th 1776

I have the Honour to inform You that I am Arrived safe at the Capes & with a Promising fair Wind, also the Pleasure to inform You that the Vessell goes Exceedingly Better than was Immagined. As Comming down the Bay I have had an Oppertunity of trying her on a Wind & before it & in all Manners, but Going with the Wind Quartering, have run the *Ninety Two* Hull Down in less than five Hours, & have Several times Shortned Sail for the Pilot Boat & of which the Pilot Can Assure Your Honours of the Truth of the above, Your Honours May Depend on My Doing My outmost Endeavours in Making the best of My Way to Martinique & in every Respect fully fullfilling the Orders that you have been Pleased to Honour Me with I am & shall Ever Remain Your Honours [&c.]

John Carey

P S: The Pilot is an Able Serviceable Man & has Conducted the Vessell in every Respect to My Entire Satisfaction. —

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

No 2:

Sir

Antigua 9th December 1776.

My last Dispatches to their Lordships were dated the 29th October, and the 2d Novemr past, and were forwarded by one of the Merchant Ships that Sailed the 4th Novemr under Convoy of the *Shark*, and Duplicates thereof came by the Packet, Via Jamaica; in those Letters, I related the Transactions of the Squadron, under my Command to that time; I also mentioned the *Pomona* having been missing since the 7th Septemr last; ² and that the *Portland* had taken and sent into English Harbour, an American Privateer called the *Putnam*, carrying twelve Guns, and eighty Men. The *Pomona* is yet missing, and I have received no certain information what is become of her. The *Portland* arrived at English harbour the 19th Novemr from her Cruize, and had taken four other American Vessels as pr particulars in the List of Prize Vessels taken; The *Portland* on her arrival had a number of American Prisoners on board, and her Company were growing Sickly; I therefore wrote to the President of the Kings Council to lay the same before the Legislature of the Island of Antigua; in Order to their procuring some place of safety where said American Prisoners might be Secured; 'till I could receive directions from England concerning them however they have not thought proper to

Comply with my requisition; as their Lordships will perceive by the inclosed Paper marked No 1. which contains Copy of my Letter to the President, his Answer thereto and my Reply to said Answer.³

The 17th November, the *King George*, Navy Transport, Danl Witherden Master, having onboard part of the Eighth, and Forty seventh Regiments of the Kings Forces onboard (whom She was ordered to carry to Quebeck) put into the Island of Montserrat in Distress having lost her Masts in bad weather at Sea, and I find by Report of a Survey held on said Transport she requires very Considerable repairs, and will be a great length of time before she can be refitted, and made sufficient to proceed on her Voyage: I therefore thought it would prove of more benefit to the Kings Service to send the Troops to America as soon as possible, and have accordingly Contracted with the Owners of the Ship *Lord North*, George Ross Master, to carry them to New York, there to be Landed and disposed of as the Commander in Chief may think proper, and I have wrote to Lord Howe and the General concerning them; the Paper marked No 2 is Copy of the Contract I have entered into with the Owners of the Ship *Lord North*; which I hope their Lordships will approve. The *Killingworth* Victualing Transport (Ordered by Lord Howe to proceed to England under Convoy of the *Active*) is put into St Johns Antigua in distress having sprung a Leak at Sea; I shall hasten the necessary Repairs both of her, and the *King George* Navy Transport, and Order them both to proceed to Deptford the moment they are Refitted.

The other inclosed Papers marked No 3; 4; 5; 6 and 7 are Copies of Letters of Intelligence received from Captains Colpoys and Bryne, Copys of Orders given to the *Seaford*, *Pelican*, and *Portland*; List of Prizes taken; State and Condition and Disposition of the Ships under my Command, which you will likewise be pleased to Communicate to their Lordships I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. Marginal note indicates that the Admiralty ordered the Navy Board to pay the *Pomona's* officers and men to this date and "dispense with all Books & Papers."

3. Marginal note: "Copy of this part of the Paper referd to Ld G. Germ. for his Majs Informatn & Directn."

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS UNDER THE COMMAND OF
VICE ADMIRAL YOUNG AT BARBADOS AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS THE
9TH DECEMR 1776." ¹

Ships.	Commanders.	Where Stationed, &c.
<i>Portland</i>	Captn T. Dumaresq	{ Sailed hence the 8th Instant to Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica, to Compleat her Wood and Water; as soon as that Service is performed to proceed off the Island Curassau, and Cruize about that and the adjacent Islands for three Weeks; after the expiration of the Cruize to return and join me in English harbour Antigua.

<i>Seaford</i>	Jno Colpoys.	Ordered the 17th Novemr to proceed to Sea and Cruize off the Leeward Charibbe Islands, Vizt St Eustatia, St Martins, St Bartholomew, and St Croix; to remain on this Service till the 18th Decemr, and then (having compleated her Wood, and Water) to return & join me in English harbr Antigua.
<i>Hind</i>	Hy Bryne.	Ordered the 19th Octor to proceed to Prince Ruperts Bay, Dominica; and compleat her Wood and Water; and as soon as that Service is performed, to Sail on a Cruize to windward of the French Islands Guadalupe, Martinico, and St Lucia to remain on this Service till the 30th Novemr then call in at Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica, compleat her Wood, and Water, and return & join me in English harbr Antigua.
<i>Shark</i>	Jno Chapman.	Ordered 19th Octor to Sail from St Christophers the 4th Novemr as Con-voey to the homeward bound Trade for Great Britain and Ireland.
<i>Hawke</i>	R. P. Cooper.	In English harbour Antigua; Fitting for Sea, after being Careened.
<i>Pomona</i>	T. Eastwood.	Missing since the 6th September last. Sailed hence the 1st Instant to Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica to compleat her Wood and Water; as soon as that Service is performed to proceed to Rosseau Dominica; wait there four days to raise Seamen; afterwards to Sail on a Cruize ranging along the French Islands of Martinique, St Lucia, and Guadalupe, to remain on this Service till the 21st December and then return and join me in English harbour Antigua.
<i>Pelican Armd Brigantine</i>	Lieut J. P. Ardesoif.	In English harbour Antigua, waiting for a new Main Boom (former carried away;) and compleating her Provisions.
<i>Endeavour Armed Brigantine</i>	Frans Tinsley	Jam ^s Young.

Philip Stephens Esqre

[Endorsed] In Vice Admiral Youngs Letter 9t Decemr 1776.

1. PRO Admiralty 1/309.

DEPOSITION OF MATHEW MURRAY¹

Copy.

Before John Stanley Esqr one of the Members of His Majesty's Council for the Island of St Christopher, His Majesty's Solicitor General for his Leeward Charibbee Islands and one of the Justices assigned to keep the Peace within the said Island of St Christopher.

Personally appeared Mathew Murray of the Said Island of St Christopher Gentleman, who being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and Saith that on or about the first day of this instant December, he this Deponent went from this Island to St Eustatius in a Small two masted Boat belonging to, and commanded by, John Charles of this Island, on board of which there went also two other white men as Passenger, who were both Strangers to this Deponent, and whose names he does not know and this Deponent Saith that amongst other conversation during their Passage down to St Eustatius, one of the before mentioned Strangers informed this Deponent and the Company on board, that he was a North American and had been in Several Engagements there with the Kings Troops, but that he had come from there and wanted to get into other Employ, upon which this Deponent observed to him that there was a Brighten in this Island bound with Rum and Provisions for New York, and that he might enter onboard of her and he would be in no danger as She was in the kings Service, to which the Stranger replied, that he did not chuse to return to North America, but that he wanted to go to England, which Story this Deponent afterwards found was only meant to amuse this Deponent and his Fellow Passengers, for this Deponent Saith, that upon their arrival in the Road of St Eustatius, and coming close along Side of a Sloop, then lying at anchor there, the People onboard of the Said Sloop came running forward and Spoke to the before mentioned Stranger, who there upon cried out aloud to this Deponent and his Fellow Passengers "now you may all know me I am Gunner of this Sloop, She is an American Privateer, and is called the *Baltimore Hero*,² and is the one which took the Irish Brig off here the other Day" and afterwards he the last mentioned Person put his Chest and Things into a Canoe and proceeded him Self in the Said Canoe towards the Said Sloop.

(Sighn'd) Mathew Murray.

Sworn before me this

9th day of Decr 1776.

(Sighn'd) John Stanley.

1. Admiralteits Colleges, No. 487, Neth. Arch.

2. Maryland privateer sloop, Thomas Waters, commander, 12 guns and a crew of 20, commissioned September 16, 1776, Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, I, 91, NA.

“AN ACCOUNT OF SHIPS AND VESSELS TAKEN AS PRIZE OF WAR, BY HIS YOUNG AT BARBADOES AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS, AND IN THE SEAS ADJACENT,

By what Ship Taken	When Taken.	Where Taken.	Name of the		To what Nation or Province belonging.	Sort of Vessel.	From whence.
			Vessel.	Master.			
	1776						
<i>Seaford.</i> <i>Pomona.</i>	1st Septemr 6th	At Sea. Off St Eustatia	<i>Polly</i> <i>St George.</i>	Jas Donavan Jno Taylor.	Massachusetts —	Sloop. Brig.	Newburry St Eustatia
<i>En- deavour.</i> <i>Hawke.</i>	30th 9th Octobr	Off St Croix. Off St Lucia	<i>St Croix.</i> <i>Burlow</i> <i>Castle</i>	Saml Cockran. H. Hall.	St Croix. —	Sloop. Sloop.	St Croix Demarara
<i>Portland.</i>	18th	At Sea.	<i>Putnam.</i>	Chrisr Whipple	Rhode Island	Brig	Rhode Island
<i>Portland.</i>	28th	At Sea.	<i>Inde- pendence</i>	Stepn Tinker	North Carolina	Brig.	North Carolina
<i>Portland.</i>	3d Novemr	At Sea.	<i>Betsy.</i>	Robt Lennis	North Carolina	Schooner	North Carolina
<i>Portland.</i>	5th	At Sea.	<i>Sally.</i>	Wm McCulloch	Philadelphia	Sloop	Philadelphia
<i>Portland.</i>	6th	At Sea.	<i>Susanna.</i>	Seth Ewel	North Carolina	Sloop	North Carolina
<i>Seaford.</i>	10	Off St Martins	<i>Young</i> <i>Shark</i>	Ezra Field	St Eustatia	Schooner	Anguilla
<i>Hind.</i>	21st	Off Martinique	<i>Mary</i>	Wm Alexander	Maryland	Schooner	Maryland
<i>Seaford.</i>	24th	Off St Martins	<i>Mary</i>	Thos Louwies	St Eustatia	Sloop	St Martins
<i>Seaford.</i>	“					Schooner	
<i>Hind.</i>	3d Decemr	Off Martinique	<i>Polly.</i>	Geo. Ramsdell	Nantuckett	Brig	Nantucket

[December 9]

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Enclosed in Vice Admiral Young's letter of December 9; 1776.

10 Dec.

WILLIAM NESBITT TO SIR GEORGE COLLIER ¹

Sir

[Halifax] Decemr 10th 1776

I have taken the Depositions of several People on Board the *Tarter* Transport and do find upon the whole that the Master of her Basely & Cowardly gave her up without firing a Gun, tho' encouraged by his own Men to fight the Privateer – but as we have no Method by Common Law for Punishing Cowards I cant see what we or you can do with him, for there is no Punishing Cowardice but by the Martial Law.

I am therefore of Opinion there can be nothing done with this Fellow but to cause the Ship which I am told is his own Property to be Libelled for Salvage, with which You may reward those honest Fellows that recovered her – and not any longer to detain Bustle [William Bussel] the Master but let him go about his Business – & if you require it I shall Libell his Ship – and am with Respect [&c.]
(Copy) W^m Nesbitt Atty Gl

[Endorsed] No. 1 Attorney-Generals Letter to Sir George Collier respecting Bussel In Sir Geo Colliers of the 8th. Janry 1777

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1611, 2, 16.

MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL
SINCE THE LAST ACCOUNT TRANSMITTED THE 30TH SEPTEMBER PAST." ¹

When last Sailed.	Where bound.	Lading	No of			If any Ship of War in Company when taken her Name &c	To what Port sent to be Tried	Whether Condemned or Acquitted -
			Tons.	Men.	Guns.			
6th Sept 1776.	St Croix.	Bale Goods	90	8	-	None	Tortola.	Condemned.
	St Martins		20	16	4	"	Engl harbr	Condemned.
29 Sept	Philadelphia	Salt.	70	8	-	"	Antigua	Condemned.
5 Septemr	Barbados.	Lumber, Corn, and Staves	60	7	-	"	Tortola.	
		"					Kingston St Vincents	
1st August.	On a Cruize.	"	84	70	12	"	Engl harbr	Condemned.
							Antigua	
10th October.	Guadalupe	Lumber Tar &c	180	14	-	"	St Johns	Condemned.
18th October.	St Eustatia	Corn, Tar &c	30	5	-	"	Engl harbr	Condemned.
6th October.	Martinique	Flour.	20	6	-	"	Antigua	
7th October.	St Eustatia	Flour Corn &c	70	7	-	"	Engl harbr	Condemned.
6th Novemr	St Eustatia	Salt.	90	7	-	"	Antigua	
10th October.	Martinique	Flour & Tobo	30	6	-	"	St Johns	Condemned.
23d Novemr	St Eustatia	Flour & Tobo	40	6	-	"	Antigua	
		Flour					Dominica.	
5th Novemr	Bordeaux	Oil, Flaxseed &c	90	7	-	"	St Johns	Condemned.
							Antigua	
							St Christophers	
							Dominica	

Jam^s Young

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

December 1776 At Single Anchor in Shepeday Bason [Bay of Fundy]
Saturday 7th AM got down top Gallt Yards Arm'd the Boats & sent them up
Pettigoack River, to gain Intelagence of the Rebels -
First & midl pt fresh breezes & Cloudy latter light breezes PM
the Boat ret'd with a Canoe with 6 french men & a woman in
her & inteligance that the Rebles were gone off
Sunday 8th at 5 sent the Boat Arm'd up Membramcook river to gain
Intelagence & to bring of[f] the Provision Sloop that the Rebles
had taken at fort Cumberland & Supposed to be there
Mode & Cloudy P M the Boat ret'd with a Shallop belonging
to the Rebles in the Evening sent the Boat a Shore again.
Monday 9th AM the Boat not returning weig'd & ran Down the Bason a long
shore. at Noon Point Marangu[in] SSWt 3 or 4 Miles
First & latter pt do Wr Midl fresh breezes & Snow PM at 2
Anch'd with the Sl Br in 7 fms water. Grindstone Island NWBN
& Point Maringuin East sent the Jolly boat to Shepeday to
inquire after the Yaell: ²

Tuesday 10th at 11 AM. the Jolly b[oa]t where surprized by a Party off the Rebles who took from them 4 Musquets 4 Cartuch Boxes with Amunition & one Cutlass Fired 2 Swivels a Sigl for the Boat – Mode breezes & fair Wr P M ½ Pt weig'd & made Sail out of the Bason at 5 Anchd in Cumberland Rode with the Sl Br in 7 fm muddy bottom Veer'd to ⅓ of a Cable found Riding here his Majestys Sloops *Vulture* & *Hope* with the Privateer Prize.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1669.
2. On December 22, some of the men with the yawl returned to the *Diligent* and reported "that Robt Griffiths Gunner's Mate, Thomas Lacoter & Jno Pickore where gone with a party of the Rebles Thos Levety died & Geo: Farbutton & Willm Flat where Sick at a house in Pettigoack River," PRO, Admiralty 52/1669.

PETITION OF BENJAMIN TITCOMB TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Falmouth Decr 10th 1776 –

To the Honbl Council of State of Massachusetts Bay

May it please yr Honrs your Petitioner has schooner named *Beggars Bennison* about 136 ton, bound Demeray or the West Indies, of which Joseph Titcomb is Master – loaded with Boards fish Shooks hogshead and Hoops – which was ready for sea before the Embargo took place, your Petitioner therefore prays your Hons to give Liberty for sd Vessel to proceed on her sd Voyage – And your Petitioner will ever pray –

Benjamin Titcomb

[Endorsed] Council Chamber [Boston] Decr 23d 1776 –

To the Naval Officer for the Port of Falmouth –

Permit the schooner *Beggars Benson* Burthen about one hund thirty six tons, of which Joseph Titcomb is Master, loaded with Boards – fish, shook hogds – and Hoops, bound to Demarary or the West Indies – to proceed on her sd Voyage the Owner of which making it appear to you that sd Vessel was ready to sail a Clearance [illegible] the 7th Instant – the sd Master giving Bond that he will import in sd Schooner Molasses and military Stores – the Dangers of the Sea and Enemy excepted

By Order of Council

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 88, 88a.

JOHN LANGDON TO CAPTAIN THOMAS PALMER ¹

Capt Thomas Palmer

Portsmo 10th Decem. 1776

You haveing the Command of the Ship *Betsey Frigate* belonging to the United States of America now equipt for the Sea, are to embrace the first opportunity of Wind and weather and Proceed with Said Ship to Bourdeaux in France where when it shall please God you Arrive you'll Call on Mr Thomas Morris,

Agent for the Am[e]rican States and to him Deliver Ship and Cargo and follow his further Direction, in Case Mr Morris is not there then wait on Messrs Saml and J. H. Delap and to them Deliver my letters, and follow their Direction the same as tho' Mr Morris was Present You'll take the greatest care and use every means to prevent the Ship's falling into the hands of the enemy, makeing all Dispatch and using all frugality in your power – You are to have five pounds Stg P month Wages and Sixty pounds Sterling in lieu of all Commissions for doing the business I wish you Safe Voyage and Safe Return your Friend

John Langdon

Agent for the States

[Endorsed] the above are my Orders which promise to follow—

P Thomas Palmer

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

JOHN LANGDON TO THOMAS MORRIS ¹

Sr

Portsmouth N. E. Decem. 10th 1776

This you'll receive P the Ship called the *Betsey Frigate* Capt Thomas Palmer Commander, with a Load of masts, planck; Staves &c on the Acct of the United States of Amarica, I am informed, by a Letter from the Honbl Robert Morris Esqr President of the Continental Secret Committee that you are Appointed Superintending Agent for the States in France, Iv'e therefore Consigned the Ship to you or your Order at Bourdeaux, agreable to Direction Messrs Saml and J. H. Delap are your Agents at that place as I'm inform'd on whom Iv'e ordered Capt Palmer to Call for your or their Orders; Iv'e Inclosed Invoice of Cargo & bill Lading this Ship is old, and therefore best she should be Sold, if the Cap. and people can have a passage found them home, as it is Impossable to get men, to go from hence to be Discharged there the Honbl Committee have Ordered me to write you to sell the Ship as well as Cargo, if Reasonable price can be Obtained to Amt of Cost, if She will not Sell, you are to Send her out to Me with a Load of Salt that I may send more Lumber to you – I am order'd to Send out Several Ships with Masts for France, but my not being able to get Cordage and Sail Cloth prevents, we have Several Large Ships here, which would Answer well, could we be Supplied with these Articles if it should be in your power to furnish any to this place it would be a great Service to the States –

this Ship is old as I've before mentioned, but her haveg Rigg[in]g and Sails, Induced me to purchase her She Cost one Thousand pounds Lawful money of this State Spanish Milled Dollars at the rate of Six Shillings P Dollar equal to Seven hundred and fifty pounds Stg –

I shall be much obliged for your Advice of what Articles is best from hence to France – If this ship should be sold and you should take up a Vessell, there, for the States, I know of no man who would Answer the purpose better than Capt

Palmer, to Command her, his men likewise are to be depended on – I wish the Ship and Cargo Safe to hand being with Respect [&c.]

John Langdon
Agent in this Place, for
the United States. – ²

Mr Thoms Morris
Agent for the American
States in France, at Bourdeaux.

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.
2. Langdon also wrote two letters this date to Samuel & J. H. Delap; one in his capacity as Continental Agent and one as a private merchant, John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Exeter] Tuesday, Decemr 10th, 1776.

Voted, That Saml Phillbrick Esqr repair immediately to Boston & get what Intelligence he can about the affairs of Rhode Island, & return & make report as soon as possible.

Voted and Resolved, That a General Embargo imediately take place and continue, till the further order of this Court, on all vessels of every Denomination (excepting such as may be fitted out by order of the United States, or either of them, or by the Board of War in behalf of this State or such as may so continue from one harbor in this State to another, or such as may be permitted by the Genl Assembly, or in the recess thereof by the Council or Committee of Safety of this State) and That all vessels departing in violation of the foregoing Resolution, shall with their Cargo, tackle & appurtenances be forfeited to and for the use of this State & recovered by a Libell to be filed for that purpose in the maritime Court of this State, at any time within one year after the offence committed, by the Naval officer of the Port where the said vessel may be seized. And in case any vessel departing as aforesaid shall not be seized in one year after her departure, The owner or Freighter thereof shall forfeit and pay the value thereof, to be sued for and recovered in the Inferiour Court of Common Pleas in the County where the offence may be committed, by the Naval officer of the Port or place from whence the vessel departed; one third to his own use and the other two thirds to the use of this State, and in all trials in the maritime Court or Inferior Courts in consequence of the resolution aforesaid any party aggrieved may appeal to the Superior Court of Judicature in this State.

Resolved, That the Naval officer where there are any, and where there are no Naval officer, the Comtee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety in the several maritime Towns in this State be ordered and are hereby Impowered to see the foregoing Resolutions be put into Execution. Sent up by Mr. Smith.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 412–13.

RESOLUTIONS MODIFYING THE MASSACHUSETTS SHIPPING EMBARGO¹

State of Massachusetts-Bay.

Council-Chamber, *December* 10, 1776.

Whereas an Embargo was laid the Seventh Day of December, Instant,² on all Vessels, excepting such as may be fitted out by Order of the United States, or any of them, or by the Board of War, in Behalf of this State, or such as may go Coastwise, from one Harbour in this State to another, or such as may be permitted by the General-Assembly, or in the Recess thereof, by the Council. And whereas it is thought necessary, that Provisions and some other Articles be imported from any of the United States of America: *Therefore,*

Resolved, That Vessels may depart, under the Conditions hereafter mentioned, from any Harbour, Port or Place in this State, to any Harbour, Port or Place in any of the United States of America, for the sole Purpose of importing from thence into this State, any Sort of Provisions, Goods, Wares or Merchandize.

It is further Resolved, That before the Departure of any Vessel for the Purpose aforesaid, the Master o[r] Owner, with sufficient Sureties shall enter into Bonds, in the Value of the Vessel and Cargo on board, with the Naval-Officer of the District or Port; and where there is no Naval-Officer, with the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety, of the Towns or Places wherein such Vessel lies, payable to the Treasurer of this State, conditioned, that said Vessel shall really and truly proceed on said Voyage, and not deviate therefrom, unless constrained by Stress of Weather, or other unavoidable Accidents; and a Certificate that such Bonds are entered into, together with a Clearance, shall be given the Master of said Vessel by the Naval-Officer of the District or Port, or where there are no Naval-Officers, by the Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety, of such Town or Place where such Vessel lies, before she is suffered to depart out of this State.

Provided always, That no Vessel shall be suffered to take on board, for the Purpose of Exportation, any Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, Peas, Beans, Bread, Flour, or any kind of Meal, Pork, Beef, Mutton, Sheep, live Cattle, Swine, Butter, Cheese, Rice, Sugars, Salt, Oats, Cotton Wool, Sheeps Wool, Flax, Bar Iron, Hemp, Cordage, or any Kind of Linen or Woollen Cloth, except so much thereof as the proper Naval-Officer, or where there is no such Officer, the Committee aforesaid shall judge a sufficient Supply for the Vessel's Company, and expressly permitted to be taken on board.

It is further Resolved, That if any Vessel shall depart, or attempt to depart, out of this State, in Violation of any of the aforementioned Resolves, said Vessel shall, together with her Tackle, Apparel and Appurtenances, and the Cargo on board her, be forfeited, and recovered and disposed of in like Manner as is provided the aforementioned Resolve of the Seventh Day of *December*, Current.

And provided always, That if any of the foregoing enumerated Articles shall be taken on board any Vessel, really and truly bound on the afore-described Voyage, without such Permission as aforesaid, such enumerated Articles, and not

the Vessel or other Cargo, shall be forfeited and recovered in Manner as aforesaid; and the Master of such Vessel shall likewise forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds, for every such Violation of these Resolves, to be recovered by Action of Debt, in the Court of Common-Pleas, of the County where such Offence is done, by any Person who shall sue for the same; and one Moiety thereof to the Use of this State, and the other Moiety to the Use of the Prosecutor.

Sent down for Concurrence

John Avery, Deputy-Secretary.

In the House of Representatives, December 10, 1776.

Read and concurred.

Samuel Freeman, Speaker, P. T.

Consented to,

Jere. Powell,
Caleb Cushing,
T. Cushing,
B. Austin,
B. White,
B. Lincoln,
H. Gardner,
Jabez Fisher.

J. Winthrop,
B. Chadbourn,
S. Holten,
Daniel Davis,
W. Phillips,
D. Sewall,
F. Dana,

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 386.

2. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 340-41.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 10th Dec 1776 AM

Gave an Order on the Commissary to deliver Capt [John] Lambert, 1 Cord Wood, together with such Articles as are necessary for graving the Brig *Massachusetts* – Mr [John] Brown & Capt [George] Williams the Committee for examining the Brigantines *Freedom* & *Ann* & Ship *Marshall* Reported That the Proprietors of the Brig *Freedom* demanded £ 900 – Sterling for her, which they judg'd too great a price –

Reported – The Brig *Ann* a very good Vessel, but 4 Years old; will carry 1200 Barrells naval Stores – has the Master & Men engag'd – & cost the Proprietors £ 750 –

Reported The Ship *Marshall* wants a new Foremast & much done to her, is not a Ship of Burthen for Timber, but in other Respects a very good Ship, & will answer for the Board –

Voted – That the same Committee again treat with the Proprietors of the Brig *Freedom* in order to charter said Vessel – purchase her Cargo, & make Report –

Voted – That the Brig *Anne* be committed to Capt Williams & Colo [Jonathan] Glover to make a further Report –

Voted – That the Ship *Marshall* be purchas'd by the Board, provided the Owners will furnish her with a new Foremast – ²

Attest Jon Loring Austin Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 33, 34-35.

2. The owners agreed and the Board purchased the *Marshall* on December 11 for £ 1760, Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 38, 41.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE SHERIFF OF PROVIDENCE COUNTY¹

State of Rhode Island } To the Sheriff of the County of Provi-
& Providence Plantations } dence or to his Lawful Deputy Greeting. –

Whereas I have received information from the Honble Esek Hopkins Esq² Commodore & Commander in Chief of the Continental Fleet now within this State, that Robert Relf William Lenn, Phillip Gordon, William Seaner, Peter Cane, Pierce, J. Lembeck, Joseph Merre & divers others Seamen & Marines who have entered on Board & do now belong to The Continental Fleet under his said Command are lurking about within the State aforesd And for the Purpose of their being taken up & sent on Board said Fleet the said Esek Hopkins Esq hath sent an Officer on Shore & requested that I would give all due Assistance for the taking Up & sending on Board all such Deserters & others. –

You are therefore in the Name of the Governor & Company of the State aforesd Commanded to give all Aid & Assistance to the Officer or Officers belonging to said Fleet in apprehending & securing all Persons or Persons belonging to or who have entered on Board any of the Ships in the Continental Service & who have not been duly discharged. And for your so doing this shall be your sufficient. Warrant. Given under my Hand & Seal this tenth day of December AD 1776. –

Nich^s Cooke Govr

[Endorsed]

Providence, December 10 – 1776

By Vartu of this Preseps I went with the first Leftant of the Ship *Providence* Now Lying in this State and Took up fore or five of the within Named Parsons which he Carred on Bord with him

P Fees 3/ Pr Mee Mart Seamans Depy She[rif]f

1. Council of War Papers, Exchange of Prisoners, R. I. Arch.

2. Hopkins to Cooke, December 10, 1776, Letters to the Governor, vol. 9, 1776–1777, R. I. Arch.

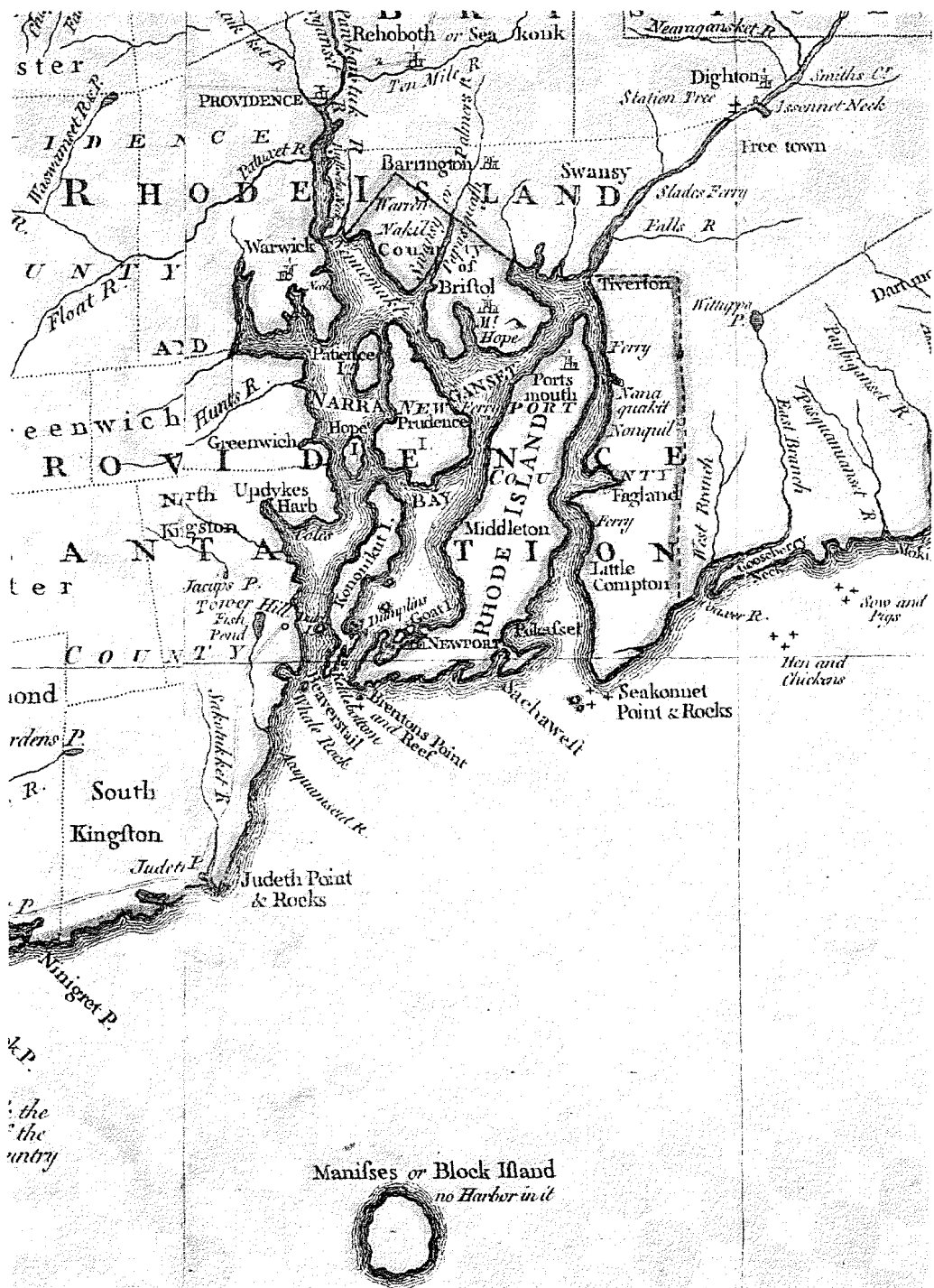
COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE¹

Onboard the *Warren* 5 miles below Providence

Gentlemen

December 10th. 1776 –

Three days ago the English Fleet of about 54 Sail of Transports and 16 Sail Men of War arrived in this Bay, and two days ago they landed I believe about four thousand Troops, and took possession of the Island of Rhode Island without Opposition. The Inhabitants of the Town of Newport favour'd their Operation I believe too much – the Militia are come in, in Order to prevent their further Operations. I thought it best to come up the River after the Fleet was within about two leagues of us with the *Warren*, *Providence*, *Columbus*, Brigantine *Hampden*, and Sloop *Providence* – The Inhabitants are in daily expectation of an Attack on the Town of Providence. I have got the Ships in the best posture of defence we can make them without they were full Mannd which they are not more than half – We lay where the Ships can't come up that draw much more Water than we do – If we get the Ships mann'd Shall take some favourable Opportunity and attempt getting to Sea with some of the Ships – but at present think



Narragansett Bay area

we are of more Service here than at Sea without we were mann'd—I am
Gentlemen [&c.] E H

To the hon. John Hancock Esqr
Presidt of the Marine Committee
at Philada

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety

[Hartford] December 10th, 1776.

Voted, To draw on the Pay Table for £1400.0.0, in favor of Capt. [Seth] Harding of the brig *Defence*, and for the use of said brig, to render his account.
Order given Decr 10th, 1776, dd to Capt. Harding.

Voted, To give order to Prosper Wetmore, Esqr, sheriff, on Capt. Harding's producing and lodging with him his power of attorney from the officers and men on board the brig *Defence* in the capture of the prize ship *John*, taken by them and brought into N. London and condemned, that first deducting the charges of condemnation and all other expences, and then one twentieth part of the net proceeds of the avails of the ship and cargo being the Admiral's part settled by Congress, then the one third of the remainder to be by him paid to Capt. Harding for his and the brig's crew their share in said prize, taking his receipt therefor, and to call upon Capt. [Ephraim] Bill for the bills of expences, and to see that they are all properly collected in order to make settlement. *Order given out Decr 10th, 1776.*

Directed Prosper Wetmore, Esqr, to pay to Capt. Harding £716 12 10 of the State money in his hands, which together with £683 7 2 make the sum of £1400 contained in the order given as above on this page to Capt. Harding.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*, 84, 85.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Head Quarters, Trenton Falls, December 10, 1776.

Sir: Yours of last evening reached me at 4 OClock this Morning. I immediately sent orders to Commodore Seymour, to dispatch one of his Gallies down to Dunk's Ferry, and I shall dispose of the remainder in such manner, and at such places, as will be most likely, not only to annoy the Enemy in their passage, but to give the earliest information of any attempt of that kind. Parties of the Enemy have been reconnoitring both up and down the River, and I imagine it has been one of those parties that have appeared near Burlington; for as they have not found the least Opposition from the people of Jersey, they venture very far from their Main Body; which from the best Information, still lays about Trenton and above it.

I have desired Col. [Richard] Humpton, who is the bearer of this, to apply for a Party of Men, to go up Cooper's and Ancocus [Rancocas] Creeks, and bring down all the Craft he may find there; for it is in vain to cut down Bridges, if the Boats are left; they cannot be trusted to the Owners, for if an Enemy was to appear, such is their fear, that they would deliver them up, upon the first demand.

I think that the Fort began at Billingsport should be attended to; if there is not a party already there, one should be sent under a good Officer, who would not too readily take the alarm and come off; for you may depend, that only small Bodies will be sent to that Distance. But I have always found, that the Intelligence brought by people not used to see Men in Arms, has always magnified numbers exceedingly, and on this Head the officer should be guarded, not to trust to Report, but be well Satisfied himself before he gives up his post.

Having sent down Major General Putnam to throw up necessary Works for the Defence of your City, I hope you will co-operate with him, and give him every assistance in your Power to expedite so necessary an Operation. I have the honor to be, [etc.]

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, VI, 344–45.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

In Marine Committee.

Sir

Philada Decemr 10th 1776

We have ordered the Captains of the Armed vessels now at Rhode Island Severally to proceed to Sea with All Poss[i]ble despatch and to cruize for the Enemies Store Ships & Supply Vessels going to New York.

You Sir will exert yourself to have these orders carried into execution as Quickly as possible. We are sir [&c.]

William Ellery

W^m Whipple

Rob^t Morris

Richard Henry Lee

Fra^s Lewis

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

In Marine Committee

Sir

Philada Decemr 10th 1776

We have of this date Ordered Capt Thompson of the *Raleigh* Frigate to proceed to Sea with as all possible dispatch –

We therefore request that you will advance what money may be necessary to have this business Speedily executed, and render us an Account thereof which shall be passed to your Credit. You will Also make us A return of the Men on board at the time of her departure. We are Sir [&c.]

Fras Lewis

Richard Henry Lee

W^m Whipple

W^m Ellery

Rob^t Morris

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

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES ¹

In Marine Committee

Sr

Philada Decemr 10th 1776

We expect this will find the Ship Under Your Command in Readiness for Service, and therefore you are hereby directed to proceed to Sea with all possible

dispatch, and in A Cruize of six Weeks or two Months to intercept as many of the store Ships and Supply Vessels going to the Enemy at New York as you May fall in With – you will in this Cruize do as much injury to the Enemy and Service to the United States as it may be in Your power to accompl[ish]

When this Cruize is finished you will return to the most convenient Port in the United States, and if no further Orders are there lodged for You from this Board, you will proceed on A New Cruize for the purpose above Mentioned. We are persuaded it is not necessary to recommend to you the practise of humanity to those whom the fortune of War May Make Your prisoners. We expect to hear from you by every Opportunity and Wishing you Success. We are sir [&c.]

Rob^t Morris Richard Henry Lee
Fra^s Lewis William Ellery
W^m Whipple

1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock, and Miscellaneous Papers), 58, 179, NA.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JOHN PRINGLE, PHILADELPHIA MERCHANT ¹

[Extract]

Sir

Baltimore 10th Decemr 1776

We understand that How's Army is retreating if so we give you joy. We can now inform you that the Brig *Rogers* is safe in St Eustatia & that the *Harlequin* ² is arrived in the River with the ship *Lydia* Capt Dane a Prize with Sugar &c. . . .

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. The Maryland privateer schooner, James Handy, master, commissioned October 11, 1776, Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, VII, NA.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN ¹

No 49.

Sir, We have received two letters about the Gondolas you are building, we shall endeavour to provide Anchors and Cables, as soon as possible. – Mr [William] Lux has been spoke to about cordage and we expect S: Steward has spoke about Anchors, we shall see him in a day or two. – and write you further on the Subject. – The Gentlemen you recommend had better come down, and we will converse with them on the subject of their Appointment. – The Gondolas had better remain on the stocks a short Time longer, until we can get Cordage for Cables, Rigging &c.

[Annapolis] December 10th 1776.

Mr Andrew [*sic* Archibald] Buchanan.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK ¹

No 50.

Sir, We have your's of 8th and for your satisfaction inclose you some Copies of Resolves relative to the Naval department. Much may depend upon your getting away soon, and we are glad to find that you will be ready before Christmas. The bounty given we hope, will be an inducement to your Men, and that you will

thereby be enabled to keep them together. We shall be glad to see you, as you propose, when we can converse further on Matters in general.

[Annapolis] Decr 10th 1776

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

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD ¹

Navy Board [Charleston]

Tuesday 10th December 1776 –

The Board Mett according to Adjournment

Present. Edward Blake Esqr. first Commissioner

Thos Corbett, Thos Savage, Geo Smith, Geo Abbt. Hall Esqrs – The Clerk reported that he waited on his Excellency the President according to Order And his Excellency gave an Order to the Forts, Johnson & Moultrie to pass the said Pilot Boat (which he named the *Hawk*) on a proper Signal to be agreed on between the boat and the said Forts. –

Mr. Hezekiah Anthony applyed as having a [commission] as first Lieutenant of the Briggt of Warr *Comet* dated the 10th Augst. 1776 he being then on the late Cruise, and *now* Claims his wages as first Lieut. from the 10th of August. the time of the date of his Commission –

Resolved that the Pilot Boat (*Hawk*) be sent to George Town under the Command of Mr. Stone or Mr. Philips for such Articles as the Board shall Order from thence –

Ordered that an Anchor from the Briggt. *Comet*, and a Cable from the Floating Battery, be sent to Sullivans Island for the use of the works Carrying on there by Genl [Christopher] Gadsden by an application to this Board by him for that Purpose –

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 29.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER TO OWNERS OF THE SLOOP *Dispatch* ¹

[Extract]

Turks Islands Decr 10th 1776.

Gentlemen, I have the Pleasure to inform you of my safe Arrival here last Saturday after a tollerable passage, in which there was no material Occurrence worth mentioning except our being chas'd near the West End of Grand Caicoes (where by some Accident we first fell in with the Land) by a Ship which we apprehend to be Stationed in those parts to cruize for Vessels bound to Cape Francois or the Mole. We have since been informed that there are several Ships cruizing in those Quarters – so that it might be dangerous to attempt a Trade with any of those Parts or to go too near in shore in a Voyage from hence Northward.

On my Arrival here I met with some exceedingly good ginned Cotton, of which I made a purchase of £100, worth on Account of the owners, as I was persauaded it was an Article which would answer exceedingly well, and insured me against any Accidents arising from the want of a sufficient Cargoe of Salt to obtain a Return Cargoe – I was the rather induced to this Purchase as the Bills

I have given for it are at six Months sight, by which Time I hope to have it in my Power to make an ample Remittance – Another Inducement was the Apprehension I was under of not having a sufficient Cargoe to advance the Premium on Insuring at our next Port of discharge, in Case the Price of Salt should fall. – We have not our whole Cargoe of Salt on board yet – we want only between two and three hundred Bushells to accomplish it, so that I hope to Sail pretty early in the forenoon of tomorrow if the Weather holds fair of which there is at present a very good Prospect. –

P: S: Decr 11th 1776.

I am now to inform you that we have taken on board 2817 Bushells of Salt which is as much as we think it adviseable to carry besides what the Captains &c. have on board amounting nearly to 200 Bushells. I think it was not very lucky that Mr. Godets offer was rejected as the current price for Salt is nine Pence on board, at which Rate I have purchased the whole Cargoe. The whole Cargoe on board belonging to the Owners amounts to £205 . . 12 . . 9. as will appear below.

2817 Bushells of Salt a 9d	£105 . 12 . . 9
1500 lbs fine ginned Cotton at 1/4	100 . 0 . . 0
Total on acct of the Owners	£205 . 12 . . 9

The Gentlemen Owners of the Sloop *Dispatch*.

I should have preferred loading at Salt Quay, but was universally advised not to risque lying there at this Season of the Year – especially as there would be no obtaining equal Dispatch there. These Reasons induced me to give the Grand Quay the Preference altho' the Salt is both lighter and cheaper at the former Place – The Season of the Year being so far advanced I was determined to lose as little Time as possible.

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, Earl Gregg Swem Library, CWM.

“DEPOSITION OF PATRICK REDMOND MASTER OF ONE OF THE VESSELS THAT SAIL'D IN THE JUNE CONVOY RESPECTING THE SAID CONVOY.”¹

Jamaica ss –

Patrick Redmond of the Parish of Kingston in the said Island Mariner maketh Oath & Saith that he is Commander of the Sloop *Kingston*, in which Vessell he made a Voyage to Quebec, last Summer, having Sail'd from Bluefields in Jamaica on the Seventeenth day of June in the present Year of our Lord 1776, in Company of a Fleet of between Thirty & forty Sail of Merchant Vessells, under Convoy of His Majestys Ship the *Antelope*, William Judd Esquire Commander – Saith that on Sailing towards the West End of Jamaica several more Vesels bound for England Joined the said Convoy & that some of the Vessels in Company were tolerable good Sailors, and some very bad – Saith that the said Fleet having Scatter'd themselves a great distance, from one another the said William Judd having Endeavour'd by all possible means to keep them together, and finding it Impracticable so to do, He Hail'd the Sloop *Kingston* on Saturday the 22nd June (she being a remarkable fast Sailing Vessell) and order'd this deponent to hoist a

pendant and keep a head of the fleet, and to order such Ships as were a head, to keep a Stern of the said Sloop, And that whenever he wanted to give this deponent any further Instructions he would hoist his pendant at the foretopmast head – This Deponent further Saith that there was Several of the said Convoy a head at the time last mention'd, and that in particular one Vessel was between two & three Leagues a head of the rest, – Saith he this deponent made Sail Immediately after her until Sun Sett, but could not come up with her, although this deponent was then two Leagues a head of the rest of the Fleet, upon which this deponent fired two Guns to bring said Vessell too which she paid no regard to. Saith he this deponent then lay too until the fleet came up, and that the next Morning being the 23d June at 3 AM; he came up with the Ship he had been in Chase of, the preceeding Evening, and advised her Master to keep in the fleet, and told him the orders this deponent had received from the Commander of His Majestys Ship the *Antelope*,

Saith he this deponent received for Answer from said Ship “Do not you see my Poop Lanthorn, I am my own Commander” This deponent Saith the next day another Vessell who wore a Short Red Pendant kept out of the Fleet, and upon being hail'd & order'd into the fleet by this deponent; answer was made “that the Ship Steer'd so very bad, he was afraid to keep in the fleet for fear of running foul of some of them” This Deponent Saith that Captain Judd constantly hoisted Signals & fired Signal Guns from the *Antelope* according to the Instructions he had given the Fleet, to keep them together, & Saith that many of them did not Obey such Signals & Signal Guns – Saith that some more Ships from the North side of Jamaica joined the said Fleet at Cape St Antonio, which made the whole to consist of about fifty Sail, — Saith that near the Havannah the fleet Straggled at a great distance in the Mornings, but were brought too in the Evening by Captain Judd, in the best manner he could, Saith that notwithstanding Captain Judds unwearied endeavours to keep the Fleet together, some of them were so farr a head between the Havannah & the pan of Matanzas, as to be scarce discern'd, And that between the pan of Matanzas and the Martiers part of the Fleet went out of Sight – Saith that to the best of this Deponents Knowledge and belief, the said Captain Judd did all he possibly could, to keep the said fleet in order, and in every other respect behaved as became the Commander of a Convoy but that it was out of the power of any one Single Ship to keep so large a fleet, with so many unruly Masters together This Deponent further Saith that Captain Judd continued with, & Convoy'd such of the Fleet as he was able to keep together until the Sixth day of July 1776, when this Deponent parted with in Latte 31 : 20 North and soon after lost Sight of him.

Signd Patrick Redmond

Sworn before Me
this 10th day of Decr 1776 }

(A Copy)

Clark Gayton

Philip Prideau

[Endorsed] In Vice Admiral Gayton's Letter 8th January 1777

11 Dec.

TRIAL AT HALIFAX OF THE RECAPTURED SHIP *Betsey*¹

Cause

Nova Scotia Court } George Dawson Esqr Commander of his Majesty's Arm'd
of Vice Admiralty } Brig the *Hope*. vs. the Ship *Betsey* & Cargo a Recapture.

November 21st } Libel filed and entered. Order made thereon as on file.
1776. } Registers Office November 25th 1776. William
Dowdall late Seaman on board the Ship *Betsey* Thomas
Jarrold late Master Bound from the Isle of White [*sic*] to
this Port of Halifax being duly Sworne Deposeeth, that
on or about the 2 Day of November Instant they fell in
with & was taken about 40 Leagues to the Eastward of the
Grand Bank of Newfoundland, by a Brigantine called the
Washington Commanded by one Elias Smith mounting
Twelve Carriage Guns, and a number of Swivels,² that when
they were taken, the Rebels put about Eleven hands out of
the Privateer on Board the Ship *Betsey*, and took the Master
Thos Jarrold, & five Hands out & then Shaped their course
for Cape Anne. That Sunday morning the 17th Inst the Ship
Betsey fell in with Capt Dawson Commander of his Majesty's
Brig the *Hope*, who retook the Ship *Betsey* & brought her
into this port of Halifax. Signd

his
William X Dowdall
mark

William Green of Lawful Age, late belonging to the Ship
Betsey Thomas Jarrold late Master, being duly Sworne and
Confirms the whole of the above Deposition.

(Sign'd) William Green

27 November } Court opened by making Proclamation as usual. The Libel
1776. } and Order thereon read, the Depositions taken before the
Register also read. Papers fr[om] No 1 to 4. Filed by the
Advoc[ate] Genl as on file. William Nesbitt Esqr Appeared
in the behalf of the Honble John Butler Esqr and Claim'd
the Cargo of the Ship *Betsey* in behalf of the Contractors and
all Concern'd in the Cargo of said Ship which was read and
admitted as on file. — The appraisers appointed to Estimate
the Ship *Betsey* & Cargo reported to the Court they could
not make a true and Just Appraisement of the Cargo untill
it was unloaded, as they had no Invoice to Govern themselves
by, and the Bottom of the Cargo might be Damaged, and
Desired they might have further time allowed to make their
report to the Court; The Court having taken the same into
Consideration allowed, & Order'd that the said Appraisers be

Allowed a further time to make their report to the Court of the Valuation of said Ship and Cargo, And that they do make such report as soon as Conveniently may be. And then adjourned to Wednesday 4th Day of Decr: next.

Wednesday 4th } Court adjourn'd by notice to Wednesday Eleventh December
Decr. 1776 } Ins[tan]t:
11th Decr/ 76 } Court opened by making Proclamation as usual, William Nesbitt Esq mov'd for a Decree in this Cause, Decree pronounced as on file.
Court adjourn'd without Day in this Cause.

Fees of Court & Incident Charges in the Cause Geo. Dawson Esqr. Comr of the Brig *Hope*, vs. the Ship *Betsey* & Cargo.

Fees to the Judge on Cond[emnation] to pay the 8th to the Captors.

£15 S[terlin]g	£16 . 13 . . 4
Warrant of Appraisement	1 . . 1 . . —
3 Appraisers of the Cargo a 25/. ea[ch].	5 . . 5 . . —
3 Do of the Ship a 23/4. ea.	3 . 10 . . —
Costs on the claim of the Ship	1 . 15 . . —
Do on Do of the Cargo	1 . 15 . . —
Seamens Wages	50 . . 7 . . 2
Settling & Adjusting Accts do Court dues	1 . . 5 . . —
2 Copies of the Case a 56/8. ea.	5 . 13 . . 4
	<hr/> £87 . . 4 . 10

1. N.S. Arch., vol. 495, Vice Admiralty Records, Register of Letters of Agency, book 5, 1769–1777.
2. A Massachusetts privateer commissioned October 3, 1776. Another of the *Washington's* prizes, the snow *Friendship*, was taken and tried at Halifax on December 14, N.S. Arch., vol. 495, Vice Admiralty Records, Register of Letters of Agency, book 5, 1769–1777.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Lizard*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

Decembr 1776 Cape Negro NbE 5 or 6 Leagues
Wednesday 11th First part mode & cloudy mid & latr Do Weathr saw a sail ahead gave Chase fired a 3 poundr and brought the Chase too lay too hoisted the Cutter out & sent an Officer on board of her She proved to be a Prize sent the Acting Lieut on board of her to take charge of her with 6 hands ² hoisted the Cutter in close reef the topsails made Sail.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/550.

2. Brig *Hope* taken October 30, 1776 by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO ALL COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE, INSPECTION AND SAFETY ¹

Council Chamber [Boston] Decr 11. 1776

Ordered — That the Committe of Correspondence &c of the said Towns of Plymouth, Salem & Dartmouth, and of any other towns within this State, forthwith apprehend all Masters, Marriners & Seamen taken on the High Seas who have

not entered into the Service of this or some of the United States, and are resident in their several Towns, and cause them Safely to be confined in some of the Public Goals in their several Counties, or in some other safe and secure place, and make return of the Names of all such Persons as they shall confine as aforesaid, and the place of their Confinement together with the Names of the Vessels in which they were respectively taken, as well as the Names of the Vessels by which they were taken, and the Names of the Commander or Masters thereof that the Board may take further Order thereon –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 41.

DIARY OF BENJAMIN MARSTON ¹

[Plymouth, December] 11 Rhode Island is now in possession of the Kings Troops – Admiral Hopkins & his fleet are block'ed up in Providence – Nashon Islands have been plundered & the Buildings burned – The Militia are ordered to march to Bristoll – about 150 men go from this Town – General W[ashington] assures us that we Shall have a large fleet & a grand Army from France very early next Spring & That G. Brittain (as it is called) is quite impoverished by the American War & that she cannot possibly hold it above six months longer – & then the day will be all our own

1. Marston Diary, UNBL.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO LORD SANDWICH ¹

Chatham, Rhode Island Harbour, 11th December 1776.

My Lord – I have done myself the honour since I sailed from Spithead of writing several letters to your Lordship, which I presume have been received. I should be sorry to be thought troublesome; but as your Lordship, from your knowledge of sea affairs and of the nature of conjunct expeditions, must be sensible how necessary the most perfect harmony is on such occasions, it may not be unsatisfactory to inform your Lordship that immediately on my appointment to this command I waited on General Clinton and Lord Percy, who did me the honour to accept of the *Chatham* for their headquarters. We set out in good humour and friendship, so we have continued, and so we are likely to continue. The season advances upon us so fast that I cannot give your Lordship any hopes of Providence falling into our hands before the spring; and I believe I must be contented with using the best means in my power to block up the Continental fleet as they term it. Their Admiral Hopkins is now with them. The *Alfred* is the only ship (I am told) at sea from this port; and should she appear off, we have Continental colours, which the general will hoist at the fort with a view to decoy her in, and I shall have a frigate ready to slip after her.

I cannot help esteeming your Lordship as a very particular friend to whom I owe the greatest obligation. I must therefore my Lord do my best, were it only for your credit, being, my Lord [etc.]

P. Parker

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 168–69.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Chatham Rhode Island Harbour 11th Decbr 1776

The Commanders in Chief in America having thought proper, while the Season wou'd Admit of it, to Employ a considerable Number of His Majesty's Ships and Troops, for the purpose of making Descents on the Colony of Rhode Island, and Lord Howe having done me the Honor to appoint me, to the Command by Sea (Lord Shuldhham having leave to return to England by the most early Conveyance) I directed Commodore Hotham (agreeable to my Instructions from the Vice Admiral) to proceed with His Majesty's Frigates the *Brune*, *Mercury* and *Kingfisher*, and also all the Transports with the Troops under the Command of Lieutenant General Clinton, (the *Grand Duke of Russia* excepted, which was judged to be too Large) by the Way of the Sound, whilst I proceeded with the great Ships, some Frigates, and the last named Transport, by Sandy-Hook to the Southward of Long-Island – I sailed the first instant, and on the Fifth, joined Commodore Hotham in the Sound, in Black-Point Bay, a Place He had judiciously Chosen, for the Protection of the Transports against the Violence of a strong NW Wind, which Blew the Night before – The Sixth I turned down with the Fleet, to be as near as possible to the Place of Our Destination. At Four the next Morning the Wind sprung up at WSW and by Three O'Clock in the Afternoon, the whole Fleet came to an Anchor off Weavers Cove Rhode-Island – The following Morning Captain [Toby] Caulfield (who had the Direction of the Flat-Boats) Landed all the Troops without Opposition, and I have the Pleasure to inform Their Lordships, that Rhode Island, with the Isles adjacent are now in the Possession of General Clinton. Captain Wallace of the *Experiment* Lead the Fleet by the West or Narriganset Passage, an Arrangement was made for covering the Transports, but we only passed Two Works without Guns, and intercepted a Brig of One Hundred and Sixty Tons, (which the *Experiment* took) Laden with Pipe, and Hogs-head Staves, and Bees-Wax – On the first Appearance of the Fleet, Three Rebel Privateers of Thirty Four, Thirty, and Twenty Eight Guns, went up from Newport to Providence, where They are now with several Others, and I shall Hope to put an effectual Stop to any farther Mischief from that Nest of Pirates – General Clinton sends One of His Aid-De-Camps in the *Mercury* with His Dispatches, and I have directed Captain Montagu to send His Lieutenant Express with mine. Enclosed is List of His Majesty's Squadron under my Command, and a List of the Rebel Privateers at Providence, commonly called the continental Fleet. I am [&c.]

P: Parker

[Endorsed] 11 Decr 1776 Rhode Island Comdre Sr Petr Parker R 22d Janry 1777 by Lt Logie (2 Inclosures) Ansd 4 Mar 1777

[Enclosures]

A List of His Majesty's Ships under the Command of the Commodore
Sir Peter Parker, and where Stationed.

Ships	Commanders	No		Where Stationed
		Guns	Men	
<i>Chatham</i>	{ Commdre Sr. P. Parker Capt Toby Caulfeild }	50	367	Off Newport, guarding the Main Passage
<i>Preston</i>	{ Commodore Hotham Capt Saml Uppleby }	50	367	Do Station
<i>Renown</i>	" Fras Banks	50	350	{ In the West, or Narhighanset Passage between the North Ferry & Dutch Island
<i>Sphinx</i>	" Anthy Hunt	20	160	
<i>Centurion</i>	" Rd Brathwaite	50	350	To the Northward of Hope Island
<i>Asia</i>	" Geo. Vandeput	64	500	Between Dyres Island & halfway Rock
<i>Experiment</i>	" James Wallace	50	320	To the Northward of Dyres Island
<i>Emerald</i>	" Ben. Caldwell	32	220	Off Bristol Ferry
<i>Brune</i>	" Jas Ferguson	32	220	{ In the East, or Seakennet Passage
<i>Cerberus</i>	" John Symons	28	200	
<i>Carysfort</i>	" Robt Fanshawe	28	200	{ Off Fishers Island in the Sound to prevent Vessels from coming out of New London & to protect Trans- ports &c
<i>Diamond</i>	" Chas Fielding	32	220	{ Cruising under Lord Howes Orders not yet joined Company
<i>Ambuscade</i>	" Jno Macartney	32	220	
<i>Kingsfisher</i>	" Alex Graeme	14	125	Gone Express to Lord Howe at New York
<i>Mercury</i>	" Jas Montagu	20	160	Gone Express to England

Chatham Rhode Island the 11th day of Decemr 1776

P: Parker

A List of Rebel Ships & Privateers at Providence Commonly call'd the
Continental Fleet.

Ships	Commanders	No of Guns
<i>Warren</i>	{ — Hopkins Jno Hopkins }	32
<i>Columbus</i>	— Olney	30
<i>Providence</i>	Abrm Whipple	28
<i>Blaze Castle</i>	— Monro	22
<i>Ship Jane</i>	Wm Cox (Privateer)	20 6 pounders
<i>A Brig</i>	—	12
<i>Sloop Providence</i>	Hoysted Hacker.	12

Chatham Rhode Island the 11th day of Decr 1776

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Rhode Island] 11th Decr

The frost being very severe, the three brigades which are encamped, were this day ordered to go into Cantonments in the farm houses, but the order being received too late to admit of making the necessary regulations, the movement was deferred until toMorrow.

The *Chatham*, *Preston*, and some other ships of War, went down to Newport this morning, and anchored off the town.

Capt [Duncan] Drummond, aide de Camp to Genl Clinton is going to England in a day or two, in the *Mercury* Frigate, with the General's dispatches.

1. *Mackenzie's Dairy*, I, 125.

DEPOSITION OF SYLVANUS WATERMAN, MASTER OF THE SCHOONER *Frank*¹

State of Connecticut

Hartford County ss --

Personally came and appeared this eleventh Day of December in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and seventy six; before me Titus Hosmer Esqr Justice of the Peace in and for said County Silvanus Waterman of Chatham in said County Mariner, and being duly and solemnly sworn upon his Oath deposes and saith that in the Month of March 1775 he said Deponent was appointed by Richard Alsop Esqr late of Middletown in said County deceased Master of his Schooner Called the *Dolphin* of the Burthen of about sixty five Tons then bound on a Voyage from the port of New London in Connecticut to Montego Bay in the Island of Jamaica in the West Indies, & this Deponent further says that before he sailed he received the said Alsops Orders in writing for his Government in said Voyage wh were to proceed directly with sd schooner from New London to Montego Bay aforesaid and there to dispose of & sell the Cargo and to purchase and relade said schooner with a Cargo of the produce of sd Island and then return with sd schooner directly to New London and Middletown aforesd That on the last day of March aforesd this Deponent sailed with said schooner from New London and on the 27th day of April then next following arrived at Montego Bay aforesaid & proceeded in selling his Cargo and purchasing produce of sd Island -- that while he lay at Montego Bay he recd Advice of the Battles of Lexington & Bunkers Hill, which alarmed him with Apprehensions that he might be taken & made a prize of by the British Cruisers upon his return to prevent which he ventured without Orders from his said Owner & with Intent only to save sd schooner & Cargo from Condemnation as American property to make a Bill of Sale of sd schooner to Francis Mariez Merchant there, without any Consideration received, and at the same time took a writing under sd Mariez Hand obliging him to restore said Bill of Sale when demanded, that there upon this Deponent changed the Name of sd schooner to the *Frank* took out a new register, cleared her out for Newfoundland and on the 3d day of August sailed with Intent to proceed directly to New London aforesaid agreeable to his owners Orders as aforesaid, and pursued the rout to New London till he arrived in the sound within Long Island and within seven Leagues of New London when he discovered an Armed Ship lying at Anchor which he judged to be a British Sloop of War, who as soon as she discovered said schooner came under Sail & stood for her upon which this Deponent bore away, and the weather coming on very thick by changing his Course he got clear of sd sloop, and immediately afterwards the wind came about an[d] blew fresh from the West which made it impossible for him to gain his port with Safety, and as he did not know what Cruisers might be on the Coast, he thought it most prudent to

bear away for Newfoundland which he accordingly did and arrived there the fourth day of October, from thence he cleared out for Jamaica with Intent to proceed to the Mole and return from thence to New London when he arrived off the Mole he was chased by two British Frigates to Leward & was obliged to go to Jamaica, from Jamaica he cleared again for Newfoundland, but was obliged to procure bond to deliver his enumerated Articles at Newfoundland or some other place in the possession of the King of Great Britain Which obliged him to save his Bondsman to proceed to Newfoundland, which he accordingly did, & there took in a Cargo of Fish and Oil & cleared for Jamaica, with full Intent to proceed to St Nichola Mole in Hispaniola, & from thence return to sd New London that in his passage towards the Mole on the 29th Day of October last he fell in with and was taken by the privateer *Montgomery* commanded by Capt Thos Ruttenbur [*sic* Ruttenber] and carried into providence in the State of Rhode Island – and this Deponent further saith that he hath constantly endeavoured in every Method he thought safe and practicable to comply with his Original Orders & return with sd schooner to New London & Middletown aforesd agreeable to his Orders – this Deponent further says that while he lay in Jamaica in August 1775 he received a Letter from Richard Alsop Esqr his owner in which he positively ordered him to return home with said schooner immediately which Letter with his Orders and every other paper tending to evince the property of sd schooner to be in Sd Alsop this Deponent destroy when he was chased by sd sloop of War off New London as aforesaid, and this Deponent further declares that he never did take on board sd schooner any thing that could be of service to the Army acting against the united states of America, or afford them or any Servant of the King of great Britain any aid or Assistance of any Kind whatsoever, but confined him self in all his Conduct to the sole point of getting Home as fast as he could, & was particularly carefull not to do or say any thing injurious to his native Country, and further this Deponent saith Not.

Sylvanus Waterman

Sworn the Day and Year
above written for me

Titus Hosmer Justs Pac.

[Endorsed] The foregoing Deposition was taken at the request of Mrs Mary Alsop Administratrix on the Goods and Estate of Richard Alsop Esq late of Middletown Merchant deceased to be used before a Court for the Trial of Civil & Maritime Causes to be held at providence in the state of Rhode Island and providence plantation on the 16th day of December Instant on the Trial of the schooner *Frank* & her Cargo upon the Libel of Thomas Ruttenbur & others, the Deponent Silvanus Waterman being Sick and unable to attend sd Court & the place of Trial being ninety Miles distant from Chatham the place of Caption Certified by me

Titus Hosmer Justs Pac.²

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

2. See trial of the *Frank*, December 31, 1776.

JOHN DESHON'S BILL AGAINST THE BRITISH PRIZE SHIP *Sally*¹

1776	The Prize Ship <i>Salley</i> : To John Deshon	Dr
Decr 11	To wharfage from the 13th Octo to the 11th Decem	} £6..0..0
	1776 is 60 days a 2/ -	
	To use of my Store for her Riging Sailes and Sundry	} 3..0..0
	other Articles as p Vendue List. Sold Decr 11th 1776 -	
	To use my Wharfe, Landing Ballast Guns, Water	} 1..0..0
	Cask, Anchors &c &c &c	
		£10..0..0

Charges in Accot to Nathl Shaw Jun

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, YUL. *Sally* was taken by the Connecticut privateer *American Revenue*.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE¹

[New York] Wednesday, 11th. [December]

The *Tartar & Phoenix* came down the North River this Morning; and several Transports, with Troops on board, sailed for Amboy, to reinforce the Army . . . The *Repulse*, *Nautilus*, & *Galatea* went to Sea.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 157.

SAMUEL CHASE TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON¹

Sir

Philada Decr 11th Wednesday [Morn 1776]

It has been reported that You was coming up to this City with a Body of Seamen and Marines. one of the frigates is ready for the Sea, the other three may be soon ready for a short Voyage, if Men & Guns [could] be procured. You would render essential Service, if You could immediately come up with a Body of Seamen and an attempt might be made to bring round all the frigates here to Baltimore Town. - It cannot be doubted the Council of Safety would lend the Hands belonging to the [*Defenc*]e for this very important Service. You wil[l] send an Express to the Council of Safety. not one Moment is to be lost. I write this by the order of Congress.

We were informed yesday Morning that the Enemy were at Burlington Monday [evening]. We have certain Intelligence just now, that the Enemy were not there last Night. it is reported & beleived, that some of their light Horse were seven Miles above that place, on Monday. not one of the Enemy are on the west Side of the Delaware. It is beleived the main Body of general Howes Army is at Maidenhead, about six Miles [above] to the East of Trenton. General Lee with between 5 & 6000 Men was at Morriss Town last Sunday Evening. he will join General Washington, who is with his Army opposite Trenton. The Congress will not quit this City but in the last Extremity, to prevent false Reports, publish the above -

Inform Mr Purviance, that Mr Hancock will sett off this Day. -

Let it be known, that Arms [are] furnished to our Militia. let the want of them be no Excuse — Your [&c.]

Captain James Nicholson
Baltimore Town Maryland.

Sam^l Chase

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] Decr 11th 1776

. . . further accots of the rapid progress of Gen Howe. our Congress leaves this City for Baltimore, the Militia going out fast for Trentown, Streets full of waggons going out with goods.

1. HSP.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

To the Honorable the Committy of Safety of the City of Philadelphia.
Gentlemen,

This day Davis Bevan & Benj. Canby, were both landed on our Beach by a Flag from the *Rhoabuck* Man of War, Capt. Hamon [Andrew Snape Hamond] Comander, with whose Officers I had a converence, who have related to me that there is now on board, Thirty-eight Prisoners, who they have brought here for Exchange, agreeable to sund'e Letters from our two Commanding opponents. These two above mentioned, are both on parole, one of which (Davis Bevan) I refer you for further Particulars, by whom you may be acquainted with the sufferings of many of our Brethern, who at this time labour under Distresses worthy of your immediate attention for their relief; Therefore I beg you may, as you will be acquainted by Mr. Bevan, represent the matter to Congress, that they may take the same into consideration for their Discharge. We are at this time on our guard, that no boats shall Land without a Flag, the consequence of which you may depend of being acquainted w'h immediately; the two Capes and to the Southward are Lin'd w'h Men of War, and I am of oppinion will be till the weather will not allow them on our Coast. I am, Gentlemen, with offers of Service, [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

[Lewes] December 11th, 1776

N.B.—As the Council of Safety were now setting at Dover and I being at this time the only Commanding Officer here, refer all the above to your Notice. H.F.

Directed. To the Honble the Council of Safety of the City of Philadelphia.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 100-01.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO HIS FLEET CAPTAINS ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esquire
&ca &ca

In case of separation in chace (which is always to be avoided as much as possible, witht permission first obtained, or upon extraordinary occasions) the Ships

are to be made known on their return in sight of the Fleet by the following daily signals, in preference to the distinguishing Signal delivered, when it can be done with equal convenience and effect Vizt

Sunday	{ White Jack.....	Maintopmthead
	{ Pendant.....	Mizen Peek
Monday	{ White Jack.....	Mizentopmthead
	{ Pendant.....	Foretopmast-head
Tuesday	{ English Jack.....	Foretopmast-head
	{ Pendant.....	Mizen topmast-head
Wednesday	{ Red Ensign.....	Maintopmast-head
	{ Pendant.....	Foretopmast-head
Thursday	{ English Jack.....	Mizentopmast-head
	{ Pendant.....	Mizen Peek
Friday	{ Red Ensign.....	Foretopmast-head
	{ Pendant.....	Mizentopmthead
Saturday	{ English Jack.....	Maintopmasthead
	{ Pendant.....	Mizentopmthead

Given under my hand on board
His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* at
Sea the 11th Decemr 1776

To

The Respective Captains

A S Hamond

of His Majs Ships the *Pearl Perseus Camilla Falcon* –

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776–1778, UVL.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Sirs

Baltimore Decmbr 11 – 1776

I Sent you a Parsell of Naills By Mr Speer [William Spear] and have Bought a Parsell of the Rum that Was On Bord the Skooner, a Bout £ 500 Worth and as Soon as any of the Vesells is to be Sold I Will Purchas the Skooner or the Brig Or Both,² I Would Purchasd the Snow But the Best Guges thought her to Old,³ the Prise Ship that Come yesterday is a Verry fine One for the Old france Trade –⁴ Capt [John] Martin Will Sail To Morow Without fail hands is So Scarce it is allmost imposable to Get them, I have Beef anuf Salted, I Sopose for Sum time – I am Picking up all the Pork I Can for the *Defence* Butter and Chees is Very high I think Capt Martin and hand[s] Will Expend in Wages and Repairs 200 Pounds Pleas Send Mee 1500 Or 2000 Pounds, Mon[e]y is Paid away Surprisingly But I Cant Doe With Les – from [&c.]

JeSse Hollingsworth

Mr Speer Mr Smith Mr [William] Turnbull or Capt Cook Will Bee Good hands to Send Mo[ney] By Send It Soon as I am Out –

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

2. Schooner *Nancy* and brig *Brothers*.

3. Snow *Georgia*.

4. Ship *Lydia*, taken by the Maryland privateer schooner *Harlequin*, Captain James Handy.

Maryland Journal, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1776

Baltimore [December 11].

Yesterday arrived here the ship *Lydia*, lately commanded by Capt. [Thomas] Dean, bound from Jamaica to London, taken by the *Harlequin* privateer, belonging to this port. Her cargo consists of 168 hhds of sugar, 30 tierces of ditto, 230 hides, 7 barrels of turtle shell, 9 mahogany planks, 12 bags of cotton, 3 hhds. 1 tierce, and 25 bags of pimento, and several casks of indigo; estimated to be worth upwards of 20,000 l.¹

Baltimore, Dec. 10, 1776.

By virtue of a decree of the hon. court of admiralty of this State, will be sold, at Public Vendue, for ready money, on Monday the 16th day of December instant, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of Capt. Thomas Elliott, Fell's point, The sloop *Daniel*, with her materials, plantation built, about four years old, burthen fifty tons, well found and fitted. An inventory of her materials, &c. may be seen at the subscriber's – Same day will be sold some swivels, muskets, bayonets, &c &c – Also three casks of indigo and two barrels of coffee, the cargo on board said sloop.

David Stewart, Marshall.

N.B. To-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at Isaac Griest's wharf on Fell's point, will begin the sale of the mahogany and logwood, belonging to the snow *Georgia's* cargo.²

1. *Lydia* was libeled against on this date for trial on December 31, Admiralty Court Papers, 1775–1781, Box 1, Folder 3, Md. Arch.
2. Prizes of Captain George Cook in the Maryland state ship *Defence*.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday December 11th 1776

On a Recommendation from the Navy Board It is Ordered that a Commission issue to John Crew Gentleman appointing him first Lieutenant on board the Sloop *Defiance* Captain [William] Green

Ordered that the Navy Board be requested to Charter the Brig purchased of Captain Thomas to Mr Germain for a Voyage to the Island of Saint Domingo and that the Termes of the said Charter be as low as the Interest of the Commonwealth can possibly admit of

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 275, 276.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

Halifax, Wednesday, December 11th, 1776

Resolved that Joseph Leech, David Barron & Richard Ellis, be Commissioners to Load and Send out the *Pensylvania Farmer* reducing (until her return from said Voyage) the Number of Carriage Guns of said Vessel to eight, and the Number of Men to Forty, for the purpose of Purchasing Salt, Arms & Amunition, and also for importing Ten pieces of Cannon from Eighteen to Thirty two pounders, for the use and defence of this State.

1. Secretary of State Papers, Provincial Conventions and Congresses, 1774–1776, October–December, 1776, NCDAH.

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

Remarks on Wednesday 11 Decemr 1776

- 1 [A. M.] Pleasant weather
 8 [A. M.] Squally & rain this day my people came to me & demanded to go home told me that there time was almost out. I answerd we had not Provision to go home then
 12 [M.] Ends pleasant weather
 Lattd in 16^d40^m Longd in 48^d10^m
 1 [P. M.] Added one quarter pound Beef to the peoples allowance they complain'd they could not live on their allowance
 9 [P. M.] Fresh breeze and fair weather
 1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

12 Dec.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. S. *Milford* ¹

- Decr 1776 Cape N[e]gro No. 55d W Dist 41 Leags
 Wednes 11th At 7 AM Saw a Sail in the No W. Quarter made Sail & gave Chase Do Tack't Ship out Reef Tp Sail At 8 Do up Tp Gallt Yards & Set Tp. Gallt Sails at Noon Still in Chase Fresh Breezes & Clear Wr Middle little wind & Clear latter fresh Breezes & hazey Still in Chase hoisted a french Jack at the Mizn Tp Mat head as the *Alfreds* Signal.²
 Thursday 12th At 2 AM brot too the Main Tp Sail to the Mast the Chase to Windward bearing down to us up Hammocks & Barracaded the Ship for Action Do She proved to be his Majestys Ship *Unicorn* at 3 made Sail to the westwd in Compy with the above Ship . . . At 7 Do parted Compy with the above Ship she being bound to Halifax

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. The Continental ship *Alfred's* signals apparently became known when the *Milford* recaptured the *John*, a prize of the *Alfred*.INVOICE OF THE CARGO OF *Betsey Frigate* ¹

Invoice of Cargo Ship'd by John Langdon on board the *Betsy Frigate*, Thomas Palmer Master, bound for Bordeaux, and goes consigned to Mr Thomas Morris (now Residing in France,) or in his absence to Messrs Samuel & J. H. Delap Merchants there on Accot and Risque of the United States of America for Sale & Returns —

Vizt

90 peices Mahogany		
No 1 @90 qty 24,573 feet @ 3d		307..3..3
20 White pine Masts (vizt)		160..6..—
4 Bowsprits (vizt) ²		36..5..—
17,057 feet (as 2 Inch) White Oak		
Plank	150/ 127, 18..6½	
846 feet ditto Yellow & bl'k		
ditto	120/ 5..1..6	

638 feet white Oak Boards	60/	1.18..3½	
7,298 feet 2 Ins white pine Plank	84/	30.13..0½	
24,111 feet ditto Boards & Pl'k in } Board measure	36/	43..8	
			208.19..4½
Amot Carrd Over			£712.13..7½
Amot of Invoice Brought Over			£712.13..7½
1,500 & 17 Cast White Oak Hh'd			
Staves @	80/	6..3..5	
8,300 & 23 Ditto Do } includg Charges }	100/	41.15..9	
5,000 Ditto barrel Do	50/	12.10..-	
11,100 Ditto Carolina Ditto	54/	29.19..5	
12,500 & 19 Red Oak Hh'd Do	40/	25..1.11	
11 Spruce Spars qt 117 Inches	3/	17.11..-	
4 barrels Pot Ash (vizt) ³	£33	17.19..9	
			863.14.10½
Charges Vizt			
paid Transporting Masts & Bowsprits			
fm Berwk	5/	6..-..-	
paid Ditto O'k Plank, pine Do & Boards		17..1..6	
paid Surveying Ditto		2.17..6	
paid Transporting Wt & Red O'k Staves		6..-..-	
paid Surveying Ditto		3..3..-	
paid Moses Noble & others for Hewing Masts } as P bill }		41..4..3	
paid Stevadore & Labourers Loading &c		54.10..3	
paid for 35¼ days Gondola hire	3/	5..5..9	
paid for 13 days Ditto	4/	2.12..-	
36 Galls Rum expended 8/ 36 lb. Sugar 7d		15..9..-	
paid George Libbey inspecting Loading &c		18.18..-	
paid Capt Palmer for Horse hire & Expens } purchasing Lumber }		3.18..-	
			176.19..3
			1040.14..1½
Commission on £1040. 14..1½ @ 5 P			
Cent			52..0..8½
			£1092.14.10

Portsmouth New Hamp December 12th 1776

Errors Excepted John Langdon

1. John Langdon Papers, Bills & Invoices, 1773-1785, NHHS.
2. Mast and bowsprit lengths are itemized.
3. The weight of each barrel is itemized.

PETITION OF ALBERT SALLERON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

State of Massachusetts Bay

To the Honbl the Council and House of Representatives, of the State aforesaid,

The Petition of Albert Salleron, an Inhabitant of the Island of Martinico, Humbly Sheweth, that in September Last he Arrived here with Sundry, usefull Articles, for Sale, Viz: 2700 lb Gun Powder, Some fire Arms, & Dry Goods which he has Disposed of, and with the Neat proceeds, thereof has purchased, a Brigantine Called the *three adventurers* and a Cargo of Lumber, with which he was about Sailing for Martinico, Intirely On Account and Risque of himself and his two Friends, there, Viz Messrs. Dismass & Begon, When the Embargo, took place, Your Petitioner therefore, Prays, for your Honrs. Licence to Depart this Port, with his said Vessel and Cargo, for the said Island of Martinico, the Embargo Notwithstanding, As the Detention of his Vessel here, for any Considerable Length of time, must be greatly to the Damage of himself and the Other Owners, – And As in Duty Bound Shall Ever Pray,

Albert Salleron

Newburyport Decemr 12th 1776

[Endorsed] In Council Dec. 17, 1776 Read & Ordered that the Prayer of the Petition be granted and that the Petitioner have and he hereby has Liberty to proceed to Martinico with his Said Vessel and Cargo the Embargo Notwithstanding –

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 90.

DIARY OF BENJAMIN MARSTON ¹

[Plymouth] Thursday Decr 12 – Thanks-giving to Day – I went to Rocky Nook & dined with my Brother John Watson Cap. Archdeacon wth me –

I have promised Capt Atkins That if he can get fairly & honorably discharged from the employ he is now engag'd in, & will wait to see if I can recover the *Earl Percy* That I will keep him in pay so long as two months – if it should be necessary to wait so long at five pounds Ster: p mo & will likewise allow him $\frac{1}{2}$ the Commissions wch I shall at any time hereafter recieve upon Messrs Ervin & Prince's parts of the Cargo wch is $\frac{2}{3}$. – if he will again go with me –

Privateers out of Plymouth

a Schooner	Cap Hatch	} private ²
a Sloop	Cap Nicholson	
a Brigg	Cap Clouston	belongs to the State
a Brigg	Cap Sampson	belongs to the State

1. Marston Diary, UNBL.

2. The Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hope*, Captain Walter Hatch, and sloop *America*, Captain Thomas Nicholson.

CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R. N., TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Copy.

Ambuscade in Rhode Island Harbour

Sir

12th December 1776.

Captain Feilding [Charles Fielding] onboard His Majesty's Frigate the

Diamond, with His Majesty's Frigate the *Ambuscade* under my Command, being at Anchor in Martha's Vineyard Sound, lying there to intercept the Rebel Privateers from getting out from Rhode Island; On Saturday 7th Instant Captain Feilding, the Senior Officer, sent his Barge onshore to Nashawn Island with a Flag of Truce, intending to purchase fresh Stock for his people; but to our very great Surprise about 10 or 12 of the Rebels, against the Laws of God and Man, fired at the Boat, and shot the Gunner through the Head, but did not kill him. Captain Feilding very justly enraged at this, ordered me to send all the Boats manned and armed, with the whole party of Marines, which was immediately complied with, under the Command of Lieut Patrick Sinclair, 2d Lieutenant of the Ship, Lieutenants Anderson and Gregg of the Marines, who all repaired onboard the *Diamond* which weighed and stood close in-Shore; and after firing some of her great Guns to scour the Beach, sent her own and *Ambuscade's* Men onshore to the Number of between 130 and 140; who after making their Landing good amidst a very galling, straggling Firing from behind Rocks, Walls &c drove all the Rebels, now grown pretty numerous, from off the Island into some small Vessels on the other Side with the loss of 4 or 5 of their Men killed. Their villainous Conduct in firing at a Flag of Truce entitled them now to all the Horrors of Rebellion, which was immediately put into Execution, by setting Fire to every thing that would burn; so that neither House, Barn, Hay nor Indian Corn that could be met with escaped the Flames, nor did the live-Stock share a better Fate: for what could not be carried off was shot. All this was done in a few Hours, with only the Loss of one Marine killed belonging to the *Diamond* and two Marines slightly wounded belonging to the *Ambuscade*. Our Success, Sir, will shew the Conduct and Courage of the Officers and Men upon such occasions; and I flatter myself that this Affair, Sir, will meet with your Approbation, which will always give great pleasure to, Sir [&c.]

John Macartney.

NB. I parted from the *Diamond*, Captain Feilding on Monday the 9th Instant in a very hard Gale of Wind from the NW off Gay Head; She not being able to weather it, stood towards the Sea under her Courses

Commodore Sir Peter Parker Commander in Chief
of His Majestys Ships &c at Rhode Island.

[Endorsed] No 5 in Lord Howe's Lre of the 18 Decr 1776.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

Copy

Chatham, Rhode Island Harbour,

My Lord

12th December 1776

I have great pleasure in acquainting your Lordship, that I am now in this port with all the Transports &c, and such Ships of the Squadron as I chose to bring in with me. I have, at the Instance of General Clinton, (who thinks the Success We have had of so great Importance, that it ought to be communicated as soon as possible to Administration, and in which Sentiments I concur) sent the *Mercury* to England with General Clinton's Dispatches and mine. I have the

Honor to transmit to your Lordship, a Copy of my Letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, a List of the Rebel Privateers at Providence, the State and Condition of this Squadron, and where each Ship is stationed; And also an Account of the Brig taken by the *Experiment*. The 2d Instant I fell in with the *Carysfort* off Block Island, and the 4th gave Orders to Captain Fanshawe [Robert Fanshaw] to cruise for one Month off Fisher's Island, for the purpose of blocking up New London, and protecting the Transports &ca, and then to govern himself by Orders which he has received from your Lordship. The 3d Instant at three o'Clock in the Morning, Block Island NW four Leagues, the *Cerberus* spoke with the *Diamond* and *Ambuscade*. The latter came in here Yesterday Evening, and informs me, that two Days ago the *Diamond* was forced to Sea by a NW wind, not being able to weather Gay-Head; The enclosed Letter from Captain Macartney will give your Lordship an Account of a Skirmish at Nashown Island between the *Diamond's* and *Ambuscade's* people and the Inhabitants. The 6th at nine in the Morning a Cartel-Sloop named the *Diamond* came into the Fleet. An Adjutant [Benjamin] Stelle brought a Letter from Mr Nicholas Cooke to Captain Furneaux, which, with the List of Prisoners, that he says sailed from Rhode Island in her; a Letter from Adjutant Stelle to me, and a Copy of One from Captain Furneaux to Mr Cooke, I now transmit to your Lordship. The Adjutant only delivered six Men; the rest, he says, landed on Long-Island, to avoid being pressed by the King's Ships. The Sloop had been out above three Weeks, and I am credibly informed that Mr Stelles gave Intelligence of us, two or three different times; I shall therefore detain him for his unwarrantable Behavior, 'till I hear from your Lordship.

In coming down the Sound, the *Asia* struck twice on a Rock off Fisher's Island, and makes twelve Inches Water an Hour. I have a Letter of Yesterday's Date from Captain Macartney, desiring a Court Martial on his Boatswain for Drunkenness and Neglect of Duty; which I shall order to be held as soon as possible. I have the Honor to be, My Lord [&c.]

P. Parker.

P.S. The *Mercury* sailed this Morning.

[Endorsed] No 4 In Lord Howe's Letter of the 18 Decr 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

CAPTAIN SETH HARDING TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sir

New London Dec 12th 1776

This Serves to Inform your Honr Mr Bartum [Samuel Bartram] ² Is a good Deale unwell and in my opinion Not Capable to go on this Cruse for which I am Verry Sorey for his Illness at the Same Time think he ought to be kept under pay for the good Servises he has Dun in time past Mr Bartum is a man of Curig and I Dare say wood be willing to proceed on a Cruse was it adviseable – I am Sir [&c.]

Seth Harding

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 85, ConnSL.

2. First Lieutenant of the Connecticut state brig *Defence*.

MICHAEL MELALLY'S BILL AGAINST THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT ¹

State of Connecticut	To Michl. Melally	Dr
[1776]		
Desember 12th		
For the Support of Sundry Officers belonging on Board Ship <i>Oliver Cromwell</i>	Viz -	
Bela Elderkin	for Victualling & Lodging 13 Weeks a 18/	£11. 14. .0
Sylvanus Pinkham	for do & do 18 Weeks	16. .4. .-
John Bailey	for do 18 do.	16. .4. .-
Doctr [A.] Waldo	do do 8 do	7. .4. .-
Christopher Prince	do do 14	12. 12. .-
Robert Newson	do do 8	7. .4. .-
Eleazer Welch	do do 2 sick	1. 16. .-
Jonathan Jennings	do do 2 Lame	1. 16. .-
Pall Long	do do 4	3. 12. .-
John Smith	do do 1	18. .-
Harry Kennedy	do do 2 do sick	1. 16. .-
Docter [Thomas] Gray	do do 10 do	9. .- .-
20 Meals eat by Sundry seamen wn gravng Ship a /10d		16. .8
Michl. Melally	15 Weeks	13. 10. .-
1 Sheet to make Bandages & Plaisters for	}	12. .-
Wm Garrick—the Man Wounded -		
To Cash pd Jams Avery's Bill for 9 Cord Warnut [sic] Wood for	}	7. 13. .-
Ship <i>O: Cromwell</i>		
		£112. 11. .8

Errors Excepted P Michael Melally

[Endorsed] The Above bill Examined & allowd

John Deshon
Ebenezr Ledyard } Comitte
Jos: Hurlbut }

NB Error in Carrying the [illegible] ad Bord Not Considering this Common Colony Expence

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 148, ConnSL.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO COLONEL ANTHONY WAYNE ¹

[Extract] Saratoga December 12th 1776

You will please to make me a Return of what Naval officers and Sailors are at Tyonderoga, and let the commanding Officer repair to me at Albany, where I will give him Instructions for inlisting Men for the Naval Service.

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 2, Letters & Orders, 18 April, 1776-29 June, 1777, NYPL. Continuation of December 10 letter.

SAMUEL TUDER TO THE NEW YORK CONVENTION ¹

Gentlemen –

Poughkeepsie, December 12th, 1776.

Your resolve of 5th instant, also yours of yesterday by Mr. Degrushe, we have this moment received and note the contents. We shall use our best endeavours to get the cannon and other necessary stores. As to the cables and anchors ordered to General [George] Clinton, we would acquaint you that in a few hours after we received your orders, we put on board a sloop four anchors and two cables, which was all we had on board the ships that would answer, and the reason they are not down is, that Mr. [Gilbert] Livingston thought it best for the sloop to go down with a raft of timber for the docks which were then ready, by which we imagine the sloop must be detained. We should have sent the other two cables, which we must have taken from the privateer sloops, but could not then be spared, as they were going up to Esopus with the ships, and it would not do to leave them at single anchor. As soon as our sloop returns (which is all the boat we have,) we shall send the other cables down. The ship *Congress* got into Esopus creek yesterday, and we have reason to think the ship *General* [sic] *Montgomery* has got in this day, as the tide has been much higher to-day than it has been for some time past. I am, gentlemen [&c.]

Sam'l. Tudor.

To the Honourable Pierre Van Cortlandt,
President of the Convention of the State of New-York.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 332.VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Number 15.

Eagle Off New York

Sir,

December the 12th 1776.

In my Letter by the *Tamer*, which sailed the 4th Instant, I informed their Lordships of the Armament then preparing for Rhode Island.

The Troops being all embarked and the larger Ships with the Commodore Sir Peter Parker moved to Sandy Hook the 29th past, preparation was made for the passage of the Transports through Hell-Gate, to join the Frigates appointed for their Convoy in the Sound. That very difficult Undertaking was committed to the Management of Captain Duncan of the *Eagle*, assisted by Captain [John] Bourmaster and the other Agents of the Transports. Forty Sail were by the unremitting Diligence of those Officers got through without Accident the 30th past. But the Wind proving less favorable the two following Days, the remainder of the Embarkation, consisting of Twenty-one Sail, was delayed until the 3d Instant; When these also passed through without any material Obstruction. They all proceeded to the Eastward with the Frigates under the Direction of Commodore Hotham in the *Brune*, next day: the Two-decked Ships with Sir Peter Parker having sailed from Sandy Hook the first of the Month.

The Progress of the Army in the Jerseys leaving the Frigates more at liberty to be employed on Cruising Service, the *Roebuck*, *Perseus*, *Camilla* and *Falcon* put to Sea the 8th Instant, and have been ordered to remain off the Entrance of the Delaware until there is reason to believe the Communication by that River to the

Town of Philadelphia, has been by the State of the Weather entirely prevented. The *Perseus* and *Camilla* are thereupon to be left together on the Coasts of the Southern Colonies for such longer time as their Water will last with due Sufficiency for their Passage to the Island of Antigua; Whither the *Roebuck* and *Falcon* are more immediately to repair for being cleaned and refitted in Succession, agreeably to the purport of a Letter Captain Hamond is charged with for the Commander in Chief at the Leeward Islands, a Copy of which is herewith enclosed. It is meant that such further Service should be afterwards rendered there by the said Ships, jointly or severally as with the Approbation, or by the Appointment of the said Commander in Chief is thought fit: But so as they may be complete in their Water, and in all other respects, to return together off the Delaware by the time there is reason to believe the Navigation thereof may be again open in the Spring. And, upon their Arrival, Notice is to be given to me as soon as the Navigation of the River is found to be practicable.

The *Pearl*, appointed to proceed with those Ships, would have sailed at the same time; But her Departure was postponed for replacing her Mizen-Mast and Main-Yard, rendered unserviceable by Damage sustained from the Fire of the Enemy, when passing their Works up the North River, to protect two Victualling Transports with Provisions sent for the immediate Supply of the Army then at Dobb's Ferry. The Resolution Captain Wilkinson testified in the Conduct of that Service, where his whole Attention was necessarily directed to draw the Enemy's Fire from the Victuallers upon his own Ship, merits particular Notice. And the Steadiness of the Petty Officers, Mr Ley and the Honorable Mr Cranstown, placed in the two Victuallers, was highly commendable. They have been appointed on that Occasion to the Vacancies for Lieutenants in the *Magdalen* and *Lizard*, which their Lordships were pleased to leave to my Nomination.

The *Repulse*, *Nautilus* and *Galatea*, under the Orders of Captain Davis, have been detached to cruise from the Island of Bermuda Westward towards the American Coast: The two former to remain on that Station so long as their Provisions and Water will last with due Sufficiency for their Passage to Jamaica, to careen and refit: And afterwards to return up along the Coast of the Southern Provinces, in time to join me as early after the middle of next March as may be, at this Port. The *Galatea*, under the same Circumstances of being no longer able to keep the Bermuda Station, is to return here directly for further Orders. But if during the time of Captain Davis's continuance on this Station, he should meet with a considerable Number of the West-India-Trade on their passage to Europe wanting Convoy for their Security and needing his Assistance; He is not, in such case, to deem himself restrained from rendering every such necessary Assistance, in the Extent even of proceeding with them to Europe.

The *Phoenix* and *Tartar* would also have been sent immediately off the Capes of Virginia; But upon their return from the North River they are found to require new Mizen-Masts (the former being disabled by the Enemy's Fire) with other Repairs that will necessarily detain them some Days longer.

On the 3d Instant Lieutenant Berkeley of the *Isis* arrived in an Armed Transport with Letters from Captain Douglas. The chief purport of them is to inform

me of his Intention to proceed immediately for England; And that he had, at the Requisition of General Sir Guy Carleton, ordered the *Blonde*, *Triton* and *Garland* to remain in the St Lawrence for the Winter. I am apprehensive the Inexpediency of that Resolution will appear, when the Frigates are again wanted for Service.

By the same Conveyance (the Armed Ship having stopped at Halifax) I am informed by Sir George Collier that he had stationed the *Juno*, *Milford*, *Lizard* and *Hope* from Cape Cod Eastward towards Cape Sable: That the *Amazon* was arrived from the St Lawrence; and the *Hunter* and *Vulture* Sloops with the Transports under their Convoy, except the *Euphrates*, one of the Victuallers, which was run ashore a few Leagues Eastward of Halifax, under circumstances of Weather so favorable as to give Cause to suspect great Misconduct in the Master. Most of the Cargoe has been saved, but the Transport is irrecoverably lost. Sir George further informs me that the 9th of last Month the *Union* Transport with Cloathing and a considerable Sum of Money for the Army in Canada, arrived at Halifax; The advanced Season of the Year not admitting of an Attempt being then made to prosecute her Voyage. But I have given Directions for taking the earliest Opportunity to send that Transport forward under proper Convoy in the Spring.

The Commissioner Arbuthnot acquaints me with the Arrival of the *Success-Increase* Naval Transport, which he intends ordering to this Port: tho' he apprehends the Stores will prove to have been much damaged.

Both these Officers mention a Descent made near Fort Cumberland by an inconsiderable Force of the Rebels from the Western Side of the Bay of Fundy. They concur in Opinion, that there is little reason to apprehend any Success to that ill-concerted Measure: Timely precautions having been taken and the whole Force of the Rebels supposed not to exceed three hundred Men.

I sent the *Lark* as soon as her Damages were repaired, to be employed by Sir George Collier upon the New-England Coasts; For replacing the *Liverpool* or *Milford*, that one of these two Ships may be immediately sent to clean in England. I have by the same Opportunity desired the Commissioner will order the *Elephant* Store-Ship, if she should be arrived, to be sent also for the Service of the Ships assembled at this Port; that from this Store-Ship and the *Success-Increase*, the Frigates meant to be careened this Winter in the West Indies, may then be furnished with sufficient Supplies of Stores, and the Magazines there not be unnecessarily exhausted.

The *Andeligonda Louisa*, the last of the Foreign Transports, sailed with the *Lark*: The Repairs wanting for that Transport not having been completed in time to send her with the others which proceeded to Europe under Convoy of the *Active* and *Fowey*. The *Lark* having seen the Transport to the Eastward of the Nantucket Shoals, She is to be left to prosecute her Voyage according to the Instructions the Superintendent has received. I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

[Endorsed] 12 Decr 1776. off New York Lord Visct Howe R 23 Feby at 11 PM (1 Inclosure)

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

General Putnam and Brigadier General Mifflin being called to a conference, and having, by strong arguments, urged the necessity of the Congress retiring, it was, therefore,

Resolved, That Mr. Wilson be desired to inform the assembly and council of safety of Pennsylvania of the proposed adjournment of Congress, and the place to which they have resolved to adjourn; and to inform them, that Congress will, at all times, on their application, be ready to comply with their requisitions for the security of this city and state against the common enemy.

Whereas the movements of the enemy have now rendered the neighbourhood of this city the seat of war, which will prevent that quiet and uninterrupted attention to the public business, which should ever prevail in the great continental council:

Resolved, That this Congress be, for the present, adjourned to the town of Baltimore, in the state of Maryland, to meet on the 20th instant, unless a sufficient number to make a Congress shall be there sooner assembled; and that, until the Congress shall otherwise order, General Washington be possessed of full power to order and direct all things relative to the department, and to the operations of war. That the several matters to this day referred, be postponed to the day to which Congress is adjourned.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 1024-27.

2. See Volumes 2, 3 and 4.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] December 12th, 1776.

A Commission was granted to Thomas Philips, first Lieutenant of the armed Boat *Delaware*, dated this day.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 47.

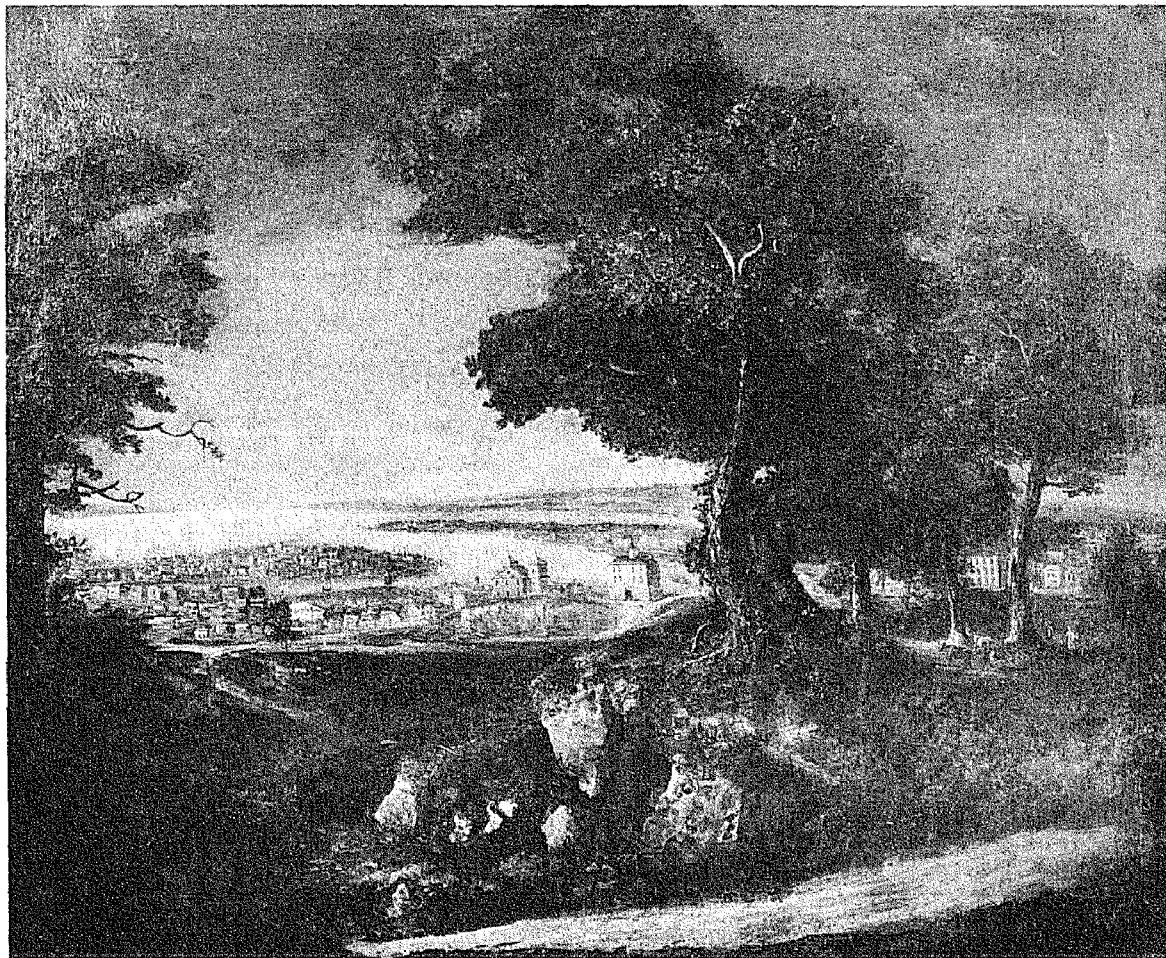
MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract] Philadelphia 12 Decemr 1776

The Continental Frigate,² commanded by Captain Biddle order'd by Congress on a Cruise, since the arrival of the *Roebuck* and two other Ships in our Bay, is countermanded, & with four or five Privateers ordered to be stationed in the River.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. *Randolph*.



View of Baltimore

STATE OF THE BRITISH NAVAL FORCE ON LAKE ERIE ¹

[Extract]

Intelligence from Detroit receiv'd at Pittsburgh 12th. Decemr 1776

State of Navil Force October 18th 1776 –

Schooner *General Gage*, mounts 16 Carriage Guns & 6 swivels, 20 Men, draws 14 feet water.Brigt. *Earl Dunmore*, 14 do. do. & 6 do. 20 do. 12 feetSchooner *Hope*, 10 do. do. & do. 20 do. 14 feet

The above belong to the Crown.

Schooner *Faith* 6 Swivels, employ'd in the Garrison service to carry Wood.Sloop 4 Carriage Guns, & 6 swivels, 10 Men, flat bottom built, }
for the Trade to Michilimackinac }Two Schooners employ'd to carry Provisions &c from Detroit to Michilimackinac }
burthen about 120 barrels each, not arm'd }Sloop *Felicity*, Merchant Vessel, belonging to McTavish & Benderman.

Officers at Detroit vizt.

Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton –

Captain Robert Lerenault, Commandant of the Fort.

Lieutenants

Ensigns & Sixty Men,

Capt. Lord with his detachment of the Royal Irish went to Canada by way of Niagara about the middle of September.

The Garrison constantly alarm'd with Indian News of great Armies coming from the United States to attack Detroit – Indian Runners well paid for bringing the Intelligence. – The French Inhabitants of the Town having refus'd to turn out upon an alarm, one of the arm'd Vessels was order'd into the stream to cannonade their Houses – many of them taken Prisoners & forc'd on board the arm'd Vessels – some of them in attempting to make their escape were fir'd on by the Garrison, two only were taken, the rest made their escape to a French settlement on the Wabash. . . .²

1. Michigan Papers, CL.

2. Remainder of this intelligence report concerns state of the garrison at Detroit.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE ANNAPOLIS COMMITTEE¹

Gentlemen

In Committee Baltre 12th Decr 1776

By a Letter recd by the Post from Mr S[amuel] Chase we are directed immediately to send up to the Head of Elk & Charles Town all the Craft that can be got in order to assist in bringing down the public Stores, the Sick &c which are to be removed from Philada & are requested to transmit you the Same Requisition wh doubt not you will readily comply with, We are with much Respect Gentln [&c.]

p Order

Ja^s Calhoun Ch[air]m[an]

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

“MANIFEST OF THE CARGO SHIPP'D ON BOARD THE SCHOONER *Adventure*
THOMAS ROBINSON MASTER DECEMR 1776”¹

N 299 Barrels Superfine Flour – Shipp'd by John Page

HP. 40

HR 175.

HL. 18

RG. 14

Ditto Shipp'd by Anthony Banning

476 Total

2900 Barrel Staves – Shipp'd by Ditto

Decr 12th 1776 Then came Thomas Robinson, Master of the Schooner *Adventure* before me & made oath on the holy Evangels that the above is a true Manifest of the Cargo on Board the Schooner *Adventure*, and that he will use his best endeavours to prevent such Cargo, and every part thereof from being landed in any port of the Dominions of the King of Great Britain, or otherwise going into the Hands of the Enemies of America. – at the same Time came Anthony Banning Part owner of said Cargo, before me & made oath that the said Cargo, and no part thereof belongs to, or is for the use of or Benefit of any Inhabitant of Great Britain, Ireland, or any of the Dominions Subject to the King of Great Britain.

J Hall²

1. Scharf Collection, MdHS.

2. Maryland Council of Safety granted permission this date for the *Adventure* to clear for St. Eustatius, Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

PRIVATEER COMMISSIONS GRANTED BY GOVERNOR JOHN RUTLEDGE
OF SOUTH CAROLINA¹

[Extract]

Commission granted to Charles Morgan of the Brig *Active* November 12th 1776 –Commission granted to Jacob Johnston of the Briga *Chance* November 23d 1776 –Commission granted to Thomas Cheney of the sloop *Peggy* November 23d 1776 –Commission granted to Andrew Groundwater of the Sloop *Swift* Novr 22d 1776 –

Commn granted to John Hatter Novr 26, 1776.

Commn granted to James McKenzie Novr 26, 1776

Commn granted to Willm Galvan Ship *Liberty* Novr 29, 1776Commn granted to Jacob Milligan sloop *Rutledge* Decr 3d 1776 –Commn granted to Paul Preston Brig *Polly* Decr 12 –

Commn granted to Stone *Hibernia* Decr 12 –

Commn granted to Samuel Stone schooner *General* [no date]

1. Miscellaneous Records of the Secretary of State (A), 1776–1801, 18, SCDAH.

PROTEST OF GEORGE EVANS, MASTER OF THE BRITISH BRIGANTINE *Necessity*¹

Bermuda als } By His Excellency George James Bruere Esqr Governor,
Somer Islands } Commander in Chief and Vice Admiral of these Islands

L:S:P: To all to whom this Present Writing or Instrument of Protest shall
come or may Concern Greeting –

Know Ye that this Twelfth day of December in the Year of Our Lord one Thousand seven hundred & Seventy Six, before me Personally appeared George Evans Master of a Certain Brigantine called the *Necessity* who Solemnly made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that on the Eighth day of September last past he Sailed from Bermuda bound for Liverpool in Nova Scotia, & that on the Ninteenth of the same Month September, being then in the Latitude 43° . 30' No Longitude 63° . 30' Wt a Vessel appeared in Sight which chased him and in a Short Time came up with, and brought him too, she proved to be an Armed Brigantine called the *Hancock*, Wigen [sic Wingate] Newman Commander, belonging to Philadelphia, that upon Examining her Papers and finding he was bound to Liverpool aforesaid they took his Vessel into their Possession, and sent his People on board the said Armed Vessel, & put a Prize Master and five others of their People on board the said Brig *Necessity*, with orders to proceed to the Port of Newbury in New England, at which Place they arrived in safety, and after lying some time four of the Owners of the aforesaid Armed Brigantine came and delivered up His Vessel & Cargo to him, upon it Appearing to them to be the Property of Bermuda, and upon the Condition that the Cargo should not be carried out of the Province, he therefore was Obligated to dispose of his Cargo, and to take their Paper Currency and some Lumber in Payment for the same –

And in like Manner also appeared Percival Trott Mate of and belonging to the said Brigantine *Necessity* who likewise Solemnly declared that, all what the abovenamed George Evans hath before deposed is true – Wherefore the sd George Evans for himself his Mariners, Owners Freighters & all others whom it doth or may Concern does hereby Protest against the Matters aforesaid, and all Damages Occasioned or Sustained thereby, as also against all Costs delays disappointments, Expences and other Matters and things which can or may lawfully be Protested against in the large and Ample Manner as the same can or may be done by Law or Form, and Persevering in the said Protest, the said Appearers have hereunto set their Hands the Day and Year first above written –

George Evans Percev¹ Trott

This Done and Protested before me the Governor and Admiral aforesaid. In Testimony whereof I have hereunder set my hand and Caused the Great Seal of these Islands to be Affixed the day and year aforesaid — George Jas Bruere

By his Excellency's

Command

Jn^o Randle D: Secy

1. Book of Bonds, Deeds and Grants, No. 14, 397, 398, Bda. Arch.

13 Dec.

JOHN LANGDON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sr Portsmouth Decem. 13th 1776

The Order from the Honbl Marine Committee of the 13th Ult is Just come to hand, haveing been abt one month on it's Passage, this, with other letters of importance were picked up in a Tavern at Newbury port by a Gentleman who bro't them to me; by which the Honl Committee will see that the Channel of Intelligence is much Interrupted –

Inclosed is list of prizes bro't into this port with their Cargoes,² I shall take care to forward a list of any that may be bro't in, agreeable to Order. – I've also Inclosed the Sales of the *Royal Exchange* and Cargo; with her Acct Current by which you'll see that two thirds of the Nt Proceeds, is Carried to the Cr of the Honbl Marine Committee, the other third to the Captors Agent. I wrote Comadore Hopkins immediately on the Sail that the Money was ready for the Captors as soon as he or Capt [Abraham] Whipple would furnish list of Officers and Seamen, Concern'd in taking this is the only prize that has Come into my hands as yet. I expect to Receive money of Mr Wentworth, in few days, of which shall Inform the Committee – the ship *Royal Exchange* I purchased for Acct of the Continent, as she went very low as p Sales I shall Strip her and Appropriate her Rigg and Sales to Capt [John] Roche's ship, as nothing of that Sort is to be Purchased. — I am with great Respect [&c.]

John Langdon

P.S. We hope to Raise Capt Roche's Ship week after next if the weather will permit –

Honbl John Hancock Esqr President of the Marine Committee

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.
2. Enclosure has not been located.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

State of Massachusetts Bay

In Council [Boston] Decer 13. 1776

Ordered that such Articles of the Cargo of the Brig *Charming Sally* ² as the Committee of Warr may think Necessary for the use of this State, be delivered to them or their order by the Agents for the Middle district, said Agents first Causing them to be apprizd –

State of Massachusetts Bay

In Council 13. Decer 1776

Ordered that the agents for the Middle district in this State, under whose care the Brig *Charming Sally* now is, be & they are hereby directed to deliver the said Brig with her appurtenances to the Board of Warr, after she shall be apprizd by Indifferent Men, and that the said Agents cause the Cargo on board said Brig to be landed & Stored in some safe & Convenient Place or Places – And it is further Resolved that if on the Tryall of the Justice of the Capture of said Brig, she should not be Condemned, the Claimant or Claimants of said Brig on Supporting said

Claim shall receive said Brig or be Entitled to, & receive out of the Treasury of this State the sum at which said Brig shall be apprizd as afore directed

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 96, 96½.

2. *Charming Sally* was taken by the Massachusetts state brigantine *Freedom*, Captain John Clouston, *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, November 28, 1776.

MANIFESTS OF CARGOES SPECIFIED IN PETITION OF EDWARD GRAY ¹

[Boston, 13 December, 1776]

Manifest of Sloop *Dartmouth's* Cargo

40 m Boards	}	All loaded & ready for the Sea
45 m Shingles		
50 Boxes Candles		
40 shook hogsheads		
10 bbs Beef		
5½ bbs Do		

Manifest Brigga *Sally's* Cargo

50 hhds Fish	}	partly on board, the Remainder all ready
30 bbs Mackrel		
10 m Boards		
3 m Hoops		
2 m Bricks		
20 Boxes Candles		

Manifest Brigga *Freedom's* Cargo

45 m Boards	}	all purchas'd & ready to put on board
50 m Shingles		
3 m Bricks		
50 Boxes Candles		
20 Barrels Oyl		

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 92½.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 13th Decr 1776

Capt Peter Jones waited on the Board relative to a Voyage to Cales [Calais] & was directed to bring in his Terms in writing in the Afternoon –

Mr Brown Reported That Capt Willson would go to South Carolina & from thence to France upon the following Terms – To have 5 P Cent Commisn for Sales & 2½ P Cent for Purchase clear at Cara – Eight pounds P Month Wages Eight Tons priviledge out & Two Tons priviledge home which were accepted –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 43–45.

JOHN BRADFORD TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Sir

Boston, 13th Decr 1776

I have only time to acquaint you (the post this moment Going off) that the Brig *Elisabeth* John Palmer master from Marsailles is arrived below, sent in by the *Eagle* privateer – the same that sent in the *Fanny* Commanded by another man the pretext they have for sending her in is that the Captain Obstanately protested

that he would go to [New] York because so Ordered I find the Cargo Consists of Wollens Blankets & Linnens ²

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

2. Both the *Elizabeth* and *Fanny* were operating for the Secret Committee of Congress. Elijah Freeman Payne commanded the Massachusetts privateer *Eagle* when the *Fanny* was seized, and Barzilla Smith had the same privateer when the *Elizabeth* was taken.

PETITION OF JACKSON, TRACY & TRACY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the honble the Council & Hon'ble House of Representatives for the State of the Massachusetts Bay

The Subscribers of Newburyport Merchants humbly beg leave to represent to your Honours, that a Ship owned by them, called the *Montgomery*, commanded by Joseph Rowe, had, before the present Embargo took place, sailed from hence bound to Bourdeaux in France, with part of her Loading (of which two Casks of Furs were shipped by the honble Board of War upon the Acct of this State) & with all her Provisions in, but was to call into Sheepscut at the Eastward, there to compleat her Loading with Spars & other Lumber. That their Design in this Voyage (in which they export only the Produce of this Country) is to bring in a Load of Salt, which the Country appears to be very destitute of, also some Cannon, for a Twenty Gun Ship they are now engaged in the building of, & other warlike Stores if to be got, & their Cargo on board will procure them, & if warlike Stores are not to be procured, they have ordered coarse Linnens & Woollens – Now, the present being judged by far the best Season to supply the Country from abroad, with the many Articles it stands in need of, & as your Petitioners have with much Trouble, & at extraordinary Expence provided a Master & Crew to sail their said Ship, & they have already proceeded part of the Way upon their Voyage, Upon your honours' Consideration of these Premises & the foregoing, they flatter themselves that you will grant Permission, And they humbly beg of your Honours to grant them a Permit (& duplicates of the same, to send by Land & Water) for their said Ship *Montgomery*, Joseph Rowe Master to depart for France from Sheepscut or any port in the Eastern part of this State where said Ship may be, after having loaded or compleated her Loading with Masts Spars & other Lumber the present Embargo notwithstanding, & your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray

Jackson Tracy & Tracy

Newburyport }
13th Decr 1776 }

[Endorsed] In the House of Represents. Decem 25. 1776

Read and Committed to the Comtee on Similar petitions

Sent up for Concurrence

Sam^l Freeman Speakr PT

In Council Dec 25. 1776 Read & Concurr'd and the same Comittee are joined on the Part of the Board John Avery Dep Scy

Decr 30. 1776 The Comtee of Both houses on the foregoing petition Beg leave to Report as their opinion That the prayer thereof be so far granted that the Ship

mentioned in said Petn be permitted to Sail on her intended voyage provided she Carry none of the articles Enumerated in a resolve of the General Court passed the 10th Instant Prohibiting the same & Return Ladend with Cargo as mentioned in the petition. Jabez Fisher pr Order

In Council Decr 31 1776 Read & Accepted

Sent down for Concurrence John Avery Dpy Scy

Consented to – In the house of Represents Janury 1, 1777

Read and Consented Sam Freeman Speakr P T

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 181, 375–76.

PETITION OF JOHN EMERY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the honble the Councill & the honble House of Representatives in General Court assembled Decr [13] 1776 ²

Humbly shews John Emery of Newburyport in the County of Essex Merchant, that under the Encouragement given by the honble continental Congress he engaged in a foreign Voyage to France & Spain, & has lately imported to this State a considerable Quantity of Linnen & woollen goods, which upon his Arrival he offered to the Committee of Cloathing for the Continent, who received to the Amount of near seven thousand Pounds that while in Spain your Petitioner being himself acquainted with the Resolves of the continental Congress, respecting a free Trade, communicated the same to Messrs Gardoqui & Sons at Bilboa, & obtained a Credit from them for a large Sum, upon his Contract to repay them in Rice, that upon his Arrival at Newburyport he found the Embargo which your Honours have thought best to lay upon all Vessells prevented the Performance of his Agreement, without he can have Aid from this honble Court he would suggest to your Honours that besides the great Inconvenience to your Petitioner from this Restraint, the Credit of other Americans will doubtless be greatly affected, not only with that reputable House at Bilboa, but with the other Merchants in Spain, who are now disposd to serve the American Cause, if they find there can be no Faith put in their Contracts, he therefore prays your Honours would permit him to send two Vessells from Newburyport to Carolina, there to purchase Cargoes of Rice, & thence to proceed to Bilboa, & that your Honours, if you should think best, would recommend to the Committee at Carolina to permit your Petitioner under these Circumstances to load from thence for the Purpose aforesd & as in duty bound will pray.

Jn^o Emery

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 181, 423–25.

2. The date is approximated, and listed according to another petition from Newburyport of December 13, 1776.

Independent Chronicle, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1776

Boston, December 13.

On the first Instant arrived at Portsmouth, the Prize Schooner *Hope*, laden with Mackrel and dry Fish, bound from Halifax for Dominica, taken by the Sloop *Washington*, Joseph Jauncey, Esq; Commander. – The Prize Master informs, he fell in with a Fleet of Transports the 19th November, about 70 Sail, in Lat. 48,58,

Long. 62. one of which spoke him, and informed, they were from New-York bound for London.

Capt. Tucker, in a Privateer from Salem has taken a Prize Snow, laden with Rum, Sugar, &c. and sent her into Portsmouth.¹

By two gentlemen from Martha's Vineyard we are informed, that two of the enemies ships have for some days been cruizing at the mouth of the sound, between Gayhead and the Elizabeth islands, and at night have run in and come to anchor. It is supposed they are stationed there in order to stop the communication. It is hoped that those who have any shipping to pass that way, will keep a good look-out.

On Tuesday, 17th December, At Twelve o'Clock, Will be Sold by Public Auction, On the Honorable John Hancock Esqr's Wharf, The Prize Ship *Hayfield*, With all her Appurtenances. A Fine Philadelphia built Ship, of 180 Tons burthen, well found, and a fast sailing Vessel. Inventory to be seen at the Time and Place of Sale.

Sales by Auction.

To be sold by Public Auction, On Friday, 20th December, At John Rowe, Esqr's Wharf, Part of the Cargo of the Prize Ship *Julius Caesar*, viz.

33 Hogsheads of Rum, 2 Casks Rum Shrub,

1 Hogshead Holland's Geneva, 83 Casks red Port Wine in Bottles,

95 Barrels and 2 Chests of Claret in Bottles, 47 Tierces and 92 Barrels of Porter in Bottles, 8 Quarter Casks Vidonia, 27 Boxes of Mould Candles, a Quantity of broken Cheshire and Gloucester Cheese, 4 Hogsheads Gingerbread, 100 Keggs split Peas, some Crates of Cream coloured Stone Ware sorted, some Crates of white flint Mustard Bottles.

The Sale will begin at Ten o'Clock.

William Greenleaf, Sheriff.

To be Sold by Public Auction, On Friday, Twenty-seventh December, At William Greenleaf's Office, in Cornhill, Boston, Part of the Cargo of the Prize Ship *Julius Caesar*, Consisting of 50 Dozen Women's [st]uff Shoes, 12 Dozen ditto Leather, 4 pieces drab Corduroy, 20 Dozen 7-8 Handkerchiefs, 12 pieces died Pillows, 2 pieces died Jennet, 4 pieces white ditto, 1 piece black Denim, 8 pieces Corduroys, 2 pieces Ververett, 10 pieces Dutch cord, 10 pieces flowered Dimity, 1 piece broad Cord, 3 pieces printed Jennet, 4 pieces silk Damascus, a box Spices sorted, a box of Stationary sorted, 20 pieces 3 4 blue Handkerchiefs, 9 pieces red ditto, 3 pieces light ground ditto, 5 pieces purple ditto, 2 pieces fancy ditto, 27 pieces printed Linnens, 7 pieces light Chints, 42 pieces Callico, 14 pieces figured Lawns, 9 pieces plain ditto, 6 pieces long Lawn, 1 piece yard wide Jan[n]et, 2 pieces Jaconett, 3 pieces strip'd and check'd Dorie, 6 dozen diaper table Cloths, 13 pieces Cambrick, and 42 small boxes of flint Glass sorted.

The Sale will begin at Ten o'Clock.

William Greenleaf, Sheriff.²

1. John Tucker commanded schooner *Harlequin*, and his prize was the *Mercury*.

2. This issue of the *Independent Chronicle* carries sale notices for a number of prize ships and cargoes.

LEMUEL WILLIAMS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Honoured Sir

Dartmouth 13th Decr 1776

Mr John Tennet a French Gentleman has a Schooner in this Place nearly ready to Sail for Hispaniola, and is very desirous to employ her when She arrives there as a Privateer to cruize against the Vessels belonging to the Subjects of the King of Great Britain, he proposes to mann her with French Sailors, except three or four Americans for Prize Masters, one of which waits on your Honour with this to get a Commission for the Schooner in his Name. Mr. Tennet says you promised him a Commission, and requested me to write this for him, as he does not understand the English Language – I am sir very respectfully [&c.]

Lemuel Williams

1. *Letters to the Governor*, vol. 9, 1776–1777, R.I. Arch.JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS ¹

Decr 1776

Moor'd in Seaconett passage Rhode Island

Friday 13

sent the Longboat with a party of Marines to Cut Brooms on Gould Island Fluted & sett up the Fore Rigging
Do Wr [Modt] and Clear PM Longboat return'd having been Attack'd by three Whale Boats which by firing on them they Cleared themselves of. Anchd here a Cartel Brigg with Masters, Mates & Apprentices of Ships that had been taken brot her too an anchor untill the Comr was Acquainted with their intention of sailing for England.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Rhode Island] 13th Decr

The Rebels fire at our men from the height above Bristol ferry, whenever they see four or five of them together; but hitherto no person has been hurt. Indeed we have not had a man killed or wounded since we landed.

The *Emerald* Frigate is anchored in the passage between this Island, and Prudence Island; another Frigate is stationed above Prudence to prevent any vessel from passing between Connonicut and the Main; and two others are Stationed in the Eastern, or Sekonnet passage, to prevent any vessel from passing at the back of this Island. It is imagined the Rebel Frigates now at or near Providence, will endeavor to escape to Sea.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 126.JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,

[Hartford] December 13th, 1776.

Voted, That Nathll Shaw junr, Esqr, be and he is hereby impowered and intrusted to propose and negotiate an exchange of the following prisoners taken on

board the ship *John*, the ship *Clarendon* and ship *Sally*, brought into this State, for prisoners of equal rank and degree as near as may be, to wit:

Capt. Dunbar of the ship *John*, James Watt, a passenger on board.

Capt. Jackson of the ship *Sally*, John Wright, surgeon.

Capt. John Deniston of the ship *Clarendon*, Peter Hunter, passenger on board do.,

Danll Crawford, mate; Thomas Moore, boatswain; James Denniston, a boy; Murdock McCloud, a sailer, and divers others whose names are unknown; and that he take their parole not to give any intelligence, act or do anything against the United States of America; and in case such exchange cannot be effected, that they return immediately to this State again. *Copy dd to Capt. Jackson Decr 13th, 1776.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*, I, 86, 87.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

December 1776

Moored at Sandy Hook

Friday 13

[A.M.] Armed the Tender & landed the Marines in Order to Examine a Schooner which was run a Shore, dry'd Sails First & Mid. pts Mode latter Fresh Gales. P.M. at 5 the Marines took Possession of the Schooner, at 7 they ret'd with 27 Rebel Prisoners, at 8 the Tender ret'd after firing a No of Swivels & Sml Arms at the Rebels who were plundering the Schooner. at 10 the Tender went & set fire to the Schooner.

1. PRO, Admiralty 41/930.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Philada, Decemr 13th, 1776

The enclosed letter from the General² was delivered to me open by Mr [George] Walton who judged it prudent to examine the Contents before it went forward & in which I concur with him as it was probable some service might result to this place from their being known & I flatter myself that essential Service will be rendered to the Continent thereby. As soon as I saw this authentic Account of the Enemy's design to Cross Delaware above the Falls, I waited on Genl [Israel] Putnam & proposed that the Frigate *Randolph* & Sloop *Hornet* shou'd be sent to Sea immediately as it was plain to me they woud be of no use here & I had received certain advice that there was not any British Men of War in our Bay. the General very readily Consented & I have this afternoon given Capt Biddle & Capt [John] Nicholson their Instructions signed by me on behalf of the Marine Committee, they will depart early in the Morning and I entertain the most Sanguine hopes of their escape, the *Hornet* goes for Carolina with the Shot, but part of the flour was landed previous to this new determination. I have presumed to go one Step farther in this Navy business and flatter myself I shall be entitled to the approbation of Congress whether I meet it or not, for my intentions are good and I procure myself much trouble with the Sole View of serving the Cause, On Viewing the Frigate *Delaware* I thought it possible to get her away before

Genl Howe could get here I have therefore set about it stoutly, a Number of People, scarce as they now are her, are at Work on her, the Sails will be bent, Anchors to the Bows, Stores onbd and every thing in some forwardness to morrow. I have sent an Express to the General informing him of my design & requesting him to send down Capt [Charles] Alexander his Officers & such Seamen as are willing to go with him & if it is possible to get her away I shall order her to Baltimore, under your own care. If I fail in this attempt You only add a little Expense of labour to the loss, for the Ship may in that case be destroyed, however if Genl Howe will give me but a few days more & Ld Howe keep away his Myridoms I shall have the pleaseure to despatch the *Randolph*, *Hornet*, *Delaware*, *Security*, *Fly* & a large ship laden with Tobacco all which you may deem as saved from the Flames. The removal of Congress has left me much other business I am paying your Debts at least those of the Marine Committee & directing fifty Necessary things to be done and with Genl Howe's permission shall be glad to finish the business you woud wish to have done here, but if Mr Howe advances I shall push off & leave him to finish the business his own way. I am told there is a letter in Town that mentions Genl Clintons arrival at Rhode Island & that he took Peaceable possession of it, as all the Inhabitants to a Man abandoned the Island, but tell Mr [William] Ellery I have not seen this letter nor will I vouch for its Authenticity. You will please to receive enclosed some pleasing letters for the Marine Committee & with perfect esteem & respect, I remain Sir, [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 1-3, NA.
2. Washington to Congress, December 12, 1776, Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, VI, 353-56.

ROBERT MORRIS, FOR THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE, TO
CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia, December 13, 1776] ²

. . . for Action, yet when we consider you will have Seamen & Marines sufficient to work the Ship, we think it much more for the public interest to risque her out on these terms than to let her remain & be destroyed. You are therefore to repair on bd the *Randolph* Frigate of wch you are Commander and proceed with all possible dilligence to Sea. We shall not at this time prescribe to you where you are to Cruize nor form any plan whereby to distress our Enemies – the first Object is to get the Ship well manned and for this purpose you may Cruize where you think is the best Chance of meeting Merchantmen or Transports without Encountering Frigates &c we find by [expe]rience the Seamen taken in prizes are in General very [wi]lling to enter into our Service we think you will be able [in] this Manner to compleat your Number admitting [all] such as enter freely & induce them thereto show [the va]rious Encouragement given by Congress. When the [*Ran*]dolph is compleatly manned or that you esteem [yours]elf in a good Condition to make a good Fight you [will] return on this Coast, cruise for some of the Provi[sion] Vessels or Store Ships that will be coming from Europe [to New Y]ork & particularly keep a look out for the *Galatea* [Captain] Jourdan

as we should be well pleased to see that [vessel] among the Number of your Prizes. You will send [as many of] your Prizes as you can spare Men to carry in to [any] safe port in these States addressing them to the Conti[nental] agents. we know your Humanity too well not to be [assur]ed that your Prisoners will meet with good Usage [Use well your officers and] all your people altho strict Discipline & good Command should prevail over the latter. We are willing to suppose the business now recommended may employ you for two or at most three Months after which you will put into some safe Port & let us hear from you, indeed you must write to us by every Opperty & if you gaine any Interesting Intelligence do not fail to communicate the same with the best Wishes for your Success we remain sir [your] servt by order of the Marine Comm

R M

The Congress have adjourned to Balto and will be setting there.

1. Bank of North America Papers, HSP. This is a badly worn fragment of the letter.
2. Date established by Morris to Hancock, December 13 in which he notes: "I have this afternoon given Capt Biddle & Capt Nicholson their Instructions."

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE ¹

Decemr 76

At Single Anchor in Dileware Bay

Fryday 13

at 7 AM Weigh'd & Came to Sail under Single Reeft Top Sails
Top Gallt Sails Jibb & Stay Sails at 1/2 past 10 Came too with the
Bt Br in 6 fm Veer'd to 1/2 Cable Hazzard High Land
SSW. Egg Island NNE 1/2 East at Noon light Airs & Cloudy.
First & Mid. parts Light Airs Latter Strong Gales & Squally
Saw 7 Sail standing down for us. At 1/2 past Noon Weigh'd & came
to sail under whole TS. Top Gt Sails, Jib & Staysails. At 3 haul'd
our wind, Set steering sails & driver. found the sails to be sloops,
Schooners & a Brig. attempted to cut them off between C: May &
the Overfalls, but running into 2 1/2 fm TKd Ship. C: May SE
Southly, shorten'd Sail. At 6 Came too with the Bt Br in 1/2 4
fm veer'd 1/2 a Cable. C: May SEBE. Lighthouse W 3/4 S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO LIEUTENANT HENRY AUCHENLECK ¹

Mr Auchinlick

[Head of Elk, December 13, 1776]

In absence of Capt. Cook I would recommend to you to consider the necessity of immediately sending off all the *Defence's* hands that lays in your power. I will assist your officer that you shall think proper to send with them. Please to show this to Mr Purviance and consult him on the occasion that he may send word of to the Council of Safety. I shall make the best of my way to Philadelphia. I am yours &c.

Ja^s Nicholson

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

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday 13th December 1776. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Doctr Corbin Griffin for Fifteen pounds nineteen shillings for Medicine and attendance to the Men belonging to the Brig *Liberty*. – Also for Fourteen pounds one shilling and three pence for Medicine and attendance to the Men belonging to the Schooner *Revenge*. – Also for Twelve Pounds and six pence for Medicine and attendance to the Men belonging to the *Manley* Galley. – Also for One Pound for Medicine & attendance to the Men belonging to the *Henry* Galley and also for One Pound eighteen shillings and six pence for Medicine and Attendance to the Men belonging to the *Hero* Galley as p Acct this day settled. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Doctr Corbin Griffin for Twenty five pounds seven shillings and three pence for Medicine and Attendance on the Sick Seamen & Marines in the Hospital at York Town –

The Commissioners of the Navy Agreed to Purchase of Mr Samuel Allyne a Vessel which he is now Building at Hampton of about One hundred & forty Tons Burthen upon the following Conditions (Provided the Person the Commissioners send to View the Vessel shall approve of her) Vizt, The Vessel to be delivered a float by the first day of March next finished Completely in a Workman like manner with Spars of every sort. Tops Caps and fitting every thing to a Cleat as Carpenters usually finish Vessels Built by the Ton – The said Allyne to be allowed for the said Vessel at the rate of Five Pounds ten shillings p Ton, – Two hundred Pounds to be paid on Concluding the Bargain and the Ballance on the delivery of the Vessel –

Capt Tompkins of the *Henry* Galley Received Orders to Proceed with his Vessel to the head of Elk and take on Board seven hundred Stand of Arms and any other things that the Congress may have lodged at that place in the care of Mr Hollingsworth for the use of this State. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 137–38, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S *Boreas*, CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON ¹

Decemb 1776 the Highland over Cape Francois South off Shore 9 or
Friday 13 10 Leagues –

Moderate & Cloudy at 5 AM Saw a Sail bearg SE Gave
chace fir'd a Gun and made a private Signal to the chace $\frac{1}{2}$
past fir'd a Shot & Brot to the chace a Schooner from Boston to
Cape Nichola ² took the People out of her & Sent a Petty Officer
wt five men Onbd of Her the *Maidstones* Tender in Co at 8
Maid Sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/125.

2. Schooner *Ipswich* with "a Dutch Masr," carrying fish, lumber, etc., Gayton's Prize List, February 26, 1778, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

LETTER FROM DOMINICA ¹

[December 13]

The American Privateers have ventured amongst the Islands; one of them being at Martinique when Dr. N——, was there in a Flag of Truce, slipped out in the Night after him, and took him in the Channel. The Captain of the Privateer landed the Doctor and his Brother at an Out Bay at Martinique, who repaired to the General and made a formal Complaint, which was so well received, that the General ordered the Agent for the Congress to pay them immediately for their Vessel, Slaves, &c. or he would stop every American that was in the Island. Another of these Freebooters took several English Vessels near Guadaloupe, and sent them into the Ports of that Island, all of which the Captains ransomed, except one. This coming to the Ears of the General, he ordered the Privateer not only to give up every Vessel and Cargo, but to pay back the Ransom Money, and at his Peril to presume interrupting any English Vessel in the Neighbourhood of that Island for the future.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, February 8, 1777.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Antigua 13th Decemr 1776.

Be pleased to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I have just received by the October packet your four Letters Dated the 3d October last, with Duplicate of two others Dated the 5th & 6th September. I am very much Concerned to find I have incurred the Censure of their Lordships, by my Orders of the 27th July 1776, to Captain [William] Garnier of the *Argo*, wherein I left him at liberty to part from the Convoy in the Latitude of 38°, North; and not directing him to see them to England. I beg of you to inform their Lordships my sole motive for so doing was, I judged the Trade to be in perfect Security at that distance from the Islands, (having never heard any American Cruizers were seen farther to the Northward than 35° North) and the *Argo* being represented to me in so very Crazy a State, I was desirous she should make her passage before the Equinox; when heavy Gales of Wind frequently happen in & about the English Channel; and from her reported Condition I did not think the *Argo* at all fit to encounter them: I therefore hope their Lordships will think these reasons Satisfactory and believe I shall always exert my best Endeavours for the good of the Kings Service; and punctually Obey their Commands.

I am extremely sorry farther to inform their Lordships; that Yesterday I received information by a Seaman, who was lately discharged from the *Atalanta* at Jamaica; and came from thence Six Weeks ago; who says when he left that place His Majestys Sloop *Pomona* had not been at Jamaica; but that a packet (supposed here to have been lost in the Gale of Wind) arrived there dismasted: I am therefore very much afraid, The *Pomona* was lost in the late Gale of Wind: and as her loss will be very great on this Station (the Seas at this time Swarming with American Armed Vessels & Privateers) I presume to hope their Lordships will not disapprove of my Purchasing & Commissioning some more Armed Vessels,

and a Sloop of War to replace the *Pomona*; if I can meet with such Vessels as are fit and proper for the Occasion. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

[Endorsed] Recd & Read 12 Mar Answd – 2 Apl

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

14 Dec.

MESHECH WEARE TO MATTHEW THORNTON AND WILLIAM WHIPPLE ¹

[Extract]

Exeter Decr 14th 1776

No money can be procured here for the Continental Bank, or any other under six pr cent, and indeed I think no great sums for that. Privateering, buying up prize cargoes and monopolizing them at any price, seems to be the attention of the mercantile part, who have the money in their hands.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

State of Massachusetts Bay

Council Chamber [Boston] Decr 14, 1776

Ordered That all Vessells that may be permitted to Depart this State for any of the United States shall be allowed to carry Fifteen hhds of Sugar each to Contain not more than Twelve hundred Weight (gross hundreds) for every one hundred Tons She measures and no more & so in proportion for a greater or less Number of Tons, and it is further ordered that in Case any Vessell pe[r]mitted to depart for any of the United States Shall take on board a larger Quantity of sugar than is allowed of by this Order the Permit shall be Considered as a Nulley & the Owner or Owners shall be subject to the penalties prescribed by the Resolve laying the Embargo –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 102.

DIARY OF BENJAMIN MARSTON ¹

[Plymouth] Decr 14. Saturday. – An embargo as I hear is laid upon all shipping in this State – The reason given is – To get men to man the State's ships of War – & also a number of Merchant ships wch the State is fitting out for the Bahama Ilands on a publick commercial acco – I will prophecy for once – and if my prophecies should not come to pass I shall not be the first prophet who has made a mistake –* I do now foretell that the fleet of Merchant ships will never return here again – It is not designed that it should – These mimic politicians – These wretched State Founders – plainly see That their case is desperate – They are now providing for the worst – They will now impose upon the ignorant country Representatives, & persuade them to grant whatever sums they want, to equip & Load this flota, under pretence of purchasing warlike Stores for the campaign the next Season when it is arrived at the Bahamas, or wherever it is destined for – The interest will be deposited for the use of any of them who shall be so fortunate as

to escape the hands of Justice – perhaps some of them may think proper to go in the fleet –

*Greatly mistaking – ²

1. Marston Diary, UNBL.

2. Marston apparently added this note after the war.

LEONARD JARVIS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Dartmouth Decem 14th 1776

I recd your Honors Letter by Mr Fry and in Compliance with your request have deliverd him the Arms & Military Stores mentioned at foot – I flatter myself that my Conduct in this Matter will be approved of by the Congress as the Publick Safety I am confident requirred it – I hope a Speedy removal of your disagreeable Neighbours – should the residue of the Stores be wanted I will exert myself to forward them there was 72 Chests of Arms came in the *Hancock & Adams* previous to the receipt of your Letter I had deliverd out a part to our Militia at the recommendation of our General Assembly I am Your Honors [&c.]

Leo: Jarvis

48 Chests Containg 1200 Arms

6 Tons of Lead

6 Casks Flints

260 Bars Gunpowder

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 9, 1776–1777, R. I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Brune*, CAPTAIN JAMES FERGUSON ¹

December 1776

Moor'd in Seaconeck Passage

[Saturday] 14

AM Fresh Breezes & Fair dry'd Sails fired a 6 Pr with Grape at the Rebels at 10 came down a Brig purchased from the Rebels by some Masters of Ships they had taken bound on their Parole to Ireland.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/177.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,

[Hartford] December 14th, 1776.

Voted, That Mr. Nathl Shaw junr be and he is hereby authorized and desired to draw a letter of credit in favour of the captain or commander of the ship *Oliver Cromwell*, to be made use of to obtain necessary repairs or supplies for said ship in any foreign port where she may fall; and the said Mr. Shaw shall be indemnified by this State against all damage that may accrue to him by means thereof. Copy dd to Capt. Coit Decr 14th, 1776.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*, I, 87, 88.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME ¹

December 1776

Wt end of Fishers Island NW 2 Leagues

Friday 13

8 AM the Wt end of Block Island N dist 3 or 4 Miles down studdings & hauled our Wind

Mod. breezes & fine Wear 2 P.M. came too with the B. Br in 36 fm . . . Plumb Island WbS 8 miles 5 sent our boats on board a sloop . . . the Sloop proving to be the property of the Rebels we seized her 9 hove up & made sail as did our prize turning to Windward between Plumb Island & the New England Shore 12 came too with the B. Br in 26 fm

Saturday 14 7 AM New London Light NEbE dist 4 Leas 8 hove up & made sail

fresh breezes & Clear Wear 2 PM parted Co from our prize & she being Chaced by Two Rebell Privateers was obliged to run on shore to save the people & was lost in her 4 Muskets 4 Car-touch boxes & 2 Cutlasses belonging to the Ship . . . lost also in the Prize a 5 In Hawser belonging to the Ship it being sent on board by order of Captain Graeme

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Head Quarters near Coriell's Ferry

Sir:

December 14, 1776.

I have before me your favor of yesterday and for answer would inform you that I shall most chearfully cooperate with you in endeavoring to save the Frigate *Delaware*, and for this purpose shall immediately inclose your Letter to Col. Cadwallader [John Cadwalader], with direction for Capt. [Charles] Alexander with his Officers and a sufficient number of men to proceed to Phila. without delay in order to carry the Frigate out of your River before the opportunity is lost and am with much Esteem etc.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, VI, 375.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO WILLIAM BINGHAM, MARTINIQUE ¹

Sir

[Philadelphia] December 14th 1776

We expect this will be delivered to you by John Nicholson Esqr who commands the *Hornet* Sloop of war belonging to the Continent. She will carry you some Rice and Indigo by order of the Secret Committee which you'l please to receive expeditiously. As this sloop touches at Carolina before she sails for the West Indies it is uncertain when you may see [her], therefore our orders must be discretionary, and when she arrives if you [have] any advices or any goods to send that you think of importance to these States, you may dispatch Capt Nicholson therewith immediately. Should this not be the case you may assist him to procure more Men, and let him go a cruising during the Winter Months only dispatching him so as to be here by the beginning of April. If our Trade in the Islands is interrupted by any privateers or Tenders that this Sloop can match they should be her Object, If there be none such she may cruize where there is the best chance of good Prizes. —

If Captain Nicholson is lucky enough to send any in to you, sell such parts as are suited for the Island consumption, but be careful what you sell is the property of none but british subjects not resident in Bermuda or New providence. Whatever you sell render regular Accounts of it – make the seamen &c necessary advances and transmit us their receipts with the Accot Sales &c for what you sell that just distribution may be made on their return. If Captain Nicholson meets with any Canon more suitable for the *Hornet* than those on board, assist him in buying and getting them mounted – Supply him with Money and necessaries he may want for the service his receipts will be your vouchers and your drafts on us will be paid –

When you dispatch him for the Continent he will take on board any goods you have to ship. We are Sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 47, NA.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Philada Decr 14th 1776.

. . . As our Enemies are still kept at Bay on the otherside Delaware I cannot help flattering myself with the expectation of some favourable event that will save this City. I shall certainly remain here as long as I can with safety & during my stay the Congress may depend on my utmost exertions for the Publick Service. The *Randolph* & *Hornet* are gone down this Morning. We are at Work on the *Delaware* & a Chartered Brige Capt Excen sails in an hour [If] they give us time I shall attempt to get the *Washington* Frigate into a place of Safety.

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 4–5, NA.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen:

Lewes, Decemb'r the 14, 1776.

The *Roebuck* is at this time crusing off the light house and the small Ship is up the Bay at anchor Near the Brandywine, there has no more ships appeared as yet, you may Depend if there should, I shall give you the earliest acc'ts. I shall refer you to Mr. Davis Bevan for the Particulars Relateing the ship's Destination. I am with Due Respect, [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 108–09.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Perseus*, CAPTAIN GEORGE KEITH ELPHINSTONE ¹

Decemr 1776.

Do [Cape Henlopen Lighthouse] No 21:0 W Distce
16 Leags

Friday 13th

½ past 7 (A M) gave Chace to a Sail in the SW quatr At
Noon saw 2 Sail to the Wtward.

First and Middle parts Modr breezes and Cloudy, latter
Fresh Gales and Squally. at 3 (P M) came up with the
Chace which proved the *Connection* Schooner from Boston for
Baltimore –² took charge of her – at 7 spoke the *Camilla* with
a French Ship in Company who joined us.

Saturday 14th (A M) gave Chace; fir'd 4, 9 Pound Shot and brot too a French Snow who informed us she was from St Domingo for Mar-seilles³ At Noon the *Camilla* and Prizes in Company

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/688.
2. Schooner *Connection*, Benjamin Jones, master, S. White, owner, with 14 casks of sugar, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
3. The *Joli Coeur*, B. Eyran, master, with a cargo of rum, sugar and molasses, Howe's Prize List. The *Perseus* escorted the prizes to Sandy Hook, and on January 1, sent *Joli Coeur* up to New York with a long letter to Vice Admiral Howe giving a detailed explanation of the snow's suspicious actions and the reason Captain Elphinstone had taken her, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore Decr 14th. 1776

In consequence of Letters to our Committee & myself recd by thursd[ay]'s Post, Captn [James] Nicholson went off yesterday evening with about 30 or 40 of his best Hands & Some of his Officers with near 20 Sail of Small Craft for the Head of Elk to assist in bringing down the Public Stores & Sick that might be moved from Philada. – About an Hour after his departure I received the inclosed Letter for him which I dispatchd after him by a Barge. He returnd it to me late last Night, And agreeable to his desire I now forward it to you by Express, for your consideration. –² Shoud you think fit to order the *Defences* Men to follow after Capt Nicholson, I wd beg leave to suggest whither it woud not be adviseable to take a few of the Nine Pounders from the Fort & send up along with the *Defences* Guns to put on board the Frigates shoud they attempt sending them round to this Bay. – We have plenty of Craft here to carry up the *Defences* People &c to Elk. – Our Commee agreeable to Mr [Samuel] Chase's requisition wrote the Commee of your City to send up to Elk what Craft were at Annapolis. – I have since learned that there is no Committee. There will be no necessity of sending any more Craft as we can get plenty here. – Our Commee are preparing the Court House in the best manner the time will admit for the Reception of the Congress shoud they be obliged to leave Philada in which Case Mr Chase writes it is intended they shall come here I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Junr

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

2. Samuel Chase to Nicholson, December 11.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Saturday, December 14th 1776.

Commission issued to Thomas McWilliams appointed Captain of marines on Board the Sloop *Molly*. Thomas Conway, Commander.

Ordered That Capt. [William] Patterson be directed to send off with all Dispatch all the Vessels he can procure, to the Head of Elk or French Town, to bring down military Stores there lodged; that the said Capt. Patterson man Mr. Williams's Schooner with the other Vessels, and supply her with Provisions for that Purpose, and apply to Col. Henry Hollingsworth there, or any other Person appointed by Congress, or our Delegates for further Orders.

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

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday December 14th 1776

A Permitt granted to the Schooner *Neptune* Captain Darby to proceed on her Voyage to Martinico Manifest of Cargo filed Bond executed acknowledged and ordered also to be filed

A Permitt granted to the Sloop *Experiment* Captain John Outton to proceed on her Voyage to New Providence Manifest of Cargo filed Bond executed acknowledged and ordered also to be filed

A Letter was wrote to Messrs Adams and Parke requesting that no Flour might be sent to the French Market in the West Indies but what is superfine and a Copy thereof filed

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 280, 281.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Winchelsea*, CAPTAIN NATHANIEL BATEMAN¹

December [1776]

Tortuga EbS 10 Leas

Saturday 14

Light airs & Calm, sent the Barge & Yaul Mand & Armed after a Brigg in the N E

Do Wr at 7 PM the Boats returned with the Brigg² from Pt Prince to Philadelphia sent a petty Offr & 5 Men in her to Kingston

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1067.

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

DEPOSITION OF JOHN TROTMAN¹

St Christophers

Before John Stanley Esqr, one of the Members of His Majesty's Council for the Island of St Christopher, His Majesty's Sollicitor General for His Leeward Charibbee Islands in America, and one of the Justices assigned to keep the Peace within the said Island of St Christopher.

Personally appeared John Troffman [*sic* Trotman] aged Seventeen years, or thereabouts, who being Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and Saith, that some time in the month of April 1773, he this Deponent was Sent by his Father Henry Trotman, Merchant in the Island of Barbados (where he this Deponent was born) to the Care of Messrs James and Drinker of Philadelphia Merchants, for Education, and that, soon after his arrival there, he was Sent by his said Guardians to Prince Town, in the Province of New Jersey, to a school kept at that place by the Revd Dr John Witherspoon, who was afterwards chosen one of the Members to Serve in the Continental Congress for the Said Province of new Jersey. And this Deponent further Saith, that in the month of September last (it being vacation time) he went from Prince Town afore Said to Spend his Holidays as usual, with his beforementioned Guardians at Philadelphia, and that One Evening, he this Deponent being walking out rather later than usual, with George West, of Carolina, who was one of his School fellows, he this Deponent and the Said George West met on a wharf, in Philadelphia aforesaid, by a Gang of Men (whose Practice, this Deponent was afterwards informed, it was every Night to hunt for

and press all the Men they could meet with into the Service of the Continental Congress) who forced this Deponent and the said George West on board a Brigantine fitted out by the Continental Congress, called the *Andrew Doria*, commanded by one Capt: [Isaiah] Robinson, mounting Fourteen double fortified four Pounders, Fourteen or Sixteen Swivel Guns, carrying 100 Men, or thereabouts, and which was then lying at Gloucester in the River Delaware, about five miles from Philadelphia. And this Deponent farther Saith, that the sd Brigantine soon afterwards sailed for the Island of St Eustatia, where she arrived some time about the middle of the mounth of November last; and that upon the sd Brigantines coming to an anchor off the Town in that Island, She Saluted Fort Orange with Thirteen Guns, and that, after some Interval, the Salute was returned by the sd Fort with nine or Eleven Guns (but which the Deponent doth not now recollect) the Sd Brigantine during the Time of the Salute and the return thereof, having the Colours called the Continental Congress Colours then flying. And this Deponent farther Saith, that he this Deponent, with three other Persons belonging to the Sd Brigantine (two Englishmen and one Frenchman) on the Evening of their arrival at St Eustatia, were ordered by the Master of the sd Brigantine to carry him onboard an American Pilot Boat, then lying at anchor in the Road of St Eustatia; and that upon their putting him onboard they were ordered by the Sd Master to return with all Expedition to the Sd Brigantine, and to get the Boat hoisted in: and this Deponent Saith that, upon their quitting the Pilot Boat, this Deponent and the sd three other Men consulted amongst themselves how to make their Escape from the Sd Brigantine, & takeing the Resolution of attempting to come to this Island, after rowing all Night, they arrived at Sandy point, in this Island, about Seven of the Clock, the next morning. And this Deponent farther Saith, that, from what he could learn on board the Sd Brigantine, he verily believes the object of the Sd Brigantine's Voyage to St Eustatius was to purchase Clothing and other Necessaries for the use of the Continental American Army. And this Deponent Saith, that whilst he was onboard the Sd Brigantine, he was in general treated as well as he could expect, in his circumstances, by every Person on board, except the Boatswain, who was a Foreigner, who beat him this Deponent very severely several Times.

(Signed) John Trotman.

Sworn this 14th day of Decr 1776,
before me (Sighn'd) John Stanley.

1. Admiralliteits Colleges, No. 487, Neth. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO GOVERNOR JOHANNES DE GRAAFF ¹

Copy

Antigua 14th Decemr 1776

Sir, The inclosed Memorial ² having been presented to me by a Subject of His Brittannic Majesty, I think it my duty to send Captain [John] Colpoys of his Majesty's Ship the *Seaford*, to lay the same before your Excellency, in order that strict Enquiry may be made into the Circumstances related therein; and if found to be as represented, to Demand in the Name of the King of Great Britain that immediate reparation may be made to His injured Subject.

In addition to the foregoing Complaint, I cannot avoid mentioning to your Excellency, that it is with equal Surprise, and astonishment, I daily hear it asserted in the most positive manner, that the Port of St Eustatia, has for some time past, been openly and avowedly declared, Protector of all Americans, and their Vessels; whether on private Trade, or Armed for Offensive War; and that even the Colours and Forts of their High Mightinesses have been so far debased, as to return the Salutes of these Pirates and Rebels; that the Subjects of the States not satisfied with giving all manner of Assistance to the American Rebels, of Arms, Ammunition, and whatever else may enable them to Annoy and disturb the Trade of His Brittannic Majesty's Loyal and Faithful Subjects, and that even the Government of St Eustatia, daily suffer Privateers to be Manned, Armed, and fitted in their port, and the Subjects of the States are said to be part Owners of such Privateers. The Piratical Vessel named in the inclosed Memorial, was known to be fitted out at St Eustatia, and part owned by a Mr Vanbibber of that place.

I cannot suppose any Governor would take upon him to act in this manner merely of his own Authority; therefore must Conclude you have received Instructions from Europe, and are guided thereby; altho the whole proceedings appear to me Diametrically opposite to the late Declarations of their High-Mightinesses, to the Court of London.

As my Duty obliges me to transmit Informations of such Consequence to the British Court, I have first ordered Captain Colpoys to deliver you this Notification, and have directed him to make the strictest Enquiry into the Facts related; and receive your Excellencys Explanation of them. I must likewise desire you will give me a positive Answer, whether you mean to Suffer any of the American Rebels to bring into your Port of St Eustatia the Ships and Vessels they may take from his Brittannic Majesty's Subjects, and there dispose of them: Your general Answer hereto, must be the Guide of my future Conduct, and determine with me, whether You remain Allies to the Crown of Great Britain or have entered into new Engagements with the American Rebels, inimical to the King my Master. I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

P.S. I would wish your Excellency to observe, I make great distinction between the Receiving into your Ports, the Trading Vessels belonging to the American Rebels, and their Vessels Armed for Offensive War.

His Excellency Johannes De Graaf,

Governor over the Islands St Eustatia, Saba & St Martin.

[Endorsed at the Admiralty] In V. A. Young's Letter Dated 31st Decr 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Another copy is in Tweede West-Indische Compagnie, 639, 932-34, Neth. Arch.
2. Memorial of Benda & Foster McConnell complaining about the seizure of their vessel by an American privateer out of St. Eustatius, PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

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

(Copy)

Antigua 14th Decemr 1776.

Sir, Lieutenant Tinsley will deliver you herewith a Letter from me to the Governor of St Eustatia, (Copy of which and a Memorial that occasioned it, are inclosed for your perusal and Government,) and I am to desire you will immedi-

ately proceed to St Eustatia, and deliver said Letter to the Governor, and obtain his answer thereto. I would also have you talk with the Governor on the Subject of said Letter, and make the strictest enquiry in your power, into the several Facts mentioned in the Memorial and Letter; and get his Explanation of the whole: during your stay at St Eustatia, pray try if you can Purchase Ten or Twelve good three pound Guns, or if you cannot meet with so many, buy what number you can get, taking care they are good and serviceable.

When you have executed this Service you may call (in your way to Antigua) at Old Road and Compleat the *Seafords* Water; and likewise at Basseterre and take onboard the *Seafords* people from the Prize you put Mr Gray onboard, who I hear has been obliged to carry her to that place. I am &c.

Jam^s Young.

P.S. The other inclosed Paper is Copy of a Letter of Intelligence I have received from England, which you will pay proper attention to, should you fall in with the Schooner described.

J: Y.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

15 Dec. (Sunday)

PAROLE OF DUNCAN MUNRO, PASSENGER ON BOARD THE BRITISH PRIZE BRIGANTINE *Fanny*¹

I Duncan Munro while Passenger on Board the Brig *Fanny* comanded by Richard Blythe bound from Barbadoes to Halifax was made a Prisoner by Capt [Joseph] White comander of a Privateer belonging to this State² and carried into Plymouth some time in June last and whereas the Council of this State have at my Request permitted me to reside at the Town of Reading upon my being put on my Parole—Do promise and engage on my Word and honour and on the Faith of a Gentleman to depart from hence to Reading in the State of Massachusetts Bay and to remain there or within five Miles of the Place of my Residence in said Town during the present War between Great Brittain and the united States of America or until the Congress of said united States or the Assembly or Council of this State shall order otherwise; and that I will not directly or indirectly give any Intelligence whatever to the Enemies of the united States, or do, or say any thing in opposition to or in Prejudice of the Measures and proceedings of any Congress for the Said States during the present Troubles or until I am duly exchanged or Discharged

Given under my Hand this fifteenth Day of December 1776 –

Duncan Munro

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 246.

2. Privateer sloop *Revenge*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK¹

No 60

Sir, The Assistance of the men belonging to the Ship *Defense* may be of Service to the common cause at Philadelphia. – We request you therefore to march immediately without loss of Time with all the men, that can be spared from the